



HAMDEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2024



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Personnel Matters and Events

On January 16, 2024, Chief of Police Edward Page Reynolds and Deputy Chief of Police William C. Onofrio were sworn-in to their respective positions at the Town of Hamden Legislative Council chambers



Hamden Town Clerk Karimah Mickens administers the oath of office to Police Chief Edward Page Reynolds



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Swearing-in ceremony for Deputy Chief of Police William C. Onofrio



Hamden Town Clerk Karimah Mickens administers the oath of office to Deputy Police Chief William C. Onofrio



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

Swearing-in ceremony (continued)



Pictured left to right: Bishop Danny Bland, Police Commissioner Tai Richardson, Mayor Lauren Garrett, Deputy Chief William C. Onofrio, Police Chief Edward Page Reynolds, Town Councilman Adrian Webber, Town Clerk Karimah Mickens, and Police Commission Chairman Vaugh Willis



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Personnel Matters and Events (continued)

On January 16, 2024, Officer Joseph McDonald completed his Field Training Officer (FTO) training and was assigned to the Patrol Division in an independent capacity

On January 17, 2024, Officer Albert Kunst was sworn in by Hamden Town Clerk Karimah Mickens



Pictured left to right: Police Chief Edward Page Reynolds, Officer Albert Kunts, Mayor Lauren Garrett and Town Clerk Karimah Mickens



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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)

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority (Hamden's Tau Xi Omega Chapter) invited Chief Edward Page Reynolds to speak with their members regarding safety tips for Seniors



The event was a great success, and everyone expressed appreciation for the wise insight and pertinent information provided by Chief Reynolds to keep our seniors safe



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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 January, department-wide training for all sworn personnel consisted of Stress Management, Suicide Recognition and Prevention, Blue on Blue, Clifford Beers, and Central Communication issues

Training – In Service

Driving while impaired (DWI) Detection @ POST – Officer Ryan Miniaci

Field Training Officer school @ POST – Officer Ryan Miniaci

Use of Force update @ POST – Officers Eric Hallstrom and Richard Cotto

Method of Instruction (MOI) @ Ansonia Police Department – Officer Joseph Mortali

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

Traffic Incident Management Systems (TIMS) @ Hamden Police Department – Sergeants Derick Manning, Brett Ferrara and William May

Patrol Rifle Class @ West Haven Police Department range – Officers Richard Cotto, Michael Vivenzio and Eric Hallstrom conducted the training for members of the Patrol Division





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Training - Sworn Personnel

Rifle training for members of the Patrol Division





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Training: Emergency Services Unit

Members of the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) participated in Firearms training during the month of January





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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 January, Dispatcher training consisted of Stress Management and Suicide Recognition and Prevention





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Incidents of Special Interest

On January 3, 2024, members of the Patrol Division responded to 380 Mather Street, in regard to an alleged harassment complaint made by the complainant against Quinnipiac University Administrators. After speaking with the complainant and further investigation of her accusations; it was determined that the complainant did not have a legitimate complaint. Officer Jinett Marte reached out to Quinnipiac University Public Safety personnel who advised her that the complainant was directly notified, that she had been suspended from school; however, on January 2, 2024, she still showed up to class. The complainant was subsequently escorted from campus. Quinnipiac University personnel advised officers that they believe the complainant has some sort of mental health Issues that is clouding her ability to make sound decisions.

On January 9, 2024, at approximately 2:40 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to the area of Todd Street on the report of a motor vehicle accident involving a tractor trailer. Investigation revealed that a tractor trailer belonging to "Rudy's Moving System" was traveling westbound on Todd Street when the tractor trailer ultimately became stuck partially on the road way and off (downhill wooded area/mud), as a result of poor weather and driving. The tractor trailer was immovable for approximately three (3) hours, resulting in Todd Street being shut down between Whitney Avenue & Shepard Avenue to prevent further incidents.

On January 10, 2024, at approximately 10:00 a.m., members of the Patrol Division were dispatched to 306 Pine Rock Avenue, Regency Hill Condos, for an assault which had just occurred. Upon arrival, a 73-year-old female, was located on the ground in the downstairs hallway, outside of the laundry room. The victim was badly injured, and she was covered in blood, and it was determined by medical personnel she was struck in the head by a blunt object from behind. The victim was transported to the hospital at this time for further treatment. Preliminary information obtained pointed Officers to a specific unit which yielded negative results. The only description available that day, from a roommate, was a tall black skinny male in a t-shirt, gray sweatpants, and possibly puffy hair. On January 14, 2024, it was learned that the victim had eight staples put in the back of her head where she was struck by the blunt object. The victim stated she has no memory of the incident and after two CAT scans doctors are now concerned about possible blood clotting. She also stated she is covered in bruises as well and doctors believe she lost consciousness and may have been knocked out for some time. Officers then responded back to 306 Pine Rock Avenue and completed a follow up neighborhood canvas, going door to door, in an attempt to possibly learn new information on the offender. It was also learned that the cleaning staff was threatened and scared out of the building by what is believed to be the same individual as well as the maintenance worker fixing the smoke detectors/fire suppression system. Management has placed no loitering/trespass signs at all entrances to the building and would like anyone found in the stairwell to be dealt with going forward.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On January 14, 2024, at approximately 1:30 a.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to Elmer Avenue on the report of a physical domestic in the street. Upon arrival Officer Hailey Zarzuela made contact with the male suspect who then ran from the scene as Officer William Pesanelli arrived. Both Officers engaged the suspect in a foot pursuit across Woodin Street towards Sunset Road and Jones Road. During the pursuit 3 gunshots were heard coming from the direction of the suspect. A perimeter was established, and the suspect was last seen by the Southern Police Department entering their campus football field area. During a neighborhood canvass for evidence, it was determined that a homeowner heard the suspect on his property and fired 3 blanks from a starter type pistol in order to scare the man off of his property. The female victim; had numerous facial injuries but refused to cooperate with the investigation and would not provide the suspect's name. Officer William Pesanelli conducted the initial investigation and Investigative Services responded to assist.

On January 15, 2024, at approximately 6:45 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a fight in progress/shots fired complaint on Mix Avenue. Officers made contact with the victim, who was suffering from a gunshot wound to his left arm. The victim was uncooperative with officers and was subsequently transported to Yale New Haven Hospital for treatment. A crime scene was located on Mix Avenue with a single shell casing and a blood trail. Crime Scene Unit Detectives and Detectives from the Major Crimes Unit responded to assume the investigation. Officer Karen Estronza conducted the initial investigation.

On January 15, 2024, at approximately 8:47 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to a Hampton Road residence for a welfare check. Family members of the elderly residents were concerned after not being able to get ahold of them. Upon clearing the house, a deceased male was located inside a vehicle in the garage with an apparent gunshot wound. A deceased female was located in an upstairs bedroom with an apparent gunshot wound. The family dog was also located deceased in the vehicle with the male. Detectives from the Crime Scene Unit and the Major Crimes Unit were notified and assumed the investigation. Officer Timothy Janus conducted the initial investigation.

On January 24, 2024, at approximately 9:00 p.m., members of the Patrol Division responded to an attempted robbery located at the Citgo, 1624 Dixwell Avenue. Initial investigation revealed that a black male, wearing a black Nike hoodie, black pants, blue gloves, a black face-mask and a tan ball cap, entered the store, displayed a black firearm and ordered the two store employees to put the money in his bag. The female employee left the register area and ultimately went into the back room; the male employee did not comply with the suspect. After multiple failed attempts at ordering the male employee to put the money in the bag, the suspect left the store with nothing and appeared to walk towards Homestead Avenue. A K-9 track was conducted but yielded negative results. Still photos of the suspect from the CCTV footage were ascertained at the scene. The suspect had a distinct bag when he walked in the store and placed it on the counter, ordering the employee to put the money in. Detective Vincenzo Palma of the Major Crimes Unit will be the lead investigator in this case.



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Incidents of Special Interest (continued)

On January 27, 2024, at approximately 3:30 a.m., Officers responded to Dixwell Avenue and Church Street on the report of a 1 vehicle accident. Upon arrival Officers found that a Kia Sorrento travelling southbound on Dixwell Avenue left the roadway and struck the traffic light control box, a Frontier fiber cabinet and the steel Traffic light support pole on Dixwell Avenue. The male driver of the vehicle appeared to be suffering from serious injuries and the male passenger appears to have critical injuries and was trapped in the vehicle. It took Hamden Fire Department personnel over 40 minutes to extract the passenger from the vehicle. Traffic Maintenance responded to the scene as well as members from the Accident Reconstruction Team. Dixwell Avenue and Church Street intersection were closed for several hours. There may be long term disruptions to the traffic control signal at this intersection for the foreseeable future until a replacement traffic box can be located and installed.

On January 27, 2024, while at Yale New Haven Hospital with the prior accident victims; a 38-year-old female was brought into the Hospital by a private vehicle suffering from 2 gunshot wounds. The victim who was shot in the arm and chest stated she was shot outside of an afterhours club in a parking lot near the Hamden High School. A check of the area around 60 Connelly Parkway showed evidence of a possible party location. Investigative Services responded to continue with the investigation. There were no reports of shots fired in the area prior to this incident.

On January 28, 2024, at approximately 1:00 a.m., Officers observed a white Chevrolet SUV operating recklessly on Arch Street. The vehicle then collided with another vehicle in the intersection of Dixwell Avenue. Officers then observed the operator of the SUV flee on foot on Morse Street and onto the Canal Line. Officers Jacob Wright and Matthew Buccitti pursued the operator on foot and were able to take the man into custody. A check of the man and the vehicle revealed him to be in the possession of a .45 cal handgun, marijuana, ecstasy, two phones and \$440.00 in cash. Two occupants of the other vehicle had to be extricated by the Fire Department with moderate injuries. Arrested was Ashanti Carr, 29, of 1 Eldert Street, New Haven. Carr was charged with motor vehicle charges for Reckless Driving, Evading Responsibility, and Operating Under Suspension. Carr was also charged for Carrying a Pistol Without a Permit, Weapon in a Motor Vehicle, Interfering With Police, Possession, and Intent to sell. Carr was held on a \$55,000 bond and the cash, gun, phones and drugs were seized as evidence. An excellent job was done by all officers involved for their quick thinking and reactions to a chaotic situation.

On January 28, 2024, at approximately 3:00 p.m., a purse was taken from an elderly victim's vehicle while she was loading her groceries, directly in front of ShopRite. The suspect is described as a black male with a ski mask approx. 20 years old. A small amount of cash, credit cards, and house keys were taken. ShopRite management would not allow officers access to the cameras without loss prevention, even after calling corporate. Suspect vehicle is described as a grey/silver Kia or Hyundai.