



Police Department
Fiscal Year 2020 Annual Report

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

Community: The BPD takes great pride in our ability to support the activities that attract people to the area and showcase what our community and surroundings have to offer. The Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce hosts multiple events such as the ATV Fest, River Fire, and others. They, as well as other organizations and groups, reach out for our assistance in countless ways, and we endeavor to do all we can for each and every request we receive. Over the years, many visitors have either purchased property or continue to return year after year.

While the public is aware of our activities during high-visibility events, much of what we do in the community goes unnoticed. Our work with other community service providers such as mental health, victims of domestic violence, and juvenile and elderly services is seen only by those in need of such services. As those needs increase, it is our duty to continue to educate and train every one of our officers to better respond to and assist agencies requiring our support. We do our utmost to give the best possible service to individuals as well as agencies in need.

Drug and illegal activities associated with drug use and addiction are an ongoing problem requiring much attention. Victims of drug-associated crime are many. Family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers all are affected by people who are under the influence of drugs. These same people are also victimized by users of illegal drugs, as these users befriend and take from them what is not theirs. We continue to take part in Operation Granite Shield which provides grant funding to gather intelligence and collaborate with the NH Drug Task Force. We also participate in the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program. The goal of this program is to provide age-appropriate content to students which can be used to make good decisions as they move forward in school and life.

Department/Personnel: Fiscal year 2020 brought another year of change and challenges for the BPD. There were many departures and promotions, with departures bringing increased opportunity for advancement. Our employees' proficiencies bode well for the future of the department.

In September of 2019, Jacob Devoid was hired as a part-time dispatcher; he is a full-time dispatcher for the Gorham Police Department, and we are fortunate that he is willing to assist the BPD as well. Spencer Laflamme was also hired as a part-time dispatcher; he trained well and is a welcome addition to our staff.

In October, Michael Pearson and Ben Page were hired as entry-level patrol officers. Officer Pearson has since graduated from the NH Police Standards and Training Academy and is great addition to the Department. Officer Page resigned in January to pursue other employment.

November saw many changes. Promotions place employees with experience and character into leadership positions, and Sergeants Hollie Dube and Nathan Roy were both promoted to the rank of lieutenant. Both employees bring solid experience to their positions, and we applaud them as they move up in rank. Detective Adam Marsh resigned to accept employment at the Gorham Police Department as their new police chief; we thank Adam for his service and wish him well in his new position. Corporals Josh White, Zach Howry, and Joseph Priest were promoted to the rank of sergeant. Sergeants are an important link in the chain of command, and these officers will continue to serve our community well in their new positions.

December brought all BPD members together for the annual meeting. This meeting provides the opportunity for input from all employees to discuss where we have been, and give a glimpse of where we, as a department, want to go to improve our ability to serve the community. It is also a time to fete those who have excelled and deserve recognition. This year, Officer of the Year was presented to Sgt. Zach Howry; Employee of the Year to Lt. Hollie Dube; the Call-to-Duty Community Service Award to Lt. Kerry Theriault; and the Call-to-Duty Crime Fighting Award to Sgt. Joseph Priest. All accolades were very well deserved, and we congratulate them.

Winter brought about the hiring of Rachel O'Connell and Christopher Cass as entry-level patrol officers. Both have since graduated from the NH Police Standards and Training Academy and are welcome additions to the department. Dispatcher Pauline Suttter was the first full-time dispatcher to retire from the BPD; we thank her for her 14 years of dedicated service and wish her many years of happy retirement. Spencer Laflamme accepted employment as a full-time dispatcher, filling the critical need created by Pauline's absence; and Hannah Gagnon joined as a part-time dispatcher. She has proven to be an exceptional employee.

Lt. Kerry Theriault also retired this year, with over 20 years of experience. Kerry was the consummate professional, well respected by his peers as well as within the community. He is greatly missed, and we wish him well.

The last quarter of the year saw Covid-19 strike the United States with an iron fist. School closures occurred, and every aspect of life changed, placing an unprecedented burden on all community, emergency, and hospital services. It changed life as we knew it, and we are hopeful for the day when a new normal can be achieved.

Total Calls for Service	21,024
Accidents	172
Accidents Within an Intersection	126
Animal Complaints	210
Assaults	99
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	860
Assists from Gorham PD	48
Assists to Gorham PD	68
Assists to other Berlin Departments	233
Burglaries	33
Criminal Threatening	141
Dog Complaints	283
Domestic Violence Incidents	289

Drug Complaints	329
DWI Violations	40
Felonies	207
Involuntary Emergency Admissions	58
Juvenile Arrests	28
Juvenile Incidents	108
Milan Calls for Service	1,195
Misdemeanors	1,069
Motor Vehicle Stops	2,665
Motor Vehicle Violations	436
Motor Vehicle Warnings	2,450
OHRV Accidents	23
OHRV Complaints	87
OHRV Traffic Stops	90
Overdose – Suspected	31
Parking Tickets	405
Protective Custody Arrests	114
Restraining/Stalking Orders	100
Sexual Assaults	28
Thefts	247
Total Arrests	907
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	108
Verbal Arguments	56

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Morency
Chief of Police