

Rehoboth Police Department

2008 Annual Report

Department Staffing

The Rehoboth Police Department has a budgeted strength of 23 officers and provides superior police services to the residents of the town. Our department currently has an assigned strength of 22 officers as a result of a recent retirement. In addition to the Chief of Police, the ranks of the police department are comprised of (3) Lieutenants, (4) Sergeants, (14) Patrol Officers and (2) Reserve/ Special Police Officers. It should be noted that the department has two female patrol officers and one female reserve officer. Our officers are a very well trained, close knit group of dedicated law enforcement professionals who work tirelessly to provide quality policing to our town.

The Communications Center at police headquarters is staffed by four full-time dispatchers (one of which is a dispatch supervisor) and four part-time dispatchers with only one on duty at any given time. These highly trained civilian dispatchers are responsible for managing all communications for police, fire, ambulance and rescue personnel and also handle all telephone calls, both routine and emergency from the general public. The dispatcher position is one of the most demanding and yet critical jobs in public safety. Dispatchers are the key to a successful outcome in any public safety event. Organizationally, the dispatchers fall under the administration of the Chief of Police.

During the previous year, there have been some significant changes in the organizational makeup and staffing levels of the police department. A decision to make a change in leadership resulted in the Board of Selectmen unanimously selecting me as the new Chief of Police for the police department. In addition a series of unusual events has caused our department to reach minimal staffing levels, which has resulted in the accompanying budgetary strain. Two of our RPD officers have been out on long term medical leave, one officer was away on military leave in Iraq, and a fourth officer, retired after nearly 30 years of service. Currently, steps are being taken to ease these staffing deficiencies and associated budgetary impacts.

A roster of all active members of the Rehoboth Police Department both sworn and civilian as of 10/01/09 is listed below.

Command Staff

Chief Stephen J. Enos

Lieutenant Michael H. Brady (Esq.)

Lieutenant Bruce A. Dube

Lieutenant James J. Trombetta

Office Administrator Barbara Jeffrey

Sergeants

Mark J. Rossi
Richard W. Shailor
James B. Medeiros
Norman J. Todd

Patrol Officers

William M. Walker
Thomas R. Ranley
Jasson E. Ferreira
Craig D. Forget (K-9)
Paul E. Terenzi
Brian J. Ramos
James M. Casey
Paul M. McGovern
Jamie L. Mazzola
Nicole R. Eastwood
Bree J. Krasnianski
Matthew B. Gardner
Keith G. Perry
Craig A. Warish

Reserve Police Officers

R/O Douglas A. Brown
R/O Heather L. Syrette

Full Time Dispatchers

Cheryl Withers
Bree Hoskins
Todd Honeycutt
Shayna Bennett

Part-Time Dispatchers

Kerri Lopes
Douglas Rosenberg
Cathy Nystrom

Adam Foss

Police Canine

Cesar

Salary Information

Weekly base pay rates for Lieutenants as of 07/01/09 depending on years of service range from \$1,222.61 to \$1,354.45, Sergeants base pay rates as of 07/01/09, range from \$1036.18 to \$1,164.93 per week, and Patrol Officers base pay rates range from \$801.34 to \$1013.52 Reserve officers are paid the hourly rate of \$40.00 per hour for private details and \$35.00 for Town details.

Base pay rates for full time dispatchers depending on years of service range from \$623.60 to \$741.20. The Dispatch Supervisor's rate of pay is \$783.60 per week. Base pay rates for part time dispatchers range from \$13.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour.

Training

While all Rehoboth Police officers are police academy graduates and are certified by the Municipal Police Training Committee of the Executive Office of Public Safety, we strive to continually provide all officers and staff the most advanced in-service training available. We provide this training to improve the performance of our personnel in their daily duties and also to minimize the liability to the police department and the Town of Rehoboth. Within the past year Rehoboth Police have received in-service training in Narcotics Field Testing, Firearms Qualifications and Training, Professional Ethics, Criminal History Systems Board, Lt. Col. (US Army Ret.) Dave Grossman - School and Societal Violence, Search Warrant/ Arrest Warrant Preparation, Terrorism, Interviewing and Interrogation, Undercover and Narcotics Operations, Homicide and Death Investigations, Advanced Accident Investigation and Reconstruction, Basic School Resource Officer, Taser Instructor Training, Patrol Rifle, Pistol and Less Lethal Instructor Training, and Policy and Procedure Development to name some of the many courses attended provided to our police force.

Police Vehicles

The Rehoboth Police Department fleet consists of a total of 15 police cruisers most of which are fully marked for general patrol duties. The majority (11 cruisers) of the fleet are Ford Crown Victoria's, which were returned to service after an attempt at using Chevrolet Impalas. Within the past year, a change was made in the color scheme and graphics on the police cruisers to reflect a more contemporary look for the department. This image change was something which all members of the department had input in and has generally been well-received by the public. Most of the police vehicles in our fleet have in excess of 120,000 miles and are in dire need of replacement. The police K-9 vehicle is 11 years old and has more than 140,000 miles on it. The

police department repair and maintenance cost has been an average of \$41,500.00 over the past five years.

Police Grants

We applied for and received grant money from a federal technology grant, which allowed us to replace and update the mobile computers in all of our front line police vehicles. This has improved the reliability and the connectivity with our main Records Management Software at police headquarters allowing our officers to operate more efficiently and effectively while still on the road. In addition, this improved technology has provided for quicker and more reliable responses from State and National criminal information databases.

A Federal technology grant has also made it possible for us to update the computer network and hardware in police headquarters. These infrastructure changes to the computer network inside police headquarters have allowed us to create a more reliable network resulting in less down-time and more efficient use of police resources. This grant money also allowed us to upgrade our electronic fingerprint system creating a much more efficient and reliable identification process for criminal suspects. State of the art emergency lighting equipment was purchased for a number of our cruisers providing for enhanced visibility during emergency responses and while protecting hazardous scenes. All of these changes have been implanted at no cost to the town using federal grant money.

RPD also received a grant from the Governor's Office on Highway Safety which allowed us to implement strategic enforcement programs for drunken driving, seat belt usage, aggressive driving and speeding. This grant also allowed us to purchase a new lightweight speed monitoring system which will enable us to conduct more efficient traffic surveys on various roadways in town.

We also applied for and received funding from a State 911 grant which allowed us to purchase much needed equipment for our dispatch center including task lighting, 24 hour heavy duty dispatch chairs and a data logger recording system enabling us to record telephone calls and public safety radio transmissions in the dispatch center.

This department has continued to pursue all funding avenues available to us through Federal, State and private grant sources. We currently have two grant applications pending for stimulus funds; one with the Department of Justice COPS Rehiring Program (to which we were not awarded funds in the first round) and the other through the State Stimulus Rehiring Program.

In these difficult economic times, even donations have come to play an important role in our police budget. The police department K-9 program is one which is funded entirely through donations and fundraising efforts of private citizens. The donations allow us to pay for the day to day up keep for our K-9, the vehicle he rides in and equipment necessary for the program.

We will continue to seek alternative funding sources as much as possible so as to minimize the financial strain upon the Town Budget.

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2008

The Rehoboth Police Department responded to 17,072 calls for service in calendar year 2008 representing an increase of approximately 11.75 % from 2007. Below is a partial list breakdown of the calls for service that this department responded to in 2008 which is intended to serve as a reference of all of the major incidents in which the officers have responded to in the course of the year.

	<u>2008</u>
Arrests	396
Assaults	42
Burglary	62
Rape/Sex Offenses	7
Robbery	0
Vandalism	96
Domestics	126
Juvenile Complaints	12
Bad Checks/Fraud	25
Disorderly Persons	6
Alarms (includes medical/fire)	1004
Missing Persons	7
Animal Complaints	88
Suspicious Activity/Persons	755
Assists	38
Serve Summons/Restraining Orders/Warrants/Violations	204
Suicide Attempts/Threats	1
Assist Other Departments	139
Misc. Transports/Escorts/Notifications	113
Misc. Noise Complaints/Harassment/Annoying Calls	85
Misc. Building/Well Being Checks	6596
Motor Vehicle Stops/Radar/DMV	3864
911 Hang-up Calls	135
Motor Vehicle Accidents	249
General Services	343
Medical Emergencies	405
Investigations/Follow ups	497
Officer Wanted	434
Motor Vehicle Thefts	10
Larceny	105
Trespassers	6
Child Seat Inspections/Installations	12

Within the past year, the officers of the Rehoboth Police Department have made some significant arrests of cases originating in our town. In late 2008, several officers combined their efforts to solve a year old breaking and entering case in which over \$120,000 worth of property was taken from a residence in the south end of town. This case was solved through the use of fingerprint identification technology. In early 2009, officers from the RPD (assisted by officers from Dighton, Taunton and Seekonk Police) again combined their efforts to apprehend an armed robbery suspect in Taunton, Ma. for the armed robbery of two Dunkin Donuts stores in Rehoboth, Raynham and the Price Rite Supermarket in Seekonk, Ma. The apprehension was made within 48 hours of the robbery in Rehoboth and this solid investigation resulted in the suspect pleading guilty to all three robberies and receiving a 6 year prison term within months of being sent to court. In late 2009, an armed home invasion and kidnapping within our town led to the arrest of three suspects within 4 days of the violent incident. This swift but complex investigation by our officers uncovered other alleged criminal activity including a plot to rob a nearby bank. The arrest of these suspects removed three dangerous criminals from the streets of our town and society. Officers also made a number of narcotics arrests and seizures in a new partnership initiated with the Massachusetts State Police drug task force in Bristol County. These joint investigations have resulted in seizures of narcotics, motor vehicles, property and cash in addition to the arrest of those violating the narcotics laws.

Rehoboth Police continue to conduct investigations and follow-ups on a variety of cases occurring within our jurisdiction bringing justice to those who violate the law. As a result, our officers have entered into joint investigations with a number of local, state and federal law enforcement authorities. We will continue to ensure equal protection and enforcement of the laws for all citizens.

Community Outreach

We have started several community outreach programs designed to improve the relationships between our officers and those citizens we serve every day. In late 2009, the Rehoboth Police Department's first Citizen's Police Academy was started in an effort to give residents a look at the inner workings of their police department. This 12 week program includes instruction in Use of Force, Special Weapons, Police K-9 Unit, Communications, Constitutional Law, Patrol Operations, in addition to a ride-along with police officers during a normal patrol shift. The first class has been very well received and the department has received a number of applications for a second class planned for winter of 2010.

Officers have worked with the staff at the Beckwith Middle School and Palmer River Elementary School to establish a comprehensive education and outreach program for students at all age levels attending those schools. A variety of age appropriate and timely topics will be discussed with children in all grades (4) times per year. Our goal is to build even stronger relationships between the officers of the Rehoboth Police and our school children.

I feel very fortunate in having been named the Chief of Police of the Rehoboth Police Department. This assignment and responsibility is one which I accept with great enthusiasm and

commitment. As the Chief of Police, I can assure you that we will strive to provide you the most professional police services at all times regardless of the circumstances. I understand that in these tough economic times our services will be in more demand than ever. You can remain confident in our abilities and commitment to you, the Citizens of Rehoboth. With great honor and pride, the men and women of the Rehoboth Police Department stand ready to protect your lives and property.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen J. Enos
Chief of Police