

REPORT OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is my privilege to submit the Abington Police Department's Annual Report to the residents of Abington. Members of this department continue to diligently serve its residents with dedication and compassion.

This past year, Abington's Vehicle Maintenance Department inscribed the phrase "Community Partners" on every marked police vehicle. These simple words accurately reflect how each member of this department is fully committed to working with the townspeople and other professionals to help resolve the current issues facing us all. History has revealed that there is strength in numbers, and that only by working together can we fully accomplish our goals.

Since the beginning of my tenure as your police chief, my top priorities have remained consistent. First and foremost, we must all work together to address the substance abuse issues that continue to plague not only our town, but society as a whole. All members of the department have made narcotic enforcement a top priority, and I truly believe that their commitment to the issue has made a positive difference for the residents of Abington.

However, even after the staggering amount of arrests that we have made this year alone for heroin, cocaine, oxycontin and marijuana distribution and possession, we continue to see an alarming amount of teenagers and adults battling life threatening addictions. With a growing amount of overdoses and deaths linked to drugs in the region, I am convinced that enforcement alone is not the solution. In my professional opinion, strong family and community involvement, education at all levels, and zero tolerance are the cornerstones to eradicating this issue.

Secondly, my next goal is closely tied to the first, which is my strong belief that we need to assign a police officer to work full time in the Abington school system. The school resource officer would work hand in hand with school personnel to help educate our youth about the dangers of substance abuse. Furthermore, along with the law enforcement responsibilities, this officer would act as a mentor and a positive role model for our youth.

Lastly, the police department is once again requesting funds to bring us back to staffing levels of years past. With the expansion of business and housing in the town over the past decade, our calls for service have steadily increased while staffing levels have been decreased. It is my belief that as the community continues to grow, we must remember to keep all of our town departments adequately staffed to meet the ever increasing demands.

In closing, I want to thank the members of the Police Station Building Committee for their tireless work and never-ending dedication to bringing our new police station to fruition. It has been a long and arduous process that will be sure to benefit us all in the end. Once again, thank you to the townspeople for your support. I look forward to serving you during the next 12 months and for many years to come.

Respectfully Submitted

David G. Majenski
Chief of Police