



Police Department **Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report**

The mission of the Berlin Police Department (BPD) is to provide community-oriented law enforcement designed to protect life, property and maintain order, while assuring fair and equal treatment for all and to continually enhance the training and expertise of each member of the police force. We serve the community in a way that reflects the morality, beliefs and customs of the citizenry we serve.

Community: The Berlin Police Department takes great pride in the activities that attract people to the area. We work in concert with the Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce and support their activities which show visitors what our community and surrounding area have to offer. While the usual offerings of activities that occur, especially through the summer and fall, were either cancelled or scaled back due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we continue to support activities as they occur and remain committed to the premise that our community will prosper and shine for new visitors and property owners.

While large events, with their ability to draw large crowds from near and far, are what most people remember about our community, much of what the Berlin Police Department does is unnoticed by a majority of the citizenry. We spend much time working with local and state service providers. The pandemic has provided us with new challenges that bring us closer to these providers. The needs of the community have increased due, in part, to the many that are affected by the pandemic. As a result, there appears to have been an increase in illicit drug and alcohol use, along with mental health related issues. With new laws and increased scrutiny of our actions and interactions with those affected, we have added new training for all officers to ensure that we keep pace with the ever increasing needs of the community to enable us to be the best possible

partners for the agencies and citizens that we serve.

The associated problems that surround the use of illicit drugs continue to be a challenge. Family members, friends, and neighbors often become party to these problems through no fault of their own. They suffer emotional loss of the lives of family members, friends and other personal loss. Over the past year, methamphetamine has become far more prevalent in our community. This is a powerful drug that alters the behavior of users and in many situations puts family, friends, emergency medical providers, and police officers at increased risk for their well-being. We continue to work with the N.H. Drug Task Force and participate in grant funding, such as the Law Enforcement Substance Abuse Reduction Initiative, which enables us to gather information and work together to stem the tide of illicit drugs that make their way into our community. In the school setting, we remain active and participate in the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program. This program is used to provide age appropriate information and content that can be used for good decision making as students go through school and life, in general. There is current consideration for a high school age program. It is our hope that bringing this information to students in an age appropriate manner will enable them to make better life decisions.

Department/Personnel: Fiscal year 2021 was a year that was far different than others in the past. The Covid-19 pandemic struck the BPD with a vengeance. We were forced to change the way we interacted with the public, all the while working hard to ensure that we gave our citizens the services that were needed and have come to expect of us. Many in the BPD, including officers and supporting staff, were absent for periods of time due to quarantine, either having contracted the virus, or having been in contact with someone who was afflicted by the virus. Several officers had to quarantine away from their families for many days.

In November of 2020, Adam J. Sperlonga was hired as an entry level officer. Officer Sperlonga has completed his recruit training and graduated from the N.H. Police Standards & Training Academy.

The BPD annual department meeting occurs every December. It is a day of training and reflection on what we have accomplished in the past year. Also, it is a time to celebrate those who have made extraordinary accomplishments in the past year. Officer of the Year was presented to Lt. William S. Daisey. Employee of the Year was presented to Lisa L. Arguin. The Call To Duty Crime Fighting Award was presented to Officer Dennis C. Gale. The Call To Duty Community Service Award was presented to Sgt. Zachary J. Howry. Each and every person presented an award were certainly deserving of that award and we congratulate them.

In March of 2021, Connor J. Kerivan was hired as an entry level officer. Officer Kerivan has completed his recruit training and graduated from the N.H. Police Standards & Training Academy.

As spring arrived, Lisa L. Arguin retired from the BPD. Lisa was Executive Secretary to the Chief and an exemplary employee for many years. She was often referred to as the glue that kept us all together. We all will miss her and her friendship. Godspeed Lisa!

Kimberly Bijeau, a full-time dispatcher for many years, was tasked with replacing Lisa Arguin. Kim has done a great job in filling this very important position. We wish her well on her new journey.

As we move forward, it is important that we continue to expand our training agenda to give each and every employee the tools necessary to complete our mission within the community. The pandemic has had an unsettling effect on society, however, we embrace these challenges and work towards a brighter future.

Total Calls for Service	21426
Accidents	149
Accidents Within an Intersection	70
Animal Complaints	187
Assaults	71
Assist to Berlin Ambulance	1190
Assists from Gorham PD	70
Assists to Gorham PD	78
Assists to other Berlin Departments	281
Burglaries	45
Criminal Threatening	108
Dog Complaints	274
Domestic Violence Incidents	293
Drug Complaints	250
DWI Violations	38
Felonies	296
Involuntary Emergency Admissions	42
Juvenile Arrests	140
Juvenile Incidents	140
Milan Calls for Service	963
Misdemeanors	1014
Motor Vehicle Stops	2605
Motor Vehicle Violations	371
Motor Vehicle Warnings	2373
OHRV Accidents	16
OHRV Complaints	75
OHRV Traffic Stops	69
Overdose – Suspected	37
Parking Tickets	314
Protective Custody Arrests	62
Restraining/Stalking Orders	120
Sexual Assaults	28
Thefts	304
Total Arrests	788
Vandalism/Criminal Mischief	119
Verbal Arguments	45

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Buteau
 Chief of Police