



New Britain Police Department

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WILLIAM L. GAGLIARDI

Chief of Police

January 13, 2009

Lisa Secondo, Policy and Planning Manager
Criminal Justice Policy and Planning Division
State Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Secondo:

The New Britain Police Department used STOP VAW funding to create a Domestic Crimes Unit that is focused on working with the Prudence Crandall Center Advocate and the Domestic Crimes Prosecutor to create a unified and consistent approach to domestic crimes cases.

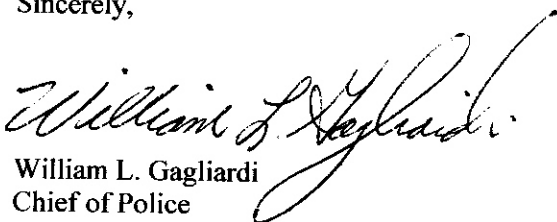
Officers in the Domestic Crimes Unit have brought new recommendations on bond setting to our supervisors based on discussions with the assigned prosecutor who works directly with our unit. The officers have extensive contact with people and know them and their families. This has made our work more personal in nature and less threatening for victims. Confidence and discussions have made our relationships better and the public has more confidence in the system's ability to work for them.

The police made 204 arrests on warrants for domestic violence in calendar year 2008. We received 2,793 domestic violence complaints as a department. We coordinated our efforts with the Prudence Crandall Center and we utilized our Department Advocate to provide direct services to the victims.

A major improvement in our relationship with the court prosecutor and Family relations has helped us understand ways we can work together while maintaining our independence. This allows confidentiality to work for the victims as opposed to a barrier to effective communication.

A supervisor and four officers were assigned to a Domestic Violence Unit. They have a room to meet and conduct interviews within the Police Department. The unit is stable and works flexible hours weekly. They really have become more expert at understanding the system and their counterparts. They share this information and their positive experiences with other officers informally as well as formally and this has added to our overall ability to deal with the issue. We are now purchasing cameras for 35 police units to document injuries and the interior of homes where domestic crimes occur. This funding is essential because none of the above listed programs or coordination with the Courts and advocates would be operating as effectively as it does currently.

Sincerely,



William L. Gagliardi
Chief of Police

"New Britain: A City for All People"