

Police Department



JOSEPH R. BENEFICO
CHIEF OF POLICE



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



(914) 738-2000

March 22, 2016

*Honorable Mayor Michael Volpe
Honorable Members of the Board of Trustees*

Attached you will find the Annual Report for the Pelham Police department for calendar year 2015. 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 2015.

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 the men of the Pelham Fire Department have all contributed to the successful operation of the Police Department in 2015.

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

During 2015 two senior officers retired from the Police Department. In February, Detective Richard Deere retired after serving the Village for over 30 years. Det. Deere was hired in September 1984. He was promoted to Detective in January 1999 and retired in January 2015. Detective Deere was a determined investigator, a valued member of the department and was well respected by the community at large.

In December, after over 38 years of service to the Village, Lt. Rocco DelGrosso retired. Lt. DelGrosso was hired in September 1977 serving as a patrolman until his promotion to Sergeant in August 1984. In June 1992, he was promoted to Lieutenant and he served the Village in that capacity for the next 23 years, retiring from the Police Department in December 2015. Lt. DelGrosso was instrumental in moving the Police Department into the 21st century by modernizing almost every single aspect of the facility and also, he was the driving force in designing the computerization and networking of headquarters.

It's very difficult to mention all the qualities that these two men brought to the department every day, but the retirement of these two officers, who combined for a total of 69 years service, experience and dedication to the Village of Pelham, will be difficult to replace. And I wish both of them well with their future plans.

School Crossing Guards and Parking Enforcement Officers

Two school crossing guards resigned during 2015. Mike Dickerson was hired on November 2014 and retired in September 2015 after realizing that the job did not fit in with his future and long term life goals. Ginger Hanford was hired in October 2006 and was a dedicated and hard working individual who crossed school children at various locations during her nine years serving the residents and kids of Pelham. She retired in August 2015.

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

Donna Shirreffs has completed two years as department cleric. Donna has made great strides in adjusting to the department's record keeping system and has, in some ways, changed the way the department saves reports. Donna has brought her past work experience and knowledge from previous employment into headquarters in an effort to make the department more efficient.

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.

She works well with all officers of the department, village staff members, 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 2015, the Police Department received \$3,000, 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 2015, 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 14 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. The most significant number in the Part I crimes is that in 2015, our total number of incidents was almost exact as 2014, which was 50% lower than 2013. Which is very good news.

The total number of larcenies in 2015 was comparable with the total from 2014, which was more than a 50% decrease from the unusually high total number of larcenies that occurred in 2013. Crime trends in general are tracking downwards. This may be attributable to the public being more crime conscious and taking the extra steps to protect themselves and all their property. Also contributing is a more aggressive overnight police patrol knowing that many of larcenies were car entries that occurred during the overnight hours. In Pelham, the community and department continue to have a positive working relationship and this relationship contributes to the lower crime rates and is a good example of the community and Police Department working together to reduce crime and protect property.

In 2008, the village experienced 21 burglaries. In 2015, we had five. Much of this reduction can be attributed to homeowners safeguarding their homes by installing alarm systems and/or camera systems to monitor their property while they are working or away. The past two years of single digit burglaries and their combined total is less than the total in 2013 is testament to the community and the department working together. Any time you end a year with single digit burglaries, like the 5 burglaries in 2015, you had a good year.

Also included with this report is a table of many other significant calls for service and other events for 2010-2015. You can see on that report that there is a reduction in most of the topics listed. And overall, total calls for service has gone down 11% comparing 2015-2014.

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

IN GENERAL

The last document included with this report is a listing of all department vehicles which includes make and model, year, main usage and miles.