



Charles Femino
Chief of Police

City of Somerville Police Department

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To: The Honorable City Council
From: Chief Charles Femino
RE: Response to budget questions posed by the Honorable City Council.
Date: June 15, 2023

Who is the SPD's DEA liaison? What rank does that person hold? Where do they physically work? What other role in the SPD org chart do they occupy, and do they execute any other "internal" or patrol duties for SPD? (1)

Due to the recent retirement of the Detective who held the position, and the staffing shortage the department is experiencing, this position remains unfilled.

Who is the SPD's DHS/ICE/UASI liaison? What rank does that person hold? Where do they physically work? What other role in the SPD org chart do they occupy? What percentage of their time is spent on DHS/ICE/UASI and grant applications vs other "internal" or patrol/supervisory work? Please provide an updated org chart for SPD. Would appreciate for Superior Officer positions the name being specified for each Superior Officer serving in each role. (2)

The Department does not have a DHS or ICE liaison.

There is a Homeland Security Sergeant within the Special Operations Unit who is tasked with working with the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) – to secure grant funding. Please note that the duties of this position were recently combined with those previously assigned to the Special Operations Sergeant to include the development of incident action plans with other City Departments for community events.

Who is the SPD's FBI liaison? What rank does that person hold? Where do they physically work? What other role in the SPD org chart do they occupy? What percentage of their time is spent with the FBI? Do they perform other internal or patrol duties for SPD? Supervisory work? Please provide an updated org chart for SPD. Would appreciate for Superior Officer positions the name being specified for each Superior Officer serving in each role. (3)

The SPD FBI liaison is Detective John Oliveira. This detective spends the majority of his time with the FBI Regional Violent Crimes Task Force. He investigates all Guardian Assessments regarding Somerville based incidents. However, he remains assigned to the Somerville Criminal Investigations Division and remains "on call" for Somerville in the event he is needed for staffing.

In his role with the FBI, he is assigned to serious and/or violent crimes, many of which have a nexus to Somerville (i.e., inter-jurisdictional gang issues, gun violence, bank robberies, missing persons, homicide investigations, kidnapping). He is a force multiplier as he provides additional resources when needed.

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the Traffic Unit - number of officers, number of marked vehicles. Also seeking the amount of citations/warnings issued in each of the past 5 years. (4)

The Traffic Unit is assigned 5 motorcycles that are utilized department wide. The average age of these motorcycles is approximately 12 years old. The Traffic Unit is also assigned 6 police vehicles. The average age of these vehicles is approximately 8 years. The Unit is comprised of one Lieutenant, two Sergeants, and four Officers.

One of the two Sergeants is responsible for supervising all detail officers to make sure officers are complying with safety regulations and departmental policies. One of the four officers is responsible for investigating hit and run motor vehicle accidents and scheduling supervising the crossing guards. The remaining Officers are responsible for general traffic education and enforcement.

	Total Citations	Total Violations	% of Violations that were Warnings
FY2017	11580	12815	51%
FY2018	8197	9015	63%
FY2019	8978	9765	70%
FY2020	5007	5532	72%
FY2021	5976	6252	89%
FY2022	5487	5766	91%
FY2023 (through 5/31/23)	4100	4453	89%

Can you please provide an organizational chart for the department? (5)

An organizational chart is attached.

Goal #1 lists "Increase traffic education efforts in the areas of motor vehicle, pedestrian, and cyclist," can you give some detail about the methodology through which you are conducted increased traffic education for cyclists and pedestrians? How are education efforts being deployed? (6)

Officers at motor vehicle stops and at intersections throughout the community are handing out educational pamphlets with safety instructions for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. The deployment of Officers at specific locations is usually based on information garnered from citizen complaints, requests from other City Officials, and high crash locations. Major commuting routes are areas of focus such as the bike path street crossings, Beacon St., Union Sq., Washington St., College Ave., and Davis Sq.

Could you give some detail about goal #6 "Provide specialized training in the areas of Racial and Social Justice" and how much time that looks like per year for each officer? (7)

Specialized trainings during FY23 included:

- Trauma-informed policing
- Responding to those suffering an interpersonal crisis
- Hate crime recognition
- Disability community cultural competency for first responders
- De-escalation and body language for officers
- Anti-bias for policing
- CIT trainings - 88% of officers have completed the 40 hour course

In goal #7, will the "Open dialogue sessions with SPEA and SPSOA" be open to the public? (8)

These discussions have to do with contractual matters which are subject to the CBA and are attended and negotiated between Legal Counsel for both the SPEA and SPSOA and the City Solicitor's Office.

Can you provide a PTS breakdown for FY24? (9)

Vendor/Project Name	Amount	Notes
BCM Controls Corporation	1,000	Key Card Door System
Besafe Technologies Inc	1,500	School Safety Portal Maintenance
Cambridge Public Health Commission	5,000	Random Drug Testing
Commonwealth Lock Co	2,000	
Creative Office Pavilion LLC	128	Repairs & Parts
JPR Consulting LLC	12,000	Assess SPD Website Implementation
Meditrol Inc	15,000	On-Duty Injury Claim
New England Trauma Services LLC	3,000	Bio Hazard Clean Up
T-Mobile Usa Inc	100	Investigation By Traffic
Language Interpretation Svc	1,000	Professional Standards
External Investigation	2,000	Professional Standards
Student Survey/SHS	4,000	
LAN-Tel Communications	4,000	

Can you give some details around the rationale to add two new positions to SPD in FY24 when the staffing study is yet to be completed? Was the COHR unit of SPD a part of the Staffing and Operations study? (10)

These clinicians will provide preventive care designed to divert clients from the potential of becoming involved with the criminal justice system. Currently, there is only one full time clinician who manages this caseload. There has been an increase in demands for this unit and there is a need for additional staff. These positions would allow the unit to increase their outreach, provide support during court cases, and more fully review all calls for service.

To the best of my knowledge, the department was not asked to provide data for COHR services.

Why is the COHR Unit located in the Somerville Police Department? (10a)

COHR is a behavioral health unit designed to provide an integrated health and public safety response. The unit is co-located in the Somerville Police Department. Those who are directly involved with providing these services feel strongly that there are benefits of having this unit imbedded in the department.

The benefits include:

- Officers having direct access to clinicians on a regular basis to collaborate and discuss alternative options for those who might be in need of mental health services.

- Allowing COHR to gather situational context for individuals through the officers and their reports.
- Having officers who have a unique knowledge of the community, who are familiar with environmental factors and stressors of which clinical programs may not be aware.
- Has resulted in over 580 referrals to the COHR Unit for follow-up services

Where do COHR Referrals come from? (10b)

While the vast majority of referrals come from officers responding to community calls for service, COHR also receives referrals from many community service providers: Council on Aging, Somerville Housing Authority, Somerville Public Libraries, DMH providers, local hospital staff, as some examples. There are also self-referrals and walk-ins.

Can you give some detail about the "technology modernization project for the SPD evidence room"? (11)

The new system will improve the efficiency of the intake, labeling, storage, management, and the lawful purging of evidence ready for destruction.

Can you give some detail about why less than 50% of the crossing guard budget was spent? How many hours of crossing guard work was conducted by non-crossing guards in FY23? (12)

The Department is budgeted for 57 crossing guards, including one Team Leader. There are currently 56 locations that we strive to provide coverage. However, the department is currently staffed with approx. 36 crossing guards. As noted in previous City Council meetings and presentations from HR, there is a regional shortage of crossing guards and at the current rate of pay and daily schedule, it is difficult to recruit and hire individuals for these positions.

Sixty-five (65) hours of crossing guard work was conducted by non-crossing guards in FY23.

According to your YTD, you spent \$0 of your traffic supplies line. Can you update us on what happened? (13)

These funds were very recently requisitioned for traffic crossing guard clothing.

Can you give some detail about why only 85% of your salary line and 80% of your shift differentials was used but 98% of your overtime budget was used? (14)

We project that by the end of FY23, the department will have a surplus of approximately \$400,000 in Salaries (94% spend rate). The Shift Differential object is expected to end the year with a \$100,000 surplus (90% spend rate). Overtime is used to backfill shifts as needed and is on track to exceed initial projections. Transfers from the Salaries line will be used to remediate any deficit.

What is driving the increased overtime cost but decreased shift differentials? (15)

Shift Differentials are budgeted for hours worked for second- or third-shift employees and are unlinked to Overtime expenditures.

How much money in grants did the department receive in FY23? (16)

Purpose	Amount Received
COHR Program	\$355,595
E911 & EMD Program	\$424,915
Police	\$465,405

Is the Director of Finance and Administration still a shared position with SFD? (17)

This position is currently vacant since the departure of the previous Director. FY24 is calling for what was a 75% position for police to be a full-time position for the SPD.

Can you provide a demographic breakdown for your 800+ park walk and talks (PWTs)? (18)

The breakdown of demographic data is not available. However, PW&Ts are conducted throughout the seven wards by Officers assigned to those respective areas.

How many hours of details were worked in FY23? (19)

This data is not readily available. It would require a manual review of a report generated by the Detail Office. This project would span over several weeks and include only hours worked by SPD officers. In order to generate this report for outside officers it would require a manual review of hard copy detail sheets for each and every day. This process would take several months with an additional associated overtime cost.

How many calls for service were there in FY23? How many of those calls were incident response? How many of those were directed patrols? (20)

Calls for service (CFS) in FY2023 through 5/31/23 totaled 38,479 CFS. The full fiscal year is projected to total 41,977 CFS.

Incident response calls for service through 5/31/23 totaled 25,455 and the full year is projected to reach 27,769 incident response CFS.

Directed patrols totaled 8,996 through 5/31/23 and the full fiscal year total is projected to be 9,814 directed patrols.

How many sworn officers have passed the CIT program? (21)

Based on the information by COHR staff, Ninety-eight (98) officers have completed the 40-hour advanced CIT training. This equates to approx. 85%. Additionally, there are several newly hired officers who have completed the preliminary CIT training as part of their police academy training.

Will information about how much money is being spent by private construction firms and city agencies on police traffic details be included in the data you plan to start sharing with the public in Goal 5?" (22)

This data is not readily available at the current time. It would need to be compiled by the Detail Office over a span several weeks and have an associated overtime cost. This is an extensive project outside of regular work duties.

How much money was paid by non-city entities to SPD for police conducted traffic details for construction projects during FY23? (23)

This data is not readily available. It would need to be compiled by the Detail Office over a span several weeks and have an associated overtime cost. This is an extensive project outside of regular work duties.

How much money was paid by city departments and divisions to SPD for police conducted traffic details for projects during FY23? (24)

This data is not readily available. It would need to be compiled by the Detail Office over a span several weeks and have an associated overtime cost. This is an extensive project outside of regular work duties.

How much money remains in the special detail fund? How much money was spent from the special detail fund in FY23? (25)

The amount in the revolving account is continuously changing. This was funded with a one-time lump sum years ago per a CBA with the SPEA. It is now used only when a bill is unpaid for an extensive time period only for active SPD patrol officers. Once the outstanding bill is paid, this fund is replenished

What is the status of the webpage redesign and data transparency project? (26)

The development of SPD's new webpage is in progress. The transition to somervillema.gov site will include enhanced accessibility, expanded content, boosted search engine results, and other improvements.

As part of the effort to increase the datasets available online, SPD, RSJ and SomerStat conducted an extensive audit of the current data upload pipeline. It was determined that due to the backend infrastructure complexity, differences across SPD data systems, and privacy concerns, the project will require an overhaul of the backend system. This is part of a larger overhaul of the Open Data System undertaken by SomerStat. SomerStat intends to focus on SPD open data improvements specifically in summer 2023.

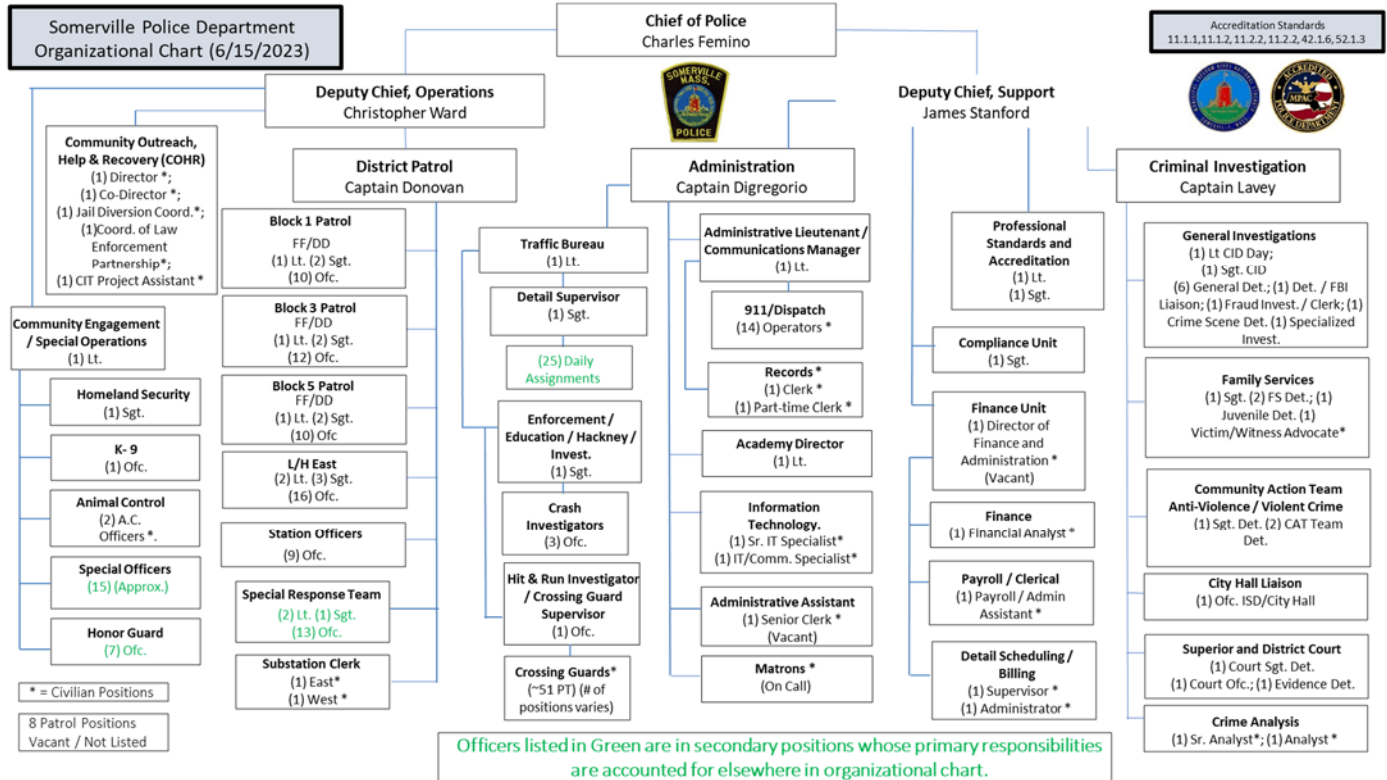
In addition to work on the new webpage and data pipeline audit, SPD created an online weekly arrest log which is now located on our current webpage. This page lists the arrests each week (those that are public record). This will be transported to the new webpage, once live.

How many overdoses have occurred in FY2023 and, in how many was Narcan administered? In how many was Narcan administered solely by police officers? (27)

In FY2023 (through February 28, 2023), there have been 144 suspected overdoses / narcotics-related illnesses. Ninety-nine of these 144 were suspected to be related to opioids in particular. Of those 99 incidents, Narcan was administered 50 times, 27 of which involved officers being the administering party. In 21 of those incidents, officers were the only ones to administer Narcan. This data indicates that the elevated number of overdoses in FY21 and FY22 has continued into FY23.

APPENDIX

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



SUPERVISOR POSITIONS AND NAMES

Superior Positions / Names

Chief of Police	Femino, Charles
Deputy Chief - Support Services	Stanford, James
Deputy Chief – Patrol Operations	Ward, Christopher
Captain – Patrol	Donovan, James
Captain - Criminal Investigation	Lavey, Richard
Captain – Administrative	Digregorio, Jeffrey
Lieutenant - Academy / Training	Vivolo, Carmine
Lieutenant – Communications Director	Rymill, Gerard
Lieutenant - Traffic Commander	Rymill, William
Lieutenant - Detectives Commander	Sheehan, Sean
Lieutenant - Special Operations	Mitsakis, Timothy
Lieutenant - Patrol Commander	DeOliveira, Diogo
Lieutenant - Patrol Commander	Holland, Michael
Lieutenant - Patrol Commander	Capasso, Michael
Lieutenant - Professional Standards	Perrone, Michael
Lieutenant - Patrol Commander	Shackelford, Kevin
Lieutenant - Patrol Commander	Fusco, Salvatore
Sergeant - Special Operations	Isidoro, Rico
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Gobiel, John
Sergeant - Night Detectives	Whalen, Scott
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Chaille, Warren
Sergeant – C.A.T. Supervisor	Rego, Daniel
Sergeant - Court Liaison	Sylvester, Sean
Sergeant - Traffic Supervisor	McCarey, Michael
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Slattery, James
Sergeant - Compliance Unit	Anderson, Paul
Sergeant - Family Services Supervisor	Schneider, Devin
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	St. Hilarie, Steve
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Berrouet, Wolf
Sergeant - Professional Standards	Difava, Marc
Sergeant - Detail Supervisor	Kim, Eli
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Van Nostrand, Tim
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Richardson, Mackenzie
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Torres, James
Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor	Messaoudi, Samir