



Police Department Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report

Retirements/Promotions/Appointments: Fiscal Year 2016 was one of great transition. The Berlin Police Department saw the retirements of Deputy Chief Brian Valerino and Lieutenant Steven Arsenault. Their contributions and experience will be missed; however, the area will continue to be the recipients of their years of experience and expertise. Deputy Chief Valerino was hired by the Coös County Sheriff's Department and is running for the position of Coös County Sheriff. Lieutenant Arsenault filled the position of School Resource Officer in the Berlin Public School system, made possible by a Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resilience Education) grant.

With retirement also comes opportunity for advancement and growth. Lieutenant Daniel Buteau promoted to the rank of deputy chief; he is well respected by his peers and is a valued asset to the Department and City. Sergeants Donald Gendron, Kerry Theriault, Corey Riendeau, and Timothy Godin promoted to the rank of lieutenant; Lieutenant Riendeau is also the Department's prosecutor. Corporal Geoff Bardeen promoted to the rank of sergeant, and Officer Joseph Priest to the rank of corporal. Each of these promotions strengthens our bridge to the future, and we look forward to the impact these individuals will have on the Department while moving it ahead.

Retirements not only bring opportunity to those within the Department but also to those who wish to become part of it. This year greeted three new hires: Philip Pelletier, Eric Benjamin and Myles Chouinard. Officers Pelletier and Benjamin came to us as veterans of the Gorham Police Department. Officer Chouinard completed 16 weeks of training at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Academy, graduating with top honor in his academy class. We are proud to have these officers on board and look forward to their continued growth as valued members of the Department. We are also proud to announce that Officer Adam Marsh completed an extensive training program and is now a certified polygraph examiner. We look forward to utilizing his expertise in our mission to make Berlin a safer place.

It is with regret that we saw the resignation of long-time Police Commissioner Tony Urban. He was a dedicated commissioner who held the best interests of the Department and citizens close at heart. His larger than life personality and presence within the community are sorely missed, and we wish him well in the future. Former Coös County Attorney Pierre Morin was selected to fill the vacancy created by Commissioner Urban's resignation. Commissioner Morin brings with him a vast knowledge of the police profession; his knowledge and experience are valuable assets, and the Department looks forward to working with him on the path forward.

Community: This year was also one of great challenge. While the Department has always partnered with the community, we have strengthened our resolve and are working more closely than ever to form an integral bond with community and its citizens. The opioid crisis is an epidemic affecting Berlin and so many of its citizens in a tragic way. We are working with and partnering in many aspects of this crisis, including involvement with NH Listens and heroin forums conducted by members of the US Congress. We look to the local Center of Hope as a way forward for individuals fighting this dangerous addiction, and we have taken steps to partner in the PAARI (Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery Initiative) program. This is a program through which

law enforcement assist opioid drug users who contact police departments seeking to fight their addiction; they are encouraged to seek recovery, connected with treatment programs, and transported facilities where further services can be accessed.

Many schools in the United States have fallen victim to serious acts of violence. The Department partnered with the Berlin Public School System and introduced COPsync. This system enables school personnel to immediately relay information about serious situations by computer, directly notifying all police vehicles in the area. By this direct notification, critical time spent contacting dispatch agencies is eliminated, and officers are able to immediately respond. Time saved can mean lives saved.

The Department continues to partner with local businesses and City Government. We offer to train employees throughout the community in ways to make themselves and others safe when dealing with people who are somehow agitated. MOAB (Managing Violent and Aggressive Behavior) teaches the principles and techniques to reduce aggressive behavior and provides humane and compassionate methods to deal with such behavior in and out of the workplace. This year, the Department received recognition for its community involvement endeavors from the New Hampshire Retail Association and was presented with their prestigious, "Partnership of the Year Award," in recognition of efforts made to work with citizens and businesses on various programs and projects within the community. We are thankful for their recognition as we continue to strengthen ties with our community.

ATV's: The City was the site of several large ATV events, and we continue to work with all partners to make such festivities a success. These events introduced people from all over the country and world to our area, many of whom praised the beauty of the area and hospitality of our City. The continued success of these events will draw many new visitors to Berlin, creating new tourist possibilities for area businesses, and leading to even more successful future events.

"Call to Duty" Memorial: This year's Memorial Golf Tournament was a great success. Many area businesses and citizens contributed and/or attended and are commended for their participation. The tournament gives those involved an opportunity to meet and mingle with members of the Department, and the camaraderie results in increased resources for the memorial's perpetual care and the ability to further fund and even increase scholarship opportunities for area students entering the criminal justice field.

Building: The Berlin High School Building Trades program continued renovations in its endeavor to improve our physical structure. We were able to move into vacated areas of the Recreation Department, improving our ability to house equipment, increase and enhance our evidence area and file storage capacity, and giving our facility a needed facelift.

Crossing Guards: Steps were taken to upgrade our School Crossing Guard program. An evaluation of pedestrian traffic around the community and schools was conducted, and crossing guards were re-deployed. The result is a program that best meets the needs of students who walk to school, enhancing safety at key high-traffic areas.

Department: The role of the police officer continues to evolve. One area that consumes much time is report writing. Well documented reports are vital for proper presentation of evidence and other information to bring cases to court on the district and county level. Victims of crime are

better served when reports are clear and completed in a timely fashion; to that end, the Department acquired audio recorders and voice recognition software. Not only will this technology result in creating more timely and accurate reports, it will allow officers to spend less time in the office and more time engaging in regular and directed patrol. Increased visibility is often tied to a decrease in both crime and bad behavior. Our efforts to make the City and its citizens safer continue and will thus be advanced.

STATISTICS July 2015-June 2016

Total Calls for Service	19,168
Accidents	180
Accidents Within an Intersection	53
Animal Complaints	180
Assaults	132
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	906
Assists from Gorham PD	62
Assists to Gorham PD	74
Assists to other Berlin Departments	476
Burglaries	84
Criminal Threatening	161
Dog Complaints	471
Domestic Violence Incidents	225
DWI Violations	34
Felonies	235
Juvenile Arrests	44
Juvenile Incidents	199
Milan Calls for Service	665
Misdemeanors	958
Motor Vehicle Stops	2,901
Motor Vehicle Violations	296
Motor Vehicle Warnings	2,224
Parking Tickets	513
Protective Custody Arrests	63
Restraining/Stalking Orders	106
Sexual Assaults	40
Thefts	360
Total Arrests	696
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	208
Verbal Arguments	89

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Morency
 Chief of Police