



Police Department

The mission of the Berlin Police Department is to protect the lives and property of the citizens of the community, consistent with the Constitution of the United States. We continue to serve the community in a way that reflects the morality, beliefs, and customs of the citizenry we serve.

Community: The Berlin Police Department (BPD) continues to be an integral part of the growing ATV and tourism industry in the North Country. Partnering the City's resources with those of the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce has led to numerous successful activities in the area. Collaboration of all entities involved has led to continued growth of ATV activity in the area. Local businesses report increased activity which bodes well for future economic growth in our community.

The BPD continues its outreach to the community. We provide education to numerous agencies including, but not limited to, domestic violence care providers, mental health workers, hospital staff, and local faith-based organizations; we also speak with many groups about what we do, how we do it, and our impact on the citizens we serve. We are proud of our ever-expanding relationship with the community and our ability to render serviceable information.

NH Special Olympics remains a source of joy for those officers involved in this worthy program. Watching athletes compete, striving to do their absolute best, is heartwarming, and we are privileged to be included in their medals ceremonies. Seeing the smiles and tears of athletes, coaches, and parents is unforgettable and the highlight of the year for many officers.

The opioid epidemic continues to have a strong grip on some within the community. The Center of Hope provides a safe haven and step on the road to recovery for many. When setbacks occur, counsellors who truly care are available to listen and gently counsel those who are fighting the ravages of addiction. We continue to lend our support to those who selflessly give of themselves to support those in need.

The BPD was contacted during the past year by the Town of Gorham to provide police service to their community. Police administration put together a plan and made several presentations to Gorham's elected officials and citizens. While much energy was exerted in this plan, Gorham officials ultimately decided to not collaborate on the plan to integrate the departments. With increasing tax rates in both communities, this is one prong of what will ultimately lead to additional conversations regarding the integration of services between the communities.

Department/Personnel: Fiscal year 2018 brought a number of changes to the BPD. Late in the year, the BPD received a grant which allowed us to place an officer on the NH Drug Task Force. Our commitment to working to stem the tide of illicit drugs to our area is illustrated by this lateral move. In November 2017, we received an additional grant to further our efforts to stem the influx of illicit drugs. Operation Granite Shield is a grant-funded initiative for New Hampshire communities to gather information and collaborate on impeding the illicit drug tide.

In December 2017, Eoin Stapleton was hired. Eoin came to us from the Whitefield Police Department as a fully-certified officer, and he is a welcomed addition to our team.

Officer Adam Marsh began the Restorative Justice Program in March of 2018. The program focuses on rehabilitation of offenders through reconciliation with victims and community. By victims being involved in the process and having a voice, offender accountability is enhanced.

In June of 2018, Myles Chouinard, a three-year veteran of the Department, resigned to move to the mountains of the west. He is missed, and we wish him well in his future endeavors.

The BPD remains committed to training officers above and beyond the yearly hours of training required by the State; comprehensive training remains vital and is essential to our remaining above reproach in our increasingly litigious society. One such area which has received much focus has been that of mental health. There will be more training forthcoming as well, particularly in the de-escalation of incidents where mental health may be a contributing factor. Our goal is to give our officers the tools to be the best officers that they can be.

Commissioners Jerry Nault, Marc Tremblay, and Pierre Morin bring law enforcement, justice, and business acumen to our commission. With another year of experience behind them, the trio brings an increasingly focused view of the Department and its place in the community. Their expertise is welcomed, and we are grateful for their vision.

The BPD facility was in great need of a renovation. Through the work of the Berlin High School Building Trades students along with their instructor, Matt Lambert, the Department's limited space has been maximized, and finishing touches are being applied. Thanks to all who had a hand in this much needed project.

Call to Duty Memorial: The Call to Duty Memorial Golf Tournament continues to grow. The support received from the public and local businesses has been invaluable in our commitment to the perpetual care of our memorial to fallen officers. Additionally, scholarship/book award assistance to local students who wish to enter the field of criminal justice is enhanced. Each year we endeavor to give more financial assistance to those deserving students who wish to continue their education and become members of an increasingly important career.

Total Calls for Service	22,526
Accidents	211
Accidents Within an Intersection	56
Animal Complaints	245
Assaults	117
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	926
Assists from Gorham PD	62
Assists to Gorham PD	67
Assists to other Berlin Departments	351
Burglaries	28
Criminal Threatening	111
Dog Complaints	460
Domestic Violence Incidents	258
DWI Violations	42
Felonies	231
Juvenile Arrests	46
Juvenile Incidents	192
Milan Calls for Service	1,092
Misdemeanors	889
Motor Vehicle Stops	2,958
Motor Vehicle Violations	499
Motor Vehicle Warnings	2,039
Parking Tickets	416
Protective Custody Arrests	73
Restraining/Stalking Orders	99
Sexual Assaults	43
Thefts	269
Total Arrests	818
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	156
Verbal Arguments	84

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Morency

Chief of Police