

From: Steven B. Carl [SBC@framinghamma.gov]

Wed 04/26/2006 11:23 AM

I bolded some changes in the narrative

The entire section related to the Population being served by the agencies is below: I only detailed the section pertaining to you as well as other sections in our report that include you.

Laurie

The Population Being Served in Framingham

Origin of the Clients Served

Client Origin Information from Agencies

Client Origin Information from the State

Observations from Framingham Police Chief Carl

Observations from Framingham Police Chief Carl

The PILOT committee held several meetings with Police Chief Carl and **OFFICER** Chris Murtaugh.

In these meetings, Chief Carl said that clients of the **SHELTER**::

“Are coming from other large urban areas, being imported: Newton, Brockton, Boston, Fall River, New Bedford, Barnstable, Chicopee, Chelsea, and Fitchburg. **MANY** have long violent criminal records and they are coming here for the [wet] shelter. They have no other connections to the town of Framingham.”

“People are being released from prison by the department of correction and being brought into our community because there are social services agencies here that serve them in the community. “

Chief Carl recalled that in times past, Framingham had very few homeless. He said:

“you never saw shopping carts in Framingham 10 years ago. As the social service providers who are specialists in providing shelters took over from the Church **the number of homeless persons increased.**”

Chief Carl’s professional observations are supported by studies conducted by and for the Commonwealth. In a study conducted by the Department of Mental Health, Transitional Planning to Prevent Homelessness^{[11](#)},

“Over the past two decades DMH has developed more than 3,000 units of housing and expanded services for the people we serve”

Focusing on “what works in Metro Boston”, they state that: “2/3 to 3/4 of the MA homeless population lives in Metro Boston”, and that:

“in the past 16 years Metro Boston has leveraged over \$67M from a wide variety of non-DMH sources to create an additional 1,652 beds, bringing the total today to 2,121 (not including 165 transitional shelter beds).”

This is a growth of 350%.

The primary source^[2] of information in this DMH study notes that only 2% of the population of homeless individuals currently living in the shelter system reported Framingham as their prior residence, while 48% came from Boston, 23% came from Dorchester and 19% came from Cambridge.

Impact on the Framingham Police Department

Specific client information and cost data was not available from the Framingham Police Department that would have enabled us to tabulate the costs associated with the social service agencies. However, we were able to determine specific impacts on the Police Department.

Chief Carl's main concern, and most of his statistics, focuses on crime, and related issues in downtown Framingham. A significant part, though not all, of his efforts originate from the wet shelter. Chief Carl was very clear that his department, by virtue of who they are, deals with the failures of the system. They do not see the successes. Referring to the wet shelter Chief Carl said that he does not think the shelter was opened to hurt people. "It was opened to help people. But there is a dark side to everything that happens. The dark side to the shelter **is its negative** impact on crime, **disorder and fear of crime** and in the town."

According to Chief Carl, the newest problem facing the police department and the community is that homeless individuals leave the shelter during the day when it is closed, and then go spend the **day in the library, or wandering the downtown streets** until the shelter opens up again. This behavior is having serious impacts on the library, its employees and residents using the library services.

In November 2005 Framingham's Police Chief Carl made a presentation to the Board of Selectman and presented the following facts:

- 40% of the arrests in Framingham occur in 1 square mile of downtown
- Between 2001-2005 9% -16% of arrests were homeless individuals
- Between 2000-2005 the increase in listing of the wet shelter as home address was 600%
- 70% of the clients at the wet shelter are from outside Framingham

The Police Department defines "1 square mile of downtown" with the following map:



An analysis of the home addresses^[3] of those arrested in Framingham, as tabulated from the MWDN and the Tab, for the eight months 7/2005-3/2006 shows that:

- There were 721 arrests due to Framingham residents
- 15% had the wet shelter listed as their home address
- 40% were living within the Police defined “square mile”

The police department also feels the impact of people being released from prison by the department of correction and being brought into our community because of the abundant social services programs available here.

This is also a major concern to many members of the PILOT committee.

The Department of Corrections and the MA Parole Board have instituted new programs for the reentry of the prisoner population into communities.^[4] These initiatives include Re-Entry Housing Programs^[5] and VOI/TS or Violent Offender Incarceration/Truth in Sentencing which provide transitional housing, supportive services and permanent housing options.

We are aware of five programs in Framingham assisting in the re-entry of the prisoner population, run by several non-profit social service agencies. These programs are funded by the Department of Correction and the Parole Board. One contract focuses on finding housing for difficult to house persons as described in the contract application:

“Housing Specialists have also developed creative housing search techniques to address high risk, difficult to place offender subgroups, for example arsonists and sex offenders. Housing Specialists were forced to develop these techniques for these specific subgroups when the ADA and advocacy were either unsuccessful or not pertinent to the offender’s case. In specific cases, Housing Specialists turn to non-traditional housing venues as a viable alternative for offenders.

Private SRO’s and rooming houses where C.O.R.I. checks are not required are an enormous resource for placing there specific populations. With public safety in mind, staff target housing that is appropriate to the risk factors associated with each individual being served.”

As part of this initiative, 8 regional re-entry centers were established with Framingham home to one of them serving the following communities:

| | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Acton | Arlington | Ashland | Ayer | Bedford |
| Bellingham | Belmont | Boxborough | Burlington | Carlisle |
| Concord | Dedham | Dover | Foxborough | Framingham |
| Franklin | Holliston | Hopkinton | Hudson | Lexington |
| Lincoln | Littleton | Marlborough | Maynard | Medfield |
| Medford | Medway | Millis | Natick | Needham |
| Newton | Norfolk | Norwood | Plainville | Sherborn |
| Shirley | Stow | Sudbury | Walpole | Waltham |
| Watertown | Wayland | Wellesley | Weston | Westwood |
| Wilkinsonville | Winchester | Woburn | Wrentham | |

As described by the Massachusetts Department of Correction^[6] and the Parole Board^[7], the regional reentry centers “serve as the nucleus of reentry services for all state offenders released from a correctional facility.

These centers will be operated in our existing community based field operations in Mattapan, Quincy, Brockton, New Bedford, Framingham, Lawrence, Worcester, and Springfield”.

Certainly from the State’s point of view, “solid practices and policies addressing the reintegration of offenders make sense from both a public safety point of view as well as a fiscal one”. However the DOC also states that, “given the high recidivism rates of inmates returning home, the number of new victims also increases as does the cost to the community.”

As Chief Carl notes, Framingham should be concerned about the magnitude of these costs. However, neither the state nor the agencies would provide the committee with the actual number of prisoners released into our community.

Mr. Horne from Genesis counseling informed our committee that recidivism rates are approximately 50%. The state’s emphasis on releasing prisoners to communities with a clear network of services that can be “wrapped around” them makes Framingham a particularly attractive venue for prisoner reentry programs. Given the high rates of re-offense, this is a significant personal concern to many of us on this committee.

Computer Aided Dispatch Calls (CAD)

The police department keeps a log of items, with details of type of situation that have been "cleared" or responded to. These are calls entered in a CAD database that generates the daily police log commonly referred to as calls for service. Such CAD calls may include

- Phone calls from public
- Call ins from the Police via radio
- Call ins for Accidents
- Walk-ins requesting police services that result in a "call for service" designation.

I made the changes. I dropped the statement about the motor vehicle calls and put in the correct call count. We thought there were quite a few accident calls in the 40,000+ number, but I can leave that off.

Thank you so much. You have been a tremendous help.
Laurie

From: Steven B. Carl [SBC@framinghamma.gov] Wed 04/26/2006 11:58 AM

[approx 1,800](#)

From: Laurie Lee [mailto:laurie@leesix.com]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2006 4:09 PM
To: Steven B. Carl
Subject: a section I missed

I missed this section in the previous email. While it is not a direct quote, I want to make sure it is ok to use.

I think that is it. Thanks

Laurie

From: Steven B. Carl [SBC@framinghamma.gov] Mon 05/01/2006 8:00 AM

Under Benefits to Framingham:

Police Chief Carl told our committee that he has no doubt that some Framingham residents need and utilize local social services, and that it is a benefit to have them easily available.

He also explained that his department will use the wet shelter as a place to bring people who are **HOMELESS**, visibly intoxicated or **UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF** drugs, rather than keeping them in a jail cell in the police department. One of the benefits he highlighted is the reduction in liability for the department and the town should anything happen to an individual under his care.