

McCandless Police Department

Memorandum

Date: February 10, 2020
To: Town Council
From: Ryan P. Hawk, Chief of Police
RE: Monthly Police Activity Report – January 2020

A letter of commendation was received from The Pennsylvania State Police informing the McCandless Police Department successfully passed the annual audit of municipal police department plans, policies and procedures which indicated no discrepancies within our storage and dissemination of protected information pursuant to PA statute.

In accordance with new legislation, Detective Bock and Officer Ewing were chosen to attend training certifying them as substitute School Resource Officers. Even though these officers will not be placed in the schools full time, this certification is needed to allow them to fill in for the two full time School Resource Officers in their absence.

Sgt. Detective Egli and Detective Bock attended training sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) which instructed them on how to utilize the IRS when investigating financial crimes to include but not limited to, fraud and identity theft.

Several officers attended their two days of mandatory in-service training. One officer attended training certifying him as a Standard Field Sobriety Instructor, which allows him to help train and certify our officers in the use of Standard Field Sobriety Tests.

The department investigated a fatal crash that took place on McKnight Road and the investigation is ongoing in conjunction with the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's Office.

The entire department was recertified by Detective Sergeant Egli in deployment and use of tasers. Officer Allshouse attended Highway Safety Network training that helps strengthen effectiveness in enforcing the traffic laws of the Commonwealth. Sergeant Madden and K-9 Joy continued monthly training with surrounding K-9 units. Detective Sergeant Egli, Sergeant Cheberenchick and Officer Ewing continue to attend mandatory training with their assignments to the North Hills Special Response Team (SRT).

Officer Bock was assigned permanently to the Investigations Division in December. Detective Bock was previously called upon to assist in Investigations as needed and his performance is impeccable.

The Christmas toy collection was quite successful again as our station lobby was overloaded with generous donations from the community and North Hills Community Outreach was very grateful to receive those donations.

Assistance from the North Hills SRT was requested on New Year's Eve when a man supposedly barricaded himself in his home on West Ingomar Road. The incident ended quickly and quietly. We are always grateful to have our SRT team during critical incidents.

Thanks to the enthusiastic undertaking of Officer Allshouse, we have joined other state agencies and are now entering our reported crashes into the PA statewide reporting system. Officer Allshouse is setting up and training each officer. The system saves time and improves accuracy when the driver's license is scanned and their personal information is automatically populated through PENNDOT. Like most upgrades, the system has its glitches and does not communicate with our police database, but we are among many others police departments in PA who are working to find a smooth solution.

Lastly, I look forward to leading this department as we continue to maintain our positive relationship with Town council and the community.

I would like to personally thank Town Council for giving me this opportunity to serve the community in the capacity of Acting Chief of Police. As you are well aware, it has been a tumultuous time over the last several months with internal affairs. I want to acknowledge Lt. Donald O'Connor, who very nobly served as our interim Chief during this time. You may not often have the chance to hear from those of us within the department who see the courage it takes to lead a police department. Being the father of six children, I have a deep devotion to the importance of keeping our communities safe and positive. I thank you again for trusting in me to keep this town safe. I can assure you that I am both committed and eager to serve the Town of McCandless in any capacity needed.

During the month of January, our police responded to a call for an unknown disturbance. Upon arrival, officers found a male resident on Chapel Court, who appeared to be out of control, hallucinating and clearly needed medical attention. EMS responded and upon trying to determine what may have caused his behavior, numerous suspicious items were observed throughout the male's home, which indicated a possible lab for controlled substances. A search warrant was obtained and the PA State Police Clandestine Lab Response Team was summoned for assistance with processing the scene. Once the results are obtained from the PA State Police, the male will be charged accordingly.

Also in January, there was a house fire on Park Edge Drive which resulted in a total loss of the residence. The Peebles Fire Department Chief Matt Williams rescued a woman and the police department rescued 14 dogs that were placed into a temporary shelter with the assistance of the PA State Dog Warden, Steve Stoehr.

Lockers at North Allegheny Senior High School and the Baierl Center were sniffed by our police K-9 Joy with assistance from Ross Police, Northern Regional Police and Sharpsburg Police. Several alerts of possible contraband, were discovered.