

# Chiefly Speaking...

Monthly newsletter of the  
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc.



February 2021

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Turning Point: Riots at Our Nation's Capitol

While we are a nation that respects the right to protest, there is a stark line between a peaceful protest and terrorism. There were several incidents across the United States during 2020 in which protests crossed the line to riots. The violence that occurred at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021 was just as disturbing. While a joint session of Congress was in session to certify the vote counts for the Presidential election, things took an ugly turn and has now become an embarrassing chapter in our nation's history. A large crowd that had gathered outside the Capitol breached security and occupied various locations inside. Capitol police were assaulted, and members of Congress and the



**Chief Timothy Parisi**  
President

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### The Best Law Content At Your Fingertips

New York State titles include: Penal Law, Criminal Procedure Law, Vehicle and Traffic Law, and the Law Enforcement Handbook

Featuring the New York Law Enforcement Handbook containing the most frequently used sections of NYS laws with custom content by the New York State Assn. of Chiefs of Police:

- Bail Reform Guide
- Federal Crimes
- Good Samaritan and Syringe Law Guides
- Traffic Resources: special initiatives, training, supporting depositions, VTL index, more!
- Raise the Age Guide
- HIPPA Guidelines
- Ignition Interlock Device Guidance



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of Chiefs of Police

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Vice President were evacuated. Congressional offices were breached and occupied, historic property was vandalized and looted. This group disrupted official proceedings of our government using force and violence – terrorism. Some have taken issue with the degree of security measures in place at the Capitol that day. But how far would the rioters have gotten if not for the efforts of the police? In the days that followed, the FBI was aggressively on the trail of the offenders, several who have been arrested and others still being sought.

I want to take a look at a couple of the alleged rioters who were identified by the FBI and have been arrested. First is Brandon Fellows, age 26, of Schenectady who is said to have posted on his Facebook account the message, “We took the Capitol and it was glorious”.<sup>1</sup> An FBI affidavit notes that someone posted a remark to Fellows telling him that “the government is not scared”, to which Fellows reportedly replied, “oh I saw the fear. And they know that many of us had guns at our hotel rooms and vehicles... we just aren’t pissed enough to kill the police or military. But we will fight them and make them retreat. Maybe things will get worse. All I do know is the more we are forced and silenced into things that we don’t agree with the worse it will be.”<sup>2</sup> Fellows was among several who have been

arrested for the federal offenses of Restricted Building or Grounds, and Violent Entry or Disorderly Conduct.<sup>3</sup>

***The assault on our Capitol is cause for concern of a faction that appears to be inspired to fight.***

In another case of a New York State resident, Peter J. Harding was also arrested for his actions during the insurrection. In the affidavit filed against him, it notes an hour long video attributed to Harding in which it is alleged that he described the events of January 6, saying, “We learned how strong we are. We learned how strong our voices are. We learned how strong our numbers are. If we can take the Capitol building, there is nothing we can’t accomplish – county government, city government, town government, state government”.<sup>4</sup> Harding is charged with Knowingly Entering or Remaining in any Restricted Building or Grounds without Lawful Authority, and Violent Entry and Disorderly Conduct on Capitol Grounds.<sup>5</sup>

I mention these two cases because they are from our home state, and there are others. The assault on our Capitol is cause for concern of a faction that appears to be inspired to fight, and while at least one of them is not currently “...pissed enough to kill the police or military”, we need to be aware of their stated motivation. In law enforcement we continue to face a number of challenges – street gangs, gun crime, computer crimes, along with traditional traffic concerns, community engagement, school security,

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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A new year brings many new challenges and issues to confront. The governor has presented his budget with many law enforcement related issues and a new legislative session has begun. Our March issue of *The Chief's Chronicle* will include information about the legislative agenda that we have presented to the legislature. It includes civil service reform, funding for training, amendment to bail laws to allow for remand as an option for gun crimes, and changes to the Family Court Act. The governor's budget proposal contains many law enforcement changes including changes to the Accreditation Council and the Municipal Police Training Council. "The New York State Professional Policing Act", would change the composition of the MPTC and mandate that they promulgate rules and regulations prescribing minimum eligibility requirements for police officers including psychological thresholds and requirements and background check thresholds and requirements. It would also give DCJS the authority to decertify police officers of its own accord. The Act will also mandate the accreditation of hiring practices. More concerning than the requirements is the penalty for non-compliance: "Failure to meet the hiring accreditation standards to be set by the council will result in the loss of the police office status for that office of agency."



**Chief/Ret. Patrick Phelan**  
**Executive Director**  
**New York State**  
**Assn. of Chiefs of Police**

Also of immediate concern in the budget is the establishment of a penalty for any municipality that does not comply with Executive Order (EO) 203. "Any local entity which has a police agency

*(Continued on page 6)*

## SAVE THE DATE

July 25-28, 2021

Annual Training Conference  
 of the New York State  
 Association of Chiefs of  
 Police at the historic  
 Queensbury Hotel, Glens  
 Falls, New York



Photo: Courtesy Queensbury Hotel

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working with vulnerable populations, and more. No doubt that there were some legitimate protesters at the Capitol on January 6, but the ones who stormed through security, occupied offices, assaulted government agents, and disrupted our democracy should be held accountable for their actions – and that work is being done now. In addition to all of our other duties and responsibilities to our communities, it is essential that we be aware of this type of threat in our own backyards. To all of my colleagues, remain alert, remain vigilant, and as always, “if you see something, say something.”

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<sup>1</sup>Statement of Facts; U.S. vs. Brandon Fellows; ¶18; <https://www.justice.gov/opa/page/file/1355906/download>; Accessed Jan. 23, 2021, FBI

<sup>2</sup>Ibid – ¶18

<sup>3</sup>Criminal Complaint, U.S. vs. Brandon Fellows; <https://www.justice.gov/opa/page/file/1355901/download>; Accessed Jan. 23, 2021; FBI

<sup>4</sup>Statement of Facts, U.S. vs. Peter J. Harding; Jan. 11, 2021, <https://www.justice.gov/opa/page/file/1354111/download>; Accessed Jan. 23, 2021, FBI

<sup>5</sup>Criminal Complaint, United States vs. Peter J. Harding, Jan. 11, 2021 <https://www.justice.gov/opa/page/file/1354106/download>; Accessed Jan. 23, 2021; FBI



## RECOMMEND A COLLEAGUE FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Not sure if one of your colleagues is already a member? Check our [online directory](#) (members only). If they are not, a member, [click here](#) and we will send them a brochure which outlines the services and benefits of membership.

Membership open to Chiefs, Commanders, Superintendents and certain command staff of local, county, state, university, tribal, and federal (within NYS) law enforcement.

## Traffic Safety Report

### National Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutors (TSRP) – Traffic Tuesday Webinar Series:

Through this ongoing TSRP training initiative, the next scheduled webinar on February 16, 2021, 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (EST) features a presentation on “DRE and the IACP 2021: Updates & Enhancements” by Joe Abrusci, Project Manager – DECP Eastern Region, International Association of Chiefs of Police.



**Dominick Macherone**  
NYSACOP  
Liaison

This session is intended to provide an update on projects related to and affecting the DRE program that are underway, as well as new offerings to help further ARIDE and DRE training. Additionally, it will provide updates on recent and pending Frye/Daubert Hearings regarding the DRE program. Finally, it will provide information on judicial and prosecutor training related to the DRE program.

Registration [here](#)

**2021 NYS STOP-DWI Super Bowl Enforcement Crackdown - Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over- February 5 - 8, 2021:** The Super Bowl has become synonymous with drinking and celebrating, making roads on Super Bowl weekend dangerous. That is why as game day quickly approaches the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is teaming up with the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee, STOP DWI-NY, and law enforcement to remind football fans that designated drivers are the best defense against the dangers of drunk driving. Super Bowl is a festive night in homes and bars across America, but if your night involves alcohol, plan for a sober ride home. Remember, Fans Don’t Let Fans Drive Drunk. While STOP-DWI efforts across New York have led to significant reductions in the numbers of alcohol and drug related fatalities, still too many lives are being lost because of crashes caused by drunk or impaired drivers. Highly visible, highly publicized efforts like the STOP-DWI Crackdown Campaign aim to further reduce the incidence of drunk and impaired driving. Sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols play a key part in raising awareness about the problem. In further support of the mobilization Timothy Parisi, Chief of Illion PD and President of the New

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Traffic Safety Highlights

- Traffic Tuesdays webinar: DRE and IACP2021
- NYS STOP-DWI Super Bowl Enforcement Crackdown
- ARIDE and DRE Class Schedules

(Continued from page 3)

operating with police officers as defined in the CPL that fails to transmit to the director of the division of budget certification required by EO 203 shall, upon request of the governor or the director of the division of budget, be required to install a monitor to oversee operations of such police agency, until such time as the required certification is submitted to the director of budget. Such monitor shall be appointed by the attorney general, in consultation with the governor, at the expense of the police agency or responsible local government.”

***The budget proposals also contains new requirements for police departments to submit information to the state about seized weapons, requirements for paid leave for COVID-19 vaccinations, the authorization of virtual arraignments statewide, and of course, the legalization of marijuana.***

The budget proposals also contains new requirements for police departments to submit information to the state about seized weapons, requirements for paid leave for COVID-19 vaccinations, the authorization of virtual arraignments statewide, and of course, the legalization of marijuana.

There has never been a more challenging time for policing. It is important that we work together. For the Association, our membership is an important topic. It is vital that all our members renew their memberships. We will be providing information on legislative issues and legislation buried in the budget. We will be providing information about combating anti-police legislation. We will be publishing legal opinions on legislative matters and much more. You will not want to be without the tools we are providing so it is important that your membership is up to date. Consider signing up your command staff as well so they receive our emails and publications directly. You can renew your membership or start a new membership on our [website](http://nychiefs.org) at [nychiefs.org](http://nychiefs.org).



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York State Association of Chiefs of Police said: “Our member agencies support, and will actively participate in, this statewide effort. Officers will be vigilant throughout the enforcement initiative and beyond for impaired drivers on our roadways. We encourage you to be responsible, don’t place yourself and others at risk”. Help plan your mobilization and visit NHTSA’s Traffic Safety Marketing [page](#) for the latest campaign materials and resources to maximize your agency’s enforcement efforts. Additional resource materials are also available on the GTSC [website](#) at [trafficsafety.ny.gov](http://trafficsafety.ny.gov), and the Homepage of [STOP-DWI New York](#).

**STOP-DWI NEW YORK Mobile App – Have A Plan:** The Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee and representatives from the New York STOP-DWI Foundation wish to remind all partners of its free “Have A Plan” mobile application. The app encourages people to have a plan to get home safely if they are impaired by alcohol or drugs. Download the mobile application [here](#).



**2021 Training Schedules for ARIDE and DRE Classes:** The training schedules for the two-day Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) and Drug Recognition Enforcement (DRE) classes for 2021 supported by the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee can be found [here](#). Questions can also be directed to NYS DRE Coordinator [Renee Borden](#).

Visit the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee [website](#) for additional traffic safety information and resources. Contact GTSC Staff at 518-474-5111 with questions or for assistance with your traffic safety programs. NYSACOP Law Enforcement Liaison Dominick Macherone can be reached at [traffic@nychiefs.org](mailto:traffic@nychiefs.org) or at 518-857-9943

# Traffic Safety Take-Out Menu

## Online Training Opportunities & Resources

**National Center for Rural Road Safety Website:** News & Events, Training & Education, Research & Resources, & more: [LINK](#)

**National Law Enforcement Liaison Program Recorded Webinars:** Register for the December 9, 2020 webinar – Reinvesting in Traffic Safety Post 2020. Click [here](#) for a listing of all webinars.

**National Law Enforcement Liaison Program Recorded Webinars:** January 28, 2021 webinar “LEL Networking & Information Event”; Click [here](#) for a listing of all webinars.

**DCJS Online Training - Ignition Interlock Devices:** This training provides a comprehensive overview and enforcement guidance for NYS police officers on Ignition Interlock Devices. It was produced by the NYS Association of Chiefs of Police and funded by NHTSA with a grant from the Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee. [LINK](#)

**Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) Publications, Reports and Resources:** [LINK](#)

**New Study Shows Tragic Impact of Turning Roadways Into Speedways—**[LINK](#)

**GHSA and Ford Motor Company Fund Report—Teens and Speeding: Breaking the Deadly Cycle -** [LINK](#)

### NYSACOP PODCAST Releases:



**Tackling Rogue Stunt Riders Without Pursuit**



**Traffic Safety Leadership**

**PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS:**

**NYSACOP  
3177 Latta Road, #230  
Rochester, NY 14612**





**Law Enforcement Disability Awareness  
Virtual 8-Hour Training  
8:30am-4:30pm  
NEW YORK STATE  
Two Options Available**

The First Responder Disability Awareness Training project at Niagara University is pleased to announce the 8-hour virtual training program customized for Law Enforcement personnel.

Topics include, but are not limited to, disabilities defined specific to law enforcement, the Recognize-Identify-Approach-Interaction-Response model, victimization/abuse, the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animals, de-escalation strategies, and current trends and topics.

Developed with input from law enforcement from New York, Virginia, and Missouri, this training both sensitizes and educates law enforcement on how to effectively identify, address, and respond to various disabilities they will encounter in their line of duty.

This program is developed strictly for law enforcement personnel from New York State. This is a **FREE** training funded by the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services. You must have access to audio and video, no phone call-ins.

For training information please visit <https://frdat.niagara.edu/>

**Choice #1:**

**Date: February 25, 2021**

**Time: 8:30am-4:30pm**

**[Click Here to Register](#)**

**Choice #2:**

**Date: March 11, 2021**

**Time: 8:30am-4:30pm**

**[Click Here to Register](#)**

**For more information, please contact:**  
Cary Newman, Program Manager  
Niagara University First Responder Disability  
Awareness Training  
Phone: (716) 286-8139  
[carynewman@niagara.edu](mailto:carynewman@niagara.edu)  
[www.facebook.com/nufrdat](http://www.facebook.com/nufrdat)

**Training Contact: Bert Bouchey**  
Senior Training Technician (POLICE)  
New York State Division of Criminal Justice  
Services  
Phone: (518) 485-1411  
Email: [Bert.Bouchey@dcjs.ny.gov](mailto:Bert.Bouchey@dcjs.ny.gov)



**Division of Criminal  
Justice Services**

## Attorney General Office to Investigate All Police-Involved Deaths

On April 1, 2021, the Office of Special Investigations of the New York State Attorney General's Office will have jurisdiction over any death cause by a police or peace officer. Previously under an executive order from the Governor's Office, investigations were specific to unarmed civilians who died from a law enforcement<sup>1</sup> action. Under Section 70-B of the Executive Law, investigation and prosecution authority is vested in the Attorney General and includes "...any incident in which the death of a person, whether in custody or not, is caused by an act or mission of such police or peace officer".

The New York State Association of Chiefs of Police recently conducted an interview with Assistant Chief Rudolph Hall of the Special Investigations and Prosecutions Unit of the Attorney General's office about their expanded jurisdiction and procedures. Chief Hall answered questions concerning the history and mission of his office, the possible outcomes of an investigation, interaction with local agencies during an investigation, and deployment of investigative teams upon a death. Said Chief Hall, "We will still be working with the local agencies in some capacity, it will really depend on a case by case situation as to how much involvement. But there will be some coordination."



Listen to the interview in our *APB: All Points Bulletin* library or click [here](#).

<sup>1</sup> police officers and peace officers as first designated in Section 70-B Exec. Law, and as defined in 1.20 and 2.10 Criminal Procedure Law; refer to 70-B Exec. Law for complete details

Start Planning Now for Your March Activities—click [here](#)

**DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK**  
**DRIVE SOBER THIS ST. PAT'S**

NHTSA

buzzed driving is drunk driving designate a sober driver

## ***Real Risk Management***

# ***A Heavy Price: The Consequences for Travel Expense Fraud***

***By Gordon Graham***

*Editor's note: This is the latest installment in the Real Risk Management series, designed to introduce the breadth and depth of risk management by organizing risk into 10 Families. To request earlier articles from the series, please contact Shannon Pieper, Lexipol Sr. Director of Marketing Content, at 949/276-9938 or [spieper@lexipol.com](mailto:spieper@lexipol.com).*

Gordon Graham here and I sincerely hope your 2021 is headed in a better direction than your 2020. I know very few people who were not personally impacted by COVID. And from a financial standpoint, state and the federal governments suffered a major reduction in tax revenue. In the coming months, there is certain to be an increased focus on “where every dollar goes” and “what can we do to reduce costs and expenses.” So this article about Family Nine of the 10 Families of Risks is indeed timely.

In our last visit together I wrapped up my thoughts on overtime and the importance of control measures (read: policies, procedures, the key role of the supervisor, and the audit function) to address overtime fraud in law enforcement agencies. In this piece I want to focus on another form of theft of government funds—travel expenses.

Every law enforcement employee needs to be fully reimbursed for allowable and legitimate expenditures caused by work-related travel. Reimbursement is only right and fair when you are required to travel for your department.

Take, for instance, an out-of-state extradition assignment. In the mid-70s I was waved down by a fellow at Washington Boulevard and Hoover Street in downtown Los Angeles. His car had been stolen from a car wash. The attendant drove it from the wash area to the drying area and left the keys in the switch and a young fellow jumped in and drove it off. The owner of the car told me his story and I took a stolen vehicle report, which was ultimately entered into the various databases. And that was the end of it—I thought!

About a year later I get a subpoena (always better than a summons; there is a big difference) for a court proceeding and I learn from the prosecutor that the young fellow who stole the car was arrested in Alabama in the stolen car. Here is an old school view of things: The arrest was made by the sheriff of the involved county, and he drove the suspect from Alabama (whose state motto is “We Dare Defend



Gordon Graham

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Our Rights”) to Los Angeles in a marked unit. That is close to 3,000 miles (which means it was not a day trip unless he was going really fast) so my guess is it required at least four nights in some motel.

The capper of this event was when I thanked the sheriff for catching this guy and I asked why he drove to Los Angeles rather than using some other form of extradition. I learned he brought his wife and kids with him because “they always wanted to go to the original Disneyland.” My guess is that was one heck of a travel expense claim—and my guess is he was the person who prepared it, reviewed it and approved it.

I don’t think that would happen today, but who knows?

When I was a young cop, my first travel expense claim involved in-service training. The CHP is a state agency—the training academy is 400 miles north of Los Angeles—and travel expenses were allowed. It was only a day trip, but if you used your personal car you could bill for mileage and meals. Once you arrived at the Academy there were no personal expenses as they provided a dorm and meals. (Side note: Not everyone drove their personal vehicles. Back then the CHP used officers to transport “runout” patrol cars—80K miles was the cap then and the used patrol car was auctioned off at the motor transport unit. At the end of the week you drove a new patrol car home—that is how the new patrol cars from motor transport were delivered to field operations. More on that later.)

So I drove my personal car, at the time a 1970 BMW 2002ti (the “ti” meant Touring International; this was not the fuel-injected “tii” or Touring International Injected, but the dual Solex carb “ti”). I recall selling that car for \$2,000 to another cop and what a mistake that was—a good 1970 2002ti now commands about \$50,000—but everyone reading this has a similar story about selling a car you should have kept, so enough of that.

About a week after I returned to Los Angeles I was interviewed by Internal Affairs. Their focus was on two cops from West Los Angeles Area. I later learned the officers were both fired (and later reinstated with the discipline reduced to time off) for “violation of travel expenses.” They drove up together in one car, but both officers submitted mileage claims. I am sure today—post Brady—this dishonesty would cost them their jobs. And for what? \$100 of gasoline? You give up a million-dollar pension for \$100?

This is not isolated. As a sergeant I approved travel expense claims and through a series of flukes I learned one of my cops had his own restaurant receipt book he used to claim payment for meals he

*“...both officers submitted mileage claims. I am sure today—post Brady—this dishonesty would cost them their jobs. And for what? \$100 of gasoline? You give up a million-dollar pension for \$100?”*

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## FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS AND SUICIDE AWARENESS PODCAST SERIES

Now more than ever, we need to take care of our first responders. Prior to 2020, suicides were a major concern—now, with intensive public scrutiny, dealing with the pandemic, and seemingly eroding support, police, fire, EMS and 911 telecommunicators are constantly feeling pressure. In this podcast series sponsored by the Public Employers Risk Management Association in cooperation with the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police and the New York State Fire Chiefs Association, listen to interviews with those who have walked in the shoes of the first responder. We discuss wellness programs, peer support, and stories shared by those who have dealt with stress, and some who have suffered through it.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT SERIES

- ✦ **Law Enforcement Suicide: Taking Care of Our Own** Interview with New York State Association of Chiefs of Police President Patrick Phelan about law enforcement officer suicide.
- ✦ **Law Enforcement Suicide: The Scope of the Problem** Talking about the scope of the problem, wellness programs, and getting help; with Prof. John Violanti (SUNY Buffalo) and Dep. Jim Banish (Warren Co. SO)
- ✦ **Peer Support and Stigma** Talking about peer support programs and overcoming the stigma that prevents some cops from getting help; with Dep. Jim Banish (Warren Co. SO), Prof. John Violanti (SUNY Buffalo), and Officer Matthew Carpenter (Rochester PD)
- ✦ **Searching for Signs; Police Chief Shares a Story of Tragedy** Chief William Whitton (Glen Cove PD) shares a personal story involving one of his commanders in hopes it might help others in recognizing the signs of an officer in distress.
- ✦ **Risk Management, Data, and Dogs: What Virginia Police Are Doing** Chief Edwin Roessler of Fairfax County PD talks about a survey of first responders, risk management procedures, and the use of therapy dogs to respond to critical incidents.
- ✦ **Another Tragedy: Discussing Suicide Myths and Police Culture** Former Police Chief Miguel Bermudez talks about the loss of an officer in his department; with comments by Prof. John Violanti (SUNY Buffalo); Concealing our emotions is an asset in the field, but when it carries over to personal life and prevents an officer from getting help, it can be an obstacle.

## FIRE, EMS & 911 SERIES

❖ **The Stresses of the Front Lines – Fire, EMS and 911** A discussion about the stress and suicide for first responders; what do we know about the scope of the problem? Front line workers describe the incidents that can cause stress. Featuring: Fire Chief Bruce Heberer (CEO, New York State Assn. of Fire Chiefs); Former Battalion Chief Jeff Dill (Licensed Professional Counselor, Firefighter Behavior Health Alliance); Fire Chief/Ret. Mike Healy; EMT Shawn Healy (FDNY); Public Safety Sr. Telecommunicator Dorine Hanevy (Oswego Co. 911)

❖ **The Stress Bucket** Assistant Fire Chief Jared Meeker talks about his personal experiences with stress, including one incident that tipped his “stress bucket”. He describes how stress can accumulate, the signs and symptoms of a person in distress, and what leadership can do to help their crews. Featuring: Assistant Fire Chief Jared Meeker (Lake Shore Fire District, NY)

❖ **Providing Support – Professionals, Peers, Families** When a first responder is looking for help, they may prefer someone who understands the world of emergency service. We discuss peer and family support with Fire Chiefs who understand the culture of being a first responder. Former Battalion Chief Jeff Dill offers meaningful insight about support from colleagues and family members, urging direct dialogue by “challenging with compassion” to encourage our colleagues to talk about their concerns. Featuring: Assistant Fire Chief Jared Meeker (Lake Shore Fire District, NY); Fire Chief/Ret. Mike Healy; EMT Shawn Healy (FDNY);

## COUNSELORS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

❖ **Certified First Responder Counselor** When a police officer, firefighter, EMT or 911 Telecommunicator seeks out help, it is essential that their counselor understands the unique world of the first responder. The stresses of seeing tragedy, hostility, as well as internal pressures require that a therapist have an intimate knowledge of what it’s like to walk in the shoes of the men and women who are on the front lines. Learn about a certification program that provides counselors with critical information about first responders, as well as other programs for non-licensed counselors such as chaplains and group facilitators, and support people. Featuring: Teresa McMahon, Licensed Mental Health Therapist and CFRC; Amy Morgan, MSC, Director and Founder of Academy Hour, CFRC Program

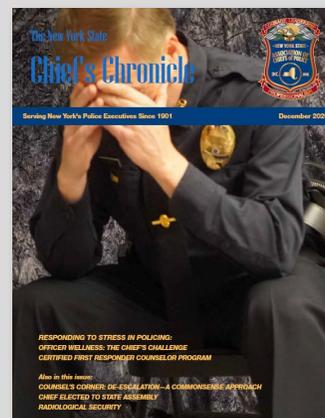
## OTHER RESOURCES FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

In the December edition of *The Chief’s Chronicle* magazine:

Read about Certified First Responder Counselor’s

Squad Room/Break Room/Locker Room Poster with Wellness Information

The Chief’s Challenge—a program developed for police agencies to assure that certain wellness and mental health resources are available to their members.



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did not consume while traveling. This idiot was submitting “receipts” from his receipt book, not realizing there were sequential numbers on the receipts. He submitted a receipt numbered 123456 in January for travel to the Academy and three months later submitted a receipt numbered 123457 for lunch on an out-of-county court case. And when confronted, he lied about it—with the receipt book in his office locker!

It goes on and on and on. On a side note, I have heard about cops taking irons from their motel rooms, taking spare tires out of rental cars, claiming mileage when they flew on a free flight on Southwest Airlines to Sacramento, siphoning gas out of rental cars and a hundred other variations on a theme. No matter how you frame it, this is intentional misconduct. It is not “I made a mistake” but rather a deliberate attempt to defraud—it is a big deal and can end up in termination and possibly a criminal filing. Again, for what?

Time to close this out. But earlier I mentioned the auctioning of patrol cars that reached their end-of-service mileage. How much would you pay for a two-year-old patrol car with 80,000+ miles on it driven by a bunch of young cops jumping curbs and bottoming out in pursuits, slammed into park at 20 mph and generally misused and abused during its lifetime? In the 80s they were going for about \$1,000—these cars were beat, seriously beat! Most of the purchases were by taxi companies—you young kids will have to Google that in this age of Uber—and then driven another 500,000 miles by some cabbie in Manhattan.

Well, how about if the office auto tech (the person in charge of the office fleet) at the 75K mark put in a new engine and a new transmission and new tires—all on the state dime—then wrote down the sequential of the VIN and told a compatriot (how do you spell “criminal conspiracy”?) to go to the auction and look for a certain VIN during the pre-auction inspection and buy it for a thousand bucks when the state had just spent four times that much for all the work? Yes, that happened and they got caught and prosecuted and a substantial change for the worse in their life—and for what?

“Without the public trust we have nothing.” That was true then and it is true now. Please take travel expense claims seriously. Get a good policy in place and make sure your supervisors are not just signing requests for reimbursement for travel expenses without critically reading them.

In my next article, I will address another critical financial issue: asset seizure and forfeiture money.

Timely Takeaway—Between now and next month, please use your favorite search engine and check out “law enforcement asset seizure and forfeiture scandals” for a primer on this huge national issue. Please do this on duty while at work because “travel expenses are not authorized for this activity.”

*Gordon Graham is a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and is the co-founder of Lexipol, where he serves on the current board of directors. A practicing attorney, Graham focuses on managing risk in public safety operations and has presented a commonsense approach to risk management to hundreds of thousands of public safety professionals around the world. He holds a master's degree in Safety and Systems Management from University of Southern California and a Juris Doctorate from Western State University.*

# Looking Back...



**Some of our members from 1914**

**...revisiting the rich history of the  
New York State Association of Chiefs of Police**

## Officers & Staff

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Garden City Police Department

Zone 3  
Asst. Chief Sean Montgomery  
MTA

Zone 4  
Chief Gregory Austin  
Rye Brook Police Department

Zone 5  
Chief Joseph A. Sinagra  
Saugerties Police Department

Zone 6  
Deputy Chief Michael D. Woods  
Colonie Police Department

Zone 7  
Chief Michael J. Crowell  
Manlius Police Department

Zone 8  
Chief F. Michael Catalano  
Cortland Police Department

Zone 9  
Chief Shawn L. Heubusch  
Batavia Police Department

Zone 10  
Chief Joseph Wehrfritz  
Orchard Park Police Department

Retired Member Rep.  
Chief (Ret.) Joseph DelBianco/Mamaroneck

## Liaisons

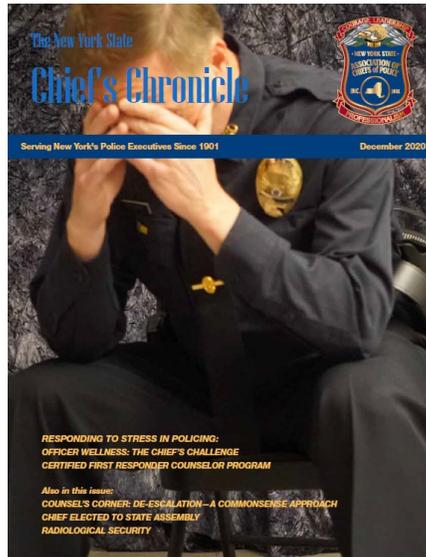
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Chief (Ret.) Samuel M. Palmiere

NYSACOP Law Enforcement Liaison  
Dep. Chief (Ret) Dominick Macherone

NYPD  
Dep. Comm. Oleg Chernyavsky

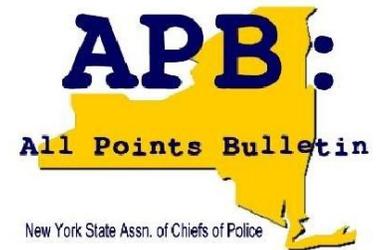


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Chronicle***  
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library at  
**[nychiefs.org](http://nychiefs.org)**



# Training Opportunities

MPTC Defensive Tactics Instructor Course—Westchester County –  
March 1-12, 2021

Law Enforcement Disability Awareness—see page 9



## Instagram Post of the Month

Mt. Vernon PD:  
Officers located suspect described by dispatch. After a struggle, 9MM firearm was recovered from suspect.



## Facebook Post of the Month

### Syracuse PD:

The Gun Violence Suppression Detail participates in community events monthly to build positive relationships with the community it serves. The GVSD looks forward to continued efforts in gun crime reduction and keeping the residents of Syracuse safe.



## New Members

Dep. Chief  
James Gerace  
Colonie PD

Dep. Chief Robert Winn  
Colonie PD

Chief Kevin Owens  
Kent PD

Chief Mark Packard  
Lackawanna PD

OIC Pete Dunn  
Rhinebeck PD

## Contact Us

Share your stories, photographs,  
and questions:

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APB@nychiefs.org

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