

COMMENDING SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE

The members of the Newport Police Department strive to provide the best fair and impartial police service possible. Chief Gary Silva would like to be notified of exceptional service provided by any member of the Newport Police Department. The best way to commend the actions of a Newport Police Department employee is to write a letter describing the incident and the actions that you thought were exceptional. Information such as the date, time, and location will help to identify the employee if you do not know his or her name. If you choose not to write, you may ask to speak with the employee's supervisor and make a verbal commendation.

Commendations received by the Chief of Police are forwarded to the employee with a copy placed in his or her personnel file. Although our employees do not expect to be thanked for everything they do, recognition of exceptional service is always appreciated. Feedback like this lets us know if we are doing a good job.

The Newport Police Department is committed to providing the best service possible. Citizen comments are important in helping us achieve this goal. Any recommendations or suggestions on how to improve police service are welcome. Please direct all comments to:

Chief of Police Gary T. Silva
Newport Police Department
120 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

ABOUT THE NEWPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Newport Police Department has been providing police services to the community for more than 100 years. The Department ascribes to traditional values of honest, dedicated public service while pursuing the most efficient and effective means of satisfying the broad array of demands emanating from a modern and dynamic municipal environment. The Department takes pride in the leadership role it has demonstrated locally and on the national level. The Department has received national acclaim for its Community Oriented Policing pilot program. Through a series of lectures and seminars, Department representatives have been sharing the successes borne from this program with other police agencies throughout New England and on the East Coast.

The efficient delivery of total police services is accomplished through a balanced effort involving three distinct but coordinated Department divisions. The Uniform Patrol Division provides front line police services and is the most visible component of the police department. The division provides first-response to emergencies as well as engaging in preventive patrol activities. The Criminal Investigative Division provides follow-up investigative work on reports of criminal activity. The division corroborates initial crime information and coordinates police investigative work for presentation in court. The Administrative Services Division provides an array of support services sustaining and complementing the front line and investigative follow-up functions.

As a means of maintaining high quality service and a healthy relationship with the community, the Newport Police Department encourages recommendations from the public on ways to improve our services, welcomes commendations of our personnel, and encourages inquiries and complaints about questionable performance, actions, policies, or procedures.

Citizen Guide to Making Commendations, Inquiries & Complaints



Mission Statement:

The mission of the Newport Police Department is to provide excellence in police service through aggressive pursuit of violators of the law and the prevention of crime and disorderliness. This is accomplished by forging a partnership with the citizenry of Newport to enhance the quality of life, reduce the fear of crime, preserve the peace, and impartially enforce the law, while maintaining a higher standard of integrity than is generally expected of others and respecting the dignity of each individual. Our services are rendered with courtesy, responsibility and in adherence to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.

Gary T. Silva
Chief of Police

MAKING AN INQUIRY OR COMPLAINT ABOUT A POLICE EMPLOYEE

An inquiry or complaint can be made by letter, email, telephone, fax or in person. Citizens may be required to complete a citizen's complaint form. Forms can be obtained at the police station, Newport City Hall main entrance information stand, or by visiting the police department web page at www.cityofnewport.com. At the request of citizens these forms may be mailed or faxed. No citizen will be denied an opportunity to file a verbal or written complaint concerning a department employee.

If an inquiry or complaint is based on a misunderstanding or a lack of knowledge, the employee may be asked to offer an explanation. If the complainant is not satisfied with the explanation given, the inquiry or complaint may be given further review.

In order for the Newport Police Department to adequately resolve any complaint or inquiry regarding a police employee, it would be helpful if the following details could be provided: the date, time, and location of the event, the names or badge numbers of the department personnel involved (or a description of them) and the name, address, and telephone numbers of any witnesses.

The Office of Professional Standards can be contacted at anytime during any investigation:

Captain Charles Silvia
Email: csilvia@cityofnewport.com
Office: 401-847-1302 Ext 5739
Fax: 401-846-3284

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INVESTIGATION PROCEDURE

If a citizen inquiry or complaint is about personnel, the Officer in Charge must be contacted. If the inquiry or complaint cannot be handled at that level, the supervisor will forward the complaint to the proper authority.

Once your inquiry or complaint is received, it will be thoroughly investigated by an officer designated by the Chief of Police. The investigation may include a review of all applicable reports, policies and procedures, examination of any evidence or medical records, and interviews with all parties and witnesses. A simple inquiry or complaint may take a few days to complete or may take a substantial period of time longer to investigate and review.

FINDINGS

At the conclusion of an internal investigation resulting from a citizen complaint, the complainant will receive written notification of the findings. There are five potential findings:

1. **Unfounded:** The investigation determined that the act or acts complained of did not occur.
2. **Exonerated:** Acts did occur, but were justified, lawful, and proper under the circumstances.
3. **Not Sustained:** The investigation fails to discover sufficient facts to clearly prove or disprove the allegations made in the complaint.
4. **Sustained:** The investigation disclosed sufficient facts to clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.
5. **Not Involved:** The investigation establishes that the individual subject of the complaint was not involved in the incident.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

The Newport Police Department recognizes that police officers and private citizens working together can solve community problems related to crime, the fear of crime, social disorder, and neighborhood decay. This belief requires that the Newport Police Department develop a partnership relationship with the law abiding people of the community, allowing them a voice in setting police priorities and involving them in efforts to improve the overall quality of life in their neighborhoods. This philosophy is designed to shift the focus of traditional police efforts from random response of symptomatic issues, to one of solving identified problems that are the root causes of crime and disorder.

The Newport Police Department is committed to fair and impartial policing in its efforts of achieving goals to provide a safe community.

If you have any questions or suggestions about a complaint or any specific action by a department employee, you can contact Chief Gary Silva by the following means:

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Newport Police Department
120 Broadway
Newport, RI 02840

