

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

To the Citizens and Taxpayers of Newton:

Once again I would like to thank the town's people for giving their police department the opportunity to become accredited. I would also like to briefly tell the community what accreditation means from my perspective, as a department and as a community.

Accreditation is a compilation of national police standards drafted by the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. These standards are reviewed and adopted by various states including New Hampshire, through the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council. There are also additional standards promulgated by NHPSTC based on training preferences and the uniqueness of New Hampshire State Statutes.

These standards address the retention and releasing of department records, the transportation and detention of arrests, mandated employee training, the response to agency calls for service, record keeping, standards of personal conduct and so on. The common thread throughout all of the standards is that they all lend themselves to operational and fiscal accountability.

By becoming accredited, the department is raised to a professional standard that states that we are proud to be what we are. Residents can also take pride in knowing that their tax dollar is being spent responsibly and the standard of service will be the same regardless of the time of the day, the day of the week or who the officer is that responds to a particular call for service or emergency situation. We are proud to be one of only eleven departments in the state of New Hampshire who have attained this status.

On a more somber note, regarding this year's budget consideration I have submitted a separate warrant article requesting an additional full time police officer. I realize this is a difficult proposal to bring forward in light of our troubled economy, but I strongly believe this question needs to be considered by the voters for the following reasons.

The last time the Newton Police Department added a full time officer was in 1996. Since then the department has remained at a total of five (5) full time officers. Over the past eleven (11) years a number of things have occurred within the community that has correspondingly increased the workload of the department.

	<u>1996</u>	<u>2007</u>
• The Town population has grown approximately 15% for a total of 606 residents	3,888	4,494
• Taxable Properties (Primarily Dwellings) increased 20% for a total of 310	1,536	1,846
• Road Miles have increased 17% for a total of 6.75 miles	37.6	44.3
• The number of Town Streets/Roads have increased by 36	83	119

Every year the FBI releases a Uniform Crime Report which lists figures for various crime rates for small, medium and large cities and towns throughout the country. Part of the index is devoted to a formula that illustrates the ratio of police officers per thousand residents in the various categories. The ratios are broken down by cities/towns, states and regions of the country. How that relates to this conversation is as follows:

- The National Ratio of officers per 1,000 population is 2.3
- The Northeast US Ratio of officers per 1,000 population is 2.7
- The New Hampshire Ratio of officers per 1,000 population is 1.8
- The Town of Newton's Ratio of officers per 1,000 population is 1.1

As a comparison:

- The Town of Plaistow's Ratio of officers per 1,000 population is 1.6
- The Town of Kingston's Ratio of officers per 1,000 population is 1.4

From 1996 to the present date, the Town of Plaistow has added three (3) full time officers and the Town of Kingston has added two (2) full time officers.

Obviously each town and community varies and has different needs. These numbers and statistics mean absolutely nothing unless we can specifically state that hiring an additional officer will lead to achieving Newton's public safety needs. I believe this statement is true for the following reasons.

The department does a good job on most day-to-day issues however, we get bogged down when we have long and protracted investigations. In 2007, the Newton Police Department generated four hundred and eighty-five (485) incidents/events. These are calls for service that are more than a routine call because they require further documentation and follow-up. With five (5) officers, minus the Chief, and half of a Sergeant who is the case supervisor, that leaves approximately three and a half (3.5) officers to manage four hundred and eighty-five (485) incidents/events.

The second reason is the schools. The Newton Police Department has an excellent rapport with the schools but we do not have enough time to get involved with school programs such as Internet Safety, Stranger Danger, Junior Police and Eddy Eagle. I believe these programs are an effective way for officers to educate and interact positively with children. They also promote the protection and safety of our youth.

The bottom line is, the roof is not going to fall in if the warrant article doesn't pass. The police department will still be here and we will be out there doing the best job that we can. However, with another officer on staff, we will be able to provide more services and have more of a presence within the community.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments about this report or the budget, or the operation and service of the Newton Police Department.

**2007 POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS**

**ARRESTS:**

All Other Offenses	24
Bad Checks	2
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	2
Disorderly Conduct	2
Driving Under the Influence	15
Drug Equipment Violations	1
Drug/Narcotic Violations	8
Drunkenness	14
Family Offenses, Nonviolent	1
Intimidation	4
Liquor Law Violations	11
Runaway	3
Simple Assault	15
Traffic, Town By-Law Offenses	63
Trespass of Real Property	2
Weapon Law Violations	1
<b>TOTAL ARRESTS</b>	<b>169</b>

**CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

911 Hang-up/Abandoned Call	58
Motor Vehicle, Abandoned	9
Administrative, Other	1,528
Alcohol Related	8
Alarm	176
Animal Complaint	337
Assist Officer	89
Assist Motorist	46
Assault	6
Assist Other Agency	90
Bad Check	10
Business Check	2,535
Burglary	8
Civil Dispute-Domestic Related	8
Civil Problem	30
Civil Standby	19
Criminal Mischief	44
Criminal Threatening	6

Criminal Trespass	8
Cruiser Maintenance	908
Court	19
Directed Patrol	2,192
Disturbance	37
Domestic Related	41
Domestic Disturbance	54
Despondent Person	1
Dumping, Illegal	14
Emotionally Distressed Person	1
Escort/Transport	32
Fight/Brawl	6
Field Interview	12
Assist Fire Department	64
Fingerprint Non-Criminal	12
Follow-up	773
Fraud	4
Fireworks Complaint	10
Harassment, Other	9
Harassment, Phone	15
Juvenile Problem	61
Lockout, Residential	4
Lockout, Motor Vehicle	6
Assist Rescue	114
Mental Incompetent	3
Message Delivery	18
Missing Person	23
Mutual Aid	143
Motor Vehicle Accident	57
Motor Vehicle, Other	81
Motor Vehicle, Speed/Reckless	45
Motor Vehicle Stop	1,979
Neighbor Dispute	11
Noise Complaint	66
Non-Criminal	37
OHRV Maintenance	14
OHRV Patrol	24
OHRV Complaint	12
Parking Complaint	43
Public Assist	66
Police Information	260
Property, Lost	14
Property Damage, Unknown Cause	12
Property, Recovered	13
Park & Walk	3
Road Agent	6

Reported Hazard	49
Report Writing	340
School Crosswalk	96
Death, Unattended	9
Serve Paperwork	253
Sex Offenses	4
Smoke/Fire Investigation	7
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Sex Offender Registration	4
Suspicious Circumstance	89
Suspicious Vehicle	119
Tree Down/Wires Down	37
Theft	35
Suicide, Threatened	3
Truancy Check	11
Traffic Hazard	72
Underage Drinking Patrol	1
Unsecured Building	15
VIN Verification	35
Vacation Watch	237
Serve Warrant	51
Well-Being Check	43
Weapon Related	13
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>13,860</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence E. Streeter  
Chief of Police