



Town of Glenville Police Department

Community News

Stephen V. Janik, Chief of Police



January 2017

Dear Community members,

Happy New Year! The police department finished 2016 with a significant increase in calls for service and traffic-related incidents compared to 2015. The Glenville Police Department handled 24,629 calls for service compared to 23,142 in 2015 (+1,447), issued 2293 traffic citations compared to 2195 in 2015 (+168) and handled 887 traffic accidents compared to 684 in 2015 (+203). We operated with twenty officers for most of 2016. We will realize the benefit of a full staff level in 2017 when our two recruit officers graduate from the academy on January 19, 2017.

As I have stated in previous letters, it is our intention to create a much more accessible department. Therefore, we are in the process of making changes to our infrastructure to create a more welcoming atmosphere. The restructure of the police department has begun. We will open a window to the vestibule within the next month. This window will be attended by the administrative assistants and a part-time clerk during regular business hours and additional evening hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will allow the public to speak to a person who will direct them to the proper resource to address their needs.

I am thankful that, through proper fiscal management and planning, the police department will be able to issue every officer with personal protection equipment which will include new TASERs. We will also update and replace antiquated computer equipment in the patrol cars so officers will be able to spend more time on patrol and less time in the station.

Recently, a new marked police car was put into service. The vehicle was purchased in 2016 but required additional time to complete. The vehicle is a 2016 Ford Interceptor sedan. It has a six cylinder engine and is equipped with all-wheel drive. We are excited about the all-wheel drive capabilities when it comes to responding to our neighbors in West Glenville during inclement weather conditions.

We designed a new Glenville Police patch to be worn on the shoulders of our uniforms. The patch replaces our current patch that was designed and worn since the early 1970s. The patch incorporates the Town seal showing a real sense of pride that the officers have working for this town.

Though we are working hard to improve the department, we have some anticipated challenges for this year. The biggest challenge will be the impact and tracking of calls directly attributed to the casino. Supervisor Koetzle addressed this in his State of the Town Address. He stated that the traffic impacts, attributed to the casino, will have a direct impact on public safety; public safety issues that will be handled by the police department. At this time, we can only speculate about these issues. However, I do believe the main issue will be traffic impacts and traffic-related incidents. Accidents will increase, traffic law violations will increase and the potential for additional DWI arrests may increase as well.

In my first community letter, released in June 2016, I did speak about some alarming trends and what the impact of negative national scrutiny has been on police officers in general. The statistics are frightening. The belief that violence against police by some people is acceptable has put police officers in a defensive posture as they report to work each day. It is clear that violence against police is rising. We lost 140 officers in the line of duty in 2016, up from 130 in 2015. What is most alarming is the percentage of officers killed by gunfire. Sixty-three police officers were killed by gunfire in 2016. This statistic rose by 62% from 2015 when 39 officers were killed by gunfire. These statistics are in the hearts and minds of the police officers on the streets, serving the public every day.

It is a pleasure for me to say that the members of the Glenville Police Department do not let the aforementioned statistics get in the way of our conduct. We feel appreciated by the residents, business owners and visitors to our community. We serve with pride and integrity. We are, and always will be, a full-service police department. We appreciate the support and thank you for the continued well wishes and gratitude you show to us each year.

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Janik
Chief of Police