

# **RYE BROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

# **2019**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**



**Gregory J. Austin**  
**Chief of Police**

**J. Arnold**  
**Lieutenant**

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## Rye Brook Police Department, 2019

This annual report for 2019 contains statistics and information about the performance of the Rye Brook Police Department to keep the public informed about public safety in Rye Brook, New York. It is not possible to measure and quantify everything performed by a police department, overall, crime is low and Rye Brook remains a safe place to live and raise a family.

The Rye Brook Police Department is in its final year of a five year New York State Accreditation period and this year we will participate our first New York State DCJS accreditation re-assessment. Maintaining New York State Accreditation demonstrates to the public each police officer's commitment toward professionalism.

I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the men and women of the department for their extraordinary work effort and commitment to serving the citizens of our community. Their dedication is evident by our continued strides in building stronger partnerships with our citizens, business owners, community leaders, and visitors. Exceptional service to the community continues to remain our focus.

Thank you to all that support the Rye Brook Police Department as we will continue to provide excellent and professional public service. I am proud to be the Police Chief of this Department and I look forward to an exciting and productive 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief Gregory J. Austin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

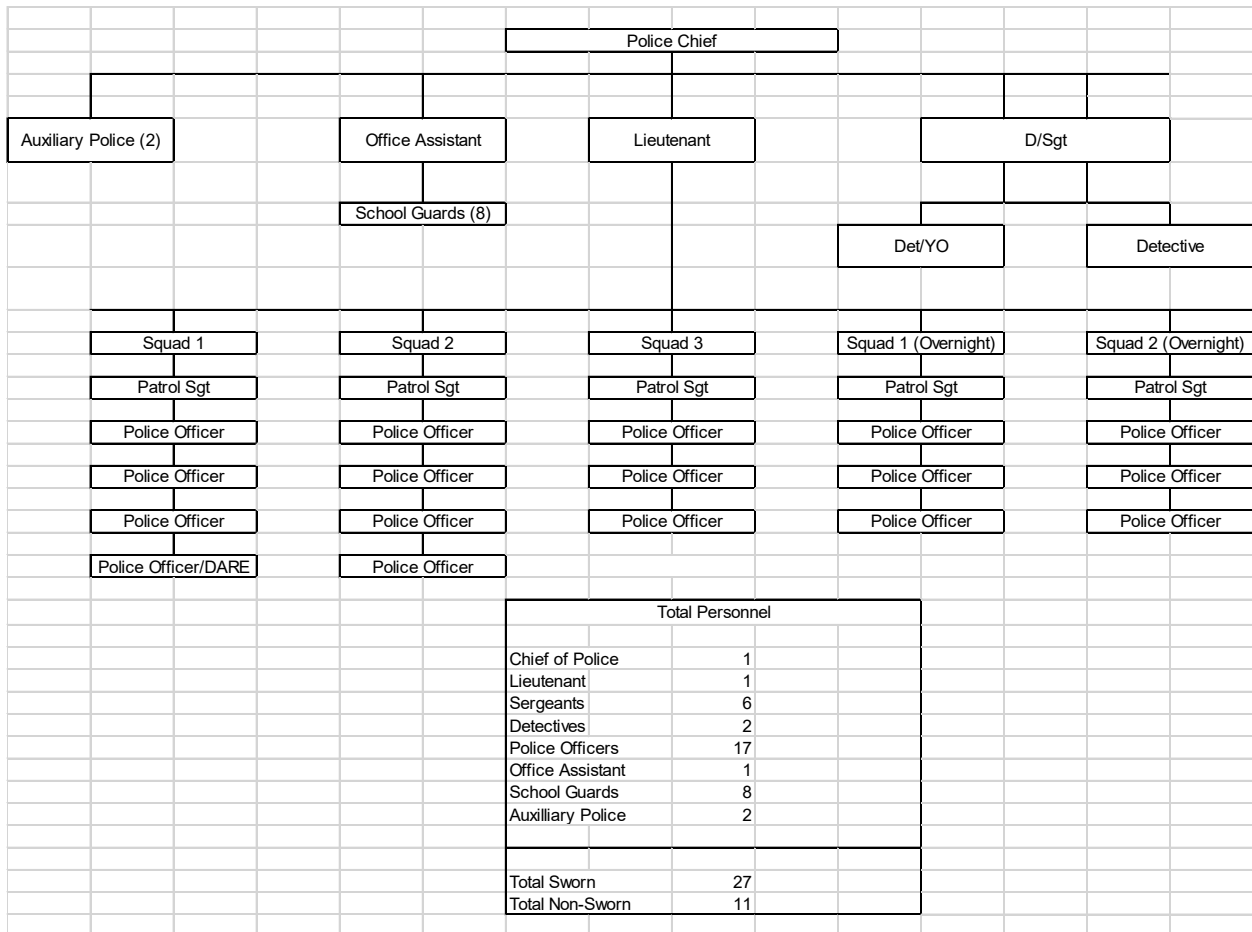
Gregory J. Austin  
Chief of Police

## Mission Statement

The Mission of the Village of Rye Brook Police Department including the duties and responsibilities of all of its members is as follows:

1. To protect life and property;
2. To prevent crime;
3. To detect and arrest offenders;
4. To preserve the public peace; and
5. To enforce all laws and ordinances.

## Organizational Chart



## Statistical Information

Uniformed Crime Report Part I Offenses			
	2018	2019	Difference
Murder	0	0	No change
Rape	0	0	No change
Robbery	0	0	No change
Aggravated Assault	0	0	No change
Burglary	7	6	-1
Larceny	34	58	+24
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	5	No change
Uniformed Crime Report Part II Offenses			
	2018	2019	Difference
Controlled Substance Possession	1	4	+3
Dangerous Weapon Possession	0	1	+1
Sex Offense	1	1	No change
Forgery	3	1	-2
Criminal Mischief	18	13	-5
Fraud	31	55	+24
Simple Assault	3	2	-1
Offenses Against Family	0	1	+1
DWI	8	7	-1
Loitering	0	2	+2
All Other Offenses	9	11	+2
Calls for Service			
Total Calls for Service	5,743	5,870	+127
Motor Vehicle Accidents	259	262	+3
Traffic Tickets	850	713	-137
Parking Tickets	794	782	+8

Calls for Service continued			
	2018	2019	Difference
Quality of Life Violations	19	15	-4
Custodial Arrests	52	71	+19
Registered Sex Offenders	2	3	+1
Citizen Complaints against officers and/or Dept	1	2	+1
Domestic Incidents	43	68	+25
Alarms (Burglar/Fire)	794	814	+20
Medical Aided	836	826	-10
Impounded Vehicles	34	49	+15
Use of force by officers	0	4	+4

### Additional Coverage

In 2019, the police department provided extra patrol for events sponsored by the village or during times of the year, where additional patrol would be necessary. Below is a listing of events which required extra patrol in 2018.

Date	Event	Number of Officers
April 13	Little League Parade	3 Officers
June 17	Rye Brook Birthday Celebration	2 Officers, 1 Aux
July 4	Independence Day Fireworks	4 Officers, 1 Supervisor
October 13	Columbus Day Parade	3 Officers, 1 Aux
October 30	Mischief Night	3 Officers, 2 Aux
October 31	Halloween	3 Officers, 2 Aux
December 6	Winterfest	2 Officers

### Contract Duty

Members of the public or organizations can contract directly with the Village to hire police officers for valid public safety reasons for security or traffic control above normal patrol. In 2019, nineteen groups hired officers for fifty-seven different events. Rye Brook Police Officers provided security or traffic control within Rye Brook to these groups in 2019.

- Altice
- Blind Brook School District
- Atlas Air

- Atria
- BelleFair Homeowners Association
- Cav Com
- Clarabelle Company
- Consolidated Edison
- Convent of the Sacred Heart
- Doral Arrowwood
- Hilton Westchester
- Osorio Tree Service
- PL Enerserv
- Port Chester School District
- St. Vincent's Hospital
- Starbound National Talent Competition
- Westchester Triathlon Committee

## **Training**

### **In-Service Training**

Each year the department provides in-service training to the members of the department. Additionally, each supervisor attends eight hours of training specific to their position as first line supervisors.

In-service training in 2019 included the following:

- CPR / Automated External Defibrillator (4 hours)
- Legal Updates (3 hours)
- Firearms training qualification (16 hours)
- Workplace Violence / Right to Know (3.5 hours)
- Sexual Harassment / Blood Borne Pathogens (4 hours)
- Defensive Tactics / Expandable Baton / OC Spray (5 hours)
- Taser / Use of Force (6 hours)
- Defensive Driving (6 hours)

### **Professional Development**

Each police officer has the opportunity to participate in workshops, seminars, and continuing education to enhance their professional development. Below is a list of the professional development that officers took advantage of in 2019.

- DWI and Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher Course
- Social Media Training
- Threat Assessment Team Workshop
- Conducting complete Traffic Stops
- Interview and Interrogation Training
- Police Interactive Training Conference
- Child Abduction Response and Investigation
- New York State Law Updates
- Death Investigations, Dr. Henry C. Lee
- Field Intelligence Officers Summit
- Safe Street Encounters
- Mexican Drug Cartel Investigations
- Pedestrian Safety
- Party Prevention and Controlled Party Dispersal Training
- Basic School Threat Assessment and Response
- Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks
- Heavy Equipment Theft Summit and Training
- ALERRT
- Lethality Assessment Programs

### **Recertification of Training**

Recertification of our Car Seat Installation Technicians, Datamaster Operators and Taser Instructors all occurred during 2019.

### **Retirements**

In 2018, three officers retired from the Rye Brook Police Department. P.O. Craig Nolte, a 22 year veteran of the department retired in May, Lt Eugene Matthews, who served for 38 years retired in July and in December, Detective Ryan Gilchrist who served for 20 years. In September, 2018 P.O. Michael Della Vecchia and Christian Delarosa joined the Department. Della Vecchia came to Rye Brook from Larchmont Police Department and Delarosa previously worked for the Eastchester Police Department. Most recently, P.O. Abel Tavares joined the Department in August 2019. P.O. Tavares came to the Department from the SUNY University Police at Stonybrook.

We are excited to have these officers among our ranks.





P.O. Michael Della Vecchia



P.O. Christian Delarosa



P.O. Abel Taveras

## Promotions

2019 the Department saw the opportunity to promote 3 officers. J. Arnold was promoted to Lieutenant and Christopher Ruhe was promoted to Sergeant, both in February. Marc

Rampolla was promoted to Detective in March. All have proven to have a positive impact on the Department in their new positions.



(l-r) Chief Greg Austin, Det Marc Rampolla, Sgt Chris Ruhe and Lt. J. Arnold

### **Professional Association Memberships**

Many officers serve in leadership positions in state and local professional associations. Chief Austin is a member of the Board of Governors of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and sits on the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council.

D/Sgt Terence Wilson is the President of the Westchester County Detectives Association and Det Eric Dengler is a member of the Board of Governors of the New York State Juvenile Officers Association and President of the Westchester County Youth Officers Association.

Chief Austin and Det Dengler are also members of the Blind Brook Community Coalition.

### **DARE**

The promotion of Chris Ruhe to sergeant created a need to appoint an officer to be a DARE instructor. P.O. Daniel Bruno was selected to the Department's elementary school DARE instructor and he was certified in November. P.O. Bruno is currently teaching DARE to the BMP/Ridge Street School 5th graders.



P.O. Daniel Bruno teaching DARE

## Goals and Objectives

In order to ensure continual direction and unity of purpose the Department sets annual written goals and objectives. Contribution to the management and operation of the department by all members is encouraged and input from the officers in the development of the Department goals and objectives are always welcome. Each year during the January staff meeting, the Department Administration meets with the first line supervisors to set the Department goals and objectives for the upcoming year and to evaluate the Goals and Objectives from the previous year. Below you will find the goals and objectives set for 2019 and their results along with the goals and objectives that the Department will work toward in 2020.

### 2019 Goals

#### 1. Develop community outreach products.

In order to connect with the community, the following programs will be continued or will be developed.

- a. Make available for the public Civilian Response to the Active Shooter (CRASE). One officer is trained to give this presentation and he will do so at businesses and schools in the village. Also, this presentation will be given to the general public and to village employees.

**P.O. Kieran Mutchler presented the CRASE workshop in 2019 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church day care, 800 Westchester Ave offices, Kingsbrook Office**

**Park, Blind Brook School District teachers and staff, Rye Brook Village Hall staff and also made a presentation to the general public.**

- b. Continue Coffee with a Cop.

**The Department sponsored a Coffee with a Cop get together with the public on October 2, 2019.**

- c. The Department will sign on with Ring and promote the Ring Neighbor's App to promote crime prevention and to leverage the growing number of home surveillance cameras in use in the village.

**The Department signed an agreement with Ring in May and within the first week we were able to solve a spree of car break-ins that were caught on various home surveillance cameras.**

- d. The Department will continue to sponsor community child safety seat inspections and installations in addition to making officers available to inspect and install car seats by appointment.

**Officers of the Department installed and inspected 89 child passenger safety seats in 2019.**

**2. Update the Department active shooter policy to reflect current best practices**

We are continuing to work on this goal. Officers continue to be sent for ALERRT training and additional in-service training time has been made available to make it possible to train the officers when the new policy is completed.

**3. Hold a Department recall drill using the Department mass calling system. If successful, make use of the mass calling system for overtime call out so officer will be familiar with its use if a message is ever needed to be sent out and the Chief and/or Lieutenant are not available to do so.**

The Village of Rye Brook changed to the Code Red mass calling/emergency communication system from GovDelivery. The system is still being set up and once set up and training is completed, the recall drill will be done.

## **2020 Goals**

1. Form a committee to be chaired by the Lieutenant and comprised of police officers to research any viable alternatives/improvements to the Department radio system.
2. Update the Department active shooter policy to reflect current best practices, set up Code Red so it will be available to communicate with the community if needed.
3. Hold "Coffee with a Cop" community outreaches in 2020.  
<http://coffeewithacop.com/>
4. Gather items that reflect Department history from retired officers in order to create a display in Headquarters.



## Headquarters Improvements

The exterior door Headquarter was replaced and this door had a larger window than the previous door. A decal was printed up for the window to screen from the parking lot the occupants in the lobby and to also better identify the entrance to Police Headquarters.



## Westchester County Real Time Crime Center

In August 2019, the Westchester County Police Department created the Real Time Crime Center. The mission of the Real Time Crime Center is to enhance proactive policing by bringing together officers of multiple departments to work together in a central location to share data.

A Rye Brook Detective is assigned to the Real Time Crime Center one day per week to work on cases that are occurring in Rye Brook and neighboring jurisdictions. The Police Department benefits from this as detectives have access to software and databases to aid in our investigations.

## Equipment Acquisitions

### Police Vehicles

In 2019, the Department purchased two marked police vehicles. We always look to improve the vehicle markings so the vehicles are easily identifiable as Rye Brook Police cars. To accomplish this, we updated the design to have Rye Brook be more prominently displayed and we also created a custom theme highlighting the “Thin Blue Line” symbolizing police as the position in society which holds back chaos, allowing order and civilization to thrive.



## Noteworthy Incidents

- On April 29, 2019, the Rye Brook police department received a tip over the Ring Neighbors App of a male going through cars while parked unlocked in driveways.

Rye Brook Police Detectives opened an investigation and utilized the Ring Neighbors App to request additional information and videos that other home surveillance cameras may have captured.

From the Ring Neighbors App, a video of the car the suspect was driving was distributed to neighboring police departments and officers from Yonkers Police Department recognized the car as belonging to a person who lives in Yonkers. Based on this information, Rye Brook detectives located the suspect who confessed to breaking into cars in Rye Brook and other communities. The suspect was arrested for larceny.

- On September 24, 2019, a resident of Bowman Ave reported that when she arrived home she interrupted a burglary of her home. Rye Brook police responded to the scene and witness reported that they observed a male running from the home and get into a vehicle on Westchester Avenue and flee from the area. Witness at the scene reported to responding officers that they observed two males enter the home through a window.

Officers at the scene relayed information to headquarters who disseminated the description to neighboring police departments. Based on this information, New Castle Police reported also experiencing daytime burglaries the day before and provided a license plate of a vehicle that match the description of the vehicle from the Rye Brook incident.

The license plate was checked through the Westchester County Police Real Time Crime Center stationary license plate reader network and the vehicle hit on a license plate reader on the Hutchinson River Parkway.

A Westchester County Police officer patrolling the Hutchinson River Parkway located the wanted vehicle and stopped the car.

Inside the car, proceeds from the Rye Brook burglary was located and three suspects were arrested for burglary. Additionally, the suspects were tied to burglaries in New Castle, New Rochelle and Scarsdale.

The investigation is continuing.

- On October 26, 2019, officers were called to Doral Arrowwood on a reported domestic incident.

Upon arrival responding officers were directed to a hotel room and where the officers could hear a female call for help from inside the room. Hotel security opened the door to the room but the security latch was engaged, officers observed blood on the wall. Attempts to enter room were hampered by the security latch until the victim was able to take the latch off.

Officers were made aware that in addition to the suspect and victim there was also a child in the room and the suspect was in possession of a gun. Officers immediately forced their way into the room due to the urgency of the situation and were able to immobilize the suspect with a Taser and place him into custody.

Locate in the room was a loaded firearm and the suspect was arrested for criminal possession of a weapon, assault and criminal mischief



Coffee with a Cop – Starbucks Rye Ridge Shopping Center – October 2, 2019



