

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Submitted by Chief James McIntyre

The Stoneham Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of professional police services while respecting the constitutional rights of every person living in or visiting the Town of Stoneham. We achieve this mission by working in partnership with the community and by practicing Community Oriented Policing. Serving with compassion and respect to all members of the public, we remain committed to providing these services with professionalism and integrity.

The Office of the Chief manages the overall operation of the Stoneham Police Department and plans for the future in close collaboration with the Town Administrator.

Over the course of 2020, there were significant personnel changes within the police department. In January, Officer Arthur Yeomelakis left the police department to begin a new career as a Stoneham firefighter. In May, Officer Kevin Russell transferred from the Stoneham Police Department to the Malden Police Department. In September, Nicholas Palmieri became a student police officer, entering into the Reading Police Academy. In November, Alyssa Wall was hired as a part-time office assistant and began working with Raymie Parker. Mrs. Parker left the police department in December after working with us for eight years and we wish her success in her future endeavors. In December, Officer Brendan Carr left the Department to pursue a new career in the private sector.

The following is a roster of the Department's sworn personnel as of December 31, 2020: Chief James McIntyre; Lieutenants David Stefanelli and Tony Kranefuss; Sergeants Robert Kennedy, David Thistle, Kenneth Wilkins, Thomas Heller, Christopher Apalakias, Christopher Dalis and Michael DeCroteau; Officers Sheryl Rotondi, Stephen Carroll, Joseph Ponzio, Paul Norton, Thomas Day, Christopher Copan, Edward Fucarile, William Reinold, David Ryan, Patrick Carroll, Kenneth Bowdidge, Laura Engel, Luc Bourgeois, David Szydlowski, Jonathan Mahoney, Derek McShane, Stephen Aprile, John Curtis, Michael Colotti, Brian Raffaello, John Burton, Christopher Murphy, Michael Prudente, Richard Pacini, Joseph Cataldo and Zachary Newell.

The civilian administrative staff for the department consists of office manager Erin Sinclair, part-time office assistants Patricia Quinn, Alyssa Wall, and Linda Leis, our domestic violence advocate.

Located within the police station is the communications center for both the police and fire departments. The Public Safety Dispatch Department is comprised of seven civilian dispatchers who process the emergency and business calls for police, fire or emergency medical services. During the course of 2020, over 16,400 calls for service were processed through the dispatch center, with 4,300 calls received through the 9-1-1 system.

The following is a roster of the Public Safety Department's personnel as of December 31, 2020: David Luciano – Head Dispatcher, Brian Johnston, Nathaniel Powers, Michael Sweeney, Kimberly Hunter, Amanda Farrington, and Joshua Paciga. Public safety dispatchers are the calming voices heard on calls to 9-1-1 and police and fire department radios.

The last member of the police department that deserves special recognition is our part-time custodian, John Noftall. For the past 15 years, Mr. Noftall has worked hard to keep our building clean, which can be a daunting task since we operate around the clock, seven days a week. It is not uncommon for visitors to comment on the cleanliness of our building. In 2020, Mr. Noftall's work took on greater importance as he worked six days a week cleaning and disinfecting our building to help keep our staff and visitors healthy.

Like other businesses and units of government, the police department needed to make operational adjustments due the COVID-19 pandemic. All police and communications personnel were required to perform a wellness check immediately upon entering the building before the start of their shift. Our civilian administrative staff worked remotely from home. Pre-shift roll calls which were normally conducted in person by supervisors were replaced with an electronic version conducted on the officer's police vehicle mobile data terminal. In-person police training was eliminated and moved to a remote learning program. The police department created an on-line reporting system which allowed for reports of certain crimes or events to be submitted through the Department's web page. Police personnel would then contact the reporting party by telephone to eliminate the requirement for in-person contact. With district and superior courts closed for jury trials and most in-person matters, individuals seeking services through the courts were directed to their local police department to facilitate the requests. Individuals held in custody who were unable to make bail after their arrest needed to be arraigned remotely in our cell block, which placed a strain on shift personnel.

The Stoneham Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit, consisting of Sergeant David Thistle and civilian advocate Linda Leis, provide substantial support to victims of domestic violence. From the work of the first responding officers to a call involving domestic violence, through the follow-up with victims conducted by Sergeant Thistle and Ms. Leis, our department's response has been held as a model for other agencies to follow.

Over the past year, Ms. Leis conducted follow-up with 84 victims from the 141 reports of domestic violence the Department investigated. Of particular concern were 21 deemed high risk with the potential for lethality to the victim. Part of the outreach provided to victims includes, but is not limited to assisting victims in obtaining Abuse Prevention Orders, safety planning, finding emergency shelter, locating legal services, and providing emotional support.

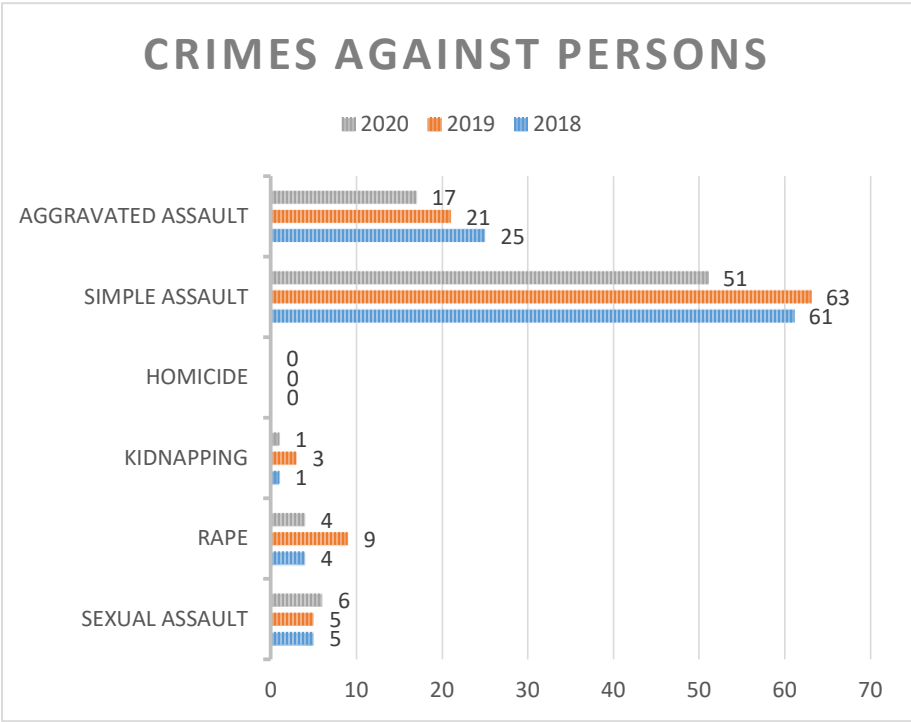
Ms. Leis also represents the police department on several committees including the domestic violence high risk assessment team for Woburn District Court, TRIAD group focusing on issues facing elders, and serves as vice chair and community outreach coordinator for Stoneham Alliance Against Violence.

In June, Detective Lieutenant Stefanelli was recognized by the Stoneham Select Board with the Sapphire Award for his work with individuals and families experiencing substance use disorders. The Select Board created the Sapphire Award in 2018 to recognize a resident or employee that goes above and beyond, making a significant contribution to our community. Since 2017, Lieutenant Stefanelli has participated in over 300 visits to homes where a person may have overdosed or a family member has a substance abuse disorder. The work of Lieutenant Stefanelli and the other members of the overdose

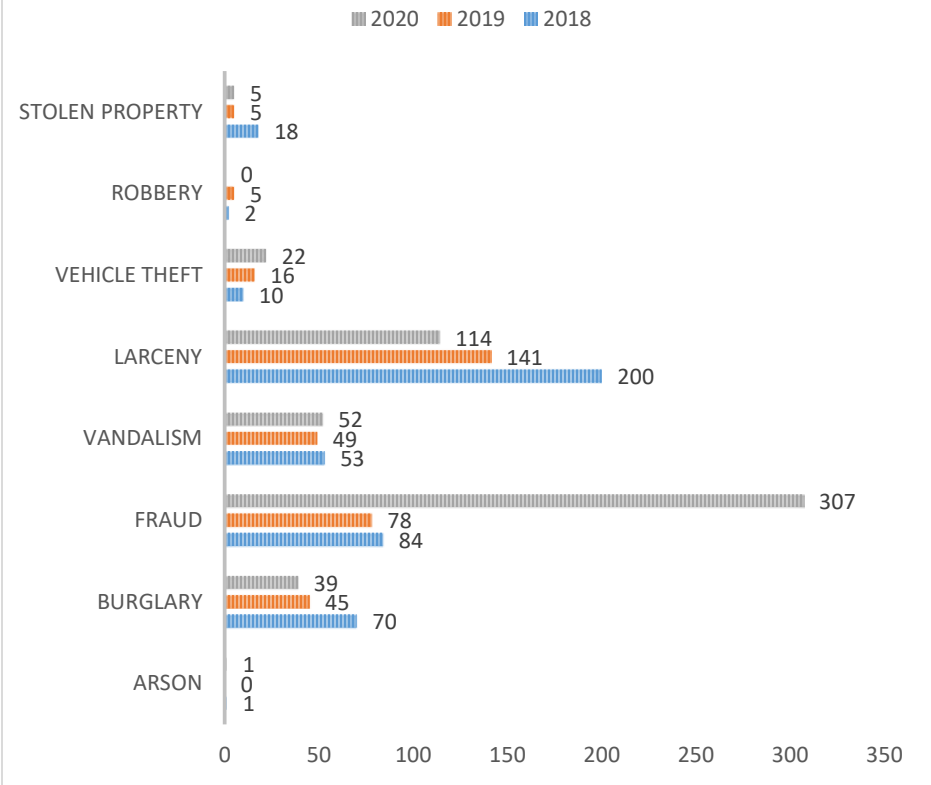
response team have been instrumental in assisting community members into recovery and providing guidance to help family members support their loved ones in their recovery efforts.

Lastly, on behalf of all the members of the Stoneham Police Department, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our residents, local businesses and community organizations for the support shown to us over the past year. Whether it was a donation of face masks or hand sanitizer, meals or thank you notes, your generosity and kind words were appreciated.

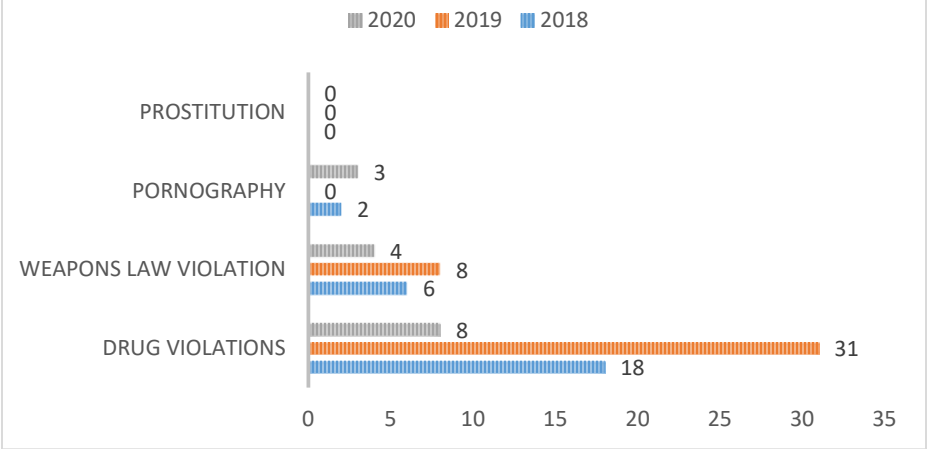
The following graphs that appear below show three-year statistical trends for criminal activity, calls for service, and police related activity.



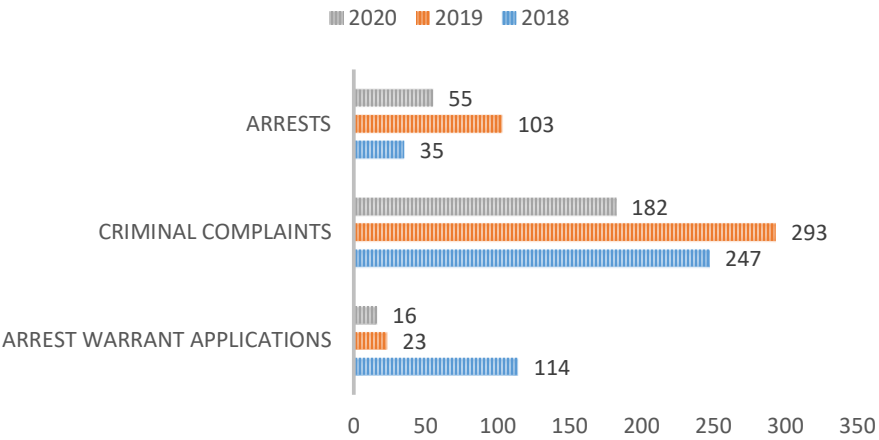
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY



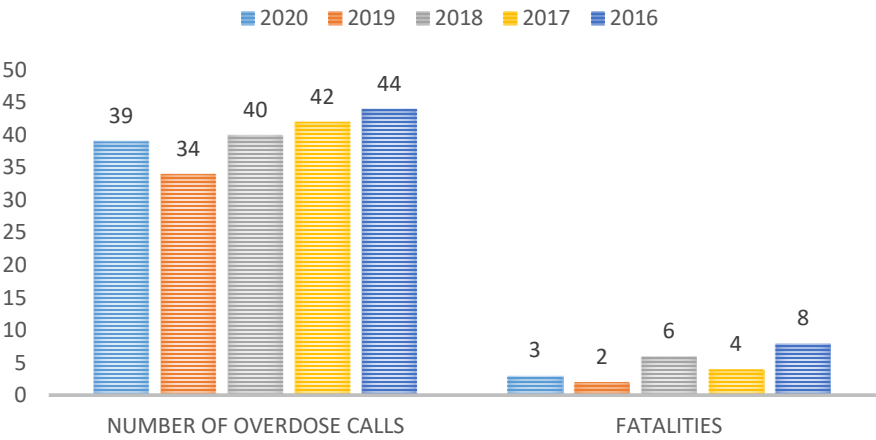
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY



COURT ACTIVITY



DRUG OVERDOSES



SELECTED CALLS FOR SERVICE

