

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
STATE OF VERMONT
Trevor Colby, Sheriff

Essex County Sheriff's Department Report to the Concord Select Board for
the period of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

The contract for Concord was \$12,500 for the year 2017. I completed a review of calls for service for the Town of Concord for the calendar year 2017. During that period, Concord had 107 calls for service that the Sheriff's Department responded to. Concord's services represent 28% of all of the calls we handled last year. The Sheriff's Department handled 1/3 of the calls for service. We also continued to provide patrols throughout the county. During 2017, we made 595 traffic stops within Essex County. From the 595 stops, we issued 232 traffic citations. In Concord, we issued 150 traffic tickets total and 188 warnings.

The two full-time deputies that had been working for the Department ended their positions in April and May of this year. The Department has been operating using part-time officers to fill one full-time vacancy during this transition. I was able to secure another COPS grant for 2018, which is a position that one of the officers left as the grant funding had ended. Our Department continues to conduct Special Investigations Unit Services for the Essex county cases of sexual abuse. We will also be out providing traffic safety education through a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program. We will also continue to conduct Occupant Safety Checks and DUI patrols under grants from Governor's Highway Safety.

I have received numerous complaints about speeding in several of the southern towns in the County including Concord, Lunenburg, and Guildhall. While staffing is an issue, it is also a challenge because there are not enough funds to fund a full-time officer for patrol. Lunenburg provides \$15,000 for contract services. Concord provides \$12,500 for contract services. Guildhall provides \$3,500 for contract services. In comparison, Brighton and Canaan are investing \$40,000 each for patrol coverage and operating their own police departments in the northern part of the county. I would like to see Lunenburg, Concord, Guildhall and perhaps Maidstone combine to achieve \$50,000 for patrol services to employ a full-time officer dedicated to the southern towns in the county. My suggestions to the select boards are to fund \$20,000 each for Lunenburg and Concord and \$5,000 each for Guildhall and Maidstone. In comparing calls for service, these estimates reflect coverage.

My biggest challenge has been without full-time officers working, I have been handling the majority of the casework which limits my ability to get out in the community. Deputy Lurna Noyes, who runs the office, has been picking up the majority of the Special Investigations Unit cases for the last 6 months. This year was also challenging because of numerous tragedies and losses of life where our department were the first responders. As a small department, we are attempting to continue to operate during the year with limited staff and have greatly appreciated our part-time staff picking up the additional coverage.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sheriff Trevor Colby