



TOWN OF NEWTOWN

191 S. Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470
TEL (203) 270-4256
FAX (203) 270-4247

Joel Faxon
Brian Budd
Scott Cicciari
Neil Chaudhary
Stephen Sedensky

POLICE COMMISSION

The Board of Police Commissioners
Regular Meeting, Tuesday, October 3, 2023 @ 6:30 pm
191 South Main Street, Newtown, CT
Conference Room

MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Present: Joel Faxon, Brian Budd, Scott Cicciari, Neil Chaudhary (absent), Stephen Sedensky

Also Present: Chief David Kullgren, three members of the public, and two members of the police union, Officer Maryhelen McCarthy & Officer Felicia Figol.

Chairman Faxon called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Participation

None

Police Union Participation

None

Consideration and Action on Minutes: Commissioner Cicciari moved to accept the amended minutes of the regular meeting of September 5, 2023. Commissioner Faxon seconded. Motion passes.

Chief's Report

Personnel Report - authorized 45 – one returned from workers comp leave, and one went out on workers comp leave, one on military deployment, effective strength 43, and one pending retirement in January. Chief and Deputy Chief activities are listed in the attached report. The Deputy Chief and I attended a legal update seminar last week, and one of the topics was a quarterly roundtable to discuss gun violence with the community. The statute does give an exemption to waive these meetings, providing the Town CEO, The Police Commission, and the Chief agree. This is one of many statutes the governor signed into law to improve gun safety in CT. After talking with the First Selectman, action on this will not be taken. We will wait until our November or December meeting to address it. Commissioner Faxon stated that the decision can be revisited at any time if needed. Chief Kullgren stated that a

vote would need to be taken to; not have them until what time they would be needed or put future quarterly meeting agendas. Commissioner Sedensky stated that as he reads the statute, the police department is required to hold a meeting quarterly unless waived by the First Selectman, the Police Commission, and the Chief. Chief Kullgren agreed. Commissioner Faxon said we will keep track going forward and take action if something happens in this town or close by that warrants a need for a meeting and will be acted on at that time.

Chief Kullgren stated that funding was obtained for an accreditation requirement of a secured and monitored impound yard, which will be on the north side of the building and is currently working on coordinating with the vendor and public works.

Patrol Report - Major Incident on September 24, 2023, during the midnight shift, erratic operation on Rt 25. About 100 vehicles traveling southbound pulled into Stop and Shop Plaza and were doing donuts and operating recklessly in the parking lot. Three officers and a sergeant responded and called Monroe for backup support. Once officers arrived, the cars fled toward Monroe. Officers used restraint and gathered intelligence that can be used to take action and is being worked on with regional agencies. Commissioner Budd stated that this is the perfect application for the LPR technology. Commissioner Faxon stated that some criminals do this during the day, and due to the number of people out, there are many types of additional damage or harassment that could happen. Commissioner Faxon thanked everyone for their work on this.

Traffic Issues – A townwide enforcement list was supplied to the commissioners. Working with public works to obtain pricing for illuminated stop signs at the intersection of Hattertown, Key Rock, and Poverty Hollow to improve safety at that intersection. Tunnel Road and Barnabus: Sightline issues have been cleared by public works. 11 trees had to come down. Toddy Hill Rd/Botsford Hill Rd warning signs (s-curve) – a complaint came in through the First Selectman's office. The traffic unit checked, reviewed, and created work orders to install W1-5R and W1-1L signs in both directions. Botsford Hill Rd/Railroad Bridge - improvements to warning signs in both directions (Curve Ahead & Bridge Height) - 90-degree curve – signage has been improved but is not complete. Commissioner Faxon questioned the height of the vehicles that get stuck under the bridge. Officer Felicia Figol, stated that the additional height was around two feet. The vehicles are typically commercial vehicles that their GPS told them to go that route. Commissioner Faxon stated that the chevron-style signs grab a driver's attention more so than an arrow. There is an open work order on this and to include chevrons or other appropriate signage. The current height restriction signage meets or exceeds the MUTCD guidelines. We are also looking to improve the signage with vertical reflective stripes on signposts.

Commissioner Faxon stated in the paper there are more frequent infractions being given. His opinion is that when a person is injured or property damaged and there is an issuable infraction, a ticket should be given. A run-of-the-mill collision deserves an infraction. There is an online resolution option for infractions through the Central Infraction Bureau.

Commissioner Faxon stated that after parking at Edmond Town Hall and viewing the passing drivers, 80% of the drivers around Edmond Town Hall were operating their vehicles while on a phone and/or tablet. He stated that this is an infraction and should be ticketed. Commissioner Budd questioned if the police had participated in the distracted driving grants. Chief Kullgren stated that these grants have not been pursued for some time due to the lack of interest in participation in the overtime. He stated that we have been balancing current order-in and minimum staffing demand with keeping morale up. Officer Felicia Figol stated that she and Officer Hull were up at Edmond Town Hall a few weeks ago and performed a cell phone detail, which resulted in tickets and an arrest.

Commissioner Sedensky stated that Officer Fernando Pereira attended a Finding Words child abuse investigation training, which is an excellent course.

Old Business

Exit 11 Update

Chief Kullgren stated that lanes were opened up a week and a half ago. The contractors are currently working on the final punch list items. The repainting of lines is in the works. Commissioner Cicciari stated a concern at Toddy Hill, where two lanes turn, and issues with drivers not knowing which lane they should be in. Chief Kullgren stated that there is a painted center line divider and that there will be a learning process with the new traffic patterns. Chief Kullgren stated that he had seen a vast improvement in traffic after viewing the area at 7:30 a.m. Commissioner Faxon asked for an update on completion dates. Chief Kullgren said that there is a punch list of things to do that will take about a month.

New Business

Consideration and Action on Policy and Procedures related to accreditation

Three accreditation chapters have been worked on. They are in Tiers 2 and 3. The goal is to be as close to complete with Tier 3 as possible before Lieutenant Robinson retires in January 2024. The communication protocols police have had a number of updates. Chief Kullgren did a basic overview of the items that have had modifications and/or additions in these three chapters. Chief Kullgren explained that the accreditation policies are now mandated by law under the police accountability bill. Newtown is currently ahead of the deadline. Commissioner Budd questioned the proofs of these new policies. Chief Kullgren stated that the proofs must be done every year. The building and maintaining of the policy and procedures is a big challenge. Chief Kullgren stated that this process is time-consuming, and Lieutenant Robinson and assistants have been working on this, and it is a full-time job.

Commissioner Budd moved to approve the modifications to the existing Policy and Procedures related to accreditation in General Order 3 – Prisoner Holding Facility, Chapter 2 – General Order 2 Evidence and Property Reporting and Collection, General Order 2.1 - Crime Scene Processing, and Chapter 1 - General Order 1 Communication Protocols with the authorization to either include or remove the copyright language subject to Chief Kullgren's discretion. Commissioner Cicciari seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Toddy Hill Rd/Botsford Hill Rd warning signs

see Chief's Report

Toddy Hill Rd/Railroad Bridge; improvements to warning signs in both directions (curve ahead & bridge height)

see Chief's Report

Discussion and Action on Round Tables Concerning Gun Violence

see Chief's Report

Correspondence

None

Commissioners Participation

Commissioner Faxon stated that he noticed that the stop signs are still up on Old Green. He has emailed Public Works to have the signs removed.

Commissioner Sedensky stated that he had been approached about traffic at the flagpole and passing on the right. Chief Kullgren stated that it is illegal to cross the white fog line. Commissioner Cicciari stated that other options have been discussed, and it is a safety issue. Commissioner Budd stated that if the borough does not approve the removal of the flagpole, then the state is not going to make any changes. Commissioner Faxon stated he feels that the flagpole is a quaint, out-of-the-time obstruction and should be removed. Officer Felicia Figol suggested that

there be no left turns at the flagpole. Commissioner Faxon stated that it is a great idea. Commissioner Cicciari stated that other calming efforts have been discussed and may warrant an engineering discussion. Commissioner Faxon stated that a study was done 7-8 years ago, and a vast majority of the borough was against removing the flagpole even though the commission was for it. The flagpole makes for a daily traffic jam.

Possible Action

None

Adjournment: Having no further business, the regular meeting of the Board of Police Commissioners, Commissioner Cicciari motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Budd, Motion Passed at 7:24 p.m.

Dana Ulibarri, clerk

Enclosures

Chief Report September
Incident Statistics September
Newtown Stats 2022-2023
September Training Report
DB Report September
Community Services Report

Chief's Report

Police Commission

10/03/2023

Personnel Report:

- Department Authorized Strength - 45 personnel
 - Injury/Extended Leave – 0 personnel
 - Field Training – 0 personnel
 - Military Deployment - One, Sgt Adam James, deployed 10/1 for 60 days w/ USCG
 - Effective Strength – 44 personnel
 - One Retirement is scheduled for January 2024

Activities:

- Chief & Deputy Chief:
 - 9/6 Parade Debrief Meeting
 - 9/7 Department Head Meeting
 - 9/7 Regional Training Facility Meeting
 - 9/7 FCPTOA Executive Board Meeting
 - 9/8 Chesire DOC Range Tour
 - 9/11 Parent Connection
 - 9/12 FCCOP Meeting
 - 9/13 Regional MDT Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting
 - 9/14 BOE Safety Meeting
 - 9/15 Bailey Seminar, legal updates
 - Quarterly Round Tables to discuss gun violence (23-146 S.B. 1162, attached)
 - 9/18 Newtown Youth and Family Services, meet and tour
 - 9/19 CPCA Fall Meeting
 - 9/20 Community Partners (CIT) Meeting
 - 9/20 Funding for outdoor impound approved (Accreditation Required)
 - 9/21 FBINAA Executive Board Meeting
 - 9/27 Financial Wellness Training
 - 9/27 PCAC Awards Dinner
 - 10/4 CIRMA Site Visit, facility hazard assessment
- Patrol:
 - 9/24 Erratic Operation, approx 100 vehicles on Rt 25.
- Community Service Division:
 - Working with Community Partners to build relationships.
- Training:
 - See Attached Training Report.
- Detective Bureau

- See DB Activity Report
- Traffic Issues:
 - Town-wide Enforcement List updates. See attached.
 - Hattertown Rd / Key Rock Rd / Poverty Hollow; Improved stop sign plan.
 - Tunnel Rd / Barnabus Rd, sight line cleared by PW
 - Warning sign improvements on Toddy Hill/Botsford Hill.
 - SIGN COMPLIANCE AS A RESULT OF A RECENT COMPLAINT ON TODDY HILL ROAD NEAR BOTSFORD HILL ROAD;
 - INSTALL A 30"X30" (W1-5R) WARNING SIGN BETWEEN MAILBOXES OF #55 AND #58.
 - REPLACE THE EXISTING WARNING SIGN WITH A 30"X30" (W1-5L) WARNING SIGN ACROSS FROM MARLIN LANE.
 - INSTALL A 30"X30" (W1-2R) WARNING SIGN ACROSS FROM EVERSOURCE UTILITY POLE #798.
 - INSTALL A 30"X30" (W1-2L) WARNING SIGN BETWEEN EXISTING "NO THRU TRUCKS" SIGN AND #167.
 - WORK ORDER CREATED FOR HIGHWAY
 - Warning sign improvements on Toddy Hill @ Railroad Bridge
 - SIGN COMPLIANCE FOR 90-DEGREE TURN AT RAILROAD BRIDGE AS A RESULT OF MULTIPLE RECENT MVA'S ON BOTSFORD HILL ROAD AT THE RAILROAD BRIDGE;
 - REPLACE BOTH EXISTING CURVE WARNING SIGNS WITH (1) 30"X30" (W1-1R) AND (1) 30"X30" (W1-1L) APPROACHING THE BRIDGE.
 - STRAIGHTEN AND ALIGN BOTH EXISTING "ONE DIRECTION LARGE ARROW" WARNING SIGNS APPROACHING THE BRIDGE.
 - WORK ORDER CREATED FOR HIGHWAY.

Public Act No. 23-146 S.B. 1162, An Act Requiring Community Roundtables –

(Effective from passage) Establishes and funds roundtables and community policing programs to combat gun violence.

• On or before October 1, 2023, and on a quarterly basis thereafter, each municipal law enforcement unit shall hold a meeting with stakeholders in the municipality such unit serves, which shall be open to the public, seeking to: (1) Encourage information sharing, including collection and sharing of data, among meeting participants; (2) develop partnerships and coordinated strategies among participants to reduce gun violence and crime in the municipality; and (3) improve the responsiveness and accountability of the law enforcement unit to the residents of the municipality, and improve the responsiveness of and provision of services by meeting participants to the residents of the municipality, in order to better serve the municipality and reduce gun violence and crime in the municipality.

• Chief of the municipal law enforcement unit, the chief executive officer of the municipality served by such law enforcement unit, and the civilian police review board serving such municipality, if any, may agree that a meeting is unnecessary.

Incident Statistics Report

09/01/2023 00:00 Thru 09/28/2023 23:59

Call Type Description	Total for Period
P 911 CHECK	10
P ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE	3
P ALARM - CANCELLED	10
P ALARM FALSE	36
P ANIMAL CALL	34
P ASSIST AGENCY / MUTUAL AID	18
P BOATING STOP	16
P BUILDING CHECK	1074
P CIVIL MATTER	17
P COMMUNITY POLICING / EVENT	27
P CRISIS INTERVENTION	2
P DISABLED MOTOR VEHICLE	27
P DISPUTE	16
P DOMESTIC	5
P DUI	2
P DUMPING / LITTERING	1
P ERRATIC OPERATION	36
P FIRE ASSIST	1
P FIREARMS / AMMUNITION SURRENDER	3
P FIREWORKS COMPLAINT	3
P FOUND / LOST PROPERTY	12
P FRAUD / BAD CHECK	23
P HARASSMENT	3
P HEALTH / WELFARE CHECK	23
P K9 CALL OUT / TRAINING	2
P LARCENY	9
P LOCKOUT MOTOR VEHICLE / BUILDING	1
P MEDICAL ASSIST	9
P MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE	66
P MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT	13
P MVA	52
P MVA - DEER	2
P MVA - EVADING	4
P MVA - INJURY	12
P MVA - Officer Involved	1
P NARCOTICS / DRUGS	1
P NOISE COMPLAINT	11
P PARKING ENFORCEMENT / COMPLAINT	8
P PUBLIC HAZARD	38

Newtown Police Department

Incident Statistics Report

09/01/2023 00:00 Thru 09/28/2023 23:59

Call Type Description	Total for Period
P RECREATIONAL SHOOTING	3
P SEX OFFENSES	4
P STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE	2
P SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	95
P THREATENING	1
P TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT	74
P TRAFFIC STOP	85
P TRAFFIC STUDY / COMPLAINT	23
P TRESPASSING	1
P UNATTENDED DEATH	2
P UNFOUNDED	1
P VANDALISM	2
P WARRANT SERVICE	2
Total:	1926

2022 NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS
CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2023												YTD
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Calls for Service	1575	1218	1588	1316	1672	1614	1657	1610	1726				14122

	2022												YTD
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Calls for Service	1825	1129	1442	1434	1628	1489	1491	1719	1494	1484	1459	1451	17265

TRAFFIC CRASHES

	2023												YTD
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Property Damage	59	57	48	55	64	50	45	46	58				482
Personal Injury	4	7	7	8	10	10	4	11	12				78
Total Traffic Accidents	63	64	55	63	74	60	49	57	70	0	0	0	560

	2022												YTD
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Property Damage	79	44	56	51	47	49	43	42	68	65	59	71	674
Personal Injury	12	6	9	8	13	10	10	9	4	11	10	10	112
Total Traffic Accidents	91	50	65	59	60	59	53	51	72	76	69	81	786

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

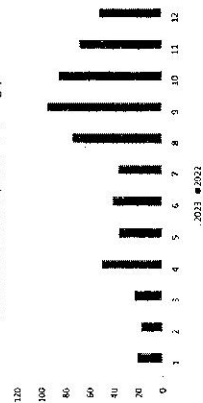
	2023												YTD
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Verbal Warning	98	89	110	66	74	57	64	64	54				676
Written Warning	30	18	34	22	13	9	20	20	9				175
Moving Violation	15	16	25	8	17	13	8	14	15				131
Total Enforcement Action	143	123	169	96	104	79	92	98	78	0	0	0	982

	2022												YTD
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Verbal Warning	21	18	25	50	36	41	36	74	95	85	68	52	599
Written Warning	0	1	8	21	17	10	23	13	14	18	13	3	141
Moving Violation	3	10	7	22	16	6	6	15	21	7	9	11	139
Total Enforcement Action	24	29	38	93	69	57	65	102	130	110	90	66	879

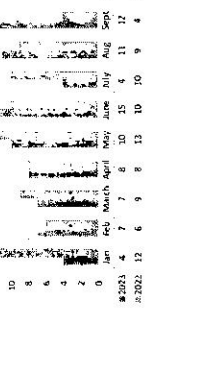
Traffic Enforcement (Written Warnings)



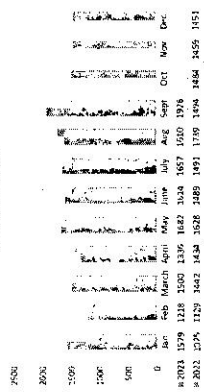
Traffic Enforcement (Moving Violations)



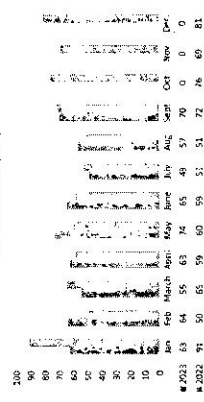
Traffic Enforcement (Verbal Warnings)



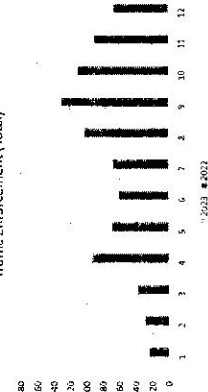
Calls for Service



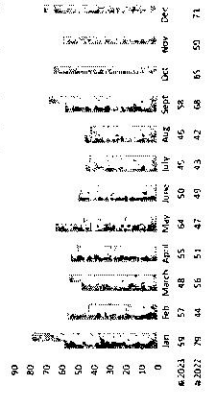
Traffic Crashes (ALL)



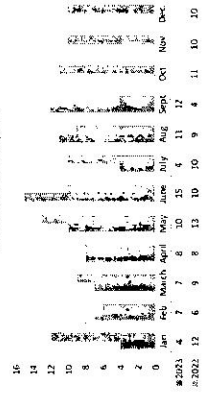
Traffic Enforcement (Total)



Traffic Crashes (Property Damage Only)



Traffic Crashes (Injury)



Department of
Police Services
Three Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470



Lt. Richard Robinson
Tel. (203) 270-4236
Fax (203) 270-0637

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Newtown Police Department Training/Accreditation Report September

During this month the following training was completed and/or instructed:

Employee	School Type	School Name	Date	Hours
Det. Monckton, Ofc. Mulhall	ESU	Sniper Monthly Training	9/5/23	8
Det. Monckton, Ofc. Facto	Instructor Training	Taser Instructor	9/12/23	9
Sgt. Ruszczyk	Mental Health	SMART – Milford Academy	9/14/23	4
Lt. Smith	General Instruction	Bailey Seminar	9/15/23	4
Sgt. Wood, Ofc. Hull, Ofc. McGowan	EMR	EMR Recertification	9/19/23 – 9/21/23	24
Lt. Seabrook, Det. Monckton, Ofc. Hayes, Ofc. Mulhall	ESU	ESU Monthly Training	9/19/23	8
Sgt. Silver, Det. Monckton	Firearms	Pistol Mounted Optics Instructor School	9/20/23 – 9/22/23	25.5
Ofc. McCluskey, Ofc. Guernsey	General Instruction	Drone Photography & Videography Part 1	9/23/23	3
Ofc. Wlasuk	Accident Reconstruction	Basic Crash Investigation	9/25/23 – 10/6/23	8
Det. Harold	Investigations	ICAC Training	9/25/23 – 9/26/23	9
K9 Ofc. Figol	K9	K9 Monthly Training	9/26/23	8
Ofc. McCluskey, Ofc. Guernsey	General Instruction	Drone Photography & Videography Part 1	9/27/23	3
Sgt. Wisentaner, Ofc. McCarthy, Ofc. Flynn, Ofc. Piazza	General Instruction	Financial Fitness	9/27/23	3
Sgt. McDermott	General Instruction	Grant Management	9/28/23 – 9/29/23	16

richard.robinson@newtown-ct.gov

Ofc. McCluskey, Ofc. Guernsey	General Instruction	Drone Photography & Videography Part 1	9/30/23	3
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Lieutenant Richard Robinson
Professional Standards Bureau Commander
Newtown Department of Police Services

Department of
Police Services
191 S. Main Street
Newtown, CT 06470



David M. Kullgren
Chief of Police
Tel. (203) 426-5841
Fax (203) 270-0637

TOWN OF NEWTOWN

DETECTIVE BUREAU ACTIVITY August 31, 2023 through September 28, 2023

Summary of New Cases Investigated by the Detective Bureau:

3 Sexual Assaults
1 Fraud Complaint
1 Hate Crime / Vandalism

Summary of New Cases Investigated by the Youth Division:

2 School Suspicious Incidents / Threats

Total New Investigations: 7

Cases of Note:

Sex Offenses:

The Detective Bureau is investigating 3 Sexual Offense Complaints. All 3 incidents are under investigation.

Hate Crime / Vandalism:

The Detective Bureau is investigating the vandalism of the "inclusion" sign at the Trinity Church located at 36 Main Street.

School Suspicious Incidents / Threats:

The Youth Division and Detective Bureau investigated 2 incidents in which social media posts / text messages made by students were reported as threatening. All incidents were determined to be unfounded, and no arrests were appropriate for the situations.

Observed Trends:

- There have still been numerous Fraud / Bad Check calls for service received by the Newtown Police Department. These Calls for Service generally encompass common scams via phone call, text or email, and fraudulently issued or modified bank checks. A social media post was created in an attempt to educate Newtown residence regarding a common scam.

- There has been an unprecedented increase in written checks being stolen from residential / commercial “blue” USPS mailboxes. These checks are then fraudulently negotiated, typically out of state. The Newtown Police Department has created several public notices advising the residents of Newtown to stop mailing paper checks, or delivers these mailings directly to the post office counter.
- The Youth Division has been active in the community, making a visible presence to community businesses.

Prepared by Detective Lieutenant Liam Seabrook

COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

SRO McDermott has transitioned into the high school very well and we are receiving positive feedback from school staff. She has been eager to familiarize herself with the building, students, and staff, and already has a noticeable presence in the hallways.

SRO Pereira has been working hard with various organizations and stakeholders to bring a presenter to all 7th through 12th graders and their parents to discuss vaping. He has displayed a lot of initiative, leadership, and teamwork in the process.

Ofc. Penna was instrumental in the success of this year's Labor Day Parade. He has built upon relationships forged by Ofc. Flynn and Ofc. Mulhall to foster a very cooperative effort between the PD and Highway Dept. that made the parade safer than ever without sacrificing efficiency. He has also provided aid with motorcycle escorts to the Hartford Police Dept., and the Hayes family in their recent times of loss.

Officers conducted a detailed audit of the compatibility with PD keys and Board of Ed. doors and found that in several doors our technology is incompatible with theirs. The solution moving forward will be the issuing of a universal electronic key to each officer to accompany the hard key on each frontline cruiser set.

Sgt. Chapman did a school safety training for staff at the Wellsley Learning Center and it was well received.

Sgt. Chapman also did a social responsibility talk for St. Rose School.

Sgt. Chapman was selected to represent CT at this year's International Special Olympics Torch Run Conference at the end of October.

Our social media engagement continues to grow. Ofc. McDermott and Sgt. Chapman participated in an FBI sponsored social media training course.

We have had multiple requests for ride-alongs, internships, and other educational partnerships. This speaks well of our reputation in the community and state.