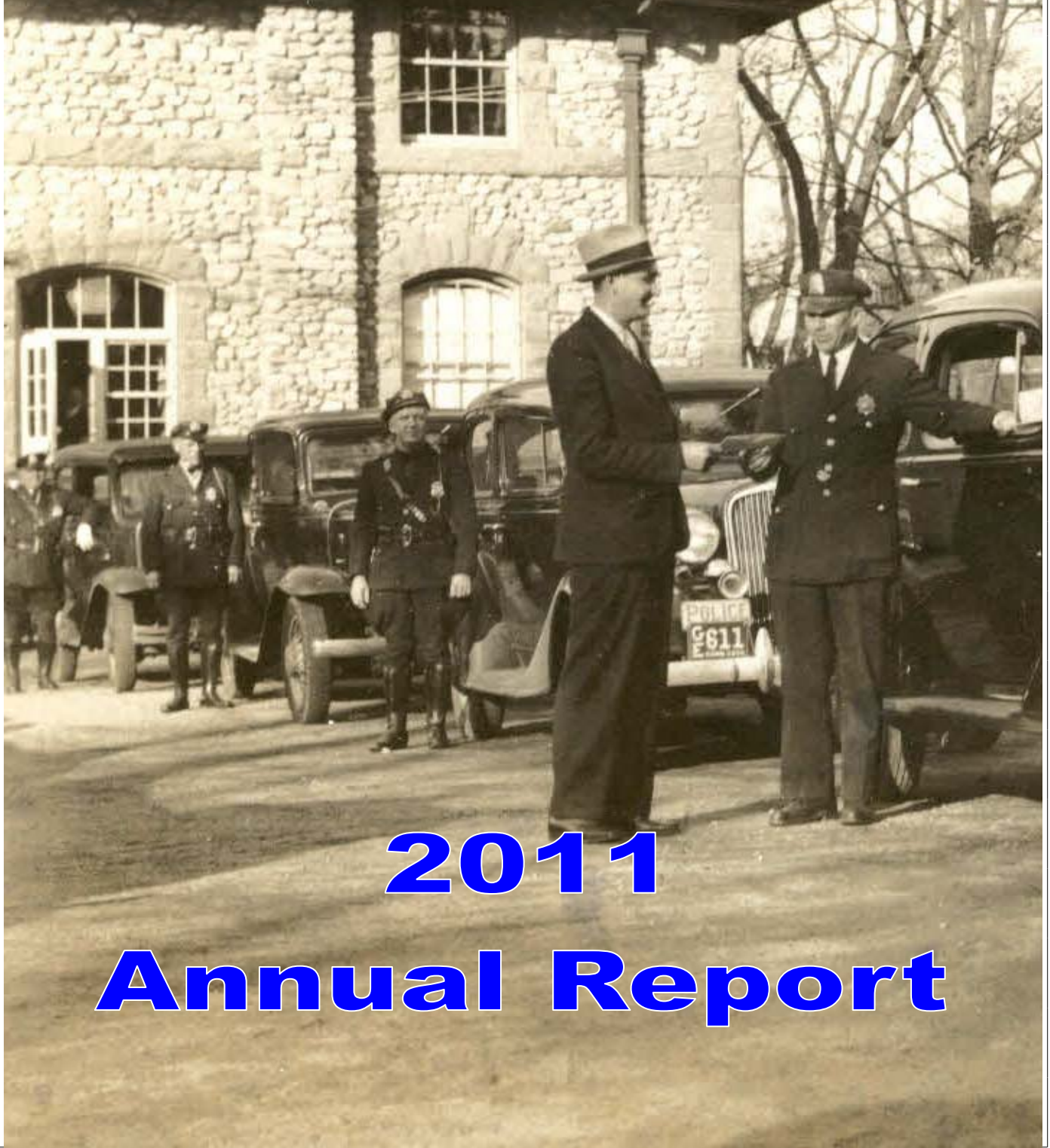


**WESTPORT POLICE
DEPARTMENT**



**2011
Annual Report**

2011 Annual Report

Message from Chief of Police Dale E. Call



Foti Koskinas
Deputy Chief of Police

The year 2011 proved to be a challenging year for the Westport Police Department, but one which the men and women of the department met with professionalism and hard work. Just in the last 6 months alone we faced a hurricane and a freak October snow-storm within 2 months that knocked out power to many for 2 weeks, a manhunt for a Massachusetts murder suspect in the downtown area after a lengthy high-speed pursuit, and the Town's first robbery-homicide in over 30 years.

In addition, this department, like many others in town, saw funding reduced due to the stagnant economy. From a high of 72 officers in FY03/04 we reduced staffing to 67 sworn officers in FY11/12, with a further reduction in FY12/13 to 64 sworn officers. Civilian support staff was reduced by several positions as well. Spending on non-personnel items was significantly reduced so that we can maintain the levels of service which the residents of this town have long been accustomed to seeing.

This has been borne out in our performance indicators - we have maintained low response times to both priority and non-priority calls for service, our crime rate remains low, and the number of motor vehicle crashes has continued to decline while enforcement rises.

Still, there is always room for improvement. We have seen far too many pedestrian fatalities on our streets and, while the number of crashes has declined, their severity has increased. The highest number of complaints received from residents are for motor vehicle issues - speeding cars, disregard of traffic signals and stops signs, and the increasing use of cell phones and other electronic devices in cars that distract drivers from the complicated task of driving a car.

The Westport Police Department continues to look for more efficient and more effective ways to serve the community, to build stronger relationships with other town departments and residents, and to maintain the safe character of the town that makes it a desirable place to live.

Thank you for taking the time to look over our annual report and reflect upon the work this department performs 24 hours a day, every day.



Samuel Arciola
Captain - Patrol



John Calka
Captain - Staff

Mission Statement

To serve the public in a professional manner.

We take on the responsibility of making our community safe for all those that live, work, or pass through here.

We strive to make our roads safe for motorists and pedestrians alike.

It is our responsibility to work with other agencies and with the public we serve and treat everyone with respect and dignity.

Budget Summary

The police department was required to make numerous reductions during the previous fiscal year as the national economic downturn continued, and FY 11/12 was no different. Our authorized strength remained at 67 sworn officers for the fiscal year, but a town hiring freeze meant that vacancies caused by turnover could not be filled. This had an impact on overtime costs as these vacant positions were additionally affected by several injuries and a military deployment.

Vehicle purchases were not made in FY11/12 to honor a request from the Town to keep patrol cars in service for 3 years versus 2 years. This increased the repair costs in the Vehicle Maintenance line. The good news was that the motorcycles purchased the previous fiscal year were deployed often (full-time in good weather, which in turn meant 3 patrol cars were not used with a corresponding decrease in fuel consumption).

Outsourcing of the department's parking ticket software and billing increased the amount of revenue for parking violations and parking fees as well as increasing the collection rate of both to over 96%.

The largest impact on the police budget are personnel costs. In FY11/12 the civilian staff ratified a new contract, while FY 11/12 is the final year of a 5-year collective bargaining agreement for the police union.

Personnel

TYPE	AUTHORIZED	ACTUAL	TURNOVERS	TURNOVER
Sworn	67	62	5	-7.5%
Civilian	8	8	0	0
Total	75	70	5	-6.7%

TOWN	Population	Daytime Change	# police officers	# Household	Officers/ household	officers/ 1000 eve	Officers/ 1000 day
Westport	25,602	3837	64	9,459	0.0068	2.50	2.19
Darien	19,771	92	50	6,616	0.0076	2.53	2.5
Fairfield	56,577	-465	110	19,973	0.0055	1.94	1.89
Wilton	18,079	1092	44	6,058	0.0073	2.43	2.33
Greenwich	60,551	2457	171	22,804	0.0075	2.82	2.64



Police work can't be accomplished with technology alone - it is personnel intensive.

Over 90% of the police budget is personnel based.

In 2003/2004 there were 72 sworn officers authorized for Westport police force. In 2011 that number dropped to 67, and in 2012 will drop to 64.



During the week more people come into Westport to work than leave for other places, one of the few towns in Fairfield County that this occurs

2011 Annual Report

Crime Statistics

The FBI Uniform Crime Report collects data on seven serious crimes that are investigated by local police departments (these are known as Part 1 crimes). All other crime is called either Part 2 crime or traffic-related and is not reported to the FBI.

Crimes against persons are crimes that are physical, violent, and are often high profile in nature. Murder (which includes negligent homicide and manslaughter), rape, robbery and aggravated assault are contained in this category.

Crimes against property are crimes that include intruding, taking, or destroying another persons property. These crimes do not involve force or threats toward the owner. Burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft are contained in this category.



Although Westport is a safe community in which to live and work, it is not immune to crime

In CY 2011, an astounding 77% of the reported burglaries committed in Westport were through an unlocked door or window.

Reporting Period	Population	Violent Crime	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Property Crime	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft
CY 2009	26,681	23	0	1	7	15	337	56	270	11
		86.2	0.0	3.7	26.2	56.2	1263	209.9	1012	41.2
CY 2010	26,799	15	0	2	7	7	414	86	312	16
		56		7.5	22.4	26.1	1,384	141.8	1,187	56
CY 2011	25,602	21	1	5	5	10	415	74	328	13
		56		7.5	22.4	26.1	1,384	141.8	1,187	56
3 Yr Average	26,630	19.6	0.33	2.7	6.3	10.7	388.7	72	303.3	13.3
		73.6	1.2	10.1	23.7	40.2	1460	270.4	1139	49.9

Clearance Rates - CY 2010

Crime	WPD	County	State
Murder	N/A	73.5%	61.4%
Rape	100%	28.1%	30.0%
Armed Robbery	60%	25.9%	31.3%
Aggravated Assault	100%	57.2%	66.2%
Burglary	27.6%	11.2%	14.8%
Larceny	16.2%	19%	21.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	29.4%	10.3%	10.6%



The Westport Police Department Detective Bureau Crime Scene Unit on location

Officer activity by the numbers

Westport police officers work across 5 shifts with staffing based on historical levels of calls for service. During a normal shift, an officer will answer calls for service from citizens, conduct traffic enforcement, issue citations and summonses, write reports, investigate crimes and other complaints, interact with the community in many ways, investigate traffic accidents and many other activities typical of a suburban police department.

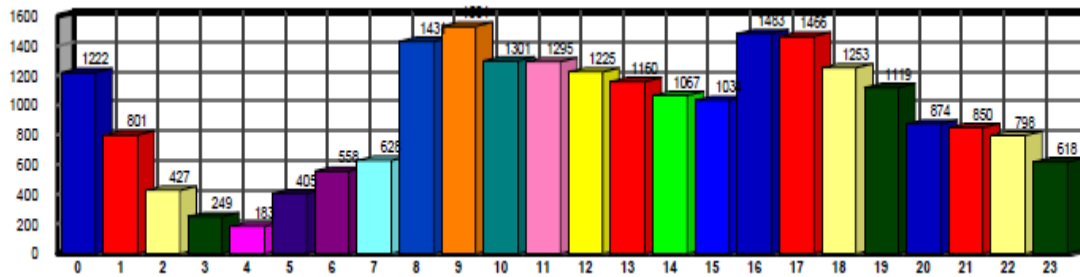
Detectives conduct follow-up investigations or reported crimes and members of the Public Safety Office work with other town agencies on a variety of other issues.

Calls for service include those that come from citizens as well as self-initiated activity by officers.

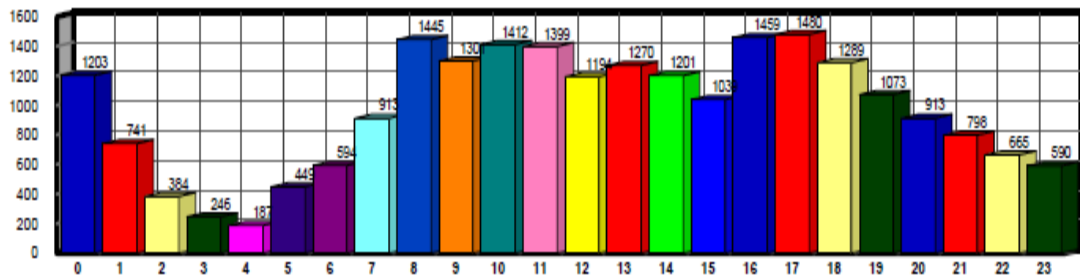


Westport police officers are the Town's primary first responders for all EMS calls. Many officers are certified as EMTs.

Calls for service by hour for 2010

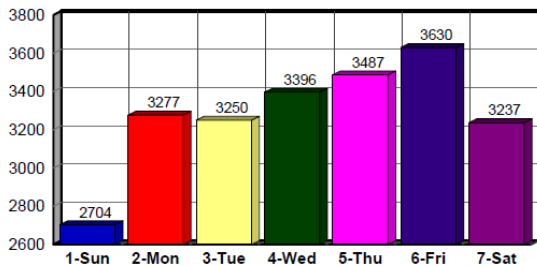


Calls for service by hour for 2011

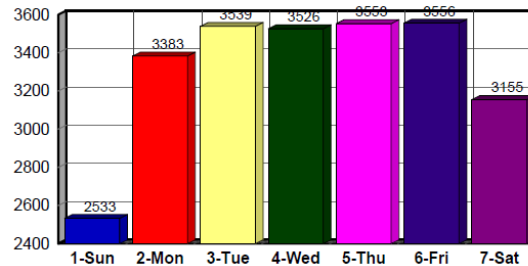


Calls for service by day of week

2010



2011



The Police Department enforces all boating laws in Westport waters. There is a boat in the water 365 days a year, although actively staffed for just 4 months.

Since 2004 the number of calls handled by the Westport Police Department has increased by nearly 24% with a decrease in staff of nearly 11%

2011 Annual Report

Officer Activity by the numbers

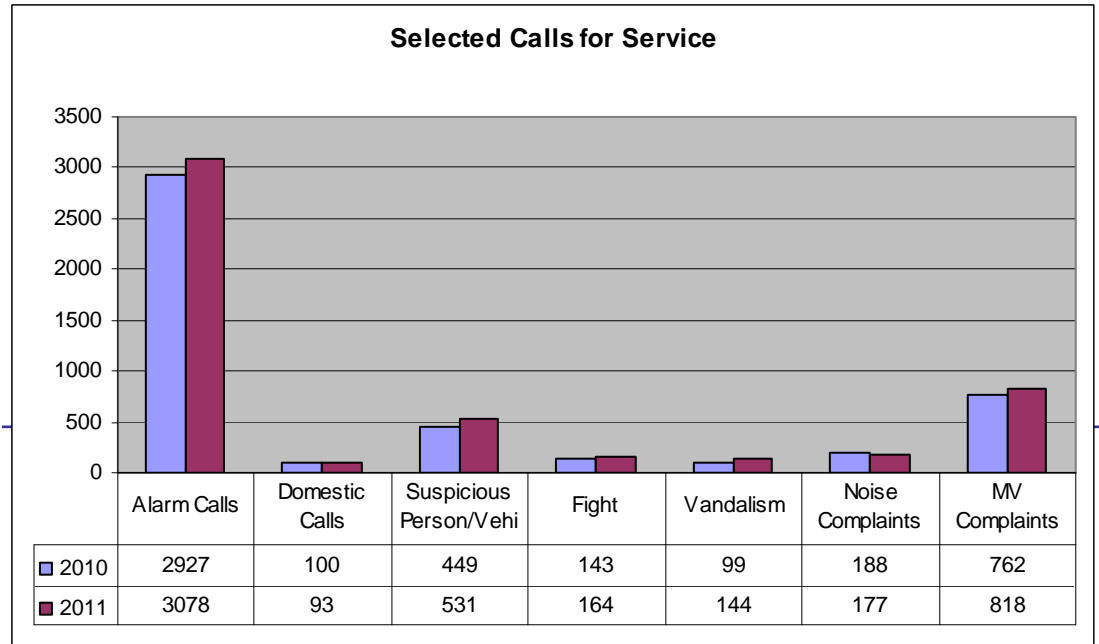


Westport police vehicle during the Thomas Gardner manhunt in November

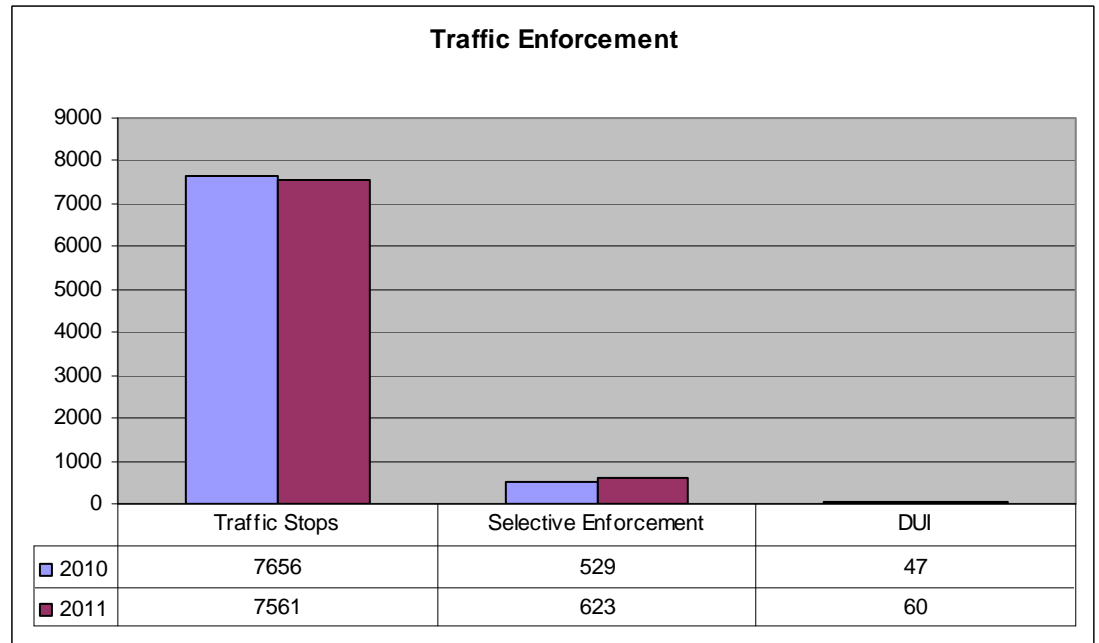
False alarms account for nearly 13% of the calls officers respond to. Two cars are sent to all alarms - over 3000 man-hours are expended on these calls each year!



Motorcycles play an integral part in traffic enforcement, especially for hard-to-spot violations like cell phones



Most of this activity is performed by the members of the Patrol Division, which consists of approximately 37 patrol officers, 5 sergeants and 4 lieutenants. These officers patrol 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Shifts are staffed according to the volume of activity - more officers are assigned at times of peak activity and fewer when call volume is lower.



Traffic Crashes

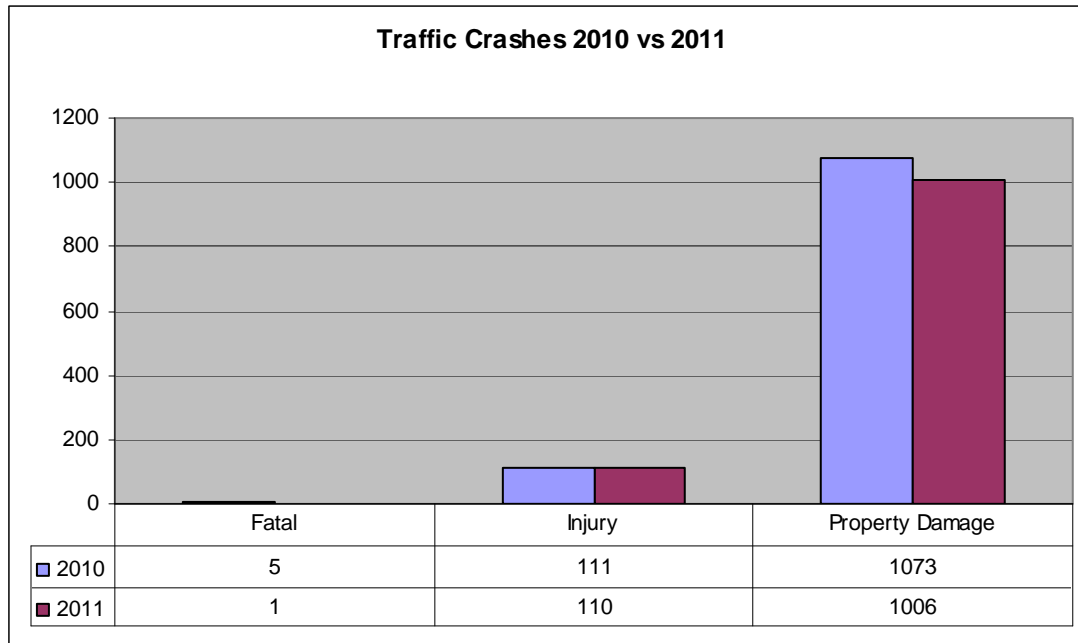
A major goal for the Westport Police Department is to reduce the number of crashes on Westport roads. Over the years traffic volume has increased significantly along with what seems to be a growing disregard of traffic laws and lack of courtesy. Nevertheless, there has been a steady drop in the number of traffic crashes over the last 10 years. The 5 fatalities in 2010, one occurring on private property and one storm-related, were much higher than usual. One fatality occurred in 2011 - but that is still one fatality too many.



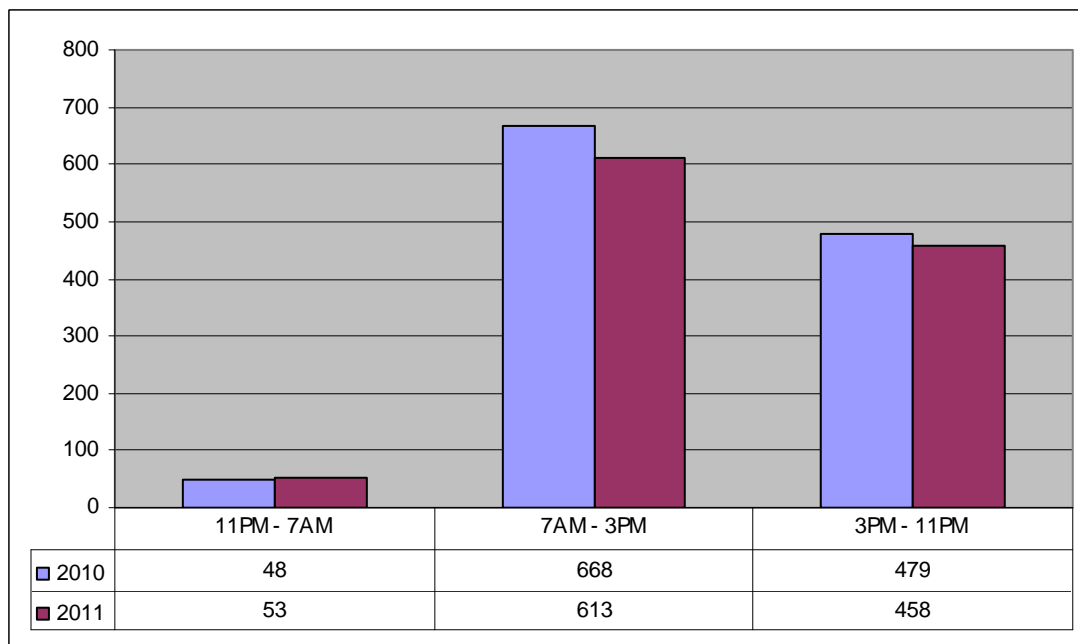
Each year about 25% of the crashes in town occur in private parking lots.

Over 50% of all crashes are caused by drivers following too closely, backing up in an unsafe manner or improper/restricted turns.

Drunk drivers account for about 10-20 crashes annually, and drivers usually don't admit to using cell phones as a cause for a crash.



The highest number of traffic crashes occur during the daytime hours. Westport is one of the few Fairfield County communities that sees a significant rise in daytime population - which coincides with the times of heaviest road usage - with a higher number of crashes.



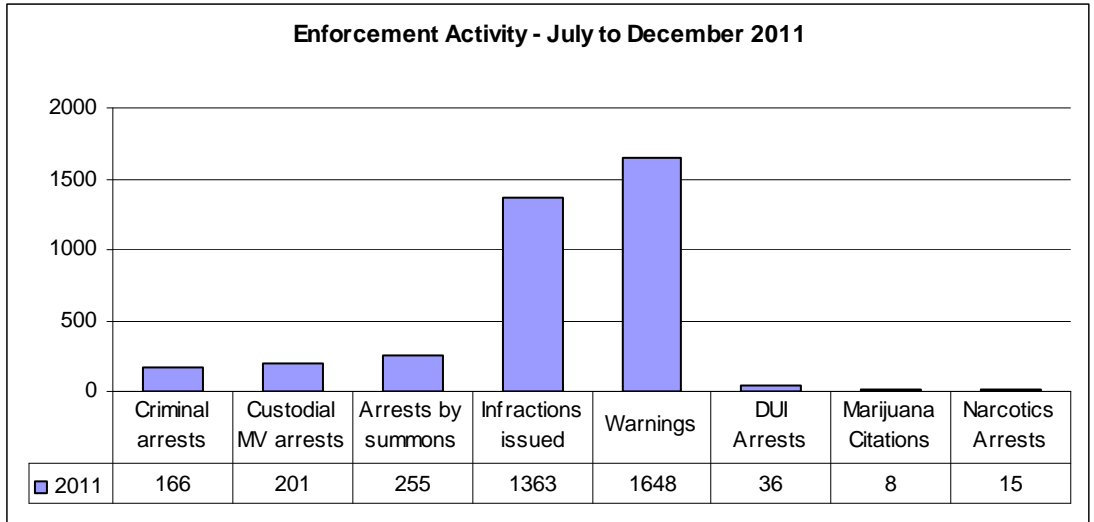
2011 Annual Report

Arrest Statistics



The majority of the arrests made by the Westport Police Department result from car stops

In July 2011 the Westport Police Department began using new reporting software to provide a truer picture of the arrests, citations (infractions and misdemeanors), and warnings issued by officers. In the past all charges were listed as “arrests”. These statistics are provided for the 6 month period ending December 31, 2011.



The online reporting system saves 25-30 man-hours per month, time that an officer can spend enforcing traffic laws

In 2011 approximately 24 referrals of minors were made to the Juvenile Court. The Westport Police Department Youth Division is able to handle the vast majority of juvenile complaints without a referral being necessary - working in conjunction with parents, school officials, and social services whenever possible.

Online Citizen Reporting System

In May 2010 the Westport Police Department introduced an online reporting system through Coplogic. This allows residents and non-residents alike to report the following incidents online:

Harassing phone calls, Damage to Motor Vehicles, Lost Property, Theft, Vandalism, Theft from vehicles, and Vehicle Tampering

The system is easy to learn and use and allows citizens to file a report and, once approved, get a copy of the report emailed to them - usually within hours. This saves the user time and gasoline when there is no known suspect and a report needs to be filed for insurance purposes or even just to let the Police Department know something occurred. In addition, it frees up police officers for other duties.

This year the system is going to be expanded to allow residents to report traffic enforcement issues such as neighborhood speeding. This will allow the report to be sent directly to the officers assigned to traffic enforcement.

To date, over 200 reports have been filed online through the system, which can be accessed from our web site at www.westportctpd.org at any time.

Access Westport PD's online reporting system

[start here](#)



The Westport Police Department was the first in the state to offer online reporting

CY 2011

Notable Incidents from 2011

2011, particularly the latter half, was an exceptionally trying year for the Westport Police Department, with several high profile incidents that had a major (and in some cases, devastating) impact on Westport families:

- **Hurricane Irene**

In August 2011 the Town dealt with Hurricane (Tropical Storm) Irene. The Police Department worked with other agencies in town to provide uninterrupted emergency services for the duration of the storm. Officers worked double shifts and used the Senior Center as a resting station as they were unable to go home during the storm.

With a fair amount of time to prepare for the storm, the biggest issues for the officers working were not so much during the storm as much as after the storm. Curious residents ventured out from their homes to see what effect the storm had, especially in the beach area, creating problems with cleanup and traffic.

- **Storm Alfred**

Unlike Irene, most people were surprised by the sudden winter storm at the end of October. While snowfall amounts were lower than areas upstate and it quickly melted, the weight of the snow on trees that still had many leaves created hazardous traffic conditions due to downed wires and tree limbs.

For the children who did not go out on Halloween, Westport's emergency services held a special "Halloween in November" celebration that was attended by hundreds of children.

- **Thomas Gardner case**

On November 9, 2011 Fairfield police officers chased a car into Westport that was quickly determined to be occupied by a suspected murderer, Thomas Gardner, from Massachusetts. After the car crashed at the rear of the Westport Country Playhouse, Gardner fled on foot. A massive manhunt ensued, with nearly 50 officers from several jurisdictions involved, before Gardner was apprehended. Two employees of a nearby store spotted Gardner walking on the sidewalk and called the Westport Police, leading to his capture.

- **Zeevi Homicide**

On December 8, 2011 a robbery occurred at YZ Jewelers. During the commission of the crime, well-known resident and business owner Yekutiel Zeevi was murdered and an associate critically wounded. The investigation, led by Westport Police and Connecticut State Police detectives and assisted by many other local, state, and federal agencies, culminated with the identification and capture of Andrew Levine after a six-week investigation. Levine was tracked down in Spain, where he was arrested in late January 2012. Levine committed suicide before he could be extradited back to the United States to face charges.



The Zeevi robbery/homicide was the first to occur in Westport in approximately 30 years, and the first homicide in town for over 15 years.

Thousands of hours of investigation were done by detectives from the Westport and Connecticut State Police departments, along with many other agencies (including the US Marshal's, US Attorney's Office, and more.

2011 Annual Report

Specialized Services



Westport Police motor officers undergo a rigorous 3-week course given by the CT State Police Motorcycle Unit

Traffic enforcement is performed by all officers assigned to the Patrol Division, however some officers are assigned solely to traffic enforcement duty when staffing permits. While marked police vehicles provide a highly visible deterrent for some motorists, specialized vehicles provide a more effective means of enforcing other traffic laws. The department uses both unmarked police cars as well as motorcycles for this purpose.

Although the Westport police boats are not staffed during the cold weather months, Westport boats are routinely called out to perform rescues and searches off the Westport coast all year long.



The department's Marine Division is staffed with 3 officers throughout the late spring and summer. The department's large boat, Marine I, is in the water and mission-ready 365 days a year. Over 1/3 of the department's officers are qualified to work on the police boat.



In August Captain Sam Arciola, a former marine officer, rescued the owner of this boat off the Westport coast.

The Police Department, along with the Fire Department, operate a combined Dive-Rescue Team capable of diving in all conditions, whether it be in local ponds or in Long Island Sound.

Specialized Services



Westport Police bike officers ride BMW police bikes donated by New Country Toyota

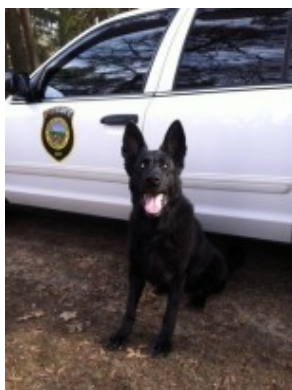


Several officers are trained and certified through the International Police Mountain Bike Association as bike officers. The department uses bike-mounted officers for special events such as the Special Olympics Torch Run and for patrols downtown, at the beaches, and the train station when staffing permits.

All officers work their specialized duties as part of their normal work day, unless assigned to the Marine Division during the spring and summer



In 2011 the Westport Police had two police service dogs (PSD) on the force. PSD Lola, a German Shepherd handled by Officer Marc Heninmiller and PSD Ellie, a Bloodhound handled by Officer Ryan Paulsson.



PSD Lola, retiring in 2012 after a long and successful career with the Westport Police Department

PSD Lola was slated for retirement at age 12 in early 2012 after a career of ten years in which she helped officers make more than 1,000 arrests. PSD Lola was trained in narcotics detention, tracking, building searches, and handler protection.

PSD Ellie is used for only one purpose, which is to locate lost or missing persons and criminals who flee. Along with Officer Paulsson, she received the department Meritorious Police Duty Award for finding an endangered missing person in Easton.

In 2012 Officer James Loomer will become the department's newest handler.

2011 Annual Report

Emergency Medical Services



The Westport Emergency Medical Service is comprised of 6 full-time paid staff, 5 of whom are paramedics. The paid staff is complimented by members of the Westport Volunteer Emergency Medical Services (WVEMS).

The combination of paid and volunteer staff is fairly unique but it has worked well for the Town for over 30 years. The volunteers of WVEMS staff the ambulances as crew members and crew chiefs, raise money for major equipment purchases (such as ambulances) which saves the Westport taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and provide emergency medical training to the community.

Westport Emergency Medical Service Explorer Post 601 continues to offer area youth the opportunity to be part of the EMS team while in high school. Many of the Explorer's continue to be part of the EMS community after they graduate from high school and college.

During 2011, 91 volunteers worked on the ambulance. Some volunteered more than 1,300 hours. Combined, volunteers worked approximately 18,580 hours on duty shifts, an average of just over 204 hours per volunteer. WVEMS members contributed the equivalent of more than a quarter million dollars of work serving the Town of Westport in 2011.

Among the accomplishments for WEMS/WVEMS in 2011:

- Purchase of a 2012 Ford Expedition paramedic fly car and donation to the Town
- Establishment of an EMS Bike Unit thanks to generous donations from both the local Masons and Kiwanis Club
- Purchase of the first Life-Pak 15 advanced cardiac diagnostic monitor thanks to a fundraiser at the Birchwood Country Club
- Held 178 CPR classes, training 1,247 people
- Of those, 40 free classes trained 430 Westport residents and Town employees



Westport EMS is a leader in new and innovative ways to deliver services, such as fully-equipped EMS bikes used at special events such as the fireworks and parades.



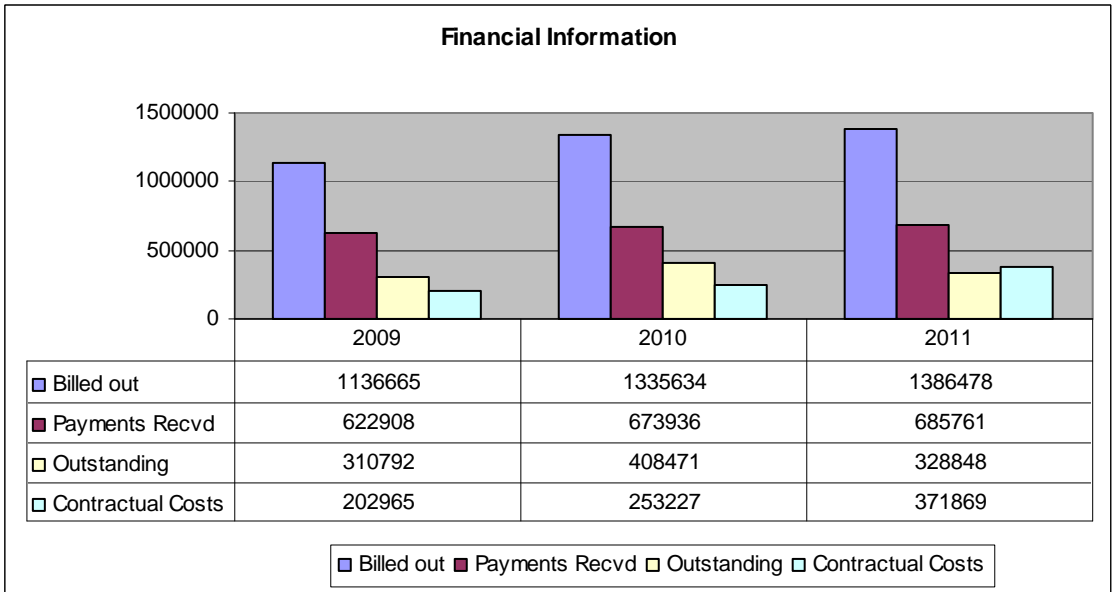
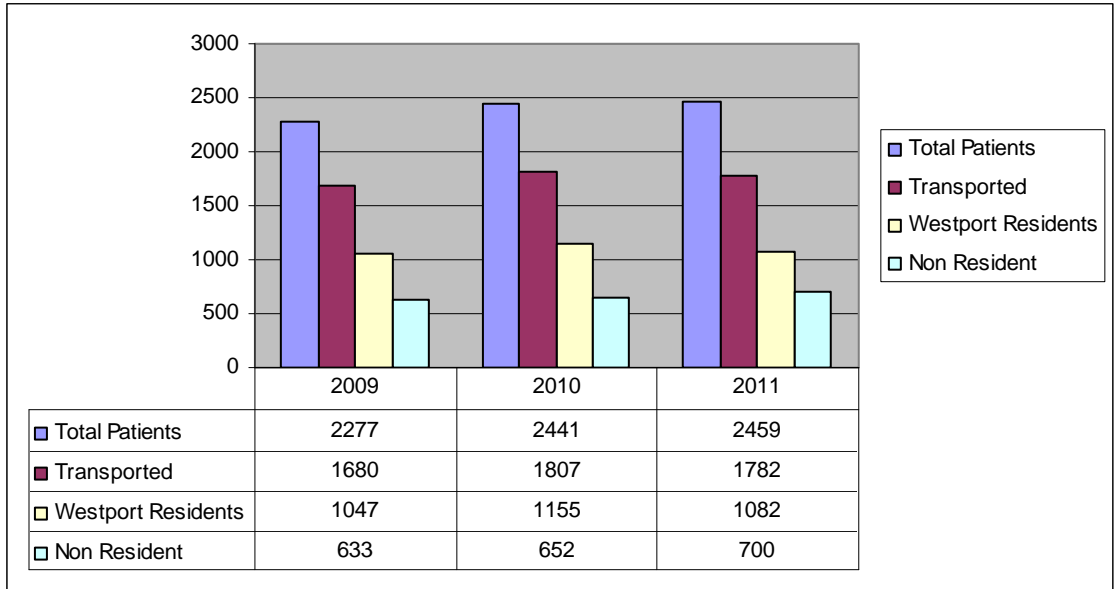
WVEMS CPR instructor Jay Paretzky offers congratulations to Joe Query, the 1000th person trained in CPR during 2011



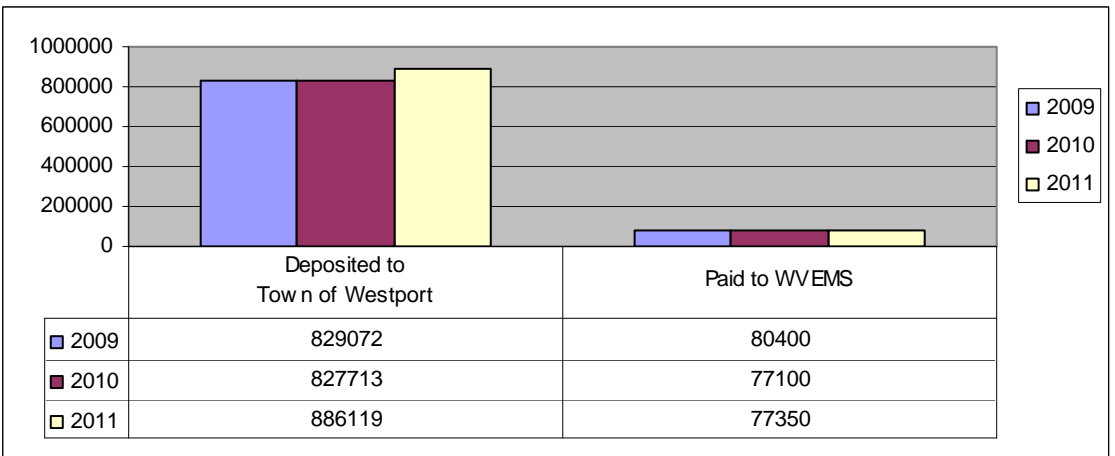
WVEMS President Martin Iselin turns over the keys to a new paramedic SUV to First Selectman Joseloff in July 2011

WVEMS members volunteered more than 18,500 hours to the Town of Westport in 2011!

Emergency Medical Services, by the numbers



The Westport Kiwanis Club donated the first specially-equipped bikes for the new EMS Bike Unit in April 2011



2011 Annual Report

Railroad Parking Division

The Westport Police Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance the Westport (Saugatuck) and Greens Farms train stations and the surrounding parking lots.

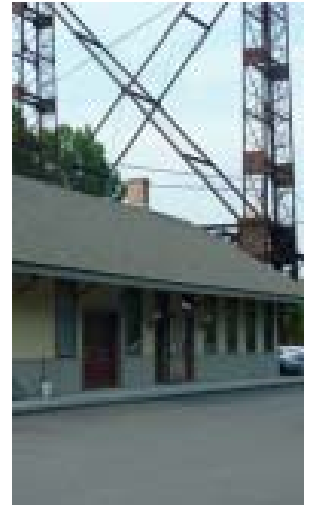
In late April 2011 the Police Department contracted with Complus Data Systems to handle the processing of both municipal parking violations and daily parking fee tickets. New handheld ticket writers were implemented which increased the productivity and efficiency of the traffic agents working the parking lots by nearly 200%.

In addition, a new online payment system was introduced. The new system allows users to actually view all their outstanding tickets instead of the old system that required users to know each ticket that they had received. Daily parking users are not charged convenience fee to pay their tickets online as long as they are current. In addition, the system allows for online appeals for parking violations.

Delinquent notices are now sent through Complus and scofflaws that have vehicles which are registered in Connecticut now have those registrations sent to the CT DMV for suspension until the outstanding tickets are paid. Prior to the implementation of the new system collection rates were from 55%-75% on all tickets. Since the system went live that has increased to over 96%.

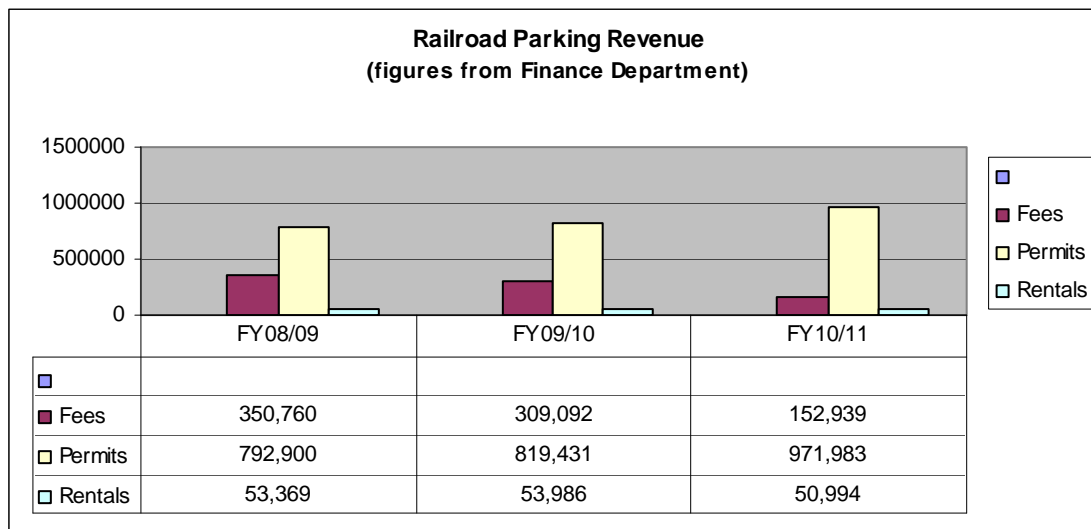
On July 1, 2011 annual permits increased from \$225 annually to \$325 annually. Daily parking fees increased from \$4 to \$5. These increases brought the permit and daily fee more in line with what other stations charged. The Railroad Parking Division continues to look at ways of streamlining the wait list. Wait times are still in excess of 4 years.

The eastbound station at Saugatuck, long an eyesore, began a long-awaited renovation in the fall. The building was repainted and new storm windows installed. In 2012 the interior of the building will be renovated and all the existing, out-of-date leases renegotiated to reflect current market value. In addition, more parking spaces that were once over-allocated to tenants such as the cab company will be made available for commuter parking.



New paint adorns the eastbound Saugatuck train station with more work slated for 2012

There are nearly 4,000 permit holders but only 1,400 permit spaces at both stations. This occurs because many permit holders do not park regularly, allowing more permits to be issued



CY 2011

New Employees

As a result of a freeze on new hires in the Town of Westport, no new officers were hired during the 2011 calendar year. Vacant patrol officer positions were covered through overtime and/or shift staffing adjustments.



In December Westport police officers and Staples High School students held their first ever "Dodge-a-Cop" tournament fundraiser



Westport police officers have participated in the Connecticut Special Olympics Torch Run and other fundraisers for more than 25 years



Officers Ashley DeVecchio and Don Rice hand out candy during "Halloween in November"

Retirements

- In February Officer Adam McClarin retired on a disability pension following a knee injury. Officer McClarin was hired in 2001.
 - In May Officer Michael Guman retired. Officer Guman was our computer systems analyst. He was an officer with the department for a combined ## years (he left the department for a short while in the early 1980s to work for the Las Vegas Metro PD before returning to Connecticut in 1983.
 - In August Chief of Police Alfred Fiore fully retired after more than 32 years of service. Chief Fiore had retired in July 2010 but remained on the job for another 13 months under a modified deferred retirement plan.
-

Resignations

- In November Officer Wilgins Altera resigned to take a position with the Stamford Police Department. Officer Altera was hired in 2009.
-

Promotions

- In October Deputy Chief Dale E. Call was promoted to Chief of Police, the 8th since the department was organized in 1924.
 - Also in October, Captain Foti Koskinas was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief.
 - In December, Lieutenant John Calka was promoted to the rank of Captain.
-

Awards

Chief's Commendation - Captain Sam Arciola, Officer Kevin Smith

Life Saving Award - Officer Paul Wargo

Honorable Police Service Award - Officer Craig Kupson, Officer Marc Heinmiller (2)

Unit Citation - Sergeant Richard Frazier, Officer Anthony Prezioso, Officer Matthew Gouveia

Visit us online at
www.westportctpd.org



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