



ANNUAL REPORT

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The Portsmouth Police Department provides law enforcement services for the City of Portsmouth. The mission of your police department is to prevent crime, preserve order, and to protect the rights, lives and property of all people. We will work in partnership with our Community to identify and effectively respond to the diverse, ever-changing social and neighborhood problems and needs. We will do this with respect, fairness and compassion.

We are staffed with 69 full-time officers, 28 auxiliary officers and 25 non-sworn civilian employees.

Community Policing Philosophy

The PPD has embraced the concept of community policing. Sir Robert Peale, credited as the father of modern policing, said the police are the people, and the people are the police. Officers are encouraged to take ownership and responsibility for their “beats” and to work with residents and business owners to solve problems.

Patrol



Selective Traffic Enforcement Program.

The **Stealth Stat** is a traffic monitoring device utilized by the PPD to accumulate traffic data on City streets and roadways. Results from the traffic surveys are also provided to the Department of Public Works Traffic and Safety representative to be used as needed.

The Stealth Stat monitors the flow of traffic. It counts vehicles that pass on the roadway and records their respective speeds. Reports generated provide police administrators with data necessary to most effectively deploy resources to address speeding problems on the roadway in question. This allows officers on the street to be present at the times they are most needed to address the problem and to better respond to the concerns expressed by the community.

In addition to the Stealth Stat, the Portsmouth Police Department deploys two **sign boards** in response to traffic-related issues. The first, a message board, is also equipped with a radar which triggers an alert to the passing motorist if they are speeding. The message board displays a predetermined message reminding motorists of the speed limit or other traffic concerns as needed.

The second is a newly acquired speed sign board. This board shows the speed limit and displays the passing motorist's speed in flashing numbers.

Both of these sign boards are deployed in neighborhoods as determined by the Department in response to concerns of residents or in response to results obtained by the Stealth Stat.

In addition, the Department deploys officers on **directed patrols**. If there is a speeding problem on a particular roadway, the Stealth Stat can give us the data we need to effectively deploy officers. The sign board gives motorists a friendly reminder, with voluntary compliance as the goal. The follow up is intense motor vehicle enforcement on the roadway to apprehend violators and deter future violations.

The Department's **Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)** aggressively enforces traffic laws and implements programs to address many traffic issues. Through the use of traffic grants administered by New Hampshire Highway Safety Administration, additional officers are put on the street on directed patrols.

Last year, the PPD received funding for and implemented the following grant-sponsored directed patrols:

- Route 1 corridor speed patrols (60 hours of patrol...20 three-hour patrols)
- Random speed enforcement (60 hours)
- Red light (intersection) enforcement (60 hours)
- Seat belt enforcement
- DUI Hunter saturation patrols
- Sobriety Checkpoint (x2)

Sobriety Checkpoints are an enforcement tool used as a **highly visible** tactic to deter incidence of drunk driving. Drunk driving is the most serious traffic offense and can have deadly consequences. With numerous drinking establishments in the City of Portsmouth, this city can be a source of drunk drivers to towns throughout the seacoast.

The PPD implemented two sobriety checkpoints in 2005. Ten drunk drivers were removed from the road as a result. Six other operators were arrested for misdemeanor offenses.



Child Safety Seat Program

Begun in 2000, our officers have checked over 600 child car seats for proper installation, both here at the Station and at events around the state.

Investigations

General investigators were assigned 300 cases in 2005. Family Services investigators were assigned 416 cases in 2005. These investigators are assigned major felony and misdemeanor cases. Investigative personnel brought 138

felony cases and 26 misdemeanor cases to the Rockingham County Superior Court.

Special Investigations Unit

Two detectives are devoted to drug and vice investigations. Grant funding pays the salary of one detective and partially funds the salary of one detective supervisor. The emphasis of these detectives is on local drug problems within the City. The unlawful use of narcotics is a nationwide problem. The Portsmouth Police Department is also actively involved with state and federal law enforcement drug investigations. This past year we were involved in a major case involving cocaine trafficking in the seacoast area of NH & Maine. Twenty-two people were arrested and charged with violations of federal drug laws. 22,000 Ecstasy tablets, 2 kilograms of cocaine, 4 firearms and over \$30,000 in cash were seized in this operation.

School Resource Officers

The PPD has three officers assigned as school resource officers in the Portsmouth schools; at the High School, at the Middle School and one at the City's Elementary Schools. They provide the interface between the police, the schools and the students. The officers teach a variety of classes and programs.

Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws

The Portsmouth Police Department has continued to combat underage drinking by utilizing several strategies. We conduct compliance check initiatives utilizing plainclothes officers to focus on

alcohol violations during city festivities in which underage liquor consumption is likely; and follow up on information received from a variety of sources such as the Alcohol Tip-line. Proactively, we send letters to hotel managers prior to the holiday season asking them to be vigilant to underage alcohol parties. We also provide information to the community about the dangers associated with underage access to alcohol. We use several formats to deliver information to high school students and staff members.

The Portsmouth Police Department uses several new strategies to promote the importance of vigilance regarding the enforcement of underage drinking laws. The Alcohol Tip-line, which is funded by Crime Stoppers, allows us to proactively respond to information we receive anonymously. The Tip-line is a regional initiative serving the towns of Portsmouth, Rye, Greenland, New Castle, Newington, and Kittery and Eliot Maine.

Additionally, every month the Portsmouth Police give a class at Portsmouth High School to every student that is turning 16 during that month. Among the program's objectives are to provide the 16-year-old with information concerning alcohol and motor vehicle laws and their application to 16-year-olds.

Since June 2005, the Portsmouth Police has done compliance checks at 47 licensed businesses. Of those 47, 7 provided alcohol to the volunteers. During a separate initiative conducted on New Year's Eve, plainclothes Portsmouth Police Officers arrested two individuals for Unlawful Possession/Intoxication.

Crimestoppers

A detective is assigned as the Crime Stoppers liaison officer. This national program locally serves the Seacoast communities of NH and ME. It has been instrumental in the recovery of \$52,000 worth of property and the seizure of \$86,000 worth of drugs in the Seacoast area.

Internet Crimes Against Children

The PPD is the headquarters of the Northern New England Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, comprised of the States of New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont. This national program seeks to increase awareness of internet crimes against children and to identify and prosecute offenders who prey on children. As part of the ICAC program, presentations are made to schools and parents explaining how to keep kids safe while using the Internet.

The Portsmouth Police Department has equipment and personnel trained in computer forensics that enable detectives to examine computers and associated devices for evidence of criminal activity. Grant funding pays portions of personnel salaries and for equipment.

National Night Out

On August 2, 2005, neighborhoods throughout Portsmouth joined forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the **“22nd Annual National Night Out Against Crime”** (NNO). National Night Out, which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW) and co-sponsored locally by the Portsmouth

Police Department, involves over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases around the world. In all, over 34 million people are expected to participate in “America’s Night Out Against Crime.” NNO is supported in part by the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance and Senator Judd Gregg.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts; and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. This past August marks the 11th year that Portsmouth has participated in this national event.

Portsmouth hosted a variety of special events such as block parties, cookouts, parades, contests, youth activities, games and visits from Police, Fire and Public Works personnel.

National Night Out is the nation’s largest, annual crime prevention event. It is an excellent way to strengthen police-community partnerships.



Information Systems

Our IS Department continues to work to increase the efficiency of police personnel. Mobile laptop computers are installed in police cruisers to allow the officers to immediately access updated information and to work from the field, keeping more personnel on the street.

Emergency Communications Center

The ECC answers all emergency calls for the City's Police and Fire/EMS Departments and provides dispatch services for the City's Public Works Department at night and on weekends. The ECC handles over 50,000 phone calls and approximately 45,000 dispatch calls each year.

Portsmouth Police Department Statistics for 2004 & 2005

Offense	2004	2005	Change
Homicide	0	0	
Kidnapping	13	3	-77%
Rape	23	17	-26%
Robbery	10	6	-40%
Agg Aslt	27	15	-44%
Assault	301	326	8%
Arson	5	6	20%
Burglary	41	65	59%
Theft	573	553	-3%
M/V Theft	39	38	-3%
Vandalism	411	408	-1%
Drug Offenses	190	130	-32%
Disorderly	106	173	63%
DWI	240	239	0%
Totals	2997	2996	0%
Calls for Service	37901	41514	10%
Arrests	1412	1496	6%
Traffic Stops	9096	9462	4%
M/V Accidents	1315	1363	4%