

Facts Presented in the First EO 203 Panel Discussion

(EO 203 required a review of how the WPD currently operates in our community)

Warwick Police Department- Composition and Operational Parameters:

Town of Warwick*

- 104.9 sq miles
- 2nd largest Town by size in NY State
- Approx. 13 % of Orange County (839 sq mi.)
- 33,000 people
- 20,000 calls for service (2019)
- 42 sworn personnel – 8 vacancies
- 300 k OT budget

Village of Warwick

- 2.4 sq miles
- 6,778 people
- 2% of total patrol area
- 33% of total calls

Village of Florida and Village of Greenwood Lake

- Both have Village departments
 - Warwick Town PD has jurisdiction in both Villages
- *As a comparison the City of Middletown is 5.3 sq miles with 75 police officers and the City of Newburgh is 4.7 sq miles with 65 police officers.

Coverage

- 24/7/365 police coverage including dispatch for ambulance and fire
 - 21 shifts week: A line 11-7, B line 7-3, C line 3-11
 - 4 or 5 officers on road
 - 84 shifts (low) to 105 shifts (high)
- Before holidays, vacations, personal time, compensatory time and sick leave are calculated.
- In October 2020, there were 57 open shifts (either short to begin with or had been requested off as described above), before the month began and additional shortages continued going forward.
- Part time officers can fill in some shifts, but are limited in their hours by law.

Resources

- 15 full time officers to handle the road.
- Same number that came from the Village of Warwick in the 1992 merger that policed roughly 2 sq. miles.
- 10 of the 15 members, including all the command staff and senior people are eligible to retire in 2021

Hiring

- Test from NY State Civil Service
- Administered by Orange County
- Successful candidates then must pass a physical agility test
- A list is created after the first two phases
- Orange County creates a county-wide list and lists for each municipality
- List is requested by Town Any of the top three candidates can be hired
- Interviews are conducted
- Comprehensive background investigation conducted
- Medical and psychological evaluations conducted
- Successful candidates recommended to the Board

Budget-2020

- Salaries - \$4,950,675
- Benefits- \$3,455,311
- Contractual Operating Costs- \$552,650
- Equipment Costs-replacement vehicles, computers, gear- \$124,700
- Debt Service- \$59,620
- WPD is 42% of Town Budget, Salaries & benefits of WPD are 92% of police budget.
- Cost of a new hire \$120,547 - \$77,320 in salary & \$43,226 in benefits

Community Policing

- Definition- the goal of community policing is for the police to build relationships with the community through interactions with the local agencies and members of the public

Relationships

- Village patrol- when practical an officer will walk foot patrol in the business district interacting with the public and business owners
- Outer patrol areas- foot patrol is impractical due to the overall size of the posts and large open areas

Outreach

- Since 2005 we have conducted ride alongs with the BOCES criminal justice program and more recently with the Warwick High School Program. Our PBA has high visibility traffic safety vests for the student once they resume normal activities
- We have partnered with colleges in several states to participate in an intern program where the student earns 3 college credits for spending 90 hours in a supervised ride along program. The student rides with the uniformed patrol officers, sits with the detectives to understand case investigations and with the communications staff observing the dispatching of police, fire and emergency services in the Town.
- We have participated in ride alongs with the media and local elected officials.
- The child safety seat technicians conduct an average of 2 safety check days annually where they inspect the condition of the seat, the appropriateness for the age of the child and the installation in the car. We receive a grant each year that allows us to purchase seats to give the families who cannot afford a safe seat for their child. We have given out over 50 seats since the start of the program and currently have 35 seats on hand.
- In 2015 we began hosting Coffee with A Cop. A national program designed to have the public and police interact over a cup of coffee. We conduct 3 a year at different locations in the town that serve coffee. The residents have an opportunity to sit with a police officer socially and discuss their concerns. We have received praise, criticism, concerns about traffic issues and tips on drug activities during these events. We are looking forward to starting them again as soon as the CoVid restrictions are lifted.
- Our detectives have participated in several meetings with the local senior citizen groups to discuss fraud and other crimes that target the older members of the community.
- We have partnered with Hope Not Handcuffs- a national initiative designed as a diversion program where anyone who is suffering from addiction can walk in to the police station or call us for help in getting into a recovery program. Once we are notified a trained volunteer called an “angel” is dispatched to our station and assists with locating an immediate treatment program.
- We have worked with the local scouting programs in which we conduct station tours for merit badge requirements and assisted with bicycle safety rodeos.
- We partner on a local publication that is distributed throughout the town called the Community Outreach Publication. The booklet has important phone numbers, safety tips, and advertisements from local businesses.
- We partnered with CVS in installing a secure drug box in the station where unneeded medications can be safely discarded. This is a major step in preventing access to addicting medications in a household.
- We have offered gun locks to our residents at no cost to them allowing them to safely store legally owned weapons in their house with the trigger locked.

Committees

- We sit on the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors allowing the police and the businesses to not only connect on a monthly basis about concerns the businesses face, but to communicate about upcoming events in which extra police presence may be needed due to increases in vehicle and pedestrian traffic

- Warwick Valley Coalition- we partnered with the local coalition on grant applications as well as their events. (Example- pill drops where we have helped collect several hundred pounds at each event). We have several members of the department that attend the monthly meetings
- Applefest- an officer is assigned to this committee to attend the planning meetings and assist the police department with the safety and security plan for the one day event. Our planning efforts include the assistance of local, state and federal agencies. The planning for this event takes the better part of the year to coordinate.

Events

- Over the course of the year the police department assists with the road closures and detours for planned events. Some of these events include:
 - New Year's Eve Apple Drop
 - Little League Opening Day Parade
 - Memorial Day Parade
 - Pride Parade
 - Warwick Fire Department Carnival and Fireworks
 - Lions Labor Day 5K Race
 - High School Homecoming Parade
 - Hispanic Heritage Parade
 - Coalition Break the Sigma Parade
 - Applefest
 - Halloween Parade
 - Veterans Day Parade