

# Community Relations Report 2015



Suffolk County Police Department

Community Response Bureau

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## Introduction

The function of the Community Response Bureau is to foster and preserve open avenues of communication between the Department and the diverse communities it serves in an ongoing effort to identify, understand and solve the contemporary public safety problems facing those communities. The Bureau also supervises the county-wide Community Liaison Officer Program, the School



Resource Officer Program, the Recruitment Section and the Police Athletic League. (Attachment #1) The Bureau also acts as the central repository of community relations information for the entire Police Department.

The Community Response Bureau oversees a variety of outreach initiatives throughout the County, such as Crime Prevention Through Design (CPTED), Operation Medicine Cabinet, the Gun Buy-Back program, *Vamos a Hablar*, "The Ugly Truth", and "Impact Truancy".

Additionally, the Community Response Bureau coordinates language access resources for the entire Department. The Bureau creates maintains and updates the Department's Language Access Policy and Plan, it oversees certification of all interpreters, translators and bilingual officers, and it maps changing language assistance needs across the county. The Bureau also conducts and analyzes community satisfactions surveys,

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 diverse communities in Suffolk County.



## Table of Contents

Community Liaison Officer Program	3
School Resource Officer Program	4
Recruitment Section	5
Police Athletic League	5
Police Explorers	7
Programs and Presentations	8
Language Assistance	13
Latino Community Advisory Committee	15
Community Meeting Summaries	19
2015 Success Stories	30
2016 Goals	31
Community Satisfaction Survey	32
Index of Attachments	47



## Community Liaison Program

The Community Response Bureau maintains seven (7) Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) who serve as a bridge between law enforcement and the communities they serve. The Department began the CLO Program in April of 2014 and counts it among its most successful community initiatives to date.

CLOs 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 community issues.

CLOs are assigned to the Community Response Bureau (CRB) and are detailed out to each of the seven (7) precincts in the Police District. They 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 visit with individual citizens and local organizations in order to increase crime awareness, crime prevention, and personal safety. They also coordinate with our School Resource Officers and assist them in providing training and presentations that are relevant to their communities.

The CLOs concentrate their efforts in communities most in need of assistance, providing a highly visible and accessible representative of the Police Department to all.

Community Liaison Officers act as the primary coordinator for the Precinct monthly meetings and of county wide programs such as: The Ugly Truth, *Vamos a Hablar*, National Night Out, Heroes as Helpers, and Summer Jobs Program. CLOs also utilize social media such as Nixle to advertise these events and programs in an effort to provide the most timely information possible to all members of the community.

The Department will continue to devote resource to this successful, proactive endeavor and will continue to staff the CLO Program with the best possible candidates to carry on its mission.



## School Resource Officers

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 #2) SROs make it their top priority to present these topics accurately and in a manner relevant to young people. In turn, it is CRB's top priority 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 are assigned both to the CRB and to individual Precincts. They meet on a



quarterly basis in order to share information and receive group training so that all SROs possess the most current information and intelligence 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.



## 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.

During the 2015 recruitment campaign, the Department implemented aggressive recruiting efforts in its diverse communities. Many avenues were traveled in order to attract a diverse pool of applicants such as attending local NAACP meetings, Latino community events, multi-denominational religious services, and job fairs at military posts. Recruitment officers also responded to colleges with high African-American and Latino attendance throughout the Tri-State area and even as far away as Washington D.C. Media advertisement efforts were similarly directed toward radio stations and newspapers with high circulation in African-American and Latino communities, and special attention was given to seeking out Spanish speaking candidates.

Approximately 20,000 applicants took the 2015 entrance exam and the Department is confident that the efforts of the Recruitment Section will result in a more diversified applicant pool.

## 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 PAL program enables more than 20,000 children to engage in a variety of sporting events and recreational activities. The goal of PAL is to engage our youth in hopes of



decreasing the lure of gangs, drugs, and other delinquent behavior.



Suffolk County 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 July of 2015, Community Liaison and COPE officers from the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct enlisted the help of PAL to create a youth soccer program. Representatives from *Madres Latinas*, a mother’s group which meets at the Patchogue Medford Library, and representatives from the Lucero Foundation approached the CLO and COPE officers about starting a program that would strengthen the bond between police and the Patchogue community. Following discussions, it was determined that a PAL Soccer Program would be a great activity for the youth of Patchogue. The program began in July and ran through the end of August. More than 150 participants, ages 8 to 14, played soccer on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Village of Patchogue.

Several coaches and volunteers from the community were instrumental in the creation, organization and maintenance of this program and Patchogue Village and the Patchogue Medford School District assisted in providing field locations for the program. PAL paid for the insurance for the program and supplied equipment such as soccer balls, cones and pinnies.

The overwhelming success of the program was so great that winter sessions have been added to continue the partnership between the Police Department and the Latino community in Patchogue. This successful model will also be exported to the First Precinct, where COPE officers and the CLO became aware of a similar interest in their community



During 2015, cooking classes were hosted in several communities throughout the police district. Community Response Bureau personnel assisted by COPE and School Resource Officers brought volunteer chefs into the community to teach youth 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 conducted in Bellport, Brentwood, Gordon Heights, Huntington Station, Wyandanch and Rocky Point in 2015 and many more are scheduled for 2016.



## Police Explorers

The Community Response 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 police procedures, laws, 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 functions of a Police Officer. The Department has thirteen Police Officers and six volunteers who oversee the 250 Police Explorers participating in this program.





## Programs and Presentations

### **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 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. During 2015 CRB personnel and Electronic Investigations Section detectives conducted CPTED assessments of several Planned Parenthood locations in Suffolk County for additional security measures after recent national active shooter incidents.

### **I-DENT-A-KIT:**

I-Dent-A-Kit is a program geared to securing personal identification information, including DNA samples and fingerprints of children so that parents can provide authorities this information in missing children investigations. Community Liaison Officers, COPE Officers and School Resource Officers provide I-Dent-A-Kit services at schools, fire departments, community fairs, and special events throughout the year. During 2015 488 children were fingerprinted and received I-DENT-A-KIT packets. The I-Dent-A-Kit program will continue throughout 2016.



### **Car Seat Inspection:**

The Community Response Bureau had 12 Community Liaison, COPE and School Resource Officers professionally trained to inspect and install car seats. SCPD partnered with Education Assistance Corp. (EAC )New York 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. These events were hosted in several diverse communities, including St. Hugh's parish in Huntington Station, which has a large Latino community. This partnership with EAC will continue through 2016 with CLO, COPE and SROs continuing to provide outreach in this capacity.

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

The Community Response Bureau continued implementing the S.A.V.E. Program in 2015, which streamlines the police response to an actively violent school situation. As of October 30, 2015 S.A.V.E. hotline phone numbers have been installed in 31 public school districts within police district. The program is running with live phones in 27 of these districts, where 374 phones have been installed in 234 school buildings. Two remaining school districts with several buildings and 1 college with 3 buildings are in the implementation process. In addition, 7 private schools are utilizing the program, 2 with live hotline phones in their buildings. Community Response 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.

### **Crash Course In Crash Avoidance:**

This CRB 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 July of 2015 SCPD EVOC instructors provided one week of instructional driving courses, offering 2 sessions per day, which allowed more than 92 teenagers to complete the program.

### **National Night Out**

National Night Out is a yearly event sponsored by Target Corporation where police officers interact with community members in a positive manner. In August of 2015 the Community Response 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. Nearly 3,000 community members attended the events countywide.



### **Impact Truancy:**

The Community Response 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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. Research has shown that the transition years (9<sup>th</sup> and, 6<sup>th</sup> grades) are an important time to identify students who are beginning to skip classes or school entirely.

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 September 2015, the Impact Truancy program was expanded to include both William Floyd Middle School and William Paca Middle School in the William Floyd School District. The Community Response Bureau is seeking avenues to expand this program to additional area high schools in 2016.

### **The Ugly Truth**

Community Response 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. Operation Medicine Cabinet receptacles are available at each event for participants to dispose of unwanted medication. In 2015, “The Ugly Truth” event was held in seventeen school districts with more than 1250 participants trained in Narcan use. This program will continue throughout 2016. (Attachment #3)



### **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 2015, over 7,921 pounds of unwanted pharmaceutical drugs were deposited at the seven police precincts. Since the program's inception in July 2010, over 25,000 pounds of medications have been collected. This program will continue in 2016.



### **Police Week 2015**

In May of 2015 the Suffolk County Police Department hosted Police Week at Police Headquarters in Yaphank. Community Liaison, COPE and School Resource Officers engaged nearly 3,000 students from elementary level through high school level over the 4-day event. All participants viewed demonstrations by specialized police functions such as EVOG 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 to serve Suffolk County residents. 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 in an interactive setting on a dedicated high school day, providing them with valuable information regarding drinking and driving and police interactions in traffic stop situations.

### **Gun Buy Back:**

In 2015 the Suffolk County Police Department conducted 1 gun buy-back event. A total of 109 weapons were collected. SCPD has collected 427 weapons at Gun Buy Back events conducted since 2013. CRB personnel coordinate and assist at all Buy Back events. (Attachment #4)

### **Police Clergy Council**

In May of 2015 the Community Response Bureau formed the Police/Clergy Council to invite religious leaders from across Suffolk County to a monthly meeting where they are educated in police procedures and tactics. 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 viewed portions of the Department's Bias Free Policing Training, as well presentations by guest speakers from the Hate Crimes Unit, Highway Patrol Bureau, Internal Affairs Bureau and other commands within the Department. The Police Clergy Council will continue to meet monthly in 2016. (Attachment #5)



## Language Assistance

The Commanding Officer of the Community Response Bureau is the Language Access Coordinator (LAC) for the Department and is responsible for the provision of all language assistance services. The LAC, and by extension, the Community Response Bureau, must create, maintain, update and evaluate all policies and procedures that pertain to rendering language assistance.

### **The Language Access Policy and Plan**

The Community Response Bureau updated the Language Access Policy and Plan (LAP) in 2015 (Attachment #6) and had it translated into the 6 most commonly used non-English languages in Suffolk County; Spanish (Attachment #7), Mandarin Chinese (simplified) (Attachment #8), Italian (Attachment #9), Haitian-Creole (Attachment #10), Polish (Attachment #11) and Portuguese (Attachment #12). It is now available online on both the 'In the Spotlight' and 'Vital Documents' pages. The CRB actively distributes the LAP in both English and Spanish throughout the Police District, posts it on the SCPD website, and displays it in each police facility that is open to the general public. (Attachment #13)

The CRB also had 40 new Language Line handsets installed throughout the police district, and has developed a Special Training Bulletin, 14-02f, which highlights conference calling while using Language Line. CRB has been approved to purchase 25 headsets to provide language interpretation in group settings such as community meetings. CRB also distributes Memo Book inserts explaining how to contact language line services in any situation to all Department members.

Community Response Bureau has translated 10 vital documents, (8 public and 2 internal) into the 6 most commonly spoken non-English languages and has identified 3 additional vital documents: "Release of Medical Records", "General Receipt", and "Domestic Violence Threat Assessment Survey", which have been sent for translation into the 6 most commonly used non-English languages. (Attachment #14) The CRB meets with Language advocates and community groups quarterly in order to better serve LEP individuals and to request input regarding the Language Access Plan to ensure that it is addressing the needs of the Latino community. On November 10, 2015 the revised LAP was distributed to members of the Latino Advisory Committee who were requested to provide input to better serve the LEP community. Additionally, CRB has begun mapping



LEP demographics of school districts by requesting their ESL statistics in order to identify relevant language populations. (Attachment #15) CRB also researched language access needs of local hospitals for this project, but the school district data gave a better indication of where LEP populations were concentrated allowing the Department the ability to utilize its resources in the most effective manner.

The CRB also coordinates the certification of Department Authorized Interpreters, Translators and Bilingual Officers with Language Line Solutions. To date, the Department has certified one Department Authorized Interpreter and six certified Bilingual Officers who are presently in CLO, COPE and Internal Affairs assignments. (Attachment #16) The Department is in the process of scheduling testing for additional qualified candidates.

Community Response Bureau retitled the Interpretation Tracking Form as the Language Assistance Tracking Form to encompass non-interpretation based language assistance. Due to very low compliance with completion of the paper form, CRB initiated measures to make the form a mandatory field on the Department's Online Reporting System. The Language Assistance Tracking Form is now attached to all central complaint numbers and calls involving LEP 911 callers, and supervisors are notified upon dispatch of such calls. These changes were implemented, in part, in response to complaints made during the July 2015 Latino Community Advisory Committee meeting.



# Community Meeting Summaries

## Latino Community Advisory Committee (LCAC) Meetings

Commissioner, Edward Webber and other senior command staff attended quarterly meetings with the Latino Community Advisory Committee in January, April, July and November of 2015. Commissioner Webber and his staff provided relevant information to committee members in response to questions on a number of topics on SCPD policy and practice

### January – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter

At the January 2015 meeting, Commissioner Webber addressed topics regarding Language Access, Hate Crimes statistics, third party reporting of crimes, Bias Free Policing, recruitment for the 2015 police officer exam, Community Satisfaction Surveys, status of the Sgt. Greene case, and civilian complaints.

Deputy Commissioner Risco Mention Lewis discussed cultural competency regarding the police entrance exam and the need to recruit minority candidates with the necessary educational background to attain a hireable score on the exam, the plight of undocumented minors in Suffolk County, spoke about *Vamos a Hablar* events designed to have an open dialogue between the Police Department and the Latino community, and proposed a partnership with Touro regarding police/student interaction.

Detective Lieutenant Robert Donohue discussed the purchase of interpretation equipment for Language assistance during community meetings, Language Access policies, PAL, summer programs, Recruitment, and the proposed “What to do When Stopped by the Police” presentation. Detective Sgt. James Brierton discussed Hate Crimes statistics in detail, identifying the majority of designated hate offenses reported in Suffolk County to date. He also addressed the under-reporting of Hate Crimes against Latino.

Committee member, Greg Maney requested that Hate Crime patterns and trends be posted on the SCPD website and requested additional third party advocacy groups be added to the Crime Victims Information Report. The advocates further requested the SCPD cultural sensitivity training curriculum and better advertisement of the Precinct monthly meetings.





In response to the committee members requests, the Crime Victims Information Report was amended to add the requested advocacy groups, and Hate Crimes patterns and trends are now listed on the SCPD website. The Third Precinct Executive Officer corresponded with Irma Solis regarding upcoming Precinct monthly meetings, and all Community Liaison Officers were advised to advertise monthly meetings through Nixle a week prior, and follow-up with a Nixle after the meeting, advising community members of the topics discussed. (Attachment #17)

### **April - 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

At the April meeting Commissioner Webber updated members on the developing Language Access Plan and modifications to the community survey. He also reminded the attendees of his “open door” policy to discuss community issues.

Detective Lieutenant Robert Donohue discussed the results of the 2015 Police Examination campaign statistics, summer youth academies, the civilian academy, PAL programs, and the newly formed Police Clergy/Council. Committee members were asked to assist the Department in the promotion of these programs, and also encouraged to attend an upcoming Civilian Academy.

Police Officer Sabrina Pitch presented “What to do When Stopped by the Police”, and committee members were requested to give feedback to assist in developing the most effective presentation style for this topic. Members offered suggestions that the presentation reflect the motorist perspective as well as the police officer’s, and that videos be less violent. Detective Lieutenant Stephen Hernandez briefed the committee on Hate Crimes statistics and trends of crimes targeting the elderly.

Foster Maer of Latino Justice asked for an explanation of Dr. Bob Marmo’s statement from January Compliance Report, to which Commissioner Webber stated he would research and comment at a later date. Irma Solis of Make the Road NY stated that members of her group attended the Third Precinct monthly meeting and were not provided with interpretation services.

In response to comments and requests made by committee members, the following actions were taken. The “What to do When Stopped by the Police” presentation was changed to incorporate many of the suggestions made by committee members. There is now space for interactive role play, the more violent videos showing officers shot at vehicle and traffic stops were removed, more information was added from the motorists perspective and the NYCLU tips for were added.



On April 28, 2015 D/LT Donohue contacted Dr. Marmo regarding Foster Maers question. Dr. Marmo agreed to contact Mr. Maer directly to provide clarification. Third Precinct Commanding Officer, Robert Brown, was contacted in regard to interpretation services at the April monthly meeting. He confirmed that a Spanish speaking officer was present at the meeting and no requests were made for interpretation. Provisions were made for future meetings to ensure the presence of two Spanish speaking officers to be present at the monthly meeting to avoid any further issues. (Attachment #18)

### **July – 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**

During the July meeting, Commissioner Webber discussed the revision of the Language Access Plan, the completed changes to the SCPD Community Survey, updates to “What to do When Stopped by the Police”, ongoing *Vamos a Hablar* events and topics discussed at other community events.

Detective Lieutenant Robert Donohue discussed PAL programs including the creation of a new PAL Soccer program in Patchogue Village with a primarily Latino participant base. D/Lt. Donohue explained that the program was formed in response to requests made by the Madres Latinas group from Patchogue Library. D/Lt Donohue discussed the four Youth Academy classes at the Police Academy, PAL cooking classes, Gun Buy Back program in Huntington Station, and topics discussed at the Police Clergy/Council meetings. Committee members were requested to provide clergy council information to religious leaders who they think would be interested in participating in the program. He further discussed the House of Worship Security Seminar which was provided to East End Clergy members. Make the Road NY representative, Walter Barrientos, asked if the seminar could be provided in Spanish. He was advised that could be done easily on request.

Committee member Luis Valenzuela from LI Immigration Alliance requested the DOJ Training Course Curriculum and traffic stop data. Commissioner Webber invited committee members to attend the training in September and invited members to attend the police applicant orientation and physical agility testing to promote transparency of the hiring process. Sgt. Love of Legal Bureau responded to questions regarding traffic stop data. Pat Young from CARE Center requested information regarding a recent Hate Crime reported in the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct.



Questions were raised pertaining to overall language access services provided at the initial contact with reporting officers. Christina Gaudio from Suffolk County Legal Aid requested additional information regarding SCPD policies regarding ICE notifications. Amol Sinha of the NYCLU inquired about the SCPD's status on body cameras. Commissioner Webber addressed this by stating that the department is in the preliminary stages of applying for a federal grant for that equipment.

In response to the concerns raised by committee members that required additional investigation the following was provided. The Department changed the title of the form from Interpretation Tracking Form, to Language Assistance form, revised policy to require that Bilingual Officers complete this tracking form (Department Directive 15-12, 15-12a), IT updated programming to require the completion of Language Assistance Tracking prior to completing on-line reporting Technology Bulletin 15-03), and audits of language assistance calls have been performed by Internal Affairs and Chief of Patrol. A written notification was submitted to Internal Affairs Bureau regarding the specific incident depicted by committee members at the 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct for a follow-up investigation. Sgt. Kenneally contacted Christina Gaudio updating her of current SCPD policy regarding ICE notifications. (Attachment #19)

### **November – 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

At the November meeting, Commissioner Webber thanked committee members for their continued assistance in this process, and gave information regarding the current Police recruit class, affirming that at least 10% of the recruits were hired from the Spanish speaking candidate list.

Sgt. Kenneally updated committee members with the status of the Department Authorized Interpreter initiative and language assistance procedures. Detective Lieutenant Donohue updated the committee on Police Clergy/Council, and *Vamos a Hablar* events. Sgt. Christopher Love reviewed the SCPD policy regarding ICE notification procedures. Sgt. James Brierton provided Hate Crimes statistics and patterns, PO Mitch Savino gave an overview of the Bias Free Policing Training currently being provided to officers at the Academy, and provided committee members with dates so they could personally view the complete training block.

Inspector Armando Valencia of Internal Affairs also discussed civilian complaint procedures. Cheryl Keshner raised questions regarding Language Line



conference calling, stating that her representatives performed an audit of the system. Keshner stated that at the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct and 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct callers were disconnected by the officer receiving the call. She further stated that Language Assistance posters were unreadable in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. In response to Ms. Keshner's concerns, Special Training Bulletin 14-02f was revised alerting officers to dial "9" prior to dialing the Language Line number in order to connect the conference calling properly. Further, new posters were ordered to replace the damaged poster at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct. Community Liaison Officers were advised to order new posters immediately if any are missing or become damaged, and conduct monthly inspections of precinct signage to ensure precincts meet the policy dictated by the department's Language Access Plan. (Attachment #20)

In 2016 LCAC meetings have been scheduled for February 24, 2016, April 13, 2016, July 13, 2016 and October 12, 2016.

### **Additional Meetings attended by Senior Staff**

During 2015 Commissioner Webber met with the SCPD Jade Society, Hispanic Society, Women's Association and Guardians. He also attended the Martin Luther King breakfast and luncheon sponsored by the Suffolk County Human Rights Commission, and attended a Police Media Relations meeting.

Deputy Police Commissioner, Risco Mention Lewis, attended 200 community meetings, events, and training sessions between 01-01-15 and 11/15/15. She continued to present training sessions to SCPD CLO, COPE and SRO personnel on Enhanced Community Relations and Policing. Deputy Commissioner Lewis attended numerous meetings for the Bilingual Advisory Council, addressed Touro Law students on several occasions regarding "Courageous Conversations" and Enhanced Community Relations. In pursuit of interruption and reduction of violent interaction, Commissioner Mention-Lewis has spearheaded the Custom Notification program, working with numerous Suffolk County agencies, detective commands, community liaison, school resource and gang officers in order to identify target individuals.

Deputy Commissioner Mention Lewis continues working with the Council on Thought and Action (COTA) in both Wyandanch and Bellport. She works closely with these communities, organizing resource fairs to help those in need. At her direction Community Liaison Officers assisted and oversaw approximately 50 youth in the summer jobs program by helping them to find suitable employment through the Department of Labor. (Attachment #21)



Former Deputy Police Commissioner Timothy Sini held a forum with Muslim leadership at police headquarters to address concerns expressed by the Muslim community within Suffolk County. Deputy Commissioner Sini and members of the command staff provided a forum for open communication between the police department and Muslim leaders after events that received national press, targeting those community members came to light. The Department reassured the Muslim community of its dedication to serving all denominations without bias or prejudice.

Precinct command staff (Inspectors, Deputy Inspectors and Captains) attended approximately one hundred seventy five 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. (Attachment # 22)

## **Precinct Monthly Meetings**

### **First Precinct:**

The First Precinct held eight Precinct community meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/30/15. The meetings were held at the West Babylon Library and were open to all members of the community. Representatives of the First Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues. Additionally, First Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings, such as Lindenhurst Chamber of Commerce, Wyandach Weed & Seed, Town of Babylon Fire Chiefs, Wheatley Heights Civic Association, neighborhood watch groups. The First Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform and plainclothes officers, MDC notifications to First Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies, such as Babylon Town and Babylon Village for solutions when appropriate.

In effort to combat gun violence, the First Precinct developed a special task force in response to several shootings in the North Amityville and Wyandach communities. The tremendous effort put forth by the 20 officers assigned has led



to 13 illegal handguns taken off the streets and 389 individuals arrested on 539 charges. The initiative incorporated daily meetings with business owners with establishments on the Merritt Ave and Straight Path corridors to discuss suspicious activity and concerns they may have. First Precinct Community Liaison Officer, COPE Officers and liaison officers from neighboring commands conducted door- to- door patrols after 3 shootings during the summer, speaking to more than 450 residents quelling their concerns by answering questions and distributing crime stoppers tip cards advising them where to contact with any information they may have regarding the incidents.

The First Precinct CLO and COPE Officers responded to community quality of life concerns of “zombie houses” in West Babylon and Wyandanch where gang members and squatters were living by working with several different agencies and utility companies to have the homes inspected and subsequently condemned. CLO and COPE Officers organized a resource fair at the Wyandanch Youth Center to provide job training, school and job opportunities to more than 150 participants age 16-25. First Precinct CLO, COPE and SROs ran a free summer camp for 25 children age 7-15 providing classroom instruction on bullying, internet safety and other topics, attended trips to various museums, farms, swimming pools etc. providing them with strong role models throughout the summer.

The First Precinct was the pilot for the Youth Police Initiative where Deputy Commissioner Mention Lewis, Inspector Matthew Lewis and Deputy Inspector Joseph Busweiler met with 10 at-risk youth to participate in various moderated exercises with CLO and COPE Officers conducting role playing and team building exercises to help build a youth mentor program.

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other First Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community related events and outreach efforts. These included parades, fairs/festivals, cooking classes, youth camps, bike rides, and concerts. First Precinct personnel also attended mass in several parishes, including several with primarily Spanish parishioners, where they addressed attendees on several topics to build trust between the police and community. (Attachments 23a & b)

## **Second Precinct:**

The Second Precinct held eleven Precinct Community Meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/30/15. The meetings were held at the Huntington Public Library and were open to all members of the community. Representatives of the Second



Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues. Additionally, Second Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings such as COTA, Tri Community and Youth Agency, Maggie Matters, and Source the Station/Huntington Station Renaissance, neighborhood watch groups, etc., where concerns and issues could be raised by community residents. The Second Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform and plain clothes officers at complaint locations, MDC notifications to Second Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies such as Town of Huntington when appropriate.

Second Precinct Community Liaison Officers, COPE and School Resource Officers conduct daily meetings/interactions with command staff regarding community concerns and issues. CLO, COPE and SRO officers conducted two large scale *Vamos a Hablar* events at St Hugh of Lincoln in Huntington Station. The two part series, first held in June and the second in October enabled Second Precinct Officers to interact with nearly 1200 parishioners on each day. While participating in the fair, Community Liaison Officers spoke to participants on topics such as victim/witness rights, the importance of reporting crimes, what to do when stopped by the police, the value of carrying identification, the department's language access plan, tenant's rights, compliment/complaint procedures and a variety of other topics. The officers answered questions creating a dialogue with the Huntington Station Latino community. During the first session, car seat inspections appointments were made available to those individuals who wished to utilize the service. Safe seats provided by EAC New York replaced car seats that were found to be defective.

In addition, CLO and COPE Officers met with command staff on a daily basis discussing issues brought to their attention during community meetings/forms. Discussed were vehicle and traffic complaints, illegal drug activity, quality of life concerns such as public urination and homelessness, and concerns regarding gang member violence and handguns. In response to concerns raised Second Precinct officers assigned to Community Support Unit and patrol were assigned increased patrols and monitoring of vehicle and traffic complaint sites, Ugly Truth forums with

Narcan training was scheduled to address concerns with the growing heroin epidemic, assistance was given in neighborhood watch programs, collaboration with social services was sought to address homelessness, officers participated in spring clean the streets in Huntington Station, and Precinct Crime Section addressed complaints of sale of alcohol to minors through an underage alcohol



sting operation. A gun buy-back program was organized in the Town of Huntington where 70 guns were surrendered.

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other Second Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community-related events and outreach efforts. These included parades, fairs/festivals, cooking classes, youth camps, bike rides, and concerts to name a few. Additionally, Second Precinct Officers attended BOCES cooking classes to interact with youth in an informal manner, participated in the New York Avenue Spring Clean Up alongside local Huntington business owners, provided outreach to local communities through ESL classes, sports clinics, holiday turkey and toy drives and many other events. (Attachments 24a, b & c)

### **Third Precinct:**

The Third Precinct held eleven Precinct Community Meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/30/15. The meetings were held at the Third Precinct and local Public Libraries depending on the month, and were open to all members of the community. Due to the large Spanish speaking community in the Third Precinct, a second meeting is held at the Brentwood Public Library. Representatives of the Third Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues.

Additionally, Third Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings, such as those held at the El Salvadoran Consulate, and the LI Women Empowerment Network. Officers met with religious leaders, local political leaders, business owners, civic associations and neighborhood watch groups, providing additional forums for issues to be raised. The Third Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform and plain clothes officers at complaint locations, MDC notifications to 3rd Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies, such as Islip Town and for solutions when appropriate.

During daily meetings with Third Precinct command staff, Community Liaison Officer Morales advised precinct commanders of issues brought to her attention during community meetings and events. CLO and COPE Officers addressed 'Zombie Houses' by partnering with several different agencies to conduct





surveillance, inspect and subsequently condemn two homes where suspected drug dealing and unsafe living conditions existed, several arrests having been made and temporary housing provided to eligible persons. CLO and COPE officers were requested to address a homeless situation in the Central Islip and Brentwood area. Officers collaborated with workers from Social Service to provide temporary housing for individuals in need. Third Precinct Inspector Robert Brown, CLO, and COPE officers conducted several *Vamos a Hablar* Events, Let's Talk and cooking classes providing valuable outreach to the Latino community in their precinct boundaries. Vehicle and traffic complaints were addressed by the assignment of Community Support Officers to combat speeding, 15 at-risk youth were identified through the assistance of school social workers to help them obtain appropriate summer employment through the Department of Labor, and quality of life issues such as illegal parties significantly lessened through the monitoring of social media.

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other Third Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community related events and outreach efforts. These included parades, fairs/festivals, youth camps/basketball games, police explorers, and concerts to name a few. Additionally, the Third Precinct hosted several *Vamos a Hablar* events, cooking classes at the Brentwood Freshman Center where guest chefs taught simple recipes to participants, held basketball clinics, participated in Spring Clean Up events with Central Islip and Brentwood, holiday turkey and toy drives and a variety of other outreach efforts. (Attachments 25a & b)

### **Fourth Precinct:**

The Fourth Precinct held nine Precinct Community Meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/30/15. The meetings were held at the Smithtown Public Library and were open to all members of the community. Representatives of the Fourth Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues. Presentations were given by specialized commands to educate the public in regard to their duties and ability to help the community. Additionally, Fourth Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings, such as the Commack Community Association, and the Ronkonkoma Civic Association, and met with religious leaders, local political leaders, business owners, civic associations, school officials and neighborhood watch groups, providing additional forums for issues to be raised. The Fourth Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol



Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform officers at complaint locations, MDC notifications to Fourth Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies, such as Town of Smithtown for solutions when appropriate.

From July through November Community Liaison Officer Laveglia met with precinct command staff on a daily basis to discuss issues and concerns brought to the department's attention at community meetings and events. Primarily discussed were quality of life issues such as traffic complaints, suspected drug dealing, petit larcenies from vehicles, robberies and noise complaints. CLO and COPE officers conducted an awareness effort to address Robbery crime patterns by distributing crime stoppers tips cards to area gas stations and convenience stores which had been targeted in prior incidents. Patrol checks were made and assigned to Community Support Unit to address the quality of life issues. Senior Safety seminars were conducted to educate senior citizens concentrating on various scams and distraction burglary techniques used against the elderly to thwart scam artists/groups. The Fourth Precinct led by Community Liaison Officer Laveglia hosted the 1<sup>st</sup> "Ugly Truth" forum at Commack High School which Community Response Bureau used to base the current program on. The Fourth Precinct has hosted 4 "Ugly Truth" events in 2015,

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other Fourth Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community related events and outreach efforts. These included parades, fairs/festivals, youth camps/basketball games, police explorers, and concerts to name a few. The Fourth Precinct hosted 2 car seat inspection events one included distracted driving to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking/texting while driving, held holiday turkey drives, coat drives and a variety of other outreach events. (Attachments 63a & b)

### **Fifth Precinct:**

The Fifth Precinct held eleven Precinct Community meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/01/15. The meetings were held at the Fifth Precinct, Waverly Ave, Patchogue. Due to parking fees in Patchogue Village lots, the meeting site was moved to the Fifth Precinct and is open to all members of the community. Representatives of the Fifth Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues. Additionally, Fifth Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings, such as the Bellport Community Meeting, HELP Suffolk,



the Ronkonkoma Civic Association, South Country Leadership, and the Lighthouse Mission. The Fifth Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform and plain clothes officers MDC notifications to Fifth Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies, such as Brookhaven Town and Patchogue Village for solutions when appropriate.

Community Liaison Officer Lauren Ventura met with precinct command staff on a daily basis to discuss issues and concerns brought to her attention community meetings and events. CLO and COPE Officers organized a PAL Youth Soccer Program in response to a request from the Madres Latinas, a Spanish advocacy group in Patchogue. The group requested a sports program to keep youth off of the streets and out of trouble during the summer months. Fifth precinct CLO, COPE and Community Response Bureau ran the program where 150 children participated in skills/drills and game situations with the assistance of community volunteers. The program participant base was primarily Latino and significantly improved relations in the Patchogue Latino community with the Police Department. The program was so successful that not only was it continued during the winter months in indoor facilities, it opened lines of communications between local Latino advocacy groups and Fifth Precinct command staff and community officers.

CLO and COPE officers worked with social workers from Bellport HS to identify at-risk youth who would benefit from the summer jobs program. The Bellport program had 22 participants who were mentored by officers in job readiness and were then placed in jobs through the Department of Labor. To address complaints of drug activity at several locations in Bohemia, several specialized units within the department were assigned to monitor and take action to the reported problem resulting in several arrests, summonses and the execution of a search warrant. CLO and COPE officers are continually present in areas of need in North Bellport such as the Lighthouse Mission and the Boys and Girls Club, providing the children with familiar faces to build trusting relationships.

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other Fifth Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community related events and outreach efforts. These included ESL classes, parades, fairs/festivals, youth camps, organized youth basketball leagues, assisted with homework at Bellport Boys and Girls Club, and concerts to name a few. Additionally, Fifth Precinct Officers participated in holiday turkey drives, attended ESL classes, several *Vamos a Hablar* events, participated in the North Bellport Spring Clean Up, and hosted several car seat inspections for the community. (Attachments 27a & b)



## Sixth Precinct:

The Sixth Precinct held eleven Precinct Community Meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/30/15. The meetings were held at the Sixth Precinct and were open to all members of the community. Representatives of the Sixth Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues. Additionally, Sixth Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings, such as the Blue Ridge Homeowner's Association, Port Jefferson Station/Terryville Civic Association, Farmingville Residents Association, Coalition to Preserve the Heritage of Gordon Heights, neighborhood watch, and various other community groups providing additional forums where issues could be raised by community residents. The Sixth Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform and plain clothes personnel, MDC notifications to Sixth Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies, such as the Town of Brookhaven and Port Jefferson Village for solutions when appropriate.

Community Liaison Officer and COPE Officers interacted on a daily basis with Sixth Precinct command staff regarding community issues and concerns. Complaints in the Farmingville area by a group referred to as "the Savage Boys" who ride their bicycles and quads on the roadway in Farmingville and Holtsville was addressed by enlisting COPE and CSU personnel on quads as well as increased enforcement resulting in the impounding of vehicles and issuance of summonses.

Sixth Precinct CLO and COPE collaborated with Angela Miller of Department of Social Service to conduct Homeless Outreach in the Coram and Port Jeff Station areas in response to community complaints. Prostitution stings were conducted on Route 25, Coram in response to community meeting complaints by Coram and Middle Island residents resulting in arrests and on-going monitoring and enforcement in the area. Complaints of drug dealing in that area were handled in a similar manner.

CLO and COPE Officers assisted community leaders in Gordon Heights in forming a summer basketball league for area youth to provide organized activities to keep the youth out of trouble during the summer months. Additionally, CLO and COPE officers conducted cooking classes at St Michaels Church in Gordon Heights affording the officers a terrific venue to interact with



children and teens in a positive manner. CLO and COPE officers organized a *Vamos a Hablar* event at One More for Jesus to provide valuable information to Latino residents regarding victim/witness rights, tenant' rights, Language Access Plan, what to do when stopped by the police, compliment/complaint procedures and other pertinent topics.

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other Sixth Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community related events and outreach efforts. These included parades, fairs/festivals, cooking classes, youth Easter egg hunts, bike rides, and concerts to name a few. Additionally, the Sixth Precinct held a *Vamos a Hablar* at two churches in Latino communities. (Attachments 28a & b)

### **Seventh Precinct:**

The Seventh Precinct held ten Precinct Community Meetings between 01/01/15 and 11/30/15. The meetings were held at the Seventh Precinct and were open to all members of the community. Representatives of the Seventh Precinct provided recent crime stats and trends to those present and afforded community members a forum to express particular areas of concern regarding quality of life issues. Additionally, Seventh Precinct officers including CLO and COPE personnel attended a variety of other community meetings, such as Pattersquash Creek Civic Association, Mastic Beach Village, Sound Beach Civic, and the Unkechaug Tribal Council. The Seventh Precinct addressed concerns raised by assigning patrol checks under the Patrol Check System, targeted enforcement by uniform and plainclothes officers, MDC notifications to Seventh Precinct personnel, and referrals to other agencies, such as Brookhaven Town and Village of Mastic Beach for solutions when appropriate.

Seventh Precinct Community Liaison Officer and COPE officers communicate with command staff on a daily basis regarding crime trends and patterns as well as community quality of life issues and concerns. In response to a Burglary crime pattern in Colonial Woods, a condominium complex in Yaphank, CLO and COPE officers conducted foot and bicycle patrols during high pattern times to increase officer presence in the area. Additionally, special community meetings were conducted with presentations by Deputy Inspector Fasanelli and Detective Sgt. Joseph who addressed crime patterns and tactics residents could employ to lessen their likelihood of being targeted.

The CLO enlisted the assistance of Spanish speaking CLOs from other precincts to conduct outreach with the Spanish community at ESL classes at Mastic



Library and outreach to Spanish businesses in the area. CLO and COPE officers addressed complaints of squatters in Mastic by enlisting the assistance of Town of Brookhaven Law Department. Vehicle and traffic complaints, suspicion of drug dealing and other quality of life complaints were referred to Community Support Unit for enforcement through use of the patrol check system. Additionally, Seventh Precinct CLO and COPE coordinated with the Village of Mastic Beach Code Enforcement, Probation, Parole, and Suffolk County Department of Social Service in effort to improve the quality of life in Mastic Beach. In response to community quality of life complaints, officers worked closely to identify problem homes in Mastic Beach which were frequently referred to them by area residents for complaints and concerns. The operation which entailed visiting these residences with Mastic Beach Code Enforcement, Fire Marshall, Parole, Probation, DSS resulted in several arrests for drug possession and warrants, fines imposed to landlords for safety/code violations, assistance with heat and services to at least one residence, the closure of one home due to the extent of violations and safety issues, where the tenants were assisted with temporary housing by the Department of Social Service representative. The initiative was repeated on several occasions enabling the closure of several nuisance homes where drug dealing was rampant.

In addition to attending community meetings the Community Liaison Officer, COPE and other Seventh Precinct personnel attended and participated in numerous community related events and outreach efforts. These included parades, fairs/festivals, cooking classes, youth camps, bike rides, and concerts to name a few. Additionally, Seventh Precinct Officers held several *Vamos a Hablar* events at ESL classes in the Mastic/Shirley area. (Attachments 29a & b)



## Community Response Bureau Successes for 2015

The Community Response Bureau enjoyed great success in 2015. Existing programs such as the Community Liaison Officers, and new initiatives such as the 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct soccer program all had significant positive impact upon the communities served by the Department, and in turn bolstered relationships with members of the communities we police.

CRB's Language Assistance efforts have also made strides in 2015. A revised LAP, implementation of interpreter certification testing, acquisition of new language assistance equipment and the expansion of translated documents and forms are among CRB's accomplishments for the year. Looking forward into 2016, the CRB seeks to expand liaisons with the Long Island Latino Teachers Association as well as other Latino community groups in order to solicit, and incorporate, locally meaningful feedback on all its language assistance efforts.

Outreach and educational programs continue to rank among CRB's most successful endeavors. The Ugly Truth is exceptionally very well received and is very much in demand across the County. *Vamos a Hablar* enjoys similar popularity and visibly bridges the gap between the Latino community and the police. Additionally, CLOs and COPE Officers' youth-focused activities such as sports clinics, cooking classes, job readiness, round table discussions, and classroom presentations, all rank very high in participant satisfaction.

Internally, the CRB developed a community relations daily activity reporting system to allow CLOs, COPE and School Resource Officers to properly record their activity in a medium that allows for quick access and useful data extraction. The database collects information regarding community meetings, complaint/concern topics, presentation topics, outreach initiatives, fairs, parades and any other community related activity.

Finally, the CRB continued to distribute, collect and tabulate the Community Survey. Over 1500 surveys have been returned and the data collected is analyzed below in this report.



## Community Response Bureau Goals for 2016

The Community Survey, which has been in use for more than a year is too long. A significant number of surveys are returned unfinished, and several respondents have indicated that the complexity of some of the questions is also daunting. Efforts will be made in 2016 to streamline the survey and re-focus it on the issues that matter most, public perception of the police, satisfaction with police service and availability and quality of language assistance. The Department will present an improved version of the existing survey to the United States Justice Department for review and feedback.

CRB must also move forward more aggressively with the certification testing of interpreters and bilingual officers. The Initial experience with testing has revealed that the interpreter skills exam is more difficult than anticipated. The original projected number of DAIs will, therefore, likely fall short, and the Department will have to re-focus interpretation protocols on the use of certified bilingual officers. This will require adjustments to the Language Access Policy and Plan and other procedures pertaining to call assignment and supervisory oversight. The CRB will devote whatever resources necessary to put the most qualified personnel in position to provide language assistance in 2016.

Language learning opportunities for all personnel will be identified in 2016, and the CRB will investigate language immersion programs for bilingual officers to help increase their success in becoming certified as Department Authorized Interpreters. CRB will also solicit and incorporate feedback from local community groups who understand the specific needs of their communities.

Finally, the CRB will again promote and track awareness of new Department Directives regarding language assistance. Many of the new policies and procedures that are overseen by CRB will again alter long-standing customs and procedures. The CRB will continue to work diligently to have necessary directives drafted, disseminated and implemented on a Department-wide scale, and will provide whatever resources necessary to ensure that the necessary changes in custom, policy and practice are made..





## Satisfaction Survey

The Suffolk County Police Department Community Survey was developed 2014 to determine the level of satisfaction with the Department's overall service to the communities it serves, and also to gauge the quality of its language assistance services to the Latino community.

The survey is available in hardcopy in both English and Spanish at each of the Precincts and all facilities open to the general public. It is distributed in both English and Spanish by Community Liaison Officers, COPE, and School Resource Officers, to leaders and attendees at community meetings County-wide. It is delivered to local businesses, churches and public libraries and is also available online on the SCPD Homepage.

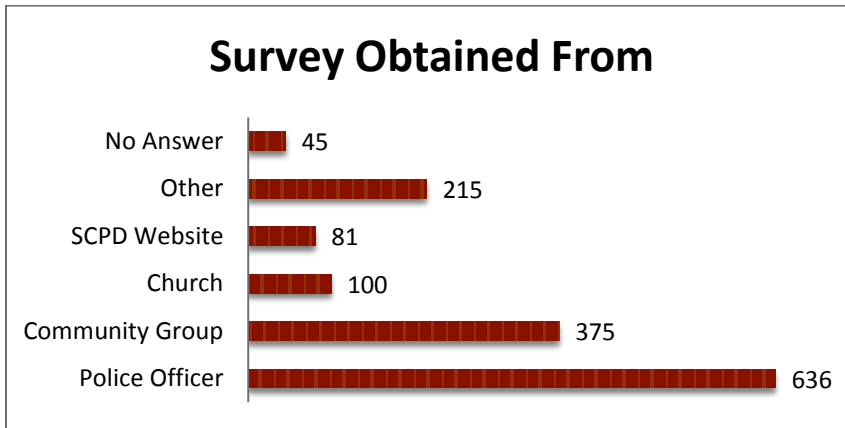
The Survey is comprised of 32 questions, 31 of which contain multiple-choice answers, and 10 which allow for write-in commentary. Numeric results are tabulated and displayed on the SCPD website at <http://scpdnettest/onlineSurveyAdmin>, (Attachment #30) and written comments are maintained by CRB for dissemination to appropriate CLOs and Precinct Commanders and for incorporation into annual reports. (Attachment #31)

Survey results reflect the completion, or partial completion, of 1,547 surveys between November 1, 2014 and November 1, 2015. The total number of responses appears following each narrative in parentheses. Differing totals reflect the addition of questions to the survey over the course of its development.



## Question 1

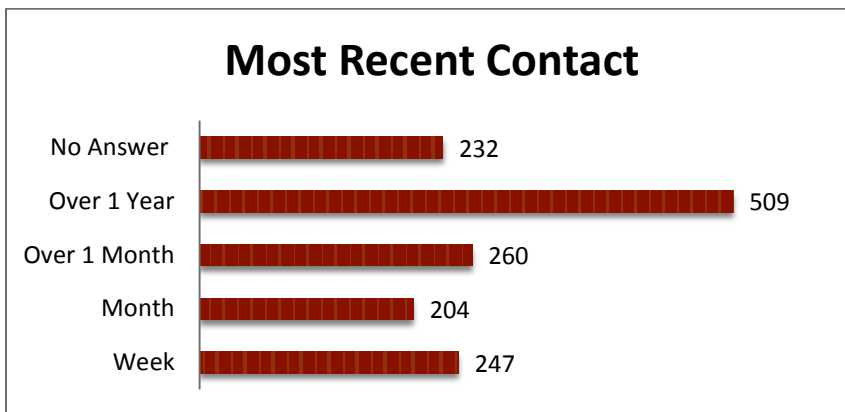
Please indicate how you obtained this survey:



This question seeks to identify the success of different distribution channels. The results indicate that direct distribution by police officers is most prevalent. As all channels appear to yield some level of return it is questionable as to whether this question will remain in future iterations of the survey. (1452)

## Question 2

When was your most recent contact with the SCPD?

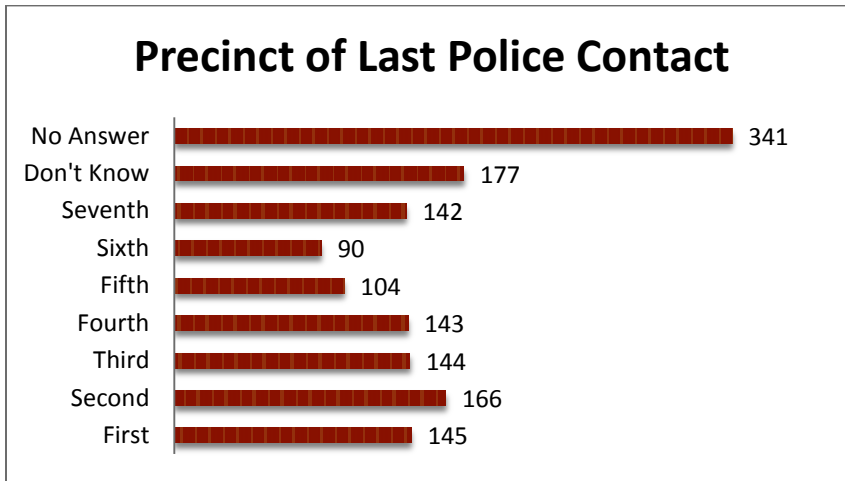


This question seeks to identify the relevant timeframe to which the respondents refer. Although the majority of contacts occurred within a year of response, a significant number (509) occurred beyond that timeframe, suggesting some degree of staleness in the overall results of the survey. (1452)



## Question 3

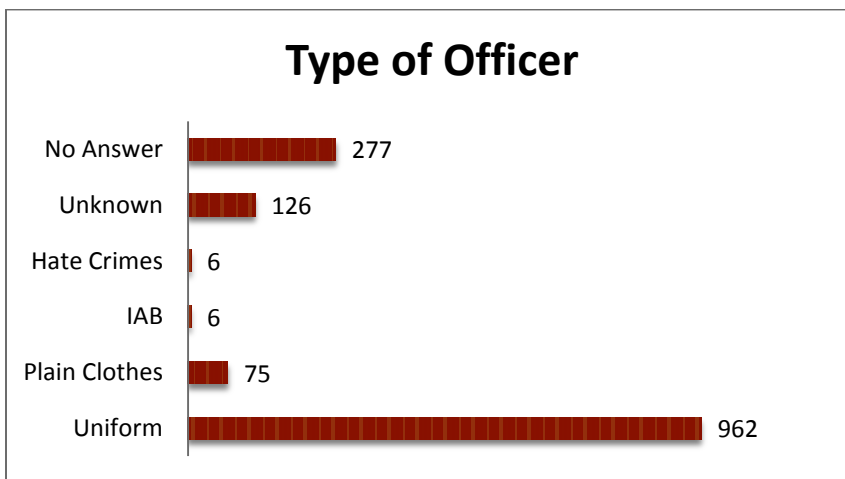
Please indicate the precinct where that contact occurred



This question seeks to identify the appropriate Precinct for feedback on write-in comments, and to ensure survey results reflect a Department-wide perspective. The results suggest fairly even distribution, with a slight need to increase distribution efforts in the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Precincts. (1452)

## Question 4

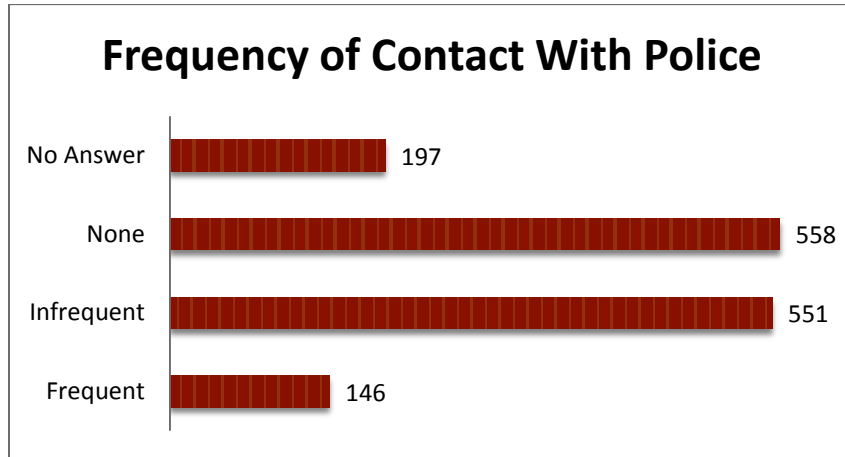
Please indicate if that contact was with a:



This question seeks to identify the most prevalent type of officer contacted, which predictably was a uniformed officer. The value of this question is uncertain, and it may be eliminated from future surveys. (1452)

## Question 5

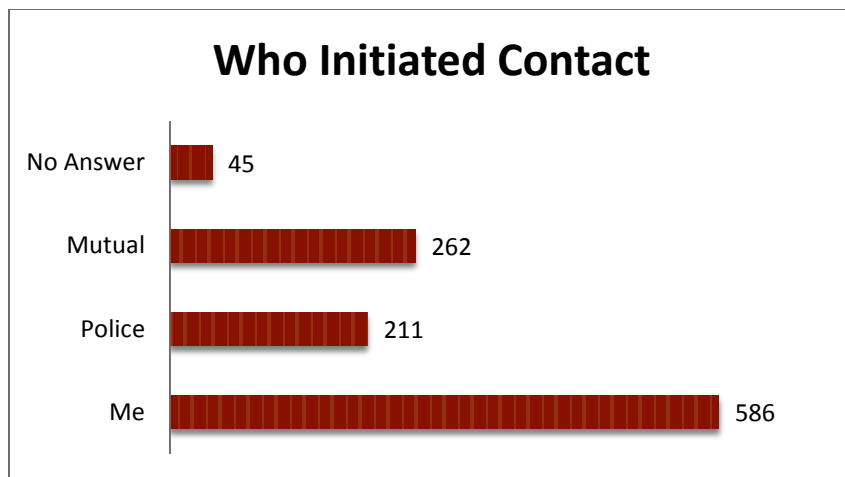
Please indicate the frequency of your contact with the SCPD over the last year



This question is intended to gauge the familiarity of the respondent with the police and the results indicate that many respondents had very little actual contact with officers. (1452)

## Question 6

How would you describe your contacts with the SCPD

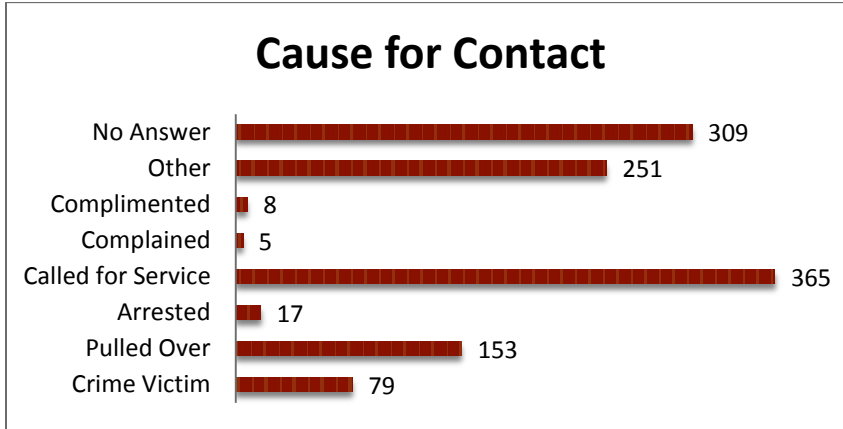


This question was designed to determine if the respondent requested police assistance or was contacted as a result of police-initiated activity. While the results indicate that most contact is a result of calls for assistance, significant overlap between this question and Question #7 suggest its elimination from future surveys. (1104)



## Question 7

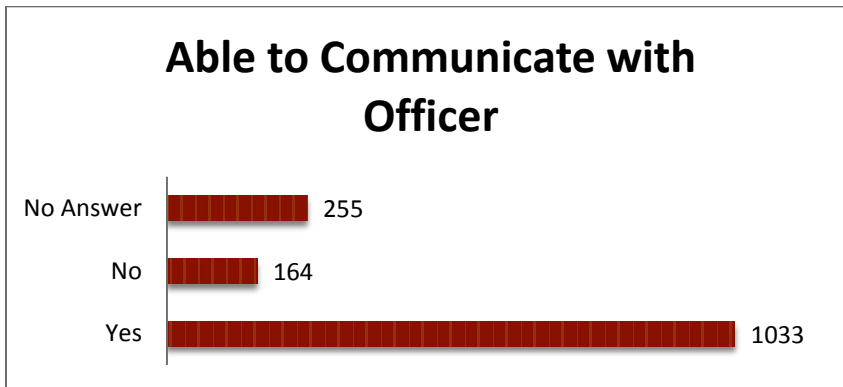
Please indicate what initiated your most recent contact with the SCPD



This question seeks to identify the reason for respondents' contact with the police, and its results indicate that calls for service are the most prevalent. A significant number of "other" responses may indicate that the contact occurred at the event or presentation at which the respondent received the survey. (1187)

## Question 8

During your contact were you able to communicate easily with the officer(s)?



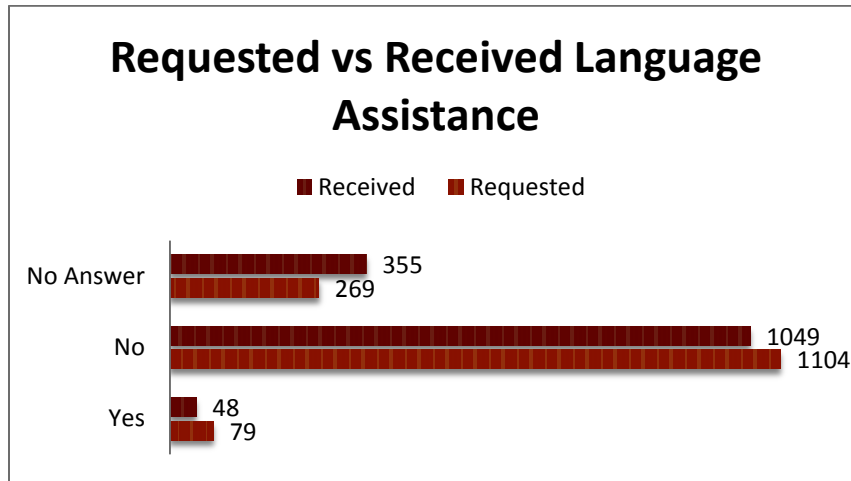
This question was designed to identify the existence of communication barriers, and the results indicate that the overwhelming number of respondents were able, in some way, to communicate with the officer(s) they contacted. (1452)



## Questions 9 & 10

**During your contact with the SCPD, did you request any language assistance services?**

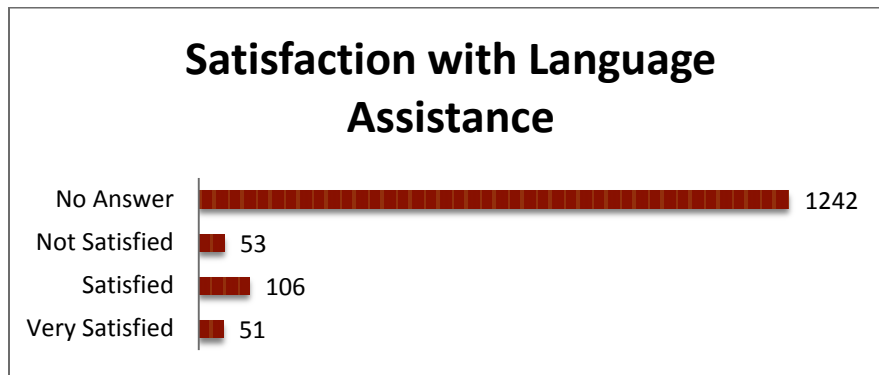
**During your contact with the SCPD, did you receive any language assistance services?**



These questions were designed to gauge the volume of requests for language assistance and the compliance rate in providing those services. The results suggest that an exceedingly small number of respondents requested language assistance, but about half of those respondents did not receive any.. (1452)

## Question 11

**If you answered yes to question # 10 please describe your level of satisfaction with those services**

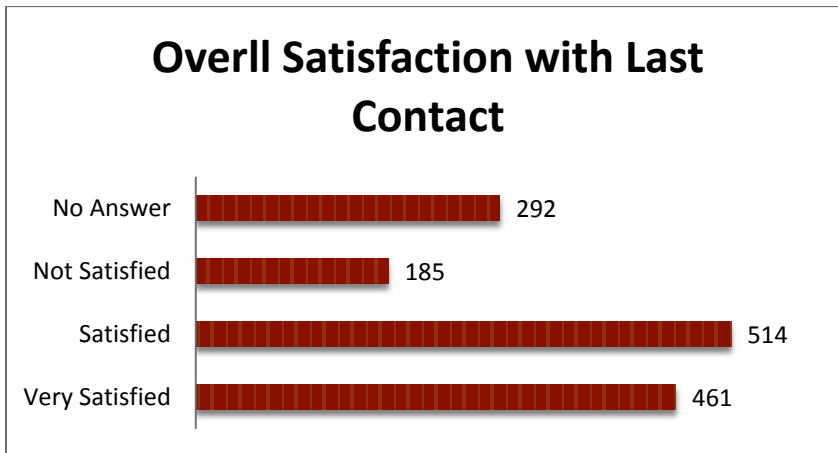


Results of this question indicate that most (~75%) recipients of language assistance were satisfied. The number of “no answers” to this question also correlate somewhat with the number of “no requests” in the previous question. (1452)



## Question 12

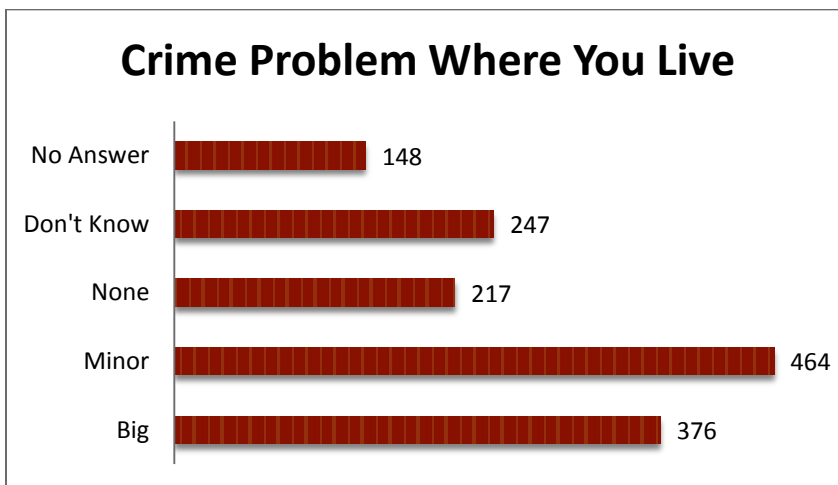
**Please describe your overall level of satisfaction regarding your last contact with the SCPD**



Results indicate that most respondents reported an acceptable level of satisfaction. (1452)

## Question 13

**How much of a problem is crime in your neighborhood of Suffolk County**

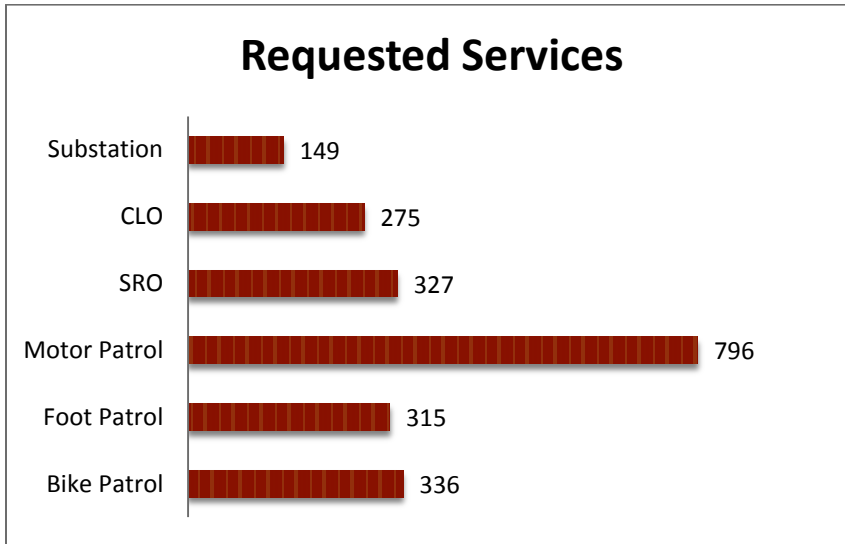


Results indicate that a significant number of respondents perceived a “big” problem with crime in their neighborhoods, and more perceived at least a minor problem. Responses to Question 16 below, however, reflect that respondents from the same data pool overwhelmingly feel “safe” or “very safe” in their neighborhoods. (1452)



## Question 14

**What services would you like to see, or see more of**



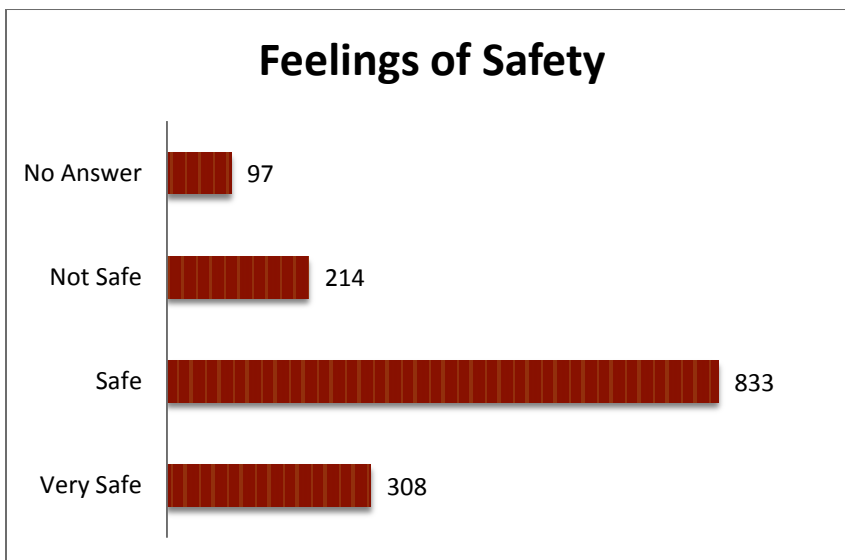
Results clearly indicate that motor patrols are the most sought service. (2198)

## Question 15

This question asked respondents to rank the importance of a variety of factors pertaining to public safety. The choices offered do not support any meaningful analysis and this question will be removed from future surveys.

## Question 16

**How would you rate your feelings about how safe you feel in your neighborhood?**





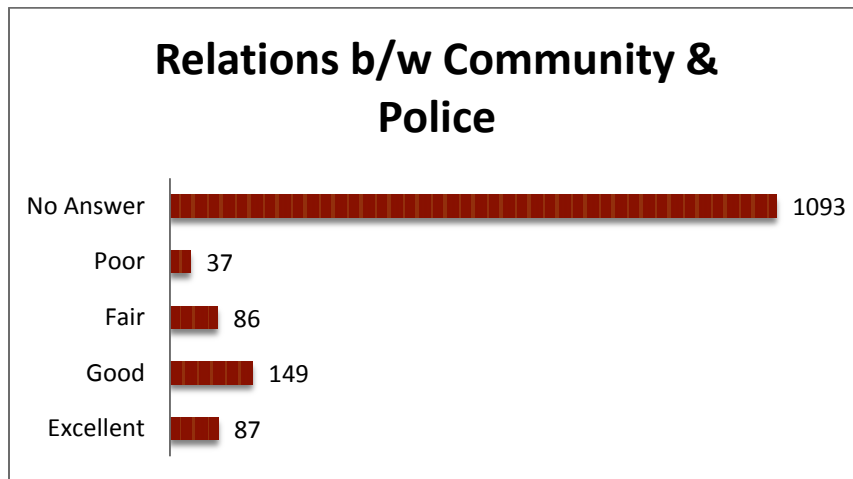
The results of Question 16 indicate that the majority of respondents felt safe in their neighborhood. Comparing the results of Questions 13 and 16 could suggest that while a majority of respondents identified some level of crime problem in their neighborhood, that problem did not impact upon their feelings of personal safety. (1452)

## Question 17-20

This question seeks to identify awareness, participation and satisfaction in the various programs, events and presentations offered by the CRB. These questions are complex in nature and lend themselves to event-specific survey instruments. Future efforts in this regard will be focused on tools such as instructor and program evaluations for those in attendance. Awareness surveys will also be geographically oriented in order to provide more locally relevant results.

## Question 21

**How would you describe relations between the SCPD and the neighborhood where you live?**



The inordinate number of “no answers” to this question render any conclusions suspect. Of those few respondents who provided an answer, most reported at least a “fair” relationship. It is unclear why so few respondents provided an answer to this question, which appears on page 5 of the survey, but it may be relevant to note that it is the first question following the onerous questions gauging awareness and satisfaction of programs. (1452)



## Question 22

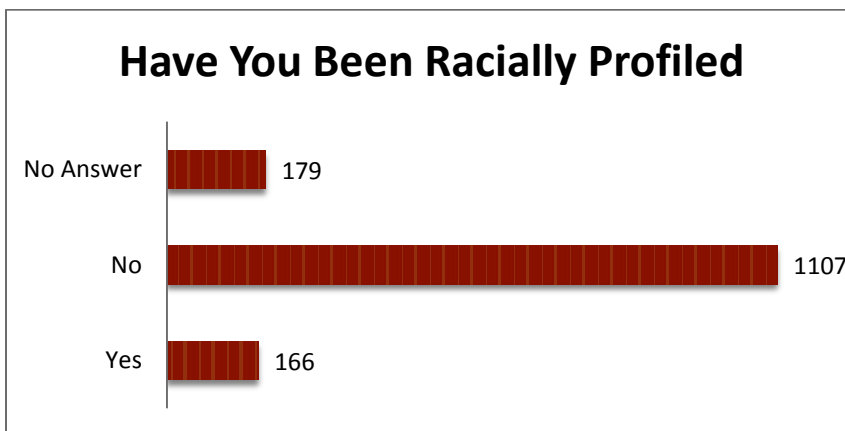
**Based on your personal experience, how many of the SCPD officers you encounter treat you with respect?**



Results from this question appear to support the conclusion that most respondents report being treated with respect. The responses indicating “few” or “none” are, however, sufficient to raise concern. (1452)

## Question 23

**Do you feel you have been a victim of racial profiling by SCPD?**

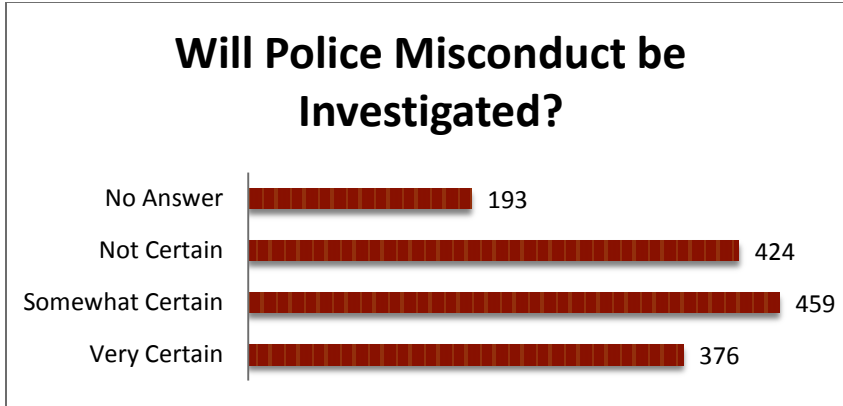


Results indicate that the majority of respondents did not perceive themselves as victims of racial profiling. The Department hopes that its ongoing efforts to train its members in Bias Free Policing and the accountability measures in place will result in the future reduction of “yes” responses. (1452)



## Question 24

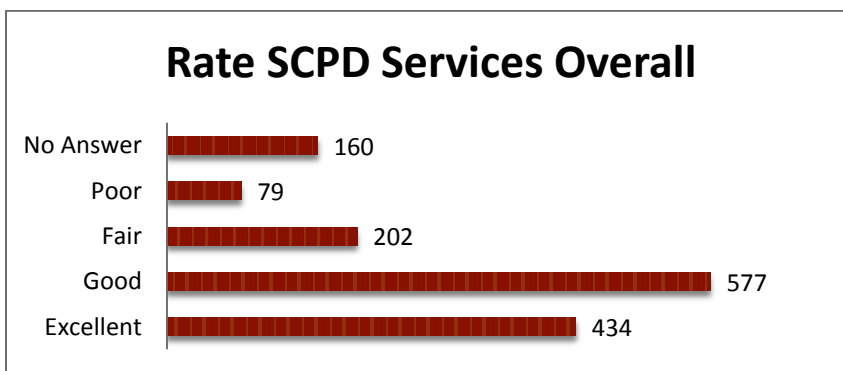
**How certain are you that the SCPD will take and fully investigate a complaint against one of their own officers for police misconduct?**



Results suggest most respondents believed that a complaint against a member of the Department would be investigated. The significant number of those who reported being “not certain”, however, suggest some lack of confidence in accountability. (1452)

## Question 25

**How would you rate the services that SCPD provides overall**



Results indicate that a majority of respondents consider the Department’s service “fair” or better, with the most prevalent characterization as “good”. (1452)



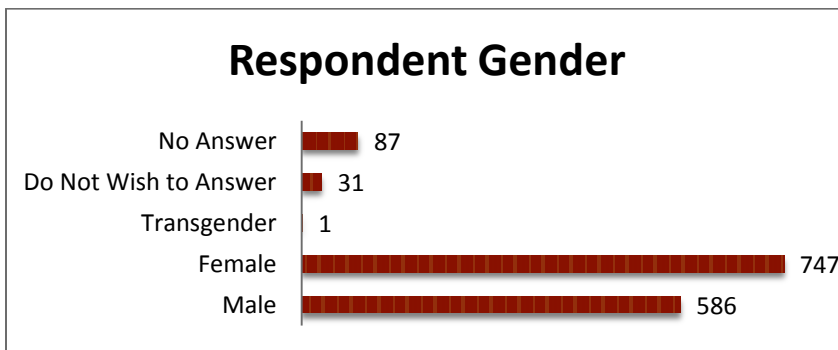
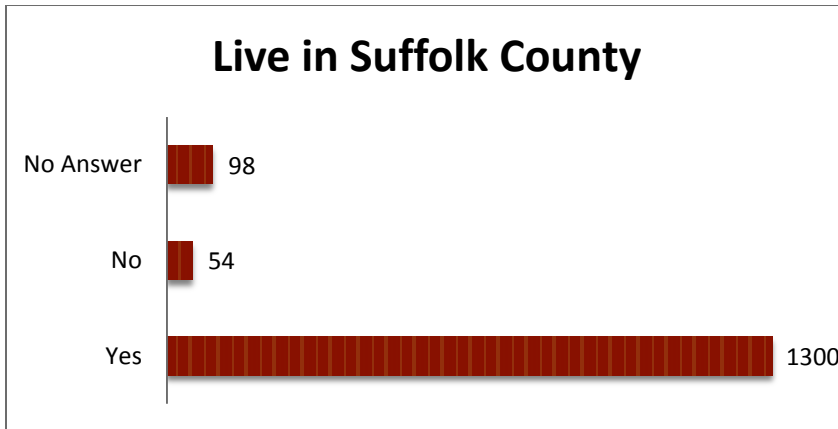
## Question 26

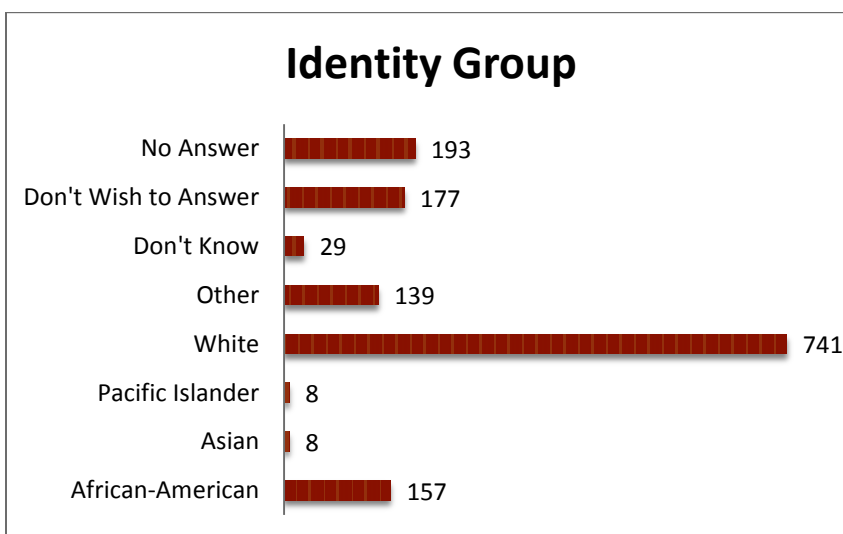
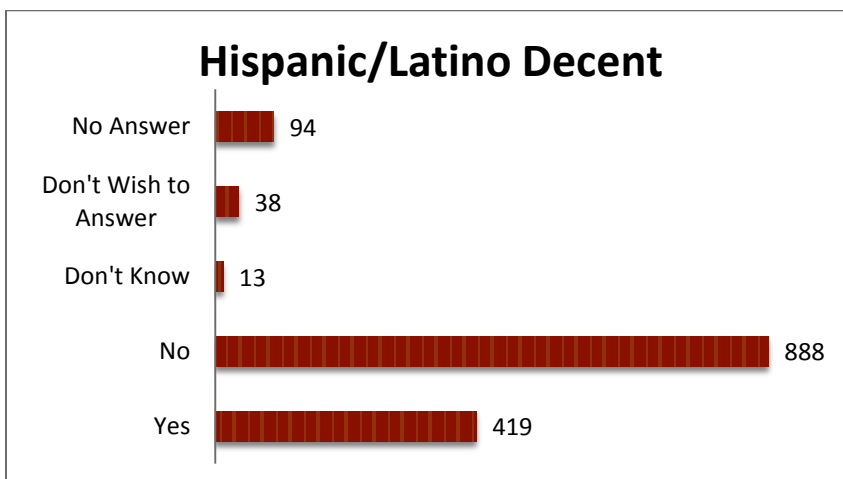
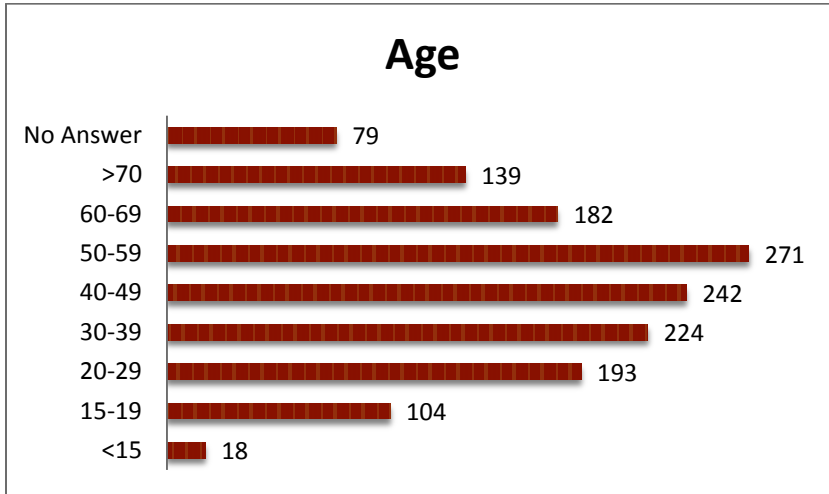
**If you answered “Good” “Fair” or “Poor” to question #25, what recommendations do you have to improve the service(s) SCPD is providing**

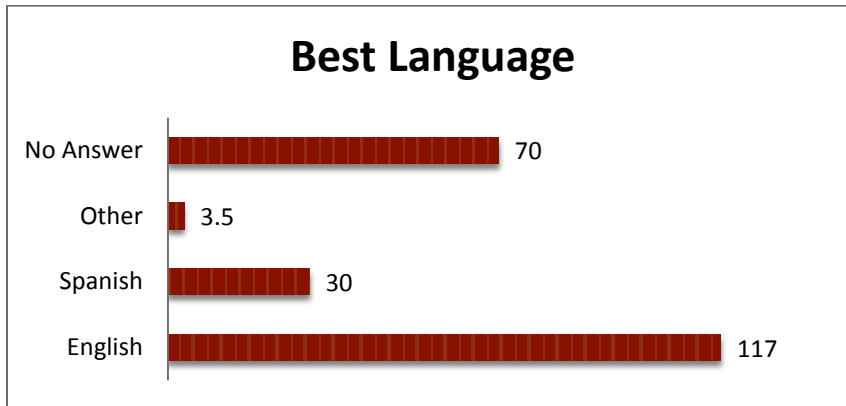
Responses to this question are reported in Attachment #11

## Questions 27-32

**Request the demographic data displayed in the six (6) tables below**







## Analysis, Conclusions and Actions Going Forward

Demographics reflected in survey results are roughly in line with 2013 U.S. Census data for Suffolk County. Notable exceptions include a slightly higher number of respondents who identified as African American, more respondents over the age of 60, and more women. Similarly, the number of respondents who identified as Hispanic or Latino exceeded Census numbers – representing approximately 50% of respondents, while only about 20% of the total population.

The overall number of Latino respondents suggests that a good percentage of the questions regarding community perception of the police were answered by a target group of this survey. Information regarding the request for language assistance services, however, was sparing, which could suggest that the majority of respondents were not LEP. The limited data sample regarding “Best Language” in this survey also offers no insight into the relative need for, or opinion of, language services.

Overall satisfaction and respondent perception of the police both appear positive, while confidence in accountability and perception of crime were problematic.

Written comments contained in Attachment 31 touched upon a wide range of concerns such as; better police response time, higher visibility, more Spanish speaking officers, and more officers in general. Comments included suggestions that officers receive more sensitivity training, adjust their attitude and demeanor, employ better communication skills, pay more attention to the community, and advertise police/community programs better. Some comments alluded to racial profiling and stereo-typing, but no allegations of specific acts of police misconduct necessitating further investigation were reported. Visibility and the



need for more Spanish speaking officers were among the most prevalent requests. Measures being implemented in training, language access, accountability and community engagement appear to be responsive to the requests and identified deficiencies.

Results of this survey will be published on the Department's website, and feedback will be solicited through community contacts.

In response to criticism of the survey instrument itself, the CRB will reformulate and redistribute the survey in 2016, and will also research the feasibility of utilizing the University of Illinois Police Community Survey platform to some degree.



## Index of Attachments

*Some of the referenced attachments may bear a different number printed on their face. All references made in this report are to the attachments as they are numbered below.*

1. Community Response Bureau Flyer
2. School Resource Officer Course List
3. “Ugly Truth” Flyer
4. Gun Buy-Back totals
5. Police/Clergy Council letter
6. SCPD Rules and Procedures Chapter 26, §5 (LAP)
7. LAP - Spanish
8. LAP – Mandarin Chinese (simplified)
9. LAP - Italian
10. LAP – Haitian Creole
11. LAP - Polish
12. LAP - Portugese
13. LAP distribution list
14. Additional Vital Documents
15. School district ESL statistics
16. Certification results
17. LCAC Meeting notes 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter
18. LCAC Meeting notes 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter
19. LCAC Meeting notes 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter
20. LCAC Meeting notes 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter
21. D/PC Mention Lewis meetings
22. D/PC Sini and senior staff meetings





## Index of Attachments

23. 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
24. 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
25. 3<sup>rd</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
26. 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
27. 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
28. 6<sup>th</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
29. 7<sup>th</sup> Precinct monthly meetings summaries
30. Survey Results
31. Survey written comments

