



# STOCKBRIDGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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ROBERT M. EATON, JR.  
CHIEF OF POLICE

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

It is my pleasure to present to you the Stockbridge Police Department's 2014 Annual Report. In the first three months of my appointment as your Chief of Police, the Department evaluated and assessed the Police Department's operations, functions, management and leadership.

Over the last year, the Police Department has gone through many changes, which has had a positive effect on the morale and the safety of the Police Department's employees while increasing our commitment to Community Policing.

To continue to meet our commitment to the community and profession, we have adopted a Vision & Mission Statement, a set of Core Values, a Strategic Plan and a set of Annual & Multi-Annual Goals.

The vision of the Stockbridge Police Department is to be committed to serve our community in a professional manner, while striving to be a full service organization dedicated to working in partnership with the community to provide a safe and secure environment through quality law enforcement. Also, to be recognized as the most professional, well respected, highly trained, proactive, community-oriented, law enforcement agency in Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

The mission of the Stockbridge Police Department is to establish and maintain a proactive partnership with residents and business owners to work together in solving problems facing our community. In furthering this partnership, we pledge our dedication and diligence in protecting life, liberty and property; preserving the peace; and enforcing laws and ordinances. We are committed to improving all aspects of public safety, reducing the fear and incidence of crimes, extending and improving our community programs, and maintaining the highest degree of respect for individual rights and human dignity. We are committed to honoring the sacred public trust by ensuring that the Stockbridge Police Department adheres to the highest professional law enforcement standards. We shall continuously strive toward attaining excellence, removing barriers to communication, and providing our employees with effective leadership, supervision and training in a quality work environment.

The Stockbridge Police Department's Core Values are:

- **Leadership** - *The value of leadership within the agency is underscored by providing an organizational climate that encourages learning opportunities for our employees.*
- **Accountability** - *We are committed to the highest standard of honesty, ethics and taking responsibility for our actions.*
- **Customer Service** - *Effective customer service is reflected in the positive manner in which we address community needs. We focus on exemplary service, which enhances the quality of life for citizens and visitors.*
- **Employee Satisfaction** - *The emphasis on maintaining a quality work environment for our employees encourages the delivery of quality service to the citizens of Stockbridge.*
- **Efficiency** - *The utilization of technology, human resources, diverse groups, and individuals increases the efficiency of the Department to respond to the dynamic needs of the community.*
- **Community Partnerships** - *The Department encourages community partnerships via outreach. This creates positive relationships and opportunities to benefit the community.*

It continues to be the Department's priority to become accredited through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. Now that the self-assessment phase has been started, we have begun revising, updating and implementing necessary policies and procedures to conform to State and National policing standards.

With the use of the Community Room in the Town Offices, the Stockbridge Police Department is establishing itself as a regional host agency for State mandated in-service training. The Department has partnered with several different organizations to bring specialized training to Southern Berkshire and Western Massachusetts. This provides many training opportunities for officers to attend that might otherwise be too expensive or too far away.

To increase officer safety and to provide better police services to the community, there were several improvements made to the police department facility, cruisers, radio system and equipment. Scheduled inspections and the inventory of all Department owned property has been developed, along with adopting a formal maintenance log for each cruiser.

A thorough and objective audit of the Department's evidence/property room was conducted by, Pomeroy Resources. Based on the audit, an inventory of the evidence/property was conducted, numerous improvements were made and necessary evidence preservation and collection equipment was purchased.

As a result of implementing a formal recruitment and selection process for all new hires in the Police Department, the Department hired Officer Kirk Nichols and Officer Tyler Bosworth to replace two full-time positions that were vacant. Reserve Officer Bruce “Jacob” Stringer was appointed after the resignation of a reserve officer. Kim Shaw was appointed as the Department’s Executive Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police.

Complaints of speeding motorists continue to be one of the most consistent complaint from residents and business owners. We are listening and responding to your complaints. Traffic enforcement citations have increased by forty-four (44%) percent from the previous year.

Through our officer’s proactive approach, thorough investigations and increased traffic enforcement, the Department’s Criminal Complaints have increased by twenty-two (22%) percent from the previous year.

Our commitment to community involvement has included hosting a number of special programs and involvement with different segments of our community. Some of the programs we have hosted include a Female Firearms Safety course, Female Self-Defense “RAD” class, and Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) classes at the elementary and middle school. We hosted two (2) National Drug Take Backs and installed a drop box in the lobby for unwanted prescription drugs. We are actively involved with the Community Health Advisory Committee, Railroad Street Youth Project, Jimmy Fund, the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, and National Child Abuse awareness.

The Department employees and I appreciate and feel fortunate to have the continued support of the community, Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. However, what continues to be a concern is the Stockbridge police officer’s safety and ability to provide the best police service possible. Currently there is only one police officer assigned to each shift. With officers working alone they have no backup and are forced to rely on mutual aid, which could be miles away causing a potentially dangerous delayed response. Due to the size and demographics of the Town, officer’s response time for calls for service is slower than the response time standard. State mandates on how some prisoners, such as domestic violence offenders, juvenile offenders, and opposite gender offenders are handled results in the one duty officer being taken “out of service” leaving no police officer on patrol, responding to calls for service or protecting the community. The Department’s goal is to supplement patrol shifts with additional officers, which will increase officer safety, response time and coverage throughout the Town.

The Members of the Stockbridge Police Department look forward to future opportunities to meet and exceed our goals and visions for continued excellence in serving our community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert M. Eaton, Jr.  
Chief of Police