

*PELHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2008*



*Submitted by Joseph Benefico, Chief  
Pelham Police Department  
March 27, 2009*

# *Police Department*



JOSEPH R. BENEFICO  
CHIEF OF POLICE



VILLAGE OF PELHAM  
34 FIFTH AVENUE - TOWN HALL  
PELHAM, NEW YORK 10803



(914) 738-2000

*March 27, 2009*

*Honorable Mayor Edward Hotchkiss  
Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees  
Village Administrator Robert Yamuder*

*In accordance with article 1.01 of the Rules and Regulations of the Pelham Police Department, attached you will find the Annual Report for the Pelham Police department for calendar year 2008. The Rules and Regulations of the department require that the Chief of Police submit this report to the Mayor on or before March 31 of the next year. This report should provide you with a general synopsis of the operation and events of the Police Department during 2008.*

*Our primary mission is to protect life and property and to enforce all applicable laws. We continue to be ever vigilant in our attempts to successfully carry out this responsibility. I am confident that all personnel of this department will continue to provide the residents of this Village with the best police service possible.*

*In addition to the Police Officers, the ongoing support of our School Crossing Guards, Parking Enforcement Officers, and Secretary have contributed significantly in providing the residents of this Village with the highest level of protection and professionalism.*

*Finally, the assistance provided by former Village Administrator Richard Slingerland and the entire Village staff, Street Department foreman Michael Shriman and his staff and Fire Chief Curtis Taylor and both paid and volunteer firefighters all contributed immensely to the successful operation of the Police Department.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Joseph Benefico*

*Joseph Benefico  
Chief of Police*

## ***DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION***

CHIEF OF POLICE	1
LIEUTENANT	1
SERGEANTS	6
DETECTIVES	2
PATROL OFFICERS	18
SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS	11
PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS	3
CLERICAL	1

## **DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS**

COMPUTER OPERATIONS COORDINATOR	Lt. Rocco DelGrosso
COMPUTER SYSTEMS MANAGER	Sgt. David Condon
FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR	Sgt. David Condon
FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Richard Vasami
FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR	Sgt. James Mitrione
FIREARMS INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Ryan Carden
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE OFFICER	P.O. Chris Casucci
FIRST AID/AED/CPR INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Chris Casucci
FIRST AID/AED/CPR INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Rita McConnell
TSLED PROGRAM ADMINISTER	Lt. Rocco DelGrosso
STOP DWI COORDINATOR	Sgt. Daryl Jackson
DARE OFFICER	Det. John Hynes
YOUTH OFFICER	Sgt. Daryl Jackson
YOUTH OFFICER	Det. John Hynes
NYSPIN SECURITY OFFICER	Sgt. David Condon
ASS'T NYSPIN SECURITY OFFICER	Sgt. James Mitrione
E-JUSTICE COORDINATOR	Det. Rick Deere
CANINE OFFICER	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
CHEMICAL SPRAY INSTRUCTOR	Sgt. Patrick Polese
GENERAL TOPICS INSTRUCTOR	Det. John Hynes
GENERAL TOPICS INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Richard Vasami
GENERAL TOPICS INSTRUCTOR	Sgt. James Mitrione
GENERAL TOPICS INSTRUCTOR	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
GENERAL TOPICS INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Chris Casucci
GENERAL TOPICS INSTRUCTOR	P.O. Ryan Carden
DATAMASTER OPERATOR	Sgt. James Mitrione
DATAMASTER OPERATOR	Sgt. Pat Polese
DATAMASTER OPERATOR	Sgt. Daryl Jackson
DATAMASTER OPERATOR	P.O. Rich Vasami
HOSTAGE NEGOTIATOR	Det. John Hynes

## **PERSONNEL**

### **Police Officers**

In January 2008, Doug Bornholz was hired as a police officer. Officer Bornholz, a local resident, was hired after interviews were conducted with several candidates. Officer Bornholz was enrolled in the Westchester County Police Academy where he attended classes from January until his graduation in May. After completing his 4-week on the job training period, Bornholz was assigned to patrol and performs the job of a patrol officer. In August, Michael Sheehy and Earl Scott were hired as police officers. Both officers, who are local residents, were sent to the Westchester County Police Academy where they graduated in December 2008. At that time they performed 4 weeks of on the job training and then were placed into a patrol position.

Sgt. Michael Glover retired from the police force after serving 21 years for the Village of Pelham. Sgt. Glover was hired in January, 1987, promoted to Sergeant in March of 2002 and retired effective on June 30, 2008. During his employment, Sgt. Glover received many commendations and letters from residents for excellent police work. He was a dedicated and well liked employee who worked hard each and every day to provide the residents of Pelham with the highest degree of service.

In November, Police Officer Ahmed Artola resigned from the Pelham PD to seek employment with the Middletown, NY Police department. Artola was hired in January, 2006. During his 34 months of employment, Artola performed admirably, received several awards and commendations and was a conscientious and reliable employee.

Sgt. Nick DiMaggio continues to be completely out of work. Sgt. DiMaggio was originally injured in an Auto Accident in 2005. The Village is in the process of making a further assessment of DiMaggio's condition to see if he can return to transitional duty as a lead in for his return back to full duty.

### **School Crossing Guards and Parking Enforcement Officers**

During 2008, the Village employed three parking enforcement officers, Dennis Campo, Denise Boyle-Quatroni and Abraham Pulialakunnel. All three walk/ride the main business district and other contiguous areas enforcing parking rules and regulations and perform their duties very admirably sometimes under very stressful conditions. All three are efficient and effective employees and always act in a professional fashion.

School Crossing guards Eva Viera and Josephina Gomez retired in 2008. Ms. Viera was employed by the Village as a school crossing guard from 2002-2005. She was rehired in September 2007 and retired at the beginning of the school year, September 2008. Ms. Josefina Gomez retired after serving from October, 2005 through June 2008.

In June 2008, Carmella Gori was hired to replace Gomez. She was trained and placed on the school crossing at Lincoln and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenues. In November 2008, Geraldine DePinto was hired to replace Viera. She received training and works as a fill-in crossing guard

and also works during the spring and fall sports seasons. Both women perform their duties in a very competent fashion and are very reliable employees.

The department now employs 11 school guards who are posted at various strategic intersections throughout the Village to safely and efficiently cross school children to and from school. In general, the school guards follow the grammar school schedule, but some school posts are coordinated with the middle school/high school schedule.

### **Clerical**

Fran Campion continues to perform the job of department cleric. Mrs. Campion works on a part time basis but works in such an efficient manner that she performs like a full time person. She performs all her job assignments in an expeditious and professional manner. She works well with all officers of the department, village staff members and residents and members of the public.

## **TRAFFIC AND SAFETY**

The Pelham Police department continues to receive a Traffic Safety Grant from Westchester County, which is used to provide overtime enforcement of traffic laws. During 2008, the Police Department received and expended an approx. \$1600 grant, which was used to pay for Police Officers overtime when they are assigned strictly to enforce targeted Vehicle and Traffic Laws. The department participated in several statewide traffic initiatives such as STOP-DWI, Seat belt enforcement and Speeding enforcement.

In 2008, AAA presented the Village of Pelham with a Gold Community Award for Traffic Safety programs. This is the second highest award that is presented by AAA. A Gold Award is presented to communities that implement programs and projects which demonstrate a superior effort at addressing local traffic safety issues. In addition, the Village was presented with a Pedestrian Safety Citation for having seven consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality. Both these awards were presented to Lt. DelGrosso at the AAA luncheon that was held in October in Long Island.

## **CRIME AND RELATED**

Included in this annual report is a month-by-month report of all calls for service for 2008. Members of this department responded to just under 5,100 calls for service, which is an approximate 6% decrease compared to 2007. Also included as a part of the annual report is a chart that shows the comparison of Part I crimes in the years 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. Part I crimes are defined by the FBI, are Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft. The crime rate in Pelham for 2008 was down by 5% when compared to 2007. Larcenies remain the most popular crime in Pelham totaling 78% of the part I crimes. In reviewing the facts on many larceny cases, it is fairly obvious that in many of these incidents the crime could have been prevented with just a little common sense and a little more security awareness on the part of the

victims. Bicycles continue to amount for a significant number of larcenies, but Cell phones and Ipods now seem to be the property of choice for thieves. These small items must be locked away when not in use or in the possession of the owner. Left unattended these items are very easy targets where thieves can simply steal them and place them in a pocket and walk away. On a positive note, Motor Vehicle Theft was down by 80% with only 2 cars reported stolen in 2008, one of the lowest totals in recent memory.

Crime numbers should be viewed as a tool and a guide to assist the department in our future crime fighting techniques. Additionally, crime statistics are cyclical and also economic driver. With a downturn in the present economy, it is not unrealistic to begin to see crime rate increases as has happened in other communities.

All members of the Pelham Police Department will work to the best of their ability to try and continue a previous long-term trend of crime reduction and diligently strive to protect the citizens of the Village to the best of their abilities. By continuing to partner with the community, there is no reason why this Village cannot continue to see a consistent reduction in crime rates.

**POLICE CAR CONFIGURATION AS OF  
February 20, 2009**

**DATE: 2/20/2009**

<b>CAR #</b>	<b>YEAR AND MAKE</b>		<b>USE</b>	<b>PLATE</b>	<b>MILEAGE</b>
70	08 FORD EXPEDITION	1FMFU16588LA03483	Sgts. -Marked		17,205
71	06 FORD CROWN VIC	2FAHP71W16X166487	Patrol-Marked		46,160
72	99 FORD CROWN VIC	2FALP71W8XX201826	Traffic		65,770
73	08 DODGE CHARGER	2B3KA43H38H280231	Patrol-Marked		8,490
74	06 CHEV. TAHOE	IGNEK13Z96J119904	K-9-Marked		18, 175
75	08 FORD CROWN VIC.	2FAHP71V78X178606	Patrol-Marked		9,505
76	06 FORD CROWN VIC.	2FAFP71WX6X166486	Patrol-Marked		49, 540
77	07 DODGE CHARGER	2B3KA43H27H81873	Patrol-Marked		13,910
78	2008 CHEV. EQUINOX	2CNDL23F286013481	Police Lieutenant	ECZ-5573	18,167
79	2006 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER	JTEHP21A860168202	Police Chief	CLP-2451	25,505
80	94 PLYMOUTH SUBN.	2P46H45R7RR607386	Unmarked- Detectives	AMZ-9707	77,363
81	09 DODGE CHARGER	2B3KA43DX9H541272	Detectives	ELY-4674	2,677
82	2000 FORD	1FTSE34F7YHA49171	Tactical Operations		168,225

VILLAGE OF PELHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT  
 CRIME STATISTICS - PART I CRIMES  
 2004-2008

	murder	rape	robbery	ag. assault	burglary	larceny	mv theft	TOTALS	(% chg from prev. year)
<b>2004</b>	0	0	11	3	7	123	6	150	
<b>2005</b>	0	1	12	3	16	85	6	123	-18.0%
<b>2006</b>	0	2	5	0	10	101	15	133	8%
<b>2007</b>	0	0	6	0	20	91	10	127	-5%
<b>2008</b>	0	0	3	0	21	95	2	121	-5%

