

Community Relations Report 2021

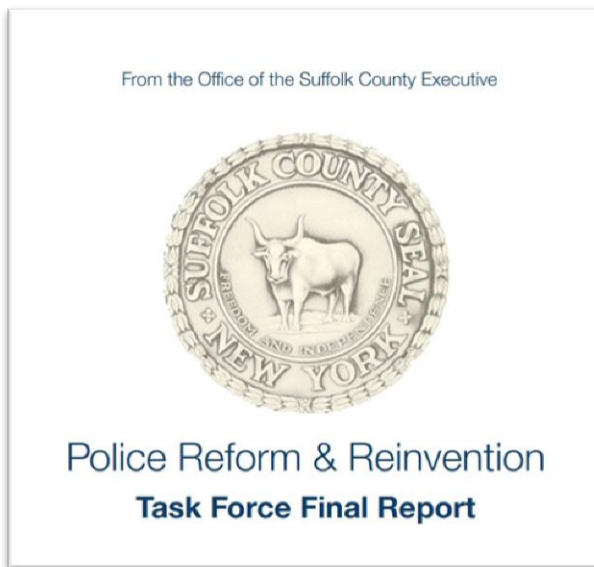


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30 Yaphank Avenue, Yaphank, New York 11980
Prepared by the Community Relations Bureau



Introduction

The challenges and new issues brought to our local communities, by the ongoing global pandemic continue to present novel challenges. As we all face these issues together, we are reminded that success will only be possible if we are unified in our efforts. The Community Relations Bureau [CRB] has worked tirelessly to restart and expand all of our programs and engagement efforts in order to come together with the residents and neighborhoods we serve. In this pursuit the people of Suffolk County, along with their elected officials, have developed a new police reform plan that aims to




develop the Department in a way that truly serves the needs of our individual communities.¹ Our department, spearheaded by our Deputy Police Commissioner, Risco Mention-Lewis, has focused its efforts to meet and exceed all of the goals identified in the Reform and Reinvention Plan.

As part of its overall mission, CRB supervises the Community Liaison Officer Program, the School Resource Officer Program, the Recruitment Section and the Police Athletic League. The Bureau also coordinates and oversees a variety of outreach initiatives which have greatly increased throughout the County in our response to the COVID 19 pandemic.

¹<https://suffolkcountyny.gov/portals/0/formsdocs/police%20reform/Suffolk%20County%20Police%20Reform%20&%20Reinvention%20Plan%20-%20Final.pdf>



The community relations Bureau has been able to continue many of our traditional programs such as “*Vamos hablar*”, “Let’s talk”, “Coffee with a Cop”, PAL, school presentations, and recruitment job fairs. CRB has also been able to develop and implement new programs such as, Crucial Conversations and Reading with a Cop which are held at local laundromats and barber shops. CRB has also reimagined the role of the School Resource Officer, improved our Language access plan, and assisted with overhauling the Department’s website to increase functionality and transparency. These new and continued programs will enhance our officers’ ability to hear and respond to the concerns of the community.






Barbers, Beauties & Books

Friday, July 16th
1pm-4PM
at
Jenny’s JNT Beauty Barbershop
1473A Montauk Highway
Mastic, NY 11950

Join the Seventh Precinct Police Officers for a Conversation and Reading!

No agenda or speeches just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns and get to know the officers in your community!



The Suffolk County Police Department is very proud of the success its community relations programs have had in recent years and is excited to expand these programs in the future to build productive relationships within all the communities in Suffolk County. The Community Relations Bureau is honored to be at the forefront of community based policing.



Table of Contents

Who We Are	5
What We Do	8
Presentations and Services	16



The Community Relations Bureau

Deputy Police Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis is a nationally recognized community leader and advocate. A former Assistant District Attorney, Deputy Commissioner Mention-Lewis is the first female, and the first person of color, to



hold her title in the Suffolk County Police Department. She has presented in an array of venues, ranging from local schools, churches and communities to national conventions and universities. In 2015 Deputy Commissioner Mention-Lewis was invited to the White House by President Barak Obama to discuss strategies for decreasing crime and incarceration.

Her work entails creating comprehensive programs to combat gang violence and recidivism through a synergy of intelligence led policing and community-oriented policing. She coordinates the development of Council of Thought and Action (COTA) groups across Suffolk County, and has spearheaded the Violent Group Insertion initiative which partners with school districts to identify and redirect young people who are showing signs of gang recruitment; evincing, “When we stop the entry...we have less reentry to do.” Deputy Commissioner Mention-Lewis oversees the Suffolk County Police Community Relations Bureau and is intimately involved with all aspects of community engagement, all while maintaining multiple chair positions on local steering committees and youth development and intervention efforts.

Lieutenant Brian Loughlin was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the Community Relations Bureau in May of 2021. Lt. Loughlin began his career with the Suffolk County Police Department in 2001 and has worked and supervised patrol operations in many diverse communities. His experiences in communities such as Bellport and Patchogue make him very aware of the challenges that both the community and the police face in coming together to foster trust and understanding. He is responsible for the day to day operations of the CRB staff including Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), School Resource Officers (SROs), Recruitment Officers, and PAL Officers. He is also the Police Department’s Language Access Coordinator (LAC), and is tasked with ensuring that the department is providing equal access to persons with limited English Proficiency (LEP).



Sergeant Bonnie Raber is the Executive Officer of the CRB and has been supervising the unit since August of 2018. Sergeant Raber is one of the most experienced community relations officers the SCPD has ever had. She was one of the Department's original School Resource Officers, operating primarily out of the Central Islip and Brentwood School Districts. She has been a C.O.P.E. officer and supervisor, a Patrol officer and supervisor, and a Crime Section supervisor, an assignment where she was responsible for cases ranging from violent school incidents to the investigation of child endangerment and domestic violence. Her knowledge and experience in youth and gang violence prevention, investigation, and compassionate intervention is commensurate with the proactive community based intervention strategies vital to the success of CRB.

The **Police Officers of CRB** are a truly special group of individuals working as a cohesive team to build and maintain the important bonds with our neighborhoods, schools, houses of worship and other voices in the communities we serve. Our Officers possess a wide variety of talents and they reflect the diverse landscape of the communities they serve. CRB officers are more than just visitors to the community or employees of the County. They are members of the community, neighbors, coaches, friends and relatives. They drive the same roads, shop in the same stores, and play with their children in the same parks as those they serve. The officers of CRB go forth every day not only to educate, protect and serve, but to learn from those they interact with. When they do so with sincerity, enthusiasm and a willingness to listen, learn and communicate, that is when we are at our best. The following describes in some detail, an outline of the various jobs and functions of the CRB staff and officers.



Community Liaison and COPE Officers Program

Community Liaison Officers [CLOs] are assigned to CRB and detailed to each of the seven precincts, serving as a bridge between the Department and the communities it serves. They work with an array of individual community members, advocacy groups, business owners, school officials, and other governmental agencies to enhance relations and to help identify important issues. The dedication that these officers come to work with everyday can be felt all throughout the communities that they serve. These officers are here on a daily basis to assist with the ever changing needs of the residents and to listen to and address their ongoing concerns in their neighborhoods. The Department has seven CLO's throughout the county, four of the seven are native Spanish speakers.



We welcomed two new CLO's to our unit in 2021. Our 1st Precinct CLO Dara Caramanico-Broyles joined our unit in May and our 6th Precinct CLO Sergio Moller joined in August.



Officer Caramancio-Broyles has been with the 1st Precinct since 2002 and has served as one of their SRO's which gives her great insight into the needs of the 1st Precinct communities as well as the interpersonal and communication skills to address them. PO Moller has been with our

department since 2015 and has served in the United States Marine Corp for 20 years. While in the Marine Corp, Officer Moller spent a large part of his time as a recruiter where he learned how to speak with many diverse communities and individual candidates about the challenges they face every day. PO Moller will continue to put those listening skills to work as our newest member, and do his finest to help address the needs of our 6th Precinct residents.



Our CLO's work closely with the officers assigned to the COPE units within the various precincts. They frequently work together in order to achieve a better understanding of the community issues and collaborate in order to achieve the goals of those we serve. CLO's have been an integral part of initiating and implementing many of the newly enacted police reform projects. Their firsthand knowledge of local community concerns has been invaluable in bringing these projects to life.

When not participating in organized events, CLOs and COPE Officers visit with community members, church leaders, and local organizations in order to increase crime awareness, crime prevention, and personal safety. They also coordinate with our Recruitment, Police Athletic League and School Resource Officers to assist them in providing training, outreach activities and presentations that are tailored to their communities.

CLOs and COPE Officers utilize social media such as Instagram, Nixle, Facebook, and Twitter to advertise events and programs in an effort to provide the most up to date information possible. SCPD has eight different Twitter feeds, one dedicated to Headquarters and one for each of the precincts.

School Resource Officer Program

School Resource Officers (SROs) provide hundreds of informational presentations to high schools and middle schools across the County, including: *Prescription Drugs to Heroin, Gangs & Associated Violence, Diversity & Tolerance, Cyber Law and Cyber Bullying, Alcohol & the High School Student, Social Host & Pre-Prom, What to do When Stopped by the Police, Active Shooter, The Dangers of Vaping, Vehicle Survival-Behind the Wheel, and Distracted Driving.*



SROs make it their top priority to present these topics in a manner that engages young people and speaks to them in relevant terms. In turn, it is CRB's mission to make qualified SROs available to any school district that requests, or will accept, assistance. Presentations and assistance are also offered to elementary schools as appropriate and when the



SROs' schedules permit. SROs also conduct informational forums on topics such as, the Heroin epidemic, safe usage of the internet, and proper conduct in social settings. Throughout 2019 and in early 2020 vaping presentations were increasingly requested to address the growing concern over the use of vape devices by youth in middle and high schools. Those presentations continued to be a priority during 2021 for many school districts and their students.

SROs assigned both to CRB and the individual Precincts meet together with CRB on a monthly basis in order to share information and receive group training. This ensures that all SROs possess the most current information concerning the schools in which they work. These monthly meetings and training sessions also enhance the consistency, accuracy and quality of the information that is provided to students county-wide.

One of the most important roles of the SRO's is to work closely with school officials in identifying at-risk youth. Officers engage these students through mentoring, and then guide them to resources in their area to help form more positive behavior and choices.

SCPD assigned an additional Spanish speaking SRO, Justin Fernandez to Brentwood Central School District to provide critical support to the students and administration in the aftermath of the 2018 Parkland High School shooting. Officer Fernandez is specifically assigned to engage students at the middle schools and the Freshmen Center, and offers mentoring, classroom instruction, and after school engagement. He also works through the summer at organized sports and life skills programs. The Department continued this partnership through 2021, providing an additional mentoring and youth engagement program in Brentwood West Middle School. Officer Fernandez's empathetic approach to mentoring his students, particularly "Students with Interrupted Formal Education" (SIFE) provides a stable role model and source of guidance to those youth who have grown to trust and rely on him for direction and advice.

In order to continue building positive relations with our communities, it is essential to forge these relationships early and honestly with the youth of our community. Once again showing that they are important and their safety is a primary concern.

In 2021 we lost several SRO's but gained 4 new officers to the unit. Officers Jesse Levy, Shakara Richardson, Kayla Mueger, and Jessica Romano have joined our staff. All of our new officers have extensive backgrounds in education and working with our youth. The new officers have hit the ground running and have been working very hard since their arrival on re-inventing some of our classic presentations in order to make them up to date on current community concerns. They have also taken steps to make the presentations appropriate for



the different levels of instructions within a district. Our SRO's will continuously look to create new presentations and programs to meet the needs of the schools they serve.

In order to put the county's police reform plan into action this year, our SRO's and community relations staff participated in the Suffolk County SRO re-invention task force which was put together to clearly define the roll of the SRO within the schools. School, Police and Community leaders all participated, and through this productive process we were able to clearly deliniate the rolls of the school district and police officer in their collaborative effort to help the students of suffolk county through their education.

Recruitment Section

The SCPD Recruitment Section is responsible for recruiting quality candidates for law enforcement and civilian positions with the Police Department.

Recruitment practices are continually analyzed and enhanced to identify and employ the most effective measures. The Recruitment Section works closely with colleges and community groups to identify qualified candidates, with a special emphasis directed toward recruiting Latino, African-American, female, and Spanish speaking candidates in order to reflect the demographics of the communities served by the Department.



CRB has had two full time recruitment officers but in May 2021 one was promoted to Sergeant and transferred. We all wish Sergeant Hargrove the best in her future endeavors and thank her for the many years of service to the recruitment efforts in Suffolk County. Recruitment officers continuously attended local NAACP meetings, Latino community events, multi-denominational religious services, and job fairs at military bases, high schools and colleges prior to the COVID-19 shuttering of many events. They actively partner with influential members of minority communities to encourage Black, Latino, LGTBQ and female residents to consider SCPD as a viable opportunity for a career in law enforcement. They also utilized social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook, as well as job search engines such as Linked-In and PoliceOne.com.



Similarly, efforts to recruit civilian positions within the Department including crossing guards continued in earnest in 2021. There is a large need for Crossing Guards in our communities and recruitment has actively pursued every avenue in order to help fill those needs. In addition to Crossing Guards, we have had to recruit vital positions in our 911 emergency complaint operators and dispatchers throughout 2021. Recruitment Officers, CLOs, and other community officers distributed informational flyers which include numerous non-sworn positions such as Crime Analysts, Computer Technicians, and Forensic Analysts.

Police Athletic League

The Police Athletic League (PAL) is a recreation-oriented organization that utilizes sports and activities in order to tighten the bond between police officers and young members of the community. The goal of PAL is to engage our youth in hopes of decreasing the lure of gangs, drugs, and other destructive influences.

The program enables more than 20,000 children to engage in a variety of sporting events and activities, and PAL is proud to host the largest youth football program in the State of New York. In addition to team sports programs, PAL programs also include cooking classes, karate classes, Swim for Survival, fishing trips, and the presentation "Crash Course in Crash Avoidance".

Suffolk County Police Athletic League Inc. (PAL),
Suffolk County Police Department Second Precinct,
Councilman Eugene Cook and the Huntington Town Board
are sponsoring a

No-Cost Soccer Program for Huntington Youth
For children in grades 2nd-8th
Mondays from 3:30-5:30PM
Starting September 20, 2021 until
November 15, 2021

@ Manor Field Park
90 E 5th St,
Huntington Station

REGISTER AND PLAY
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH
@ 3:30PM

Kids **MUST** be dropped off and picked up
No transportation will be provided

Due to Covid, Very Limited Space Is Available.
Covid protocols will be will followed.
For more information, please contact
SCPD Officer Delgado at 631-854-8253



Mark Guthbertson
Councilman

Eugene Cook
Councilman

Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor

Joan Cergol
Councilwoman

Edmund J.M. Smyth
Councilman

2021 saw the re-start of our PAL soccer programs in both Patchogue and Huntington. These programs have grown since their inception and continue to be one of our most successful. PAL utilizes Community Liaison Officers in these areas to assist with both registration and with the implementation of the programs. PAL is always willing to collaborate with all of Community Relations in order to service as many communities as possible.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, there has had to be a shift in the types of programs that were going to be available to children given social distancing restrictions. The PAL had to get creative and develop more non-

traditional sports and recreational activities. Officers quickly pivoted from team sports to individual based activities. PAL introduced adventure and other novel initiatives. Hiking, fishing, biking, golf, cross country running, and even gardening became the new focus. Many of those programs and activities became so successful that they were highly requested and attended during 2021. There were several Hiking trips through state and local parks, multiple fishing trips taken on our beautiful Great South Bay, several cross country running events, gardening club, and many others. Seeing children experience some of our local parks, waterways, beaches, and farmland together, many for the first time, was very rewarding. The benefits of introducing so many of our youth to these beautiful natural resources, showing them how close we all are to these areas, and guiding them through the different ways to enjoy them was immeasurable. PAL truly hopes these programs continue to grow and evolve throughout the coming years and we are very proud of PAL's commitment of always finding new ways to bring smiles and activity to our community's youth.



The PAL² is perhaps one of the Department's most valuable community outreach tools. The inclusion of patrol and COPE officers in its activities takes them to a new level of involvement with community. Activities are light-hearted and fun and involve a shared joy and sense of accomplishment, too often absent from routine police interactions. Additionally, the officers bring their unique talents to these programs. For example, Officer Aue of the First precinct, a nationally certified PGA golf professional and instructor, helped to develop golf camps and clinics with PAL. Plans have been made to expand this program, enabling kids to play on private courses at no expense, as many course owners were enthusiastic to help economically challenged children have that experience. This is only one of many examples of the benefits to this type of outreach. The breaking down of social, racial, and economic barriers that results from these



² <https://suffolkpal.com/>



programs creates multifaceted rewards. Community spirit is enhanced and those who donate their time, money and resources to these programs are rewarded with the knowledge that they are a part of something important, and that they are promoting equality and benevolence. PAL continues its support to the Wyandanch Summer Youth Camp Program in 2021. The program provides mentoring by First Precinct SROs during a 5 week camp. Campers are taught lessons in safety, anti-bullying, internet safety, self-esteem building, and drug awareness. They take numerous trips to museums, farms and parks, exposing them to a host of new experiences. During 2021, cooking classes were also hosted in several communities throughout the police district, including several at Brentwood South and East Middle Schools, students. Community Relations Bureau personnel assisted by COPE and SROs brought in volunteer professional chefs to teach valuable cooking skills in a fun and friendly environment. The officers assisted the children as they prepared recipes designed by their guest chef. PAL sponsored these events by providing funding for food items, other supplies, and the portable cooking equipment necessary to bring the program on the road. Classes have continued to spread to communities such as: Bellport, Brentwood, Central Islip, Gordon Heights, Mastic, Centereach, Medford, Huntington Station, Wyandanch, and Rocky Point.



Officer Edward Groce has presided over the Brentwood youth PAL boxing program for the past eight years and the program continues to grow in popularity and success. Although 2020 brought challenges to the nearly 40 year old program, 2021 saw a revitalization of the program and it still enjoys vibrant interest from the community. It is a wildly successful program that has seen its young athletes compete at the highest levels of the sport, with one of our boxers reaching a pre-Olympic trial event and winning a gold medal in Europe at an international competition. As evident by the returning coaches, this program means a great deal to the youth and families in our community. This positive relationship involves a diverse group of kids



coming together and staying focused under the watchful eyes of parents, coaches and a very concerned and vested PAL officer.

In 2021, our PAL Officers continued a partnership with a local emergency or transitional housing center to engage with youths who are most at risk in the Brentwood area. The officers developed and implemented holiday events, reading events, cooking events, and of course, sports programs. The dedication and efforts of our PAL officers to bring so many positive programs and experiences to these young individuals can hopefully influence these bright young kids to achieve all that they want.



Outreach to those with unique needs requires innovative thinking and thoughtful initiative. Providing in-house programs at such facilities gives children and families a sense of normalcy and connection to a community during uncertain and stressful times.

Police Explorers

The Community Relations Bureau oversees the Suffolk County Police Explorers Program, which is coordinated through the Boy Scouts of America. The Police Explorers Program is a goal-orientated program for individuals between the ages



of 14 to 21, who are interested in pursuing law enforcement as a possible career path. Although the Police Explorers is described as a "learning for life" program, it also serves as a volunteer public service program.

Each of the seven Precincts maintains an Explorer Post where participants are taught criminal law, and police procedures and tactics. Participants also engage in community outreach events and many other law enforcement activities. Police Officer Advisors help guide Explorers by teaching them valuable life skills and giving them insight into the daily life of a Police Officer. The Department has thirteen Police Officers and six civilian volunteers who oversee more than 200 participants.

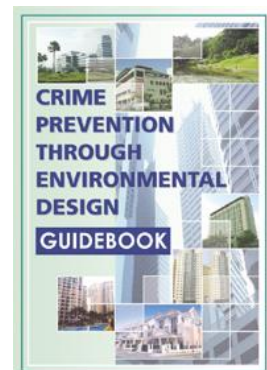


In 2021, our Explorers had to suspend the Explorer Youth Academy, where they are instructed in physical fitness, defensive tactics, military drills and other areas of law enforcement practices. They are typically joined by several Sea Cadets, who are Coast Guard Explorers and together learn about law enforcement as well as working as a team. We look forward to resuming this great tradition in the near future.

Presentations and Services

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The goal of CPTED is to reduce the opportunity for crime inherent in the design of certain buildings and neighborhoods. Upon request, the CRB will conduct CPTED site surveys for schools and businesses, in order to assist with crime reduction and quality of life issues. CPTED trained officers assess the physical design of buildings including, landscape plans, interior and exterior lighting, access control systems, security features, and traffic control devices.



Car Seat Inspections:

The Suffolk County Police Department has 17 Community Liaison, COPE and School Resource Officers who are professionally trained to inspect and install car seats. The SCPD partners with Education Assistance Corporation (EAC) to host car seat safety events where trained officers physically inspect child seats for defects, recalls and proper installation. EAC provides replacement seats at no charge to the participants to ensure the safety of their children. This partnership with EAC has continued through 2021 with CLO, COPE and SROs participation. SCPD also partners with local fire departments, churches, and community partners to provide car seat inspection and installation to dozens of participants, explaining the importance of safety for their children while conducting a much needed community engagement activity to strengthen trust between




Did you know that 3 out of 4 car seats are used incorrectly?
Could yours be one of them?

The Suffolk County Police Department's Community Relations Bureau will have certified technicians on-site to inspect car seats and provide parents with essential information about child passenger safety.

Emanuel Lutheran Church
Saturday, November 6th, 2021
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
179 East Main Street
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772

Free Event!

Due to Covid-19 restrictions: One caregiver only, no children, social distancing and masks required.



Effective Nov 1st 2019:
NY's Law requires all children under 2 yrs old to ride in a rear-facing car seat!

Safety checks are by APPOINTMENT ONLY
Call: 631-852-6109

Program funding provided by: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

police and the community. Throughout 2021 we participated in several events in communities such as Patchogue, Brentwood, and Mastic, sometimes partnering with state police as well, in order to help local communities and residents with a much needed service.

S.A.V.E (School Active Violence Emergency):

The Community Relations Bureau continued implementing the S.A.V.E. Program in 2021 and since its inception has installed over 400 S.A.V.E. hotline phones in 310 school buildings in 37 public school districts. CRB will continue to be responsible for coordinating the implementation of this program and will act as a liaison between these schools and the police department.

Youth Academy

SCPD has been hosting four Youth Academies each summer at the Police Academy. The Youth Academy provides teens age 14-18 an opportunity to experience the tasks and physical training that SCPD Recruits undergo. Two of the weeks are dedicated to minority youth through the Suffolk County Executive's Youth Bureau Program. The Department and the Youth Bureau work directly with social workers from the Central Islip and Brentwood School Districts recruiting participants for the program. CRB sends Officer Justin Fernandez, a Spanish speaking SRO, to the program for the week to assist LEP attendees.

Crash Course In Crash Avoidance:

This program is a half-day safe driving instructional course for teenagers between 16-19 years old. The goal of this program is to educate teens in avoidance measures under dangerous driving conditions. Typically, SCPD Emergency Vehicle Operations instructors provide one week of instruction to 40 teenagers to complete the program.

Swim For Survival

SCPD and the Police Athletic League sponsor a swimming program for youth at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue. The program offers very low cost swimming lessons for children. This program has two sessions accommodating 20



swimmers per session. It has been a very successful program over the past several years.

National Night Out

National Night Out is a yearly event in August where the Community Relations Bureau hosts 7 National Night Out events throughout Suffolk County. Each of the 7 Precincts hold events within their particular areas. In 2021 we were able to restart this very important event that due to the pandemic had to be postponed in 2020. National Night out is always one of the most fun and positive events of the summer for the Police Department and the communities. Its success is due to the strength of the partnership between neighborhood and police organizers. Attendees are able to view equipment used by specialized units such as Canine, Marine Bureau, Aviation and Emergency Services. The creativity of our CLO's and COPE officers this year was on full display with some precincts having outdoor movie events, petting zoos, carnival games, community organization booths, safety demonstrations, music, and food. This is a great opportunity for the officers in the precinct and on patrol to thanks the residents for their continued support and partnership throughout the year. This year felt great due to the cancellation of last year and all we have been through together. We all look forward to making every year as special as this one.



Impact Truancy

The Community Relations Bureau, in cooperation with William Floyd Middle School and the Education Assistance Corp. (EAC), has for the past several years, conducted a truancy reduction program called “*Impact Truancy*”. Our CLOs and SROs meet after school with 9th grade students who were identified by administrators as intra-day truants; i.e., students who go to school in the morning, but then skip their assigned classes. Officers conveyed the importance of finishing high school and facilitated various exercises with students and counselors from EAC. The program assisted students in identifying their specific needs in order to better prepare them for school. The Department anticipates that this program will continue in the future

The Ugly Truth Series

The Community Relations Bureau continues to evolve this education and awareness program to proactively combat the prescription drug and heroin epidemic in Suffolk County. Community Liaison Officers have teamed with Suffolk County Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Michael Caplan to conduct these events, which were hosted primarily at local high schools. Initially, School Resource Officers provided “*Prescription Drugs to Heroin*” presentations to students in assemblies or classroom settings during school hours. This was followed by evening presentation of “The Ugly Truth”, which involved parents, students, faculty and other members of the community. SCPD EMT trainer Jason Byron provided information on the Good Samaritan law, discussed signs and symptoms of an overdose, and demonstrated how to administer Narcan. Participants were provided with an opportunity to practice assembly and administration of the Narcan nasal applicator, and were given two doses of Narcan for emergency use.

In 2021, these presentations were adjusted to adapt to the ever-changing information and threat to our communities. Ugly Truth presentations have been streamlined to avoid duplication of efforts and information, and have been offered at monthly precinct community meetings. Personnel from the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene attend to give family assistance and



information to provide a hopeful view for recovery.

SCPD has also worked closely with many school districts to educate and train their staff members in the signs and symptoms of overdose and the use of Narcan as well. More than 6300 community members have been trained in the use of Narcan since the program's inception. We are continuing that trend and are bringing our presentation to the communities during precinct community meetings, programs through local libraries, as well as evening presentations for school communities. 2021 saw another change in this epidemic as the spotlight has turned to the synthetic version of heroin known as fentanyl. This highly addictive and volatile drug can not only be dangerous for the user but for the bystander as well. We continue to partner with our medical experts to bring the most up to date information and training to the community. We also will begin to work with our newly formed Behavioral Health Unit in order to bring the most comprehensive training to our community partners to try and help as many residents as we possibly can. We are planning great things for this training in the coming year and look forward to hopefully slowing this ongoing epidemic in Suffolk County.

Operation Medicine Cabinet:

In an effort to address the increase of prescription drug use among young people and ensure the proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications, the SCPD was the first police department in New York State to initiate a permanent, continuous drug reclamation program. Operation Medicine Cabinet offers the public the option of disposing unwanted pharmaceuticals 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Receptacles for unwanted pharmaceutical are in the lobby of each of the seven Precincts.

Community Liaison and COPE Officers respond to senior citizen meetings as well to assist in properly disposing of unwanted pharmaceuticals to keep them out of the hands of drug seeking individuals and to protect the environment. In 2020, over 5155 pounds of unwanted pharmaceutical drugs were deposited at the seven police precincts. Since the program's inception in July 2010, over 61,000 pounds of medications have been collected. This program will continue in 2022.



Police Week

Every May, the Suffolk County Police Department hosts Police Week at Police Headquarters in Yaphank. Community Liaison, COPE and School Resource Officers engage nearly 4130 students from elementary level through high school level over the 4-day event. All participants viewed demonstrations by specialized police functions such as emergency driving skills, Emergency Service response to serious traffic accidents, Canine operations, Aviation support, and motorcycle operations.



Static stations display information on the different services, investigative skills and equipment provided by the Department.

Tours of the 911 Call Center are given to participants as well, giving them a better understanding of how emergency calls are received and dispatched to officers on the street. High School students are educated in topics such as Distracted Driving and What To Do When Stopped by the Police. A civilian Crime Analyst provides an overview of her role with the Department, providing students an opportunity to see other job opportunities in policing.

SCPD, in partnership with Stony Brook University provides high school students with education regarding Distracted Driving. University professors and Police Officers provide several stations where students are put through various activities designed to replicate distracted driving and distracted walking situations. By timing students through obstacle courses, driving simulator and sobriety tests without distraction, then putting them through the courses while texting or wearing impairment goggles, students are able to see first-hand the negative effects of distraction whether by texting or use of alcoholic substances upon driving and walking. Like many other events, Police week was canceled for 2021 due to COVID 19 safety concerns. It is yet to be determined if this event will be able to take place in 2022, but it is a long standing tradition of the Department which is enjoyed by all who attend and participate.



Faith and Blue weekend

2021 marked our second year that we participated in celebration of the Faith and Blue weekend, which advances the premise that communities are stronger and safer when residents and law enforcement professionals can relate as ordinary people with shared values, hopes, and dreams. The partners who sponsor



National Faith & Blue Weekend believe we can find ways to work together around our many commonalities instead of being divided by our differences. National Faith & Blue Weekend is an extension of the One Congregation One Precinct initiative (OneCOP), a program of Movement Forward, Inc., which is a bridge-building, solutions-focused human and civil rights organization based

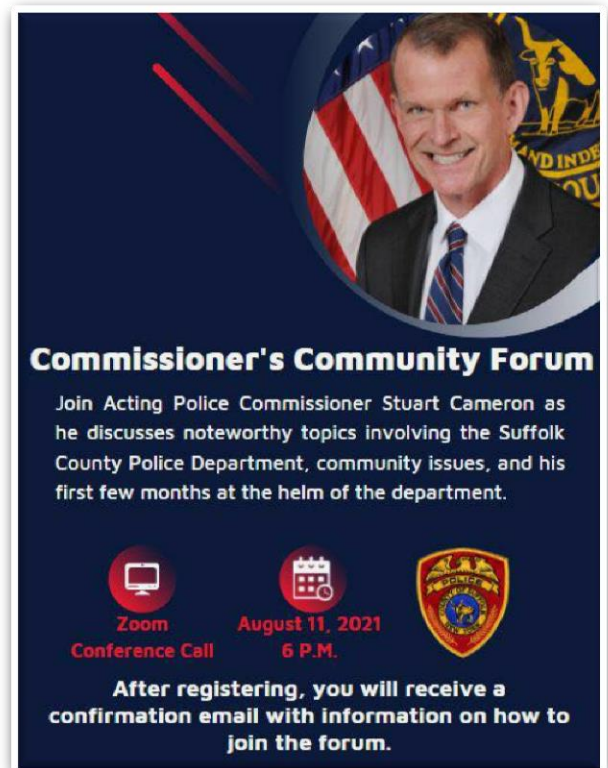
in Atlanta, Georgia.

The OneCOP initiative pairs together officers at the beat or precinct level with local houses of worship.” (<https://faithandblue.org/>). This national movement was celebrated with multiple events at each of the seven precincts here in Suffolk County. Orchestrated by Deputy Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis, events included: “Crucial Conversation” forums with local faith leaders and precinct Command staff, community park cleanups, food and clothing drives, group prayer sessions for unity and empathy, shared meals and BBQ parties, police equipment displays, singing, laughing and just simply talking with each other. This weekend event highlighted the need for Police Departments to collaborate with local faith leaders, and more deeply recognize the value and importance of these institutions which are the pillars upon which many of our communities were founded. Faith leaders are often involved with victim advocacy and are invaluable in reconciling disputes. Furthermore, they represent the values and traditions of a community that should be given strong consideration in policing.



Commissioner's Community Forums

In 2021, Acting Commissioner Stuart Cameron continued to host quarterly open forums to provide community members with a wide variety of information regarding the contemporary practices and challenges of policing in Suffolk County, as well as providing information on current crime statistics, Department recruitment efforts and DOJ compliance efforts. These forums also provided an opportunity for the community to present questions and concerns to the Commissioner and allow for an open dialogue with local advocates and community stakeholders. Also in attendance at these meetings are Precinct Command Staff and specialized department units who address topics that pertain to their particular areas of expertise. At these meetings, the Commissioner also presents awards to police personnel and civilian community members for their outstanding efforts in community engagement and enhancement.



Long Island Language Access Coalition (LILAC) Meetings

In 2021, Commissioner Hart, followed by acting Commissioner Cameron and their staff held quarterly meetings with the Long Island Language Access Coalition (LILAC) and other advocates of the Latino community. These meetings were held in effort to provide the exchange of information and ideas in order to improve the Department's delivery of services to the Latino community, especially those with limited English proficiency (LEP). These meetings allowed for in-depth discussions regarding issues and challenges that are of particular concern to the growing Latino community in Suffolk County. LILAC and other representatives provided the Department with valuable feedback and direction that has been utilized to improve department training and translation practices. Meetings also provide further overview of the Department's progress in relation to the agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice.



Language Access

In 2021, the SCPD continued its efforts to enhance the delivery of police services to those with LEP as well as those with unique communication needs. In April of 2019, the Department partnered with the Stony Brook University Department of Professional Development to introduce Spanish Language Education Courses in order to improve the skills of the Department Authorized Interpreters. These classes were offered in preparation for their certification tests which are conducted through Language Line Solutions. Bilingual officers are required to pass the DAI certification test with a minimum standard of seventy-five percent in order to be recognized as a DAI when providing translation services in the course of their duties. This program was scheduled to continue in 2020, but was canceled due to COVID. 2021 also saw a cancellation of this program, but we are currently in the process of revitalizing this training to our bilingual members. In 2020, the department had 43 DAI's, all Spanish speakers, and 150 Bilingual officers, of which 139 are Spanish speakers. The numbers have fluctuated due to retirements and trying to get officers tested and trained with COVID restrictions. As of the end of 2021 the department has increased to 45 DAI's, and 171 bilingual members, 157 of whom speak Spanish. The availability of in person translation continues to be a priority throughout the Department.



While the department understands that in person translation holds the most value for the community, in the case where a department member is unavailable for

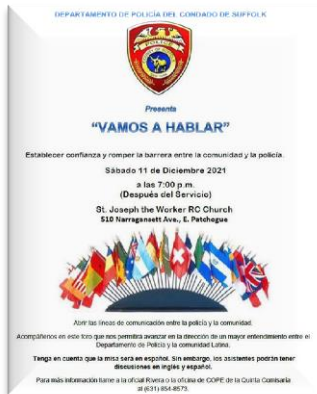


translation, we partner with the language line services. We have been a partner with this service since the very beginning of our language access plan development. All of our precincts have dual handset translation phones, many of our sector cars have language line installed onto their tablets, and any phone that is available is able to access this service through our access code. We understand how important it is to have the community be able to communicate effectively with us and being able to speak in their most comfortable language. As a department, we continually strive to bring the most up to date, convenient, and effective translation services to our access plan.



Latino Community Engagement

SCPD has continued to conduct *Vamos a Hablar* events to educate the Latino/Hispanic community on the role of the police department. Topics include the availability of language assistance services, the importance of reporting crimes, the reporting procedures for crimes, police misconduct, and hate crimes. Other advocacy groups such as Adelante have continued their partnership with SCPD by providing venues to host this program, which the Department tailors to meet the needs of their specific audience.



Throughout 2021 CRB assisted the Suffolk County Police Department with the administration of COVID 19 vaccinations, and specifically the Latino communities. CRB had a very important role in assisting with the registration of community members, translation services, and getting the word out to the community organizations as to when and where the vaccinations were occurring. Many COVID PODS (Points of Distribution) were conducted in the Brentwood, Bay Shore, and Patchogue communities.



Monthly Community Meetings

Each Precinct organizes a monthly meeting to engage members of the community, address their concerns, and inform them about public safety issues. Meetings are scheduled at the beginning of the year and publicized through the web, social media and postings in local libraries, government buildings and high traffic areas. The meetings are held both at the Precinct buildings and also in large facilities such as libraries or community centers.

Precinct command staff, (Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Captains), also attend meetings and events at a multitude of venues across the police district. During 2021 many of those meetings were held via ZOOM and other virtual modalities, with a small percentage slowly returning to in person engagement.



Precinct and Local community engagement

The mission of community relations and engagement is not the exclusive responsibility of the CRB. The SCPD actually has over 2400 community relations officers, because every single member of our department represents us with every interaction they have in the community. Every aided case, vehicle stop, call for service, response to a victim of a crime, and every casual encounter, affects the manner in which we are perceived and ultimately judged.

