

Chiefly Speaking...

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



January 2021

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I would like to offer my congratulations to Chief Patrick Phelan who recently retired from Greece PD after 31 years of service. Not letting any grass grow under his feet, he stepped down as President of our Association and immediately began work as our Executive Director, and we are honored to have him in that post. I would also like to thank Chief/Ret. Michael Geraci who has transitioned from his position as our Executive Director to being an integral part of our newly reformed Traffic Safety Committee as a Traffic Safety Outreach Liaison (TSOL) along with Chairman Nick Macherone and TSOL William Georges. I know that I speak for our entire Board when I say that we are extremely honored to have the knowledge, experience, and insight of both Chief Phelan and Chief Geraci to assist our members in their respective positions.



Chief Timothy Parisi
President
New York State
Assn. of Chiefs of Police

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Have a Safe & Happy New Year

From the New York State
Association of Chiefs of Police

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Last year brought us some unforeseen issues – a global pandemic, riots, and a wave of police reformation, and we continue to deal with all of these. While each of these areas is unique, I want to address one thing they have in common – financial consequences. I will let the damages and losses from riots speak for themselves; but when we look at the dramatic changes that have been enacted with demands for transparency, accountability, de-escalation, etc., each has a cost. Simultaneously local municipalities have suffered losses in sales tax revenue due to COVID restrictions, with some businesses lost forever. State aid to municipalities is being reduced by 20% across the board. Add to this the fact that police officers are retiring at rapid rates, recruitment of police personnel has become a challenge, the additional training needed on emerging topics related to police reform, along with all of the mandatory and customary training that we need to maintain the operation of a progressive and professional police agency – well, you can see that this is an endless loop. In recent months I believe that most people have realized that the ‘defunding of police’ is neither realistic nor rational. But the fact of the matter is that we are dealing with *increasing demands* and *decreased funding*. Our legislators must understand that in order to have qualified, well-trained, professional law enforcement operations, it requires meticulous recruitment, high standards, ethics, and leadership - and it requires regular training. As we know, training is not just an opportunity to inform on new topics, it is invaluable in reinforcing policies and maintaining proficiency. Training on use of force, de-escalation and community oriented leadership are hot topics in the national debate, but our elected officials need to prioritize the funding of these needs with the same vigor that they used to demand changes and reforms.



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I conclude a 31-year police career by my retirement from the Greece Police Department many thoughts are going through my head. I can't help but look for the meaning in all the years that were at times so challenging. So difficult. So heartbreaking. There is great honor in our service. Cops give so much of themselves to their calling. We leave little pieces of ourselves everywhere along the way; we see things we will never see; we know the true realities of life that most people are better off not knowing. I'm not sure I know the meaning of it all, but I know this, I survived. Maybe that's all we can hope for is to survive this journey. Not just in the literal sense of the word, to still be alive at the end. That is important. But also, to survive mentally and emotionally. We need to come out the other side healthy in our mind, body, and soul.

No one ever talked about that with our generation of police officers. We come from a culture that values toughness and scorns “weakness.” Perhaps this is the gift we can give the next generation of cops: to

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make wellness a priority.

Making wellness a priority will require a culture shift. We will need to train our officers to take care of themselves physically, emotionally, and mentally. We will also need to provide them with resources to maintain their health and encourage the use of these resources. Regular mental health counseling should be the standard in our business. It should be provided, paid for by the police department, and encouraged, if not required. If you need motivation, the fact that suicide is killing more cops than anything else should be enough. But I understand the concerns. We are all dealing with manpower issues and losing cops off the street because of mental or emotional issues is concerning for an administrator. But we should think about the consequences of that officer not getting help. So many of our officers are suffering from anxiety, depression, post traumatic stress, and other issues. Many are self-medicating with alcohol and controlled substances. What is the cost of sending these cops out on the street every day? What is the risk? We have all seen horrific acts committed by cops played out on our TV screens in the national media. Do we think that these incidents and the mental health crisis in our profession are unrelated? I don't think they are; I think they are the expected result of untreated mental health crisis. Sending cops who are suffering and in crisis out on the street can have catastrophic results. And the real shame is that it doesn't have to happen. When Chiefs tell me that they can't afford to provide mental health services for their officers, I tell them, you can't afford *not* to provide those services. They should be as basic to our profession as a Kevlar vest and a sidearm. Standard issue.

The pandemic has only exacerbated this problem. Add a national wave of anti-police sentiment into the mix and pile it onto the issues that cops were already facing, and you have a recipe for disaster. Not to mention that we live in New York and our state lawmakers are taking every opportunity to kick us while we are down. Things are harder now for cops than they have ever been. But help is available. With regular mental health services we can treat the injury. If one of your cops broke their arm you would send him or her to the hospital to get treatment, no question. When our cops are injured mentally and emotionally, *they* need treatment. So how do you do it? First, establish a culture that values wellness. Create an environment that encourages officers to take care of themselves. Don't be critical of officers



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

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who are seeking help and don't tolerate anyone who is critical. Make wellness a priority.

Second, identify mental health care providers who are at least familiar with police work, police issues, and police culture. Local mental health professionals can help you with this, it is important that the clinicians you work with understand police culture and understand that an officer doesn't need to be removed from duty immediately just because he is experiencing issues or even has considered suicide. Many cops don't get help because they fear having their badge and gun taken away and losing their livelihood.

Making mental health counseling mandatory goes a long way toward removing the stigma. If we all must do it, then there is no stigma. Pretty simple.

Third, establish confidentiality. Cops need to know that if they are meeting with mental health professionals, everything they discuss is confidential and will not be shared with administration. I have had many Chiefs challenge me on this concept. They say, "that's fine but if the cop has considered suicide, I need to know so I can take his gun away." I say why? Statistics show that one in four cops has had suicidal ideations. That means if you have at least four cops sitting in roll call today, one of them has thought about suicide. And you don't have any idea which one it is. If you get them all treatment, then you still don't know which one it is but at least he or she is getting treatment. If you take a cop's gun away from him or her, they probably have another one, or a knife, a rope, a car. There are a lot of ways to commit suicide. And we need to understand that there is a difference between thinking about suicide and planning it.

Fourth, set up regular mental health appointments for every one of your officers, at least annually. I recommend making this mandatory, but you can do it on a voluntary basis. Making the appointments mandatory removes the stigma. Cops don't get mental health treatment because there is a stigma attached to treatment. It exists in society and it is even worse in our culture. We have created a culture in which we look at a cop in treatment as if there is something wrong with him or her and we don't want to work with them. But the officer who is suffering silently and as a result has a horrible attitude and is a ticking time bomb, they are just fine to work with. That is the culture we need to change. Making mental health counseling mandatory goes a long way toward removing the stigma. If we all must do it, then there is no stigma. Pretty simple.

The result of regular mental health treatment will be happier, healthier, more well-adjusted cops; Cops who don't have substance abuse problems; Cops who call in sick less often and don't get as many complaints; Cops who don't show up for work angry and bitter with a chip on their shoulder; Cops who use force only when necessary and to the extent necessary; Cops who don't "lose it" and get you on CNN; and cops who don't commit suicide. Think you can't afford to provide mental health treatment for your officers? You can't afford not to.



Traffic Safety Report

Traffic Safety Highlights

- Traffic Tuesdays webinar: The Opioid Epidemic and Impaired Driving
- NYS STOP-DWI Super Bowl Enforcement Crackdown
- ARIDE and DRE Class Schedules
- Recent 'P' Memos

National Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP) – Traffic Tuesday Webinar Series:

Through this ongoing TSRP training initiative, the next scheduled webinar will take place on January 19, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST) and will feature a presentation on “The Opioid Epidemic & Impaired Driving” by Nicholas Tiscione, M.S., D-ABFT-FT

Description: The U.S. federal government declared a national public health emergency in October 2017 to address the national opioid crisis. This was a result of the unprecedented number of deaths due to drug overdoses in 2015 and 2016 with a majority of those involving opioids. While drug overdose deaths due to the opioid epidemic have been extensively covered, relatively little has been reported on the impact to drug impaired driving. Data on the rise of fentanyl and other opioids in impaired driving casework will be presented along with a review of toxicology analysis, opioid impairment, case reports and the poly-pharmacy commonly observed with these cases. Registration [here](#)



Dominick Macherone
NYSACOP-GTSC
Liaison

2021 NYS STOP-DWI Statewide Super Bowl Enforcement Crackdown

- Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over- February 5, 2021 - February 8, 2021:

The Super Bowl has become synonymous with drinking and celebrating, making roads on Super Bowl weekend dangerous. That is why as game day quickly approaches the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is teaming up with the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, STOP DWI-NY, and law enforcement to remind football fans that designated drivers are the best defense against the dangers of drunk driving. Super Bowl is a festive night in homes and bars across America, but if your night involves alcohol, plan for a sober ride home. Remember, Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk. While STOP-DWI efforts across New York have led to significant reductions in the numbers of alcohol and drug related fatalities, still too many lives are being lost because of crashes caused by drunk or impaired drivers.

Highly visible, highly publicized efforts like the STOP-DWI Crackdown Campaign aim to further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired

Citizen Lauds Officer Who Helped Dying Wife

Just before Christmas, North Syracuse Police Chief Bill Becker received a letter from a citizen who commended one of his officers. The story began a few months before when there was a late night 911 call at the home of Jim Smith who was caring for his wife who had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Mr. Smith was having a problem with a generator in his garage which had been over-filled with gasoline and caused fumes inside the home. With the help of North Syracuse Police Officer Chris Cushman and the local fire department, the generator problem was rectified. Smith asked the officer inside the home so that the he could wash the gasoline from his hands. A conversation ensued where Cushman learned that Smith's wife was only given four months to live, and because of the cancer and previous radiation and chemotherapy treatments she sustained a broken neck, so Jim

could not leave her alone long. Mr. Smith wrote to Chief Becker, "A few days later Officer Cushman knocks on the front door with two other officers with cold cuts, rolls, salad, and two casseroles. I asked, 'what is all this for?', and they told me, 'so you won't have to leave her alone to go to the store.'" Mr. Smith said that Officer Cushman stopped by a couple more times, and his last visit on October 28 when Mrs. Smith passed away. Said Mr. Smith, "I got to know Chris and found out that he was a veteran having served two tours in Afghanistan. He is a credit to his country and to the North Syracuse Police Department. I am honored to know him and consider him a friend."

December 14, 2020

Chief Becker
North Syracuse Police Dept.
600 South Bay Rd.
North Syracuse, NY 13212

Chief, I would like to tell you about a outstanding officer on your dept. His name is Chris Cushman.

I first meet officer Chris over the summer about 11pm one night when I had a leak from my generator and my garage filled with fumes. I put it outside, and it continued to leak, my wife was terminal with bone cancer, and didn't want to try to dell with it, so I called 911. Officer Chris was the first to respond, he tried to help me pour some off the gas off, then the fire dept. arrived and completed the job.

I Had officer Chris come in to wash the gas off his hands. He meet my wife she was confined to a lift chair due to her cancer. He asked some questions about her and I told him they gave her about 4 months to live, all the radiation and chemo didn't help and she had a broken neck from the cancer, and that I could not leave her very long. A few days later officer Chris knocks on the front door with two other officers with cold cuts, rolls salad and two casseroles, I asked what is all this for,and he said so you wont have to leave her alone to go to the store. He then did it twice more, and dropped off two milk shakes and again when she passed away Oct, 28, I got to know Chris and found out he was a veteran, two tours in Afghanistan, he is a credit to his country and North Syracuse police dept.

I understand he has done this for other families as well, using his own money. If there are any awards the dept. gives to outstanding police officers, I Highly recommend he should receive one. 99% of all police are doing a very good job, but some like Officer Chris go above and beyond what is required, I am honored to know him and consider him a friend. God Bless Chris and all the officers that serve with him.



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driving. Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols play a key part in raising awareness about the problem. Through increased statewide enforcement efforts, raising public awareness through paid, earned, and social media, and by maximizing partnerships and local resources, we can help prevent injuries and save more lives on our roadways. In planning your mobilization visit NHTSA's Traffic Safety Marketing [page](#) for the latest campaign materials and resources to maximize your agency's enforcement efforts. Additional resource materials are available on the Traffic Page of the NYSACOP [website](#) , the GTSC [website](#), and [STOP-DWI New York](#).

STOP-DWI NEW YORK Mobile App – Have A Plan: The Governor's Traffic Safety Committee and representatives from the New York STOP-DWI Foundation wish to remind all partners of its free "Have A Plan" mobile application. The app encourages people to have a plan to get home safely if they are impaired by alcohol or drugs. Download the mobile application at www.stopdwi.org/mobileapp.

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

P Memo 20 - Reporting Police-Involved Crashes – December 14, 2020: [CLICK HERE](#)

P Memo 21 - Safety Belts In An Altered Motor Vehicle Commonly Referred to As A Stretch Limousine – December 16, 2020: [CLICK HERE](#)

P Memo 22 - COVID-related Expiration Dates for Drivers Licenses and Learner Permits – December 31, 2020 [CLICK HERE](#)

Visit the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee [website](#) for additional traffic safety information and resources. Contact GTSC Staff at (518) 474-5111 with questions or for assistance with your traffic safety programs. NYSACOP Law Enforcement Liaison Dominick Macherone can be reached at traffic@nychiefs.org or at (518) 857-9943



Traffic Safety Take-Out Menu

Online Training Opportunities & Resources

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

GHSA Webinar: Speeding: Diverse Approaches to Culture Change: This roundtable discussion examines behavioral approaches to speed management, pandemic speeding trends, and highway safety community countermeasures. [LINK](#)

National Law Enforcement Liaison Program Recorded Webinars: Register for the December 9, 2020 webinar – Reinvesting in Traffic Safety Post 2020. Click [here](#) 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 PODCAST Releases:



Tackling Rogue Stunt Riders Without Pursuit



Traffic Safety Leadership

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:

NYSACOP
3177 Latta Road, #230
Rochester, NY 14612



Podcast: Tackling Rogue Stunt Riders without Pursuit

How do you address the safety and quality of life issues that spin out of rogue riders of ATVs and off-road motorbikes when they infiltrate our streets and highways? Apprehension has always been challenging due to the ability of these vehicles to go off-road and evade police. These were the problems faced by Suffolk County and Schenectady police who, despite having no-pursuit policies have had tremendous success in addressing stunt riders in their jurisdictions.

Schenectady PD Officer Mark Weekes said that stunt riding was one of the biggest traffic complaints they were receiving last year. “It was a quality of life issue, a nuisance. And very unsafe”. The offenders were brazen, sometimes riding without helmets or face coverings, and even gassing up during their rides. “This happened about the same time as COVID, so we weren’t doing a lot of face-to-face traffic enforcement and I wanted to be doing something for traffic safety. Using the images from our city cameras, I went to the gas station where they got gas and got the information for the debit card transaction, then we subpoenaed the bank records and identified the owner.” Then, said Weekes, they got a search warrant to seize the bikes/ATVs, and that’s just what they did. “When you open up their garage door and find the same ATV, that’s pretty effective”, said Officer Weekes. The first wave of enforcement netted four dirt bikes/ATVs being seized, and a total of 86 traffic tickets issued. In subsequent enforcement, an additional 6 dirt bikes/ATVs were seized with an average of 20 tickets per biker.

In Suffolk County, Sgt. John Priest said that the use of unmarked vehicles, surveillance, and a multi-agency ATV Task Force has been instrumental in their enforcement activity, including the seizures of nuisance vehicles used in stunt riding. Priest said, my very first fatal MVA that I responded to was a dirt bike speeding, a neighbor was backing out of their driveway, and they collided, We did everything we could (but) he succumbed to his injuries. It resonated with me, this is why ATV enforcement is so important.”

Hear more of the story along with other strategies used by Suffolk County and Schenectady Police in the podcast, *Tackling Rogue Stunt Riders Without Pursuit*. Listen to interviews with Police Chief Eric Clifford and Officer Mark Weekes, and Sgt. John Priest as they share their insight and experience in dealing with the problem of rogue riders.



A city street camera captured the image of a stunt rider in Schenectady, NY

Podcast [here](#):



Former Oneida PD Chief Passes



Chief/Ret. David R. Meeker
Oneida PD

David R. Meeker, Sr., 61, Willow Meadow Way, retired City of Oneida Chief of Police, died early December 19, 2020 in the comfort of his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Oneida, on July 24, 1959, he was the son of Guy and Betty Standen Meeker. Prior to his retirement in 2017, Chief had a stellar career in law enforcement with the Oneida Police Department, which spanned over thirty-six years. He was appointed to the department in 1981, promoted to sergeant in 1989, lieutenant in 1998 and department chief in 2000. During this this time, David enjoyed working with the members of the department, helped design the current police headquarters and headed all law enforcement actions in the recent flood. In 2017, he was honored as the “Officer of the Year” by the members of his department. David was a member of St. John’s Episcopal Church, where he served as a vestryman, a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board, a member of the Oneidas Club and a member of the John R. Deschamps, Sr. Police Benevolent Association.

Contributions, in his memory, may be made to the John R. Deschamps PBA Scholarship Fund, in memory of Chief Meeker, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida. To leave a message of condolence, please visit www.campbell-dean.com.
—*Campbell Dean Funeral Home*

Remembering Former Police Chief Gary Miguel

Gary W. Miguel, 69, of Marcellus NY, passed away on January 1, 2021, after a two-year battle with cancer. He is survived by wife, Kathleen, daughter, Kristen (Ty Howington), granddaughter, Mya, sister, Natalie Kinsella (Jack), and brother Mike Miguel (Betty). After graduating from Solvay High School in 1969, he went on to receive a bachelor’s degree from Syracuse University. For 36 years, Gary was honored to serve the Syracuse community as a police officer. He valued working alongside many dedicated men and women on the force and building relationships with members of the community. Gary ended his career as the Chief of Police. Gary always said it was the simple pleasures of life, his family, and friends that he enjoyed and valued the most. Anyone who knew Gary recognized that he was the most loving and devoted father and husband a family could ask for. He will be greatly missed and most remembered for his genuine compassion and respect for anyone who happened to cross his path. Due to the pandemic, there will not be any services.

Visit www.TindallFH.com for online guestbook and information.

—*Tindall Funeral Home*



Chief/Ret. Gary W. Miguel
Syracuse PD

Real Risk Management

Careless Overtime Verification: Will This Be COVID-20?

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.

Gordon Graham here, and Happy New Year! Let me start off this continuation piece on Family Nine of the 10 Families of Risk with some thoughts on one of the things I have learned about business over the decades. When a new business starts up, or when an existing business introduces a new product or service, the goal is to get people to buy this product or service.

I've learned there are "five stages" of product adoption:

1. Innovators
2. Early Adopters
3. Early Majority
4. Late Majority
5. Laggards

As you know, I am limited to the amount of words I can put into any given article, so if you want more information on this concept, go to your favorite search engine and type in "Five Stages of Adopters" for some thoughts on each of these stages.

I mention the stages of product adoption to you because I have had similar experiences when I put out a request to my group of friends and colleagues for information on a given topic. One of the nice things about being old and subscribing to the twin theories of "never say no" and "talk to everyone" is recognizing that, "While I do not know everything, I do know everybody." Along the lines of "the five stages of product adoption," I have come to realize there are multiple stages of responses to queries I make to my friends.

So why am I boring you with this? In my last article, I mentioned that I sent out a request for thoughts on "financial risks in law enforcement" to "scores" (that is a fancy word for 20—and if you don't believe me, ask Abe) of my law enforcement friends and I instantly got many return responses. I used their responses, coupled with my experiences, to build a top 10 list (I shared the first two items off the list in the last article and I promise, I'll get back to the list if you can pardon this latest digression).



Gordon Graham

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What surprised me was that after I sent the article to Madame Editor who put her magical touch on it and made it look coherent (and trust me, what I write and how good it looks and reads after her work is truly amazing)—and after it was sent to New York for inclusion in this series—I continued to get responses to my initial request for information. My brain is too confused to give you any hard numbers, but I think I got more responses than the number of people I posed the question to—and no joke—I am still getting more input into this topic from “the late majority” and possibly some “laggards.” Apparently I have struck a nerve with Family Nine (Financial Risks), particularly with respect to the overtime issue.

Again, this is not a scientific survey, but most of these late responses deal with overtime scams (and other financial issues; more on that later) involving COVID—some of these are just terrible to read. Included in this list are troubling behaviors by cops (and other police personnel) involving claiming hours for time not worked, claiming hours for claimed work from home when the given employee was out of state, claiming hours for “standing by” when in fact the given employee was doing secondary employment, bogus claims for visits to MDs for COVID testing and treatment, taking days off and not submitting for vacation time, asking a supervisor for a vacation day but never submitting a payroll slip so the hours are never deducted, working four hours and putting in request for more than four hours, and various other bad behaviors—including some conspiracies between multiple employees to defraud their given law enforcement agency of funds.

Excuse me, but these are the things that cops arrest people for—theft of government funds—yet somehow COVID has brought out the worst in too many people, who end up violating the trust we put in them to be honest in everything they do.

Yes, I recognize that very few officers do these things, but in my head this number should be NONE. No one in law enforcement should be doing these things. My guess is a lack of supervision, coupled with people working from locations other than their regular office, produce a feeling of entitlement. “They cannot get rid of me—they are already shorthanded” and other warped ways of thinking lead up to these false claims of working overtime.

Here is a quick thought for you. A guy walks into a department store—let’s make it a Nordstrom (note there is no “s” at the end of the name)—and steals a necktie. He gets caught by an alert

“...these are the things that cops arrest people for—theft of government funds—yet somehow COVID has brought out the worst in too many people, who end up violating the trust we put in them to be honest in everything they do.”

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Traffic Safety Champions Announced in Oswego County

The Oswego County Traffic Safety Board recognized seven members of various Oswego County law enforcement agencies as “Traffic Safety Champions,” an honor awarded for their supreme dedication to keeping our communities safe.

“Every year the Oswego County Traffic Safety Board recognizes individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty to protect our community members,” said Oswego County Traffic Safety Board Coordinator Kyle Boeckmann. “This year’s recipients have shown exemplary service and proved themselves to be stewards of traffic safety.”

The Oswego County Traffic Safety Board recently named New York State Police Troopers Justin Morrison and Nathan Horner as “Traffic Safety Champions” for their exemplary work on the road. Pictured from left are Trooper Morrison and Trooper Horner.

This year’s “Traffic Safety Champions” are Oswego City Police Officer Rob Wallace;

Fulton City Police Officer Christopher Okun; Oswego County Sheriff’s Deputy Michael Fera; SUNY Oswego University Police Officer Scott Maynard; New York State Police Trooper Jason Morrison, Fulton Station; New York State Police Trooper Kyle Everett, Pulaski Barracks; and New York State Police Trooper Nathan Horner, Hastings Station.

A “Traffic Safety Champion” is someone who puts forth their best effort to ensure the safety of all members of a community on roadways and sidewalks. From DWI enforcement to bike and car seat inspections, they demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to all aspects of traffic and pedestrian safety.

Boeckmann added, “Each recipient routinely exceeds their regular duties to enhance traffic safety by teaching, ticketing and supporting their communities. The Traffic Safety Board is pleased to honor them today. Anyone who knows these people will tell you that this effort is more than a job to them. It’s part of their everyday lives. It’s their mission.”

Integrated Community Planning of Oswego County, Inc.; Oswego County Today



SUNY Oswego University Police Officer Scott Maynard joined six other local law enforcement officers as a “Traffic Safety Champion,” an honor given by the Oswego County Traffic Safety Board for his dedication to campus security. Pictured from left are SUNY Oswego University Police Chief Kevin Velzy and Officer Maynard.

Reporting Police-Involved Crashes

When a police officer in New York State is involved in a crash while involved in an emergency operation, the crash will be excluded from the officer's DMV driver abstract (unless charged with a penal law violation or if grossly negligent). Crashes in which the police officer is not in an emergency operation would appear in the driver abstract as any other operator.

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles recently released P Memo 20 reaffirming the reporting requirements for police-involved crashes. According to DMV, the following police-involved crashes must be reported:

- Death occurred
- Personal injury to any person involved
- Property damage, regardless of who owns the property, in excess of \$1000

What is “emergency operation”? It is the definition in Section 114(b) of the VTL which states: The operation, or parking, of an authorized emergency vehicle, when such vehicle is engaged in transporting a sick or injured person, transporting prisoners, delivering blood or blood products in a situation involving an imminent health risk, pursuing an actual or suspected violator of the law, or responding to, or working or assisting at the scene of an accident, disaster, police call, alarm of fire, actual or potential release of hazardous materials or other emergency. Emergency operation shall not include returning from such service.



Pond5/kaowStocker

According to DMV, the forms that should be used to ensure that police-involved crashes are reported accurately are:

MV-104A or MV104AN (Police Accident Report)

The officer's name and DOB are required fields

If the police-involved crash occurred in “emergency operation”, make sure it is clearly stated in the “Accident Description/Officer Notes” section that the crash occurred while in “emergency operation”.

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MV-104L (Police Line of Duty)

Must accompany the above police accident report.

The reporting officer can denote if the crash occurred during “emergency operation” and if so, make sure the box by the officer’s name is checked to denote being in “emergency operation.”

Receiving the report provides DMV with the officer’s driver license number which can then be omitted on the police accident report.

This report replaces the need for an officer to independently file an MV-104 (Motorist Report).

MV-104 (Motorist Report)

The officer involved in the crash is responsible for filing an MV-104 (Motorist report) if the police agency does not file an MV-104L.

If the police-involved crash occurred while in “emergency operation”, on the MV-104 in the “How did this accident happen?” section, make sure that it is clearly stated that the crash occurred while in “emergency operation”.

Listen to the NYSACOP podcast [Police Involved Crashes and Accident Reviews](#) in The Value of Police Crash Reports in Highway Safety [series](#).

Source document: NYS DMV P20 (2020)

State of New York Police Officers Memorial

The New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services administers the State of New York Police Officers Memorial. The Police Officers Memorial and the annual Remembrance Ceremony honor the memory and sacrifice of police officers from around New York State who have perished in the line of duty.

Any law enforcement agency in New York State, having lost a police officer in the line of duty during calendar year 2020, should submit the officer’s information by February 3, 2021 to: NYS DCJS, Office of Public Safety, Attention: Police Officers Memorial Staff, 80 South Swan Street, Albany, NY 12210

[Submissions](#) received by February 3, 2021, will be presented to the Police Officers Memorial Advisory Committee for consideration for inclusion on the Memorial wall during the 2021 Ceremony.

[Eligibility guidelines](#); [Applications](#).

Questions/assistance: Contact Associate Training Technician David J. Mahany of at 518-485-7644 or davej.mahany@dcjs.ny.gov.

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security specialist who calls the cops (that would be you). Let's make the price of the necktie less than the amount in your state that constitutes "grand theft," so you charge him with misdemeanor theft.

However, if the same guy walks into the same Nordstrom (note there is no "s" at the end of the name) with a Nordstrom (note there is no "s" at the end of the name) shopping bag and swipes the same necktie, you now have a more serious charge of commercial burglary in many jurisdictions because he entered the store with the intent to steal, evidenced by the empty Nordstrom (OK, I won't tell you again about the spelling and/or pronunciation of the name) bag to make it look like he made the purchase of the necktie.

Along the same lines, some/many of the overtime scams I have witnessed over the years—and now being recycled as we battle the pandemic—are clearly planned behaviors to steal money from the government. I no longer have an active law practice, but if these cops showed up needing representation for their behavior, I would tell them they are in big trouble and will lose their job and get prosecuted. When I was in active practice and informed a cop of this, the all-too-often response was, "I wish I had not done that." Once again, too late. You cannot wish it away and there goes your career and your reputation and your future.

Chiefs: With all of the above in mind, please make sure you have control measures in place that are so stringent the measures will proactively deter anyone from thinking they can successfully pull off the involved scam. Make sure your supervisory team (those approving the OT claims) know their role in this process. I know, I know, I know, we should not have to do this, but it appears to me that overtime scams are increasing in frequency. The exact reason I do not know—but this is an identifiable risk and thus a manageable risk.

Sorry, but my word count is well beyond the "fifty score limit," so I will continue with Family Nine in my next writing. Until then, please work safely and don't date the daughter of a prominent politician or you could end up on the Canadian border.

Timely Takeaway—I don't think you can talk about integrity and public trust too often with your people, even if they are working remotely in this current COVID world. Without the public trust, we have nothing.

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.

Chiefs: With all of the above in mind, please make sure you have control measures in place that are so stringent the measures will proactively deter anyone from thinking they can successfully pull off the involved scam.

Looking Back...



Some of our members from 1914

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

Syracuse University Department of Public Safety Receives National Accreditation

On December 22, 2020, Senior Vice President for Business, Finance and Administrative Services and Chief Financial Officer Amir Rahnamay-Azar announced that on November 13, the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) voted to recommend that the Syracuse University Department of Public Safety (DPS) be accredited for a period of four years. CALEA accreditation is the the gold standard for public safety and law enforcement in the nation.

The CALEA accreditation process provides public safety departments with an opportunity to prove that they meet the highest professional standards in law enforcement, and require:

- Comprehensive and uniform written directives that clearly define authority, performance, and responsibilities
- Reports and analyses to make fact-based and informed management decisions
- Preparedness to address natural or man-made critical incidents
- Community relationship-building and maintenance
- Independent review by subject matter experts
- Continuous pursuit of excellence through annual reviews and other assessment measures

This fall, CALEA assessors reviewed all DPS policies and procedures, reviewed proof of compliance with the procedures, and held a public hearing regarding the department's performance. Accreditation signifies that DPS has proven that its policies and procedures meet CALEA's comprehensive standards and that DPS has provided proof of compliance with those policies, procedures, and standards. CALEA standards are developed by expert public safety practitioners covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives for law enforcement. This achievement is rare amongst law enforcement agencies.

"There are currently 743 CALEA accredited law enforcement agencies, only 66 of which are higher education public safety departments, and DPS is one of only 11 CALEA-accredited law enforcement agencies in New York State," said DPS Detective Christopher Wood, who managed the accreditation process.

"We are honored to have received this accreditation from CALEA. It would have not been possible without the hard work and diligence of all members of the department," said DPS Chief Bobby Maldonado. "We're grateful to Detective Wood and his team for updating our policies and procedures, and compiling the reports and records required to meet the standards set forth by CALEA."

DPS will need to demonstrate continued proof of standards compliance with the CALEA commission on an annual basis. In addition, a formal review for reaccreditation with CALEA will take place in Summer 2024.

While this is first time DPS has received accreditation from CALEA, in 2015, DPS achieved accreditation by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA), and was reaccredited in 2019. These standards focus on public safety and law enforcement at institutions of higher education. The dual accreditation is rare and a testament to the professionalism of DPS and its staff, said Senior Vice President and Chief Law Enforcement Officer Tony Callisto. DPS is one of only 27 dual CALEA/IACLEA accredited campus public safety agencies nationwide and the only one in New York State.

(Continued from page 18)

About CALEA: The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA®), was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of law enforcement's major executive associations. The CALEA Accreditation program seals are reserved for use by those public safety agencies that have demonstrated compliance with CALEA Standards and have been awarded CALEA Accreditation by the Commission.



Town of Ogden PD—Christmas Eve



NYPD:

We wish everyone a very happy, healthy, and safe Christmas!

If you're out celebrating, please be smart - DON'T drink and drive.



New Members

Asst. Chief Scott Ewanow
NYS Univ. Police/Geneseo

Chief Ronald Richardson
Olean PD

Chief Timothy Jackson
Jamestown PD

Asst. OIC Thomas Franz
Grand Island PD

Chief/Ret. Donald Fina
Saranac Lake PD

Lt. Tara Flynn
Kent PD

Lt. Eric Batchelder
Guilderland PD

Chief Jason Olson
Massena PD

Chief Ricardo Moreno
Great Neck Estates PD

Chief Mark Packard
Lackawanna PD

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Chief Timothy Parisi
Ilion Police Department

1st Vice President
Chief Kevin Sylvester
Ossining Police Department

2nd Vice President
Chief Daniel Denz
West Seneca Police Department

3rd Vice President
vacant

Executive Director:
Chief (Ret.) Patrick Phelan

Director, Research, Development & Training:
Chief (Ret.) Larry Eggert

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MTA

Zone 4
Chief Gregory Austin
Rye Brook Police Department

Zone 5
Chief Joseph A. Sinagra
Saugerties Police Department

Zone 6
Deputy Chief Michael D. Woods
Colonie Police Department

Zone 7
Chief Michael J. Crowell
Manlius Police Department

Zone 8
Chief F. Michael Catalano
Cortland Police Department

Zone 9
Chief Shawn L. Heubusch
Batavia Police Department

Zone 10
Chief Joseph Wehrfritz
Orchard Park Police Department

Retired Member Rep.
Chief (Ret.) Joseph DelBianco/Mamaroneck

Liaisons

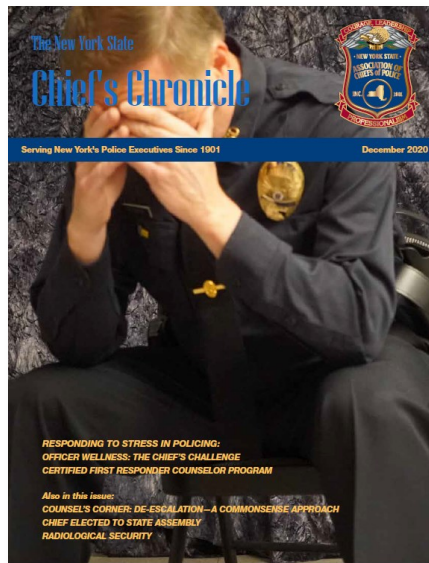
U.S. Attorney's Office
Chief (Ret.) Samuel M. Palmiere

NYSACOP Law Enforcement Liaison
Dep. Chief (Ret) Dominick Macherone

NYPD
Dep. Comm. Oleg Chernyavsky

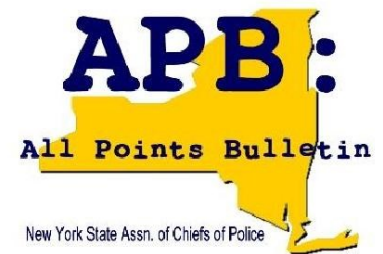


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our magazine,
***The Chief's
Chronicle***
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Yonkers Police Investigate Two-car Accident with Multiple Fatalities

On Tuesday, December 22nd, 2020, at approximately 9:23 PM, members of the 3rd Precinct observed a white 2009 Infiniti sedan being operated in an erratic manner with equipment violations. Officers attempted to stop the sedan for vehicle and traffic law violations when the sedan appeared to pull over, then immediately accelerated at a high rate of speed. Police followed the Infiniti which continued to accelerate beyond reckless speeds as it approached an intersection. A 2006 Nissan sedan, occupied by four young men, all 18-years of age and Yonkers residents, was making a right turn. As the Nissan entered the intersection, the Infiniti collided with the Nissan, resulting in catastrophic damage to both vehicles; the force of the impact split the Nissan in half. All four occupants of the Nissan were ejected from the vehicle and died at scene. The driver and single occupant of the Infiniti, a 36-year-old resident of Mount Vernon, was extricated from his vehicle and transported to a local area trauma center where he died from his injuries. Police were immediately on-scene and cordoned off the area. Mayor Mike Spano stated, "Last night's car accident on Riverdale Avenue was nothing short of tragic. Four young lives were cut short by the recklessness of one individual. Let this be a lesson to all who drive at excessive speeds – it not only puts your life at risk but also the innocent lives with whom you share the road. My deepest condolences and prayers go to the families of those lost, especially during this holiday season." Police Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "On behalf of the men and women of the Yonkers Police Department, I want to extend our heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those young men; this is an unspeakable tragedy brought upon by the reckless behavior of one individual, who also suffered the ultimate consequence. I want the families and all community members to know that the Yonkers Police will conduct a thorough investigation into this incident and will make all our resources available to support the families."

The occupants of the Nissan are identified as Brandon Sierra, Randy Brisbane, Tamari Watkins, and Anthony Cruz. The driver of the Infiniti is identified as Devon Haywood.

Press release: Yonkers PD

Congratulations Life Members

Life Members

Chief Richard Boyan
Irondequoit PD

Chief Charles Kammerdener
NYPD

Capt. John DeMarco
Niagara Falls PD

Chief/Ret. Scott J. Parsons
Webster PD

Chief Thomas F. McGovern
Warwick PD

Chief Eric Bruckenthal
Northport PD

Chief/Ret. Louis Corsi
Bethlehem PD

Asst. Chief/Ret. Jack Falvo
Schenectady PD

Chief Walter Hallett
Plattsburgh PD

Chief Carlisle E. Cochran
Southold PD

Dep. Chief Kevin A. VanDyke
Rensselaer PD

Chief/Ret. Kevin McConville
MTA PD

Dir./Ret. Peter G. Fanelli
DEC

Contact Us

Share your stories, photographs,
and questions:

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Visit us on the web at
www.nychiefs.org

New York State Association
of Chiefs of Police

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