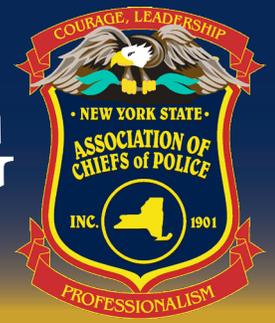


CHIEFLY SPEAKING



Monthly Newsletter for New York State Law Enforcement Leaders

October 2023

Fight Inside Park Center Senior HS Prompts Brooklyn Park Police to Pull School Resource Officers

By Rusty Ray, CCX Reporter

Brooklyn Park police have announced that the department would remove its eight school resource officers from schools immediately, a decision spurred by continuing confusion over new state guidelines over how officers can restrain students and hastened by a fight inside Park Center Senior High School that resulted in the injury of a staff member.

“Our SROs are not comfortable going back to schools,” said Brooklyn Park police spokesperson Elliott Faust on Friday. “We’re not comfortable with all these different conflicting viewpoints of what the law means, from a practical standpoint, when a police officer is put in a position—what can you do?”

Earlier this year, the Minnesota State Legislature passed a new law that placed limits on school resource officers by prohibiting certain physical restraints they can use on students unless someone’s life was at risk. That aspect created uncertainties and liability questions for school



A fight between two students inside Park Center Senior High School on Thursday, September 14, 2023, that left a staff member injured prompted Brooklyn Park police to pull school resource officers.

resource officers in various situations. As a result, many departments made decisions over the summer to pull officers

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The Albany Hilton

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November 8th and 9th, 2023

Training Schedule

Wednesday November 8th, 2023

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM Registration

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM Lunch

12:30 PM - 4:30 PM Training

5:00 PM Dinner

Thursday November 9th, 2023

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Breakfast

9:00 AM - 12:00 noon Training

Link to Sign-up

<https://nysacop.memberclicks.net/NYSACOP-NYSSA-Leadership-Training-Summit-2023#!/>

Link to book a Hotel Room

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Training Sessions:

Cannabis Enforcement

Daniel Haughney - Director of Enforcement, Office of Cannabis Management

Oral Fluid Testing DWI drugs

Mary Tanner-Richter - Albany Co. District Attorney's Office

Evidence Based Policing

Charles Tyree - NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services

Safe Restraint of Agitated Persons

Dep Chief James Gerace, Colonie PD & Dr. Warren Hayashi

Trends in Police Use of Force Cases

Chief Michael Ranalli Esq.

(Cover Story Continued)

out of schools, leaving school districts to come up with different safety plans.

Brooklyn Park Police Chief Mark Bruley told CCX News in August his officers would return to the city's schools when the new semester started on Sept. 5, because Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison had issued an opinion outlining when certain restraints may be allowable in certain situations.

But Faust said he'd heard from many of the department's SROs since school began that they continue to find themselves in situations where they're unsure of how to respond.

“With conflicting viewpoints on that, it leaves us in this strange area of: do we still feel comfortable with

that? With our initial understanding of the attorney general's interpretation?” said Faust.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

CCX NEWS

"This is an important policy discussion about safety and the appropriate use of force in our schools. House and Senate leaders are continuing to have conversations with members, stakeholders, and the Governor about this issue and how to best address it."

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Yakima Police Department

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(Cover Story Continued)

Now, schools are in a situation that they'll have to call 911 when an emergency folds, as was the case Thursday, said Faust. Brooklyn Park police say two students got into a fight inside Park Center Senior High School and that a school resource officer from adjoining Brooklyn Middle School responded. Police also say patrol officers had to respond after a call for more help.

A staff member was assaulted during the altercation, police said. The investigation continues.

"In the old law, it's unlikely the patrol officers would have had to respond because the SRO would have probably taken the person into custody and handcuffed them and got the situation under control," said Faust.

With no school resource officers in the schools, leaders in the Osseo and Anoka-Hennepin school districts expressed confidence that they're school communities would remain safe with Brooklyn Park police officers still able to respond reasonably quickly.

In a statement to CCX News, Osseo Area Schools spokeswoman Kay Villela wrote: "Our schools will remain in close communication with Brooklyn Park Police and continue to work together to ensure the safest school environments possible. We continue to believe that school safety and security are community endeavors and that it takes all of us working together to do this."

In his letter to parents on Thursday, Champlin Park High School Principal Mike George wrote: "The district remains in close communication with police and we continue to work together to ensure the safest school environments possible."

If the officers—whether they were at one time assigned as school resource officers—are designated as patrol officers, the new law doesn't apply, and they're able to utilize more techniques to gain control over situations that arise, police said.

"Now, as a patrol officer, it's clear they know how to respond," said Faust. "We're going to do our best to make sure patrol officers as close to the schools at all times, but they're not going to be there instantaneously. I think it would be unfair to say that they aren't a little less safe."

Rusty Ray, Reporter/Producer with CCX Media with more than 20 years of news and television production experience.

This article originally ran on Septmeber 15, 2023 on the website of CCXMedia.com.



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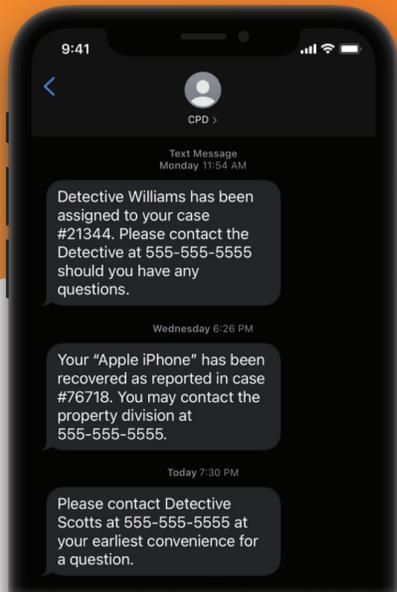
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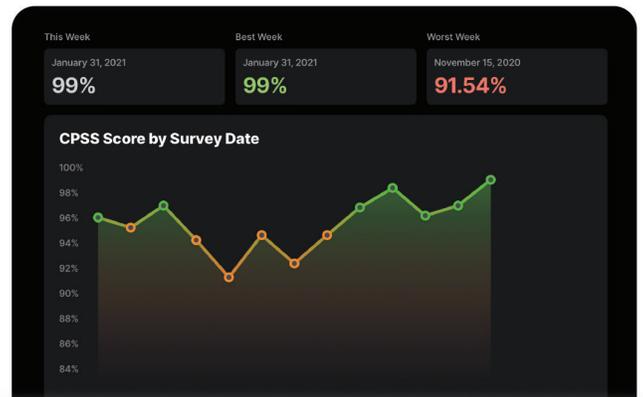
✓ **Keep citizens informed**

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"Officer Smith was very friendly and helpful."

"Thank you Officer Darby for caring and helping my father."

✓ **Boost officer morale**



✓ **Measure satisfaction**

The Association is in Good Hands

As many of you may be aware, our newly elected president, Chief Joseph Sinagra retired from the Saugerties Police Department in September 2023. Chief Sinagra decided to retire after experiencing some unfair and unreasonable treatment from his employer, a decision many chiefs have to make. It's Joe's story to tell so I want to address the issue as it pertains to the association. This is certainly not the first time this has occurred in the 123-year history of our association. Chief Sinagra will not be able to serve as president simply because our bylaws state that the president must be an active head of a police agency. A retired chief cannot be the president of NYSACOP.



PD has assumed the position of President of the association. Chief Heubusch will finish the term of Chief Sinagra until July 2024 and then serve his original term from July 2024 to July 2025.

Second Vice President Paul Oliva has assumed the role of First Vice President, and Third Vice President David Catholdi has assumed the role of Second Vice President. The position of Third Vice President will remain vacant until our 2024 convention when there will be an election. Chief Steve Rotunno of Cicero PD has declared his intention to run for Third Vice President. We are all very disappointed that Chief Sinagra will not be completing his term a president, but the association is in good hands.

First Vice President Shawn Heubusch of Batavia

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Chief Aresta Has Many Milestones to Celebrate This Year.

You may recall at the beginning of the year a story about Police Chief John Aresta, former president of the New York State Association Chiefs of Police, having the honor of swearing in and pinning his son, this past January to his police department.

It's been an exciting year for Chief Aresta. In April his oldest son James was sworn in as 2nd Deputy Chief of the Malverne Fire Department. Chief James Aresta is pictured to the right. Two Chief Arestas in one village.



This past May Chief Aresta received a new title, "Grandpa". His granddaughter was born to his son James and his wife Caroline. This might be his favorite title to date.



In June he again had the honor to pin another son with the badge that

he once wore as a patrolman for the NYPD. And then on July 25 Chief Aresta attended the NYPD graduation at the Theater at Madison Square Garden to see his youngest son, PO Robert Aresta graduate from the Police Academy.



PO Robert Aresta has since been assigned to the 100th Precinct in the Rockaways, Queens. Another Aresta keeping the streets safe.



Pictured here is PO Chris Aresta, Malverne PD, Chief John Aresta, PO Robert Aresta, NYPD and Chief James Aresta, Malverne FD.

And one more thing, his daughter Nicole graduated from ROTC Advanced Basic training at Fort Knox, KY. Upon graduation from college with a degree in nursing, Nicole will be active duty with the United States Army.



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Village of Freeport Police

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Joe Baker for County Legislator is in Freeport.

1d · 🌐

Was great meeting with the [Village of Freeport Police](#) and Village Trustee [Jorge A. Martinez](#) yesterday at their open house. As Legislator, I will ALWAYS back law enforcement! [#backtheblue](#)



Village of Wappingers Falls Police Department

September 21 at 12:03 PM · 🌐

It is with deep regret and sorrow that we announce the passing of former Police Commissioner M. Douglas Terwilliger. Commissioner Terwilliger had been ill for a period of time.

Commissioner Terwilliger started his police career with Wappingers Falls Police Department in June of 1977 as a patrol officer. He was promoted to the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant before being promoted to the rank of Commissioner in 1989. Commissioner Terwilliger retired from his career in Law Enforcement in December 1996.

The Flag at Police Headquarters will be held at half-mast for the next three days.



In Memory of (Ret Commissioner) M. Douglas Terwilliger



Village of Liberty Police Department

2d · 🌐

Great job Sgt. Morse! Sgt. Robert Morse represented Liberty PD by running the Dylan Dainack memorial 5k in full uniform and gear today. This was a great event with almost 100 people coming out to remember Officer Dainack and work towards ending the stigma surrounding substance use disorder. He also finished 3rd in his division!

