



Hamden Police Department

Monthly Report

August 2011



Personnel Matters and Events

Members of the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) participated in the 2011 Connecticut SWAT Challenge that was held from August 23-25, 2011. The event was hosted by the West Hartford Police Department with events conducted in Avon and Simsbury, CT. (ESU) competed in the 7 events that the Challenge offered with a variety of operators during each event. Although the events are graded and judged, the 3 days of attendance and participation are viewed as a valuable training experience where current special weapons and tactics are practiced. (ESU) finished in 20th position overall out of the 33 Teams that participated. Some of the highlights included finishing 2nd in the Night Shoot event, finishing 3rd as a Connecticut Municipal Individual Team in the PT Challenge, and finishing 4th overall as a Connecticut Municipal Individual Team.

Effective on August 29, 2011, Mario DiNatale was hired as the Information Technology/Records Division Manager for the Hamden Police Department.

Effective on September 1, 2011, Officer Angela Moreno was transferred to the School Resource Officer (SRO) position at the Hamden Middle School.

Effective on September 1, 2011, Officer Paul Calamita was transferred to the School Resource Officer (SRO) position at the Hamden High School.

Training - Sworn Personnel

There was no Department-wide training during the month of August.

Training- In-Service

- 23rd Annual Crimes Against Children Conference @ Dallas, TX – Detectives Scott Levenduski and Steven Rossacci attended the conference which is designed to provide training to only those people employed by governmental agencies or nonprofit agencies in the fields of law enforcement, prosecution, child protective services, social work, children's advocacy, therapy, and medicine who work directly with child victims of crime.
- Intoxilyzer Training @ POST – Officer Jeremy Brewer

Training – K-9

K-9 Units participated in training sessions at the Michael J. Whelan building on Newhall Street and the former High Meadows facility on Hartford Turnpike. Areas of training included:

- Building searches
- Narcotics detection
- Patrol techniques
- Obedience
- Explosive detection
- Tracking
- Suspect apprehensions

Training – Dispatchers

There was no training during the month of August for Dispatchers.



Hamden Police Department

Monthly Report

August 2011



Incidents of Special Interest

On August 1, 2011, Hamden Police arrested Robert Reiling, 38, of 16 Fairview Road in Brookfield, on the strength of an active arrest warrant. Reiling was charged with Larceny in the 1st Degree and Issuing a Bad Check. He was released after posting a \$10,000 court ordered bond and is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on August 17, 2011. The arrest was based on an incident that had occurred on June 14, 2011 when Hamden Police received a complaint from Yankee Aluminum regarding a worthless check in the amount of \$33,853.00. Robert Reiling of Fairfield County Glass allegedly gave the check to personnel of Yankee Aluminum. After further investigation by Detective Thomas Rhone, an arrest warrant application was filed and subsequently signed by the court.

On August 3, 2011, the United States Marshal Service Violent Fugitive Task Force assisted the Hamden Police Department in apprehending an individual who was wanted on an arrest warrant. Members of the task force arrested Victor Monterroso, at his Hallock Street address. Monterroso was arrested as the result of a lengthy investigation by the Hamden Police Department Special Victims Unit. Victor Monterroso, 34, of 120 Hallock Street, New Haven was charged with Sexual Assault in the 1st Degree and Risk of Injury to a Minor. Monterroso was detained at police headquarters on a \$500,000 bond.

On August 3, 2011, at approximately 6:00 p.m. Hamden Police responded to the area of Edgehill Road and Armory Street on the report of a street robbery with injuries. Investigation revealed that 2 Hamden residents, ages 17 and 18, were walking on Laurel Road when a vehicle pulled alongside them. Two black males exited the vehicle and demanded their belongings. They subsequently stole personal items from one of the teens. The second teen refused to give them his cell phone, at which time he was punched in the face. During the robbery, one of the individuals simulated that he was in the possession of a firearm. The subjects then fled in the vehicle. Moments later, Officer Mark Sheppard of the Patrol Division observed the vehicle in the area of Dixwell Avenue and Circular Avenue. Officer Sheppard pursued the vehicle to Scott Street, where the 3 occupants subsequently fled on foot. Officer Sheppard arrested one of the individuals, in a parking lot on Dixwell Avenue. Hamden Police learned that the vehicle used by the 3 individuals, was stolen earlier in the day in New Haven, in an apparent carjacking. A 16 year-old New Haven resident was charged with Robbery in the 2nd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 2nd Degree, Larceny in the 2nd Degree, Assault in the 3rd Degree and Interfering With a Police Officer. The juvenile was transported to Juvenile Detention in New Haven and is scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court on August 16, 2011. Members of the Detective Division are continuing the investigation.

On August 4, 2011, at approximately 11:45 p.m. Officer William May of the Patrol Division observed a motor vehicle violation on Fairview Avenue. A motor vehicle stop was subsequently conducted on Woodin Street. Investigation led to the search of the operator of the vehicle, Sean Ricci. Officers confiscated 2 bags of marijuana and \$655.00 in cash. The marijuana weighed 24 grams. A further search of Ricci's vehicle led to the discovery of an additional 2 bags (8 grams) of marijuana and 20 grams of Mescaline. Officers also found 49 empty pill capsules.



Hamden Police Department

Monthly Report

August 2011



Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

Sean Ricci, 21, of 90 Oregon Avenue, East Haven, was arrested and charged with Possession of a Hallucinogen, Possession of a Hallucinogen With the Intent to Sell, Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana With the Intent to Sell, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Failure to Use Turn Signal. Ricci, who was released after posting a \$2,500 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on August 19, 2011.

On August 6, 2011, at approximately 1:30 a.m. Officer William May of the Patrol Division observed a motor vehicle violation on Arch Street. Upon attempting to conduct a motor vehicle stop, the operator engaged the officer in pursuit. The vehicle eventually came to a halt on Sherman Parkway in New Haven. Further investigation led to the search of the operator, later identified as Gregoria Chambers. Officers found nearly 2 grams of crack cocaine in his possession. Furthermore, officers seized 7 bags of crack cocaine and \$162.00 from the passenger of the vehicle, identified as Carl Williams. Officers learned that Williams was wanted on an arrest warrant originating out of Middletown. Gregoria Chambers, 30, of 73 Third Street in Hamden, was arrested and charged with Possession of Narcotics, Possession of Narcotics With the Intent to Sell, Reckless Driving, Disobeying an Officers Signal, Operating Under Suspension and Improper Plate Display. Chambers, who was detained on a \$25,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on August 19, 2011. Carl Williams, 31, of 50 Hotchkiss Street, New Haven, was also arrested and charged with Possession of Narcotics and Possession of Narcotics With the Intent to Sell. Williams, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$25,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on August 19, 2011.

On August 8, 2011, at 5:54 p.m. Officer Mark Gery of the Patrol Division responded to the playground area at West Woods School on the report of 2 small children left unattended. Investigation revealed that the 2 children, aged 3 and 6, were without parental supervision for about an hour. Officers located the father of the children, Erik Grenet, who was watching a soccer game, approximately 500 yards from where the children were located. Furthermore, he was separated from his children by a thick, dense wooded area. Erik Grenet, 38, of 60 West Side Drive, Hamden, was arrested and charged with 2 counts of Risk of Injury to a Minor. Grenet, who was released after posting a \$1,500 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on August 18, 2011.

On August 8, 2011, at approximately 7 p.m. Officer Timothy McKeon of the Patrol Division observed a male party (later identified as Michael Santos DOB: 08/17/88) walking in a restricted area behind Police Headquarters. Officer McKeon advised the subject to proceed to the front lobby of the Police Department, requested his identification and ascertained that the subject was at the Police Department to bring his girlfriend's identification so she could be released from custody.



Hamden Police Department

Monthly Report

August 2011



Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

Further investigation revealed that Michael Santos had an outstanding arrest warrant out of New Haven. Officer McKeon and Lt. McDermott entered the front lobby area to affect an arrest on Santos for the outstanding arrest warrant. Santos was advised that he was being placed under arrest for the arrest warrant and as the officers attempted to place handcuffs on Santos, he pushed the Officers and attempted to run through the front doors. The Officers grabbed Santos and a violent struggle ensued. Santos broke free and fled out the front doors and proceeded south bound on Dixwell Avenue. Patrol Officer Jason Venditto and his K-9 partner "Titan" were called to the scene and conducted a track. Santos was located a short distance away and was apprehended after another violent struggle with officers. Santos, 21, of 528 Winthrop Avenue, New Haven, was arrested and charged with Escape from Custody, Assault on a Peace Officer (5 counts), Interfering/Resisting with an Officer, Criminal Attempt at Burglary and held on a \$150,000.00 with a court date of August 30, 2011. Several officers suffered various injuries ranging in severity.

On August 10, 2011, after a lengthy investigation by Detective John Marks of the Detective Division, John Wiechman was arrested on the strength of 11 outstanding arrest warrants. The arrest warrants were based on incidents that had occurred between April and July of 2011, when Hamden Police Department personnel investigated numerous thefts that had occurred at local gyms. These larcenies were committed in locker rooms and from motor vehicles that were parked in the gym parking lots. Patrons had numerous items stolen including money, jewelry, electronic equipment, credit cards, ATM cards and personal items. John Wiechman, 23, of 34 Narragansett Trail, Buxton, Maine, was charged with 10 counts of Theft of a Credit Card, 10 counts of Larceny in the 6th Degree, 5 counts of Identity Theft in the 3rd Degree, 5 counts of Illegal Use of a Credit Card, 4 counts of Receiving Goods/Services Illegally Obtained, Larceny in the 5th Degree, Larceny in the 4th Degree, Criminal Attempt to Receive Goods/Services Illegally Obtained and Criminal Attempt to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree. Wiechman, who was detained at police headquarters on an \$110,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on August 19, 2011.

On August 18, 2011, at approximately 5:45 p.m., members of the Patrol Division were dispatched to the parking lot area of West Rock Park on Wintergreen Avenue on a reported larceny from a motor vehicle. A witness reported seeing 3 individuals running from the area with items in their hands and provided officers with a description of the suspects and the motor vehicle they were driving. Officer Paul Calamita of the Patrol Division located the motor vehicle with the suspects and attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop, but the suspects attempted to elude police by engaging them in pursuit. After a brief motor vehicle pursuit and subsequent foot pursuit, a 16 year old New Haven resident was taken into custody and charged with Larceny in the 3rd Degree, Interfering with an Officer, Engaging a Police Officer in Pursuit, and Reckless Driving. The 16-year old was released on a Juvenile Written Promise to Appear to the custody of his mother with a court date of September 1, 2011.



Hamden Police Department

Monthly Report

August 2011



Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

On August 19, 2011, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Officers Timothy Brown and William May of the Patrol Division observed a silver Lexus traveling at a high rate of speed westbound on Goodrich Street without its headlights on. The Officers activated their overhead lights and sirens and attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop, but the vehicle accelerated and attempted to elude the officers. The vehicle finally pulled over abruptly on Bassett Street. As Officers approached the vehicle, an orange and white Metro Taxi pulled in front of the stopped motor vehicle quickly and the driver exited his vehicle and ran towards the Officers. Further investigation revealed that the subjects had just assaulted the Taxi-cab driver, attempted to rob him of his cash, and took his cellular phone and threw it to the ground before fleeing in the silver Lexus westbound on Goodrich Street. Officers observed significant swelling on the side of the Taxi drivers face, but he refused medical treatment and stated that he was going home to put ice on his face. Robert T. Hopes 45, of 634 Newhall Street, Hamden, was arrested and charged with Larceny 6th, Robbery 2nd, conspiracy to commit robbery in the 2nd, Assault 3rd and threatening and was held on a \$50,000.00 dollar bond with a court date of September 2, 2011. Terrell Sherman 36, of 714 Orchard Street in New Haven, was arrested and charged with Reckless Driving, Engaging Officers in Pursuit, Failure to have Headlamps on, Larceny 6th, and conspiracy to commit Robbery 2nd, and held on a \$50,000.00 dollar bond with a court date of September 2, 2011.

On August 20, 2011, at approximately 11:20 p.m. members of the Patrol Division responded to the area Dixwell Avenue and Woodin Street in search of 2 robbery suspects. While canvassing the area, Officer William Onofrio of the Patrol Division observed a subject riding on a bicycle on Dixwell Avenue that fit the description of the robbery suspects. Officer Onofrio with the assistance of Officer Dennis Putnam of the Patrol Division stopped the subject on Dixwell Avenue. Further investigation revealed that the suspect (a 17 year old Hamden resident) was in possession of a stolen firearm, bullets, and a black colored facemask. The subject was promptly arrested and charged with Possession of a Stolen Firearm, Possession of a Pistol without a permit, and held on a \$5,000.00 dollar bond with a court date of September 6, 2011. The victim of the robbery could not positively identify the 17-year-old subject.

On August 23, 2011, at approximately 12:40 a.m. members of the Patrol Division responded to the New Haven Country Club, 160 Hartford Turnpike, on the report of a burglary in progress. Upon the arrival of officers, 2 individuals fled out of the rear door of a barn. Officer Jason Venditto and his K-9 partner "Titan" subsequently tracked 1 of the individuals, who was located in a wooded area, hiding in thick brush. The individual was promptly arrested. Moments later, Officer Venditto and his K-9 partner "Titan" conducted a second track. K-9 Titan immediately picked up another scent and began tracking. A short time thereafter, the second individual was found on a steep embankment, hiding under several thorny bushes. The second individual was promptly arrested.



Hamden Police Department

Monthly Report

August 2011



Incidents of Special Interest (cont)

Two 16 year-old Hamden residents were both charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Larceny in the 1st Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 1st Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Mischief in the 2nd Degree and Interfering With a Police Officer. Both juveniles were released on a Written Promise to Appear. They are scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on September 6, 2011.

On August 27th and 28th, the entire State of Connecticut was subjected to the effects of Hurricane Irene. As a result of the significant wind speeds and rainfall from the hurricane, additional staffing was deployed to effectively safeguard residents and motorists. For two days, members of the Patrol Division, Central Communications Division, and Support Services Bureau worked extended shifts for the purpose of staffing intersections where overhead traffic control signals failed, ensure that impassable roads were properly blockaded, and provide additional patrol coverage to areas that were without power.

On August 29, 2011, at approximately 11:20 a.m. Hamden Police responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and Alling Street on the report of a street robbery. Investigation revealed that a 23 year-old New Haven resident was walking on Dixwell Avenue, when he was approached by an individual who demanded his belongings. The individual, who threatened to kill the victim, simulated that he was in the possession of a firearm. The 23 year-old, who refused the individuals demands, walked across the street and called police. Moments later, Officer Bryan Kelly of the Patrol Division observed an individual fleeing in the area of Bassett Street and Dorman Street in New Haven. Officer Michael Nawrocki and his K-9 partner "Hank" subsequently conducted a track and located the individual, hiding under brush in the backyard of a Dorman Street residence. The individual was promptly arrested. - A 15 year-old Hamden resident was charged with Robbery in the 1st Degree and Interfering With a Police Officer. The 15 year-old is scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven.