



DANIEL C. O'LEARY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Brookline, Massachusetts*

August 1, 2016

## Personnel Order 2016-82

Subject: Commendations for Excellent Police Work

**Sergeant Robert Disario**  
**Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola**

On April 3, 2016 several Officers responded to a call for a family disturbance. The information given to responding Officers was that there was a subject at the home who was undergoing a change in his mental status and that he had threatened his parents with a knife. Upon arrival two Officers went to the front door and Sergeant Robert Disario and Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola went to the rear of the home. As these two Officers arrived in the rear alley they were informed that the subject had just fled out the back of the house. They then observed the subject walking away from the residence. Officer Amendola called out to him and asked if he would stop walking so that we could speak with him. The subject then turned around and said "shoot me, you'd be doing me a favor!" and continued walking backward toward another street. When he did this Sergeant Disario could clearly see that the subject did not have anything in his hands. However, he did have a silver metallic item attached to his belt which appeared to be a folding knife, or multi use tool.

Officer Amendola explained to the subject that they didn't want to hurt him and again asked him to stop walking so that they could talk to him. The subject then turned around, put his hands into his pockets and began to run away from them. Sergeant Disario and Officer Amendola ran after him and caught up to him as he turned the corner onto an adjoining street. Their immediate concern was that the subject had a knife with him and due to his mental status he would attempt to harm himself or another person. In addition, they were concerned that he was attempting to get to



the front entrance of his home where his mother and father were now located. Acting on this immediate need, Officer Amendola was able to catch up to the subject as his back was turned, immobilize his arms and tactfully take him to the ground. He was immediately assisted by Sergeant Disario in holding the subject until other officers arrived to place him in handcuffs.

Not only did Sergeant Disario and Patrol Officer Amendola safely diffuse a very dangerous situation, but the family was very appreciative that Sergeant Disario took the time to speak with them after their son was transported to the hospital. During this conversation, Sergeant Disario discussed with them the entire situation and explained in detail the actions the Officers took in order to safely secure their son. For their actions that day, both Sergeant Robert Disario and Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola will both be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

**Patrol Officer Sean Williams**  
**Patrol Officer Evans Alfred**  
**Patrol Officer Robert B. Collins**

On May 12, 2016 at about 6:15 am Officers responded to a call at the Bournemouth Hospital on a report of a patient who was out of control. Upon arrival at the hospital, Patrol Officer Sean Williams, Patrol Officer Evans Alfred and Patrol Officer Robert B. Collins were informed that a patient was exhibiting psychotic behavior and was not listening to hospital personnel. These three Officers made contact with the patient while hospital personnel stayed out of the room. Officers were able to observe that the patient had destroyed much of the lounge area, threw around chairs, tables and put holes in the wall. Officers further observed the patient to be highly agitated and not happy with the presence of the police. Officers very quickly recognized the patient's demeanor and attempted to deescalate the situation. Officers Alfred and Williams, just recently appointed to the Crisis Intervention Team, and having completed the CIT training acted as contact Officers. Officers Alfred and Williams using a cool, calm and collective demeanor began speaking with the patient. Meanwhile, Officer Collins continually assured the patient he was going to be ok. Officers Alfred and Williams developed a rapport with the patient and began to calm the patient down. Officers Alfred and Williams were able to understand the problem that was causing the patient to be upset and were able to get the patient to listen to them and to stop acting out. The patient was later transported to the Beth Israel under a section 12 for further evaluation without any further problems.



During this call, the Officers were able to use some of the skills and techniques they learned at the CIT training. They took a violent and volatile situation and turned it into a conversation that made the patient feel safe and calm which allowed the Officers to resolve a very dangerous situation without anyone getting hurt. Because of this, Patrol Officer Sean Williams, Patrol Officer Evans Alfred and Patrol Officer Robert B. Collins will all be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

### **Patrol Officer Brian Gallagher**

On May 17, 2016 Patrol Officer Brian Gallagher was assigned to the Coolidge Corner route. However, at 5:06pm a call came in for a domestic assault and battery which had recently occurred at a home in South Brookline. Officers met with the victim, who reported that her former boyfriend has assaulted her, broke a candy dish and initially prevented her from calling 911. Officer Gallagher was assigned to respond to the victim's home to ensure her safety until the suspect could be located. While enroute to the victim's residence, Patrol Officer Gallagher went by the suspect's home and observed the suspect's vehicle parked in the area. P.O. Gallagher stayed at this address and was quickly joined by another officer. Within minutes, Patrol Officer Gallagher observed the subject leaving the rear of the building where he was stopped and taken into custody. This subject has had numerous encounters with the Brookline Police and other departments in the area and has a criminal record which includes assaults on police officers.

Shortly after clearing this call an unrelated call from the Bournewood Hospital reported that a patient who had been committed under a Section 10 order, had eloped from their facility. Patrol Officer Gallagher remained on the south side and searched for and observed this individual on the West Roxbury Parkway just over the town line in Roslindale. He was able to safely stop this individual and was assisted by other officers shortly thereafter. The patient was returned to the hospital without incident.

Within a short period of time, Patrol Officer Gallagher was able to locate two individuals who the police were looking for, one with a history of assaults who was wanted for a domestic assault and intimidation of a witness, and another who had left a hospital where he was receiving much needed treatment. These apprehensions were a direct result of his observation skills and dedication to duty. Based on his actions, Patrol Officer Gallagher will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.



**Deputy Superintendent Andrew Lipson**  
**Detective Lieutenant Paul Campbell**  
**Sergeant Robert Disario**  
**Patrol Officer Mark Harrington**  
**Patrol Officer Mario Serrano**  
**Detective Justin O’Kane**  
**Detective Carlos Crespo**  
**Detective Jeffrey Emmerso**

On May 23, 2016 at approximately 8:20am the above mentioned officers responded to the D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary for a report of gunshots being fired. D. Blakely Hoar Sanctuary is a marsh field directly behind the Baker School and Hancock Village townhouse apartments. The marsh has several wooden walkways and dirt paths circulating around it and is open to the public. At the above date and time, a witness stated that she was walking in the sanctuary and observed a white male wearing a blue shirt behind a fallen tree log brandishing a long rifle. The suspect fired approximately 10 shots from this rifle.

Initial responding officers were unable to locate the subject. However, with the arrival of other officers, a more thorough search was organized. The officers split into two teams of four officers to conduct a second canvas of the marsh area. Both teams began from one side of the marsh and looped around the circular path on opposite sides. One team located an individual fitting the description lying under a fallen tree. Officers also located an air rifle directly beside the subject.

During the follow up investigation, the subject was brought back to his apartment to retrieve his passport. After consenting to a search of the apartment, officers recovered a rifle scope, pellet ammunition, a metal target and other property. He was eventually arrested for Disorderly Conduct and Disturbing the Peace. During the booking procedure, a small piece of paper with a hand written floor plan for a building or dwelling fell from his passport. After appearing in Court, this subject was transported to the hospital for a psychological evaluation.

The Officers who responded to this call set up an organized, methodical search that led to the arrest of this individual. Their dedication to duty was highlighted by their desire to bring about a resolution to this matter, especially in light of the fact that it involved an area of town directly abutting the Baker School property.

Furthermore, after thoroughly investigating the circumstances surrounding the arrested subject, Officers believed that the subject was in need of a mental health evaluation. The Court agreed.



In recognition of their actions in this case, Deputy Superintendent Andrew Lipson, Detective Lieutenant Paul Campbell, Sergeant Robert Disario, Patrol Officer Mark Harrington, Patrol Officer Mario Serrano, Detective Justin O'Kane, Detective Carlos Crespo and Detective Jeffrey Emmerso will receive Letters of Commendation.

### **Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy**

On May 25, 2016 Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy was patrolling in a marked vehicle in the area of Beacon and Carlton Streets. Patrol Officer Sheehy had personal knowledge of a number of package thefts that had occurred from vestibules of buildings in the area. While passing one of these buildings, Patrol Officer Sheehy observed a subject exit a building carrying a package and walk inbound on Beacon St. Patrol Officer Sheehy took the time to observe this subject's actions which gave him reasonable suspicion to believe that this subject was engaged in criminal activity. Patrol Officer Sheehy conducted a stop of this individual and engaged him in conversation. During this conversation, questions were asked about the package he was carrying. Furthermore, a plastic bag containing marijuana was found on the subject's person. Eventually enough evidence was obtained that allowed the officers to bring a Boston Police drug canine dog to sniff the package. The dog alerted to the package which allowed officers to obtain a search warrant. Additional information was uncovered that allowed Patrol Officer Sheehy, along with a number of assisting officers, to further the investigation by seeking additional search warrants for the subject's vehicle and residence. The searches of these properties resulted in the discovery of a considerable amount of marijuana, THC, more than \$43,000.00 in cash and numerous items that were consistent with drug distribution. The subject was arrested and charged with a number of offenses.

Patrol Officer Sheehy was aware of the crime trends taking place in town, observed suspicious activity, made a stop of a suspicious individual and engaged him in conversation, all of which led to the issuance and execution of several search warrants for evidence of drug distribution and the subsequent arrest of this subject. These actions all showed a high degree of initiative on his part. As a result of his efforts, Patrol Officer Sheehy and other Brookline officers worked together as a team to put the case together. For his efforts in the case, Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



## **Patrol Officer Jeffrey A. Hutnick**

During the latter part of May 2016, Patrol Officer Jeffrey A. Hutnick responded to a call for service at a Brookline residence. The call was from parents who were concerned about the mental well-being of their daughter. The daughter was dealing with mental health issues and had not been taking her medication. P.O. Hutnick's actions on this call are best described by the parents in a letter they sent to the Police Department. Most of the contents of the letter are set out below:

My husband and I are writing this letter of commendation to acknowledge the incredible compassion, skill and professionalism with which Officer Jeffrey A. Hutnick handled a most delicate situation with our daughter yesterday. She suffers from major depression with psychosis and a Section 12 was issued for her to be transported to the hospital. When our daughter arrived home after eloping from the house and threatening suicide, she knew she was going to be sent to the hospital and was agitated, belligerent, blaming us for her state and was directing her anger toward us. Officer Hutnick looked her right in the eye, took her hand and immediately developed a trusting relationship with her; something that is not easy to do when one is in the throes of a psychotic episode. What could have been a very traumatic event turned into a gentle, kind and caring experience for all involved. We were particularly impressed with the way that he worked with his partner to check on the arrival of the ambulance and there was a seamless transition from the home to the ambulance.

Our daughter even hugged and thanked Officer Hutnick for helping her. Officer Hutnick stayed with us and helped us to debrief from the events of the day which had included a missing person's report and putting everything together for the Section 12 to ensure everyone's safety. He also told us the role that the police can play when our daughter is discharged while we are working in transitioning her to a halfway house. His experience, compassion and his professionalism were remarkable. The police department is all about protecting public safety. Officer Hutnick ensured that everyone in our house was safe and that our daughter could access the care she so desperately needed. At a time when there is so much publicity about the use of force and arrests, it is regrettable that the unsung heroic acts such as that of Officer Hutnick yesterday, do not receive a level of recognition they rightly deserve. We truly believe that Officer Hutnick helped to save our daughters life!!

Based on his actions and the manner with which he handled this call for service, Patrol Officer Jeffrey Hutnick will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



**Patrol Officer William McCue  
Patrol Officer Sean Williams**

On June 3, 2016 at approximately 3:30am, Patrol Officer William McCue was at his home while off-duty. While there, his attention was drawn to a vehicle parked near his house. He was able to observe a subject, who was not the owner, rummaging through this parked vehicle. Patrol Officer McCue called our Dispatch center and provided a clear description of the subject. While doing this, he observed the subject get on a bicycle and leave the area. Patrol Officer McCue gave dispatch the subject's direction of flight which allowed responding officers to respond in an effective manner. Within a short period of time after the information was broadcast, responding officers observed the subject riding the bicycle on Goddard Ave. Officers asked the subject to stop his bicycle but he refused and fled from them. The subject then entered the grounds of the Park School and headed towards Sears Road where he was confronted by Patrol Officer Sean Williams. Officer Williams ordered the subject to stop but, instead, the subject drove his bicycle directly at Officer Williams. Officer Williams was able to get out of the way, grab the subject's backpack as he was riding past him and remove the subject from the bicycle. After a physical confrontation, the subject was placed under arrest by Officer Williams and transported to the Police Station. Property recovered from the suspect led to him being charged with breaking into three vehicles that night as well as resisting arrest. This subject had a lengthy criminal history of which this was his sixth arrest in Brookline.

This case is a great example of teamwork on the part of several Brookline Officers. As a result of Patrol Officer McCue's alertness and knowledge of his neighborhood, Officer Williams was able to make an arrest of a career criminal. There is no doubt that because of the actions of these officers other crimes were prevented that night. Therefore, off-duty Patrol Officer William McCue and Patrol Officer Sean Williams will both be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



## **Patrol Officer Rafaela Carlisle-Swedberg**

On June 16, 2016 at 3:45am, Patrol Officer Rafaela Carlisle-Swedberg was operating on Upland Rd. As she approached the intersection with Walnut St she observed a young male standing between two parked cars in a driveway of a home. She stopped her vehicle and asked to speak with the young male. The male walked over to her and relayed a story as to why he was in the driveway. After hearing the story, Officer Carlisle-Swedberg decided to inquire further and was able to determine that there was an arrest warrant out of Cambridge for this subject. Based on this warrant, the subject was placed under arrest. As Officers were placing the subject in the transport cruiser, they asked him if he had any sharp objects on him. He replied that he did, in fact, have a tool on him. When Officers removed this tool from his person they observed that these types of tools have been used by others for breaking windows in motor vehicles. While at the booking desk in the police station a more thorough search of the subject was conducted. This search uncovered property that had a different person's identifying information on it as well as this person's Upland Rd address on it. Upon checking with this person, it was determined his motor vehicle had been broken into and the property taken. Also located was a cellphone that was traced to a car break-in that occurred on Juniper St. Subsequently this subject was arrested for breaking into two motor vehicles, two counts of larceny and possession of burglarious tools.

Officer Carlisle-Swedberg displayed keen observation skills while performing her job responsibilities. By aggressively patrolling her assigned route she was able to interrupt a subject who was intent on breaking into motor vehicles that were parked in people's driveways. For her actions in making this arrest, Patrol Officer Rafaela Carlisle-Swedberg will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

**Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward**  
**Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell**  
**Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson**  
**Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly**  
**Patrol Officer John P. Sullivan**  
**Detective Yu Kajita**  
**Detective Carlos Crespo**  
**Detective Justin O'Kane**

On June 16, 2016 just before 9:00pm, our dispatch center received a call for a disturbance in the rear of 22 High St. Several officers responded to this call. The first Officer on scene was Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly. Officer McNeilly made a quick assessment of what had occurred and updated other responding officers.



Furthermore, Officer McNeilly located a subject who had been stabbed in his abdominal area and began to attend to his wounds. Patrol Officer John P. Sullivan was among the responding officers and was able to stop at least two of the people involved in the altercation. Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson is assigned to our Walk and Talk unit and was off-duty on this date. He was at home having dinner when he received a call from a family member telling him about a major incident taking place at 22 High St. Patrol Officer Stephenson left his home and responded to the scene. Unbeknownst to him at this time, several witnesses to this altercation asked for Patrol Officer Stephenson because they felt comfortable speaking to him and they trusted him. Upon his arrival, Patrol Officer Stephenson spoke with several people he knew and was able to provide critical information on what had occurred and who the active participants were. As this was on-going, Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward was on scene and led the investigation into the altercation that resulted in the violent stabbings of two young male subjects. In addition to the above mentioned Officers, Detective Yu Kajita, Detective Carlos Crespo and Detective Justin O'Kane also played a large role in the follow-up investigation.

Officers and Detectives worked together for multiple days to conduct the crime scene search, numerous interviews, and video reviews which resulted in the identification of the subject who stabbed both of these victims. Upon obtaining an arrest warrant, Brookline Officers then met with the suspect's family in an effort to apprehend him. Upon meeting with the family, they arranged for the suspect to turn himself in to our Department to the answer for the crimes he committed.

This case was the result of a violent confrontation between two groups of young people. Unfortunately, two individuals received serious stab wounds during the confrontation which required both to be hospitalized.

In order to bring about a successful resolution of this crime, a large amount of teamwork was essential. From the work of the initial responding officers through the follow-up investigation, all Officers and Detectives worked together for a common goal. In particular, Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward took the leadership role in this case. Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson has worked with our youth for a number of years. He has developed relationships with many of these young people which have allowed him to look out for their best interests as he goes about his work on a daily basis. His contributions to this investigation were critical to its successful resolution. Because of their actions, Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward and Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson will both be awarded a Certificate of Commendation and a Letter of Commendation. Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly, Patrol Officer John P. Sullivan, Detective Yu Kajita, Detective Carlos Crespo and Detective Justin O'Kane will all be awarded a Letter of Commendation.



## **Detective Keith Lacy**

On June 22, 2016 at approximately 1:20pm a call was received at our dispatch center reporting that a person had removed several packages from the hallways of a couple of residences on Browne St. The caller provided a description of the subject as well as the vehicle the subject was driving. The caller further stated that the subject had left the area. At the time the call was given out, Detective Keith Lacy was in the area in an unmarked vehicle. As he was operating on St Paul St he observed a vehicle matching the description of the one given by the caller. As he observed the vehicle more closely he could determine that the operator also matched the description of the suspect who removed the packages. Detective Lacy began to follow the vehicle while asking for a marked unit to assist in pulling over the suspect vehicle. As he was asking for the backup, he observed a marked cruiser driving west on Beacon St. As the marked cruiser passed his location, Detective Lacy observed the suspect make an illegal U-turn and drive away from the marked cruiser. Shortly thereafter a stop was made of the suspect's vehicle. As Officers approached the stopped vehicle they were able to observe several packages in the passenger compartment of the car. A couple of these packages had a Browne St. address on them. Officers learned the subject had a lengthy criminal record that included firearms violations. For their safety they asked the subject to step out of the car and speak with them. During this conversation, she subject admitted to taking the packages. The subject was then placed under arrest. Upon a search of the vehicle additional packages were located in the trunk. As a result the subject was arrested and charged with several crimes related to the theft of these packages.

Over the years, Brookline has experienced a large number of these types of thefts. We have learned that once a person is active in committing these crimes, the subject continues to repeat these types of crimes until he/she is caught or scared away. In this case, this arrest most likely prevented the commission of a number of future crimes in our Town. Because of his observation skills and actions that day, Detective Keith Lacy will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

The above cases represent 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/kms

Daniel C. O'Leary  
Chief of Police

