

New Boston Police 2011

The Police Department has had another busy year with many challenges. The primary focus of the department is to maintain a high level of policing services for the Town while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Once again, we have observed an increase in calls for service and our officers have been kept busy with many investigations. Our officers are dedicated to the community and are diligent in their duties. As always the support of the community has been terrific and the combination of our officers working with the community has led to many positive outcomes.

The 2011 calls for service increased by 1556 over 2010 while criminal complaints decreased by 9. The most significant decrease was in criminal mischief complaints, that saw a reduction to 48 in 2011 from a high of 123 in 2010. During 2011 the department adjusted officer's schedules to work during hours when criminal mischief incidents were most likely to occur. The efforts of our officers to run directed patrols in specific areas of town played a major role in the reduction of criminal mischief complaints.

In 2011 New Boston saw a 10 percent decrease in burglaries and attempted burglaries while many communities experienced increases. During 2011 the police department in cooperation with neighborhood groups started a Neighborhood Watch Program. The department and Neighborhood Watch members held meetings where information was shared and residents were encouraged to report suspicious activity to the police. This type of community vigilance along with over 1800 directed patrols by department members helped make our community safer. Police visibility is a proven deterrent to crime, especially when coupled with increased awareness within the community. Suspicious activity reports increased from 127 in 2010 to 234 in 2011. A special "Thank You" goes to those individuals who out of concern for their community, took the time to report suspicious activity to the police.

Officers were encouraged to increase the amount of time enforcing traffic laws, specifically speeding, in an effort to keep our residents safe on New Boston roadways. Statistics show that many motor vehicle accidents are the result of vehicles traveling too fast for the existing roadway conditions or the abilities and/or lack of experience of the operator. In 2011, the increased motor vehicle enforcement resulted in 2,368 motor vehicle offenses compared to 1,623 in 2010, with speed accounting for 1,387 of the 2011 total. During this time traffic accidents were held to just 84 for the year.

The department was very busy during 2011 even while it experienced the loss of 4 full-time officers. All four of the officers left for employment in larger NH police law enforcement agencies. Although this is difficult on the Town, it is a testament to the quality of officers being hired by the department and the training they receive. Please be assured that the department is in the process of replacing those officers. In the meantime, the existing members of the department are doing everything possible to maintain the high quality of policing that the Town expects and is accustomed to.

The department and the Town would be remiss in not taking the time to acknowledge the dedication, commitment and professionalism that Chief Chris Krajenka devoted to the department and the Town. During his six years as Chief of Police in New Boston he brought the level of department professionalism to one that rivals any in the area. As you are aware Chief Krajenka retired in January of 2012. He will be missed by department members and those in Town who knew him well. The members of the police department would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Chief Krajenka for his leadership, knowledge, commitment and dedication to the members of the department and the Town. **THANK YOU CHIEF AND ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!!!!!!!!!!**

Respectfully Submitted,

Sergeant Richard Widener &
Corporal Richard Bailey