

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission and Value Statement

The Reading Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety and service to the citizens and business people within the community. The members of the Department are empowered to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and bylaws of the Town of Reading to ensure that the peace and tranquility of our neighborhoods are maintained, and that crime and the fear of crime are reduced. We emphasize and value integrity, honesty, impartiality and professionalism from our members in order to create an environment that values differences and fosters fairness and flexibility in our mission. We encourage citizen input and interaction that will assist us in developing sound partnerships between the community and police. Working together, we can protect our future and enhance the quality of life for everyone within the town.

Once again, the Reading Police Department and the community has whole experienced growth, change and transformation in calendar year 2008. More personnel changes occurred within the Police Department including a retirement, a promotion, a transfer, a resignation and six new Police Officers were hired to fill existing openings. This report summarizes the participation, activities, sponsorships, enhancements, accomplishments, and other notable events of the Reading Police Department in Calendar year 2008.

Personnel Changes

The following personnel changes and adjustments were experienced by the Police Department in calendar year 2008:

January 2008

- Officer Michael Nickerson transferred to the Cambridge, MA Police Department.

February 2008

- Recruit Officers Christopher E. Jones, Michel C. Bouvier, and Ryan A. Porter were hired and began training at the MBTA Police Academy in Quincy.
- Christopher Finnegan was appointed as a full-time Dispatcher in the Communication Center.
- Officer John T. Kyle resigned from the Police Department.

March 2008

- Safety Officer Michael Lee was activated for training with the Army National Guard.
- Officer Matthew Edson was temporarily assigned Safety Officer while Officer Lee was absent on training.
- Executive Officer Lt. Michael Cloonan was appointed Acting Chief and assumed Chief's responsibilities while Chief James W. Cormier attended 10 weeks of training at the Federal Bureau of Investigation facility in Quantico, VA.

June 2008

- Executive Officer Lt. Michael Cloonan retired from the Department after 34 years of service to the Town of Reading.

August 2008

- Officers Christopher E. Jones, Michael C. Bouvier, and Ryan A. Porter graduated from the MBTA Police Academy. Officer Jones was awarded the top academic award in the academy class.

September 2008

- Recruit Officers Justin P. Martel, John C. Edson, and Patrick J. Imperato were hired and began training at the MBTA Police Academy in Quincy.

December 2008

- Sgt. Peter C. Garchinsky was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Garchinsky was assigned as Night Shift Patrol Division Commander.

Awards and Recognitions

April 2008

- Sgt. Mark J. O'Brien was honored as the Reading Police Department's Officer of the Year at the Reading/North Reading Chamber of Commerce dinner.
- The Board of Selectmen recognized the Public Safety Dispatchers during National 911 Tele-Communicators Week.

May 2008

- The Board of Selectmen recognized National Police Memorial Week.

June 2008

- Chief James W. Cormier graduated from the 10 week FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.

September 2008

- Sergeants David Clark and John McKenna began attending a leadership class sponsored through Suffolk University and Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC).

Community Policing

The Reading Police Department continues to work closely with the community and other Town Departments, as well as State and Federal Agencies. The Department strongly promotes the philosophy of "working with the community." The Department sponsors or participates in a number of community events and/or programs including the following:

- The Police Department continues to be an active member the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse (RCASA). Chief James Cormier was the Secretary of the organization for 2008 and elected Vice President at their annual meeting in September. School Resource Officer Richard Abate is also an active member of the RCASA.
- The Department was able to collaborate with the RCASA to be awarded grant funding that enables the Department to conduct alcohol compliance checks. The Detective Division has worked closely with the RCASA to be trained and implement alcohol compliance checks throughout the community.
- The Department is represented on the Human Relations Advisory Committee (HRAC). Chief James Cormier.
- The Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) Program which is a self defense course designed specifically for women, has been and continues to be a very successful program. Sgt. Clark, Officer Pasquale Iapicca, Officer Michelle Halloran, Officer Salvi Lavita, Officer Ian Nelson, Officer Richard Abate, Officer Christine Agnone and Officer Kristen Stasiak.
- The Citizens Police Academy has been very popular and will continue to be a base program for the Department. Lt. David Stamatis.
- In May, during National Police Memorial Week, the Police Department sponsored its annual Open House and welcomed the community to come and tour the Police Station, see our equipment and meet our officers.

- In June, the Department's Honor Guard as well as Police Officers and their families participated in the Challenger Softball game where they are afforded an opportunity to interact with children with special needs in a relaxed and fun atmosphere. The Honor Guard also participated in the Memorial Day and Veteran's Day celebrations.
- Also in June, the Department participated in Friends and Family Day held at Birch Meadow.
- The Department participates annually in the Libraries' Vehicle Day in August where children of all ages get to enjoy the vehicles of the community. Officer Collins.
- In collaboration with the Reading Adult Education Office, we were able to sponsor a parenting workshop that was very successful and received by 25 parents.
- Throughout the year, the Department participated in the Governors' Highway Safety Bureau's "Click-it or Ticket" Program. Lt. David Stamatis.
- In October, the Department in conjunction with its Labor Unions organized its annual Senior Ham and Bean Supper at the Senior Center. Officer Collins.
- In December, the Department in conjunction with its Labor Unions organized the 27th Annual Children's Holiday Party at Austin Preparatory School. Again collaborating with the Free Masons (Reading Lodge) to offer the Child Identification Program (CHIP) providing over 80 identification kits. Officer Collins.
- The Department's web site www.ci.reading.ma.us/police is very successful and offers a variety of information for the public. Lt. David Stamatis.
- In response to the community's ongoing concerns with traffic enforcement, the Police Department utilized grant funding to augment specific traffic enforcement efforts throughout the year.

Detective Division

The Detective Division is the liaison of the Police Department with the Reading Public Schools as well as the Northeast Regional Vocational School in Wakefield. School Resource Officer Richard Abate is the Division's primary liaison. He works diligently with all the schools to ensure the safety of the students and faculty. It is important to point out that at all levels of both the School Department and the Police Department the degree of cooperation and unity to bring the absolute best level of services to the community has rarely been better. We applaud the School Department's commitment to working with the Police Department in order to provide the best services possible to the community.

Outlined are a number of the Detective Division's activities for 2008.

- Actively participate in the Criminal Based Justice System - this system brings together multiple Town agencies with the District Attorney's Office to share information.
- Member organization of Project Alliance - this is a program sponsored by the District Attorney's Office that provides educational opportunities for law enforcement, schools and other professionals in the areas relative to school and juvenile issues.
- Member organization of the Woburn Court Substance Abuse Initiative, linking the seven communities that fall under the jurisdiction of Woburn District Court to combat the substance abuse issue in the area. Through this initiative, the Heroin Education Awareness Task Force (H.E.A.T.) was formed.
- Member of the NEMLEC Detective Group, a regional Detective group incorporating over 40 cities and towns in the region, that freely exchanges information of interest.

- Participating member of the Domestic Abuse Roundtable, a meeting of the District Attorney's Office and the seven Woburn District Court agencies to exchange and update information regarding domestic violence.
- Participating member of the Juvenile Fire Setters, educational information regarding juvenile fire setters.
- Worked in conjunction with the Reading Coalition Against Substance Abuse to conduct many alcohol compliance checks of all pouring establishments and liquor stores in Town. Two liquor stores and one restaurant were cited for selling alcohol to a minor and received suspensions.
- Working highly sensitive, complicated criminal investigations in a small unit requires the Officer who works for that unit to have the utmost integrity and to be beyond reproach. These philosophies are the backbone of the Reading Police Detective Division.

Public Safety Dispatch

The Reading Public Safety Dispatchers provide through communications a lifeline for the community, Police Officers and Firefighters. Eight full-time Dispatchers and one per diem Dispatcher are under the direct supervision of the Head Dispatcher and under the command of the Day Shift Patrol Division Commander Lt. David Stamatis. Dispatchers receive requests for information and services, they triage those request based on available resources, and disseminate those request to the emergency personnel in the field. Dispatchers greet the public entering the Police Station, and provide a valuable service to our community. Dispatchers recorded 29,211 calls for service in 2008 and issued 3,673 Community Access Stickers. The Dispatch Corps are the face of Reading Public Safety, in most cases they are the first interaction the public has with Public Safety. We are grateful for the professional service provided by the Reading Public Safety Dispatchers.

During this year, the Communication Center was pleased for his career move but disappointed to lose one of their exceptional Dispatchers, Christopher Jones. Officer Jones was added to the Reading Police Force as a recruit Officer in February. The Dispatch team is pleased to add Christopher Finnegan who brings years of Firefighting and EMS knowledge to the group. Our Dispatchers who are the first responders on most calls, do an outstanding job and deserve recognition for a position that is extremely important and when done well is often overlooked.

Crossing Guards

The School Crossing Guards are part-time civilian personnel. Currently, there are 18 permanent Crossing Guards and four spares who fill in when a regular Crossing Guard is unable to cover their post. They are under the direct supervision, coordination and control of Safety Officer Michael Lee. Each Crossing Guard plays an essential role in ensuring the safe commute of children to and from school. They also serve as an extra set of eyes and ears for the Police Department and the community as well. These Crossing Guards have proven to be devoted to their duties and are a great asset to the Town of Reading.

Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer is Ronald Burns and he works 13 hours per week and is on call for emergency situations. There were more than 500 calls for service received by the Animal Control Officer. There were five dog bites over the year resulting in injuries to humans. There were 13 bites over the year resulting from animal of unknown origin to two dogs and 11 cats.

Those that tested negative for rabies were quarantined for 10 days. There were seven cat bites to humans reported. There were 10 bat bites, three to humans, two to dogs and five to cats. There were over 30 coyote sightings and cat missing calls reported. Over 250 fines and citations were issued to residents for failure to keep their dog on a leash, failure to license their dog, and for biting. A majority of the calls were received for neighbors complaining about other dogs.

The Animal Control Officer is authorized to isolate and confine domestic animals suspected of being exposed to rabies. Acting according to state regulations and guidelines, Animal Control Officers must:

- Investigate reports of domestic animals exposed to rabies.
- Determine if the domestic animal has or may have been exposed to a rabid animal, and if the domestic animal has been properly vaccinated.
- Make an evaluation of the exposure of the vaccinated animal and prescribe the appropriate action according to State regulations.
- Obtain permission to euthanasia exposed, unvaccinated animals from their owners or from the MDFA.
- Carry out euthanasia permitted by the owner of MDFA.
- Collect the head of the euthanized animal and deliver or send it to MDPH State Laboratory Institute, if the animal has bitten or otherwise exposed a human or domestic animal.
- Ensure that vaccinate domestic animals receive a booster vaccination if needed, and that the animal remains under appropriate strict confinement or isolation. Contact local officials when exposed domestic animals have exposed humans.

Parking Enforcement Officer

The Parking Enforcement Officer is Ronald Burns who works 18 hours per week. The major responsibilities of the Parking Enforcement Officer are:

- Identify and cite motorists who violate Reading's parking regulations and reduce opportunities for violations to be committed through preventive patrols of all parking areas.
- Tally and inventory tickets daily.
- Identify parking problem areas within the town and forward this information to the Safety Officer.
- Perform related duties as required.
- Over the year a new set of parking regulations were implemented.
- Total citations issued by the Parking Enforcement Officer in 2008 are 1,992.
- Total income from parking citations is \$51,830.00
- 85% of the citations were paid
- 8% of the citations were marked for non-payment.

The following is a statistical analysis of our enforcement efforts and a record of revenues generated by our department for calendar year 2008.

Service Statistics Calendar Year 2008:

Arrests	172
Protective Custody	42
Motor Vehicle Citations	5904
Parking Violations	2456
Detective Criminal Investigations	171
Automobile Crashes Investigated	560

Fees Collected Calendar Year 2008:

License to Carry Permits	\$ 2,925.00
Firearm Identification Cards	\$ 662.50
Police Reports Copied	\$ 2,080.50
Parking Fines	\$70,195.00
Administrative Fees for details	\$27,721.07
Community Access Stickers	\$84,016.00
Parking Space Rentals	\$32,420.00
Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions	\$58,465.55
Community Room Rental fee	\$ 1,010.00
Motor Vehicle Lease Surcharge	\$ 2,167.80

POLICE DEPARTMENT 2008 ROSTER

CHIEF:

James W. Cormier

LIEUTENANTS:

Executive Officer Michael P. Cloonan (Retired June 2008)
 Lt. David M. Stamatis
 Lt.-Detective Richard W. Robbins
 Lt. Peter C. Garchinsky (December 2008)

SERGEANTS:

Bruce F. Russell	Mark J. O'Brien	Francis G. Duclos
John T. McKenna	David J. Clark	Sgt.-Detective Mark Segalla

DETECTIVE DIVISION:

Detectives:	Michael D. Saunders	Derek Holmes
School Resource Officer:	Richard P. Abate	

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Community Service Officer: James P. Collins
 Safety Officer: Michael R. Lee
 Armorer: Christopher Picco

PATROL OFFICERS:

Christine Agnone	Joseph Belmonte	Michael C. Bouvier	Kevin M. Brown Jr.
Anthony F. Caturello	Erik Drauschke	Matthew C. Edson	Michael P. Fitzgerald
Michelle E. Halloran	Keith D. Hurley	Pasquale Iapicca	Christopher E. Jones
Salvi Lavita	Robert MacHugh Jr.	Ian A. Nelson	Ryan A. Porter
Corey Santasky	David Savio	Kristen Stasiak	Christopher Voegelin
Sean M. Wilson			

POLICE DEPARTMENT ANCILLARY PERSONNEL

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR:

Andrew Scribner-MacLean

CLERKS:

Administrative Assistant Victoria Cummings
Principal Clerk Joanne Power

DISPATCHERS:

Head Dispatcher Victoria Avery		
Christopher Finnegan	Regina Saunders	Joseph Pagnotta
John Rawcliffe	Ryan Mahoney	Matthew Vatcher
Debra Haynes	Susan Tapley	

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS:

Cindy Asci	Mildred Barton	Doug Cowell	Robert DeWolfe	Arthur Dickinson
Fred Dymont	Karen Fillmore	Ernie Gisetto	Gerry Intonti	Lucy Intonti
Tina Lantz	Marsha Leighton	Joseph Lopiccola	LuAnn MacKinnon	Kris McNeil
Dick Prudente	Allen Sletterlink	Pat Tilton		

SPARE SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS:

Peg Faulkner	Joe Venio
George Snow	Rosemary Violante

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER/PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Ronald Burns

Conclusion:

To summarize our Mission Statement, we are empowered to enforce the laws of our land, but in order to do this appropriately and adequately we have to work with the community. Providing the community with the highest level of police service is a goal that will require dedication, hard work and a strong commitment to and from our community.

The year 2008 presented many unique and difficult challenges for the police department. We experienced significant personnel changes and adjustments and operated understaffed due to retirements, injury and illness. Moving forward the department is anxious to continue working closely with our fellow town employees and the citizenry, to provide the highest quality of life in Reading.

I want to thank the citizens of our community for their support and cooperation. Working with the community your police department will accomplish its mission.

Respectfully submitted,

James W. Cormier, Chief of Police