

Organizational Structure

The Command Staff of the Saratoga Springs Police Department consists of the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police and the Lieutenants assigned to the Patrol, Investigations and Administrative Services Divisions. Civilian oversight of the Police Department is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Public Safety and Deputy Commissioner of Public safety.

The Department had an authorized strength of 70 sworn officers in 2014. Despite the hiring of 16 police officers since January of 2013, the department has not yet been able to return to the staffing levels of several years ago. Each new hire must complete a six month basic course for police officers at the Zone 5 Law Enforcement Academy in Schenectady followed by fifteen weeks of supervised field training. The department has plans to hire additional officers in 2015 and is confident that staffing levels will improve in the coming years.

Police Officers John Carey, Todd Bengtson, Patrick O'Leary, Sean O'Leary and Investigator John Barney all retired in 2014. The department recognizes their dedication and service and we wish them well in retirement.

The department is divided into three Divisions, the Patrol Division, Investigations Division and Administrative Services Division. Each of the divisions is responsible for specific duties related to the overall mission of the police department.

PATROL DIVISION

The patrol division consists of four shifts providing 24 hour patrol coverage. Patrol Officers work in uniform, conduct routine patrol, respond to calls for service and conduct preliminary investigations. Patrol Officers also are responsible for traffic control, order maintenance, crowd control, vehicle and traffic enforcement, and transporting prisoners to and from City Court arraignments.

The Patrol Division Lieutenant is responsible for the Patrol Division. Daily supervision of each of the shifts is the responsibility of Patrol Sergeants assigned to each shift. Sergeants are responsible for the direct supervision of each of the 10-12 officers assigned to each shift. One sergeant and 4-6 officers are assigned to a shift that overlaps the evening and overnight shifts and provides additional manpower during the weekend nights.

Within the Patrol Division is the Mounted Unit consisting of two horses, Jupiter and King Tut. The department currently has one officer who is certified to ride the horses on duty. Jupiter and King Tut are generally utilized for crowd control during weekend summer nights and special events throughout the year.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division (ASD) is responsible for all aspects of police department operations that are not otherwise conducted by the Patrol and Investigations Divisions including centralized dispatching, Animal Control, Parking Enforcement. The Traffic Unit and the Training and Intelligence unit also fall within the ASD. The ASD is commanded by Lieutenant Thomas Mitchell.

The communications center is staffed with a minimum of two dispatchers assigned per shift 24 hours per day. The Senior Public Safety Dispatcher oversees general supervision of dispatch personnel with the Patrol Division Officer-In-Charge responsible for the day-to-day activities of communications staff assigned to the shift.

Dispatchers are responsible for answering calls for service and dispatching appropriate emergency personnel. In addition to the routine tasks of dispatching emergency personnel, dispatchers complete a number of clerical duties essential to effective emergency police, medical and fire operations. Some of these duties include the maintenance of several databases including, orders of protection issued by various courts, warrants, business and residential emergency contact information, trespass notices, coordination of response with other city departments and outside agencies.

The Animal Control Officer, as mandated by the City Charter, responds to calls for service directly related to domestic animals. The Animal Control Officer is also responsible for Parking Enforcement duties and assists with the care of the horse assigned to the Mounted Unit. In 2014 the Animal Control Officer responded to 238 calls for service directly and assisted patrol members with another 253 animal related calls. He transported 115 live and deceased animals and assisted the Saratoga County Health Department with 37 bite cases.

The Training and Intelligence Unit is staffed by a single officer. The duties of the Training and Intelligence Unit include coordination of the training program of the department and the collection and analysis of data used to inform supervisory decision making in personnel deployment and special event planning.

The Traffic Unit consists of one Sergeant. The duties of the Traffic Unit include responding to serious injury and fatal motor vehicle accidents, traffic complaints received from members of the public, commercial motor vehicle enforcement, maintenance of the License Plate Readers (LPR), management of the school and seasonal crossing guards and the application for and management of traffic related grants.

In 2014, 165 commercial motor vehicle inspections were conducted with 29 vehicles being taken out of service for critical safety violations. License Plate Readers attached to patrol vehicles located 50 vehicles with suspended registrations in 2014. LPR locates led to the collection of \$5190.00 in unpaid outstanding fines.

Parking enforcement officers issued 10, 989 total parking tickets in 2014 resulting in \$450,035 in fines collected. \$1,564,683 in parking fines remains outstanding.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division consists of two units, the Criminal Investigations Unit and the Special Investigations Unit. The Criminal Investigations Unit (CIU) is responsible for the investigation of major incidents and serious crimes while the Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is responsible primarily for the investigation of drug related crimes.

The CIU consists of one sergeant and six investigators while the SIU is composed of one Sergeant and four investigators. One member of the CIU is assigned to the FBI-Cyber Crime Task Force that investigates instances of child pornography. One member of the SIU is assigned to the DEA Drug Task Force which investigates large scale drug trafficking.

One investigator is assigned to manage the registered sex offenders in the City of Saratoga Springs. There are currently 28 registered sex offenders living in Saratoga Springs. Residential checks are conducted every 90 days. 5 individuals were arrested in 2014 for failing to register as required by law.

Members of the Special Investigations Unit are charged with the investigation of all levels of drug trafficking in Saratoga Springs, from street level dealers to major drug trafficking organizations. In addition to pro-active details targeted to street-level drug activity in the downtown area and during SPAC concerts, the members of the SIU conducted over thirty (30) drug investigations, making fifty (50) undercover drug purchases and executing fourteen (14) search warrants.

MISCELLANEOUS

Special Events

As a tourist destination, Saratoga Springs hosts many special events during the course of the year. From the July book signing by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, to high school and college graduations and multiple downtown events, road races and parades, special events require a police presence. In 2014 the police department identified 54 special events requiring police attention with 40 of those events requiring additional police officers above the number of officers required for routine patrol duties. Over \$33,000 was required to staff special events in 2014 with over 900 man-hours dedicated to special events alone.

Identification Clerk

The Identification Clerk is the only civilian support staff employed by the police department. The ID Clerk is responsible for processing all requests for information, including Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, fingerprinting civilians for licensing, military and employment purposes, as well as maintaining all records and the electronic fingerprinting submission system.

CRIME IN SARATOGA SPRINGS: Year in Review

Overall crime reported in Saratoga Springs has remained stable over the past several years. The only notable increase in any category was for robberies. In 2014 there were 16 robberies reported in Saratoga Springs, up from the 4 reported robberies in 2013. The notable increase in robberies was in large part due to one group of offenders that were responsible for several drug related robberies of victims that were known to the offender. The group has been identified and arrests have been made related to those robberies. There were 95 reported burglaries in 2014 compared with 91 reported in 2013. Larcenies reported to police decreased from 2013 with 447 larcenies being reported in 2014. There were 8 motor vehicles stolen in Saratoga Springs in 2014. While the crime rate has remained stable over the past several years it should be noted that over the past two decades crime has fallen considerably in the city. In the 1990's the average number of burglaries per year was 228, larcenies were 945 and every year on average 32 motor vehicles were stolen.

Narcotics investigations in Saratoga Springs have not shown the significant drop that other crimes have in the past two decades. Drug related arrests have been increasing over the past several years with heroin playing an increasingly large role in the workload of narcotics investigators. Tragically the department has been responding to about 4-6 unattended heroin related deaths per year over the past several years with incidents of heroin related overdoses responsible for over 20 calls for service per year. Many more investigations and calls for service involve crime and other issues with heroin playing a part in the underlying cause of the need for a police response. 206 drug arrests were made in 2014 by members of the police department.

Weekend nights continue to require large numbers of police resources year round. Related issues to the large crowds on weekend nights include DWI, disorderly persons and minor assaults. There were 326 reported simple assaults in 2014, 49 disorderly conduct arrests and 291 DWI arrests. About 80% of all DWI offenders do not live in Saratoga Springs. The department conducted two sobriety checkpoints and participated in five Holiday Crackdowns in 2014.

Among the major investigations conducted by the Saratoga Springs Police Department this year were:

On April 3 a homeowner on America Way awoke to an intruder wearing a black ski mask and hooded sweatshirt inside their home. The offender fled and was briefly detained in the area before fleeing from police after he punched an investigator. The offender, who has a long history of violent criminal offenses, was eventually arrested on November 26.

On September 1 at about 4:00 AM, the night clerk of the Grand Union Motel was robbed at knifepoint by two unknown offenders who fled the area on foot. Neither of the offenders has been located and the case remains unsolved.

On September 19 at 2:15 AM inside the Paddock Lounge on Caroline Street Aaron Huggins was assaulted. Police responded and identified the offender trying to leave the area in a taxi. Despite medical assistance Huggins later died as a result of the injuries he sustained during the assault. Jeffrey Mann was arrested for the assault and is awaiting criminal trial.

On October 1, Shane Harding was arrested on the campus of Skidmore College. He had been a fugitive from authorities in Rensselaer County after cutting off an electronic monitoring ankle bracelet and committing an alleged armed robbery, kidnapping and assault elsewhere in the region. Harding was not suspected of having committed any crimes in Saratoga Springs during his flight from authorities.

Members of the Saratoga Springs Police Department, New York State Police and FBI conducted two prostitution stings in the city in 2014. Twelve arrests were made related to the stings and one sixteen-year-old runaway was identified and returned to her family.

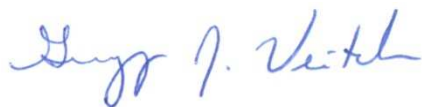
Community Service

Many members of the Saratoga Springs Police Department donate their time in the community and participate in many charity events. Police officers hand out free hot chocolate during Chowderfest in February and delivered food and gift baskets to the Franklin Community Center during the week of Thanksgiving. They also participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Law and Orders at Applebee's, and Cops on Top at local Wal Mart stores- all in support of the Special Olympics. In 2014 SSPD officers officiated and coached several youth sports teams, including basketball, football, baseball and soccer teams.

Police Officer Lloyd Davis is assigned as the department's School Resource Officer (SRO). Officer Davis is assigned full time during the school year to the Saratoga Springs High School with 60% of his salary reimbursed by the school district. Officer Davis' presence on a daily basis at the high school has been found to be beneficial to both the school district and the police department. Officers visit all of the elementary schools in the city on a regular basis to interact with parents, students.

Holding Cells

The Saratoga Springs Police Department maintains holding cells for arrested persons who are in custody awaiting arraignment by a local judge. In 2014 there were five (5) jail cells available for male detainees and one cell, separate from the male cells, designated for female detainees. Annual audits and associated reports are sent to the New York State Department of Corrections. In 2014 the department housed 457 male and 77 female prisoners. No juveniles were detained by the police department in 2014.



Gregory J. Veitch

Chief of Police