

VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT

# ANNUAL REPORT



2021





## *OUR MISSION*

*The Tuckahoe Police Department shall protect the quality of life in our community in partnership for those who we serve.*





# LETTER TO CITIZENS



## *Village of Tuckahoe Residents:*

It is with a sense of accomplishment and pride that I present the 2021 Tuckahoe Police Department Annual Report. Our officers endured another year of challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. They worked on the front lines to provide uninterrupted police services at the highest level. The content of this report is evidence of the dedication and professionalism of our members. Their chronicled achievements reflect their hard work and dedication.



We were pleased with the process and outcome of the Village's Commission on Police Reform that was adopted by the Village Board earlier in the year. It was a tremendous opportunity for us to show-case our policies, practices and high standards. I am extremely thankful to the volunteer members of the Commission, our officers and all the residents who participated in the process. We emerged with a plan to be more transparent, accountable and better than ever.

One of our strongest qualities is building partnerships. This past year brought expansions of our community outreach programs by partnering with Bronxville and Eastchester Police Departments to reach broader populations in our community. Events that we held together were huge successes. A new partnership formed was with the Metropolitan Transit Authority Police Department. We were able to improve our radio communications by using infrastructure and equipment newly created by the MTA Police. The new digital system literally brought our Department from 1950's technology to state of the art communications. We are extremely thankful for this shared service that increased public and officer safety with little cost to our taxpayers. Lastly, our partnership with the Maxwell Institute and Saint Vincent's Hospital allowed us to initiate the "Leave Behind Naloxone" program. A potentially lifesaving initiative to combat opioid overdose related deaths.

In closing, I am grateful for the efforts of every member of our department, as well as the incredible support of our residents and administration. We know that our success is built on public trust and we are committed to strengthening our partnerships to improve the quality of life of every member of our community.

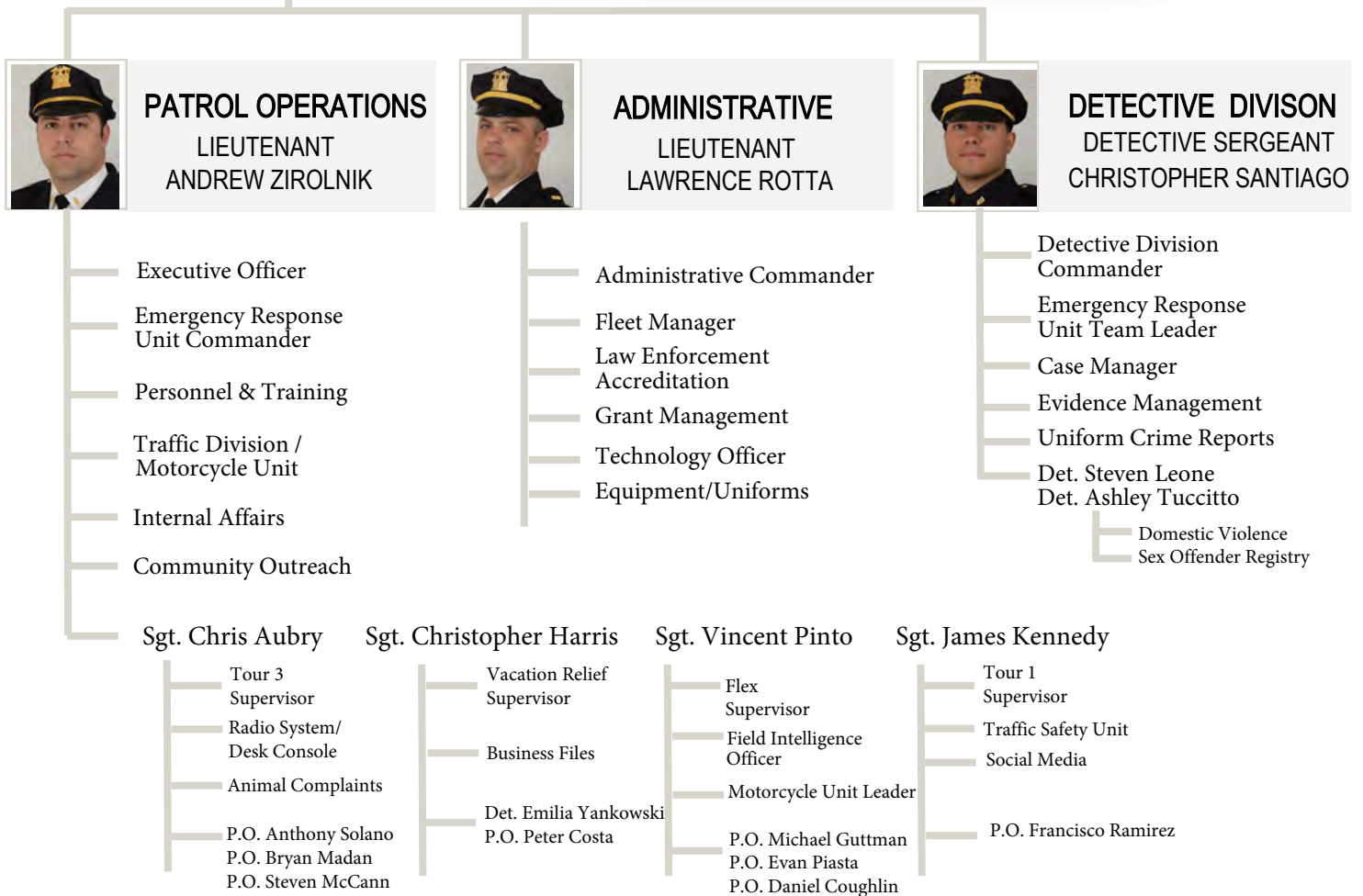
Sincerely,  
*John Costanzo*  
Chief of Police



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**JOHN COSTANZO**



# YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



## PIZZA WITH THE POLICE

This past fall, members of the Tuckahoe Police Department hosted our second annual "Pizza with the Police" event. The event took place at the Tuckahoe Community Center and it was a great opportunity for members of the community to come out and get to know some of the men and women of their police department over some hot pizza.

## TORCH RUN

Every year, the Tuckahoe Police Department participates in the Westchester County leg of the Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. Officers from across the County join together for this amazing event with a mission to promote the Special Olympics and to protect the "Flame of Hope" as it makes its way through Westchester County. The Torch Run comes to our area in May of each year.



## BICYCLE SAFETY DAY

For years, the Tuckahoe Police Department has held its annual Bicycle Safety Day where the community comes out with Tuckahoe Police Officers to teach bike safety techniques while enjoying food and drinks with the children of Tuckahoe and surrounding towns. Free helmets are given away and dozens of new bikes are raffled off each year during the event.

## SANFORD GARDENS COMMUNITY BLOCK PARTY

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department attended the Sanford Gardens Community Block Party. Inflatable sporting games were provided as well as prizes and giveaways. Members of the Police Department enjoyed interacting with residents in various games and being in one another's company.





# YOUR COMMUNITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



## TURKEY GIVE AWAY

Each year for Thanksgiving, the Tuckahoe Police Department and its PBA donated dozens of turkeys to members of the community and local faith groups. This year was no different as Officers continue to work hard to keep this great ongoing tradition.



## CHILI COOK OFF

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department, along with other local Police, Fire, and Medical services, took part in a charity Chili Cook Off at the Broken Bow Brewery last year. All proceeds from the event were donated to The Sharing Shelf, a Family Services of Westchester program. The Tuckahoe Police Department took home 1st Place this year!

## CONE WITH A COP

The Tuckahoe Police Department held our 2nd annual "Cone with a Cop" day this year outside Swirl N Joy. It was a great opportunity for the youth of Tuckahoe to come out and meet their Police Department while enjoying free ice cream! The turnout for this event was far more than we anticipated and we will definitely be holding the event again in the upcoming year!



## VETERAN'S DINNER

Members of the Tuckahoe Police Department once again hosted dinner for the VFW Post #2285 during the fall of this past year as a "Thank You" for their service to our country. It was a special event with a great turnout!

# PATROL DIVISION



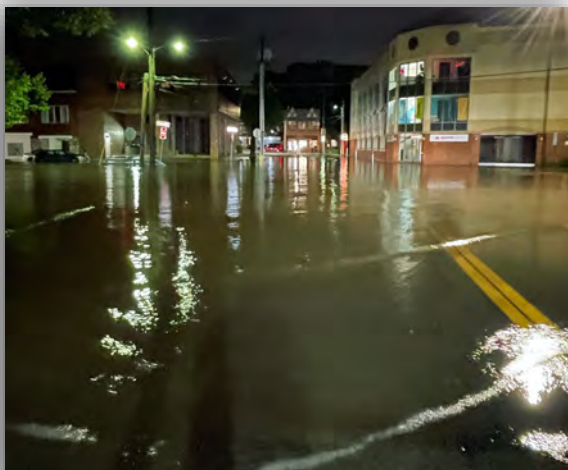
## WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO KEEP YOU SAFE

The Patrol Division is the most visible and largest section of the Police Department. The primary focus of the Patrol Division is the protection of life and property and to enforce the law in a fair and impartial manner, consistent with the values of a free and open society. Uniformed Patrol Officers have the most contact with the community. They provide the Village with a full range of police activities that our citizens have come to rely on. They are the first responders to calls of service that run the gamut from a barking dog to an armed encounter. The most inconsequential and routine activity can develop into a potentially hazardous and volatile situation in a split second. Over the past year we experience several major weather events that our Officer's were on high alert for to assure the safety of all our residents.



## KEEPING CITIZENS SAFE DURING SPECIAL EVENTS

The Tuckahoe Police Department, along with our law enforcement partners, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Emergency Force, the Eastchester Police and Eastchester Auxiliary Police provided a safe route for the 45th Tuckahoe Challenge Race. It was the largest race to date and was a huge success. We hope that other events canceled due to the Pandemic, such as the Annual Fireworks at the Parkway Oval, return this year. We will be at the ready to ensure everyone's safety when they do!





# DETECTIVE DIVISION



## THE DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Tuckahoe Police Department's Detective Division is tasked with the responsibility of investigating all criminal activities, internal investigations and the records management of the entire police department. Detectives act as a liaisons with representatives from federal, state, county, and other municipal agencies. The duties of a Detective may range from obtaining documentation relating to identity theft, to retrieving essential DNA samples at a burglary scene. The Detectives at the Tuckahoe Police Department strive to excel in all aspects of criminology including evidence collection, interview and interrogation, case documentation and court testimony. Aside from investigations, the Detectives are also assigned the task of actively pursuing and arresting subjects who evade court proceedings.



### Real Time Crime

Real Time Crime (RTC) was established by the Westchester County Police Department in 2017. Detective Sergeant Chris Santiago, Detective Steven Leone and Detective Ashley Tuccitto participate weekly and collaborate with over 40 other police departments. They utilize RTC's resources which includes a combination of surveillance, license plate recognition, and shared police databases. One of the largest LPR systems in the USA, RTC scans & archives approximately 40 million plates a month across 220 MOBOTIX cameras. These plates can generate real-time alerts via a robust software platform, and the archived database. This technology has assisted Detectives with apprehending suspects.



### Leave Behind Naloxone

The Tuckahoe Police Department implemented the "Leave Behind Naloxone" initiative. The program equips police officers with naloxone kits for distribution to individuals who are at risk for opioid overdose, or to family or friends who are in a position to help with an overdose crisis. Officers were trained by Lillian Neuman, CASAC, Director of Community Outreach/Education, Saint Vincent's Hospital Westchester and the Maxwell Institute.



# EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

The Tuckahoe Police Departments Emergency Response Unit is a highly trained and skilled tactical team used as a resource for the department in the handling of critical incidents. The use of well managed police tactical units has shown to substantially reduce the risk of injury or loss of life to citizens, police officers and suspects with a high success of favorable resolutions of critical incidents. The Unit trains and deploys with members of the Eastchester Police Department, Bronxville Police Department, and Pelham Police Department. The team received certification from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services after meeting and exceeding all accreditation standards.

The Emergency Response Unit consists of five active tactical operators, which includes Sergeant Chris Santiago as the Unit's team leader. While emergency call-outs were minimal, the team continued partaking in Operation Hercules exercises and training. Training opportunities have been consistent throughout multi-jurisdictional team training with the Westchester County Police SRT team on a monthly basis. The members continue to be enthusiastic and eager to assist whenever called upon.



## OPERATION HERCULES

Members of the Emergency Response Unit have participated with other jurisdictions, more notably the MTA Police, in order to provide extra security during the holiday season on the rail system. In addition, special attention has been given to high risk security threats related to terrorism, such as storage facilities and houses of worship. While most of our local focus was on both the Tuckahoe Train Station as well as the Crestwood Train Station, the team has increased its presence in neighboring jurisdictions and CTZ3 affiliates.

## TRAINING

Administration from our four municipalities agreed upon a collaborative training schedule with the Westchester County Police SRT (Special Response Team). Over the course of the year, each operator is required to complete a minimum of 96 hrs per year of tactical training which will be led by instructors within the WCDPS staff. Training venues and extensive equipment are now more accessible to our team members. The collaborative effort has been a huge success and further illustrates the importance of multi-agency team work. Sgt. Santiago and Sgt. Pinto continued their training as certified sniper elements.



# SPECIAL UNITS



## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY UNIT

The CPS unit is comprised of six members, Sergeant James Kennedy, Police Officers Anthony Solano, Ashley Tuccitto Dan Coughlin and Police Custodian, Elliott Maldonado. The Unit hosts annual car seat events throughout the Village and at events during the year. Over the 2021 year dozens of car seats were inspected and installed by our Car Seat Technicians.



## MOTORCYCLE UNIT

The Motor Unit consists of four specially trained officers who operate three fully outfitted Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles. The motorcycles were purchased, with a grant from the Generoso Pope Foundation. The motorcycles are a very visible means of patrol, with the primary function of traffic enforcement. The maneuverability of the motorcycles and the ability to accelerate quickly make them excellent tools to enforce speeding violations and other traffic offenses. The goal of the added enforcement is to increase traffic safety and decrease motor vehicle accidents. They maneuver through traffic for improved response time and reach areas such as parks that are not easily accessed by patrol cars. In addition, the unit participated in over 10 ceremonial escorts, which included funeral escorts, parades, and charity rides.





# SPECIAL UNITS



## TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT

The Traffic Safety Unit was formed in 2020 and is comprised of five Members, Sgt. Kennedy, Sgt. Harris, P.O. Ramirez, P.O. Solano, and P.O. Tuccitto. The unit holds monthly traffic details that targets drivers under the influence, unsafe commercial vehicles, vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians, motorists using cellular phones without hands free devices, along with many other targeted enforcement areas. This past year the unit was limited with enforcement details due to COVID, but they did complete three days of details before the pandemic which resulted in 91 summonses being issued. The summonses issued were mainly for commercial vehicle violations and seat belt violations.



## BICYCLE PATROL UNIT

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from July 1st through October 31st. The high profile, proactive bicycle promotes positive public relations, deters serious crimes, addresses quality of life complaints and fosters and maintains the commitment to the community policing philosophy. Members of the unit patrolled 47 tours in 2021. Almost all members of the Department in their career have taken the treacherous five day Police Mountain Bike Patrol Course.

# YOUTH SERVICES



## YOUTH SERVICES

The Tuckahoe Police Department continues to be affected by the Covid 19 pandemic, however our agency still made strong efforts to continue our goal of serving our community. Some minor adjustments were made in various programs and community outreach concepts but many programs were able to take place as pandemic restrictions were less stringent.

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has six Youth Officers: Lt. Zirolnik, Det/Sgt. Santiago, Det. Leone, P.O. Piasta, P.O. Solano and P.O. Tuccitto.

- The Tuckahoe Police Department accepted two High School interns into our department Intern (WISE Program.) Additionally, one college student from Iona College. The interns worked under the supervision of Lt. Zirolnik and Lt. Rotta and were involved in various departmental projects and observed daily operations. The internship program has been a great success and we were happy to host the students this year following the 2020 pandemic cancellation.
- There were **five juvenile cards/juvenile activity reports** forwarded to the Youth Division for follow up by our Youth Officers. These juveniles may have been involved in activity that would have constituted a crime, but due to their age they were referred to the Youth Division for appropriate consequences.
- P.O. Piasta taught the 5th Grade D.A.R.E. Program at the William E. Cottle Elementary school. There were approximately 100 students who received ten weeks of instruction utilizing the new "Keep it Real" curriculum which was culminated with a virtual graduation ceremony.



## EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program is up and running again as of October with 14 active Explorers. Post #2008 had approx. 22 regular meetings throughout the school year, which included community service opportunities for all of the enrolled Explorers. The Explorer Program runs every other Wednesday, from 5:30PM-7:30PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The two advisors are Officer Piasta and Officer Madan.





# DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



## 2021 OFFICER OF THE YEAR



***BRYAN MADAN***

The Officer Recognition Award is awarded in acknowledgment of a patrol officer's outstanding police work. The 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 the Village Hall.

## MERITORIOUS POLICE DUTY

<i>Det/Sgt. Abelardo Bautista (x2)</i>	<i>P.O. Peter Costa</i>
<i>Det. Steven Leone (x2)</i>	<i>P.O. Evan Piasta</i>
<i>Det. Andrea Pinto</i>	<i>P.O. Steven McCann(x2)</i>
<i>P.O. Ashley Tuccitto</i>	<i>P.O. Daniel Coughlin (x2)</i>
<i>P.O. Francisco Ramirez</i>	<i>P.O. Zach Leone (x2)</i>

## EXCELLENT POLICE DUTY

<i>Det Andrea Pinto</i>	<i>P.O. Evan Piasta (x2)</i>
<i>P.O. Peter Costa</i>	<i>P.O. Zach Leone (x3)</i>
<i>Det/Sgt Abelardo Bautista</i>	<i>P.O. Steven McCann (x2)</i>
<i>Det. Steven Leone</i>	

## UNIT CITATION

*Social Media - Sgt James Kennedy & P.O. Steven McCann*

# PROMOTIONS



**Sergeant Christopher Santiago** was promoted to the rank of **Detective/Sergeant**  
&  
**Officer Christopher Harris** was promoted to the rank of **Sergeant**



## TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Tuckahoe Police Department was the recipient of the Automobile Association of America's Gold Award. The award was bestowed for the Department's superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the fourteenth consecutive year that the Department has been recognized with the prestigious award by the AAA. The award was given to the Police Department for our effectiveness in addressing local traffic safety issues, by implementing superior programs and projects 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 - 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 20 years. The Department also received a commendation for 47 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.





# POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS



## POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS

### Traffic Safety:

1. Selective Enforcement Program:(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$7,200	Police Overtime
2. STOP-DWI Program (Westchester County)	\$5,400	Police Overtime
3. Child Safety Seat Program: (Governor's Traffic Safety Committee)	\$2,300	Child Safety Seats/ Training/Supplies

### Youth Programs

4. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E. (NYS Office of Children and Family Services)	\$2,375	Education/ Prevention Programs
5. D.A.R.E. (The Community Fund)	\$4,100	Education/Prevention Programs
6. Youth Programs (The Community Fund)	\$9,000	Events(Cops for Kids, Open House, Explorers, Safe Riders, etc)

### Equipment

7. Department of Justice(Sen. Mayer/ Assm. Paulin)	\$44,500	Upgrade Body Worn Cameras
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### Counter-Terrorism

8. NYS Counter-Terrorism	\$2,400	Police Overtime (Tactical Patrols)
9. NYS Homeland Security	\$9,500	Tactical Training

**TOTAL: \$86,775**

# CALLS FOR SERVICE / CITATIONS



## 2021 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service: 3,402

Alarms:	202
Fire Response:	182
Medical Aided:	461
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	98
Domestic Incidents:	70
Assault:	3
Harassment:	33
Robbery:	0
Burglary:	13
Sex Offenses:	1
Larceny:	27
Motor Vehicle Theft:	3
Drug Offenses:	0
Criminal Mischief:	14
DWI/DWAI:	12
Liquor Law Violations:	1
Fraud/Identity Theft:	58

Criminal Cases:	96
Adult Arrests:	69

## Traffic Citations

Total Citations: 1,058

Speeding:	86
Red Light:	109
Seatbelt:	50
Unlicensed Operator:	47
DWI / DWAI:	12
Commercial Vehicle Offenses:	38
Registration Offenses:	89
Stop Sign:	112
One Way:	24
Pass School Bus:	2
No Inspection:	143
Equipment Violation:	120
Improper Lane Use:	92
No Right Turn:	22
Mobile Phone Use	46
Other Offenses:	66

Parking Violations:	8,935
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## CONTACT US

Non-Emergency Desk:: 914-961-4800

Emergencies:: 911

Email:: [PoliceDesk@Tuckahoe-NY.com](mailto:PoliceDesk@Tuckahoe-NY.com)

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- Safety Updates
- Road Closures & Traffic Updates
- Police/Village Event Information
- Wanted/Missing Person updates
- Current Crime Trend updates
- Parking Enforcement news
- and much more...



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