

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, 2013

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

Attached you will find the Annual Report for the Pelham Police department for calendar year 2012. 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 2012.

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
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
E-Justice Coordinator	Det. Rick Deere
Canine Officer	Sgt. Anthony Borsella
Chemical Spray Instructor	Sgt. Pat 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. Anthony Borsella
Datamaster Operator	P.O. Danny Green
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 in 2012 and therefore no officers were hired during the year. In addition, there were no promotions during the year

School Crossing Guards and Parking Enforcement Officers

During 2012, Luz Figueroa was hired in June and Frank Fraioli was hired in September to replace two school crossing guards.

Tom Jeter, who was employed by the Village as a school crossing guard since September 2006, died as a result of Kidney disease. Mr. Jeter was a dependable and well like crossing guard and performed his job in a friendly and professional manner.

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 and perform their duties commendably sometimes under very stressful conditions. All three are efficient and effective employees and always act in a professional fashion.

Clerical

Fran Champion continues to perform the job of department cleric. Mrs. Champion works part time. Mrs. Champion 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 2012, the Police Department received and used the \$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 2012, 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 11 consecutive years.

CRIME AND RELATED

Included in this annual report is a recap of the most significant calls for service for 2012. This report also compares similar categories for the past 6 years. Members of this department responded to approximately 4200 calls for service, which is 1% more than the previous year. Also, included in this annual report is a chart that shows the comparison of Part I crimes in the years 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Part I crimes, as defined by the FBI, are Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft. The Part I crime rate in Pelham decreased by 5% when comparing 2011 to 2012.

Larcenies remain the most popular crime in Pelham totaling approximately 84% 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. Although bicycles continue to be a popular item for larcenists, cell phones, Ipods and similar portable devices now seem to be the property of choice for thieves. These small items must be locked away when not in use. Left unattended these items are very easy targets where thieves can simply steal them and place them in a pocket and walk away. Also, there was a significant jump in the number of larcenies from parked cars. In all these incidents, suspects entered unlocked parked cars and took whatever valuables were located inside the parked car, including portable GPS units, cell phones and loose change.

Furthermore, identity theft crimes continue to rise. These frauds have become a major problem, not only in Pelham, but nationwide and in many cases, a worldwide problem as sometimes the stolen money is funneled overseas making it almost impossible to arrest anyone connected to this crime. Persons should use extreme care and visually check any type of machine that can dispense cash or where a card is inserted inside for the purchase of a train ticket or a gas purchase.

Regarding crime in 2012, of special note was the apprehension of a robber who committed 3 robberies in Pelham, and also committed an additional 6 robberies in neighboring communities. In all these cases, the victims were walking home from their local train station, at night. Sgt. Chris Casucci spotted a car parked in the vicinity of the Pelham Train station early one morning. As he went to investigate he observed a male occupant and subsequently he observed a handgun in the car. The suspect was placed under arrest and under questioning by Dets. Deere and Hynes, the suspect admitted to all the robberies.

Crime numbers are viewed as a tool and a guide to assist the department in our future crime fighting techniques. Additionally, crime statistics are cyclical and continued fluctuations in the rates are expected. Crime rates in neighboring jurisdictions have seen slight increases and decreases over the past few years.

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. There is no reason why the Village cannot continue to reduce part I crimes as was done when comparing 2011-2012, but this has to be a community wide initiative. Working hand in hand with the community is the best tool is fighting crime and will result in continued crime reduction trends.

IN GENERAL

Other documents submitted as part of the annual report are a listing of some of the training programs attended by officers of this department. Also included with this annual report is a listing of all the awards that were presented to police officers for performing their duties in an outstanding manner during the year. Lastly, there is a listing of Police department vehicles by make, model, year, usage and mileage.

