

Boston Sworn Police Officers Trend Upward

Class of 82 graduates boosts uniformed ranks

On May 24th, 82 recruits graduated from the Boston Police Academy, raising the ranks of sworn officers to 2,131. This is the highest level of sworn officers since the force totaled 2,138 in January 2003. Sworn officers include all officers who have graduated from the Police Academy and do not include recruits.

This most recent class of officers continues the City's efforts to build up the police force over attrition. In 2006, two classes graduated, adding 118 officers to the force. In January 2007, the police force was further increased by the transfer of 33 Municipal Officers upon the dissolution of the Boston Municipal Police Force. This increase of 151 new officers, prior to the graduation of the most recent class, was partially offset by the attrition of 114 officers from January 2006 through May 31, 2007.

The FY08 budget plans for additional officers. A class of new recruits will begin their training at the Police Academy on June 25 and will graduate in December. A class of officers who

transferred laterally into the Boston Police Department from other Massachusetts police departments will begin at the Police Academy on July 9 and will graduate in August. These two classes combined are expected to yield approximately 130 officers. The City projects that this will bring the sworn force up to 2,235 officers by January 2008, which eclipses the previous high of 2,195 in January 2000.

Despite the rising numbers of police officers, it is important to bear in mind that not all officers on the sworn force are available for duty. At any given time, approximately 10% of the force is unable to serve in the full capacity due to injury, long-term leave, suspension, or light duty. As of May 29th, 9.3% of the force was unavailable for duty, the lowest level yet since the Research Bureau began tracking this data in July 2005. The Police Department's efforts to reduce the time officers are unavailable to work due to injury have contributed to this improvement.

