



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Personnel Matters and Events

On August 28, 2013, Officer Angela Hall was transferred from the Community Liaison Unit of the Support Services Bureau to the Patrol Division of the Field Services Bureau.

On August 28, 2013, Officer Jason Bunnell was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Special Victims Unit and will assume the position of the School Resource Officer at the Hamden Middle School.

On August 28, 2013, Officer Scott Jason was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Special Victims Unit and will assume the position of the School Resource Officer at the Hamden High School.

On August 30, 2013, Officer Richard Dziekan retired after serving the department for 24 years.

The Community Liaison Unit was involved in the following community outreach events:

- Hamden Youth Advisory Council Meeting
- Police and Youth Grant Meeting
- National Night Out



Top left to right: Officer Montijo with Mobile Command Post, Sgt. Testa & Officer Montijo demonstrating the Fatal Vision Goggles (simulates intoxication), Officer Curran showing kids Police Motorcycles with Mayor Scott Jackson looking on, and Officer Curran showing kids how to activate strobe lights.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

The Hamden Police Department Emergency Services Unit participated in the highly publicized and intense 2013 Connecticut Swat Challenge in Simsbury and West Hartford, CT., from August 20-22, 2013. The Unit competed in 7 tactical events with 30 other Law Enforcement Units from Connecticut and the New England Region.





Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Traffic Calming

Members of the Traffic Division deployed Speed Compliance Units on Murphy Road, Murlyn Road, Ridge Road, and Fallon Drive.



Flash of light when speed is recorded over the posted speed limit, which simulates that a photograph was taken of the violator.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Training - Sworn Personnel

There was no department-wide training for the month of August.

Training: In-Service

- Patrol Rifle Training @ New Haven Police Department shooting range – Officer Andrew Pfeiffer, Officer Justin Martin, Officer Peter Conti and Officer Jenisse Perez
- Homicide Investigations and Crime Scenes @ Hartford Police Department – Sergeant Thomas Ragozzino, and Detective Stephen Rossacci



Sergeant Thomas Ragozzino and Detective Brian Stewart at a crime scene.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Training – K-9

K-9 Units participated in training at the Michael J. Whelan building. The training curriculum included:

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



Left to Right, K-9 “Viking” locating suspect behind closed door, tracking through brush, and leaping out of Police Cruiser to assist partner.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Training – Emergency Services Unit

The members of the Emergency Services Unit conducted training on the nomenclature and operation of the new Armored Bearcat that is shared in Region 2 by multiple Law Enforcement Agencies in the area.





Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Training – Dispatchers

During the month of August, Dispatchers trained in Emergency Medical Dispatching recertification and CPR. The CPR training was conducted by Lieutenant Grasso of the Hamden Fire Department.





Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Incidents of Special Interest

On August 1, 2013, shortly after midnight, Hamden Police responded to Yale-New Haven Hospital (Saint Raphael campus) on the report of an aggravated assault. Officers spoke with the 30 year-old victim, who advised police that he was in the area of Dixwell Avenue and Dudley Street, when he was approached by "7 or 8 males," on bicycles. They asked him for money and when he didn't adhere to their request, the large group began assaulting him. The victim ran into New Haven to elude them when he realized that he had sustained a large, deep laceration to his hand and wrist area. It appears that the injury was caused by a sharp instrument. The victim was transported to the hospital by family members. The Detective Division is continuing with the investigation.

On August 3, 2013, at approximately 9:00 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the area of Oregon Avenue and the Farmington Canal Line on the report of an attempted street robbery. Investigation revealed that a 52 year-old Hamden resident was riding his bicycle on the Farmington Canal Line when his path was blocked by approximately 6 teens, described as black males. Officers learned that one of the individuals threw his bicycle into the path of the victim. The individuals then held him on the ground, while attempting to steal his bicycle. A witness to the incident, a retired New Haven Police Officer, immediately intervened. The group of teens subsequently fled southbound on the canal line. Moments later, Officers Stephen Baris and Justin Martin stopped 3 of the teens, on the canal line, in the area of Morse Street. Further investigation revealed that they were responsible for the attempted robbery. As officers attempted to arrest the teens, a large group gathered, screaming and yelling at officers. A search of 2 of the teens who were arrested led to the discovery of a loaded bb gun and a folding utility knife. A 17 year-old Shelton resident was charged with Criminal Attempt to Commit Robbery in the 3rd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 3rd Degree, Criminal Attempt to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree and Interfering with a Police Officer. He was released to the custody of his mother. A 15 year-old Hamden resident was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 3rd Degree and Carrying a Dangerous Weapon. He was released to the custody of his mother. A 17 year-old Hamden resident was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 3rd Degree. All of the arrested juveniles were scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on August 13, 2013. The victim was not injured during the incident.

On August 6, 2013, at approximately 10:30 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the parking lot of the Hess Gas Station, 1126 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of a man with a firearm. Investigation revealed that as a 25 year-old patron was paying for his purchase; he was approached by an individual who was wielding a firearm. The customer promptly ran from the area, tripping over the gas pumps. He then entered another customer's motor vehicle for safety. Several officers searched the area for the individual with negative results. The suspect was described as light-skinned black male, wearing a white shirt and bandana. A silver-colored firearm was displayed. Officer Paul Calamita is conducting the investigation.

On August 7, 2013, at approximately 6:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the Farmington Canal Line on the report of a street robbery. Investigation revealed that a 35 year-old New Haven resident was walking on the Farmington Canal Line when she was approached by a group of teens on bicycles. One of the teens, while engaging her in conversation, grabbed her cell phone and fled northbound. Moments later, Officer Bryan Kelly observed the suspect, in the vicinity of Hamden Park Drive. He detained the teen after a brief pursuit. Further investigation revealed that the teen committed the street robbery. He was subsequently arrested and transported to police headquarters.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

A 17 year-old New Haven resident was charged with Robbery in the 3rd Degree, Larceny in the 5th Degree and Interfering with a Police Officer. The juvenile, who was released to his mother, was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on August 21, 2013.

On August 14, 2013, at approximately 9:45 p.m., Sergeant David Ng of the Patrol Division observed a suspicious vehicle parked in the parking lot of the John Carusone Field on Pine Rock Avenue. As he approached the vehicle and began speaking with the passenger, he smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from within the vehicle. Further investigation led to the search of the vehicle, where officers found 0.1 grams of marijuana, 0.4 grams of cocaine, packaging material, and \$360.00 dollars in cash. Larry Holder, 22, of 273 Park Road, Hamden, was arrested and charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Narcotics, Possession of drug paraphernalia, and Possession of drugs within 1,500 ft. of a school zone. Holder was held on a \$25,000.00 dollar bond and assigned a court date of August 28, 2013, at Meriden Superior Court.

On August 15, 2013, at approximately 2:30 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to 3070 Whitney Avenue (The Gulf Gas Station) on a reported burglary alarm. Upon arrival, officers observed the front glass door completely shattered. An immediate search of the building was negative for any suspects and Officer Jason Venditto and his K-9 partner "Viking" arrived on scene shortly thereafter and conducted a track of the area with negative results. The owner of the establishment arrived on scene and determined that approximately \$1,700.00 worth of cigarettes were taken and approximately \$500.00 dollars in cash/coins. The Detective Division is continuing with the investigation.

On August 15, 2013, at approximately 11:45 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and Arch Street on the report of a fight in progress. Upon arrival officers found an 18 year-old male lying in the street in a semi-conscious state. Officers learned that his cell phone was stolen. Witnesses advised police that a group of "at least 10 black males" chased the victim from Taste of the City and that several individuals participated in the robbery/ assault. The victim was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital for medical treatment. Officer Bryan Kelly conducted the initial investigation.

On August 16, 2013, at approximately 12:45 a.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the parking lot of Slyce Pizza, 141 Arch Street on the report of shots fired. Investigation revealed that multiple gunshots were fired by at least 3 different shooters. There were no reported injuries. Several rounds did penetrate an Arch Street residence, entering a living room and bedroom, which was occupied by a family, including a small child. The front window of Slyce Pizza, as well as several motor vehicles, also suffered damage. The Detective Division is continuing with the investigation.

On August 18, 2013, at approximately 8:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Davis Street address on the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed that the homeowner returned from dinner, only to find an individual walking on Davis Street with a gym bag, similar to his daughter's. Upon his return home, he discovered electronic equipment and money stolen from his residence. He immediately contacted Hamden Police. Shortly thereafter, Sergeant Michael Doherty and Officer Robert Manfield located the individual, who was identified as Bret Coots, walking on Whitney Avenue with the stolen items. Coots was subsequently arrested and transported to police headquarters. Bret Coots, 26, of 90 Ford Street, Hamden, was charged with Burglary in the 2nd Degree, Larceny in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Trespass in the 3rd Degree.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Coots, who was detained on a \$25,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on September 3, 2013. Officer Paul Calamita conducted the investigation.

On August 19, 2013, Hamden Police responded to a Circular Avenue residence on the report of a missing teen. Officers learned that 14 year-old resident Emma Tobin had left her residence at approximately midnight. Hamden Police Department, Hamden Fire Department and members of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) begun searching the area of Lake Wintergreen for her after receiving information that her cell phone was last used in that area. Members of the Detective Division with the assistance of the FBI, and the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, determined that Emma Tobin was on a plane en route to Sacramento, California. Emma Tobin was located at Sacramento International Airport in the company of a 28 year old white male, later identified as Nathan Salas who was taken into custody. Detective William Onofrio completed an arrest warrant application for the arrest of Nathan Salas for Kidnapping 1st degree and Risk of Injury to a Minor. The Hamden Police department with the assistance of the State's Attorney's office has begun the extradition process.

On August 19, 2013, Winston Brightly turned himself in at Hamden Police Headquarters after being informed that there was an active arrest warrant for his arrest. Winston Brightly, 43, of 65 West Helen Street, Hamden, was charged with Unlawful Discharge of a Firearm, Reckless Endangerment in the 1st Degree and Breach of Peace. Brightly, who was detained on a \$50,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on September 4, 2013. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on July 20, 2013, when Hamden Police responded to a West Helen Street address on the report of shots fired. Investigation revealed that Winston Brightly became enraged with his neighbor over a parking space. A verbal altercation ensued and then Brightly allegedly fired several shots into the air from his 9mm handgun. Brightly fled from the area prior to the arrival of police. Officers recovered numerous shell casings at the scene. Officer Tim Brown of the Patrol Division conducted an investigation which led to the application of the arrest warrant for Brightly.

On August 20, 2013, at approximately 2:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to T-Mobile, 1225 Dixwell Avenue on the report of a larceny. Investigation revealed that 2 individuals, a male and female, entered the store, browsing for nearly 15 minutes. Moments after the female exited the store, the male "snapped" 2 iPhones, which were on display, from their mounts. The male individual was observed fleeing on foot, eastbound through the parking lot, towards Putnam Avenue. The descriptions of the two suspects are as follows: Male - white or Hispanic, 20's, dark-colored hair, "Billy Goat" style goatee, tattoos on both arms, wearing a black and gray baseball hat. The female was described as white or Hispanic, late teens, dark-colored hair, wearing a pink shirt and blue jeans. A surveillance video photograph of the 2 individuals was attached to a press release seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects. Officer John Glass is conducting the investigation.

On August 20, 2013, at approximately 11:45 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to Krauser's Market, 3300 Whitney Avenue, on the report of an armed robbery. Investigation revealed that an individual, who had white-colored cloth material wrapped around his head, as well as sunglasses and a hat, entered the store through the front door and displayed a firearm. The individual then confronted the clerk and demanded the proceeds from the cash register. After stealing an undisclosed amount of money, the individual fled on foot, exiting via the front door and then northbound on Whitney Avenue.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Officer Jason Venditto and his police K-9 "Viking" conducted a search for the individual and located evidentiary items. Detective Michael DePalma of the Majors Crimes Unit is continuing with the investigation.

On August 21, 2013, at approximately 6:15 p.m., members of the Street Interdiction Team concluded a lengthy drug investigation, with the arrests of Keith Spruill and Travis Brown. Spruill and Brown were observed inside of a motor vehicle, in the vicinity of 1160 Dixwell Avenue. They were collectively found in the possession of 45 bags of crack cocaine and \$1,670.00 in cash. Keith Spruill, 28, of 57 Hemingway Street, New Haven, was charged with Possession of Narcotics and Possession of Narcotics with the Intent to Sell. Spruill, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$5,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on September 4, 2013. Travis Brown, 25, of 538 Elm Street, New Haven, was charged with Possession of Narcotics and Possession of Narcotics with the Intent to Sell. Brown, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$20,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on September 4, 2013.

On August 24, 2013, at approximately 10:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Whitney Avenue address on the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed that an individual, who was later identified as Leander Brown, entered the residence via a rear door. Once inside, Brown confronted the handicapped resident, a 60 year-old female, who was confined to a wheelchair. Brown subsequently stole the victim's purse and fled on foot on Whitney Avenue. While responding to the incident, Officer Enrique Rivera-Rodriguez, observed Brown walking southbound on Whitney Avenue, in the possession of the purse. He was promptly arrested and transported to police headquarters. Leander Brown, 46, of Chestnut Street, Bridgeport, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 6th Degree. Brown, who was detained on a \$10,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior court on September 3, 2013. Officer Eric Gocłowski conducted the initial investigation.

On August 25, 2013, at approximately 8:15 p.m., members of the Patrol Division and Traffic Division responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and Wooden Street on the report of a pedestrian struck by a motor vehicle. Investigation revealed that Deloris Smith, 45, of Hamden, was crossing Dixwell Avenue, north of Wooden Street. Smith walked into the path of a motor vehicle that was traveling southbound on Dixwell Avenue. Smith was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital with minor injuries. Furthermore, she was given an infraction for crossing between intersections. No charges were filed against the operator of the motor vehicle.

On August 27, 2013, at approximately 11:00 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to Star Pizza, 1380 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of an armed street robbery. Investigation revealed that as the Star Pizza deliveryman completed a delivery in the 200 block of Augur Street, he was robbed at gunpoint. The victim advised police that an individual, described as a black male, 20 to 22 years of age, 5'10", medium build, beard, wearing a red baseball hat, threatened to shoot him if he didn't surrender his wallet. The individual subsequently stole his wallet and then fled on foot. There were no reported injuries. Detective Angelo DeLieto of the Major Crimes Unit is conducting the investigation.

On August 28, 2013, Hamden Police arrested Jarelle Gibbs at Meriden Superior Court on the strength of an arrest warrant. Gibbs, 19, of 4A Greenwood Street, New Haven, was charged with Robbery in the 1st Degree, Larceny in the 2nd Degree and 2 counts of Illegal Use of a Credit Card. He was detained on a \$200,000 court ordered bond. Gibbs was arraigned in Meriden Superior Court later in the day.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on July 8, 2013, when Hamden Police responded to a Hepburn Road residence on the report of an armed street robbery. Investigation revealed that as a relative of the homeowner attempted to enter her vehicle, which was parked in the driveway, she was approached by an individual who was in the possession of a firearm. The individual subsequently grabbed her purse and fled northbound on Hepburn Road. Approximately 2 hours after the robbery, the victim's credit card was used at a Target store in Orange. Video surveillance captured the individual's fraudulent transaction. After an extensive investigation, Detective Brian Stewart submitted an arrest warrant application to the court for Jarelle Gibbs that was approved.

On August 28, 2013, at approximately 10:00 p.m., a Hamden Police Officer observed a potential drug transaction in the parking lot of the West Rock Nature Center, 1080 Wintergreen Avenue. Investigation led to the search of a motor vehicle, which was operated by Nicholas Petrowski. Officers located 2 bags and a jar containing 149.9 grams of marijuana. In addition, officers seized drug paraphernalia. The street value for the seized marijuana is estimated at \$3,000.00. Petrowski was subsequently arrested and transported to police headquarters. Nicholas Petrowski, 20, of 163 Valley Shores Drive, Guilford, was charged with Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with the Intent to Sell, Possession of Marijuana in a Prohibited Place and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Petrowski, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$1,500.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on September 9, 2013.

On August 29, 2013, at approximately 5:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the report of a burglar alarm at Ruby's Jeweler's, 3056 Whitney Avenue. Upon arrival, Officer Kelley Groleau observed an individual inside of the establishment, standing behind a display counter. The individual subsequently fled on foot, exiting via a rear door. Moments later, Officers Joseph Venditto, Enrique Rivera-Rodriguez and Andrew Pfeiffer located Alex Alicea hiding in nearby bushes. Alicea was promptly arrested after a short foot pursuit and officers found several pieces of jewelry in his possession. Alex Alicea, 52, of 237 Helen Street, Bridgeport, was charged with Burglary in the 1st Degree, Possession of Burglar Tools, Larceny in the 4th Degree and Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree. Alicea, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$50,000 bond, was arraigned in Meriden Superior Court later in the day.

On August 29, 2013, Deirdre M. Daly, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that Mark Fuller, 50, of New Haven, was sentenced by United States District Judge Vanessa L. Bryant in Hartford to 90 months of imprisonment, followed by four years of supervised release, for distributing crack cocaine. Fuller is one of more than 100 individuals charged as a result of "Operation Bloodline," a joint law enforcement investigation targeting narcotics trafficking and gang violence in the Dwight-Kensington and Fair Haven sections of New Haven. Led by the DEA New Haven Task Force and the New Haven and Hamden Police Departments, the year-long investigation included the use of court-authorized wiretaps on numerous telephones, extensive physical surveillance, controlled purchases of narcotics, execution of search warrants and seizures of narcotics and firearms. The investigation revealed that Fuller conspired with others to purchase and redistribute crack cocaine. On January 28, 2013, Fuller pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, 28 grams or more of cocaine base ("crack"). Fuller's criminal history includes multiple felony convictions, including four felony drug convictions. Fuller has been detained in federal custody since his arrest on May 17, 2012.



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report August 2013



Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

This matter is being investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Haven Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the New Haven, Hamden, West Haven, North Haven, Branford, Ansonia and Meriden Police Departments. The United States Marshals Service, the Connecticut State Police, the Connecticut Department of Correction, Parole and Community Services and the Milford, Hartford, New Britain, North Branford and Stratford Police Departments have provided valuable assistance to the investigation. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys S. Dave Vatti and Marc Silverman.

On August 29, 2013, Hamden Police arrested Turone Kelley at Meriden Superior Court on the strength of an active arrest warrant. Kelly, 30, of 133 Clay Street, New Haven, was charged with Home Invasion, Conspiracy to Commit Home Invasion, Robbery in the 1st Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 1st Degree, Unlawful Restraint in the 1st Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Unlawful Restraint in the 1st Degree, Assault in the 1st Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Assault in the 1st Degree Larceny in the 2nd Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 2nd Degree. Kelley was detained on a court ordered \$250,000 bond. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on June 26, 2013, when Hamden Police responded to an Augur Street address on the report of a home invasion. Upon arrival officers met with the 38 year-old resident, who was bleeding profusely from the head. He was treated for his injuries at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Investigation revealed that 4 individuals, who were wearing masks, forced entry into the residence via a first floor window. Once inside, a 34 year-old female resident was confronted by the subjects. While pointing a gun at her head, they duct-taped her mouth, hands and feet. Approximately 20 minutes thereafter, the male resident returned home. One of the individuals struck him in the head with a porcelain object. The individuals then fled from the residence after taking electronic equipment. Detective Brian Stewart conducted an extensive investigation, which led to the application of an arrest warrant for Turone Kelley that was approved by the courts. Tywan Edwards was arrested on July 24, 2013, for his involvement in this incident.

On August 30, 2013, the Street Interdiction Team conducted an alcohol compliance check at the "Liquor Mart", 3837 Whitney Avenue. Officers determined that 9 individuals, who were under the legal drinking age of 21, had purchased alcoholic beverages from Liquor Mart. The 9 individuals were cited for Possession of Alcohol by a Minor. The investigation is continuing.