



## **Public Safety & Transportation Committee Report**

### **City of Newton** **In City Council**

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018**

Present: Councilors Ciccone (Chair), Cote, Downs, Noel and Grossman

Absent: Councilors Lipof, Auchincloss and Markiewicz

Also Present: Councilors Danberg, Greenberg and Albright

City Staff: Chief David MacDonald and Lt. Bruce Apotheker, Newton Police Department; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer; Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation of Planning; Barney Heath, Director of Planning & Development

Others Present: Jeff Bennett, Shuttle Services Manager, 128 Business Council and Lisa Cinella, Director of Operations, TransAction Corporate Shuttles, Inc.

**#224-18      128 Business Council Bus License Amendment**

128 BUSINESS COUNCIL, requesting an amendment to Council Order #185-16 of the Needham Shuttle Bus License.

**Action:**      **Public Safety & Transportation Approved 4-0, Councilor Downs not voting**

**Note:**      Jeff Bennett, Shuttle Services Manager, 128 Business Council and Lisa Cinella, Director of Operations, TransAction Corporate Shuttles, Inc. joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Bennett stated that this request is to add a second bus to the 128 Business Council Needham Shuttle bus license. Changes requested are limited to the following: Days, hours of operation and the addition of a second bus. Both shuttle vehicles will operate on the currently approved route within the City.

Mr. Bennett then stated that TransAction shuttle service currently provides approximately 23,000 rides per year. The numbers of riders continue to climb, meaning fewer vehicles on the roads in Newton.

Ms. Cinella stated that Sgt. Babcock inspected and approved the second bus.

Chair Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. There was no public comment.

Without discussion, Councilor Cote made a motion to approve this bus license amendment. Council members agreed 4-0, Councilor Downs not voting.

**#225-18 Discussion on crash trends in the city**

COUNCILORS DOWNS, CICCONE, COTE, DANBERG AND NOEL, requesting updates from the Chief of Police or his designee on crash trends in the city.

**Action:** Public Safety & Transportation No Action Necessary 5-0

**Note:** Chief David MacDonald, Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation of Planning; Councilor Albright and Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief MacDonald provided Committee members with backup material, attached to this report. He stated that this document would periodically be updated and provided to the Committee as requested by Councilor Downs.

The material includes a list of the top ten accident locations and accident totals where changes have been made over the past six months. The Police, DPW, Planning and Engineering Departments have met determining what traffic control device would be changed.

Councilors Questions, Suggestions and Answers:

Questions:

- Please explain why the number of accidents have increased after the changes were made at Commonwealth Avenue and Lexington Street, Watertown Street and Adams Street? Chief MacDonald stated a new wiring cabinet was installed at Commonwealth Avenue and Lexington Street. A new signal was installed at Watertown Street and Adams Street. Chief MacDonald and Ms. Freedman said that these intersections are worth watching; additional data will be collected and there will be a review of each accident.
- Please explain the process, data collection, who manages the data, and who makes the determination if changes are necessary? Chief MacDonald stated that at the traffic cluster meetings the Engineering Department determines what if any changes are necessary. Ms. Freedman stated that there are two internal working groups; the transportation cluster and the complete streets working groups, both groups are being proactive to implement a complete streets policy program ensuring safety.
- Please explain accident hot spots versus design issues. Ms. Freedman stated that DPW collects data. Traffic calming measures include vehicle speed, volumes, accidents and location. Each location is ranked for internal review by the score that the location receives and placed on a prioritization list. Unfortunately, at this time funding is not available. After reviewing accidents, common cause of the accident or trend is determined. Mr. Yeo stated that some funding is available.
- Can the City work to rectify any of these intersections with low cost adjustments? Ms. Freedman stated that DPW is working to determine best adjustments at some intersections with low funding. The CIP allows for large expense projects.
- Is the City performing enforcement for aggressive or distracted drivers? Chief MacDonald answered yes; current technology assists the department to continue enforcement.

Suggestions:

- Please continue to map accident hot spots and track data.

Chair Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. A resident stated that at a prior meeting, a Councilor stated that the cause of accidents in West Newton was the fault of bicyclists. She suggested that Committee members should be made aware of the causes of accidents. Are accidents caused by the bicyclist or driver behaviors? Chief MacDonald stated data is available through December 2017; that data proves that bicyclists and drivers are both at fault.

Without further discussion, Chair Ciccone made a motion for no action necessary. Council members agreed 5-0.

**#37-18 Discussion on how community policing works**

COUNCILOR ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion with the Chief of Police and/or members of his department to explain to the City Council how “community policing” works in Newton, how it differs from traditional policing, how staffing differs from traditional departments, and how it benefits Newton.

**Action:** Public Safety & Transportation No Action Necessary 4-0, Councilor Downs not voting

**Note:** Chief David MacDonald, Lt. Bruce Apotheker, Councilors Albright and Greenberg joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chief MacDonald and Lt. Apotheker provided Committee members with a detailed presentation, attached to this report. The link to the audio can be found at

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/committees/safety/2018.asp>

Councilors Comments, Questions and Answers:Comments:

- It is excellent to have positive interactions creating exposure between the police and teenagers, trust is built, a feeling of safety and perhaps relief from fears of crime.

Questions:

- Does the Police Department qualify on requesting another grant from the office of victim assistance? Chief MacDonald answered that the grant designated funding for alcohol related education projects. One example, the City hoped to have a public service announcement contest (PSA) between the high schools where the students would design their own public service announcements against drunk driving. This PSA contest did not come to fruition due to rigid curriculum, many activities and time restraints.
- The department is fortunate to have a full time social worker, but is one social worker adequate to meet the needs of the department? Chief MacDonald answered that several years ago, the department received a grant for funding a social worker for two years. It was a great asset. During those two years, it was a department learning experience where a job description was created. Now that the City has a full time social worker, the department continues to learn. He then stated that he envisions the department hiring an additional social worker in the future.

Councilors thanked Chief MacDonald and Lt. Apotheker for a comprehensive presentation.

Without further discussion, Councilor Cote made a motion for no action necessary. Council members agreed 4-0, Councilor Downs not voting.

**#164-18 Discussion on Tactical Readiness**

COUNCILORS DANBERG, CICCONE, LIPOF, NORTON, NOEL, COTE, GROSSMAN AND GREENBERG, requesting a discussion by Police of Tactical Readiness in today's world including communications protocol to/for the public during such times.

**Action:** Public Safety & Transportation No Action Necessary 5-0

**Note:** Chief David MacDonald, Lt. Bruce Apotheker, Councilors Danberg, Greenberg and Albright joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Chair Ciccone stated that it is unfortunate that Superintendent David Fleishman and Chair Ruth Goldman of the School Committee could not attend tonight's discussion due to school vacation.

Chief MacDonald and Lt. Apotheker provided Committee members with a detailed presentation, attached to this report. The link to the audio can be found at

<http://www.newtonma.gov/gov/aldermen/committees/safety/2018.asp>

Councilors Questions, Suggestions and Answers:

Questions:

- In the schools, who has access to the school direct communication radio to the Police Department? Chief MacDonald answered that the administration office has access to the radio.
- Who informs the Police Department when a student may be holding or carrying a firearm? Lt. Apotheker answered that other students, staff, networking and social media make the department aware.
- With mandatory reporting of students, are there situations where the police are concerned regarding student psychology and medical situations? Does the department have a strong communication with the schools? Chief MacDonald answered that mandatory reporting is covered under Section 51A. "Reporting of suspected abuse or neglect; mandated reporters; collection of physical evidence; penalties; content of reports; liability; privileged communication." A memorandum of understanding has been signed between Superintendent Fleishman and himself. The Law Department will present the newest memorandum of understanding to school personnel for reeducation purposes.
- Would the Police Department benefit on having tours of schools including the layout? Chief MacDonald answered that mobile devices and computers include floor plans of each school. The private or public businesses that have had a safety threat assessment are also included on the computer. Lt. Apotheker said that it would be beneficial for custodians to give officers the tours because the custodians would know of any secret hiding places.
- What type of training is available and what procedure is in place to avoid the recent disasters that have taken place in the Country? Chief MacDonald answered that the officers are trained in active shooter training including an annual firearms refresher course. The new firing range at the station has benefited the officers on allowing them to train three times per year. He then stated that it would be

beneficial to have a fulltime, Training Bureau where 150 men and women would be exposed to continuous training.

- Does the department have an opinion regarding open campus versus closed campus high schools? Chief MacDonald stated that recommendations have been made in the past, it is necessary to have safety and accountability for all students. Open campuses have been allowed in the City for 40 years. This would be a cultural shift for students.

Suggestions:

- A suggestion was made to have a combined public safety Training Bureau dividing the expenses with the School, Police and Fire Departments.
- Please continue the training relating to mental health issues. This training is very important.
- Regarding technology, panic buttons and locked doors are there reasonable best practices regarding technology or devices the City should have in public buildings adding to safety? Chief MacDonald said that the schools have security cameras, which are the least invasive devices. It would be necessary to assign personnel to accurately monitor metal detectors. Lt. Apotheker added that statistics prove that a school is the safest place for children.

Chair Ciccone opened the discussion to members of the public who were present. A resident stated that he performed a 911 response test to state police regarding the time it takes for a call to be received in the City versus calling 796-2100 directly. The results, calling direct was faster. He then asked if this problem been rectified? Lt. Apotheker stated residents should program in their devices the Newton Police Department business line number; this telephone number is 617-796-2123.

Councilors thanked Chief MacDonald and Lt. Apotheker for a comprehensive presentation.

Without further discussion, Councilor Downs made a motion for no action necessary. Council members agreed 5-0.

At approximately, 9:40 p.m. Councilor Downs made a motion to adjourn. Council members agreed 5-0.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Allan Ciccone, Jr. Chair**

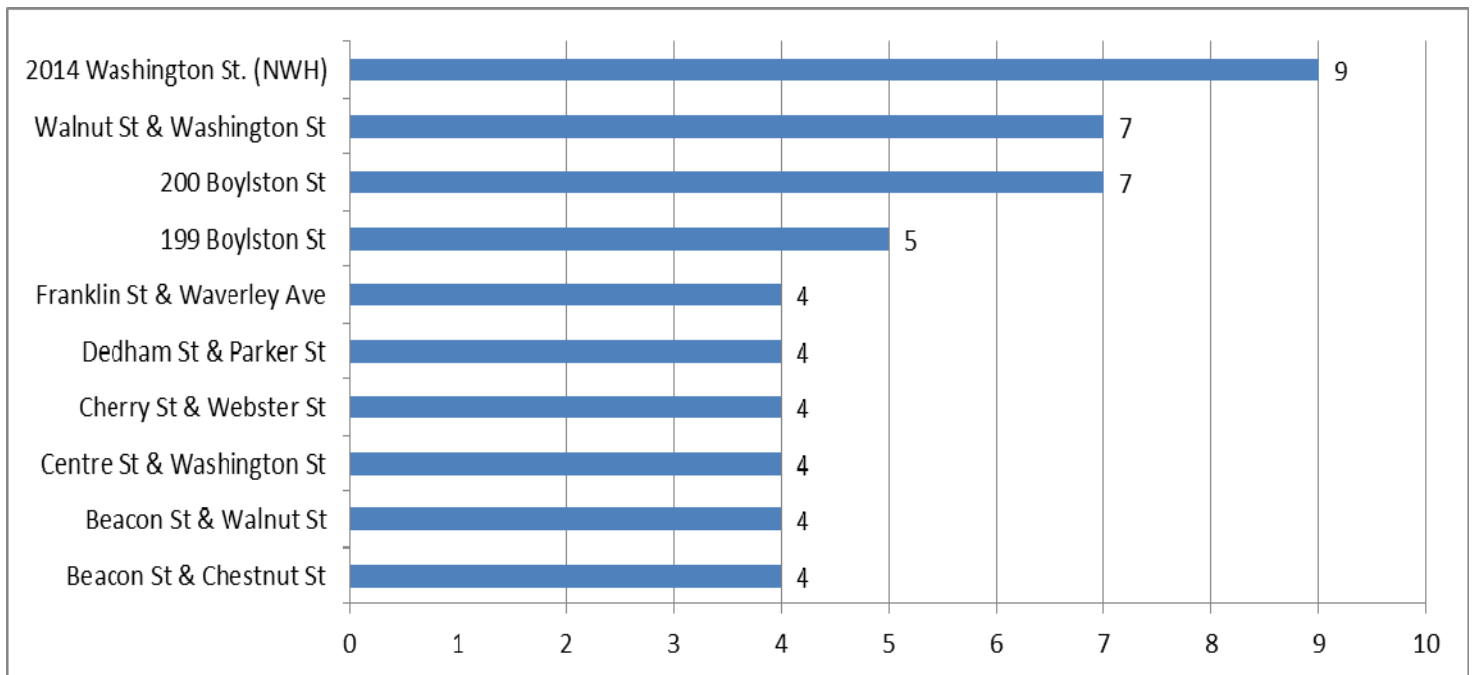


# Newton Police Department



## Top Ten Accident Locations & Accident totals where changes have been made

October 3, 2017 to April 3, 2018



### Accident totals at locations where traffic control changes have been made

**Lexington St. & Staniford St.** – Install temporary Pedestrian Crossing, March of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 2/1/2018) - 0

Accidents after change (3/1/2018 – 4/10/18) – 0

**California St. & Jassett St.** – New Controller Installed, February of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 1/31/2018) - 1

Accidents after change (2/1/2018 – 4/10/18) – 0

**Centre St. & Bowen St.** – New Cabinet installed, February of 2018

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 1/31/2018) - 0

Accidents after change (2/1/2018 – 4/10/18) – 0

**Harvard St. & Washington St.** – New signal operational, October of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 9/30/2017) - 6

Accidents after change (10/1/2017 – 4/10/18) – 0

**Beacon St. & Beethoven St. & Evelyn St.** – New signal operational, August of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 7/31/2017) - 0

Accidents after change (8/1/2017 – 4/10/18) – 0

**Jackson St. & Pearl St.** – Upgrade signal hardware, August of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 7/31/2017) - 7

Accidents after change (8/1/2017 – 4/10/18) – 0

**Centre St. & Tyler Ter.** – New emergency signal installation, Summer of 2017

Accidents before change (1/1/2016 – 6/20/2017) - 4

Accidents after change (6/21/2017 – 4/10/18) – 1

**Washington St. & Auburn St. & Perkins St.** – Prospect, Upgrade Signal Hardware and Detection, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 5

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 4/10/18) – 5

**Watertown St. & Adams St.** – New signal operational, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 2

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 4/10/18) – 5

**Comm. Ave & Lexington St** – New Cabinet, Summer of 2016

Accidents before change (1/1/2015 – 6/20/2016) - 2

Accidents after change (6/21/2016 – 4/10/18) – 8

## Community Policing

- History (Technology, Motor vehicle, ability to respond to emergency)
- Took officers away from people
- The walking beat, knew everyone, handled problems ahead of time
- We have been lucky in Newton, walking beats
- 180 officers in 1993 down to 133 in 2013
- Park & Walk as a tactic when we had 133 (Norwood story)
- Budgeted at 149, has enabled us some flexibility
- Mountain Bikes
- Get out of the cruiser
- Make appearances
- Not just the job of a special unit, it should be a department wide philosophy
- Negative press in recent years
- **Procedural Justice**
- Difference between approachability and having your own equal voice
- Viewing the police as people and having the police take empathy to each exchange
- The philosophy is at the core, **tactics** to implement
  - Park & Walk
  - DP's
  - Events such as Open House
  - Badges and Ball
  - Getting out into the neighborhood (area councils, City Retirees)
  - Diversity Event at City Hall
  - Newton Interfaith Clergy Assoc.
  - Introduction to Community;
- Highlands T
- O'Haras
- NSHS Baseball



- NNHS after school
- Newton Center Green (Piano Concert-Suzuki School)
- Johnny's Luncheonette
- Wegman's
- Ecumenical Service at City Hall (Myrtle, Unitarian W. N.)
- Q&A with Unitarian Church
- Cops and Cones
- Citizen Satisfaction Survey (Summer 2016)
- Recruitment event at NPD
- Coffee with a cop
- Home base charity last November (Beards, \$4,500)
- May 10, 2018 Community Event
- Special Operations Bureau (Safety assessments, private as well)
- Newton Police Explorers
- Establishing partnerships and collaborations (Boys and Girls club, Clergy Assoc.)
- Strengthening relationships (NPS)

Priority Relationships with youth as overarching Strategy;

- Pine Manor Internship
- Myrtle Baptist Initiatives
- Grant Effort (Office of Victim assistance)
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH POSITION AS HUB OF DEPT. WIDE EFFORTS**
- Cops & Kids
- Clinician's role

### Why Community Policing/Community Engagement?

- ✓ Builds trust
- ✓ Identifies families, individuals who need services
- ✓ Identifies EDP's
- ✓ Enhance community trust
- ✓ Attempting to establish transparency, bias free policing

- ✓ Linkage between tactical readiness and community engagement

Important Training Issues;

1. De-escalation
2. Procedural justice
3. Fair and Impartial Policing

# School Safety

Sgt. Frank Eldridge-Special  
Operations  
Lt. Bruce Apotheker-C.S. Bureau

## Principles

- 1. Buildings
- 2. Tactics
- 3. People

## Sgt. Eldridge

- Special Operations
- Training
- NEMLEC IMT

## Lt. Apotheker

- Commander Community Services since 2005

## Buildings

- Safe Schools Grant
- Building assessments
- BDA's
- Direct Radio Communication
- Panic Buttons

## School Drills

- Police Special Operations has and continues to assist, review and critique (lockdown, shelter in place)
- Several NPD *ALICE* trained (NPS currently looking at a revised version)

## Information/Intelligence

- CBJ
- YARIS
- City Wide Safety Team
- NSHS and NNHS Safety Team
- Monthly Ed. Center
- School Safety Meeting hosted by Chief Proia
- Social Media

## Tactical Considerations

- Multi-disciplinary (active shooter)drills, NWH, Temple
- Planning school building this summer for training
- Equipment and tactics
- **NEMLEC**...consortium of PD's Middlesex & Essex Counties
- Sharing Resources and Personnel
- What are priorities and needs of members?

## NEMLEC Cont.

- Boston Marathon
- Officers made available in other communities during emergency or event
- Under control of local Police Chief
- Added resources at a moments notice
- Ensuring readiness for unplanned occurrences
- (NPD history-CDU)

## School Shooting Evolution

- Columbine-Wait for S.W.A.T.
- Wait for 3, Diamond formation
- First Officer....GO!!

## Technology

- *Be Safe* plans that include school floor plans on Mobile Data Terminals in each cruiser
- Looking at other technologies (shot spotter)
- All buildings where we have done Safety Threat Assessments-Floor Plans(private and public)

## Other Considerations

- STARS Program (NEMLEC)
- Questions, comments