STOUGHTON POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

January 2022 Police Department Report

Last quarter highlights:

The replacement Speed Board has finally arrived. The new Board has arrived at the Public Works Department and they will be assisting in readying the unit for operations. We will keep you posted on when it is ready for deployment. As a reminder, because of winter road conditions we do not deploy the unit much in the winter months to avoid damage to the unit.

The department held our annual Shop with a Cop program on Dec. 11th. The department was able to take 10 children shopping under the program with each child being able to buy gifts for their families and for themselves. We want to thank our wonderful sponsor, Stellar Services, for again completely funding our Shop with a Cop Program. We also want to thank all the officers and their family members for taking the time to make this program a huge success. We also want to give a special shout out to Officer Chris Stachel, and his family, for all they do to coordinate the event and cook breakfast for the group.

On 12-19-22, Officers were attempting to apprehend the operator of a stolen vehicle in the Walmart parking lot. The operator of the vehicle attempted to strike the officer who was standing near the vehicle. Subsequently, the officer fired his weapon at the vehicle. The vehicle than fled northbound on Hwy 51 in the southbound lane attempting to elude the Sheriff's Deputies in a very dangerous pursuit. The suspect vehicle was only able to reach speeds of about 35 mph due to two tires being flattened. The vehicle continued to remain in the southbound lane while going northbound forcing other vehicles off the roadway. Officers were able to deploy Stop-sticks and get the vehicle off the road on Hwy 51 near Lake Kegonsa Road. The two occupants of the stolen vehicle were taken into custody without further incident. Since an officer discharged his weapon, the incident is being investigated by the Sun Prairie Police Department per policy. The Dane County Sheriff's Department, WI State Patrol, the Dept. of Justice Division of Criminal Investigation and State Crime Lab assisted Stoughton PD during the incident.

The department also had a Homicide on 12-31-21. The incident occurred at an apartment on Olson Court. The 19-year-old male victim was shot once in the chest and later died at the hospital. The investigation revealed that the shooter, also a 19-year-old male, was recklessly playing with the weapon and pointed it at the victim when the weapon fired. The shooter was taken into custody at the scene and charged with 1st Degree Reckless Homicide.

PERSONNEL NEWS

The Dispatcher hiring process is moving along. Staff conducted interviews of the seven finalists and we anticipate an offer of employment to be extended in early November. I talking with other agencies in our area, all are experiencing recruitment issues with both dispatcher and officer positions.

We are happy to report that we have hired two new dispatcher to fill the two vacant positions. Samantha McWilliams comes to us from the City of Beloit where she was previously a Police Records Clerk.

Tony Hugill previously worked as a dispatcher for the United States Coast Guard. Sam has already started and Tony will start during early December.

The department received notice that long time Detective Allen Adams has decided to retire on January 31st. Al has been one of our detectives for over 13 years and has been with the department a total of years. Detective Adams and Chief Leck share the position of being the only two department members that are on the second tours with the department.

The department extended an offer to an experienced applicant following interviews by the PFC. Mark Schollmeyer has accepted an offer and is now going through the background process. Mark was previously employed as a police officer in Iowa. Mark originally grew up in Stoughton. The department had extended an offer to another offer applicant but that applicant decided not to take the position. With the pending retirement of Detective Adams, the PFC has reopened the application period through January 14th.

The department has also pleased to report that John Basco has started with the department as a scheduled volunteer. John will be working with staff doing various projects, and helping as a Cross Guard backup. John previously served on the Stoughton Public Safety Committee as a citizen member.

Significant Incidents

10-03-21, Officers arrested a 37-year-old male for Possession of Methamphetamine, an Outstanding Warrant, and a Probation Hold following the officer observing the subject that he knew was wanted. During the arrest, the officer discovered the drugs on the subject.

10-04-21, Officers arrested a 35-year-old male for Disorderly Conduct and Resisting/Obstructing an Officer following a disturbance at a residence where officers had been called to attempt to keep the peace during a property exchange.

10-07-21, Officers arrested a 27-year-old female for OWI 3rd Offense, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Bail Jumping, and other traffic violations following a traffic crash where the suspect crashed into a parked motorcycle.

10-28-21, Officers are investigating an attempted motor vehicle theft that occurred in a residential area. Suspects attempted to take the victims vehicle, which was left running in the driveway/garage area of the residence. Victim saw the subject trying to get into the vehicle and chased him off. Subject got into a stolen Dodge Durango and fled the area. The vehicle and occupants were wanted for several burglaries that occurred earlier in the Oregon area. The case remains under investigation.

10-31-21, Officers arrested a 24-year-old male for Resisting/Obstructing an Officer following traffic stop where the suspect attempted to flee after leaving the vehicle unattended in a private driveway. The subject resisted officers when they tried to take him into custody and had to be Tased during the incident. The subject was also issued several traffic citations.

11-15-21, Officers arrested a 24-year-old male and a 46-year-old female for Retail Theft, Operating Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Consent, Resisting/Obstructing an Officer, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of THC, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia following a Retail theft incident at a local business. The incident occurred when an officer had been dispatched to a driving complaint and found that the vehicle came back stolen. The officer located the vehicle and detained a passenger as the driver fled on foot. Subject was later located after a search of the area.

11-17-21, Officers referred charges on a 34-year-old male for Felony Bail Jumping following a report that the subject violated conditions of his bail by contacting the victim. Subject fled the area prior to the arrival of the officers.

11-18-21, Officers referred charges on a 13-year-old male for Possession of a Facsimile Weapon on School Premises following an incident where the student brought a BB gun pistol to school.

12-17-22, Officers arrested a 28-year-old male for Battery and an Outstanding Warrant following a report of an intoxicated male walking shirtless on Hwy 51. Subject had struck another individual prior to the report.

12-17-22, Officers referred charges on a 30-year-old male for Retail Theft and Bail Jumping following an incident where the subject was seen stealing a TV from a local business. Subject absconded prior to the arrival of the officer.

12-19-21, Officers arrested a 36-year-old male for 1st Degree Reckless Endangerment, Operating Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Consent, Attempting to Elude Officers, Felony Bail Jumping, and Felony Outstanding Warrants following an incident were an officer tried to stop the subject from fleeing in a stolen vehicle in the Walmart parking lot. The subject tried to strike the officer with the vehicle and the officer fired his weapon. The subject then fled northbound on Hwy 51 in the southbound traffic lane while being pursued by Dane County and Stoughton Officers. Officers were able to get the vehicle stopped on Hwy 51 near Lake Kegonsa Road following Stop-sticks being deployed to stop the vehicle. Because of the Officer Involved Shooting, Sun Prairie Police are investigating the incident. A 29-year-old female was also taken into custody as Party to a Crime and on Outstanding Warrants

12-28-22, Officers arrested a 44-year-old male for Felony Bail Jumping and several traffic violations following a traffic stop.

12-31-22, Officers arrested a 19-year-old male for 1st Degree Reckless Homicide following a shooting in an apartment on Olson Court. The victim was shot once in the chest and was transported from the scene and later died at the hospital. The 19-year-old suspect had been recklessly banishing the weapon when it discharged striking the victim.

October Statistics

The Stoughton Police Department logged 2,111 incidents for October. Cases of interest for the month were: three OWI's, two sexual assaults, two burglaries, two drug incidents, eight thefts, four frauds, seven domestic disturbances, six threats, twenty-five disturbances, sixteen disorderly conducts, fifteen traffic crashes, sixty-four EMS assists, fifteen alarms, fifteen juvenile incidents, seventy-five 911 calls, twenty-two animal complaints, fifty-six traffic complaints, seven criminal damages to property, and officers responded to forty suspicious activity calls. Officers also logged 37 check persons, 105 check properties, 42 assist cases, 29 parking complaints, 19 criminal charges, 10 ordinance violations, and 24 traffic arrests from 56 traffic stops.

November Statistics

The Stoughton Police Department logged 1,859 incidents for November. Cases of interest for the month were: two OWI's, two sexual assaults, two burglary, seventeen thefts, four frauds, thirteen domestic disturbances, eight threats, twenty-five disturbances, sixteen disorderly conducts, twenty-three traffic crashes, fifty-five EMS assists, nineteen alarms, sixteen juvenile incidents, sixty-five 911 calls, thirteen

animal complaints, forty-two traffic complaints, five criminal damages to property, and officers responded to twenty-three suspicious activity calls. Officers also logged 38 check persons, 114 check properties, 63 assist cases, 18 parking complaints, 22 criminal charges, 5 ordinance violations, and 14 traffic arrests from 43 traffic stops.

December Statistics

The Stoughton Police Department logged 2048 incidents for December. Cases of interest for the month were: one homicide, four OWI's, three sexual assaults, two burglaries, fifteen thefts, three frauds, eleven domestic disturbances, six threats, twenty-three disturbances, sixteen disorderly conducts, twenty-four traffic crashes, fifty-six EMS assists, nine alarms, three juvenile incidents, seventy-two 911 calls, thirteen animal complaints, thirty-one traffic complaints, two criminal damages to property, and officers responded to twenty-three suspicious activity calls. Officers also logged 38 check persons, 53 check properties, 57 assist cases, 330 parking complaints/citations, 15 criminal charges, 2 ordinance violations, and 11 traffic arrests from 24 traffic stops.

Training Highlights

October

All officers attended the fourth session of Consortium In-service Training at the Dane County Range. Topics included; annual firearms qualification, Taser Re-certification. Less Lethal and defensive tactics de-escalation.

Officer Covarrubias attended 40 hours of Hostage Negotiator Training at Jefferson Co. Sheriff's Department.

Officer Thurston attended 16 hours of Operation RUSH Training.

Sgt. Miller, Officers Olson, Wilkinson, Julseth, & Knoeck attended 8 hours of Tactical Response Unit training.

Sgt. Miller and Officers Olson & Sime attended Special Event Team (Crowd Control) training with the Consortium and Dane County Teams conducted at Racetrack Park.

November

Officers attended the fifth session of Consortium In-service Training at the Dane County Range. Topics included; annual firearms qualification, Taser Re-certification. Less Lethal and defensive tactics de-escalation.

Officers Covarrubias, Dovichi, Julseth, and Sime attended 16 hours of Investigating Overdose Deaths Training at Waukesha Tech.

Officers Stachel, Hoeper, Dovichi, and Thurston attended 4 hours of Active Shooter Incident Management Training hosted by Dane County Emergency Management.

Officers Dovichi and Crystal attended 8 hours of Hide in Plain Sight searching training at Blackhawk Tech in Janesville.

December

Officers Covarrubias, Dovichi, Julseth, and Sime attended 16 hours of Investigating Overdose Deaths Training at MATC.

Officers Stachel, Hoeper, Dovichi, and Thurston attended 8 hours of Operation RUSH Training.

Officers Dovichi and Crystal attended 8 hours of Hide in Plain Sight searching training at Blackhawk Tech in Janesville.

Report respectively submitted,
Chief Greg Leck