

Police Department Report 2010

Use of Force Simulator

A state of the art use of force simulator that has the ability to use both lethal and less than lethal (Taser®, baton, pepper spray) options in hundreds of different scenarios was purchased. It has proven to be a great tool to promote sound judgmental training in scenarios that require an officer to assess the appropriate use of force, as well as increase weapon proficiency. The sound system, visual effects and fire-back option make the scenarios very realistic. This equipment was purchased using a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology grant that was secured with the assistance of Congresswoman Nita Lowey.

Emergency Response Unit Vehicle

The department acquired a 1999 Ford E-350 vehicle to be used by our Emergency Response Unit to transport personnel and equipment to critical incidents. The vehicle, a retired ambulance was graciously donated by the Eastchester Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Having this vehicle with all of the unit's tools and equipment at the ready will save precious response time in an emergency.

Hybrid Vehicle

The Department purchased a 2010 Mercury Mariner SUV hybrid vehicle. The vehicle was purchased with a grant secured with the assistance of New York State Senator Jeffrey Klein. The unmarked police hybrid vehicle offers increased fuel efficiency with fewer greenhouse emissions.

Recipient of National Traffic Safety Award

The Tuckahoe Police Department was a recipient of the prestigious **Automobile Association of America's Gold Award** for superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the seventh consecutive year that the Department was recognized with one of the highest awards by the AAA. The award was given for the Police Department's effectiveness in addressing local traffic safety issues, which was statistically demonstrated by participation in programs such as:

- Safe Riders Day-Bicycle Safety Education
- STOP-DWI / Safe and Sober Campaigns-Driving Under the Influence enforcement and education
- Buckle Up New York / Operation ABC Mobilization-Adult and child restraint enforcement and education
- Operation Safe Stop – School Bus enforcement and education

These programs, among other efforts resulted in no DWI related fatal or serious injury accidents, no serious bicycle accidents, no serious school bus accidents and a high compliance rate of occupant protection for the past 9 years. Another commendation was received for 36 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.

Special Unit Reports

Emergency Response Unit

The Emergency Response Unit was mobilized on three occasions in 2010. Two were for the execution of high risk arrest warrants, one for an armed robbery arrest warrant and the other for a suspect wanted for menacing with a handgun. The third call-out was for the arrest of a barricaded subject who was wanted for kidnapping. All arrests were made without incident or injury.

The unit participated in a coordinated high-profile, county-wide tactical presence at transportation facilities during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season.

The members of the Emergency Response Unit participated in joint training with members of the Town of Eastchester and Village of Pelham tactical teams throughout the year, as well as trained with the Spring Valley Police Department in a special retrofitted tactical house. The unit trains with special weapons, methods and equipment for tactical response to critical incidents.

Child Passenger Safety Unit

The CPS unit hosted two seat check events during the year. The first was held on June 19th at the Parkway Oval in conjunction with the department's bicycle safety event. The second event was held at police headquarters on August 28th. Seventeen (17) child safety seats were checked or installed at the events. The unit also participated in the Town of Eastchester Family Safety Day held on May 15th.

Forty-four (44) vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in.

A total of sixty-one (61) child safety seats were checked or installed in fifty (57) vehicles over the year. Three new seats were distributed to those who either did not have a child safety seat or the existing one was found to be defective.

Bicycle Patrol Unit

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from April through September. The high profile proactive bicycle patrols are to promote positive public relations, deter serious crimes, address quality of life complaints and foster and maintain the commitment to the community policing philosophy. Members of the unit patrolled 120 tours for approximately 720 hours.

Youth Services

- There were 15 Youths mandated by the Village of Tuckahoe Court to our **Community Service Alcohol/Drug Awareness Classes and Service Program** in 2010. These classes are run by Lt. Belles and Officer Zirolnik at the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department.
- There were 13 Juveniles who were diverted from the Juvenile Justice System by our Youth Division and given **Community Service Classes** and hours relevant to the offense in 2010.
- There were 16 Juvenile cards forwarded to the Youth Division for follow up by our Patrol officers. These juveniles may have been involved in activity that would have constituted a crime, but due to their age were referred to the Youth Division for appropriate consequences.
- Officer Andrew Zirolnik taught the **5th Grade DARE** program to the William E. Cottle 5th Graders. There were approximately 85 students who received 13 weeks of instruction utilizing this curriculum.
- Sgt. John Cuccinello taught the **DARE Middle** school curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School's 7th grade class. There were approximately 100 students who received 6 weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.
- Lt. Margaret Belles taught a **Law Related Education** program to the Tuckahoe High School 10th - 12th grade students. There were approximately 50 students who received 4 blocks of instruction on various law related topics such as DWI, Prom Safety, Safe Relationships, Internet Safety, and The New York State Penal Law and Vehicular and Traffic Laws.

Explorer Program

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2010 year with **14 Explorers**. Post #2008 had approximately **26 regular meetings** throughout the year, with additional trips and community service opportunities for all of the enrolled Explorers. The Explorer Program runs every other Wednesday from 7PM-9PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The three Advisors are: Lt. Belles, Officer Zirolnik and Officer Santiago.

Community Outreach Efforts

- The Tuckahoe Police Department hosted “Safe Rider’s Day” which focuses on Bicycle Safety instruction and courses, Car Seat installation, crime prevention, Raffles and games. The event was held in June and there were approximately 135 attendees over the course of the event.
- The Tuckahoe Police Department also hosted “**The Cops for Kids Annual Kickball/Softball Tournament**” event. There were approximately 100 children who participated in the games and about 60 adults in attendance. There were 23 Tuckahoe Police Officers who participated in both of these events.
- The Tuckahoe Youth Division/DARE Officers hosted the annual **DARE Picnic** at Lake Isle last June for the 5th and 7th grade DARE students. Swimming, Lunch, snacks, beverages and dessert were provided for all students and faculty.
- The Tuckahoe Police Department hosted **National Night Out Against Crime and Drugs** in August. There were approximately 300+ people in attendance over the course of the event. This event had almost 100% participation from our Officers.
- Sgt. Cuccinello taught **Cyber Bullying** to the Middle School over the course of several assembly presentations.
- Lt. Belles and Sgt. Cuccinello presented two workshops to the Middle School and High School Parents on **Binge Drinking, Cyber-Bullying, Bullying and the Law**.

Personnel

Retirements: **Detective Lieutenant Kevin Ferry** retired after serving the department faithfully for 33 years. He was the Executive Officer of the department and commander of the detective division.

Sergeant Daniel Belles retired after serving the department faithfully for twenty years. He was the former supervisor of the drug and alcohol enforcement task force and a patrol tour supervisor.

Appointments: **Margaret Belles** was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

Paul D’Onofrio was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Abelardo Bautista was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Evan Piasta was appointed as a Police Officer.

Christina Brown was appointed as a Police Officer.

Officer Recognition Award

The Officer Recognition Award is awarded in acknowledgment of a patrol officer’s outstanding police work. Officers are chosen for professional dedication, consistent performance at an exceptional level, accomplishments of note-worthy deeds, extraordinary performance of duty, leadership, community participation, and continued learning. The picture and name of the recipient is prominently displayed in Village Hall. The recipient for the year 2010 was:

Police Officer Lawrence Rotta

2010 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service:	3,799
Alarms:	307
Fire Responses:	194
Medical Aided:	342
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	136
Domestic Incidents	98
Assault	6
Robbery	2
Burglary	4
Larceny	53
Motor Vehicle Theft	1
Drug Offenses	17
Criminal Mischief	22
DWI/ DWAI	6
Liquor Law Violations	3
Fraud – Identity Theft:	34
All Others:	34
Criminal Cases:	263
Adult Arrests:	154
Juvenile Arrests:	0

Traffic Citations

Moving Violations:

• Speeding	217
• Red Light	44
• Seatbelt	194
• Unlicensed Operator	82
• DWI / DWAI	12
• No Comm. Traffic	18
• Registration Offenses	81
• Stop Sign	164
• One Way	21
• Pass School Bus	7
• No Inspection	112
• Light Defect	153
• Improper Lane Use	110
• No Right Turn	82
• Mobile Phone Use	181
• Other Offenses	141
<i>Total:</i>	<i>1,619</i>

Parking Violations: ***10,809***

Police Department Grants

Traffic Safety

1. Buckle Up New York: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$4,112	Police Overtime
2. Child Passenger Safety Program: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$1,745	Equipment/Seats
3. Selective Enforcement Program: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$1,600	Police Overtime
4. STOP-DWI Program: (Westchester County)	\$5,922	Police Overtime
5. Bicycle Safety Event (The Community Fund)	\$3,000	Event Materials

Equipment

6. New York State	\$34,600	Hybrid Vehicle
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Soft Body Armor

8. Bulletproof Vest Program (D.O.J./DCJS)	\$4,350	Soft Body Armor
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Youth Programs

9. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E. (NYS Office of Children and Family Services)	\$2,911	Education/Prevention Programs
10. D.A.R.E. (The Community Fund)	\$1,700	Education/Prevention Programs
11. Community Outreach (The Community Fund)	\$4,500	Events

Total: \$64,440