

DANIEL C. O'LEARY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Brookline, Massachusetts*

December 30, 2014

## Personnel Order 2014-87

Subject: Commendations

### **Detective Russell O'Neill**

In late October Detective Russell O'Neill began an investigation into recurring larcenies from a business on Commonwealth Avenue. During these thefts the suspects would enter the store, take a large number of expensive coats and flee. Detective O'Neill obtained a video of the crime and created a flyer which he distributed through law enforcement channels. As a result of this he was provided with a possible suspect. Detective O'Neill familiarized himself with the suspect and began surveillance of the store during the evening hours when prior incidents had occurred.

On November 3, 2014 while conducting surveillance Detective O'Neill observed the suspect mentioned above, walking with a female accomplice on Commonwealth Avenue. As he observed these two individuals while he communicated with assisting units as they positioned themselves in the area. After a short period of time the female entered the business while the male suspect paced back and forth outside. Approximately 10 minutes later the female left the store and met up with the male. As Detective O'Neill began to approach them, he observed an employee of the store follow them out. Both subjects were stopped and questioned. During this stop Detective O'Neill determined that the female had just stolen a winter coat. The male suspect also admitted to having stolen from the store in the past. Both suspects also had active arrest warrants in effect for them and placed under arrest. The male suspect was additionally charged with other prior thefts from this place of business, as well.

As a result of Detective O'Neill's thorough investigation and proactive surveillance an on-going crime problem was addressed and two repeat offenders were taken into custody. Based on his actions in this case, Detective Russell O'Neill will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation and a Letter of Commendation.



**Patrol Officer Edward Amendola**  
**Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola**  
**Patrol Officer Sean Williams**

On October 24, 2014 at 2:55PM, a call was received at the Public Safety Dispatch Center reporting that a man residing at residence in Brookline Village had been intoxicated for four days and was threatening to cut himself with a bottle. Numerous officers under the command of Sergeant Matthew McDonnell responded to the scene. Upon gaining entrance to the residence, officers heard a loud bang from the second floor area. Patrol Officer Edward Amendola and Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola went up the stairs to investigate and there they confronted a subject who was holding a large glass bottle in a threatening manner. These two officers issued verbal commands to the man to drop the bottle. While they were issuing these commands, the subject smashed the bottle against the door jam causing flying glass to rain down on officers on the first floor. At this point the subject was holding the broken bottle in his hands, sharp side out, while threatening to harm himself and telling the officer to shoot him in his chest because he wanted to die. The subject also began to advance towards the officers and the officers, fearing for their lives, drew their firearms. These officers also requested deployment of our less lethal shotgun. Patrol Officer Sean Williams took control of the less lethal shotgun and joined Patrol Officer Edward Amendola and Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola on the second floor. As this was occurring, the officers continued to issue verbal commands while displaying the less lethal shotgun. Shortly after this, the subject was convinced to drop the broken bottle and the scene was made safe. Once scene safety was established, this subject was transported to the hospital for treatment.

All of the officers who responded to the scene that day performed in a professional manner. In particular, Patrol Officer Edward Amendola, Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola and Patrol Officer Sean Williams all preformed in an outstanding manner exhibiting tremendous bravery and restraint in successfully resolving this incident. Based on their actions that day, all three of these officers will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

**Patrol Officer Michael Fay**  
**Patrol Officer Joshua Lemay**  
**Patrol Officer Richard Regan**

On October 31, 2014 at approximately 5:15AM a resident of Copley Street called the Police to report that an unknown male had broken into her motor vehicle which was parked in the driveway. The caller reported the male was still in the vehicle and provided a description. Numerous officers quickly responded to the area. Patrol Officer Joshua Lemay learned that the male had fled from the vehicle. Officer Lemay was able to provide additional information to responding officers and a search was initiated. During this search Patrol Officer Richard Regan heard a subject moving through the bushes of the victim's rear yard. Very shortly after that, Patrol Officer Michael Fay observed a subject walk from a driveway on Crowningshield Road. This subject was stopped and questioned. During this stop, officers located the bags of miscellaneous items near this subject and other similar type items on the subject's person. The resident who had called the police initially was brought to the scene of the stop and identified several pieces of property that were located with the stopped individual. This individual was then placed under arrest.



It was learned through the follow up investigation that this subject had also broken into the home of the caller prior to entering her motor vehicle. The property found with him was also linked to several other car break-ins in the area. Furthermore, this subject had several outstanding arrest warrants issued by Boston Courts and had a lengthy criminal arrest history.

Based on this quick response and thorough follow up investigation Patrol Officer Michael Fay, Patrol Officer Joshua Lemay and Patrol Officer Richard Regan will receive a letter of Commendation.

**Sergeant Matthew McDonnell**  
**Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson**  
**Patrol Officer David Hill**

On December 3, 2014 a call was received at our Public Safety Dispatch Center that a subject who has a history of mental health issues and a prior suicide attempt had contacted several family members and indicated that he was planning to end his life. This subject lived in a building on Beacon Street. Responding officers were able to locate the subject on the roof deck on the 15<sup>th</sup> floor of the building. The subject was standing against the railing at the farthest point from the entrance to the deck. The subject was threatening to jump over the railing to the ground below. Sergeant Matthew McDonnell, Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson and Patrol Officer David Hill are all trained negotiators and were among the responding officers. Sergeant Matthew McDonnell and Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson went to the roof to speak with the subject while Patrol Officer Hill met with and obtained vital information from family members. These three officers all worked together exchanging information while speaking with the subject in order to get him to change his mind and go to a hospital for treatment. After approximately two hours, the subject voluntarily agreed to come off the roof deck and was taken to the hospital.

During this incident, Sergeant Matthew McDonnell and Patrol Officer Stephenson were both able to establish and maintain a rapport with the subject who was continually threatening to end his life by jumping from the building. Patrol Officer Hill stayed with the family and obtained vital information. Working together as a team, these three officers were able to convince this subject to voluntarily go to the hospital to obtain the necessary treatment. For their actions that evening, Sergeant Matthew McDonnell, Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson and Patrol Officer David Hill will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

**Patrol Officer Robert Teahan**

On December 30, 2014 at approximately 12:25PM Patrol Officer Robert Teahan initiated a motor vehicle traffic stop on Harvard Street near Marion Street. As Patrol Officer Teahan approached the stopped vehicle, the operator decided to flee in the vehicle in order to avoid dealing with Patrol Officer Teahan. As the vehicle fled down Marion Street, Patrol Officer Teahan ran back to his marked police vehicle to follow. Patrol Officer Teahan observed this vehicle operating at a rate of speed greater than reasonable and proper while on Marion Street, Park Street and Washington Street. The operator also failed to stop for a stop sign, failed to stop for a red light, operated on the wrong side of Washington Street and also operated on the sidewalk which forced a couple of people move out of the way. When the vehicle got to the intersection of Washington and Beacon Streets, Patrol Officer Teahan decided to terminate his pursuit and notified dispatch he had done so. At that point he was able to provide a description of the operator, the suspect vehicle and the registration plate number

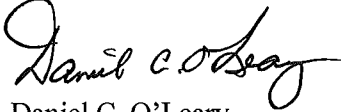


of the vehicle to other responding Brookline Police Officers. Officer Teahan continued to operate along Washington Street and when he got to Corey Road several bystanders indicated to him that the subject's vehicle had turned onto Corey Road. Shortly thereafter, Patrol Officer Teahan located the suspect's vehicle crashed into a fence of a house located on Summit Avenue. The vehicle was empty. Shortly thereafter, Boston Police located the subject hiding behind a parked vehicle near Commonwealth Avenue. This subject was placed under arrest and charged with using a motor vehicle without authority as well as multiple traffic offenses.

During this incident Patrol Officer Teahan used proper judgment and his actions were consistent with the policies and procedures of the Police Department. Patrol Officer Teahan was able to obtain identifying information about the operator and his vehicle and provided that information to responding officers. Furthermore, when Patrol Officer Teahan determined it was no longer safe to continue his pursuit, he voluntarily ended it. This pursuit was terminated which was an approximately one minute and eleven seconds after it began. Based on his actions that day Patrol Officer Robert Teahan will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

The above cases represent the quality 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/kms

  
Daniel C. O'Leary  
Chief of Police

