

Byram Township Police Department



2019 End of Year Report

Chief Kenneth Burke

POLICE DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Byram Township Police Department has existed since the 1930's as a part-time law enforcement agency. On April 7, 1971 it was established as a full-time Department with four sworn personnel. Today, the Department has fourteen sworn officers and two part-time records clerks. This is down from a high of fifteen sworn officers and a full-time records clerk in 2006. The Police Department strives to be a contributing factor in creating a better quality of life for our residents, business owners and visitors. Through proactive policing with an emphasis on community relations, the Department places its highest values on the preservation of human life, the protection of property and professional service to all.

The Police Department is divided into three operational units:

- Administration/Records
- Patrol Division
- Detective Bureau

The Administrative/Records Unit is comprised of the Chief of Police, the Lieutenant, and two records clerks. This unit performs the administrative duties of the Department, as well as records keeping and overseeing day to day operations.

The Patrol Division makes up the backbone of the Department. This unit is comprised of three Sergeants and eight Police Officers. The Patrol Division provides uniformed law enforcement services to the approximate 8,000 residents that live throughout Byram's 26 square mile area. These services are provided 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. These Officers provide traffic enforcement, emergency response and answer a variety of calls for service. Each of these Officers are trained First Responders and are certified in the use of automated external defibrillators (AED's). Each on-duty patrol vehicle is equipped with a first aid kit, oxygen bottle and defibrillator; as well as other emergency response equipment. Each first aid kit also contains Narcan with every Officer being trained in the administration of this product as part of our commitment to treat opioid overdoses and minimize overdose deaths.

The Detective Bureau is supervised by the Lieutenant and is staffed by a Detective. The Detective conducts criminal investigations that are assigned to him by the Patrol Sergeants after the initial report is taken by the Patrol Division. The Detective is also responsible for maintaining the Department's evidence storage facility, ensuring the integrity of evidence related to crimes is properly maintained as items are secured, stored, and transported to the New Jersey State Police forensics lab for testing.

POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL BREAKDOWN

CALLS FOR SERVICE			
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Sex Offenses	7	8	+1
Burglary	4	10	+6
Theft	40	58	+18
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	6	+5
Aggravated Assault	3	5	+2
Simple Assault	11	14	+3
Arson	0	0	0
Fraud	33	32	-1
Criminal Mischief	44	46	+2
Weapons	2	5	+3
Fireworks	2	7	+5
Narcotics	18	22	+4
Alarms	207	189	-18
Disorderly Conduct	59	50	-9
Suspicious Activity/Vehicle/Persons	232	221	-11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	232	224	-8
Motor Vehicle Stops	2,504	2,111	-393
Medical Assists	405	389	-16
All Other Calls	10,035	9,591	-444
Total Incidents Handled	13,839	12,988	-851
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Adults Arrested	80	112	+32
Juveniles Arrested	48	55	+7
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Property Value Reported Stolen	\$37,797.00	\$266,582.00	+\$228,785.00
Property Value Recovered	\$2,369.00	\$178,453.00	+\$176,084.00

2019 OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Byram Police Officer's:

- conducted **532** School Security checks and walk-throughs at the Byram Lakes and Byram Intermediate Schools. These details typically last from 45-60 minutes and are conducted to reassure students, parents and school staff that their Police Department is committed to the safety of our schools. It also provides a great opportunity for members of the department to promote a positive image of the law enforcement profession while fostering relationships with those we are here to protect.
- conducted **625** Traffic Enforcement details along municipal, county and state roads located in the Township. The Department receives many complaints from our residents regarding the unsafe and careless operation of vehicles along their roads. We are committed to establishing a presence throughout the Township to slow down motor vehicle operators and to ensure the safety of everyone who uses our roadways.
- completed **6,730** Property Checks on local businesses, residential properties and Township properties. Whether it is to stop in and strike up a conversation with a local business owner or locating an unsecured door at 3:00am, the Police Department is committed to the safety and security of your property. These checks serve as a vital deterrent to criminal activity and provides Officers with the opportunity to document suspicious and out of the ordinary activity.
- responded to **173** Animal Complaints. These complaints come in for a variety of reasons such as animals struck by motor vehicles, animals exhibiting an illness or erratic behavior, or a bear in search of food. We are fortunate to live in an area with an abundance of wildlife, but sometimes the behavior of such wildlife can cause public concern. The Department has Officers who are specially trained and equipped to respond to a variety of wildlife-related complaints.
- assisted **95** stranded and disabled motorists. Taking care of those who travel our roads is a priority for the Department. Outside of emergency response to motor vehicle accidents and accident investigations, it is not uncommon for Officers to be out changing tires, retrieving a gas can, or contacting a tow company for those who end up broken down on our roadways.
- averaged **7** days of in-service training to maintain qualifications and continue our pursuit to provide the highest quality of law enforcement services to the community. We conduct semi-annual training in firearms proficiency, use of force, motor vehicle pursuit, and response to domestic violence related incidents. In addition, we maintain certifications for driving while intoxicated enforcement and first aid/CPR.

- traveled over **115,000** miles during their patrol activities. One of the best ways to deter criminal activity and promote a sense of safety and security in the community is being seen.
- volunteered over **60** hours of their time to collect food donations for the spring and fall “*Cram the Cruiser*” and “*Stuff the Bus*” food drives. The Department collected over **20,000** pounds of food during both events to benefit the Sussex County Food Pantry.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- The Department was awarded **\$1,675.08** by the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice and **\$2,430.36** by the United States Department of Justice for the replacement of body armor.
- The Department was able to purchase a fully outfitted 2019 Ford F-150 police responder pick-up truck for Department use at **no cost** to taxpayers using forfeited funds.

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Each year the Department and Township Officials host an event to recognize and commend members of the Police Department and private citizens for acts of valor, meritorious service, exemplary performance of duties, and honorable and faithful service. In 2019, the following awards were presented:

- Sergeant Guy Mariani and Patrolman Todd Sodano were presented Life Saving Medals for prompt and alert actions while responding to a 911 call on June 30, 2018. Once on scene, Sgt. Mariani and Ptl. Sodano utilized cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and inserted an airway to assist in saving another person’s life.
- Lieutenant Kenneth Burke, Sergeant Daniel DeWald and Detective Robert Tierney were presented Life Saving Medals for prompt and alert actions while responding to a 911 call on August 7, 2018. Once on scene, Lt. Burke, Sgt. DeWald and Det. Tierney assisted in inserting an airway while utilizing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the automated external defibrillator (AED) to assist in saving another person’s life.
- Chief Peter Zabita, Lieutenant Kenneth Burke, Patrolman John D’Onofrio, Patrolman Thomas Dellicker, Detective Robert Tierney, Patrolman Robert Schellhammer, and Patrolman Marcus Lisa were presented Unit Citation Awards for participation in a team effort under critical conditions who, in support of departmental operations, distinguished themselves to effectuate the protection of life and property. On May 17, 2018, these Officers responded to a report of a serious motor vehicle accident on Interstate 80 in the area of mile marker 25. The accident involved a dump truck striking a school bus filled with children, causing the bus to break apart and overturn, while ejecting most of its

occupants. Their actions provided valuable assistance to the injured and helped minimize any further threat to the life and property at the scene.

- Lieutenant Kenneth Burke, Patrolman John D’Onofrio, Patrolman Thomas Dellicker, and Patrolman Marcus Lisa were presented Good Conduct Awards. These awards recognize each member’s commitment to honorable, faithful and dedicated service to Byram Township and its residents. Lt. Burke’s and Ptl. D’Onofrio’s awards recognized “25” years of service. Ptl. Dellicker was recognized for “15” and Ptl. Lisa for “10” years of service.

PROJECT MEDICINE DROP

In August 2016 the Department began participating in “*Project Medicine Drop*” and obtained an unwanted prescription and over the counter medication collection box. The collection box is located in the lobby of Police Headquarters. The box was partially funded by donations from the Sussex County Center for Prevention and Counseling and the Byram Township Police Officer’s Association.

- In 2019 over **260** pounds of unwanted medications were collected.
- In 2019 the Department also continued its participation in the county-wide drug disposal day collections in the spring and fall at the Byram Shop-Rite and CVS stores, collecting over **30** additional pounds of unwanted medications.



LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST DRUGS (L.E.A.D.)

The Department completed its 29th year instructing an anti-drug program in the fifth-grade classes at the Byram Intermediate School. The Department's instructor, Officer Marcus Lisa, utilizes the L.E.A.D. program. Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) is a non-profit (501C3) organization, supported by dedicated police officers, committed to protecting our youth and communities from the proliferation of drugs, drug related crimes, peer to peer/cyber bullying and violence.

- In 2019 the L.E.A.D. graduation ceremony and student picnic were held in May. This year's program witnessed the graduation of approximately 100 students.

COMMUNITY LAW ENFORCEMENT ADDICTION RECOVERY (C.L.E.A.R)

The Byram Township Police Department is a member of the Sussex County Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery (C.L.E.A.R.) Program. C.L.E.A.R. is a collaborative effort from the Sussex County Prosecutor, Sussex County Police Chiefs' Association, Newton Police Department, Center for Prevention and Counseling, Atlantic Health System and other social service agencies and is supported by the Sussex County Freeholders and municipal governing bodies across the County. Check out <http://clearprogram.org/about/> to see a clear overview of the program.

Our county, like the rest of our state and country, is in the midst of an opiate use epidemic. In 2016, the Sussex County area had 32 overdose deaths due to heroin, prescription medications and other drugs, up 28% since the previous year. Additionally, there were 52 overdoses where Narcan was used in an attempt to revive a person, an 18% increase in its use since 2015. The mission of the C.L.E.A.R. Program is to form a collaborative network of professionals in our county who will facilitate medical intervention, improve access to treatment and recovery support for those struggling with drug addiction who seek assistance without fear of arrest or prosecution in order to make a positive difference in the quality of life for individuals, families and our entire community.

The Sussex County C.L.E.A.R. Program seeks to offer access to treatment and services for adults not currently in the criminal justice system and afford them the same opportunities for recovery by utilizing evidence-based practices and strategies. Since July 18, 2016, over 50 people have contacted C.L.E.A.R. for information or assistance, and 31 individuals and families have engaged in recovery coaching services with volunteer CCAR certified peer recovery coaches. Those county residents seeking assistance can call the toll-free number at 1-844-SC-CLEAR.

SAFE EXCHANGE

The Police Department maintains a safe exchange location under 24-hour video surveillance in front of Police Headquarters where residents and guests to the Township can have a more secure environment to complete their online sales.



The Police Department appreciates the public's help in solving crimes. You can provide any information you have regarding any crime or suspicious activity by calling the department at 973-347-4008 or by emailing crimetips@byrampd.org. This email address is not to be used for reporting crimes. There is also a reporting link on our webpage at <https://www.byrampd.org/>. If you wish to remain anonymous you are not required to give your name or any other identifying information if you do not want to. To report a crime please call the Byram Township Police Department's dispatcher at (973) 347-4008.