

Police Department



JOSEPH R. BENEFICO
CHIEF OF POLICE



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



(914) 738-2000

March 12, 2015

*Honorable Mayor Tim Cassidy
Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees*

Attached you will find the Annual Report for the Pelham Police department for calendar year 2014. 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 following year. This report should provide you with a general synopsis of the operation and other pertinent information of the Police Department during 2014.

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 Village Administrator Robert Yamuder and the entire Village staff, Street Department foreman Michael Shriman and his staff and Fire Chief William Stone and all firefighters have contributed to the successful operation of the Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Benefico

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Chief of Police*

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Chief of Police	1
Police Lieutenant	1
Sergeants	6
Detectives	2
Patrol Officers	15
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	Sgt. James Mitrione
Firearms Instructor	P.O. Ryan Carden
Firearms Instructor	P.O. Brian Hendrie
Vehicle Maintenance Officer	P.O. Eugene Sisto
First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	Sgt. Chris Casucci
First Aid/CPR/AED Instructor	P.O. Eugene Sisto
TRACS coordinator	Sgt. Jason Pallett
TSLED Program Administer	Lt. Rocco DelGrosso
STOP DWI Coordinator	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
DARE Officer	Det. John Hynes
DARE Officer	P.O. Brian Hendrie
Youth Officer	Det. John Hynes
Youth Officer	P.O. Brian Hendrie
Taser Instructor	Sgt. David Condon
E-Justice Coordinator	Det. Rick Deere
Traffic Officer	P.O. Danny Green
Canine Officer	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
Chemical Spray Instructor	Sgt. Pat Polese
General Topics Instructor	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
General Topics Instructor	Sgt. James Mitrione
General Topics Instructor	Sgt. Chris Casucci
General Topics Instructor	Det. John Hynes
General Topics Instructor	P.O. Ryan Carden
General Topics Instructor	P.O. Brian Hendrie
Datamaster Operator	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
Datamaster Operator	P.O. Danny Green
Voice Recorder Coordinator	Sgt. David Condon
Hostage Negotiator	Det. John Hynes
Tactical Team Member-Leader	Sgt. James Mitrione
Tactical Team Member	Sgt. Pat Polese
Tactical Team Member	P.O. Ryan Carden
Tactical Team Member	P.O. Eugene Sisto
Tactical Team Member	P.O. Joseph DiBenedetto
Tactical Team Member	P.O. Paul Sousa

PERSONNEL

Police Officers

No Police officers retired during calendar year 2014. As a result, no new officers were hired. Also, there were no promotions during the year.

School Crossing Guards and Parking Enforcement Officers

One school crossing guard resigned during year. Luz Figueroa started working for the Village in June of 2012 and resigned at the end of August 2014 due to other personal commitments.

In November of 2014, Michael Dickerson of Mt. Vernon was hired to replace Figueroa. Since his hiring, Mike has performed his duties in an excellent fashion and has been a respected addition to the Village work force.

The Village employs a total of 11 school crossing guards. The school crossing guards are located at strategic intersections to safely cross the children on school days.

Three Parking enforcement officers (Denise Boyle-Quatroni, Abraham Pulialakunnel and Lisa Taitt) walk/ride the main business district and other contiguous areas enforcing parking rules and regulations performing their duties commendably sometimes under very stressful conditions. All three are efficient and personable employees and always act in a professional fashion.

Clerical

Fran Campion retired at the end of 2013 after serving the village for over eight years.

Donna Shirreffs, a local resident, was hired on January 13, 2014 to take over as the part-time department cleric. Donna quickly adjusted to the workings of the Pelham PD and has worked well with all officers of the department, village staff members, residents and members of the public.

She has brought her past work experience and knowledge from previous employment into headquarters in an effort to make the department more effective.

Although her major job is record keeping and retrieval, Donna has updated many other functions to assist the department maintain pace with the ever changing digital world.

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 2014, the Police Department received \$1,500, 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, Click it or Ticket--Seat belt enforcement and Speeding enforcement.

In 2014, The Village was presented with a Gold Award from AAA New York. The awards presentation took place in October. A gold award is presented to communities that implement programs and projects that demonstrate a superior effort at addressing local traffic safety issues. By continuing to work on traffic safety issues, the Village has not had a pedestrian fatality for 13 consecutive years.

CRIME AND RELATED

Included in this report is a chart of Part I crimes. Part I crimes, as defined by the FBI include Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Larceny, Burglary and Motor Vehicle Theft. During 2014, the most significant crimes that occurred were a rape and a shooting. In March, a rape occurred inside a local residence. This is the first case of Rape since 2006 and due to an extensive investigation by our detectives, a suspect was quickly arrested. In April, an off-duty NYPD Police officer was arrested for an incident where he used his handgun and fired 14 shots at a passing motor vehicle on Lincoln Avenue. One of the passengers in the vehicle was hit multiple times, but has survived the injuries. The NYPD officer was apprehended a short distance from the scene of the crime and arrested.

The 62 larcenies that occurred in 2014 are the lowest number of larcenies going back beyond the year 2000. And as a result of the significant drop in larceny, the total number of Part I crimes for 2014 was the lowest in recent memory and 52% less than 2013. This may be attributable to the public being more crime conscious and taking the extra steps to safeguard all their property. Also contributing is a more aggressive overnight police patrol knowing that many of the larcenies were car entries that occurred during the overnight hours. This is a good example of the community and Police Department working together to reduce crime and protect property.

Burglaries also went down in 2014 by over 61%. Any time you end a year with single digit burglaries, like the 7 burglaries in 2014, you had a good year.

Lastly, this is the second year in a row that the village had only one car stolen. For comparison purposes, in 1999 and again in 2006 we had our highest total of 15 cars stolen in each year. Again, the visibility of patrol cars throughout the village acting as a deterrent and residents locking and safeguarding their cars is producing positive results.

Also included with this report is a table of many other significant calls for service and other events for 2009-2014. You can see on that report that there appears to be a reduction in most of the topics listed. And overall, total calls for service has gone down 11% comparing 2014-2013.

No one knows what next years figures will be, but when everyone works together towards a common goal of reducing the opportunity for crime, the overall crime numbers can go to even lower.

IN GENERAL

Also included with this annual report is a listing of all the awards that were presented at the department awards ceremony in June 2014. The awards are for events that occurred in calendar year 2013. Lastly, there is a listing of Police department vehicles by make, model, year, usage and mileage.