



## Stoneham Police Department

### 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**James P. O'Connor, Chief of Police**



The Stoneham Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of professional police services while respecting the constitutional rights of every person living in or visiting the Town of Stoneham. We achieve this mission by working in partnership with the community, serving with compassion and respect to all members of the public. We remain committed to providing these services with professionalism and integrity.

The members of the Stoneham Police Department continue to demonstrate exceptional dedication, professionalism, and integrity in all that they do. Their efforts are integral to maintaining the safety and well-being of our town, and their hard work does not go unnoticed. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank each and every member of the department for their continued service. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated team working on our behalf.

The 2024 civilian staff for the Department consists of Office Manager Erin Sinclair, part-time Office Assistants Patricia Quinn, Amanda Farrington, custodian John Noftall, Head Dispatcher David Luciano, Dispatcher Brian Johnston, Dispatcher Nathaniel Powers, Dispatcher Michael Sweeney, Dispatcher Jeremy Cefalo, Dispatcher Kelly McNamara, and Dispatcher Christine Cerrato.



The 2024 sworn staff includes, Chief James O'Connor, Det. Lt. Tony Kranefuss, Lt. Christopher Apalakis, Lt. David Thistle, Sgt. Christopher Dalis, Sgt. Michael DeCroteau, Sgt. Christopher Murphy, Sgt. Stephan Aprile, Sgt. Zachary Newell, Sgt. John Burton, Sgt. Emily Dello-Russo, Det. Stephen Carroll, Off. Thomas Day, Det. Christopher Copan, Off. Edward Fucarile, Det. David Ryan, Det. Patrick Carroll, Safety Off. Laura Engel, Off. David Szydowski, Det. Michael Colotti, Off. Brian Raffaelo, Off. Michael Prudente, Off. Richard Pacini, Off. Joseph Cataldo, Off. Nicholas Palmieri, Det. Sean O'Grady, Off. Lucas Ferraz, Off. Stephan Chatelle, Off. Matthew Dabenigno, Off. George Doherty, Off. Antonio Ventresca, Off. Neil Simard, Off. Michael Juliano, Off. Michael Cassola, Off. John Johnson, Off. Christopher Smith, Off. Arthur Yeomelakis, Off. Kevin Henriquez.

## **PATROL OPERATIONS DIVISION**

### **Lieutenant Christopher Apalakis, Division Commander**

The Stoneham Police Department Patrol Operations Division currently consists of 19 uniformed officers; 1 lieutenant, and 6 sergeants.

The department welcomed several new officers in 2024. Officer Smith graduated from the MPTC Randolph Academy in November. The department also added two veteran officers, Officer Arthur Yeomelakis, returned to the department after a brief hiatus and Officer John Johnson began his career with the SPD after serving as a local University Police Officer. Along with the addition of these officers the department promoted one police officer to the supervisory ranks. Officer Emily Dello Russo was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

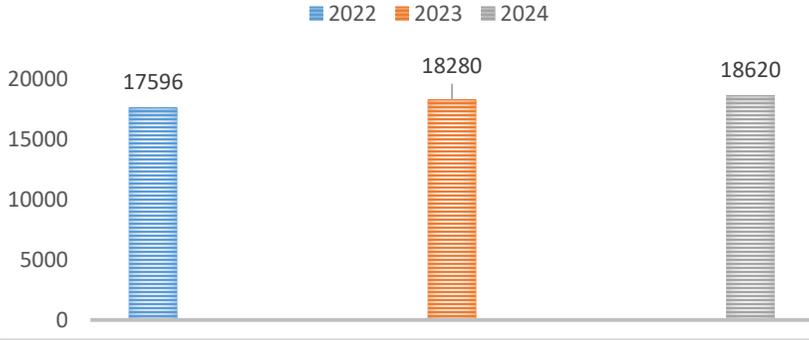


The following officers left the department in 2024 either through retirement or resignation, Sergeant Sheryl Rotondi, Stoneham's first female police officer, retired after twenty-nine years of service and Officer Derek McShane also retired. Officers Bettinelli and Galante both resigned from the department.

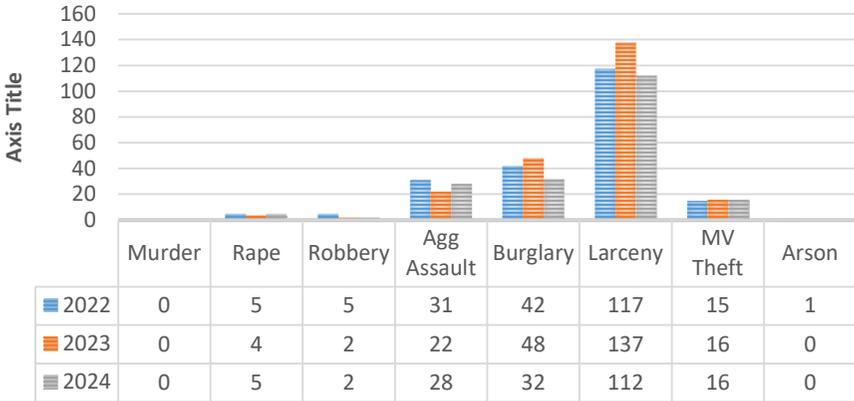
Officer Brian Raffaello was named Officer of the Year for 2024.

The men and women of the patrol operations section perform the most visible and recognized function within the Stoneham Police Department. They are the ones in uniform and in marked cruisers who are the first to respond to calls. In 2024, there were 18,620 logged incidents an 82 arrests were made. When officers are not on calls, they patrol the streets promoting public safety through visibility and the education and enforcement of motor vehicle laws. Officers made 1,497 motor vehicle stops and issued 580 citations. Over 1,124 parking tickets were issued throughout the year.

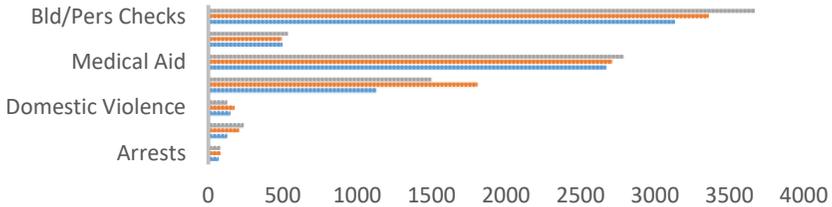
# LOGGED INCIDENTS



# FBI PART 1 MAJOR CRIMES



# DEPARTMENT STATISTICS



Each member of the police department is required to receive a minimum of 40 hours of annual training required by the Municipal Police Training Committee and 16 hours of continuing education relating to the 9-1-1 System. Officers have attended various in-service and 9-1-1 trainings including CPR, first responder, criminal law and criminal procedure.

Through the efforts of our department's Grant Administrator, Lieutenant Christopher Apalakis, the police department was able to acquire over \$680,000 in grants from the Department of Mental Health, the State 911 Department and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to be used for equipment, training and traffic enforcement. \$250,000 of grant acquisitions is being used to fund the department's Body Worn Camera Program.

Under the direction of Sergeant Stephen Aprile, the Community Policing Team had many successful events in 2024. The department participated in National Night Out for the second time as well as the department's first "Movie Night on The Common" event.

Both were very well attended by the community and many members of the police department. Members of the CPU team also helped in the planning, safety and security for the following events: Memorial Day Parade, Stoneham High School Prom Promenade, Touch a Truck, Veterans Day Road Race, Chamber of Commerce Christmas Tree Lighting, Whip Hill Christmas, Halloween Stroll and Town Day.

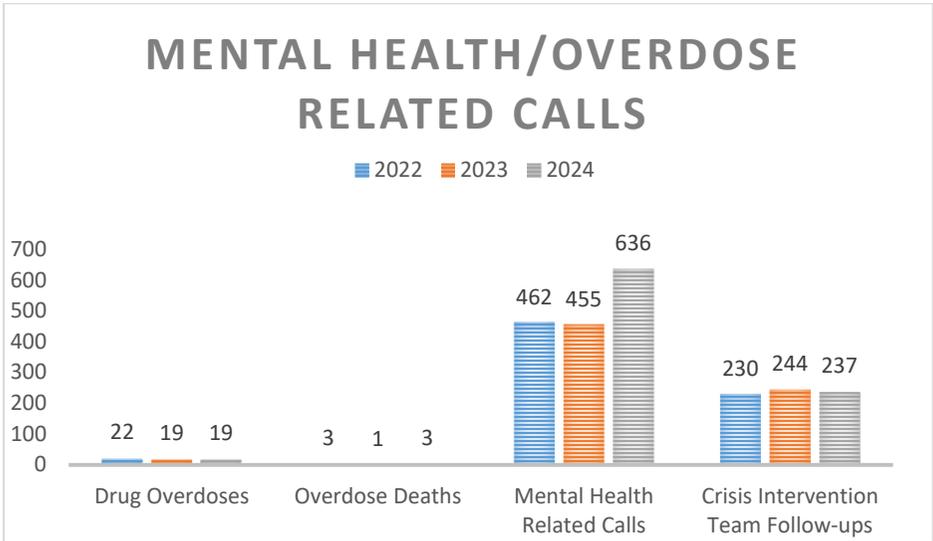


The department's Crisis Intervention Team is led by Sergeant Zachary Newell. Under Sergeant Newell, an additional 3 officers were CIT trained in 2024. Other trainings attended by officers that were funded by the Department of Mental Health include

Advanced De-escalation & Documentation and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training.

The department had over 650 calls for service in 2024 where mental health and/or substance abuse were identified as an underlying issue.

Sergeant Newell, Danielle Visone (mental health clinician) and Tracy Rizzo (social services coordinator) facilitate the Stoneham High Risk CIT meeting, which is a monthly collaboration of stakeholders and shareholders who meet with CIT members to provide services to high risk residents.



## **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**

### **Submitted by Detective Lieutenant Tony Kranefuss**

The Criminal Investigations Division (Bureau) of the Stoneham Police Department is responsible for investigating criminal offenses to include crime scene processing, evidence collection, storage and security. We also assist the Middlesex District Attorney’s Office with the criminal prosecutions of these offenses. In addition to investigating crimes, we also provide many services to the community.

The Bureau is responsible for maintaining the Sex Offender Registry Information (SORI) on individuals that live, work or attend school in Stoneham. We are also responsible for fingerprinting door to door solicitors, ice cream truck vendors and dealer applicants in second hand merchandise. Fingerprinting services are also provided to town residents for employment and adoption purposes. We provide the background investigations for prospective police officers and other employees deemed by the Chief of Police, process all new and renewal applications for gun permits as well as provide town inspections of various business establishments.

The Bureau is currently comprised of 8 full time detectives. Det. Lt. Tony Kranefuss is the Commander of the Bureau. Sergeant Christopher Dalis is the Supervisor of the Bureau. Det. Stephen Carroll is assigned to days and also maintains SORI. Det. Patrick Carroll is the Juvenile Detective also assigned to days. Det. Christopher Copan is the Court Prosecutor and Evidence Officer in addition to processing gun licenses. Detective David Ryan is the Bureau's night detective, Michael Colotti is our Detective-IT Specialist.

Each year, detectives in the Bureau attend numerous meetings, seminars and trainings. Each detective attended 32 hours of annual in-service training, 16 hours of 9-1-1 training, annual firearms and electronic control weapon training.

In February 2024, School Resource Officer Michael Colotti transitioned to the role of Detective/IT Specialist at the Stoneham Police Department. In his new position, Detective Colotti is responsible for conducting investigations and overseeing the department's technical requirements.

In April 2024, Detective Colotti attended a rigorous 10-day detective training program sponsored by the Northeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (NEMLEC). Detective Colotti became a member of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators and CrimeDex, an online community of professionals from fraud prevention, loss prevention, and law enforcement fields, dedicated to combating crime.

In March of 2024, Sergeant Dalis reassigned from the Patrol Division to the Criminal Investigations Division, serving as the Division's Detective Sergeant (Supervisor).

On November 16, 2024, School Resource Officer, Emily Dello Russo was promoted to Sergeant.

Officer Sean O'Grady was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Criminal Investigations Division, where he now serves as a Task Force Officer with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

Detective David Ryan continued to work on many Identity Fraud, Financial Crimes, Sexual Crimes and all other general crime cases in 2024 and wrote and executed many search warrants and Administrative Subpoenas related to these crimes. Detective Ryan was the lead investigator in an investment scam where the victim lost \$1.2 million. Working with the US Secret Service Det. Ryan was able to recover \$200,000 for the victim and is still working with the USSS and HIS in process of recovering the rest of the funds and charging those responsible for the crimes. Det. Ryan also worked many cryptocurrency cases in 2024 and was able to recover some of the victim's funds in these cases. Detective Ryan continues to be an active member of the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI) and in 2024 he became a Certified Financial Crimes Investigator (CFCI) through the IAFCI. Detective Ryan attended numerous other trainings as well in 2024.

In 2024, Detective Patrick Carroll was assigned as the Juvenile Detective. This position is responsible for further investigation of cases and incidents involving juveniles that require extended consideration. Throughout 2024, Detective Carroll was assigned to thirty-eight cases. His investigations resulted in nine criminal complaints. He had also wrote five search

warrants last year in support of his cases. In 2024, Detective Carroll was involved in numerous background investigations for police officer candidates for the Stoneham Police Department. These background investigations include but are not limited to reference interviews, employer interviews, and neighborhood canvas and information corroboration

Detective Stephen Carroll has investigated more than a dozen sexually explicit criminal offenses in addition to other investigations including kidnapping, felony assaults and property crimes. His investigations consisted of 30 assigned cases with 5 criminal complaints filed and 7 search warrants obtained and executed.

Detective Copan has worked tirelessly in handling his many time consuming duties and has been instrumental in working with the Commonwealth to conform to the new laws regarding sexual assault evidence and Track-Kit tracking system along with updating himself on the current gun laws by attending the Firearms Legal Update course. 147 Gun permits were issued or renewed in 2024.

The Bureau has an anonymous drug tip line which is (781-507-2613) and a general tip line (781-507-2639). You can also follow the Stoneham Police Department on Twitter @StonehamMAPD.

The following is the number of registered sex offenders living or working in Stoneham as of December 31, 2024. Additional sex offender information is available online at [www.mass.gov/sorb](http://www.mass.gov/sorb).

There are **26** people registered with the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board as living or working in Stoneham.

**Level 1** – Risk of recidivism is low, no offender information is available to the public. Total 15.

9 offenders live in town; 3 offenders list a secondary address in town; 5 offenders work in town; One Level 1 offender both lives and works in town and is counted in both categories; One Level 1 offender both lives and lists a secondary address in town and is counted in both categories.

**Level 2** – Risk of recidivism is moderate, offender information is available upon request. Total 10

6 offenders live in town; 4 offenders work in town

**Level 3** - Risk of recidivism is high, offender information is actively disseminated to the public. Total 1.

1 Level 3 offender both lives and works in town and is counted in both categories

**Not Classified** – Offender is awaiting final classification level form the Sex Offender Registry Board. Total 0.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **Sergeant Christopher Murphy, Unit Supervisor**

At the close of 2024, Domestic Violence Advocate Linda Leis retired after 15 years of dedicated service. Amanda Farrington has since assumed the role and responsibilities of Domestic Violence Advocate. Additionally, Lt. David Thistle transitioned from his position as Unit Supervisor, with Sgt. Chris Murphy now taking on those duties. These leadership changes mark an important step forward in continuing our commitment to addressing domestic violence in the community.

The Stoneham Police Department responded to 126 domestic violence related calls in 2024. We also assisted residents with applying for an Emergency Restraining Order (ERO) 7 times. In addition, we responded to 16 reports of restraining order (209A) violations as well as serving a total of 133 restraining orders.

Over the past year, the collaboration between the Stoneham Alliance Against Violence and the Metro North Boys and Girls Club has revitalized key youth programming, including safe dating practices, RAD Kids, and partnerships with the Melrose Alliance Against Violence and the Wakefield Alliance Against Violence. Additionally, members of the Stoneham Police Department remained actively involved by attending monthly meetings and serving on the board of SAAV, strengthening the ongoing commitment to community safety and support.

## **SAFETY OFFICER**

### **Officer Laura Engel**

As the town's Safety Officer, I oversee a team of 10 permanent traffic directors and 2 spare traffic directors. In 2024, 10 traffic directors resigned or retired, and our department's goal for 2025 is to hire 10 new traffic directors to fill these vacant positions. Additionally, parking enforcement consists of 20 hours per week dedicated to issuing parking violations for illegally parked vehicles and managing the town's parking placard program.

I collaborate closely with the Planning Board and Building Department, reviewing numerous site plans, and regularly meet with town department heads to coordinate the police department's support of their needs. As a member of the Traffic Advisory Commission, which includes the Fire Chief, Police Chief, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Town Planner, and DPW Director, I participate in monthly meetings to discuss safety matters and make recommendations for improvements across the town.

I investigate safety-related complaints and suggestions, particularly those related to traffic and school safety, working to improve the quality of life for Stoneham's residents and students. I meet directly with residents to address their safety concerns and maintain an open line of communication with local schools to ensure that any traffic safety issues are promptly addressed.

In addition, I have installed over 50 car seats for Stoneham residents and surrounding communities. The police station also provides car seats for those in need through the State's Car Seat Grant program.

I have updated and repaired all the mounted radar units around town to gather valuable data on speeding hotspots. Furthermore, I've installed discreet traffic control devices to detect problem areas.

During the summer, I assisted with the Open Parks program as a counselor alongside the School Resource Officer (SRO). Together, we taught numerous classes at the Boys and Girls Club camp focused on crosswalk safety. I also attended monthly school safety meetings to discuss school-related concerns and have been involved in High School Safety meetings, addressing safety issues at the new school.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH**

### **David Luciano, Dispatch Supervisor**

The Public Safety Dispatch Department provides 24-hour civilian dispatching for the Police Department, Fire Department and contract ambulance. The department is comprised of seven full-time dispatchers who operate from a combined dispatch center located in the police station.

During the course of 2024 over 18,600 calls for service were processed through the dispatch center. The center received over 5,900 calls via the 9-1-1 system. Residents are highly encouraged to use 9-1-1 to report police, fire and medical emergencies. These calls for service do not include the numerous business or public information calls that are received by the center or walk - in reports to the Police Station that must also be processed by the dispatch staff.

Of the calls for service: 14,823 involved the Police Department, 4,916 involved the Fire Department and 3,329 involved an ambulance. Added together, these numbers total 23,068 incidents, as many calls for service involve a multi-agency response.

The day shift dispatched 7,351 calls for service, the evening shift dispatched 6,105 calls for service and the overnight shift dispatched 5,164 calls for service.

During the year, dispatch personnel attended training classes covering topics such as: Health and wellness issues for dispatch, Dealing with the Crisis call: Keeping them on the line, Scams 101 For Dispatchers, NENA 9-1-1 Center Culture and Communication. There are among several topics which were covered. All personnel are required to attend at least sixteen hours of annual training.

In 2024, with the assistance of APRA funding, the Town was able to update and upgrade the radio capabilities of the Fire and Police Departments as well as the DPW. This is phase one of five phase project to ensure that the radio systems of the emergency departments remain functional and technologically relevant.