

Darien Police Department Quarterly Report

Chief Duane J. Lovello

4/1/2015

1st Quarter 2015

“Pride in Excellence”

Introduction

Due to the retirement of Officer Edward Schildnecht, Jr. (after 32 years of service) and the resignation of Officer Evan Desimone (who returned to a law enforcement position in the State of Florida), the Department once again had openings for two sworn police officers. The department would like to hereby recognize the longstanding service of Officer Schildnecht to the Town of Darien. In October of 2014, the Department had contracted with I/O Solutions to hold a written examination for police officer positions. Approximately 160 applicants applied for positions with the department. Subsequent to the written examination, successful candidates on the written portion continued on to physical fitness testing and a two tiered interview process with members of the department staff and the Darien Police Commission. As a result of this intensive testing procedure, the Department hired Probationary Patrol Officer Leslie Silva as its newest member on March 23rd, 2015. Officer Silva will start recruit training at the State of Connecticut Police Academy on April 2nd, 2015 which will last approximately five months. Once graduating from the Academy, she will return for an additional ten weeks of local Field Training with a veteran Field Training Officer (FTO) before being certified for full police duty. Officer Silva comes to the Department with a background in Administrative Assistance and was employed by Lenox Advisors in Stamford, CT prior to her hire here. The department is actively seeking to fill the remaining police officer position during the 2nd quarter of 2015 in order to bring the department back to full strength. Officer Amanda Hinkley, hired in late 2014, continues her training at the Connecticut Police Academy and is doing very well thus far. She is on track for graduation in June of 2015 and will return to Darien for ten weeks of field training over the summer months.

As noted in the previous Quarterly Report, Jodi LoDolce was hired in October of 2014 as the Town's first civilian Telecommunicator/Dispatcher. We are still awaiting the announcement for the eight week Connecticut State Police Telecommunicator training that was scheduled to start in late 2014 but has been delayed several times. Dispatcher LoDolce is still scheduled to attend the next CSP Telecommunicator training class in mid-2015 but continues to work full time in the Darien Communication Center alongside a police officer as she learns local operating procedures of the Police Department, Fire Departments and Darien EMS. She has certainly “hit the ground running” and has proven herself thus far as a valuable asset to the department.

The department received an upgrade to the Field Based Reporting (FBR) system from our vendor, Trittech. We continue to see improvements to overall functionality as we continue to acclimate to this fairly new software and regular updates. The software continues to have some functionality issues which we are working through, both internally and with the vendor, to make it more “user friendly.”

Installation is now complete to the major upgrade to the Town's radio systems for all Emergency Services and, by all accounts thus far, has significantly addressed previous gaps in radio coverage and operability, especially in the northwest area of town along the Hoyt Street corridor.

The Town of Darien Police Department applied for, and was awarded, a federal Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$12,000.00. Once the funds are released for use later in the spring, the department will be obtaining a Centice Raman mass spectrometer that is used to determine, with near 100% accuracy, the makeup of suspected narcotic substances or other questioned liquids or powders. This tool will be greatly accelerate the field testing of suspected illicit substances and increase efficiency and accuracy in investigations.

Community Outreach and Education

The annual *Cops and Kids Adventures* program, a program that has a three year proven track record of success in forging lasting relationships with our Town's youth population, continued during the first quarter. Youth events staffed by officers from the department included zip lining and go-karting. Interest and participation in these events remains strong.

Cop Shop, held at The Depot Youth Center, continued monthly. Officers of the Department meet with local youth once a month for about an hour and half to discuss wide ranging topics of mutual interest and concern. This program continues to be a success by all accounts.

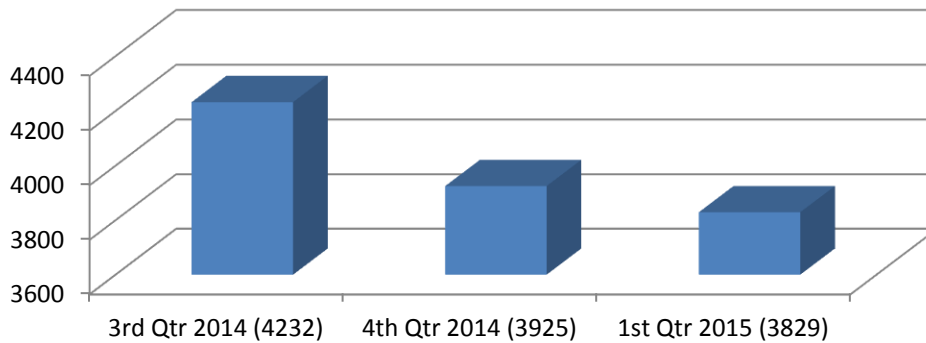
The Depot "*Youth Police Academy*", instructed by the department's Youth Officers, was held starting in January 2015 and ran weekly for five weeks. This instruction gives insight into the workings of the police department and law enforcement activity in general.

Department Activity & Initiatives

Calls for Service

A call for service generally refers to any assignment requiring action by the police to resolve, correct or assist. A call for service can be initiated by the public or a police officer on patrol. Each "Call for Service" is assigned an Incident Number and logged into the Computer Aided Dispatch, or "CAD."

Calls for Service



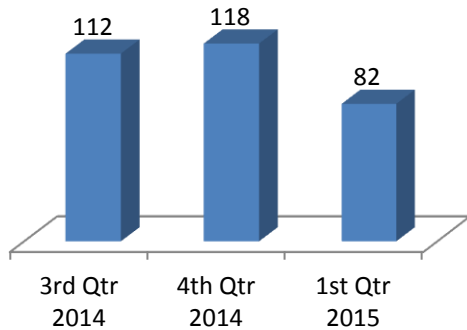
Notable criminal activity occurring in the third quarter included:

- The arrest of Anthony Sabato of West Haven, along with five other subjects, for narcotic and firearm charges after a joint investigation conducted with other state and federal agencies in the City of West Haven.
- Working in conjunction with the Norwalk Police Department, the department arrested a Norwalk resident who was selling heroin to Darien residents. .
- The identification and arrest of three Norwalk residents who had burglarized a home under construction on Waldon Road. The same three subjects have been now linked to similar criminal activity across Fairfield County.
- The Department received information from a concerned citizen that an employee of Steam Restaurant in Darien was selling marijuana to local juveniles. An undercover officer did purchase marijuana from the suspected employee which resulted in his arrest and subsequent of his apartment.
- Investigation into harassing phone calls made to a juvenile female in Darien (as well as other calls made to young females in two other states) resulted in the arrest of a fifty year old New York man.
- The arrest of a Bronx, NY resident who was delivering marijuana to a 19 year buyer in Darien.
- The identification of a suspect responsible for both day and night time vehicle burglaries in town; the suspect is from Meriden and is believed to have committed similar crimes across the state.
- The identification of the female suspect who had robbed the Chase Bank at gunpoint. Working the FBI and other intrastate agencies, the decision as to whether the suspect will be tried federally or in several specific states is pending.
- The arrest of a Darien man for four residential burglaries. Three of the burglaries had occurred in December of 2014 and one in July of 2013.
- The arrest of a Bridgeport resident in connection to a residential burglary on Pembroke Road which occurred in October, 2014.

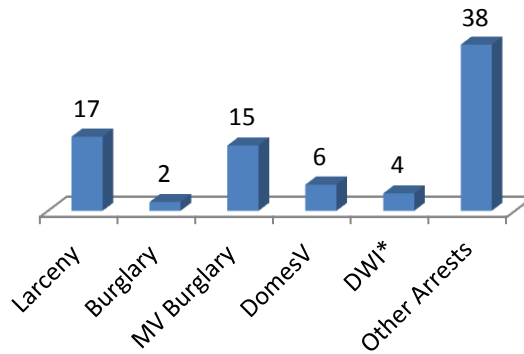
State of CT Reportable Incidents

Connecticut participates in the FBI Uniform Crime Report Program/NIBRS which gathers offense data for violent and property crimes. Offenses that make up the Crime Index are Part I crimes – violent crimes of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault; property crimes of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Reportable Incidents



Types



* 3 stemming from warrant arrests due to motor vehicle accidents.

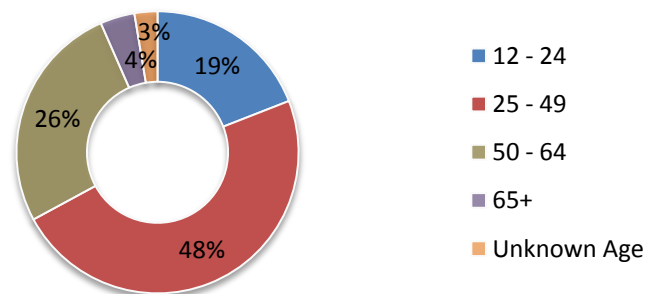
Traffic Activity

Motor Vehicle Accidents

During the 1st quarter of 2015 the department responded and investigated 120 motor vehicle accidents. Of the 120 accidents during the 1st quarter, 30 (25%) occurred in a private parking lot or where the vehicle at fault was entering or exiting a parking lot.

Starting January 1st 2015 the State of CT Department of Transportation required a new format for reporting all motor vehicle crashes throughout the state. The format, MMUCC (Model Minimum Uniform Crash Criteria), serves as a national standard for collecting and reporting highway safety crash data. The Guideline is designed to generate the information necessary to improve highway safety within each state and across the nation.

Age Groups for Operators*



*Total operators also include operators of bicycles or other vehicle types.

MMUCC captures more precise state of the art crash information that will keep CT current with what is happening on State and local roadways. MMUCC data will immeasurably benefit the effectiveness of engineering, education, and enforcement programs at the local level. With MMUCC data, traffic safety experts will be better able to drill down to the true causes of every crash. Projects to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety, child safety seat use, elderly drivers,

impaired and speeding drivers will be more efficient and targeted based on the accuracy, timeliness, and completeness of MMUCC data.

Top 4 Manner of Impacts:

1. Front to Rear (38)
2. Angle (21)
3. Not Applicable (15)
4. Sideswipe, Same Direction (8)

Top 3 First Harmful Events:

1. Motor Vehicle Operation (70)
2. Parked Vehicle (7)
3. Curb (4)

Traffic Violation Enforcement

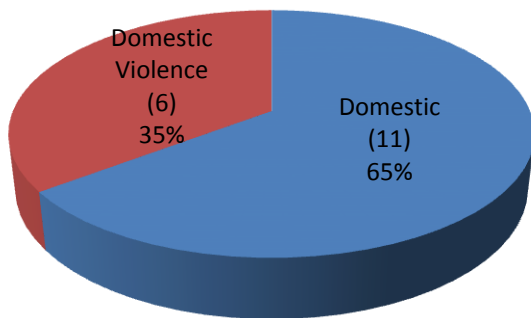
Traffic Stops: 501 (Last qtr 728)
 Citations: 223 (Last qtr 385)

DWI Arrests: 4* (Last qtr 10)
 Misdemeanor Summons: 21 (Last qtr 30)

**DWI arrests include 3 stemming from warrant arrests due to motor vehicle accidents.*

Domestic & Family Violence Incidents

Domestic Related Calls



Relationship of Victim to Arrested Offender

- Spouse (33%)
- Boyfriend / Girlfriend (33%)
- Child (33%)

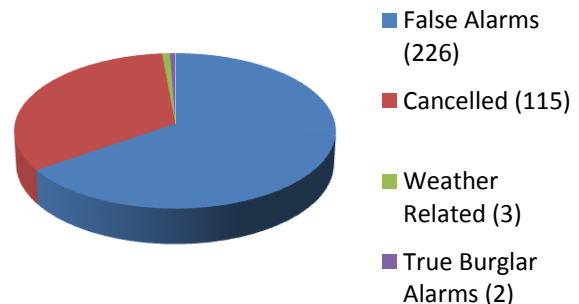
False Alarm Ordinance

During the 1st quarter of 2015 the department answered 346 burglar alarm activations.

Previous Quarter Stats

- False Alarms (211)
- Cancelled (94)
- Weather Related (7)
- True Burglar Alarm (0)

Alarm Calls for Service



Calls for Service-Medical

The Darien Police Department is designated as “first responders” for all medical calls within the Town of Darien. Officers are trained to either the EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) or to the higher EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) level. During the 1st quarter, the department responded to 172 medical calls for service. This number includes medical calls on I-95 or within the I-95 service areas. Average Response Time (ART) to medically related calls for service was 5.20 minutes during the quarter.

Budget FY 2015-2016

As of the date of this quarterly report, the department’s capital budget requests for FY 15/16 for the appropriation of five replacement patrol vehicles and the replacement of the police patrol vessel remain in the budget process. The requested capital budget request for the acquisition of wearable body cameras for officers has been removed from further consideration in the FY 15/16 budget but will likely be addressed again in the future as upgraded technology becomes available or potential state or federal mandates are enacted. Lt. Bill Duignan has been instrumental in researching the body camera issues for the department and will continue to do so in the next quarter. The State of Connecticut is exploring the possibility of funding a wearable body camera program on a trial basis for three departments across the state (one large, one medium and one small department). The Administration of the Darien Police Department has already formally expressed interest to the State of CT to be considered as one of the trial participants.

Training:

- Use of Force Training, including TASER, Pepper Spray, Handcuffing and Defensive tactics was conducted for all sworn officers in the 1st quarter. Each officer completed five hours of training.
- Two department officers attended a multi-day training course at the Norwalk Police Department in “Fair and Impartial Policing.”
- In service training has commenced in the review of Deadly Force and Vehicle Pursuits which will continue during the 1st quarter.
- Decision based shooting training commenced during the 1st quarter and was conducted on the department’s PRISM shooting simulator. This training will continue in the 2nd quarter of 2015 as well.
- Officer Amanda Hinkley continues her Police Academy training and new hire Officer Leslie Silva is due to start on April 2th, 2015

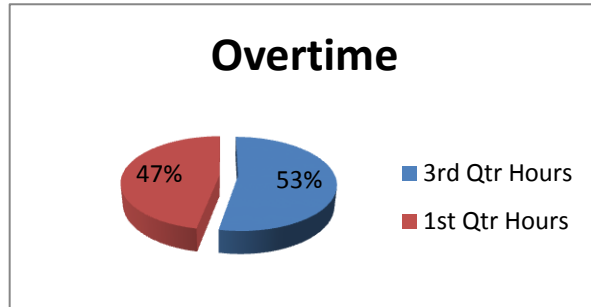
Training hours 4th quarter: 1,636.5

Training hours 1st quarter: 1,428.75

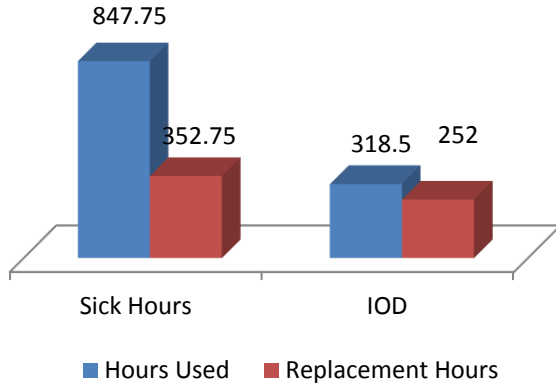
Overtime:

Overtime hours 4th quarter: 2826.5*
 Overtime hours 1st quarter: 2,387.75**

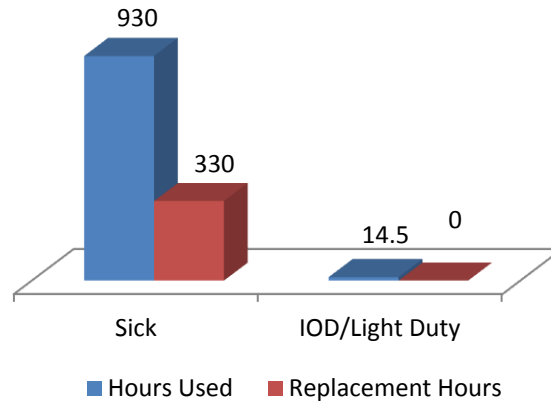
*Hours are reimbursed by grants or private parties:
 DWI Grant: 15.75 hours
 Click it or Ticket Grant: 37 hours
 TOTAL REIMBURSABLE: 52.75
 **Hours are reimbursed by grants or private parties:
 DWI Grant: 22 hours
 TOTAL REIMBURSABLE: 22



Sick and IOD:



4th Qtr 2014



1st Qtr 2015

Authorized sworn: 51
 Actual sworn: 50

Authorized sworn: 51
 Actual sworn: 50

Average Sick Hours/Officer 4th Qtr 2014: 16.96
 Average Sick Hours/Officer 1st Qtr 2015: 18.60

Future Quarters

- Contract negotiations between the Town and the Darien Police Association are progressing.
- The department expects to hire a probationary officer in the 2nd quarter to bring the department back to full strength.

- “*Inform IQ*”, a “Google” like search engine tying together the department’s Field Based Reporting (FBR) and Records Management System (RMS) software , is expected to be launched.
- The “*Next Generation 911*” system is expected to go live sometime in April of 2015. This upgraded emergency system, being implemented statewide, is designed to allow 911 callers to send text messages and images to PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points).