

**BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE**

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2012** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Jacobs and Banks. Also present were: Deputy Mayor Hypolite, Chief Paul Hammick – Bloomfield Police Department, Chief Robert Farmer, Pat Braun and India Rodgers, Clerk of Council. Absent was: Chief William Riley – Center Fire District

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilor Banks, seconded by Councilor Washington to approve the minutes of September 10, 2012.

**POLICE**

The status of the Police Department FY 2012/2013 operating budget remains on target thus far. Due to the current shortage in manpower some positions were shifted to other division to maintain basic police services. The Patrol Division at 23% and the Support Services Division at 18% expended from their respective allotted budgets.

The Fall 2012 Citizens Police Awareness Academy began its 1<sup>st</sup> class on September 18, 2012 with 21 participants enrolled in the class. The two classes held in the reporting period covered Introduction and History of the Police Department, Recruitment/Hiring, a tour of the facility, motor vehicle laws and Commercial Motor Vehicle Enforcement.

On September 12, 2012, Neighborhood Block watches resumed.

On September 29, 2012, in coordination with Bloomfield/West Hartford Health District, St. Joseph's University and Police Department successful held a "Drug Take Back Day" at Senior Services. This program educates and accommodates residents to bring in prescription drugs for safe disposal.

On September 30, 2012, "Family Fun Day" was held at Sacred Heart Church. Ms. Rebecca Varholak, police dispatcher took first place in the chili cook off contest. This was the second time in three years she won this competition. The department issued child I.D. kits at this event.

There was great feedback from the community regarding officer presence and participation at the fair.

### Crime Report

There were two significant robberies in town during the month of September:

- September 19, 2012 around 8:00 p.m. at the Subway's (CITGO gas station) – 925 Blue Hills Avenue
- September 29, 2012 around 10:00 p.m. at B.P. Gas Station – 1030 Blue Hills Avenue

Due to these robberies, crime statistics increased for the month of September. The department continues to deal with larceny/thefts from the Burlington Coat Factory, Home Depot and Stop & Shop Supermarket. It was also noted that a number of automotive batteries were stolen from 18-wheeler trucks in the Industrial area (Northeast of town).

Officer initiated activity continue to be a positive response in the community. Approximately, 11,000 calls for service have been received since the beginning of the year.

Chief Hammick reported that Motor Vehicle stops have increased as well. There were approximately 431 car accidents reported in town, which is a drop from year to date. In prior year, 2011 there were 501 car accidents. The decline in the statistical rise may contribute to more enforcement on the roads.

### Personnel Updates

Chief Hammick reported the retirement of a 22 year seasoned officer, Officer Michael Guglietta. In addition, the department did welcome a full time sworn officer, Officer Robert Wilkins who completed his field training and joined the force officially on October 7, 2012. Officer Pace continues his FTO training in the field.

Chief Hammick also reported the interview of the only certified candidate for a position in the department. Officer Roberto Gomez is a police officer with 20 years of experience with the State Police. He received a conditional offer of employment with requirements to complete physical, polygraph and psychological testing as well as a background check.

Approximately, 4 positions will be vacant as of January, 2013.

### **BLUE HILLS FIRE DISTRICT**

Chief Farmer reported that the district has been fairly busy with increased call volume with car accident injuries and fire alarms from startup of HVAC activation for the heating season.

The district continues to participate with community outreach, participating in several events around town such as:

- On August 25, 2012, the Back to School Fun Fair held at Leisure Services. The district passed out fire prevention information and conducted tours of a fire engine.
- On September 5, 2012, the Senior Expo was held at the Senior Center, in which emergency management preparedness pamphlets were handed out as well as information on smoke/carbon monoxide detectors and fire extinguishers.

From information shared at the Senior Expo, another presentation was requested by the Senior Vision Impairment group.

On October 7, 2012, the district responded to a call at the Subway's (CITGO gas station) reporting a strange odor. It was discovered that a leak occurred with carbon dioxide from a soda dispenser in the basement. The Department of Environment Protection responded to the scene to assist with venting the building.

Chief Farmer reported that he received a Command Board and 39 Hazmat kits through a grant from Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). This board will be utilized during an emergency occurrence and has the ability to include identifiers of local and Greater Hartford Fire departments, town officials and any other pertinent staff or agency involved.

Chief Farmer and Chief Hammick expressed that several concerns regarding emergency communications and service related issues that are being addressed with the current provider. Both departments along with the Public Works are reviewing services with other vendors as an option if needed.

## **EMS**

Mr. Pat Braun of the EMS Committee gave a brief report of the meeting held in September, 2012. The EMS committee has begun specifications of costs for a new ambulance. They would like the town to consider a more active role in the purchase of this ambulance.

EMT classes are going well with 58 individuals inquiring about future classes.

On September 30, 2012, the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance Fund also participated in the Family Fun Day at Sacred Heart Church with an ice cream concession stand.

The next meeting will be held on November 5, 2012.

Mr. Braun also informed the subcommittee of the passing of Dr. Richard Bagnall. Dr. Bagnall was an original member and founder of the Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance Fund. He was actively involved with BVA Fund in service for 35 years.

## **OTHER PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS**

Chief Hammick briefly reported information regarding a CL&P transformer explosion on Hoskins Road. There no injuries or power outages reported.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Banks and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m.