



# Department of Police



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Chief of Police

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Citizens of Meriden,

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I have been contacted by the Record Journal and asked to respond to this issue. I am continuing with my practice of responding to the local newspaper via our Facebook Page and P2C website to insure that accurate and complete information is conveyed to our citizens. Once again, this information is free of opinions and agendas generated by the local media. It is communication from your police department to our citizens in its purest form.

In December of 2014, a sum of money and checks were discovered within the desk of a Records Clerk. The clerk was placed on Administrative Leave and an investigation was conducted. The investigation revealed that checks and cash from permits and parking tickets were not properly processed in a timely manner as required by City Policy. The clerk was a 52-year employee who decided to retire prior to a disciplinary hearing.

Over the last 8 years, we have downsized many of the administrative areas of the Police Department. In 2007, we had 4 Records Clerks and 1 Records Supervisor who was solely responsible for the supervision of the Records Division. In September of 2007 the Records Supervisor retired and was not replaced with a full time supervisor. This \$ 70,000 a year salaried position remained vacant until October of 2014 and the position was redirected into the Patrol Division, saving over \$ 200,000 in overtime replacement over the 7-year period. The Records Division was being supervised on a part time basis, as a collateral assignment by a Lieutenant during this 7-year period.

In July of 2014, the Records Clerk positions were downsized from 4 to 3 clerks. The Records Division Staff was reduced from 5 (including the Supervisor) to 3. In October of 2014, I determined that the Records Division needed more personnel from within the police department. I reassigned a Lieutenant to the Records Division as the Records Division Supervisor. Shortly after that assignment, the cash and checks were discovered within the Records Clerk's desk. There was no proof of criminal activity. The clerk apparently became overwhelmed with the volume of work and chose to place the work in her desk rather than report her work falling behind.

After the checks and cash were discovered, the Finance Department was contacted and audited the funds and gave recommendations regarding procedures for processing accounts receivable. These procedures have since been implemented.

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