

## Police Officer Numbers Increasing

*Can Boston implement community policing in today's fiscal environment?*

With the graduation of a class of 58 new officers from the Police Academy on May 19<sup>th</sup>, the number of sworn officers has increased to their highest levels since 2003. Sworn officers, which include all levels of superior officers, patrolmen, and recent academy graduates (probationary officers), totaled 2,020 as of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. This level is 46 officers more than September 2005's number of 1,974, but 175 officers less than January 2000's high of 2,195. Total uniformed officers, including recruits, have increased by 77 since September 2005. A class of 72 recruits entered the Academy this spring. Those graduating will become sworn officers in October or November.

The number of sworn officers does not reflect all officers performing police services since about 10% of these officers are not available for full duty for a variety of reasons. Of the May sworn number of 2,020, only 1,815 were ready for duty since 205 officers were not available due to injury, extended sick leave or administrative leave, light duty, suspension or military duty.

The size of the two planned recruit classes in the FY07 police budget will be the central point of discussion between the City Council and Mayor before the budget is approved later this month. The Mayor has recommended two classes of 35 but the Councilors will push for larger classes. Merging the Municipal Police with the Police Department could add numbers but issues need to be resolved.

The broader issue that must be evaluated is whether in today's fiscal environment, Boston can achieve the police staffing levels required to fully implement the community policing model it has adopted? The full cost of a police officer is substantially greater than in earlier years when staffing levels were higher. This fiscal year, the Department will spend approximately \$35M on police overtime (\$21.5M budgeted) trying to implement the model and respond to youth violence. The Mayor should charge the next Police Commissioner with answering this question.

**Boston Police Department Strength 2000-2006**

Positions	1/00	1/02	1/03	1/04	9/05	1/06	5/06	Change 9/05-5/06
Superior Officers	687	703	674	610	607	612	610	3
Patrolman	1,508	1,415	1,458	1,378	1,367	1,395	1,410	43
<b>Sworn Officers</b>	<b>2,195</b>	<b>2,118</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>1,988</b>	<b>1,974</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>46</b>
Recruits	50	43	0	52	41	58	72	31
<b>Total Uniformed</b>	<b>2,245</b>	<b>2,161</b>	<b>2,132</b>	<b>2,040</b>	<b>2,015</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>2,092</b>	<b>77</b>
Change over prior date	3	(84)	(29)	(92)	(25)	50	27	