



Community Relations Report 2018



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Introduction

The Community Relations Bureau [CRB] fosters and preserves active and open avenues of communication between the Department and the diverse communities which it serves. In an ongoing effort to identify, understand and solve the contemporary public safety issues facing those communities the CRB seeks to build lasting relationships built on trust and mutual respect.

As part of its overall mission, CRB also 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 throughout the County, such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), Operation Medicine Cabinet, “Unity in the Community”, “Vamos a Hablar”, “Let’s Talk”, “The Ugly Truth”, “Coffee With a Cop”, “Craft With a Cop”, “Teen Gaming”, “HERE Truancy” and “Impact Truancy”.

The Suffolk County Police Department is enormously proud of the success its community relations programs have had in recent years and is fully dedicated to expanding these programs in the future to forge lasting and productive relationships within all the communities in Suffolk County.



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Programs and Subordinate Units

Community Liaison Program/COPE Officer Program

Community Liaison Officers [CLOs] and Community Oriented Police Engagement [COPE] Officers are assigned 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 community relations and to help identify important issues. The Department has increased the number of bilingual CLOs to four in 2018 with the assignment of a CLO who is proficient in Spanish, Korean and English to the First Precinct.



CLOs are assigned to CRB and are detailed out to each of the seven precincts, while two COPE Officers are assigned to each precinct on a full-time basis. Both host regularly scheduled monthly Precinct meetings and attend a variety of community-sponsored meetings throughout their precinct. When not participating in these organized events, CLOs and COPE Officers visit with community members 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. In 2018, CLOs and COPE Officers continued “Tweeting” from events and programs. SCPD has eight different Twitter feeds, one dedicated to Headquarters and one for each of the individual precincts. The number of followers on SCPD Facebook has expanded to 113,405 as of December 31, 2018, and the SCPD HQ Twitter following expanded, to 7,814. Each precinct Twitter maintains a followership of just under 2,000. Since its launch in October 2018 SCPD Instagram has 2,406 followers



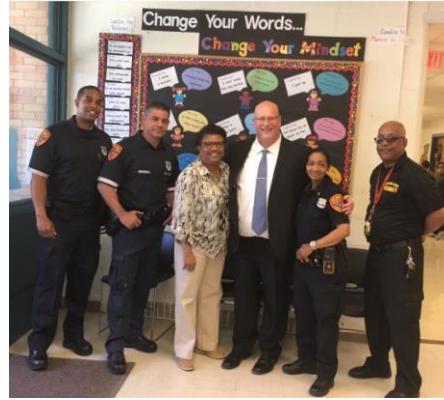
School Resource Officer Program

School Resource Officers (SROs) conduct the following presentations in high schools and middle schools across the County:

Prescription Drugs to Heroin, Gangs & Associated Violence, Diversity & Tolerance, Cyber Law, Alcohol & the High School Student, Social Host & Pre-Prom, What to do When Stopped by the Police, Active Shooter and Vehicle Survival-Behind the Wheel. (Attachment #1)

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 requested topics such as, information regarding the growing Heroin epidemic, tactics to promote safe usage of the internet, and proper conduct in social settings. Throughout 2018 Vaping presentations were increasingly requested to address the growing use of Vape devices by youth in middle and high schools.



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

SROs 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. In 2018 SROs continued mentoring programs in Copaigue, William Floyd and Wyandanch.

In 2018, SCPD assigned a Spanish speaking SRO to Brentwood Central School District to give additional support to the students and administration. This SRO is specifically assigned to engage students at the middle schools and the Freshmen Center, and offers mentoring, classroom instruction, after school engagement, and throughout the summer at organized programs. The Department will continue this partnership through 2019, providing an additional mentoring police /youth engagement program in Brentwood West Middle School.



In 2018, after the tragic active shooter incident in Parkland Florida, the Public School Superintendent's Association made requests to increase the number of SROs assigned within school buildings throughout the police district. Commissioner Geraldine Hart, Chief of Department Stuart Cameron, and members of the Homeland Security Section and CRB participated in numerous forums relating to school safety concerns surrounding active shooters. During 2018, SCPD trained 30 additional patrol officers as SROs to provide dual service in addition to their duties on routine patrol.

In 2018 the Department also ensured that their current SROs participates in active shooter exercises conducted by the Homeland Security Section and Special Patrol Bureau. Those officers were put through a simulated event involving tactical drills such as hallway, stairwell and room clearing as well as rendering aid to victims and witnesses.

Recruitment Section

The SCPD Recruitment Section is responsible for actively recruiting qualified candidates for a career in law enforcement with the Suffolk County 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, and Spanish speaking candidates in order to reflect the demographics of the communities served by the Department.

During 2018, SCPD hired Crown Advertising to assist in the promotion of the June 2019 police entrance exam. The SCPD "Secure Your Future and Ours" campaign was launched in December 2018, utilizing a diverse group of current officers who shared their personal reasons of why they chose a career with our Department.



In August, 2018, CRB quadrupled the number of officers assigned to Recruitment for the 2018/2019 campaign. Our Recruitment officers continued the “Ride Along” program for college students and community members, offering them the opportunity to observe first-hand the duties of a Suffolk County Police Officer. The Recruitment team attended local NAACP meetings, Latino community events, multi-denominational religious services, and job fairs at military posts, high schools and colleges. Further, our team has partnered with influential members of minority communities to encourage Black, Latino and female residents to consider SCPD as a viable opportunity as a career in law enforcement.

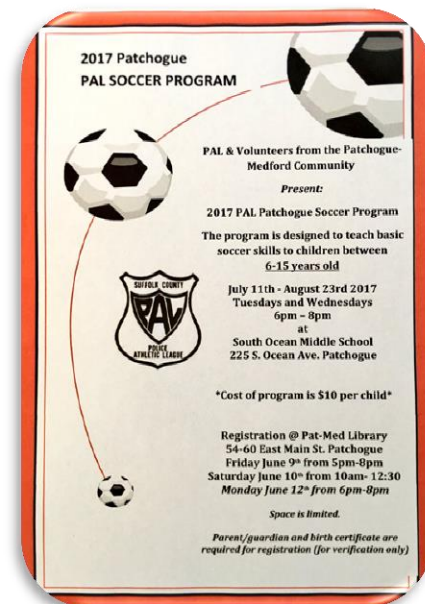
Our Recruitment officers utilize social media outlets as well as job search engines such as Linked-In and Police One. The Recruitment Section has its own Twitter account and has also improved recruitment information on the Department’s website. Further, they have conducted several Recruitment events and forums to educate potential applicants on the different aspects of the job and the overall application process.

Efforts to recruit civilian positions within the Department including crossing guards continued in 2018. Recruitment Officers, CLOs, and other community officers distributed informational flyers which include numerous non-sworn positions such as Crime Analysts, Computer Technology, and Forensics.

Police Athletic League

The Police Athletic League (PAL) is a recreation-oriented organization that utilizes sports and recreational 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 delinquent behavior.

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”.

In 2018 the PAL Soccer Program continued in Patchogue and Wyandanch. Wyandanch provided a weekly clinic for more than 80 youths who wanted to learn soccer skills, while Patchogue’s Latino Soccer continued strong with 175 participants in the program. The Patchogue program continues as a year round program with indoor soccer and basketball supported by the Patchogue Medford School District.



The PAL soccer program will be expanded to Huntington Station, Amityville and Copague in 2019.

PAL also continues to support the Wyandanch Summer Youth Camp Program which provides young campers mentoring by First Precinct SROs during a 5 week program. Campers are taught lessons in safety, bullying, internet safety, self-esteem building, and drug awareness. They attend numerous trips to museums, farms and parks, exposing them to new experiences.

During 2018, cooking classes were hosted in several communities throughout the police district, including several at Brentwood’s South and East Middle Schools where officers and school security combined efforts to engage with students during the difficult time the district has suffered at the hands of gang violence. Community Relations Bureau personnel assisted by COPE and SROs brought in volunteer 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 sponsors many of 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 been continued in Bellport, Brentwood, Central Islip, Gordon Heights, Centereach, Medford, Huntington Station, Wyandanch and Rocky Point, and many more are scheduled for 2019.

In September 2018, PAL Officers began a Read and Rec Program at the Wyandanch Family Life Center. The program which is run monthly provides



engagement activities between SCPD officers and youth attending after school care, ages K-5th grade. PAL and First Precinct Officers read stories to the children then engage in craft or fun activity such as scooter races, giant parachute or painting pumpkins. The Read and Rec Program will be extended to other communities in 2019.

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. They 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.

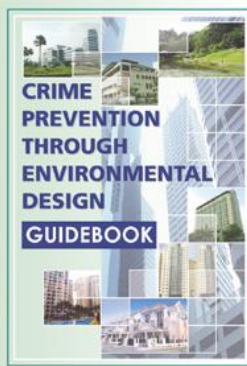
In 2018, 50 of our Explorers participated in the Explorer Youth Academy where they were instructed in physical fitness, defensive tactics, military drills and other areas of law enforcement practices. They were joined by several Sea Cadets, who are Coast Guard Explorers and together learned about law enforcement as well as working as a team.



Presentations, Events and Services

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

The goal of CPTED is to reduce the opportunity for crime that may be inherent in the design of certain buildings and neighborhoods. CRB officers trained in CPTED assess the physical design of buildings including the landscape plans, interior and exterior lighting, access control systems, security features, and traffic control devices. 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. Additionally, CRB sent four Community Liaison Officers to Advanced CPTED training to better equip their personnel to work with communities on their quality of life issues. SCPD will bring these skills to challenged neighborhoods, working with community partners and residents on revitalization projects.



Car Seat Inspections:

The Suffolk County Police Department has 12 Community Liaison, COPE and School Resource Officers professionally trained to inspect and install car seats. SCPD partnered with Education Assistance Corporation (EAC) at 10 car seat safety events where trained officers physically inspected child seats for defects, recalls and proper installation. EAC provided replacement seats at no charge to the participants to ensure the safety of their children. This partnership with EAC has continued through 2018 with CLO, COPE and SROs continuing to provide outreach in this capacity. SCPD partnered with members of Adelante, a Latino advocacy group in Brentwood and Central Islip, to provide car seat inspection and installation to more than 35 participants, explaining the importance of safety for their children while conducting a much needed community engagement activity to strengthen trust between police and the immigrant community.

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

The Community Relations Bureau continued implementing the S.A.V.E. Program in 2018, which streamlines the police response to an actively violent school



situation. As of December 30, 2018 S.A.V.E. hotline phone numbers have been installed in 34 public school districts within police district. The program is running with live phones in all 34 districts, where 440 phones have been installed in 310 school buildings. Two remaining school districts with several buildings and 1 college with 3 buildings are in the implementation process. In addition, 2 private schools and two local colleges have live hotline phones in their buildings. Community Relations Bureau 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.

Following the Parkland Active Shooter incident, the CRB contacted all public and private schools that were not part of the S.A.V.E. Hotline Program. These districts were again requested to commit to the S.A.V.E. Program and install active lines within their buildings.

Youth Academy

SCPD has been hosting four Youth Academies each summer at the SCPD Police Academy. The Youth Academy provides teens age 14-18 an opportunity to experience 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. In 2018, 215 teens, 103 from the Youth Bureau Program, participated in the Youth Academy. The Department and the Youth Bureau worked directly with social workers from the Central Islip and Brentwood School Districts for participants in the program. The CRB assigned a Spanish speaking officer to the program for the week as many of the attendees were bilingual.

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 teenagers in avoidance measures under dangerous driving conditions. During August of 2018 SCPD Emergency Vehicle Operations instructors provided one week of instruction to 43 teenagers to complete the program.



Swim For Survival

SCPD associated with Police Athletic League sponsors a swimming program for youth at St. Joseph's College in Patchogue. The program offers very low cost swimming lessons for children provided by certified swim instructors. The flyers for the program are distributed in both Spanish and English. The program has two sessions accommodating 20 swimmers per session. It has been a very successful program for the past six (6) years.

National Night Out

National Night Out is a yearly event sponsored by Target Corporation and local community partners where police officers interact with community members in a positive manner. In August of 2018 the Community Relations Bureau hosted 7 National Night Out events within Suffolk County. Each of the 7 Precincts simultaneously held events, either at their local Target Store or at an area park. The coordinated efforts of the Community Liaison Officers, COPE and Special Patrol Bureau personnel provided a unique experience for attendees to view department equipment and special units such as Canine, Aviation and Emergency Service. Additionally, SCPD partnered with the FBI at 3 of the locations to help foster community feelings of safety with all law enforcement agencies. More than 3,750 community members attended the events countywide.



Impact Truancy

The Community Relations Bureau, in cooperation with William Floyd Middle School and the Education Assistance Corp. (EAC), conducted a truancy reduction program called “*Impact Truancy*”. Several CRB Officers (CLOs, SROs) met 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. In 2018, the program was adjusted to meetings during lunch periods at the Floyd Middle School to increase participation.

Wyandanch School Resource Officers conduct a weekly mentoring program during which students referred through the administrative staff talk about the consequences of negative behavior and brainstorm methods to prevent future events fostering a positive path for their education.

The Ugly Truth

Community Relations Bureau has developed an education and awareness program to proactively combat the growing prescription drug and heroin epidemic in Suffolk County. Community Liaison Officers coordinate these events, which are hosted primarily at local high schools. Initially, School Resource Officers provide “*Prescription Drugs to Heroin*” presentations to students in assemblies or classroom settings during school hours. This is followed by “The Ugly Truth”, which is held in the evening and involves parents, students, faculty and other members of the community. Participants are given presentations regarding heroin and the Medical Examiner’s perspective on drug abuse deaths. SCPD EMT staff provide information on the Good Samaritan law, discuss signs and symptoms of an overdose, and demonstrate how to administer Narcan. Participants are provided with an opportunity to practice assembly and administration of the Narcan nasal applicator, and are given two doses of Narcan for emergency use. In 2018 personnel from the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene was added to give attendees a hopeful view for recovery. The Ugly Truth event was held in twenty-three school districts and community centers with more than 1500 participants trained in Narcan use. SCPD has 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 6100 community members have been trained in the use of Narcan since the program's inception. Although the requests for the Ugly Truth Program declined during 2018 the program will continue to be offered throughout 2019.

Operation Medicine Cabinet:

In a continuing effort to address the increase of heroin use among young people and ensure the proper disposal of unwanted or expired medications, the Suffolk County Police Department initiated a permanent, continuous drug reclamation program. The SCPD was the first police department in New York State to offer the public the option of disposing unwanted pharmaceutical drugs 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Receptacles for unwanted pharmaceutical were installed in the lobby of each of the 7 Precincts.



In addition to collecting unwanted drugs, residents are able to deposit unwanted syringes in sharps containers. 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 2018, over 9,425 pounds of unwanted pharmaceutical drugs were deposited at the seven police precincts. Since the program's inception in July 2010, over 53,025 pounds of medications have been collected. This program will continue in 2019.

Police Week 2018

In May of 2018 the Suffolk County Police Department hosted Police Week at Police Headquarters in Yaphank. Community Liaison, COPE and School Resource Officers engaged nearly 3,800 students from elementary level through high school level over the 4-day event. All participants viewed demonstrations by specialized police functions such as EVOC emergency driving skills, Emergency Service response to serious traffic accidents, Canine operations, Aviation support, and motorcycle operations.





Static stations displayed information on the different services, investigative skills and equipment provided by the Department. Tours of the Communications Section were given to participants as well, giving them a better understanding of how 911 calls are received and dispatched to officers on the street. High School students were educated in topics such as Distracted Driving and What

To Do When Stopped by the Police. A civilian Crime Analyst provided an overview of her role with the Department, providing students an opportunity to see other job opportunities in policing.

In 2018, SCPD continued its partnership with Stony Brook University to provide high school students with education regarding Distracted Driving. University professors and Police Officers provided several stations where students were 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 were able see first-hand the negative effects of distraction whether by texting or use of alcoholic substances upon driving and walking.

Police Clergy Council

In May of 2018 the Community Relations Bureau continued the Police/Clergy Council engagement with religious leaders from across Suffolk County. An extremely important facet of this program is the open dialogue between the police personnel conducting the training and the participants of the program. The Police Clergy Council is open to all interested religious leaders with an extra emphasis given to those leaders from minority communities in an effort to gain insight into the needs of the community while advising community members of the reasoning behind some of the policy that defines police/community interaction. Clergy Council members have discussed gang violence, the Heroin Epidemic, Homelessness, Bias Policing and many other topics with high ranking staff members of the Department.



Women's/Senior's Self Defense

In 2018, SCPD continued to partner with a local, certified martial arts school to provide basic skills in self-defense to women and senior citizens. Launched in Shirley, Seventh Precinct Community Liaison, COPE and Patrol Officers developed a program to provide safety awareness information and basic maneuvers for women and seniors to perform if victimized. The program was extremely successful allowing participants the opportunity to practice the techniques under the instruction of certified martial arts experts and female officers trained in the techniques as well. In the fall of 2018, SCPD and Unique partnered with students to provide a youth class.



Latino Community Advisory Committee (LCAC) Meetings

During 2018, three (3) informational meetings were held by SCPD providing an overview of the Department's progress in relation to the 2014 Agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice. The March meeting was conducted by Acting Commissioner Stuart Cameron while the July and December meetings were conducted by Commissioner Geraldine Hart. In attempt to increase the participation in the Department's informational meetings, precinct command staff and community officers sent invitations to community leaders to allow for broader engagement. The change has been extremely positive by providing more residents an opportunity to work with the Department on issues effecting their communities.

Language Access

The Department continued its dialogue with advocates and communitiy members regarding the Language Access Plan. In response to their request, SCPD provided Language Line bills for over the phone interpretation service for 2012-2017. The bills included the number of calls made from Department members, number of minutes used, languages requested, and the dollar amount totals.



The bills reflect a steady increase in Language Line usage from SCPD Department members since 2014, when the Language Access block was implemented. Advocates were informed of changes to the LAP regarding the use of Certified Bilingual members, now affording them the ability to conduct a monoligual conversation with LEP persons and convey the entire content to the non speaking Department member without the burden of taking over the reporting requirements. Advocates were further advised of the mandated Affidavit of Translation to be completed by Department members who provide interpretation or translation survices for specified statements/confessions.

I.C.E. Policy/Gang Identification Criteria

The Department's I.C.E Policy and Gang Identification Criteria were recurring themes during each of the three LCAC meetings held in 2018. SCPD maintained that after thoroughly reviewing the policy with the County Attorney's Office that Department's I.C.E Policy is appropriate. The SCPD policy states that Department members will not honor detainers unless specific special circumstances exist, nor will they execute Homeland Security Administrative warrants.

Advocates expressed concern regarding the Department's anti-gang strategies inquiring what safeguards are in place to ensure that youth are not wrongfully accused of gang affiliation. Advocates emphasized their opinion that SCPD arrests individuals merely because they have been affiliated with a gang. SCPD maintained that our department's criteria conforms with the FBI's criteria, and that numerous investgative safeguardings are in place to prevent wrongful accusation. SCPD would not disclose the criteria utilized by the Department and other law enforcement agencies to advocates because it would be detrimental to our efforts in identifying gang members.

Advocates were advised of the role of the School Resource Officer and their responsibilites regarding youth interaction and information gathering and reporting. In December, advocates were advised of the placement of a Spanish speaking SRO who is assigned to the Brentwood Freshmen Center and Middle Schools. The Department informed the committee of the Brentwood Youth Recovery Initiative which was officially launched in January, 2018, identifying youth who have a considerable risk of gang involvement. The Department identified and trained community members and religious leaders as mentors, pairing them with the youth, providing them with a positive role model who met with them on a regular basis.



Traffic Stop Data

In March, 2018 the Department came to a final agreement with DOJ in regard to the data to be captured. The Department then launched the new traffic stop data collection program in 2018. An analysis of the collected data will be conducted by the John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety, who specializes in police/social justice analysis.

Training

The committee requests frequent updates on SCPD training in regard to Language Access, Cultural Proficiency, Implicit Bias Training, Procedural Justice and Hate Crimes. The Department has continued the eight (8) hour block of training for Language Access, Hate Crimes and Cultural Proficiency which was restructured with DOJ approval. SCPD worked diligently in developing the Procedural Justice training for Department members. Academy team members worked with Suffolk Community College Division of Social Justice professors to create this block of training. The training gained approval by DOJ and was launched in February of 2018. The Department will provide this mandated training to all members. During the December meeting, Commissioner Hart agreed to have the Academy provide a date for community members to attend the Procedural Justice Training.

Hate Crimes Against Latino/Hispanic Residents

SCPD provides Hate Crimes statistics to committee members at each meeting. Hate Crimes statistics reveal that the majority of reported hate crimes in Suffolk County are religious in nature. Committee members frequently suggest that Latino community members have been victimized in many instances due to their ethnicity, but current statistics do not show a high number of hate crimes directed against Hispanic victims. Committee members maintain that SCPD must conduct outreach efforts to inform the Latino community of Department procedures, policy and language access.

Latino Community Engagement

SCPD has continued to conduct **Vamos a Hablar** events where language assistance opportunities, the importance of reporting crimes, reporting procedures for crimes and police misconduct, definition of a hate crime and hate incident, the establishment of a pattern of behavior directed toward a specific



group and its importance in the establishment of a Hate Crime Pattern, current scams, what to do when stopped by the police, rights of undocumented residents as witnesses and victims, and many other topics to educate the Latino/Hispanic community on the role of the police department. The Department frequently speaks to the LEP population at religious centers where we have found that residents feel most safe and trusting of our officers. Other advocacy groups such as Adelante have continued their partnership with SCPD by providing a venue to host informative dialogues between immigrant residents and SCPD Spanish Speaking Officers. This program which the Department has repeatedly stated could be tailored to meet the needs of their particular advocacy clients has not been requested by any of the participating committee advocate groups.

In the fall of 2018 the Department hired a part-time Civilian Community Liaison Advocate who works at the direction of the Commissioner's Office. The new Community Liaison who has reach within the Latino community has been an integral part in changes directed toward education and engagement for the immigrant community. Necessary changes and updates have been made to our Spanish Facebook which has 408 followers. The Community Liaison has also reviewed translated documents and the Departments social media and has made several suggestions for changes to have a better engagement/impact on the Latino community. Department is seeking to continue this position in the future, expanding the role to a full time position.



Monthly Community Meetings

Each Precinct organizes a monthly meeting to actively 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.

Commissioner Geraldine Hart

In April, 2018, Commissioner Geraldine Hart was appointed as the first woman to be at the helm of the Suffolk County Police Department. Commissioner Hart emphasized the importance of community engagement and ethical policing. She participated in many community meetings, forums and held conversations with Suffolk County residents addressing their questions and concerns with meaningful dialogue to become familiar with the needs and concerns of the residents of Suffolk County.



The Commissioner met with the leadership of numerous minority organizations to maintain open communication lines to serve the community's concerns. In late spring, 2018, Commissioner Hart and other high ranking SCPD officials met with the Suffolk County Superintendent's Association to discuss active shooter policies and protocols to

better serve the residents within the county's boundaries. Among topics discussed were armed security officials hired by districts as an additional layer of protection should an active shooter incident arise.

Commissioner addressed the ongoing Opioid Epidemic in Suffolk County throughout 2018. In response to community complaints, anonymous tips through the 852-NARC hotline and other resources, SCPD had a near 200% rise in search warrants executed within the Police District. Commissioner Hart continued the **Preventing Incarceration Via Opportunities for Treatment,**



P.I.V.O.T., diversion program, the partnership between SCPD and Long Island Center for Alcohol and Drug Dependence (LICADD). The program is an innovative solution in prevention and recovery focussing on the diversion of a person(s) from criminality due to substance abuse into appropriate treatment programs instead of the criminal court system. The program has dedicated intelligence led policing practices in the identification of candidates who are then referred to Long Island Council of Alcohol and Drug Dependence (LICADD) for intervention and coaching into treatment.

Deputy Police Commissioner Risco Mention-Lewis

In January 2018, Deputy Police Commissioner, Risco Mention Lewis, continued the implementation of Custom Notifications in order to achieve a meaningful reduction in violence. These notifications target individuals engaged in violent behavior and advise them of the potential consequences should they continue that behavior. D/PC Mention-Lewis assisted by Precinct Commanding Officers, Community Liaison Officers and local community leaders conducted 25 Custom Notifications within Suffolk County. Additionally, D/PC Mention-Lewis worked with Probation and the Fifth Precinct Command Staff to conduct Call-Ins of individuals advising them of their currenct status within the criminal justice system, consequences of continued criminal activity and offered resources and contacts for job opportunities and other necessary support to assist them in reducing recidivism.

Deputy Commissioner Mention Lewis continues working with the Council on Thought and Action (COTA) in both Wyandanch and Bellport, and developed an additional program in Riverhead. In response to gang violence in Brentwood, Commissioner Mention-Lewis continued to develop the Brentwood Youth Recovery Initiative, partnering with Brentwood School Administration to identify At-Risk-Youth who may be susceptible to gang recruitment. Mention-Lewis put together a team of mentors, primarily Spanish speaking pastors and community members to work with those identified teens to steer them in positive directions, provide available resources to meet their needs, and provide positive influences to potentially change their behavior. Commissioner Lewis worked throughout 2018 in the identification of more than 25 additional community mentors for the Recovery Initiative. She is dedicated to finding proven methods to replicate in Suffolk County to address the gang violence issues.

Additionally, in 2018 D/PC Mention-Lewis participated in forums with the Muslim community and continued Vamos a Hablar forums with the Latino community educating Muslim and Latino residents in SCPD policy and their appropriate



expectations if victimized. The Department will continue to engage these communities providing education and awareness regarding their rights as victims and witnesses.

Precinct Command Staff

Precinct command staff (Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Captains) attended approximately two hundred meetings and events with Latino and other minority communities within the police district. These meetings included *Vamos a Hablar*, the Wyandach Initiative, gun violence seminars, Heroes as Helpers, National Nights Out, Community Safety, Ugly Truth presentations, Homeland Security and Terrorism, Media Relations, and a variety of other topics.

