



August 13, 2020

To the Residents and Business Owners of Sussex County:

Modern policing is complex and challenging. The last few months have proven this statement to be truer than ever. Fortunately, there exists an organization in Sussex County whose sole essential purpose is to improve the policing profession – the Sussex County Police Chiefs’ Association.

The leadership of the Chiefs’ Association has been at the forefront of advancing the profession of policing since its start in 1973. At the heart of our strategy to improve policing has been developing positive partnerships, leveraging technology, building community trust, and relentlessly pursuing the highest ethical and professional standards in our Officers.

In recent years, the Association has been at the forefront in innovative demand reduction efforts for combating drug addiction through the C.L.E.A.R. – Community Law Enforcement Addiction Recovery program. The Association has also helped lead the effort to significantly increase the percentage of personnel in every department who are certified as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers.

In addition to the many in-service trainings required by the NJ Office of the Attorney General, the Chiefs’ Association has conducted fundraising that enabled our County to have a firearms/use of force training simulator that is shared among all law enforcement agencies in Sussex County, including all Police Departments, the Sheriff's Office, the Prosecutor's Office and the NJ State Police Sussex Station. This simulator helps to reinforce de-escalation techniques in life threatening situations. We have also led efforts to work with school administrators to develop preventative measures as well as effective procedures for responding to violence in our schools, including sponsoring multiple training sessions for first responder first-aid and use of tourniquets to save lives.

We’re proud of what we’ve accomplished toward our goals in Sussex County and we realize that as policing evolves, so must we continue to improve. As such, we are firmly committed to working together toward enacting policing best practices, continuing to embrace a culture of accountability, and leading efforts through these challenging times.

Whether it is a report of a fire or a mental health crisis, Police Officers are often first on scene. From car crashes to heart attacks and from missing children to domestic violence incidents,

Police Officers have a wide range of skills to employ in order to help and to safeguard our communities. It is an honorable and noble calling, a responsibility that we do not take lightly. We encourage and recruit the highest qualified applicants to consider a career in law enforcement and demonstrate support to graduating high school seniors by awarding scholarships each year to those pursuing a criminal justice degree.

Officers in Sussex County have long been truly blessed to work in communities that have been very supportive of their local law enforcement. We want you to know that we don't take that support for granted and hope that despite calls to the contrary across America, we'll be able to continue to count on your support as we navigate the road ahead for policing in Sussex County.

Respectfully,

Chief Neil Spidaletto
Sparta Police Department
President – Sussex County Police Chiefs' Association

Chief Robert Brennan
Hopatcong Police Department
Vice-President of Police Chiefs' Association

Chief Eric Danielson
Andover Township Police Department
Treasurer of Police Chiefs' Association

Chief Gregory Cugliari
Franklin Borough Police Department

Chief Scott Lobban
Hardyston Township Police Department

Chief Stephen Gordon
Ogdensburg Police Department

Lt. Matt Avenatti, Station Commander
New Jersey State Police – Troop B Sussex Station

Chief Michael Richards (retired)
Newton Police Department
Immediate Past President of Police Chiefs' Association

Chief Daniel Young
Vernon Township Police Department
Secretary of Police Chiefs' Association

Chief Kenneth Burke
Byram Township Police Department

Sgt. Jason Tangorra (Officer-In-Charge)
Hamburg Borough Police Department

Chief Robert E. Osborn Jr.
Newton Police Department

Chief Steven J. Pittigher
Stanhope Borough Police Department

Sheriff Michael Strada
Sussex County Sheriff's Office

Chief Bret Aley (retired)
Hardyston Police Department
Past President of Police Chiefs' Association

www.sussexpolicechiefs.org