

HPD CompStat meeting in Asylum Hill

In an effort to connect more fully with the community that they protect and serve, the Hartford Police Dept. has begun to move their monthly CompStat meetings from the Police headquarters at 253 High St into the neighborhoods.

For June they chose Asylum Hill and the venue for the monthly AHNA meetings, the 224 EcoSpace on Farmington Ave. If you have never attended a Comstat meeting, you



should. The level of detail and the effort that goes into protecting Hartford is impressive. According to Wikipedia CompStat is “(short for COMPare STATistics, which was the computer file name of the original program)—[is] a combination of management, philosophy, and organizational management tools for police departments. It is named after the New York City Police Department's accountability process and has since been implemented by many other police departments, both in the United States and abroad.” HPD has been using this tool and process for more than a decade. It allows them to have the resources necessary in place to deal with potential problems and to detect trends as they develop. In a manner of speaking, it allows a 400-man force to do what a 500-man force might have done in the past.

Last year at this time the overall year to date crimes reported was up 2.1%. This year they were pleased to report that it was down over 31%. In every category, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft; the comparison to 2018 was very positive. Only Murder was the same as 2018 all others were down by significant percentages.

The statistics are also reported by week and 28 day period to get a better idea of trends and are also reported by the four districts of the City; Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest. All of the various departments also report, including traffic, patrol, major crimes and intelligence. The organizational chart for HPD can be found at

<http://www.hartford.gov/images/police/PDFs/Department-Organizational-9-23-2018.pdf>

After all of the reports are given, the Interim Chief opened the floor for any of the guests present to ask questions, and there were several. Interim Chief Thody answered them clearly and with no hesitation.

For the average citizen, it's a window into the professionalism of our police dept. It's something every citizen in Hartford should experience at least once. Bringing these meetings out to the public once a month is a positive move in that direction. We all need to do our part and attend whenever possible. The next CompStat meeting will be held in the Northend at a location to be determined.