



WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

David Brower, Chief of Police

Watertown Police and Fire Commission Monthly Newsletter – July 2025

Police and Fire Commission – Monthly DTF Update

Watertown Police Department Monthly Update to the Police and Fire Commission Department Activity: May 1 – June 30, 2025

Between May and June of 2025, the Watertown Police Department responded to a combined total of **2,569 calls for service**—1,299 calls in May and 1,270 in June. These numbers reflect a consistently high call volume for a department of our size and speak to the continued demands on staff across a broad spectrum of public safety and service categories.

Traffic enforcement remained the most frequent call type. Officers conducted **260 traffic stops in May** and **282 in June**, maintaining a strong focus on roadway safety and visibility. In addition to stops, radar assignments were conducted regularly—9 in May and 10 in June—targeting high-complaint areas or known traffic issues. Parking complaints also saw an increase in June, rising from 32 to 39, as warmer weather tends to bring more foot and vehicle traffic into residential and downtown areas.

Calls for disorderly conduct were elevated both months, with **99 incidents in May** and **87 in June**. These calls ranged from public disturbances and verbal altercations to ongoing nuisance complaints in neighborhoods or commercial areas. Similarly, **check welfare calls** rose from **67 in May** to **81 in June**, often involving concerned citizens requesting that officers check on individuals who appeared in distress or had not been heard from in some time. These types of calls continue to reflect community trust and willingness to involve law enforcement when something appears wrong.

Animal-related complaints remained prevalent. The department responded to over **60 animal complaints in May** and over **70 in June**, including reports of animals at large, barking dogs, animal bites, and other miscellaneous animal-related issues.

Domestic disturbance reports dropped slightly in June, with **12 incidents in May** compared to **9 in June**. **Drug activity reports** increased noticeably—from **8 in May** to **15 in June**—indicating either more community reporting or increased enforcement and visibility in areas known for drug complaints.

Seasonal trends were also evident in several categories. **Fireworks complaints** rose as expected with summer approaching—**13 reports in June** compared to only 4 in May. **Bicycle thefts** increased from 1 to 5, consistent with warmer weather and more outdoor activity. Officers also observed more **foot patrol and public engagement** opportunities, conducting **44 foot patrols in May** and **47 in June**. Door checks held steady at **69 each month**, underscoring a continued commitment to high-visibility patrol.

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Assisting outside agencies continued to be a major part of operations. Officers conducted numerous interagency assists—**63 total in May** and **71 in June**—including aid to the fire department, human services, probation and parole, and mutual aid requests from surrounding jurisdictions.

Juvenile-related calls saw a drop-off in June, likely due to the end of the school year. **School enforcement contacts** dropped from 15 to 2, and **truancy calls** dropped from 19 to 2. Calls involving missing juveniles remained relatively steady, with 11 in May and 8 in June. The department also responded to several child custody disputes and juvenile alcohol incidents over both months.

Other notable activity includes consistent calls for **suspicious activity** (46 in May and 32 in June), **retail thefts**, and **found/lost property**, all of which require documentation and investigation. The department also handled multiple reports of **false alarms** (7 in May, 13 in June), **noise complaints**, **damage to property**, and several incidents involving **ICAC investigations**, identity theft, and probation violations.

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Citation Report Summary

Reporting Period: May 1 – June 30, 2025

Prepared for the Police and Fire Commission

During the two-month period of May and June 2025, the Watertown Police Department issued a **total of 636 citations and written warnings**, encompassing traffic violations, ordinance infractions, parking violations, and municipal code enforcement. These efforts reflect the department's proactive approach to public safety, traffic enforcement, and maintaining quality-of-life standards in the community.

Traffic and Vehicle-Related Violations

Traffic enforcement remained the most active category, with numerous citations issued for dangerous or unlawful driving behavior:

- **Speeding (346.57)** – At least **60 citations** were issued for speeding, including both standard city highway violations and exceeding posted zones.
- **Operating While Suspended or Revoked (343.44 & 343.05)** – **21 individuals** were cited for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended or revoked license.
- **Operating While Under the Influence (346.63)** – **12 separate OWI citations** were issued, many with accompanying offenses such as:
 - **PAC (Prohibited Alcohol Concentration)** – 9 citations
 - **Unsafe Lane Deviation, Operating Left of Center, and Failure to Stop** – frequently noted alongside OWI stops.

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- **Operating Without Insurance (344.62)** – **15 citations** were issued for lack of proof of insurance.
- **Unregistered/Improperly Registered Vehicles (341.03 & 341.04)** – At least **18 vehicles** were cited for registration violations.

Additional traffic offenses included inattentive driving, failure to yield or stop, vehicle equipment violations (e.g., mufflers, lights), and improper backing.

Municipal Ordinance and Juvenile-Related Citations

The department responded to multiple community complaints and juvenile offenses with enforcement under city ordinance:

- **Truancy and Parental Responsibility (410-37B & 410-38B)** – A total of **24 citations** were issued for habitual truancy, with **an additional 12 citations** issued to adults for contributing to truancy.
- **Curfew Violations (410-34A)** – **10 minors** were cited for being out past curfew, with some cases tied to group incidents.
- **Disorderly Conduct (410-7)** – **5 citations and warnings** were issued for disorderly conduct in public and school settings.
- **Loitering and Trespassing (410-23 & 410-33)** – Officers issued **8 citations** for loitering or prowling and **5 for trespassing** on private or restricted property.

Drug-Related Violations

- **Possession of Marijuana (410-54A)** – **6 citations** were issued for marijuana possession.
- **Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (410-55E)** – **2 individuals** were cited for having instruments used for consuming illegal substances.

Theft and Property Crimes

- **Retail Theft and Ordinary Theft (410-24)** – **4 citations** were issued for theft-related activity, mostly involving small value retail incidents.
- **Graffiti/Vandalism (410-22B)** – At least **7 citations** were issued for graffiti-related damage to public and private property.
- **Criminal Damage to Property and Trespassing** – Additional citations were issued under these sections as part of group or repeat incidents.

Animal-Related Ordinances

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Animal control enforcement included:

- **Dog at Large (410-45) – 3 citations and 2 warnings** issued.
- **Failure to License or Vaccinate Dog (228-1 & 228-5) – 5 citations** and multiple warnings issued for animals lacking current licensing or rabies vaccinations.
- **Dog Bite/Attempt to Bite (410-45C) – 1 citation** for a dog bite incident was recorded.

Parking Enforcement

The department issued **over 80 parking citations** during this reporting period. These included:

- **Parking over 12” from curb or wrong direction – 30+**
- **Exceeding posted time limits (e.g., 2-hour) – 15+**
- **Fire lane or posted no-parking violations – 10+**
- **Parking in lots without permits or during restricted times – common** among citations near downtown and apartment complexes.