STOUGHTON POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

January 2021 Police Department Report

Last quarter highlights:

Like most businesses, the department had three employees testing positive for COVID. This resulted in those employees being quarantined before they were allowed to return to work. Internal contact tracing showed that the exposure was likely from an outside department source. At no time was the public exposed to those that tested positive.

Officer Dovichi spearheaded a Thanksgiving Meal Drive with department staff. Staff and their families prepared food and served approximately 55 adults and children on the day before Thanksgiving. Meals included turkey, stuffing, casseroles, homemade bread and pumpkin pies. Meals were packaged so that families could use them on Thanksgiving Day. Families in need were identified with the assistance of the Stoughton School District. Another example of Stoughton PD staff giving back to the community!

The Stoughton School District voted to not renew our contract for the School Resource Officer (SRO) position. Our current contract with the Stoughton School District expired in June. The School Board cited budget constraints and a larger than expected drop in enrollment as the reason for their decision. The department is of course disappointed with the District's decision and is in the process of evaluating what that will mean for department response to issues occurring in the school buildings once students return.

Staff is busy working on a modified Shop With a Cop program. Because of COVID concerns, we are unable to do Shop with a Cop as normally so Officers Stachel and Covarrubias came up with a virtual format. Eight children have been selected by the Stoughton School District and will participate with virtual shopping. Officers will then deliver presents to the child's doorstep. Officers Chris Stachel and Hector Covarrubias are again the lead officers of the program. All staff will assist with wrapping and delivery of the presents. We again want to thank Stellar Services for sponsoring the majority of the program. We also want to thank Walmart for their kind donation.

After some delivery glitches, staff was able to provide Christmas gifts to eight children in need in Stoughton. Because of COVID, things were a little different. Gifts for the children and family members were ordered online and wrapped at the police department by the officers. Several gifts were delayed due to delivery issues, but all eventually got to the families. Once again, we want to thank Stellar Services who generously covered all the costs of our Shop with a Cop program.

In November and December, three new babies were born to families in the department. We are happy to report that all are healthy. Staff will work through covering shifts for the three officers out on family leave. The burden was not too bad because the leaves were staggered.

The department is really ready to say good bye to 2020. To say the year has been a challenge just does not cover it at all; but the department is resilient and we will come out stronger and more prepared as a result of the challenge. We continue to work hard to ensure that our staff is the best they can be and grows from experience and self-evaluation. We are all looking forward to 2021.

Personnel Updates

The department has been busy filling vacancies that occurred in our Dispatch Center. Fulltime Dispatcher Sue Buechner and Part-time Dispatcher Lori Bell resigned, and longtime Dispatcher Karla Gander notified us of her intention to retire. This created a scramble to fill 2 full-time & 2 part-time positions. We have hired two part-time dispatchers, Merri Bailey and Rachel Davis. Both are fulltime communicators at the Dane County 911 Center. We hope to have the 2 full-time positions hired and starting in early November.

The department has been busy filling vacancies that occurred in our Dispatch Center. The department has hired Joe Shervey and Jennifer Wagner as new fulltime Dispatchers. Shervey has recent experience at the Dane County Communication Center and Stoughton EMS. Wagner is new to law enforcement communication and has a background in management. Both have started training and will hopefully be assigned to regular shifts by the end of 2020.

Significant Incidents

10-03-20, Officers referred charges of Resisting/Obstructing an Officer on a 13-year-old female following an EMS call where the juvenile attempted to attack the officer.

10-4-20, Officers cited four subjects, a 20-year-old male, two 17-year-old males, and a 15-year-old female for Criminal Trespass to as Dwelling following a report of a burglary in progress. The subjects had entered the vacant Stoughton School District Admin Building.

10-06-20, Officers arrested a 23-year-old male for Disorderly Conduct and Criminal Damage to Property following a disturbance at a local restaurant by an employee.

10-10-20, Officers responded to a shooting that occurred outside of the Shakers Bar. According to reports, at least two subjects exchanged gunfire after a disturbance. Suspects fled prior to officers arriving on scene. Approximately 15 shell casings where discovered at the scene. A short time later, the WI State Patrol had come across a vehicle in the ditch near I90/I39 and Hwy 51 interchange. Blood was discovered in the vehicle, not related to the crash. Officers were then notified by Edgerton Hospital that a subject walked into the hospital with 6 gunshot wounds. The subject later confirmed with officers that he was involved in an altercation and shot in the Shakers incident. The case remains under investigation.

10-26-20, Officers arrested a 41-year-old male for OWI 3rd Offense, Parole Violation, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Narcotic Schedule I Drug, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia following a traffic incident where the subject was unconscious in a vehicle stopped at an intersection.

10-29-20, Officers arrested a 42-year-old male for Negligent Use of a Weapon, Battery to an Officer, Resisting/Obstructing an Officer, Battery, and Disorder Conduct following a domestic disturbance. During the incident, the suspect threw a chair at officers prior to being taken into custody.

11-01-20, Officers are investigating a Burglary and subsequent Stolen Vehicle from a residence. Follow up investigation has determined that a band of roving car thieves from the Madison area is responsible for the burglary and theft. Case remains under investigation.

11-03-20, Officers investigated another Burglary and Theft of an auto from a residence. The vehicle also had weapons inside of it when stolen. The case was connected to the one from 11-1-20 and suspects have been identified. Case remains under investigation. Both vehicles have since been recovered.

12-06-20, Officers arrested a 34-year-old male for Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Probation Hold, and an Outstanding Warrant following an officer checking on a suspicious person behind a business.

12-14-20, Officers arrested a 28-year-old female for Theft, following an investigation into a stolen vehicle license plate.

12-16-20, Officers arrested a 29-year-old male for Felony Theft and Felony Bail Jumping following a theft of a snow blower from a hardware store.

October Statistics

The Stoughton Police Department logged 1875 incidents for October. Cases of interest for the month were: two OWI, three sexual assaults, two burglaries, one drug incident, eight thefts, five domestic disturbances, two threats, twenty-seven disturbances, nineteen disorderly conducts, twenty-three traffic crashes, seventy EMS assists, twelve alarms, three juvenile incidents, eighty-eight 911 calls, two warrant arrests, thirteen animal complaints, seventeen traffic complaints, and officers responded to twenty-six suspicious activity calls. Officers also logged 46 check persons, 50 check properties, 71 assist cases, 22 criminal charges, 4 ordinance violations, and 22 traffic arrests from 35 traffic stops.

November Statistics

The Stoughton Police Department logged 1623 incidents for November. Cases of interest for the month were: eight OWIs, two stolen vehicles, two burglaries, four drug incidents, nineteen thefts, ten domestic disturbances, seven threats, fourteen disturbances, thirteen disorderly conducts, fifteen traffic crashes, sixty-three EMS assists, nine alarms, two juvenile incidents, sixty-nine 911 calls, sixteen animal complaints, fifteen traffic complaints, and officers responded to thirty suspicious activity calls. Officers also logged 32 check persons, 59 check properties, 30 assist cases, 16 criminal charges, 8 ordinance violations, and 25 traffic arrests from 53 traffic stops.

December Statistics

The Stoughton Police Department logged 2030 incidents for December. Cases of interest for the month were: four OWIs, two stolen vehicles, five burglaries, one drug incident, eight thefts, five domestic disturbances, six threats, nineteen disturbances, nineteen disorderly conducts, thirty traffic crashes, forty EMS assists, twelve alarms, fourteen juvenile incidents, fifty-five 911 calls, thirteen animal complaints, twelve traffic complaints, and officers responded to thirty-one suspicious activity calls. Officers also logged 35 check persons, 65 check properties, 55 assist cases, 17 criminal charges, 4 ordinance violations, and 21 traffic arrests from 77 traffic stops.

Training Highlights

October

The Crowd Control Unit participated in 8 hours of in-house training to go over Tactical Response Training.

Annual Firearms Qualification Training started for officers at the Dane County Shooting Ranger.

November

All officers completed Annual Firearms Qualification at the Dane County Range.

Officers also recertified in CPR provided by Stoughton EMS.

Sgt. O'Neil attended at hours of K-9 Training with Ole.

December

No training in December

Report respectively submitted,
Chief Greg Leck