

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE




October, 2024

Officer Raul Nieto Recipient of Enrique Camarena Award

The Watertown Police Department nominated Officer Raul Nieto for the Elks Enrique Camarena Award in recognition of his exceptional commitment to building connections with the local Hispanic community since joining the department in August 2019. As a respected patrol officer and mentor, Officer Nieto actively engages with community members, fostering trust and communication.

He frequently participates in community events, working closely with local organizations, including a Hispanic soccer league, to ensure compliance with laws and address concerns. Officer Nieto dedicates significant time to liaising with community leaders, helping to navigate challenges and strengthen relationships. His proactive approach has led to open dialogues that allow residents to voice their needs and concerns, creating a safer environment for families. By actively involving himself in cultural events and outreach programs, he not only enhances community engagement but also helps dispel misconceptions about law enforcement. His efforts to connect with residents and build trust demonstrate his belief that effective policing is rooted in strong community ties, making Officer Nieto a deserving candidate for this award.

Officer Nieto has been selected to receive the award. Information for the event is listed below.



WATERTOWN ELKS LODGE #666
— presents —

A THANK YOU TO OUR HEROS

An awards Banquet Thanking our local Police,
Fire, EMS and First Responders for what they
do for our community everyday

★

THE ENRIQUE CAMARENA AWARD FOR
OUTSTANDING SERVICE IN THE FIELD OF
NARCOTICS WILL BE PRESENTED TO
A LOCAL OFFICER AND, WE WILL ALSO BE
AWARDING TO A FIREFIGHTER AND EMS

Free Spagetti Dinner And Presentation

50/50
DRAWINGS

DOOR
PRIZES

WATERTOWN ELKS LODGE
OCTOBER 28 TH
5-6 P.M., COCKTAILS
DINNER, THEN PROGRAM TO FOLLOW
FREE ADMISSION
CALL: 920-261-5473 TO RESERVE A SEAT



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MONTHLY UPDATE

October, 2024

Investigations Update

Training Initiatives:

Detective Jake Reitz attended the Death Investigation School from September 9th to 20th, receiving valuable training from the Wisconsin Department of Criminal Investigation at the Green Lake Conference Center. This training will enhance our department's investigative capabilities in death-related cases.

Ongoing Investigations:

Detective Reitz and Detective Jessie Peters are diligently working on the armed robbery case at the Speedway Gas Station, which occurred on September 24th. Their efforts include canvassing neighborhoods for video evidence and conducting follow-up interviews.

Detective Peters is handling a complex sexual assault case involving a young minor, resulting in the arrest of a stepparent. The case necessitated the collection and analysis of several electronic devices.

Training and Community Engagement:

Detective Reitz is scheduled to attend a "Train the Trainer" update for the Lethality Assessment Program for Domestic Abuse cases on October 9th and 10th. This training will further our department's capabilities in addressing domestic violence.

Sgt. Bohlman is coordinating a brat fry fundraiser for the Jefferson County Shop with a Cop program, set to take place on Saturday, October 12th, at Pick N Save in Fort Atkinson from 10 AM to 3 PM. This event will foster community engagement and support for our youth.

Collective Efforts:

The Investigations Unit has been particularly busy, addressing numerous cases including fraud, sexual assaults, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), physical abuse of a child, and child neglect. In just one week, the unit received five new Child Protective Service reports requiring immediate follow-up.

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MONTHLY UPDATE

October, 2024

School Resource Officer Update

This month, the Watertown Police Department's School Resource Officers (SROs) have been actively engaged in ensuring the safety and well-being of students within our schools, while also addressing various incidents and concerns.

Officer Evan Bresser - High School: Officer Bresser reports a significant number of investigations involving THC, leading to multiple citations and referrals to the county. He has conducted four welfare checks, resulting in two voluntary placements and one emergency detention to ensure the safety of the students involved. Additionally, Officer Bresser has performed a threat assessment for a student attending Discovery Academy at MATC. He is also investigating a couple of complaints concerning physical abuse of children occurring in students' homes. These investigations highlight the critical role SROs play in addressing serious issues affecting student safety and mental health.

Officer Chris Karnatz - Middle School: Officer Karnatz reports on September 27, Officers assisted Riverside Middle School in conducting an active shooter drill. This crucial training involved staff and students practicing lockdown procedures, followed by officers and staff clearing and evacuating the building. The drill was essential for preparing both students and staff to respond effectively in an emergency situation.



Officer Chris Karnatz



Officer Evan Bresser

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

October, 2024

In-Service Training: Defensive and Arrest Tactics

The Watertown Police Department prioritizes the safety and effectiveness of its officers through ongoing training, particularly in Defensive and Arrest Tactics (DAAT). This training, mandated every two years, equips officers with vital skills to manage various situations they may encounter while on duty. Training was held for all officers the week of October 7th.

DAAT is a statewide curriculum designed to provide officers with a comprehensive system of verbalization skills and physical alternatives. This ranges from establishing a commanding presence and engaging in verbal dialogue to employing necessary force when absolutely required. The preferred method of resolution is always to gain compliance through communication, ensuring that interactions are handled as peacefully as possible.

Our department is fortunate to have a dedicated de-escalation instructor, who has previously trained all sworn staff in these essential techniques. This emphasis on de-escalation is a critical component of our approach, allowing officers to defuse potentially volatile situations before they escalate further. Moreover, the use of force in our department is carefully documented and reviewed by a state-certified DAAT instructor, ensuring accountability and adherence to best practices.

With five certified DAAT instructors within the department, officers receive quality training tailored to the unique challenges they face in the field. The results speak for themselves: in 2022, the Watertown Police Department responded to over 17,000 calls for service, with force being necessary in only 46 incidents. This low level of force usage underscores the department's commitment to employing de-escalation techniques and gaining compliance without resorting to physical confrontation whenever possible.

The training not only prepares officers to manage resistive encounters swiftly but also aims to minimize injuries to suspects, officers, and the public. By equipping our officers with these skills, we enhance their ability to serve the community safely and effectively, maintaining public trust and promoting positive interactions.

In summary, the ongoing DAAT training at the Watertown Police Department reflects our dedication to professional development, safety, and community engagement. By prioritizing de-escalation and effective communication, we strive to uphold the highest standards of policing while ensuring the safety of everyone involved.

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

October, 2024

Drug Task Force Update: Recent Operations in Jefferson County

The Jefferson County Drug Task Force has made significant strides in combating drug-related activities in our region, particularly in Watertown. Recent operations have resulted in multiple arrests and substantial seizures of illegal substances and firearms.

Nuisance Residence Search Warrant

A search warrant was executed at a known nuisance residence in Watertown, leading to the discovery of distribution amounts of THC. This operation resulted in three arrests, highlighting the ongoing efforts to address drug-related issues in our community.

Targeting Drug Distribution Networks

Investigations revealed connections to a target operating out of Milwaukee, who was allegedly bringing and distributing ounce-level quantities of cocaine and fentanyl throughout Jefferson County, with specific ties to Watertown. This intelligence prompted further action, leading to the issuance of search warrants for three separate residences.

The coordinated operations yielded impressive results, including the seizure of over 12 firearms, 10 pounds of marijuana, 5 ounces of cocaine, methamphetamine, fentanyl, and more than \$10,000 in cash. These seizures underscore the serious nature of the drug trafficking operations affecting our community.

Additional Search in Helenville

A search conducted at a residence in Helenville uncovered 2 ounces of fentanyl and an ounce of methamphetamine. The individuals involved in these operations were found to be traveling throughout Jefferson County to sell drugs, including in Watertown. Two additional arrests were made during this operation.

The ongoing efforts of the Jefferson County Drug Task Force are crucial in addressing the challenges posed by drug distribution networks in our area. These operations not only remove dangerous substances from our streets but also help ensure the safety and well-being of our community.

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

October, 2024

Watertown Police Department Monthly Summary: September Highlights

In September, the Watertown Police Department demonstrated its commitment to community safety and effective law enforcement by handling a total of 1,985 calls for service. This significant volume of calls reflects the department's ongoing dedication to responding promptly and effectively to the needs of our community.

Traffic Enforcement Success

Of particular note, our officers conducted 387 traffic stops throughout the month. This increase in traffic enforcement is largely attributed to a grant that allows us to allocate officers specifically for traffic enforcement during peak driving hours. This initiative not only enhances road safety but also contributes to a reduction in traffic violations and accidents, ensuring a safer environment for all drivers and pedestrians.

Sex Offender Registration Checks

The department also completed 98 sex offender registration checks in September. These checks are conducted annually to ensure that registered sex offenders comply with state statutes, including verification of their address, place of employment, and physical descriptors. This proactive approach is crucial in maintaining community awareness and safety.

Alcohol Compliance Checks

On September 27th and 28th, officers, along with volunteers, conducted alcohol compliance checks at 38 licensed establishments throughout the city. The purpose of this operation was to ensure that alcohol is not being sold to individuals under the age of 21. Unfortunately, there were 10 failures in compliance. Follow-up assessments will be conducted to address these issues, and a bartender awareness course will be held later this year. This course is open to all, and those establishments that received points during the checks can regain points through participation. It is important to note that if a licensed establishment accumulates a certain number of points within a rolling 12-month period, they risk having their license suspended.

The Jefferson County Drug Free Coalition joined us during these compliance checks and expressed eagerness to assist in future efforts. They plan to participate in the bartender awareness courses, provide resources, and have even offered to cover costs for officer time through a grant. We are grateful for their partnership and support in promoting responsible alcohol sales in our community.