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CHIEF OF POLICE

BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT
Brookline, Massachusetts

October 19, 2017

Personnel Order 2017-102

Subject: Commendations for Excellent Police Work

Patrol Officer Nicholas Goon
Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson

In early July, Officer Timothy Stephenson distributed information throughout the Department concerning an unidentified individual who was wanted in connection with multiple cases of graffiti on various locations in north Brookline. A description was provided as well as the hashtag he was using which was "HAK." On July 19 at approximately 1:20 am Officer Nicholas Goon was conducting traffic enforcement at the intersection of Harvard and Beacon Sts. While there, his attention was drawn to a subject walking on Harvard St towards Brighton. Officer Goon believed this subject was the person responsible for the graffiti. After watching the subject, Officer Goon initiated a stop of him and engaged him in conversation. When asked, this subject consented to a search of the satchel he was carrying. The search revealed five spray paint cans, acrylic markers, a variety of pens and other implements used for graffiti. During their conversation, this subject told Officer Goon where he was coming from and other Officers checked his route. One of the searching Officers observed freshly painted graffiti on a mailbox and a utility box located in front of the Stop and Shop. The hashtag "HAK" was placed on both locations. A more extensive interview took place and the subject admitted to using the tag "HAK". Ultimately, this subject was charged with forty graffiti crimes.



Officer Stephenson unselfishly shares information frequently with Officers throughout our Department. Furthermore, this is an example of good police work on the part of Officer Goon. He kept himself familiar with information that is distributed concerning criminal activity that is occurring in Town. Based on their actions, Patrol Officer Nicholas Goon will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation. Officer Timothy Stephenson will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly

On July 19th at approximately 7:30pm, a call was received at our Dispatch Center from Bournemouth Hospital reporting that a patient had eloped. The staff member reported that after the patient fled from the hospital he stole a bicycle from a nearby residence. Further information was given out that the patient was last seen in the area of Goddard Ave. Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly was on Goddard Ave at that time and quickly observed the patient riding the bicycle towards him. Upon exiting his vehicle, Officer McNeilly attempted to stop the patient but the patient refused. By not voluntarily stopping, Officer McNeilly was forced to grab the patient off the bicycle and place him on the ground. When this occurred the patient violently resisted and began to punch Officer McNeilly. The patient eventually broke away from Officer McNeilly and fled up the hill of Larz Anderson Park. While giving pursuit on foot, Officer McNeilly radioed to other Officers who quickly responded and were able to take the patient into custody without further incident. Officers on scene determined that the patient was in need of a mental health evaluation and, in lieu of arrest, transported the subject to the Beth Israel Hospital for follow up.

Officer McNeilly displayed great self-control while defending himself when being assaulted while doing his job. When he was able to do so, Officer McNeilly radioed for assistance and together with other responding Officers, was able to bring the patient under control without more of a physical confrontation. Because of his actions that evening, Patrol Officer Barry McNeilly will be awarded both a Letter and a Certificate of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Robert M. Collins
Patrol Officer David Pilgrim
Patrol Officer Christopher Crapo
Detective David Wagner

On Wednesday July 26th at about 2:10 am, Patrol Officer Robert M. Collins was patrolling in the Milton Rd/Cushing Rd area. As he passed the driveway of a Milton Rd home, he observed a subject standing in the middle of the driveway while yelling in the direction of Cushing Rd. Officer Collins then noticed a man in dark clothing walking along Cushing Rd heading towards Walnut St. Officer Collins quickly lost sight of this second individual so he returned to the man on Milton Rd. As he approached this individual a call was given out by our Dispatch Center reporting that



two people had just entered a home on Milton Rd, put a gun in a resident's face and left. Officer Collins quickly determined the man he was about to speak with was the victim of this assault. As Officers converged on the area, Officer Collins was able to determine that two subjects, a man and a woman, had met with the Milton Rd resident in his home. At a point during their conversation, the male subject inquired about the sale of marijuana. The subject then pulled a black handgun and pressed it against the victim's head. At the direction of the man holding the gun, the female took marijuana from the home, placed it in a bin and left the house. It was clear to Officer Collins that the man he observed walking on Cushing Rd was the subject with the gun. He quickly gave this information out to responding Officers. After a short period of time, Officers Christopher Crapo, David Pilgrim and Detective David Wagner observed two subjects walking away from the area. They stopped these subjects for a field interview. Upon a search of the area where these two subjects came from, Officers located a black replica .45 caliber BB gun and the bin taken during the robbery from the Milton Rd home. The bin contained marijuana and other items that were the property of the victim. Both subjects were positively identified by the victim and placed under arrest for armed robbery and other charges.

Officer Collins, while conducting his responsibilities in a proactive manner, was able to determine something was occurring that needed his intervention. By doing so, he was able to make a quick assessment of the problem, get the information out which allowed for a quick response by Officers Pilgrim, Crapo and Detective Wagner. It was this quick response that resulted in the arrest of two individuals for a violent crime against another. Based on their actions that night, Patrol Officer Robert Collins will be awarded both a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation. Patrol Officers David Pilgrim, Christopher Crapo and Detective Wagner will all receive a Letter of Commendation.

Sergeant Russell O'Neill
Patrol Officer John Sullivan
Patrol Officer Michael O'Connor

On August 29th at about 11PM a report was received in our Dispatch Center of a breaking and entering in progress at a home located on Woodland Rd. Initial responding Officers arrived at the gated entrance to the property and observed an unoccupied vehicle blocking the gate. Patrol Officers John Sullivan and Michael O'Connor were able to gain entrance to the property and proceeded to the home. Upon getting to the front door of the residence, they observed a knife on the ground to the left of the door and that the door had obvious signs of having been forced open. Shortly thereafter, a man came to the door to speak with the Officers. When speaking to the Officers, the man stated "I am a superior and I am in the CIA. This is my house." The Officers were able to get the man outside where they could safely have a conversation with him. It was quickly determined that this man did not reside in the home and that he was suffering from some type of mental illness. A decision was made to place him into handcuffs but he resisted and a physical struggle ensued. The man broke free and took off on foot down the driveway with the



Officers in pursuit. After running a short distance, the subject came upon Sergeant Russell O'Neill. Sgt O'Neill confronted this subject, and using verbal commands, was able to get the subject to voluntarily lie down on the ground. The subject was then placed in handcuffs and transported to the Beth Israel Hospital under a section 12 for a mental health evaluation. Shortly after this took place, our Officers were able to contact the subject's mother and obtained the subject's mental health history.

These three Officers displayed a combination of professionalism and restraint while dealing with a person suffering from mental illness. They also chose to have the person receive treatment from a medical facility in lieu of an arrest. The subject was summonsed to court at a later date. In recognition for their actions that night, Sergeant Russell O'Neill, Officer John Sullivan and Officer Michael O'Connor will all receive a Letter of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Noah Brother
Patrol Officer David Pilgrim
Patrol Officer Christopher Crapo

On August 4th our Department received reports of eleven motor vehicle break ins that occurred over night on several streets in the area of Gardner Rd on Police Sector 5. All of the breaks were consistent in that the vehicles were unlocked and loose change, phone chargers and small items were taken. We were able to obtain a video from a private home that showed a subject approaching a vehicle in a driveway and attempting to enter it. All of this information was provided to our Officers. On August 9th, Patrol Officers David Pilgrim and Christopher Crapo were assigned to an unmarked vehicle and were to concentrate their patrols in the sector 5 area. At about 4 am, Sector 5 Officer, Noah Brother, was patrolling in the area of Cypress St when he was flagged down by a woman who was walking her dog. The woman told Officer Brother that she had witnessed a male trying to open the doors of several cars parked in the area as well as the door to the Laundromat located on Cypress St at School St. She also provided a description of this subject. Officer Brother immediately gave the description out to other Officers who began a search of the area. While checking the area of Greenough Circle, Officer Pilgrim and Crapo observed a male fitting the suspect's description walking down a driveway of a home. These Officers stopped the subject and questioned him. He was subsequently identified by the witness and arrested. After being brought to the Station, a search was conducted. Located during this search were several items consistent with those taken during vehicle break ins. Also located was a Lowes Gift Card in a man's name. The owner of this card was identified and it was determined that his motor vehicle was broken earlier in the evening of August 9th. This subject was charged with several crimes which occurred overnight. Furthermore, after this subject's arrest, motor vehicle break ins were greatly reduced in this area of Town.



Officers Brother, Pilgrim and Crapo actions that night, along with an alert resident of Brookline, combined to end what could have been a lengthy crime spree with multiple victims. For their actions and commitment to keep Brookline safe, Patrol Officers Noah Brother, David Pilgrim and Christopher Crapo will all receive a Certificate of Commendation and a Letter of Commendation.

Community Service Division Officers

On August 27, 2017, The Community Service Division began its first Summer Youth Program. This program was a week long and ended on September 1, 2017. The program consisted of fourteen youth participants who were all entering 8th grade, except for one who was entering 9th grade. The program was meant to help students who may not have been fortunate enough to have a summer vacations and enjoy the last week of summer. This week was diligently planned by all members of the Community Service Division. These planning tasks were not easy, as many of the Officers were called upon to take on extra duties and planning responsibilities on top of their regular assignments.

The program incorporated a crime scene investigation day, a self-defense day, a social media safety class, as well as field trips to a Boston Red Sox game, Boda Borg(a team building experience), and the Boston Police Marine Unit. All of the Officers planned each day with their own ideas, initiative and display of teamwork.

In the process of planning this program, Officers felt it was a good idea to incorporate the students of the YPI program to act as mentors for each one of the 8th grade students in the Summer Youth Program. This turned out to be an excellent idea in developing relationships with the younger youths and the mentors. This also allowed kids, as members of the community, to look up to role models within their community who are working with members of the Community Service Division. The program ended with a BBQ at Larz Anderson's park and each particular participant was issued t-shirts and a sweatshirt.

Throughout the development and roll out of this program, the Officers of the Community Service Division demonstrated professionalism, leadership and a great team effort. They constantly brainstormed ideas and developed a curriculum that both challenged the program's participants and allowed them to enjoy the final week of their summer. Therefore, Patrol Officers Michael Disario, Casey Hatchett, Donal Kerrigan, Michele Lawlor, Katherine McCabe, Peter Muise, Lauren O'Connor and Timothy Stephenson will all receive a Letter of Commendation.



Patrol Officer Stephen Burke
Patrol Officer Matthew Soderberg

On September 16th a call was received for a man suffering from a possible heart attack. Patrol Officer Stephen Burke and Matthew Soderberg responded to the address. Upon arrival the officers observed a male seated upright on a couch. This male was not responsive nor was he breathing. The officers could not detect a pulse. Together, the officers moved the male to the floor and began CPR. A short time later, a Police Supervisor and the Fire Department arrived and applied an AED. Eventually, the male regained a low pulse and was transported to the hospital. Shortly thereafter, we received the following email from Fallon Ambulance:

On Saturday 9/16, P4 responded to a cardiac arrest at an address in Brookline. We found an asystolic patient with cpr initiated by Brookline PD and continued by Brookline Fire Engine 5. It is in the honest opinion of the crew of P4 that ROSC would not have been achieved without the exceptional cpr performed by BPD and BFD. They performed a perfect example of pit crew cpr and incorporated the Fallon Ambulance crew upon their arrival. They switched compressors frequently and communicated flawlessly throughout. I am unsure of the patients final outcome, but the high quality of cpr they performed certainly gave the patient the best chance for survival to discharge.

Officers Burke and Soderberg performed their life saving as they have been trained. I believe that when people take a police job, they do so with a goal of helping others and improving the quality of life of those they interact with. This case is a perfect example of two officers doing their best to save a life. Both Patrol Officer Stephen Burke and Patrol Officer Matthew Soderberg will both be awarded a certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson

On September 21, at about 10:52 am a parent came to the station to report her 15 year old son has been missing and did not return home the previous night. This mother went onto state that the 15 year old skipped class the previous school day and when she confronted him he got upset and left their home. She has not seen him since that time. The investigating Officer called Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson who was on a day off. Officer Stephenson knew the 15 year old boy and who he was friendly with. Less than twenty minutes after being contacted, Officer Stephenson informed the investigator that the 15 year old was in the Runkle School/Waldstein Playground area. Officers responded to the area and quickly located the boy. Upon speaking with him, the Officers learned he had not eaten since he left home. They bought him a sandwich and water and returned him to his mother. Because this was not the first time he has run away, his mother was strongly advised to seek court intervention at this time.



This is but one example of the work Officer Timothy Stephenson performs on a consistent basis. He prides himself on knowing the families he interacts with while assigned to our Walk and Talk unit. He freely shares information on a variety of issues and people with members of our Department. He consistently puts forth an effort to make Brookline a better place for our residents to live, work and visit. Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson 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

