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# TOWN OF MILFORD

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

### ~ 2011 REPORT ~



I hereby submit the following report for the Milford Police Department for the period covering January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 to the honorable Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and citizens of the Town of Milford. This report is intended to give the taxpayers a “snapshot” of what occurred throughout the year within this organization. We continue to strive to meet our most important goal which is providing a responsive, professional law enforcement agency to this community while ensuring that this be accomplished with honor, integrity and the highest ethical standards in order to maintain the public confidence.

Personnel: As in the past, this year has been a challenging but rewarding one in this area. During the year we had three (3) officers that vacated positions in our agency. Two (2) officers were unable to successfully complete their Field Training Program. The third officer was released from duty.

Patrol Officers hired throughout the year are as follows: Officer Joshua Joki was hired in August and comes to us as a certified police officer; Officer Joseph Wilson was hired in September and also comes to us as a certified police officer. Both officers are well rounded in their experience as full-time police officers and we welcome them into our organization. We all wish them the best in their respective career paths within our organization. We are currently completing the hiring background investigation on one more perspective employee.

Administration / Clerical: Sarah Whittemore was hired in July and brings with her several years of experience in the area of customer service. She has settled in very nicely within our agency as an administrative clerk. All the employees in this division continue to be dedicated and committed to their duties, their co-workers and the community. This part of the work force allows for the general public and citizens of Milford to make requests and access information throughout the week from 7:00 am to 11:00 pm including all holidays.

Patrol Unit: In 2010, the Patrol Division saw a drastic decrease in manpower due to retirements, career changes, work related injuries, and resignations. Due to this drastic decrease in manpower we knew it was important to focus on training new officers, so our 2011 goal was, “To properly field train new officers and provide them with all the necessary tools to become effective Law Enforcement officers within the Patrol Division.”

During 2011 our Field Training Officers were tasked with training seven new recruits; five of them at the same time. Unfortunately, one of the seven recruits was unable to successfully complete the program and was released. One of the six remaining recruits had their Field Training Program extended. They eventually were released as they were unable to meet the standards of our agency. Five of the seven

new recruits successfully passed the program and are doing extremely well on solo patrol.

Throughout 2011 the Field Training coordinator and Field Training officers were given the support, education, and necessary tools to be a productive and successful unit. Officers Dean Hardwick and Eric Wales were selected to attend the Field Training Officer School at the New Hampshire Police Academy. Both officers successfully completed the Field Training Officer School and were involved in the training of the last three officers that participated in the Field Training Program. We are confident that our Field Training Program will continue to train new recruits to become effective law enforcement officers for years to come.



The Patrol Division was short handed for most of the year. The Patrol Division officers are dedicated and hard working individuals who got the job done regardless of the situation. All the officers in the Patrol Division understand the importance of uninterrupted commitment and service to the people of Milford and they worked to the best of their ability to make sure this was accomplished. When there is less of a presence of enforcement on our roads there is less of a deterrent, and operators tend to get comfortable and pay less attention to their driving which result in more motor vehicle accidents.

**Total Calls For Service/Officer Activity: 48,714**

<b>Criminal</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
Arson	6	3	-50%
Arrests	389	530	36%
Assaults	120	140	17%
Burglary	53	48	-9%
Disorderly Conduct	26	42	61%
Drug Violations	115	125	9%
Domestic Violence	254	225	-11%
Forgery	11	57	418%
Fraud	72	61	-15%
Homicide	0	0	0%
Kidnapping	0	0	0%
Robbery	9	7	-22%
Thefts (All)	281	325	16%
Stalking	2	8	300%
Sexual Assaults	14	26	86%
Stolen Vehicles	15	11	-27%
Vandalism	229	217	-5%
Weapons Violations	8	14	75%
<b>Non-Criminal</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
Animal Complaints	237	215	-9%
Accident (reportable)	273	322	18%
Alarms	426	447	5%
Citizen Assists	275	423	54%
Escorts/Civil Standby	1,079	1,095	1%
Fire Assists	189	200	6%
Medical Assists	400	489	22%
Missing Persons	16	21	31%
Mutual Aid	52	33	-37%
Runaway Juveniles	35	24	-31%
Suicide/Attempted Suicide	17	15	-12%
<b>Motor Vehicle Statistics</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>% Difference</b>
Summons	458	391	-15%
Warnings	7,260	6,104	-16%
Fatal Accidents	1	4	300%
Parking Tickets	338	374	11%
<b>Total Patrol Unit Activity</b>	<b>50,656</b>	<b>48,714</b>	<b>-4%</b>

**Note\* Not all calls and activities listed\***

K-9 Unit: The Milford Police K-9 Unit continues to be an asset to the department. The K-9 Unit is a valuable tool which is utilized to investigate criminal activity and interact with the community through contact with the public and demonstrations. This year, the K-9 Handler, Officer Palmer, was active in assisting the patrol division by locating evidence and tracking suspects. Two examples of the K-9's skills are the recovery of a stolen firearm in January and the arrest of a felon that had burglarized the SHARE building in August. In addition to these two examples, Officer Palmer and K-9 Oryx have been deployed on numerous

occasions to locate missing persons, track offenders, execute warrants, and aid neighboring communities.

Officer Palmer and K-9 Oryx could also be found at daycares, schools, and community events conducting demonstrations and meeting with the public. K-9 Oryx is certified in tracking, building searches, apprehension, evidence recovery, agility, and obedience. Officer Palmer and K-9 Oryx currently train with the United States Police Canine Association and will be attempting to be certified in drug detection in May.

### Total K-9 Deployment

Category	2010	2011	% Difference
Building Searches (Alarms/Open Doors)	59	56	-5%
Security / Search Warrant Assists	5	5	0%
Field Searches (Criminal Suspects / Fugitives / Missing Persons)	15	27	80%
Public Demonstrations	3	7	133%
Mutual Aid to Neighboring Police Agencies	17	12	-29%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>89%</b>

Police Motorcycle Unit: This year the Police Motorcycle Unit could be seen leading parades, funeral processions, and charitable 5K road races. In addition to these community based escorts, the motorcycle units were used to enforce motor vehicle violations during the paving project on Route 101 in order to ensure a safe working environment as well as the safety of the motoring public. The motorcycle unit has aggressively conducted motor vehicle enforcement in problem areas and effectively slowed down traffic on Route 101 as well as in residential neighborhoods through the assignment of directed patrols. With several certified motorcycle officers having left the Milford Police Department we are currently adding to the unit in order to increase proactive patrols.

### Police Motorcycle Unit

Category	2010	2011	% Difference
Motor Vehicle Stops	1,405	801	-42%
Shifts Patrolled	92	47	-48%
Average Stops per Shift	15	17	13%
Total Miles Patrolled	3,826	2,170	-43%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>5,338</b>	<b>3,035</b>	<b>-43%</b>

Support Division: The Milford Police Department encountered many changes during the last year. Towards the end of 2010, our department had three long term officers retire and this year started with the task of filling those openings. While it is not easy to replace people with the experience of those retirees, we did find candidates that were eager to enter the law enforcement profession for the first time, as well as some officers that were already certified. We look forward to seeing these new officers develop into experienced professional police officers.

The Support Division experienced change during the year with Sergeant Sean Plumer transferring to the Patrol Division and Sergeant Kevin Furlong coming into the Detective's Division. This was a positive transfer for both officers, giving Sergeant Plumer

the opportunity to hone his supervisory skills in the fast paced atmosphere of the Patrol Division. This transfer also afforded Sergeant Furlong the opportunity to expand his skills.

The Detective's Division has been extremely busy during the past year. Detectives investigate most felony cases for the department as well as misdemeanor cases that involve time intensive follow-ups. There has been a marked increase in several categories of investigations, most notably sexual assaults. The specific increases are included in the year end statistical report. Detectives also conducted seven (7) pre-employment background investigations this year.

Other manpower changes in the Detective's Division this year include Officer Andrew Fowle moving from Patrol to Detectives. Officer Fowle brings a strong computer-based knowledge which will enhance our ability to investigate crimes that involve computers and other types of media. I look forward to seeing Officer Fowle develop his investigative skills and know he will be an asset to the division.

<b>Detective's Activity / Investigations</b> (Includes cases handled by Division Commander)		
<b>Category</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Arrests/Assists	19	27
Arson	6	3
Assault (all)	15	22
Backgrounds (other agencies)	48	45
Burglary	19	22
Child Custody/Abuse	0	3
Child Pornography	0	1
Criminal Mischief	13	10
Domestic Cases	1	4
Drug Investigations	5	16
Forgery	6	5
Fugitive From Justice	0	1
Homicide / Attempted Homicide	0	1
Indecent Exposure	0	2
Kidnapping / Attempted Kidnapping	0	0
Missing Persons	0	2
MPD Backgrounds/Police Officer Candidates	8	7
Other	41	50
Prostitution	0	2
Robbery	5	3
Sex Offenders(registration req.)	78	73
Sexual Assaults (all)	12	27
Theft/Fraud	44	30
Untimely/Unattended Deaths	3	4
Witness Tampering	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>361</b>

Juvenile Officer, Mark Pepler, continued to work proactively during the year focusing on the start-up of a new initiative namely the Milford District Court Diversion Program. Officer Pepler, working closely with JPPO Brady Serafin, started the diversion program with the first cases being heard in January. During this first year, fourteen (14) cases were approved for the diversion program which is designed for first time, non-violent, offenders. The goal of this

program is to positively impact juveniles before they get entrenched in the court system. The diversion program involves not only the juvenile, but their parent(s). The juvenile takes responsibility for their actions and the matter is handled outside the court. This has proven to be effective, and we will be able to track the success as the program continues.

<b>Juvenile Officer</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Total Cases Involving Juveniles</b>	<b>787</b>	<b>675</b>
Assault Relates	75	61
Thefts/Burglaries	56	51
Vandalism	36	34
Alcohol Violations	17	17
Drug Violations	19	15
Gang Related	1	3
Graffiti Cases	11	30
<b>Total Contacts</b>	<b>2,232</b>	<b>2,481</b>

We were able to provide professional training again this year. We have been able to utilize our own officers that have specific skill sets. We have also provided training by bringing in instructors from other sources. Some examples of the in-service training provided are Controlled Party Dispersal, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher, Sexual Assault Resource Team, and Fingerprinting. We will be working to bring in professional trainers from outside organizations during the coming year to enhance the training provided to our officers.

Attorney McCall continues to prosecute the department's cases in the Milford District Court. He also presents felony cases to the Grand Jury for indictment. Attorney McCall was faced with an increase in arraignments this year as well as an increase in probable cause hearings. The workload is also made difficult by the decrease in court days at the Milford District Court. When there are furlough days, and various other days where there is no judge in the Milford District Court, the cases that would normally be handled on that day are either moved to another court, (Merrimack District Court, Goffstown District Court) or multiple cases are added to an already strained docket at the Milford District Court. Attorney McCall has continued to facilitate a hearing date once a month for all violation and traffic offenses. This gives him the ability to negotiate these cases, most often to conclusion. This reduces the amount of overtime spent to bring in officer witnesses. This has proven to be a successful program not only for the judicial system but for the traffic offender.

<b>Prosecution</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>
Arrests	389	528
Scheduled Arraignments & Schedule Trials	408	559
Trials, PC Hearings, Misc. Hearings	956	947
Juvenile Petitions Filed	58	81
Total for Milford District Court	143	128
<b>Milford's % of Petitions Filed in MDC</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>63%</b>

Our Crossing Guards continue to faithfully serve our community. The children are our future and the Crossing Guards continue to have a positive impact on them as they keep them safe as they come and go from school. This year ended with a change in the crossings covered by our department. Effective for 2012, we cover only the crossing on Elm Street in front of Bales School. This crossing is covered in the morning and afternoon, as well as for the mid-day Kindergarten students.

Closing Remarks: Although this year was very challenging, it was also exciting to see new officers become a part of our professional organization. I sincerely wish to thank every employee of the Milford Police Department for their continued support and dedication to their respective professions. As Chief of Police, I am very proud of both the civilian employees and sworn officers that make up the Milford Police Department and their individual dedication to the citizens of this community. In particular, I would like to thank my command staff and supervisors for their continued support and hard work, as well as the patrol officers and detectives for the time, dedication, and commitment they made throughout the year. Public safety, community policing and maintaining a professional, responsive law enforcement agency for the community will again be our highest priority in the coming year. Finally, I wish to thank the citizens of Milford for their continued support as we work in partnership with one another to do our very best to solve community problems that affect public safety.

Respectfully submitted,  
Frederick G. Douglas Jr.  
Chief of Police