

TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT

Special Meeting Notice



AGENCY: Health & Safety Committee

DATE: August 21, 2019

TIME: 6:00 PM

PLACE: Town Hall – Ludlow Room

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. *Discussion of FY 19 Traffic Enforcement Data and Speeding Concerns
4. *Discuss Implementation of License Plate Reader technology
5. *Discussion of Crisis Intervention Team and embedded clinician program
6. Staff Reports
7. Approval of Minutes
 - a) *January 28, 2019
8. Adjournment

*Backup materials


Public Act 75-312 requires notice of Special Meetings to be posted in the Town Clerk's Office not less than 24 hours prior to the time of such meeting. No other business shall be considered at this meeting than that listed on this Agenda.

Agenda Item Summary

Date: August 21, 2019

To: Members of the Health & Safety Committee

Prepared By: Donald Melanson, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Traffic Stop Data Analysis

Background

In 2014, the Central Connecticut State University (CCSU), in conjunction with the State Office of Policy and Management (OPM), began issuing yearly reports entitled "Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings." These reports evaluate traffic stop data from municipal police departments, special law enforcement agencies and the state police. The fourth report released in June 2019 was for the 12-month period from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2017. Previous reports were for the 2013-2014, 2014-2015, and 2015-2016 periods (previous reports analyzed stop data from an October through September period).

Utilizing statistical analysis, CCSU utilizes the data in these reports as a screening tool to identify agencies that have statistical disparities relative to their stop data. Upon the release of the first report in May 2015, the police department and town staff proactively met with CCSU personnel to review the traffic stop data for Windsor. It was determined that there were inconsistencies in data collection procedures that had an effect on the traffic stop data. Upon release of the second report in May 2016 covering the 2014-2015 period, CCSU staff selected Windsor for a more in-depth analysis of its traffic stop data. It should be noted that Windsor fell just below the statistical threshold identified by CCSU. Following the release of the second report in May 2016, Windsor Police Department (WPD) and town staff met with CCSU staff on several occasions to review the traffic stop data in an attempt to identify and explain any disparities in Windsor's traffic stop data. Items taken into consideration were WPD calls for service, motor vehicle accident data, officer deployment, officer assignments, and population density.

This review culminated in a supplemental report released by CCSU in July 2017. This supplemental report included follow-up analysis on Windsor's 2014-2015 traffic stop data. Since this second report, the Police Department has changed data collection methods after implementing a new CAD/RMS system. This new system allows for more accurate and detailed data and allows staff to monitor stop data on a more frequent and consistent basis.

Discussion/Analysis

In the latest release (June 2019) of the Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings for 2017, Windsor's traffic stop data did not indicate statistically significant racial and/or ethnic disparities. In addition, Windsor was identified as having one of the highest rates of traffic stops for municipalities in the state (ranked 5th). This is in concert with our efforts to reduce speed and improve traffic safety throughout town.

Below are a few highlights from overall traffic stop information for FY 19:

- A total of 12,095 traffic stops were made between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019. This is 10.7% greater than the 10,928 stops made in FY 18.
- Windsor residents accounted for 32.1% of the 12,095 traffic stops made, which is consistent with the previous fiscal year.
- Officers searched 230 vehicles, or 1.9% of the total number of stops.
- 81.8% of traffic stops were for violations such as red light, speeding, cell phone, and seat belt. 17.9% of stops were for equipment violations such as failure to display registration plates or defect lights. These percentages are similar to those for the full FY 18 period.

As reported in the past, speeding is one of the most common complaints or call for service the police department receives. All officers are expected to conduct traffic enforcement activities in addition to responding to a wide range of calls for service throughout their shift. There are two officers assigned as a traffic unit and their primary duties relate to traffic enforcement.

We are continuing to work on specific neighborhood traffic concerns and have a multi-disciplinary staff team that meets regularly to review traffic data such as volumes, speed, vehicle type as well as time of day. This information helps in making decisions regarding deploying limited patrol resources in an efficient and effective manner.

Financial Impact

None at this time

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

This item is presented for information purposes only. No action is requested of the committee.

Attachments

Traffic Stop Data Report for FY 19

Traffic Stop Trends FY 17 – FY 19

Windsor Police Department

340 Bloomfield Ave, Windsor CT 06095

(860) 688-4545

Racial Profiling Traffic Stop Report

2018-07-01 00:00 Thru 2019-06-30 23:59

	Gender		Ethnicity			Resident		Custodial Arrest		Enforcement Category			Authority for Search			
	Female	Male	Hispanic	M Eastern	N/A	Municipal	CT	Yes	No	General	Blind	Spot Chk	N/A	Consent	Invent	Other
White:	2466	3689	1375	99	4681	1668	5539	24	6131	3796	2207	152	6064	6	69	16
Black:	2197	3304	102	19	5380	2078	5247	34	5467	3739	1663	99	5364	13	83	41
Indian:	53	200	3	77	173	87	233	0	253	139	110	4	251	0	2	0
Asian:	67	119	2	6	178	53	158	0	186	120	61	5	185	0	1	0
Unknown:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	4783	7312	1482	201	10412	3886	11177	58	12037	7794	4041	260	11864	19	155	57

	Stop Nature			Veh Searched		Vehicle Towed		Result of Stop					Duration of Stop			Contraband		
	Invest	Violation	Equip	Yes	No	Yes	No	UAR	Mis	Infract	Verbal	Written	None	0-15	16-30	Over 30	Yes	No
White:	12	5252	891	91	6064	115	6040	2	161	718	5212	39	23	5899	208	48	16	6139
Black:	15	4268	1218	136	5365	149	5352	9	313	613	4502	34	30	5119	324	58	44	5457
Indian:	2	212	39	2	251	4	249	0	5	29	217	1	1	248	4	1	0	253
Asian:	0	160	26	1	185	2	184	0	2	24	156	4	0	179	6	1	0	186
Unknown:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals:	29	9892	2174	230	11865	270	11825	11	481	1384	10087	78	54	11445	542	108	60	12035

Grand Totals

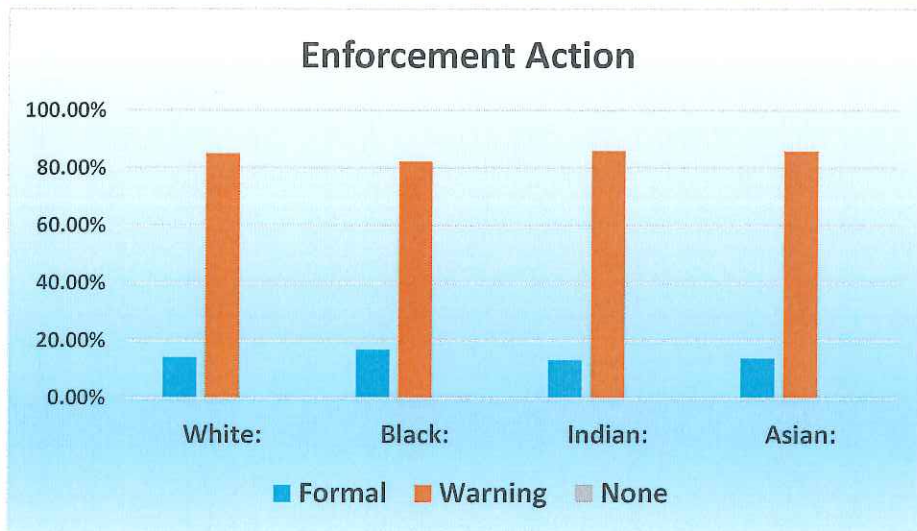
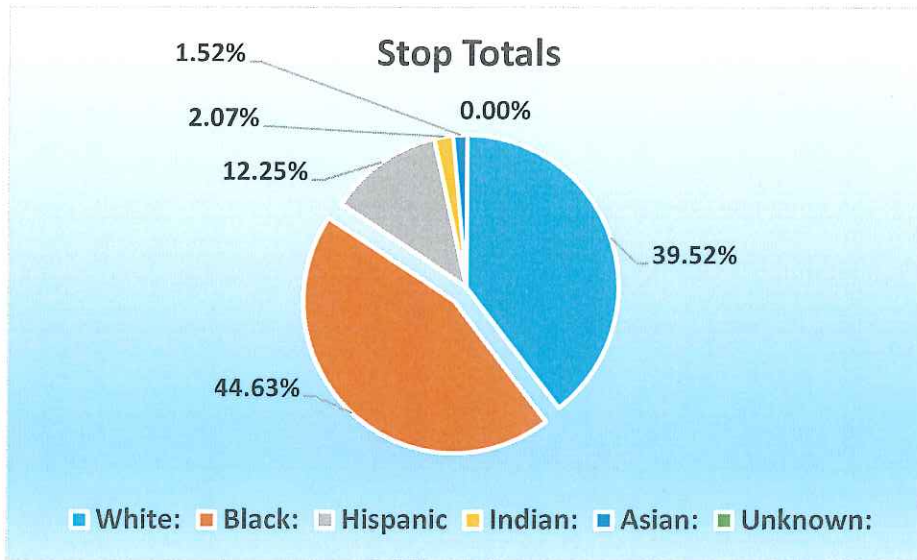
White:	4780	39.5%
Black:	5399	44.6%
Hispanic	1482	12.3%
Indian:	250	2.1%
Asian:	184	1.5%
Unknown:	0	0.0%
Total:	12095	100.0%

Male	7312	60.5%
Female	4783	39.5%
Total	12095	100.0%

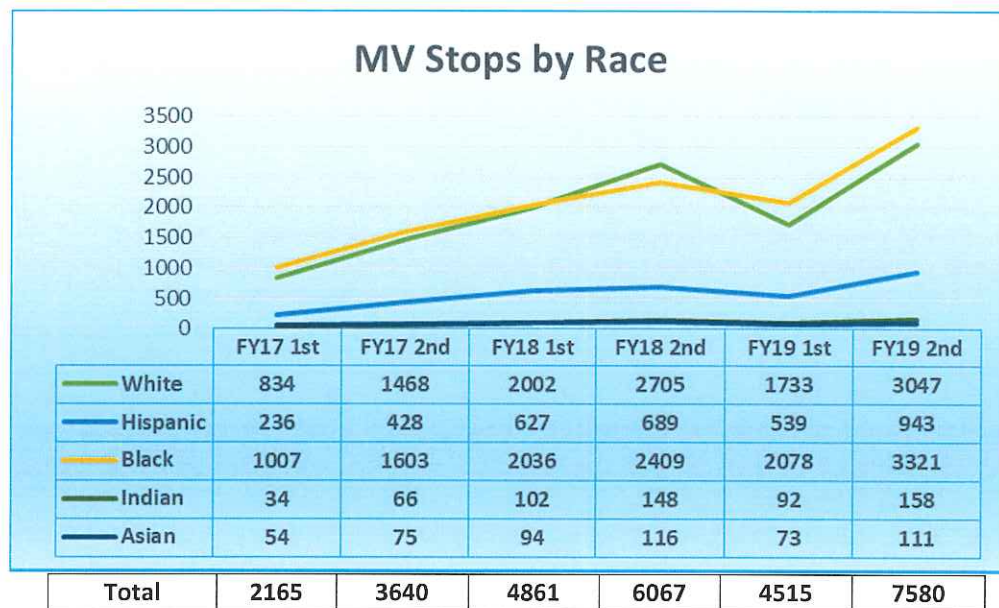
	Reason for Stop		
	Invest	Violation	Equip
White:	0.19%	85.33%	14.48%
Black:	0.27%	77.59%	22.14%
Indian:	0.79%	83.79%	15.42%
Asian:	0.00%	86.02%	13.98%

	Enforcement Action		
	Formal	Warning	None
White:	14.31%	85.31%	0.37%
Black:	16.98%	82.40%	0.62%
Indian:	13.44%	86.17%	0.40%
Asian:	13.98%	86.02%	0.00%

Windsor Police Department FY2019 Traffic Stop Data

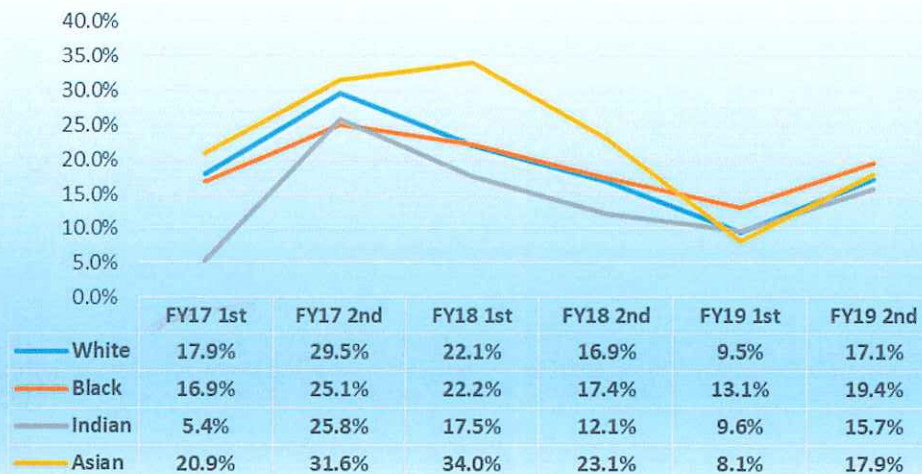


Windsor Police Department Traffic Stop Trends (FY17 – Present)

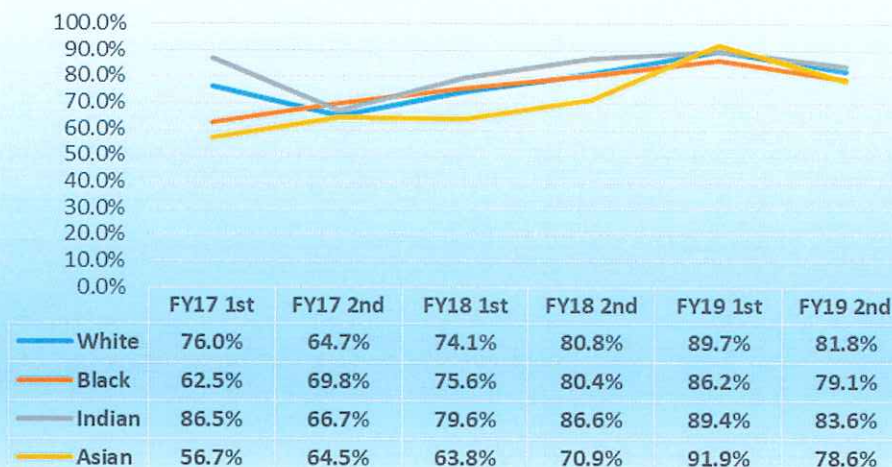


Enforcement Trends

Drivers Cited



Verbal Warnings




Agenda Item Summary

Date: August 21, 2019

To: Members of the Health & Safety Committee

Prepared By: Donald Melanson, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: License Plate Reader Technology

Background

Nationally, law enforcement has continuously looked to technology to increase capabilities and efficiencies to make communities safer. License Plate Reader Technology has been in existence since the late 1970's, wherein computers use optical camera recognition associated to high definition cameras to read vehicle license plates. Once read, the computer can use the data to compare the scanned plate to plates that are significant to law enforcement. This technology has become commonplace throughout the United States and has had a positive impact on improving safety across the country.

Discussion / Analysis

This past spring, the Police Department received grant funds to purchase license plate reader (LPR) technology to provide added capabilities while our officers patrol Windsor. The department is in the process of having the LPR units installed on two marked patrol vehicles, one for deployment in the northern half of town and one in the southern half of town. The LPR works by scanning license plates that travel on the town's roads. These plates are then compared against a stored list of license plate values. This list is referred to as a "hot list" that is maintained and updated daily by the CT State Police. This hot list contains license plate values that are associated with vehicles having significance to law enforcement, such as stolen vehicles, vehicles associated with missing persons, vehicles associated with AMBER / SILVER Alerts, as well as those reasonably believed to be involved with criminal activity. When the LPR system registers a "hit", the officer must verify that the hit is correct using other law enforcement databases prior to taking any enforcement action.

LPR technology brings with it the topic or concern of privacy that the Police Department takes seriously. The Police Department has entered into an agreement with the CT State Police (CSP) to utilize their LPR database to work with our LPR systems. With this agreement, our Police Department will not store or retain any LPR data on site. CSP purges stored data from the LPR system 90 days after it has been stored. Purging data after 90 days alleviates many of the concerns regarding privacy that are related to LPR systems. The LPR system, along with access to all law enforcement databases, has safeguards in place to ensure the system is used appropriately with strict oversight and accountability.

The LPR system will assist the Police Department to combat current crime trends such as vehicle burglaries and stolen vehicles, often committed by juveniles, and with narcotics and drug investigations.

In the course of the next 30 to 45 days prior to formally deploying the LPR units, the Police Department will be working to inform and educate the public about the LPR system and its use in Windsor. Avenues for public education will include public access television, various social media platforms, print media and the town's website.

Financial Impact

The department was able to use grant funds to assist in purchasing the LPR system. In choosing the appropriate system for deployment, infrastructure and long-term costs were taken into consideration. The system chosen allows the department to forgo most infrastructure costs by entering into an agreement with the CT State Police (CSP) to utilize their database and computer systems for the system infrastructure. With this agreement, CSP agrees to maintain the infrastructure and allow our department's LPRs to access the system at no cost. Warranty, maintenance, and connectivity are required and yearly costs are expected to be approximately \$1,900.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

At this time there is no specific action requested of the committee.

Attachments


None

Agenda Item Summary

Date: August 21, 2019

To: Members of the Health & Safety Committee

Prepared By: Donald Melanson, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Crisis Intervention Team Clinician

Background

For well over a decade, the police department has worked diligently to enhance police response to persons experiencing mental health emergencies. Starting in 2005, officers were trained in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model and in 2008 collaborative approach was developed with the local behavioral health agency, Community Health Resources (CHR).

In late 2015, the Police Department received a grant through the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance to improve the response to mental health crises. Funds were used to provide additional Crisis Intervention Team training for officers and an embedded mental health clinician through CHR. The goal of the embedded mental health clinician has been to assist in follow-up to crises calls, focusing on diversion from the criminal justice system as well as linkage to needed services.

The adopted FY 2020 budget includes funding to continue the embedded Mental Health Clinician with the police department. To assist in providing oversight along with the added resources brought with it, the police department and Community Health Resources has agreed to maintain the Mental Health Clinician and associated supervision throughout FY20.

Discussion/Analysis

In FY18 the department responded to 332 calls with persons experiencing mental health emergencies or calls categorized as involving an emotionally disturbed or suicidal person. Of the 332 mental health reports submitted by officers in FY18, 163 have required officers to utilize Police Emergency Examination Requests (PEER). Officers use the PEER process and transports individuals to a local hospital when a person in crisis presents themselves as a danger to themselves or others and are in need of immediate care and treatment.

In FY19, the department responded to 356 such calls for service. Of the 356 mental health reports submitted by officers in FY19, 110 have required officers to utilize Police Emergency Examination Requests (PEER).

Dealing with individuals in mental crisis can be extremely difficult and dangerous. Providing training and resources to officers responding to these calls for service will aid in our goal of increasing safety for both the individual in crisis and our officers.

Working 20 hours a week, the embedded clinician receives case reports from officers who respond to mental health crisis calls for review and follow-up. The clinician also provides follow-up visits with high risk individuals and those who have had repeated police contact. These follow-up visits

provide an avenue of support for these individuals. In turn, this continued contact and follow up can help to reduce the frequency these individuals experience a crisis, reducing demands on police services. Often the follow-up visits have been with a police officer allowing officers to build a rapport with the resident and gain additional insights from working with the clinician.

Input from police officers and supervisors indicate the implementation of an embedded mental health clinician with the police department has been a valuable resource. Similar feedback has been received from our Social Services staff.

Financial Impact

The FY20 budget includes \$45,000 to fund the Mental Health Clinician program.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

At this time there is no specific action requested of the committee.

Attachments

None

**TOWN OF WINDSOR
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 2019
TOWN HALL – LUDLOW ROOM**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair Nuchette Black-Burke called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Councilors James Govoni and Joe McAuliffe present. Town Manager Peter Souza and Police Chief Don Melanson were also present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. DISCUSSION OF FY 18 QUARTERLY TRAFFIC STOP DATA

Donald Melanson, Chief of Police, provided an overview of the FY 19 enforcement efforts as well as trends from FY 17 through December 2018. Chief Melanson briefly explained the various data points that officers are required to collect with each traffic stop.

Chief Melanson noted the number of stops in the first half of FY 19 were 4,515. Windsor residents accounted for 32.6% of the stops. Approximately 80% of the stops were for violations such as red light, speeding, cell phone, and seat belt. The remaining stops were for equipment type violations such as failure to display registration plates or defective lights. These percentages are similar to those for the full 2018 fiscal year.

Through the first half of FY 2019, 38% of the stops involved white drivers, 12% Hispanic drivers, and 46% black drivers.

Councilor McAuliffe asked how the traffic stop data is collected. Chief Melanson stated the information is entered into the town's Computer Aided Dispatch / Records Management System by the officers in the field.

Councilor Black-Burke asked about where the majority of stops are being made. Chief Melanson explained that a large percentage of stops are made on state roads such as Routes 159, 305, and 75. These are the heavily traveled roads in town and tend to have the greater number of motor vehicle accidents.

Councilor Black-Burke encouraged staff to work on disseminating the traffic enforcement data to the community to facilitate a dialogue and a better understanding of the data and the police department's efforts.

4. DISCUSSION OF CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM AND EMBEDDED CLINICIAN MODEL

Town Manager Souza stated that for many years the police department has worked to enhance police response to persons experiencing mental health emergencies. Starting in 2005, officers were trained in the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) model, and in 2008, a collaborative approach with the local behavioral health agency, Community Health Resources (CHR) was developed.

In late 2015, the department received a grant through the US Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance. Funds were used to provide additional training for officers and an embedded mental health clinician. The goal of the mental health clinician has been to assist in follow up to crises calls, focusing on diversion from the criminal justice system as well as linkage to needed services.

Chief Melanson stated that in FY 18 the department responded to 332 calls with persons experiencing mental health emergencies or calls categorized as involving an emotionally disturbed or suicidal person. During the first half of this fiscal year, there have been 189 calls. Of the 332 mental health reports submitted by officers in 2018, 163 required officers to utilize Police Emergency Examination Requests (PEER). Officers use the PEER process and transport individuals to a local hospital when a person in crisis presents themselves as a danger to themselves or others and are in need of immediate care and treatment.

The clinician receives case reports from officers who respond to mental health crisis calls for review and follow up. The clinician also provides follow-up visits with high-risk individuals and those who have had repeated police contacts. These follow-up visits provide an avenue of support for these individuals. In turn, this continued contact and follow up can help reduce the frequency these individuals experience a crisis, reducing demands on police services. Often the follow-up visits have been with a police officer (overtime was grant funded) allowing officers to build a rapport with the resident and gain additional insights from working with the clinician.

Councilor Black-Burke asked how the clinician has interfaced with other town agencies. Staff noted the clinician has partnered with the Social Services department on a number of cases. In the first six months of Fiscal Year 2019, the clinician received 9 referrals from Social Services and referred 8 clients to social services for assistance.

Chief Melanson stated input from police officers and supervisors indicate the implementation of mental health clinician with the police department has been a valuable resource. Similar feedback has been received from our Social Services staff.

Councilor Govoni stated as the community's needs have changed over time, this service has become increasingly needed. He felt it was appropriate to try to continue the service now the grant has expired.

Councilors McAuliffe and Black-Burke also expressed support of this service.

Town Manager Souza stated that grant funds have been fully expended and available police department funding is being utilized to continue the program on a month-to-month basis through an agreement with Community Health Resources. There are available resources in the FY 2019 police department budget due to salary savings to continue the program through June 2019.

As part of preparing the proposed budget for FY 2020, the Town Manager has requested the Police Department and Social Services to evaluate how this service could be provided on an on-going basis. Either through a part-time town position or contractually with Community Health Resources. Preliminary cost estimate is between \$41,000 and \$45,000.

5. STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager Souza stated the public safety radio project contract with Motorola was under final legal review. The next step is for FCC licensing to begin. The contract for the school district system has been executed.

Design of the new police facility at 100 Addison Road is underway. Designers have met with a cross section of the police department to get input on layout and functional requirements. Architects will present updated plans to the Public Building Commission in February. It is planned to bid this phase of the project in summer 2019. Councilor Govoni asked if the police impound lot was going to be located to the rear of 100 Addison Road. Staff stated it would. Councilor Govoni noted the area to the rear of the building seemed rather constrained size-wise.

Town Manager Souza reported he was hoping to introduce the funding request for replacement of a 25 year old fire engine on February 4th. Requested funding will be a combination of bonding and pay-as-you-go cash which is included in the FY 2019 adopted budget.

Councilor Black-Burke asked staff if they could get information on the utilization by Windsor residents of the community health clinic located on Windsor Avenue at Route 218.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) June 25, 2018

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Govoni to approve the unapproved minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Councilor McAuliffe, seconded by Councilor Govoni to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter Souza
Town Manager