

Manchester by-the Sea Police Department Annual Report 2021



Police Department

On behalf of the members of the Manchester-by-the-Sea Police Department, I am pleased to present our 2021 Annual Report. My intention, as always, is to take a moment to share with you some highlights from 2021.

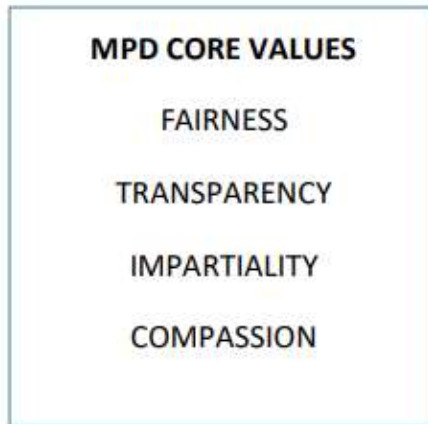
MISSION, VISION, & CORE VALUES

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Police Department, in partnership with the Manchester community, is committed to maintaining tranquility, to respecting the sanctity of human life and to reducing risk for all. We seek to accomplish this mission through accountability, transparency, strategic partnerships, community engagement and the selection and professional development of high-quality personnel. Above all, the Manchester by-the-Sea Police Department seeks to provide services with compassion, dignity, and the highest level of customer service.

The members of the Manchester Police Department value:

- the right of all individuals in our community to be treated with understanding, compassion, dignity and respect;
- the rule of law and its application;
- a work environment that and promotes respect, communication,



fair, impartial and sensitive

recognizes all employees understanding, accessibility, cooperation, and trust;



Lt. MCoy, Ofc. Mullins & Chief Fitzgerald at a Coffee With A Cop event.

2021:

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the men & women of the department who work tirelessly every day to serve and to protect our community. Your continued commitment and dedication to the citizens of Manchester by-the-Sea while still working on the front lines of this pandemic almost 2 years later will not be forgotten.

Fire Capt. John “Doc Herrick & FF Thomas C. Andrews:

I would be remiss if I did not start by mentioning the passing of Manchester Fire Capt. John “Doc” Herrick and FF Thomas C. Andrews. During 2021 the town lost two icons and retired members of the Manchester Fire Department Capt John “Doc” Herrick and FF Thomas C. Andrews. Each dedicated their lives to the town and worked as firefighters/EMT’s for the town

for well over 30+ years. Thirty years ago, as a young Police Officer and EMT, I truly respected their wisdom and guidance when I was able to work with them. Both, Ret. Capt Herrick and FF Andrews will be deeply missed by their families and the members of the Manchester-by-the-Sea Police Department and will never be forgotten.

Community Policing:

The concept of community policing has been around for a long time and in the US, it can be traced as far back as the 19th century. The primary purpose for its inception was to have police engaging with communities to build strong relationships between its members and law enforcement. One of the earliest and major tactics of community policing involved officers going on foot patrols through the neighborhoods they serve. In today's modern era, this has evolved to departments incorporating social media and/or community engagement systems to share relevant local information with residents. It has been a vital strategy for cities and towns.

In 2021 the Manchester-by-the Sea Police Department continued with our commitment to our community policing efforts as we believe our success is dependent on the partnerships we form with our community members and its stakeholders. Above all, the Police Department continues to provide its services with compassion, dignity, and the highest level of customer service.



During 2021 our patrols logged a combination of park and walk and directed patrols totaling 1084 different events. Park and walk & directed patrols are self-initiated events where an Officer(s) is engaging with the public at a given time.

Lastly, in today's modern era community policing had evolved to departments incorporating social media to share relevant local information with their residents and visitors. It has also been an essential strategy for us over the course of the year. The three main sources of social media continue to be Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



Police Reform:

As most are aware On Dec. 31, 2020, Governor Baker signed “An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth.” This reform established a mandatory certification process for police officers and seeks to improve accountability and transparency in the field of law enforcement. The law also aims to support law enforcement agencies in hiring and promoting only qualified applicants.

One of the most concerning mandates of the reform is it requires all officers to be trained at the same level whether they are full-time officers or part-time reserve officers. As of July 1, 2021, when the mandate took effect, all law enforcement officers who have completed a Reserve Training Program on or before July 1, 2021, will now be required to attend a “Bridge Academy” that consists of 200 hours of additional training.

Although this will certainly be a costly undertaking for smaller communities like MBTS, and just only one small piece of this Reform Bill, we will not have to absorb the total cost all at once because the “Bridge training” will be staggered over three years depending upon where an officer's last name falls in the alphabet.

As of July 1, 2021, police departments are only allowed to hire full-time academy trained personnel as all part-time reserve academies have been disbanded and no longer exist as of February 1, 2021. We have been fortunate to recruit some full-time academy trained Officers to augment our reserve police staff before the mandate took place, as 4 out of our 12 reserve officers have attended a full-time police academy. Unfortunately, they are either retired State Police Troopers or work for other agencies which limits their availability to work shifts for us. Currently each of those members who are full-time academy trained average only about 2 shifts a month. The other part-time staff who have not attended the full-time academy work most of our open patrols shifts and will need to attend the Bridge Academy. It should be noted that once

a Reserve Officer attends and completes the so-called Bridge Academy it does not guarantee that they can continue to work for the department long term. The mandate also requires that by January 1, 2027, a part-time Reserve Officer who has attended the Bridge Academy will need to accumulate 2400 work hours or they would be required to attend the MPTC (Municipal Police Training Committee) full-time recruit officer class. Currently, we only have one reserve officer who has the potential to meet this requirement. Police details (Road Details) and dispatch shifts do not count towards their total hours. In my opinion, sending our Officers to the Bridge Academy is going to be a short-term fix to a longer-term problem. Meaning to maintain our current reserve staff, those who have not attended a full-time academy and work the bulk of our open shifts we would need to send them to the Bridge Academy. Once they completed the Bridge but did not meet the required hours (2400) by January 1, 2027, then we would need to send them to a full-time recruit officer training class.

Therefore, moving forward it will not be cost effective to maintain a reserve force as we currently know it. If the town did attempt to maintain a reserve staff, the town would need to send a reserve officer to the full-time police academy at a cost of approximately \$40,000 per officer. Then only having them work on a part-time basis (1-3 shifts a week) is not a good value for the cost of training. Also, if Manchester did decide to send our reserve staff to the full-time academy it would allow these Officers to take full-time positions with other agencies at a reduced cost to those cities and towns. Thus, meaning additional full-time staff will be needed to address the future loss of reserve officer personnel.

Accreditation:

The Manchester-by-the-Sea Police Department was first certified in February 2018 and accredited in February 2019 by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. Accreditation is a voluntary process through which successful departments illustrate that their agencies are operating in accordance with the most rigorous of modern policing standards, which are established and evaluated by industry independent law enforcement experts. To earn accreditation, a department must meet at least 257 mandatory standards and 125 optional standards. However, our department was only required to meet 69 of the optional standards because of our size. Regardless, the Manchester-by-the-Sea Police Department met all 257 mandatory standards and 80 optional standards.

Throughout the first part of 2021 the Manchester Police Department began preparing for our first re-accreditation which is required every three years. In September of 2021 a team of assessors from the commission arrived and conducted a three-day assessment. At the end of the three days Ret. Arlington Police Captain Paul Coughlin who was the commissions facilitator advised us that the team would be recommending us for full- re-accreditation. Because of the COVID pandemic the commission has postponed their meeting until February of 2022 for our final award.

I would like to thank Officer Ryan Machain who is the department's accreditation manager for his diligence and hard work in making the process of re-accreditation as smooth as possible for the rest of the department.

Department Commendations:

On May 9th several Officers responded to a report of a possible stabbing that had occurred on School Street. Although an incident such as this is very rare in Manchester officers arrived and found a victim with multiple stab wounds. For the outstanding efforts displayed on May 9, 2021, in handling the investigation of the stabbing incident that occurred here in town, it gave me great pride to award the following Officers a Department Commendation on June 10, 2021: • Lt. Mark A. McCoy • Sgt. Christopher M. Locke • Det. Michael Richard • Ofc. Kevin J. Clary • Ofc. Richard Chute. Their attention to detail and swift actions by all no doubt led to the arrest of all three suspects who were involved in a timely and safe manner.

New Full-time Hires:



Chief Fitzgerald and Officer Chute

On March 5th we congratulated Officer Richard C. Chute on graduating the 32nd R.O.C. Police Academy. Ofc. Chute completed 23 weeks of rigorous training which consisted of physical fitness, critical thinking, police reform, Massachusetts General Laws, among many other areas of law enforcement. In a class of 22 recruits from many different Massachusetts police departments, Ofc. Chute was voted as class president. This demonstrates the motivated and dedicated individual that Ofc. Chute is.



Chief Fitzgerald, Officer Sidell and her Family

Officer Sidell is a full-time academy trained officer who came to us from the Gordon College Police Department. She is also a state-certified Emergency Medical Technician and holds a bachelor's degree. Before becoming full-time Officer Sidell been a Reserve Officer with the department and served with us for 2 years, serving in both a patrol position and as a beach officer. Officer Sidell currently works the 12am-8am shift.

Municipal Road Safety Traffic Grants

On September 22, 2021, the department was notified by the Executive Office of Public Safety that we had been awarded the FY22 Municipal Road Safety Grant in the amount of \$12,084.00 from the Office of Grants and Research. This grant allows the department to assist with bicycle and pedestrian safety and conduct 5 targeted enforcement events to include Winter Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, Clicket or Ticket Seatbelt Safety, Speeding, and Summer Impaired Driving. This grant runs from December of 2021 through September 15, 2022. Each campaign is a minimum of 4 overtime hours per event during the dates that are provided by the Executive Office of Public Safety. This grant also allows the department to conduct crosswalk enforcement in the spring and summer of 2022 and purchase youth bicycle helmets to promote helmet safety. Lt. Mark McCoy will be teaming up with the Manchester Bicycle and Ped committee to promote this and come up with the best possible solution on how to distribute the helmets.

MED Project Pharmaceutical Take Back Program:

In January of 2021 the Department was awarded grant funding through the Commonwealth's approved stewardship program organized by MED-Project LLC to assist with our ongoing pharmaceutical take back program. Currently residents can bring in their unused medications 24-hours a day and drop them in our drop box in the front lobby for disposal. Just remember all sharps should be taken to the Board of Health in a sealed container as we cannot accept them. MED-Project provided its annual funding grant of \$1,300 in support of the Department's existing program for unwanted household medicine collection kiosk at the Police Station where unwanted medicine is collected and subsequently disposed of at a disposal site.

The purpose of this grant is to pay for the collection and disposal of unwanted household medicines where the Department directly manages the disposal of the collected medicine.

Also, please note that on April 30, 2022, we will participate in the next National Drug Take Back Day. This will be from 10am-2pm behind the Police station at our garage.

Community Goals and Objectives:

The Manchester by-the-Sea Police Department recognizes that we are the conservators of a public asset. We continue to be accountable to our residents directly through the Board of Selectman. Our objective is to serve all who work in, live in, or visit the Town of Manchester by-the-Sea in a manner consistent with our mission statement and values. Our daily activities and strategic goals continue to be formed by direct proactive community relations and engagement with our stakeholders. The Manchester by-the-Sea Police Department's objectives continue to target and to work with five specific groups that prioritize our goals and support our mission statement. These groups include our youth and senior populations, the business community and local boards and our boating population.

Also, in 2021 as part of our outreach with our residents our department proudly continues to maintain its partnership with Lahey Behavioral Health, which provides Clinician Lisa Maccario as an asset to co-respond with officers to incidents involving mental health and substance use issues. Back in 2018, Sgt. Stephen Louf developed and instituted our first department Outreach Team, comprised of several other officers, who dedicate themselves towards community engagement and problem solving with residents who are suffering from both mental health and/or substance use. That same year, we were able to partner with Lahey Behavioral Health through a grant obtained by the Beverly Police Department to have a clinician available to several communities on Cape Ann to assist in this mission. We were very fortunate for Lisa Maccario to be partnered with us, and she continues to be an invaluable resource and asset to our team. She has not only co-responded with our officers to help various residents in the community, but she has also assisted us in setting up debriefing sessions after difficult incidents to help our first responders maintain a healthy well-being regarding mental health as well.

In addition to mental health assistance, Lisa Maccario and members of the Outreach Team conduct follow-ups with individuals who have suffered a recent overdose, or who are battling a substance use disorder in an effort to promote recovery through access to a variety of treatment options. This has been a very valuable resource and has proven to be successful in many cases. We look forward to continuing this partnership, and to be able to offer these services to residents in our town who may need them.

By the Numbers

Manchester by-the-Sea Police Department 2021 Calls for Service

NATURE	2019	2020	2021
911 Calls (900)	786	888	1209
Alarms (Residential & Commercial Police/Fire)	566	465	462
Animal Control (All)	483	411	356
Arrests (Adult)	28	22	40
Arrests (Juvenile)	1	0	0
Assault (Including Assault on Police Officer)	6	0	7
Burglary/Breaking & Entering (Residential, includes attempted)	5	1	3
Burglary/Breaking & Entering (Commercial, includes attempted)	1	0	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering (Motor Vehicle, includes attempted)	1	7	0
Disorderly Conduct	6	2	0

Domestic (includes physical, verbal & 209A violations & 209a Served)	25	56	68
Fraud (all types)	21	35	21
Harassment	2	21	44
Identity Theft	7	85	14
Juvenile Matters/SRO	27	26	11
Larceny (all types, includes attempted)	27	25	18
Larceny (of Motor Vehicle)	1	1	0
Missing Persons (Adult)	8	3	11
Missing Persons (Juvenile)	20	4	10
Erratic Operation (Motor Vehicle)	98	94	112
Motor Vehicle Crashes	183	107	119
OUI (Alcohol or Drugs)	6	5	13
Protective Custody (Adult)	4	0	8
Protective Custody (Juvenile)	0	0	0
Robbery (all types)	1	0	1
Sexual Assault	4	2	4
Threats (all types)	7	3	3
Property Damage (town and personal property)	29	31	18
Town by Law Violation	7	5	0
Trespassing	10	33	2
Motor Vehicle Stops (total)	1107	747	1117
*Verbal warnings	578	236	625
*Written warnings	403	233	377
*Citations	95	36	63
*Criminal Complaints (Summons)	44	26	52
"Walk-in" reports	262	354	662
Mental Health response including with clinician	33	51	51
Parking Violations Issued		1345	1131

2022:

As we move into 2022, as always, we continue to be dedicated to our community policing efforts and making our stakeholder partnerships even stronger. We will continue to enhance our training and remain current in today's best practices in law enforcement. We will also continue to monitor the effects of Police Reform. Moving forward our main challenge with this reform will be how we utilize our reserve officers and what their training requirements will be and the cost of that to the town. The mandate now requires that by January 1, 2027, a part-time Reserve Officer will need to attend a Bridge Academy and accumulate 2400 work hours before January 1, 2027, otherwise they will not be able to work without attending a full-time police academy. I

foresee this becoming a staffing issue for us ultimately requiring addition full-time Officers to be hired.

As your Chief and lifelong resident, I remain committed to delivering the highest quality of services through a transparent and community-oriented team approach. As we hopefully move past this COVID-19 pandemic, I am hopeful that 2022 will be better for everyone. I implore anyone who has a question or concern to approach our officers at any time. I have never worked with a more dedicated group of individuals who truly respect and care about our community.

I remain honored and humbled to be able to serve the community in which I grew up and to wear the uniform of the Manchester by-the Sea Police Department.

Todd J. Fitzgerald

Chief of Police