



As we entered 2021, we were deep in the throws of a pandemic unlike any seen in years. At that time the impacts were documented in our previous report with the hope that 2021 would show our resiliency and strength as a community to come out better.

In addition, law enforcement entered 2021 with the signing of a new Police Reform Bill in Massachusetts entitled An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth signed by Governor Baker on December 31, 2020. The developers of this legislation promised widespread changes in law enforcement and a blueprint to implement these changes. We prepared ourselves for what would be coming and readied for the changes we would need to implement.

2021 did not proceed as hoped or planned.

The COVID 19 Pandemic remained a major disruptor of planning and operational norms. With new variants developing on a regular basis procedures and programming focused more on prevention of illness than accomplishing goals. The Natick Police Department had to constantly adjust operations. Unable to simply close the doors for the safety of staff we had to develop policies and procedures to protect staff and still be responsive to the needs of the community. Officers and staff continued to come to work to serve with a minimal number of days lost to COVID infections. This was a testament to the dedication of the officers and staff.

As people began to emerge from their homes after months of isolation, we saw an increase in traffic crashes, domestic disturbances and mental health related calls.

The mission of public safety continued to be of assistance and partners with the health department as they continued to lead during this health crisis. Procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment, educating public on current operating requirements as guidelines continued to evolve while still protecting the community and enforcing the laws. As 2021 concluded COVID continued to have a major impact on our community as the uncertainty of what will be the next crisis or increase of cases had all pivoting to meet the next challenge. It also became clear that COVID will affect our operations for months to come.

Law enforcement throughout the country has been the subject of much scrutiny by several incidents that took place in this country in 2020. The immediate reaction was to create new legislation in the name of Police Reform. Massachusetts developed and signed its version of laws on December 31, 2020. Although presented to be a blueprint to Massachusetts police departments to reform we have finished 2021 and the promised blueprint is yet to be developed. However, the Natick Police Department decided to not

wait to do what is best for our community. We focused our year in building relationships with the community we serve.

We did this by conducting a series of seminars in which every sworn member of the police department participated as well as community members. Together the participants went to the American Museum of African American History in Boston to learn the history of policing in the minority community. In addition, learning how to communicate and share ideas was the theme that was taken away by all who attended. The plan is to bring this workshop presentation to more members of the community in 2022 as it proved to be effective and impactful for those who were able to participate.

This workshop also confirmed that we need to continue to work to ensure that we operate with transparency to gain the confidence from the residents that we serve. Many ideas and suggestions resulted from discussions and brainstorming that we plan to bring forward as we update our policies and procedures and improve on our methods of communication.

COVID had a critical effect on the mental health of the community. We continued our Co-Responder Program with our full-time clinician responding with our officers to allow for on-scene crisis intervention. In 2021 there were 306 referrals, 19 with behavioral health were diverted from the criminal justice system (estimated cost savings \$47,880) and 69 diverted from Emergency Room (estimated cost savings \$276,000). Total estimated cost savings in 2021 was \$323,880.

### **Personnel Updates**

The Natick Police Department saw the retirement of a long serving member Thomas Vitale after more than 40 years of service. Two new Officers joined the ranks of the department, Kyle Kennedy and Augustine Ramstrom.

### **Department Activity**

During 2021, 832 complaints were forwarded to the Natick District Court for prosecution. In addition, the Records staff processed 1,591 Offense Reports, 580 motor vehicle crash reports, and 1,713 traffic citations.

The Natick Police Department received 20,493 Calls for Service. The Natick Public Safety Dispatch Center answered 7,457 911 Line Calls; 16 Text to 911 Calls, 444 7-Digit Emergency Line Calls and 462 abandoned Calls requiring call back, for a total of 8,379 Emergency Calls Answered. Of these calls 99.42% were answered within the goal timeline (10 Seconds).

The following illustrates traffic enforcement and crash data for FY2021 as compared to FY2019 and FY2020 data:

<b>Violation Breakdown</b>	<b>FY2019</b>	<b>FY2020</b>	<b>FY2021</b>
Civil Motor Vehicle Infractions	358	123	313
Written Warnings	1,406	1,125	1060
Arrests	82	71	54

Criminal Complaints	277	241	278
OUI	40	38	23

<b>Crash Particulars</b>			
Total Crashes	889	612	510
Fatal Injury	1	1	0
Non-Fatal Injury (incapacitating)	15	9	7
Non-Fatal Injury (non-incapacitating)	76	24	47
Possible Injury	74	14	52

**Animal Control**

The following is a list of Animal Control activity during CY2021:

<b>Domestic</b>		<b>Wildlife</b>	
Unrestrained Dog	37	Sick /Injured Raccoons	37
Barking Dog Complaints	38	Sick/Injured Skunks	22
Dogs Struck By Motor	5	Sick/Injured Possums	5
Stray Dogs Reported	70	Sick/Injured Woodchucks	0
Dog Bites Reported	19	Sick/Injured Squirrels	4
Lost Dogs Reported	23	Coyote/Fox Sightings	14
Lost Cats Reported	17	Sick/Injured Fox	21
Stray Cats Reported	6	Sick/Injured Birds Of Prey	22
Cats Struck By Motor	7	Sick/Injured Rabbits	5
Cat Bites Reported	1	Sick/Injured Bats	5
Lost Exotic Birds	2	Deer Struck By Motor	20
Lost Ferrets	0	Deceased Animals Removed (Roadways)	82
<b>Informational Statistics</b>			
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated	37		
Wild Animals Removed	7		
Citations Issued	10		
Written Warnings Issued	74		
Mutual Aid To Other	2		
Assistance Calls For Service	137		
Informational Calls	36		
Livestock Complaints	1		

Farms/Barns Inspected	0
Kennels Inspected	2

**Internal Affairs Complaints CY2021:**

Types: Violation Policy - 4  
Violation Rules - 5  
Conduct Unbecoming - 3  
Abusive Language - 3

Disposition: Unfounded - 4  
Sustained - 2  
Under Investigation - 5  
Not Sustained - 2  
Exonerated - 2