

Chiefly Speaking...

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



October 2020

PRESIDENT'S WELLNESS CHALLENGE

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The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police is pleased to announce the President's Wellness Challenge, a program for NYSACOP member agencies demonstrating a focus on officer wellness, including the promotion of physical fitness, mental hygiene, healthy nutrition, and safety practices in the workplace. The Challenge is the creation of

President Patrick Phelan who has been hyper-focused on the concerns about law enforcement officer suicide. According to the National Consortium on Preventing Law enforcement Suicide, law enforcement officers are more likely to die by suicide than in the line of duty, and many officer suicides are misreported, or unreported as such. Early this year President Phelan noted, "When you look at the numbers it's hard to ignore. I began to realize this is a real problem in our profession and it's something you cannot ignore that and we have to take some sort of action." Ten months later, parts of our society



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Saluting our Silver Sponsors



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have demonized police, called for defunding, and proposed a range of legislation which do not serve the needs of public safety. Now more than ever, we need to be sure that our officers are being taken care of, including their emotional health. Phelan urges every police agency in New York State to join his initiative. Simply put, there are two necessary standards for the Challenge: first, that the agency supports the physical fitness of its members; and second, the agency provides mental health services directly, through EAP, a contract service, or some other means. That's it. There are several other elements of the Challenge which, if answered "yes", demonstrate that the agency is providing enhanced awareness and services to its members. For instance, identifying a Wellness Coordinator, having access to a Chaplaincy program, peer support program, or Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, and the provision of training and information. Does your department have a seat belt policy? Body armor policy? In-service training requirements for officer safety, risk management, or other wellness initiatives? You may have already checked off some of those extra elements of the Challenge!



NYSACOP is also providing links to resources to assist agencies in providing training and information to their staff. The NYSACOP website includes links to IACP model policies for Employee Mental health Services, San Diego PD wellness program with resources and tips for building your own, an Officer Stress/Suicide Awareness poster sponsored by PERMA and NYSACOP with emergency resources and hotline numbers; an audio podcast series sponsored by PERMA and produced by NYSACOP, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety series, produced by NYSACOP and based on the IACP research study of the top ten areas where law enforcement officers are killed; and color illustrations from the *Chief's Chronicle* archives by noted artist/firefighter Paul Combes, each focusing on an area of officer safety and risk. Agencies meeting the Challenge will be presented with a Challenge coin by President Phelan, and the agency name will be listed on the NYSACOP website. Click here to log-in and start the process. NYSACOP members can enter by logging in to the NYSACOP website and completing the electronic submission. We have also included a printable pdf file so that agencies can work on the program before entering the responses online.



Sorry: This Criminal-Justice ‘Reform’ Would be Disaster for Policing

Deputy Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen

New York Post

George Floyd’s death prompted lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to consider ways to reform policing. Some of their suggestions hold promise. But other radical ideas are wide of the mark and, if enacted, would pose a serious threat to public safety. Eliminating qualified immunity falls squarely in that category.

Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine that prevents law-enforcement officers and other officials from being personally subjected to civil lawsuits when they have acted lawfully and haven’t violated clearly established rights. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly observed that qualified immunity from civil suits is critical to preserving safety and ensuring a robust police force.

Qualified immunity is not a get-out-of-jail-free card for abusive policing. Criminal charges already can be — and are — brought against cops who break the law. The Department of Justice vigorously investigates and prosecutes allegations against officers, including excessive-force cases.

Since 2009, the DOJ has charged more than 700 law-enforcement officials for willfully violating civil rights or for breaking related laws. Officers know that, with or without qualified immunity in civil cases, they can be criminally charged, lose their jobs and go to prison if they break the law.

With all this in place, it’s hard to see what good would come from ending qualified immunity in civil lawsuits.

The more likely result will be less safe communities. Officers are constantly put in dangerous situations, where they must make split-second decisions to protect innocent lives. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has warned that ending qualified immunity “would have a profoundly chilling effect on police officers and limit their ability and willingness to respond to critical incidents without hesitation.”

The growing risk to officers’ own lives heightens the risk. Assaults against police jumped 20 per cent from 2014 to 2017, to about 60,000 a year.

Police officers must be able to respond decisively and responsibly. When a bad guy is threatening to slash innocents on a sidewalk with a knife, officers don’t have time to analyze legal memos.

Ending qualified immunity would also impose heavy financial burdens on courts and taxpayers,

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as lawsuits against police, prosecutors, judges, guards and wardens are already common.

Prison inmates account for nearly 20 percent of all civil cases launched in federal courts, according to government stats, totaling more than 50,000 a year. About 45,000 cases a year raise claims seeking monetary damages against law enforcers. That number would spike without qualified immunity. State and local governments would bear much of the financial burden of these new cases. Trial lawyers would rub their hands; the public wouldn't benefit.

About 85 percent of law enforcers are state and local. A recent study of 44 of the largest US law-enforcement agencies found that even with qualified immunity, state and local governments pay 99.98 percent of the settlements and judgments that plaintiffs recover in lawsuits where qualified immunity potentially might apply.

In 2018 alone, the four largest city police departments in the United States — those in New York, LA, Chicago and Philadelphia — paid \$397.7 million in settlements and judgments, despite the benefit of qualified immunity. If they have their way, anti-qualified-immunity activists would have those already-huge costs skyrocket.

Unscrupulous lawyers would file still more lawsuits, even if their claims are frivolous. Although each party generally pays its own attorneys' fees, one of the limited exceptions applies to certain lawsuits against state and local law enforcement. The potential to receive attorneys' fees would provide an added incentive for opportunistic or media-savvy lawyers and plaintiffs to bring actions against cops, seeking settlements even where no misconduct had occurred.

Eliminating qualified immunity is plainly the wrong way to implement police reform. Every day, we ask our law-enforcement officers to put themselves in harm's way to protect our streets.

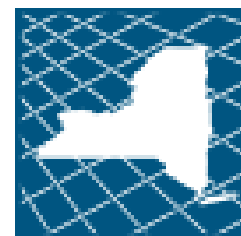
Officers should be — and are — held accountable when they violate the law. They shouldn't also have to worry about being personally sued for doing their jobs, when they follow the law. Congress, the states and our courts need to preserve qualified immunity: to protect public safety and to save money for real and urgent needs.

The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly observed that qualified immunity from civil suits is critical to preserving safety and ensuring a robust police force.

NYS AFC & PERMA Release PTSD Awareness Podcast Series for Fire/EMS/911 Personnel

The stresses faced by first responders have always been a cause for concern. In today's environment, with increasing demands, decreased staffing, and overwhelming calls for service, wellness has become a focus of public safety leaders. Statistics have shown that firefighter suicide rates exceed line-of-duty (LODD) deaths. While there is mandatory reporting of career firefighter LODDs, there is underreporting of volunteer fire service, EMS and 911 telecommunicator deaths.

The Public Employer Risk Management Association (PERMA) and New York State Association of Fire Chiefs have developed a 3-episode audio podcast series to assist firefighters, EMS, and 911 telecommunicators.



P E R M A

Fire Chief and NYS AFC chief executive officer Bruce Heberer said, "We have finally turned a corner. When I came on the job in the 1980's, you didn't talk about your stress. That was wrong. We need to support our people, get them to talk about the things that bother them. These podcasts help us to better understand the problem of stress and suicide, and to encourage discussion without judgment."

PERMA public safety risk management specialist Pete Frisoni said, "The number of first responder suicides is very alarming and we need to do whatever we can to help. PERMA is glad to support our fire, EMS and 911 professionals with this podcast series to increase awareness, remove the stigma of seeking help, and provide vital resources."

The series confronts the problem of stress and suicide among first responders with compelling interviews with professionals who have personally witnessed the trauma and stress of being on the front lines. At the conclusion of each episode, information is provided with contact numbers for counseling services, hotlines, and other resources. These can be found also here on a [clickable poster](#) for immediate access.

Check out these episodes:

101: [The Stresses of the Front Lines – Fire, EMS and 911](#) A discussion about stress and suicide for first responders. What do we know about the scope of the problem? Front line workers describe the incidents that can cause stress.

102: [The Stress Bucket](#) Assistant Fire Chief Jared Meeker talks about his personal experiences with stress, including one incident that tipped his "stress bucket." He describes how stress can accumulate, the signs and symptoms of a person in distress, and what leadership can do to help their crews.

103: [Providing Support – Professionals, Peers, Families](#) When a first responder is looking for help, they may prefer someone who understands the world of emergency service. We discuss peer and family support with fire chiefs who understand the culture of being a first responder. Former Battalion Chief Jeff Dill offers meaningful insight about support from colleagues and family members, urging direct dialogue by "challenging with compassion" to encourage our colleagues to talk about their concerns.

Traffic Safety Report

Traffic Tuesdays-National Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP) Webinar Series:

As part of the ongoing TSRP training initiative entitled *Traffic Tuesday's*, the next scheduled webinar on Tuesday **October 20, 2020 from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM (EST)** will feature a presentation on **DUI Report Writing: Best Practices for Completing the DUI Alcohol/Drug Influence Report** presented by Vin Petty, Florida Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor.

Description: This session will provide an in-depth discussion of techniques and tips to improve the documentation of all aspects of a DUI Investigation. This presentation is taught from a prosecutor's perspective and is designed to assist the law enforcement officer in improving his or her DUI Reports, so that a prosecutor can better use them to succeed in court. It will also serve as a way for prosecutors to better understand what needs to be included in a DUI Report so that they can work to better educate the law enforcement officers that they deal with. A variety of DUI Reports submitted from various agencies in actual DUI Prosecutions -- both good and bad examples -- will be discussed and serve as examples of how to better prepare and use the DUI Alcohol/Drug Influence Report in DUI cases.

Registration [here](#).

National Distracted Driving Campaign - U DRIVE. UTEXT. UPAY is a campaign centered on aiding law enforcement officers in their efforts to keep distracted drivers off the road. Distracted driving is a first offense in many States and continues to gain recognition across the nation as a deadly problem.

October 5-12, 2020 / national media campaign

October 8-12, 2020 / enforcement mobilization

This campaign is targeted to men and women 18 to 34 years old.

Use these **law enforcement campaign materials** to raise awareness in your community about the consequences of texting while driving. These enforcement materials do not focus on social norming - for those materials, please refer to:

[One Text Or Call Could Wreck It All](#) campaign (social norming)



Dominick Macherone
NYSACOP-GTSC
Liaison

Traffic Safety Highlights

- Webinar: Best Practices for Completing the DUI Alcohol/Drug Influence Report
- National Distracted Driving Campaign—enforcement October 8-12
- Halloween Enforcement Crackdown: October 30 – November 1

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General/Evergreen Resources

For more information, facts, and toolkits, please visit www.Distraction.gov and [Traffic Safety Marketing](#)

October is National Pedestrian Safety Month: Whether it be in a parking lot, crosswalk, or on a road, everyone is a pedestrian. In 2018, there were 6,283 pedestrians killed in traffic crashes in the United States. Pedestrian deaths accounted for 17% of all traffic fatalities in 2018. This equates to a traffic-related pedestrian death every 84 minutes.

GENERAL



**A TRAFFIC-RELATED
PEDESTRIAN DEATH
OCCURS EVERY 84 MINUTES.**



NHTSA has developed a Social Media Playbook to raise awareness of the dangers to pedestrians, and to provide resources to combat these crashes in your community. These materials are for parents, caregivers, educators, and traffic safety advocates to help both pedestrians and motorists learn more about pedestrian safety.

Click [here](#) to get the 2020 Pedestrian Social Media Playbook.

On behalf of the NHTSA team, thanks for your proactive support in pedestrian safety.

2020 NYS STOP-DWI Halloween Enforcement Crackdown - Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over: The Crackdown period will take place October 30 – November 1, 2020. 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 driving. Sobriety checkpoints and roving 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, collectively we can help prevent injuries and save more lives on our roadways. To assist 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 also available on the Traffic Programs Page of the NYSACOP [website](#) and the STOP-DWI New York [homepage](#).

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TRAFFIC ACTIVITIES FROM THE FIELD:

New York Police Release Results of Impaired Driving Campaign – The work of law enforcement agencies throughout New York during the recent “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” campaign is paying off. Read [more](#)

The *Daily Drive* presented by Ford Driving Skills For Life – GHSA Board Chair and Assistant Commissioner of the New York Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee Chuck DeWeese joins FDSFL Mike Speck and speaks on driver behavior, with a focus on activity during this period of COVID19 restrictions: click [here](#)

Governor Cuomo Signs Legislation Requiring All Motor Vehicle Passengers 16 and Older to Wear A Seat Belt: The new law will take effect November 1, 2020 - News [release](#).

Questions? Contact NYSACOP Liaison Nick Macherone [here](#) or call 518-857-9943.



On “**Blackout Wednesday**,” the focus will be to remind drivers that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving*. In addition, throughout the Thanksgiving weekend, we will focus on raising awareness about the dangers of drug-impaired driving with the campaign message *If You Feel Different, You Drive Different*. It doesn’t matter what term you use: If a person is feeling a little high, buzzed, stoned, wasted, or drunk, he or she is impaired and should never get behind the wheel.

Click here for your campaign materials including graphics such as that shown above: [Boycott Blackout Wednesday](#)

Traffic Safety Take-Out Menu

Online Training Opportunities & Resources

GHSA Webinar Series: Speeding: Diverse Approaches to Culture Change - This roundtable discussion will examine behavioral approaches to speed management, including pandemic speeding trends and highway safety community countermeasures. Panelists will discuss automated enforcement, as well as an upcoming speed management pilot project sponsored by GHSA, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, and the National Road Safety Foundation. Register and view this timely webinar at: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8291448379193869072>

National Law Enforcement Liaison Program Recorded Webinars: September's webinar entitled *Distracted Driving, Click It or Ticket and Traffic Safety Champions* focuses on both upcoming mobilizations and the need for traffic safety champions during these challenging times of limited resources and competing priorities: visit <https://www.nlelp.org/training/recorded-webinars/>

DCJS Online Training - Ignition Interlock Devices: This training will provide a comprehensive overview of Ignition Interlock Devices - how they appear, how they work, common circumvention tactics, and enforcement guidance for New York State police officers. It was produced by the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police and funded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from GTSC: <http://criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/training/other/Ignition-Interlock/story.html>

Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Publications, Reports and Resources: visit <https://www.ghsa.org/resources>

NYSACOP PODCAST Releases:



Students Against Destructive Decisions



Traffic Safety Leadership



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Real Risk Management

Blockchain Not Blockhead: What You Need in a Law Enforcement CTO

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 with some final thoughts on Family Eight of the 10 families of risk—technology risks. As I pondered how I would open this article during my morning walk, my brain went back to 1986 and some thoughts about the lawyer who mentored me during my early years as a young attorney.

Let's call him Joel—because that was his name and he was a good man. I have probably mentioned this in past iterations of these “miscellaneous ramblings,” but I started my practice in 1982 doing police divorces. While the volume of cases was great, I quickly learned that too many cops don't pay their bills. I came up with a brilliant solution to this problem early on—“I will do your divorce for free, all I need is a check for \$250 up front for the court filing fee. But if you ever get a personal injury case in your family, you must promise me that I will get that case.”

Oddly enough, my divorce clients started bringing in personal injury cases. Way back then I did not have a staff or support team, so I made a deal with Joel: “I will bring personal injury cases to you and you can work the case and at the conclusion we can share the attorney fees.” That model worked very well for both of us for many years.

Which brings me to 1986. Mrs. G was pregnant with our first child and Joel's daughter was pregnant with her first child. He and I were discussing video cameras one day at the office and we determined (based on comments from Consumer Reports) that the new JVC was the hot ticket. If my memory serves me right, it was priced at about \$1,200. We each decided to get one.

Here is where it gets interesting. Joel says, “I bet you \$100 I can get a better price on this than you can.” Being the idiot, I took the bet. Later that day I went to several electronic stores looking for the best price I could get and ended up at a “Crazy Gideon's” right off the Hollywood Freeway (I had bought other stuff from there and always got a good price). I walked out with a new JVC for \$850.



Gordon Graham

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The next morning I got to the law office and I saw that Joel had his JVC on his desk and he was reading the owner's manual. "How much did you pay for it?" I asked. He told me \$1,200. He then posed the same question to me. "\$850," I proudly responded, showing him the receipt, which he took from me.

He said, "Come with me," then left the office and went to the store where he'd purchased his camera. He presented his purchase receipt and my receipt to the clerk. That store had a policy: "If you can find it for less within 30 days we will give you the difference plus 10%." So he ended up getting a refund of \$385 (\$350 plus \$35)—plus the \$100 bet he now had won from me.

He smiled and told me, "I hope you learned something from this"—and I did! Later that year when Mrs. G was getting a larger vehicle now that we had a baby daughter, he went with us to the dealership and negotiated the price for us, and my gosh I learned even more that day.

Why have I bored you with this? Joel had almost 30 years in the law business and had been negotiating deals long before that. That was what he did. I was clearly out of my league thinking I could better him on that deal.

I am now 1,200+ words into this article, so here is my point, Chief. Some of you are fortunate to have a large enough budget where you can hire a Chief Technology Officer (CTO) or IT Manager who only works for your police department—more on this later, but having your own works best. Do you even know what questions to ask? Can this person "snow you" with a bunch of "mobile-first IoT D5W patch me through to McGarrett res ipsa loquitor megabyte processor gigahertz" baloney?

If you are dependent on the "city tech person," your police department is just another department, like finance, streets, maintenance and trash collection.

In past writings I have admitted that I am a tech idiot, but in my travels I have met CTOs in government operations who know less about technology than I do—and I am the idiot?

With all this in mind, here are some thoughts for you to consider. As I mentioned earlier, I am hopeful you have your own tech person and are not dependent on the "city tech person." Your personal tech expert works full time for you and answers to the command staff and fully understands the day-to-day field operation. If you are dependent on the "city tech person," your police department is just another department, like finance, streets, maintenance and trash collection.

Also, if there are multiple tech people in the city IT department, you may get a different approach from different people. You have specific and complex needs and it's best to

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Four Year Old Impressed with Police; Police Say Boy's Support is 'Awesome'

In June, 4 year old Abel Jones set up a lemonade stand at his home north of the Village of Herkimer and told his mother he wanted to donate the proceeds to a police department. A local Trooper, Tara McCormick, organized a visit to the stand by all local PD's in the Herkimer area. Abel decided to donate the proceeds from selling lemonade and brownies to the Village of Herkimer Police Department. It wasn't clear exactly why Abel selected Herkimer PD, but the Chief noted that the young boy took a liking to HPD's "Gentle Giant", Officer James Burns. While they let Abel keep the money he raised, officers wanted to do something for Abel, so they purchased a uniform with the HPD shoulder patch and a motorized police car complete with lights and siren.



Honorary Herkimer PD Officer Abel Jones with his new police car provided by Herkimer Police. Officer James Burns shows Abel how to use the police radio.



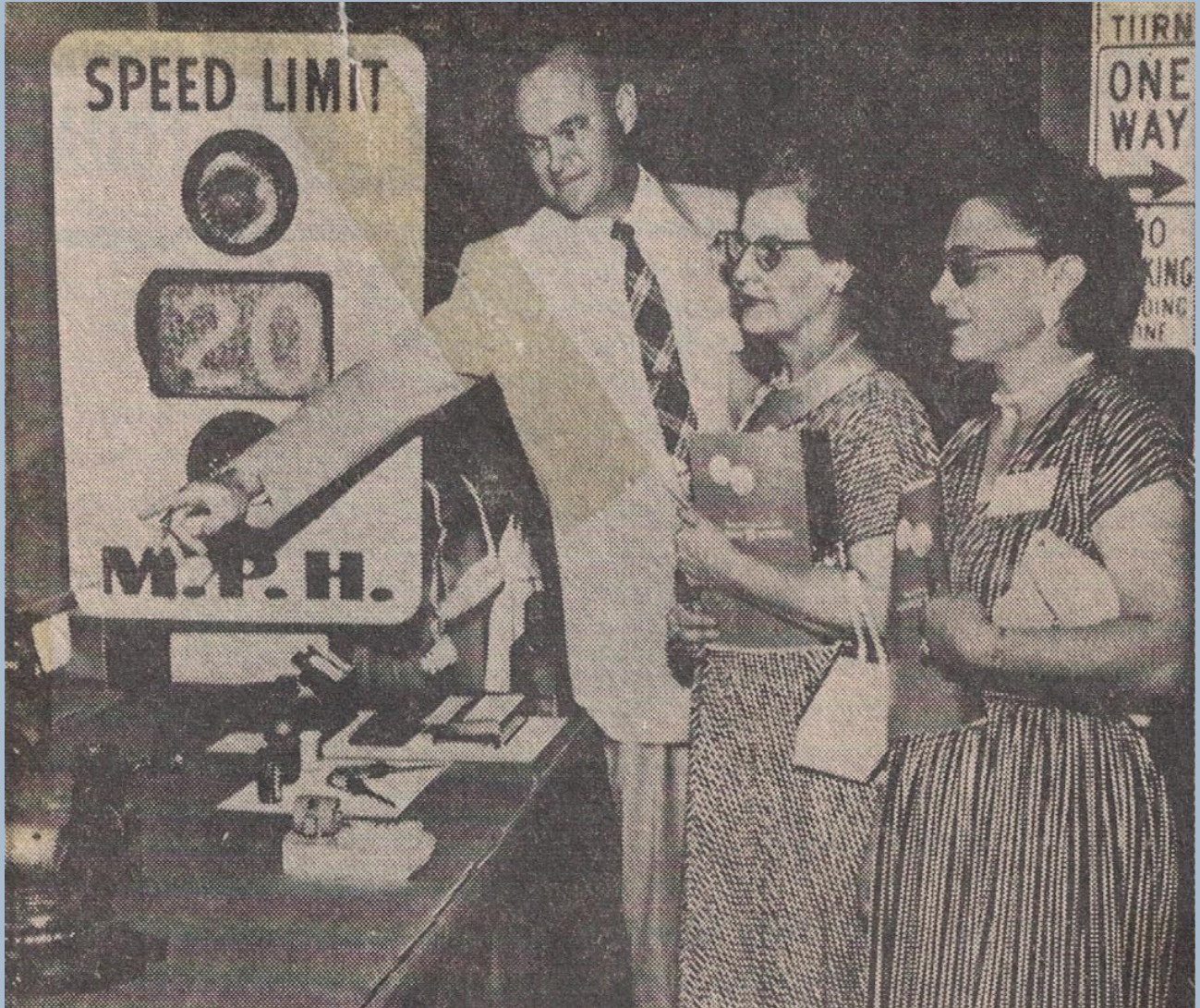
Herkimer Police and New York State Police stop for a photo with one of their biggest fans: four-year-old "Officer" Abel Jones.

Chief Mike Jory (Herkimer PD) said, "I realize that all PD's are doing great things, however, I thought what our officers did for this young man was quite special."

Officer James Burns (Herkimer PD) said, "Seeing support from somebody his age is awesome. We try to reach out to the youth in a good light, and this is something we could give back for him."

Chief Jory remembered that Abel was "full of smiles" that day, and just wanted to drive his new police car. The Chief said that Abel's mother commented to them, "he just loves you guys." The event was covered by the local TV news station. Check out Herkimer Police Department's Facebook page for more photographs.

Looking Back...



At the 1957 NYSACOP conference in Schenectady, Chief's spouses were guests for a tour of the General Electric Plant including equipment manufactured by GE. Pictured from left are GE Plant Police Chief John O. Pritchard, Mrs. Frank Mosher (Herkimer), and Mrs. Raymond Walrath (St. Johnsville).

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

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have your own tech pro who understands the challenges of a 24/7 law enforcement environment. In most states, this tech pro you hire will require a deeper background investigation (because of access to criminal justice databases). It's best to include that requirement in your job announcement so you won't waste your time with people who cannot get past the background investigation.

Assess your current situation and capabilities before you start your search for a CTO. Determine what your organization needs. For instance, are you wanting to make a move toward mobility, which allows officers to have full access to information regardless of assignment or proximity to their vehicle? If so, identifying someone with experience in this area could be really important. Conversely, if you're fully deployed (all officers have an issued smartphone), you still need someone with mobile experience—but be cautious of someone who tells you they want to move the agency from the existing operating system that is working and with which the officers are familiar (e.g., switching from Android to IOS or vice versa). A switch can be costly, cause user issues and even result in lost capabilities due to lack of support for some app or software your agency currently depends on.

...are they struggling to keep up with important areas like cybersecurity and CJIS compliance and need a CTO who is technically very strong?

For larger agencies that have an IT staff, consider your existing personnel. Are they fully capable of supporting the agency but need a manager? Or, are they struggling to keep up with important areas like cybersecurity and CJIS compliance and need a CTO who is technically very strong?

Look for public safety experience, specifically in police agencies. The 24/7, field-based operational environment is not the norm. Supporting computers in cars is a lot different than desktops. And CJIS adds a level of complexity that can be confounding to those who have not "evolved" with an agency over the last few years as tech and data have become the fuel that runs a modern police department. Be wary of someone who has municipal experience but not law enforcement experience. Why? Because they tend to be non-supportive of law enforcement as a priority. They're often jealous of the budget prioritization that goes to public safety. In

other words, choose someone who has experience managing a law enforcement tech environment—and if you can't find that, find someone from the private sector who clearly shows an affinity for public safety.

Perhaps most importantly, look for someone who will find a way to technically support what you want to accomplish and not default to "no." Too many IT professionals have become the modern-

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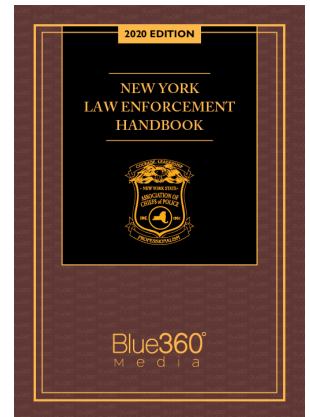
Governors Traffic Safety Committee
Dep. Chief (Ret) Dominick Macherone

NYPD
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New York State Law Books Available

Now Available from Blue360 Media: Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Vehicle and Traffic Law, New York State Law Enforcement Handbook, the standard field handbook for all law enforcement personnel in New York.

Compiled with the help of personnel with many years of law enforcement experience and training, the New York Law Enforcement Handbook provides officers with a finely tailored selection of essential, up-to-date New York statutes. Thanks to our co-publisher, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, this edition now includes a special informational section—the New York “Blue Pages”—which provide valuable protocols, investigative tips and guidelines, quick legal references, checklists, and supporting depositions for an officer’s use in the field and at headquarters. Click [here](#) for New York State titles.



Membership Drive Growing Our Association

Did you know of a fellow police executive who is not a member of our proud organization? Please encourage them to join and take advantage of the benefits of membership. Stay up-to-date on the latest news and information affecting New York State law enforcement, read our carefully selected news items and bulletins and other publications, and be the first to receive information on our annual training conference. Remember that second-in-command staff are also eligible, as are certain commanders of divisions. For more details, check out our [Join Now](#) page or call our office at 518-355-3371.



day equivalent of the overly cautious attorney who is so risk-averse they hobble a department's operational capabilities. A true public safety IT professional will find a way to support operational priorities and facilitate a secure tech environment that is intuitive for officers. If they don't clearly espouse that perspective, find someone else.

Let me wrap up Family Eight with this. I knew a young officer who was building his own computer when he was a cop in the 1980s. He read all the magazines, knew all the terminology and was a true tech guy—way, way ahead of his time on the job and his age. He moved up in his department and ultimately became their tech guy and did a fantastic job. No salesperson could fool him—he knew more about their products than they did.

A true public safety IT professional will find a way to support operational priorities and facilitate a secure tech environment that is intuitive for officers. If they don't clearly espouse that perspective, find someone else.

My guess is that some of you reading this piece fall into that category—you are the “real deal” in law enforcement tech issues. My hat is off to you and I have a post-law enforcement career for you. How much would it be worth to a chief of police to have you sitting next to them during the interview of candidates for the CTO/IT position? I think you could command quite a bit of money from a department knowing what you know—and preventing that chief from hiring a clueless fast talker (or buying software that will sit on a shelf because it did not work). Just a thought as you think about

what you will be doing after your career in police work.

Finally, my second to last paragraph for this piece. Because I am the “tech idiot,” I reached out to my longtime friend, confidant and mentor Dale Stockton to help me with this article. His background in law enforcement operations is very impressive and if I were a chief of police, I would want to know him. He can be reached at dale@publicsafetyinsight.com.

Well, that wraps it up for Family Eight—the fastest growing family of risk you face in law enforcement operations. In our next visit together, I will give you some thoughts on financial and reputational risks. Until then, please work safely—and that includes all the COVID precautions.

Timely Takeaway—Who is your CFO? Do they really understand “money stuff” or do they just know how to promote within the finance department?

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.

IT'S NOT DRAMA...IT'S TRAUMA

DCJS Webinar Recording

The DCJS Law Enforcement Webinar Series' goal is to bring a wide array of relevant Evidence-Based Practices to the law enforcement community when in-person training events may not be able to be hosted. For those who were unable to attend our live webinar, we will be providing links to the recordings after the event.

The Suffolk County Outreach and Support Initiative comprises the Council of Thought and Action (COTA), a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Model, and the utilization of trauma training to enlighten the relationship between police, those previously incarcerated and at-risk youth with the goal of reducing gun violence.

A disproportionate number of people who interact with the criminal justice system have suffered from trauma. Justice system involvement can cause further trauma and erode community trust, undermining public safety. To be effective in reducing violence and building safe communities, it is imperative that law enforcement use trauma-informed strategies to address community volatility and reduce violent crime. The high incidents of suicide by officers are also tied to trauma and the reduction of community trust. This panel will feature experts on trauma-informed strategies that are designed to reduce violence, gang enrollment, and trauma-related responses. Panelists will discuss specific strategies that build trust and promote community engagement.

Suffolk County Police Deputy Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis will be presenting on this topic along with members of the COTA team.

Please use this [link](#) to access for the webinar recording.

Please contact
DCJSLawEnforcementSymposium@dcjs.ny.gov if you have any questions or need any assistance.

New Members

**Lt. Scott Craig
Rye PD**

**Chief Chase Bilodeau
DeWitt PD**

**Chief Bernard Podsiedlik
Marcellus PD**

**Dep. Chief Joseph Alessi
Chatham PD**

**Chief David Smith
Palmyra PD**

**Sgt. in Charge Jason Dininny
Hammondsport PD**

**Capt. James Luciano
Westchester Co. PD**

**Capt. John Kibling
Hudson Falls PD**

**Chief Christopher Hughes
Northport PD**

**Mauro Bacci
Associate Member**

**Chief Frank Lacosse
Menands PD**

**Lt. Brian E. Kurish
NYS University Police**

**Chief David Bush
Ballston Spa PD**

**Comm. James Jancewicz
Central Police Services**

**Chief Michael Grover
Perry PD**

**Chief Jerry Wright
Cayuga Heights PD**

**Capt. Ret. David Legault
Niagara Falls PD**

**Chief Sam Farina
Fairport PD**

**Dep. Commissioner
Oleg Chernyavsky
NYPD**



Facebook Post of the Month

From Eddie Gonzalez:

Long Island State Park Police car in 1947.

Check NYS Park Police for more historic photos.



Are You Retiring?

Let us know:
APB@nychiefs.org

Contact Us

Share your stories, photographs, and questions:

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Visit us on the web at
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of Chiefs of Police
24 Century Hill Drive
Suite 002
Latham, New York 12110



Instagram Post of the Month

Albany PD:

The APD is excited to be working with @feedalbany to provide meals to Albany residents.



Deputy Chief Brian Hogan and
Neighborhood Beat Officer
Jeremy Rundell