

Police Department

To The Honorable Board of Selectmen and the Citizens of Stockbridge:

I hereby submit a report of the activities of the police department for the year 2007:

During 2007 Officer Adelheid (Heidi) Teutsch was hired as a full time officer, replacing officer William DeSantis, who was hired by the Lenox Police Department. Officer Teutsch attended the five month basic recruit class at the Western Mass Police Academy in Springfield. Officer Teutsch was elected Vice President of the class and even sang the National Anthem at graduation. In addition the academy director has asked that, after a couple of years of seasoning, she be allowed to return as a part time instructor.

Having Officer Teutsch at the academy created a personnel shortage for the four remaining officers on the evening and midnight shifts, all of whom did a great deal of juggling of their schedules as well as working overtime to cover for the open shifts. To cover the night shifts with a minimum of overtime we eliminated five out of seven day shifts. In addition to that we were unable to find a summer traffic officer for the business district for July and August. Although patrols, calls and administrative needs were generally met the Main Street traffic direction suffered from a lack of coverage during weekday high volume traffic hours in July and August.

The Jan Stackhouse case remains unsolved. The Stockbridge Police continues to work with the Massachusetts State Police Detective Unit attached to the Berkshire District Attorney's Office seeking additional leads while following up on both old and new evidence.

The Elm Street speed bumps have continued to work extremely well, reducing both speeding cars as well as greatly reducing the number of cars using the street for a shortcut. Within a week of the speed bumps being taken up this winter motor vehicle volume and speed had greatly increased. We are, however, in search of a somewhat more vehicle friendly speed bump.

The Ford 500 cruiser receives high marks for gas mileage, handling and durability. Unfortunately the manufacturers of police equipment have not kept pace with the newer, smaller cars. Equipment that is required for officer safety is still not available. We will continue to search for a socially responsible vehicle that conforms to available equipment.

We applied for and received a number of grants in 2007, to include \$11,299.00 for Community Policing for weekend traffic in the business block; bike patrol in the cottage community around Lake Mahkeenac; and the traffic and safety impact of Tanglewood concerts on its neighbors. The Governor's Highway Safety Division awarded the police department \$7,500.00 for both enforcement and equipment.

In 2007 the Berkshire Law Enforcement Council was the recipient of over \$500,000.00 to be used for interoperability issues in Berkshire County and the continued revamping of the communications infrastructure county wide. Part of that will be the transition from VHF to UHF, as we currently are the last county in the state to be accomplishing that change. \$246,000.00 was awarded to BLEC to establish a county wide Cross Agency Switch that would allow information sharing between all departments. In addition it provides funding for Mobile Data Terminals (MDTs) in each

Respectfully submitted,

Richard B. Wilcox,
Chief of Police