



# *Hamden Police Department*

## *Monthly Report*

### *December 2010*



#### **Personnel Matters and Events**

During the month of December, the department deployed extra patrols throughout Hamden's retail areas to enhance a police presence during the peak Holiday shopping season.

School Resource Police Officers Robert Dunham and Angela Moreno were temporarily reassigned to the Patrol Division during the winter school break to augment the Patrol Division during the Holiday season/school break and mitigate overtime expenses during the holiday week when vacation and personnel time usage spikes.

#### **Training - Sworn Personnel**

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

#### **Training: In-Service**

- Bullet Proof Mind - Sergeants Franklin Riehl & Colin Kearns; Officers Mike Cirillo & Mark Shepard
- Identity Theft Investigation – Detective John Marks
- Scenario Based Executive Training – Captain Ronald Smith & Sergeant Anthony Diaz
- Intermediate Crime Scene Processing – Detective Angelo DeLieto
- People with Mental Illness – Officer Anthony Popolizio
- Interview and Interrogation – Officer Matthew Barbuto
- First Line Supervisor School – Sergeant David Ng
- CT Conference Prevention of Domestic Violence – Sergeant Franklin Riehl
- Special Legal Issues and Topics – Officer Robert Oneill
- FBI 47<sup>th</sup> Command Institute for Law Enforcement- Deputy Chief John Cappiello  
Captain Ronald Smith  
Captain John Lujick  
Sergeant Robert D'Aniello



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#### **Training – K-9 Unit**

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

Training areas included:

- Building searches
- Narcotics detection
- patrol techniques
- obedience
- explosive detection
- tracking
- And suspect apprehensions.

#### **Training – Dispatchers**

Emergency Medical Dispatching – Review of Post Dispatch Instructions (PDI's)

#### **Incidents of Special Interest**

On December 1, 2010, at approximately 7:00 a.m. members of the Patrol Division responded to an area adjacent to the Farmington Canal Line, near the rear of 1869 Dixwell Avenue on the report of a dead body. Moments later, officers located the body of a 52 year-old homeless man, lifeless in a tent. It appears that the victim was bludgeoned to death with a blunt object, possibly a baseball bat. Investigation led officers to a local coffee shop, located on Dixwell Avenue. There, officers arrested Roy Martin, who was selling newspapers. Further investigation revealed that Martin had asked an acquaintance to help him bury the body. This appears to be a crime of domestic violence. Martin and the victim were cohabitating in a makeshift home, under a bridge, located near the Farmington Canal line. Roy Martin, 40, who is homeless, was charged with Murder. Martin, who was detained on a \$1,000,000 bond, will be arraigned in Meriden later today. The victim was later identified through fingerprint comparison as Tobin Mellish. Mellish was 52 years old and had previously resided in Stamford, CT, Bridgeport CT and in New Haven, CT at a homeless shelter prior to living in the tent along the Farmington Canal Line.

On December 2, 2010, at approximately 3:15 p.m. Officer Stephen Baris of the Patrol Division and members of the Street Interdiction Team attempted a motor vehicle stop in the parking lot of Burger King on Dixwell Avenue near Morse Street. Upon approach of the stopped motor vehicle, the operator (later identified as Terrance Calhoun) put the vehicle in reverse and accelerated at a high rate of speed in an attempt to elude police. The vehicle then struck several occupied parked cars before exiting the parking lot onto Morse Street. The vehicle became disabled and Calhoun then engaged officers in a foot pursuit and resisted arrest when he was finally apprehended. Officers located a quantity of Marijuana and Crack-Cocaine on the person of Calhoun. 5 civilians sustained minor injuries and were transported to local hospitals for treatment as a result of this incident. Terrance Calhoun, 28, of William Street, New Haven was charged with Possession of Narcotics with Intent to sell, Possession of Narcotics, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to sell, Possession of Marijuana, Assault 3rd (5 counts), Reckless Endangerment 1st, Interfering with Police, Evading Responsibility, and Reckless Driving. Calhoun was issued a court date of December 9, 2010 and was remanded to custody by the Connecticut Department of Parole.



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

On December 5, 2010, at approximately 1:30 a.m. Officer William May of the Patrol Division observed a motor vehicle violation at the intersection of Arch Street near Dixwell Avenue and conducted a motor vehicle stop. Further investigation lead to the search of the vehicle, where officers located 14 grams of marijuana. The operator of the motor vehicle Frankie Johnson, 19, of 11 Francis Avenue, Hamden, CT was issued a Misdemeanor Summons for possession of marijuana and failure to wear his seatbelt. Johnson was released at the scene with a court date of 12/17/2010.

On December 8, 2010, at approximately 1 a.m. Officer Gregg Curran of the Patrol Division observed a suspicious motor vehicle parked in the rear parking lot of 22 Warner Street. Investigation revealed that none of the occupants of the motor vehicle resided in the complex. Further investigation led to the search of the vehicle where officers located 1.9 grams of marijuana. Rossiny Amy, 19 of 54 Montauk Avenue, New London, CT was issued a Misdemeanor Summons and charged with possession of marijuana and is scheduled to appear in court on 12/17/2010. The other five occupants of the motor vehicle where issued infractions for simple-trespass with an answer date of 12/17/2010.

On December 8, 2010 at approximately 03:42 a.m. Hamden Police investigated a robbery complaint at 7-11, a convenience gas station, located at 1795 Dixwell Avenue. Investigation revealed that a black male, approximately 6'1", medium-heavy set build, clean-shaven, wearing a black jacket, black pants and a black winter hat, simulated a handgun in his pocket to the clerk. He was given the money from the register and fled on foot. A search of the immediate area and police K-9 track was conducted with negative results. Anyone with information to assist on the identity of the subject was asked to contact The Hamden Police Detective Division at 203-230-4040. A photograph of the suspect was released to the press in an effort to identify the subject.

On December 8, 2010, at approximately 9:08 p.m. Hamden Police responded to Kohl's Department Store, 2380 Dixwell Avenue to investigate a street robbery. The victim was injured and advised officers that a black male, approximately 5' 7" tall, wearing a powder blue diamond jacket, in his teens, approached her in the parking lot while she was in her vehicle. The subject opened her car door and struck her without saying anything. He grabbed her purse and fled the scene. A search of the immediate area proved negative. Anyone with information to assist on the identity of this subject was asked to the Detective Division at (203) 230-4040.

On December 8, 2010 at approximately 9:42 p.m. Hamden Police responded to an armed robbery compliant at Burger King, 937 Dixwell Avenue. Investigation revealed that a black male entered Burger King with a handgun and went through the registers. The male was described as being a black male, wearing black clothing, a black mask, and silver rimmed glasses armed with a handgun. The subject fled out the back door after going through the registers. Anyone with information to assist on the identity of this subject was asked to call the Hamden Police Detective Division at (203) 230-4040.



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

On December 9, 2010, at approximately 6:45 a.m. Hamden Police responded to 108 Arch Street on the report of a sudden death. Upon arrival, Hamden Police and Fire Department personnel found Mary Rifine, 86, of 108 Arch Street, lying motionless, on the floor of her detached garage. A preliminary investigation has revealed that Rifine was last seen removing groceries from her vehicle on the afternoon of December 8th. It appears that she had fallen and was unable to get up or call for help. An internet weather site indicated that the overnight temperature was 23 degrees. Rifine's body was transported to the Medical Examiner's Office for an autopsy. Hamden Police would like to inform our elderly residents that there are numerous alert systems available for those who live alone or have a history of falling. Furthermore, there are specific instructions on how to get up from a fall on the internet. Elderly residents should familiarize themselves with these. Hamden Elderly Services can provide helpful information. They can be reached at (203) 287-2547

On December 9, 2010, at approximately 1030 a.m., members of the Street Interdiction Team (SIT) observed a drug transaction in the Newhallville section of Town. Investigation led to a motor vehicle stop. Further investigation lead to the search of the motor vehicle, where Officers located 5.9 ounces of Marijuana and \$971.00 in U.S. currency. The operator of the motor vehicle, Otis Bivens, 45, of 40 Foxon Hill Road, New Haven, CT was promptly arrested and charged with possession of marijuana and possession of marijuana with intent to sell. Otis Bivens was remanded to custody by the State of Connecticut Parole Office.

On December 10, 2010, at approximately 10:15 a.m. Hamden Police responded to the 900 block of Sherman Avenue on the report of a pedestrian struck. A preliminary investigation revealed that as Michael Floriano, 37, crossed the roadway, he was struck by a vehicle driven by Virginia Zukunft, 89, of Hamden. Floriano was treated for upper extremity injuries. He was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital. The accident is being investigated by Officer David Falcigno of the Traffic Division.

On December 11, 2010, at approximately 3:45 p.m. Hamden Police responded to the area of 2335 Dixwell Avenue on the report of 3 individuals "acting suspiciously" near a motor vehicle. Upon arrival officers located a motorized scooter with a damaged ignition. Furthermore, officers located a black-colored bb-gun lying next to the scooter. Moments later, Officer Eric Gocłowski of the Patrol Division detained a 14 year-old New Haven resident, who was located in the back of a Hamden business. Another individual who was in the presence of the 14 year-old, subsequently fled on foot. A short time thereafter, an off-duty Wallingford police officer observed 1 of the individuals enter a Connecticut Transit bus. Upon arriving at the location of the bus, the individual exited it and fled on foot. Officer Gocłowski pursued the individual, who was running, while holding his waistband, simulating that he was in the possession of a firearm. Officer Mark Katz continued the foot pursuit into the vacant parking lot of 2389 Dixwell Avenue. The individual then reached into his waistband and pulled out what appeared to be a black colored firearm. The officer advised the individual to drop the weapon. The individual then pointed the weapon at Officer Katz, at which time Officer Katz fired 2 rounds. The individual was not struck. Officer Katz, along with Officers Nick Lovett and Craig Appleby then struggled with the individual, who was violently resisting. Subsequently, Officers found the black colored firearm lying next to his body. Further review of the firearm revealed that it was a bb-gun. The individual, a 14 year-old New Haven resident, was transported to Yale-New Haven Hospital with facial injuries. On August 8, 2010 Hamden Police arrested this same 14 year-old individual, for committing an armed robbery of a 53 year-old New Haven man. He was charged with Robbery in the 1st Degree for this incident. The Detective Division is continuing the investigation.



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

On December 13, 2010, members of the Street Interdiction Team (SIT) observed alleged drug activity in the parking lot of 2538 Whitney Avenue. Officers attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop on a vehicle involved in the incident. The vehicle eventually came to a stop on Leeder Hill Drive, after a brief pursuit. The operator of the vehicle, Michael O'Connor, was subsequently found to be in possession of a large quantity of Xanax pills. While police were attempting to arrest him, O'Connor allegedly attempted to swallow several pills. Michael O'Connor, 42, of 52 Francis Street, East Haven, was charged with Sale of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Tampering with Evidence, Interfering With a Police Officer, Engaging an Officer in Pursuit and Reckless Driving. O'Connor, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$100,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on January 3, 2011.

On December 14, 2010, at approximately 8:45 a.m. members of the Patrol Division and Hamden Animal Control responded to the Brooksvale Park on the complaint of a dog that had fallen through the ice. Upon arrival, officers learned that Bridgett Boucoud's Irish Setter "Ronnie" had fallen through a partially frozen pond. Boucoud then jumped into the frigid water and saved her dog. Officers estimate that she was in the pond for nearly 2 minutes. Boucoud, of Cheshire, was subsequently transported to Yale - New Haven Hospital, with non-life threatening injuries. Ronnie was taken to a local veterinarian and released.

On December 15, 2010, at approximately 9:25 a.m. Hamden Police responded to "The Conway Store", 1245 Dixwell Avenue on the report of an armed robbery. Upon arrival, officers learned that individuals had entered the rear of the store and demanded money from an employee at gunpoint. An individual allegedly struck the employee several times, while pointing a gun at her head. The employee subsequently gave the individual the proceeds from the store's safe. Investigation revealed that 2 store employees, one who worked as a security officer, orchestrated and participated in the armed robbery. The employees are identified as Marilyn Roman and Calvin Landy. They had involved another individual, who was arrested and identified as Tyrone Arrington. Marilyn Roman, 30, of 300 Eastern Street, Apt. 322, New Haven was arrested and charged with Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Larceny in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Interfering With a Police Officer. Tyrone Arrington, 22, of 14 Elliot Street, New Haven was charged with Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Carrying & Sale of Dangerous Weapon, Larceny 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and was held on a \$100,000.00 bond. Calvin Landy, 21, of 14 Elliot Street, New Haven was charged with Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Carrying & Sale of Dangerous Weapon, Larceny 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Conspiracy to Commit Larceny in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree and Assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree and was held on a \$100,000.00 bond. Officer Stephen Baris of the Patrol Division was instrumental in the successful apprehension of the suspects in this case.

On December 18, 2010, at approximately 1:30 a.m. Officer William May of the Patrol Division observed a motor vehicle proceed through a red control signal at the intersection of Dixwell Avenue and Goodrich Street. A motor vehicle stop was subsequently conducted. Further investigation led to the search of the vehicle. Officers located 28 Ecstasy pills inside of the vehicle. The pills, which weighed 7.8 grams, have an estimated street value of \$560.00. Joey Ladson, 32, of 145 Gorham Avenue, Apt. A, Hamden, was arrested and charged with Possession of a Hallucinogen, Possession of a Hallucinogen With the Intent to Sell and Failure to Obey Traffic Signal. Ladson, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$5,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on January 3, 2011.



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

On December 21, 2010, members of the Street Interdiction Team concluded a lengthy drug investigation. This investigation led to the execution of a search and seizure warrant at 5 Industrial Circle, Hamden, where officers seized crack cocaine and marijuana. Jerry Salter, 29, of 242 Davenport Avenue, New Haven was arrested and charged with Possession of Narcotics, Possession of Narcotics With the Intent to Sell and Possession of Marijuana. Furthermore, Salter was arrested on the strength of 2 arrest warrants, which originated from Hamden. He was additionally charged with Sale of Narcotics. Salter, who was detained at police headquarters on a \$105,000 bond, is scheduled to appear in court in Meriden on January 6, 2011.

On December 25, 2010, at 1019 a.m. members of the Patrol Division were dispatched to 863 Dixwell Avenue (Sammy's Grocery store) on a reported armed robbery. Investigation revealed that a light skinned black male, approximately 6' 2" tall, with a stocky build wearing jeans with a dark colored jacket entered the store, displayed a firearm and demanded money from the store clerk. The suspect then fled on foot northbound on Dixwell Avenue with an undetermined amount of cash. A search of the immediate area and a K-9 track were performed with negative results. The store clerk was not injured during the incident. The Detective Division is continuing the investigation.

On December 25, 2010, at 1141 a.m. Officers Bryan Kelly and Mark Sheppard of the Patrol Division were dispatched to the area of 304 Pine Rock Avenue on a reported suspicious person complaint. Officer Kelly observed a black male subject (later identified as Terrell Taft) standing near a window in the back of the apartment building make a motion in an apparent attempt to break the glass pane. Officers observed the window pane smashed and the window unsecured. The subject was subdued after a brief struggle with officers. Terrell Taft, 24, of 723 Sherman Avenue, New Haven was arrested and charged with Criminal Trespass 3<sup>rd</sup>, Burglary 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Criminal Mischief 4<sup>th</sup>. Taft was given a court date of 01/09/11 in Meriden Superior Court and released on a \$1,000.00 non-surety bond.

On December 26, 2010, at 0926 a.m. members of the Patrol Division were dispatched to 72 Third Street on a reported domestic dispute and a male subject holding a knife and hammer. Investigation revealed that a male subject (later identified as Vincent D. Tyler) was holding a knife in his hand when officers arrived on scene and was ordered to "drop the knife" and after briefly hesitating, the subject placed the knife in the kitchen sink. The subject was promptly arrested. Further investigation revealed that the subject was involved in an argument with his spouse and had allegedly stabbed her. Hamden Fire Rescue personnel and an ambulance were summoned to treat the victim who was transported to a local hospital for further evaluation/treatment. Vincent D. Tyler, 49, of 72 Third Street, Hamden was charged with Assault in the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, Reckless Endangerment 1<sup>st</sup>, Risk of Injury to a minor (2 counts), Interfering with a 911 call, Threatening 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Disorderly Conduct. Vincent Tyler was held on a \$100,000.00 bond with a court date of 12/27/2010.