



Community First

*City of Granite Falls
In Partnership With
Snohomish County
Sheriff's Office*



Sheriff Ty Trenary

City Manager Brent Kirk

Police Report for August 3rd, 2016

A Fond Farewell

On March 3rd, 2015, I was selected as your Police Chief. Since March, I have worked hard to establish trust, professionalism, reliability, integrity, commitment, pride and transparency in our community. To help establish our goals, I worked closely with the Granite Falls School District Administrative Staff to develop programs and solutions within the schools; I regularly attended the Community Coalition, Pilchuck Foundation and Key Community Group meetings, and worked arm-and-arm with our community and business leaders to both identify and provide solutions to both regional and community issues.

In March, 2015, I met with past Mayor Joshua Golston to discuss his desire to stop the public's perception of an unsafe community in Granite Falls. Mayor Golston expressed his passion for our community; and he stated that he wanted to be able to walk with his girls to our city parks without feeling the need to bring a gun. I told Mayor Golston that it might be expensive. Mayor Golston stated that the city was ready to spend the money if positive results could be achieved.

From statistical data, it appeared that we needed a strong and impartial approach to enforcing laws in our community. After doing several weeks of research, I adopted the "Broken Windows" theory of enforcement. In an effort to implement those tactics, I needed deputies to remain in the city to both deter and enforce crime; I needed to reduce increased court fees and incarcerations costs due to the implementation of those tactics; I needed comprehensive monthly statistical data to check and verify our efforts; and I needed to develop several city ordinances as a tool to help reach our goal.

On or about April 15th I directed Granite Falls Police units to engage in foot patrols in high crime areas. I worked with community and business leaders to adopt and endorse my directives-including trespassing habitual offenders from targeted businesses. Through social media, news periodicals and community meetings I ran an exhaustive social media campaign to change our communities perception and gain acceptance of our tactics.

By May I had signed an inter-local agreement with Yakima County to move incarcerated misdemeanants to the Yakima County Jail to reduce jail costs.

By June, I interviewed Everett Police Chief Dan Templeman, Arlington Public Safety Director Bruce Steadman and Snohomish Police Chief John Flood in an effort to develop ordinances that would be light enough to prevent a constitutional challenge, but strong enough to enforce and halt a growing issue of vagrancy, aggressive panhandling and illegal camping in our parks. By the end of June, I worked with the Granite Falls legal group and co-wrote ordinances for

Illegal Camping and Vehicular and Pedestrian Interference (aggressive panhandling) which I then proposed to and gained unanimous acceptance by the City Council and community.

By October, the public perception had changed tremendously and our statistics backed up that change. Our response times to emergency calls went down on average from 8.5 minutes to under 1.5 minutes; we stayed within our jail budget; we ran, and continue to run, an exhaustive social media campaign; we were the most frugal contract city, in terms of employee overtime expenditures, in the Sheriff's Office contract city partnerships; and we significantly reduced both major and minor crimes in the City.

Today, our community is safe, our businesses are thriving and our parks are filled with kids. About this same time last year, we had drug addicts sleeping in our parks, harassing business patrons and doing open hand-to-hand drug deals on our main street, around our public restrooms and in several businesses. WE, all of us, have made a difference!

As my chief tenure comes to an end, I'm excited for the future of Granite Falls. With aggressive but conservative values, my replacement, Chief Brian Fenske, will carry that torch as Granite Falls grows and prospers. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the commitment and dedication that city manager Brent Kirk has given me in this past year and a half. Without his support, we would not have been able to obtain the results we've seen this past year. Further, I would like to thank my boss and secretary, Carol Bello, for putting up with me (even when I came to work sick), always working hard and for being there to smile and to tell me that we're doing a good job...and that we're on the right track. Lastly, I'd like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the officers assigned to Granite Falls. These men are the backbone of our agency and, without them, none of our successes would or could have been possible. Without their hard work, dedication and support, I, we, would not have been successful... and I truly appreciate every one of them!

Again, I would like to thank the City Council, City employees and citizens of Granite Falls for welcoming me into the community and for making my tenure as chief one of the best experiences in my career. As Chief Bowman stated, "This is the best job in the Sheriff's Office."

Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Scott Robertson

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