



DANIEL C. O'LEARY
CHIEF OF POLICE

BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Brookline, Massachusetts

January 10, 2017

Personnel Order 2017-7

Subject: Commendations for Excellent Police Work

Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward
Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly
Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson
Patrol Officer Daniel Yanez
Patrol Officer Brian Gallagher
Detective Yu Kajita
Detective Brendan Kelliher

On November 3, 2016 at 9:12pm, our Dispatch Center received a call of an armed robbery of a Washington Square restaurant as well as several of the restaurant's patrons. The suspect had entered the restaurant, approached the counter and passed a note which stated this was a robbery and that he was armed with a gun. The suspect demanded money from the register as well as money and cell phones from the patrons. As people were complying, the suspect threatened to shoot and kill one of the customers. After the suspect obtained money and a cell phone he fled onto Washington Street. The victims of this robbery quickly reported the crime both by way of a telephone call and by flagging down an officer driving in the vicinity. The victims gave a complete description of the culprit and officers quickly developed a suspect. Furthermore, they quickly developed information that the suspect was possibly hiding at an address about ½ mile from the crime scene. Officers set up on the house and were able to eventually see the suspect inside of the basement area. Under the supervision of Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward, officers were able to gain a peaceful entry into the basement and take the subject safely into custody.



Before the subject was transported to the police station, victims of this robbery positively identified the subject. This subject, who has a lengthy criminal history, was placed under arrest for armed robbery and related offenses.

This is a great example of team work exhibited by all of the above mentioned officers. These officers worked quickly in identifying, locating and apprehending a career criminal. Based on these actions that night Detective Lieutenant Thomas Ward, Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly, Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson, Patrol Officer Daniel Yanez, Patrol Officer Brian Gallagher, Detective Yu Kajita and Detective Brendan Kelliher will all be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Evans Alfred
Patrol Officer Michelle Lawlor

On November 8, 2016 at approximately 3:34am a 911 call was received at our dispatch center reporting a fire at a residence on Cypress Street. Multiple Police and Fire units were dispatched. Patrol Officers Evans Alfred and Michelle Lawlor were among the first officers to arrive on scene. Upon arrival they observed the multi-family dwelling to be on fire with smoke billowing from the rear of it. Several responding officers worked to ensure the occupants were all safely outside and accounted for. In particular, officers Alfred and Lawlor entered the second floor unit, called out for any occupants and located two people still inside. These officers were able to direct these occupants safely outside. After they were outside, Patrol Officer Alfred continued to search for any additional occupants. Upon checking a bedroom, he located a third occupant in bed inside of a room. However, due to heavy smoke, he was unable to rescue this occupant. He left the building and immediately informed firefighters that an occupant was still inside. Firefighters immediately entered the second floor unit and brought the third occupant to safety. This occupant was transported to Mass General Hospital for follow up treatment.

The Patrol Supervisor who was on scene that night stated "Officers Alfred and Lawlor put their own safety at risk when they entered the building to evacuate the residents". By performing their work in this manner, these officers displayed a lot of courage and concern for others. Based on their actions, both Patrol Officer Evans Alfred and Patrol Officer Michelle Lawlor will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell

On Friday, November 11, 2016 at approximately 3:56pm several Police officers were dispatched to the area of Brookline Avenue and Aspinwall Avenue for a theft of a bicycle that had occurred approximately 10 minutes earlier. Upon arrival, officers were met by the victim who stated that he was riding his bicycle in the area when he decided to stop near the Muddy River to capture some photographs of the foliage. The victim stated that he leaned his bicycle against a tree and proceeded to walk a short distance towards the river in order to begin taking photos. When he turned around he observed a male subject grab his bike and begin to ride away. The victim was able to capture several photographs of two suspects.

On Monday, November 14, 2016, Sergeant McDonnell reviewed the informational flyer disseminated relative to this case and familiarized himself with the suspect(s) appearances and clothing. Later that day while in the area of the Prudential Center in Boston, Sergeant McDonnell observed the two individuals he believed to be depicted in the flyer crossing Westland Avenue towards the Christian Science Plaza. Sergeant McDonnell made contact with the Boston Police D-4 and provided the suspect's description. The suspects continued walking into the Prudential Center and with the assistance of Boston PD Officer's from District 4, both subjects were stopped prior to exiting the Prudential Center.

Sergeant McDonnell questioned both individuals regarding the Muddy River larceny, which led to an admission by one of the suspects photographed by the victim. The suspect was placed under arrest for the theft by Sergeant McDonnell, and transported back to Brookline Police Headquarters. During the inventory of the prisoner's property additional evidence was located on the suspect which tied him to the crime.

Detective Sergeant McDonnell consistently keeps himself informed of criminal activity that affects Brookline. This case is an example of his dedication to duty which allowed him to observe these two subjects while he was in Boston on other police business. Because of his actions, Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy
Patrol Officer Kristin Healy

On November 14, 2016 at approximately 12:00pm, Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy initiated a traffic stop on Washington Street at Juniper Street. The vehicle had two different license plates attached and was occupied by a male operator and a female passenger. The operator provided a license to Officer Sheehy who noticed the driver did not appear to be the individual pictured in the license. Officer Sheehy then requested back-up assistance and several units responded, including Officer Kristin Healy.

Further investigation by Officer Sheehy revealed the operator's true identity. Furthermore, he learned that he did not have a license and was on probation for firearms offenses from Dorchester District Court. As a result, the subject was taken into custody and charged with various traffic related offenses.

During the investigation, Officer Healy developed a rapport with the female passenger and learned of some of the events that had recently occurred in her life. Officer Healy provided a courtesy transport for the female to a hotel in Boston. During the ride, Officer Healy continued the conversation with the female, who eventually revealed to Officer Healy that she had been a victim of commercial sexual exploitation for the past several months. Officer Healy was also able to determine preliminary information on some of the individuals involved. As a result, the Boston Police were notified and the female was eventually transported to the Boston Police Human Trafficking Unit, where she was assisted with a place to stay and a new cell phone.

Officer Sheehy's initial stop of the motor vehicle and Officer Healy's ability to connect with the female passenger surely prevented her from further harm. Both officers developed great compassion for the woman and exhibited a true desire to help her. Because of the manner in which they handled this case, both Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy and Patrol Officer Kristin Healy will be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



**Sergeant Michael Heavey
Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola
E911 Dispatcher Joseph Cappuccio**

On December 17, 2016 at 10:30am a call was received from the TD Bank located in Washington Square reporting that the bank was robbed by a male subject. A description of the subject was obtained as well as his direction of flight. The subject stated to the bank employee that he was armed with a firearm but did not display the weapon. E911 Dispatcher Joseph Cappuccio took the call and quickly relayed the information to the officers in the area. The officers were then provided with additional information that allowed them to focus on a particular motor vehicle. This vehicle was initially spotted by Sergeant Michael Heavey operating on Washington Street and thereafter by Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola while stopped at Washington Street and Boylston Streets. Patrol Officer Amendola did not immediately pull over the vehicle. Instead he chose to follow while he obtained further information about the crime. As he was following the vehicle, the operator failed to stop for a red light at 44 Washington Street. Eventually, a stop conducted by several police officers was safely made on Willow Pond Road. When officers approached the stopped vehicle they observed the operator to be a female. When checking the back seat area they also observed a male fitting the suspect's description lying on the back seat. The subject was removed from the vehicle. When officers searched the vehicle they observed some of the clothing the subject wore during the robbery, a large sum of cash and other property that was taken from the bank. A bank employee was brought to the scene of the stop and positively identified the male subject police had stopped as the subject who robbed the bank. At the conclusion of this stop, police had developed enough probable cause to place both the male occupant and the female operator under arrest for armed robbery and other related offenses.

Because of the quick exchange of information from our dispatcher to the officers on the street, coupled with the fact the officers waited until they had enough information to make a valid motor vehicle stop, officers were able to make an arrest of two dangerous individuals. Officers were also able to recover all of the money and other items taken during the robbery. Based on the team work displayed by these officers, as well as others that assisted, Sergeant Michael Heavey, Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola and E911 Joseph Cappuccio will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.



Patrol Officer Audrey Underwood

On December 28, 2016 at approximately 5:12pm dispatch received a call from a business on Harvard Street reporting a suspicious person was just in their restaurant. The man stated he was from a company hired by the owner to do maintenance on the heating and cooling system. The manager of the business was suspicious since the man didn't have a work order and would not allow him access. When the man left the restaurant the manager called the police department.

Numerous units responded to the area. Several communities were experiencing a rash of thefts where a person was impersonating a technician. Once the subject was granted access to the rear of a business, he would steal personal items belonging to the workers. The person committing these crimes was previously identified as having committed of these crimes in Brookline and a warrant was issued for his arrest. In addition this suspect was wanted for similar crimes in Boston and Cambridge.

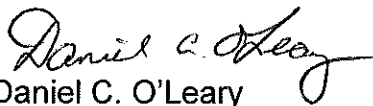
A description of this suspect was given out over the air with additional information provided that he can be violent towards police officers. Patrol Officer Audrey Underwood was among several officers assigned to the task of searching Coolidge Corner on foot. It should be noted that it was already dark outside as well as rush hour therefore the area was crowded with pedestrians.

During her search Patrol Officer Underwood was able to spot the suspect leaving another Coolidge Corner business. Knowing that the suspect could be violent, Patrol Officer Underwood tactfully followed him until she was able to alert other officers of his location. With assistance from other officers the subject was taken into custody without incident. Upon further investigation by Patrol Officer Underwood she was able to determine that the suspect had committed a theft from the business where she saw him exit just minutes before the arrest.

Given the suspect's history of theft and actions on that day it is more likely than not that if he was not apprehended, he would have continued committing these crimes. Because of Patrol Officer Underwood's alertness and her decision to approach the subject in the manner that she did, Patrol Officer Audrey Underwood will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as 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

