



HAMDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

FEBRUARY 2024



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Personnel Matters and Events

On February 22, 2024, the Hamden Police Commission hired three new entry level police officers. Please join Chief Reynolds and Deputy Chief Onofrio in welcoming Quinton Bright, Nicholas Denze and Stephen Minio to the team



Pictured left to right: Police Chief Edward Page Reynolds, recruits Quinton Bright, Nicholas Denze and Stephen Minio and Deputy Chief William C. Onofrio



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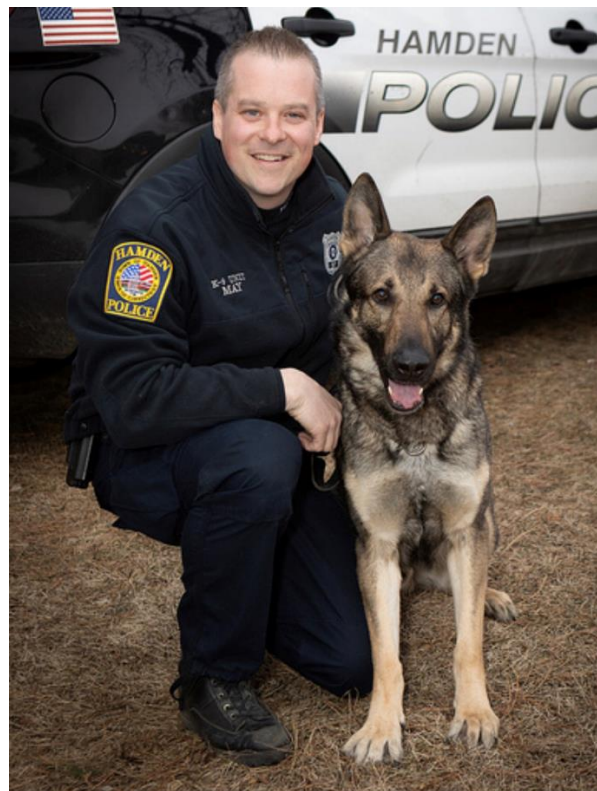


Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

It is with great sadness that the Hamden Police Department announces the passing of K-9 Blaze.

Blaze was imported from Hungry in 2014. He graduated from K9 school conducted by Master Trainer Bill Scribner in February 2015. Blaze was certified by National Police Canine Association as a dual-purpose Narcotic/Patrol K9 for the duration of his 9-year career. Blaze was a fantastic police dog and loyal family member. He had many successful deployments, including criminal apprehensions, narcotics finds and gun seizures. Blaze conducted countless community demonstrations. Blaze didn't agree with the notion of "don't pet the police dog" as he loved being attacked by classrooms of eager children. Although Blazes' favorite place on earth was the back of the cruiser, patrolling town, and watching all our backs. Sergeant William May and his family would like to thank Chief Reynolds and Deputy Chief Onofrio for their unwavering support of the entire K-9 unit. "Most importantly, I owe a great deal of gratitude to every single officer and dispatcher who assisted Blaze and I in every deployment. Every success we had, it was a true team effort and I can't thank you enough for our success and safety."

Rest in peace Blaze, you served us well and Hamden is a safer place because of you.





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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Hamden Black History Committee, Inc., and the Officer of the Mayor honored Officer Steven Teague with the Hamden Police Officer Professional Award. Congrats Officer Steven Teague!



Pictured left to right: Detectives Kelley Cushman, Vincenzo Palma, Rachel Zinni, Officer Steven Teague, Detective Jenisse Perez-Hernandez, Officer Jinett Marte and Police Chief Edward Page Reynolds



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

The Community Liaison Unit was involved in the following community outreach events:

- Car Seat Clinic @ Hamden Police Department, - January 6, - Sergeant Scott Jason and Detective Kelley Cushman conducted car seat inspections and installations at the police department for members of the public
- New Haven Police Department Police Activity League (PAL) @ Ralph Walker Ice Rink, East Rock, New Haven, - Officers assisted with coaching inner-city youths with a chance to enjoy Ice Hockey at the Learn to Play Ice Hockey League
- Strengthening Police and Community Partnerships (SPCP) meeting @ Hamden Police Headquarters via zoom, - January 11, - The meetings purpose is to share information, community concerns, crime trends, as well as developing a response with community input on crime prevention and deterrence



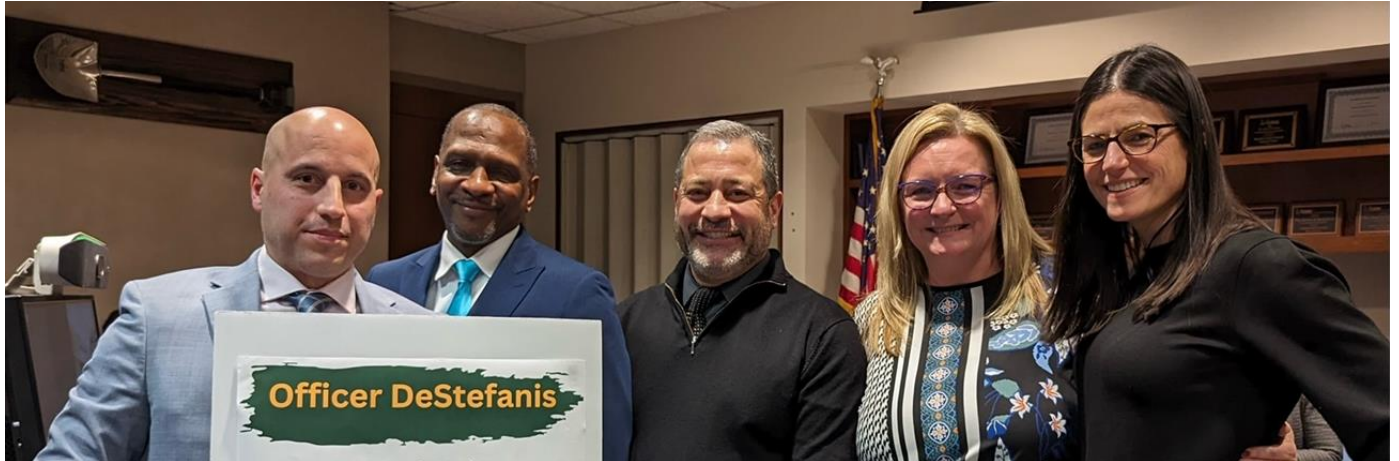


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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Hamden Heroes honored Officer Vincent DeStefanis for his contributions to the Hamden Middle School Community



Top photo pictured left to right: Officer Vincent DeStefanis, Superintendent of Schools Gary Highsmith, 7th Grade Principal Hector Ortiz, Head Principal Michel Coogan and 8th Grade Principal Jessica Coffey

Bottom photo pictured left to right: Detective William Iannone, Sergeant Timothy McKeon, Officer Vincent DeStefanis and Detective Jay Bunell



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Jr. Police Commissioners meeting at the Hamden Police Department



Chief of Police Edward Page Reynolds addresses the attendees at the first Jr Commissioners meeting



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Traffic Calming

Members of the Traffic Division deployed the Speed Compliance Units on Ridge Road and Haverford Street, Ridge Road and Pickwick Road, West Todd and Joyce Road, Mather Street and Dixwell Avenue, Woodin Street and Fairview Avenue, Leeder Hill Drive (north/southbound), Skiff Street and Howard Drive, Mather Street and Servoss Street, Sherman Avenue and Hamden Hills Drive, Four Rod Road and Earl Avenue, Brook Road and Wintergreen Avenue





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Training - Sworn Personnel

During the month of February, department-wide training for all sworn personnel consisted of Legal Update that was conducted by Elliot Spector



SPECTOR

CRIMINAL JUSTICE TRAINING NETWORK

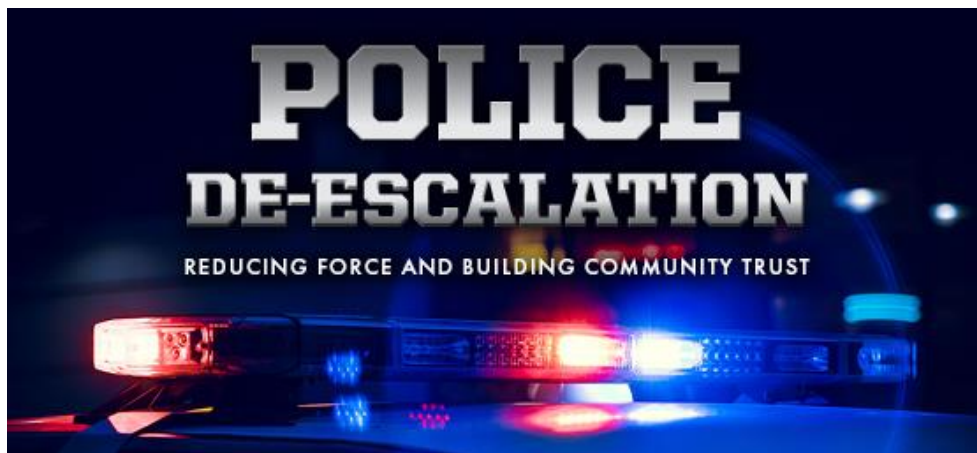
Training – In Service

Interview & Interrogation @ Darien Police Department – Officers Jordan Crawford and Matthew Buccitti

Crash Reconstruction @ Wethersfield Police Department – Officers Stephen Sudac, Jinett Marte and Joseph Mortali

FBI SWAT Team Leadership class @ New Britain Police Department – Lieutenant Eric Gocłowski and Officer Richard Cotto

De-escalation Course @ Milford Police Academy – Officers Codi Couturier and Cameron Joyner





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Training: Emergency Services Unit

Members of the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) participated in surround and call out training during the month of February





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Training – K-9

K-9 Units participated in monthly training throughout areas in town. The training curriculum included:

- Low light building searches
- Narcotics detection; vehicles & buildings
- Aggression Control
- Obedience
- Evidence / Article recovery
- Urban/Residential Tracking
- Suspect apprehensions across river
- Muzzle training



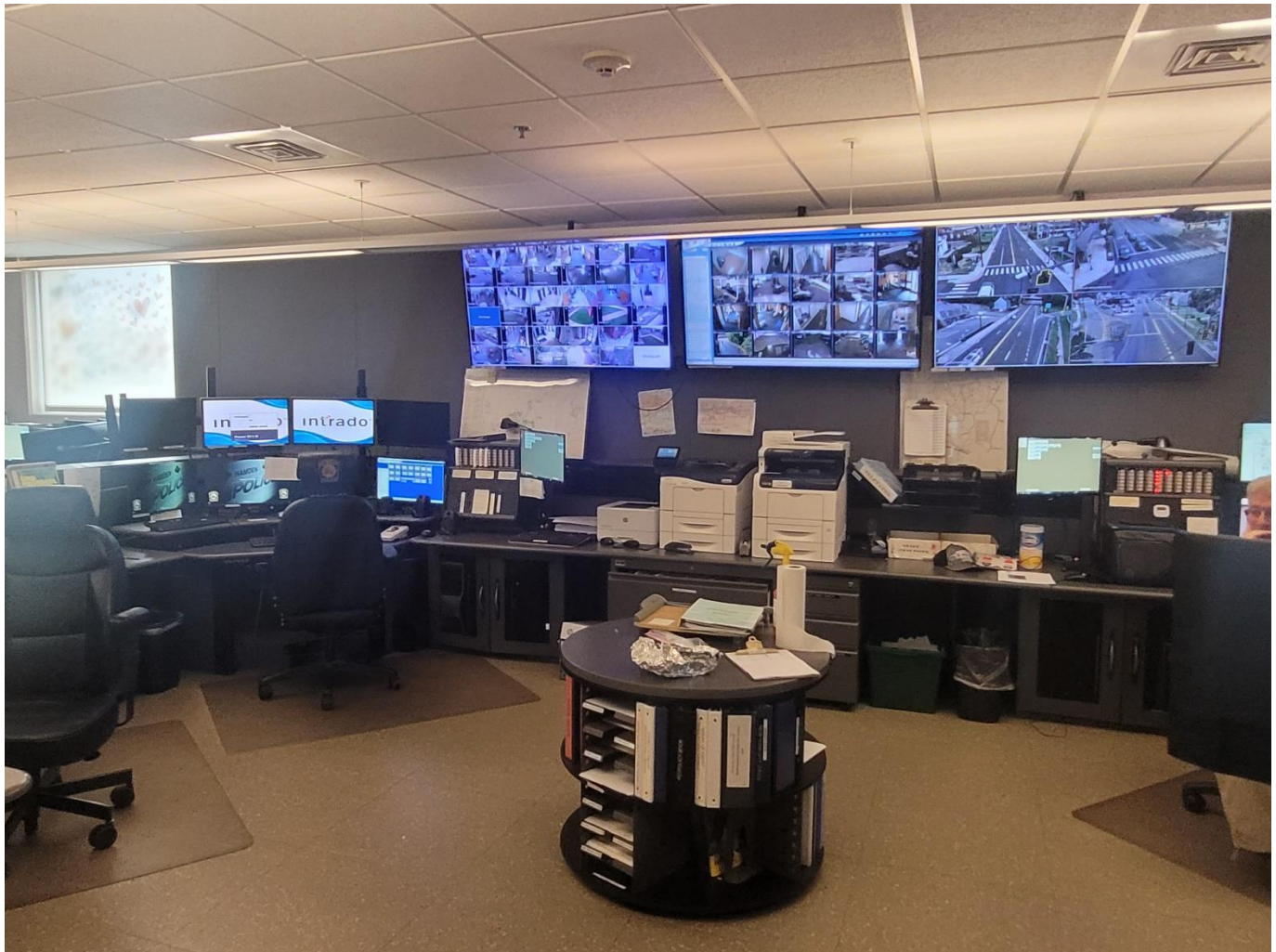


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Training – Dispatchers

During the month of February, Dispatcher training consisted of Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD) Protocols reviews and workshops





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Incidents of Special Interest

On February 7, 2024, at approximately 6:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division assisted New Haven Police Department's Undercover Unit in the take into custody / Felony Arrest of Terrance Stephon Dujan Brown (30). Brown was wanted on a Felony Warrant out of East Hartford, was considered armed and dangerous, and was a suspect in several shootings in New Haven and surrounding towns. Brown was operating a 2020 Q50 Infinity color black bearing CT BL52381, which is registered in his name. That New Haven Undercover Units had been following him for several hours throughout New Haven and Hamden. Brown was parked at 2100 Dixwell Avenue, the Hamden Plaza, near Sketcher's for an extended period of time. New Haven Police and Hamden Units converged on said motor vehicle and Brown was taken into custody with no further incident. Brown was found to be in possession of an illegal firearm with an extended magazine. New Haven Police Department Undercover Team conducted the take down, arrest, and warrant service in collaboration with members of the Hamden Police Department. New Haven Police Department was in contact with the CT States Attorney's Office in regards to setting bonds and logistics of dealing with Brown. All participating officers conducted themselves in a tactically sound manner with no injuries or damage to property reported.

On February 9, 2024, at approximately 7:40 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Ralston Avenue residence for the report of a burglary to a studio/detached shed. Upon arrival, officers were approached by homeowners at nearby addresses on Ralston Avenue, and advised that their detached garages had also been broken into. Several miscellaneous items were taken from several residences and two vehicle's windows were smashed in the garages, although no items were reported missing from the vehicles at the time of the complaint. No entry was made into any of the homes. Initial investigation revealed the only description of a possible suspect is a male, approximately 6ft. tall, wearing dark clothing, possibly in a large sedan with a loud muffler. Detectives from the Major Crimes Unit are continuing with the investigations.

On February 9, 2024, during the evening shift, Officers Joseph Seagren and Officer Oscar Solar obtained information during a call for service regarding an Efrain Rolan-Dones (35). These Officers learned that Dones was a wanted felon who had several outstanding warrants for serious firearm and domestic related charges (approximately, \$500,000 in total bonds). These warrants were extraditable up to 300 miles, and cautioned that Dones was armed and dangerous/escape risk. Dones is also listed as a Deadly Weapons Offender. During the earlier investigation, it was determined that Dones was operating a mid-2000's grey/silver Infinity sedan (possibly stolen/misuse registration) in the southern Hamden area.

On February 10, 2024, at approximately 3:00 a.m., Officer Michael Vivenzio of the Patrol Division was patrolling the area of Putnam Avenue when he observed a vehicle matching the above suspect vehicle's description traveling westbound at a high rate of speed. Officer Vivenzio observed this vehicle continue towards Putnam Avenue and Newhall Street, where he attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop. As Officer Vivenzio activated his overhead lights and sirens, the vehicle failed to obey his signals.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

The Infinity was able to elude Officer Vivenzio, until it was observed circling the area by other officers in the southern end of town. Eventually, this vehicle was last seen entering New Haven. Shortly after, New Haven Officers advised that they located the suspect vehicle abandoned on Bassett Street near Shelton Avenue. The vehicle had a misuse registration (CT-AJ43400) affixed to its rear and was locked.

On February 15, 2024, at approximately 9:30 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Warner Street address for a report of a person stabbed. Patrol officers quickly secured the scene and assisted medical personnel in providing aid to the victim. The victim had sustained a total of 3 stab wounds and the knife was still in place in the center of his back. A suspect was quickly identified and Officer Michael Dwyer soon located Leonardo Miller (25) on Fairview Avenue where he was stopped by Officers Michael Dwyer and Christina Kelley. It was later learned that after a domestic violence incident at the home between the victim and his wife and step-daughter that Miller stabbed his step-father. All parties provided statements to detectives and the scene was processed by Crime Scene Unit Detectives. Miller was charged with Assault 1st and Disorderly Conduct and was held on a \$200,000.00 dollar bond. He was later taken to the hospital for an emergency evaluation. The victim was treated at Yale New Haven Hospital for his injuries. The knife was removed and seized as evidence and the victim remains in the hospital at this time in stable condition. Charges against the victim for his role in the incident will be addressed by a warrant application. Detective Kelley Cushman was the lead investigator of this incident.

On February 17, 2024, at approximately 3:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to 60 Connolly Parkway, Unit 17, for the initial complaint of an after-hour club serving liquor to people with firearms. The uncooperative complainant also told Officers over the phone that while she was inside the club, she accidentally bumped into a male and spilled her drink on him. The complainant claimed that this male proceeded to take a firearm out and point it at the ground, in an attempt to intimidate her. The complainant then refused to meet with Officers to pursue her complaints further and proceeded to ignore their attempts of contacting her. Upon arrival, Officers observed strobe lights coming from the second-floor windows and heard music being played at an unreasonable level. As soon as the patrons noticed that Officers were outside, the party quickly dispersed. As the patrons exited the building, Officers observed several known gang members/affiliates leaving the scene. It was apparent that these patrons were not happy to see Officers on scene.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On February 18, 2024, at approximately 2:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded Charlie and James Place, 1350 Dixwell Avenue regarding a Robbery complaint. The complainant stated he had started his Range Rover in front of the business while he closed up. Another vehicle pulled up and two males got out and each of them pointed a handgun at him and they stole his vehicle. The vehicle was later found in Stratford Connecticut and PI towed back to headquarters for processing.

On February 19, 2024, at approximately 12:30 p.m., Hamden Police responded to a motor vehicle accident with injuries at the intersection of Benham Street and Circular Avenue. As officers we're responding witnesses reported 3 males running down Circular Avenue from a red Honda Civic involved in the accident. The vehicle was reported stolen from New Haven. Officer Jordan Crawford apprehended a 16-year-old juvenile on Ursini Drive and Sergeant Timothy Mckeon located a second youth (16 years old) also on Ursini Drive. Both Juveniles we're transported to Yale for their injuries from the motor vehicle accident. Officer Kenneth Graham and Officer Michael Alteri followed up at the hospital and issued both Juvenile Summons for PA 22-115 and given a court date of May 20, 2024. Lieutenant Jason Venditto and his K-9 partner Knight, Lieutenant Eric Goclowski, Detective Andrew Lipford, Officer Richard Rivera, and Officer Enrique Rivera-Rodriguez assisted in apprehending the juveniles.

On February 28, 2024, at approximately 1:15 a.m., Officer Keron Bryce of the Patrol Division observed a white Infinity sedan bearing CT registration BG 23056 parked at the gas pumps to the Citgo Service Station at State Street and Ridge Road. Upon seeing the police vehicle; the Infinity fled southbound into New Haven and was last seen in the area of Ferry Street and Pine Street. The vehicle was occupied by 3 individuals and is a suspect vehicle in several area commercial burglaries in Hamden and surrounding towns over the past several nights. Great job by Officer Keron Bryce for interrupting and preventing a burglary to a Hamden business. Shortly after our incident; North Haven Police reported the white Infinity was involved in the burglary of the Sunoco gas station on Universal Drive and Middletown Avenue.