



## Town of Glenville Police Department

# Community News

Stephen V. Janik, Chief of Police



Dear Community Members,

As the new Chief of Police for your Glenville Police Department, I wanted to introduce myself and give you a brief history of my time spent with the department and my previous experience. I would also like to talk about the issues that are evident in today's society when it deals with police/community relations.

I was hired in February 1997 by then Chief Jack Purdy after completing six and a half years with the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department where I served as a road patrol Deputy. I spent my first year with the Glenville Police as a midnight patrol officer. In 1998, I was assigned to the traffic enforcement position where I worked until 2001. I was promoted to Detective in 2001 where I served as our Juvenile Offender Officer, Public Information Officer and Police Benevolent Association Vice-President. In 2006, I was promoted to Sergeant and worked the afternoon tour. I was the PBA president from 2005-2010. In 2010 I was promoted to Lieutenant serving until June 2016 when I was promoted to Chief of Police. I have lived in Glenville since November 1998. My daughter attends Burnt Hills High School where she will be a sophomore in September.

The Glenville Police Department consists of twenty two sworn police officers, two part-time dog control officers, two confidential administrative assistants and one part-time data entry clerk. We serve the Town of Glenville which entails 50-plus square miles and 29,000 residents. We are a 24/7 operation. We are comprised of thirteen patrol officers, three detectives, three sergeants, two lieutenants and the Chief of Police. We run three shifts of up to five officers but never less than two. Our focus is on traffic safety in an attempt to reduce traffic collisions. We are, and always will be, a community oriented police department. Quality of life and the reduction of crime are essential to a community like Glenville, and we intend to keep it this way. We are well supported by our town officials, and they understand the importance of community-based policing.

As all of you already know, the country has experienced several tragic events over the past several years. The two major incidents are the Ferguson, Missouri and the Baltimore Maryland cases that resulted in major civil unrest and violent protests. The flames of these incidents have only been fueled by the incidents in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Falcon Heights, Minnesota which culminated in one of the most horrifying police-related events in Dallas, Texas on Thursday, July 7, 2016 where five Dallas police officers were murdered and six were wounded and on Sunday, July 17, 2016 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where three police officers were murdered and three others wounded.

I am near the completion of my twenty-sixth year as a police officer. I have worked with many quality men and women who put their uniform on each day and provide public service in a dedicated, professional, courteous, empathetic and conscientious way. I have also seen officers who make mistakes. I have seen officers who have made unforgiveable mistakes. They are no longer serving as police officers. We serve the public by following a set of rules and guidelines. We call those guidelines our policies. When you serve under the guidelines of your policies you should have a successful and safe career. Officers who decide to deviate from policy will face discipline, termination and possibly arrest. The men and women of your Glenville Police Department serve under the most up to date, relative and researched policies in the state, if not the nation. We train on policy EVERY DAY. Officers are required to take daily training and tests on policy to help them understand and adhere to those policies and apply them when necessary.

The event in Dallas is unimaginable. I hope it never happens again but, I don't think this is the last attack on the police just for the simple fact that it is our job. The events that led to this tragedy do not excuse the use of violence to prove a point. Constructive conversation and an open mind is the only way we will be able to solve these issues. I would always ask that the public look at all the facts before they judge the police or the officers' actions. When you look at most video footage of officer-related use of force you don't see what events led up to the encounter. Data has shown that less than two percent of the near sixty million police/citizen contacts end in a use of force. Data has also shown that seventy percent of officers who have faced a deadly force situation, where they were in fear for their life, decided not to use deadly force. Another sad statistic is that twenty-six police officers were killed by gunfire in 2016, so far. Forty-two officers were killed in 2015 by gunfire. Does anyone remember these events? It is really sad that five officers being killed are making people start to publicly appreciate the jobs police officers do.

The Glenville Police Department is dedicated to providing the residents, business owners and visitors of this community with the most professional police service we can. We have received overwhelming support from the community during these difficult times and in the past. I truly hope that the general public does not wait for another tragedy to show their appreciation to their police department. Police officers want and need to feel appreciated. They are dedicated individuals who expect the worst every day. A little bit of appreciation is all they need to feel that the entire world is not against them.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or comments, please call me at (518) 384-0123 x6.

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Janik

Chief of Police