

TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

Police Department Report 2017

New York State Accreditation

The assessment of the Tuckahoe Police Department for reaccreditation by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services was completed by an on-site visit of a certified assessor in July. The on-site assessment and audit of the Department verified that all qualification standards were met.

The accreditation program is a progressive way to aid the department in evaluating and improving its overall performance. It provides a formal recognition that the Tuckahoe Police Department meets or exceeds general expectations of quality service. The program is comprised of 110 standards and is divided into three categories. Standards in the *Administrative* section have provisions for such topics as agency organization, fiscal management, personnel practices, and records. *Training* standards encompass basic and in-service instruction, as well as training for supervisors and specialized or technical assignments. *Operations* standards deal with critical and litigious topics such as high-speed pursuits, roadblocks, patrol and unusual occurrences. The program is voluntary and the Tuckahoe Police Department is in an elite group of only about 20 percent of police agencies that are accredited statewide.

A formal presentation to Chief Costanzo by the Accreditation Council was held in Albany on September 7, 2017. In addition, the Program Manager, Detective Emilia Yankowski was awarded a plaque in recognition of her role in the Department's reaccreditation.

Recipient of National Traffic Safety Award

The Tuckahoe Police Department was a recipient of the **Automobile Association of America's Gold Award**. It was bestowed for the Department's superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the eleventh consecutive year that the Department has been recognized with a prestigious award by the AAA. The award was given for the Police Department's 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 17 years. Another commendation was received for 43 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.

Special Unit Reports

Child Passenger Safety Unit

The CPS unit is comprised of six members, Sergeant James Kennedy, Detective Andrea Pinto, Police Officers Anthony Solano (Unit Leader), Ashley Tuccitto, Dan Coughlin and Maintenance Person, Elliott Madonado. The Unit hosted a seat check event on May 20th at the Eastchester Town Hall with Eastchester Police Department in conjunction with the department's bicycle safety event. The unit checked/installed 16 child safety seats at the event.

37 vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in.

A total of 52 child safety seats were checked or installed 2017.

5 new seats were provided and installed free of charge to those whose existing seats were defective.

Bicycle Patrol Unit

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from May 1st through October 31st. The high profile proactive bicycle patrols 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 94 tours**.

Motorcycle Unit

The Motor Unit consists of four (4) specially trained officers who operate three fully outfitted Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles. Two of these motorcycles were purchased in 2017 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 **20 ceremonial escorts** in 2017, which included funeral escorts, parades, charity rides and the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

Emergency Response Unit

The Tuckahoe Police Department's 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.

Upon completion of 2017, The Emergency Response Unit consists of 5 active tactical operators. Lt. Zirolnik will continue to be the multijurisdictional team commander. While emergency call-outs were minimal, the team continued partaking in Operation Hercules exercises and training. Training opportunities have been consistent with our 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 ERU team 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 jurisdiction and CTZ3 affiliates.

Call-Outs:

August, members of the Emergency Response Team responded on a report of a barricaded male believed to be in possession of weapons. A perimeter was established and a command post initiated. Entry was made by members of the Emergency Response Unit and the male was detained.

The Emergency Response Team was called to assist Pelham PD with a barricaded suspect. The incident ended successfully.

Dignitary Protection:

Team members provided security for Cardinal Dolan at a church service at Immaculate Conception Church.

Training:

Team members participate in a collaborative training schedule with the Westchester County Police SRT (Special Response Team). Over the course of the year, each operator completed a minimum of 96 hours of tactical training. This shared service allows for training venues and extensive equipment accessible to our team members. The collaborative effort has been a huge success and further illustrates the importance of multi-agency team work.

Youth Services

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has **5 Youth Officers: Lt. Zirolnik, Sgt. Santiago P.O. Leone, P.O. Piasta and P.O. Tuccitto.**

- The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2017 year with **8 active Explorers**. Post #2008 had **22 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 5:30PM-7:30PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The two Advisors are Sgt Santiago and Officer Piasta.
- In January 2017, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted a student from Iona College into our departments Intern Program. The intern, whose studies focused in Criminal Justice, worked under the supervision of Lt. Andrew Zirolnik and completed 104+ hours of internship hours. In addition, The Tuckahoe Police Department accepted an Eastchester High School Student as well as a Tuckahoe High School student to complete their WISE internship under the supervision of Lt. Zirolnik.
- There were **11 Youths mandated by the Village of Tuckahoe Court** to our Community Service Alcohol/Drug Awareness classes and Service Program in 2017. The Court imposed a \$75.00 Administrative fee for these classes. This fee is payable on the day of the class, and goes directly toward the cost of running this program. These classes are run by Sgt. Santiago, P.O. Leone or P.O. Piasta at the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department.
- There were **8 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 2017.
- There were **7 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 were referred to the Youth Division for appropriate consequences.
- P.O. Piasta taught the 5th Grade DARE program to the William E. Cottle 5th Graders. There were approximately 120 students who received 10 weeks of instruction utilizing new “Keeping it Real” curriculum which was culminated with a graduation ceremony in June of 2017.
- P.O. Piasta taught the DARE Middle school curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School’s 7th grade class. There were approximately 84 students who received 10 weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.

Community Outreach Efforts

Both the Tuckahoe and Eastchester Police Departments hosted our first joint “Safe Rider’s Day” which focuses on Bicycle Safety instruction & course, Car Seat installation, crime prevention, raffles and games. The event was held at the Eastchester Town Hall and a strong local turnout was present. Outside agencies such as the Westchester County Police, Eastchester Fire Dept. and EVAC also participated in the event with displays and hands on demonstrations.

The Tuckahoe Youth Division/DARE Officers hosted the annual DARE Picnic at Lake Isle in June for the 5th and 7th grade DARE students. Swimming, lunch, snacks, beverages and dessert were provided for all students and faculty.

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 Dept. and local community residents enjoyed competing in various games and being in one another’s company.

The Tuckahoe Police Department youth officers participated in the Annual Tuckahoe Fireworks display at the Parkway Oval. Officers were present with an inflatable basketball game to join members of the community in friendly competition and allowed officers to interact with the community in a fun and exciting format. Glow stick giveaways were provided.

Law Enforcement Open House: The Tuckahoe Police Department continued its annual tradition inviting various local schools and organization to tour our department facility and meet various police officers. Children are presented with Community Safety coloring books and police badges. The kids always enjoy taking pictures inside the police cars and interacting with our officers.

2017 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service:	3,770
Alarms:	251
Fire Responses:	183
Medical Aided:	434
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	114
Domestic Incidents	86
Assault	6
Harassment	20
Robbery	0
Burglary	4
Sex Offenses	1
Larceny	76
Motor Vehicle Theft	2
Drug Offenses	29
Criminal Mischief	13
DWI/ DWAI	10
Liquor Law Violations	5
Fraud – Identity Theft:	69
Criminal Cases:	243
Adult Arrests:	147

Traffic Citations

Moving Violations:

• Speeding	148
• Red Light	214
• Seatbelt	98
• Unlicensed Operator	100
• DWI / DWAI	12
• Commercial Vehicle Offenses	80
• Registration Offenses	55
• Stop Sign	340
• One Way	26
• Pass School Bus	3
• No Inspection	97
• Light Defect	135
• Improper Lane Use	171
• No Right Turn	146
• Mobile Phone Use	94
• Other Offenses	191

Total: ***1,910***

Parking Violations: ***13,115***

Police Department Grants

Total: \$69,607

Traffic Safety

- | | | |
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| 1. Selective Enforcement Program:
(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee) | \$3,100 | Police Overtime |
| 2. STOP-DWI Program:
(Westchester County) | \$5,400 | Police Overtime |
| 3. Child Safety Seat Program
(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee) | \$1,000 | Child Safety Seats
Training / Supplies |

Youth Programs

- | | | |
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| 4. Drug Prevention/D.A.R.E.
(NYS Office of Children and
Family Services) | \$1,307 | Education/Prevention
Programs |
| 5. D.A.R.E.
(The Community Fund) | \$2,900 | Education/Prevention
Programs |
| 6. Youth Programs
(The Community Fund) | \$7,600 | Events (Cops for Kids, Open
House, Explorers, Safe Riders,
etc.) |

Equipment

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|------------------------------------|
| 7. Generoso Pope Foundation | \$45,000 | Two Harley Davidson
Motorcycles |
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Counterterrorism

- | | | |
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| 8. NYS Counterterrorism | \$3,300 | Police Overtime |
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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 **2017** was:

Police Officer Evan Piasta