

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

There was a regular meeting for the above-reference subcommittee held at **6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2013** in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Washington, Banks and Jacobs. Also present were: Councilor Rivers, Captain Stephen Hajdasz– Bloomfield Police Department, Pat Braun – EMS, Chief William Riley – Center Fire District and Philip Schenck, Jr., Interim Town Manager

Absent was: Chief Robert Farmer, Blue Hills Fire Department

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m.

**POLICE**

Captain Hajdasz stated that the department remains on budget as projected for non-personnel categories. On the personnel side, the budget is under due to staffing shortfalls. There are no significant issues of concerns at this time.

The largest event in April 2013 was the Presidential visit for Barack Obama. President Obama's motorcade was successfully escorted through Bloomfield on his way to the University of Hartford. This escort was assisted by the Bloomfield Police Department, Department of Public Works, Bloomfield Volunteer Ambulance (BVA), Bloomfield Fire Departments and several other local police agencies.

There was one arrest associated with this event, which was at 7 Central Avenue for charges of Breach of Peace-2<sup>nd</sup> degree, Threatening-2<sup>nd</sup> degree and Interference with Police.

**Crime Report**

Crime has increased 1% year to date, due to larcenies attributed to local retail stores and establishments.

Officer initiated activity and service calls are on target compared to year to date from previous years.

Motor Vehicle stops have increased as well as DUI arrests. These increases can be attributed to DUI grant expenditures for specific target areas and extra patrols in the community.

Councilor Jacobs inquired about the correlation and benefits of the DUI grant and the increase in crime statistics. It was noted that the increase in motor vehicle stops does not affect the statistics reported the FBI.

Councilor Jacobs also inquired about the types of larcenies on the rise. It was noted that most of the larcenies committed are for items sold for quick cash. Most of the individuals arrested related to these cases reside in the Greater Hartford area.

Councilor Rivers asked about the overall direction of cities and towns for scrap yards accepting stolen metal. Captain Hajdasz stated that there have been several discussions with lobbyists at the State Legislative Office Building regarding these issues with pawn shops, to curtail the exchange of stolen goods.

Councilor Washington requested an update of the fire on Dorothy Drive, April 29, 2013. Chief Riley of the Center Fire District stated that 16 units were evacuated with smoke and water damage. The cause of the fire remains under investigation. All persons affected received emergency services from Social Services and the Red Cross.

Councilor Jacobs requested an update regarding Nuisance concerns on Arnold Drive. It was reported that the complaints have decreased with the effort of the police department establishing a mini taskforce of officers focused on the area. There have been no recent tickets issued. Students have seemed to be receptive to neighbor complaints and increase in law enforcement presence.

Captain Hajdasz updated the committee regarding landlord obligations, in reference to the Nuisance Abatement seizure property guidelines for non-compliance. He also outlined the analysis of dispatch calls for this targeted area.

### Personnel Updates

Police recruits, Henry Rodriguez and Kyle Sandberg entered the Police Academy in Meriden, CT on April 2, 2013.

A new recruit was hired in April, Jason Piccirillo. He will tentatively begin the police academy on July 5, 2013.

All other efforts for recruitment are underway to fill the remaining three vacancies. There are two candidates in the background phase, including polygraphs, psychological, employment physical and drug testing.

Both full time dispatcher positions were filled. Ms. Chrystal Gibbs and Ms. Jalisa Cuevas joined the department and are in the training phase for the next 3 months.

### Community Services

The Citizens Police Academy held five sessions during the month of April. The academy meets on Tuesday evenings at the police department, focusing on subject matters of Penal Code, Emergency Services (CPR training), Crime Scene/Evidence Collection, Domestic Violence, Emergency Service Team and K-9 demonstrations.

The department also worked in conjunction with the University of Hartford campus security for their Spring Weekend. The event concluded without any Bloomfield Police intervention.

## **FIRE**

Chief Riley of the Bloomfield Center Fire District commended the emergency services of Police, BVA, Social Services and the Red Cross in regards to assisting victims of the fire on Dorothy Drive.

The department will also participate in an extrication activity with the Citizens Police Academy.

Councilor Jacobs inquired about the condition of fire hydrants in town. The MDC is responsible for re-painting fire hydrants that are not on private property. He also asked about sufficient equipment and staff for major fires in town.

## **EMS**

Mr. Pat Braun reported that the EMS Committee will meet to review and compile statistics regarding EMS calls. There will also be an update from the Coordinator about an EMT class beginning in September 2013.

The BVA Fund met and reported a 50% increase in donations this past year. With the next fund drive, the Fund may have sufficient donations to purchase a new ambulance, however the discussion was to decide to seek other funding to assist.

The BVA Awards Banquet was held at Vito's by the water, in which the BVA Fund donated approximately \$6,000 to host the event. This event was held to thank volunteers for their time, effort and commitment to BVA.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Councilor Jacobs, seconded by Councilor Washington and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m.