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PRESS RELEASE

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**Police on the Beat on Broadway
Mayor & Chief Announce walking beat on Broadway**

May 16, 2016, Lawrence, MA- Mayor Daniel Rivera, with Police Chief James Fitzpatrick, announced the rollout of beats on Broadway. Over 1 ½ years ago Mayor Rivera and Chief Fitzpatrick began daily strategic walking beats on Broadway and after evaluating the need and the amount of activity on Broadway have expanded the effort so as to have Police walking the beat on Broadway 80 – 90% of the time all week. Since it started last Thursday the Lawrence Police have made seven drug distribution arrests on Broadway. “Broadway is an important commercial area for our community and it’s traveled by many residents and visitors from the area to the City. This effort will make the area safer and ensure timely response day or night,” said Mayor Dan Rivera. “Our added walking beats have decreased the overall crime and loitering that is a problem. We want the business owners and community members who conduct business on Broadway to know that we are making safety a top priority, and seven arrests in 4 days is a good start.” The addition of the evening and night shift walking beats on Broadway ensure an on foot police presence around the clock in that area.

The walking beat runs weekly most hours of the day where two officers walk Broadway to both deter potential criminal activity and to improve the relationship between the community and the police department. Additionally, there are three community police officers assigned to the Broadway area daily. Those three officers conduct hourly “park and walks” to add an increased level of police presence. “Community policing is how we are fighting crime in Lawrence,” said Police Chief James Fitzpatrick. “When the community sees our police out walking on a regular basis, it gives them a feeling of safety and trust in our police. Similarly, having that constant police presence makes a strong statement that crime and illegal activity will not be tolerated on our streets.”

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