

McCandless Police Department

Memorandum

Date: April 11, 2022
To: Town Council
From: Ryan Hawk, Chief of Police
RE: Monthly Activity Report – March 2022

Over the past several months, I have been exploring a program where social workers will be able to assist our police officers with identifying persons who need emergency mental health treatment or other community support and can be diverted away from the criminal justice system. This program is unlike anything we have done in the past. In March, two offers were accepted by social worker interns from Slippery Rock University and they will begin in August of this year. These interns are pursuing Master's degrees with major coursework in Sociology, Social Work, Psychology, Criminal Justice, and/or Counseling. They will possess the ability to assess and provide crisis stabilization. My hope for this program is an efficient interdisciplinary partnership of law enforcement and mental health professionals coming together to provide behavioral health assistance, where law enforcement is not warranted. Focus will be on promoting and solidifying services to divert individuals from the criminal justice system by cultivating relationships with volunteer groups, faith-based organizations, and service providers in order to enhance Mental Health services in our community.

The vast majority of officers completed their Annual Update training. Two officers completed their Level 4 Crash Investigations training, which will now enable them to reconstruct any vehicle crash involving death or serious injury. Officer Kyle Allhouse attended training in Prosecuting the Drugged Driver, which will enhance his certification as a Drug Recognition Expert while conducting and preparing cases for prosecution that involve people operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs. Two officers attended training enabling them to become Field Training Officers (FTO). An FTO trains and evaluates new officers in specific operations of the department over an 8-12 week period. Three officers were trained in Investigation of Sex Assaults, which provides training in best practices used while investigating and prosecuting sex assaults. Officers assigned to the North Hills Special Response Team (SRT) as well as Sgt. Madden and K9 Joy, attended their respective monthly training. Two officers attended training in Tactical Medicine sponsored by the North Hills Special Response Team (SRT). This training enables officers to provide first aid when paramedics are unable to respond during hazardous conditions, such as an active shooter.

On 3/1/22, Lieutenant Basl, Sgt. Cheberenchick and Sgt. Madden with K-9 Joy were asked to read to the children at Peebles Elementary. The children were overjoyed to have uniformed officers reading and animating their story time.

On 3/6/22, Sgt. Egli and and Sgt. Madden with K9 Joy were asked to instruct Temple Chav Shalom on security measures.

On 3/10/22 the Bigs In Blue program was reinstated after being on hold throughout the Covid Pandemic. This program is a great community service to school children in need of additional support.

On 3/17/22, The North Hills DUI Task Force in conjunction with the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration Checkpoint Strike Force conducted a successful roving DUI patrol in McCandless, Ross, West View, Pine and Marshall along various roads. There were 99 vehicles that were stopped for traffic violations and six individuals were administered field sobriety test. Of those tested, three were arrested for Driving Under the Influence and ten citations were issued for other various vehicle code violations.

A Mobile Lighting Tower Trailer was donated to the Town of McCandless Police and Fire Departments by Black Diamond Equipment Rental to be used at crimes scenes. We are very appreciative of this much needed equipment.
