



OFFICER TIMOTHY POPE- DATE OF HIRE 3/20/06

BACKGROUND:

I grew up in West Bridgewater and attended WBHS. I have a Bachelors Degree from the University of Massachusetts in Criminal Justice. I am currently working towards my Master's Degree from UMASS as well.

Prior to working for WBPD, I worked as a deputy sheriff with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department. While there, I worked on the Mounted Unit, with prisoner security during hospitalizations/outside the jail activities, assisted at Federal Court with the US Marshal Service, and various other assignments. I started with WBPD as a part time Officer in 2005, and then became full time in March of 2006. I am currently a Field Training officer working with new recruits, child safety seat technician, a project lifesaver instructor, and one of the ALICE instructors where we teach how to respond to active threat situations in our schools and local businesses.

HOBBIES:

I love golf, football, baseball, fishing, traveling with my family, and being out in either my kayak or boat.

BEST PART OF OUR JOB:

The best part of my job is when I am able to interact with students during daily school checks. Something as simple as reading a book to a class or playing out at recess with the kids can make the day a lot better. I have noticed a positive impact that our school checks have had when I run into kids outside of school. I've found that through being visible in the schools, the kids are much more eager and comfortable to stop and talk to us, even if it is just to say "hi" or give us a high five. As a department, we have all worked hard to prevent fear or anxiety that children have when seeing the police. Often times, we hear people tell children that they better behave or the police will arrest them. That statement is counter-productive. Instead, we want to be approachable and have a good rapport with children so that they won't be afraid to come to us when they need help.

HARDEST PART OF OUR JOB:

The hardest part is being witness to how many people are struggling to put food on the table and provide for their families, even in a small town like West Bridgewater. The department tries to take an active role in helping people as much as we can and even get them in touch with services that may be beneficial

WHY I BECAME A POLICE OFFICER:

I decided to become a police officer because I wanted to be the person that responded when a citizen called for help. I have always thought that this was one of the best ways to make a positive impact within the community that I grew up in. It is the part of the job that appeals the most to me. While some people may

view police negatively, I can honestly say that the officers, whom I work with, are heavily invested in this town and want to serve the community to the best of their abilities.