

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 15, 2013** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Banks, Jacobs and Rivers. Also present were: Chief Paul Hammick – Bloomfield Police Department, Pat Braun – EMS, Philip Schenck, Jr., Town Manager and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Absent was: Chief Robert Farmer and Chief William Riley

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m.

POLICE

The police department budget is on track at the end of the first quarter. The overtime figures are increased during the summer months due to vacation and time off requests. The cost of training slightly increased in the Patrol and Professional Standards divisions due to state mandates on various topics.

Chief Hammick reported the crime has trended down for the month of September, 27% year to date and 4% for the year. The following crime statistics were presented for the month of September 2013:

- **1 Robbery**
- **6 Assaults**
- **7 Burglaries**

The department remains consist with approximately 2200 officer initiated contacts. Most of these calls are property checks, stopping in to check on businesses. Most officers have self-initiated activities they conduct of talking with residents, motor vehicle stops and possible infractions.

There were 45 motor accidents in the month of September. This is a decrease compared to statistics during the summer months: 64 – June, 59 – July, 54 – August. The department credits an increase in motor vehicle enforcement in the Bloomfield area for this decrease.

A DUI detail was conducted during Labor Day weekend. This detail was in conjunction with other regional towns in the area. There were a total of 5 arrests.

Personnel Updates

Officer Isaac Medina completed the Motorcycle course that was hosted by the Hartford Police Department. This course is one of the most difficult that any police officer has to complete. It has a 70% failure rate. The department sent three officers, however Officer Medina completed the course successfully.

Officer Brian Grant was one of two officers who applied for this position. Officer Grant was selected to be the K-9 officer for the department. The department has contracted for the purchase of another animal. The K-9 should arrive at the end of October, early November. There is an 8 week training requirement to prepare the K-9 for duty.

Officer Adrian Loignon graduated the Police Academy in July 2013. He completed his field training program on September 14, 2013. He has begun his probationary period which is one year to monitor his progress on the job.

Officer DiManno was hired as a certified police officer, previously employed as an officer with the University of Connecticut. He is half way through his field training program and should be completed by November.

Officers Kyle Sandberg and Henry Rodriguez graduated from the Police Academy and they are in their field training process.

In addition to the two currently in field training, there are 4 more officers expected to graduate the Police Academy in December. Two officers will graduate on December 18th and the other two officers will graduate on December 20. All graduates will begin their 12 week field training process at that time.

Councilor Rivers inquired about the timeframe of an officer to be released in the community alone after the graduation. The process is 12 weeks of field training for various phases including shadowing, observation and executing duties in the field gradually.

Councilor Jacobs inquired about the decrease in crime statistics in a specific area or on a broader scope.

Community Services

The department attended numerous community services activities for the months of September and October.

FIRE

There were no representatives from either Center Fire District or Blue Hills Fire District present at this meeting.

EMS

The last scheduled EMS Committee meeting was cancelled in September. The committee will continue to review statistics and updates regarding the EMT classes.

The BVA Fund letter was distributed as a mailer to all residents. Thus far, the donations have increased significantly since the last pledge for assistance.

There will be a BVA Fund meeting on November 5, 2013.

There are currently 3 new members to BVA in training. The EMT class has 8 participants who are expected to graduate at the end of March 2014.

OTHER BUSINESS

Councilor Washington inquired about the status of the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) program. An application was submitted in July 2013. The department policy must be up to date in order to pursue national accreditation. The department has completed 4 of the 7 key chapters needed for

accreditation standards. Some of the chapters are longer to complete than others due to collective bargaining agreement requirement for various areas of the department. Every policy change made in the police department, there is a requirement to meet with the union to confer with them.

The CALEA process is a net value to the Town of Bloomfield. It provides a standard that shows a level of professionalism for the department, protection against liability and an overall best practice for the law enforcement industry.

The Audio/Visual policy was also redrafted on how to operate camera systems in the cruisers. The department has begun to implement the audio portion of this policy. The department has numerous meetings with the union regarding implement of this policy, storage of audio recordings, etc.

Councilor Washington addressed the committee regarding a citizens' complaint received by Mr. Terrence Bigbee. Mr. Bigbee wrote a letter to Mayor Schulman stating that he was being harassed by members of the Bloomfield Police Department. He further stated that he has been a victim of racial harassment, inhumanely treated and the target of unnecessary traffic stops.

Chief Hammick stated that Mr. Bigbee wrote a previous complaint against the department and it was resolved. However, Chief Hammick will follow up regarding the letter written to Mayor Schulman and review of previous complaint.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager stated that clarification should be considered regarding whether Council or subcommittee members should be involved in the process of complaints of the Police Department.

The committee agreed to support the Town Administrative process regarding citizens' complaints. Chief Hammick also agreed to report on a monthly basis any complaints received against police officers.

Councilor Washington stated that he would only like to be informed of the final outcome of an investigation.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilor Banks, seconded by Councilor Jacobs and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m.