

East Hartford Police Department

2019 Annual Report

P.R.I.D.E.

Professionalism

Respect

Integrity

Diversity

Excellence

MISSION:

Safeguard life and property, preserve peace, enforce laws, prevent and detect crime, provide a safe community, enhance the quality of life, protect the rights of citizens

East Hartford Police Department

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East Hartford, CT 06108
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Scott M. Sansom, Chief of Police

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about your police department. We strive to build strong, working relationships with our community to create a safe environment for everyone to enjoy. A key component to those relationships is transparency, and one of the reasons we produce an annual report.

This past year was very successful, with development of new programs and initiatives designed to increase our productivity and overall efficiency. When I began my role as Chief, there were several things I had planned for the agency; one of which was achieving CALEA Accreditation. This has been a multi-year effort, and during 2019 that goal was realized. CALEA standards are recognized as the benchmark in 21st Century Policing, adherence to which demonstrates to residents, visitors and department members that the East Hartford Police Department is fully committed to providing the very best in police services. There are only twenty (20) other municipal law enforcement agencies in Connecticut, and only 5% nationwide, that have achieved CALEA Accreditation. It is important to know that this accreditation award is possible due solely to the hard work and professionalism of the department's sworn and civilian employees. It is a reflection of our commitment to providing the highest quality of service to our citizens.

Thank you again for taking a look at our annual report. I hope you see how much effort and hard work was put forth by your police department in 2019. On behalf of my command staff and all employees, both sworn and civilian, it's an honor and a privilege to serve the community of East Hartford, and we thank you for your continued interest and support.

"Serving the Community with Pride and Integrity"

Structure of the Department

Table of Organization

As of December 31, 2019

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Chief of Police | 1 |
| Deputy Chief | 4 |
| Lieutenant | 11 |
| Sergeant | 13 |
| Detective | 8 |
| Officer | 84 |
| Civilian | 36 |

The East Hartford Police Department is structured into four distinct bureaus:

- ***Criminal Investigations Bureau***
- ***Professional Standards Bureau***
- ***Field Operations Bureau***
- ***Support Services Bureau***

Accreditation

The accreditation process for CALEA, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies is a voluntary, cooperative review of police processes with the goal of improving accountability and professionalism. The credentialing program establishes standards based on best practices which enhance law enforcement as a profession and improve delivery of services.

In May 2019 the department participated in a web-based assessment from CALEA Compliance Service Members (CSM). CSMs Tim Hazlette and Bruce Robertson, who have served in law enforcement for over sixty years collectively, examined department policies and proofs of adherence to those policies. In June, following the successful completion of the web-based assessment, the department was then evaluated in an on-site assessment. CALEA Assessors, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Gregory, Deputy Chief of the St. Louis County Missouri Police Department and Captain Mark Schwobel of the Hurst Police Department, Texas, visited the agency for three days. During this time Colonel Gregory and Captain Schwobel witnessed daily operations, conducted interviews with select personnel and evaluated the department for compliance with all applicable program standards.

Following the on-site assessment, a report documenting the assessor's findings was submitted to the CALEA Commission for final determination of accreditation status. In November representatives, to include Police Command Staff and Accreditation personnel, attended a conference to participate in a final review of the department. The final review included a panel portion with CALEA Commissioners and review of results from June's on-site assessment.

On November 16, 2019 the East Hartford Police Department was awarded CALEA Accreditation. Accreditation status is awarded for a period of four years, during which time the EHPD will proudly display CALEA's Mark of Excellence Award. To maintain status as an accredited agency, Accreditation personnel from the Professional Standards Bureau will monitor and manage standard compliance, with oversight from CALEA.

Since its inception in 1984, the program has enabled law enforcement agencies to demonstrate professionalism through the implementation and adherence to industry best practices. Successful accreditation is a distinction in excellence and the East Hartford Police Department's demonstration of ongoing commitment to the community it serves.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB) assists patrol officers with the investigation of cases that require specialized training or an extended period of time to complete. The CIB also initiates investigations that fall outside the normal complaint procedure, such as compliance with Sexual Offender registration laws, certain firearms violations and vice and narcotics investigations.

The CIB is grouped into divisions enabling each unit to receive advanced training in their specialty and to partner with similar units in the region to address recurring crime patterns of a like nature. All members of the CIB are prepared to shift quickly between divisions depending on patterns of crime and major crime events.

Divisions within the CIB

- *General Investigations*
- *Vice, Intelligence & Narcotics (VIN)*
- *Special Investigations & School Resource Officers*
- *Evidentiary Services Unit*
- *Court Officer*
- *Crash Investigations Unit (CIU)*



Criminal Investigations Bureau Highlights

- New Evidentiary Services Unit truck, which will greatly assist at the scene of major investigations and serious motor vehicle crashes.
- Enhanced case management process to ensure thorough and complete investigations are being completed in a timely manner.
- Initial research completed for town-wide camera project. Town Council approved this project to move forward next fiscal year.
- Completed numerous complicated investigations, resulting in arrests and subsequent convictions.

Divisions within the PSB

- *Internal Affairs*
- *Training*
- *Firearms*
- *Accreditation*
- *Freedom of Information Requests/ Civil Liability*
- *Hiring & Background Investigations*

The goal of the Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) is to ensure the department is highly trained, accredited, ethical and adheres to the established Code of Conduct. This bureau safeguards the integrity of the department.

Internal Affairs Statistics

- 17 Internal Affairs Investigations
 - 10 K-9 Cases Reviewed
 - 51 Vehicular Pursuits Reviewed
- 113 Cases Involving Use of Force Reviewed

Review of cases does not indicate a complaint or violation of policy occurred, but is done as a means of quality assurance to ensure personnel adherence to applicable policies and procedures.

Professional Standards Bureau Highlights

After many years of hard work and preparation, In November of 2019 the East Hartford Police Department achieved International Accreditation through CALEA. This was a major accomplishment that has been years in the making. During the accreditation process, hundreds of our policies and procedures were updated to comply with State and CALEA standards as well as industry recognized best practices. The East Hartford Police Department is now the second largest agency in the State of Connecticut to achieve CALEA Accreditation.



In 2019, the Professional Standards Bureau also focused on updating recruitment and hiring efforts. A new recruiting team was formed to develop modern and innovative recruiting and hiring strategies that help reflect the diverse community we serve.



CALEA Accreditation Award Presentation, November 2019

2019

Field Operations Bureau

PATROL DIVISION STATS:

30,271 calls for service

7,255 traffic stops

1,865 arrests

The Field Operations Bureau (FOB) is the largest bureau within the police department and consists of the Patrol Division, supplemented by the following special teams which support the mission: Traffic Unit, Motorcycle Unit, Animal Control Unit, K-9 Unit, TRT SWAT Team, TRT Crisis Negotiating Team, Marine Patrol, Dive Team, Bomb Squad, Honor Guard and Bicycle Unit.

Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the East Hartford Police Department and is committed to providing safety, service, and building positive relationships throughout the neighborhoods in the Town of East Hartford. Officers wear uniforms, drive marked police vehicles and are assigned to areas known as “districts” to detect and prevent crime. Officers also respond to 911 emergency calls and other calls for service as needed.



Field Operations Bureau Highlights

On October 26, 2019 officers responded to 35 Ginger Ln. Apt. 126 on a report of a husband who threatened to kill his wife with a black colored handgun. The wife fled the apartment and called police from a gas station on Silver Lane. When officers arrived on scene, inner and outer perimeters were established and phone communication was initiated with the suspect. Officers established rapport with the suspect, who was alone in the apartment, and managed to convince him to give himself up peacefully. The suspect exited the apartment and was taken into custody without incident. A short time later the suspect advised that he hid the handgun (a Ruger semi-auto) in the bottom drawer of the oven and that the gun was tucked up within the side panel insulation.

On May 4, 2019 officers responded to a report of two suspects walking in the area of Concord Street and Cannon Road into driveways and checking door handles on cars. Kyle Espute was subsequently arrested and a second suspect fled in a smaller white SUV similar to a Nissan Rogue. Officer Mona and K9 Casus located a S&W Shield 9mm handgun with a loaded magazine. Espute was charged with several offenses. Excellent job by all responding officers!

2019

Support Services Bureau

The function of the Support Services Bureau (SSB) is to provide administrative services related to human resources, finance, records administration and permitting. The SSB also manages the Communications Division as well as Management Information Services (MIS).

Support Services Bureau Highlights

- Workers compensation process updated to ensure better compliance with timely reporting.
- Updated all department issued cell phones to smart phones. Numerous benefits for the department and the officers.
- Automated motor vehicle crash reports so copies can be purchased online.
- Updated the alarm billing process to enhance customer service and efficiency.

Public Safety Communications

The East Hartford Police Department's Communications Division is typically the initial point of contact for citizens in need of assistance within the Town of East Hartford. Telecommunicators working in the Communications Center, are responsible for dispatching Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services within East Hartford.

Public Safety Communications Highlights

Dispatchers participated in Active Shooter training in Newington. Dispatchers trained with EHPD Police and Fire Personnel for active assailant situations to include call taking, planning and dispatching skills in various scenarios.

On April 18, 2019 Dispatcher Tammy Castagna was recognized and awarded during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week for her actions on an emergency call that saved an East Hartford resident's life. During this incident Dispatcher Castagna provided lifesaving instructions to Good Samaritan, Leah Higginbotham, who had stopped along the roadway to assist a resident suffering from cardiac arrest.



2019

Community Service Events

Throughout the year East Hartford Police Department participated in over seventy events. Events to include Coffee with a Cop, Sandwich with a Cop and National Night Out were popular and instrumental in fostering community involvement and neighborhood pride.

On August 6, 2019 at the Public Safety Complex, the East Hartford Police Department hosted the National Night Out block party event. The event is an opportunity for East Hartford Police Officers and residents to strengthen partnerships and come together under positive circumstances. Displays and presentations were hosted from the East Hartford Police Department, Fire Department, Youth Services and featured activities for children to include face painting, a bounce house, dunk tank and a visit from McGruff the Crime Dog.

National Night Out



2019



(Deputy Chief Mack Hawkins, Chief of Police Scott Sansom, Deputy Chief Robert Davis and Deputy Chief Christopher Davis)