



## CITY OF MELROSE

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

**MICHAEL L. LYLE**  
*Chief*

Office of the Chief  
56 West Foster Street  
Melrose, Massachusetts 02176  
Telephone - (781) 979-4461  
Facsimile - (781) 979-8051

### MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



*Quality Policing Through Teamwork*  
[www.melrosepolice.com](http://www.melrosepolice.com)

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The Melrose Police Department pledges to maintain the highest standards of integrity, ethics, excellence and teamwork in the performance of our services while at the same time protecting the Constitutional rights of the citizens. Our mission is to strengthen public confidence in the organization, develop and maintain positive relationships with the community and promote the concept of teamwork for the benefit of all, while at the same time promoting a safe and friendly community through enforcement and education.*

### **Chief:**

Chief Michael L. Lyle

### **Lieutenants:**

Patrol Commander Mark DeCroteau

Lt. Timothy Maher

Lt. James Mulrenan

Lt. Paul Norton

### **Sergeants:**

Sgt. David Akell

Sgt. Charles Byrne

Sgt. Joshua Crowley

Sgt. Jonathan Goc

Sgt. Brian Ladner

Sgt. Michael Lynch

Sgt. David Mackey

Det. Sgt. Paul McNamara

Sgt. Kevin Mulrenan

Sgt. Jon Piasecki

### **Patrol Officers:**

Ronald Alley

Pamela Daye

John Goodhue

Travis Nally

James Applegate

Levi DiFranza

Stacey Griffin

Dale Parsons

Pros. Mark Antonangeli

Joseph Donovan

Det. Daniel Hanley

Michael Plumer

Alexander Barranco

Det. Daniel Ehlers

William Higgins

Daniel Riordan

Alan Brown

Det. Gregory Forestell

Nikolaus MacIntosh

Paul Sasso

Joseph Collins

Stephen Galvin

Michael Maloney

Kevin Stanton

Richard Connors

Richard Green

Robert Mann

Joseph Stamegna

Richard Cooney

Daniel Goodhue

Sean Morris

Brian Trainor

### **Civilian Personnel:**

Executive Assistant to the Chief/Office Manager:

Kimberly Upton (Full-Time)

Administrative Assistant:

Deborah MacLeod (Part-Time)

Parking Wardens:

Ernest Karelak

Robert Hall

Residents Tax Program:

Rita Karelak

---

*Quality Policing Through Teamwork*

[www.melrosepolice.com](http://www.melrosepolice.com)

## **MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT - PROMOTIONS**

Detective Kevin Mulrenan was promoted to Sergeant on May 7, 2020. Sergeant Mulrenan has served our community for the past 25 years and held a position in the detective bureau for the past 12 years. We are proud to have him in a leadership role in the department; he brings many years of community policing and law enforcement professionalism to the Chief's supervisory staff.



## **MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEW RECRUITS**

The Melrose Police is pleased to announce that we have three recruits in the Lowell Police Academy.

- Ashley Baldwin
- Lucas Kaestner
- Alexander Wilson

A police academy recruit is immersed in police training for 22 weeks. Upon graduation, anticipated in December 2020, each recruit will be sworn in as a full-time Melrose Police Officer and will begin his/her field training. Field training is 10-12 weeks long whilst they learn the nuances of the great City of Melrose and its Community. During Field Training they will be patrolling a regular shift along with another officer, or Patrol Sergeant.

## **MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT K-9 TEAM**

Melrose Police K9-Nero and his handler Officer Trainor continue to patrol together several days a week tracking suspects or missing persons, protecting police officers or other persons from injury or death, apprehending fleeing and/or arresting suspects. K-9 Nero continues to train with Officer Trainor to fine tune his tracking skills utilizing his most powerful tool, his sense of smell. The Melrose Police K-9 Team were used multiple times this fiscal year as part of a DEA Task force for drug detection, and as a partner for federal, state and local operations.

## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

The following personnel changes and adjustments were experienced by the police department in fiscal year 2020. These changes are designed to keep patrol staffing levels consistent with past practices, safety and community standards.

### **New Hires:**

- Deborah MacLeod                      Administrative Assistant

### **Separation:**

- Rachel Jacobsmeyer                      Transferred to Melrose Fire – Assistant to Chief Collina
- Officer Marco DePalma                      Transferred to Lynnfield Police Department

### **Retirement:**

- Officer Stacey Griffen

### **In Memoriam:**

- Charles A. Hughes

## **BUDGET**

The Melrose Police department administered a budget of \$5,105,367.00. The majority of the budget consists of salaries and wages for employees. The budget was funded by appropriations by city government and also operates under grant monies obtained from both the federal and state government.

The staffing levels in the Melrose Police Department consisted of 1 Chief, 4 Lieutenants, 10 Sergeants 32 officers, 1 Executive Assistant, and 3 part-time civilians. The roster breakdown of Lieutenants, Sergeants and Patrol Officers for the fiscal year of 2020 under Chief Lyle is listed above.

### **FY2019 POLICE DEPARTMENT REVENUE**

Police Detail Admin Fee	<b>249,582.56</b>
Police False Alarms - Mel	<b>2,150.00</b>
Police Dept. Photostats/Finger Prints	<b>475.00</b>
Police Pistol	<b>8475.00</b>
Police Hackney Account	<b>50.00</b>
Parking and Traffic Enforcement	<b>158,777.50</b>
Citations Chapter 90	<b>7,160.00</b>
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$426,670.06</b>
Total Outstanding Balance Parking Tickets (Y/Y)	<b>(457,697.50)</b>

## **FY2019 GRANT FUNDING**

State 911 Support and Incentive Grant	<b>81,187.00</b> (increase of \$16,575 from FY 19)
State 911 EMD Grant	<b>18,000.00</b> (level funded from FY 19)
State 911 Training/Dispatch Equip Grant	<b>60,089.01</b> (decrease of \$14,547.71 from FY 19)
State Traffic Enforcement Grant	<b>14,000.00</b> (increase of 7,000 from FY 19)
Bulletproof Vest Grant	<b>6,712.50</b>

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

The department records for the 12 month period of July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 through June 30<sup>th</sup> 2020 indicate the Melrose Police Department entered **7296** log reports.

In FY20, the Police Department took **1927** reports. Of these, **418** were criminal offenses reported to the Federal government. These criminal offense reports included Part 1 offenses, which include homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, arson, larceny (except motor vehicle theft) and motor vehicle thefts. The total Part 1 offenses were **251**.

Case activity of note included the following reported offenses: **10** motor vehicle theft offenses, 4 driving under the influence offenses, **0** rape offenses, **4** offenses of robbery, **87** assaults, **27** counts of burglary/Breaking and Entering, **123** assorted larceny offenses, and **82** reports of vandalism.

There were **165** criminal complaints (summoned) issued, **77** arrests, and **6** incidents of protective custody made by Melrose Police Department officers in fiscal year 2020.

## **TRAFFIC**

The Melrose Police Department issued **543** Massachusetts Uniform Citations in the fiscal year 2020: these included **81** civil citations, **351** written warning citations, **91** criminal citations, and **12** arrest citations.

Additionally, the Parking Clerk's Office reports the Melrose Police Department issued **4203** parking violations during the fiscal year 2020, registering approximately two hundred forty one, nine hundred twenty seven thousand dollars and fifty cents (**\$158,777.50**) in revenue (*Kelly and Ryan, 11/16/2020*).

The Melrose Police Department took over three hundred fifty three (353) reports of incidents involving motor vehicle crashes within the City of Melrose during the fiscal year 2020. There was a total of 260 Massachusetts Motor Vehicle Crash Reports filed and investigated. These accidents resulted in injuries to 41 individuals. In FY 2020, there was one (3) fatal motor vehicle accident investigated, four (4) pedestrian and one (1) cyclist/bicycle accidents investigated.

### **CITIZEN COMPLAINTS:**

The Melrose Police Department investigates all citizen complaints. During the Fiscal Year 2020 and under the direction of the Chief or his designee three (3) citizen complaint were reviewed involving officers' alleged conduct. These reviews concluded the following: one officer was disciplined, another officer was exonerated of all allegations, and the final complaint was not substantiated.

The Melrose Police Department takes all citizens' complaints very seriously and investigates these personnel matters with due diligence. The Melrose Police Department will always strive to improve customer service and relationships with citizens and all members of our community.

### **SPECIALIZED TRAINING:**

The Melrose Police attended several specialized training programs during FY2020.

- Northwestern Motorcycle School  
Officers Riordan and Stamegna attended the 80 hour course to train police motorcycle officers. This is an intensive 80 hour class to develop coordination, balance, skill and confidence. The key components of the class include: clutch, throttle and brake control combined with proper head and eye placement. Officers are immersed in braking techniques, defensive driving, curve negotiation, street riding and precision riding through specially designed cone patterns that require locked turns along with radical changes of direction in tight places.
- Annual Active Shooter Training  
This specialized training course was suspended due to COVID-19 concerns.
- Annual Domestic Violence Training  
This specialized training course was also suspended due to COVID-19 concerns.
- Annual In-Service Officers Training  
All officers attended 40 hours of in-service training through the Municipal Police Training Council as well the annual required 8 hours of firearms recertification held at the Bedford Police Department outdoor range.
- 911 Training Grant



The following courses were offered for Police Officers and Dispatchers FY20 through the state 911 required training grant.

- ❖ Legal Issues for Massachusetts Call Takers and Dispatchers
- ❖ Liability Issues
- ❖ Drug Recognition and Impairment Awareness
- ❖ Health and Wellness Issues
- ❖ Active Shooter and Hostile Events
- ❖ 209A Issues
- ❖ Weapons of Mass Destruction Overview

These courses were modified due to COVID-19 concerns. A few officers participated in classroom training, while the remainder participated in online training classes.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

The Melrose Police recognizes Officer DiFranza, Sergeant Byrne, and Officer Barranco who saved the life of a young boy after he suffered a serious leg injury Tuesday night. On Aug. 4, 2020 the Melrose Police Department was dispatched to the Winthrop Elementary for a reported leg injury. Officer Levi DiFranza and Sgt. Charles Byrne were the first on the scene and found that a 14-year-old male was impaled by the spikes at the top of a four foot fence, possibly hitting his femoral artery, after he tried to jump the fence to help an older woman who tripped on the sidewalk. Immediately, Officer DiFranza used his department-issued tourniquet to stop the bleeding and squeezed the pressure point while waiting for the Melrose Fire Department to arrive. Officer DiFranza had the boy focus on him rather than his injury, speaking in a low, calm voice to the victim, who remained conscious the entire time, while they waited. “I am beyond proud of the quick, decisive actions by Officer DiFranza, Sgt. Byrne and Officer Barranco,” Chief Lyle said. “They remained calm and focused during a very intense incident, and ultimately saved this young boy’s life and prevented a terrible tragedy. They are outstanding examples of the types of officers that make up the Melrose Police Department.”

The Melrose Police also recognizes Officer and SRO Applegate for initiating an Autism project that resulted in a new “Autism Awareness Vehicle” added to the Melrose Police Fleet. The Melrose Police Department has several members and their families for whom Autism Awareness resonates personally. This project started when Officer and SRO James Applegate coordinated with the Metropolitan Insurance Company who donated an abandoned vehicle to our community. Today’s Autobody took possession of this vehicle last fall and repaired it to LIKE-NEW condition, and 1st-IN-Grafix employed their creative skills to tastefully “mark” the vehicle as an MPD fleet vehicle. The owner of 1<sup>st</sup>-IN-Grafix, Sean Hogan, was the talent behind the design. This vehicle will be assigned to both SROs at the Melrose High School and Middle School Complex and will be used at all Community Events. *(MPD FY20 Annual Report Cover Photo)*

## COMMUNITY POLICING

Community policing has always been a cornerstone of the Melrose Police Department. The Melrose Police Department looked forward to an eventful summer that kicked off in July with the Junior Police Academy. The Junior Police Academy was once again a tremendously successful program for the Melrose Youth. Funded entirely through donations and fundraising, the Melrose Police hosted three Junior Police Academies in the month of July 2019; students attended a one-week course under the direction of Sergeant Charles Byrne with the assistance from Officers James Applegate and Alan Brown. The overwhelming success of this community program would not have been possible if not for the support from the community as well as members of the Melrose Police Department. A total of **175** children attended this FY20 program.



---

*Quality Policing Through Teamwork*

[www.melrosepolice.com](http://www.melrosepolice.com)



During the FY20 summer months the Melrose Police hosted two successful Community Policing programs: “Bicycle Safety Month” and “National Night Out”.

The Melrose Police Department partnered with nine local businesses to organize the city’s first Summer Bicycle Safety Program. In August 2019, Melrose Police Officers rewarded local children who wore their helmets while they rode their bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, roller skates and scooters. Children “caught” wearing their helmets received a “citation” to redeem a free item from a local business. The program began on Tuesday, Aug. 6 and ended on Sunday, Sept. 1. The goal of this program was to recognize kids who were being safe and wearing their helmets, and to raise awareness about helmet laws and safety. The businesses that partnered with the Melrose Police Department on the bicycle safety program included: Gabriella’s Italian Pizzeria, Melrose House of Pizza, Lisa’s Pizzeria, Cloud Nine, Jeff Carbone Insurance Agency, Petrone’s Pizza, Kennedy’s Ice Cream Bar, Edward Jones and Common Market.

The second program was the annual “National Night Out”, held on the first Tuesday in August 2019. The purpose of this annual program is to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community, and provide a great opportunity to bring police and community together under positive circumstances. The theme for the FY20 National Night Out was “Touch a Truck”. The Melrose Police coordinated departments and local agencies to bring a sampling of their trucks and heavy equipment; the community enjoyed an up close look at these vehicles. There was tremendous participation from staff in each department or agency onsite to handle all questions residents had about the equipment, its purpose and share some educational “fun facts”. Melrose Fire brought their antique ambulance, and one of their Fire Trucks, Cataldo brought their newest ambulance, and DPW brought a sampling of their fleet. Local contractors D&R and Greenwood and Sons, brought dump trucks and equipment, and the 182<sup>nd</sup> National Guard Reserve brought a military ambulance and hummers. It was a spectacular array of vehicles and heavy equipment in Dills Court and the turnout by residents was sizeable.





As the youth headed back to school in fall 2019 and through the Halloween season, the Melrose Police were ever present in the daily lives of our residents and interacted with the children and their parents as usual. All department staff, from Lieutenants to Civilian staff engage our residents with the dual purpose, to Protect and Serve the Community of Melrose.



Another fun community event as our youth returned to school was “Pizza with the Chief”. Chief Michael Lyle and other members of the Melrose Police Department joined a group of children and their parents and guardians, for Pizza at Gabriella’s Italian Pizzeria on September 27, 2019. Pizza with the Chief was a prize given out as part of a fundraiser at the 2019 Victorian Fair, and the winner elected to bring the children along for the party. Along with Chief Lyle, high school resource officer Applegate and K-9 handler Officer Trainer took part in the evening’s festivities. The children, who ranged in age from kindergarteners to fourth graders, all took part in engaging conversation with the chief and officers. The youth demonstrated “floss” dancing, asked loads of questions about police work and were surprised by an appearance from K-9 Nero.



Unfortunately the COVID-19 Pandemic turned the whole world upside down soon after. In the midst of the pandemic, safety challenges in every community and across the country became paramount. The Melrose Police Department remained vigilant, trained and equipped to protect every citizen in the city of Melrose despite the contagion, and is committed to providing exceptional 24 hour service to its residents. Maintaining strong partnerships with the other communities in Middlesex County is vital to proactively address a virus that has no sense of border.

It has been a particularly difficult year with Social Security Scams and Unemployment Fraud Filings. It is relentless, and the Melrose Police have taken a report for every reported incident. Although these scams do not discriminate on age, the Melrose Seniors are predominantly vulnerable. Therefore, Police Chief Lyle and Fire Chief Collina met with residents at the Levi Gould/Fuller House to talk to them about how to recognize and respond to these scams that are plaguing all ages of our community.



The Melrose Police Department website continues to be a valuable source of information as well a key community policing strategy for communicating safety tips and alerts, and current messages and news blogs from the Chief. Online forms, safety guides and home safety tips are available for our tech-savvy community and serve as effective means for the community to reach out to the Melrose Police.

As the department moves forward with Community Policing, the Chief and all department staff will continue to support the resource commitments and initiatives instituted in the past whilst always striving to expand the services the police department provides to the residents of Melrose.

### **Melrose School Resource Officers (SRO)**

The Melrose Police Department has two outstanding School Resource Officers; Officer Mann is the SRO for the Melrose Middle School, and Officer Applegate is the SRO for the High School. Both are actively integrated with the student population; they are advocates for them when needed, often time mentors and confidants, and if necessary, disciplinarians when student safety is in question or behavioral issues arise. Their presence within the Melrose Schools is vital and provides the Melrose Police an opportunity to work with the youth and help guide them as they mature and become responsible adults. Officer and SRO Applegate was recognized with a Super Bowl Ring by the Melrose High School Football Team.



## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES COMPLETED FY 2020**

1. A commitment to support our community through advanced training; a continuation of the CIT program, all officers will attend CIT training at City Hall.

(note): Even though the Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) was not held as stated in this objective due to the COVID pandemic, each officer received de-escalation training as a segment in defensive tactics during their annual in-service training.

2. Established the first annual Bicycle Helmet Safety Month, where the Melrose Police Officers will reward the Melrose Youth when they were observed correctly wearing their helmet while riding a bicycle, scooter, skateboard, roller blades, etc.
3. Hosted a Bicycle Rodeo where Melrose Youth (ages 4-14) came and learned safe bicycle practices and maneuvering skills, and practiced on an obstacle course and received some free safety items.
4. The department was able to replace three law enforcement officers under unprecedented conditions.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2021**

1. The Melrose Police Department will secure funding to migrate to electronic citations (e-citations). The rationale for this is to reduce the amount of time expended during a car-stop.
2. The Melrose Police Department will seek funding from various sources to support a police training simulator to supplement our annual firearms qualification. This would also include scenario-based shooting where the officer received instant feedback from the trainers as far as his or her interaction during the simulation. This feedback will enable the department's efforts to support implicit bias training.
3. The Melrose Police Department will seek additional grant funding for enhanced de-escalation training.
4. Continue to advocate for additional law enforcement personnel.
5. Automate several of the standard "forms" on the Melrose Police Department Website.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michael L. Lyle