



# WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

*David Brower, Chief of Police*

## **Watertown Police and Fire Commission Monthly Newsletter – May 2025**

---

### **Police and Fire Commission – Monthly DTF Update**

#### **Current DTF Activity:**

- Continued controlled narcotics purchases are ongoing in Fort Atkinson and Jefferson, with a focus on cocaine distribution.
- Controlled buys targeting methamphetamine distribution are underway in Watertown.
- Investigators are in the final stages of a Len Bias overdose case originating from the Helenville area. We anticipate concluding this investigation with an arrest in the coming month.

#### **Previous DTF Activity (from last month, verified for sharing):**

- A significant fentanyl pill distribution case in Jefferson County was concluded. The investigation culminated in a traffic stop resulting in the seizure of:
  - Over 430 fentanyl pills
  - Approximately \$4,000 in cash
  - ½ pound of marijuana
  - 14 grams of cocaine
  - Small amount of methamphetamine
  - 10 grams of psilocybin mushrooms
  - 75 grams of MDMA
  - A large quantity of LSD

#### **School Resource Officer Update (Chris Karnatz – Middle School):**

- Truancy continues to be a concern at both the middle school and elementary levels. Several elementary families who had previously engaged with school efforts have ceased cooperation, resulting in citation referrals.
- Ongoing issues with student vaping (both nicotine and THC) at the middle school.
- Vandalism incident over Easter weekend involving juveniles from outside the local area.
- Follow-up on several juvenile-related matters initially handled by patrol at the middle school.
- One completed threat assessment.
- Officer Karnatz also attended Latin America gang training during the month.
- Numerous court appearances related to juvenile and school-based matters.

# WATERTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

In the month of April, the Watertown Police Department handled a total of 1,268 calls for service, which included both citizen-reported incidents and officer-initiated activity. Notable activity highlights for the month included 304 traffic stops, 86 disorderly conduct complaints, 69 welfare checks, 57 reports of suspicious activity, and 40 bad driving complaints. Officers also responded to 33 traffic crashes, 20 truancy complaints, 19 domestic incidents, 18 trespassing calls, 15 thefts, 13 noise complaints, 12 reports of fraud, and 11 retail thefts.

In April, the Watertown Police Department sought a total of 168 charges stemming from various incidents. Among the highlights were 22 charges for disorderly conduct, 12 for operating while intoxicated (OWI), and 17 for contributing to truancy, along with 6 truancy and 7 habitual truancy charges. Officers also pursued 11 probation violations, 7 bail jumping charges, 4 arrests on warrants, and 4 for resisting or obstructing an officer. Drug-related charges included 6 for possession of THC, 2 for possession of drug paraphernalia, 1 for possession of methamphetamine, 1 for possession of a narcotic drug, and 5 for possession of instruments used to ingest controlled substances. Additional charges included 3 for battery, 3 for criminal damage to property, 2 for stalking, 2 for child abuse (recklessly causing harm), 2 emergency detentions, and 1 charge for trespass to a dwelling.

In addition to enforcement activity, the department issued a combined total of 351 citations, parking citations, and written warnings. The Watertown Police Department remains committed to proactive policing and community safety through consistent enforcement, responsive service, and ongoing collaboration with the public.

In April, Watertown Police officers continued proactive efforts to maintain public safety through increased foot patrols and business checks. Officers conducted 51 door checks at local businesses, primarily during nighttime hours, to ensure they were secure after closing. Additionally, officers performed 50 foot patrols throughout various areas of the city. These efforts enhance community engagement by allowing officers to interact directly with residents and business owners, build trust, and remain visible and approachable. Foot patrols also improve situational awareness, giving officers a better ability to see, hear, and detect suspicious activity that may go unnoticed from a squad car.