

To the Residents of Aquinnah,

As I start this report as I do every year, I'd like to update you on the personnel of the department. Sgt. Paul Manning, Detective Steven Mathias, Officer David Murphy, and Special/Reserve Officer Christopher Manning continued working for the department during 2022. Detective Steven Mathias was assigned as Detective as of July 1, 2022 as I felt the department needed an Officer who is skilled in investigative techniques. Det. Mathias has completed specialized training in investigations and will continue to attend additional training. Det. Mathias also became the department's Accreditation Manager to assist the department with achieving Certification and ultimately Accreditation through the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. Sgt. Manning continues as the department's domestic violence Officer, elder services Officer, and Civil Rights Officer. Sgt. Manning is also responsible for Officer scheduling, vehicle maintenance, and firearms licensing. Sgt. Manning is a certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician. As such, he performs child safety seat inspections for anyone that requests an inspection of their child's safety seat. Officer Murphy is the department's firearms Instructor and defensive tactics Instructor. All Officers are Massachusetts certified Basic Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's).

The summer season of 2022 proved to be a busy time for the department as all of the full-time Officers spent a considerable amount of time at Aquinnah Circle directing traffic due to being short staffed. For the first time in a number of years, we were unable to hire any additional Officers due to lack of applicants. Fortunately for us, Special/Reserve Officer Christopher Manning was able to assist us with working a couple of shifts a week during the summer in addition to his full-time employment at the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) as a Tribal Ranger. One of the challenges presented in hiring for the summer season is the recent passage of the Police Reform law in Massachusetts. For those unaware, previously anyone who was interested in becoming Special/Reserve Officer to assist Police departments on a part-time basis, such as in the summer season, these individuals were able to attend a Reserve Intermittent Police Officers training class which consisted of approximately 600 hours of training on various topics. This class was provided by the Municipal Police Training Committee which is the committee who oversees and provides the majority of the Commonwealth's Police training. Additionally, the Martha's Vineyard Law Enforcement Council, Inc. was able to provide this training on island which meant island residents were able to complete this class locally and were able to apply for Special/Reserve Officer positions with the island Police departments, which many did, and were hired. After the Police Reform law was enacted, this Reserve Intermittent Police Officer's class was abolished because the legislation stated in order to become a Police Officer, individuals would have to attend the Basic Recruit Police Academy which consists of approximately 800 hours of training at various facilities located throughout the Commonwealth. This left small departments, such as ours, having difficulty to hire Special/Reserve Officers as we had previously. Almost all of the Police departments on the island had to pivot their summer hiring processes to hire either civilian Community Service Officers or Traffic Officers who do not have arrest powers and have very limited authority. Looking towards the future, this department will most likely be hiring Traffic Officers for the summer season; however if hiring

continues to be an issue, I will be asking the Town to hire an additional full-time Officer, for not only this issue, but other issues as well.

As I stated previously, Officers spent a considerable amount of time at Aquinnah Circle as visitors continued to visit this beautiful area. The Gay Head Lighthouse reopened for tours, two new businesses opened at the cliff shop area, improvements were made to the cliff lookout area, the public parking time limit increased from 60 minutes to 90 minutes, and additional public parking was added at the bottom of Aquinnah Circle. With this came increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic which Officers dealt with. Aquinnah Circle was also the location to annual events that are held there. In July the Old South Road Association held its annual July 4th Parade; however a new event was added after the parade. The new event was a Town Picnic held on the grounds of the Vanderhoop Homestead that was well attended by Town residents and guests. Also in July the Town's Public Safety Day and the Wampanoag Tribe's Native Artisan's Market were held simultaneously inside Aquinnah Circle which drew many attendees to both events. The Massachusetts State Police Air Wing was able to land one of their helicopters inside Aquinnah Circle for Public Safety Day. As always, this was the highlight of Public Safety Day. In September the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) held its annual Pow-Wow inside Aquinnah Circle which drew many attendees. In October the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee held its annual 10K "Run for the Light" Road Race which started and ended at Aquinnah Circle. The race attracted close to 150 runners even though it was a very windy day.

The Aquinnah Building Committee (of which I am a member of) continued to meet with the Town's Architect (Icon Architecture, Inc.) and Town Owner's Project Manager (OPM) (Atlantic Construction and Management, Inc.) to discuss plans for a new Police station. Our current Police station lacks space for functional evidence storage, interview room, firearms storage, lobby area, and general space for future growth of the department. Plans were presented to Town residents for not only the Police station, but for new Town Offices and new public restrooms at Aquinnah Circle. After hearing the Town residents' concerns, the Building Committee met with Icon Architects and Atlantic Construction and Management, Inc. to implement their concerns. The Committee continues to meet and hopes to bring a final schematic design to the Town in 2023.

All Officers completed their required forty hours of In-Service training provided by the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC). Traditionally, this training is held in person; however due to Covid precautions, the training was held online. All Officers also completed required firearms training utilizing a firearms trailer that was brought to the island by the MPTC. This trailer provided Officers with low light/night time simulated shooting and their required qualification course. Officers also attended an Active Shooter Training with other island Police departments held at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School during the April school vacation. Officers also completed various specialized trainings throughout the year.

Below is list of calls for service during 2022 compared to those of 2021. As you will see, our motor vehicle stops and parking tickets issued decreased in 2022. This is due to being short staffed during the summer season. We were short staffed by two Officers and the statistics show

how the loss of these two additional Officers made a difference. It should be noted that the Town Select Board voted in 2022 to increase the parking fines. Previously overtime parking fines were \$25 and parking in unauthorized areas fines were \$50. These fines were raised to \$50 and \$100 respectively. The reasoning behind the fine increases were due to beach parking. The overtime parking is related to visitors parking at Aquinnah Circle for longer than the 90 minute time allotment instead of paying to park at the Municipal Lot at the bottom of Aquinnah Circle. The parking in unauthorized areas is related to visitors parking at the Philbin Beach parking lot without a parking permit. The fee to park at the Municipal Lot was \$20 and if the lot was full (as it usually is on nice beach weather days), visitors were willing to take the chance to receive a \$50 parking ticket. By raising the fines, the Select Board was hoping to discourage visitors from parking over the time allotment and from parking in unauthorized areas.

In closing I'd like to thank all members of the department for their continued professionalism. I'm proud of the Officers of this department and the Town residents should feel fortunate to have these Officers protecting their Town. I'd also like to thank the following agencies for their continued assistance: Aquinnah Fire Department, Aquinnah Highway Department, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Natural Resources Department, Tri-Town Ambulance, the island Police agencies, Dukes County Sheriff's Department, the State agencies assigned to the island, U.S. Coast Guard – Station Menemsha, Town of Aquinnah Select Board, and Town employees.

Best wishes for 2023 and be safe!!

Listed below are the numbers and some of the types of calls for service the department responded to from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 compared with those responded to in 2021:

2022 AQUINNAH POLICE STATISTICS			
	2021	2022	
Medical Emergencies	42	40	
Alarms (Burglar)	50	35	
Alarms (Fire)	25	31	
Alarms (Other)	14	16	
Assist Citizen (general)	21	14	
Assist Outside Agency	10	9	
Assist Aquinnah Fire Department	1	6	
Assist Animal Control Officer	7	19	

Public Utility / Hazardous Condition	14	14	
Assault & Battery	1	2	
B&E and Attempted B&E	0	1	
Domestic Related Activity	8	9	
Harassment Complaints	2	1	
ID Theft/Fraud	2	0	
Larceny	1	2	
Stolen Motor Vehicle	0	1	
OUI	0	0	
Other Alcohol Related Incidents	1	1	
Sexual Assaults	1	0	
Lewd Behavior	0	0	
Shoplifting	0	0	
Vandalism / Destruction of Property	0	1	
Motor Vehicle Complaints	1	1	
Covid-19 Related Complaints	0	0	
Disputes / Disturbances	4	4	
Animal Complaints	0	1	
Fireworks / Gunshot Complaints	0	0	
Hunting/Fishing Complaints	2	2	
Noise Complaints	2	0	
Parking Complaints	7	3	
Trespass Complaints	1	3	
Suspicious Vehicles, Persons, Activities	23	21	
Marine Mammal Incidents	0	0	
Welfare Checks	5	6	
Missing Person	1	3	
Child Welfare	4	0	
Marine Watercraft Incidents	0	3	
Bicycle Accidents	1	1	
Moped Accidents	1	0	
Motor Vehicle Accidents	9	10	
Motor Vehicle vs. Deer / Other Animal	3	4	
Deaths	1	0	

By-Law Violations	0	1	
Arrests	2	2	
Protective Custody	0	1	
Criminal Complaint Applications	10	11	
Incidents on Tribal Lands	24	23	
Total Incidents	277	279	
Motor Vehicle Stops	205	91	
Motor Vehicle Citations Issued	45	33	
Parking Tickets Issued	675	331	

Respectfully submitted,
 Randhi P. Belain
 Chief of Police