



## Office of the Chief of Police

### MEMORANDUM

To: All sworn and civilian staff  
From: Colonel Michael J. Winkquist  
Date: April 24, 2015  
Subject: **Departmental Updates (January 1, 2015-April 24, 2015)**

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The first four months of 2015 have been very busy and I wanted to ensure that you remain informed about the great work that is being accomplished on a daily basis.

#### *Snow related enforcement activity*

Thankfully the much anticipated spring weather has arrived. It was a challenging winter with blustery temperatures and record setting snow accumulations. I know that working in these conditions is less than enjoyable. I also recognize that enforcing City ordinances associated with significant snow accumulations, such as parking bans and uncleared sidewalks is far from desirable. I thank you for handling these duties in the most efficient and professional manner. Your efforts were instrumental in allowing for the plowing of our streets and safe travel for pedestrians. Below are the snow enforcement statistics for 2015:

- Accidents handled: **418**
- Snow Ban Citations Issued: **258**
- Snow Ban Vehicles Moved at the request of police: **384**
- Snow Ban Tows: **73**
- Sidewalk Notification Warning Letters Distributed: **198**
- Sidewalk Violations Residence: **30**
- Sidewalk Violations Business: **32**
- Total Sidewalk Violations: **62**

Four of our officers were injured as a result of weather related incidents. I wish those who continue to heal from these injuries a speedy recovery.

## Personnel

As you are aware, on March 26, 2015 Majors Patalano and Quirk were sworn in as the Executive Officer and Chief Administrative Officer respectively. This solidifies the Command Staff for many years to come. Majors Patalano and Quirk bring over 48 years of experience and institutional knowledge which makes them well qualified and deserving of these positions.

Most recently, after 21 years of honorable and dedicated service to the Cranston Police Department, Lieutenant Alan Loiselle has announced his retirement effective May 1, 2015. I congratulate Lt. Loiselle on a successful career and wish him well in his future endeavors.

A permanent bid was awarded to increase the number of School Resource Officers to four. These positions are critical to ensure our schools are safe, as well as establishing positive relationships with our youngest and most impressionable citizens.

Due to a significant reduction in Professional Standards complaints and in order to maximize our supervisory resources, I moved a Lieutenant position out of Professional Standards to the Special Investigations Unit. There have been a total of 5 Professional Standards investigation for 2015 in comparison to 16 complaints for the same time frame in 2013 and 12 complaints for the same time frame in 2014. I attribute this reduction to your continued professionalism which is greatly appreciated.

We currently have three recruits in the Municipal Police Training Academy who will graduate May 22, 2015. With Lt. Loiselle's retirement and the addition of the recruits, our sworn compliment will rise to 149 officers. I will continue to strive to hire quality candidates and reach full strength of 153 sworn members. Thanks to the hard work of the Training Division and the many Officers who volunteered to assist with our recruitment campaign, we have received 460 applications for the position of Police Officer. The agility test is the next phase of the process and is scheduled for this Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 9:00am at Cranston West High School. Those who pass all phases of the selection process will be placed on a hiring eligibility test, which will remain in effect for two years.

There are currently eleven Officers on IOD status. Four of these Officers have applied for Disability Pensions through the Employees Retirement System of Rhode Island. They are in various stages of this process, which is quite lengthy. One of these disability cases is scheduled to be reviewed by the retirement panel in early May. All of the disability pension cases are updated weekly by the Officer in Charge of the Inspections Unit who is working hard to assist in moving these cases to conclusion.

Once Lt. Loiselle's retirement is final, I will be conducting interviews of the top three officers on the promotion eligibility lists for the ranks of Lieutenant and Sergeant. The City charter was changed this past November which allows all City Departments heads to select from the top three eligible candidates for promotion. In addition to conducting interviews, I will be reviewing each candidate's personnel and professional standards file. I hope to schedule those interviews shortly.

Civilian employee Rob "Bob" Rainville from our BCI Unit has accepted a full-time clerical position in the Municipal Court. He will be greatly missed and I wish him well in his new position. I am working with Sgt. Patnaud and City Hall to replace this position.



Ms. Nora Grady was hired to replace Ms. Denise Deblasio. She will be providing administrative support for the Patrol Division and Command Staff. Many of you may know Ms. Grady, as she worked as a transcriber for the Department many years ago. Welcome back Nora.

#### Department Police Memorial Ceremony

The annual Cranston Police Department Police Memorial Ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2015 at 10:00am (rain date Thursday, March 14, 2015). The ceremony will be held in front of Cranston Police Headquarters. Please join me in honoring those officers from across our nation who made the ultimate sacrifice over the past year, as well as members of our own Department who lost their lives while serving the citizens of Cranston.

#### Aquidneck Island National Police Parade

Our Department has been invited to participate in the Aquidneck Island National Police Parade on Sunday, May 3, 2015. This parade is the largest and oldest police parade in the country. The parade honors those officers that have made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting those who they served, as well recognizes as those officers who are currently serving. Officers from throughout the country and beyond regularly participate. We currently have 37 officers who have volunteered to represent the Department in various capacities including the Honor Guard and Motorcycle Unit.

#### Cranston Police Department Retirees Association Meeting

Our retired officers will be holding their next meeting at Cranston Police Department Headquarters (Community Room) on Wednesday, April 29, 2015 at 7:00pm. All current officers are welcome to come and interact with our retired members at the start of their meeting. It is important that we continue to honor and respect to those members who came before us and helped build the fine reputation we enjoy today as Cranston Police Officers. After their meeting concludes, the retirees will be provided with a tour of CPD Headquarters and the opportunity to acquire an updated retired Department identification.

#### Community Outreach

The Department continues to being very active in the community. The newly formed Office of Community Outreach has been very busy coordinating various events.

In the next few weeks, we will be opening our first police substation in the Knightsville Manor. This space and office equipment was donated by the Woloohojian family who own the property. I am appreciative of the efforts of Captain McAteer and Sergeant Chapman who were instrumental in achieving the goal in opening a substation. Officers assigned to this beat will be encouraged to use the office to complete their paperwork and interact with the residents of the building and neighbors. Our presence will provide an opportunity for citizens and members of the Department to enhance communication and provide a deterrent for criminal activity. We will be seeking to open a second substation in the eastern section of the City in the near future.

In effort to raise funds for the YMCA and the Rhode Island Special Olympics, our Department will be facing members of the Fire Department in a charitable basketball game. The game is scheduled for May 21, 2015 at 6:30pm at the Cranston East gymnasium. Coaches Hopkins and Cipalone have been working

diligently to whip into shape those officers who volunteered to play. Please come out to support the team for a worthy cause.

The Glen Hills Crime Watch meeting is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup> at the Glen Hills School. Further details will be sent out by the Office of Community Outreach.

Thank you to the many Officers who volunteered to be guest readers at various elementary schools across the City in recognition of National Reading Week. Major Quirk and I read to students at the Gladstone Street School and saw first-hand the positive impact we as police officers can have on our youth.

The Cranston Police 5k Road Race is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Captain McAteer is working with various organizations to beginning the planning process and may be seeking volunteers to serve on the race committee. The race will begin in Garden City as it had in years past. The profits from the race will be donated to the YMCA and Rhode Island Special Olympics

Eight officers have volunteered to serve as mentors in the Rhode Island Mentoring Project. Officers will spend one hour per week with a child each week to provide guidance, as well facilitate trust and sharing that will result in a relationship that will have a positive impact. The program kicks off April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Great job by Officer Eric Leclerc who raised funds for the Rhode Island Special Olympics by participating in the annual Super Plunge. He joined a team of police and firefighters who plunged in the frigid ocean waters at Salty Brine State Beach every hour over a 24 hour period. Without question, that takes dedication and perseverance!

Officer Julie Furgasso had a forever lasting impact in the life of World War II veteran Alfred "Fred" Bettencourt who recently passed away. Officer Furgasso provided not only much needed companionship to Fred in the last days of his life, but also worked with Senator Jack Reed's office to ensure that he received the long overdue honor of being awarded a Purple Heart medal. Great job Officer Furgasso!

### Awards

Department awards have been distributed to many officers in both Patrol and Detectives. Many of these awards were well overdue, as they were the result of incidents that occurred a year ago or more. The new awards nomination and voting process has been implemented. By streamlining the process, awards are now being issued in a matter of weeks. Additional awards will continue to be distributed over the next few weeks. Supervisors are encouraged to nominate officers and civilian employees who go above and beyond while carrying out their duties.

In addition to recognizing our officers through our internal awards process, we continue to nominate our officers for external recognition such as the New England Chiefs of Police Association, the Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation Office on Highway Safety.



### Special Reaction Team

The Department's Special Reaction Team is a well-trained group of committed Officers who are called upon in high risk situations requiring specialized tactics and equipment. The value of having such an asset was evident over the past few months. SRT was deployed four times and performed flawlessly. Great job by all members of the team! The team is currently in the process of achieving re-certification through the RI Tactical Officers Association. In the near future, vacancies on the team will be filled through a competitive selection process.

### Citizens Police Academy

The most recent Cranston Police Department Citizens Police Academy kicked off on the evening of April 14, 2015. Over forty citizens from various backgrounds are getting a first-hand experience of the many challenges we face as police officers. The 8 week course is facilitated by our Training Division and will involve many of you who will serve as guest instructors. Thank you for taking the time to support this important initiative. Educating the public about the complexities of law enforcement will foster trust and understanding which is critical with incidents such as Ferguson, New York City, Baltimore and South Carolina playing out in the media.

### Budget

Major Patalano and I appeared before the Council on Monday night and presented the Department's FY16 annual budget. The proposed budget for the Police Department can be found on the City website. Thank you to the many officers including Union President Santagata who came to the meeting to support Major Patalano and my efforts to obtain the necessary funding to ensure the Department is properly equipped. Your presence was recognized and well received by members the Council.

### Grants

We continue to pursue grant funding to maximize our operations within our fiscal constraints. Below is a list of grants we have been awarded:

- Prescription drug collection box (CVS Caremark)
- Naloxone (kaleo Corporation)
- Purchase of new Tasers (RI Emergency Management Agency)
- Blue Riptide OT funds for speed enforcement, DUI, Click or Ticket and SIDNE (RI DOT-Office on Highway Safety)
- Purchase of Crash Data Retrieval equipment and training (NHTSA through RI DOT Office of Highway Safety)
- Refurbishment of Special Victims Unit interview rooms (Cardi's Furniture and Dunkin Donuts)

We have applied for other grants which are pending. Great job by the many officers who were successful in acquiring these funds!

### Interns

We have reinstituted the internship program and are fortunate to have five college students this semester who are interested in pursuing criminal justice careers. Please take the time to share your knowledge with these students. They will be touring different units and divisions within the police department over the next several weeks.

### Activity

I am impressed by the amount of work that is done on a daily basis. Below are the year to date statistics for 2015:

	YTD 2015	YTD 2014
Arrests	782	786
Citations	1,762	2,120
Calls For Service	19,880	19,571
Incidents	2,390	2,579
DUI	40	34
Accidents	1,239	1,098

### Honor Guard

The Honor Guard has represented our Department at many events this year, most notably at the Pawtucket Red Sox and the New England Patriots. They are also scheduled to appear at an upcoming Boston Red Sox game. I commend members of the unit for assuming this additional duty and representing our Department in such a professional manner.

### Replacement Vehicles

We will soon take delivery of a new Dodge Charger and a Ford Taurus Interceptor. These vehicles are replacing two vehicles that were involved in accidents and deemed a total loss.

### Traffic Enforcement/Care Detail

As the result of the input many of you provided, I approached Mayor Fung's administration and members of the Council who agreed to reinstate the City funded CARE detail. Funding has been secured to run the detail 5 days per week with one officer assigned daily for a 4 hour period. The Traffic Unit will

assign officers to this detail to conduct intensive traffic enforcement in locations identified through crash analysis and complaints received from citizens.

State funded traffic enforcement details will also continue.

#### Traffic Unit

Two members of the Traffic Unit completed a two week Commercial North American Standard Inspection course hosted by the Massachusetts State Police and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. This course certifies members of our Traffic Unit to conduct inspections of commercial vehicles. There was no cost to our Department as the expense was incurred by grant funds available by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration through the Rhode Island State Police Commercial Enforcement Unit.

#### National and State Reaccreditation

As previously reported, in March our Department achieved National re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies. Our State accreditation status through the Rhode Island Police Chiefs' Association has also been fully reinstated.

#### Cranston Police Department in the Media

We will continue to promote the great work you do on a daily basis through the media. Below is a list of press releases that were distributed in 2015:

- Cranston Police Officer Struck by a Vehicle While Effecting a Narcotics Arrest
- Two Fugitives from the State of Iowa Arrested after Officers Respond to a Domestic Dispute
- Cranston Police Seize Heroin after executing a Search Warrant
- Six Providence Residents Arrested for Larceny of Motor Vehicle Rims and Tires
- Cranston woman arrested for DUI after striking a marked cruiser
- Cranston Police Arrest Massachusetts Man for Enticement of a Child, Child Molestation and Sexual Assault
- Joint Investigation into a Local Fencing Operation Leads to Multiple Arrests and Recovery of Stolen Goods
- Cranston Police Department Issues Naloxone to Officers in an Effort to Combat Opiate Overdoses
- Cranston Police Arrest a Man Wanted for Threatening to Kill a Quincy, Massachusetts Police Officer
- Cranston Police Investigate a Gas Station Robbery Leading to the Arrest of a Massachusetts Man
- Cranston Police Investigate an Assault that Leads to a Local Man Being Hospitalized and an Arrest
- Cranston Police Investigate a Road Rage Incident that Culminated in the Parking Lot of the Police Station
- Cranston Police Officer prepares for the SUPER PLUNGE in Narragansett
- Shots fired report leads to Cranston Police Special Reaction Team (SRT) making entry into a Woodbine Street apartment to execute a Search Warrant



- Cranston Police investigating a robbery at the Shear Dimensions Hair Salon Leading to a Car Jacking
- Cranston Police Investigates an Armed Robbery at the Subway restaurant in the Edgewood section of the City
- Cranston Police Department Achieves National (CALEA) Reaccreditation
- Cranston Police Identify Suspect in the Shear Dimensions Hair Salon Robbery and Car Jacking
- Cranston Police Officer Deploys Naloxone to Prevent a Fatal Heroin Overdose
- Cranston Police Department Announces the Results of the Semi-Annual Click It or Ticket Campaign
- Robbery and Carjacking Suspect Jerry Cintron Arrested in the State of Connecticut
- Pedestrian Struck by a Motor Vehicle in Nightclub Parking Lot Results in DUI Arrest
- Cranston Police Make Arrest for the Weekend Shooting in front of the Tuma Mini Mart

Our Social Media presence continues to grow thanks to the work of Captain McAteer and Lieutenant Jennings. Please encourage others to visit of Department Facebook page.

#### Construction of new Department Website

The newly constructed Department website is close to being completed and will be launched over the next few weeks.

#### Human Trafficking


I recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the FBI which will allow our personnel to be deputized with Federal law enforcement powers to better enable us to jointly investigate human trafficking cases. The Child Exploitation Task Force is managed by the FBI- Boston Division.

I also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with US Immigration and Customs Enforcement- Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) which also affords our participating detectives with Federal law enforcement powers to pursue human trafficking cases. As these cases continue to become more prevalent, having these Federal partnerships in place will be prove highly beneficial to our Department.

#### Thank You

Please know that I appreciate all of the hard work you put forth on a daily basis for the betterment of the Cranston Police Department and the citizens we serve. It is a truly a team effort by all sworn and civilian staff.

Respectfully,

  
Colonel Michael J. Winquist  
Chief of Police