



William M. Taylor
Superintendent

Deborah H. Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

Raymond Kelly Richardson
Deputy Superintendent

To: Kevin Murphy
City Manager

From: William Taylor
Superintendent of Police

Date: December 5, 2017

Re: Council Response

9/26/17 8.3 Councilor Elliott – Request the City Manager have Superintendent of Police provide a report on efforts to increase enforcement to address drug dealing.

Enforcement

There are currently seven officers dedicated to the Special Investigations Section (SIS). SIS is primarily responsible for all drug investigations in the City. They also have other responsibilities; however, their primary focus is on heroin and fentanyl investigations. The LPD cannot supply specific information regarding all current investigations due to the sensitive nature of these investigations. However, the LPD has had several successes in 2017 as detailed below. The LPD also has three detectives dedicated to taskforces in Greater Lowell. The focus of the taskforces is to disrupt heroin and fentanyl trafficking in the Greater Lowell area. Two detectives are assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Cross-Borders Initiative (CBI). The third detective is assigned to a new taskforce created by the Massachusetts State Police (MSP), the Transportation Drug Unit (TDU), in response to the opioid epidemic. The LPD was the first local law enforcement agency to be asked to join the MSP's newly formed taskforce.

There are tremendous benefits to working with both state and federal taskforces on drug investigations. The regional approach is most effective since mid and high level dealers utilize technology for their drug distribution purposes. Most narcotics distribution occur using personal mobile phones and vehicles to prevent detection from law enforcement. Dealers often use geographic boundaries of cities as a means to evade detection. The regional task force approach is an effective strategy to attack the mobile trafficking and also is a force multiplier which brings additional law enforcement resources into Lowell.

The DEA Financial Investigations Team (FIT) has been involved in numerous operations in 2017 involving narcotic sales and money laundering. These international operations resulted in the arrest or indictment of 9 people, a fine of over \$100 million and the seizure of \$900,000 and 2,300 kg of narcotics.

The LPD Detective assigned to the DEA CBI participated in operations in 2017 that resulted in 83 arrests, seizure of \$55,441 and 6 vehicles. In addition, these operations resulted in the seizure of 105.2 grams of cocaine, 6,747 grams of fentanyl, and 3,255 grams of heroin.

Most recently the Attorney General's office has been working with the Massachusetts State Police, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Homeland Security, and local police departments on a drug trafficking investigation which resulted in search warrants. As a result, they arrested 13 people, and confiscated over 1000 grams of suspected heroin/fentanyl, 14 pounds of marijuana, \$26,000, 7 firearms, 3 magazines and ammunition.

Additionally, from January 1, 2017 to October 27, 2017 the MSP Transportation Drug Unit (TDU) has arrested 25 individuals on narcotics related charges. Through their efforts they were able to confiscate the following: 52,298 grams of fentanyl, 5,775 grams of heroin, 26,293 grams of cocaine, 52 pounds of marijuana, 150 Oxycodone pills, 2,000 ecstasy pills, 9 firearms, 2 vehicles and just over \$1.2 million dollars.

As always, the LPD deploys uniformed patrol in drug hot spot locations for increased presence to deter and suppress street level dealers and refer addicted individuals to treatment. The LPD's Special Investigation Section Detectives were involved in dozens of drug related investigations which resulted in numerous search warrants and the confiscation of suspected heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone pills, marijuana, cocaine and firearms.

Analyzing arrest data from January 1, 2017 – October 31, 2017, the LPD has arrested 213 individuals on drug charges. Charges include both possession and trafficking of drug classifications A through E.

- 103 arrestees were charged with crimes related to Class A (heroin, OxyContin, morphine, etc.)
- 177 arrestees were charged with crimes related to Class B (fentanyl, cocaine, methadone, etc.)
- 9 arrestees were charged with crimes related to Class C (Lorazepam, Clonazepam, etc.)
- 8 arrestees were charged with crimes related to Class D (Marijuana, etc.)
- 20 arrestees were charged with crimes related to Class E (other prescription drugs)
- 5 arrestees were charged with conspiracy

Please note that in some cases, arrestees were charged with crimes related to more than one drug classification, which is why the numbers detailed above will not add up to the 213 individuals arrested.

Treatment

Lowell Police Department began the Community Opioid Outreach Program in an effort to provide services to individuals who have received emergency medical care for overdoses. When calls come in for overdoses, medical personnel respond and the individual is often transported to a hospital. The CO-OP team is notified of these individuals, and follows up to provide information, services, and treatment options. The Outreach is vital because individuals may not seek recovery by themselves, but may be more apt to consider it when someone presents the information to them. Unfortunately, not everyone is welcoming of the information; a person must be ready to overcome their addiction. Those that are ready, accept the support and services that can start them on the path to recovery.