Auburn Police Department 2019 Annual Report

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Our vision is to be a model of community policing that creates positive relationships with the citizens of Auburn and constantly evolves and adapts to changing community needs.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in the City of Auburn by working cooperatively with the citizenry to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, and provide for a safe environment.

Our core values include: Respect, Excellence, Compassion, Integrity, Teamwork and Accountability.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEFS



Shawn I. Butler Chief of Police



Roger J. Anthony Deputy Chief of Police



On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Auburn Police Department, Deputy Chief Roger Anthony and I are proud to present to you our 2019 Annual Report. We always look forward to providing our community with an inside look at our past accomplishments and future goals and objectives. As we are progressing through our fourth year as your Chiefs of Police, we believe a culture shift is well under way within the Auburn Police Department. Our goal from the beginning has been to lead this agency with transparency and inclusion, understanding that both the community and our employees must be part of any initiative to ensure their mutual satisfaction as well as to successfully maintain safety and order within our community.

The philosophy, vision, and expectations for the Auburn Police Department are something that we all contribute to and build as a cohesive team in order to enhance our reputation as a professional law enforcement agency. We shall all strive to encourage each other in order to achieve and maintain the highest standards of ethics, integrity, community interaction and professional conduct. To be a progressive, active and effective police force we must serve with professionalism and exhibit our diversity, tolerance, and sustained high standards in policing every day. We must develop strategies, combine resources, utilize partnerships, and execute programs designed to improve the profession of law enforcement. Lastly, we must police with purpose, and that purpose is to foster positive and healthy relationships with the community as well as ensuring that our employees also maintain wellness throughout their career.

Policing involves a special trust given to us by the public to uphold and enforce the law. As servants of the public, policing entails and requires us to have thousands of interactions with the public and the community we serve. Often times these contacts are during times of crisis and distress and can unfold rapidly and in unforeseen directions.

The Auburn police officers shall foster cooperation and the exchange of information and experience among the organization and throughout the City of Auburn by promoting the following values:

Respect: The Auburn Police Department views the law and the community as the source of its authority and will faithfully, and without bias or prejudice, honor this commitment.

Excellence: The Auburn Police Department strives for distinct and superior service between our membership and the partnership we share with the community we serve.

Compassion: The Auburn Police Department strives to show respect for and be sensitive to all citizens and their problems.

Integrity: The Auburn Police Department believes in honesty, consistency and transparency in every interaction with the public that we serve.

Teamwork: The Auburn Police Department believes that each citizen must become involved in efforts to solve their own problems. We must work as a team in order to accomplish mutual goals for our community.

Accountability: Members of the Auburn Police Department are held to the highest standards of accountability to ourselves, our fellow officers, our administration, and those that we serve.

These are the values that a police department should have and these are the values the Auburn Police Department shall maintain by accountability through leadership on the part of every police officer. We are pleased and thankful to every member of the department as well as the collaborative efforts and partnerships we have made with our community members. We look forward to our collective journey to make the Auburn Police Department one of the best police departments in the State of New York.

Respectfully presented,

Shawn I. Butler – *Chief of Police* Roger J. Anthony – *Deputy Chief of Police*

FAST FACTS 2019

Budgeted Sworn Staff 67

<u>Filled Sworn Staff</u> 57

<u>Active Sworn Staff</u> 52

> <u>Civilian Staff</u> 6 Full-Time 15 Part-Time

2019 Budget \$9,356,963

<u>Personnel Budget</u> \$8,178,446 (87%)

Non-personnel Budget \$1,178,517 (13%)

> Calls for Service 35,137



OFFICER RECOGNITION

The Auburn Elks Lodge No. 474 celebrated its inaugural Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner, at the Springside Inn, on 9/13/2019, by recognizing the achievements of four area officers from the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Auburn Police Department. The Auburn Elks have created this event to honor local law enforcement, and plan to continue this annually.



Officer Merkley (left) and Sgt. Hare at one of our Drug Take-Back events.



Officer Merkley in front of thin blue line flag, hand-made by Dennis and Jess Kelly of Lift-Auburn

Among the honored officers was Auburn Police Officer Michael Merkley.

Officer Merkley, who has been with the department since 2016, was nominated by his commanding officers, in part because of his "professionalism, involvement with the community, and selflessness". There are many examples, but one particular incident stands out where Officer Merkley was responding to a domestic violence case when he put himself in front of a knife-wielding attacker in order to protect the victim.

DEPARTMENTAL CHALLENGES

The Auburn Police Department has seen a significant reduction in personnel over the last two years as a result of retirements. Consequently, our patrol staffing levels have been operating at a minimum level. We have been challenged to come up with



new ways to attract and retain employees. This year, we attended and hosted several recruiting seminars, posted numerous highway billboards, and advertised extensively through our social media and channel outlets.

In 2019, nine members retired, but we were able to hire three more throughout the year. It takes approximately eighteen months from when a patrol officer is hired to when they are a fully functioning independent officer. Fortunately, two of these hires were lateral transfers, and the



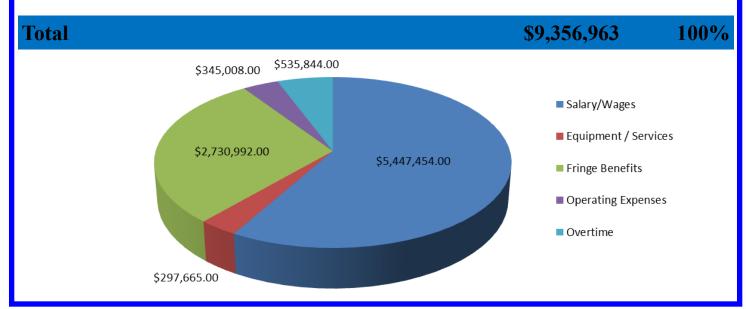
Lt. Deyo (left) and Lt. Slayton at a recruitment event

transition period to be on their own can be as little as sixteen weeks.

Despite our staffing challenges, we remain committed to providing a high level of service to all individuals and businesses, as well as continuing to proactively patrol our streets, and positively interact with members of our community.

2019 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Budget Category		Budget A	Budget Amount	
Salaries &	z Wages		\$5,447,454	58%
Employee	Benefits		\$2,730,992	29%
	Retirement - Police	\$1,184,625		
	Health Insurance	\$902,392		
	Social Security & Medicare	\$394,392		
	Retirement - General	\$84,675		
	Dental Insurance	\$60,197		
	Sick Incentive	\$45,000		
	Uniform Allowance	\$35,000		
	207C	\$12,000		
	Vision Coverage - Police	\$9,750		
	Vision Coverage - CSEA	\$1,839		
	Workers Comp - CSEA	\$1,122		
Overtime			\$535,844	6%
	Contractual	\$150,000		
	Reimbursed	\$155,844		
	Operational	\$230,000		
Operating Expenses			\$345,008	4%
Equipmen	t / Services		\$297,665	3%



GRANTS

US Marshal Regional Fugitive Task Force

The Auburn Police Department has enjoyed a multi-year partnership with the United States Marshal Service whereby the primary mission is to investigate and arrest, as part of joint law enforcement operations, persons who have active state and federal warrants for their arrest. The intent of the joint effort is to investigate and apprehend local, state and federal fugitives, thereby improving public safety and reducing violent crime.



Each participating agency agrees to refer cases for investigation by the RFTF (Regional Fugitive Task Force). Cases will be adopted by the RFTF at the discretion of the RFTF Chief Inspector. Targeted crimes primarily include violent crimes against persons, weapons offenses, felony drug offenses, failure to register as a sex offender, and crimes committed by subjects who have a criminal history involving violent crimes, felony drug offenses, and/or weapons offenses. Historically the United States Marshal Service has granted the Auburn Police Department about \$20,000 annually to offset overtime hours of officers assigned to the RFTF.

APD / Cayuga Counseling Services –2019 US DOJ / OJP Victim Specialist



The Auburn Police Department, in collaboration with Cayuga Counseling Services, Inc., was awarded a 3 year, \$275,125 grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs. The Crime Victims Fund, administered by the Office for Victims of Crime, is the funding entity for this grant.

The program model capitalizes on our community-based partnerships and the engagement of professionals from cross-disciplines to implement a comprehensive approach to responding to and providing support for those who have been victimized. This joint approach brings to the forefront the collaborative aspect and expertise of the duties of these distinct disciplines while assisting in meeting the needs of our community. By working together and leveraging resources, we can provide the most effective intervention to victims of crime.

The funding will be utilized to hire a Law Enforcement-Based Victim Specialist who will be co-located at the Police Department and we are hopeful to begin this program in February 2020.

GRANTS CONTINUED

Auburn Police / CSCAA –2018 US DOJ / OVW Improving Criminal Justice

Responses Program

Much like the NYS DVHRT grant that expired in 2019, this 3 year grant began in October 2018 and will continue through September of 2021. The City of Auburn and our collaborative partners that include the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency and the Cayuga County



Sheriff's Office were awarded a \$397,000 grant in order to continue our established collaborative partnership between state, local governments, courts, victim service providers, coalitions and rape crisis centers to ensure that sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking are treated as serious violations of criminal law and will enable an already established multi-disciplinary team concept to strengthen with this increased funding of overtime wages for our Agency.

<u>CSCAA / Auburn Police – Domestic Violence High Risk Team Grant through</u> <u>the New York State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence</u>

This grant was awarded from 2017-2019 through the Risk Reduction Enhanced Response Program, which helps agencies collaborate with law enforcement to identify high-risk cases of domestic abuse. In collaboration with the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency, as well as the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, Cayuga County District Attorney's Office, the partnership was awarded \$200,000 to conduct home visits for pre-screened high-risk DIRs and other cases identified



as being high risk; annual training of local law enforcement on a range of topics including domestic violence investigation and response; and cross-training of law enforcement personnel on all services currently available to victims of domestic violence in the community. This grant funding source concluded in September 2019.

<u>NYS Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for APD Building</u> <u>**Renovations, Repairs and Security Enhancements Grant-Assemblyman Finch**</u>

On May 20th, 2019, the City of Auburn was notified we were the recipients of a State and Municipal Facilities Program Grant from the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) in the sum of \$60,000. These monies will be used to replace and fortify an original alley door as well as to install a key card access system to the door. Also as part of this grant funding, expenditures made to rehabilitate the APD Fitness Center will be reimbursed to our equitable sharing account, as well as add cameras to our headquarters video surveillance system to ensure building security.



Position	# of Positions	Position	# of Positions
Sworn Personnel:		Non-Sworn Personnel:	
Chief	1	Assistant - Chief's Office	1
Deputy Chief	1	Senior Clerk	2
Captain	2	(1) Detective Bureau	
-		(1) Records	
Lieutenant	3	Keyboard Specialist	1
Sergeant	9	Laborer	1
Detective	4	Parking Enforcement	3
Patrol Officer	37	(1) Full-Time	
		(2) Part-Time	
Subtotal	57	Subtotal	8
		Grand Total	65

COMMAND STAFF



Mark Schattinger Captain



James Moore Captain



Kyle Platt Lieutenant



James Slayton Lieutenant



Steven Deyo Lieutenant



Gregory Dann Sergeant



Joseph DiVietro Sergeant

ant



Timothy Spingler Sergeant



Christine Gilfus Sergeant



Matthew Androsko Sergeant



Matthew Hare Sergeant



Gregory Gilfus Sergeant



David Walters Sergeant



David Edmonds Sergeant

NEW HIRES

Kieran Herman, Police Officer Sarah Howard, Lateral Police Officer Madison Schattinger, Police Officer Katelyn Davis, Lateral Police Officer

07/05/2018 04/30/2019 05/15/2019 11/06/2019

ASSIGNMENTS

Sean DeRosa, Detective Scott Devo, Detective

09/23/2019 12/02/2019

PROMOTIONS

Steven Deyo, Lieutenant Matthew Hare, Sergeant Gregory Gilfus, Sergeant David Walters, Sergeant David Edmonds, Sergeant

04/22/2019 01/24/2019 02/19/2019 04/22/2019 11/03/2019

RETIREMENTS

Brandy Quigley, Police Officer (22 years) Scott Spin, Police Officer (23 years) Andrew Hitt, Police Officer (22 years) Bryant Bergenstock, Detective (20 years) Paul Casper, Captain (31 years) Jared Georgi, Police Officer (20 years) Christopher Coopper, Detective (24 years) Angelo Spinelli, Police Officer (36 years) Donald Gosline, Sergeant (30 years) 09/29/2019

01/01/2019 01/11/2019 01/11/2019 01/24/2019 04/26/2019 08/29/2019 09/27/2019 09/28/2019

FIRST DAY PHOTOS



Officer Sarah Howard

Officer Howard was a lateral transfer, who started with our department in April 2019. She graduated from SUNY Brockport with a dual Bachelors degree in Criminal Justice and Psychology, with a minor in Forensic Science. Office Howard graduated from Mohawk Valley Police Academy in November 2015. She previously worked at NYS University Police at Upstate, from June 2015 until April 2019.

Officer Katelyn Davis

Officer Davis was a lateral transfer, who started with our department in November. She is from Cortland and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Communications from SUNY Geneseo in 2019, where she was a member of the Varsity Equestrian Team and played water polo. Officer Davis graduated from Southern Tier Law Enforcement Academy in April 2018. She worked part-time for the Village of Watkins Glen since April 2018 and worked as a Campus Police Officer at Tompkins Cortland Community College. Her grandfather was the Chief of Police in Ardsley, NY, but he passed away when her mother was in her twenties, and she never got to meet him. Officer Davis hopes to become a detective and eventually get her Master's degree in Forensic Psychology, as "I find criminal behavior and psychology fascinating." In the future, she would like to find a way to combine law enforcement and her love of horses by establishing a therapeutic, community-based organization that will help troubled teenagers through early intervention and also focus on providing therapy for our veterans.





Officer Madison Schattinger

Officer Schattinger was a new hire, who started with our department in May. She graduated from the Syracuse Police Academy in December 2019. She is also a graduate from Cayuga Community College, with an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts Humanities and Social Sciences. Becoming a police officer is something Madison has dreamed of since she was a young girl. She has always wanted to be involved in helping people and serving her hometown community. Officer Schattinger is the daughter of our patrol captain, Mark Schattinger.

LAST DAY PHOTOS



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BY THE NUMBERS: 2019 Crime Stats

In 2019 the City of Auburn Police Department does report a slight uptick in reported crimes investigated by our agency like assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle accidents investigated. With these statistics we also saw a decrease in the number of domestic violence cases reported. The Auburn Police Department also investigated its first homicide in the City since 2012, resulting in the quick arrest of 3 defendants accused of this heinous crime. We remain committed to making the City of Auburn a safe place to live and raise a family and are actively involved in taking proactive measures to stabilize our manpower deficiencies in order to ensure the level of service our community expects from our police agency.

Top Ten Call Types	Number of
2019	CFS in 2019
Traffic Stop	3,089
Property Checks	2,684
Suspicious Activity	1,419
Motor Veh Accidents	1,246
Domestic Violence	1,242
Dis/Con, Fights, Noise	1,109
Parking Complaints	998
Larceny	679
Harassment	609
Warrants Executed	560



		States Provide and
Call Type	2019	2018
Assaults	65	59
Burglaries	133	117
Domestics	1,242	1,308
Drug Investigations	305	219
Larcenies	679	589
Mental Health	339	309
Notor Vehicle Accidents	1,246	1,149
Overdoses	136	120
Sex Offenses	89	72
Homicides	1	0
Total Calls for Service	35,137	38,991

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TRAINING DIVISION

Throughout the year, officers participated in a variety of training, including: Reality-Based Training, Active Shooter, Narcan Nasal Spray, Firearms, Range Qualification, Taser, K9, ERT, and Mental Health (CIT) Training. Reality-Based Training was incorporated into our Use of Force annual training, which gave each officer six different hands-on scenarios to perform under the guidance of certified instructors. 18 sworn/civilian personnel were also certified in CPR by the Auburn Fire Department. Total training for all members of the department was 8,833 hours.

All police personnel shadowed members of the 911 center to better understand the dispatcher's role and perspective, as well as to allow an opportunity for discussions regarding any issues, concerns, or mutual benefits between both agencies. In the end, department members left with a deeper understanding of the day to day operations of the 911 staff, as well as the challenges they face, and how our agencies can better serve each other to create more efficiencies. In December, members of Auburn Police, as well as the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, New York State Police, and members from 911 met as a follow-up to keep the conversation going and further discuss any unresolved issues.



Auburn Police Officers attending a CPR Certification course, instructed by the Auburn Fire Department

SENIOR PATROL OFFICER

Our first honored recipient of the Senior Patrol Officer designation was Officer Angelo Spinelli. He was bestowed with a gold badge inscribed with the #1, as well as other gold insignia worn on his uniform. The gold or "brass" is usually reserved for and worn by detectives, supervisors, command officers and sworn administrative staff, however, being the most senior patrol officer, though does not give you supervisory rank, you are regarded as one who has earned the title beyond just your years of service. You are responsible for teaching the younger and less experienced staff the traditions of the police agency, the nuances, and the pathway to a long and successful career. You are a shoulder of reassurance, a voice of reason, and an ear to vent frustrations.

Sr. Patrol Officer Angelo Spinelli had the honor of passing on and pinning his #1 gold badge onto the newest Sr. Patrol Officer, John Breeze. Sr. Patrol Officer John Breeze began his career with the Auburn Police Department in January of 2000. Officer Breeze is also the grandson of retired Assistant Chief Carmen Bertonica. Congratulations Sr. Patrol Officer Breeze!



DETECTIVE / ID BUREAU

For the first time in several years, there was significant turnover in the Detective Bureau. Our two most senior detectives, Christopher Coopper and Bryant Bergenstock, retired after serving 24 and 20 years, respectively. They both moved on to the Cayuga County Child Advocacy Center as Forensic Interviewers. In January of 2019, Officer David Edmonds was assigned to Detective, but soon after was promoted to Sergeant, in November. Additionally, Officer Shawn DeRosa was assigned to Detective, after serving the last four years as a School Resource Officer. Detective Scott Deyo, who has been with the department as a patrol officer for the last 6 years, is our newest detective.

In 2019, detectives continued to handle the most complex of cases, including burglaries, robberies, sexual assaults, frauds, and death investigations, including overdoses. Detectives investigated 289 cases, closing 249, which resulted in 33 arrests and 14 warrant applications. Notable investigations included our first homicide in over six years, resulting in the arrest of three defendants, as well as a bank robbery, which resulted in the arrest of one defendant.

Within the Detective Bureau is the Identification Bureau, which is responsible for crime scene processing, and handling of all departmental evidence and property. Some other duties of the bureau include issuing taxi licenses and public ID cards, managing the over 136 sex offenders within our city limits, and maintaining all departmental social media and website accounts.



From left to right: IDO Laraway, Det. Blanchfield, Det. Deyo, Captain Moore, Det. DeRosa, Det. Kalet

TRAFFIC DIVISION

As part of our five year vehicle replacement plan, the Traffic Division purchased six new vehicles, which included four SUV vehicles and two sedans. The replacement plan's goal is to minimize maintenance costs and to turn over vehicles with less mileage and wear and tear to other departments within the City.

The Auburn Police Department received \$21,996 through the Police Traffic Services Grant, funded



Ret. Officer Locastro

by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee. Of this amount, \$19,604 was utilized for aggressive driving details, with the remaining \$2,392 was used for Buckle-Up initiatives. Our agency conducted 47 traffic details during this grant year (November - October). Due to our grant activities, our enforcement patrols were highly visible in our problem areas and we were able to take part in initiatives such as Operation Safe Stop. Through our enforcement efforts, we saw a reduction in our overall number of total crashes. Our total number of crashes went down by 167 crashes, or approximately 13.5%. 727 tickets were issued during this initiative.

As part of our bullet-proof vest partnership, we purchased 45 new vests and were granted a significant portion of the cost of replacement of these upgraded bullet-proof vests. These vest are purchased for current officers, and not for new officers. Of the total \$41,255 invested in



Graduation ceremony for new police officers, Kieran Hermann and Madison Schattinger.

the vests, \$20,286 will be reimbursed to the City.

For the second year in a row, we received \$33,000 for the STOP DWI Program, which stands for Special Traffic Options Program for Driving While Intoxicated. The funds were used to conduct three checkpoints, as well as to purchase (14) traffic barricades for patrol vehicles, and (2) digital speed signs.

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The primary responsibility of our parking enforcement officers is to enforce parking ordinances, such as alternate-side parking, overtime violations, and to issue tickets to offenders. Our department has one full-time Parking Meter Attendant, and two part-time Parking Enforcement Officers.

When personnel aren't issuing tickets, they are conducting maintenance on all kiosks and parking meters, and are dispatched to parking-related complaints, via the 911 center, to help alleviate the number of calls the Patrol Division needs to respond to.



	Parking Tickets	Traffic Fines Collected
January	876	\$8,004
February	1,215	\$9,442
March	1,382	\$9,463
April	1,159	\$4,697
May	928	\$5,508
June	521	\$6,605
July	321	\$6,989
August	922	\$9,044
September	713	\$11,237
October	712	\$10,358
November	723	\$6,610
December	830	\$6,998
2019 Totals	10,302	\$94,955

Devin Uebelman Full-time



Tyrone Jackson Part-time



Rebecca Brown Part-time

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SRO PROGRAM

During the 2018-2019 school year, the School Resource Officer Program responded to 1,116 calls, in and around school buildings, which required police intervention. A total of 20 arrests were made, including 8 adults and 12 juveniles.

The program is working on a variety of initiatives, with safety in mind. A new threat assessment policy and procedure has been developed, which includes a new threat assessment model and threat assessment team at each school. Security monitors, who help check doors and handle unruly students, were trained on safety procedures, and matching attire was provided to them so they are uniform in appearance and identifiable to students. The Raptor Visitor Management System, has been established at the Auburn High School, Auburn Junior High School and Casey Park. By the beginning of the next school year, it should be installed in the remaining elementary schools (Herman, Seward, Genesee and Owasco).

The system has been put in place to ensure the safety of all students and faculty. Each person who visits the schools will need to present a form of government-issued identification, which will be compared to a multitude of databases, including sex offender databases. Approved persons will then receive a visitor badge with their name, picture, and reason for being there. Persons who cannot present valid ID, or are considered unapproved to be on the property, will be asked to leave.

Other updates to the Auburn Enlarged City School District include additional surveillance cameras to the camera system, with funds provided by the NYS Education Department, and adding vape sensors in all student bathrooms at Auburn High School and Auburn Junior High School. Additionally, SROs will be working with First Student again on "Operation Safe Stop".



From left to right: SRO Officers William Morrissey, Vince Carnicelli, Chris Major and Morgan Flickner

COFFEE WITH A COP

The Auburn Police Department held their 4th annual "Coffee with a Cop" event at Historic Grounds Coffee in May and at McDonalds in October. Police representatives, as well as some of Auburn's elected officials, conversed with Auburn citizens, getting to know each other and addressing any questions and concerns they had. This open dialogue allows citizens to openly speak to officers in a neutral



setting, while also enhancing the relationship between our citizens and police/city officials.

COPS ON TOP



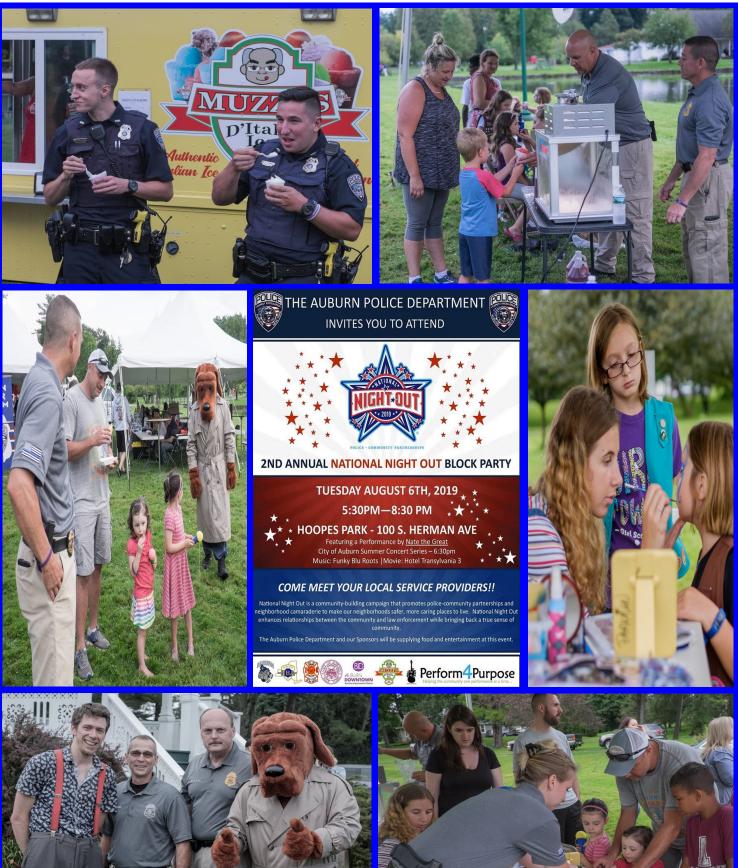
In partnership with Dunkin Donuts and Special Olympics New York, the Auburn Police Department participated in the annual "Cops on Top" fundraising event. The money raised via "Cops on Top" will help pay for Special Olympics New York athletes' training and competitions. Those who made a donation were offered a Dunkin' Donuts coupon for a free doughnut as a thank-you for their

donation. Police personnel participated by collecting the donations and handing out the vouchers for a free doughnut.

CHLOE CALHOUN CHARITY SOFTBALL GAME

Auburn Police participated in the Annual Chloe Calhoun Charity Softball Game. Unfortunately, we lost to the Auburn Fire Department, but had a great time for a great cause! The game was the 2nd annual event in memory of 18 year old Chloe Calhoun, who fell victim to a drunk driver. Calhoun was a recent Auburn High School graduate and softball player, who won several awards for it.





NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Auburn Police hosted it's annual National Night Out block party at Hoopes Park this year, which included free food and entertainment for our community. The event was supplemented with performances from Nate the Great and music provided by Perform 4 Purpose. This again served as another platform for individuals to meet and greet our officers and other local service providers. It also gave potential police officer applicants a chance to speak



with law enforcement regarding any questions or concerns they had with the hiring process or job responsibilities.



STORY TIME WITH A COP

Members of our department participated in two "Story Time with a Cop" events this year, with one in February and one in August. This marked the third year for this event. Children were able to interact with police officers in a fun environment, asking them questions, and learning about what their role in our community is.



CONNECTING BRIDGES

The Harriet Tubman Center for Justice and Peace, in a long term collaborative working partnership with the Auburn Police Department and the Cayuga County Sheriff's Office, as well as the Auburn Fire Department, Civil Service Commission and host meeting venues, seeks to enhance the relationship that the community has with local law enforcement. Mindful of national policing situations, this county-wide initiative seeks to foster a better understanding of local law enforcement and ensure that community concerns are heard, addressed and strategic solutions and new initiatives are reported back to the community. This effort seeks a mutual understanding of experiences and expectations and needs from all participating groups, and any corrective actions for planned change... The goal?... *To connect bridges.*

During the first meeting, held at Westminster Presbyterian Church, on November 19th, discussions included quality of life issues and policing under scrutiny. Further conversations included how mental illness and drug additions are policed, as well as how our departmental training has increased to address these sensitive subjects.



Representatives from various agencies holding discussions at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Photo by Kevin Rivoli.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Auburn Police Department recognizes the importance of social media as a collaborative tool between our agency and the public. We utilize platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and our official website to keep the public informed, and to welcome any questions, suggestions, or tips our followers may have. These outlets have proven to be a



success, as we receive valuable information from citizens concerning quality of life issues, along with assistance by individuals who have information on certain cases or persons. Posting our "Warrant of the Week" on our pages seems to be one of the most popular type of posts we share. We also share bulletins pertaining to missing persons and attempt to identify, as well as media releases concerning on-going investigations. Being transparent, and involving the community, is one of our highest priorities, and these outlets ensure timely information sharing.



Social media has also proven to be an invaluable tool for investigative officers, as it provides a wealth of information regarding persons of interest, including supporting or disqualifying an individual's alibi, initiating timelines, establishing their inner circle, or supplementing evidence.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Our department is continuously seeking new ways to improve the efficiency of our operations. Each year, we strive to set new goals and initiatives, while also evaluating our results from the previous year's accomplishments. The following outlines some of our current initiatives in 2019, as well as future goals:

Recruitment / More personnel

In an effort to attract, hire and retain personnel, our department is seeking to formalize/ streamline our recruiting process to increase efficiency and consistency, as well as establish a system of checks and balances in regards to background checks. This has included delegating different departments to complete different sections of a background check, revamping our background checklist, and establishing guidelines/ requirements/ refresher training for Field Training Officers.

Master Instructor

Seeking more enhanced, cost-effective training, we are planning to develop in-house master instruction. This will involve assigning and training an appropriate candidate for master instructor. We will contact surrounding agencies to combine training services for efficiencies.

Evidence Technician Training

Due to limited Evidence Technicians (ET), and their availability in time of need, we are seeking to double the amount of Evidence Technicians, to include having at least one per shift, so there is always one available if needed. Moving forward, we are looking into requiring/ recommending all new officers to obtain ET certification, and requiring quarterly training.

CURRENT INITIATIVES

Scheduling Software

We are implementing a new work scheduling/time-off software, Planit Police. This will involve creating how-to manuals/videos for users and supervisors, and rolling out/ begin using software, which will eliminate paper schedules and paper accrual requests.

Additional Building Security

We are seeking to develop better security measures beyond the sergeant's desk so individuals are not able to roam freely throughout the building. Our design and floor plan will need to be reviewed, and security measures will be established for all areas of potential public access, especially more vulnerable areas (unattended areas, unlocked rooms, civilian-only personnel offices).

Community Engagement

One of the most critical components of effective law enforcement is the establishment and maintenance of public trust. Though vital to public safety, its existence is often taken for granted. But as recent events have demonstrated, continually examining our relationships with our community is essential to maintaining law and order as well as building and maintain transparency and trust with those we serve. That is why the Auburn Police Department is dedicated to continuing our partnership with community stakeholder groups in order to engage our citizens, build bridges, and strengthening relationships, all while reducing crime and maintaining a safe and attractive city for our residents to live and prosper within.

FUTURE GOALS

Drone Program

Goal: Establish a drone program to assist with missing persons, high risk scenarios/areas, and general training, in an effort to police more efficiently. Objective: Complete training requirements, obtain FAA license, secure funding, and implement a drone policy.

Locker Room Project

Goal: Update locker room to modernize its look and increase employee morale.

Objective: Research/ secure grant funding, obtain bid contracts, get approval from city council. This will also involve a restructure based on the growing number of female officers working for our department.

In-service training for Field Training Officers

Goal: Streamline FTO process to increase efficiency, and effectiveness, and hold FTO evaluators to a higher standard.

Objective: Establish guidelines and schedules to retrain all FTO Officers on an annual basis. Collect input from FTO Officers, supervisors and recruit officers on how to better serve the needs of Field Training Officers and recruits. Reach out to surrounding agencies for input, strategies, and suggestions.

Social Media / Tweet Along

Goal: Create new / better ways to communicate with the public via social media.

Objective: Assign social media representatives per shift to keep public informed in a timely manner. Assign civilian to "Tweet Along" via Twitter as a virtual ride along to describe real-time activities of police officers.

FUTURE GOALS

Courtroom Testimony Training

Goal: Increase courtroom testimony preparation for officers.

Objective: Work with District Attorney's Office in establishing general courtroom testimony guidelines for new officers, and create a training video to enhance quality and effectiveness.

Driver / Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) Training

Goal: Refresh members on special driving skills/ techniques required while operating patrol vehicles. This will also help mitigate risks and loss (accidents and injuries).

Objective: Assign EVOC instructor, develop an in-house training course, and mandate training of all sworn members.

Records History Requests

Goal: Implement a search parameter/ limitation for Records Requests.

Objective: Due to volume and lack of resources, we are looking to create a policy implementing the request of records, specifically the history limitation (no more than three years). Exceptions can be made (and denied) upon written request to Chief, Deputy Chief or Lieutenant in charge of Records. We will need to research policies and criteria of other agencies of similar size.

Online Records Request Portal

Goal: Implement an online records report request option. This will ease report requests via walk-ins and over the phone.

Objective: Work with website designers, enabling records requests to be sent electronically via our website, as well as an electronic payment option. We will also research which requests can be fulfilled this way, taking into consideration Freedom Of Information laws, privacy/sensitivity concerns, identification verification, and redaction.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

In April of 2019, we conducted our 2nd community survey to determine how our citizens feel about living in the City of Auburn, as well as their thoughts on our agency and what could be improved.

716 total individual surveys were started, with 528 residents completing the survey. Of the completed surveys, over 70% of respondents have been residents of the City of Auburn for more than 20 years, and 74% of those respondents own the home they live in. 56% of respondents were women and 41% were men. 52% were between 25 and 54, 40% were over 55 years of age, and 7% were under 25 years of age.

94% of respondents reported they feel safe or very safe in their home at night, while 77% reported feeling safe to very safe at night out alone in their own neighborhoods.

When respondents were asked to list some quality of life issues they believe are significant in the City of Auburn, some of the most frequent responses were:

- ⇒ Illegal possession/use of drugs
- ⇒ Traffic issues/residential speeding/parking
- \Rightarrow Need for additional officers



Officer Carnicelli taking a photo with local neighborhood children

In regards to how the community felt about our department, 76% gave us a good to excellent rating. Of the respondents who have had police interactions in the past, 80% were satisfied to very satisfied. 83% of these individuals with police interaction responded they were treated professionally, with dignity and respect.

Many of these results are encouraging and inspiring, while some indicate room for improvement. We understand by the nature of our profession that every interaction does not always end with a positive experience. It is the goal of our department to extend professional and respectful service to each and every citizen no matter the circumstance and the results of this survey indicate we are striving to meet this objective.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF

Douglas L. Parker 12/18/1950 - 07/16/2019 Served APD from 05/15/1972 - 01/27/2012

Leo "Lee" Vatter 05/03/1946 - 10/23/2019 Served APD from 09/22/1975 - 02/22/1999



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