

City of Cambridge

MASSACHUSETTS

In City Council

4/4

1994

Accepting All
Committee Reports Including Claims

YEA	NAY	ABSENT	PRESENT	
✓				Ms. Kathleen L. Born
✓				Mr. Francis H. Duehay
✓				Mr. Jonathan S. Myers
✓				Mrs. Sheila T. Russell
✓				Mr. Michael A. Sullivan
✓				Mr. Timothy J. Toomey, Jr.
✓				Ms. Katherine Triantafillou
✓				Mr. William H. Walsh
✓				Mayor Kenneth E. Reeves

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City of Cambridge

The Public Safety Committee conducted a public hearing on Tuesday, March 1, 1994 beginning at 5:39 p.m. in the Sullivan Chamber, City Hall.

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan, Chair of the above referenced committee convened the hearing and stated that the purpose of this date's proceedings was three-fold: 1.) Discussion of the 1993 City of Cambridge Crime Report; 2.) the Police Department's domestic violence program; and 3.) Selective traffic enforcement. Present at the hearing were: Councillor Jonathan S. Myers, Councillor Katherine Triantafillou, City Manager Robert Healy, Police Commissioner Perry L. Anderson, Jr. and Deputy City Clerk John E. Flynn.

To begin the discussion the Chair recognized Commissioner Anderson for a departmental overview. The Commissioner stated that the 1993 Crime report was the most comprehensive in the department's history, covering all neighborhoods, along with a narrative of the specific neighborhoods. He further stated that this report will be used as a tool in analyzing the specific neighborhood crime trends thus allowing the community to be better informed of the department's deployment strategy. He also noted the department's willingness to work together with community residents to reduce crime and on other issues in an attempt to solve some social related problems. He further stated that the report would aid in the development of the department's neighborhood policing model and to bring the department into the 21st century.

At this time, the Committee heard from Mr. Raymond T. Santilli, Police Planner, for a brief update on the Uniform Crime Report statistics for calendar year 1993. (A copy of the statistics report is attached).

Mr. Santilli stated that the department's planning unit formally updates and reviews crime reports on a daily basis. The unit reviews for trends and calls for service (citizen call vis a vis response and actual crime vis a vis scene). He further stated that the department gathers information for a variety of sources including neighborhood crime watch groups and Police Park and Walk assignments.

Mr. Santilli noted that the 1993 Part I Crime Index total was the second lowest in twenty five years. The 1992 Part I Crime Index was the lowest in twenty five years. In comparing the statistics over an eleven year period (1982 through 1993) Part I crime decreased by 25%. He noted that in 1993 Cambridge experienced its lowest number of street robberies but aggravated assault (domestic violence incidents are included) increased considerably from 1992. He stated to the Committee that this statistic should not be interpreted as a negative but as a positive indicator that the community is identifying with the Police and has reached a comfortable level.

At this time Mr. Richard E. Saviari, Crime Analyst, reviewed for the Committee, some trends expected in calendar year 1994. Mr. Saviari stated that there is no basis for predictability in the occurrence of murder or rape. He stated that the robbery statistic would likely be no

lower than 280 occurrences and that burglaries are decreasing throughout the Commonwealth as a result of the implementation of the career criminal program, household alarm systems and neighborhood crime watches. He also noted that the commercial burglaries statistics are also down with regards to housebreaks, the Mid-Cambridge community accounts for 25% of the total number of occurrences.

At this time Superintendent Harold Murphy provided the Committee with an overview of the Uniformed Patrol Division. The division is comprised of 196 sworn personnel, 3 civilian positions and 54 school crossing guards. At present the 31 new officers are deployed in both the day shift and the first half of the evening shift. For deployment purposes the City has been zoned into four areas:

- 1.) East
- 2.) Central (Neighborhoods 4,5,6 and 7)
- 3.) North and
- 4.) West

In Zone 2 - Central - a community policing grant will be administered by a lieutenant and will target routes 5,6,7 and 8.

In each of the thirteen neighborhoods, the routes and boundaries have been redrawn and the intent of the department is to assign the same officer(s) within the same neighborhood.

Councillor Sullivan inquired if the staffing pattern was subject to bid or assignment.

In response, Superintendent Murphy stated that it was a combination of both, allowing for flexibility in deployment.

Superintendent Murphy further stated that the four major squares - Central, Inman, Porter and Harvard - maintain the same staffing levels on all shifts. He also stated that walking routes include visits within schools and public housing developments throughout the various neighborhoods.

He concluded that the department's presently bicycle patrols and expansion of the motorcycle patrol.

Councillor Sullivan inquired of the Commissioner if the department would review mounted patrols.

Commissioner Anderson responded in the affirmative.

Commissioner Anderson, on the topic of selective traffic enforcement, stated that the City is presently reviewing the hours of operations for motorcycle patrols. He noted that with regard to truck traffic on River Street, Third Street and Western Avenue both day and evening

enforcement coverage was being planned.

At this time Superintendent Walter Boyle provided the Committee with an overview of the department's Investigations Division. The division's comprised of 1.) general assignment detectives (2 Sergeants and 12 detectives) who are assigned to a caseload, process warrants and are assigned to protect and escort visiting dignitaries; 2.) Domestic Violence Program (1 Sergeant and 1 Domestic Violence Civilian Liaison; and 3.) Vice/Narcotics staffed by 11 detectives.

With regards to general assignment detectives the City is zoned into three areas

- 1.) North
- 2.) East/Kendall and
- 3.) Cambridgeport/River

Superintendent Boyle stated that the department has a clearance rate in rape cases.

With regards to the Domestic Violence Program, the department was recipient of a grant, which the City Manager matched, allowing for a fulltime equivalent position.

This program is comprised by a highly specialized team of individuals trained to meet the physical and emotional needs of the citizenry. All members of the Cambridge Police Department have and continue to receive in-service and roll call training in this area. The department also has eight alarm systems on hand with plans to purchase an additional three systems. The division is planning to draft a new policy and response upon receipt of the Attorney General's and the Governor's course of action. The division has also formed a partnership with the Middlesex County District Attorney's office and the Cambridge Commission on the status of women to address common ground in enforcement and education. With regards to in-service education, each officer received four hours of formal training conducted in conjunction with Transition House. Also, a database has been built and through monthly management by objective reports a tracking system will be in place.

Superintendent Boyle also stated that the quality of arrests by the Narcotics Bureau has improved. He further stated that this has been achieved through a targeting effort. He also credited past successes on:

- 1) Call the commissioner's line;
- 2) Anonymous calls; and
- 3) Community input.

He also noted that every type of call was followed-up by the division's personnel.

Councillor Sullivan inquired if the database contained information on the existence of a restraining order and/or orders and criminal history.

Superintendent Boyle responded in the affirmative.

Councillor Sullivan inquired if 209A information was to be included in the new enhanced 911.

Commissioner Anderson responded in the affirmative.

Councillor Sullivan then inquired if information regarding the storage and possession of firearms would be readily accessible in responding to a call.

Commissioner Anderson and Superintendent Boyle both stated that the information is about a year away and that they are working closely with the Emergency Communications Director.

Councillor Sullivan then inquired if the Police Department had witnessed a rise in the number of "wilding" incidents.

Mr. Savieri also stated that there have been an increase in alcohol-related assaults in the Harvard Square area as a result of "Male Bonding".

Councillor Myers inquired of the level of detail information contained in the domestic violence database.

Superintendent Boyle in response stated that the Department began creating the database in December, 1993 and is used to track batterers.

Councillor Myers than inquired of the level of commitment by the members of the department in making community based policing successful.

The Commissioner in response stated that the entire department is focused.

Councillor Myers inquired of the progress being made in upgrading the department's capital equipment.

Commissioner Anderson in response stated that the Department has made a series of requests to the Capital Budget Committee and is awaiting final recommendations and action during the budget process.

Councillor Sullivan inquired if there was an adequate number of rapid response units.

The Commissioner responded in the affirmative.

Ms. Marie Madison, Agassiz Community, inquired if the rise in assaults could be attributed to domestic violence incidents being reported to the department.

Mr. Saviari responded in the affirmative noting that the average number of reported incidents over a four year time frame was approximately 100/year, now it is 200/year.

At this time the Committee heard from Deputy Superintendent Michael Giacoppa who outlined some of the procedures being used to deny bail in cases where the Police observe something going array. Those procedures include:

- 1.) Time of arrest - work down the compendium
- 2.) Offender if absent - search policy.

The Deputy Superintendent further stated that the robbery rate is an accurate measure of indicator of what is going on in the City.

Ms. Nancy Ryan, Executive Director of the Womens Commission, stated that the statistics reflect that more than 50% of the assaults and 50% of the attempted murders are domestic related with the bottom line being that the City has a major problem in its hands. She further stated the need for financial support to continue programming in the areas of education, prevention and outreach as it relates to domestic violence. Ms. Ryan also questioned why people feel more alarmed given that the crime rate has decreased 25% in 10 years.

Councillor Sullivan in response stated that one need look at the violent nature of the criminal and the willingness to inflict harm on the victim.

Ms. Laura Nichols, Riverside Community Watch, inquired of the Department's summer plans.

Commissioner Anderson noting Ms. Nichols participation in Operation Clean Sweep in her neighborhood, stated that the department would build upon the liaisons and the partnerships that have been forged between the department and the community.

Superintendent Murphy further echoed the Commissioner's remarks by stating that the Neighborhood Walks, watches & Positive Edge have all been helpful. He also stated that Policing and staffing strategies would remain constant throughout the summer.

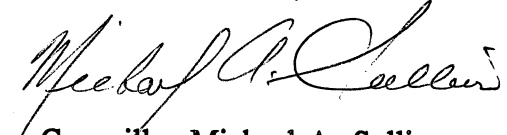
Ms. Jackie Farrell, Riverside Community Watch, inquired of the policing strategies in handling teenagers who hang on certain corners but allude police at time of walks or pass by.

In response, Deputy Superintendent Giacoppa outlined the operations of the Delta Units and their impact on "Hot Spots". He further stated that these units average some twenty arrests a month.

At this time, Councillor Sullivan thanked those in attendance for their participation in the discussion.

The hearing was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

For the Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Councillor Michael A. Sullivan
Chair



Perry L. Anderson Jr.
Police Commissioner

City of Cambridge
Police Department
Office of the Commissioner

TELEPHONE
(617) 349-3300

FAX
(617) 349-3320

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

March 1, 1994

Cambridge City Council

Public Safety Committee

- * Department Overview - Commissioner Perry L. Anderson Jr.
- * Planning/Crime Analysis - Mr. Ray Santilli
 - * methodology / identification of problem areas, patterns and trends
 - * annual crime report
 - * grants administration
- * Investigations - Superintendent Walter Boyle
 - * domestic violence program
 - * crime investigations
- * Uniformed Patrol - Superintendent Harold Murphy
 - * personnel allocation and deployment
 - * neighborhood patrol plan
 - * selective traffic enforcement
- * Council Inquiry



ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
5 WESTERN AVENUE, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139



UNIFORM CRIME REPORT STATISTICS

	<u>1982</u>	<u>1987</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1993</u>
FORCIBLE RAPE	30	36	33	30
ROBBERY	484	417	286	253
AGG. ASSAULT	344	340	551	643
BURGLARY	1 740	1 477	866	929
LARCENY/THEFT	3 959	3 229	3 326	3 563
M/V THEFT	1 931	1 152	887	964
MURDER	4	2	2	2
	8 492	6 653	5 951	6 384

- * the 1992 Part I Crime Index total was the lowest in 25 years
- * the 1993 Part I Crime Index total was the 2nd lowest in 25 years
- * the 1992 housebreak, the 1992 motor vehicle theft, and the 1993 robbery totals were the lowest in 30 years
- * Assault increase - domestic arrests, drugs
- * Larceny increase - targetting of bicycles; shoplifting at Galleria; pickpocketing rings/credit cards

* Comparison	<u>decade of 80's</u>	<u>1993</u>
rape	30	30
robbery	429	253
assault	385	643
burglary	1 626	929
larceny	3 334	3 563
m/v theft	<u>1 392</u>	<u>964</u>
	7 196	6 382

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM

- * establishment of a dedicated, specialized investigation team
- * four hour in-service training for all police officers with EMERGE and Transition House
- * deployment and evaluation of personal alarm systems - eight currently utilized; three more to be purchased
- * updating domestic violence response policy as well as new procedures on service of restraining orders
- * created a computerized data base of incidents
- * partnership with Middlesex DA's office and Women's Commission to increase communications and referral of available services
- * enhancing community awareness and education in collaboration with Cambridge Domestic Violence Roundtable group

Committee Report #82

8-137

A comm. was received from John E. Flynn
transmitting report from Councillor
Sullivan for public hearing 3/1/94
re: 1993 Crime Report, Police Dept.
domestic violence program and
selective traffic enforcement.

In City Council April 4, 1994

*Report accepted
on all call rate
of 9-0-0.*

Placed on file

CV