

POLICE DEPARTMENT

I am pleased to report that the Hampden Police Department has been able to restore some services to our community this past year that we had lost in prior budget years. We have undergone a very active and dynamic year both internally and regarding calls for service.

A few of the significant changes in our Department have been that I have taken over as the permanent Chief of Police for Hampden and Scott Trombly has returned to his prior Patrol Officer's position. This opened a Sergeant's position which resulted in Officer William Joy being promoted to Sergeant. We were also able to restore two of the three vacant Patrolman's positions that were cut the prior year. We saw the return of a former Hampden full time officer; Tarwin Seega and full time dispatcher Michael Lynch who will be attending the Police Academy and will assume the other restored full time Patrolman's position. We were also able to restore a full time Dispatcher's position. While we are still short one full time Police Officer due to prior budget cuts, our Department is in a much better position to provide the service that the Town deserves and has grown to expect.

Regarding service to the community, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the department's employees who have done an outstanding job this past year dealing with some very tragic and trying events. The Hampden Police Department has received praise from our District Attorney's office for the investigative efforts of members of our Police Department regarding the extraordinarily tragic murder of a young woman this year. The entire staff worked tirelessly and all members of the Department, from Patrol to Dispatch to Reserve Officers performed their duties in an outstanding manner. The officers investigating the incident completed a lengthy and complicated investigation that lead to the arrest and indictment of a suspect. Beyond this particular incident, there were a number of other incidents resulting in the loss of lives of those much too young, and these too were handled with great professionalism by the Officers of this Police Department.

On a more positive note, the Police Department has been able to expand and reinstitute some programs within our Town. We continue to have officers working in both our schools on a weekly basis. Sergeant William Joy is working at Thornton Burgess School and Officer Scott Trombly is working at Green Meadows School. With the re-opening of the Town's Senior Center, Reserve Officer Kevin Carroll and Officer Michael Cooney are serving as our Senior Resource Officers.

I have applied for a number of grants this past year and we have received a Community Policing Grant which allowed us to implement such things as the School Resource Officer positions and the Senior Resource Officers. We were

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able to continue a very popular youth golf program at the Hampden Country Club this summer and had over 65 Hampden children participating throughout the summer. We have also received a Governor's Highway Safety Bureau Traffic Enforcement Grant that will allow us to address some traffic issues. The traffic safety grant will specifically address drunk driving during holiday periods.

We continue to work on projects within the department such as updating our radio communications system to allow better communications between the Police and Fire Departments and surrounding public safety agencies. School safety has been an on-going effort and we continue to work with the regional schools to help enhance and facilitate their efforts.

I would like to thank the members of the Hampden Fire Department and the Highway Department for their assistance this past year, and most importantly I want to thank the men and women who make up the Hampden Police Department for their support and outstanding service to our community.

Respectfully submitted:

Jeff W. Farnsworth
Chief of Police