



LPD Quarterly Newsletter

Lowell Police Department

2014: Quarters 3 & 4 July–December

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Community Meetings Help LPD Gain Feedback

A vital aspect of the LPD’s community policing strategy is to obtain feedback from the community. One way the LPD has accomplished this in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2014 is through several community meetings. The meetings included both “street corner meetings” at neighborhood intersections and “Coffee with a Cop” along with the UMass Lowell and National Parks Police Departments. These meetings were very successful and provided residents and other

stakeholders a safe place to voice their concerns about their communities. The LPD gained valuable insights from the meetings. As always, the LPD takes resident feedback very seriously and makes every effort to ensure concerns are addressed in a timely manner. The LPD will continue to conduct meetings like this going forward. Be sure to check the LPD’s website and social media pages for announcements regarding future community meetings in your neighborhood.



LPD Captain Kelly Richardson chats with a resident at the “Coffee with a Cop” event at University Crossing in September.

Stay up to date with the LPD by visiting our website and following us on social media:

www.lowellma.gov/police

 [Facebook](#)

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LPD Hosts Events for Lowell Youth

The LPD hosted two events geared towards Lowell youth during the 3rd quarter of 2014. In August, National Night Out provided food and games for children as well as an opportunity for their parents to meet and speak with the officers who patrol their neighborhood. September's Bike Safety Rodeo emphasized the importance of wearing bike helmets and following bike safety rules. The event also included free helmet giveaways, an obstacle course, a helmet fitting station and a free bike for one lucky participant.



Superintendent Taylor addresses participants



LPD officers at the annual Bike Safety Rodeo.

LPD Hosts 16th Annual Student Police Academy

The LPD once again hosted its Student Police Academy this summer. The program is available to middle school students and is separated into two sessions: one for incoming 5th and 6th graders and one for incoming 7th and 8th graders. The students participate in activities including physical fitness exercises, CPR training, and education in a variety of subjects such as avoiding peer pressure, gang prevention, and the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The Academy is designed to instill confidence and discipline in middle school students and give them a variety of skills that will help them be successful in school and life. Many graduates report feeling more comfortable interacting with police officers as a result of their experience in the Student Police Academy. The Academy also provides summer jobs for 6-8 high school students (most of whom graduated the Academy themselves) who serve as counselors.



7th and 8th grade participants in the Student Police Academy at their graduation ceremony in July.

Front Line Supervisors Attend Leadership Course

The Lowell Police Department (LPD), in conjunction with Middlesex Community College Corporate and Community Education and Training Department and Suffolk University's Dr. Brenda Bond, has created an intensive leadership course for Front line supervisors. Front line supervisors oversee and direct officers on the street in carrying out the directives issued by commanding officers. They are critical to the success of a police department. These individuals are often the face of the organization within the community and they serve as role models for patrol officers that look to them for both guidance and leadership. First line supervisors are routinely involved in complex incidents and often have to make quick and important decisions. Through the 8-week course, the front line supervisors will learn more about their leadership styles, how to effectively manage others, evidence-based practices in policing, accountability, and performance management. The curriculum was developed by law enforcement professionals, researchers and instructors from the Lowell Police Department, Middlesex Community College and Suffolk University. In addition to first line supervisors from the LPD, officers from Chelmsford, Dracut, Cambridge, Bedford and Tyngsborough will participate in the training. The training was funded through the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The LPD will offer this course again in early 2015.



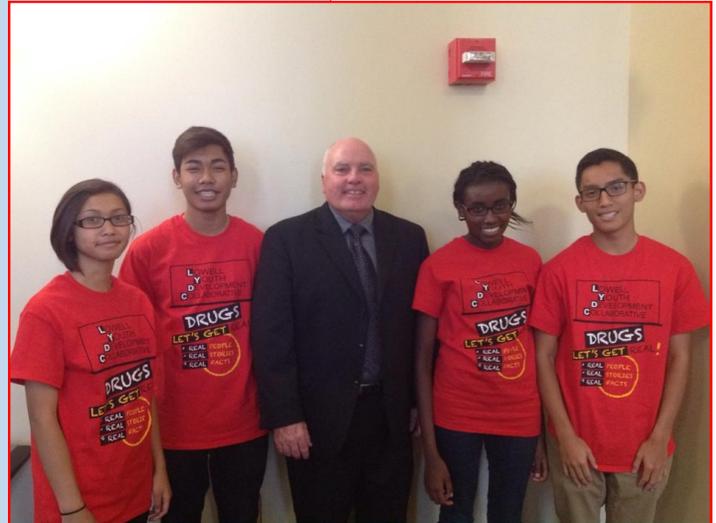
The LPD's Captain Crowley addresses participants in the new leadership training course

Officer Involved Shooting Ruled Justified After Investigation

Following a thorough and complete investigation conducted by the Lowell Police Department in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police and Middlesex District Attorney's Office into the officer involved shooting that occurred in the early morning hours of August 27th, findings show that Officer Patrick Casey's use of lethal force against Darriss Newton was justified. Evidence indicates that within seconds of stopping a vehicle on Middlesex St. in Lowell, the lone occupant of that vehicle, Darriss Newton, exited and began firing multiple rounds from a semi-automatic handgun at Officer Casey. One of those rounds struck the cruiser door Officer Casey was standing behind. In self-defense, Officer Casey returned fire striking the defendant twice and thwarting the assault. Newton survived his injuries and was arraigned on charges including Armed Assault with Intent to Murder. The investigation further showed that Officer Casey acted heroically in his actions, not only in defending himself from imminent harm but also aiding in the swift capture of his assailant and protecting the citizens of Lowell from a violent felon. Officer Casey showed the poise and professionalism of a veteran officer even though he had less than a year on patrol. The City of Lowell is fortunate to count this young officer among those who have dedicated themselves to their public safety.

LPD Co-hosts Drug Awareness Event

On October 9th, the LPD co-hosted a drug awareness event along with the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Lowell Community Health Center, and the Substance Use Prevention Task Force. The event was called Drugs: Let's Get Real and featured a panel discussion, stories, activities, and interactive games. Superintendent of Police William Taylor participated in the panel discussion, along with District Attorney Marian Ryan and others. The purpose of the event was to educate and inform students and their parents about the dangers of drugs and how to avoid them. The event was funded by the Greater Lowell Health Association and Lowell Public Schools.



Chief Taylor with four of the students who attended the Drugs: Let's Get Real event in October.

LPD Officers Attend Funeral for Slain NYPD Officers

On December 20th, 2014, a terrible tragedy struck the LPD's brothers and sisters in the New York City Police Department (NYPD). Two officers were shot and killed without warning or provocation while sitting in their police cruiser in Brooklyn. Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu were targeted simply because of the fact that they were police officers. As a sign of support and solidarity for the families of the victims and the NYPD, several LPD officers attended the funeral services for each of the slain officers.



LPD Officers outside the cemetery where NYPD Officer Wenjian Liu was laid to rest.

The tragedy clearly demonstrates the dangers that police officers face every single day and the sacrifices they make to serve and protect the public. In 2014, there were 124 law enforcement line of duty deaths in the United States. Of these deaths, 47 (38%) were the result of gunfire. Despite the risks, the brave men and women of the LPD and police departments all over the world continue to work hard to keep their communities safe.

LPD Investigations Lead to Arrests, Drug and Weapon Seizures

Two LPD investigations led to major seizures in the 4th quarter of 2014. On October 24th, a warrant sweep was conducted, after a months long investigation in conjunction with the Massachusetts State Police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Several search warrants were executed at locations throughout the City. The sweep led to the seizure of 135 grams of heroin, 40 grams of cocaine, numerous prescription drugs, and 2 handguns. The LPD also seized thousands of dollars suspected to be proceeds of drug dealing and numerous electronic devices such as phones, tablets, and computers suspected to have been used in drug dealing operations. In total, 9 individuals were arrested, including 4 known gang members.



On November 11th, while acting on an anonymous tip from an alert resident, the LPD conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle suspected to have been involved in a drug transaction. With the help of the Billerica Police Department's K9 Unit, two sophisticated hides were found in the vehicle. The hides contained a kilogram of cocaine and \$87,000 in cash. The drugs and money (pictured above) were seized and the operator, a Connecticut resident, was arrested for trafficking cocaine.

Lowell Police Academy Class Graduates 55

On November 14th, 55 cadets graduated from the Lowell Police Academy. Cadets completed 24 weeks of intense training that stresses the fundamentals of being a patrol officer. Specific areas that cadets received training in included problem solving, crisis intervention, law, police tactics, and physical fitness, among other areas. The remaining graduates joined police departments in Lowell, Dracut, Tewksbury,



Westford, Bedford, Lawrence, Reading, Somerville, Cambridge, Brookline, Chelsea, Weston, UMass Lowell and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The eight graduates who joined the LPD upon graduation (pictured at left) are Adam R. Ducharme, Matthew A. Mastas; Brian M. McManus, Alex E. Savary, Michael D. Smith, Emaly A. Bouasri, Paul W. Robbins II, and Juan J. Sandoval. Academy award winners among the eight LPD graduates included Michael Smith (Top Gun), Matt Mastas (Combat Course), and Brian McManus (Outstanding Student in Defensive Tactics).

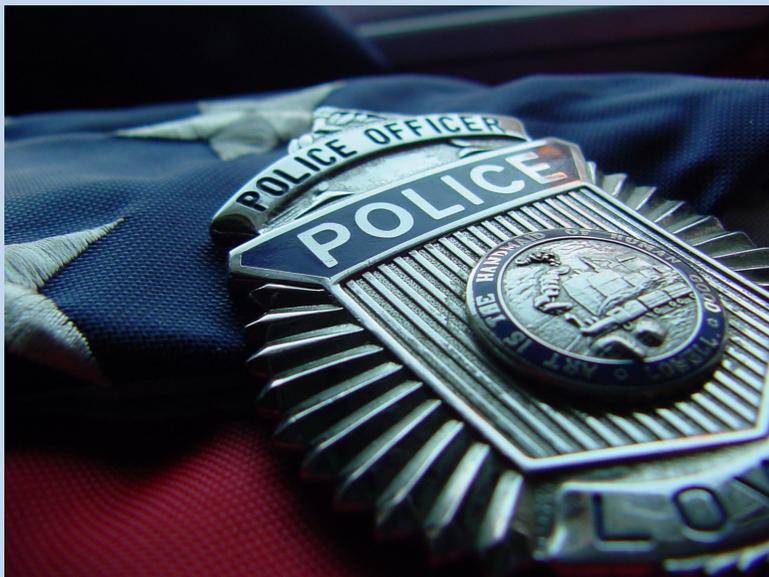
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Superintendent William Taylor



WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY TO REDUCE CRIME, THE FEAR OF CRIME, AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY OF LOWELL.



Upcoming Events

Citizen Police Academy: Starts 2/25/15

Coffee With a Cop: 2/11/15

Stories to Watch For in Next Edition

Cops for Kids With Cancer