

2021 Year End Review



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Chief's Letter

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic, the police department has strived to provide the community with an exceptional level of service. While the pandemic was at its peak, we never lost sight of our mission and adjusted to the struggles that officers faced while serving their community's. Today, more and more local police departments must strive to develop community-based problem-solving methods to address the challenges that our community faces daily.

We clearly understand as a department that our role goes well beyond enforcing the law. It is imperative that we continue collaborate with our community partners and continue to expand our commitment to community policing.

Publishing an annual report will allow us to communicate the department mission, operational structure, training, and department statistics while listening to community concerns. This will allow us to work to a greater mutual understanding and reinforce our commitment in partnership between the Needham Police Department and the Community we serve.

NEEDHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT AT A GLANCE

There are 46 sworn officers in the town of Needham. This includes the Chief, Deputy Chief, 3 Lieutenants, 7 Sergeants, 2 School Resource Officers, 2 Traffic Officers, 3 Detectives, 1 Court Officer, 1 Community Outreach Officer, 1 Administrative Officer, 1 Community Safety Officer and 23 patrol officers.

There are 11 civilian employees at the Police Department including 5 police dispatchers.

Below is a breakdown of police personnel and the how the department is organized:

John Schlittler, Chief of Police

Paula Sheerin, Police Administrative Specialist

Community Services / Professional Development Division

This Division is responsible for Records, Training, Evidence Management, Firearms Licensing, Crisis Intervention, Community Outreach, Crime Analysis, Fleet Management, and the Budget

Christopher Baker, Deputy Chief

William D. Slowe, Administrative Patrol Officer

Stacy Poutas, Admin Specialist/ Records

David Forte, Community Outreach Officer

Kelsey Cournoyer, Admin/Crime Analyst

Christopher Hutchinson, Riverside Clinician

Richard Forbes, Administrative Sergeant

Ken Kurkjian, Fleet Maintenance

Investigative Services / Professional Standards Division

This Division is responsible for Investigations, Internal Affairs, Court Services, School Resource Officer Unit, Drug and Alcohol testing, Warrant Management, Regional Intelligence and Metro-LEC.

Matthew Forbes, Lieutenant

Michael Schlittler, Detective

Joe O'Brien Jr, Detective Sergeant

Brian Gallerani, Detective

Adrienne Anderson, Detective

RJ Poirier, School Resource Officer

Francis Desimone, Court Officer

Nicole McMahon, School Resource Officer

Traffic and Community Safety Division

This Division is responsible for Traffic Enforcement, School Safety, Parking Enforcement, Grant Management, Domestic Violence Action Committee, Hiring Process, and Human Rights Committee.

Belinda Carroll, Lieutenant

Steven Kelly, Traffic Officer

Kelley Scolponeti, Community Safety Officer

Edward Bayiates, Motorcycle Officer

Patrol Operations / Emergency Management Division

This Division is responsible for Patrol Operations, Dispatch Operations, Animal Control, Special Event Management, Mountain Bike Operations, Emergency Management, Honor Guard, and Major Road Projects.

John McGrath, Lieutenant

Edward Timmerman, Patrol Officer

Andrew Cray, Patrol Sergeant

Matthew Doukas, Patrol Officer

Karl Johnson, Patrol Sergeant

James Wise, Patrol Officer

Timothy Dooher, Patrol Sergeant

Brian Soll, Patrol Officer

Richard Evans, Patrol Sergeant

Joseph Brienze, Patrol Officer

Michael Lamb, Patrol Sergeant

Patrick Keleher, Patrol Officer

Matthew Palmer, Patrol Officer

Scott Lennon, Patrol Officer

Catherine Tierney, Patrol Officer

James Carroll, Patrol Officer

William Kelleher, Patrol Officer

Sarah Timmerman, Patrol Officer

Leo Schlittler, Patrol Officer

Justin Young, Patrol Officer

Julia Rutledge, Patrol Officer

Austin Broderick, Patrol Officer

Matthew MacDonald, Patrol Officer

David Parsons, Animal Control Officer

Robert Peck, Patrol Officer

Stephen Ryan, Police Dispatcher

Vincent Turco, Patrol Officer

Christopher Bender, Police Dispatcher

Anthony Frongillo, Patrol Officer

Melanie Rutledge, Police Dispatcher

Roger Noll, Patrol Officer

Anthony Salgado, Police Dispatcher

Jason Hasenfus, Patrol Officer

Anthony Capone, Police Dispatcher

Matthew Biellik, Patrol Officer

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This annual report is produced by the Needham Police Department as an attempt to provide citizens with a snapshot of the services and activities conducted by the department this year. It contains valuable information about the crimes committed in Needham as well as information related to those crimes such as race, gender and town residency status. This report also has updates from our specialty units and officers regarding their activities over the past year.

The 2021 Annual Report provides a comprehensive analysis of crimes that occurred in the town of Needham and were reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) via the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. This national program has been collecting and organizing crime data since 1930 and is used by researchers, media and the public to better understand criminal activity. The UCR collects general crimes statistics through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This voluntary system uses coding that is uniform throughout the country so that data can be compiled and analyzed. It breaks criminal offenses into two types: Group A and Group B. Group A include 46 offenses in 22 different categories. These offenses have been selected based on specific criteria and are determined to be relevant to law enforcement data collection. Group B offenses encompass all other crimes. The offenses and categories can be found in Appendix A.

In addition to looking at NIBRS data, this report also analyzes in house data regarding incidents, arrests, motor vehicle accidents, traffic stops and calls for service.

It is important to note that all this information is considered the best data at the time of writing, and that slight discrepancies or changes in the numbers may occur due to a variety of factors. For example, if an investigation is ongoing there is the potential for existing offenses to be changed based on updated information.

Year End Crime Review

	Group A	Group B
2019	509	378
2020	1318* (598)	295
2021	554	212

*In 2020, there were 720 unemployment fraud claims, without those offenses there were 598 Group A offenses

In 2021, the town of Needham had 554 Group A offenses. This is down 57% from 2020 overall (please see note above regarding unemployment fraud incidents in 2020) and up 8.84% from 2019. There were no homicides, kidnapping/abduction, prostitution, or non-forcible sex offenses reported in 2021.

In 2021, Needham had 212 Group B offenses. This is down 28.1% from 2020 and 43.9% from 2019.

Group A Offense Specifics

Offense	2019	2020	2021
11A Forcible Rape	4	5	1
11D Forcible Fondling	17	3	4
120 Robbery (Unarmed)	0	2	2
13A Aggravated Assault	8	14	16
13B Simple Assault	49	42	39
13C Intimidation	18	13	15
200 Arson	1	0	3
210 Extortion/ Blackmail	1	0	3
220 Burglary/ B&E	25	14	23
23A Pick Pocketing	0	0	3
23B Purse-Snatching	5	1	2
23C Shoplifting	5	3	2
23D Theft from A Building	24	20	23
23F Theft from A MV	35	27	6
23G Theft of MV Parts	1	0	4
23H All Other Larceny	74	79	75
240 MV Theft	2	8	5
250 Counterfeiting/ Forgery	33	28	14
26A False Pretenses/ Swindling	67	70	91
26B Credit Card/ ATM Fraud	3	6	12
26C Impersonation	62	191	42
26D Welfare Fraud	0	720	65
26E Wire Fraud	0	0	1
26F Identity Theft	0	0	3
270 Embezzlement	3	0	0
280 Stolen Property Offenses	3	1	5
290 Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism	32	54	65
35A Drug/ Narcotic Violations	33	10	23

35B Drug Equipment Violation	0	1	0
36B Statutory Rape	0	1	1
370 Pornography/ Obscene Material	0	3	3
520 Weapons Law Violation	3	2	3

Assault Offenses (13A, 13B, 13C)

There were 70 total assault offenses committed in 63 cases in 2021. Overall, the total number of assaults is up by 1 from 2020.

There were 16 aggravated assaults offenses in 9 cases in 2021. Of these 9 cases, 4 resulted in arrest and the other 5 resulted in the suspect being summonsed to court.

There were 39 simple assaults in 37 cases. In 21 cases the suspect was arrested, in 8 cases the suspect was summonsed to court and in 8 cases a report was taken but no further action was required.

There were 17 intimidation charges in 17 cases in 2021. 7 of these resulted in the suspect being arrested, 2 resulted in the suspect being summonsed and 8 incidents had a report taken with no further action.

Case Outcome	Count
Arrest	32
Summons	15
Report Taken	16
Total	63

Burglary/ Breaking & Entering (220)

There were 23 incidents of burglary/breaking and entering in 2021. This is up from a total of 11 burglary/ breaking and entering offenses in 2020.

Of the 23 incidents, 1 resulted in an arrest, 5 resulted in a summons, 8 required no further action and 9 were forwarded to detectives for further investigation.

Case Outcome	Count
Arrest	1
Summons	5
Report Taken	8
Under Investigation	9
Total	23

Counterfeiting/ Forgery (250)

Case Outcome	Count
Summons	2
Report Taken	4

Under Investigation	4
Total	10

Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism to Property (290)

There were 65 vandalism/ destruction of property related offenses in 58 cases in 2021.

Case Outcome	Count
Arrest	4
Summons	13
Report Taken	34
Under Investigation	7
Total	58

Larceny/ Theft Offenses (23A-23H)

There were 115 larceny offenses in 101 cases in 2021.

Case Outcome	Count
Arrest	1
Summons	3
Closed	90
Under Investigation	7
Total	101

Fraud Offenses (26A-26E)

There were 214 total fraud cases in 2021.

Case Outcome	Count
Arrest	4
Summons	6
Closed	197
Under Investigation	7
Total	214

Drug/ Narcotics Charges (35A, 35B)

There were 13 cases with drug offenses in 2021.

Case Outcome	Count
Arrest	6
Summons	7
Total	13

Group B Offenses:

Offense	2019	2020	2021
90A Bad Checks	2	0	0
90C Disorderly Conduct	10	2	6
90D DUI	35	18	13
90E Drunkenness	18	3	0
90F Family Offense (nonviolent)	0	1	0
90G Liquor Law Violation	18	10	13
90J Trespass of Real Prop	3	7	2
90Z All Other	84	65	44
99 Town Traffic Bylaw	378	295	212
Totals	548	401	295

*Codes 90A and 90E will be converted to 90Z starting in 2022.

90C- Disorderly Conduct

There were 6 disorderly conduct offenses in 2021. 1 was for open and gross lewdness, 2 were for annoying/acosting another person, 2 were for disorderly conduct and 1 was for disturbing the peace.

90D- DUI

There were 13 DUI Offenses in 2021. 4 were for OUI Drugs and 9 were for OUI Liquor. 9 of these resulted in arrest and 4 resulted in the person being summonsed to court.

90G- Liquor Law Violation

There were 13 liquor law offenses in 12 incidents. There were 7 violations for open container in a motor vehicle, 4 violations for selling/delivering to person under 21 and 2 for person under 21 in possession of alcohol. 5 of these offenses resulted in arrest (all had DUI also associated), 7 lead to court summons and 1 had a report taken/ no action.

90J-Trespass of Real Prop

There were 2 trespass of real property offenses in 2021. In both these incidents, reports were taken but no leads were developed.

90Z-All Other

The 90Z category captures virtually all offenses that do not fall into any other IBR code. There were 44 total 90Z offenses in 2021. This includes 7 arrest warrants, 6 abuse prevention order violations and 4 criminal harassment offenses. Other types of offenses that fall into this category include unauthorized use of a computer system, use of another company's dumpster and evidence tampering. Many of them are utilized in conjunction with other offenses when an incident occurs.

SPECIAL STUDIES

The Needham Police Department has implemented 4 areas in which we want to capture more detailed data based on current issues and citizen concerns. These areas are mental health, drug overdoses, handcuffing and domestic violence. To get this data, officers are required to provide information on

each of these topics when they complete their report. If the incident or arrest involves any of the special studies, they are required to answer the questions related to that topic. The questions and data gathered from these special studies are detailed below.

Mental Health

In 2021 there were 207 calls that were deemed mental health related. For this data we are considering a mental health related call to incident in which mental health is involved. There was an average of 17 mental health related calls per month. The highest number was 25 in March 2021 and the lowest number was 13 in both August and September. There were 176 total mental health related calls in 2020, meaning that there was an 18% increase in the number of calls in 2021.

While the nature of mental health call can vary greatly, sometimes they end with an individual being taken to the hospital for treatment. This transport can be at the patients request or agreement (voluntary) or under a Section 12 (involuntary). More information about these transports can be found in the charts below.

Mental Health Transport Data

Transport Type	Count	Percent of Total
Section 12 (Initiated by Police)	52	25%
Section 12 (Initiated by a Doctor/ Therapist)	29	14%
Voluntary	37	17.8%
Court Order	1	0.01%
No Transport	88	42.5%

Drug Overdoses

In 2021 there were 17 suspected Drug overdoses in Needham. 8 of these were opiate drug overdoses and 9 of them were overdoses from another drug. This is an increase in overdoses from 2020, which had 12 total overdoses (6 opiate, 6 non-opiate).

Of the 17 overdoses in 2021, 8 of them had Narcan administration by either police (4 times) or fire (4 times) personnel. 9 of the 17 overdoses did not require the use of Narcan.

There were 3 overdoses that lead to deaths and 1 with unknown results. In the incident with unknown results, the party was unresponsive at the time of that they were taken to the hospital.

Handcuffing

Handcuffing is an inevitable and necessary part of policing. The Needham Police Department has started to keep track of handcuffing and the reasons as to why it was utilized in any particular interaction. In 2021 there were 78 times that handcuffing was used. 62 out of the 78 (79.5%) of those instances were arrests.

The department tracks the reason that handcuffing was used in each instance. Officers are able to utilize handcuffing to affect an arrest, for officer safety, for the subject's own safety and for mental health related reasons. Of the 78 handcuffing instances, the reasons were listed as follows:

61 Arrest Only

2 Arrest and Officer Safety

2 Officer Safety Only

5 Mental Health Only

8 Mental Health and Officer Safety

Subject Race	# Of Encounters in which handcuffing was used
Black	12
Hispanic	9
White	53
Asian	4
Total	78

Domestic

In 2021 there were 97 Domestic/ Domestic Violence related calls in Needham.

66 out of 97 (68%) of these calls were verbal only in nature and did not escalate into any form of physical violence. 27 (28%) calls had the offense of assault and battery attached to them, and 4 of the domestic related calls reported threats/ intimidation and 2 reported strangulations.

80 of the domestic related calls reported this year had no injuries, 15 had minor injuries and 2 had moderate injuries associated with the incident.

In 82 of the 97 incidents, there was no current restraining order/ protection order in place and the victim chose to decline getting an emergency order put into place at that time. In 8 instances, the victim did elect to get an emergency order in place. In 6 cases, there already was an active restraining order or abuse prevention order in place at the time of the incident. In 1 case, a new emergency order was denied by a judge.

In 26 of the 97 calls, there were children either present or involved in the incident and DCF was notified.

Use of Force

The Use of Force incidents that Needham Police are involved in are a result of an individual's level of unlawful compliance/resistance rather than officer looking to harm the public. We are obligated morally, by law and by policy to use only that level of force that is reasonable and necessary to affect an arrest, to ensure public safety or protect ourselves or others from harm.

In 2021 there were 19 times in which force was used during a call for service. In some calls, multiple types of force were necessary to resolve the situation and maintain the safety of all present.

The use of force policy for the Needham Police Department can be found [here](#).

Type of Force	Total Times Utilized
Hands on Control	18
Taser (Displayed)	4

Firearm Unholstered	2
Less Lethal (Ready)	1

Subject Race	# Of Encounters in which force was used
Black	3
Hispanic	1
White	15
Total	19

2021 RACE AND GENDER INTERACTIONS

Motor Vehicle Stop by Race and Gender

Race	Gender			
	Male	Female	Unknown	X
Black	148	119	0	0
Hispanic	192	113	2	0
Asian	96	82	2	0
Middle Eastern	61	36	1	0
Indian	11	8	0	0
White	1384	1334	5	1
Total	1892	1692	10	1

Motor Vehicle Stops by Race and Resident Status (City/Town)

Race	Resident		Non-Resident	
	Number	% Of Total	Number	% Of Total
Black	267	7.5%	13	.4%
Hispanic	307	8.5%	11	.3%
Asian	180	5.0%	30	.8%
Middle Eastern	98	2.7%	11	.3%
Indian	19	.5%	4	.1%
White	2724	75.8%	482	13.4%
Total	3595	100%	551	15.3%

Motor Vehicle Stops Disposition by Race

	Arrest		Civil Fine		No Enforcement		Criminal Application		Verbal Warning		Written Warning		Total
Black	1	.4%	12	4.5%	10	3.7%	7	2.6%	120	44.9%	117	43.8%	267
Hispanic	1	.3%	19	6.2%	4	1.3%	29	9.4%	115	37.5%	139	45.3%	307
Asian	0	0%	10	5.5%	2	1.1%	3	1.7%	57	31.7%	108	60%	180
Middle Eastern	0	0%	4	4.1%	3	3.1%	1	1.1%	26	26.5%	64	65.3%	98
Indian	0	0%	2	10.5%	0	0%	0	0%	8	42.1%	9	47.4%	19
White	16	.6%	152	5.6%	63	2.3%	31	1.3%	981	36%	1481	54.4%	2724
Total	18	.4%	199	5.5%	82	2.3%	71	2%	1307	36.4%	1918	53.4%	3595

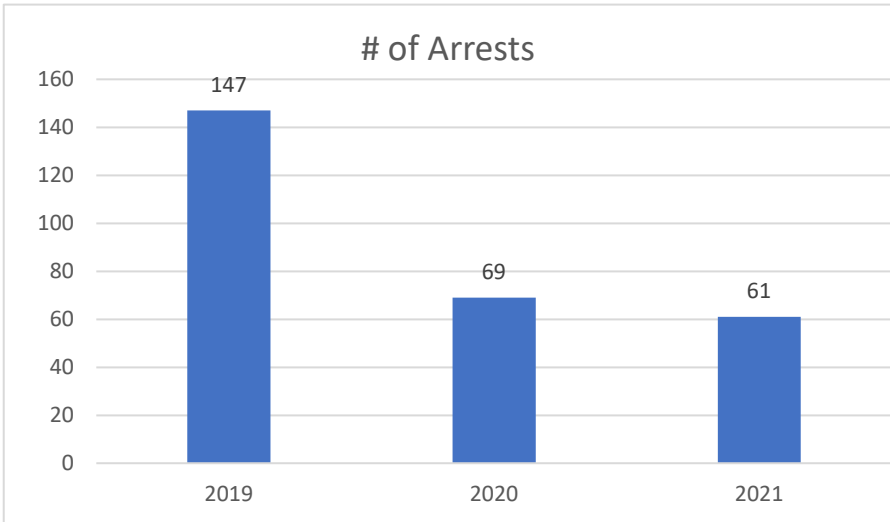
Arrest- The person was arrested as a result of the stop. **Civil Fine-** The person received a civil fine that they could choose to pay or appeal. **No Enforcement-** Stop was initiated due to a motor vehicle accident or disabled motor vehicle, but there was no action that warranted enforcement of any kind. **Criminal Application-** The person committed an offense that was criminal in nature and would be required to attend a hearing for the violation. **Verbal Warning** – The person was given a verbal warning for their violation. **Written Warning** – The person received a paper citation, but nothing further was required of them.

POLICE ACITIVITY SUMMARY

Arrests

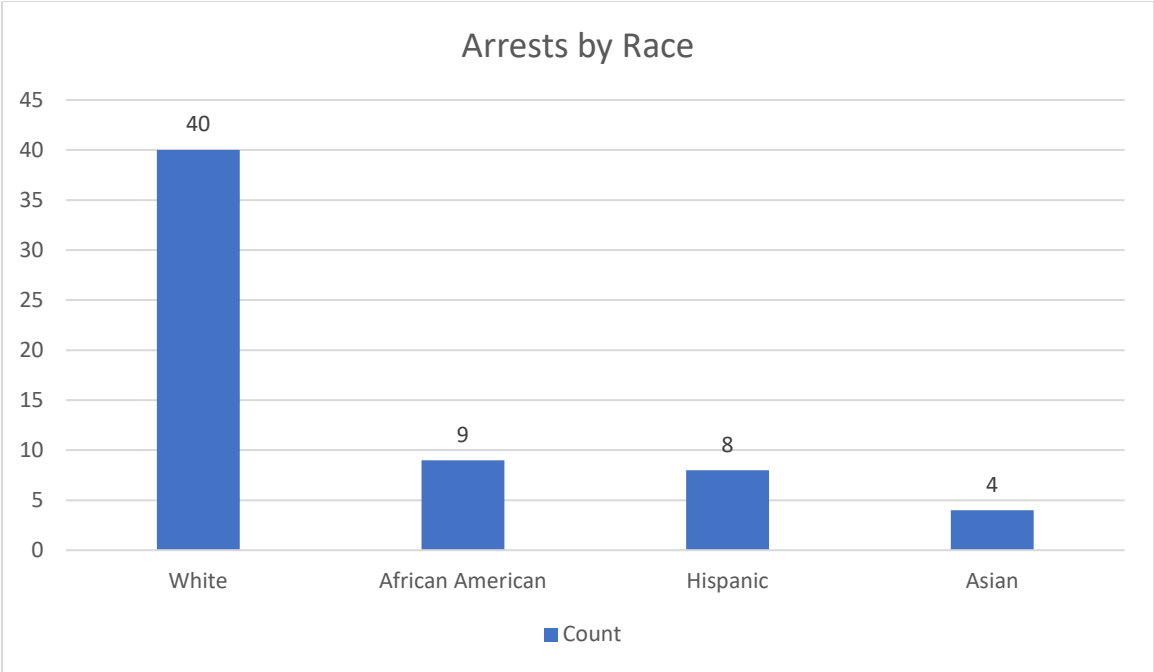
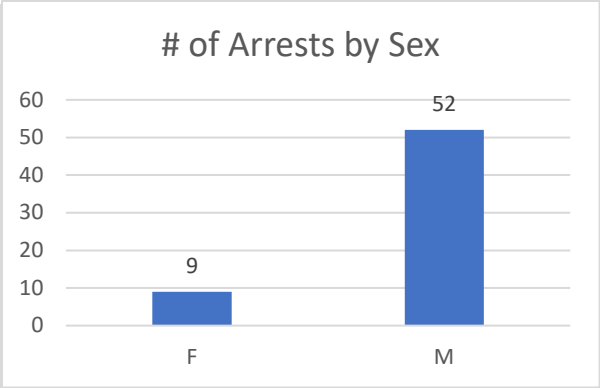
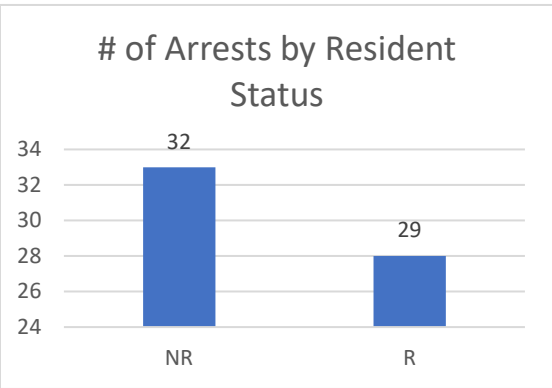
There was a total of 61 arrests in Needham in 2021. This number is down 11.5% from a total of 69 arrests in 2020.

Race	Count
White	40
Black	9
Hispanic	8
Asian	4
Total	61



CITY OF ARRESTEE	COUNT
AUBURNDALE	1
BOSTON	3
BROCKTON	1
CAMBRIDGE	1
CHARLESTOWN	1
DEDHAM	2
DORCHESTER	1
FITCHBURG	1
HOPKINGTON	1
HYDE PARK	1
LOWELL	1
LYNN	2
MATTAPAN	1
MEDWAY	2
NATICK	2
NEEDHAM	29
NEW BEDFORD	2
NEWTON	2
CENTRAL FALLS, RI	1
QUINCY	2
SACO, ME	1
SCITUATE	1
WAKEFIELD	1
WELLESLEY	1
Grand Total	61

52 out of the 61 arrests were males, which equals 85.25% of the total arrests for the year. 9 of the arrests, or 14.75% were female subjects. 32 (52.4%) of the subjects arrested in 2021 were not residents of Needham. 29 subjects (47.5%) were residents of Needham.



The breakdown of arrestees by race is shown above. The majority of arrests in 2021 (65.5%) were of White suspects. 9 arrestees were African American, which equates to 14.8% of the total. There were 8 (13.1%) Hispanic individuals and 4 (6.6%) Asian individuals arrested.

There were 21 arrests involving BIPOC individuals. Twenty (20) of those Twenty-One (21) arrests were for offenses that mandate arrest or are a preferred response. Eight (8) of the arrests involved an active arrest warrant. Seven (7) were arrested for Assault and Battery on a Family Member. One (1) Arrest for an Assault to Murder. One (1) involved Possession with intent to Distribute Class A and Class B Drugs and Trafficking Fentanyl. One (1) involved Felony Possession of a Firearm and One (1) involved Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon. The arrest that was not mandatory or preferred involved a suspect in an ongoing Heroin / Fentanyl Distribution investigation.

There were 40 arrests of white individuals. Thirty-two (34) of those arrests were for offenses that mandate arrests or are a preferred response. Ten (10) were for arrest warrants. One (1) was for failure to register as a sex offender. One (1) was for domestic assault. One (1) was for assault with a dangerous weapon. Nine (9) were for assault and battery on a family or household member. Eight (8) were for OUI. One (1) was for fugitive from justice on a court warrant. One (1) was for possession of a Class A drug. One (1) was for an abuse prevention order violation. One (1) was for carjacking). The other six (6) arrests were either motor vehicle related charges (4 total) or disorderly conduct (2 total).

Juveniles

Mental Health Related Incidents

We had 41 Mental Health Incidents involving juveniles. One of those incidents involved a student who left school and was located in crisis a short distance away. The rest of the incidents originated outside of Needham Public Schools. There were twenty-eight different juveniles involved in the incidents. Ten of the juveniles had more than one incident in 2021.

Offenses

There was one arrest of a juvenile for Domestic Assault and Battery. There were 13 juveniles that had to appear for a Hearing at Juvenile Court. There were 8 juveniles that voluntarily entered our Diversion Program. Two of these incidents happened at or originated from Needham Public Schools. One student appeared for a Hearing at Juvenile Court, and one entered our Diversion Program.

Offender Race	Count
White	14
Black	7
Hispanic	1
Total	22

Total Calls and Types

The Needham Police Department had 42,365 calls for service in 2021. This is down 3,738 or 8.45% from the 2020 total of 46,103. Calls can be broken down into priorities based on the level of urgency. The highest priority is level 1, which includes burglar alarms, fires, motor vehicle crashes with injury and sudden deaths. Priority 2 includes calls for suspicious activity, fraud, larceny and wellbeing checks. Priority 3 is the lowest priority level and encompasses the majority of everyday calls. This includes security checks, animal calls, public assistance, motor vehicle stops and administrative calls.

Call Priority Level	Total # of Calls
1	3353
2	2526
3	38486

[Priority Call Key](#)

DIVISION UPDATES

TRAFFIC AND COMMUNITY SAFETY DIVISION

Traffic

In 2021, there were 2487 traffic offenses were cited on 2171 citations. Most of these violations (2054) were written warnings given to the operator. 209 were civil violations, 189 criminal violations, 29 violations were involved in an arrest, 5 violations were given as a verbal warning and 1 was a municipal violation. \$15,535 in fines were issued in 2021.

Violation Type	Count	Percent of Total
Written Warning	2054	82.6%
Civil Citation	209	8.4%
Criminal Citation	189	7.6%
Arrest	29	1.16%
Verbal Warning	5	0.2%
Municipal Violation	1	0.04%
TOTAL	2487	100%

The most written violation was for hands-free violation also known as texting while driving. The law surrounding this violation can be found [here](#). There were 545 handsfree violations, which is 22% of all violations in 2021. 477 warnings, 65 civil citations and 3 criminal citations.

The second most written violation was for speeding. Information for this violation can be found [here](#). There were 513 total speeding violations, 468 of which were written warnings. 32 were given as civil citations, 9 were given as criminal citations, 3 were given as verbal warnings, and 1 violation was a part of an arrest.

Other commonly issued violations include unregistered motor vehicle (316 total), expired inspection sticker (241 total), and failure to stop/yield (239 total).

Criminal Violations- 40 for unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, 26 for OUI,17 for operating a motor vehicle without insurance, 10 for unregistered motor vehicle.

Accidents

There were 370 motor vehicle accidents reported in 2021. This number is up 29.4% from the total of 286 accidents in 2020. Even though the total number of accidents was up in 2021, this number is still significantly less than the number of accidents that were occurring pre-pandemic. In 2016- 2019 the Town of Needham was averaging 457 accidents per year.

Year	Total # of Accidents
2021	370

2020	286
2019	467
2018	419
2017	480

In 2021, 255 crashes occurred in an area with no traffic controls. 55 occurred where there was a traffic light, 52 occurred where there was a stop sign and 8 occurred where there was another type of control (yield sign, railroad signals, warning signs, etc.).

November had the highest number of crashes at 42 and February had the lowest at 18. The overall average number of crashes per month in 2021 was 31. Based on this year’s reporting, the most common days for motor vehicle accidents was Thursday and Friday, both with 66 accidents throughout the year. The day with the least accidents was Sunday, with a total of 33.

Most accidents occurred between 7am and 7pm with the highest numbers occurring during the 4pm, 1pm and 11am hours. The number of accidents drop significantly overnight with 0 occurring between 2am and 4am for the entire year.

Looking at day of the week and time, the most accidents occurred on Friday during the 4pm hour, with a total of 11 accidents.

56 Accidents involved injuries and 2 involved fatalities.

224 of the accidents were not at an intersection. 65 were at a 4-way intersection, 47 were at a T intersection, 13 were at on off ramp, 11 were in a driveway, 4 were at a Y intersection, 3 were at a 5-point intersection, 2 were unknown and 1 was at a railroad grade crossing.

77 were single vehicle crashes, 46 we rear end crashes, 98 were crashes at an angle.

272 crashes took place in the roadway, 72 were outside the roadway. 15 were on the roadside, 8 on the shoulder, 1 in the median and 2 unknowns.

208 of the accidents were collisions with another motor vehicle in motion. 67 were collisions with parked motor vehicles. 18 were collisions with an unknown fixed object. 13 were collisions with utility poles and 13 were collisions with a tree.

There were 15 motor vehicle accidents involving pedestrians in 2021. 6 of these the pedestrian was on foot, 8 were cyclists and 1 was using roller blades/skates. Of the accidents involving pedestrians, 5 took place at a crossing location (crosswalk).

Community Safety Officer

Officer Kelley Scolponeti, our Community Service officer, is under the direct supervision of the Lieutenant in charge of Traffic and Community Safety. Officer Scolponeti has the primary responsibility of training, scheduling, and supervising all Traffic Supervisors (civilian positions) while creating a safe environment for children around the schools. We are currently short staffed, with 16 Traffic Supervisors who cover 62 school crossings daily. Officer Scolponeti often covers crossings herself and makes it a point to check in periodically with the Traffic Supervisors to discuss safety/traffic concerns they might have.

Officer Scolponeti also serves as our liaison for the Center at the Heights. She makes weekly visits there to interact with the seniors in many ways. She’ll stop in to have coffee with them and sometimes play pool and assists with meal deliveries. As we rebound from Covid-19, we’re finally able to bring back **Coffee**

with a Cop in person, in which several officers stop by to say “hi” and have a cup of coffee. Officer Scolponeti started a new program with the seniors this year- **Crafts with a Cop**. It’s become a huge hit and she continues to hold one once a month and a great way to get the seniors socializing once again post Covid-19.



Officer Scolponeti assists the School Resource Officers with A.L.I.C.E. drills and periodically checks in with the principals and the health and safety committees at each school. She enjoys assisting the 3rd grade physical education teachers with their 3rd grade bike rodeos and designs and designs and issues their bicycle licenses. She makes it a point to conduct “Officer Friendly” visits to the daycare schools within our town.

Officer Scolponeti is the liaison with the Council on Aging, the Commission on Disability, and the Needham Community Council. She assists with the clothing drive and food pantry at the Community Council. She’s part of the Needham Community Outreach Team and has luncheons with Needham Housing residents. Officer Scolponeti is the liaison for donations from community stores. She assists with distributing the items throughout our town. In 2021, we received 200 boxes of school supplies and 250 boxes of hand sanitizer and tissues. She delivered all of them to the Needham Public Schools. Officer Scolponeti also conducts fingerprinting for Needham residents for licensing and job employment. She averages 10-15 a month. Many fundraisers reach out to the police department for a “ride to school in a police car” as an auction item. These rides have become very popular at auctions, and she facilitates 8-10 rides to school annually.

In 2021, Officer Scolponeti entered the Police Department in the 3rd Annual She Loves Police



Gingerbread House contest. There were 41 entries from 41 states (the year prior, there were only 11 entries). Officer Scolponeti decided to make a gingerbread house of the new Police Station. The winner received “bragging” rights and 100% of the proceeds from the “She Loves Police” gingerbread

sales were donated to a charity of choice. This contest was posted on social media to people to vote- yet another way to get the community involved. Officer Scolponeti was awarded the “Rookie of the Year” trophy.

PATROL OPERATIONS / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Patrol represents the majority of the Needham Police Department and is the most visible aspect of the job. Operating on a 24hr basis its services include but are not limited to: protecting life and property, enforcing all laws and town bylaws, preserving peace and public order, and identifying criminal offenders and criminal activity.

Each officer is assigned to a specific area of town, called a sector. The officer is responsible for handling all the calls within that sector. Additionally, the officer conducts the traffic enforcement in their area, building checks, and assists other officers as needed.

Although officers in patrol are primarily responsible for patrolling the town and answering calls for service, many officers have other duties and special assignments they complete. These vary in scope from assignments as Juvenile Officer to the MetroLEC Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team and many others.

Dispatch

Throughout 2021 the Needham Police Dispatch center consisted of 5 full-time positions for Emergency Telecommunications Dispatchers

During 2021 there were two vacancies for Dispatcher positions. One of the vacant positions was filled, in October of 2021 and the second position was posted in December of 2021 and filled shortly after in January of 2022. The two vacancies were created by Dispatchers who resigned to pursue other opportunities.

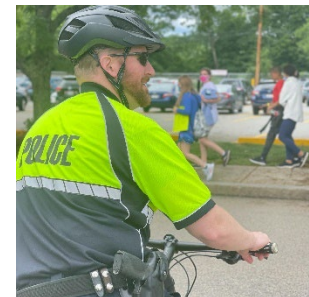
Dispatchers also handled 6,018 Enhanced 9-1-1 calls in 2021. This is an increase from the 4,890 9-1-1 calls received in 2020.

All Enhanced 9-1-1 Dispatchers throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are required to undergo a minimum of 16 hours of continuing education annually. Needham Police Dispatchers met this training requirement and received training in topics including, but not limited to Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety, Multi-Agency Response to Active Shooter & Hostile Events, Excited Delirium Syndrome and Stress Management. Through the Answering Point and Regional Emergency Communication Center Support and Incentive Program the department received grant funding based on the previous year's 911 call center volume. During FY 2021 the Department was allocated \$98,451. The Department was also allocated \$34,441 in 911 and Emergency Medical Dispatch training.

The Needham Police Dispatch Center was able to function out of the new Public Safety Building during 2021, and was able to do so successfully, while all other Police Operations ran out of the offsite location at the old Hillside School.

Mountain Bike Unit

The Needham Police Mountain Bike Unit consists of 10 Officers including a Sergeant who are all COBWEB (Cops on Bicycles with Education for Bicyclists) Certified. COBWEB is a three-day training of 4 hours a day where Officers learn “And will have a comprehensive understanding of Standard Operating Procedures, proper protocol to ensure safety and minimize liability, crime prevention techniques, tactical maneuvers and communication. He/she will have a heightened awareness of the importance of fitness, nutrition, injury prevention and physical well-being.” -COBWEB



The Needham Police Department has deployed its Mountain Bike Unit in a number of situations. Some of these deployments include The 3rd of July Fireworks, The 4th of July Parade, multiple road races and public and private events throughout the year. The Mountain Bike Unit also assists out of town agencies providing mutual aid to the Town of Wellesley assisting with the Boston Marathon.

The Mountain Bike Unit is a part of the Patrol Division of the Needham Police Department and is also used for some patrol functions such as traffic and parking enforcement when needed and is a highly visible crime deterrent and will Patrol the Needham Town Forest and State Parks (Cutler) much easier than an Officer on foot.

The Needham Police Mountain Bike unit rides TREK mountain bikes which are well situated for all terrains, Road and Off Road.

Animal Control

In April of 2021 full time Needham Animal Control Officer Parsons was Injured on Duty while attempting to break up a fight between two dogs. Since that time Officer Matthew Palmer, a trained animal control officer, has supplemented his normal patrol duties by assisting with animal related calls that are called into the Needham Police Department.

With Covid-19 attracting people to Needham’s open spaces, playgrounds and parks, Officer Palmer has had to address a growing number of calls for service regarding unleashed dogs and dog bites. Officer Palmer continues to work with pet owners to keep them informed with information specifically related to animal issues and how to be a responsible neighbor while utilizing Needham open spaces.

The below table displays the activity of the ACO for 2021:

Call Type	Count
Non- Dog related Call	213
Lost/ Loose/ Found Dog	132
Other	40
Barking	29
Dog Bite/Fight	21
Off Leash	13
TOTAL	448

*Calls above were not broken down in 2020. See below for 2021 / 2020 Call Comparison

2021 Animal Calls

Call Type	Count
Off Leash Check	15
P Animal Call(Non Dog)	199
P Animal Quarantine	12
P Dog Call	234
P Missing Animal	9
Grand Total	469

2020 Animal Calls

Call Type	Count
Off Leash Check	13
P Animal Call(Non Dog)	204
P Animal Quarantine	11
P Dog Call	179
P Missing Animal	2
Grand Total	409

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES / PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

School Resource Officers

Needham currently has two officers assigned as School Resource Officers (SROs). They support the entire Needham School District as well as Saint Joseph’s Elementary School and Saint Sebastian’s School. SROs partner with school administrators throughout the school district to provide support and guidance in a variety of ways and bridge student family-school life. SROs also work closely with school district guidance counselors and special education teachers to help support students. The SROs meet regularly with

students and their families to provide this support. In addition to these meetings, SROs interact with the schools and Needham youth in a variety of ways. They help to deal with investigations that juveniles are involved in, help to aid students whose families may be experiencing a hardship and help assist with school projects. Some other examples of what our SROs have done in the past year include:

- Collaborated with Staples and the Needham Community Council to deliver school supplies throughout the school district prior to the 2021/2022 school year.
- Attended the annual Needham Harvest Fair to greet youth and their families
- Provided police escort rides to school for various raffles and fundraisers
- Visited classes throughout the school district and provide presentations and learning experiences on various subject matters like 4th Amendment Rights/Search and Seizure, social media and Internet Safety, Bullying and Cyberbullying, Self-Defense, Bicycle Safety, Alcohol and Drug Awareness, and Vaping Awareness.
- Worked closely with school principals to provide armed intruder training and education (through presentations and practical drills) to staff members and students in each school
- Assisted the fire department in conducting fire drills in each school throughout the year
- organized and ran the Needham Junior Police Academy, a weeklong camp for middle schoolers that teaches them about police work and provides interactive activities and field trips to explore the law enforcement field.
- Worked closely with the Needham Police Department Truancy Officer and Juvenile Court Prosecutor to create diversion paths that offer education, resources and support to youth offenders in effort to keep them out of the court system.
- Partnered with Needham Youth and Family Services and the Youth Resource Network to help support juveniles and their families
- Collaborated with the Community Service Officer to support Bike Rodeo events throughout the school district and for cub scout and boy scout troops
- Sat on the Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) committee and assist with planning and execution of campaigns and events
- Participated in Students Advocating Life (without) Substance Abuse (SALSA) to help support campaigns and events
- Brought juveniles to Golden Opportunities for Independence in Walpole, MA to visit the farm and meet the service dogs
- Visited with Needham students in DCF programs outside of Needham to connect with them and take them out to lunch
- Attended various student club and athletic events to support students
- Took part in field day events at various schools
- Helped coordinate between police department and high school to provide a senior graduation parade during the pandemic
- Attended and coordinated between police department and schools to provide assistance and support with various events such as prom, graduation, dances, and other school events
- Provided support for rising 9th graders on Step Up day.

- Collaborated with other Needham Police officers to organize and coach the annual Needham-Wellesley Powderpuff Football game, a month-long after-school program that prepares senior girls for the annual game
- Assisted with the annual drug take back event that occurs in the fall and spring of each calendar year.
- Visited summer camps and programs to connect with juveniles and check in with them
- Visited vaccination clinics
- Attended Charles River YMCA public events



NHS Class of '22 Champions



Needham's SROs also train and manage K9 Officer Rocket, who is a Community Resource Dog (CRD) for the department. They continuously coordinate with Golden Opportunities for Independence, where Rocket came from, to help other SROs and CRD's in the Needham area. SROs run and manage Officer Rocket's social media pages and interact with the community there and also attend various community events inside and outside of schools with Officer Rocket to speak about his role. The SROs visit all the schools in town, Needham BI, nursing homes, and Center at the Heights with Officer Rocket to visit with community members. They often partner with various town agencies and utilize Officer Rocket to help promote programs.

Detectives

During 2021, the Detective Division was assigned cases for follow-up and investigation. These assignments include both Part A (ie drug offenses, burglary, assaults, sex offenses) and B crimes (ie check fraud, peeping tom), attempts to commit a crime and other situations which may not have amounted to a crime but required further investigation. Due to the complexity of the case many had multiple Detectives assigned to them. Similar to the rest of the Department, the Detective Division had to adjust to policing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Detectives rose to the occasion and adjusted their practices when practical to protect the health and safety of the public and each other.

During the year, detectives investigated a range of crimes including but not limited to, identity theft, unemployment fraud, breaking and entering, robbery, armed assault, civil rights crimes and death investigations. Through these efforts Detectives have worked with our regional police partners, State Police, Federal Agencies including the FBI, DEA and Secret Service, as well as prosecutors in the District Attorney's office, the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the United States Attorney's office. Often, Detectives work with these other agencies to address crimes that increasingly extend beyond local boundaries and incorporate complex technical skills.

Needham Detectives are also members of the Norfolk County Police Anti-Crime Task Force (NORPAC). NORPAC provides for multi-agency investigations into drug trafficking, violent crime, and the apprehension of fugitives. The work of the Needham Police Detectives is exemplary and well regarded in the region. It is a credit to each Detective and the professionalism with which they approach their job. The

distribution of illicit drugs in the community continues to be a major concern of the Police Department. Detectives were involved in several narcotic investigations which resulted in the arrest of several individuals. The offenses some of these individuals were charged with ranged from possession with intent to distribute marijuana to possession with intent to distribute heroin and fentanyl. Detectives continue to aggressively address the distribution of illegal narcotics through enforcement, education, and community partnerships.

The Detective Division attends quarterly Norfolk County meetings held by District Attorney Morrissey in an exchange of information and investigative techniques to combat the opioid crisis.

In one case, Detectives, along with the Arlington Police, the DEA, Norwood Police, and members of NORPAC, used various techniques to investigate and apprehend a suspect distributing fentanyl. These techniques included GPS trackers, physical surveillance, surveillance photography, and confidential informants to establish probable cause and execute a search warrant in Norwood where one hundred grams of Fentanyl were located in the direct presence of young children.

In another Needham case, Patrol Officers and Detectives investigated an unarmed robbery that occurred in a store parking lot stemming from a Craigslist cell phone purchase scam. The suspect stole the cell phone from the victim. The suspect had committed similar crimes in multiple jurisdictions including Walpole, Westwood, Pawtucket, and Fairhaven. Utilizing investigative techniques, Needham Detectives were able to process evidence developing numerous fingerprints leading to the identification of the suspect. The suspect was in custody for attempted murder in a different jurisdiction that occurred while committing the same crime. The party is still in custody.

Also in 2021, due to the tireless effort of Needham and Massachusetts State Police Detectives, Tammy Galloway was tried and convicted of First-Degree Homicide, Larceny of a Motor vehicle, and Armed Robbery in connection with the murder of a Needham Resident in her home. Galloway was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the homicide charge, twenty years for the armed robbery, and three to five years for the larceny of the victim's motor vehicle.

In 2021, Needham and NORPAC Detectives conducted a narcotics investigation where the suspect was selling fentanyl and cocaine to an undercover officer. The man was charged with Trafficking and Distribution of a Class A Substance (Fentanyl), Distribution of a Class B Substance (Cocaine), Resisting Arrest, and Evidence Tampering. The suspect has since been indicted and is awaiting trial in Norfolk Superior Court.

In another Needham incident Detectives and Patrol Officers responded to a Needham business for a workplace assault. The resulting investigation, which included video review, multiple interviews, and evidence collection led to the arrest of the suspect. He was charged with Armed Assault with Intent to Murder, Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon causing Serious Bodily Injury, and Mayhem. The party has since been indicted and is currently awaiting trial in Norfolk Superior Court.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there were numerous reports of unemployment fraud across the Commonwealth and Needham was not immune. Detectives were assigned and conducted follow-ups on numerous unemployment fraud cases. Detectives were also instrumental in organizing the Department's highly successful Junior Police Academy. The Department, in collaboration with Needham Youth and Family Services, offered a week-long Junior Police Academy for rising 7th and 8th graders. This program is offered free of cost and held at both the Pollard Middle School and the Needham Police Department. Detectives interacted with students teaching them about fingerprinting, crime scene processing and photography.

COMMUNITY SERVICES / PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

Crisis Intervention / Community Outreach

The primary responsibility of this program is to coordinate with Needham Community Crisis Intervention Team (NCCIT), the Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN), and the Needham Coalition for Suicide Prevention to ensure people suffering from mental health and substance abuse disorders receive adequate follow up and access to resources. The program also coordinates with Regional, State and National Agencies such as Riverside, DOVE, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and the Norfolk District Attorney's Outreach Program. This officer will also act as a liaison to Beth Israel Hospital and Newton Wellesley Hospital.

In December of 2020 we contracted with Riverside for a Jail Diversion Program (JDP) Clinician. This clinician is assigned to Needham for 20 hours per week and works closely with our Community Outreach Officer and other Crisis Intervention Trained Officers. The clinician is embedded in the Police Department, has access to reports of incidents involving mental health and substance abuse, and is available for co-response where applicable.

2021 January thru July* Needham Jail Diversion Program Responses

Type of Response	Number of Responses
Co-Response	6
Follow-up	87
Evaluation	29
Unable to make contact	10
Declined Services	10
Total Outreach	147

Source of Referral	Number of Referrals
Police	95
Riverside	29
Self/Family	11
Community	7
Total	142

Total Number of People Served	83
--------------------------------------	-----------

Type of Contact	Number of Contact
Phone	69
In-person	52
Telehealth	3
Email	12
Other	5
Total	141

***Stats are provided from January thru July. Our Riverside Clinician was promoted, and we were without a clinician for the remainder of the year.**

Training

2021 had many training opportunities for our officers. Sworn officers are required by the Massachusetts Police Training Committee (MPTC) to complete trainings annually. In 2021, Needham officers participated in the following trainings to satisfy this: Domestic Terrorism, Responding to Pandemics and Similar Emergencies, Implicit Bias, CPR First Responder, CPR First Responder (Practical), Legal Updates, Defensive Tactics and Longevity in Law Enforcement.

A variety of Use of Force related trainings were offered in 2021 including: BolaWrap Remote Restraint Device, Spring Firearms Training, Fall Firearms Training, and Taser Training.

We sent six additional officers to Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) bringing our total number of CIT trained officers to 26. That means approximately 56% of our current sworn staff have attended 40 hours of training geared toward better response to calls involving persons suffering from mental illness. We will continue to train personnel as the training becomes available.

In November our School Resource Officers, Community Outreach Officer and the Sergeant that oversees Crisis Intervention attended a course called “Mental Health in LGBTQ+ Communities” put on by the Norfolk County Crisis Intervention Team Training and Technical Assistance Center.

All Officers and Dispatchers are required to take 16 hours of continuing education each year to maintain their State 911 Certification. Officers and dispatchers fulfilled this responsibility by taking approved courses on the following topics: Dispatchers Response to Persons with Mental Illness, Priming and Cognitive Bias, One Mind Pledge Campaign, Ethics: An Understanding and Expectation, Lives on the Line: The Dispatcher and Domestic Violence, Dealing with Disasters and 911: ICAT (Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics) for Dispatchers and Call Takers.

Our officers that work most closely with the youth attended several trainings in 2021. The courses were School Resource Officer Training, Juvenile Law Update, and the Annual New England School Safety Conference.

We are a participating agency in Metro-LEC. It is a regional agency that has several specialized units that share personnel and resources for specific circumstances such as: Crisis Negotiation, Search and Rescue, SWAT and Tactical Response, Cyber Crime Unit, and a Mobile Operations Unit comprised of Motorcycles for events and other circumstances. These officers participate in monthly regional trainings with their respective units.

Some of our Officers attended more advanced training in specific types of investigations such as Sexual Assault Investigator Training, Breaking and Entering Investigations, Social Media Investigations, Auto Theft Investigations, Basic Death Investigations, Fingerprinting Techniques, and Search Warrant Preparation.

In addition to the MPTC Implicit Bias Course Officers took, we held a training in the Fall of 2021 called Fair and Impartial Policing. The company, Fair & Impartial Policing® LCC describes their course as “the #1 provider of implicit-bias-awareness training for law enforcement in North America. The state-of-the-art Fair & Impartial Policing® training program is about how the mind works. There is no finger-pointing or blame. Instead, we discuss how implicit biases can impact well-intentioned individuals outside their conscious awareness. A key strength of our program is our ability to reduce the defensiveness around this topic that many law enforcement officers may bring into the classroom.” In addition to this course, we sent our two most recently promoted Sergeants to a 40-hour Front Line Supervisors Training in the spring of 2021, two Lieutenants attended a 40-hour Internal Affairs Investigation Training and several of our Officers were certified in LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) for Traffic Enforcement.

APPENDIX A

GROUP A

- **Arson 200**
- **Assault Offenses**
 - Aggravated Assault 13A
 - Simple Assault 13B
 - Intimidation 13C
- **Bribery 510**
- **Burglary/ Breaking and Entering 220**
- **Counterfeiting/Forgery 250**
- **Destruction/ Damage/ Vandalism of Property 290**
- **Drug/ Narcotic Offenses**
 - Drug/ Narcotic Violations 35A
 - Drug Equipment Violations 35
- **Embezzlement 270**
- **Extortion/Blackmail 210**
- **Fraud Offenses**
 - False Pretenses/ Swindle/ Confidence Game 26A
 - Credit Card/ ATM Fraud 26B
 - Impersonation 26C
 - Welfare Fraud 26D
 - Wire Fraud 26E
- **Gambling Offenses**
 - Betting/ Wagering 39A
 - Operating/ Promoting/ Assisting Gambling 39B
 - Gambling Equip Violation 39C
 - Sports Tampering 39D
- **Homicide Offenses**
 - Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter 09A
 - Negligent Manslaughter 09B
 - Justifiable Homicide 09C
- **Kidnapping/ Abduction 100**
- **Larceny/ Theft Offenses**
 - Pocket-Picking 23A
 - Purse Snatching 23B
 - Shoplifting 23C
 - Theft from Building 23D
 - Theft from Coin-Operated Machine or Device 23E
 - Theft from a Motor Vehicle 23F
 - Theft of a Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories 23G
 - All Other Larceny 23H
- **Motor Vehicle Theft 240**
- **Pornography/ Obscene Materials 370**
- **Prostitution Offenses**
 - Prostitution 40A
 - Assisting/ Promoting Prostitution 40B
- **Robbery 120**
- **Sex Offenses, Forcible**
 - Forcible Rape 11A
 - Forcible Sodomy 11B
 - Sexual Assault with an Object 11C
 - Forcible Fondling 11D
- **Sex Offenses, Non-Forcible**
 - Incest 36A
 - Statutory Rape 36B
- **Stolen Property Offenses 280**
- **Weapon Law Violations 520**

GROUP B

- **Bad Checks 90A**
- **Curfew/ Loitering/Vagrancy Violations 90B**
- **Disorderly Conduct 90C**
- **Driving Under the Influence 90D**
- **Drunkenness 90E**
- **Family Offenses, Nonviolent 90F**
- **Liquor Law Violations 90G**
- **Peeping Tom 90H**
- **Runaway 90I**
- **Trespass of Real Property 90J**
- **All Other Offenses 90Z**