



BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brookline, Massachusetts

DANIEL C. O'LEARY
CHIEF OF POLICE

May 20, 2014

Personnel Order 2014-31

Subject: Commendations

Detective Julie McDonnell
Detective Russell O'Neill

On July 26, 2013 a juvenile female was reported missing to the Brookline Police Department. A preliminary investigation revealed that this run away juvenile may be in the company of a second juvenile female. Detective Russell O'Neill and Detective Julie McDonnell initiated a preliminary investigation into this matter.

These Detectives made inquiry to their many contacts in the Brookline Community and developed information that led them to believe that these juveniles had been abusing drugs. Further investigation by these Detectives resulted in information that these two juveniles may have been enticed by an older male to participate in prostitution outside of this jurisdiction. After conducting interviews, researching phone and computer records, identifying locations of the criminal activities, and eventually speaking with the juveniles, these Detectives developed a male suspect who was over the age of 21. Detectives were able to develop enough information to believe that this male suspect was trafficking these juveniles in the City of Boston.

After information was developed to a certain point, contact was made with members of the Boston Police Department Sexual Assault Unit assigned to the Federal Human Trafficking Task Force. This case was then jointly investigated by Detective McDonnell and members of the Task Force.

As the investigation progressed it was determined that the two juvenile females had been transported out of state for the purpose of prostitution. When these facts came to light the



United States Attorney's Office became involved in the investigation. Subsequently two subjects were indicted in Federal Court. On February 19, 2014, the subjects were arrested and search warrants were executed at several Boston locations.

This was an extremely sensitive case involving underaged females. Because of the work done by Detective McDonnell and Detective O'Neill, together with their willingness to involve other agencies in order to bring the case to a successful conclusion, both Detectives Julie McDonnell and Detective Russell O'Neill will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

Detective Sergeant Thomas Ward
Patrol Officer Andrew Amendola
Patrol Officer Boris Vragovic
Detective Julie McDonnell
Detective Jeffrey Emmerso

On January 12, 2014, Patrol Officer Andrew Amendola was reviewing Craigslist ads in order to find out if people were trying to sell drugs and/or sex over this popular website. Within a short period of time, P.O. Amendola was able to identify an advertisement that was placed by a person seeking to trade drugs for sex. Contact was made through the internet and a meeting was set up at a location in Brookline. Detective Sergeant Thomas Ward supervised this investigation. Detective Julie McDonnell, Patrol Officer Boris Vragovic and Detective Jeffrey Emmerso also participated in it. A meeting location was identified and placed under surveillance by the above mentioned officers. As this surveillance was underway, Officers observed a male approach the door to the meeting location. This subject then rang the doorbell to the apartment that was occupied by Officers. Upon entering the building, this male approached the door to the apartment where he was confronted by the Officers. As the Officers attempted to place him into custody, the subject began to violently resist. The Officers were able to take the subject to the ground but he continued to kick, punch and resist. Eventually, the subject was placed in handcuffs. After he was arrested, the Officers conducted a search of the backpack he was carrying. Inside this backpack, Officers located a large amount of cocaine, Xanax and more than \$54,000 in cash. This subject was charged with a variety of crimes, including trafficking in cocaine.

These officers displayed a high degree of initiative and teamwork in this case by developing a case from the ground up against this individual. Based on their actions, Detective Sergeant Thomas Ward and Patrol Officer Andrew Amendola will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation. Patrol Officer Boris Vragovic, Detective Julie McDonnell and Detective Jeffrey Emmerso will all be awarded a Letter of Commendation.



Detective Lieutenant Andrew Lipson
Patrol Officer Brendan Morgan
Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson
Patrol Officer Glen Taggart
E911 Dispatcher Brian Sheehy

On Friday, March 7, 2014 at approximately 7:50 p.m., a call was received from the mother of a man who resided at a Beacon Street address. E911 Dispatcher Brian Sheehy took the call and did an excellent job obtaining information. Dispatcher Sheehy then provided this information to the officers as they responded to the call. The caller stated that her son was alone in his apartment, was using inhalants and acting violently by threatening his girlfriend and mother. Furthermore, he was armed with a knife. Other information was provided and given out over the radio to responding officers.

Detective Lieutenant Andrew Lipson was assigned to the first half shift as the Detective Supervisor at the time of the call. Detective Lieutenant Lipson responded when he heard the dispatch for the Beacon Street address of a man huffing chemicals, brandishing a knife and threatening two people. On route, he received updated information that the suspect was a military combat veteran. Detective Lieutenant Lipson radioed to units to keep the air clear of non-emergency radio traffic. Upon arrival, Detective Lieutenant Lipson observed Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson and Patrol Officer Brendan Morgan going into the Beacon Street building. Additional police units were arriving on scene as well.

Patrol Officers Morgan and Stephenson reached the third floor landing where the caller had stated her son lived in apartment 9. P.O. Morgan positioned himself to the left of the door clearly marked 9. P.O. Morgan began knocking on the door with his left hand and repeatedly announcing "Will (suspect's name) it is the Brookline Police".

Detective Lieutenant Lipson positioned himself to P.O. Stephenson's right on the landing. P.O. Glen Taggart was slightly behind Detective Lieutenant Lipson and P.O. Stephenson. There was no immediate response to P.O. Morgan's knocking. Suddenly the door marked #9 flew open and the suspect charged out in a fighting stance, knees bent, body bladed and was grasping in a threatening manner a large knife described as a hunting or a survival knife (K-Bar) in his right hand. P.O. Stephenson and P.O. Taggart stepped back as Detective Lieutenant Lipson moved to his right. Detective Lieutenant Lipson, P.O. Stephenson and Taggart drew their department issued firearms as P.O. Morgan became pinned back against the wall. Several officers including Stephenson and Taggart immediately gave the suspect commands to drop the knife. The suspect moved even closer towards P.O. Morgan with his left side facing Detective Lieutenant Lipson. The suspect then brought his right arm back as if to throw a punch. He had the knife in his hand. Detective Lieutenant Lipson, realized that he, P.O. Taggart and P.O. Stephenson were in immediate danger and that P.O. Morgan was in an elevated level of danger from the suspect. All officers were positioned less than ten feet from the suspect. Detective Lieutenant Lipson fired one shot and the suspect's body went upright. The suspect then turned back toward Detective Lieutenant Lipson, Taggart and Stephenson. The suspect focused on Detective Lieutenant Lipson. The suspect then got into



a fighting stance and moved toward Detective Lieutenant Lipson and the Lieutenant fired a second round while officers shouted commands to drop the knife.

After the second shot, the suspect stood upright and looked down at this torso with his knife still in his hand. Officers continued using with voice commands to "get down". The suspect eventually went down to the floor, Detective Lieutenant Lipson instructed P.O. Stephenson to handcuff the suspect. Medical assistance was called for and officers initiated first aid to the suspect.

This case involved a confrontation with a very dangerous individual who was high on drugs. Based on the circumstances, Detective Lieutenant Lipson was forced to fire his Department issued firearm in order to protect his life as well as the lives of his fellow officers. All of the officers on the scene exhibited a high degree of restraint and professionalism throughout this incident. For their actions that night, Detective Lieutenant Andrew Lipson will be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation. Patrol Officer Brendan Morgan, Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson, Patrol Officer Glen Taggart and E911 Dispatcher Brian Sheehy will all be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Joshua Lemay
E911 Dispatcher Steven Labelle

On March 17, 2014 at approximately 6:20 a.m., a call was received reporting that a woman was in the process of giving birth while at her home. Dispatcher Steven Labelle handled the call and provided instructions to the father/caller concerning actions to take based on the birth of the baby. Upon arrival, Patrol Officer Joshua Lemay observed the mother and baby in bed. Furthermore, he observed that the baby's umbilical cord was wrapped tightly around the baby's neck. P.O. Lemay was able to position his finger between the baby's neck and the umbilical cord which allowed the baby's airway to remain open. P.O. Lemay worked together with members of the Fire Department until the scene was turned over to the paramedics from Fallon Ambulance. The mother and child, a boy, were transported to the hospital and are doing well.

For their actions in ensuring the safety of this newborn baby, Patrol Officer Joshua Lemay and Dispatcher Steven Labelle will both be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola
Patrol Officer David Cheung

During the late morning on March 19, 2014, Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola and Patrol Officer David Cheung were in the Coolidge Corner area. While patrolling, they observed a vehicle parked and occupied on Harvard Street in a restricted "No Parking" zone. They approached the operator and informed her that she had to move her vehicle. She did so. Shortly after that a call was given out reporting a shoplifting had just occurred at the Lens Crafters on Harvard Street. The caller provided a description of the vehicle the suspects fled

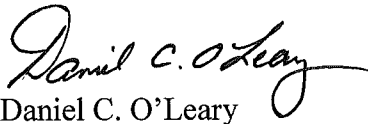


in. At that point, P.O. Amendola was alone in his cruiser and realized that the description given out closely resembled the illegally parked vehicle. At that same time he observed the vehicle pass by him on Harvard Street. Within minutes he conducted a stop and observed that the vehicle now contained two females and that the female passenger resembled the suspect that was described over the radio. A show up was conducted and the store employee positively identified the passenger as the person who shoplifted from the store. This woman was then placed under arrest. During the search conducted incident to this arrest, officers found eleven pairs of glasses valued at just under \$2,000.00. This property was later returned to Lens Crafters.

This case is an excellent example of officers performing their patrol duties in the proper manner. By taking the initiative to move along this illegally parked vehicle, Officer Amendola was able to use the information he learned about this vehicle, link it to a reported crime, make the stop and subsequently arrest the person responsible for the theft of about \$2,000.00 worth of property. For their actions that day, Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola and Patrol Officer David Cheung will both be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

The above represents the quality of work that is performed on a regular basis by our officers. It is my honor to acknowledge their efforts to make Brookline a safe community.

DCO/kaf


Daniel C. O'Leary
Chief of Police

