

WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY UPDATE

January, 2025

Detectives - Significant Investigations

November 2024

- **11/06/2024:** A 36-year-old male was arrested for multiple charges, including 2nd degree reckless endangerment, endangering safety, false imprisonment, felony intimidation, negligent handling of a weapon, and possession of controlled substances. The suspect held a victim captive in a vehicle for several hours, driving at speeds exceeding 100mph. The victim's life was threatened multiple times, and the suspect held a knife to the victim's neck. The victim was unable to escape until the suspect stopped at a remote location and exited the vehicle. The victim then seized the opportunity to drive away. Detectives worked extensively to corroborate the victim's statements and gather critical evidence.
- **11/16/2024:** A 34-year-old male was arrested following a stabbing incident. Officers responded to multiple 911 calls about a male lying in the street with life-threatening injuries from multiple slashes. Detectives assisted in the investigation, executing a search warrant that led to the recovery of the weapon. After interviewing the victim and witnesses, as well as gathering digital evidence, the suspect was identified, arrested, and confessed to the crime.

December 2024

- **12/13/2024 & 12/14/2024:** Detectives arrested two individuals—an 18-year-old male and a 47-year-old male—in connection with armed robberies that took place at a Speedway station in September 2024 and at a BP Gas Station on Summit Ave. in December. The investigation required extensive hours of interviews, digital evidence analysis, and the execution of search warrants.
- **12/19/2024:** Detectives investigated a concerning case involving a one-year-old child who overdosed on THC or cannabinoids. Interviews were conducted with the daycare facility, the child's mother, and the hospital. A search warrant was executed at the home as part of the ongoing investigation.
- **12/30/2024:** Detective Reitz arrested a 26-year-old male for injuring a 5-year-old child after the child had consumed too much of a milkshake. The investigation followed up on a report of the child's injuries and involved interviewing the child's family.

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Detectives - Significant Investigations (continued)

January 2025

- 01/03/2025: Detective Riedl arrested a 28-year-old mother for injuring her 6-year-old child by using a hairbrush. The child sustained significant bruising to the buttocks and abdomen, prompting the investigation.
- 01/06/2025: Detective Riedl arrested a 38-year-old male for the sexual assault of his 8-year-old stepchild. The arrest followed a thorough investigation and interviews.
- 01/07/2025: Detectives arrested an 18-year-old male for the sexual assault of a 17-year-old female. The arrest came after a detailed investigation, including victim interviews and evidence collection.
- December 2024 (Ongoing): In addition to the above cases, Detectives were assigned four new Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) cases through the Cyber Tip Line. These cases are under active investigation.

This report highlights significant efforts by our detectives in managing complex and high-profile investigations.



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Captain Jeff Meloy Retires After 29 Years of Service

CAPTAIN JEFF MELOY IS RETIRING AFTER 29 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE WITH THE WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT. THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, HE WAS KNOWN FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT WORK, LEADERSHIP, AND MENTORSHIP, EARNING WIDESPREAD RESPECT FROM COLLEAGUES, CITIZENS, AND THE COMMUNITY. CAPTAIN MELOY SPECIALIZED IN TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT, PARTICULARLY IN IMPAIRED DRIVING, AND BECAME A RECOGNIZED DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT (DRE). HE RECEIVED A LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR HIS 26 YEARS AS A DRE AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN TRAINING NEW RECRUITS ON IMPAIRED DRIVING ENFORCEMENT.

CAPTAIN MELOY ALSO HELD VARIOUS ROLES DURING HIS CAREER, INCLUDING PATROL OFFICER, FIELD TRAINING OFFICER, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER, AND SERGEANT. HIS LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION TO HIS TEAM EARNED HIM THE ROLE OF CAPTAIN, WHERE HE OVERSAW THE PATROL DIVISION, SUPPORTING OFFICERS THROUGH OPEN COMMUNICATION AND MENTORSHIP.

HIS COMMITMENT TO MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS AND CRISIS INTERVENTION WAS NOTABLE, EARNING HIM THE CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD AND A LETTER OF COMMENDATION. CAPTAIN MELOY ALSO BECAME INVOLVED WITH NEXT 18, AN ORGANIZATION FOCUSED ON SUPPORTING THE MENTAL WELLNESS OF FIRST RESPONDERS AND VETERANS THROUGH GOLF EVENTS, AND WILL CONTINUE THIS WORK IN RETIREMENT.

CAPTAIN MELOY'S PERSONNEL FILE IS FILLED WITH COMMENDATIONS, AND HIS LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SAFETY WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY. WE CONGRATULATE CAPTAIN MELOY ON HIS RETIREMENT AND THANK HIM FOR HIS YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE.



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Officer Mike Beisbier Retires After 28 Years of Service

Officer Mike Beisbier is retiring after 28 years of service with the Watertown Police Department. Over the years, Mike made significant contributions in both patrol and investigative roles.

Mike began his career as a patrol officer, where he quickly demonstrated his commitment to public safety. His skills and work ethic led to his promotion to detective, a role he held for a significant portion of his career. As a detective, Mike played a pivotal role in many complex and high-profile investigations. His ability to build rapport with suspects was a standout trait, and he was especially known for his skill in obtaining confessions during investigations. His talent in navigating difficult cases earned him the trust of his peers and supervisors alike.

In addition to his investigative work, Mike was a state-certified law enforcement instructor, contributing greatly to the training and development of his fellow officers. He primarily focused on teaching at monthly range sessions, where he instructed officers on handgun and rifle techniques, ensuring that they were well-prepared for any situation they might face in the field.

Mike was also an active member of the department's crowd control and entry team, where he was involved in high-risk operations requiring specialized training and coordination. His dedication to the safety and security of the community extended beyond routine patrol duties, and he was an essential part of the team during critical incidents.

Mike's career with the Watertown Police Department was marked by his professionalism, dedication to duty, and passion for law enforcement. His contributions in both investigations and training will leave a lasting impact on the department. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Officer Mike Beisbier on his retirement and thank him for his years of outstanding service.



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School Resource Officer Report - Chris Karnatz, Riverside Middle School

December was a busy yet challenging month for School Resource Officer (SRO) Chris Karnatz at Riverside Middle School, with multiple incidents that required his attention. Despite the short month due to the holiday season, the cases he handled underscored the importance of the SRO role in maintaining safety and supporting students.

Threat Assessments

SRO Karnatz conducted two threat assessments during the month. These assessments are crucial in evaluating potential risks to student and staff safety, ensuring that any threat is properly addressed before it escalates. While the details of these assessments remain confidential, the quick and thorough response is a testament to the proactive work that the SRO provides to safeguard the school environment.

Cell Phone Misuse and Inappropriate Behavior

Another concerning trend this month was several complaints about students using their cell phones to try and solicit inappropriate images from their peers. Instances of students attempting to obtain nudes from others and recording videos in locker rooms have raised alarms. SRO Karnatz is working with school staff to address these issues, ensuring that students are educated on the risks and consequences of such behavior. Efforts are being made to bolster school policies around cell phone use and ensure that students understand the boundaries of appropriate conduct, both online and in-person.

Identity Theft and Bullying Incident

A particularly troubling case involved a student who engaged in identity theft by creating an online account in another student's name. The motive behind the incident was to stir up conflict by causing the targeted student to become a subject of bullying. The perpetrator's goal was to provoke a fight between the targeted student and others, creating unnecessary tension and conflict. SRO Karnatz was able to intervene quickly, working alongside school counselors and administrators to de-escalate the situation and prevent further harm. This case highlights the growing importance of digital literacy and the risks students face when engaging with online platforms, particularly in an environment where peer interactions can quickly escalate.

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Monthly Activity - December

December 2024 saw a total of 1,294 calls for service, reflecting the department's continued efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. The month was marked by a range of incidents and proactive policing, with officers responding to a variety of calls, ranging from traffic-related matters to more serious criminal offenses.

Traffic-Related Incidents

Traffic enforcement remained a significant focus in December, with officers conducting 261 traffic stops. These stops included a variety of offenses, including speeding, driving under the influence, and other moving violations. In addition, officers responded to 31 crash-related calls. There were also 25 complaints related to bad driving, which typically involve erratic driving behavior, speeding, or reckless driving.

Community Welfare and Disorderly Conduct

The department received 74 check welfare complaints during December, demonstrating the community's reliance on law enforcement to assist those in need. Officers also handled 71 disorderly conduct complaints.

Domestic and Drug Activity Calls

Domestic issues remain a critical area of focus, with 12 domestic-related complaints reported in December. These situations require a delicate and sensitive response to ensure the safety of all involved parties. Additionally, the department responded to 13 complaints related to drug activity, highlighting the ongoing concerns around substance abuse and the importance of drug enforcement.

Fraud, Theft, and Trespassing Incidents

Officers handled 19 fraud complaints in December, many of which involved identity theft, online scams, or fraudulent transactions. There were also 15 theft-related complaints, including burglary, shoplifting, and theft from vehicles. Additionally, 10 trespassing complaints were reported.

Enforcement Actions

In terms of enforcement, the department issued 69 warnings for traffic and non-traffic related violations, aiming to educate and correct behavior before resorting to citations. However, 144 citations were issued for various infractions, ranging from traffic offenses to other non-traffic related complaints.

Regarding arrests, 138 arrest charges were sought in December, underscoring the department's commitment to addressing criminal activity.