



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report December 2013



Personnel Matters and Events

On December 2, 2013, Officer Angela Hall was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Community Liaison Unit of the Support Services Bureau.

On December 5 & 6, 2013, the Department conducted sobriety check points as part of the FY2014 DUI Enforcement campaign. Officers issued 4 Infractions and 20 State warnings for motor vehicle violations and assisted the Patrol Division on calls for service in the area adjacent to the check points. Officers stopped and made contact with approximately 550 motorists during the two evenings.

On December 9, 2013, Sergeant Michael Doherty was selected as the 2013 Hamden Elks Lodge Police Officer of the year. Sergeant Michael Doherty is a 16-year veteran of the department currently assigned to the Patrol Division of the Field Services Bureau.

On December 19, 20, & 21, 2013, the Department conducted sobriety check points as part of the FY2014 DUI Enforcement campaign. Officers issued 5 Infractions and 25 State warnings for motor vehicle violations. Officers conducted 14 Field Sobriety Tests for possible intoxication, made 1 DUI arrest, 1 weapon arrest (gun), and 1 warrant service. Officers stopped and made contact with approximately 600 motorists during the three evenings.

On December 31, 2013, Detective Angelo Polzella retired from the department after 31 years of service.

On December 31, 2013, the Department conducted sobriety check points as part of the FY2014 DUI Enforcement campaign. Officers issued 2 Infractions and 6 State warnings for motor vehicle violations, and conducted 2 Field Sobriety Tests for possible intoxication.



DUI Enforcement



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

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

- Holiday Toy Drive
- Hamden Youth Advisory Council Meeting
- Health and Wellness Fair Meeting
- Silverbells Festival at Town Green
- Block Watch meeting @ 953 Dixwell Avenue
- PBA Kids Christmas Party
- Police and Youth Grant Meetings (2 sessions)
- Police and Youth Grant Holiday Party



Dodge Ball game with members of Police and Youth Grant



Police Benevolent Association (PBA) Christmas Party / Animal Display



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Hamden Police & Youth Grant Program Christmas Celebration



Silverbells @ Town Green





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Traffic Calming

Members of the Traffic Division deployed Speed Compliance Units on Eramo Terrace, Manor Street, Whitney Avenue and Hartford Turnpike.



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



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Training - Sworn Personnel

Department-wide training for the month of December consisted of Computer Crime Familiarization conducted by Sgt. Robert D'Aniello, and Firearms and Permits conducted by Connecticut State Police (CSP) Detective Barbara Mattson.

Training: In-Service

- At Scene Traffic Crash Investigation @ POST – Officer Timothy McKeon
- Interview and Interrogation @ POST – Officer Enrique Rivera-Rodriguez
- CT Division of Scientific Services Executive Briefing @ State Lab – Chief Thomas J. Wydra
- Use of Force Seminar @ Mohegan Sun – Sergeant Franklin Riehl
- Digital Photography for Law Enforcement @ POST – Detective Michael Depalma



Hamden Police conducting an investigation on First Street

Training – Emergency Services Unit



Emergency Services Unit conducted Rifle, Pistol and Tactical Firearms Training.



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Training – K-9

K-9 Units participated in training at the Michael J. Whelan building and at a facility in North Haven. The training curriculum included:

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



K-9 Teams and trainers conducting monthly training.



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Training – Dispatchers

During the month of December, there was no department wide training for Dispatchers.





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Incidents of Special Interest

On December 2, 2013, during the early morning hours, members of the Street Interdiction Team served a search and seizure warrant at 1937 State Street. Officers had conducted an investigation into suspected drug dealing occurring at the residence. Upon searching the residence, officers seized 7.7 grams of heroin, a loaded .25 caliber handgun, 105 rounds of ammunition, drug paraphernalia and \$536.00 dollars in cash. Officers promptly arrested both residents, Jason Kaufman and Jennifer Santamauro. Kaufman, 28, was charged with Possession of Narcotics, Possession of Narcotics with the Intent to Sell, Operating a Drug Factory and Criminal Possession of a Firearm. Kaufman, who was detained on a \$100,000.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on December 12, 2013. Santamauro, 25, was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Possession of Narcotics and Conspiracy to Commit Possession of Narcotics with the Intent to Sell. She was released after posting a \$5,000.00 bond and was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on December 12, 2013.

On December 2, 2013, 2 juveniles turned themselves in at police headquarters after being informed that they had outstanding warrants for their arrest. The 15 and 16 year-old, who are Hamden residents, were charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Larceny in the 4th Degree and Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 4th Degree. They were both scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on December 10, 2013. The arrest warrants were based on an incident that occurred on September 23, 2013, during the afternoon hours, when members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of Noble Street and Rose Street on the report of suspicious activity. Officers were advised that 2 teens were attempting to force open the door of a motor vehicle. Upon searching for the juveniles, officers observed an air conditioning unit, lying on the ground, underneath a window on Noble Street. The homeowner observed the teens on his property moments before the air conditioner unit was discovered. Moments later, Officers Craig Appleby and Derick Manning detained the juveniles on Circular Avenue. They were in the possession of electronic equipment, money, a musical instrument and a BB-gun. Further investigation revealed that some of the items were taken in a burglary that occurred at a Piper Road residence. The Piper Road home was burglarized on the same day. Officer Manning subsequently submitted an arrest warrant application to the court for the 2 juveniles which were approved.

On December 3, 2013, Michael Zabivnik, 44, of 225 Golden Hill Road, Apartment 6H, Bridgeport, CT, turned himself into police custody after learning of an active warrant for his arrest. Zabivnik was charged with Robbery in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 6th Degree. Zabivnik, who was released after posting a \$500.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on December 13, 2013. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on November 12, 2013, when members of the Patrol Division responded to Shop Rite, 2100 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of shoplifting. Investigation revealed that store security observed an individual, walking in the store aisles, eating boxes of sushi. As the security officer approached the individual, a physical confrontation occurred. The individual then stole the security officer's portable radio and then fled from the area in a white-colored truck. Officers obtained video surveillance footage of the individual from Shop Rite and then provided the local media with the still images. Within hours, a person who is familiar with the individual, contacted police and identified him as Michael Zabivnik. Officer Shawn Nutcher subsequently submitted an arrest warrant application to the court for the arrest of Zabivnik, which was approved.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On December 5, 2013, Ellen Lye, 67, of 11 Sherman Lane, Hamden, turned herself in to police custody after learning of a warrant for her arrest. Lye was charged with 22 counts of Possession of Narcotics, 22 counts of Fraudulently Obtaining a Controlled Substance and 22 counts of Forgery in the 2nd Degree. Lye, was released after posting a \$25,000 bond, and was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on December 12, 2013. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on October 15, 2013, when Hamden Police assisted the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the State of Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection on a prescription fraud complaint. Investigation revealed that Ellen Lye, an employee of a local physician, wrote 22 forged prescriptions for Oxycodone. The forged prescriptions, which were filled by 3 Hamden pharmacies, were written between October 2012 and September of 2013. Detective John Marks of the Majors Crimes Unit submitted an arrest warrant application for Lye to the court that was approved.

On December 6, 2013, Deirdre M. Daly, Acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that a federal jury in New Haven found Michael Thompson 34, and Tylon Vaughn, also known as "Bucky B," 35, both of New Haven, guilty of narcotics distribution offenses. Thompson and Vaughn and more than one hundred other individuals were 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. According to the evidence at trial, Thompson received kilogram quantities of cocaine from suppliers, including co-defendant Christopher "White Boy Chris" Morley, which Thompson converted into crack cocaine and then sold to other narcotics distributors and customers. Morley also provided Thompson with quantities of oxycodone, which Thompson redistributed to others. At times, Thompson supplied powder cocaine to Morley. The trial evidence further established that Vaughn received distribution quantities of crack cocaine from co-defendant Britt Martin, also known as "Big Baby," and that he distributed crack and marijuana, among other controlled substances, to customers in Fair Haven. In May and June 2011, investigators made two controlled purchases of crack from Vaughn. The jury found Thompson guilty of one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, five kilograms or more of cocaine, 280 grams or more of cocaine base ("crack cocaine"), and a quantity of oxycodone. Vaughn was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, 280 grams of more of cocaine base and a quantity of marijuana. On these convictions, both defendants face a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a maximum term of imprisonment of life. Vaughn also was found guilty of two counts of distributing cocaine base, which carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, on each count. Senior U.S. District Judge Ellen Bree Burns scheduled sentencing for both defendants for February 28, 2014. Thompson and Vaughn have been detained since May 22, 2012. Morley and Martin have pleaded guilty and await sentencing. 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 U.S. Attorneys S. Dave Vatti and Marc Silverman.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On December 11, 2013, Christopher Dynia, 22, of 335 Forest Street, Hamden, turned himself in to police custody after learning of an active arrest warrant. Dynia was charged with False Statement in the 2nd Degree and Falsely Reporting an Incident in the 2nd Degree. Dynia was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on December 20, 2013. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on November 21, 2013, when Hamden Police responded to the McDonald's parking lot, 2320 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of an armed street robbery. The alleged victim, Christopher Dynia, advised officers that the operator of a motor vehicle stole his cell phone at gunpoint. Detective Brian Stewart of the Major Crimes Unit conducted an extensive investigation and determined that Dynia fabricated the details of the incident. Detective Stewart subsequently submitted an arrest warrant application to the court which was approved.

On December 13, 2013, at approximately 10:00 am, members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of King Street on the report of suspicious activity. The female complainant advised officers that she had been followed by an individual for several blocks. Shortly thereafter, Officer Dennis Putnam detained the suspected individual on Treadwell Street. Further investigation revealed that he followed the woman and that he exposed himself to her. He was promptly arrested and transported to police headquarters. Tyrone Harris, 27, of 33 Bank Street, Hamden, was charged with Stalking in the 3rd Degree and Public Indecency. Harris, who was detained on a \$5,000.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on December 20, 2013. Officer Derick Manning conducted the investigation.

On December 20, 2013, at approximately 11:30 a.m., Officer Joseph Liguori of the Patrol Division observed a suspicious motor vehicle parked near an unoccupied storage facility, located on Haig Street. The vehicle, a pick-up truck, was loaded with scrap metal. Officer Liguori checked the building and found an individual, identified as Terry Blumell, throwing scrap metal out of a missing garage door panel. Blumell was ordered out of the building and subsequently placed under arrest. Terry Blumell, 54, of 41 Woodland Street, New Haven, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Criminal Attempt to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree. Blumell, who was released after posting a \$1,000.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 6, 2013.

On December 20, 2013, at approximately 10:30 p.m., Hamden Police were conducting a sobriety checkpoint on Dixwell Avenue as part of the FY2014 DUI Enforcement Campaign. Officers stopped a motor vehicle, which had burnt marijuana emanating from inside. Investigation led to the search of the vehicle, where Officers located a loaded semi-automatic handgun inside of the operator's door. In addition, officers found a bag of marijuana inside of the vehicle. The driver of the vehicle, Russell Gillian Jr. was promptly arrested. Further investigation revealed that the passenger, Javon Outlaw, was wanted on a warrant for Failure to Appear in Court. Russell Gillian Jr., 23, of 67 Glenhaven Road, New Haven, was charged with Carrying a Pistol without a Permit and Possession of Marijuana. Gillian, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$25,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 3, 2014. Javon Outlaw, 24, of 155 Putnam Street, New Haven, was charged with Failure to Appear and was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 3, 2014. Officer Mark Sheppard and Detective William Onofrio conducted the investigation.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On December 22, 2013, at approximately 9:30 pm, members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to Three Brothers Diner, 1038 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of a robbery/purse snatching. Investigation revealed that the victim was walking in the rear parking lot towards the diner when a brown skinned male, 25-30 years old, 6' tall, thin build, no facial hair, wearing a black baseball cap, a black hoodie (which was pulled over his head and cap), and wearing light colored jeans, ran towards her and grabbed her pocketbook which was draped over her arm. The victim released the pocketbook after a brief struggle, and the subject ran off thru the rear of the parking lot and proceeded westbound on North Street. There were no reported injuries and a check of the immediate area for the subject proved negative.

On December 23, 2013, at approximately 1:15 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to TJ Maxx, 2335 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers met with the stabbing victim, Ivan Fernandez, 20, who is an employee. Fernandez had suffered a stab wound to the leg. Hamden Fire Rescue responded and rendered medical assistance. Fernandez was subsequently transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital with a non-life threatening wound. Investigation revealed that Carlos Burgos, an acquaintance of Fernandez, arrived at the store and he and Fernandez became engaged in a verbal dispute inside of the store's bathroom. The dispute turned physical, when Burgos removed a knife from his pocket and stabbed Fernandez. Detective Sean Dolan and Officer Patrick McCue immediately arrested Burgos, who was inside of the store and he was transported to Police Headquarters. Carlos Burgos, 22, of 32 Lynmoor Place, Hamden, was charged with Assault in the 2nd Degree and Breach of Peace. Burgos, who was detained on a \$40,000.00 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 8, 2013.

On December 23, 2013, at approximately 9:30 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the corner of Concord Street and Garden Street on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found Bobby McCrea, 23, suffering from a gunshot wound to the leg. Officers were first told by McCrea and his friends, that an individual operating a specific motor vehicle was responsible for the shooting. After a thorough investigation, officers learned that McCrea's wound was self-inflicted. Officers located and seized the firearm that was used and McCrea was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital for medical treatment. Detective Mark Consorte is continuing the criminal investigation.

On December 24, 2013, at approximately 4:30 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of 900 Mix Avenue on the report of suspicious activity. The complainant had advised Central Communications that motor vehicles were forcibly entered. Officer Eric Hallstrom conducted a motor vehicle stop while en route to Mix Avenue. The stop occurred on Skiff Street, near Mix Avenue and inside of the vehicle were several items, including wrapped Christmas presents. A preliminary investigation revealed that the occupant inside of the vehicle, identified as Karis Westley, burglarized at least 4 vehicles, from Mix Avenue and Town Walk Drive. Several items were stolen, including gifts, tools and personal belongings. Karis Westley, 20, of 164 Morse Street, Hamden, was arrested and charged with 4 counts of Burglary in the 3rd Degree, 4 counts of Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree and 4 counts of Larceny in the 6th Degree. Westley was detained at police headquarters on a \$15,000.00 bond and was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 4, 2013. The investigation is continuing.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On December 28, 2013, during the early morning hours, members of the Patrol Division responded to the Marinello School of Beauty, 1245 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed that entry was gained the previous evening and that an undisclosed amount of money was stolen from the cash register. Officer Derick Manning conducted an investigation and determined that Nicole Pascale and her boyfriend, Mario Varriale, were responsible for the burglary. A short time thereafter, Sergeant Michael Doherty and Officer Michael Nawrocki located Pascale and Varriale at Pascale's residence, 1798 Dixwell Avenue. They were both promptly arrested. Nicole Pascale, 30, of 1798 Dixwell Avenue, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree and Interfering with a Police Officer. Pascale was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 13, 2014. Mario Varriale, 42, of 207 Austin Ryer Lane, Branford, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Larceny in the 6th Degree, Criminal Mischief in the 3rd Degree and Reckless Operation. Varriale was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on January 13, 2014.

On December 29, 2013, at approximately 8:30 am, members of the Patrol Division and Wallingford Police Department personnel responded to 29 First Street to interview a subject that was involved in a Domestic Violence shooting that occurred in Wallingford. As officers approached the resident; three shots were heard coming from inside the residence. Officers retreated and secured the exterior of the residence and the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) was called out to the scene. ESU personnel tactically entered the residence and located the subject on the second floor. The subject had an apparent self-inflicted fatal gunshot wound to his head.





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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On December 29, 2013, at approximately 6:00, p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and Dudley Street on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found the victim, a 17 year-old Hamden resident, with a gunshot wound to the area of his leg and groin. He was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital for further evaluation/treatment. The individual responsible for the shooting is described as a black male, medium height, wearing a black leather coat, black pants, black hat and tan boots. He was armed with a semi-automatic handgun. Detective William Onofrio of the Major Crimes Unit is conducting the investigation.

On December 29, 2013, at approximately 10:15 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to Dunkin Donuts, 938 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of an armed robbery. Investigation revealed that while a female employee exited the building to empty the trash, and she was approached by a lone gunman. The individual placed a gun to her head and ordered her inside. Once inside, the individual advised the employee to open the cash register. Before, departing, the gunman forced the employee and her co-worker into a utility closet. An undisclosed amount of money was taken and there were no reported injuries. A search of the area led officers to the corner of Goodrich Street and Butler Street, where the trail ended. The individual is described as a tall black male, wearing a black sweatshirt and red and white sneakers. The Detective Division is continuing with the investigation.

On December 31, 2013, after a thorough investigation, members of the Patrol Division, Detective Division, Street Interdiction Team, Special Response Team, and New Haven Region Task Force, participated in the warrant arrest of a suspected shooter at a Hamilton Avenue service station in Waterbury. A 17 year-old Hamden resident, was charged with Robbery in the 1st Degree with a Dangerous Instrument, Assault in the 1st Degree, Carrying a Pistol without a Permit and Larceny in the 2nd Degree. The juvenile, who was detained at the Juvenile Detention Center in Bridgeport, was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court on January 10, 2013. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on December 29, 2013, when members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and Dudley Street on the report of a shooting. Upon arrival, officers found the victim, a 17 year-old Hamden resident, with a gunshot wound to the area of his leg and groin. The victim was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital for further evaluation and treatment. Detective William Onofrio and Officer Dennis Ryan conducted the investigation.



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