



TOWN OF BROOKLINE

Massachusetts

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DANIEL C. O'LEARY
CHIEF OF POLICE

To: Chief Daniel O'Leary

From: Lt. Derek Hayes

Date: August, 2011

Re: Patrol Bike Unit and Bicycle Enforcement

Sir,

The Patrol Bike Unit has made great strides since its inception in late October 2010. When Patrol Bike Unit (PBU) officers are deployed they maintain a visual presence, conduct parking and traffic enforcement and assist front line service units on calls.

PBU daily operations and deployments are directed by the work of the Crime Analysis Unit. Information we receive from the Crime Analysis Unit allows us to deploy our resources in the most effective and efficient way possible. As an example, the Crime Analysis Unit provides us with accurate bike v. motor vehicle crash data that is then used to direct and guide motor vehicle traffic enforcement to those areas experiencing the most crashes. Enforcement focuses on offenses that prove dangerous to bicyclists and others sharing the road.

Beginning this past spring, the PBU has been involved in three special assignments of note. In April the PBU participated in a joint safety awareness program with the Boston University Police and the Boston Police bike units on Commonwealth Ave. During the Boston Marathon, we assigned two PBU officers to work with BUPD to assist with crowd control in the lower Beacon St area where issues arose in the past with rowdy students. In May, the PBU participated in the Brookline Bikes Brookline bike parade which began at Amory Park, traveled the length of Beacon St. ending back at Amory Park.

In September of this year, the PBU will be deployed on Friday and Saturday nights to assist in issues pertaining to noise complaints on the northside of Brookline. These deployments may also be in conjunction with BUPD. The details are currently being worked out.

Since February 2011, the Patrol Bike Unit has been deployed 136 times for a total of 1088 hours. During that time 827 violations were recorded which include parking tickets, moving violations, field interviews and bicycle violations.

The Brookline Police Department believes that the education and enforcement of traffic laws for both bicyclists and motorists is critical to improving bicycle safety and enjoyment. In order to provide a safe environment for bicyclists in the town of Brookline, the BPD implemented a Bicycle Enforcement Program in late June of this year. The Bicycle Enforcement Program includes the use of educational programs coupled with well targeted enforcement of traffic laws specific to bicycle safety.

The Patrol Division, in addition to the Patrol Bike Unit, have made a concerted effort to enforce bike laws. From June 30th until August 8th, a total of 1,351 violations were issued, mostly verbal warnings accompanied by an educational handout to the cyclists. These violations were a result of over 115 hours of directed work and 462 instances of enforcement.