



Stoneham Police Department

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

James P. O'Connor, Chief of Police



The Stoneham Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of professional police services while respecting the constitutional rights of every person living in or visiting the Town of Stoneham. We achieve this mission by working in partnership with the community, serving with compassion and respect to all members of the public. We remain committed to providing these services with professionalism and integrity.

The Office of the Chief manages the overall operation of the Stoneham Police Department and plans for the future in close collaboration with the Town Administrator. 2023 was certainly a year of transition for the Stoneham Police Department. In May of 2023, Chief of Police James T. McIntyre retired after twenty-seven years of committed and dedicated service to both the Stoneham Police Department as well as the Stoneham Community. From June 2023 until September 2023, Police Administrator Michael Lyle was hired to guide the department until such time as a permanent Police Chief was appointed. Chief McIntyre and Police Administrator Lyle deserve many thanks for their service to our community as well as their continued support of the police department. I would also like to thank and commend the members of the department for their dedicated and professional service to our community during this period of transition.

In September of 2023, James P. O'Connor was selected as the permanent Chief of Police for the Stoneham Police Department.

The civilian administrative staff for the Department consists of office manager Erin Sinclair, part-time office assistants Patricia Quinn, Amanda Farrington, domestic violence advocate Linda Leis and custodian John Nofall.

PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION

Lieutenant Christopher Apalakis, Division Commander

The Stoneham Police Department Patrol Operations Division currently consists of 28 uniformed officers; 1 lieutenant, 7 sergeants and 21 patrol officers.

The department welcomed several new officers in 2023. Officers Stephen Chatelle, Matthew Dabenigno and George Doherty graduated from the MPTC Lynnfield Academy in April. The department also added 3 veteran officers who transferred from other departments; Officer Neil Simard, Arlington PD, Officer Michael Juliano, Essex PD and Officer Michael Cassola, Westford PD. In July of 2023, Officer Antonio Ventresca graduated from the MPTC Lynnfield Academy.

The addition of these officers enabled the department to make 4 promotions to the supervisory ranks. Sergeant David Thistle was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in August along with Officer Zachary Newell and Officer Sheryl Rotondi making the rank of Sergeant. In December of 2023, Officer John Burton was promoted to sergeant. Sergeant

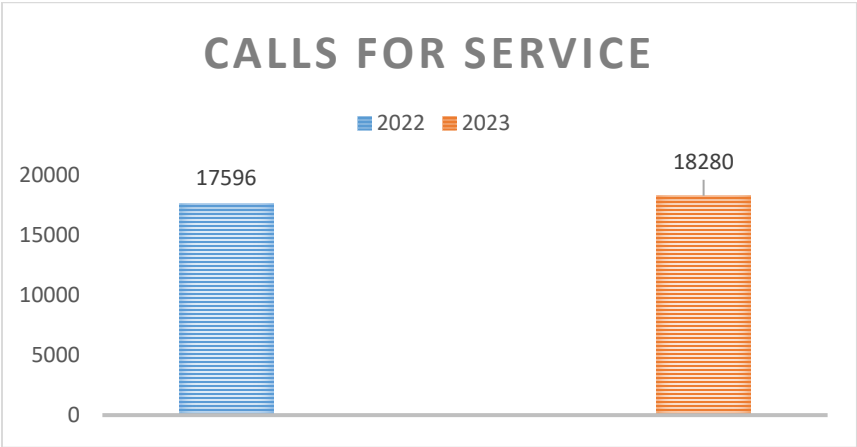
Sheryl Rotondi's promotion marked the first female promotion in the history of the Stoneham Police Department.



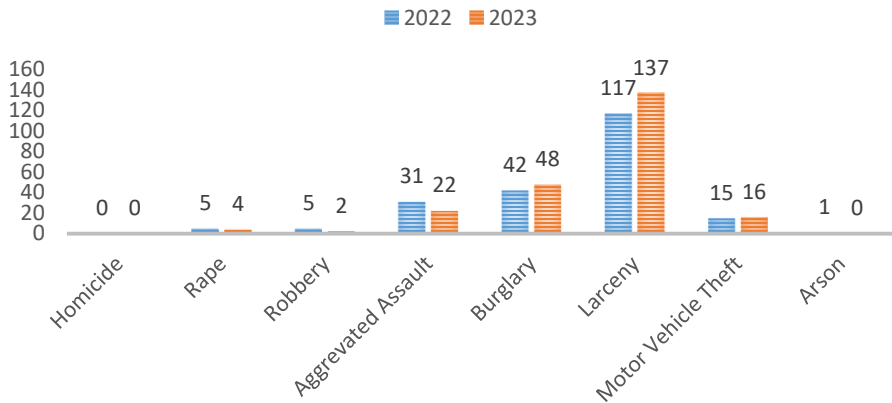
Officer Nicholas Palmieri was named Officer of the Year 2023.

The following officers left the department in 2023 either through retirement or resignation, Police Chief James McIntyre, Lieutenant David Stefanelli, Sergeant Robert Kennedy, Sergeant Thomas Heller, Detective Paul Norton, Detective William Reinold, Officer Kenneth Bowdidge, Officer Jonathan Mahoney, and Officer Stephen Rochon.

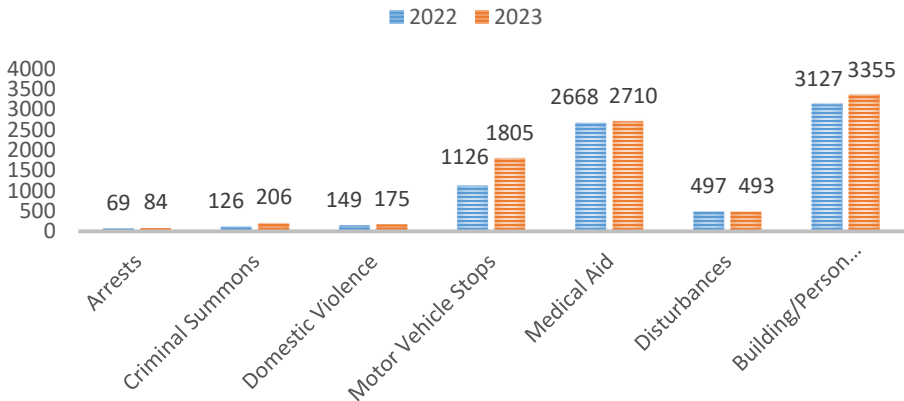
The men and women of the patrol operations section perform the most visible and recognized function within the Stoneham Police Department. They are the ones in uniform and in marked cruisers who are the first to respond to calls. In 2023, there were 18,280 incidents logged. There were 84 arrests and 5 people placed into protective custody. When officers are not on calls, they patrol the streets promoting public safety through visibility and the education and enforcement of motor vehicle laws. Officers made 1,805 motor vehicle stops and issued 650 citations. Over 739 parking tickets were issued throughout the year.



FBI PART 1 MAJOR CRIMES



DEPARTMENT STATISTICS



Each member of the police department is required to receive a minimum of 40 hours of annual training required by the Municipal Police Training Committee and 16 hours of continuing education relating to the 9-1-1 System. Officers have attended various in-service and 9-1-1 trainings including CPR, first responder, criminal law and criminal procedure.

Additionally, Officer Richard Pacini attended a 40 hour firearms instructor course and joined the team of firearms instructors already in place. Sergeant Newell and Sergeant Burton were trained as Taser instructors. They were able to train all of our new officers and re-certify all of our existing officers with this valuable tool. Officers Emily Dello

Russo and Richard Pacini attended a week long sexual assault investigator course and Safety Officer Laura Engel attended an 80 hour Basic Crash Investigation course.

Through the efforts of our department’s Grant Administrator, Lieutenant Christopher Apalakias, the police department was able to acquire over \$500,000 in grants from the Department of Mental Health, the State 911 Department and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to be used for equipment, training and traffic enforcement.

Under the direction of Sergeant Stephen Aprile, the Community Policing Team had many successful events in 2023. The department participated in National Night Out for the first time which was well attended by the community and many members of the police department.

Members of the CPU team also helped in the planning, safety and security for the following events: The CPU Fishing Derby, Stoneham Chamber of Commerce Health and Wellness Fair, Memorial Day Parade, Stoneham High School Prom Promenade, Touch a Truck, Veterans Day Road Race, Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Lighting, Whip Hill Christmas, Halloween Stroll and Town Day.

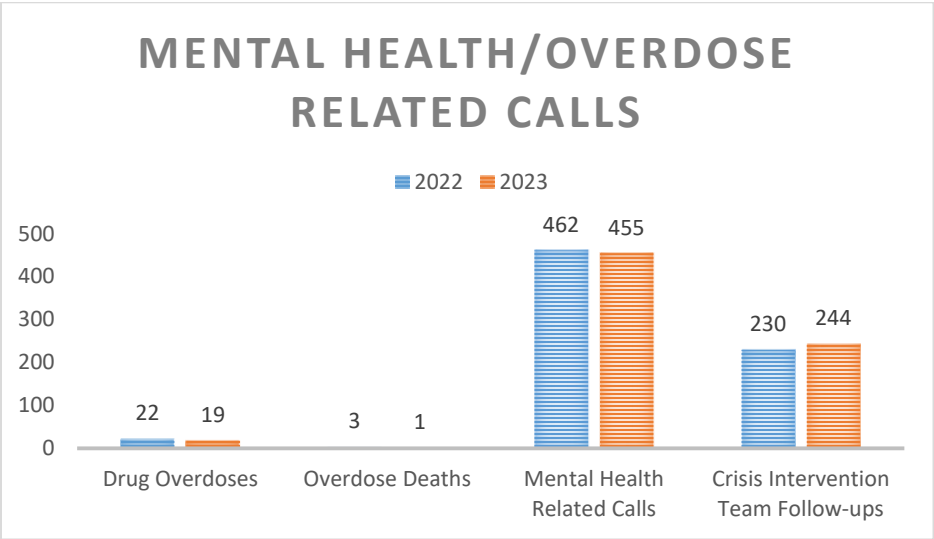
The CPU Bicycle Team held bicycle safety events for the Stoneham Boys and Girls Club, and Stoneham Central Middle School students. The bicycle team also partnered with local business to fund a bicycle rodeo. Free bicycle helmets were distributed and equipment checks were performed at no cost. These efforts were reinforced by bicycle patrols on the Tri-community Greenway and other areas of town where youths and teens congregate on bikes.



The department’s Crisis Intervention Team is led by Sergeant Christopher Dalis. Under Sergeant Dalis, an additional 5 officers were CIT trained in 2023 and our department continued our pledge to the One Mind Campaign by sending 7 officers to Mental Health First Aid training. Other trainings attended by officers that were funded by the Department of Mental Health include Advanced De-escalation & Documentation and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training.

In January, the department’s CIT team added a permanent grant funded clinician whose services are shared between Stoneham and Melrose. Eliot Clinician Danielle Visone joined Recovery Coach Tracy Ascolillo to provide behavioral health services to our residents. The department had over 400 calls for service in 2023 where mental health or substance abuse were identified as an underlying issue.

Sergeant Dalis, Danielle Visone and Tracy Ascolillo facilitate the Stoneham High Risk CIT meeting, which is a monthly collaboration of stakeholders and shareholders who meet with CIT members to provide services to high risk residents.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
Detective Lieutenant Tony Kranefuss, Division Commander

The Criminal Investigations Division of the Stoneham Police Department is responsible for investigating criminal offenses to include crime scene processing, evidence collection, storage and security. We also assist the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office with the criminal prosecutions of these offenses. In addition to investigating crimes, we also provide many services to the community.

The Bureau is responsible for maintaining the Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) on individuals that live, work or attend school in Stoneham. We are also responsible for fingerprinting door to door solicitors, ice cream truck vendors and dealer applicants in second hand merchandise. Fingerprinting services are also provided to town residents for

employment and adoption purposes. We provide the background investigations for prospective police officers and other employees deemed by the Chief of Police, process all new and renewal applications for gun permits as well as provide town inspections of various business establishments.

The Bureau is currently comprised of 6 full time detectives. Det. Lt. Tony Kranefuss is the Commander of the Bureau. Det. Stephen Carroll is assigned to days and also maintains SORI. Det. Patrick Carroll is the Juvenile Detective also assigned to days. Det. Christopher Copan is the Court Prosecutor and Evidence Officer in addition to processing gun licenses.

On October 16, 2023, Detective-IT Specialist David Ryan became the Department's detective assigned to nights.

On November 20, 2023, School Resource Officer Michael Colotti was promoted to the position of Detective – IT Specialist assigned to days.

On January 20, 2024, Officer Emily Dello Russo was promoted to the department's School Resource Officer position.

Each year, detectives in the Bureau attend numerous meetings, seminars and trainings. Each detective attended 32 hours of annual in-service training, 16 hours of 9-1-1 training, annual firearms and electronic control weapon training.

Detective Ryan continued to work on many Identity Fraud and Financial Crimes in 2023 and wrote and executed 10 search warrants and 16 Administrative Subpoenas related to these crimes which lead to 2 arrest and 2 summonses in 2023. Detective Ryan was the lead investigator in an Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) case which consisted of an investigation into the possession and dissemination of child pornography. Detective Ryan wrote a 31 page search warrant for this case and worked with the Massachusetts State Police Cyber Crime Unit (CCU) in executing this search warrant. In this case the Stoneham Police along with the State Police examined numerous electronic devices, as a result of this search warrant, and it was determined that none of these devices contained any files of child sexual abuse material (CSAM).

Detective Ryan continues to be an active member of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI) and in 2023 he became a Certified Cyber Crimes Investigator (CCCI) through the IAFCI.

Detective Ryan also went to the Stoneham Senior Center and educated seniors about current scams affecting the Stoneham Community and teaching them what they can do to prevent being a victim of these scams. He also writes a segment each month in the Stoneham Senior Center's monthly newsletter, the Stoneham Sentinel, educating seniors on the scams that are occurring in Stoneham each month.

In 2023, Detective Patrick Carroll moved from the Night Detective position, where he worked for approximately seven years. He is now assigned as the Juvenile Detective. This position is responsible for further investigation of cases and incidents involving juveniles that require extended consideration. He attended the Juvenile Law Conference hosted by

the Municipal Police Institute. Throughout 2023, Detective Carroll was assigned to (93) ninety-three cases. His investigations resulted in fourteen criminal complaints. He had also wrote nine search warrants last year in support of his cases. In 2023, Detective Carroll was involved in numerous background investigations for police officer candidates for the Stoneham Police Department. These background investigations include but are not limited to reference interviews, employer interviews, neighborhood canvas and information corroboration.

Detective Stephen Carroll has investigated more than a dozen sexually explicit criminal offenses in addition to other investigations including kidnapping, felony assaults and property crimes. His investigations consisted of 53 assigned cases with 8 criminal complaints filed and 6 search warrants obtained and executed.

Juvenile Detective Paul Norton retired on May 29, 2023 after nearly 29 years of service with the Stoneham Police Department. He investigated numerous criminal cases in addition to handling delinquent child and youthful offender cases. He often worked with community and government agencies to guide juveniles to early intervention or diversion when deemed appropriate.

Detective Copan has worked tirelessly in handling his many time consuming duties and has been instrumental in working with the Commonwealth to conform to the new laws regarding sexual assault evidence and Track-Kit tracking system along with updating himself on the current gun laws by attending the Firearms Legal Update course. 172 Gun permits were issued or renewed in 2023.

The Bureau has an anonymous drug tip line which is (781-832-0156) and a general tip line (781-832-0292). Both lines have the capability of voice to text and also accept text.

The following is the number of registered sex offenders living or working in Stoneham as of December 31, 2023. Additional sex offender information is available online at www.mass.gov/sorb.

There are **25** people registered with the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board as living or working in Stoneham.

Level 1: 11 (total) 9 offenders live in town; 1 offender lists a secondary address in town; 2 offenders work in town

* One Level 1 offender both lives and works in town and is counted in both categories

Level 1 - RISK OF RECIDIVISM IS LOW, NO OFFENDER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.

Level 2: 11 (total) 7 offenders live in town; 4 offenders work in town

Level 2 - RISK OF RECIDIVISM IS MODERATE, OFFENDER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

Level 3: 2 (total) 2 offenders live in town; 1 offender works in town

* One Level 3 offender both lives and works in town and is counted in both categories

Level 3 - RISK OF RECIDIVISM IS HIGH, INFORMATION IS ACTIVELY DISSEMINATED TO THE PUBLIC.

Not Classified: 1 (total) 1 offender works in town

Not Classified – OFFENDER IS AWAITING FINAL CLASSIFICATION LEVEL FROM THE SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY BOARD.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION

Lieutenant David Thistle

The Stoneham Police Department responded to 112 domestic violence related calls in 2023. We also assisted residents with applying for an Emergency Restraining Order (ERO) 9 times. We responded to 20 reports of restraining order (209A) violations as well as serving a total of 133 restraining orders.

Officers of the Stoneham Police Department completed 2,568 hours of training from the Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC). These training hours included each officer's annual In-Service training, as well as specialized training in Crisis Intervention, Advanced De-Escalation, Stress Resiliency, Missing and Unidentified Persons, Electronic Control Weapon Instructor, Field Training Officer, Identifying and Responding to Human Trafficking, Mental Health First Aid, Public Information Officer, Restorative Justice, Basic Crash Investigation, Front Line Leadership, Ground Control Tactics and De-Escalation, Sexual Assault Investigator and many others. We also had four student officers graduate the police academy, each receiving 800 hours of instruction and training.

The department is also continuing to modify and create policies and procedures based upon requirements of police reform legislation and the Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (POSTC). We continue to work toward our goal of Accreditation by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission (MPAC). Accreditation is a self-initiated process by which police agencies voluntarily strive to meet and maintain standards that have been established for the law enforcement profession. These standards are considered to be best practices for police agencies to adopt.

Safety Officer

Officer Laura Engel

In my position as the town's Safety Officer I supervise 17 permanent traffic directors, 2 spare traffic directors and 3 part-time parking enforcement officers. The parking enforcement officer's work a combined 20 hours per week issuing parking violations for illegally parked motor vehicles as well as enforcing the town's parking placard program. I continue to work with the planning board and the building department in reviewing dozens of site plans and often meet with town department heads to coordinate their needs of the police department.

I am a member of the Traffic Advisory Commission that consists of the fire chief, police chief, town administrator, town clerk, town planner and DPW director. This commission

meets monthly to discuss matters of safety and to make recommendations to improve these safety issues throughout town.

I investigate complaints and suggestions regarding safety problems such as traffic safety and school safety to help improve the quality of life for the students and residents of Stoneham. I meet with residents in regards to safety concerns to try and find a resolution. I keep an open line of communications with the schools to ensure any traffic safety issues are addressed.

I have installed over 40 car seats for residents of Stoneham and surrounding communities. The police station also provides seats for those who cannot buy their own through the State's Car Seat Grant.

I have updated and fixed all of the mounted radar units around town to provide valuable data to show where the problems in town exist with speeding. I have also mounted discrete traffic control devices to detect if there is a problem in a certain area.

PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH

David Luciano, Head Dispatcher

The Public Safety Dispatch Department provides 24-hour civilian dispatching for the Police Department, Fire Department and contract ambulance. The department is comprised of seven full-time dispatchers who operate from a combined dispatch center located in the police station.

During the course of 2023 over 18,300 calls for service were processed through the dispatch center. The center received over 5,800 calls via the 9-1-1 system. Residents are highly encouraged to use 9-1-1 to report police, fire and medical emergencies. These calls for service do not include the numerous business or public information calls that are received by the center or walk-in reports to the Police Station that must also be processed by the dispatch staff.

Of the calls for service: 14,484 involved the Police Department, 5,062 involved the Fire Department and 3,156 involved an ambulance. Added together, these numbers total 22,702 incidents, as many calls for service involve a multi-agency response.

The day shift dispatched 7,600 calls for service, the evening shift dispatched 6,237 calls for service and the overnight shift dispatched 4,443 calls for service.

During the year, dispatch personnel attended training classes covering topics such as: Child Callers: Answering their Call, Vital Responsibilities of Dispatch during a Pursuit, Legal Issues for Massachusetts Call takers and Dispatchers, The Dispatcher and Behavioral Health Emergencies, Providing Customer Service and 911 Dispatch: The Why, how and How Long.

The following is a roster of the Public Safety Department's personnel as of December 31, 2023: David Luciano – Head Dispatcher, Brian Johnston, Nathaniel Powers, Michael Sweeney, Jeremy Cefalo, Kelly McNamara and Christine Cerrato.