

# Chiefly Speaking...

Monthly newsletter of the  
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.



April 2021

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

There's a lot on the table! You have been reading in our publications the dramatic proposals being made to change New York State laws. One of the most notable was the bail reform law which became effective over a year ago. While there may have been a rational argument to reconsider how bail is used, the sweeping changes went too far. Days after enactment we saw story after story of violent offenders getting a ticket and going back on the street only to offend again – some repeatedly. The momentum for more restrictions upon police continues, and it should be concerning for not just law enforcement, but also for our citizens. As we have reported on before, you have seen bills proposed that would take away qualified



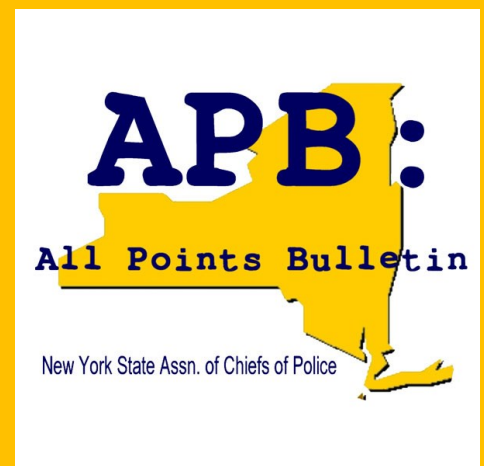
Chief Timothy Parisi  
President

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Check out a variety of podcasts in our  
**APB: All Points Bulletin** series

Topics ranging from Officer Safety and Risk Management; Wellness and Suicide Awareness; Peer Support; AMBER Alert, Detecting DWI Motorists; and our Legacy series with interviews of Police Chiefs sharing the most meaningful stories of their careers.

Click [here](#) or look under the Publications tab



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immunity, prohibit police from using certain crime fighting tools and technologies, and even the creation of new crimes when police fail to record an encounter. On top of all of this, there are now procedural rules that can allow defense counsel and defendants to have access to crime scenes. Can you imagine a rape victim having to permit the offender, defense counsel and their experts to come into the victim's home? While many of these proposals look like a defense bar's wish list, they are making their way into full-fledged bills which are being considered by the state Legislature. If some of these bills pass into law, there will be serious consequences much like we have seen with bail reform. The realization that bail reform went too far came about with some amendments to the law, but there is still concern that dangerous offenders are being released without the court having the ability to consider protective orders, restrictions, or bail. The proponents of many of these bills say that they only want fairness and justice. We in law enforcement want the same thing. But it is going too far when there is no meaningful debate or discussion about the merits of what they are trying to accomplish – or how they are trying to accomplish it. If only they would involve us in the discussion we might be able to help them achieve their goals without minimizing victim's rights and the ability of law enforcement to be proactive in protecting their communities. This is not a matter of choosing

***If some of these bills pass into law, there will be serious consequences much like we have seen with bail reform.***

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## SAVE THE DATE

July 25-28, 2021

Annual Training  
Conference of the New  
York State Association of  
Chiefs of Police at the  
historic Queensbury Hotel,  
Glens Falls, New York



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring has sprung in New York and that means that summer is right around the corner. Hopefully, we can have a slightly more “normal” summer this year with some of the COVID restrictions eased. Summer vacations, trips to the beach, back yard barbeques, and of course the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police annual training conference. The conference will return this year after being cancelled due to COVID in 2020. This year’s event will be held in Glens Falls at the Queensbury Hotel July 25th through 28th. As usual the conference will offer first class training. The opening ceremony will feature a keynote address from NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea. The conference will also include a training session by our featured presenter, NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller. Miller was formerly the Director of Public Affairs for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a reporter for ABC news, famous for his 1998 interview with Osama Bin Laden. The conference will also include training presentations such as The Four Pillars of Leadership by Chief (Ret.) Greg Veitch and Managing the Brady-Giglio Rule in a Video World by Chief (Ret.) Mike Ranalli. Executive Deputy Commissioner of DCJS Mike Green and Deputy Commissioner Mike Wood will join us to discuss programs and highlights from the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS); Chief of the Office of Special Investigations for the Attorney General’s Office Rudy Hall will present on the OIS investigations of police involved deaths.; Founder of NYLEAP (New York Law Enforcement Assistance Program) Lieutenant Jim Banish (Warren County SO) and Scott Neff of DCJS will present on Officer Wellness for the Law Enforcement Executive; All this and much more. Many training sessions are still being planned. No where else will you find this caliber of training with a specific focus on law enforcement in New York State.

As Chief Joseph Boisclair says, Glens Falls is “Small Town USA,” a beautiful town in the heart of New York’s Adirondack region, conveniently located and just a short drive from both Lake George and Saratoga Springs. Saratoga offers first class dining, shopping, and of course the famous Saratoga Racetrack. Lake George is one of New York’s premier vacation spots including the “million-dollar beach.” The conference will offer several events including a Lake George dinner cruise on the Lac Du Saint Sacrament and the annual President’s Reception on Sunday night.

The Queensbury Hotel has been welcoming guests since 1926. With recently renovated guestrooms The Queensbury offers the perfect combination of old world craftsmanship with modern convenience. The conference will utilize the entire hotel. With 114 rooms the hotel will almost certainly sell out. I strongly recommend booking now. You can book on the NYSACOP website [nychiefs.org](http://nychiefs.org). Stay safe and I’ll see you in Glens Falls.



**Chief/Ret. Patrick Phelan**  
**Executive Director**  
**New York State**  
**Assn. of Chiefs of Police**

## Traffic Safety Highlights

- Traffic Tuesdays webinar: Dusted in Houston—A Spike in PCP DWI Cases
- ARIDE and DRE Classes
- Distracted Driving
- No Empty Chair program
- Operation Safe Stop

# Traffic Safety Report

## Release of GTSC 2022 Police Traffic Services Grant Applications with Online PTS Application

**Example:** The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee has released its 2022 Call Letter for traffic safety grant applications that must be submitted no later than May 1, 2021. To assist law enforcement agencies who will be submitting a Police Traffic Services (PTS) grant proposal in support of their existing traffic safety engagement efforts, a PTS Application Example is available on the GTSC’s website. The PTS Example is located under the Application Materials Section [here](#). It is recommended that law enforcement agencies applying for grants to review and take advantage of this resource in preparing their proposals. Your agency’s GTSC Program Representative can also assist you with questions you may have.



## National Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP) – Traffic

**Tuesday Webinar Series:** Through this ongoing TSRP training initiative, the next scheduled webinar on April 13, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST) will feature a presentation on “Dusted in Houston – A Spike in PCP DWI Cases” by Sergeant Don Egdorf - Huston Police Department DWI Task Force Supervisor & Department Traffic Safety Officer.

Description: The Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC) conducted a study based on Houston Police DWI cases and found a large increase in driving cases that involved PCP. This presentation will discuss PCP and its effects on the human body and driving in general, and it will further discuss the HFSC study and its findings so that officers and prosecutors can better understand DWI cases involving PCP. The goal of this session will be to enhance an officer's ability to investigate a PCP related DWI case as well as to enhance a prosecutor's ability to properly and effectively prosecute such a case. Registration [Link](#):

**2021 Training Schedules for ARIDE and DRE Classes:** The training schedules for the two-day Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Enforcement (DRE) classes for 2021 supported by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee can be found on the following link: <https://trafficsafety.ny.gov/training-and->

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the rights of the accused against the rights of victims or society; we can have both – we already do! There are inequities in our systems – we see it all the time when working with the homeless and persons with mental illness. Law enforcement has seen it firsthand for years and we have been urging reform and resources to help in those areas for decades, and only now does it seem that attention is being given to those issues. These social issues have landed in our lap because we are the 24/7 arm of government that is accessible to all – and our

***...if legislators want to make meaningful change they should seek out input from practitioners who can tell them the impact of some of these radical proposals.***

mission is to serve, so we are accustomed to rising to the challenges put in front of us. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to summon a specialized crisis counselor at any time of the day or night? Or to be able to take a cold, homeless family to a shelter? Some municipalities have access to these services, but I assure you that is not the case everywhere. Our state is made up of a vast geography with limited resources, but we have been doing the best we can and have developed resources and strategies to handle many contingencies that often go unnoticed. My point in saying this is that if legislators want to make meaningful change they should seek out input from practitioners who can tell them the impact of some of these radical proposals. Remember the SAFE Act? The original law effectively prohibited on-duty police officers from going to a school! And it prohibited police from carrying magazines with a capacity of more than 7. Again, I'm confident that was not the intent of the Legislature as those parts of the SAFE Act were changed, but it demonstrates that when a proposal is advanced from one side only, without giving consideration to the effects and the fallout, the results can be unintended... and catastrophic. The NYSACOP Officers, Board of Governors and Staff are organizing a comprehensive campaign to educate

legislators of the potential pitfalls and ills of proposed legislation that will negatively impact the public safety of our communities. NYSACOP is asking all of our members to get involved in our effort to communicate with our legislators. Everyone can help, we ask that you contact your local member of the senate and assembly and make an appointment to have a discussion about legislative issues. It is important that they hear from law enforcement and get our perspective on legislative matters. NYSACOP can provide you with talking points and legislative summaries. Please contact Executive Director [Pat Phelan](#) if you are able to help.



**Share Your Stories:  
Programs, Photos, Retirements...**

**[APB@NYchiefs.org](mailto:APB@NYchiefs.org)**

## City of Ithaca to “Redesign” Police Department; Appoints Cop Killer to Police Reform Committee

The City of Ithaca’s Police Reform Plan was adopted on March 31. The plan includes dramatic changes to the police department which would become a Department of Community Solutions and Public Safety “...built from the ground up,” according to Mayor Svante Myrick. In a draft of the City’s reformation plan, Mayor Myrick justified the change saying that “Ithaca Police Department currently spends one third of it’s time responding to calls for service that essentially never lead to arrests. Those calls, as well as a majority of patrol activity can and should be handled by unarmed Community Solution Workers well trained in de-escalation and service delivery.” On April 1, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police issued the following statement concerning the actions of the Common Council and Mayor City of Ithaca.

### Statement on the Ithaca Common Council **Officer Robert Walsh – Say his name!**

On January 12th, 1981 Officer Robert Walsh worked his shift at the NYPD and then stopped at a bar on his way home. Several armed men entered the bar in a robbery attempt. Walsh was off duty but attempted to intervene and was shot in the shoulder by one of the armed robbers, Richard Rivera. As he lay wounded on the bar room floor, Rivera approached Walsh and executed him by shooting him again at point blank range. In doing so Rivera left Walsh’s three children without a father and made Robert Walsh’s wife a widow. This was not a mistake or an error in judgment. It was not a case of a young man falling in with the wrong crowd and making some poor decisions. This was a case of a monster who is evil in his heart and his soul executing a wounded man just because he could. It was an example of pure evil.



**Officer Robert E. Walsh  
NYPD**

Photo: National Law  
Enforcement Officers Memorial  
Fund [heroesliveforever.com](http://heroesliveforever.com)

In 2019 Richard Rivera was released on parole. The parole of Rivera alone is a slap in the face to those who survived the execution of Robert Walsh, his widow, and children. And his brothers and sisters at the NYPD. They are left to wonder why Richard Rivera is given a second chance when he gave Robert Walsh a death sentence when he shot him in the head in cold blood. Where is the justice in giving freedom to a man who is capable of committing murder for murders sake, who could execute a wounded man for no reason. Surely a man this evil should be incarcerated, if only to protect the next person he decides to execute. But not in New York. In New York he is set free while Robert Walsh lies in a cemetery.

As if all of this was not disgusting enough, the Ithaca Common Council decided to make murderer Richard Rivera a member of the city of Ithaca’s reimagining public safety collaborative. Apparently, the

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Mayor of Ithaca and the Ithaca Common Council feel that a man who murdered a police officer in cold blood can provide useful and meaningful input into how public safety should be carried out.

It is difficult to imagine how a group of people could be so imbecilic as to completely disregard the effect that such an action would have on both the family of Robert Walsh and on police officers everywhere. The insensitivity of the Ithaca Common Council with regard to the Walsh family is nothing short of heartless. It is simply cruel to do this to the Walsh family. Webster's dictionary defines bigotry as; obstinate or intolerant devotion to one's own opinions and prejudices; the state of mind of being a bigot. The complete disregard the Ithaca Common Council has shown for the members of New York law enforcement by placing a cop murderer on the collaborative that makes recommendations on policing shows them to be what they are; bigots blinded by hate and intolerance.

Last night (March 31) the Ithaca Common Council voted to disband their police department and replace it with a department of community solutions and public safety staffed by unarmed community solutions workers. It is an extreme understatement to say that this is a misguided, ignorant, reckless act. The years to come will expose the dramatic effect this action will have on public safety. Unfortunately, many people will have to be victimized to demonstrate the reckless ignorance of the Ithaca Common Council.

*Apparently, the Mayor of Ithaca and the Ithaca Common Council feel that a man who murdered a police officer in cold blood can provide useful and meaningful input into how public safety should be carried out.*

National Heatstroke Prevention Day is May 1, 2021—Resources and toolkit [here](#)

**IF YOU SEE A CHILD IN A HOT CAR.  
GET THEM OUT.**

**act fast.**  
Save a Life.

 NHTSA



# Traffic Safety Take-Out Menu

## Online Training Opportunities & Resources

### NYSACOP Podcasts:



**Tackling Rogue Stunt Riders Without Pursuit**



**Traffic Safety Leadership**

**National Center for Rural Road Safety Website:** News & Events, Training & Education, Research & Resources, & more: [LINK](#)

**NHTSA – Traffic Safety Facts Publication** – Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for the First 9 Months (Jan-Sep) of 2020: Crash Stats: Early Estimate of Motor Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for the First 9 Months (Jan-Sep) of 2020 ([dot.gov](#))

**National Center for Rural Road Safety Website:** News & Events, Training & Education, Research & Resources, & more: <http://ruralsafetycenter.org/rural-road-safety-topics/enforcement/>

**National Law Enforcement Liaison Program Recorded Webinars:** February 24, 2021 webinar “Developing Traffic Safety Champions”; visit <https://www.nlelp.org/training/recorded-webinars/> for a listing of all webinars.

**DCJS Online Training - Ignition Interlock Devices:** This training provides a comprehensive overview and enforcement guidance for NYS police officers on Ignition Interlock Devices. It was produced by the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police and funded by NHTSA with a grant from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. [LINK](#)

**Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Publications, Reports and Resources:** [LINK](#)



@nysacop



## NYSACOP President Reappointed to MPTC

New York State Association of Chiefs of Police (NYSACOP) President Timothy Parisi (Chief, Ilion PD) has been reappointed to the Municipal Police Training Council (MPTC). First appointed in 2016, Parisi is a voting member of the MPTC which is responsible for establishing minimum standards for courses of study ranging from the Basic Course for Police Officers to in-service training. The MPTC sets the requirements for instructors and the development of policies in various areas affecting law enforcement. The MPTC consists of 8 members; two appointed on the recommendation of NYSACOP, two appointees on the recommendation of the New York State Sheriff's Association, the NYPD Commissioner/designee, and three other appointees by the Governor. Parisi said that he is honored by the reappointment. "Working with the other members of the MPTC and DCJS has been very rewarding. In recent meetings, we have been updating certain policies to make sure they are consistent with legislative changes. For example, the use of force model policy has been updated to reflect the mandatory use of force reporting required under the law." Chief Parisi noted that, coming from a smaller department, he brings a perspective of how policy changes impact agencies of all sizes and with varying resources. He praised the work of DCJS in supporting the work of the MPTC. "The staff at DCJS does a lot of good work. They empanel experts in the field for whatever topic we may be discussing, to help inform and guide the work of the Council." Parisi's reappointment continues through March 2023.



### RECOMMEND A COLLEAGUE FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Not sure if one of your colleagues is already a member? Check our [online directory](#) (members only). If they are not, a member, [click here](#) and we will send them a brochure which outlines the services and benefits of membership.

Membership open to Chiefs, Commanders, Superintendents and certain command staff of local, county, state, university, tribal, and federal (within NYS) law enforcement.

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events. Questions can also be directed to NYS DRE Coordinator [Renee Borden](#).

**U DRIVE. U TEXT. U Pay. HVE Mobilization & Connect 2 Disconnect (C2D) Enforcement and Awareness Initiative - April 8-12, 2021:** Texting and other forms of distracted driving have reached epidemic levels, especially behind the wheel. Thanks to officers across the nation, a strong law enforcement presence will make this annual campaign a success by saving many lives. During April's National Distracted Driving Awareness Month please join law enforcement partners from across the country in your high visibility enforcement efforts targeting cell phone, texting, and other distracted driving behaviors in the U DRIVE. U TEXT. U Pay. Mobilization & April 8th Connect 2 Disconnect (C2D) Initiative. Connect to Disconnect (C2D) is a 4-hour national distracted driving enforcement and awareness initiative coordinated by state Highway Safety Offices and law enforcement agencies across the country. This initiative will take place on April 8, 2021, the first day of the 2021 U Drive. U Text. U Pay. distracted driving high-visibility enforcement period that runs through April 12, 2021.

Click [here](#) for additional information and resources materials.

**No Empty Chair Teen Driving Safety Campaign – April 19 – April 23, 2021:** Each year thousands of high school students across New York State look forward to attending their prom and graduation ceremony. These memorable moments for parents, siblings, educators, and the community become meaningless when a teen dies in a car crash. Regrettably, this scenario happens all too often, and law enforcement is tasked with making the difficult “knock on the door”. To reduce these tragedies the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) developed the “No Empty Chair” (NEC) campaign symbolizing a missing high school student for the prom or on graduation day. During this five-day initiative (April 19 -April 23) law enforcement agencies are encouraged to assign patrols to focus on a different traffic safety threat each day of the week. This is also an opportunity to increase awareness about safe teen driving using School Resource Officers and/or community partners to educate students in the school environment. Free NEC posters and thumb drives are available using the following link: [Younger Drivers Toolkit | Governor's Traffic Safety Committee \(ny.gov\)](#). Agencies awarded a FFY 2021 Police Traffic Services (PTS) grant can use overtime enforcement funds for this campaign. These targeted details should be conducted near high schools whenever possible and should focus on:

Monday, April 19, 2021 - Speeding in School Zones

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 - Seatbelt/Child Restraints

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - Cell Phone and Texting

Thursday, April 22, 2021 - Operation Safe Stop

Friday, April 23, 2021 - Underage Drinking/Impaired Driving

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## ***Real Risk Management***

### ***Nothing in Life Is Free: Risks Involved in Grant Money***

***By Gordon Graham***

*Editor's note: This is the latest installment in the Real Risk Management series, designed to introduce the breadth and depth of risk management by organizing risk into 10 Families. To request earlier articles from the series, please contact Shannon Pieper, Lexipol Sr. Director of Marketing Content, at 949/276-9938 or [spieper@lexipol.com](mailto:spieper@lexipol.com).*

Gordon Graham here! In this article I will continue our discussion regarding Family Nine of the “10 Families of Risk”—Financial and Reputational Risks. But first, I want to thank you for the feedback you have given me regarding previous articles in this series. I frequently receive comments such as, “It is as if you work in my department—we had almost the exact same thing happen here” and “Who do you know in my department feeding you this information?”

No one tells me what to write or says, “You need to talk about this.” These writings flow from all the stuff I have learned over the last 48 years. But I will remind you of one of my three basic rules of risks management: There are no new ways to get in trouble. The errors you are going to make can be predicted from the errors already made. This is true in every industry, including our noble profession of police work.

But enough of that—let’s get to our focus in this writing—the risks involved in grant money.

What a great deal this is! You peruse the police and government websites and you learn there is grant money available for a DUI program or a school program or a domestic violence initiative. You fill out the requisite forms to get this grant money and your request gets approved and you start to spend the money.

This is just wonderful—“free” money!

Nothing in life is free. While this is not one of my rules, I have heard it from my parents, my teachers, my mentors and countless others over the decades. And it is true, particularly with respect to grant monies. There are rules, requirements, mandates, stipulations, conditions, demands, obligations, pre-conditions, provisions, specifications and terms (yes, I gave Roget a workout for this) involving the use of grant money and if you do not follow these rules, there are significant consequences.

And yet it’s obvious many public safety agencies are not following the rules, thus creating substantial risk for their agencies and their personnel. Here a just a few of the scores of reports available online re: misuse of grant money:



Gordon Graham

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Michigan: The Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Inspector General are investigating after two employees of a county sheriff's office may have submitted or attempted to submit overtime requests but didn't work as scheduled. The grant funding is being used to pay employee overtime on drug cases and investigations.

Louisiana: An officer was suspended without pay following the launch of an FBI investigation into allegations the officer misused federal money meant to benefit juvenile victims of violent crimes or sexual abuse. The agency had secured a \$20,000 Victim Assistance Program grant administered by the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement & Administration of Criminal Justice. The grant funds were used to provide overtime pay to officers involved in helping juvenile crime victims, including compensation for providing victims with rides to court or helping locate housing for crime victims.

Utah: Federal authorities have filed suit against Utah and Utah officials for fraudulently using millions of dollars of federal grant money through the Justice Assistance Grant Program, the American Recovery Reinvestment Act Program and the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force Continuation Program. The suit alleges Utah officials falsely claimed grant money to create criminal justice jobs but instead used the grant to replace state funds for already existing jobs. As the U.S. Attorney explained, this amounted to supplanting rather than supplementing agency budgets in contravention of the grant requirements and certifications.

Tennessee: A police chief of a municipal department was indicted by a federal grand jury following charges he used overtime grants designated for alcohol enforcement programs to supplement his pay when in fact he had not been working DUI enforcement. The chief allegedly prepared and submitted false timesheets for overtime hours, resulting in payments totaling more than \$25,000. The stolen funds were derived from federal grants provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to the Tennessee Governor's Highway Safety Office.

Ohio: The Department of Justice launched an investigation into a municipal police department's misuse of funds from a COPS grant, which is meant for advancing the practice of community policing by providing funds for hiring officers. An error made by a city employee violated those terms and charged more than \$16,500 to payroll expenses that were inconsistent with, and exceeded, the approved entry-level salaries and fringe benefits covered by the grant.

New Mexico: A federal audit of the New Mexico Department of Transportation found about \$500,000 in taxpayer funds was misused by five law enforcement agencies. The money was provided as part of a grant program that covers the costs of training officers to conduct field sobriety tests and set up sobriety checkpoints. The agencies involved used the grant funds for other types of training.

***The chief allegedly prepared and submitted false timesheets for overtime hours, resulting in payments totaling more than \$25,000.***

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I am past my word count for this article, but there are dozens of similar cases from around the nation about misuse of grant money. In the next article, I will provide some control measures (policies and procedures) you need to have in place to prevent these problems from occurring.

Timely Takeaway—Between now and our next visit, take a look at [this story from the car world](#). I would have loved to be involved in this “supercar” investigation. It is very troubling to me that we have people in our profession participate in similar behaviors—not taking money from rich people, but rather misusing taxpayer resources. We must have sufficient control measures in place to prevent this from happening.

*Gordon Graham is a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and is the co-founder of Lexipol, where he serves on the current board of directors. A practicing attorney, Graham focuses on managing risk in public safety operations and has presented a commonsense approach to risk management to hundreds of thousands of public safety professionals around the world. He holds a master’s degree in Safety and Systems Management from University of Southern California and a Juris Doctorate from Western State University.*

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## Webinar Recording Available: NYS Law Enforcement Handbook

If you missed our webinar, it’s available here. Chief/Ret. Mark Spawn discusses the unique content of the New York State Law Enforcement Handbook, produced for law enforcement by Blue 360° Media. Spawn provides an overview of the resources in the NYSACOP-produced ‘blue pages’, including VTL index, guidelines for stalking and discon enforcement, federal crimes synopsis, ignition interlock offenses, HIPAA guide, syringe law, traffic programs, and a variety of other references to assist officers in the frequent, and not-so-frequent scenarios encountered in their work.

Kimberly Brennan, Director of Marketing, provides viewers a tour of the Blue 360° Media website including the eBook and app versions of their products. Larry Selby, Vice President of Content, reviews their core publications for New York State and he unveiled a new feature for New York State users that will help subscribers stay on top of the latest law changes. Selby explains how purchasers will receive updates throughout the year to reflect changes in legislation. And there’s much more—to view the 45 minute webinar click [here](#) or on the image above.



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Throughout the week officers should be vigilant for Graduated Driver License (GDL) violations. Since this law was enacted in 2003 fatal crashes of teenagers ages 16-17 have decreased by 80 percent. GDL tip cards and educational materials are available at the GTSC Young Drivers Toolkit website using the link at [Younger Drivers Toolkit | Governor's Traffic Safety Committee \(ny.gov\)](#). Please enlist the support of school administrators, local traffic safety partners and other community stakeholders to raise awareness and help keep this year's prom and graduation season enjoyable for teens and their families.

**Operation Safe Stop Education and Enforcement Day – Thursday, April 22, 2021:** The statewide supported education and enforcement initiative will take place on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Your targeted efforts are the cornerstone of this special school bus safety enforcement program and your participation is strongly encouraged as part of the GTSC Police Traffic Services (PTS) grant. Additional information for School Bus Safety and the Operation Safe Stop enforcement campaign is located on the GTSC website at [School Bus Safety | Governor's Traffic Safety Committee \(ny.gov\)](#).

#### **TRAFFIC ACTIVITIES FROM THE FIELD:**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette – [Road Deaths Spiked 8% in 2020 Despite 13% Drop in Miles Driven](#), National Safety Council Reports - March 4, 2021, Reported by Ed Blazina.

2-WGRZ News Buffalo- [New York State Marijuana Legalization Push Concerns Prosecutors](#) - March 18, 2021, Reported by Ron Plants.

GHSA Release February 24, 2021: [As Distracted Driving Deaths Increase, New Research Highlights Resources to Strengthen Laws and Enforcement](#)

Visit the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee [website](#) for additional traffic safety information and resources. NYS Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Outreach Liaisons [Michael Geraci](#) and [William Georges](#) may also be contacted for assistance.

**Visit our website: [nychiefs.org](http://nychiefs.org)**

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



## UTICA POLICE OFFICER MAKES BIG IMPRESSION

A thankful Utica resident recently sent a letter to NYSACOP Member and Utica Police Chief Mark Williams. The letter was written by a woman who we will call Carol for the purpose of this story, who is assisting her friend in the care of two boys, ages 3 and 6. The boys were removed from their home by child protective services due to parental abuse and are now living with their grandmother. Carol said in her letter, “The boys really are sweet, kind boys that had a bad start in life.” Carol described that one boy’s father was murdered and the other father was absent. “Against these odds, they are thriving but, of course, still suffer from some mental trauma,” she added.



On Saturday, March 20, 2021, Carol called Officer Derek Schultz of Utica PD and asked if he could visit with the boys who became interested in the role of the police because of a show they had watched on television. Carol said, “These two boys have been a bit afraid of the police in the past due to the fact that police presence was frequent at their mother's home... Luckily for the children's TV program *Paw Patrol*, they have been learning of the roles of police - noting that they are there to help and not hurt.”

Soon, Schultz was at their doorstep and surprised the youngsters. Carol said that Officer Schultz was very engaging with the boys, describing the gear that he carried and answering their questions, exchanging high fives and even playing with toy cars on the floor with his newest fans. The boys also got a tour of Schultz’ police car. Carol added, “It was so sweet and truly an honorable moment in which, I think he deserves great praise! To have positive role models in their life is what we are striving for. Doing our best to see that they develop and have a great shot at a positive life! So, THANK YOU to the Utica Police for once again stepping up to the plate and especially (to) Officer Derek Schultz.”

Chief Mark Williams said, “Community policing efforts are critical to any police department in establishing legitimacy with our city residents. Officer Derek Schultz’ actions demonstrate that police officers can be effective mentors for our youth, while building lasting and meaningful relationships.”

Schultz and others like him are making an impact on youth and families every day, something that can easily go unnoticed. In this case though, the sincere acknowledgement by Carol to Officer Schultz, Chief Williams, and the Utica PD highlights a part of police work that officers truly enjoy – making a difference and positive lasting impressions. As Carol said about Officer Schultz, “No doubt, the boys will forever remember his visit with them.”

## 12 Years Since Active Shooter Rampage in Binghamton

It was the end of the week, Friday, April 3, 2009 when Jiverly Wong entered the American Civic Association (ACA) in Binghamton and began a rampage that would leave 13 people dead. The ACA serves people with immigration matters, integrating with the community, and provides language lessons. As police deployed to the area, one of their first observations was shocking. A back entrance had been blocked, a vehicle pulled up to the doors preventing entrance or egress. When an officer looked inside that vehicle, another terrifying sight—a empty box for a laser sight for a handgun. NYSACOP member, Chief Joseph Zikuski said that the shooter walked into the main door, “Without saying a word he opened fire striking the receptionist and killing her instantly, and wounding the social worker,” said Zikuski. That social worker would be one of the first 911 calls to alert police to the carnage.



“He immediately goes to his left, enters a classroom that he’s familiar with, and without saying anything, opens fire,” the Chief added. Wong shot at the 16 people in that classroom, killing 12. Although police arrived on the scene quickly, no officers heard any gunfire. It appeared that the shooter, described as an advanced marksman, fired 102 rounds so quickly that the shooting was over before the arrival of police. Wong took his own life

In 2010, Chief Zikuski discussed some of the obstacles police encountered: there were no blueprints available for the building, some of the 911 callers spoke very broken English making it difficult to understand what was happening inside. Additionally, a major concern with a high school, 1 just feet away from the shooting, which was about to let students outside for the first lunch bell. Zikuski said that a school lockdown was one of the emergency plans that police and the school had worked on previously, and it paid off that day. Listen to our interview with Chief Zikuski, originally recorded in 2010 and released this week as we remember the anniversary of the tragedy. The Chief discusses the importance of preparation and training, and how their SWAT team was ready for this type of scenario. With live radio traffic from that fateful day, Chief Zikuski’s [interview](#) (click icon at right) is a must-hear for command and line officers.





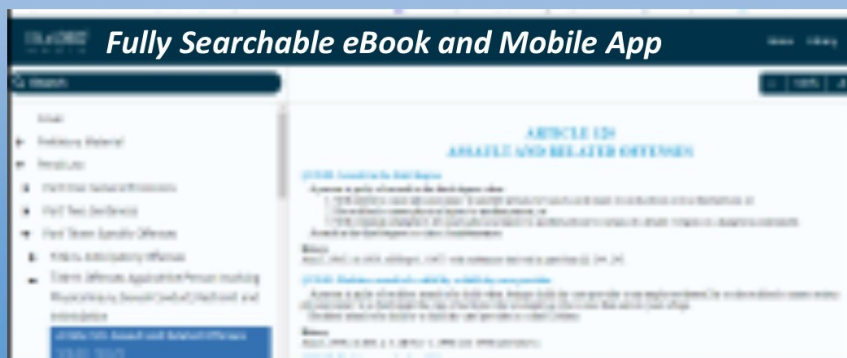
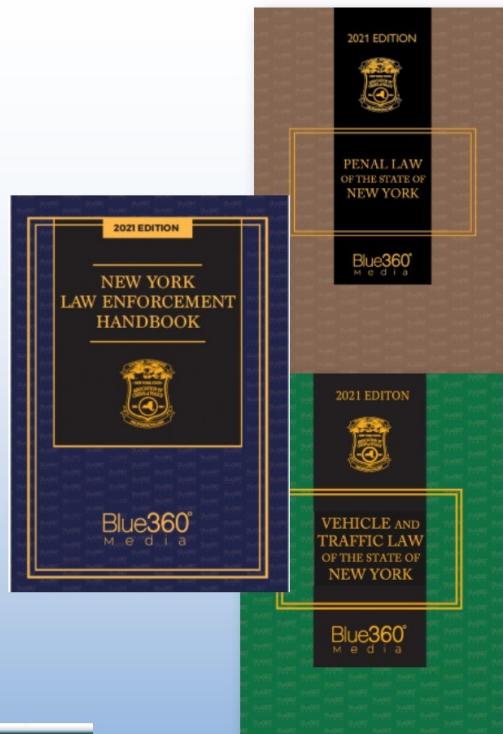


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Last months' winner of a free New York State Law Enforcement Handbook was Capt./Ret. Bill Powell for answering our question: In our *Looking Back* historical retrospective, what is the name of the Police Chief in the 1914 photograph from Mohawk, NY?

Answer: W. J. Bronner

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# Looking Back...



**Some of our members from 1914**

**...revisiting the rich history of the  
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police**

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## Instagram Post of the Month



**Westchester  
County PD  
(wcpdny)**



## Facebook Post of the Month

### NEW YORK STATE POLICE

After about an hour of searching for a missing child in Ontario County, Trooper Brian Hotchkiss found the 2-year-old child sitting on a rock, in the middle of a stream. Cold, but alert, Troopers carried the girl back home to safety.



# Training Opportunities

MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Course—Oneida County – April 26 – May 7, 2021 [Link](#) [Questions](#)

ALERRT Active Shooter Level 1 Train the Trainer—Albany County  
April 19-23 [Link](#) [Questions](#)

Principled Policing - Train the Trainer Session—Erie and Jefferson Counties  
(April dates) [Jefferson Co. Link](#) [Erie Co. Link](#) [Questions](#)

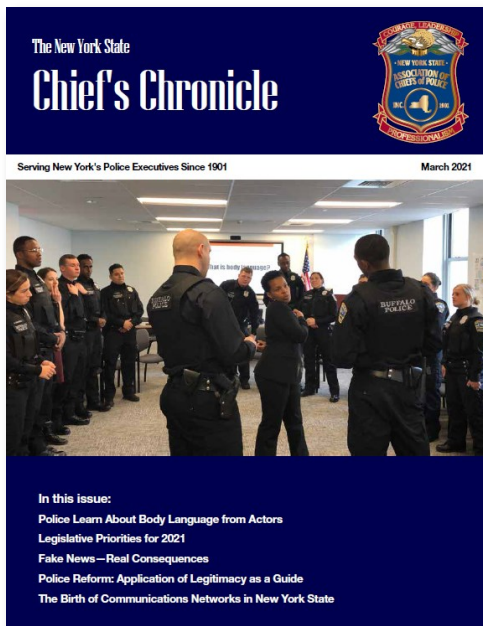
DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher Course  
Oneida County—May 6, 2021 [Link](#) [Questions](#)

DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Instructor Refresher  
Course - Oneida County - May 6, 2021 [Link](#) [Questions](#)

Traffic Crash Reconstruction Course - IPTM Albany/Saratoga Region—  
June 7-18, 2021 [Link](#) [Questions](#)

NYSACOP Conference—July 25-28, 2021

IACP Conference, New Orleans—September 11-14



Check out the March  
edition of our  
magazine,  
*The Chief's  
Chronicle*  
Click on  
'Publications'  
at [nychiefs.org](http://nychiefs.org)

## New Members

Chief Kyle Berardi  
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Tonawanda PD

Deputy Inspector  
David Regina  
Suffolk Co. PD

Chief Shane Farrell  
Buchanan PD

Asst. Chief Jarred Smith  
Glens Falls PD

Chief Inv. Scott Amaral  
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## Contact Us

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