

AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003

May 2003
Riot on North Pleasant Street

Riot



Damage to Police Cruiser as a result of Riot



Courtesy of Amherst Police Department

Message from the Chief:
COLLABORATION FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY, LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY

On a national level, Homeland Security has been on the agenda of all state, local, and federal agencies. In our post 9/11 times, the challenges that face law enforcement are ever-increasing. At one time, the profession of law enforcement throughout the country had been built upon its promise to protect and serve those within the boundaries of their own community. Now that we have been assigned the task of Homeland Security, those boundaries have become larger. Homeland Security is a new challenge and role facing modern law enforcement, and we meet this mission with the utmost commitment.

How does the charge of Homeland Security affect the Amherst Police Department? During the last year, we have done substantial re-training of our officers in areas that had previously been exclusive to larger federal agencies: bio-hazard control and detection, weapons of mass destruction identification and crisis management at the local level. Scarce financial resources have been exhausted on improvements of outdated and antiquated safety and communication equipment. More than ever, we are collaborating with other town, state and federal agencies, strategizing on how to keep our country safe from terrorism. We are working with these agencies, gaining the much needed knowledge, tools and equipment to best shelter our community from injuries and property damage, if a crisis *were* to occur. The Amherst Police Department is dedicated to achieving the country's goals of securing our homeland, while concurrently providing for the protection of the personal liberties and rights of our richly diverse community. We recognize that it is this diversity that makes this community such a great place to live and work, and our efforts in Homeland Security will work for, not against, our community.

On a more strictly local level, the Town of Amherst suffered a crisis in connection with the riot and related destruction that occurred north of the UMass campus on May 3rd, 2003. After that night's riot, fifteen dedicated, hardworking Amherst police officers were sent to the hospital with various injuries. Unfortunately, one officer is still out, four months later, from the injuries he suffered. Thousands of tax dollars were spent as the entire Amherst Police, Amherst Fire, and UMass Police were called on duty in attempts to end the riot, put out the several fires that were set, and attend to the injured students, citizens, and police officers. A DPW construction loader was required to clean North Pleasant Street of rocks, bottles, bricks and other debris hurled at the officers. One of our newer cruisers, worth \$30,000, was destroyed by rioters during that night. Additionally, private property owners suffered thousands of dollars worth of property damage.

We will continue to collaborate with the University of Massachusetts and property owners to strategize ways to prevent such events from happening in the future. In addition, we will continue to encourage accountability from the University and the local courts as a vital element in preventing a recurrence. Public safety and the protection of the personal freedoms and rights so prized by our diverse community remain the focus of the Amherst Police Department.

Charles L. Scherpa
Chief of Police

DETECTIVE BUREAU
Fiscal Year 2003

The detective bureau has seen many changes during this last fiscal year. Timothy M. Sullivan was promoted to captain and has moved on to other duties within the Department. Ronald A. Young was promoted to lieutenant and has assumed duties as the Officer in Charge. William Menard was promoted to sergeant and returned to uniform patrol. Cindy L. Walsh left the Department for a position with the Attorney General's office. Detective Jamie J. Magarian, who had been working on narcotics-related crimes, returned to criminal investigations to assist with the work load, along with Christina B. Knightly. In May, Detective Stephen Walsh assumed duties as court liaison officer. In June, Detective Jeannine Bonnayer and Detective Brian T. Johnson began to train as the new criminal investigators. Sergeant Christopher Pronovost assumed duties as the executive officer within the detective bureau. Officer David Foster worked out of the detective bureau in his capacity as the school resource officer.

As always, the detective bureau's function is to support and assist patrol officers with ongoing or complex investigations. Background investigations, court liaison function, school resource activities, firearms licensing, and contact with community outreach groups are all functions performed by the detective bureau. Detectives also have self-generated activity which has resulted in the prosecution of numerous types of crimes.

The last fiscal year was very busy for the detective bureau. The fiscal year began with a bank robbery, the first since 1998. The perpetrator has been arrested and has pleaded guilty. Other investigations included numerous assault investigations, three separate armed home invasions, armed robberies, and property-related crimes. A lengthy narcotics investigation was concluded in April with the arrest of ten men for distribution of cocaine. In February, three people were arrested for narcotic distribution, which included seizure of several thousand dollars. In total, ninety-seven people were charged by indictment, arrest or summons in the last fiscal year, with a total of 124 charges.

Ronald A. Young
OIC, Detective Bureau

POLICE PERSONNEL CHANGES
Fiscal Year 2003

RESIGNATIONS:

Stephen Westerling	October 19, 2002
Jeffrey Roy	January 13, 2003
Cindy Walsh	April 7, 2003

RETIRED:

Alan James Hobart	December 31, 2002
Thomas J. O'Connor	December 30, 2002

NEW HIREES:

David Pinkham	October 21, 2002
Gregory Wise	December 2, 2002
Jared Tivnan	December 2, 2002
Brandon Seymour	March 3, 2003
Scott Thurston	March 24, 2003
Adam MacNeal	March 24, 2003

PROMOTIONS:

Timothy M. Sullivan	Promoted to Captain	February 1, 2003
Ronald A. Young	Promoted to Lieutenant	April 1, 2003
William N. Menard	Promoted to Sergeant	April 1, 2003

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

The Amherst Public Safety Communications Center continues to be one of the more professional and progressive in western Massachusetts. The consistently high quality of service provided by our men and women, despite long hours and unique demands, testifies to their dedication to the profession and those they serve.

As the seriousness and level of activity has increased for police officers, fire fighters and EMTs, so it has for Centers which manage their communications. It has become essential that we schedule additional personnel on weekends during the spring and fall, further affecting a staffing plan that already does not allow for an appropriate relief factor. Activity produced by events such as “Hobart Hoedown,” numerous structure fires, and medical calls often exceeding our on-duty EMS resources present communication needs which often tax even the most skilled dispatcher.

We began the fiscal year with one full-time opening. In addition, Maurice LaLumiere was in training and therefore not yet available. The resignation of Marcus Yarde, in August, extended the period of unassigned shift coverage, resulting in more required overtime for all. Though Joshua Cicia successfully completed training in December, a second new employee did not. Also, retired Fire Captain Alan Tower resigned as our temporary part-time dispatcher. The three -month maternity leave taken by Jennifer Guzik, this spring, further added to our staffing shortage.

Dispatchers on vacation, or on personal or sick leave, were replaced by those already working more than forty hours a week. Extended shifts and/or seven-day work weeks were routine. Where employees of other departments may need to do more work when their staff size is reduced, dispatchers must routinely work twelve or more hours each day (night or overnight) to ensure operation twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The physical and emotional toll inherent in this system is predictable.

As emergency dispatchers are truly the “first on a scene,” their performance is central to safe and successful resolutions. Therefore, we must continue to seek support for an appropriate staffing plan to ensure the well-being of the Department, those who work for it and those they serve. Recognition for the complex and demanding role dispatchers play in public safety, now more than ever, requires appropriate resources.

The recent remodeling of our work space has allowed dispatchers to more easily address some of their many job functions. The dismantling and reconstruction of all equipment without interruption to service was a credit to those dispatchers on duty who refused to allow the challenges presented by that activity to interfere with their responsibilities.

Upgrades to the R-U-O-K and Quick Alert alarm receiving systems were completed. Though we continue to participate with MassHighway in the management of emergency vehicle traffic over the Coolidge Bridge, staffing did not allow for participation in the Fire Department’s S.A.F.E. program. As 911 is such an integral component of emergency service, we look forward to contributing again in the future.

Our Emergency Medical Dispatch program continued to offer callers the highest level of medical call processing available. Individual quality assurance scores resulted in a department average of over of 96%, which aided in our successful application for national re-certification.

Emergency dispatchers are responsible for the assessment of a situation and the timely and accurate activation of an appropriate response of public safety services. Dispatchers Elizabeth Dodge and Jessica Alvaro were singled out this year by Western Massachusetts Emergency Medical Services when they received “SAVE” awards for their participation in the resuscitation of a cardiac arrest patient in Hadley. As the role played by dispatchers becomes more widely recognized, so, I hope, will the individuals for their critical contributions.

My work continued with the Massachusetts Communications Supervisors Association, which was responsible for the creation of the state Dispatch Academy. As a result of our efforts, the state Emergency Telecommunications Board has now agreed to sponsor this very important training experience. The five-week sessions will soon be offered without fee to any 911 Center in the state for their new employees. This will result in local budgetary savings and further our long-range objective towards standards in training.

We also participated in meetings, this spring, with the state Department of Telecommunications and Energy, which is charged with promulgating the rules governing the use of revenue resulting from a monthly surcharge on hard wire phones. The law passed in August 2002 affecting the surcharge requires it be used to support 911 services in the Commonwealth. Our efforts to target funding towards training and local aid to 911 Centers (as in other states of comparative size) have received encouraging support, including that from the state Attorney General’s office.

Our full-time staff include Josh Cicia, Maurice LaLumiere, Beth Dodge, Jess Alvaro, Ann Misiaszek, Trudy Turcotte, Michael Curtin and Brad Worthley. Collectively they represent over 30 years of dispatching experience with the Town of Amherst. I take pride and pleasure in working for and with our entire team of hard-working and conscientious dispatch professionals and appreciate the support they have shown me in my role as Director.

Rita K. Burke
Director, Communications Center

SERVICE LEVELS	FY 97	FY 98	FY 99	FY 00	FY01	FY02	FY03
	<u>Actual</u>						
Police Calls	12,869	13,007	14,916	14,901	17,703	17,057	15,635
Fire Calls/in Amherst	1,089	984	1,046	928	1460	1,306	1,079
EMS Calls/in Amherst	1,903	1,969	2,030	2,238	2,307	2,348	2,249
Couldn't fulfill mutual aid needed	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	25
Animal Control Calls	457	540	455	361	354	467	532
Police Administration Calls*	100K+						
Fire/EMS Administration Calls	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Other Fire/EMS Service Requests							
Belchertown (F)	260	238	234	288	286	293	280
Hadley (E)	369	521	639	559	544	643	644
Leverett (E)	61	41	45	63	77	76	56
Pelham (E)	42	42	51	54	42	43	60
Shutesbury (E)	51	35	41	46	49	41	41
Mutual Aid (E)	12	10	10	14	23	21	32
Mutual Aid (F)	4	3	8	13	13	27	13
Paramedic Intercept	11	17	14	17	26	10	30
Non Incident Details	720	735	731	729	761	801	783
911 calls Received*	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	5,698	5,551
CAD Calls Initiated	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	21,799	20,893
Teletype Transactions Processed	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	215,722	220,922
Burning Permits Processed	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	**276	765
Fire Service Inspections Scheduled	NC	NC	NC	NC	NC	**393	480

NA = Not Applicable

NC = Not (previously) Counted

* Note that many calls for service are received on non-emergency lines

** Estimated

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Hired

Doreen Moriarty	permanent full-time	09/23/02
Joshua Cicia	permanent full-time	09/23/02

Resigned

Marcus Yarde	permanent full-time	08/14/02
Alan Tower	temporary part-time	12/18/02
Doreen Moriarty	permanent full-time	12/23/02

AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT
ANNUAL POLICE STATISTICS
FY 2003

POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

July 01, 2002 – June 30, 2003

POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE Recorded by Public Safety Communications Center

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAIL	207
ANIMAL WELFARE	532
ANNOYING CALLS	072
ASSAULT	079
ASSIST AFD	356
ASSIST CITIZEN	1149
ASSIST OTHER POLICE DEPARTMENT	231
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	409
BANK ALARM / ATM	040
BREAKING AND ENTERING DWELLING	156
BREAKING AND ENTERING VEHICLE	136
BOMBING/ARSON	002
CHILD ABUSE	003
CIVIL COMPLAINT	012
COMMERCIAL ALARM	614
COMMUNITY POLICING	167
DEATH (UNATTENDED)	011
DISTURBANCE (GENERAL)	375
DISTURBANCE (DOMESTIC)	158
DRUG VIOLATION	026
ESCORT	307
FIGHT	110
FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATION	426
FORGERY/COUNTERFEITING	002
FRAUD	007
GENERAL DISTURBANCE	014
HOUSE CHECKS	199
LARCENY	326
LIQUOR ID CHECK	044
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATION	103
LOCK UP INCIDENT	004
MEDICAL / MENTAL	034
MISSING / LOCATED PERSON	085
MISSING PROPERTY	109
MV ABANDONED	008
MV COMPLAINT	036
MV CRASH PROPERTY DAMAGE	1003
MV CRASH PERSONAL INJURY	111
MV PURSUIT	002
MV RECOVERED	044
MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	660
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	053
NOISE COMPLAINT	1075

PARKING BAN	080
POLICE LOG	568
POLICE TOW	004
PRISONER TRANSPORT	096
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	006
PRIVATE / TRESPASS TOW	003
RAPE	009
RECOVERED PROPERTY	393
RESIDENTIAL ALARM	245
RESTRAINING ORDER 209A	345
ROBBERY	008
SECURITY CHECK	390
SEX OFFENSE	011
SHOPLIFTING	023
SPECIAL/UNUSUAL	008
SUMMONS SERVICE	726
SUSPICIOUS ACTS	1267
TEST	067
TOWN BY LAW VIOLATION	085
TRAFFIC	1092
TRAFFIC MONITOR	031
TRANSPORT CITIZEN	129
TRESPASS	047
VANDALISM	423
WARRANT SERVICE	182
WELL BEING CHECK	177
911 ABANDONED / HANG-UPS	271

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 16,283

PERSONS DETAINED BY / AT AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

ADULTS FY 2003:

ARRESTED OFFENDERS	893
SUMMONED PERSONS	278
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	021

JUVENILES FY 2003:

ARRESTED OFFENDERS	031
SUMMONED PERSONS	044
PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	000

OFFENSES (IBR) CHARGED - AT TIME OF ARREST

FORCIBLE RAPE	001
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	043
ROBBERY	007
SIMPLE ASSAULT	111
INTIMIDATION	006
ARSON	002
BURGULARY/ B&E	019
POCKET-PICKING	002
SHOPLIFTING	015
THEFT FROM BUILDING	002
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	002
ALL OTHER LARCENY	029
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	006
COUNTERFEITING / FORGERY	001
FALSE PRETENSE / SWINDLE	006
EMBEZZLEMENT	001
STOLEN PROPERTY OFFENSES	003
DESTRUCTION/VANDALISM	023
DRUG / NARCOTIC VIOLATION	063
DRUG EQUIPMENT VIOLATION	001
STATUTORY RAPE	001
WEAPON LAW VIOLATION	002
BAD CHECKS	003
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	089
DRIVING UNDER INFLUENCE	129
DRUNKENNESS	018
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	122
TRESPASS OF REAL PROPERTY	003
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	144
TOWN BYLAW OFFENSES	411
TOTAL OFFENSES	1265

<u>MOTOR VEHICLE (MV) CRASHES</u>	FY03
MV CRASH REPORTED TO DISPATCH	909
MV CRASH REPORTED IN PERSON OR BY MAIL	614
MV CRASH INVESTIGATED REQUIRING POLICE REPORTS	909
MV CRASH WITH CITATIONS ISSUED	317
MV CRASH TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED	383
MV CRASH WITH PERSONAL INJURY	178
MV CRASH TOTAL INJURED PERSONS	238
MV CRASH INVOLVING PEDESTRIANS	010
MV CRASH INVOLVING BICYCLES	005
MV CRASH INVOLVING MOTORCYCLES	004
MV CRASH INVOLVING WHEELCHAIRS	001
MV CRASH WITH FATALITIES	001
MV CRASH / HIT & RUN	036
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE CITATIONS FY 2003</u>	
ALLOW IMPROPER OPERATION OF MV	008
CROSSWALK VIOLATION	010
DEFECTIVE/FAULTY EQUIPMENT	071
FAILURE TO USE CARE (TOWN BY LAW)	257
FAILURE TO GIVE PROPER SIGNAL	005
FAILURE TO REPORT CHANGE IN ADDRESS	002
FAILURE TO SLOW	005
FAILURE TO YIELD AT INTERSECTION	053
IMPROPER PASSING	019
IMPROPER TURNING MOVEMENT	007
INVALID INSPECTION STICKER	145
JUNIOR OPERATOR VIOLATION	001
LEAVING SCENE OF ACCIDENT WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE	002
MARKED LANE VIOLATION	056
NUMBER PLATE VIOLATION	030
OPERATING WITH NO LICENSE/REGISTRATION IN POSSESSION	074
OPERATING AFTER SUSPENSION/REVOCAION	126
OPERATING UNDER INFLUENCE, ALCOHOL/DRUGS	027
OPERATING UNINSURED MOTOR VEHICLE	025
OPERATING UNREGISTERED MOTOR VEHICLE	125
OPERATING UNLICENSE OPERATOR	056
OTHER MOVING VIOLATION	001
POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS	017
SEATBELT VIOLATION	066
SPEEDING	223
STOP SIGN/RED LENS	143
UNDER 21 WITH LIQUOR IN POSSESSION	005
VIOLATION OF COMMONWEALTH REGULATIONS CMR	013
WARNINGS	5370
TOTAL CITATIONS:	6942