



DANIEL C. O'LEARY  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# BROOKLINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Brookline, Massachusetts*

August 29, 2017

Personnel Order 2017-67

**Subject: Commendations for Excellent Police Work**

**Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell**  
**Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy**

On Saturday, March 25, 2017 a bank robbery occurred at the Santander Bank at 552 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston. On the same date, an informational flier was distributed by the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) which showed the suspect depicted in the robbery. The subject was wearing a black puffy jacket, a winter hat/mask covering a portion of his face, sunglasses and wearing purple latex gloves. The suspect threatened use of a firearm and received several thousand dollars in the robbery. Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell reviewed the flyer as it was disseminated and took note of the suspect's appearance. On March 27, 2017, additional information was disseminated by the BRIC on the same incident and further reported "a similarly dressed suspect is seen fleeing to a black Ford Fusion parked on Beacon Street behind Hotel Buckminster".

On March 28, 2017, Detective Sergeant McDonnell was in the area of Washington Street and Dudley Street in Roxbury after just making an on-site arrest of a subject wanted by the Brookline Police Department out of Norfolk Superior Court. While en-route to the Boston Police Department's Area B-2 Station for courtesy booking on the arrest, Detective Sergeant McDonnell stopped for a traffic signal at Washington Street and Dudley Street and observed a black Ford Fusion being operated by a male with consistent facial features as the suspect depicted in the BRIC flyer from the bank robbery. In particular the facial hair was a close fit as well as the vehicle description matching that of the information shown in the BRIC supplement.



Detective Sergeant McDonnell notified officers assigned to the Bank Robbery Task Force and maintained surveillance of the vehicle/operator. During his surveillance the subject appeared to be casing a bank in the area. The vehicle's owner was found to have a lengthy criminal record including armed robberies and bank robberies and was currently on Federal Probation for bank robbery.

The above information was provided to the Bank Robbery Task Force. On April 8, 2017, the subject was surveilled with the assistance of Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell in the Town of Brookline. He was observed stopping at a commercial building in Brookline while driving a Black Ford Fusion. Detective Sergeant McDonnell then assigned Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy to meet with the building manager of the commercial building to review past surveillance video. Patrol Officer Sheehy recovered surveillance video which showed the suspect to be wearing the same distinct jacket with unique markings within minutes of robbing the bank in Boston on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Still photos of all video evidence were created and sent to the Bank Robbery Task Force eventually leading to a Federal Arrest warrant for Bank Robbery being issued on May 24, 2017. The individual was arrested on May 25, 2017 outside of his residence in Haverhill, MA.

This case is an example of the type of police work both Detective Sergeant McDonnell and Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy perform on a daily basis. The work of both Officers showed a lot of initiative, awareness of recent crimes, teamwork both within and outside of our Department and the value of establishing relationships with other agencies as well as with members of the Brookline Community. In large part, because of the work ethic of these Officers, a dangerous criminal was identified, taken into custody and is currently in jail awaiting trial. This subject spent a lot of time in Brookline and there is no doubt that he was likely targeting Brookline banks for future crimes.

Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell will be awarded a Certificate of Commendation and a Letter of Commendation. Patrol Officer Brian Sheehy will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

**Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell**  
**Detective Patrick Mahoney**

On March 27, 2017, at approximately 12:16pm officers responded to 1016 Beacon Street, for a bank robbery. Brookline Dispatch gave out additional information that a tracking device had been deployed with some of the money given to the suspect during the robbery.

Detective Sergeant McDonnell responded to the bank and spoke to the branch manager. The manager was already reviewing surveillance images from a bank representative. The manager confirmed the individual depicted in one of the videos was the suspect in question. Additional officers met with the manager of Dunkin Donuts, 1008 Beacon Street, and began a review of the video surveillance from that



store. The robbery suspect entered Dunkin Donuts at 12:06pm and appears to be conversing with a female subject while in the store.

Officers then went to 1180 Beacon Street under the direction of Detective Sergeant McDonnell where they were able to learn that the female from the store video was a patient of the methadone clinic at 1180 Beacon Street.

With the photograph's provided, Detective Sergeant McDonnell and Detective Mahoney were able to identify the suspect of the bank robbery through an exhaustive investigation over the course of seven days which lead to the arrest of the suspect on April 4, 2017. The male subject has an extensive criminal history and was recently released from prison after serving time for a prior bank robbery. Detective Sergeant McDonnell and Detective Mahoney were able to establish a rapport with the families of both the male and female subjects which enabled them to gather additional key information which added to their development of probable cause in the case.

Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell and Detective Patrick Mahoney spent a lot of investigative time on this case. Because of their ability to develop potential leads and follow them through, they were able to build a solid case and arrest the person responsible for committing this bank robbery. Because of the excellent work both Detectives put into this case, both Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell and Detective Patrick Mahoney will be awarded a Certificate of Commendation as well as a Letter of Commendation.

**Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell**  
**Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola**

In May 2016 on two consecutive Saturday's a Harvard Street business was the scene of shoplifting incident. On both occasions the same male suspect was observed on video as was his vehicle. The video of the male and his vehicle (gray Honda Accord) was very good however one was unable to discern the registration number on the vehicle. The suspect stole \$400 of merchandise the first time and \$300 the second. Fliers were distributed in both cases via email to our officers and regionally through the BRIC. These cases remained open.

In May 2017 Sergeant Detective McDonnell redistributed the fliers requesting special attention to the business noting "on the slim chance this guy was stealing toys for birthdays". Later in the month Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola patrolling sector two took notice of a gray Honda Accord exiting the parking lot of a Harvard Street business. Patrol Officer Amendola was the initial reporting officer in the first incident from May 2016. Having recently reviewed the fliers from Sergeant Detective McDonnell he recorded the registration number. He later researched the vehicle and obtained a photo of the registered owner which revealed a strong resemblance to the suspect in both incidents from May 2016. Patrol Officer Amendola forwarded this information to the case detectives.



Upon receiving this new information, members of the Detective Division began a follow up. As part of their follow up investigation they contacted the owner of the vehicle and he agreed to come to the Police Station for an interview. During this interview, the subject acknowledged that he was the person depicted in the photos from May of 2016. He also admitted to the two shoplifting incidents and that he was a compulsive shoplifter. He was subsequently charged for these offenses.

Because of the efforts of both Detective Sergeant Matthew McDonnell and Patrol Officer Joseph Amendola, two crimes were brought to a successful conclusion a year later after they had been committed. The actions of these Officers displayed great perseverance, awareness and work ethic. Patrol Officer Amendola will be awarded both a Letter of Commendation as well as a Certificate of Commendation and Detective Sergeant McDonnell will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.

### **Patrol Officer Duane Danforth**

On May 31, 2017 Patrol Officer Duane Danforth was assigned to our sector 1 area. This patrol area borders the Allston/Brighton section of Boston and is designated Boston's District 14. During his work shift Patrol Officer Danforth regularly monitors Boston's District 14 radio channel. At one point members of the Boston Police Department requested assistance in stopping a motor vehicle that was heading towards Brookline. The Boston Police were conducting an investigation and the occupants of this vehicle were observed to have been involved in a transaction while parked at a known drug dealer's residence. Patrol Officer Danforth located this vehicle at the intersection of Commonwealth Avenue and Saint Paul Street. A stop of the vehicle was made and the two occupants were identified as members of a violent street gang. Subsequent to this stop, both subjects were placed under arrest and the vehicle searched. During a search of the truck, a loaded firearm was recovered. Both subjects, who have lengthy criminal records, were subsequently charged with various crimes related to the Boston investigation.

This case is but one example of P.O. Danforth's professionalism and dedication to duty. His willingness to keep informed of police related matters that may impact Brookline was essential to making this stop of a wanted vehicle. Because of his actions, Patrol Officer Duane Danforth will be awarded a Letter of Commendation.



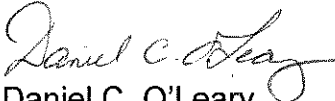
**Sergeant Russell O'Neill**  
**Patrol Officer Daniel Avila**  
**Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson**  
**Patrol Officer Daniel Yanez**

On June 7, 2017, our Dispatch Center received a call from a person in the area of the Arbor House 227 Babcock St reporting that he had observed an individual on the roof of the building. As our Dispatchers sent the call out to our Officers, another call was received from a staff member of the Arbor House who reported that a patient had eloped from the facility. Patrol Officers Daniel Avila and Daniel Yanez were the first to arrive at this address. From their observations, these officers determined that the male patient was standing on the edge of the roof and was getting ready to jump in an attempt to commit suicide. Sergeant Russell O'Neill arrived, took command of the incident, and directed other Officers to block off the area while clearing bystanders out of the way. Officers Avila and Yanez began to engage the patient in conversation. The patient did not respond to their efforts but the two Officers continued to speak in an effort to have the person begin a dialogue with them. After a short period of time, Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson gained access to the roof area. Once on the roof, P.O. Stephenson introduced himself to the patient in crisis and asked if he could approach him in order to speak with him. The patient agreed and P.O. Stephenson began a conversation and eventually asked the patient to move away from the edge. The patient walked over to P.O. Stephenson and voluntarily came off the roof. Once inside the facility, P.O. Stephenson spent about 45 minutes talking to him and assisted him in making telephone contact with his family. In consultation with staff members, it was determined that the best course of action would be that the patient should stay at the Arbor House. Before he cleared the scene, P.O. Stephenson also advised the staff on the best manner in which to secure the roof access.

This case illustrates the level of care and compassion our Officers have when dealing with individuals in need. Through their joint efforts, a person was voluntarily removed from a life threatening situation and into an environment where he would continue to receive the care he needs. For the manner in which they worked to safely resolve this situation, Sergeant Russell O'Neill, Patrol Officer Daniel Avila, Patrol Officer Timothy Stephenson and Patrol Officer Daniel Yanez will all receive a Letter of Commendation.

The above cases represent the quality of work that is performed on a regular basis by our officers. It is my honor to acknowledge their efforts to make Brookline a safe community.

DCO/kms

  
Daniel C. O'Leary  
Chief of Police

