



**Date:** July 13, 2020

**To:** Hampton Board of Selectman

**From:** Richard E. Sawyer, Chief of Police

**Re:** 2nd Quarter Update

**General Overview:**

**Personnel:**

**Full Time:**

Current Staffing Level: 34 Sworn

Authorized Staffing Level: 36 Sworn

In March Officer Patrick Taft resigned his position with the Hampton Police Department. In June Officer James Colburn resigned his position with the Hampton Police Department. With these resignations the Department has been operating below the authorized staffing level. The decision was made to delay filling these vacancies so the supervisors and command staff would have more time to assess our Part-Time Officers who may be interested in full time employment with the Department. Officer Chris Keyser and SRO/Det. Clay DeMarco are serving as Summer Corporals. The Corporals serve as direct supervisors for our Part-Time Special Officers during our busiest times at the Beach.

**Part-Time:**

Current Staffing Level: 29 Sworn

Authorized Staffing Level: 70 Sworn

Of our 29 Part-Time Officers 9 are on probationary status. The Department was originally scheduled to test for Part-Time Officers on April 4, 2020. That date was postponed until May 2, 2020 in accordance with Governor Sununu's original emergency orders. Subsequent orders from the Governor made it unlikely that a summer part-time academy would be conducted so we have postponed our testing until October with a specific date to be determined.

**Civilian Personnel:**

Full Time Civilian: 9

The Department has had significant turnover with our Communication Specialists and currently 3 are on probationary status.

**Department Operations:**

The primary focus for the first half of 2020 has been adjusting operations to cope with the covid-19 crisis. As the crisis has evolved with more protective measures being introduced we have been working with the community towards voluntary compliance and education without the threat of enforcement. On May 28<sup>th</sup> the Department assisted in the closure of Ocean Blvd from O Street north to the intersection Ashworth Ave. and a routing of north bound traffic to Ashworth Ave. making that road two ways. The closure of Ocean Blvd was done at the direction of the Governor based upon recommendations of the New Hampshire

Economic Reopening Task Force and remains in affect until Labor Day. The closure was cooperative venture between the New Hampshire State Parks, New Hampshire DOT, and the Town of Hampton. Over the next several weeks numerous adjustments and modifications were made based upon input from residents and businesses. There has been a lot of discussion on the pros and cons of this plan and while we respect the opinions of those opposed to the plan the closure has been effective for its intended purpose. Maintaining order at the Beach has always been challenging and with the current covid 19 and social justice issues across the nation our mission has become more difficult and the closure has been helpful.

Throughout this challenging time we have received support from the NH Department of Justice, NH State Police, NHNG 12 Civil Support Team, NH Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Rockingham County Sheriffs Office, Epping Police Department, Londonderry Police Department, and the Seacoast Emergency Response Team. Each of these agencies has contributed to overall safety of our community.

**Activity:**

Our 1<sup>st</sup> Half 2020 Police Activities compared to SPLS (Same period last year):

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Calls for Service	Up 7%	9635	9031
Motor Vehicle Stops	Down 25%	1308	1742
Arrests	Up 3%	370	360
DWI	Down 60%	48	120
Drug Offences	Up 30%	40	31
Incidents Reported	Down 9%	493	544
Offences	Down 5%	845	893
Felonies	Down 34%	48	73
Parking Tickets	Up 208%	1491	484
Accidents	Down 34%	128	193