

ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



STATE OF VERMONT

Trevor Colby

Sheriff

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Essex County Sheriff's Department Report to the Concord Select Board for  
the period of January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019

The contract for Concord was \$20,000 for the year 2019. This coverage funds approximately 90 eight hour shifts. I completed a review of calls for service for the Town of Concord for the calendar year 2020. During that period, Concord had 100 calls for service that the Sheriff's Department responded to. Concord's services represent roughly 24% of all of the calls we handled last year. The Sheriff's Department handled roughly 44% of the calls for service in Concord and the Vermont State Police handled roughly 56% of the calls for service. We also continued to provide patrols throughout the county. During 2019, we made 783 traffic stops within Essex County. From the 783 traffic stops, we issued 238 traffic citations. In Concord, we issued 116 traffic tickets total and 214 warnings. I would like to see an increase in 2020 in the number of stops for speeding violations.

Our Deputy covering the southern towns has remained consistent over the course of the year. One full-time deputy that had been working for the department under the COPS grant ended her position in November of this year. Our Department continues to conduct Special Investigations Unit Services for the Essex county cases of sexual assault and child abuse. We will continue another year of patrolling V.A.S.T. trails through a contract with V.A.S.T. This year we will not be providing traffic safety education through a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Program. We will continue to conduct Occupant Safety Checks and DUI patrols under grants from Governor's Highway Safety.

The 2019 year has been a frustrating year. This year I have had judges remove conditions of release mandating addicts follow treatment recommendations while awaiting trial as part of their conditions of release. I have had judges release people who have failed to appear in court and after they are arrested on warrants for failing to appear, release them with no additional bail or consequences. I feel that we need to place more of an emphasis on the drug epidemic facing our communities. Our state system is failing on nearly every front in addressing the issue. Law enforcement does not have the resources to continually work in circles of arrest and re-arrest. Until those involved in the judicial system, treatment system, and corrections are able to work together to have a capacity to accept persons quickly and effectively address the addictions, challenges or problems will continue to grow. The legislature is the critical failing point in addressing the issue. At this time, our office continues to gather and share information on the trafficking in our area but does not have the resources to address the problem.

I have received an increase in the number of calls reporting vehicles trafficking in the area and encourage citizens to record locations and plate numbers, as well as descriptions of people who you are witnessing making transactions. I will pass the information along that is credible to members of the Drug Task Force and DEA.

Thank you for your continued support,

  
Sheriff Trevor Colby