



Raymond Kelly Richardson
Superintendent

Deborah H. Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

Barry Golner
Deputy Superintendent

To: Eileen Donoghue
City Manager

EMD

From: Raymond Kelly Richardson
Superintendent of Police

Date: January 7, 2019

Re: Council Response

12/4/18 - Motion by Councilor Conway - Req. City Mgr./Supt. of Police to develop an inclusive plan/strategies that will address and help solve the violence in the City; in particular, the recent shootings.

As a result of recent shootings, the Lowell Police Department (LPD) has added an officer to the Gang Unit which brings the number of officers from five to six. Additionally, these officers are outfitted in full uniform as opposed to street clothes for better visibility and officer safety. The additional officer was chosen strategically based on his training and experience. This particular officer has extensive knowledge with information gathering and interviewing. The LPD has also identified a second officer that was recently hired as a lateral transfer who has the same training and experience with interviewing and information gathering. The lateral transfer officer will be added to the Gang Unit in January 2019. The LPD will also continue to install cameras in hot spot locations and areas of known gang activities.

A key strategy for combatting gang related issues in the City is our partnerships with other law enforcement and social service agencies. The LPD Gang Unit works strategically with specific social service agencies and will schedule bi-weekly meetings to discuss any gang issues across the city and work toward developing strategies to quell any flare ups of violence. They have also contacted the MassHire Lowell Career Center and have been connected with a liaison there to assist with diversion efforts.

The Gang Unit meets bi-weekly with the Probation Department to discuss the top 25 impact players and share information on restrictions of individuals on probation. In doing so, violations of those conditions observed by police can be addressed accordingly. The unit has also been tasked with working closely with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office on information sharing, case priorities and preparation for priority prosecutions as needed.

Furthermore, the LPD is in the early stages of creating a plan for officers to get more involved in youth activities throughout the city. The ultimate goal is to create the first Lowell Police Athletic League (PAL) in an effort to build relationships and open up the channels of communication with an emphasis on diversion. Since creating a comprehensive PAL program can take time, the LPD decided time was of the essence and will get involved in participating in youth activities sooner while still working to build up to a thorough PAL program.