

## Annual Report 2009-2010

The South Windsor Police Department was established in 1968 under the authority of Chapter 6, Section 601 of the Town Charter by Town Ordinance 62-31. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Police Department shall be responsible for the preservation of the public peace, prevention of crime, apprehension of criminals, regulation of traffic, protection of rights of persons and property and enforcement of the laws of the state and the ordinances of the Town and all rules and regulations made in accordance therewith. All members of the Police Department shall have the same powers and duties with respect to the service of criminal process and enforcement of criminal laws as are vested in police officers by the general statutes.

### Annual Statistics

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Total Calls for Service	31685	33233	40581	36210	35073
Traffic Accidents	473	451	438	459	582
Citations	3306	2839	3242	2838	2719
Medical Assist	1885	2028	1899	1922	1923
Animal	627	666	803	655	676
Alarms	1223	1333	1330	1161	1163
Criminal Arrests	820	852	822	900	861
Penal Code Offenses Reported (Title 53a)	1081	1317	1149	1120	1015
Penal Code Offenses Reported (Title 21a)	139	102	172	215	165
Burglary	141	167	129	156	122
Larceny	415	500	457	418	374
Domestic	210	239	243	263	241
Assault	33	31	27	27	21
Sexual Assault	10	14	6	15	12



Matthew Reed, then operations commander, briefs the media during the standoff.

The fiscal year began with an incident that received worldwide attention. On July 7, 2009, a man took his estranged wife hostage at the court house in Hartford. The man then forced the woman to

drive back to her Tumblebrook Drive, South Windsor home where he allegedly threatened to kill her.

The event lasted 12 hours as the man held police officers at bay with the threat of detonating explosives in and around the home. Police and fire personnel from around the



Firefighters watch the Tumblebrook Road home erupt in flames.

capitol region assisted with the event. The event ended shortly before midnight as the home was set ablaze. The home was destroyed but the suspect and his former wife were rescued without injury.

**Retirement**

On May 3, 2010, Chief Tyler informed the members of the department of his decision to retire. On May 4, 2010, the department issued the following news release.

**South Windsor’s Chief Tyler to Retire**



South Windsor Police Chief Gary K. Tyler announced today that he will step down from his position as police chief effective June 4, 2010, bringing to an end a law enforcement career of more than 47 years. Chief Tyler has led the South Windsor police department for the past 23 years. He was hired July 6, 1987, by then Town Manager Richard Sartor. Chief Tyler came to South Windsor from Forest Grove, Oregon where he served as Chief of Police from 1982-1987. Prior to his appointment in Forest Grove, Chief Tyler served as Chief of Police in Bonner Springs, Kansas from 1979-1982.

Chief Tyler began his law enforcement career in El Cerrito, California in 1963. The following year he moved to the Fremont, California police department where he rose to the rank of captain. He left Fremont for Bonner Springs, Kansas in 1979.



Lt. Rich Bond, Cpt. Tom Hart, Chief Tyler, Chief Reed, Lt. Tim Edwards and Lt. Richard Riggs after an awards ceremony in August, 2009.

During his time in South Windsor, Chief Tyler was responsible for a number of regional initiatives in attempt to streamline local police operations and realize the efficiencies of sharing services across town lines. Among Chief Tyler’s successful regional programs are the Capitol Region Investigative Support Team (CRIST), Metro Traffic Services (MTS) and the Capitol Region Emergency Services Team (CREST). All three teams remain active today providing regional police services to the capitol region.



Chief Gary Tyler, 2003.

One area the Chief continues to promote for regionalization is animal control. For more than a decade Chief Tyler has worked to convince surrounding communities to build a regional animal control facility. A recent accomplishment for which the Chief maintains much pride is the development and construction of the South Windsor Bark Park. The off-leash park, located in Nevers Road Park, opened in November 2007.

Throughout his tenure as South Windsor’s third police chief, Chief Tyler has enhanced the agency’s training programs to ensure that South Windsor’s police officers are among the best trained in the

region. Chief Tyler has focused his efforts on developing his staff and allowing officers to rotate through various assignments thus exposing them to the many facets of policing.

This has provided officers the experience needed to prepare for and take on leadership responsibilities in the agency. In a department meeting Monday, the Chief told members of the department of his plans to retire. “I’ve worked in five different police departments during my forty-seven year career and I have never worked with a more caring, committed, competent and enjoyable group of people,” said Tyler as he stood along side his wife, Virginia. Tyler continued saying, “We are fortunate here in South Windsor. We have a Town Manager that understands the benefits of a professional, well trained police force. I have worked for eleven town managers during my career and Matt Galligan is clearly the best at what he does.”



Chief Gary Tyler at the opening of the Bark Park in November 2007.



Chief Tyler and Chief Reed during an evening of recognition by the Town Council on May 17, 2010.

Chief Tyler’s retirement plans include travel and taking the time to enjoy the company of his wife, children and grandchildren. Chief Tyler’s last day of work is scheduled for Friday, May 28, 2010. During Monday’s meeting, Chief Tyler announced that Matthew Reed, a 23-year veteran of the department who currently serves as the operations commander, will succeed him as Chief of Police.

During a retirement ceremony before the Town Council on May 17, 2010, the following citation was awarded to Chief Tyler. At that time Chief Tyler was bestowed with the prestigious title of Chief Emeritus

*Gary K. Tyler was appointed Chief of Police of the South Windsor Police Department on July 6, 1987;*

*Chief Tyler has served the citizens of South Windsor with honor, efficiency and fidelity for the past 23 years;*

*Chief Tyler began his law enforcement career in 1963 as an officer with the El Cerrito, California police department. In 1964 he moved to the Fremont, California police department where he served for fourteen years rising to the rank of captain.*

*In 1979 he was appointed Chief of the Bonner Springs, Kansas police department serving there for the following three years,*

*In 1982 Chief Tyler was appointed Chief of the Forest Grove, Oregon police department where he served for five years until his appointment as South Windsor's third Chief of Police,*

*Chief Tyler's forty-seven year career as a professional law enforcement officer is exemplary and worthy of emulation*

*Chief Tyler will retire from service effective June 4, 2010*

*Now therefore be it resolved that I, John Pelkey, Mayor of the Town of South Windsor, in recognition of his life long commitment to public service and his twenty-three year commitment to the citizens of South Windsor, do hereby bestow upon Chief Gary K. Tyler the title of Chief Emeritus of the South Windsor Police Department. On behalf of the members of the Town Council and the people of South Windsor I congratulate him and wish him happiness in retirement.*



Chief Tyler and some members of the police department the evening of Chief Reed's swearing in on May 17, 2010. Back row: Chief Bruno Giulini (Groton City PD former SW Deputy Chief), Lt. Rich Bond, Sgt. Dan Martin, Lt. Richard Riggs, Chief Tyler, Chief Reed, Ofc. Tim Hankard, Agt. Mike Thompson, Lt. Tim Edwards, Sgt. Scott Custer, CSO Mike Kowalczyk, Sgt. Tom Field, Cpt. Tom Hart. Front row: Agt. Mike Russotto, Ofc. Dave Gesualdi, Ofc. Steve Hoover, Ofc. Mark Halibozek, Sgt. Mike Dobler, CSO Robin Bond.

The members of the South Windsor Police Department are indebted to Chief Tyler for his years of dedication and leadership to the department. We wish him and his wife Virginia well as they enjoy each other in the years ahead.

Our department will continue to strive for excellence. We pride ourselves in our community involvement and never-ending pursuit of customer satisfaction.

Law Enforcement is everybody's business.

*Matthew D. Reed*  
*Chief of Police*