



ESSEX COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT.

STATE OF VERMONT

Trevor Colby

Sheriff

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**Essex County Sheriff's Department Report to Concord Select Board for
the period of January 01, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

Our current contract in Concord is for an average of 13 hours per week. During 2021, we responded to 91 incidents in Concord. We wrote 237 tickets and 290 warnings for motor vehicle violations in Concord. Throughout the county we responded to 407 incidents.

Grant funding through the Highway Safety Program allowed us to spend more time on the highway. We are concerned with people driving faster on our highways. During 2021, the Sheriff's Department officers issued 529 traffic citations and 774 warnings.

Our Department continues to conduct Special Investigations Unit Services for the Essex county cases of sexual assault and child abuse. We are continuing another year of patrolling V.A.S.T. trails through a contract with V.A.S.T. This year we will be conducting Occupant Safety Checks, distracted driving patrols, and DUI patrols under grants from Governor's Highway Safety. These grant programs enhance the services delivered to your community. This year we also started working under a Homeland security grant providing patrols along the border.

This year our COPS grant funding ended for a full-time officer. Under the agreement, I am maintaining the position for one year. On a positive note, I was able to obtain a new grant to fund an officer position for 3 years with a 25% match requirement and maintaining the position in the fourth year without grant funding. We had several part-time officers retire recently and one full-time officer retire last year. This transition allowed one of our part-time officers to step into a full-time position. We also retired some older cruisers and purchased some new-to-us retired cruisers from both Canaan and Lancaster Police Departments.

Our year continued to be one of challenges with state-imposed policies and requirements. The ongoing lack of understanding or care by our state legislature related to public safety is disheartening. There are a few legislators continuing to reach out to understand the issues we are facing but it doesn't affect the body as a whole from acting irresponsibly. There have been several calls for assistance that have gone unanswered because of lack of staffing or policy changes. I only mention this in the report because I believe the continued affects will spill over to more of our residents. We are committed to serving our residents when we are working, but we also have limited resources.

Thank you for your continued support,

Sheriff Trevor Colby