

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS



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### *Report to Council October 2015*

- \* Sometime between August 18, 2015 and August 19, 2015, unknown person(s) removed approximately \$300.00 worth of copper wire from a Washington Avenue property.
- \* On August 27, 2015, Virginia M. DeMars, 50 years of age, Highlands was arrested and charged with simple assault after an investigation revealed that she struck a man in the face. Ms. DeMars was processed and released with a pending court appearance.
- \* Douglas Ziegler, 33 years of age, Highlands, was arrested and charged with possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose; specifically a machete style knife following a road rage incident on September 3, 2015.
- \* On September 5, 2015, Joseph Mangone, 23 years of age, Matawan, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief, resisting arrest and disorderly conduct after an investigation revealed that he caused damage to the front door and exterior lattice work of a local business. Mr. Mangone was processed and released with a future court appearance.
- \* Jonathan Banta, 39 years old, Highlands, was arrested and charged with simple assault on September 7, 2015 after he was found to have struck another man in the face with a closed fist. Mr. Banta was processed and released pending a future court appearance.
- \* As the result of a motor vehicle stop, officers arrested Hagan A. Lewis, 46 years old, Plainfield, and charged him with driving while intoxicated, possession of a controlled dangerous substance; specifically marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on September 12, 2015.
- \* The Highlands Police Department has been proactively developing narcotics information and as the result of an extensive investigation into the distribution of narcotics executed a search warrant at a Navesink Avenue residence on September 11, 2015. The following individuals were arrested without incident at the residence; Christopher McKnight, 28 years of age, April Bokay, 23 years of age, both of Highlands and William Norton, 27 years of age, Middletown. All three suspects were charged with conspiracy, possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance, possession of a controlled dangerous substance and possession of drug paraphernalia. After officers completed a search of the residence over 300 pills suspected to be xanax and oxycodone were confiscated, as well as, 60 grams of a substance commonly known as "molly".

\* **Administration:**

- Budget
  - Over the last few months, extensive work has been put into preparing the department's budget to include:
    - vendor contacts
      - service/maintenance agreements
      - equipment upgrades
      - technological upgrades
      - mandatory equipment
- Ordinances
  - Noise
    - Since the adoption of the new ordinance this department has received approximately four complaints regarding noise emanating from businesses, which is a substantial drop in complaints from prior years. As of this date, only warnings have been issued in accordance with the ordinance.
- Policies

In order to conform with Attorney General directives, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office directives and case law; issuing and updating policies are a time consuming and on-going process.

  - (2) new policies issued
    - Alarm Response
    - Handling Person(s) with Mental Illness
    - Body Worn Cameras
      - Not Issued – Policy was created for application purposes at this time. Pending outcome of grant application.
  - (5) existing policies revised
    - Active Shooter Addendum
    - Mobilvision
    - Off Duty Arrests/Incidents
    - Vehicle Pursuit
    - Prohibiting Discrimination, Harassment or Hostile Environments in the Workplace
- Homeland Security
  - Statewide Narcotic Action Plan
    - Officers stationed at schools during the arrival and dismissal times
    - Ensure that vehicles and pedestrians are travelling safely
    - Planning, policy and action plan review and training
  - Suspicious Activity Report
    - Investigated and referred a recent complaint regarding suspicious activity to the Office Homeland Security.

- Grants
  - Body Worn Camera Assistance Program
    - The Office of the Attorney General launched the program to help county and municipal law enforcement agencies off-set some of the associated costs involved with the purchase of body worn cameras and related equipment such as software, licensing, computer server and yearly maintenance.
    - Research was conducted by meeting with vendors
      - At this time, there are only two vendors supplying this equipment and both are offering first generation technology which can have limitations and/or problems associated with the new technology. There are pros and cons with the equipment offered by both companies and on average the units cost up to \$900.00 each not including a computer server.
      - Research was also conducted in regard to associated costs of upgrading existing computer systems to accommodate software.
      - The grant was filed on the department's behalf by representatives of Bruno Associates, the borough's grant coordinator, in accordance with department recommendations.
  
- Code Enforcement
  - The department recently had an issue with a squatter living in an abandoned residence on Bay Avenue. The matter was referred to code enforcement and Mr. David Mercado worked with this department to address and resolve the problem.
  
- Manpower
  - Due to recent retirements and promotions duties were reassigned and the department's organizational structure was modified to facilitate the reassignments and changes in responsibilities.
  - Hiring
    - Ptl. Filippone
      - Graduated Ocean County Police Academy
      - August 6, 2015
      - Field Training
      - August 8 – October 14, 2015
    - SLEO II
      - Ronald Osadacz
    - Part-Time Dispatchers
      - James Trivett
      - Andrew Berry
    - School Crossing Guard – Part-Time Fill-In
      - Patricia Butler

- Traffic
  - Portland Road
    - Signs installed and curbs painted
  - Streetscape
    - Project has started and is ongoing
    - Plan alternative parking solutions
  - Shore Drive
    - ongoing water/sewer project
    - Plan alternative parking solutions
  - Low Speed Vehicles
    - Must be titled, registered and insured in New Jersey
    - (4) wheeled vehicle that can attain a speed of 20 mph but no more than 25 mph
      - They cannot be modified golf carts
    - Municipalities can impose a low speed vehicle ban on all roadways within their jurisdiction by ordinance.
  
- Events
  - In light of the increase number of special events occurring each year; I recommend the borough adopt a new policy outlining the procedures for road closures, escrow requirements and time restrictions.
  - Recent Events have included:
    - Clam Festival
    - Twin Light Twilight Run
    - St. Bernard's Concert
    - Mindful Healthy Games

\*

**Patrol:**

- MOCERT (Monmouth County Emergency Response Team)
  - (1) officer has been participating since October 2014
  - Training
    - Twice a month
    - Tactically trained with special weapons and high risk situations
  - Incidents
    - Team Responses (2) within last two months
- RDF (Rapid Deployment Force)
  - Provides assistance within Monmouth County to serve as the initial wave of mutual aid law enforcement resources to respond to natural or man-made disasters, school and workplace violence, crowd control, demonstrations, incidents of civil disobedience, missing person searches, and open area suspect searches.
  - Ptl. Riker was recently accepted to team.
  - Training
    - Maximum of (4) times a year

\* **Training:**

- Officers
  - Increased training under department's goals and objectives
  - Active Shooter Training
    - Dsgt. Rogers
    - Ptl. Siegle
    - Ptl. Riker
  - Alcohol Beverage Control Updates
    - Ptl. Dobens
- Crossing Guards
  - In-house Training Provided
    - Annual Safety Video
    - Reviewed Crossing Techniques
    - Safety Equipment (handheld stop signs and vests)

\* **Investigations:**

During this period the detective bureau handled **(9)** new initial investigations which included child abuse/neglect, thefts, sexual assault, terroristic threats, harassment, missing person, stolen vehicle, aggravated assaults and obstructing justice that required additional follow up including witness interviews/statements, referrals/meetings with other agencies (Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office/Division of Youth and Family Services) and is in addition to investigations that were handled by other officers but does not include routine calls handled on a daily basis or carry over investigations from previous months.

- Closed – 8
  - 4 by arrests
- Pending Investigations (prior months) – 4

\* **Community Policing:**

- Explorers
  - The Highlands Police Department would like to recognize the outstanding achievements of the young adults involved in the department's Police Explorer Post. Four (4) of the post's participants attended the 2015 New Jersey Law Enforcement Explorers Youth Academy at Georgian Court University, Lakewood from July 18 – 23, 2015. The academy which is held annually is a six (6) day, five (5) night residential program designed to simulate an actual police academy experience preparing recruits for a career in law enforcement through four phases. Participants can only complete one phase per year therefore; the program is a four year commitment. During the week long experience participants are graded on their written reports and handling of practical scenarios. The highest scoring recruits are then awarded first, second or third place recognition. This year 103 young adults attended the academy and as Chief of Police I am proud to announce that The Highlands Police Explorer Post participants earned a total of thirteen (13) awards at graduation. The Highlands Police Department is extremely proud of these young adults who have demonstrated their dedication not only to the post but to law enforcement.

○ Participants and awards:

Matthew Golembieski

Phase II Completion Certificate

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Crime Scene Investigation  
Motor Vehicle Stops  
Burglary in Progress

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Domestic Disturbance

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Accident Investigation

Josh Hare

Phase II Completion Certificate

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Crime Scene Investigation  
Motor Vehicle Stops  
Burglary in Progress

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Domestic Disturbance

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Accident Investigation

Robert Alvator

Phase II Completion Certificate

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Accident Investigation

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Crime Scene Investigation

Noah Garber

Phase I Completion Certificate

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Academic Achievement

- Events
  - Clam Festival
    - July 30<sup>th</sup>, 31, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Participants volunteered by directing event goers to designated parking areas during the following events.

  - West Long Branch Movie Night – assisted West Long Branch Explorers
    - August 7, 2015
  - Twin Light Run
    - August 9, 2015
  - BikeNY
    - August 27, 2015
- Training
  - Motor Vehicle Stops
    - August 13, 2015
  - FBI Training
    - August 20, 2015
  - ATF Presentation
    - September 24, 2015
- Raffle
  - Again this year, the Highlands Business Partnership sponsored a raffle and donated the proceeds to the program.
  - The funds are used to support the program and will help to purchase equipment, uniforms, training and activities for the participants.

\* Total Calls for Service: 494

\* Arrests:     Adults:        23     (4 for possession of CDS)  
                  JV:                0

\* Summons: Total: 163

Moving Violations: 50  
Non-Moving: 40  
DWI: 3  
Boro Ordinance: 70

(Statistical Information is from August 16 – September 15, 2015)

