



Jonathan C. Webb
Acting Superintendent

Deborah H. Friedl
Deputy Superintendent

Raymond Kelly Richardson
Deputy Superintendent

To: Eileen Donoghue *EMD*
City Manager

From: Jonathan C. Webb
Superintendent of Police

Date: July 31, 2018

Re: Council Response

Councilor Noun and Councilor Samaras – Request the City Manager provide an update regarding staffing at the Police Precincts in the City, particularly during nights and weekends.

The Lowell Police Department maintains off-site office space at several locations around the city. Precincts at the Mercier Center, 21 Salem Street; the Centralville Precinct at 399 Bridge Street; and the Highlands Precinct at 657 Middlesex Street provide space for a number of police and civilian personnel. The officers are assigned to a number of community policing assignments, including district officers, officers assigned to the Lowell Housing Authority, and the Gang Unit. Civilians stationed at the precincts are assigned to functions including Crime Analysts, the Volunteer Coordinator, and grant funded programs as needed. Both the Centralville Precinct and the Highlands Precinct are staffed by a Captain and two Lieutenants who supervise the activities of 12 police officers working out of each precinct on community policing projects. These officers perform these functions 16 hours per day, 7 days per week. In addition, all of the Police Department remote locations are used 24 hours per day by other patrol and supervisory personnel.

Other locations include reporting writing locations at the Rogers School on Highland Street, both campuses of Lowell General Hospital, and the Downes Parking Facility on John Street. Additional office space is used as needed at the Acre Precinct office at 591 Broadway Street.

While officers use all of the above facilities 24 hours per day, there are times during the evening hours and on weekends that an officer might not be physically present at the precinct. Officers are assigned to patrol areas and work on projects in the community. This is preferred use of personnel, as opposed to staffing a static location. The wide spread use of cell phones and 911 dispatch ability has taken the place of citizens dropping in to a police facility. However, the increased presence and visibility of officers utilizing these facilities, as opposed to leaving the neighborhoods to perform administrative tasks at police headquarters, cannot be overlooked. In

addition, officers always make the precincts available for appointments and meetings with individual citizens or community groups.

Lastly, staffing is effected by a number of openings in the police department. There are currently 9 vacancies for patrol officers. We are in the process of attempting to hire trained, qualified officers from other police departments. In addition, 14 recruits are now attending the Lowell Police Academy. It will be several months before these recruits complete their training. In the meantime, those positions are also considered openings in the patrol force that will be unfilled until the recruits are available for duty.