

CHIEFLY SPEAKING

Monthly Newsletter for New York State Law Enforcement Leaders

July 2022

Special Training Opportunities at Conference

In a couple of weeks our Association will be holding the annual training conference in Glens Falls, New York. Our premier training event for New York State police executives since 1901, esteemed presenters will be speaking on important topics in public safety. We are excited to have such a robust response from our members who have been registering regularly for months now. If you have not attended before, this is a very comfortable event—spouses, guests and families routinely attend as our family-friendly atmosphere is inviting, affording walkable shopping, dining and entertainment options. We also provide several networking and hospitality opportunities at our venue.



Police leaders from all parts of New York State assemble at the annual training conference of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police for the latest information and training on criminal justice issues, trends, and innovations.

For professional development, our topics this year include gun crime, cannabis issues, police officer disability, officer-involved critical incidents, traffic safety, police-media relations, domestic violence, and data sophistication. Our keynote speaker for opening ceremonies is NYPD Police Commissioner Keechant Sewell. We are also honored to have a special presentation on the Tops mass shooting in Buffalo from Buffalo Police Commissioner Joseph Gramaglia and FBI SAC Stephen Belongia.

For the first time our conference will be featuring *dual tracks*—our traditional **Main Track** with the presentations previously mentioned, plus a **Police Executive Training Track** for new and aspiring police executives. In response to the

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FROM THE PRESIDENT CHIEF TIMOTHY PARISI



Reflections on a Tumultuous Time

In a few weeks we will be meeting at our annual conference in Glens Falls where we will install a new slate of officers. As I conclude my term as President of our great organization, I wanted to reflect on the past eighteen months. We have always had issues that impact policing, but in my entire career I experienced nothing like the events that unfolded during 2020-2021. Before the pandemic struck, we were engaged in discussions on a variety of criminal justice issues including Raise the Age, bail and discovery reform, parole, and juvenile justice. All of those measures in totality have had a disastrous impact on public safety in our communities. But after the pandemic lockdowns which began around March 2020, and the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May 2020, there was a marked change in public perception of the police. Throughout a summer of protests and riots law enforcement continued to do the work we are sworn to do – protecting and serving our communities. It became more difficult, particularly with the negativity and bias being spewed by some against police. Many in the public understood there were political and media bias involved, but the rhetoric nonetheless caused disruption and violence across the nation. While I feel that most people now understand and appreciate the role of police, there will always be the detractors who will continue to be critical. And while objective criticism is always welcome, it was the subjective agenda-driven vitriol that was and continues to cause disruption to the safety of our communities. Our profession has always been focused on improving, unwilling to rest with the status quo. When you examine the departments within our agencies, the task forces, committees, and specialized training and assignments, it shows that we are always exploring new and better ways to do things. I have heard so many police chiefs stress that we cannot continue to do things just because that's the way they have always been done. We routinely revisit the things we do and how we do them.

Some of the issues that we continue to deal with include recruitment and retention of police officers. It is no surprise that this has become a problem considering the way in which cops were vilified by the news media, and even by some elected officials. Persons who may have considered a career in law enforcement have been dissuaded; and many active police officers who reach their minimum pension age are retiring promptly. We are struggling to restore public safety staffing levels with a very antiquated civil service system that is in dire need of reinvention. We are confronting these issues and striving to get back to a place where we can continue to find and develop the best qualified candidates for a life of law enforcement service.

Recently, I have noticed what appears to be a rebound in public confidence of police; but honestly, I think that it was always there, just overshadowed by those who were screaming louder than those who were

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHIEF/RET. PATRICK PHELAN



Awareness of New York State's Less is More Act

The *Less is More Act* took effect on March 1, 2022, it was fully implemented on July 1, 2022. The intent of *Less is More* is to have less supervision of parolees which the New York State Legislature believes will provide more justice to those previously incarcerated.

Under the *Less Is More Act*, everyone on parole—except people serving life sentences, will earn 30 days off their supervision period for every 30 days without a sustained violation. Unfortunately, since March 1, approximately 6,000 parolees have been granted an early discharge from parole supervision, some with new criminal charges pending. Parole officers now have one-half of the case load they had just a few months ago.

Of concern, technical violations of parolees such as missing an appointment with a parole officer, being late for curfew, having a contact with the police or testing positive for alcohol and other drugs are almost non-existent, and as such, reincarceration is not permitted for the majority of technical violations.

We are aware that several crimes across New York, including a homicide in New York City and a shooting in Albany, have been committed by parolees released because of the *Less is More Act*.

The NYSACOP Board of Governors are concerned with the negative impacts that *Less is More* is having in communities across the State. As a result, we are asking all members to be vigilant to arrests of defendants on parole and those that have been released from prison or recently discharged from parole because of this Act. We believe that the public as a right to know when your agency arrests a parolee who has been released from prison or supervision because of *Less is More*. Therefore, please consider various forms of public outreach including, but not limited to, issuing a press release on the arrest that includes a statement that relays your concerns.

Please contact me with any questions regarding this public safety issue @ pwhelan@nychiefs.org.

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Two Men in Road Rage Incident Are Killed

Kent, New York - On July 2, 2022, the New York State Police began investigating a fatal collision on Interstate 84 westbound near mile marker 59.5 in the town of Kent.

Initial investigation determined two men, Mark H. Hall, age 38, of Holmes, NY, and Fabian A. Tirado, age 22, of Wappinger, NY, stopped in the right lane of travel and exited their vehicles due to a road rage altercation. While Hall and Tirado continued to argue in the right lane, a third vehicle struck both men at approximately 1:35 AM.

Hall and Tirado were pronounced deceased at the scene. The third operator suffered minor injuries and was transported to Danbury Hospital.

This investigation remains ongoing.

New York State Police Press Release

State Police Seek New Information in 18 year Old Homicide

On Wednesday, June 9, 2004, at approximately 10:48 a.m., Yvonne Torch was brutally beaten and murdered at her place of business. Torch was the owner and operator of “*His and Hers Salon*” located on SR-9W in the Town of Newburgh. She was 31-years old and a loving mother and wife.

Law Enforcement Officers from the New York State Police, Town of Newburgh Police Department, and Orange County District Attorney’s Office worked on this case from its onset. Hundreds of leads were developed and investigated; however, her assailant was never identified.

New advancements in science and technology have breathed new life into the case. Anyone with information about this case can contact Investigators Jeffrey Dalton or Matthew Schaffer, Troop F – Major Crimes Unit at (845) 344-5300. Anonymous tips may be called into the Troop F Major Crimes Unit confidential tip line at (845) 344-5370 or emailed to crimetip@troopers.ny.gov.

New York State Police Press Release



Yvonne Torch
Murdered in 2004
Case Remains Under Investigation



PERMA Law Enforcement/Corrections Injury Report - May 2022

The PERMA monthly injury report is based on workers' compensation claims from PERMA-supported municipalities in New York State for law enforcement and corrections. Tracking the occurrence of workplace injuries enables us to be more proactive in protecting all of our member employees from injury and lost time. PERMA provides specific risk management initiatives for law enforcement to help advance safety culture throughout organizations. Learn more about us at www.PERMA.org/about.



Activities Breakdown of the 33 Claims Submitted

Hand to Hand - 20 (cuts, abrasions, needle stick, struck, fell, kicked)

Handling Object - 5 (road debris, moving equipment, person search, door)

Driving/Passenger - 3 (mva)

Training - 2 (bicycle)

Foot Pursuit - 1 (fell)

Walking - 1 (running)

Other - 1 (tick bite)

Getting In/Out of Vehicle - 1 (slipped on stone)

Please direct questions about this monthly report to [Pete Frisoni](#) (Public Safety Risk Management Specialist)

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objective and rational. People have come to understand that suspending accountability and consequences for negative behavior is a recipe for disaster. We have seen the results not only in New York State but across the country. Violent crime including homicides have risen drastically. While bail reform has been rolled back a couple of times, our communities and our law enforcement have been arguing for some of the basic morals that we learned from our youngest years: if you do something wrong, there is accountability and consequences. Lawmakers quick to make headlines on the heels of tragedies rush to pass legislation in an attempt to prevent such future tragedies. Unfortunately, the missing piece has been correcting the accountability and consequences for breaking the law. All the legislation and aggressive enforcement in the world won't curb criminal activity without real consequences for breaking the law. Criminals committing violent crimes don't really care what is legal and what is not. When you nullify that sense of morality, you put individuals and society at risk – and we have been paying a price for that. Collectively, our Association has and will continue to bring an objective, rational voice to the discussion on many levels. I trust that we are maneuvering on a course to be a voice for solutions to fixing parts of our social and criminal justice system so that we are better able to serve the people who need us to be there for them.

It has truly been an honor to serve as the President of this great Association, alongside so many other distinguished law enforcement executives. What we have accomplished has been because of the hard work and dedication of the staff and leadership of the Board of Governors. Their contributions have our great organization poised to achieve new heights in fulfilling our mission for law enforcement in our state. The conference is going to be fantastic! I hope to see you there, where we receive great training, networking, reconnecting with friends, while meeting new friends. See you there!

“It has truly been an honor to serve as the President of this great Association, alongside so many other distinguished law enforcement executives.”

***Chief Timothy Parisi
President***

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demand for specific police chief-level training, we have developed a special curriculum in a smaller class setting on topics of interest to those who are new to the police chief's office, or who endeavor to rise to that position. Topics in the new track include police hiring and decertification, duty to intercede, the changing culture of policing, officer-involved incidents, traffic, recruitment challenges and innovations, cybersecurity, and media relations.

We will have more than 50 exhibitors on site during the week! We are fortunate to have representatives on the latest products and services ranging from technology, hardware, software, resource materials, police equipment, *and much more*. You can see a detailed listing in our constantly-updated online announcement—[LINK](#). If you are considering new products or services, this is the place to be to learn more about an array of products, services, and technologies.

Attendees will have access to our President's Reception, banquet, and dinner cruise. We will be installing new officers at the conference, and we are honored to be presenting the Association's Chief Thomas P. Reilly Memorial Medal of Honor to police officers from the Town of Webb for their actions in a harrowing homicide case. Details on all of this will be showcased at the conference, and in the September edition of *The Chief's Chronicle* magazine.

If you have attended one of our conferences previously you already know the value of the training, networking, and information sharing that takes place. Our members routinely tell us how they implement changes and innovations as a result of the information they attain from our events—both from the classroom as well as from networking. If you have not attended our conference—give us a try! The enthusiasm of our attendees is contagious. We even have retired police chiefs return to join us to catch up with their friends and colleagues—and they are a great source of experience to their peers.

Check out our online conference information [here](#) which is updated daily with latest additions of exhibitors and registration details. From all of us at the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, we look forward to seeing you at the Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls soon!



John Mueller Named Chief of MTA Police

On June 29 the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) swore in John Mueller as the sixth Chief of the MTA Police Department. A press release from the MTA noted that Chief Mueller comes to the MTA following 28 years of service at the Yonkers Police Department. Mueller will oversee the more than 1,000-member MTA Police Department that is responsible for patrolling and securing the MTA's operating region that stretches from Montauk to Poughkeepsie.

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, "We are blessed, after a pretty extensive search process, to have found someone who is not only an incredibly distinguished law enforcement professional, but who comes from the MTA region, who has led the police force for the second largest city in our MTA region, and who knows the commuter railroads. So it's a trifecta of incredible talent and qualification and



John Mueller takes his oath of office at a ceremony on June 29. In middle is Chief Safety Officer Patrick Warren. Administering the oath is Assistant Chief Sean Montgomery. Mueller becomes the sixth MTA Police Chief in the organization's history. Photo: Marc A. Hermann / MTA

track record, which was made clear to me by folks in all aspects of the Yonkers community, who had worked with Chief Mueller over time, and who had amazing things to say about his creativity, ability to work with all different kinds of communities, and also his focus on results, and building a sense of safety, and frankly, a community sense of investment in the police force." Mueller said, "the name of the game in policing today is having people feel secure while you're keeping them safe. And it's something that can be done, and I'm going to make a prediction right now -- I'm going to tell you this, and this is a national prediction. We are coming into a golden age in policing, we really are. Because we've learned, we've turned the corner, we always understand how to lower crime, we always understood how to address quality of life. But there were times in some of our methodologies where we did not treat communities with respect and appropriately, and that kind of affected us and our interaction with the community. You can do both."

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Erie Chiefs Celebrate New Police Officers



Erie County chiefs gathered at the Erie County Law Enforcement Academy for the 140th graduating class on June 3rd.

From left to right: Richard Schara (Village of Hamburg), Amy Pedlow (SUNY Buffalo State), William Karn (Town of Lancaster), Scott Chamberlin (Town of Amherst), Brian Gould (Town of Cheektowaga), William Strassburg (City of Tonawanda), James Stauffiger (Town of Tonawanda).

Photo provided by Chief James Stauffiger



Retiring Soon?

You are still a valued member!
 Check your NYSACOP Profile to ensure that
 your email and address preferences are updated so that you
 continue to receive our

Summary of Recently Enacted Gun Violence Legislation

Raising the Age to Purchase Semiautomatic Rifles

Legislation S.9458/A.10503 (Chapter 212) requires individuals to obtain a license prior to purchasing a semiautomatic rifle. Under preexisting New York State law, individuals must be 21 years or older to acquire a gun license.

Banning Body Armor

Legislation S.9407-B/A.10497 (Chapter 210) makes it illegal to purchase, take possession of and sell body vests for anyone who is not engaged in an eligible profession. Eligible professions include law enforcement officers and other professions, which will be designated by the Department of State in consultation with other agencies. It also requires that all body vest sales are completed in-person, except for purchases made by state and local agencies to provide body vests for their employees. A misdemeanor first offense and E felony second offense

Strengthening the Red Flag Law

Legislation S.9113-A/A.10502 expands who may file an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) petition to include health care practitioners who have examined an individual within the last six months.

It amends the firearm licensing statute to ensure that mental health practitioners' reports on potentially harmful individuals are used to prevent the issuance of a firearm license.

It also requires police and district attorneys to file ERPO petitions when they have acquired credible information that an individual is likely to engage in conduct that would result in serious harm—either to themselves or others.

It requires State Police and the Municipal Police Training Council to create and disseminate policies and procedures to identify when an ERPO petition may be warranted.

Microstamping

Legislation S.4116-A/A.7926-A (Chapter 205) requires the Division of Criminal Justice Services to certify or decline to certify that microstamping-enabled pistols are technologically viable and if certified as viable, to establish programs and processes for the implementation of such technology; and establishes the crime of the unlawful sale of a non-microstamping-enabled firearm (which will take effect either 4 years after DCJS certifies the technology or 1 year after a company has been licensed to sell microstamping-enabled pistols).

Creates penalties for licensed gun sellers who sell non-microstamping-enabled pistols. It becomes a misdemeanor for third offense. It is only punishable by a fine and suspension of license for the first two offenses

Closing Loopholes

Legislation S.9456/A.10504 (Chapter 205) expands the definition of a "firearm" to include any weapon not defined in the Penal Law that is designed or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by action of an explosive.

Legislation S.9229-A/A.10428-A (Chapter 209) eliminates the grandfathering of large capacity ammunition

feeding devices that were lawfully possessed prior to the enactment of the Safe Act or manufactured prior to 1994. Possession of a large capacity ammunition device is a Class D violent Felony
 Legislation S.89-B/A.6716-A creates the crimes of making a threat of mass harm and aggravated making a threat of mass harm.

Threat to cause mass harm is when a person threatens to cause serious injury or death at a school, church, business, government building or other place of assembly. B misdemeanor to make the threat. A misdemeanor to make the threat and take an overt act towards carrying out the threat.

Enhancing Information Sharing

Legislation S.4970-A/A.1023-A (Chapter 207) requires enhanced reporting by law enforcement to the state and federal gun databases. Agencies must report seized or recovered guns to the criminal gun clearinghouse within 24 hours after taking possession of the gun; participate in the ATF's collective data sharing program; enter guns suitable for test firing into the national integrated ballistic information network; and enter the make, model, caliber, and serial number of the gun into the national crime information center.

The law also requires gun dealers to enact uniform security and reporting standards. It prohibits those under 18 and not accompanied by a parent from entering certain locations of a gun dealer's premises and requires training for all employees on conducting firearm, rifle, and shotgun transfers, including identification of and response to illegal purchases. It also requires State Police to conduct inspections of gun dealers every three years.

Improving Response and Reporting of Hateful and Threatening Social Media Content

Legislation S.4511-A/A.7865-A (Chapter 204) requires social media networks in New York to provide a clear and concise policy regarding how they would respond to incidents of hateful conduct on their platform and maintain easily accessible mechanisms for reporting hateful conduct on those platforms

Legislation S.9465/A.10501 creates a new Task Force on Social Media and Violent Extremism. Housed in the Office of the Attorney General, the Task Force will study and investigate the role of social media companies in promoting and facilitating violent extremism and domestic terrorism online.

Visit our website: www.nychiefs.org

Recent and archived publications; NYSACOP Partners; membership directory; podcasts; training, and much more.



Accused Tops Shooter Charged with Federal Hate Crimes and Using a Firearm to Commit Murder; Shooter Could Face Death Penalty

On June 15, 2022, Payton Gendron, 18, of Conklin, New York, was charged by criminal complaint with hate crimes resulting in death and hate crimes involving bodily injury and attempt to kill, use of a firearm to commit murder during and in relation to a crime of violence, and use and discharge of a firearm during and in relation to a crime of violence. The announcement was made by Attorney General Merrick B. Garland, Associate Attorney General Vanita Gupta, Assistant Attorney General Kristen Clarke for the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Attorney Trini E. Ross for the Western District of New York, and FBI Deputy Director Paul Abbate.

The complaint alleges that on May 14, at approximately 2:30 p.m., Gendron, a white male, committed a mass shooting targeting Black people at Tops Friendly Market in Buffalo, New York. The mass shooting, which Gendron live-streamed on the Internet, resulted in the deaths of 10 Black people and injuries to one Black person and two Caucasian people. The complaint further alleges that Gendron's motive for the mass shooting was to prevent Black people from replacing white people and eliminating the white race, and to inspire others to commit similar attacks.

At the time of the attack, Gendron was wearing a tactical-style helmet, camouflage clothing, body armor, and a GoPro video camera, and carrying a loaded Bushmaster XM-15 .223 caliber rifle and multiple loaded magazines. After parking and exiting his vehicle, Gendron shot and killed three Black people in the Tops' parking lot and injured a fourth Black person. Gendron then fired several shots through the front window of the store before entering, where he immediately shot and killed two more Black people. At that time, Gendron and an armed Black security guard exchanged gunfire. Gendron aimed at, shot, and killed the security guard. After Gendron killed the security guard, he turned and aimed his rifle at a white male Tops employee who, at some point during the attack, had been shot in the leg and injured. Rather than shooting him, Gendron said, "sorry," to the employee. At some point during the attack, one of the shots also struck and injured a white female Tops employee in the pharmacy area of the store, which is located near the checkout lanes. Gendron then walked through a checkout lane, and shot and killed a Black person, before moving through the aisles of the store and shooting and killing three additional Black people. Gendron ultimately returned to the front of the store where members of the Buffalo Police Department took him into custody.

When he was taken into custody, officers recovered the rifle used by Gendron in the attack. The rifle had various writings on it, including racial slurs, the statement "Here's your reparations!," and the phrase "The Great Replacement." Investigators have determined that Gendron fired approximately 60 shots during the attack. Two other firearms, a loaded 12-gauge shotgun and a loaded bolt-action rifle, as well as three loaded rifle magazines, were recovered from Gendron's vehicle after the attack.

Subsequent investigation determined that in the months preceding the attack, Gendron wrote a self-described manifesto containing a detailed plan to shoot and kill Black people at Tops using a Bushmaster XM-15 rifle, a diagram of the interior layout of the store, a discussion of the clothing and equipment that he would use during the attack, and statements that his motivation for the attack was to prevent Black people from replacing white people and eliminating the white race, and to inspire others to commit similar racially-motivated attacks.

Gendron also wrote that he selected the zip code 14208 because it has the highest percentage of Black people close enough to where he lives and that he selected the Tops store because it is where a large number of Black people can be found. The investigation also determined that Gendron traveled to Tops to scout the location on several occasions prior to the attack, including on May 14, 2022, only two and a half hours before the attack.

Upon conviction, the charges in the complaint carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment or the death penalty. Gendron is currently in state custody pending state criminal charges.

The criminal complaint is the result of an investigation by the Buffalo and Albany Offices of the FBI, the Buffalo Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Buffalo Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Erie County Sheriff's Office. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joseph M. Tripi, Brendan T. Cullinane and Brett A. Harvey of the Western District of New York, and Trial Attorney Shan Patel of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

More information about the department's hate crimes efforts, including facts and statistics, case examples, and a searchable collection of the department's resources for law enforcement, community groups, researchers, and others, are available at www.justice.gov/hatecrimes.

Press release: Dept. of Justice; June 15, 2022



SAVE THE DATE

LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Developed for New York State's police executives, a special training and information session addressing prevailing topics in public safety, including a focus gun violence.

A partnership of the New York State Sheriff's Association and the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police.

November 9-10, 2022

2 Individuals Indicted for Roles in Flooding Communities with Cocaine, Heroin, and Methamphetamine, and Illegal Possession of Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines

NEW YORK – New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced the takedown of a drug trafficking operation that flooded communities in the Hudson Valley and Capital Region with significant amounts of cocaine, heroin pills, methamphetamine pills, and artificial Xanax pills. As alleged in two indictments — unsealed in Ulster County Court today — 12 individuals trafficked more than one million dollars’ worth of cocaine and thousands of pills throughout Ulster, Dutchess, and Saratoga counties, and illegally possessed firearms, including assault weapons, and high-capacity magazines.

The investigation led to the recovery of:

- 11 kilograms of cocaine, with an approximate street value of \$1.2 million;
- 15,000 methamphetamine pills, disguised as Adderall pills, with an approximate street value of \$100,000;
- 5,000 artificial Xanax pills, with an approximate street value of \$50,000;
- 750 heroin pills, disguised as oxycodone, with an approximate street value of \$20,000;
- 39 firearms, including four assault weapons;
- 40 high-capacity magazines;
- Hundreds of rounds of ammunition; and,
- \$120,000 in cash.

“As communities across New York and the country are devastated by opioids and gun violence every day, we are taking serious action to crack down on those who fuel this harm,” said Attorney General James. “Any drug operation that floods our streets with heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine endangers New Yorkers. But this operation was especially dangerous because they sold drugs that were intentionally disguised as prescription pills and were heavily armed with assault weapons and other firearms. Stopping gun violence and the opioid crisis requires action from every angle, and today’s takedown is the latest example of our commitment to using every tool possible to protect our communities. I thank our partners in law enforcement for their invaluable support in this investigation.”

Today’s takedown was the result of an 11-month joint-investigation led by the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) Organized Crime Task Force (OCTF), the Ulster County Sheriff’s Office (OCSO), and the Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (URGENT), with support from the Ulster County District Attorney’s Office, the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, and the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit.

The investigation — dubbed “Operation GTL” due to guns, trafficking of narcotics, and laundering of proceeds which the investigation revealed — included hundreds of hours of physical and covert surveillance,

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court-authorized wiretapping of cellular telephones, and review of phone records and law enforcement databases.

During electronic surveillance, the defendants and their co-conspirators frequently utilized coded and cryptic terminology in an attempt to disguise their illicit activities, such as referring to cocaine as “girl,” “lady,” or “white”; heroin pills as “blues,” “blueberries,” or “berries”; methamphetamine pills as “peaches” or “oranges”; and artificial Xanax pills as “greens,” “green beans,” or “beans.”

Indictment One

As outlined in the first indictment, 11 defendants were charged for their roles in two conspiracies — one in which the defendants sold and possessed illegal pills disguised as pharmaceutical grade drugs and the other in which the defendants sold and possessed cocaine.

As alleged in the first conspiracy, Christopher Pulichene operated an illegal pill distribution network in and around Ulster, Dutchess, and Saratoga counties, and elsewhere. Pulichene purchased heroin pills from Alton Countryman, who was supported by his wife, Thekla Countryman, and Joshua Gurdy. Alton Countryman created the heroin pills in his home in Kingston and disguised them to look like pharmaceutical grade oxycodone pills. The heroin pills were blue, round, and included the imprint “A 215,” which is found on pharmaceutical grade oxycodone pills. Pulichene then sold those heroin pills to defendants Thomas Colon, Julia Eaton, and Zachary Vanvlack.

Pulichene also purchased methamphetamine pills disguised as pharmaceutical grade Adderall pills from a source on the West Coast. Similar to the heroin pills, the methamphetamine pills included the same characteristics as Adderall — the pills were orange, oval-shaped, and included the imprint “B 974,” which is found on pharmaceutical grade Adderall pills. Pulichene then sold those methamphetamine pills to defendants Colon, Eaton, Vanvlack, and Devyn Wolny. Colon then sold the pills to Ralph Banks, Jr., and others.

In the second conspiracy, Pulichene operated an illegal cocaine distribution network. He obtained cocaine from a source in the Gulf Coast and then sold the cocaine to Colon, Eaton, and Wolny for resale to others. Colon resold the cocaine to Banks, Kevin Drake, Jr., and Nicholas Lasusa.

In addition to the large quantities of drugs that were recovered, investigators seized 39 firearms, including assault weapons, 40 high-capacity magazines, hundreds of rounds of ammunition, riot gear, and other weapons.

This indictment contains 275 counts for various felony narcotics offenses, including a charge against Pulichene for Operating as a Major Trafficker, which carries a maximum sentence of life in state prison, and various counts of Criminal Sale and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance (class A and B felonies), as well as Conspiracy to commit those crimes. Additionally, Pulichene, Alton Countryman, Banks, and Colon are charged with firearms offenses for some of the firearms that were seized.

Indictment Two

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In the second Indictment, Robert Curry is charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree, a class A-I felony, and 3 counts associated with the possession of cocaine which occurred within the city of Kingston in Ulster County.

Those charged in today's two indictments include:

CHRISTOPHER PULICHENE, 39 years old, of New Paltz, New York

RALPH BANKS, JR., 50 years old, of Saugerties, New York

THOMAS COLON, 60 years old, of Saugerties, New York

ALTON COUNTRYMAN, 35 years old, of Kingston, New York

THEKLA COUNTRYMAN, 35 years old, of Kingston, New York

ROBERT CURRY, 42 years old, of Albany, New York

KEVIN DRAKE, JR., 32 years old, of Kingston, New York

JULIA EATON, 34 years old, of Gansevoort, New York

JOSHUA GULDY, 21 years old, of Kingston, New York

NICHOLAS LASUSA, 31 years old, of Saugerties, New York

ZACHARY VANVLACK, 34 years old, of Wappingers Falls, New York

DEVYN WOLNY, 24 years old, of New Paltz, New York

"Ulster County has witnessed an increase in drug use, drug overdoses, and gun violence," said Ulster County Sheriff Juan J. Figueroa. "This case establishes the need of local law enforcement to collaborate with state agencies that have the assets and expertise of long-term investigations. The URGENT Task Force, the New York Attorney General's Office, and the Organized Crime Task Force joined forces to take down drug traffickers and remove drugs and weapons off the streets. This case is the largest seizure of illicit drugs in the county's history. I congratulate the participating agencies of the URGENT Task Force, the Attorney General's Organized Crime Task Force, and the New York State Police for a job well done in protecting the residents of the Hudson Valley."

"This investigation highlights the importance of ongoing collaboration between law enforcement agencies and using all available resources to hold offenders accountable," said Dutchess County Sheriff Kirk Imperati. "I want to thank all of the law enforcement partners for their hard work and dedication regarding this investigation to protect Dutchess County communities."

"I would like to thank our State Police Special Investigations Unit members, the Office of the Attorney General, and our law enforcement partners for their devotion and perseverance in this investigation," said New York State Police Superintendent Kevin P. Bruen. "These indictments are a direct result of a collective effort that has interrupted the distribution of narcotics and weapons in our neighborhoods and has taken dangerous individuals off our streets. State Police and our partners will continue to keep our communities safe from such criminals and the harmful circumstances they create."

(Continued on page 17)

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“This is one of the largest drug and gun takedowns in the history of Ulster County,” said Ulster County District Attorney David J. Clegg. “The trafficking of illegal narcotic drugs and the possession of deadly firearms will not be tolerated in our county. We will continue to work jointly with the New York Attorney General’s Office Organized Crime Taskforce to hold these twelve individuals accountable to the fullest extent of the law for the illegal sale and distribution of narcotics, and possession of illegal firearms. We will continue to work tirelessly to take dangerous drugs and firearms off the streets and keep our community safe.”

“This is a major victory in our efforts to stem the flow of guns, gangs, and drugs into our community; and will deliver a devastating blow to those who have been fomenting violence in our streets,” said Ulster County Executive Pat Ryan. “I commend and thank Attorney General Letitia James, the Organized Crime Task Force, Ulster County Sheriff Juan Figueroa, the brave members of our Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (U.R.G.E.N.T.) team, and everyone involved with this historic operation. As county executive, I have made it a top priority to bolster support to our law enforcement agencies, delivering over 20 percent in additional funding and staff to our U.R.G.E.N.T. team since taking office. We will not rest until every single violent criminal bringing these drugs and guns into our community is brought to justice.”

“Getting these drugs and weapons off the street and these heinous individuals behind bars is a tremendous step towards victory in our ongoing fight against opioids and gun violence,” said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro. “We are grateful to the brave men and women of law enforcement for their continued commitment to cracking down on drug and gun trafficking, especially our own Dutchess County Drug Task Force and the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office, and to Attorney General Letitia James for her efforts to prosecute the individuals who perpetrate these crimes. We will continue to stand together against those who would harm our community for their own gain.”

Today’s takedown marks the latest major drug bust in OAG’s Suburban and Upstate Response to the Growing Epidemic (SURGE) Initiative, a law enforcement effort that brings together state and local law enforcement to target New York’s growing — and often violent — heroin, opioid, and narcotics trafficking networks. Since launching in 2017, SURGE has taken 738 alleged traffickers off the streets.

The charges against the defendants are merely accusations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty in a court of law.

The investigation was led by URGENT Investigator Joseph Stock, under the supervision of URGENT Detective Sergeant Jason Bruck, URGENT Detective Lieutenant Abram Markiewicz, URGENT Commander Jarrid Blades, and OAG OCTF Detective David Walsh, under the supervision of Detective Supervisor Bradford Miller and Acting Assistant Chief Andy Boss. The OAG’s Investigations Division is led by Chief Investigator Oliver Pu-Folkes.

(Continued on page 18)

(Continued from page 17)

In addition to the law enforcement partners listed above, Attorney General James would also like to thank the Dutchess County Drug Task Force, which is led by Coordinator Detective Sergeant Adam Harris, the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, and the Homeland Security Investigations-Hudson Valley Office for their assistance throughout the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by OAG OCTF Assistant Deputy Attorney General Griffin C. Kenyon, with the assistance of Special Assistant Deputy Attorney General Shanza Malik and Special Assistant Deputy Attorney General John L. Mason of the Ulster County District Attorney's Office, and OCTF Legal Support Analyst Santiago Molina. ADAG Kenyon is under the supervision of Downstate OCTF Deputy Chief Lauren Abinanti. Nicole Keary is the Deputy Attorney General in Charge of OCTF. The Division for Criminal Justice is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General José Maldonado and overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

Saugerties Police Chief Joe Sinagra - Handle With Care Program



Chief Joseph Sinagra
Saugerties Police Department

Chief Joseph Sinagra was recently the guest interviewee for a podcast production called *I in 44*, a reference to the ratio of autism prevalence in the United States. Here is a release from the Anderson Center for Autism:

This weekend's *I in 44* guest is Joseph Sinagra. Joe is the Chief of Police for the Saugerties, NY police department. Chief Sinagra is seeking to help the Saugerties community with the launch of the new Handle With Care program within the department. The goal of "Handle with Care" is to give the department's officers knowledge about community members who may have special needs like autism or suffer from cognitive disorders like Alzheimer's and other types of dementia. The online database allows families to upload a photo of a loved one – along with emergency contacts – and any other pertinent information they want police to know if officers were to come in contact with the individual. You can register a loved one

through the Saugerties Police Department's "Handle with Care" database on the Saugerties [CrimeWatch Website](#). If you are interested in learning how to start your own Handle with Care program in your area, please reach out to Chief Sinagra - jsinagra@saugertiesny.gov



Raven's Challenge 2022

More than 100 Public Safety and Military Unit Personnel from North America and Europe Took Part in Training Focused on Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in Oneida County

New York State is One of Four Sites to Host This Prestigious Public Safety Exercise in 2022, Funded by Department of the Army and Led by the Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

Governor Kathy Hochul announced on June 16 that New York State hosted another successful "Raven's Challenge," the world's largest annual training exercise for public safety bomb squads and military explosive ordnance disposal teams. Held in four locations across the U.S., including this week at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oriskany, the "Raven's Challenge" brought together bomb squad technicians and military explosive ordnance teams for a week of scenario-based training on response tactics for improvised explosive devices. More than 30 law enforcement and military organizations in New York, other states including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New Hampshire, Vermont and Virginia, as well as Canada and Germany participated in the exercise.

"Protecting New Yorkers is our top priority and realistic training scenarios like these ensure our first responders have the skills they need to respond to a number of threats," Governor Hochul said. "The training offered at the Raven's Challenge enables bomb technicians here in New York, as well as throughout the country and abroad, to sharpen their skills and better address potential threats."

In addition to New York, ATF conducted the Raven's Challenge exercise in Florida, Oklahoma, and Utah this year. The Raven's Challenge is funded by the U.S. Army and coordinated by the ATF and partner agencies including the Army, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and state and local law enforcement agencies.



More than 100 bomb technicians and military personnel participated in the Raven's Challenge at the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) this week. This is the fourth time in seven years New York State has hosted this interagency exercise at the SPTC. During the week-long exercise, teams conducted scenario-based training based on the current threat environment and intelligence.

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Jackie Bray said, "Keeping New Yorkers safe, in the midst of a changing threat environment, is our top priority. Providing world class training opportunities to New York Law Enforcement is critical to this mission. We are grateful to the ATF

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

and our federal partners for continuing to host the Raven's Challenge at the State Preparedness Training Center in Oneida County. The SPTC is a world class venue that we're proud to share with our partners at all levels of government in order to promote a safer environment for everyone."

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) has administered \$25.6 million in federal homeland security funding to support the 12 local FBI-accredited bomb squads in New York State in recent years. These teams utilize this funding to support equipment, planning, training, and exercise costs. This funding, coupled with high-level training exercises such as the Raven's Challenge, helps prepare these teams to respond to New York's ever-evolving threat landscape.

About the State Preparedness Training Center

New York State is home to one of the premier emergency response training facilities in the nation - the State Preparedness Training Center (SPTC) in Oriskany. Located on 1,100 acres, the SPTC offers an extensive series of realistic training venues, a Swift Water and Flood Training venue, a 45,000 square foot CityScape complex, and an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) simulator. From classroom lectures and discussions, to skill development lanes, to reality and high-performance scenario-based training, the SPTC offers state, local, and federal agencies a wide range of opportunities for dynamic emergency first responder training.

Photos provided by NYS DHSES

New York State Bomb Squads Participating

New York State Police
Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office
Erie County Sheriff's Office
Monroe County Sheriff's Office
Onondaga County Sheriff's Office
Rochester Police Department
Syracuse Police Department

Bomb Squads Participating from Other States and the Federal Government

Allegheny County Police Department, Pennsylvania
Butler County Sheriff's Office, Pennsylvania
Camden County Sheriff's Office, New Jersey
Erie Police Department, Pennsylvania
Michigan State Police
New Hampshire State Police
Pennsylvania State Police
Scranton Police Department, Pennsylvania
Vermont State Police
Virginia State Police
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) Bomb Technicians

Bomb Squads Participating from Other Countries

Toronto Police Department, Canada
Bomb Squad Hannover, Germany
Bomb Squad Berlin, Germany

Military Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Units Participating

722nd Ordnance Company, U.S. Army, Fort Bragg, North Carolina
18th Explosive Ordnance Company, U.S. Army Fort Bragg, North Carolina
87th Civil Engineer Squadron EOD, U.S. Army, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey
316th Civil Engineer Squad EOD Team, U.S. Marine Corps, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland
Quantico EOD, U.S. Marine Corps, Quantico, Virginia
914th EOD, U.S. Air Force, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station, Niagara Falls, New York
4th EOD, U.S. Air Force, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, North Carolina
633 EOD Company, U.S. Air Force, Joint Base Langley-Eustice, Virginia
1108th Ordnance Company, New York Army National Guard, Fort Drum, New York
11th TE, U.S. Navy, Imperial Beach, California
55th Ordnance Disposal Company, U.S. Army, Fort Belvoir, Virginia
158th EOD, Vermont Air National Guard, Burlington, Vermont
Canadian Armed Forces

Two New York Men Charged for Conspiracy to Distribute 110 Kilograms of Cocaine

NEWARK, N.J. – Two New York men were charged today with conspiring to distribute approximately 110 kilograms of cocaine as part of an international drug trafficking organization, U.S. Attorney Philip R. Sellinger announced.

Eddie Velez-Pena, 33, of Yonkers, New York, and Robin Medina-Fabian, 38, of the Bronx, New York, are charged by complaint with conspiring to distribute and possessing with intent to distribute over five kilograms of cocaine. The defendants are scheduled to appear by videoconference today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Cathy L. Waldor.

According to documents filed in this case and statements made in court:

On or June 25, 2022, law enforcement officers conducted surveillance of a tractor-trailer driven by Velez-Pena and believed to contain narcotics for distribution. They observed the tractor-trailer drive through New Jersey and stop for a period of time in Hampton, New Jersey. Velez-Pena drove through New Jersey to the border of Yonkers and the Bronx, New York, where he met with Medina-Fabian. Velez-Pena transferred multiple duffel bags from his tractor-trailer to Medina-Fabian, who then placed them in the SUV.

Law enforcement officers then conducted a stop of Medina-Fabian's SUV and observed in plain view several duffel bags matching those provided by Velez-Pena. Subsequent to receiving consent to search the SUV from Medina-Fabian, law enforcement recovered several duffel bags containing approximately 110 kilograms of cocaine and drug ledger sheets.

The count of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute over five kilograms of cocaine carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum term of 10 years in prison and a \$10 million fine.

...conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute over five kilograms of cocaine carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a mandatory minimum term of 10 years in prison and a \$10 million fine.

U.S. Attorney Sellinger credited special agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration's New York Division, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Frank A. Tarentino III, with the investigation leading to the charges.

This effort is part of an Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) operation. OCDETF identifies, disrupts, and dismantles the highest-level criminal organizations that threaten the United States using a prosecutor-led, intelligence-driven, multi-agency approach. Additional information about the OCDETF

(Continued on page 27)

2022 ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE

NEW YORK STATE ASSN. OF CHIEFS OF POLICE, INC.

SUPERIOR TRAINING FOR TODAY'S POLICE EXECUTIVES

REGISTRATION IS OPEN:

The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference has been our premier training event since 1902, bringing together like-minded leaders representing jurisdictions of all sizes. Conference dates: Sunday, July 24 through Wednesday, July 27, 2022.

The rich traditions of our conference draw police leaders for learning, sharing, and shaping our proud profession. We will be discussing a variety of issues, particularly, events that will continue to impact the way we perform our jobs. Topics include areas of officer wellness, professional development, and more. We are joined by an array of exhibitors showcasing the latest products and services.

Download our
Conference Brochure

CLICK HERE

New this year—dual tracks! Throughout the conference our schedule will include two simultaneous educational platforms: our **Traditional Track** which will feature topics on contemporary issues in law enforcement; and our new **Police Executive Training Track**, specifically developed for new and aspiring police leaders. This new track has been developed based on feedback from our peers who have been seeking relevant training for today's police executives that is often difficult if not impossible to find. Regardless of the track for which you register, attendees may float between tracks in the event they want to attend a topic that is of interest to them. This flexibility affords an even better educational experience for all of our registrants.

Join us at The Historic Queensbury Hotel in Glens Falls—located in the beautiful Lake George-Adirondack Region of New York. The location and facilities provide an excellent atmosphere for learning and networking. Details inside.

REGISTER TODAY:

NYSACOP Members: [LINK](#)

Exec Training Track: [LINK](#)

Exhibitors: [LINK](#)

Reservations for our host hotel The Queensbury Hotel must be made separately. [LINK](#) Group Code G1506

Meals and breaks included except for Tuesday evening July 26; For fee information click on the appropriate link, above; Visit our website often as we continue to update information about conference speakers, presentation and activities.

Ver. Mar 1, 2022

**Register Now for the 120th Annual Training Conference of the
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police**

Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, New York

July 24-27, 2022

**[Click here](#) for our conference announcement and brochure
featuring more than 25 pages of details including:**

- Presenters and presentations
- Extracurricular activities
- Networking opportunities
- Current listing of exhibitors displaying a variety of products & services
- Dual tracks this year—our traditional main track (gold heading in brochure), and a new Police Executive Training Track (blue heading in brochure) for new and aspiring police executives. This curriculum features topics and presentations of special interest for those in the early stages of the executive career.

Check this [link](#) often as we continue to update our presentations and exhibitors!





Homeland Security and Emergency Services

Fire Prevention and Control

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

JACKIE BRAY
Commissioner

JAMES B. CABLE
State Fire Administrator

TO: Law Enforcement Officers in the State of New York
c/o New York State Sheriff's Association
c/o New York State Association of Chiefs of Police

FROM: Bret Welch, Deputy Chief
Investigation Branch-Training Courses
Bret.Welch@dhses.ny.gov
607.228.3105

SUBJECT: Post Blast Investigation Course Offering

DATE: June 30, 2022

The following course is offered annually and is delivered in conjunction with the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives:

Begins August 29th, 2022 at 13:00 & ends September 2, 2022.

Contact DC Welch at bret.welch@dhses.ny.gov or 607.228.3105 for any questions.

Course Description:

Post Blast Investigation

This course provides instruction related to explosives identification, component recognition, improvised explosive devices, blast effects, and laboratory analysis services. Attendees will observe an explosives demonstration and participate in scene processing and evidence collection exercises.

Designed for: All fire and law enforcement personnel, emphasis toward those with responsibility to investigate explosion incidents.

Course Length: 32 hours

Prerequisites: None

Course number: 01-01-0025

Course Location(s): Academy of Fire Science

Student Required Equipment/Materials: Personal protective equipment for scene processing as well as eye and ear protection.

Bridge Named in Memory of Fallen Police Chief

A bridge in Upstate New York has been officially commemorated in recognition of slain Police Chief Samuel A. Johnson, Sr. of the Dexter Police Department who was killed in the line of duty on September 11, 1987.

State Senator Patty Ritchie brought forth the legislation which was passed by both houses and signed by the Governor. Under Sen. Ritchie's legislation, the bridge on New York State Route 180, crossing the Black River from the Village of Dexter to the Town of Hounsfield, will be renamed the "Chief Samuel A. Johnson Sr. Memorial Bridge."

"Each and every day, law enforcement officials put their own safety on the line to protect others," said Senator Patty Ritchie. "Chief Samuel A. Johnson is an example of that, and while bravely serving his community, he made the ultimate sacrifice. We must never forget his selflessness and this legislation is just one small way we can make an everlasting tribute to his memory."

"Chief Sam Johnson went above and beyond to serve the people of his community," said Village of Dexter Mayor James Eves. "Renaming this bridge in his honor will help ensure nobody forgets a man who selflessly gave of himself to protect others."

According to the Officer Down Memorial Page, "Chief Johnson was shot and killed when he was ambushed while responding to a shots fired call on Pillar Point. A man had just murdered a friend and then went to a nearby intersection and setup an ambush. As Chief Johnson responded to the shots fired call, not knowing a murder had been committed, he slowed at the intersection to turn when the suspect opened fire on him with the shotgun. Chief Johnson's patrol car ran into a guard rail where the man came up and shot him several more times before stealing his radio and service weapon. After other units failed to reach Chief Johnson on the radio they went to investigate and found where he had been shot. After a high speed pursuit the suspect was shot several times and wounded. He plead guilty on reason of insanity and was committed to a state hospital. Chief Johnson had been with the agency for 13 years and was survived by his wife and five children."



Chief Samuel A. Johnson, Sr.

Dexter Police Department

Photo: Officer Down Memorial Page

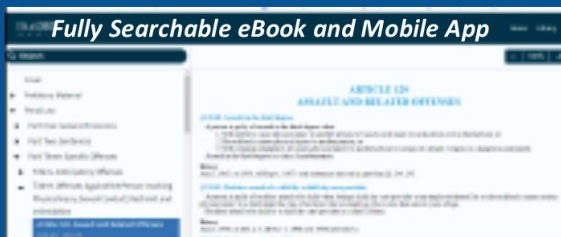
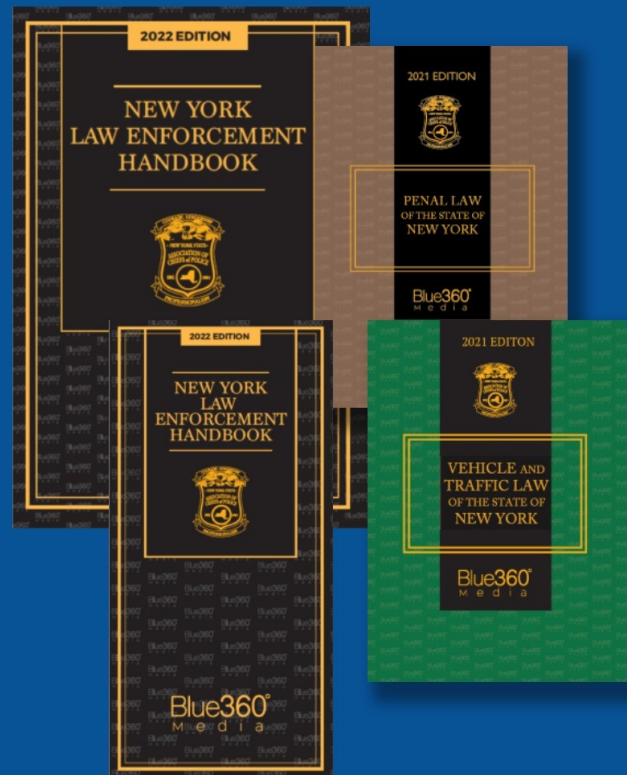


The Best Law Content At Your Fingertips

New York State titles include:
 Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law,
 Vehicle and Traffic Law; and the
 Law Enforcement Handbook (2 sizes)

Featuring the New York Law Enforcement Handbook containing the most frequently used sections of NYS laws with custom content by the New York State Assn. of Chiefs of Police:

- Raise the Age Guide
- Federal Crimes
- HIPPA Guidelines
- Good Samaritan and Syringe Law Guides
- Ignition Interlock Device Guidance
- Traffic Resources: campaign dates, VTL index, supporting depositions & more



*10% of all sales benefit the
 New York State Assn. of Chiefs of Police*

◀ Podcast describes content and changes to 2022 Law Enforcement Handbook—[Click Here](#)

Last month's winner of a free New York State Law Enforcement Handbook was Lt. Michael Suppe (Floral Park PD) for correctly answering our monthly trivia question. Congratulations Lt. Suppe! —your free New York State Law Enforcement Handbook is on the way from Blue 360° Media!



(Continued from page 21)

Program can be found at <https://www.justice.gov/OCDETF>.

The New York OCDETF Strike Force is housed at the DEA’s New York Division and includes agents and officers of the DEA; the New York City Police Department; the New York State Police; Immigration and Customs Enforcement – Homeland Security Investigations; the U. S. Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation Division; U.S. Customs and Border Protection; the U.S. Marshals Service; New York National Guard; U.S. Coast Guard; Port Washington Police Department; and New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jenny Chung of the General Crimes Unit in Newark.

The charge and allegations contained in the complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Press release: U.S. Attorney’s Office NJ; June 27, 2022

Erie Chiefs Host Special Training

Members of the Erie County Association of Chiefs of Police recently welcomed Chief Greg Veitch of Noble Cause Training and Development to discuss “The Honor of Command.”

Chief Veitch is pictured with ECACOP President James Stauffiger, Chief of Police, Town of Tonawanda PD.



Teens Apprehended After Pursuit in Stolen Vehicle

Utica Officer Struck by Vehicle Attempting Arrest

At approximately 6:05 PM on June 1, 2022 Utica Police units were dispatched to the area of Second St and Blandina Street regarding a stolen vehicle report from a neighboring jurisdiction. This vehicle had been stolen in a robbery involving a handgun earlier in the week.

The officers located the vehicle in a driveway on the 800 block of Second Street. As they approached they noticed it to be occupied and continued to make an approach to the driver side. They began to attempt to speak with the driver, however as they were doing this the driver revved the engine in an attempt to flee; the vehicle was in park at this time however.

Upon noticing that the driver was attempting to flee, an officer attempted to open the door to remove the driver and place him under arrest. The door was opened and this time the driver began to reverse the vehicle. The officer attempted to move from the path of the vehicle, however the driver accelerated rapidly striking the officer causing him to fall to the ground, and the vehicle proceeded backwards again striking the officer.

As the operator continued reversing at high rate of speed, he intentionally backed directly into the driver side of UPD car 57, a 2020 Ford Explorer, causing extensive damage. The vehicle then sped away a short distance and a pursuit was initiated. During the course of the pursuit both the operator and a front seat passenger jumped from the vehicle and fled on foot. The vehicle continued until it struck a pole and came to rest.

A foot pursuit was initiated for both parties, and after a short chase both were apprehended.

After detaining both parties it was learned that the operator was 16 years of age and the passenger was 15. Due to their ages their identities will not be released.

The 15 year old was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the fourth degree and released on an Appearance Ticket to return to Oneida County Family Court.

The 16 year old was transported to Central Arraignment Processing at the Oneida County Jail. He was charged with:

- Assault in the second degree
- Criminal Mischief in the second degree
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the fourth degree
- Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the fourth degree

The officer was transported to St. Elizabeth's Medical Center for treatment. Very thankfully he did not suffer any serious injuries; only some contusions and lacerations. The investigation from the original robbery is ongoing.

Source: Utica PD Facebook page; June 2, 2022



Knife-Wielding Man Takes Two Hostages at Stewart's Shop

On June 2, 2022 at 11:14 pm, Troy Police patrol officers responded to the report of a hostage situation at the Stewart's Shop on Vandenburg Avenue. Upon arrival, officers observed heavy damage to the front door of the store. As officers approached the building, they observed two male employees and one male suspect inside the store. The suspect was standing behind the counter while holding what appeared to be a knife to the throat of one employee. Officers took positions outside of the building and the Crisis Negotiation Team responded to the scene.

Members of the Crisis Negotiation Team established communication with the suspect through the broken front door. Within a few minutes, the suspect released one of the employees but continued to stand behind the second employee, while holding the weapon to the employee's throat. After nearly one hour of negotiations, the suspect released the second employee, put down his weapon and surrendered to officers without incident. The suspect was removed from the scene and transported to a local hospital for evaluation.

The location and hostages appear to have been chosen at random and the suspect's actions appear to be the result of mental health crisis. Evidence on scene suggests that the suspect used his vehicle to ram the front door of the store prior to entering the building. The incident is still being investigated and criminal charges are pending. Thanks to the excellent work by members of the Crisis Negotiation Team, no injuries were reported in the incident and the best possible outcome was achieved.

Source: Troy PD Facebook Page; June 3, 2022



Contact Us

Share your stories, photographs, comments and questions:

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APB@nychiefs.org

Visit us on the web at www.nychiefs.org
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police
3177 Latta Rd., # 230 Rochester, NY 14612

Start Planning Now:

2022 Impaired Driving National Enforcement Mobilization August 17 - September 5, 2022

The 2022 impaired driving national enforcement mobilization "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" goes into effect across the country from August 17 to September 5, 2022. One of the deadliest and most often committed - yet preventable - of crimes (impaired driving), has become a serious safety epidemic in our country.

As law enforcement professionals and highway safety advocates, your efforts will help reduce the number of crashes and fatalities due to impaired driving. By increasing State enforcement efforts, raising public awareness through paid, earned, and social media, and maximizing your local resources, you indeed can make a difference.

Use these enforcement materials to help you successfully spread the campaign's message, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, and complement your enforcement campaign. The high-visibility enforcement model has two important purposes:

- Spread the message, and
- Increase enforcement efforts.

Campaign materials [here](#)





Counter
Terrorism

Cyber Incident
Response Team

Kathy Hochul
Governor



USB Device Security

In 2016, researchers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign spread 297 USB drives around the campus and found that 48% of them were picked up and plugged into a computer.

Malware can spread easily through external media like USB drives, so keep in mind the following tips before plugging one into your computer:

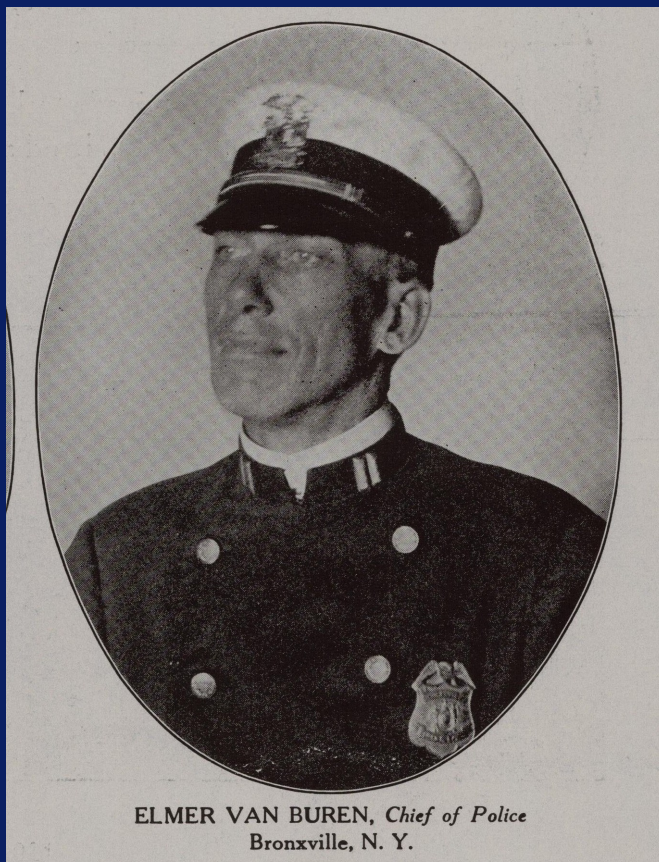
- Use an antivirus software to scan all USB drives for malware before using (even new ones)
- Separate flash drives used at home from those used in the office
- Always encrypt USB drives that contain sensitive data
- Be aware of USB "drop attacks" where a cyber actor leaves an infected USB for people to find and plug into their computers
- Never plug in a USB drive that's not from a trusted source and hasn't been vetted

If you suspect a cyber incident, immediately contact:

CIRT is an initiative of the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.
For additional information, visit dhses.ny.gov/cyber-incident-response-team

"If You See Something, Say Something®" used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Looking Back...



*Chief Elmer VanBuren of the Bronxville Police Department
NYSACOP Member in 1915*



COP TALES

ASST. CHIEF/RET. BRIAN SMITH,
CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL

That's Your Present from the Highway Patrol

My partner and I were patrolling the freeways when we observed a vehicle straddling three lanes of traffic. They had “Just Married” on the rear window and some cans dragging from behind. We made a traffic stop and the driver was in his tuxedo and his new bride was in her wedding gown. I told him he had too much to drink and advised him to step out of the car. She looked over at me and said, “But Officer, it’s our wedding night.” He told me they were just trying to get to their hotel.

I told him it was illegal to drink and drive and for him to get in the back seat. He started to walk back to our patrol car. I stopped him and said, “Not my car, your car.” I had him get in the back seat of his car. I got in his driver’s seat and drove them to the hotel while my partner followed us. I then handed him the keys and said, “This was your present from the highway patrol, don’t ever drink and drive again.” They were so excited and appreciative. I wonder how many times they repeated that story. (Of course, that was a few years ago. An officer wouldn’t be able to do that today.)



The author served four years in the United States Marine Corps, and retired as an Assistant Chief with the California Highway Patrol. He resides in Bakersfield, CA. If you have a personal “Cop Tale” to share, please contact Brian at bmsmith778@gmail.com

Training Calendar

Check out these training opportunities specially selected for New York State law enforcement leaders; with links for registration and questions. DO you have a training event you would like to share? Email us at APB@nychiefs.org



MPTC Use of Force for Correction Officers [Online Training Questions](#)

Crash Management Courses (Erie and Westchester Cos.) - (various dates 2022-2023) [Announcement](#) [Register Erie](#) [Register Westchester](#) [Questions](#)

Open-Source Intelligence (NCTC) - (various dates/locations) Free [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Suicide Prevention for Lockups—Instructor Level (Free) (Orange Co. Aug. 16-17, Saratoga Co. Sept 7-8) [Prerequisites](#) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

DWI Documentation and Testimony Course—Columbia Co. July 21; [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Training Course—[Oneida Co.](#) Aug 23-25; [Schenectady Co.](#) Sep 20-22 [Questions](#)

Basic Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Training Course— [Rockland](#) Jul 19-21; [Oneida](#) Aug 23-25; [Schenectady](#) Sep 20-22; [Questions](#)

New York State Assn. of Chiefs of Police Annual Training Conference (Glens Falls) July 24-27 [Brochure](#) [Main Track](#) [Police Exec Track](#) [Questions](#)

Webinar Training - Understanding and Dealing with Drug Driving Impairment—(GTSC/NYS STOP DWI) - Jul. 13, 9 AM-1 PM [Info](#) [Register](#)

ICISF Assisting Individuals in Crisis - Jefferson Co. July 14-15(Free) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Awareness Course (Free) Starting Aug 1—various dates/locations (Tompkins, Monroe and Essex Cos.) [Announcement](#) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Officer Wellness In-Service Training (Free) - Aug. 9 Jefferson Co.; Aug. 11, Orange Co. [Register](#) [Questions](#)

ICISF Group Crisis Intervention (Free) - Jefferson Co. Aug. 15-16 [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Sexual Offense Trauma-Informed Victim Response Training (Free) Aug. 17 (Monroe Co.) [Application](#) [Questions](#)

(Continued on page 35)

(Continued from page 34)

MPTC Basic School Resource Officer Course (Saratoga Co. Jul. 25-29)
(Livingston Co. Aug. 22-26) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

ALERT Active Attack Integrated Response (Train the Trainer)
Aug. 22-26 (Westchester Co.) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Officer Wellness Toolbox Training (Wellness/Suicide Prevention
Training) - Allegany Co.: Aug. 18; Orange Co. Sept. 8; Cortland Co.
Oct. 19 [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Electronic Measuring Device/Forensic Mapping Course (Free) - Erie
Co. Aug. 23-26; Warren Co. Sept. 26-29 [Announcement](#) [Register](#)
[Questions](#)

Drug Recognition Expert—Phase I & II Sept. 5-16, 2022, Geneseo, NY;
Phase III Sept. 25-Oct. 2 Jacksonville, Florida [Announcement](#)
[Registration](#) [Questions](#)

Commercial Veh. Enf. Awareness (Free) Tompkins Co. Aug. 1-3;
Monroe Co. Oct. 12-14; Essex Co.—TBD) [Info](#) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Crisis Intervention Team Training—Aug. 8-12 Cortland Co.—[Info](#)

The Impaired Driver: From the Arrest to the Test— (4 hrs.) Westchester
Co. Aug. 17; Erie Co. Aug. 24. [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Electronic Measuring Device/Forensic Mapping Course—(Free) - Erie
Co. Aug. 23-26; Warren Co. – Sept. 26-29. [Info](#) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Basic School Resource Officer Course at Annual SNYPJOA
Conference (Syracuse) Aug. 29—Sept. 2 [Register](#)

Fundamental Crisis Intervention Skills for Law Enforcement: Instructor
Level Training - (Free); Jefferson Co. (Watertown) Sept. 13-15; Broome
Co. (Binghamton) Sept. 27-29 [Personal History Form](#) [Register](#)
[Questions](#)

Interview and Interrogation Training Seminar—Sept. 15-16 (9AM-
5PM—Cortland Co.—[Info](#)

Post Critical Incident Seminar (LEAP/Free) Sept. 26-28 (Broome Co.)
[Announcement](#) [Register](#) [Questions](#)

Public Safety Symposium—Detail and Registration to be
announced soon—Sept. 27-29 [Questions](#) [Symposium Trailer](#)

Accreditation Assessor Training—Nov. 3 (Niagara Co.) [Announcement](#)
[Register](#) [Questions](#)

Leadership Summit by NYSACOP and NYSSA—Nov. 8-10
Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY—*details coming soon*

New Members

Capt. Brian Bansner
Utica PD

Capt. James Holt
Utica PD

Lt. David Miller
Hudson PD

Asst. Chief John Monte
NYS Atty. Genl. Ofc.

Sgt. Matthew Nadolny
Newburgh PD

Chief Michael Passalacqua
Geneva PD

Chief Craig Stone
Syracuse Univ. DPS

Chief Jeffrey Wannamaker
Clarkstown PD

Chief Michael Schreyer
Camillus PD

Chief Joseph Rodriguez
Eastchester PD

Sgt./Ret. Elijah Mayrant
NYS Ofc. Of Mental Health Police

Chief Robert Dugan
SUNY ESF Police

Lt. Anthony Moon
Hudson PD

Capt. Jeffrey Slater
Manlius PD

Chief Todd Waldin
Cohoes PD

Lt. Frederick Warfield
Saratoga Springs PD

Chief Michael Wood
Greece PD

Dep. Chief Naser Zenelovic
Greece PD

Sgt. Victoria Lovett
New York State Police

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Endicott Police Department

Zone 9
vacant

Zone 10
Chief Shane Krieger
East Aurora Police Department

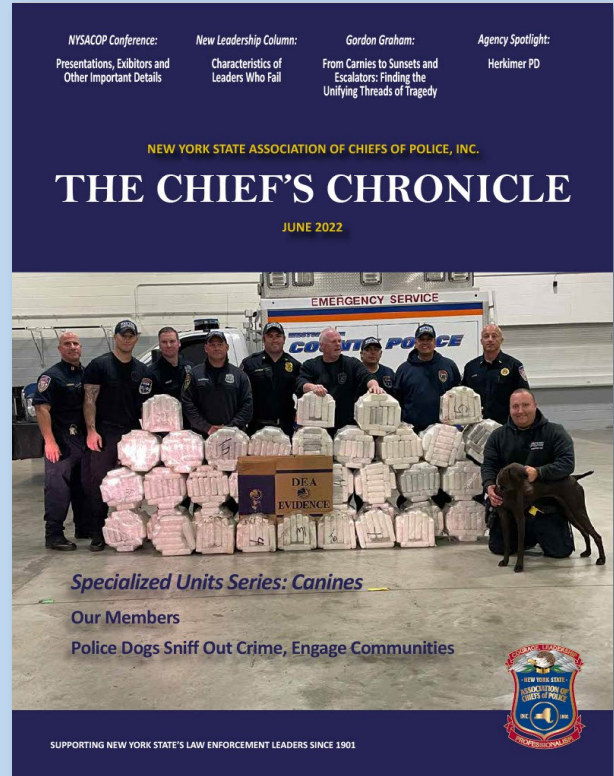
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NYPD—Dep. Comm. Oleg Chernyavsky
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Check out the
June edition of
our magazine,
*The Chief's
Chronicle.*

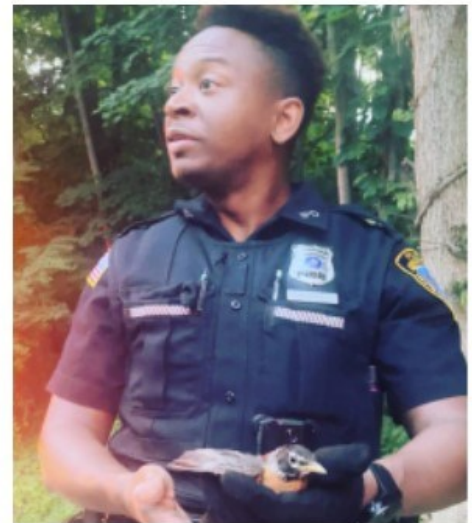
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Facebook Post of the Month

Irvington PD

Yesterday evening, several callers reported a bird that appeared to be trapped in a vine high up in a tree. PO Burnett and the Irvington Fire Dept responded and immediately took action. The helpless bird was successfully freed from the vine. Great job by all involved!



6/14/2022