

TUCKAHOE POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT

Police Department Report 2012

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 133 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 13, 2012. In addition, the program manager, Lieutenant Margaret Belles 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 Platinum Award**, their highest honor. It was bestowed for the Department's superior programs and projects that address local traffic safety. This is the eighth consecutive year that the Department has been recognized with the prestigious award 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 12 years. Another commendation was received for 38 consecutive years without a pedestrian fatality.

Tuckahoe Police Launch Motorcycle Unit

The Village of Tuckahoe Police Department has motorcycle patrols for the first time in over 50 years. Motorcycles were the first motorized means of patrol in the early days of policing in the village. The department phased motorcycles out sometime in the late 1950's giving way to the exclusive use of patrol cars. Now, two fully outfitted Harley-Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles patrol the streets of Tuckahoe, in addition to existing patrol methods, which include officers on foot, Segway, bicycle and police cars.

The motorcycles are 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 will be able to maneuver through traffic for improved response time and reach areas such as parks that are not easily accessed by patrol cars. Secondary uses will be escorts, parades and other ceremonial details. The unit participated in 36 ceremonial escorts in its first year of operation.

Members of the unit are very accessible and easily approachable, which fits nicely into the department's community policing philosophy. Four members have been assigned to the unit, Sergeant David Bank, Police Officer Andrew Zirolnik, Police Officer Lawrence Rotta and Police Officer Christopher Santiago. Each member attended an intensive two (2) week Police Motorcycle Operator Course hosted by the Yonkers Police Department. The members volunteered for the unit and had to meet strict criteria for their selection.

The motorcycles are more fuel efficient and their use will reduce the wear and tear on the remainder of the fleet, which will decrease overall costs for the department. The motorcycles, equipment and uniforms were provided by a \$63,000 grant by the Generoso Pope Foundation.

Police Officer Recruitment Program

Westchester County held a civil service examination for Police Officers on November 17, 2012. The Tuckahoe Police Department began a campaign to recruit members of the community to participate in this exam. The goal of the recruitment effort was to attract qualified individuals of diverse backgrounds, education and experiences. Prior to the exam, the Department sponsored a well attended cram-course to prepare applicants for the test. We're hopeful that our recruitment efforts have resulted in highly qualified candidates from all walks of life becoming Police Officers and the future leaders of the Tuckahoe Police Department.

Special Unit Reports

Child Passenger Safety Unit

The CPS unit hosted a seat check event on June 18th at the Parkway Oval in conjunction with the department's bicycle safety event. The unit also held a second seat check event at Police Headquarters on September 22nd.

Forty (40) vehicles were checked by appointment or walk-in.

A total of fifty-eight (58) child safety seats were checked or installed in fifty-five (55) vehicles over the year.

Emergency Response Unit

The Tuckahoe Police Department's Emergency Response Unit is a highly trained and skilled tactical team as a resource for the department in the handling of critical incidents.

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 and Pelham Police Department.

Upon completion of 2012, The Emergency Response Unit consists of 5 active tactical operators. The year proved to be a success as the unit actively served multiple search warrants and secured various highly volatile scenes. The unit responded to 4 calls for service in addition to security functions such as "Operation Hercules."

- On April 26th, The Unit along with Bronxville Police Department responded to conduct an extraction of a barricaded emotionally disturbed person in the Village of Bronxville. Team members breached the premises and conducted an interior search for the subject. Subject was located on the second floor of the home and placed into custody by various team members.
- On July 19th, The Unit was called to serve a search warrant in the Town of Eastchester along with The Eastchester Police Department. A multi jurisdictional narcotics investigation by EPD substantiated the warrant. Team forced entry of the home. Suspect located in bedroom on second floor and arrested without incident.

Emergency Response Unit Report Continued:

- On August 11th, The Unit was called to a home in the Village to assist with a barricaded subject believed to be armed inside his home. The suspect was making threats to kill himself and family members. The suspect was located and taken into custody outside the home.
- On November 22nd, The Unit responded to an apartment building to assist with a barricaded subject possibly armed. Suspect threatened to kill police if they interfere. A full team activation was deployed and operators secured building inner perimeter while a hostage negotiator spoke with the subject. Following a 5 hour standoff, the suspect agreed to exit his apartment and was taken into custody by team members.

Operation Hercules

As in previous years, 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. Members would alternate between both the Tuckahoe Train Station and the Crestwood Train Station for a show of force on the platforms to deter potential terrorist threats.

Bicycle Patrol Unit

The Bicycle Patrol Unit was in operation from May 1st through October 31st. 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 160 tours. The unit issued 75 traffic violations, 54 parking violations and arrested four persons.

Youth Services

The Tuckahoe Police Explorer Program ended the 2012 year with **18 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-8:30PM, September-June at the Tuckahoe Police Department. The four Advisors are Lt. Belles, Officer Zirolnik, Officer Santiago and Officer Leone. The Explorers volunteer at department run events such as the annual Cops for Kids Kickball/Softball Tournament, National Night Out Against Crime, as well as the annual children's Christmas party.

In January 2012, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted two college interns from Mercy College, into our department Intern Program. These interns worked under the supervision of Lt. Margaret Belles and completed 80+ work hours.

Youth Services Continued:

In May, 2012 through June of 2012, the Tuckahoe Police Department accepted two Eastchester High School Students to complete their WISE internship under the supervision of Lt. Belles.

The Tuckahoe Police Department currently has 5 Youth Officers. **The Youth Officers are: Lt. Belles, Sgt. Cuccinello, P.O. Andrew Zirolnik, P.O. Christopher Santiago and P.O. Steven Leone.**

- The Community Service Alcohol/Drug Awareness classes and Service Program are still running and working cooperatively with the Tuckahoe Village Court. There is 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 Lt. Belles and Officer Zirolnik at the Village of Tuckahoe Police Department.
- There were **6 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 2012.
- There were **10 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. There were 3 other Juvenile Cases where cards were not completed, as a Youth Officer was on duty and completed the case investigation and Juvenile Activity reports. These youths were included in the above reported number of juveniles diverted from the Juvenile Justice System.
- Officer Andrew Zirolnik taught the 5th Grade DARE program to the William E. Cottle 5th Graders. There were approximately 100 students who received 13 weeks of instruction
- utilizing this curriculum which will culminate with a graduation ceremony on Thursday, January 31, 2013.
- P.O. Leone taught the DARE Middle school curriculum to the Tuckahoe Middle School's 7th grade class. There were approximately 100 students who received 8 weeks of instruction in the Middle School curriculum.
- Lt. Margaret Belles created new curriculum for the Tuckahoe High School Law Related Education Program was taught to 100 students in a 4 Lesson block of instruction in the Spring of 2012.
P.O. Leone taught the four lesson block of instruction to the Tuckahoe High School students from April-May 2012.
From September-December of 2012, P.O. Leone taught four of the eight scheduled High School Law Related Education lessons for the school year.

Community Outreach

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 150 attendees over the course of the event.

The Tuckahoe Explorer Post assisted during the event.

The Tuckahoe Police Department also hosted “The Cops for Kids Annual Kickball/Softball Tournament” event. There were approximately 115 children who participated in the games and about 70 adults in attendance. There were approximately 24 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.

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 **2012** was:

Police Officer Christopher Santiago

2012 Blotter Reports

Total Calls for Service:	4,111
Alarms:	320
Fire Responses:	208
Medical Aided:	421
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	100
Domestic Incidents	83
Assault	4
Robbery	2
Burglary	7
Sex Offenses	4
Larceny	50
Motor Vehicle Theft	3
Drug Offenses	31
Criminal Mischief	18
DWI/ DWAI	10
Liquor Law Violations	1
Fraud – Identity Theft:	27
All Others:	77
Criminal Cases:	298
Adult Arrests:	148
Juvenile Arrests:	3

Traffic Citations

Moving Violations:

• Speeding	252
• Red Light	50
• Seatbelt	125
• Unlicensed Operator	96
• DWI / DWAI	13
• No Comm. Traffic	22
• Registration Offenses	67
• Stop Sign	151
• One Way	27
• Pass School Bus	8
• No Inspection	91
• Light Defect	97
• Improper Lane Use	123
• No Right Turn	87
• Mobile Phone Use	222
• Other Offenses	129

Total: ***1,560***

Parking Violations: ***11,510***

Police Department Grants

Traffic Safety

- | | | |
|--|---------|-----------------|
| 1. Selective Enforcement Program:
(Governor's Traffic Safety Committee) | \$1,600 | Police Overtime |
| 2. STOP-DWI Program:
(Westchester County) | \$8,400 | Police Overtime |
| 3. Buckle Up New York | \$2,103 | Police Overtime |

Youth Programs

- | | | |
|--|---------|----------------------------------|
| 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) | \$1,700 | Education/Prevention
Programs |
| 6. Youth Programs
(The Community Fund) | \$7,800 | Events |

Storm Recovery

- | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--|
| 7. Hurricane Irene
FEMA | \$10,984 | Police Overtime
Protective Measures |
|----------------------------|----------|--|

Equipment

- | | | |
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| 8. Generoso Pope Foundation | \$63,867 | Motorcycles
Equipment/uniforms |
| 9. Generoso Pope Foundation | \$9,159 | Ballistic Shields |

Total: \$106,920