

**TOWN OF WINDSOR, CONNECTICUT**  
**Special Meeting Notice**



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2. During Public Comments if you do not wish to speak you may type your comments into the Q&A feature.

**AGENCY: Health & Safety Committee**

**DATE: July 8, 2024**

**TIME: 6:00 PM**

**PLACE: Hybrid - Virtual and In Person in Ludlow Room at Town Hall**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. \*Review of FY 24 traffic safety and enforcement data
4. \*Discussion of cameras for speeding enforcement
5. \*Overview of suicide prevention grant
6. \*Overview of immunization grant
7. \*Overview of Community Health Solutions, Inc.
8. Staff Reports
9. Approval of Minutes
  - a) \*January 29, 2024
10. Adjournment

\*Back up 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: July 8, 2024

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.”

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. The 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.

The most recent report issued by CCSU late last month covered motor vehicle stops for the 2022 calendar year. The Windsor Police Department was identified as having a statistically significant disparity in the Hispanic motorist group utilizing a synthetic control.

### Discussion/Analysis

A synthetic control is a unique benchmark constructed for each department using various stop-specific and town-level demographic characteristics. This benchmark creates a measure called a propensity score. The propensity score measures stops made by departments with demographics similar to Windsor and compares them to Windsor’s motor vehicle stops. Identifying a disparity in statistical data does not indicate that there is an actual disparity in how traffic stops are conducted. There are a number of factors that can resemble disparities that cannot be completely accounted for in the statistical analysis. These factors can include the presence of highways, large regional employment centers (Windsor has 3 Amazon facilities, Dollar Tree and Walgreen’s Distribution centers, and multiple highway exits.)

The police department continues to monitor traffic stop data to identify if any potential patterns of racial profiling or bias from police officers occur.

The latest traffic stop data report did highlight positive trends by our Police Department. The Windsor Police ranked 11<sup>th</sup> for municipal police agency with the highest motor vehicle stop rate per 1,000 residents at 192 stops per 1,000 residents (16+ population). This rate was 86% higher than the average municipality (103 stops / 1000). Windsor was also second in making traffic stops for speeding by a municipality at 2,314 stops (51.8% of stops). The report also pointed out that Windsor issued warnings 93.7% of the time (3<sup>rd</sup> highest). Only 1.1% of stops resulted in vehicle searches.

Below are a few statistics from overall traffic stop information for the second half of FY24:

- A total of 3,371 traffic stops were made from January 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024. This is a 30% increase over the first half of FY24 (2,588 traffic stops).
  - January 2024: 437 MV stops
  - February 2024: 353 MV stops
  - March 2024: 880 MV stops
  - April 2024: 721 MV stops
  - May 2024: 560 MV stops
  - June 2024: 420 MV stops
- Windsor residents accounted for 34.4% of the traffic stops made in this period, which is slightly more than previous periods.
- Moving violations (Speeding, Red light, Distracted Driving, etc.) accounted for 86.3% of the MV stops made.

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.

Traffic safety remains a priority. As indicated in the latest Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings report (June 2024), our department continues to be in the top tier in the state for MV stops per capita.

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> half of FY24





# Windsor Police Department

110 Addison Road, Windsor, CT 06095  
(860) 688-5273



## Racial Profiling Traffic Stop Report

1/1/2024 through 6/30/2024

	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
<b>White:</b>	489	678	434	65	1102	411	658	11	1156	757	377	33	1156	0	9	2
<b>Black:</b>	629	919	60	7	1541	601	877	21	1527	1106	397	45	1521	0	27	0
<b>Hispanic:</b>	198	298	496	N/A	N/A	96	341	490	6	375	110	11	479	0	17	2
<b>Indian:</b>	22	82	0	16	88	33	57	0	104	62	40	2	104	0	0	0
<b>Asian:</b>	22	34	2	1	55	18	28	1	55	34	22	0	55	0	1	0
<b>Other:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	1360	2011	496	89	2786	1159	1961	523	2848	2334	946	91	3315	0	54	4

	Stop Nature			Vehicle Searched		Vehicle Towed		Result of Stop				Duration of Stop			Contraband	
	Invest	Violation	Equip	Yes	No	Yes	No	Arrest	Infraction	Warning	None	0 - 15	16 - 30	Over 30	Yes	No
<b>White:</b>	17	1036	114	11	1156	13	1154	20	89	1043	11	1133	27	7	2	1165
<b>Black:</b>	16	1337	195	28	1520	43	1505	54	213	1260	15	1441	92	15	0	1548
<b>Hispanic:</b>	2	389	43	18	478	18	478	21	93	377	3	2730	2730	22	0	496
<b>Indian:</b>	0	91	13	0	104	0	104	0	12	92	0	101	3	0	0	104
<b>Asian:</b>	0	55	1	1	55	1	55	0	6	49	0	55	1	0	1	55
<b>Other:</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals:</b>	35	2908	366	58	3313	75	3296	95	413	2821	29	5460	2853	44	3	3368

### Grand Totals

MV Stops in Period: 3371

MV Stops / Month: 561.8

MV Stops / Day: 18.6

<b>White:</b>	1167	34.6%
<b>Black:</b>	1548	45.9%
<b>Hispanic:</b>	496	14.7%
<b>Indian:</b>	104	3.1%
<b>Asian:</b>	56	1.7%
<b>Other:</b>	0	0.0%
<b>Totals:</b>	3371	100.0%

<b>Female:</b>	40%
<b>Male:</b>	60%

### Reason for Stop

	Invest	Violation	Equip
<b>White:</b>	1.5%	88.8%	9.8%
<b>Black:</b>	1.0%	86.4%	12.6%
<b>Hispanic:</b>	0.4%	78.4%	8.7%
<b>Indian:</b>	0.0%	87.5%	12.5%
<b>Asian:</b>	0.0%	98.2%	1.8%

### Enforcement Action


	Formal	Warning	None
<b>White:</b>	9.3%	89.4%	0.9%
<b>Black:</b>	17.2%	81.4%	1.0%
<b>Hispanic:</b>	23.0%	76.0%	0.6%
<b>Indian:</b>	11.5%	88.5%	0.0%
<b>Asian:</b>	10.7%	87.5%	0.0%

## Agenda Item Summary

Date: July 8, 2024

To: Members of the Health & Safety Committee

Prepared By: Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Automated Traffic Enforcement Safety Devices

### Background

During the 2023 legislative session, the State of Connecticut adopted traffic safety related legislation which allow for municipalities to utilize automated traffic enforcement safety devices or cameras. Initial information on the new law was presented to the Town Council in January 2024 and for future discussion at the Health and Safety Committee. Outlined below are multiple steps needed to be completed prior to submitting a plan to CT Department of Transportation for review and approval.

### Discussion/Analysis

Public Act 23-116 (PA-116) implements the recommendations of the Vision Zero Council, an interagency work group dedicated to eliminating transportation-related injuries and fatalities throughout Connecticut with automated traffic enforcement safety devices.

These devices or cameras detect and collect evidence of alleged driving violations. The images captured by these devices include license plate information and the date, time, and location of alleged violations related to 1) speeding of 10 miles-per-hour or more over the posted limit and 2) failure to stop at a steady red light

Municipalities need to follow the provisions set forth by PA-116 in order to receive approval to install and activate automated traffic enforcement safety devices. Primary requirements include adoption of an ordinance authorizing the use of these cameras and submission of a plan to CT DOT. Additionally, interested municipalities must adopt a citation hearing procedure, comprehensive safety action plan, and written privacy policy/protocol. Prior to submitting a plan to CT DOT, the municipality must conduct a public hearing and the municipal legislative body must vote on the proposal.

An ordinance needs to include the following:

- a requirement that the cameras be operated by a certified ATESD operator,
- assertion that the owner of a motor vehicle commits a violation of the ordinance should they travel 10 or more miles above the speed limit and/or fail to stop at a steady red light,
- cameras be used only to identify violations of the ordinance,
- written warnings only will be issued for the first 30 days after device is put into service,
- payment of fines may be made electronically,
- recorded images will be reviewed by an authorized authority prior to the issuance of a violation, and

Ordinances may also include information pertaining to the cost of fines for ordinance violation and fees for the processing of electronic payment. Fines for violations cannot be more than \$50 for the first violation and no more than \$75 for subsequent violations. Fine payments received need

to be utilized for improving transportation mobility, investing in transportation infrastructure, or paying the costs associated with use of the cameras, such as staff and maintenance. Additionally, a fee of no more than \$15 may be assessed to cover the cost of electronic payment processing.

Along with adoption of an ordinance, municipalities are also required to create a comprehensive safety action plan which would be required three years after the first camera(s) become operational. Such a plan describes how a municipality will ensure that their streets can accommodate users of all ages, abilities, and modalities. Similar to a Vision Zero or complete streets plan, a comprehensive safety action plan can identify a variety of municipal traffic safety issues while presenting an array of methods to improve road safety concerns.

Municipalities need to create and submit a plan regarding the placement of cameras to CT DOT prior to the use of such devices. CT DOT will review plans and approve or deny (in part or in whole) within 60 days. Primary considerations include the likelihood of camera placement to improve traffic safety in the area and equitable distribution of cameras throughout the municipality. Municipalities need to consider the following factors in formulation of a camera plan:

- history of traffic crashes caused by excessive speeding and/or traffic signal/sign violations at such location
- history of traffic crashes that resulted in fatality or serious injury at such location
- average daily traffic at such location
- history of traffic stops conducted
- roadway alignment of any such location

Further, municipalities must complete a number of actions subsequent to plan approval by CT DOT but prior to camera activation. These actions include the following:

- installation of at least two signs for each approach along the roadway leading to the device,
- creation and implementation of a public awareness campaign regarding speed limits, traffic control signals, and the new cameras,
- training of an ATESD safety device operator,
- notification of the camera location to navigational mobile application operators.

By the end of 2025 CT DOT will issue guidance to municipalities regarding evaluation requirements for the effectiveness of activated devices and submission of subsequent camera plans.

Staff from the Windsor Engineering Department and Police Department have evaluated data to determine where these cameras could be placed. The following parameters were used in the evaluation:

- 85th Percentile Speed 10 MPH over the posted speed limit
- Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volumes of 3,500 or greater
- Motor vehicle stops related to speed
- Location of motor vehicle accidents

Utilizing the above parameters four locations were identified to be considered for Traffic Camera installation:

1. Poquonock Avenue (Route 75) between the I-91 South off-ramp and Farmstead Lane.
2. Broad Street between Island Road and Remington Road
3. Windsor Avenue between Deerfield Road and Windsor Shopping Center
4. Rainbow Road between East Granby Road and Merriman Road

At this time we are not recommending the use of cameras for 'red light' violations as we have a relatively small number of traffic stops and accidents related to signal violations.

Financial Impact

Staff is continuing to research the cost of purchasing and installing the camera devices as well as the annual cost to operate/maintain the system. In addition staff is developing estimated revenue projections.

Other Board Action

None

Recommendation

This item is presented for information purposes only at this time. Staff anticipates bringing this item back to the full Town Council in August or September for the introduction of an ordinance and the automated traffic enforcement safety device plan.

Attachments

Traffic Data by Location

<b>Street Name</b>	<b>Speed Limit</b>	<b>85th Speed (MPH)</b>	<b>ADT</b>	<b>Speed Related MV Stops (5/2021-5/2024)</b>
<b>Poquonock Ave</b> <i>between the I-91 South off-ramp and Farmstead Lane</i>	35	45	3339	131
<b>Broad St</b> (Southbound) <i>between Island Road and Remington Road</i>	35	47	4558	149
<b>Broad St</b> (Northbound) <i>between Island Road and Remington Road</i>	35	47	4130	149
<b>Windsor Ave</b> <i>between Deerfield Road and Windsor Shopping Center</i>	35	52.5	6855	N/A
<b>Rainbow Rd</b> <i>between East Granby Road and Merriman Road</i>	30	41.0	4,521	267




## Agenda Item Summary

Date: July 8, 2024

To: Members of the Health and Safety Committee

Prepared By: Jennifer Waldo RN, MS

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Preventive Health Strategies at Work in Connecticut Communities - Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention Grant

### Background

The Health Department has been awarded funding through the State of Connecticut to address mental health promotion and suicide prevention. Suicide rates have been on the rise across the nation for the past decade and Windsor has experienced the same trend. Windsor had the second highest crude suicide rate in the State of Connecticut from 2020-2022 – a rate of 22.67 per 100,000 population. One particular area of concern that has been identified in recent years is the high rate of suicides among men aged 25-64. This demographic has been found to be at a higher risk of suicide than any other demographic group in the town.

The grant award in the amount of \$281,250 (\$56,250 annually) over 5 years was announced September 2023; however, we have not yet received a contract from the State Department of Public Health. Nonetheless town staff have been undertaking preliminary work on a number of fronts to help strengthen our partnerships and collaborations in preparation for the start of the grant period.

### Discussion/Analysis

The Health Department will be collaborating with other town departments, public/private schools, community and regional partners to promote mental health awareness and provide suicide prevention programs and resources. Existing programs such as *QPR* (Question, Persuade, Refer) will be offered and new programs such as *On Our Sleeves* will be introduced. *On Our Sleeves* will provide an avenue to promote mental health awareness for children and adolescents in both public and private schools in Windsor. New partnerships with private businesses, not-for-profits, fitness centers and sporting venues will be formed to target men aged 25-64 as well as other impacted groups. This outreach will help to reduce the stigma surrounding help-seeking and work to promote self-care and mental health support.

The grant requires the town to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). Conducting a CHNA is essential to identify gaps, as it allows for a better overall understanding of the health needs and priorities of a community. Data will be gathered through live interviews, phone interviews, focus groups, paper surveys and electronic surveys. The results will be reviewed and discussed with a multi-disciplinary team of town staff in collaboration with community stakeholders. The CHNA will be completed with the support of a subcontractor funded through the grant. The CHNA will be broader in nature than the “RCA” (Rapid Community Assessment) associated with the immunization grant.

Recently the Surgeon General released an advisory entitled, *Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation*. This publication includes information on the impact loneliness and isolation have on individual health outcomes including mental health and suicide and includes strategies to advance social connection.

Community connectedness will be addressed by working with the town's Recreation and Leisure Department, the Windsor and Wilson Branch libraries as well as Windsor faith-based and community-based organizations.

Below is a list of actions that we have taken to assist in implementation for when funds are received.

- Branding for this project underway through partnering with the town's Public Relations team
- Preparing a Request for Proposals for the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA)
- Working with Windsor Police Department to implement the Columbia – Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS) to triage mental health calls. This scale is a suicide risk screening tool and is completed through a series of simple, plain-language questions. These questions help users identify whether someone is at risk for suicide, determine the severity and immediacy of that risk and gauge the level of support that the person needs. The C-SSRS is used widely across the state and it provides a means to use similar language, definitions and scoring to assess risk among a number of users
- In addition, 2 police lieutenants attended *Connect: Suicide Postvention Training*. This training was a collaborative effort of the statewide Regional Suicide Advisory Boards and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). This training includes best practice protocols to create and coordinates a safe and supportive community response after a suicide
- Met with Loomis Chaffee staff to discuss opportunities for student outreach education
- Met with Windsor Public Schools, to discuss grant opportunities and next steps
- Working with the Public Library to create ways to partner on providing materials and programs
- Connected with Amplify a designated Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO). We look to partner with Amplify to schedule programs once funding is received
- Staff is attending suicide prevention educational programs and meetings to network with other potential partners.

#### Financial Impact

None

#### Other Board Action

None

#### Recommendations

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

#### Attachments


None

## Agenda Item Summary

Date: July 8, 2024

To: Members of the Health and Safety Committee

Prepared By: Jennifer Waldo RN, MS

Reviewed By: Peter Souza, Town Manager 

Subject: Supplemental Funding for Immunization Activities Grant

### Background

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has assigned federal and state funding to local health departments and districts to provide resources to enhance local public health efforts to support immunization activities as well as develop public information campaigns to help educate residents on the importance of a range of vaccinations in the mitigation of serious illnesses.

Grant funds are to be used to complement the Center for Disease Control's R.I.S.E program which stands for Required Immunizations on Schedule for Everyone. The R.I.S.E. program includes all vaccines across the lifespan; therefore, funds will be used to promote vaccinations for children, youth and adults.

We are slated to receive approximately \$130,000 in grant funding. The funding period runs through June 30, 2025.

### Discussion/Analysis

The Health Department is required to spend approximately \$25,000 of the grant funding on community awareness and education initiatives. The Health Department is working closely with the town's Public Relations office on a comprehensive communication plan. Media initiatives will include several PSAs, use of social media, household mailers and other signage in town.

The Health Department will also provide educational materials and resources through community events such as the neighborhood block parties, Windsor Back to School Block Party, Shad Derby, etc. The Hispanic Health Council has been invited to participate with the Health Department at various events to promote equity and address health disparities for Hispanics, Latinos and other vulnerable communities.

The Health Department is also partnering with Senior Transportation to subsidize transportation services to help seniors and persons with disabilities to get to and from their local primary care provider or pharmacy to receive vaccines.

Another requirement of the grant funding is completion of a Rapid Community Assessment (RCA) to identify vaccine barriers, educational needs, etc. to help inform the grant activities. The Health Department worked with Griffin Hospital and Yale School of Public Health who provided guidance and training materials. The RCA was conducted over the course of several weeks this spring. Attached is a two page summary of the survey results which gathered information from 358 individuals.

Below is a list of actions taken to date:

- Developed a shuttle service in partnership with Senior Services Dial-A-Ride, a program that provides free transportation for seniors and persons with disabilities to and from immunization appointments
- Purchasing of equipment to support clinic activities
- Flu Vaccine Clinics planned for Fall 2024
  - Senior Health and Wellness Fair – Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Madina Academy – (awaiting confirmation)
  - CREC River Street School
  - St. Gabriel’s
  - Windsor Public Schools
- In partnership with Beacon Pharmacy, scheduled a regional flu vaccine clinic for persons who are neurodivergent (persons whose brain processes information in a way that is not typical of most individuals) that will be held on Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall.
- Scheduling Flu Vaccine Clinics at Wilson Branch and Windsor Library for November 2024
- Scheduled a COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic for November 13, 2024, at the Windsor Library in partnership with Beacon Pharmacy
- Rapid Community Health Assessment (RCA) Complete (see attached summary)
- Development of public service announcements is underway

Financial Impact

None

Other Board Action

None

Recommendations

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

Attachments

Executive Summary of Community Health Assessment Survey



Rapid Community  
Health Assessment  
Survey Results for  
Town of Windsor

## RCA Summary - Windsor Health Department

### Rapid Community Health Assessment

Rapid community assessment (RCA) is a process for quickly collecting community insights about a public health issue in order to inform program design. The assessment involves reviewing existing data and conducting community-based interviews, listening sessions, observations, social listening, and surveys.

CDC 10/18/2022

### Data Collection

Data was collected the last week of March through the second week of April 2024. Intercept interviews were conducted (n=94), key informant interviews (n=9) were done and a number of Windsor residents (n=255) completed the on-line self-administered survey. Survey signs were placed at Town Hall (2), LP Wilson (1), 300 Windsor Avenue (1), Wilson Library (1) and Windsor Library (1). A few faith-based organizations also distributed the on-line self-administered survey through e-mail to their members. Those faith-based organizations included: 1) First Church in Windsor, UCC, 2) Grace Episcopal Church, 3) Hopewell Baptist Church and 4) Islamic Center of Connecticut.

Sites were selected throughout the Town of Windsor and particular attention was paid to areas within census tracts that had the lowest COVID-19 vaccine rates.

Census Tract	COVID-19 Vaccine Rates
4731	88.3%
4735.01	87.6%
4736.01	85.10%
4735.01	79.10%
4731	76.70%
4737	75.30%
4738	73.10%
4736.02	62.60%



Data from 2/16/2023

### SUMMARY

The Rapid Community Assessment in Windsor was completed Spring 2024 (3/28/24 – 4/12/2024). Key informants were identified at primary care offices in Windsor and neighborhoods, sites were selected at retail areas in Windsor and an on-line, self-administered survey was launched for persons interested in completing the survey. Windsor Health Department was pleased with the response and grateful for the partnerships with local retail shops who provided sites and faith-based organizations who sent out links to the online survey.


Key highlights emerged after reviewing all of the qualitative and quantitative data:

1. Few barriers identified; however, may need to consider offering clinics late afternoon early evening to meet the needs of individuals who work.
2. Reports of vaccine safety, likelihood of getting vaccines in the future, seriousness of infections, public health responsibility to get vaccinated all increased with age.
3. Respondents identified multiple sources of misinformation.
4. Respondents identified the Police Department as the most trusted group in Windsor and the Health Department was second most trusted group.
5. The majority of respondents reported that they had received adequate information regarding COVID-19 and Flu vaccines.
6. Based on the increasing percentages of vaccine acceptance in older age groups, determine how to best meet the needs of younger age groups – information, vaccine clinic times, etc.

This information will be used to develop an Immunization Plan for the Town of Windsor and will include:

1. Create Public Service Announcements (PSAs) to encourage for vaccines across the lifespan.
2. As a trusted organization in Windsor, the Health Department will develop and distribute educational information regarding vaccines administered throughout the lifespan.
3. Enhance access to flu vaccines at Windsor Health Department Flu Vaccine Clinics Fall 2024 for all residents 18yo+.
4. Explore partnership with Beacon Pharmacy to host a flu vaccine clinic for persons who are neuro-divergent.
5. Explore partnership with Beacon Pharmacy to host COVID vaccine clinic(s) for persons 3yo+.
6. Work with Town of Windsor library staff to provide vaccine information with a health literacy focus.

## Agenda Item Summary

Date: July 8, 2024  
To: Members of the Health and Safety Committee  
Prepared By: Peter Souza, Town Manager   
Subject: Information on Community Health Services, Inc.

### Background

Community Health Services, Inc. is a federally qualified health center (FQHC) which means they are certified by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Some of the requirements to be designated a FQHC include serving as a designated Medically Underserved Area or Medically Underserved Population, providing comprehensive services and having an ongoing quality assurance program, and offering a sliding fee scale to persons with incomes below the 200 percent Federal poverty guidelines.

### Discussion/Analysis

The main branch of Community Health Services (CHS) is located in Hartford at 500 Albany Avenue. A satellite branch was opened in Windsor in 2013. The services offered at the Windsor branch of CHS are by appointment and include medical and mental health services for patients 3 years of age and older. The Windsor offices are at 503 Windsor Avenue and appointments can be scheduled Monday - Thursday from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Fridays from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

While we don't have formal ongoing programs in place with Community Health Services, Inc., town departments including the Health Department and Human / Social Services are aware of the services CHS provides and will refer residents and non-residents requesting health services to the Windsor Avenue branch of CHS.

### Financial Impact

None

### Other Board Action

None

### Recommendations

None as this item is presented for information purposes only.

### Attachments

None





**TOWN OF WINDSOR  
HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE  
SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 29, 2024  
HYBRID MEETING**

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Councilor Nuchette Black-Burke, Chair of the Health & Safety Committee, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with Councilor Ojala Naeem and Councilor Lenworth Walker (via zoom) present.

Staff Present: Peter Souza, Town Manager, Scott Colby, Assistant Town Manager and Donald Melanson, Police Chief

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**3. REVIEW OF FY 24 TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DATA**

Donald Melanson, Chief of Police stated the Police Department continues to monitor traffic stop data to identify if any potential patterns of racial profiling or bias from police officers occur.

The latest traffic stop data report did highlight positive trends by our Police Department. The Windsor Police was recognized as the top municipal police agency with the highest motor vehicle stop rate per 1,000 residents at 461 stops per 1,000 residents (16+ population). This rate was 57% higher than the next closest municipality (Orange PD at 292 stops / 1000). Windsor was also recognized as being in the top ten departments in the state (#9) for percentage of stops related to speeding at 60.5%.

Below are a few statistics from overall traffic stop information for the first half of FY24:

- A total of 2,588 traffic stops were made from July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023.
  - July 2023: 382 MV stops
  - August 2023: 863 MV stops
  - September 2023: 490 MV stops
  - October 2023: 357 MV stops
  - November 2023: 381 MV stops
  - December 2023: 497 MV stops
- Windsor residents accounted for 29.9% of the traffic stops made in this period, which is slightly less than previous periods.
- Moving violations (Speeding, Red light, Distracted Driving, etc.) accounted for 86.4% of the MV stops made.

As reported in the past, speeding is one of the most common complaints or calls 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.

Traffic enforcement remains a priority. As indicated in the latest Traffic Stop Data Analysis and Findings report (October 2023), our department continues to be in the top tier in the state for MV stops per capita.

Chief Melanson explained the calculation errors on the attachment. He went through the data found on the report.

Councilor Naeem asked about the 'general' versus 'blind' categories on the attachment. Chief Melanson explained 'blind' would be something that the officer catches at a distance via laser or radar such as a vehicle that is 1,000-2,000 feet away. 'General' enforcement would be where an officer is much closer and watching an intersection for example.

Councilor Armstrong asked under the 'enforcement' category, what is the N/A column? Chief Melanson said the N/A stands for the authority to search. Of the stops under that category, those are where no searches occurred on those stops.

Councilor Armstrong stated speeding is often one of the concerns she hears from residents. Racial profiling seems to be black, male and female. Is that because of the population of the traffic? When looking at the map, there seems to be a population that those stops were made in a certain part of town. Chief Melanson responded that most of the stops are dependent on officer deployment. We have five districts in town, two which are on the southern portion, one to the east of Windsor Avenue and one to the west of Windsor Avenue, the center area and two bigger areas up north which are less densely populated. 85% to 90% of the motor vehicle stops are occurring on the collector roads such as the state highways like Route 159 (Windsor Avenue) all the way past Palisado Avenue and Route 75, Route 305 and Route 218. That is where the officers are deploying to reduce speeding on those roads.

Councilor Armstrong said she noticed that there are 61 stops per 6,000 residents. Is that high for Windsor? Chief Melanson said those are total motor vehicle stops that were made. Those aren't just resident stops, but a category of the amount of stops we make based on the population of the town. Usually the number of sworn officers in a community is based on the population. 65%-70% of the stops are for those that don't live in Windsor but are travelling through Windsor.

#### **4. OVERVIEW OF POLICE DEPARTMENT CALLS FOR SERVICE ACTIVITY**

Prior to October 2020, the Police Department did not make crime and calls for service data available to the public in a consistent manner. After public inquiry and with guidance from the Health & Safety Committee, the department began publishing monthly data



related to reportable crimes, traffic stops, medical calls, and mental health calls for service on the Police Department web page.

Interpreting police crime data can be a complex and nuanced task. Different individuals can arrive at varied conclusions based on their unique perspectives and contexts. Without a thorough understanding of the circumstances surrounding the data, it becomes challenging to form accurate and unbiased interpretations. For instance, a statistical increase in reported crimes in a certain area might be perceived as indicative of rising criminal activity by some, while others may attribute it to enhanced law enforcement efforts or changes in reporting practices. Additionally, factors such as socioeconomic conditions, demographics, and historical context can greatly influence how people interpret crime data. The lack of contextual information may lead to divergent views on the severity of an issue or the effectiveness of policing strategies. This highlights the importance of considering the broader context when analyzing and discussing police crime statistics.

Town Manager Souza said Windsor continues to be a safe community relative to the overall state wide measures such as “Crimes against Persons” and “Crimes against Property” (see definitions below). Violent crime continues to remain at a low level. Based on statewide data for 2022, Windsor’s rate of “Crimes against Persons” is 3.88 per 1,000 residents, which is much lower than the statewide rate of 8.87 per 1,000 residents. The rate for “Crimes against Property” in Windsor is 23.2 per 1,000 residents, which is slightly lower than the statewide rate of 24.9 per 1,000 residents.

The Police Department has worked with the town’s information technology department to develop a more interactive web-based crime and calls for service data. This dashboard allows users to view police calls for service in a variety of formats using various filters to drill down to view specific data that may interest them. Attached is a screen shot of the calls for service dashboards. We will demonstrate the interactive dashboard at the committee meeting.

It is important to note that because the data is up to date, there is the possibility that as an investigation progresses, it may later be determined that a crime did not actually occur or that a different type of crime occurred. Therefore, there is a disclaimer on the dashboard that states “... represents how the call was dispatched and/or investigated but doesn't indicate that an offense was actually committed.”

Town Manager Souza asked Chief Melanson if the ‘larcenies’ are related to shop lifting type of crimes. Chief Melanson stated that 75%-80% of the larcenies can be contributed to shop lifting.

Councilor Naeem asked if organizations that have shop lifters call the Police. Chief Melanson responded these organizations don’t have security there all the time, but they do have several cameras. Many times, they will do an inventory and identify a certain item that is missing. Once that happens, they will view the cameras, identify it, research it and then bring it to the Police Department for enforcement.

Councilor Armstrong asked about ‘invading.’ How effective is the Police Department in that area? Chief Melanson said it all depends. If they can rely on a description or license plate, that is helpful. Sometimes they don’t have a license plate but they can rely on the fixed LPR cameras and see if any cars with that description have gone by that location. The officers can then review that information and get some potential leads.

Councilor Armstrong asked about the medical calls. How does the Police assist with them? Chief Melanson stated that officers are trained at the EMR level which is an Emergency Medical Responder. Officers carry AED’s, medical kits, oxygen, etc. to respond to these calls to start providing medical aid upon arrival at the scene.

Councilor Armstrong said that Chief Melanson had mentioned a website. What is that website? Town Manager Souza showed what the website (interactive dashboard) looks like at this point. It is not yet live. Chief Melanson explained how the interactive dashboard works to the group.

The group asked some questions related to the dashboard.

Town Manager Souza said the dashboard will be live by mid-month in February.

## **5. DISCUSSION REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION VAN**

Chief Melanson stated the Police Department has been researching options to replace the crime scene van. This van would store a plethora of equipment that assists in identifying, collecting and preserving evidence at crime scenes. It also has tools and lighting available to assist detectives at many different types of incidents. Some of the equipment that would be placed on this vehicle include:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Digital cameras w/ tripod
- Evidence marker number tents
- Scene lighting with stands
- Generator
- Extension cords and reels
- Power and hand tools
- Soil Screener
- Metal detector
- Fingerprint development kits
- Portable fingerprint fuming kit
- Post-mortem fingerprint collection kit
- Impression collection tools (footwear, tire tracks, etc.)
- Snow cast impression kit
- Alternative lighting source kit
- Laser trajectory kit



- DNA sample collection kit
- Evidence packaging materials
- Laptop computer
- Portable printer/scanner
- Traffic cones

These specialized supplies and equipment are a significant financial investment. A Crime Scene Response Vehicle is designed to carry and store this equipment to provide an organized and efficient response by our detectives.

A new crime scene response vehicle would provide:

- Extensive storage for the equipment listed above
- Power generator
- Refrigerator for evidence storage
- Two interior workstations
- Awning for protected exterior work
- Exterior scene lighting,

After conducting research, a committee comprised of supervisory and detective personnel determined that a high top transit style van would best meet the needs as a replacement vehicle.

Chief Melanson added that at this time, it looks like the vehicle will cost approximately \$180,000-\$190,000 and equipment would be \$25,000.

Town Manager Souza stated there are a couple of different sources for funding. The Police Department has a number of vacancies in FY 24. Part of the money for the van can come from unexpended money from the General Fund. There is also what we refer to as the 'Private Duty' fund. When a police officer needs to be on the scene for traffic management, those costs are paid 100% by the contractor. Out of that, we pay the officer at their rate, but the town receives an on-site per hour administrative fee and then if there is need for a vehicle, the officer will use a private vehicle or a town cruiser. There is also a charge for the vehicle. Over time, that fund has accumulated funds. We do use that fund each year to pay for two replacement vehicles. We would like to use some of these funds to purchase the crime van as well as the partial year savings. This request will be going to the Council in February or early March.

Councilor Naeem asked how often the van would get utilized. Chief Melanson said it would be used 5-10 times per month.

Councilor Naeem asked what they are currently doing without a crime van. Chief Melanson said the officers respond to the station, take the different kits they believe they will need and respond to the scene. If they think they need something else than what was originally brought to the scene, they would need to send someone to the Police Department to get that equipment/item.

Councilor Naeem questioned what is the current balance of the private duty fund? Town Manager Souza said it is approximately \$550,000.

Councilor Walker stated this vehicle is needed and he explained why.

Councilor Armstrong commented that sooner rather than later would be good for the Town Council to review this request.

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

Town Manager Souza said we are continuing, on a staff level, to review our different speed and accident data collected in relationship to developing a plan to come back to the Council regarding using cameras for traffic enforcement.

Town Manager Souza said staff met with a number of residents that live in the town center along Windsor Avenue south of St. Gabe's Church. When the town had the public information meeting regarding the road diet, a number of citizens stated their concerns about Route 159. These individuals live between Sycamore and Park Avenue. We had a meeting with this group and reached out to the State DOT to get some information from them as well since it is a state road. We will be looking at traffic information regarding speeding, accidents, and volumes over the course of the last 3-5 years. Our plan is to have a conversation with the DOT and get their direction on how we can help to slow down the traffic at this location.

Town Manager Souza stated we continue to work with the EMS in three primary areas. We are working with them regarding their data collection and on creating a dashboard so we can look at calls of service and how many calls are being transferred to mutual aid out of town, response time, etc. Secondly, we are monitoring the budget. It looks like they are in good shape for the first six months of this fiscal year. Thirdly, he's had one or two conversations about the service agreements with EMS. They are all at different stages of development. He is hoping in March we will be coming before the Council with an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). He said that Dan Moylan, President of the Ambulance Association, said they are making progress in filling their vacancies. They have had 5 or 6 offers for two paramedics and a range of EMTs.

Councilor Naeem asked about the board membership for EMS and how active they are being now. Town Manager Souza said they had a board meeting and are updating their by-laws. He is not sure of the outcome of that. He will check with Mr. Moylan in a couple of weeks to see where they stand with that.

Town Manager Souza said the Police Department currently has 6 of the stationary license plate readers. The vendor's name goes by the name of FLOCK. We will be interchanging the terms FLOCK with LPRs during discussion. These are similar to what we currently have in our cruisers as they will read the license plate. Once that information is received, it will go into a national database that gives us a 'hit' if the car is reported stolen or had



some other sort of infraction tied to that license plate. This tool has been well utilized by the town's officers. There was some conversation in late summer/early fall about expanding and adding that as a tool. There is also the same conversation of a shot-spotter or locator which would see the more dense communities, like Hartford. He and the Chief think that because of the density, the per square miles in town, that type of technology is not well suited for the Town of Windsor. It is also quite expensive. Chief Melanson is looking to see if we can expand the number of stationary license plate readers that we have.

Councilor Naeem stated it would be helpful with that proposal to also understand what happens with that data. Chief Melanson said that one of the reasons we chose this vendor is because it does not sell the data. They will maintain the location data for 30 days. After 30 days, it gets wiped. It is a rolling 30 days. He gave an example of how it can be used.

Councilor Armstrong asked what a license plate reader is and how it works. Chief Melanson said it is a camera that is on the side of the road and it takes a picture of the license plate as the car goes by. It's focused on the license plate only. It's also an infrared camera so it captures information both at night and during the day. Any time there is a stolen vehicle, it is added to the national database. So when a car goes by, the camera will pick up the license plate and cross reference it against a list that is in the national database to see if it matches any of that information. If it matches, it will send an alert to the officers.

Councilor Armstrong asked about the shot spotter. Is that for when shots are fired? Town Manager Souza said yes.

## **7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **a) August 14, 2023 Special Meeting**

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Walker to approve the unapproved minutes of the August 14, 2023 special meeting as presented.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Councilor Naeem, seconded by Councilor Walker, to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Motion Passed 3-0-0

Respectfully submitted by,

Helene Albert, Recording Secretary