



# Hamden Police Department Monthly Report February 2013



## Personnel Matters and Events

On February 6, 2013, members of the Traffic Division worked with the Connecticut State Police Truck Squad Unit in town to enforce commercial motor vehicle laws. The officers stopped approximately 25 trucks, conducted level I inspections on 3 vehicles, and issued 8 Infractions totaling \$850.00 dollars in fines.

On February 8, 2013, the State of Connecticut was hit with a massive snow system (Blizzard 2013), with Hamden being impacted by 40 inches of snow. From February 8, 2013, through February 11, 2013, the Central Communications Division managed a 72% increase in telephonic communications as opposed to a typical four day period. Patrol and Dispatch personnel worked extended hours throughout the event.



Blizzard 2013 photos from Hamden

On February 19, 2013, Officer Mark Katz was transferred from the Patrol Division of the Field Services Bureau to the Court Liaison Unit of the Support Services Bureau.

On February 22, 2013, Officer Timothy Brown was transferred from the Court Liaison Unit of the Support Services Bureau to the Patrol Division of the Field Services Bureau.



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## Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

During the month of January, the Community Liaison Unit was involved in the following community outreach events:

- Hamden Youth Advisory Council Meeting
- Southern Connecticut State University Informational Talk
- Law Enforcement Club Tour of Police Department
- Police & Youth Grant Meetings with Kids (2 Sessions)
- Connecticut Special Olympics fund raising kick-off breakfast {The Hamden Police Department has made the top ten fundraisers list (# 9) in the State for CT Special Olympics for 2012} - (Special recognition is directed to Detective John Marks for his leadership in this endeavor that raised over \$12,000.00 dollars) The Hamden Police Department will be proudly displayed on the Special Olympics Torch Run T-Shirts this year for the first time ever!



Officers Timothy McKeon & Scott Jason, shown working on banners with youths for dance night.



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## Traffic Calming

Members of the Traffic Division deployed Speed Compliance Units throughout on Haverford Street, Woodlawn Avenue, and Mather Street.



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 February consisted of Conflict Resolution that was presented by Community Mediation, Inc. The intent of this training topic was to provide personnel with skills and tools that will further promote peaceful communities and just relationships by enabling individuals, families, organizations and communities to resolve their conflicts themselves through mediation, dialogue, training, facilitation and education. Approximately 15-20 Town Hall employees also attended the training classes and their attendance was coordinated by the Personnel Department.

## Training: In-Service

- Instructor Development Training @ POST – Sergeant Robert D’Aniello
- Basic Crime Scene Processing Workshop @ POST – Officer Jay Bunnell
- Supervisory Liability @ Southington Police Department – Deputy Chief William Onofrio, Captain Ronald Smith, Lieutenant Brian Carmody, and Sergeant Nathan Youngberg
- Domestic Violence @ Connecticut Council Against Domestic Violence – Officer Beatriz Montijo

## Training – K-9

K-9 Units participated in training sessions at the Michael J. Whelan building on Newhall Street with several other agencies. The training curriculum included:

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

## Training – Dispatchers

Dispatch personnel also attended the Department-wide training sessions on Conflict Resolution.





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## Incidents of Special Interest

On February 1, 2013, a press release was issued by the United States Attorney's office titled:

“Head of New Haven narcotics trafficking ring pleads guilty”

David B. Fein, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that Joseph Jackson, also known as “Mighty” and “M.I.,” 37, of New Haven, pleaded guilty today before United States Magistrate Judge Joan G. Margolis in New Haven to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute, and to distribute, 280 grams or more of cocaine base (“crack cocaine”). This matter stems from a joint law enforcement investigation conducted in 2010 by the FBI New Haven Safe Streets Task Force, the DEA New Haven Task Force, the New Haven Police Department and the Hamden Police Department. Through the use of court-authorized wiretaps, investigating officers identified and dismantled a large drug trafficking organization that was headed by Jackson and centered in the Newhallville section of New Haven and Hamden. At the time, Jackson was one of the principal suppliers of crack cocaine in and around New Haven. The investigation revealed that Jackson purchased multiple kilograms of cocaine from various sources of supply, and then converted a large majority of the cocaine into crack cocaine. Jackson then provided distribution quantities of crack to others who sold it on his behalf and gave the proceeds to Jackson. At times, Jackson sold crack and powder cocaine to his own customers. Jackson was arrested on October 28, 2010. On that date, federal agents executed search warrants at various locations, including Jackson's residence on Winchester Avenue in New Haven and a West Haven apartment that Jackson used to process, store and package narcotics. A search of the Winchester Avenue residence revealed a Taurus .40 caliber pistol with an obliterated serial number, crack cocaine and cash. A search of the West Haven apartment revealed one kilogram of cocaine, 150 grams of crack packaged for distribution, multiple cell phones, drug packaging materials and cash. Jackson is scheduled to be sentenced by Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns on May 2, 2013, at which time Jackson faces a minimum term of imprisonment of 10 years and a maximum term of imprisonment of life. If the binding plea agreement filed today is accepted by the Court, Jackson will be sentenced to 25 years of imprisonment. Jackson also has agreed to forfeit two automobiles and two motorcycles seized during the investigation. Forty-seven individuals have been charged in federal court with various narcotics offenses as a result of this investigation. This matter was investigated by the FBI New Haven Safe Streets Task Force (composed of members of the New Haven, Milford and Hamden Police Departments and the Connecticut Department of Correction), the Drug Enforcement Administration's New Haven Task Force (composed of members of the New Haven, West Haven, Meriden, Ansonia, Hamden and Branford Police Departments), along with substantial participation by members of the New Haven and Hamden Police Departments. The United States Marshals Service also has assisted the investigation. The investigation was funded in significant part by the United States Attorney's Office Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and supported by the Office's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Anti-Gang programs. This matter is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Christopher M. Mattei and Robert M. Spector.

On February 1, 2013, members of the Patrol Division responded to Partyka Chevrolet, 200 Skiff Street, on the report of a tampering with a motor vehicle. Investigation revealed that an individual entered the rear parking lot and placed a jack underneath a 2013 Mazda 3 “Speed” model motor vehicle. The individual then removed all 4 stock wheels and tires. Officers learned that the “Speed” model of the Mazda 3 is unique in that there are minimal models in the State of Connecticut. The Mazda 3 “Speed” wheels will fit on a Mazda 3 base model. The 4 stolen tires and rims are estimated at \$2,500. Officer Joseph Liguori of the Patrol Division is continuing the investigation.



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### **Incidents of Special Interest (continued)**

On February 5, 2013, at approximately 11:30 a.m., School Resource Officer Paul Calamita was summoned to the first floor of Hamden High School. Hamden High School Security personnel had obtained information that a student was in the possession of a firearm. Officer Calamita subsequently escorted the student, a 16 year-old, from the classroom. A search of his book bag by school security personnel led to the discovery of a black-colored air soft pistol. The 16 year-old was arrested and charged with Possession of a Weapon on School Grounds and Breach of Peace. He was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on February 22, 2013. The juvenile was released to the custody of his father.

On February 6, 2013, Craig McCarthy turned himself in at police headquarters after being informed that there was an active warrant for his arrest. Craig McCarthy, 49, of 35 Meadow View Drive, North Haven, was charged with 2 counts of Possession of a Shotgun/Silencer. McCarthy, who was released after posting a \$10,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on February 19, 2013. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on January 23, 2013, when Hamden Police responded to Pawn Paradise, 1194 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of a robbery. During the course of the investigation, officers observed 2 loaded sawed-off shotguns in the area of the counter. The sawed-off shotguns, which were inside of make-shift holsters, had their stocks altered. Further investigation revealed that Craig McCarthy, the co-owner of Pawn Paradise, was the owner of the firearms. Detective Angelo DeLieto subsequently submitted an arrest warrant application for McCarthy to the court, which was subsequently approved.

On February 11, 2013, at approximately 1:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to Quinnipiac University on a drug investigation. Upon arrival, officers learned that Quinnipiac University Public Safety personnel smelled marijuana emanating from a dormitory. Public Safety personnel subsequently entered the dorm and located 114.7 grams of marijuana under Patrick Mulligan's desk. Mulligan is a student at Quinnipiac University. Public Safety personnel also discovered drug paraphernalia. Hamden Police arrested Mulligan and transported him to police headquarters. Mulligan, 19, of 326 Woodstock Avenue, Stratford, was charged with Possession of Marijuana and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Mulligan, who was released on a Written Promise to Appear, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on February 20, 2013. Officer Jennifer King of the Patrol Division conducted the investigation.

On February 10, 2013, at approximately 5:30 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the report of a motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Pine Rock Avenue and Jones Road. Upon arrival, officers observed an unoccupied vehicle, resting against a snow bank. The engine of the vehicle was running. Moments later, officers located the operator of the vehicle, Edwin Velez, at his residence on Pine Rock Avenue. Further investigation revealed that Velez was operating the vehicle while intoxicated. His wife April and 5 year-old daughter were inside of the vehicle when it struck the snow bank. A field sobriety test was administered to Velez, which he failed. He was subsequently arrested and transported to Police Headquarters. While at police headquarters, officers determined that Velez was nearly 3 times the legal limit. Edwin Velez 3<sup>rd</sup>, 33, of 368 Pine Rock Avenue, Hamden, was charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Risk of Injury to a Minor. Velez, who was released after posting a \$500 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on February 22, 2013. A few hours thereafter, April arrived at police headquarters to transport her husband home. Officers determined that she drove to police headquarters and that she too was intoxicated. She was promptly placed under arrest.



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## Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Officers found April's vehicle parked in the parking lot located behind police headquarters, where the entrance is labeled "Police Vehicles Only." The vehicle, a pick-up truck, which was parked in a snow bank, contained a bottle of wine and empty beer bottles in the interior. On top of a full bed of snow, in the bed of the truck, officers found a 6 pack of beer. April Cassidy Velez, 32, of 368 Pine Rock Avenue, Hamden, was charged with Driving While Intoxicated. April, who was released after posting a \$500 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on February 22, 2013. Hamden Police reported the incident to the Department of Children and Families. Officers Gabriel Garcia and Justin Martin of the Patrol Division conducted the investigations.

On February 13, 2013, David B. Fein, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that Kai Jackson, also known as "Killer Kai," 31, of New Haven, was sentenced today by Senior United States District Judge Ellen Bree Burns in New Haven to 24 months of imprisonment, followed by two years of supervised release, for distributing marijuana. Jackson is one of 108 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 Jackson conspired with others to purchase and redistribute between 2.5 and five kilograms of marijuana. Jackson has been detained since his arrest on May 22, 2012. On November 16, 2012, he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to distribute marijuana. 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 invaluable assistance to the investigation. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys S. Dave Vatti and Marc Silverman.

On February 14, 2013, at approximately 3:30 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to Bobs Stores, 2300 Dixwell Avenue on the report of a fight in progress. While en route, officers were advised that the physical altercation was between a store loss prevention officer and a shoplifter. Investigation revealed that an individual, identified as Cornell Brown, attempted to exit the store with approximately \$200 worth of merchandise. When Brown was confronted by store security, he assaulted the loss prevention officer, striking him several times. The loss prevention officer sustained a hand injury. Brown subsequently fled on foot. He was arrested shortly thereafter, in the rear of the building, by Deputy Chief Bo Kicak. Cornell Brown, 21, of 24 Edgar Street, New Haven, was charged with Robbery in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and Larceny in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. Brown, who was detained on a \$5,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on February 25, 2013. While detained in the Hamden Police Department Detention Facility, Brown damaged a sprinkler head in the cell block area. His actions caused major flooding and electronic damage. Brown was fairly co-operative through his original booking process and showed no predictive signs of destructive behavior. He was additionally charged with Criminal Mischief in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree.



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## **Incidents of Special Interest (continued)**

On February 15, 2013, David B. Fein, United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, today announced that Cornell Streater, also known as "Messy", 21, of Shelton Avenue, New Haven, pleaded guilty yesterday before United States Magistrate Judge Holly B. Fitzsimmons in Bridgeport to one count of conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine base ("crack cocaine"). According to court documents and statements made in court, this matter stems from an investigation conducted by the FBI New Haven Safe Streets Task Force, the New Haven Police Department and the Connecticut State Police into drug distribution and related violence allegedly being committed by members and associates of the Grape Street Crips in New Haven. Streater is scheduled to be sentenced by Senior United States District Judge Warren W. Eginton on May 9, 2013, at which time Streater faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years and a fine of up to \$1 million. On April 9, 2012, a grand jury returned an indictment charging 18 individuals, including Streater, with narcotics distribution offenses stemming from this investigation. To date, nine of the defendants have pleaded guilty. The other nine defendants are detained while awaiting trial. With respect to the defendants awaiting trial, U.S. Attorney Fein stressed that an indictment is not evidence of guilt. Charges are only allegations, and each defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. This case was being investigated by the FBI's New Haven Safe Streets Task Force, which includes officers from the New Haven, Hamden and Milford Police Departments, and the State of Connecticut Department of Correction. The investigation was significantly assisted by the Connecticut State Police, the United States Marshals Service and the Westerly (R.I.) Police Department. The investigation was funded in significant part by the United States Attorney's Office Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and supported by the Office's Project Safe Neighborhoods and Anti-Gang programs. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Anthony Kaplan and Gordon Hall.

On February 17, 2013, at approximately 1:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the report of a 1-vehicle accident on Shepard Avenue. Upon arrival, Officer Michael DiMaria observed the operator of the vehicle, Joseph Sirois, stumbling in a private driveway. Sirois then attempted to flee from the scene on foot. As Officer DiMaria attempted to arrest him, Sirois began fighting with him. Two bystanders, who were assisting the town with snow removal, helped subdue Sirois. In the process of arresting Sirois, he bit Officer DiMaria's left wrist. Officer DiMaria was treated for his injury at Yale – New Haven Hospital. Further investigation revealed that Sirois had 4 packets of PCP and drug paraphernalia inside of his vehicle. He was arrested and transported to police headquarters. Joseph Sirois, 38, of 167 North Fountain Street, Apt. B3, New Haven, was charged with Assault on a Police Officer, Possession of a Hallucinogen, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Interfering with a Police Officer. Sirois, who was detained on a \$20,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on March 4, 2013. The Hamden Police Department would like to thank the 2 bystanders for their assistance during this violent struggle.

On February 25, 2013, at approximately 8:00 p.m., members of the Patrol and Traffic Divisions responded to the report of a motor vehicle accident on Waite Street. Investigation revealed that Ashish Wadhwa was operating his 2008 Mercedes Benz westbound on Waite Street, when he veered off of the roadway into Lake Whitney. Wadhwa was able to exit his vehicle before it became fully submerged under water. Further investigation revealed that Wadhwa was traveling at a high rate of speed. Wadhwa, 26, of 80 Oxford Street in Hartford, who suffered a leg injury, was issued an infraction for Traveling Unreasonably Fast. The Regional Water Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection assisted in the investigation. The vehicle was removed from Lake Whitney on February 26th. Officer Stephen DeGrand of the Traffic Division conducted the investigation.



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## **Incidents of Special Interest (continued)**

On February 26, 2013, members of the Street Interdiction Team concluded a lengthy investigation into the sale of illicit drugs. Investigation revealed that Isaac Kiniti was conducting drug transactions from within "Kool's Place", which is located at 321 Goodrich Street. Hamden Police executed a search and seizure warrant at Kool's Place where Officers recovered a loaded .22 caliber rifle, as well as a small quantity of marijuana. In addition, Officers submitted 3 arrest warrant applications to the court for Kiniti. The arrest warrant applications were subsequently approved by the court. Isaac Kiniti, 37, of 475 Elm Street in New Haven, was charged with 3 counts of Sale of a Controlled Substance and Possession of a Controlled Substance. Kiniti, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$150,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on March 12, 2013. The investigation is continuing.

On February 26, 2013, at approximately 9:00 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to Radio Shack, 2300 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of a robbery. Investigation revealed that 2 individuals, described as dark-skinned males, wearing black hooded sweatshirts, gloves and masks, entered through the front door. The individuals ordered the female employees to lie on the floor, while the male manager was instructed to unlock a storage area. The individuals then filled plastic bags with electronic equipment. A third individual entered through a rear door and assisted in the robbery. They subsequently fled from the store through the rear door. There were no weapons displayed and no reported injuries. The Detective Division is continuing the investigation.

On February 28, 2013, Officer Mark Katz of the Court Liaison Unit arrested Christopher Vitti at Meriden Superior Court on the strength of an active Habeas arrest warrant. Christopher Vitti, 32, was charged with Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree and Larceny in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree. Vitti was held on a \$350,000 bond. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on January 24, 2013, when members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to Dunkin Donuts, 1399 Dixwell Avenue, on the report of an armed robbery. Investigation revealed that an individual, described as a white male, late 20's to early 30's and thin build, entered the establishment and demanded money, while displaying a black-colored handgun. The individual then fled on foot towards Beacon Street with an undisclosed amount of money. Detective Angelo DeLieto conducted the investigation and submitted the arrest warrant application that was approved by the courts.

On February 28, 2013, members of the Street Interdiction Team, with the assistance of the Emergency Services Unit, executed a search and seizure warrant at 43 Watson Street in New Haven. The warrant execution was the result of a lengthy investigation into the sale of crack cocaine in the southern section of Hamden. The search led to the recovery of a small quantity of crack cocaine, as well as Ecstasy pills. In addition, officers seized drug paraphernalia and \$613.00. Hamden Police arrested Marquis Roberson, 31, on the strength of an arrest warrant. Roberson was charged with Sale of Narcotics. Roberson, who resides at 43 Watson Street, was additionally charged with Possession of a Hallucinogenic Substance, Possession of Narcotics, Possession of Narcotics with the Intent to Sell and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, as a result of the seized evidence. He was detained at police headquarters on an \$110,000 bond and was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on March 13, 2013.