

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 2008:

We are extremely grateful to those residents who made possible our move to the newly renovated town offices in the spring of 2008. The former police department in the Town Hall was renovated in 1960 to serve a two person police department. That portion of the Town Hall was built in 1824 and had become inadequate on almost all levels, creating building code issues and forcing us to drop out of the accreditation process.

After almost 20 years with the police department Officer Michael J. Stanton applied for, and was appointed, the Chief of Police for the Town of West Stockbridge. Among his many talents Officer Stanton provided the police department's annual CPR and first responder training. We already miss his sense of humor and quiet demeanor. Our loss is West Stockbridge's gain given our confidence in his professionalism and work ethic. We are extremely pleased to have been able to attract a Lee resident, Darrell G. Fennelly, a fully trained police officer with the Becket Police Department, who comes to us with eight years of police experience.

The Jan Stackhouse case continues to receive our on-going attention, and we are meeting regularly with the Mass State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Berkshire District Attorney's Office following new leads and reviewing the case.

We applied for and received two grants from the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security Office of Grants and Research. One a 2008-2009 Traffic Enforcement and Equipment grant for \$8,400 was awarded to address seatbelt use and drunk driving. The second is a 2008-2009 Community Policing Grant for \$8,609.84, representing a 23.9 percentage reduction over the 2007-2008 grant award. There is a strong likelihood that both grants will be the victim of state and federal budget cuts next year.

There were 30 motor vehicle smash and grabs during 2008, most of them occurring at the north end of town at the public boat ramp, Gould Meadows parking area and on the grounds of Kripalu. In addition several took place at the end of Park Street. We had, for the first time in a number of years, several houses broken into at year's end. Mass State Trooper, William Medina, who was assigned to the Governor's security detail, noticed suspicious activity while in route to the Governor's house in Richmond. That professionalism led to the arrest of 3 people, the recovery of many thousands of dollars in stolen goods and the solving of house and cars break-ins in Stockbridge, Lenox, West Stockbridge and Richmond. With that exception we would characterize 2008 as a relatively quiet year. The increase to 13,000 *Daily Log Entries* actually reflects more accountability for the proactive police work done by members of the department.

An investigation by Officer Adelheid Teutsch resulted in the harvesting of 64 pounds of marijuana in the Cherry Hill section of Stockbridge. In addition Officer

Teutsch made several arrests for possession of heroin in 2008. Heroin is so plentiful and cheap that it is now being sold in a much purer form allowing people to snort it. That makes it easier for those people with an aversion for needles, or those younger people who believe they will not become addicted, to try heroin. The results of ballot Question 2 in November changed the possession of less than one ounce of marijuana from a criminal to a civil disposition with a fine. There are so many problems with the language of Question 2 that left law enforcement with and the public with a large number of unintended consequences that the Attorney General and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security could not fix. The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police and other criminal justice groups will be submitting legislation to try and correct the language problems, but not the intent of Question 2. There is a general expectation that there will actually be a significant increase in the number of seizures of marijuana under the new law.

In May I was appointed by Governor Patrick to represent the police, fire, corrections and emergency medical services in the Commonwealth on the *Special Commission Relative To The Hidden Wounds Of War*. That Commission was established for the purposes of making an **investigation and study relative to the mental health effects of war on those citizens of the commonwealth returning from active duty and the establishment of a mandatory mental health treatment program for national guard members who engage in combat, a state military family leave policy for caregivers and a statewide education training program to assist law enforcement, corrections officers and other first responders in recognizing the early warning signs of post-traumatic stress disorder**. The Commission met four times, twice at the State House, and took testimony from a large number of individuals and organizations on how to improve treatment of veterans with PTSD. The final report came out in December offering a number of treatment suggestions.

During building renovations we advocated for a Community Room connected to the police department so that there would be a room available seven days a week, 24 hours a day for meetings and classes. With donations made to the Stockbridge Police Department we are now able to purchase a power point projector and related audio visual equipment for that room. Because we are frequently asked: Donations made to the Stockbridge Police Department go into a town account expended by the chief of police. Donations made to the Stockbridge Police Association go to the police union and are expended by the union membership.

For over two years we have been assisting the Great Barrington Police Department with directing traffic at the Monument Mountain Regional High School entrance on Route 7 in Great Barrington at the close of the school day. It remains a very dangerous intersection with numerous close calls. All too frequently an emergency comes up that prevents us from being there and with the expectation of that service we have created an even more dangerous situation. There does not appear to be the political will necessary to address a much needed change at that location.

As always recognizing employees is an acknowledgement that it is a team effort and we are fortunate to have dedicated and caring employees including: Officers Robert

F. Nielson III, Brian A. Shaw, Bruce J. Stringer, Adelheid A. Teutsch, Darrell G. Fennelly and Special Officers Elizabeth McCormack, Kimberly Shaw and Paul Petrescu.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Daily Blotter Entries	13,150	9,677	8,982	8,037	8,327	9,245	9,545	9,913	9023
Investigations	558	563	553	447	423	485	374	436	282
Motor Vehicle Crashes	91	111	102	108	136	149	151	142	117
Uniform Crime Report Offenses	155	119	100	104	95	124	112	115	105
Motor Vehicle Citations	762	770	693	753	583	491	280	322	255
Parking Tickets	59	58	45	46	45	74	36	79	65
Alarm calls	644	492	580	449	407	517	563	423	346
Business Doors & Windows Found Open	91	25	31	34	43	6	14	11	15

2008 National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Reported Crimes			
Rape	2	Trespass	11
Open & Gross Lewdness	2	Trespass with Motor Vehicle	3
Assault & Battery	9	Default Warrant	1
A&B on a Police Officer	1	Child Abuse Mandated Report	7
A&B with a Dangerous Weapon	1	Deer Tagging Violation	1
Resisting Arrest	1	Junk Car	5
Assault to Intimidate	1	Abuse Prevention Order Violation	1
Stalking	3	Water Pollution Violation	1
Annoying Telephone calls	11	Criminal Harassment	9
Obscene Telephone calls	1	Litter	3
Threat To Commit A Crime	9	Litter from Motor Vehicle	3
Theft From a Motor Vehicle	1	Cruelty to Animal	2
B&E Building Nighttime Felony	6	Attempt to Commit a Crime	8
B&E Vehicle Nighttime Felony	4	Sex Offender failed to Register	1
B&E Misdemeanor	8	State Highway Traffic Violation	1
B&E Building Daytime Felony	16	Marked Lanes Violation	21
B&E Vehicle Daytime Felony	20	Obstruct Emergency Vehicle	2
Larceny from a Building	6	Operating with Suspended License	12
Larceny Felony	41	Uninsured Motor Vehicle	8
Larceny Felony by Single Scheme	5	Open Alcohol Container in MV	2
Larceny Misdemeanor	24	No License In Possession	11
Larceny Felony	11	Failing to Stop For Stop Sign	64
Larceny From a Person	1	Operating Without a License	16
Larceny from a Person Over 65	3	Failing to Stop For School Bus	10
Shoplifting + \$100 by Concealment	1	Defective Equipment	12

Shoplifting by Concealment	1	No Inspection Sticker	119
Larceny of Drugs	1	Operating After Suspension	19
Larceny of Firearms	1	Operating to Endanger	15
Larceny Misdemeanor 60 & Disabled	1	Speeding	353
Larceny of a Motor Vehicle	1	Operating Under Influence 3 rd	2
Use Motor Vehicle w/o Authority	2	Operating Under Influence Alcohol	5
Utter a False Document	2	Possess W Intent to Distribute Heroin	1
Forgery of an RMV Document	1	Possess W intent to Distribute Cocaine	1
Defraud an Innkeeper Felony	1	Trafficking in Marijuana	1
Defraud an Innkeeper Misdemeanor	1	Possession of Heroin	3
Larceny by False Pretense Felony	1	Possession of Class C	2
Credit card Fraud Misdemeanor	1	Possession of Class D Marijuana	8
Larceny of a Credit Card	1	Possession of Class E	1
Credit Card Fraud Felony	1	Carrying a Dangerous Weapon	1
Identity Fraud	2	Larceny by Check Felony	4
Vandalize Property	1	Larceny by Check Misdemeanor	1
Tagging Property	2	Annoying Accosting Opposite Sex	2
Destruction of Property Felony	4	Disorderly Conduct	10
Destruction of Property Misdemeanor	15	Disturbing the Peace	30
Malicious Damage to Motor Vehicle	3	Lewd Wanton & Lascivious Conduct	1

Richard B. Wilcox
Chief of Police