

June 2011

Boston Police Sworn Officer Levels Increase in 2011

First increase since 2007 is helped by federal COPS grant staffing requirement

The number of Boston's sworn police officers increased in June for the first time in 3½ years. That month, 64 recruits graduated from the Academy which produced an increase of 48 in the total sworn force. Also in June a new class of 45 recruits entered the Academy. The Boston Police Department (BPD) has not been immune from the City's tight fiscal situation lately, and over the last 3½ years, the Department's sworn force has decreased by 82 officers including June's increase of 48. A commitment by the City to maintain an officer level of 2,170 as a condition for receiving federal COPS funds is driving the recent increase.

The sworn force level of 2,136 in June represents the number of officers fully trained to perform the duties of a police officer and excludes recruits in the Academy or officers still in training.

The COPS grant enables the BPD to retain 50 officers who had been scheduled for layoffs in October 2009. The grant, which awarded Boston \$11.8M over three years, expires in September 2012. The federal staffing commitment does allow the City to count recruits in the Academy which would bring the number of total officers in June to 2,181. The BPD has applied for an additional federal grant that would add 18 police officers.

The decrease of 82 sworn officers in the past 3½ years reflects the 6.7% decrease in BPD spending authority from FY09 to FY12. The recently passed FY12 BPD budget decreased by \$1.6M or 0.6%. Other factors included a larger than normal number of retirements in the force, in part, due to the state's significant reduction in its share of Quinn Bill payments. Another class of recruits may start in December, if needed, to maintain the 2,170 level.

**BPD Sworn Officers and Recruits, Change Over Prior Year
CY05-CY11**

