



Tanya D. Lane  
Town Manager

# TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 Cedar Street Newington, Connecticut 06111

## Police Department



Stephen Clark  
Chief of Police

**MINUTES  
POLICE COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
Newington Police Department  
7:00 P.M.  
April 3, 2019**

*Alison Bongioranni*  
Town Clerk

2019 APR -9 PM 3:46

RECEIVED FOR RECORD  
IN NEWINGTON, CT

**In Attendance:** Chief Clark  
Gloria Olesen  
Ken Morotto Jr.  
Mary Houle  
Alison Bongioranni  
A.J. Messana  
Paul Alderucci  
Chris Minor, Newington Town Council

Called to Order at 7:02 PM

**I. UPDATE ON DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES**

**A. Staffing**

Three officers currently in field training. One recruit officer will be graduating from the police academy on April 12, 2019. Two recently hired recruit officers will be starting the police academy on April 5, 2019. The department currently has one vacancy and will be interviewing three Connecticut certified officers for this position. The department also has one dispatcher vacancy due to a recent retirement.

**B. Calls for Service – First Quarter 2019**

- Calls for Service: 5,825
- Criminal Arrests: 178
- Traffic Stops: 1,122

**C. Activities**

- Citizens Police Academy cancelled this spring due to a lack of interest. To date, approximately 250 residents have participated in the program. Another class will be scheduled in the Fall.

**II. DEPARTMENT BUDGET REQUEST FY 2019-2020**

Total department request is 7,687,121. No new positions added. The budget reflects a 2.5% wage increase for police officers.

III. JUVENILE CRIME  
A. Stolen Cars and Car Breaks

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2018

Car Breaks: 61  
Stolen Cars: 19

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2019

Car Breaks: 29  
Stolen Cars: 16

Both car breaks and stolen cars are down in the first quarter of this year (January-March) when compared to last year.

B. Juvenile Detention and Referral Procedures

Juveniles can only be taken to juvenile detention with a Take into Custody Order (TIC) signed by a Judge under the following conditions:

1. When there probable cause to believe that the child will pose a risk to public safety if released to the community prior to the court hearing or disposition, and that there is no less restrictive alternative available.
2. When there a need to hold the child to assure the child's appearance before the court, as demonstrated by the child's previous failure to respond to the court process.
3. When there is a need to hold the child for another jurisdiction.

The terms "risk to public safety" and "no less restrictive alternative available" is language in state statute which makes it very difficult to place a juvenile in detention.

C. Serious Juvenile Offenses

Serious crimes can be transferred from the juvenile court to the adult court when a juvenile is at least 15 years of age. Cases for juveniles under the age of 15 cannot be transferred and these juveniles would face at most, a four year commitment to DCF with a possible erasure of the record after turning 18 no matter how serious the crime was.

IV. MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION – CT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS

There are legitimate concerns about the legalization of marijuana and the impact it will have on traffic safety. Connecticut, at 43 percent, already has one of the highest percentages of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in the country. Marijuana THC testing is imprecise as THC can remain in the bloodstream for weeks after it was ingested. Someone could legally smoke marijuana and still have THC appear in blood or urine samples long after the high passes. The level of THC that produces impairment is very difficult to define. Training officers as drug recognition experts will be costly. Public policy must be drafted to show how THC impairment will be measured in order to control driving under the influence of marijuana.

V. PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT (PSAP) CONSOLIDATION

Phone: (860) 666-8445 Fax: (860) 665-7688  
npd@newingtonct.gov  
www.newingtonct.gov

The state continues to look at mandating the consolidation of local PSAPs in order to save money at the state level. Could prove to more expensive for local police departments. Newington police dispatchers assume other roles besides dispatching, such as monitoring prisoners, completing court paperwork, and updating the dispatch computer systems.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. MEMBER COMMENT

None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Stephen Clark