

Bethlehem Police Department



2018

Annual Report

Town of Bethlehem, New York

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



On behalf of the men and women of the Bethlehem Police Department, I am pleased and honored to present our Annual Report for 2018. This report contains information on trends in our community as well as the department's proactive approach to crime along with information on department operations, and responsibilities. Our members continue to meet very high standards of training to assure that we have the most capable, effective, efficient and compassionate personnel, along with strong uncompromising enforcement of the laws, which is administered fairly and consistently.

Over the last several years the Police Department and the Town's MIS Department have been exploring an upgrade or replacement of our existing New World Systems Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS). Our current CAD/RMS is over twenty five years old and is nearing its support end of life. Bethlehem Police Department is one of two remaining agencies in New York State that is still on the legacy system. This has made it critical for us to either upgrade the system or obtain a new system.

An important component of any new system is the ability to access historical data. This is critical to the management of existing and new police matters. Other vendors were not able to convert our historical data without a significant loss of data and functionality. Tyler Technologies can completely convert all of our historical data into their new Enterprise CAD/RMS.

After significant study of systems and site visits to other agencies in New York, we determined that upgrading our current New World Systems CAD/RMS to New World Systems Enterprise CAD/RMS from Tyler Technologies provides the best solution for the Town of Bethlehem. It will allow seamless access to historical data and runs on modern virtualized computing infrastructure. It will provide new and improved functionality such as field reporting, mobile data inquiries, automated vehicle location and closest vehicle dispatch recommendation. The system will also be very cost effective.

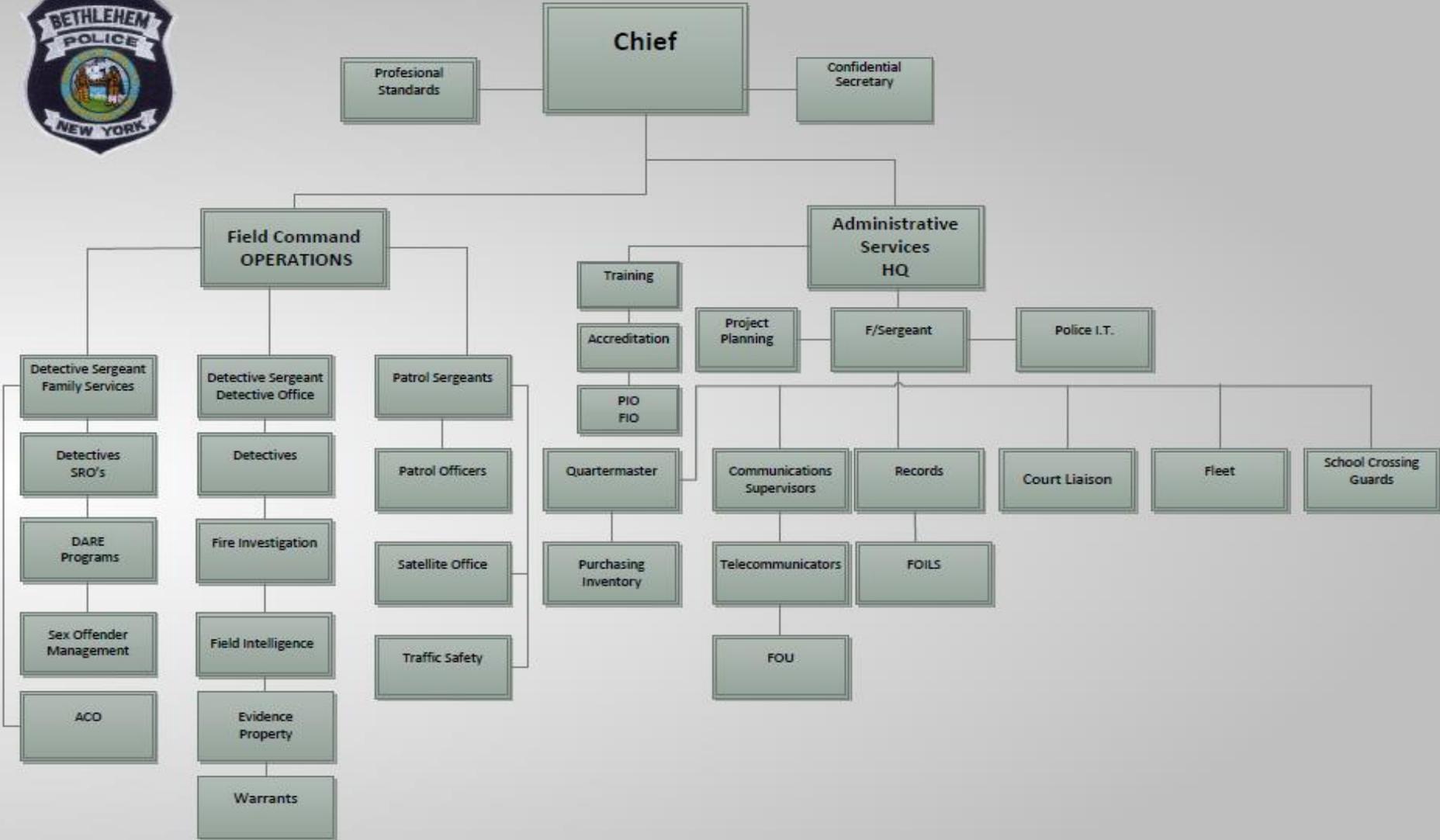
We look forward to 2019 and the many challenges that will undoubtedly face the department. As budget considerations are at the forefront of business decisions, our goals remain the same; to provide the best possible public safety services to our community in a responsible, accountable and cost effective manner.

We will never sacrifice service quality when it comes to community safety. Even as we implement service efficiencies, foster sound business practices, and implement fiscally responsible initiatives, we will meet head-on the array of challenges associated with policing our community.

In closing I would like to thank all of the sworn members and civilian employees of BPD for the hard work, dedication, and professionalism that they display each and every day in their service to the Town of Bethlehem.

Respectfully,
Louis G. Corsi
Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT

Field Command Operations

Commander Adam N. Hornick
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518-439-9973 ext. 1211

Detective Office

Detective Sergeant James E. Cross Jr.
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Family Services Unit

Detective Sergeant Gina F. Cocchiara
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Administrative Services HQ

Deputy Chief Thomas M. Heffernan Jr.
theffernan@townofbethlehem.org
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First Sergeant Robert Helligrass Sr.
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518-439-9973 ext. 1205

First Sergeant Brian Hughes
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Field Command – Operations Patrol

A- Line (Overnight Shift)

Sergeant Stephen Kraz
skraz@townofbethlehem.org
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Sergeant Francis R. Muller
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B-Line (Day Shift)

Sergeant Michael A. Cozzy
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Sergeant Robert C. Baldwin Jr.
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C-Line (Afternoon Shift)

Sergeant James L. Rexford
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Sergeant Christopher Shunk
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DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Chief of Police

Louis G. Corsi

Deputy Chief of Police

Thomas M. Heffernan, Jr.

Commander

Adam N. Hornick

Administrative Sergeant

Robert J. Helligrass, Sr. **

Brian A. Hughes

Patrol Sergeants

James L. Rexford

Christopher Shunk

Stephen M. Kraz **

Francis R. Muller

Michael A. Cozy

Robert C. Baldwin, Jr.

Detective Sergeants

Gina F. Cocchiara

James E. Cross, Jr.

Detectives

Charles H. Radliff, Jr.

Chad A. Rice

Michael S. Whiteley

Gerald N. Young

Kenneth G. Beck, Jr.

I.T. Officer

Scott P. Galough

Traffic Safety Investigators

Craig M. Sleurs

William D. Austin

Patrol Officers

Peter Resnick

George W. Travis **

David T. Caputo

Michael J. Berben

Timothy C. Travis

Adam H. Cobb

Rico R. Fiore

Jeffrey M. Gallagher

Chad A. Ferraro

Ryan W. VanAmburgh

James E. Corrigan

Mark D. Gorman Sr.

Brian P. Mahan

Kristen Spinnato

Yekaterina Dickerson

Roy K. Swann Jr.

Caitlyn A. Krage

Isaiah F. Burton

Matthew Dring

Senior Telecommunicator

Brent W. Dragon

Telecommunicators

Brian J. Sleurs

Melissa J. Powell

Sharon E. Huether

Jared L. Willard

Katherine A. Gould

Melissa Harnett

Jessica Falconiere

Kristina Leamy

Gabriella Falco *

Alex Griffin

Animal Control Officers

Richard A. Watt

Kevin D. McDonough

Secretary to the Chief

Diana Jacon

Records

Fran C. Andriano

Brianna M. Tice

School Crossing Guards

Mike Roberts

Jennifer Hammond

Mary Root

William Krell

Nancy Toomey

Linda Taylor

Richard Vanderbilt

Medical Director

Dr. Michael Dailey

** Resigned in 2018*

*** Retired in 2018*

ADMINISTRATION

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM Police Department



Louis G. Corsi *Chief of Police*

Louis G. Corsi is the Chief of Police of the Bethlehem Police Department. He has been a law enforcement officer since 1979 with a degree in Criminal Justice and has held the positions of Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Lieutenant and Deputy Chief before being appointed to the position of Chief in 2003.

Chief Corsi is an active member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Northeastern Chiefs Conference and the F.B.I. Law Enforcement Executive Development Association.

The Chief is a member of the Advisory Board at the Glenmont Job Corps Center, a member of the Albany County Traffic Safety Board and an Executive Board member for the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Center where he also serves as President on the Board of Directors. Chief Corsi also serves as President of the Executive Board for the Northeastern Chiefs Conference. Appointed by Governor Pataki and then reappointed by Governor Paterson, the Chief held a seat on the New York State Accreditation Council as the representative of the New York State Chiefs Association. He is a strong proponent of police professionalism and continuing education and training.

The police department has assumed a leadership role in the development and implementation of the E-911 countywide emergency communications systems and serves as one of the five primary PSAPs (Public Safety Answering Points) within the county. The department was the first to provide an interactive computer aided dispatch (CAD) and records management system in the county and continues to work closely with federal, state and local agencies to develop new computer applications which will further ensure the delivery of efficient and effective public

safety services.

The department is committed to family services and has received statewide recognition for its innovative pro-active programs designed to educate, inform and protect parents and children and to deal with those special types of problems unique to family life and raising children. The police department is a charter member of the Albany County Coalition against Domestic Abuse and actively participates in enforcement, legislation and protection with regards to victims of domestic violence.

Traffic safety is a priority of the department and members have received national, state and local recognition for their accomplishments. The department has received several grants to further traffic safety efforts in the Town of Bethlehem and has accident investigation and reconstruction specialists on staff to determine cause, assist in prosecutions and to determine priorities in our prevention programs. The Division of Criminal Justice Services, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee have honored the department for its contributions to traffic safety.

The town has provided state of the art investigational equipment to our detectives including a laser fingerprint device for identifying latent prints, audio and video surveillance equipment, high-resolution photographic capabilities and other technical material used in support of criminal investigations. We have learned that DNA is the fingerprint of the future and have trained our investigators in collecting and identifying DNA evidence, while providing state of the art equipment to accomplish this task. The availability of these types of resources to the investigators provides for increased efficiency and effectiveness and has often led to the identification, apprehension, prosecution and conviction of suspects.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - HEADQUARTERS

Deputy Chief Thomas M. Heffernan, Jr. began his law enforcement career in 1990. He commands the Administrative Services Division and is responsible for assisting the Chief of Police in directing and overseeing all phases of administration and police services. He is second in command of the Bethlehem Police Department and in the absence of the Chief, directs all operations. Deputy Chief Heffernan has served as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Lieutenant and Deputy Chief over the years. He holds a degree in Criminal Justice and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Program in Quantico, Virginia.



The responsibilities of the Administrative Services Division include counter terrorism intelligence, Program Manager New York State Accreditation Program, departmental training, overseeing public safety communications, E-911 emergency phone system, computer aided dispatch, police hard copy and electronic records, federal and state record reporting, Freedom of Information requests, management of grants, purchasing, overseeing the operation and maintenance of all radio equipment (fixed, mobile and portable), police computer systems (fixed, mobile and portable), project management, Quartermaster (uniforms and equipment), inventory, fleet management, crime analysis and statistical research, annual report, planning and research. Deputy Chief Heffernan works closely with local police agencies, fire departments and emergency medical services to assure that responses are coordinated through the communications center so that there is an immediate response to an emergency or other medical service. First Sergeant Brian Hughes is second in command of the division and oversees the records section.

The Administrative Services Division works in cooperation with the Human Resources department to handle personnel matters, including recruiting, screening, interviewing, hiring, training, union grievances, contract negotiations, matters of internal affairs and disciplinary procedures. Additionally, Deputy Chief Heffernan represents the police department on the town's Health and Safety/Risk Assessment Committee. The committee is responsible for developing, reviewing and monitoring town wide policies and procedures. He works closely with PERMA to reduce job related injuries through training and best practices.

TRAINING

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for coordinating departmental training, researching training opportunities and staying current and up to date with training certifications and requirements.

Deputy Chief Heffernan schedules personnel to attend training and sets up in-house programs for law enforcement agencies throughout upstate New York. The Bethlehem Police Department is known statewide for its commitment to law enforcement training and views education as a priority.



Some examples of annual training include:

- Sexual Harassment
- Workplace Violence
- First Aid-CPR, Automatic External Defibrillators
- Firearms Certification (twice a year)
- Rapid Response to an Active Shooter
- Use of Force/Defensive Tactics
- Domestic Violence
- Hazardous Materials/Incident Response
- Blood Borne Pathogens-HIV/AIDS-Hepatitis Risk Avoidance



The concept of regionalism is clearly demonstrated by our participation in the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy, which coordinates all state certified training in ten counties. Chief Corsi serves on the Board of Directors as President. This cooperative effort saves money for every municipality in the zone which participates and provides consistent, quality and professional training.

FLEET MANAGEMENT



The Administrative Services Division oversees the police department's fleet of vehicles, consisting of marked and unmarked patrol cars, unmarked administrative, command, detective cars and specialty vehicles. (Field Operations Unit, Forensic Unit and Animal Control vehicle). The goal of fleet management is to provide the necessary transportation for the delivery of services to the people of the

Town at the best possible price. We are fortunate to have the Town Highway Department maintaining these vehicles and keeping them in safe operating condition. They do an excellent job at a reasonable cost. Through the management of fleet operations, substantial savings were found in the cost of replacing police vehicles.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Administrative Services is also responsible for servicing and supporting the I.T. needs of the police department. Currently the department has a mobile computer fleet consisting of twenty three mobile data terminals or MDTs. Each patrol MDT is a ruggedized Panasonic Toughbook with several peripherals to include a printer, barcode scanner, GPS, and cellular connectivity. Cellular connectivity allows the officer to receive information about suspects, and vehicles, directly to their MDT rather than having to rely on a dispatcher to relay information to them over the radio. The predominant software used in patrol cars is TraCS (Traffic and Criminal Software) which allows for electronic tickets and accident reports to be issued. Electronic tickets and accident reports have greatly increased the efficiency of the department by reducing paper work and time consuming data entry tasks.



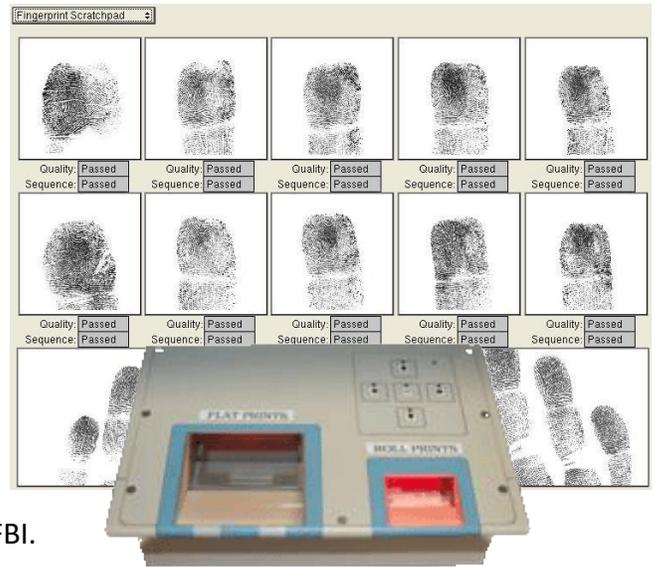
The Police Department is currently in a project to outfit every patrol car with an in car camera system. At the time of this report, most of the fleet has been outfitted with the new Coban cameras.

Additional technology in the fleet is two License Plate Readers or LPRs (left). The LPR system is a tool that the traffic enforcement officers use to investigate and locate more serious infractions of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law such as, suspended drivers and suspended vehicle registrations. Since the implementation of the LPR system, Vehicle and Traffic Law misdemeanor summons have increased.



The police department also uses technology inside the station, including the arrest booking process.

Fingerprints are no longer done on print cards, but via a laser fingerprinting system that captures the fingerprints and instantly digitizes them for transmission to NYS DCJS and the FBI. Photographs are also done digitally and transmitted along with the fingerprints allowing for rapid confirmation of a suspects identity and more efficient data flow both ways between the department, DCJS and the FBI.



Evidence integrity is a major consideration of any criminal investigation. That is why the Bethlehem Police Department's Detectives Division employs evidence barcode tags. All evidence taken in by the Detectives is tagged with a computer generated barcode label containing pertinent case information and automatically logged into evidence. A handheld barcode scanner is then used to track the evidence through its life cycle in the department's evidence lockers ensuring that a proper chain of custody is always maintained. The scanner has also increased the efficiency of the Detective Division by greatly decreasing the number of man hours required to conduct evidence inventories.



Administrative Services administers a secure network connecting the patrol cars to both internal and external law enforcement databases. This is accomplished using a VPN or Virtual Private Network that allows for the fast, secure, and uninterrupted exchange of data between patrol vehicles and the police station. Police officers can now access law enforcement records on the road as well as transmit completed accident reports and tickets to the station. This gives our officers the critical information they need at their fingertips and allows the officers to spend more time on patrol and less time in the station.



COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



The Police Department is responsible for police, fire, advanced and basic life support and heavy-duty rescue dispatching in the town. Communications personnel are highly trained and have often sustained life, or helped to revive patients while awaiting the arrival of emergency medical services.

CAD, or Computer Aided Dispatching, is a fully interactive system providing computer based support for daily call taking and dispatching of single and multiple units of police, fire and emergency medical services. All call and unit activity are automatically time stamped and tracked. "Run cards", programmed for all of the mutual aid agreements between fire departments and EMS, quickly identify the appropriate units to dispatch, and thereby eliminating any delay. Access throughout the system by all officers and telecommunicators can be made directly to state and federal criminal/informational systems from any terminal.

CAD also coordinates all information coming in to the police department and records information about persons, addresses, offenses and incidents. This data is instantly available when an inquiry is made about any of these subjects and provides lifesaving information to units responding to an emergency.

CAD can provide information such as hazardous material storage, medical histories, history of violence with a person or at an address and other information that is readily available to the first responders to an incident. CAD allows them to more efficiently, safely and effectively serve the public.



CAD further provides for electronic reporting of data required by the federal and state government, the automatic entering and printing of the majority of reports generated by the department and direct-link operations to the Division of Criminal Justice Services, Motor Vehicle Department, National Crime Information Center and Interpol.

Future enhancements of the CAD system will provide for on-scene direct entry and inquiry to federal, state and local computer data banks. All of this technology will reduce the time needed for an officer to do paperwork in the station and keep more officers available to respond to calls for service.

Fully implemented in 2011, the eJusticeNY Integrated Justice Portal (the Portal) provides a single interface through which authorized users can access information from a variety of federal, state and local agency sources. The Portal improves the administration of justice by ensuring that data needed to support criminal justice is available when and where it is needed through a single point of access – at the click of a mouse! The Portal represents a significant milestone in ongoing and longstanding efforts to enhance the quality and availability of criminal justice information. By tying information together and pushing it to the “front-line”, the Portal addresses the need for an efficient data delivery system, and provides authorized users with simple and inexpensive access to timely and complete information to improve public safety and the administration of justice.

FIELD OPERATIONS UNIT

The field operations unit is capable of providing all emergency functions, including a direct link to state and federal databases, from anywhere in the town. The unit is often used at special details throughout the town and can be used at the scene of major incidents as a command center.



RECORDS

The Records Section secures and stores all departmental records. It is the repository for all departmental records of arrests, incidents, accidents and other departmental reporting. The Records Section is responsible for data entry and retrieval for all federal, state and local statistical reporting. The Records Section is also responsible for all Freedom of Information Requests received. Only authorized personnel can access prohibited information such as juvenile records, sealed court records, etc.

ACCREDITATION

The New York State Accreditation program is the process by which police organizations demonstrate that they operate within generally accepted standards. Its purpose is to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency and professionalism of an agency while promoting training and public confidence in law enforcement. Originally accredited in 1990, as the fourth department statewide to achieve this honor, the Bethlehem Police Department received its fifth re-accreditation in 2015 and currently preparing for its sixth re-accreditation in 2020.



FIELD COMMAND – OPERATIONS DIVISION



The Field Command Operations Division is led by Commander Adam Hornick. Commander Hornick has been a sworn law enforcement member since 2000, and has held the positions of Patrol Officer, Detective and Detective Sergeant. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Marist College and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York at Albany. Commander Hornick has also been an instructor at the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Center for new police recruits since 2003, and has been an instructor for Zone 5 in the training of police supervisors since 2014. From 2015 to 2017 he also served as the Region 3 Vice President of the

New York State Association of Traffic Safety Boards.

Six Patrol Sergeants supervise twenty-one Patrol Officers and provide the initial response to calls for emergency services. Patrol personnel work out of the main station located at 447 Delaware Avenue in Delmar and out of a satellite office located in the Delmar-Bethlehem Volunteer Ambulance building at 1121 Route 9W in Selkirk.

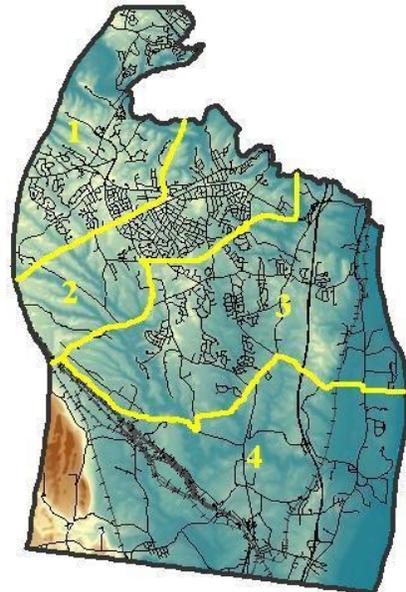
Patrol vehicles are equipped with the most modern police equipment including multi-channel 800 mhz. two-way radios, emergency extrication equipment, hazardous/emergency warning lights, tactical vests, patrol rifles, RADAR and other devices and emergency first aid supplies. All of the vehicles have mobile data capability which enables officers to have a direct link to federal, state and local data bases from the field. The patrol car is a modern day office with all of the capabilities an officer has at the station being available in the field. All of the patrol officers are trained to sustain life in an emergency until relieved by Emergency Medical Service personnel and have often saved lives, or even brought a victim back to life, through their dedicated efforts.

The Patrol Division is responsible for the initial investigation of most criminal offenses and motor vehicle crashes. They provide services that are often found in suburban communities that are unavailable to larger municipalities, such as assisting people who are locked out of their vehicle, checking vacant properties and homes when people are away on vacation, as well as many "quality-of-life" issues, through a modified community policing program.

The Bethlehem Police Department takes a pro-active role with regards to traffic safety. All officers regularly enforce traffic laws in residential areas as well as on major highways and in special areas that have been identified as potential hazards.



Federal, state and county grants have been awarded to the police department, which makes it possible for the Patrol Division to engage in selective enforcement activities and Community Policing efforts. Some of these activities include STOP-DWI programs; Vehicular Homicide, Manslaughter and Assault initiatives where a person has been killed or seriously injured by a driver under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and Victims' Impact Panels. "Operation Access", a handicapped parking enforcement effort, educational presentations to students and to the public, seat belt/passenger restraint, child safety seat inspection stations, and speed and alcohol enforcement. The purpose of these initiatives is to save lives, prevent and reduce serious injuries to motorists and passengers, and to be part of a nationwide effort to promote the principles of traffic safety.



The town is divided into four patrol zones as determined by the number and type of calls for service. Zone 1 covers Slingerlands and North Bethlehem, Zone 2 covers Delmar and Elsmere, Zone 3 covers Glenmont and parts of Delmar, and Zone 4 covers Selkirk, South Bethlehem and part of Glenmont.

The Satellite Station, is responsible for all of the Zone 4 area and portions of Zone 3. Officers report to their office in the Bethlehem Ambulance building for duty and work out of that office 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The response from the public for this effort has been overwhelmingly favorable and our ability to respond to emergencies more quickly in the southern part of the town has saved lives and made the police a more visible presence in the community. Officers working out of the satellite office have formed a "partnership" with the community in the spirit of community policing. The Selkirk



satellite operation has involved the police department in the community with excellent results. This program and the "Community Policing" concept has shown itself to be the standard for future public safety policies.

The Patrol Division of the Police Department is the most visible of all of the public safety services provided in the town. The division takes a very pro-active position in the enforcement of the vehicle and traffic law in an effort to reduce traffic fatalities and injuries. Strict enforcement of speed, seatbelt, and occupant protection, child restraint statutes, active drinking and driving enforcement and the many safety features now found in motor vehicles have led to a dramatic reduction in fatalities and have reduced the severity of injuries suffered in car crashes.

Today there is a much greater public awareness of traffic safety issues. Communities demand that their local governments provide highway safety for vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, in-line skaters and others who share the roadway. The public is also more aware of their own responsibilities in taking steps to maximize personal safety.

Miles driven on patrol in the town average about 360,000 or more per year. The patrol fleet consists of marked vehicles. Vehicles are maintained in top condition economically and efficiently by the Town Highway Department.

The Bethlehem Police Department has a serious concern for the heavy commercial traffic traveling over the roadways in the town. Industries such as CSX, Sabic Innovative Plastics, Owens-Corning, BOC Gases, Air Products, TEPPCO, Callanan Industries and several large freight and construction companies, put large trucks and other vehicles on the road, often laden with hazardous materials or other dangerous cargo. We have taken an active role with the State Department of Transportation in monitoring this traffic and conducting periodic road checks to remove commercial vehicles from the road when they do not meet state and federal safety standards.

TRAFFIC SAFETY



Traffic safety is a broad responsibility for police agencies. The Bethlehem Police Department has established itself as being proactive in many facets of traffic safety while being tempered with consistency and fair enforcement. The department uses the three “E’s” generally associated with traffic safety. Enforcement and Education are the two more commonly associated components with Engineering being overshadowed.

The goal of our efforts is to reduce every type of crash, including those caused by impaired driving, motorcycles, pedestrians, bicycles and commercial vehicles, making our roadways safer. To accomplish this goal we will remain dedicated to traffic safety and responsive to the community.

Our traffic safety efforts are consistent with national programs and target the dangers of aggressive and distracted driving behaviors, occupant restraint compliance, speed enforcement and zero tolerance for operating while impaired by alcohol or drugs.



The Bethlehem Police Department partners with the New York State Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee and continues to receive grants to increase our efforts in ensuring safe roadways in the Town. These efforts focus on education and enforcement of driver’s and are deployed in areas in our Town that are identified as high crash areas based on the regular review of traffic crash data. Data driven policing has helped our agency to concentrate efforts in high crash areas and target specific types of offenses in these areas. The Bethlehem Police Department continues to be a leader in setting up high-visibility multi-agency enforcement efforts in these high crash areas.





There are several independent programs that the department has undertaken and remains committed to that allows a greater commitment to traffic safety as well as a flexibility that continually addresses the changing and varied needs of the Town.

As the traffic safety program evolved, the department expanded its role for both enforcement and education. The following are community presentations made by Traffic Safety Investigators:

- Defensive Driving
- Pedestrian Safety
- Occupant Restraint and child passenger safety
- DWI Deterrence
- Mock DWI crashes for High School students
- High School Driver Education programs
- Alcohol Awareness/SLA Seminar
- Commercial Motor Vehicle awareness & compliance
- Bicycle Safety



These topics have been presented in the Town of Bethlehem and in support of County and State events, which have been held at Crossgates Mall, as part of the annual Albany County Traffic Safety Show.

Officers start receiving their law enforcement education at the Police Academy. Currently, Chief Louis G. Corsi serves as the Board president for the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy. The following traffic safety curriculums have been designed for both recruit and in-service personnel:

- Commercial Motor Vehicle enforcement
- Standardized Field Sobriety testing
- Breath Analysis Operators certification/re-certification
- Professional Traffic Stops
- Vehicle and Traffic Law
- Traffic Direction and Control

In addition, the department sends personnel to training conferences, provides in-service training and education on legal updates and court decisions to maintain a high degree of officer proficiency.

New York State has enacted “Zero Tolerance” laws for vehicle operators under the age of twenty-one who drive under the influence of alcohol. Young drivers may now be summoned for a blood content as little as .02% and their driving privileges subsequently suspended or revoked after an Administrative Motor Vehicle hearing.

The Bethlehem Police Department was involved in one of the first cases in Albany County that resulted in a license suspension. Subsequently, the department actively participated in statewide training for officers. Attorneys and motor vehicle administrative law judges participated as well.

The department has the TraCS system equipping all patrol units with mobile data terminals capable of electronic ticketing and crash reports, as well as motor vehicle/NYSPIN inquiries. The Bethlehem Police Department has recognized that the daily commute for many is a quality of life issue. The department continually looks for ways to improve its response to the community’s desire to travel in safety. Education, Engineering and Enforcement are all part of the solution. Safety is everyone’s business and, though not a pleasant experience, the issuing of citations is a necessary step in the overall traffic safety program to reduce injuries and deaths. When traffic laws are disobeyed, all users of the roadways are endangered. The department hopes that the use of the three “E’s” will encourage all to drive safely and responsibly making our roadways safer for all users.



See!

- Expect pedestrians.
- Pay attention!
Don't text while driving!
- Obey the speed limit.

Be Seen!

- Use crosswalks.
- Obey signals.
- Look left, look right,
look left again!
- Pay attention!
Don't text while crossing!

Pedestrian Safety: It's no Accident.



ALBANY COUNTY STOP DWI PROGRAM

The Albany County STOP DWI Program is focused on the enforcement of the Driving While Intoxicated or Impaired laws and provides payments to localities for enforcement, training, education and equipment. Funding comes from fines collected for DWI and DWAI convictions in local courts.

The money is turned back to the municipalities through local grants, administered by the County. The department continues to support the saturation patrols known as DWI Blanket Patrols for alcohol and drug impaired enforcement on the County and State level.

Victim Impact panels, the first of which was conducted at the Bethlehem Central High School, mock DWI crashes, and Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.) sponsored events are part of the STOP-DWI program and have continued to personalize the tragedies resulting from alcohol related, speed and non-restraint use crashes in an attempt to heighten the awareness of the seriousness of this problem. The Traffic Safety Investigators and the School Resource Officers partner with students in a continuing commitment to prevent the unnecessary loss of lives.



The Chief of Police, as a member of the Albany County Traffic Safety Board, is able to assure the Department's participation in all regional events. Further, the distribution of federal and state funds to police agencies in Albany County must be done with the approval of this board and the Chief's membership provides for equitable distribution for the Town's share of these funds.





ALBANY COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARENESS COMMITTEE

The Bethlehem Police Department is a member of the Albany County Traffic Safety Awareness Committee, which focuses on preventing crashes and reducing injuries through education and coordination of law enforcement agencies for traffic safety events. The committee also provides programs on child restraint seats and occupant protection. Currently, the department holds child safety seat checks by appointment only.

DETECTIVE OFFICE

The Detective Office consists of three detectives under the immediate direction of the Detective Sergeant. Their duties include the investigation of all major offenses and unattended deaths. They conduct extensive background investigations of applicants for employment and are responsible for the security, storage, accountability and disposition of all evidence and property coming into the possession of the police department. The Detectives Office works closely with the Albany County District Attorney's Office, as well as with the victims of crime. They work cases with investigators from other law enforcement agencies including local police, state and federal authorities. They assist patrol officers in investigations and arrests and ensure continuity in the chain of evidence necessary for the successful prosecution of a criminal case.

The Detective Office is also responsible for all vice related investigations, including drug and narcotics investigations. With the ever prevalent opioid epidemic the detective office has continued to see a increasing caseload. Coupled with a significant rise in identity theft related crimes and new technology like crypto-currency the roles of the detectives is ever changing and they are called on to investigate more complex crimes involving suspects all over the country and the world.

FAMILY SERVICES UNIT

The Family Services Unit (FSU) consists of three Detectives, two School Resource Officers and a Detective Sergeant, all are certified DARE instructors. Members of the FSU are specially trained and state certified experts in dealing with adolescent behaviors and problems. They are New York State certified Police Juvenile Officers, School Resource Officers and members of the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association. All FSU members are assigned to specific schools within the Town of Bethlehem in conjunction with their necessary duties. These

assignments assist in creating a relationship that helps with the investigations they are assigned. They visit all elementary, middle and high schools in the Bethlehem School District and A.W. Becker Elementary School in the Ravena-Coeymans-Selkirk School District, as well as St. Thomas the Apostle Parochial School.

The FSU has an expanded role in the way that the department interacts with families at risk. Not only is the unit responsible for all investigations where the suspect is less than sixteen years of age, but is also directly involved in other family matters, such as: domestic violence follow-up, sex offender notifications /management, elder abuse, child sexual exploitation and abuse both physical and sexual, and provides a number of child safety presentations throughout the town.



The primary focus of the Unit is threefold:

Investigations – Members of the FSU conduct a wide range of investigations. Some of the more common complaints investigated are: Criminal mischief, graffiti, drug sales, drug possession and sexual assaults. Additionally, the FSU conducts “sting” operations to prevent the sale of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products to underage persons.

Prevention - Crime prevention efforts are provided to make individuals, businesses, neighborhoods and certain vulnerable persons more aware of how to protect themselves from becoming the victim of a crime.

Education - Educational and informational programs are conducted throughout the year. Presentations such as internet safety, young adult legal rights, elder concerns, home alone and bicycle/walking safety are some examples.



The FSU works closely with the Albany County Family Court, Albany County Attorney’s Office, Albany County District Attorney’s Office, Albany County Probation Department, Albany County Office of Children and Family Services as well as a variety of other social agencies. The members are sensitive to family dynamics and attempt to bring together all of the resources necessary to help a child or family in crisis. Additionally, the establishment of the Bethlehem Youth Court has provided another avenue for the disposition of non-violent offenses. The involvement of students as prosecutors, judge, jury and defense representatives has had a meaningful impact on all of those who participate as well as the offender, who is judged by his/her peers.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program was initiated in January of 1996 with the approval and cooperation of the Bethlehem Town Board and the Bethlehem Central School District. This pilot program was completed at the end of the school year and upon review, all agreed to continue the program full time. The program continues today and is recognized statewide as one of the most successful youth violence prevention programs between a municipality and a school district.

The concept behind the SRO Program is simple. To put another positive role model in the schools to help with children at risk, provide specialized teaching and instruction, interact with children in an informal setting and to provide a presence, which helps to assure a safe, effective learning environment. This partnership between the schools and the police has proven to be a very

effective means for sharing common concerns and providing a unified effort in our children's education and well-being.

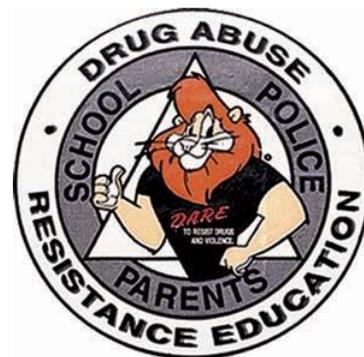
SROs interact with school administration, guidance staff, teachers, school support staff and students. They attend most school social functions and sporting events. They work closely with school staff and parents to support children entering the Middle School and the High School.

DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION



The most visible program that the department provides is Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.). Each fifth grade class at Bethlehem Central Schools and St. Thomas School and A.W. Becker Elementary School is provided this nationally recognized program, teaching more than 500 kids each year. The D.A.R.E. program teaches students self-esteem at a critical time during their adolescence and provides no-nonsense information about drug and alcohol abuse as well as preventing violence.

The D.A.R.E. program is sometimes criticized on a national level, mainly because the value of the program is not fully understood by its critics. Any prevention program is difficult to quantify with regards to its success. D.A.R.E. is just one piece of the puzzle that works together with educators, business leaders, community leaders, the clergy and local government to provide support for adolescents during a difficult time of their life. The D.A.R.E. Program brings together the many resources in the community in a common effort to provide our children with the knowledge and techniques for avoiding substance abuse, negative peer group pressure and helps to raise a child's self-esteem. The success of this program lies with our ability to bring government, law enforcement, schools, clergy, parents, students and community leaders together, working as partners for the future of our youth.



SUMMARY

The School Resource Officer Program and the D.A.R.E. Program are prevention efforts. Their value cannot be measured or quantified. But in our experience of more than thirty years, we have found that when segments of the community come together with a common mission such

as with the schools and the police, the children benefit, the schools enjoy a resource not otherwise available and the image and the effectiveness of the police are increased by making them part of this common effort.

Positive role models in our schools and otherwise in our community provide a base from which our children's lives may be enriched. These partnerships help to provide a safe, nurturing environment and contribute to the quality of life in the Town of Bethlehem.

BIKE PATROL

The Bike Patrol program is used to supplement vehicle operations and provide a presence in areas of the town not readily accessible by patrol cars. It promotes a greater public contact while increasing police presence. Bike patrol officers are also responsible for presenting bicycle safety courses.

NEW YORK STATE SEXUAL OFFENDER REGISTRY

New York State provides law enforcement agencies with a registry of sex offenders who have been convicted and are now living in our communities. The Special Services Division maintains this registry and makes information available to the public as allowed by law. Offender Watch is a free resource available to the public that alerts and informs them about registered sex offenders in their neighborhood. For residents of the Town of Bethlehem the web site is: http://www.sheriffalerts.com/cap_main.php?office=54797. There are also links to this resource on the town's web site.



PROMOTING SEX OFFENDER AWARENESS!

SEARCH for sex offenders in your local area
REGISTER to receive email alerts
PROTECT your family with safety tips and information

Offenderwatch[®]
Knowledge is a click away

ANIMAL CONTROL



The town has one full time Animal Control Officer, and in 2018 added one part time Animal Control Officer. Calls for Animal Control Services continue to increase, fueled mainly by the public's awareness and concern for the possibility of exposure to rabid animals and most recently, the West Nile Virus. The purpose of Animal Control Services in a suburban community are best described by veteran Animal Control Officer Richard A. Watt:

"To provide the enforcement of the appropriate Federal, State, County and Town laws, regulations and codes. To provide humane care to animals both domestic and wild. To protect both people from animals and animals from people. To provide educational information to the public concerning animal/people cohabitation. To help coordinate the efforts of different groups and agencies involved with the above. To serve the residents, their guests and their animal companions of the Town of Bethlehem, in a professional and compassionate manner."

Animal Control Services are provided by specially trained and equipped personnel who are also available in emergency situations. They are active in assisting our residents with domestic and wild animal problems, presenting informational seminars on rabies and other animal threats, licensing, animal cruelty enforcement and town code enforcement.

Animal Control also contributes in many unseen ways, such as a first line of warning for environmental problems and diseases. Animal Control Officers collect and provide the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Wildlife Pathology Unit with specimens that meet certain criteria for forensic examination, such as rabies vector species, suspicious or unnatural animal deaths and various birds such as crows and their related species. Animal Control is and has been for years the single-leading contributor to the New York State Wildlife Pathology Unit of gathered animal specimens in the state. The results of these submissions have provided evidence of illegal hunting, illegal pesticide application and toxic waste. In addition, it allows a variety of other agencies such as the New York State Department of Health and Center for Disease Control to use the information gathered from animal submissions to monitor and understand such diseases as rabies and West Nile Virus.

Crime Reporting

NYS Incident-Based Reporting (IBR)

Incident-based reporting (IBR) is a streamlined way of submitting a police department's required crime reports. IBR replaces multiple reports with a single monthly computerized submission. Instead of summarizing key events, Incident Based Reporting records specific incident details, including information about the offender, victim, and property. Data are collected on all types of crimes, not just the most serious offenses. If multiple crimes occur during a single incident, they are all reported. DCJS then uses the computer-generated IBR files to classify the crimes into Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) categories.

Advantages of Using IBR

1) IBR reduces police department crime report paperwork and saves staff time. Uniform Crime Reporting requires the department to submit seven different monthly forms. These forms can be complex and time consuming to complete. IBR files are produced by the department's records management system (RMS) software and submission of most data can be done by email.

2) IBR improves the accuracy of reported information. When agencies transition to IBR, they generally report improved accuracy in their reported crime data. Agencies report that there are significantly fewer errors with regard to classification of crimes. In addition, crimes that are reported and then subsequently determined to be unfounded are automatically removed from the IBR submission files. The current UCR reporting protocols have no mechanism to remove unfounded cases from the month in which they were originally reported.

3) IBR expands the information on the local crime picture which is readily available to local departments. All participating IBR agencies receive a crime analysis report on their reported crime from DCJS. This report provides an excellent starting point for understanding the local crime picture, and includes details on victims, suspects, crime locations, drugs seized and weapons used. Ad hoc reports are also generated by DCJS upon request. In addition, the structure of IBR files makes local crime analysis, including mapping, easier to do.

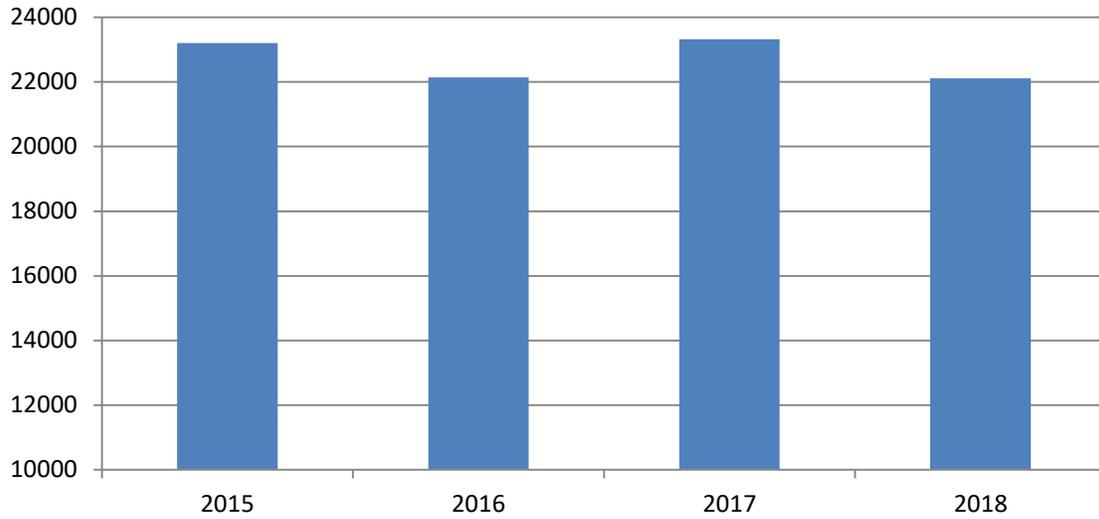
CHARTS

IBR Offenses

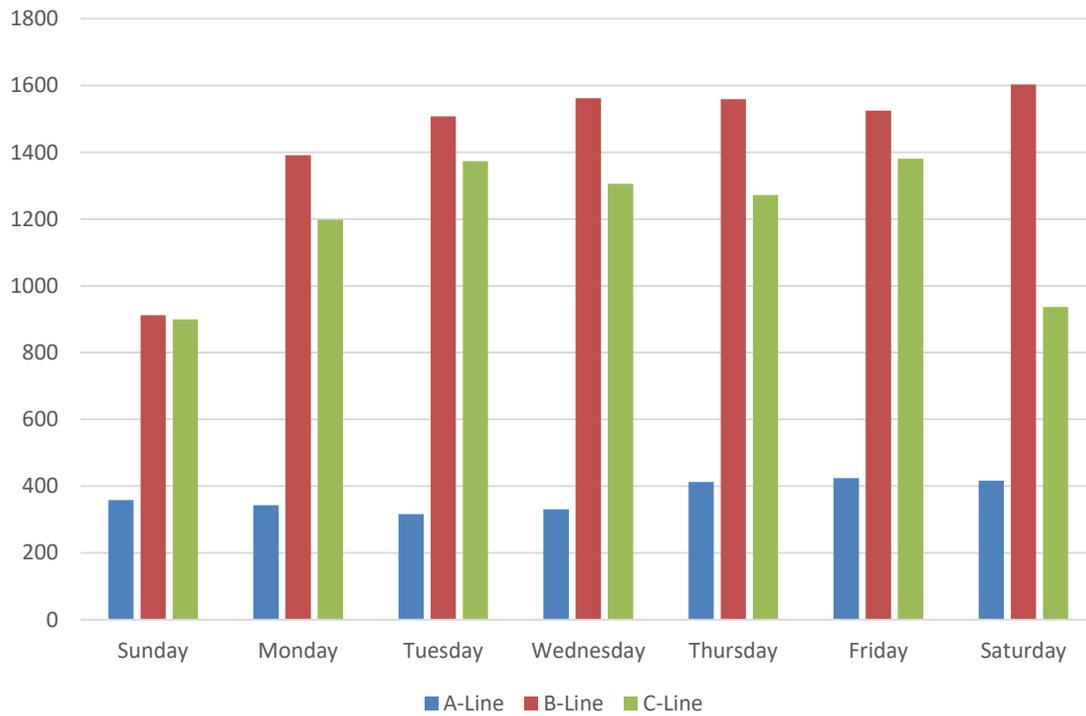
IBR Offense	2016	2017	2018
100 - Kidnapping	2	4	3
11A - Forcible Rape	1	4	1
11B - Forcible Sodomy	6	3	5
11C - Sexual Assault with an object	2	0	1
11D - Forcible Fondling	13	7	16
11E - Course of Repeated Sexual Contact	0	0	1
120 - Robbery	2	4	5
13A - Aggravated Assault	11	13	14
13B - Simple Assault	155	188	190
13C - Intimidation	54	42	43
210 - Extortion/Blackmail	2	1	0
220 - Burglary/Breaking and Entering	53	46	30
23A - Pocket-Picking	0	1	0
23B - Purse-Snatching	1	0	4
23C - Shoplifting	170	177	186
23D - Theft from a Building	74	54	61
23F - Theft from a Motor Vehicle	25	38	56
23G - Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	7	9	2
23H - All Other Larceny	190	223	217
240 - Motor Vehicle Theft	8	9	6
250 - Counterfeiting/Forgery	39	34	40
26A - False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	6	7	8
26C - Impersonation	95	103	83
26F - Identity Theft	0	0	4
280 - Stolen Property Offenses	12	14	12
290 - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	160	148	131
35A - Drug/Narcotic Violations	102	113	108
35B - Drug Equipment Violations	11	6	6
36B - Statutory Rape	2	1	0
370 - Pornography/Obscene Material	16	2	2
520 - Weapon Law Violations	14	22	22
90A - Bad Checks	3	5	2
90C - Disorderly Conduct	3	2	1
90D - Driving Under the Influence	79	108	65
90F - Family Offense, Nonviolent	2	1	0
90J - Trespass of Real Property	67	99	60
90Z - All Other Offenses	611	599	239
999 - Do Not Count	3	97	386
TOTAL OFFENSES	2001	2184	2010

CALLS FOR SERVICE

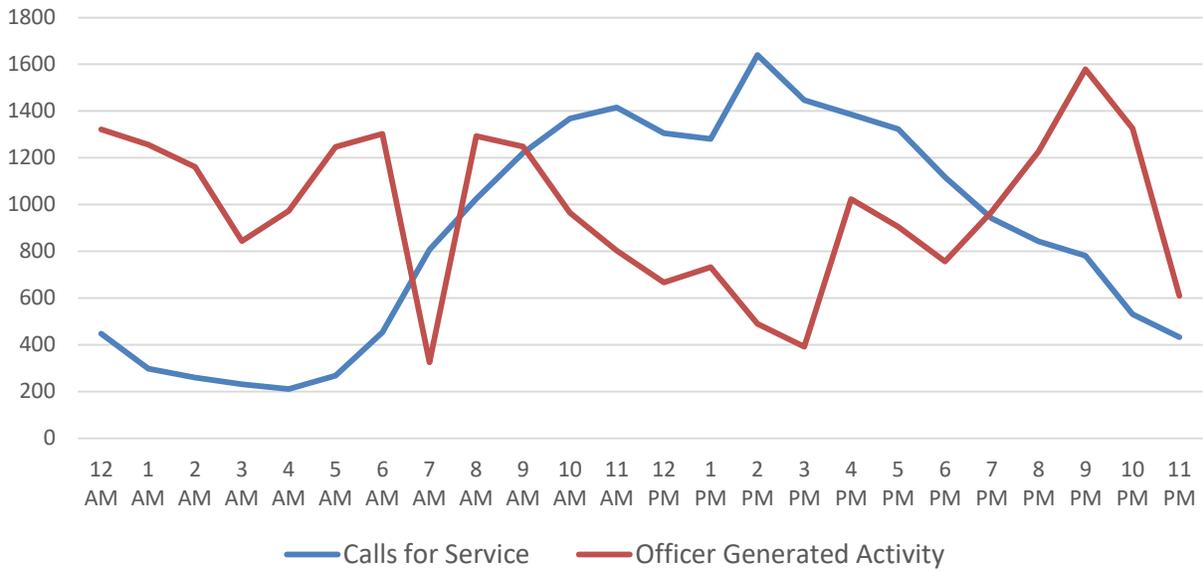
Calls for Service by Year



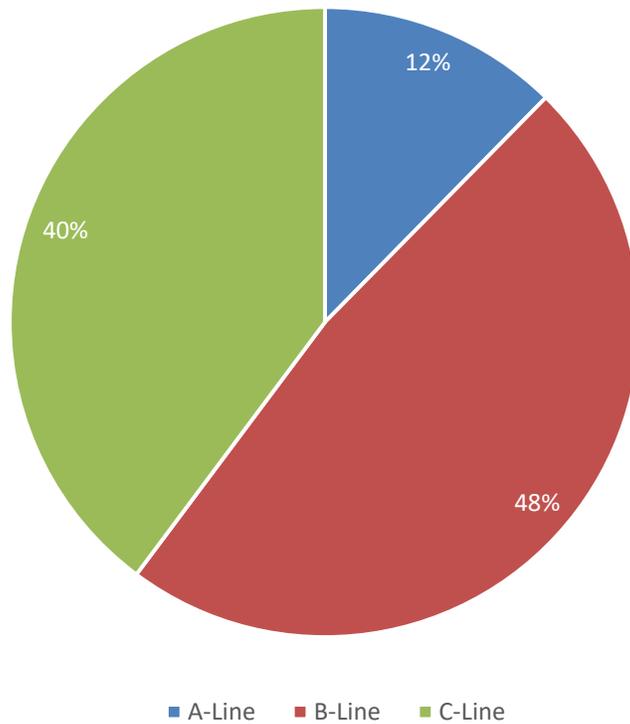
2018 Calls for Service by Day of Week / Shift



2018 Calls for Service and Officer Generated Activity by Hour of Day



2018 Calls for Service by Shift



HEADQUARTERS

Training Hours:

	2016	2017	2018
Police Department Personnel	4,341	2,107	2,343
Communications Personnel	74	170	314
Animal Control	30	0	18
TOTALS	4,445	2,277	2,675



SPECIAL SERVICES

Family Services Unit

	2016	2017	2018
Calls for service	1,029	985	1211
Reports	121	96	130
Adult arrest	41	21	17
JV arrest	11	16	25
Investigations	865	486	623
School events	65	65	55
Referral to CPS/MH	25	21	18
Sex offender registry	84	67	65
Senior Programs	3	2	1
D.A.R.E. classes taught	146	156	170

Family Services Unit Programs:

During 2016 FSU members also taught the following programs to our schools and community. These multi-faceted programs are designed as outreach programs and are taught in a variety of locations in town. The purpose of these programs is awareness, education, safety and crime prevention. During the year these family services programs reached our community's youth, parents and elderly population in efforts to raise awareness and partner with the community.

In school programs

Internet safety
 Investigations Q & A
 US Constitution and Law
 Career Day
 CSI
 Fingerprinting
 Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety
 Officer Friendly
 Constitution Day
 Men/Women in law enforcement
 Halloween safety
 Santa letters

Community programs

Cell/internet safety
 School safety (for parents)
 Personal safety
 Camp Counselor training
 Fingerprinting
 Crimes against the elderly
 Consequences of Actions
 BYC Code of conduct
 Officer friendly
 Halloween tour and safety
 BYC Induction
 Station tours

PATROL DIVISION

Patrol:

	2016	2017	2018
Motor vehicle stops	5,889	8,166	7,991
Traffic Arrests	2,361	3,606	3,985
Speed Arrests	425	594	511
DWI Arrests	50	56	35
Violation Arrests	168	348	279
Misdemeanor Arrests	532	480	394
Felony Arrests	159	117	74
Seat Belt/ Child Restraint Violations	88	154	104
Cell Phone Use	84	256	200
Parking/Warning Tickets	112	290	138
Traffic Details in response to Community Concerns	3,069	3,461	4,200
Fatal Accidents	1	1	0
Personal Injury Crashes	140	125	133
Alcohol Related Personal Injury Crashes	7	9	4
Property Damage Crashes	603	661	701
Property Damage Crashes (Non-Reportable)	335	279	325
Property Checks	10,086	9,939	10,952

SELECTED ANIMAL CONTROL CALLS

	2016	2017	2018
Information Requested	3	2	0
Animal Annoying	229	241	195
Animal Bite	20	18	9
Animal Cruelty	71	81	74
Dead/Injured Animal	270	303	328
Lost animal	141	165	130
Found Animal	150	130	95
Rabies Investigation	68	101	79
Running at Large	220	207	165
Trapped Animal	5	7	4
Animal other	212	95	214
Total	1,389	1,350	1,293

CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service by Dispatch Type:

911 EQUIPMENT FAILURE	10
ABC-UNDER AGE DRINKING (65C)	4
ACCIDENT-INJURY NON-VEHICLE	1
ACCIDENT-LEAVING THE SCENE OF A PDA	88
ACCIDENT-LEAVING THE SCENE OF A PIA	2
ACCIDENT-OTHER	21
ACCIDENT-PERSONAL INJURY AUTO	167
ACCIDENT-PROPERTY DAMAGE AUTO	874
ACCIDENT-Unknown Injury Auto	6
ALARM-BURGLARY NON-BANK	980
ALARM-BURGLARY-BANK	26
ALARM-OTHER	69
ALARM-ROBBERY BANK	4
ALARM-ROBBERY NON-BANK	2
ALL OTHER INCIDENTS	1804
ALL OTHER SELF INITIATED ACTIVITY	147
ANIMAL CONTROL-All Other	150
ANIMAL CONTROL-Animal Annoying	195
ANIMAL CONTROL-Animal Cruelty	74
ANIMAL CONTROL-Animal In Trap	4
ANIMAL CONTROL-Dead/Injured Animal	328
ANIMAL CONTROL-Dog Bite to Human	9
ANIMAL CONTROL-Dog Killing Animal	4
ANIMAL CONTROL-Dog Running at Large	165
ANIMAL CONTROL-Found Animal	95
ANIMAL CONTROL-General Assistance	53
ANIMAL CONTROL-Lost Animal	130
ANIMAL CONTROL-Overdue Dog License Inv	7
ANIMAL CONTROL-Possibly Rabid Animal	79
ARREST-BENCH WARRANT-BETHLEHEM COURT	51
ARREST-BETHLEHEM COURT WARRANT	143
ARREST-OTHER	80
ARREST-OTHER AGENCY	1
ASSIST-AMBULANCE/EMS	3256
ASSIST-CDPC	6
ASSIST-CITIZEN (DIRECTIONS,INFO,ETC)	770
ASSIST-FIRE DEPARTMENT (RESCUE/TRAFFIC)	767
ASSIST-OTHER	35

ASSIST-OTHER PD/LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY	276
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	1
ATTEMPT TO STOP	1
AWOL FROM INSTITUTION-NOT FILE 6 YET	1
BURGLARY	25
CHECK-FOR DEBRIS IN ROADWAY	212
CHECK-FOR EXPLOSION	3
CHECK-FOR FLOODING CONDITION	3
CHECK-FOR GAS ODOR/LEAK	3
CHECK-FOR WATER BREAK/LEAK	1
CHECK-FOR WIRES DOWN/ARCING	89
CHECK-ON ROAD CONDITION	60
Child Safety Seat Check	114
COMMUNITY CONTACT	20
Court Security Detail	77
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	79
Department Sponsored Program	1
Detective Office Investigation	172
DISORDERLY CONDUCT/PERSON	2
DISPUTE-CIVIL	15
DISPUTE-DOMESTIC-BELIEVED/NON-VIOLENT	197
DISPUTE-NEIGHBOR	48
DNA Sample	25
DRUG RELATED INCIDENT	534
Equip in need of service	31
FAMILY COURT ORDER VIOLATION	27
Family Services Programs	428
Fingerprinting	111
FIREWORKS	30
FOIL Request	194
FOLLOW-UP	759
FORGERY	98
HARASSMENT	75
HARASSMENT-AGGRAVATED	56
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	20
INFORMATION-POLICE/GENERAL	1004
LANDLORD/TENANT DISPUTE	19
LARCENY-BAD CHECKS	3
LARCENY-GENERAL PETIT/GRAND	373
LARCENY-POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY	1
LARCENY-SHOPLIFTING PETIT/GRAND	140
Letter of Good Standing	16
LOCKOUT RESIDENCE	10

LOST LICENSE PLATE	32
MOTOR VEHICLE STOP	293
NOISE COMPLAINT	82
NOISE-LOUD PARTY	12
On Job Injury	16
OPEN DOOR	61
Order of Protection violation	19
OVERDOSE	1
PERSON-ACTING STRANGELY	4
PERSON-ANNOYING	5
PERSON-CHECK ON THE WELFARE OF	358
PERSON-CRIMINAL IMPERSONATION	1
PERSON-DESPONDENT	72
PERSON-INTOXICATED	15
PERSON-MISSING (FILE 6)	38
PERSON-OTHER	22
PERSON-SUSPICIOUS	334
PERSON-UNWANTED	104
PERSON-WITH GUN	3
PISTOL PERMIT APPLICATION	71
POWER OUTAGE	12
Project Child Safe	1
PROPERTY LOST	89
PROPERTY-CHECK VACATIONS/ETC.	333
PROPERTY-FOR DESTRUCTION	14
PROPERTY-FOR SAFE KEEPING	4
PROPERTY-FOUND/ABANDONED	151
PROPERTY-OTHER	46
PROWLER	16
Record Check	464
Request Report	261
ROBBERY-STRONGARM/WEAPON	3
Serve family court papers	27
SEWER PROBLEM	122
Sex Offender Registration	65
SEX OFFENSES/RELATED INCIDENTS	22
Street Light Malfunctions	26
TEST	42
Threatened School Violence	1
TOWN-SOLICITING W/O A PERMIT	7
TOWN-UNLAWFUL DUMPING	10
Traffic Detail	289
TRAFFIC-CHECK FOR POSSIBLE DWI	46

TRAFFIC-CHECK FOR RECKLESS DRIVER	1
TRAFFIC-HAZARD	176
TRAFFIC-OTHER	81
TRAIN/RAILROAD COMPLAINTS	11
TRESPASS	20
VEHICLE-ABANDONED	16
VEHICLE-BLOCKING	51
VEHICLE-DISABLED (IN/OUT OF TRAFFIC)	279
VEHICLE-ERRATIC OPERATION	320
VEHICLE-IN VIOLATION (PARKING, ETC)	58
VEHICLE-INSPECTION RE EQUIPMENT VIOL	110
VEHICLE-LOCKOUT	237
VEHICLE-OFF ROAD	72
VEHICLE-OTHER	157
VEHICLE-STOLEN/UNAUTHORIZED USE	17
VEHICLE-SUSPICIOUS	289
VIOLENCE-ASSAULT	26
VIOLENCE-ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	13
VIOLENCE-CHILD ABUSE	2
VIOLENCE-DOMESTIC/VIOLENT	146
VIOLENCE-FIGHT	27
VIOLENCE-OTHER	3
VIOLENCE-RECKLESS ENDANGERMENT	1
VIOLENCE-SHOTS FIRED UNKNOWN	45
VIOLENCE-UNATTENDED DEATH	23
Warrant Issued	10
WATER PROBLEM	185
YOUTHS ANNOYING	39
Grand Total	21970

2018 SYNOPSIS OF SIGNIFICANT CASES



January 6, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a report of a bank robbery at the Trustco Bank at 1569 New Scotland Rd in Slingerlands. The investigation determined that a white male, wearing a baseball cap and sunglasses entered the bank and displayed a note demanding money. No weapon was displayed. After a month long investigation the Bethlehem Police arrested a Hannacroix man. As part of the on-going investigation Bethlehem Police were monitoring other bank robbery incidents and became aware of an arrest by the city of Kingston Police on January 18, 2018. After working with Kingston Police, and comparing similar robberies in Albany and

Rotterdam, police executed multiple search warrants to gain further evidence in this case. On February 6, 2018 Bethlehem Police arrested the Hannacroix man for one felony count of Robbery in the third degree and one misdemeanor count of petit larceny. 18- 375

January 11, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a report of a missing 12 year old male at the Glenmont Walmart. It was reported that the 12 year old had gone to the Walmart shopping with his parents, and they lost contact with him. The investigation uncovered that the 12 year old left Walmart voluntarily and was seen traveling by foot north on Route 9W. A search was conducted by the Bethlehem Police, Albany County Sheriff's K9 unit and the New York State Police Aviation Unit. After almost four hours the youth was located in the City of Albany by members of the Bethlehem Police Department. It was determined that there was no criminal conduct involved in this incident. 18-662

February 10, 2018 – Bethlehem Police responded to a personal injury crash at Delaware Avenue and Cherry Avenue in Delmar. Upon arrival of the Bethlehem Police, the operator of a 2012 black Buick displayed a badge to Bethlehem Police Officers and informed them that he was an investigator with the state task force. The investigation also revealed that the man was in possession of a loaded firearm and his car was equipped with flashing red and blue lights. The man was also found to be under the influence of drugs at the time of the crash. Although the man had a valid NYS pistol permit, it was determined that he was not associated with any government agency or entity that would authorize him to carry a badge or display red and blue

flashing lights on his vehicle. The North Greenbush man was arrested for misdemeanor counts of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, Criminal Impersonation in the second degree, and Vehicle and Traffic violations of Following Too Closely and Operating a Motor Vehicle with Unauthorized Colored Lights. 18-2371

March 1, 2018 – Bethlehem Police responded to Capital Communications Federal Credit Union in Glenmont after receiving a report of a subject in the bank trying to cash a counterfeit check. Upon arrival of members of the Bethlehem Police Department, they located a 21 year old female from Endicott, NY who was attempting to pass a counterfeit payroll check, and fraudulently obtain money. Bethlehem Police developed information that the woman had been dropped off at the credit union and that other individuals involved in passing counterfeit checks were in a vehicle in the area. Police located a 2011 Chevrolet Malibu in the Glenmont Walmart parking lot. Based on this investigation Bethlehem Police arrested five additional occupants of the Malibu, after they were found in possession of multiple other counterfeit checks. Police also located mobil printing and check making equipment in the vehicle. All six individuals were charged with five felony counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, one felony count of Possession of a Forgery Device, and one misdemeanor count of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree. The investigation determined that the subjects passed or attempted to pass counterfeit checks at multiple locations in Albany and Schenectady County. 18-3420

March 15, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police Department responded to a Glenmont department store in regards to a subject who had just conducted a fraudulent return of merchandise, and committed a larceny. As police arrived on the scene they observed the suspect fleeing in a vehicle in an erratic manner. The vehicle quickly pulled into the Glenwood Manor Apartments just south of the department store and the suspect fled on foot into a wooded area and an adjacent neighborhood. Bethlehem Police Officers formed a perimeter in the area and were able to locate the suspect hiding behind a garage in the rear of a residence. The operator was identified as a 35 year old Ravena man. A subsequent search of the vehicle that he fled in revealed hypodermic needles, as well as plastic baggies and a glass pipe with crack cocaine, and a plastic bag containing Fentanyl. The man was charged with misdemeanor counts of Petit Larceny, Falsifying Business Records, Resisting Arrest, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, and Criminal Possession of a Hypodermic Instrument, Unlawfully Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, Reckless Driving and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle. He was additionally charged with multiple vehicle and traffic violations. 18-4345

March 16, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police Department conducted an SLA (State Liquor Authority) sting at various local businesses which are licensed to sell alcohol. During the sting, four business establishments were cited for misdemeanor counts of Unlawfully Dealing with a Child for selling alcohol to an under aged person working with Bethlehem Detectives. 18-4409, 18-4410, 18-4411, and 18-4413

March 18, 2018 – On March 16, 2018 a male at a Glenmont gas station / convenience store was arrested for misdemeanor count of Unlawfully Dealing With a Child for selling alcohol to an under aged person working with Bethlehem Detectives conducting an SLA sting. (18-4411) During this arrest the man gave officers a fraudulent name when arrested. Two days later the same man became a suspect in a grand larceny for stealing several thousand dollars from the Glenmont gas station where he worked. A warrant was issued for his arrest. In August of 2018 the man was arrested in New Jersey for Theft by Unlawful Taking and charged as a fugitive from justice by the Burlington County New Jersey Sheriff's Department. The man waived extradition in Burlington County Court in New Jersey and was returned to Bethlehem by Bethlehem Police. On September 3rd the man was arraigned in Bethlehem Criminal Court on misdemeanor charges of a bench warrant for failure to appear on the original charge of Unlawfully Dealing with a Child, False Personation, a misdemeanor count of Bail Jumping in the third degree and one felony count of Grand Larceny in the fourth degree. 18-4518

March 21, 2018 - Bethlehem Police received information regarding a Bethlehem Central Middle School student making threats of school violence. Through the joint efforts of the School Resource Officer assigned to the Middle School and Bethlehem Central School District officials, the 14 year old male Town resident was arrested and charged with one felony count of Making a Terroristic Threat and one misdemeanor count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. 18-4684

March 24, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a report of a structure fire at 388 Kenwood Avenue in Delmar. Upon arrival police and fire units observed the second story of the building actively involved in a working fire condition. The fire was quickly suppressed by members of the Delmar, Elsmere and Slingerlands Fire Departments. Through a systematic process of examination and reconstruction of the fire scene, along with witness interviews and statements, the fire investigation team was able to determine that the fire initiated in the office area, however the cause of the fire was undetermined. 18-4823.



April 17, 2018 – Bethlehem Police responded to a report of a personal injury crash at River Road and Glenmont Road in Glenmont. During the course of the investigation it was determined that a 2003 Volkswagon Jetta and a 2011 Ford Focus collided at the intersection. Four people, including two children, were injured in the crash and transported to Albany Medical Center Hospital for evaluation and treatment. The investigation determined that a Glenmont man operating the 2011 Ford Focus failed to yield the right of way to the 2003 Volkswagon Jetta. Based on the investigation the Glenmont man was arrested for Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, Failing to Yield the Right of Way at an Intersection and Unlawful Possession of Marijuana. 18-6014

May 6, 2018 – Bethlehem Patrols responded to the parking lot of the Delmar OTB in the Delaware Plaza for a report of a stabbing. Upon arrival of police officers one male subject was found to have stab wounds to his arm, ear and hand. A 21 year old Albany woman was arrested and charged with Assault 2nd and Criminal Possession of a Weapon. 18-7379

May 11, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police was contacted by administrators at the Bethlehem Central High School in regards to a student who was found in possession of an electric stun-gun. Police were contacted after a school administrator observed a student in the parking lot of the Bethlehem High School displaying the stun-gun to other students. The male student was arrested for one misdemeanor count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree. 18-7714

June 1, 2018 – Bethlehem Police Department responded to the Dunkin Donuts located at 232 Delaware Avenue in Delmar for a report of a vehicle that had crashed into the store, with a person trapped under the vehicle. Upon arrival the Bethlehem Police observed a 2016 Honda CRV that had crashed into the side of the building and was completely inside the store. Two customers who were seated at a table at the time of the crash, were struck by the vehicle. A sixteen year old female was partially trapped under the vehicle and was able to self-extricate from under the vehicle. She was treated for serious injuries. The eighteen year old female customer was treated for internal injuries. Both teens were transported to Albany Medical Center Hospital by Delmar-Bethlehem EMS and Albany County Paramedics. The operator, a 79 year old female, was evaluated by EMS personnel on-scene and refused medical assistance and treatment. 18-8972

June 7, 2018 – Bethlehem Police investigated a suspicious person call in the area of Delaware Avenue and Elsmere Avenue in Delmar. Upon arrival police located a female seated in a car and observed evidence of crack cocaine usage in plain view inside the vehicle. It was determined that the female operator was wanted by Albany Police on a bench warrant. She was taken into custody without incident. A subsequent search



warrant at her residence in Delmar yielded 5.7 pounds of Marijuana, 228 Oxycodone pills, 11 individual decks of heroin, 8 Methadone pills and 3 rocks of crack cocaine. A second female from the residence was arrested and both females were charged with two felony counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree, one felony count of Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the Second Degree, and one misdemeanor count of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, and Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia. 18-9350

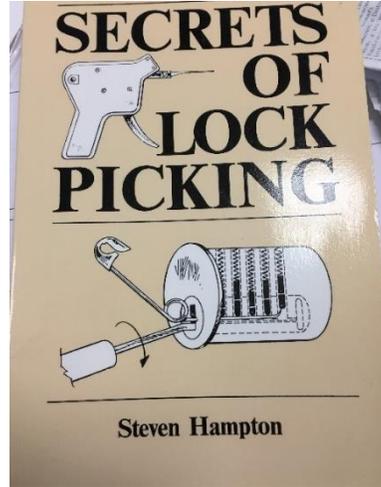
July 6, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police Department, assisted by the Albany County Sheriff's Department, executed a search warrant pursuant to an on-going investigation. Police searched a home on Longmeadow Drive in Delmar and discovered a small marijuana growing operation and multiple weapons. The house showed evidence of a larger grow operation that had been recently removed, as well as five cane swords, metal knuckles, thirteen Kung Fu throwing stars, two sets of chukka sticks, a metal knuckle knife, numerous daggers and a bullet proof vest. Arrested were two Delmar men 42 and 48 years of age. They were each charged with twelve misdemeanor counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree, as well as misdemeanor counts of Criminal Possession of Marijuana in the 5th degree, and Unlawfully Growing Cannabis. 18-8739



July 7, 2018 – A Bethlehem Police Officer was in the parking lot of the Glenmont Walmart taking a report for a property damage crash. The Officer observed a Walmart loss prevention officer attempting to apprehend a woman who had just shoplifted from the store in an unrelated incident. The officer ran towards the fleeing suspect in the parking lot, as the suspect got into her vehicle. The officer signaled for the vehicle to stop and approached the front of the vehicle.

The suspect then put the vehicle in drive and drove forward striking the officer. Despite being struck, the officer approached the vehicle on the driver side and was able to convince the suspect to stop the vehicle. The suspect, a 58 year old female from Castleton was taken into custody. She was charged with felony counts of Assault in the Second Degree and Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, misdemeanor counts of Petit Larceny, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th Degree, Resisting Arrest, Reckless Driving, Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Vehicle in the Third Degree, Operating While Registration / License Suspended and violations of Unregistered Motor Vehicle, Uninsured Motor Vehicle, Unsafe Backing and Failing to Comply with an Officer. The injured Officer was treated by Delmar-Bethlehem EMS and transported to St. Peters Hospital for a knee injury. 18-11301

July 14, 2018 – As part of a several-month investigation into thefts from lockers at the Bethlehem YMCA, the Bethlehem Police Department arrested a man in regards to these incidents. Bethlehem Police conducted a traffic stop on a 50 year old male for violations of the vehicle and traffic law while he was operating a rental vehicle in Slingerlands. During the stop and subsequent search of the vehicle, police discovered cut up credit cards that the man had stolen moments prior to the traffic stop from a locker at the Bethlehem YMCA. Police also discovered a wig, disguises to alter facial appearance and several changes of clothes in the vehicle, as well as lock picking equipment and instruction manuals and over \$10,000 in brand new Apple and Microsoft electronic devices. The Investigation determined that the electronic devices located in the vehicle were proceeds of two locker thefts in the previous forty-eight hours, which took place in West Seneca New York (Erie County), and Gates, New York (Monroe County). In these cases victims' credit cards were stolen and immediately used to purchase the electronics that Bethlehem Police subsequently located. The man was arrested and charged with two felony counts of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property, in the Forth degree, two felony counts of Tampering with Physical Evidence, one felony count of Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third degree, and one misdemeanor count of Possession of Burglar's Tools, as well as violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Law. Due to the successful apprehension and continuing investigations into the 50 year old Middle Village, NY man, he has also been tied to similar incidents of credit card theft from lockers, and subsequent high dollar credit purchases with stolen credit cards from other cases in Albany County, Saratoga County, Rensselaer County, Erie County, Monroe County, Onondaga County and Oneida County. Bethlehem Police had also executed search warrants in New York City and locally in the furtherance of this investigation. 18-11755



July 18, 2018 – Bethlehem Police responded to a report of a home invasion in Delmar. It was reported that suspects had entered a house and attempted to steal property, and in the process displayed what appeared to be a semi-automatic firearm. Through investigative efforts the suspect vehicle was located and stopped in the City of Troy by Troy Police, about two hours after the initial robbery. Two males, 18 and 21 years of age were arrested and charged with felony counts of Robbery in the 1st degree, Robbery in the 2nd degree, Criminal Use of a Firearm in the 1st degree and Burglary in the 1st degree. A third arrest was made on July 23, 2018 as a direct result of the continued efforts of the Bethlehem Police and Troy Police. The 17 year old Troy man was also charged with the violent felony offenses. 18-12006

July 19, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a call for an incident involving inappropriate sexual contact involving a child which occurred at the Bethlehem Public Library. As a result of a lengthy investigation and with the assistance of the Albany Police Department, the Colonie Police Department and the Capital Region Crime Analysis Center, a 16 year old male from Albany was arrested and charged with one felony count of Sexual Abuse in the first degree and misdemeanor counts of Forcible Touching and Endangering the Welfare of a Child. 18-12076

July 31, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police Department received a call in regards to a female attempting to pass counterfeit \$100 bills at a local Delmar pharmacy to purchase gift cards. The suspect left the store and store employees provided information on a vehicle that the suspect fled in. Responding members of the Bethlehem Police Department did locate the suspect vehicle and conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle on Delaware Avenue at the Albany City line. Located and arrested in the vehicle were a 23 year old male and an 18 year old female, both from Bronx, NY. Inside the vehicle police located thirty counterfeit \$100 bills, one counterfeit \$20 bill, a bullet

proof vest, and police uniforms. Bethlehem Police also located two counterfeit \$100 bills at the Delmar pharmacy. The couple were each charged with ten felony counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the 1st Degree. The female was also charged with one misdemeanor count of Attempted Petit Larceny. The male was charged with one misdemeanor count of Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended Registration and a violation of Driving with Tinted Windows. 18-12872

August 4, 2018 – Bethlehem Police in cooperation with the Albany Police Department, Albany Sheriff's Department and North Greenbush Police Department began jointly investigating a series of commercial burglaries. As a result of this investigation a suspect was developed. Pursuant to the execution of search warrants and a multi-agency effort, the suspect, a 54 year old man from Greenville, was charged in regards to his role in the burglary of Adriano's Pizza on Delaware Avenue in Delmar. 18-13160

August 17, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a call from Child Protective Services (CPS) to assist them with a court order to remove a 13 year old female from her Glenmont residence due to her parents refusing medical treatment and cooperation with Physicians. There was no response at the door of the family residence. All attempts to contact the parents via phone were unsuccessful. A missing person broadcast was sent out by the Bethlehem Police dispatch center while other investigative measures were taking place. Bethlehem Family Services Detectives assigned contacted the NYS Missing Person Clearinghouse and a missing person poster was created and distributed electronically to hospitals, police departments and websites. Investigative leads located the child's parents' car on a highway crossing state lines. Further leads led Detectives to check the airlines which identified the child on a flight accompanied by her father to Chicago with connections to Phoenix, Az. Detectives contacted Chicago PD and O'Hare Airport. The CPS temporary removal order was sent to Chicago PD Officers who intercepted the Child and transported her by Ambulance to a local hospital. On August 22, 2018 a warrant was issued for the child's father for a misdemeanor Endangering the Welfare of a Child. On September 4, 2018 the man turned himself in to Bethlehem Police. Bethlehem Police were assisted by the New York State Police, Danbury Connecticut Police, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police, New Jersey State Police, Connecticut State Police and Chicago Police Department. 18-13984

September 1, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a report of a burglary at an area fast food restaurant in Glenmont. It was reported to Police that a man entered the establishment through

a locked rear door, walked directly to the office and accessed a locked safe where he removed \$1796.49 in US currency. Upon further investigation, and after reviewing the surveillance video and interviewing employees, a former employee was suspected of committing the crime. Bethlehem Detectives located the Albany man who confessed to the burglary. The man was charged with one felony count of Burglary Third Degree, one felony count of Grand Larceny Fourth Degree, and one misdemeanor count of Possession of Burglar Tools. 18-14900

September 9, 2018 – Bethlehem Police and the New York State Justice Center commenced a joint investigation after receiving notification from the Capital District DDSO regarding a complaint against a female staff member for inappropriate conduct involving the care for a disabled person while working at a Capital District DDSO group home for physically and mentally disabled persons in Delmar. The investigation also revealed a second incident of inappropriate care and treatment of a second consumer at the same home earlier in 2018, by the same staff member. The investigation determined that the woman mistreated a physically disabled individual and then entered false records to conceal what had actually taken place. After a six month investigation the Bethlehem Police arrested the 31 year old Schenectady woman on two felony counts of Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent or Physically Disabled Person in the First Degree and one felony count of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree. 18-5428 & 18-15387

September 26, 2018 – Bethlehem Police had been investigating several reports of quick – change offenses at local mercantile establishments. In these incidents, a subject approaches a store clerk and hands them several bills, usually high denominations of currency, and asks for change into smaller denominations of currency. When the clerk returns the smaller bills to them, the suspect palms (conceals) some of the money, and asks to negate the exchange, or for another series of different denominations. Each time an exchange is made the suspect conceals some of the money before leaving the store. These incidents occurred at stores in Delmar and Glenmont over the course of several months. As a result of these investigations Bethlehem Police were able to identify a 28 year old man from Woodside NY. The suspect was suspected of committing similar offenses in the Capital Region, as well as in Massachusetts and other parts of New York State. His identification and arrest was the joint effort of Bethlehem Police, New York State Police, Department of Homeland Security, and the Northumbria Police in the United Kingdom, where the man had previously committed similar offenses. The man was charged with one felony count of Scheme to Defraud in the First Degree and one misdemeanor count of Petit Larceny. 18-16364

October 5, 2018 - The Bethlehem Police Department conducted an SLA (State Liquor Authority) sting at various local businesses which are licensed to sell alcohol. During the sting, one business establishment was cited for misdemeanor count of Unlawfully Dealing With a Child for selling alcohol to an under aged person working with Bethlehem Detectives. 18-16871

October 11, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police responded to a reported assault that had occurred between three female employees at a fast food establishment in Glenmont. The victim reported being confronted by two fellow employees as she attempted to report for work and a fight ensued. The suspects left the scene prior to police arrival. The two Albany women were later located and did turn themselves in to police. They were both charged with one misdemeanor count of Assault in the Third Degree. 18-17230

November 10, 2018 – Bethlehem Police responded to an area fast food restaurant in Glenmont for a report of two males unwanted in the establishment and armed with a weapon. A description of the men and the vehicle they left the scene in was broadcast to the responding units. Officers arriving to the scene located a motor vehicle occupied by two males which matched the description from the broadcast. As these men were detained, it was uncovered that these men entered the establishment after it was closed for business but while employees were locking up for the evening. Both men entered the back room where one man entered the safe looking for a pay check. After the manager removed the men from the back room, one of the men pulled out a switchblade knife threatening the employees before both men exited the store. One Albany man, 19 was charged with a felony count of Criminal Trespass in the First Degree. The other man, also 19 from Albany, was charged with a felony count of Criminal Trespass in the First Degree, Misdemeanor counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Forth Degree and Menacing in the Second Degree. 18-19143

November 20, 2018 – The Bethlehem Police Department commenced an investigation in regards to a town resident who had attempted to sell an item on Craigslist, and in turn received several hundred dollars in counterfeit United States currency during the transaction. During the course of the investigation members of the Bethlehem Police Department and United States Secret Service set up the sale of another item to the suspect on Monday, December 3, 2018. The suspect showed up for the meeting and agreed to purchase the item and once again turned over several hundred dollars in counterfeit United States currency to the undercover police officer conducting the transaction. As police attempted to arrest the suspect he fled in his vehicle and drove towards police, almost striking a US Secret Service Agent with his vehicle. The suspect engaged

police in a vehicle pursuit through Bethlehem, Albany and Rensselaer. Police terminated the pursuit in Rensselaer due to the reckless nature of the suspect's driving. Within a few hours the suspect and vehicle were located by Bethlehem Police at a residence in the Town of Guilderland. With the assistance of Guilderland Police and the US Secret Service the suspect was taken into custody without incident and the vehicle was impounded. Arrested a 29 year old Guilderland man. The man was charged in regards to the original incident from November and the incident which took place on December 3rd. He was charged with a total of 59 counts of felony Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the first degree, felony counts of Reckless Endangerment in the first degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the third degree, Scheme to Defraud in the first degree, two misdemeanor counts of Petit Larceny, misdemeanor counts of Unlawfully Fleeing a Police Officer in the third degree, Reckless Driving, and Vehicle and Traffic violations of Failing to Obey a Police Officer, Speed in Zone, Speed Exceeding the State Limit, and Passing in a No-Passing Zone. This case was jointly investigated with the United States Secret Service, and Bethlehem Police were assisted by Guilderland Police and the Capital Region Crime Analysis Center. 18-19728 & 18-20503

November 30, 2018 – Bethlehem Police received a call regarding a lost credit card that was used by an unknown person or persons at area stores. As the investigation developed photos of the suspects were broadcast publically and tips from the public directly to the Bethlehem Police Department and to the Capital Region Crime Stoppers helped solve this case. These tips resulted in the arrests of a 45 year old Troy woman and a 55 year old Delmar man. The woman was charged with one felony count of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and misdemeanor counts of Identity Theft in the Third Degree and Petit Larceny. The man was charged with misdemeanor counts of Identity Theft in the Third Degree and Petit Larceny. 18-20347

2018 Annual Awards Ceremony

On April 30, 2018, the Bethlehem Police Department held their annual awards ceremony to recognize to extraordinary efforts of our personnel, who strive to make the community a safer and better place on a daily basis.



Life Saving Award

Awarded for an act performed in the line of duty, which through disregard of personal safety or prompt and alert action, results in saving a life.



Meritorious Service Award

Awarded for a highly unusual accomplishment under adverse conditions with some degree of hazard to life and limb to the nominee, or where death or injury to a third party is prevented.



Chief's Achievement Award

Awarded for an act of achievement by a member bringing public acclaim to the Department and the police profession through programs to further Police efficiency or contributions to the welfare and advancement of the profession.



Gallantry Award

Awarded for an act of distinguished bravery in the arrest of a person who is a major threat to the welfare of the community and/or the Officer.

AWARD RECIPIENTS

Life Saving Award

Officer Ryan VanAmburgh

Meritorious Service Award

Officer Chad Ferraro

Officer Adam Cobb

Officer Michael Berben

Officer Cesar Martinez

Chief's Achievement Award

Officer Kristen Spinnato

Detective Michael Whiteley

Gallantry Award

Sergeant Stephen Kraz

Sergeant Christopher Shunk

Officer Mark Gorman

Officer Chad Ferraro

Officer Bryan Mahan (2)

Officer Rico Fiore

Officer Yekaterina Dickerson

Life Saving Award:

Officer Ryan VanAmburgh – On Monday, June 5, 2017, Officer VanAmburgh responded to a residence in Selkirk in regards to a 30 year-old female who was unresponsive and not breathing. Officer VanAmburgh quickly arrived on the scene, and accessed the patient to be breathless and pulseless, Officer Van Amburgh immediately began CPR. Prior to the arrival of EMS personnel the patient regained a pulse, and shortly thereafter regained spontaneous respirations. The patient was transported to Albany Medical Center and released several days later after making a full recovery.

Meritorious Service Award:

Officer Chad Ferraro – On Friday, May, 17, 2017, at approximately 1550 hours while on patrol Officer Ferraro observed a vehicle in the area of Delaware Avenue and Kenwood Avenue that he believed was on fire. Through his investigation it was quickly determined that the undercarriage of the vehicle was on fire and that the vehicle was carrying numerous oxygen tanks.

Due to his quick response and actions, he was able to assist the driver in unloading all of the oxygen tanks, thus preventing a potential catastrophic event at a very congested intersection that was filled with pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Officer Ferraro also worked with additional

members of the shift and the responding fire department to minimize the danger and quickly quell the fire without further danger. If not for his quick thinking the outcome could have created a very dangerous situation for the large number of citizens that were in the area at this time.

Officer Adam Cobb – On Monday, April 10, 2017, Officer Cobb was dispatched to an incident involving a runaway juvenile. Officer Cobb quickly assessed the situation and determined that the individual had fled the area and was possibly traveling to the central United States by train to meet an individual they had met on-line. With only a small window of opportunity to locate the subject before they met this unknown individual several states away, Officer Cobb worked diligently to locate the train's route of travel and coordinate with multiple law enforcement agencies in an attempt to intercept the train and the juvenile. Due to Officer Cobb's quick actions law enforcement in the western most portion of New York intercepted the train at the last stop in the state and located the juvenile. This resulted in the juvenile being safely reunited with family prior to meeting anyone or crossing state lines.

Officers Michael Berben and Cesar Martinez – On August 10, 2017, Officers Berben and Martinez responded to a call from a help alert company of a person requesting police assistance in Delmar. Upon arrival the officers were able to communicate with the individual in distress who was yelling for help. The officers worked together to quickly enter the house and found the subject, injured and disabled in bed, while he was actively being attempted to be smothered by another person. The officers were quickly able to apprehend the perpetrator and stop the assault before they received any further injuries. The suspect was subsequently charged with multiple felony counts and indicted for attempted murder.

Chief's Achievement Award:

Officer Kristen Spinnato - In 2017, Officer Spinnato was assigned to maternity duty. During this time Officer Spinnato was a tremendous asset to the agency in regards to the completion of special projects. She worked on numerous assignments in regards to the agency's general orders and accreditation standards. The largest assignment that officer Spinnato was tasked with was the completion of Operation Safeguard. Operation Safeguard is an initiative from the New York State Intelligence Center, which involves police agencies working to partner business owners, on warning signs for criminal acts and the potential precursors of terrorism. During this assignment Officer Spinnato personally visited over 600 business in the Town of Bethlehem and helped educate them on this process. Instead of just completing the assignment, she went above and beyond and worked to forge long term bonds with our business partners on this important topic. The completion of this assignment was recognized by not only our command staff, but also by the staff at the NYSIC; and has put Bethlehem on the map for completing such a monumental task.

Detective Michael Whiteley – In the last year and a half Detective Whiteley has personally taken the initiative to start a National Night Out event for the Bethlehem Community. This event follows the national theme and has been received very well throughout the entire community. The event has grown each year and Detective Whiteley has also worked with community organizations to secure additional funding for this event. Further, in 2017 Detective Whiteley took the initiative to work with the Patrol Division Commander and the school district and help conduct a multiple part survey on bicycle and pedestrian safety in the community. These efforts were second to none and allowed for a survey of over 1,600 school-aged kids to be completed without cost to anyone. This allowed the grant funds to be allocated elsewhere.

Gallantry Award: (8)

Sergeants Stephen Kraz and Christopher Shunk, Officers Mark Gorman, Chad Ferraro and Bryan Mahan – On July 30, 2017, the listed members responded to a report of a despondent person who was armed with an AR-15 assault rifle. The officers responded and worked in a coordinated effort to safely evacuate three residents from the house who were in fear for their safety. Further, the members of this team risked their own personal safety to form a perimeter to ensure the safety of the neighborhood and communicated with the suspect and convinced him to surrender quickly and without incident.

Officer Rico Fiore, Bryan Mahan and Yekaterina Dickerson – On September 10, 2017, the Bethlehem Police Department responded to a report of a violent emotionally disturbed person who had fled a residence in Slingerlands. During the course of the ensuing investigation the officers located the individual who had committed a residential burglary to an occupied residence and was inside a nearby house, causing damage to the residence. The officers were able to locate the suspect and take him into custody without further incident.

2018 Officer of the Year Award

Officer Rico Fiore



It gives me a great deal of pleasure to nominate Officer Rico Fiore to receive the Legion's Man of the Year award in the police department. Rico is a fifteen year veteran of the department and is currently assigned to Patrol in the Field Command Division. For several years Officer Fiore has volunteered to work out of the Selkirk Substation, which implores the most fundamental aspects of community policing in the agency. During this time he has taken it upon himself to truly meet with and become part of the community within his patrol zone and his actions epitomize the true meaning of community policing. Officer Fiore has become a visible presence in Selkirk, whether it is stopping in to meet with the morning coffee club at Stewarts, or responding to traffic safety complaints of speeders on the residential streets. Officer Fiore can be found buying ice cream for youths in the Selkirk neighborhood or pitching in to buy a car seat for a person in need, or even opening his personal residence to a family that was victimized by a fire. He truly knows the area that he serves and has played an integral part in identifying criminal activity in the Selkirk and South Bethlehem areas. In fact, he knows the area so well that he even recognized an injured dog from a previous shift's calls and was able to contact the owner so the dog could be treated. This attention to detail has led to the reasons why he currently serves as a field training officer for the Department and as the Department Liaison for the Glenmont Job Corps.

Officer Fiore has taken it upon himself to form a tight knit group of employees that are stationed at the Selkirk Sub-station, and instill the values of community policing and teamwork in the group as a whole. His efforts are seen by the command staff, his sergeants, fellow officers, and most importantly the community.

He has been an outstanding asset to the department not just during this past year, but since he came on the job so many years ago. The men and women of the Bethlehem Police Department thank the Legion for their continued support over the years, and for honoring Officer Rico Fiore.

Very truly yours,

Louis G Corsi

Louis G. Corsi
Chief of Police

2018 Promotion Ceremony



April 16, 2018, Promotion Ceremony – L to R, Commander A. Hornick, Chief L. Corsi, newly promoted Sergeants R. Baldwin and M. Cozzy, newly promoted Det/Sgt. J. Cross, and Deputy Chief T. Heffernan.

