



Hamden Police Department Monthly Report May 2013



Personnel Matters and Events

On May 13, 2013, Lieutenant Timothy Wydra was transferred from the Major Crimes Unit to the Patrol Division of the Field Services Bureau.

On May 16, 2013, Lieutenant Michael McNeil retired from the department after 18 years of service.

On May 27, 2013, members of the Hamden Police Department participated in the annual Memorial Day Parade.





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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Five officers were assigned as operators on the Emergency Services Unit (ESU). The assignments were completed after an application and vigorous testing process to replace departing members.

New members: Officer Mark Sheppard, Officer Matthew Barbuto, Officer Eric Goclowski, Officer Mark Katz, and Officer Gabriel Garcia.



Emergency Services Unit pictured from left to right are: Officer Stephen Baris, Officer Mark Sheppard, Detective Raymond Quinn, Officer Robert Villano, Officer Kevin Hall, Officer Eric Hallstrom, Sergeant Steven Crowley, Officer Eric Goclowski, Officer Matthew Barbuto, Officer Mark Katz, and Sergeant John Sullivan.



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

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

- Hamden Youth Advisory Council Meeting
- Health Fair @ the Thornton Wilder Auditorium
- Tour of Police Department facility for Helen Street School students (3 Tours)
- Tip-A-Cop benefit for Special Olympics @ Mickey's Restaurant



Special thanks to: Sergeants John Sullivan, John Riordan, and John Testa, Detectives John Marks and Mark Consorte, Officers Kelley Groleau, Angela Hall, Kevin Hall, Beatrice Montijo, and Gregg Curran, pictured with Special Olympic medalist Marybeth Delaney.



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Traffic Calming

Members of the Traffic Division deployed Speed Compliance Units on Pinerock Avenue, Davis Street, Ridge Road and Whitney Avenue.



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 May consisted of firearms training (pistol and patrol rifle qualifications) that was conducted @ the Hamden Fish & Game club.

Training: In-Service

- States Attorney School @ POST – Officers Beatriz Montijo, Patrick McCue, and Eric Goclowski
- Gang Identification and Drug Detection @ POST – Officers Jay Bunnell and Paul Calamita
- Intermediate Crime Scene and Processing @ POST – Officer Jay Bunnell
- Advanced Crime Scene Processing @ POST – Officer Jay Bunnell
- Emergency Services Unit (ESU) trained at the Michael J. Whelan building and the training consisted of familiarization of the ESU Truck/Equipment as well as tactical entries/room clearing and hallway movements in a school environment.





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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



Officer Jason Venditto training with K-9 partner "Viking"



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Training – Dispatchers

There was no training in the month of May for Dispatch personnel.





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Incidents of Special Interest

On May 3, 2013, Hamden Police arrested Robert DiRienzo at Meriden Superior Court on the strength of an arrest warrant. DiRienzo, 21, of 168 Borrman Road, East Haven, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 3rd Degree, and he was detained on a court set \$20,000 bond. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on July 29, 2012, when Hamden Police responded to a Valley View Court residence on the report of a residential burglary. Investigation revealed that an individual forcibly entered the residence through a ground level basement window. Once inside, the individual stole approximately \$6,500.00 worth of jewelry. After an extensive investigation, which was conducted by Detective's John Inglese and Donald Remillard, an arrest warrant application was submitted to the court and subsequently approved for the arrest of Robert DiRienzo.

On May 4, 2013, members of the Patrol Division received information of a possible shooting suspect that was at the Hess Gas Station on Dixwell Avenue. Officer Dennis Ryan who is currently assigned to the New Haven Shooting Task Force had intelligence of the vehicle (a gray VW) that was at that location and the operator was a suspect in a shooting in Waterbury earlier in the day. The vehicle was located on Bowen Street, when the operator engaged officers in pursuit by striking a police vehicle and fleeing into New Haven. The operator of the vehicle was presumed to be Marquis Johnson and was considered armed and dangerous. Sergeant Michael Doherty and Officer Michael Nawrocki engaged the suspect in pursuit where he crashed into a wooden picket fence on Vernon Street in New Haven. The subject fled on foot and was engaged by K-9 "Hank" on Ward Street. It was determined that the suspect was Levon Sowell who was on Parole. Officers' recovered 18 bags of "crack cocaine" on Sowell and a Ruger 9mm handgun was recovered in the vehicle. Levon Sowell, 34, of 380 Malloy Road, West Haven, CT, was arrested and charged with Engaging Police in Pursuit, Possession of Narcotics, Possession of Narcotics with Intent to sell, Interfering with a Police Officer, Assault on a Police Officer, Criminal Possession of a Firearm, and Carrying a Pistol without a permit. Sowell was held on Remand to Custody hold by parole and a \$150,000 bond, and was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on May 17, 2013.

On May 9, 2013, shortly after midnight, Officer Jennifer King of the Patrol Division observed a disturbance in the parking lot of Slice Pizza, 141 Arch Street. Investigation revealed that restaurant employees asked Keerome Lawrence to leave the establishment because he was allegedly causing a disturbance. Lawrence then began fighting with the employees, causing an eye and neck injury. Further investigation by police led to the search of Lawrence's motor vehicle. Officers located and seized a loaded .380 Ruger firearm, as well as 70.2 grams of marijuana, that was packaged for sale. Lawrence was promptly arrested and transported to police headquarters. Keerome Lawrence, 23, of 92 Elizabeth Street, New Haven, was charged with Illegal Possession of a Firearm Under the Influence, Sale of a Controlled Substance, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Assault in the 3rd Degree and Breach of Peace. Lawrence, who was released after posting a \$5,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on May 23, 2013.

On May 9, 2013, at approximately 8:45 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to the area of Dixwell Avenue and North Street on the report of shots fired. A preliminary investigation revealed that numerous gunshots were fired at a "burgundy-colored" motor vehicle. A search of the immediate area for the individual responsible was unsuccessful. Hamden Police contacted area medical facilities in an attempt to ascertain if any injuries were sustained, but there were no reported injuries. Detective Michael DePalma of the Major Crimes Unit is continuing with the investigation.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On May 10, 2013, at approximately 1:30 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Mather Street address on the report of a burglary in progress. Investigation revealed that as the homeowner was upstairs in a second floor bedroom, an individual had entered the residence. The individual stole several items from the kitchen and office area. Electronic equipment, a wallet and personal belongings were taken. Further investigation revealed that entry may have been made with the use of a key. Officer Michael Nawrocki and his K-9 partner "Hank" conducted a track with negative results. The Detective Division is continuing the investigation.

On May 10, 2013, Hamden Police arrested Jorge Aponte at Meriden Superior Court on the strength of an arrest warrant. Aponte, 40, of Judith Street in New Haven, was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Larceny in the 4th Degree and Criminal Trespass in the 1st Degree. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on April 9, 2013, when members of the Patrol Division responded to a Stevens Street address on the report of a larceny. Investigation revealed that Jorge Aponte, who is separated from his wife, forced entry into her residence through a door. Once inside, he allegedly stole \$1,500.00 from her pocketbook. Officer Dennis Putnam of the Patrol Division submitted an arrest warrant application to the court which was subsequently approved.

On May 14, 2013, Hamden Police arrested Bernard Frederick, 46, of 210 Hamilton Street, New Haven, on the strength of an arrest warrant at Meriden Superior Court. He was charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree and Larceny in the 6th Degree. He was arraigned later in the day. The arrest warrant was based on an incident that occurred on August 2, 2012, when members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to a Millis Street address on the report of a forcible burglary. Investigation revealed that an individual entered the residence by cutting a ground level screen window. Once inside, the individual stole a computer and approximately \$150.00. Detectives Angelo DeLieto and Michael Ambrosino conducted a lengthy investigation which led to the application of an arrest warrant for Bernard Frederick, which was subsequently approved by the court.

On May 15, 2013, at approximately 8:00 p.m., members of the Patrol and Detective Divisions responded to a Wintergreen Avenue address on the report of a forcible burglary. Investigation revealed that Adam Esposito, whose family resides in the home, pried the lock to a rear door, and forcibly gained entry into the residence. Once inside, he allegedly stole jewelry, valued a thousands of dollars, personal checks and an ATM Card. Detectives Brian Stewart and Angelo DeLieto located Esposito later in the evening on East Street in New Haven. A search of Esposito led to the recovery of several pieces of jewelry, as well as 1.5 grams of Ecstasy. Officers learned that Esposito had planned to flee to Florida at 7:00 a.m., on May 16, 2013, when a train boarding pass was found in his possession. Adam Esposito, 26, of Hamden, was arrested and charged with Burglary in the 3rd Degree, Larceny in the 3rd Degree and Possession of Narcotics. Esposito, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$50,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on May 28, 2013.

On May 16, 2013, at approximately 11:15 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to 134 Pearl Street on the report of an emotionally disturbed person. Upon arrival, officers spoke with the complainant who stated that she had to run from her home because she was afraid of her son. Investigation revealed that her son, Toby Tassmer was allegedly acting irrational. As his mother attempted to contact the Hamden Police Department, Tassmer grabbed the telephone and threw it, causing it to malfunction.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

Officers Nicholas D'Angelo and Derick Manning attempted to arrest Tassmer. Tassmer resisted and subsequently threw several punches at the officers. Tassmer then assaulted an officer, causing 2 large scratches to the officer's neck. He was eventually subdued and taken into custody. The police officer and Tassmer were treated for injuries at Yale – New Haven Hospital. Toby Tassmer, 49, of 134 Pearl Street, Hamden, was charged with Assault on a Police Officer, Interfering with a Police Officer, Interfering with an Emergency Call and Disorderly Conduct. Tassmer, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$25,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior court on May 16, 2013.

On May 17, 2013, Hamden Police arrested Marcelo Munoz-Cervantes, 29, of 341 Grand Avenue, Apartment #4, New Haven. Marcelo Munoz-Cervantes was charged with Sexual Assault in the 1st Degree, Home Invasion, Burglary in the 1st Degree, Assault in the 2nd Degree and Strangulation in the 2nd Degree. Munoz-Cervantes, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$1,000,000 bond, was scheduled to appear in Meriden Superior Court on May 31, 2013. Hamden Police learned that Marcelo Munoz-Cervantes is an illegal alien, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) placed a detainer on him. The arrest was based on an incident that occurred on April 14, 2013, at approximately 4:30 a.m., when members of the Patrol Division responded to a Linden Avenue address on the report of a sexual assault. Investigation revealed that a female had fallen asleep inside of her bedroom and shortly thereafter, she woke up with an unidentified male lying on top of her. The female, who was repeatedly sexually assaulted, screamed for help, while the individual strangled her. She was also punched several times in the face. Throughout the sexual assault, the individual threatened to kill her, while choking her approximately 5 times. The subject then placed a sheet over her head and fled from the residence. Investigation revealed that the individual had gained entry through an unlocked front door. The victim sustained serious injuries, including a displaced rib and injuries to her back, neck and shoulder. She was treated and released from Yale-New Haven Hospital. After a month-long investigation, Detectives William Onofrio and Brian Stewart arrested Marcelo Munoz-Cervantes, at his place of employment, a restaurant in Southington. Officers learned that Munoz-Cervantes was previously employed as a maintenance worker for the landlord who rented the home to the sexual assault victim. Further investigation revealed that the arrestee was familiar with the residential property.

On May 17, 2013, members of the Patrol Division responded to a Blake Road address on the report of a burglary. Investigation revealed that an individual(s) had entered the home, while the residents were asleep. The homeowner awoke to find his motor vehicle and electronic equipment missing. On May 20, 2013, members of the Patrol Division responded to an Augur Street address on the report of a similar type of burglary. Investigation revealed that an individual(s) entered the home through an unlocked window, while the residents were asleep. Once inside, the individual(s) stole school related items. During the early morning hours of May 21, 2013, members of the Hamden Police located the motor vehicle that was stolen in the Blake Road burglary, parked on a New Haven city street. Surveillance was subsequently conducted.

On May 18, 2013, at approximately 9:15 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of Goodrich Street and Goodyear Street on the report of shots fired. Witnesses advised police that "5 to 15" gunshots were fired in the area. Investigation revealed that 2 parked motor vehicles were struck by bullets. There were no reported injuries, and a search of the area, with the assistance of members from the New Haven Police Department met with negative results. Officer Michael Nawrocki conducted the initial investigation.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On May 21, 2013, Hamden Officers observed an individual enter the stolen vehicle and proceed on Huntington Street. Detectives attempted to detain the operator at the intersection of Winchester Avenue and Division Street, but the operator, a 17 year-old New Haven resident, refused to stop, accelerating on Division Street. Moments later, Officers located the vehicle, which was involved in a one-car accident, on Sheffield Avenue near Highland Street. The 17 year-old led police on a foot pursuit through several backyards. He was eventually arrested, hiding in bushes on Winchester Avenue. Further investigation by members of the Detective Division revealed that the 17 year-old was responsible for committing the overnight burglaries on Blake Road and Augur Street. A 17 year-old New Haven resident was charged with 2 counts of Burglary in the 1st Degree, 2 counts of Conspiracy to Commit Burglary in the 1st Degree, Larceny in the 2nd Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 2nd Degree, Larceny in the 6th Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 6th Degree and Interfering with a Police Officer. He was being detained at the Bridgeport Detention Center and was scheduled to appear in Juvenile Court in New Haven on May 31, 2013. The Detective Division is continuing with the investigation.

On May 29, 2013, at approximately 1:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of Goodrich Street near Goodyear Street on an anonymous report of gun shots fired in the area. Investigation revealed that a male subject was closing up Tuskie's Deli Mart on Goodrich Street when he was approached by two black males wearing masks, and the unidentified subjects shot him and then fled. The victim was shot in his abdomen and was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital. The Major Crimes Unit is investigating the incident.

On May 30, 2013, Deirdre M. Daly, acting United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut, announced that Earl Banks, also known as "E.J.," 22, of New Haven, was sentenced by United States District Judge Vanessa L. Bryant in Hartford to 78 months of imprisonment, followed by four years of supervised release, for distributing crack cocaine. Banks 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 Banks conspired with others to purchase and redistribute crack cocaine. On December 13, 2011 and February 2, 2012, law enforcement officers conducted controlled purchases of crack from Banks. Banks, who was on state probation at the time of the offense, has been detained since his arrest on May 17, 2012. On January 28, 2013, he pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute 28 grams or more of cocaine base ("crack"). 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.



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Hamden Police Honor Guard



Pictured from left to right – Sergeant Colin Kearns, Officer Michael Nawrocki, Officer Robert Dunham, Officer Stephen Baris, and Officer Ronald Glifort.