



Village of Croton on Hudson
Police Department

Van Wyck Street
Croton on Hudson N.Y. 10520
(914) 271-5177 Voice (914) 271-3916 Fax

Russel H. Harper
Chief of Police

2019 DEPARTMENTAL ANNUAL REPORT

MAYOR, DEPUTY MAYOR, TRUSTEES & VILLAGE MANAGER:

The Croton Police Department provides public safety 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. We are a full service, community-oriented Police Department consisting of 21 Sworn Police Officers (including myself). The Department has 1 full-time Police Dispatcher, 1 full-time Parking Enforcement Officer, 1 part-time Parking Officer, and assists in overseeing two part-time park rangers, five part-time crossing guards and five additional part-time parking officers.

Over the 2019 calendar year, the Department blotted 3,996 calls :

Responded to	595	Fire & Medical Aid Calls
Responded to	257	Motor Vehicle Accidents
Investigated	210	Cases
Arrested	145	Defendants (many on multiple charges)
Arrested	5	Juveniles
Handled	80	Juvenile Encounters
Issued	926	Vehicle and Traffic Summons
Issued	1,914	Parking Summons (minus Harmon Station)

I currently have the department set up as two divisions. The **Patrol Division** and the **Investigations Division**. Both divisions report to myself and the Lieutenant.

The Patrol Division consists of five squads, consisting of a Supervisor (Sergeant) and a minimal of two officers per squad. This is necessary in order to provide our services and maintain this minimum staffing 24/7, as I stated earlier.



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The Investigations/Youth Division currently consists of a Detective Sergeant/Youth Officer and a Detective/Youth Officer.

In addition to Patrol and Investigations, we have bicycle patrols, accident investigations unit, marine boat patrols and special events patrols.

There are many collateral duties within the Department other than routine patrols and vehicle and traffic that needs to be done in order for our department to function. These duties all take time and effort. They include: E-Justice liaison, NYSPIN-TAC Coordinator, IBR reports, maintaining Department records and orders of protections, maintaining Department training records, fleet maintenance and equipment, radios and communications equipment, LPR-Reports Coordinator, DWI-Data Master reports and logs, radar records and equipment, personal protection equipment (PPE), DMV-TSLED dispositions & updates, destroyed license plates DMV reports, EMS Training Coordination and maintaining supplies (Defib/AEDs, oxygen, medical bags, Narcan, etc.) for same.

In addition to our collateral duties, there is much training that has to take place throughout the year.

As you know, we are facing challenging times in policing.

Because of such challenges I felt it beneficial for the Croton Police Department to participate in the RTC (Real Time Crime Center). In so doing we have teamed up with over 36 other agencies in Westchester County. When it is possible, I assign one of our detectives to the RTC for eight hours a week. This gives our detectives access to all of Westchester County Police resources, which can include but is not limited to, facial recognition, leads online, CJ Wearhouse, Open Alpr and Iso Claim Search. These are all investigative search engines that would cost us money to be a part of that we now benefit from through participating with the RTC. The RTC is a new interactive collaborative effort we have been involved with for less than a



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year and there have already been over 959 stolen vehicles broadcast, of which 231 have been recovered. It has assisted in over 4,000 cases and has resulted in over 300 arrests. This has been an advantageous and useful collaborative effort for our Department and our investigations division.

As you are aware, every year we face more and more unfunded mandates from the State increasing demands on our staff to adhere to as well as increasing our need for training.

Over the last few years, we have had to adapt to changes with the “Raise the Age” requirements. As of October 2019, the age is now 17. 16 & 17-year-olds now attend the new Youth Court in White Plains, NY. A separate video and audio room is now required as well as separation from any adult areas and the general public. A separate entrance away from regular patrols and patrol operations and rooms for parents and children to discuss matters separate from the regular operations area are now also required. This is just a small example of the new requirements and increased work load on law enforcement day to day effecting operations and staffing.

Now as of January 1, 2020, we have new mandated criminal justice reforms taking effect such as the new “Bail Reform Rules” and the newly enacted discovery demands. This will be having a huge impact on our workload and require a lot of time and officer hours to comply with these new mandates. I am not going to get into the details here tonight as I am sure you are all aware as it has been all over the news and social media. I have taken steps within our current staffing to be in compliance with these mandates, but will not know the real effect until we start to experience these issues going forward. Currently there are active discussions taking place in law enforcement communities, municipal government, as well as civilian organizations requesting the legislature in Albany relook at some of these new reforms and make some adjustments or changes.



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In addition to all these new mandates and during these heightened times it is necessary to train and be as proficient as possible with rapid response in addition to our regular firearms and less lethal training. I have not taken this lightly and have sent an officer to become a certified instructor in both less lethal munitions and simmunition force on force training in order for us to conduct future in-house training and scenarios with our Department personnel. This will also allow us to assist and jointly train with other neighboring agencies. This past year I had our entire Department attend ALERT (Advance Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training), which has been adopted by most major police agencies throughout Westchester County and across the country. All of our officers are certified in the ALERT method of response to active events. I further had an officer attend an "Active Threat Integrated Response Course" which is the preeminent method for planning and response to active threats. This will help create the framework for our Department's response plans to active threats in our community.

I just recently sent this same officer to become certified in CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events) in order to set up and offer the training to other village departments and employees and possibly offer same to the Village residents as a public service.

The Croton Police Department Further Supports:

Child Safety Seat Inspections - The Croton Police Department currently has two officers certified as Child Passenger Seat Technicians, who on an appointment basis will conduct and assist our public with the proper installation of their child safety seats by inspecting them while explaining to parents and caregivers regarding the proper selection, installation and use of car seats, booster seats, and proper use of seatbelts.



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DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) - The Croton Police Department currently has two certified DARE officers. The DARE Program is taught to the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students at PVC Middle School. It touches on many important topics that students their age have the potential to face on an everyday basis such as bullying, how to handle and deal with stress and stressful situations, risks and consequences, good decision making, and the health effects of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping. The 6th grade program is a 10-week consecutive program which usually begins in September with a graduation ceremony in December. The 7th and 8th grade program is also a 10-week program split into two separate five-week sessions: five weeks starting in January with the 7th graders, and five weeks starting in March with the 8th graders. The DARE program not only teaches the students about all these important and necessary topics, but it also helps build a strong and trusting relationship between the students and the police.

Croton Coalition and Drug Take Back Days - The Croton Police Department continues to strongly support and participate in the Croton Community Coalition and conducts Drug Take Back Days periodically during the year. In addition, we maintain a prescription drug drop-off box located in the lobby of police headquarters (pills and patches only - no liquids, needles, syringes or drug paraphernalia). Our Detective Division logs and secures everything for proper disposal at a future date and time.

Croton Police Youth Cadet Program - The program is run by members of the Croton Police Department and is for young men and woman who are village residents between the ages of 13-18. Cadets meet every other week for two hours and are exposed to all aspects of law enforcement. During this time, various topics are instructed on such as first aid, radio communications, report writing, criminal law, the court system, calls for service, traffic stops, careers in law enforcement and much more. At the end of the school year they get to participate in a ride-along with Croton police officers. The cadets also have the opportunity to assist the Croton Police Department during community events such as parades and fairs. Not only do



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they get exposure to all the different aspects of the Croton Police Department, they are taken on field trips and exposed to other departments in Westchester through guest speakers at the bi-monthly meetings.

Westchester Youth Police Academy - This academy is a five-week internship for high school seniors. Although this academy is for students from throughout the county, the Department has been a very active participant and many Croton Harmon High School students have benefited. It gives our youth an opportunity to experience what law enforcement does. As a side note, two of the recent Croton police officers I have hired were participants of this Youth Police Academy during their senior year.

Coffee with a Cop - This is a public relations program we participate in periodically throughout the year which allows the public to interact with our officers on an informal basis through conversation over a cup of coffee at different locations within our Village. We have received much positive feedback from this program.

Dark House List Registry - The Croton Police Department encourages residents who will be going away on vacation or leaving their house vacant for any number of reasons to reach out and contact the desk officer requesting to be placed on our confidential contact list. Officers will periodically check on the vacant house to make sure all is ok.

Surveillance Camera Registration - This is on our website and allows the public to register their surveillance cameras with the Department for future reference and possibly assist with an investigation.