

Rome Police Department 2020 Annual Report



ROME POLICE DEPARTMENT

★ A NYS ACCREDITED POLICE DEPT. ★

JUSTICE BUILDING
301 NORTH JAMES STREET
ROME, NEW YORK 13440

Chief's Office: (315) 339-7705
Chief's Administrative Office Fax: (315) 339-7706
Department Communications: (315) 339-7780
Department Fax: (315) 339-7793 Emergency: 911

JACQUELINE M. IZZO
Mayor

FRANK J. RETROSI Jr.
Public Safety Commissioner

KEVIN C. BEACH
Chief of Police

KEVIN M. SIMONS
Deputy Chief



Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo
Rome City Hall
198 N. Washington Street
Rome, New York 13440

Dear Mayor Jacqueline M. Izzo,

As required under Section 67 of the Charter Law of the City of Rome, New York, Title "A", I herewith submit to you the Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Rome Police Department for the year 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin C. Beach,
Chief of Police

Rome Police Department 2020 Administration—Elected Officials



Jacqueline M. Izzo
Mayor



Frank Retrosi Jr.
***Public Safety
Commissioner***

Rome Police Department 2020 Administration—Chiefs



Kevin C. Beach
Chief of Police



Kevin M. Simons
Deputy Chief of Police

Rome Police Department 2020

Command Staff—Captains



Cheyenne D. Schoff
Captain of Administration



Dominic J. Corigliano
Captain of Patrol



David J. Collins
Captain of Support Services

Rome Police Department 2020 Command Staff—Lieutenants



Lt. Sharon L. Rood
Training Division Commander



Det. Comm. Kevin M. James
Detective Division Commander



Lt. Mark A. Glasso
A-Line Watch Commander



Lt. Nicholas J. Martin
A-Line Asst. Watch Commander

Rome Police Department 2020 Command Staff—Lieutenants



Lt. John A. Reilly

C-Line Watch Commander



Lt. Michael DeMatteo

C-Line Asst. Watch Commander

Rome Police Department 2020

Supervision—Sergeants



Sgt. Shane A. Riolo
Forensic Unit Supervisor



Sgt. Scott Hoag
Juvenile Aid Division Supervisor



Sgt. Jason W. Fairbrother
A-Line Patrol Supervisor



Sgt. Thomas R. Medlin
A-Line Patrol Supervisor

Rome Police Department 2020

Supervision—Sergeants



Sgt. Derek T. Utter
B-Line Patrol Supervisor



Sgt. Josef I. Hall
B-Line Patrol Supervisor



Sgt. Brian A. Stevens
C-line Patrol Supervisor



Sgt. Ferdinando A. Pacicca
C-line Patrol Supervisor

Rome Police Department 2020

Department Roster

Administration

Kevin C. Beach, Chief of Police

Kevin M. Simons, Deputy Chief of Police

Captains

Dominic J. Corigliano

Cheyenne D. Schoff

David J. Collins

Lieutenants

John A. Reilly

Mark A. Glasso

Nicholas A. Martin Sharon L. Rood

Michael P. DeMatteo

Detectives

Kevin M. James

Alex Sypiewski

Robert J. Galluppi

Jeffrey A. Race

Bryan M. Zoeckler

Daniel A. Vescio

Jeffrey M. Lanigan

Kelly L. Lupinski

David A. Salle

Sergeants

Scott Hoag

Jason W. Fairbrother

Derek T. Utter

Josef I. Hall

Shane A. Riolo

Brian A. Stevens

Thomas R. Medlin

Ferdinando A. Pacicca

Rome Police Department 2020

Department Roster

Patrol Division

<i>Frederick J. Carnevale</i>	<i>Mark A. Fanfarillo</i>	<i>Brian M. Gualtieri</i>
<i>Hollie B. Kennedy</i>	<i>Jeffrey L. Buckley</i>	<i>Aaron A. Page</i>
<i>James A. Pruckno</i>	<i>George W. Gabo II</i>	<i>James C. Richardson</i>
<i>Michael J. Sweezey</i>	<i>Eric A. Stevens</i>	<i>Ryan P. Crever</i>
<i>James T. Bristol</i>	<i>Alexzandra S. Carletta</i>	<i>Daniel D. Roberts</i>
<i>Nicolaus J. Schreppel</i>	<i>Charles E. Zonneville</i>	<i>Tyler J. Nutting</i>
<i>Sanel Galivasevic</i>	<i>Jarred Luczak</i>	<i>Alexis Perry</i>
<i>Jarod Stanek</i>	<i>Zachary Hadasz</i>	<i>Jenna Kiskiel</i>
<i>Zachery White</i>	<i>John P. LaMarco</i>	<i>Matthew Heinrich</i>
<i>Tyler Wilson</i>	<i>Christopher T. Herring</i>	<i>Matthew D. Richardson</i>
<i>Anthony A. Calandra</i>	<i>Thomas E. Tardugno</i>	<i>Dylan M. Stasio</i>
<i>Kevin M. Fisher</i>	<i>John A. Petrelli</i>	<i>Markel C. Griggs</i>
<i>Megan L. Pritchard</i>	<i>Mikayla M. Blumenstock</i>	<i>Anthony L. Pacicca</i>
<i>Kalyn M. Olney</i>	<i>Joseph Longo</i>	

Rome Police Department 2020

Department Roster

Part Time Officers

<i>Russell W. Pitoniak</i>	<i>John P. Gualtieri</i>	<i>Donald R. Early</i>
<i>Salvatore Fanelli</i>	<i>Robert A. Pinti</i>	<i>John T. Bielby</i>
<i>Gerald Pohorenec</i>	<i>Kenneth D. Dapson</i>	<i>Richard Peroni</i>
<i>Donald A. D'Aiuto</i>	<i>Albert J. Ciccone</i>	<i>Stewart J. Rood</i>
<i>Enrico D'Alessandro</i>	<i>Merino J. Ciccone III</i>	<i>Edwin D'Alessandro</i>

Civilians

Melissa Rowland, Record's Division
Madeline M. Amuso, Chief's Secretary
Bob Fanning, Building Maintenance

2020 Retirements

<i>James Boyer 01/31</i>	<i>Thomas Smith 05/21</i>	<i>Richard Galluppi 06/20</i>
<i>Edwin D'Alessandro 07/31</i>	<i>Frank Fragapane 08/22</i>	<i>Christopher Shean 08/24</i>
<i>Jason Worth 08/29</i>		

2020 Resignations

<i>Corwin Christman 01/06</i>	<i>Antonio Deluco 02/08</i>	<i>Stacie Skidmore 02/29</i>
<i>Jasmine Harris 04/06</i>	<i>Matthew Hall 07/24</i>	<i>Savka Browneski 07/24</i>

Rome Police Department

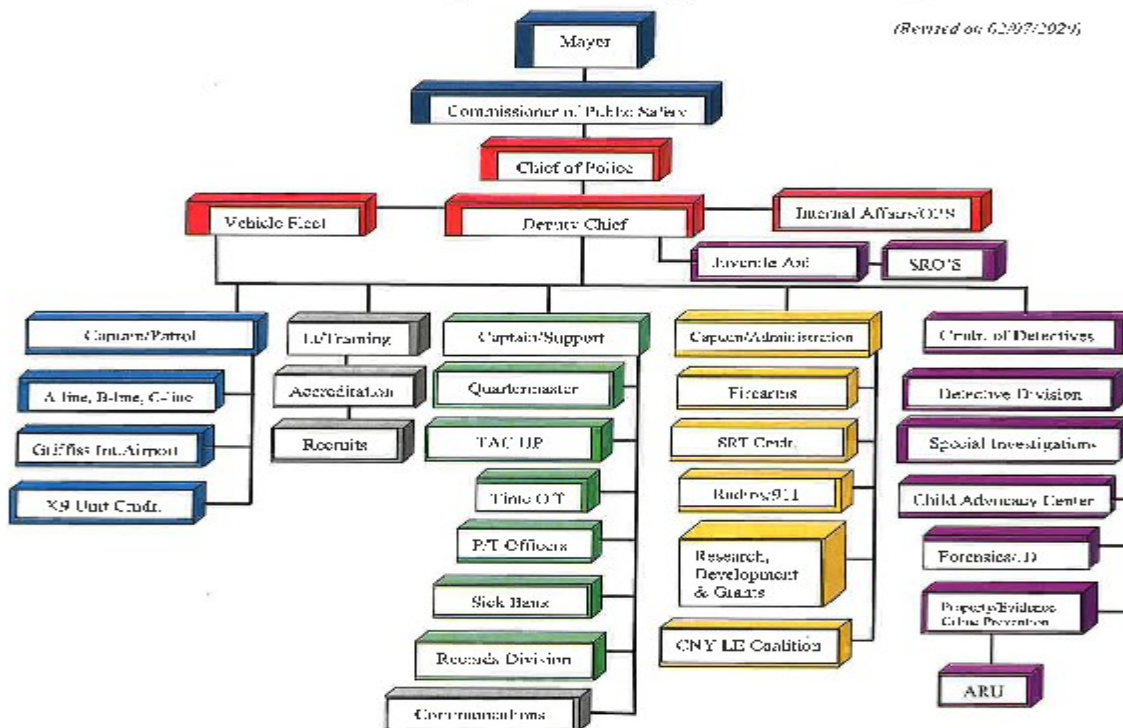
2020

Our Mission

The mission of the Rome Police Department is to protect life and property, prevent crime, detect and arrest offenders. This shall be accomplished by enforcing all federal, state, and local laws over which this department has jurisdiction. This department is committed to service and taking positive action to maintain high standards in response to the community we serve. It is crucial that all the officers of the Rome Police Department remember that in the execution of this mission, they shall respect and protect the rights of individuals and perform this mission with honesty, courage, fidelity, and sound judgment. The officers of the Rome Police Department must seek and preserve the public confidence by acting in a fair and impartial manner at all times, thereby protecting the constitutional rights of all persons.

Rome Police Department Organizational Chart

(Revised on 6/29/2020)



Rome Police Department 2020

Chaplains

In the beginning of 2020, the Rome Police Department was served by two chaplains, Reverend Sean P. O'Brien and the Reverend Daniel C. Govey. In early spring of 2020, Reverend Govey resigned his position. Reverend Govey said, he felt he could no longer provide the time necessary to effectively provide the services required of his position. Reverend O'Brien continues to provide a valuable and much appreciated service to not only the police department, but to the fire department, other public safety organizations, and most importantly, to the citizens of the community.

Reverend O'Brien provides specialized counseling and spiritualized guidance to officers and their families as needed. He is also instrumental in assisting officers in times of crisis, in the case of death notifications, or when a loved one has suffered serious injuries as a result of an accident. He is a resource in critical need incidents such as barricaded subjects, civil disasters, and other traumatic occurrences.



Rev. Daniel C. Govey



Rev. Sean P. O'Brien

Rome Police Department 2020

A-Line Watch



Lieutenant Mark A. Glasso
Watch Commander



Lieutenant Nicholas Martin
Assistant Watch Commander



Sergeant Jason Fairbrother
Patrol Supervisor



Sergeant Thomas Medlin
Patrol Supervisor

Rome Police Department

2020

A-Line Watch

A-Line Watch Personnel

The staffing of the A-line watch for 2020 is as follows:

Command – Lieutenants (2)

Lieutenant Mark A. Glasso serves as the A-line watch commander, and has been assigned to the shift since April 8, 2019. Lieutenant Glasso served as assistant watch commander for the A-line tour until Lieutenant Fragapane's retirement on August 22, 2020. Lieutenant Glasso is responsible for the day-to-day operations and personnel assigned to the shift. In addition to his duties as Watch Commander, Lieutenant Glasso is also responsible for the department's drone unit and completing the annual year end report.

On August 22, 2020, Lieutenant Nicholas Martin was promoted to lieutenant and currently serves as the assistant watch commander. In addition to his assistant watch commander duties, Lieutenant Martin is responsible for the mountain bike unit.

Supervision – Sergeants (2)

Sergeant Shane Riolo, served as the senior sergeant for the A-line watch from January through February 02, 2020, when he was assigned to the position of forensic division supervisor.

Sergeant Jason Fairbrother served as the junior sergeant on the A-line watch until Sergeant Riolo was reassigned. Sergeant Fairbrother is responsible for all terrain unit, weekly patrol vehicle mileage, gas receipts, bar letters, radar traffic recorder, and traffic studies, radar and lidar records and management.

Sergeant Robert Galluppi served as the junior sergeant on the A-line watch from February 03, 2020 until August 02, 2020. Sergeant Galluppi was responsible for patrol division equipment, (inside HQ), RUOK system, audio and DVR systems, and LPR's. Sergeant Galluppi was promoted to detective on August 2, 2020.

Sergeant Thomas Medlin was promoted on August 02, 2020 and serves as the junior sergeant for the A-line tour. Sergeant Medlin is responsible for LPR's, bank key-holder information updates, tow company list for MVA and AAA tows, and department historian.

Patrol – Patrol Officers (7)

The following officers are assigned to the A-line watch: Patrolmen Daniel Roberts, Charles Zonneville, Sanel Galijasevic, Jared Luczak, Zachary Hadasz, and Jenna Kiskiel. The remaining position is covered by a rotating officer. The shift has set guidelines for minimum staffing, which include officers assigned to patrol zones and desk duty. All assignments are on a rotating basis and are determined by the patrol supervisors.

Rome Police Department

2020

A-Line Watch

Activity

The A-line watch is often dispatched to investigate complaints of a serious nature. These calls for service normally require two or more officers to respond, and at times, some investigations can require a response from the entire shift. The nature of more serious calls for service is greatly attributed to the hours of operation during the watch (12am to 8am). Examples of investigations that require multiple officer responses are: large disputes/fights at alcohol serving establishments, in-progress robberies (often occurring at convenience stores), structure fires requiring traffic control, and assaults involving weapons.

Officers are encouraged to be pro-active in their patrol duties, maintain high visibility, and establish obvious police presence in problematic areas. Directed patrol details, building checks, vacant home checks, and alcohol beverage control checks are performed routinely and deter potential criminal activities. Situation dependent circumstances often require traditional walking beats, which have proven to be an effective tool in crime prevention and community relations.

In order to advance the pro-active policing approach, the shift often utilizes special assignments to accomplish and further the crime prevention and enforcement strategy. In this effort, the shift typically utilizes unmarked patrol vehicles for surveillance to assist marked patrol units. The shift periodically assigns officers in plain clothing to both foot/vehicle patrol, which provides surveillance in areas needing attention. This allows for policing efforts secreted from public view, and is essential for enforcement of narcotic and theft violations which occur during the overnight hours. The shift also assigns several premise checks of various businesses on a nightly basis in order to help deter criminal activity in these areas.

The shift maintains a strong traffic enforcement presence that is essential in removing intoxicated drivers from the roadway and reducing traffic accidents attributed to abuse of alcohol. The shift takes great initiative in executing arrest warrants by assigning officers specific to warrant patrol. Traffic enforcement efforts include saturation patrols, LIDAR/Radar, and nightly parking violation monitoring. The A-line watch is vigilant and takes very seriously the responsibility to “serve and protect” the citizens of Rome.

Significant Events, Arrests and Investigations

During 2020, the A-line watch conducted numerous investigations into complaints, which resulted in detailed investigations and arrests, and continued to handle many of its own felony investigations. The watch imparts the community with a sense of security during night time hours, which is an immense accomplishment not measured solely by statistics alone. The low crime rate during night time hours is a credit to the diligence of the officers patrolling the streets. Some of the significant arrests and investigations include the following cases:

Rome Police Department

2020

A-Line Watch

Significant Events, Arrests, and Investigations

January

Overdose investigation, (Narcan), at 701 N. James St.
Home invasion at 182 Park Drive Manor 2.

February

Robbery attempt. N. James St. at W. Fox St.
Felony drug arrest while executing an arrest warrant.

March

Suicide by gun at 326 Lynch St.
Double overdose investigation, (Narcan), at 711 Kent St.
Burglary in-progress at 328 Ridge St. Subjects arrested on scene.
Overdose investigation, (Narcan), at 406 N. Washington St.
Two burglaries of businesses on 03/20/20; same MO.
Burglary of Kekis Citgo at 400 W. Dominick St.
Burglary of Habib's Market at 301 Lawrence St. Two arrests.
Unattended death at Colonial 1 Apartments, Apt. #406.
Overdose investigation, (Narcan), at 113 Stanwix St.

April

Overdose investigation at 113 Stanwix St.
Burglary of a business at 104 E. Bloomfield St.
Sex abuse of a one year old female at 814 Erie Blvd. W.
MVAPD resulted in arrest for DWI and DWI BAC greater than .08%.

May

Shots fired at 1200 W. Liberty St. Casings found. No victim or suspect(s).
Overdose investigation, (Narcan), 213 Spring St.
Vehicle pursuit. Suspect located and apprehended at 216 Erie Blvd. E.
Fatal MVA at Black River Blvd. and E. Dominick St.
Shooting at 423 W. Park St. One victim with GSW to left shoulder and cheek.

Rome Police Department

2020

A-Line Watch

Significant Events, Arrests, and Investigations

June

Unattended death of a three month old child at 707 W. Liberty St.
Burglary with shots fired by a neighbor at 608 Croton St.
Burglary at 113 Stanwix St. Suspect injured by the resident.
Burglary of a business at 1144 Black River Blvd.
Suicide at 7996 Winfield Circle.
Forcible rape of a twelve year old female at 313 Scott Ave.

July

Five year old child missing from 313 Broadway St. Located at Park Dr. Manor.
Shots fired at 328 Park Dr. Manor 2. Casings located. No victims or suspects.
Overdose investigation, (Narcen), at 214 W. Court St.
Arrest of subject wanted on an arrest warrant for Attempted Murder.
Stabbing at 423 W. Dominick St.

August

Overdose investigation, (Narcen), at 112 W. Fox St.
MVA rollover on Jervis Ave. Vehicle stolen from Black River Ale House.
Burglary in progress at 414 S. Jay St.
Menacing with a firearm. Juvenile suspect found to be in possession of a handgun.
Burglary at 414 W. Dominick St., Eddie's Paramount Diner.

September

Vehicle pursuit on Erie Blvd. W. Juvenile suspect arrested.
Robbery occurred in the 100 block of Locust St.
Felony drug possession arrest resulting from a citizen stop on Parry St.
Shots fired at 415 N. James St., Ramblin Inn.
Traffic arrest lead to seizure of fifty-three grams of marihuana and \$1,741.
Shots fired on W. Dominick St. at S. Doxtator St.

Rome Police Department

2020

A-Line Watch

Significant Events, Arrests, and Investigations

October

Unattended death at 146 Eilenberg Ln., Apt. #305.

Burglary at 820 Erie Blvd. W. Two vehicles stolen. Suspects apprehended.

Burglary at 1146 Erie Blvd. W., (Big Lots).

Larceny of tools from Atlas Drive construction site.

Unresponsive female with multiple lacerations at 201 Maple St.

Unattended death at 1808 Dunham Ave.

November

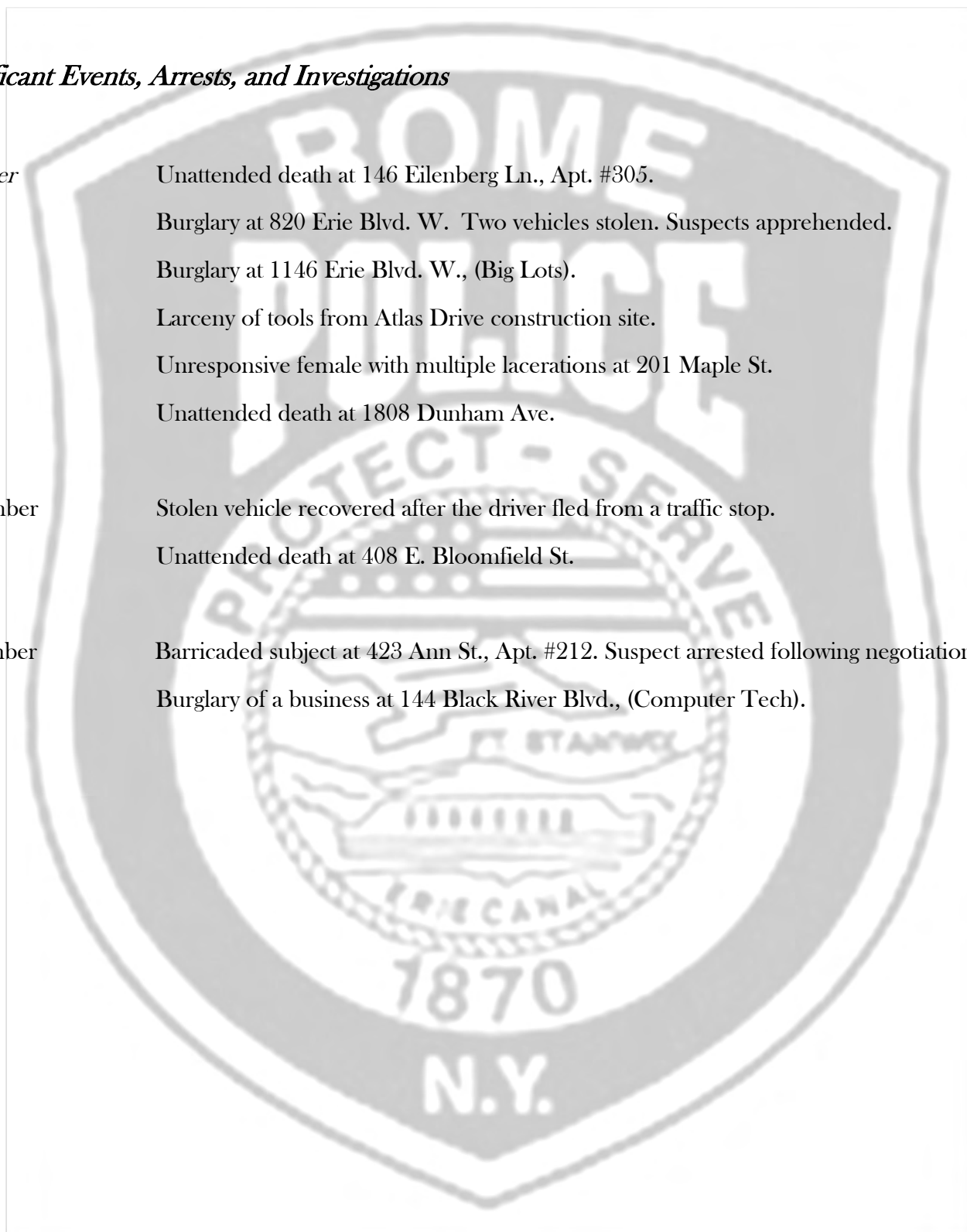
Stolen vehicle recovered after the driver fled from a traffic stop.

Unattended death at 408 E. Bloomfield St.

December

Barricaded subject at 423 Ann St., Apt. #212. Suspect arrested following negotiations.

Burglary of a business at 144 Black River Blvd., (Computer Tech).



Rome Police Department 2020

A-Line Watch

Accomplishments

In 2020, officers assigned to the A-line watch handled 10,448 calls for service. This number represents an increase of just over 26% in the shift's calls for service, as compared to 2019.

A statistical comparison of the major categories relating to the A-line watch from 2019 to 2020 showed a 78% decrease in motor vehicle accidents, a 24% decrease in alarm responses, a 20% increase in domestic violence complaints, an 18% decrease in arrests, a 96% decrease in vehicle and traffic summons issued, and over a 15% decrease in parking violation citations.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Calls for Service</i>	<i>MVA's</i>	<i>Alarms</i>	<i>Domestics</i>	<i>Arrests</i>	<i>V&T</i>	<i>Parking</i>
January	897	5	14	26	48	209	126
February	980	3	13	27	67	254	208
March	982	3	11	16	24	102	317
April	898	3	12	18	4	5	6
May	1119	2	17	30	18	12	1
June	1205	4	16	30	26	31	6
July	969	5	13	27	27	62	4
August	731	6	23	24	32	100	4
September	592	5	9	31	46	113	5
October	738	3	19	42	45	96	3
November	674	3	15	29	36	76	435
December	663	5	8	31	27	77	226
TOTAL:	10448	47	170	331	400	1137	1,341

Rome Police Department

2020

A-Line Watch

Evaluation of 2020 Goals and Objectives:

Goal: In 2020, the goals and objectives of the A-line watch were to continue to provide a sense of security and safety to those who reside in our community and travel our roadways during night time hours.

Evaluation This goal was met through the dedication and vigilance of the officers assigned to the shift. The A-line watch conducted 5864 premise checks throughout 2020, a 55% increase from 2019, and experienced a 78% decrease in motor vehicle accidents.

Goal: In 2020, the A-line watch strived for a 10% increase in traffic summons issued, and a 5% increase specifically for violations constituting aggressive driving.

Evaluation The goal for traffic summons issued was not met and actually saw a 96% decrease in vehicle and traffic summons issued. The significant decrease could partially be contributed to the increase in premise checks, which is aimed at identifying and deterring criminal activity targeting closed businesses. Additionally, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, protocols were initiated to limit non-essential direct contact with the public in an effort to reduce the chances of officers being unnecessarily exposed to the COVID 19 virus in non-emergency situations.

2021 Goals and Objectives:

Goal: In 2021, the A-line watch will strive for a 10% increase in premise checks.

Objective: This will be accomplished through the use of proactive techniques from patrol officers aimed at deterring and/or identifying and apprehending criminals that target unoccupied businesses.

Goal: In 2021, the A-line watch will strive for a 10% increase in traffic summons issued, and a 5% increase specifically for violations constituting aggressive driving.

Objective: By increasing the frequency of traffic enforcement details, the A-line watch will utilize both marked and unmarked vehicles as well as the motorcycle to conduct such details with an emphasis of reducing traffic accidents through increased zero tolerance towards aggressive driving.

Rome Police Department 2020

B-Line Watch



Captain Dominic Corigliano
Watch Commander



Sergeant Nicholas Martin
Patrol Supervisor



Sergeant Derek Utter
Patrol Supervisor

Rome Police Department

2020

B-Line Watch



B-Line Watch Personnel

The staffing of the B-line watch for 2020 is as follows:

Command - Captains (3) & Lieutenant (1)

Captain Dominic Corigliano serves as the Captain of Patrol and the B-line watch commander, and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the shift. In addition to his watch commander responsibilities, Captain Corigliano is also in charge of the K9 unit and serves as the department liaison to the Griffiss International Airport.

Captain Cheyenne Schoff serves as the Captain of Administrative Services, as well as relief watch commander on the shift. He oversees Information and Technology, department grants, accreditation, BVP reimbursement, firearms, Commander of the Special Response Team, and is the department liaison to 911 and the CNY Law Enforcement Coalition.

Captain David Collins serves as the Captain of Support Services and is the primary B-Line watch commander relief. His duties comprise of oversight of the TAC Integrated Justice Portal and NYSPIN, radio communications, records, part time officers, time off and sick bank, and he is the department quartermaster.

Lieutenant Sharon Rood serves as the Commander of the Training Division, and at times is utilized as a relief B-line watch commander. Lieutenant Rood's additional duties include: FTO Program Coordinator, police academy representative, Civilian Police Academy, and is the assistant department accreditation manager.

Supervision - Sergeants (4)

Sergeant Nicholas Martin is the senior sergeant assigned to the shift. In addition to his supervisor duties, he oversees taxi cab licensing, bank and business key-holder information, bar letters and booking room and cellblock readiness. Sergeant Martin is also a member of the department's special response team. Sergeant Martin has been promoted to rank of Lieutenant and now serves as the assistant watch commander on the A-Line shift.

Sergeant Derek Utter is the junior patrol sergeant on the shift, and oversees the community impact unit, crossing guards, subpoenas, peddler permits, and Radar/Lidar management. Sergeant Utter is also a member of the department's special response team, and firearms instructor.

Sergeant Shane Riolo serves as the forensic unit supervisor and oversees all department evidence technicians. In addition to supervising the forensic unit, Sergeant Riolo is responsible for the mobile command post, VIPER, pistol permit licensing, C-forms, and vehicle gas cards. Sergeant Riolo is also in-charge of the accident reconstruction unit, and is a member of the drone unit.

Rome Police Department 2020

B-Line Watch

Supervision continued;

Sergeant Scott Hoag is the sergeant in charge of the department's juvenile aid division. As a certified school resource officer, he oversees the department's three school resource officers and six school security officers.

Patrol - Patrol Officers (15)

There are 15 patrol officers assigned to the shift, six of which have special assignments and/or duties. Patrolmen Brian Gualtieri and James Richardson serve as school resource officers at Rome Free Academy and Patrolman Ryan Crever serves as the school resource officer at Strough Middle School. In addition to these officers, Patrolman Jeffrey Buckley is assigned to the shift and has the responsibility as serving as the warrant control officer, oversight of the department sex offender database, and department social media. Patrolman Eric Stevens serves as the evidence and crime prevention officer, and oversees the alarm database, child passenger safety program, and civilian fingerprinting. Numerous officers were temporarily assigned with the detective division throughout the year. Permanent officers on the B-line watch include: Patrolmen Fredrick Carnevale, Mark Fanfarillo, Aaron Page, Michael Sweezey, Tyler Nutting, Jared Stanek, John LaMarco, Tyler Wilson, and Christopher Herring. The shift is staffed with two rotational officers. The utilization of part-time officers on a limited basis to staff the main desk and work a security detail at Rome City Hall assists staffing levels. These part-time police officers are: Part-Time Patrolmen John Bielby, Kenneth Dapson, Salvatore Fanelli, Enrico D'Alessandro, Robert Pinti, Russell Pitoniak, Richard Peroni, Donald D'Auito, Merino Ciccone Jr., Albert Ciccone, and Edwin D'Alessandro.

Activity

The B-line watch is a service related shift with many of the calls non-emergency in nature. The shift is also responsible for the supervision of taxi cab licenses and school crossing guards. Patrol officers assist throughout the year with many traffic related problems associated with everyday patrol duties and special events.

The watch also handles a tremendous number of warrants issued from Rome City Court, and various other agencies such as the New York State Division of Parole and Oneida County Family Court. Many man-hours are spent executing and processing these warrants. The warrants are recorded and placed in specific files maintained by Patrolman Buckley.

Rome Police Department 2020

B-Line Watch

Activity

The Griffiss Business and Technology Park continues to grow with new construction of residential and commercial buildings. The Rome Police Department has matched its presence and diligence within the confines of the park. The establishment of the Griffiss Field Office in October 2010, continues to allow the department to have an even greater presence at the park. Additionally, the field office provides officers with an extra location to complete administrative paperwork, research, and a site for a command post during critical incidents. The airfield and flight line security are a joint effort between the Rome Police Department and the Oneida County Sheriff's Office, with the Rome Police Department taking the lead role in this venture.

The shift also utilizes the motorcycle patrol and all terrain unit in its day-to-day operations. The use of motorcycle, ATVs, electric vehicles, and mountain bikes during the spring, summer, and fall months, are found to be highly effective in monitoring activity on the city's streets, trails, parks, and other recreational pathways that encompass the city. The all terrain unit also conducts snowmobile trail checkpoints during the winter months when there is adequate staff, and snow base. These checkpoints are used for licensing, registration, insurance, and equipment checks for the safety of the public that enjoy this seasonal recreational sport.



Accomplishments

In 2020, officers assigned to the B-line watch handled 8136 calls for service. This number represents a 17.7% decrease as compared to 9,912 calls for service in 2019. Much is believed to be the result of changes made to call procedures in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. Staffing was placed on mandated 7 day shifts, following a 7 day Administrative Leave, with command staff working at times from home March through June.

A statistical comparison of the major categories relating to the B-line watch from 2019 to 2020, showed a 30.2% decrease in motor vehicle accidents, a 9.4% decrease in domestic violence complaints, a 64.1% decrease in arrests, and a 71.9% decrease in vehicle and traffic summons issued. These large percentage decreases are believed to be the result of state mandated lockdowns and restrictions placed on public activity as a result of the COVID pandemic.

The following table breaks down the major categories of the most critical areas regarding the duties performed by patrol officers assigned to the B-line watch. These areas include: complaints answered, motor vehicle accidents investigated, alarms responded to, domestic incidents responded to, arrests, vehicle & traffic tickets issued, and parking tickets issued. Each of these categories are tabulated on a month-to-month basis with the bottom line being the 2020 totals.

Rome Police Department 2020

B-Line Watch

Accomplishments

Month	Calls for Service	MVA's	Alarms	Domestics	Arrests	V&T	Parking
January	678	15	15	35	34	114	8
February	652	19	19	30	24	111	6
March	722	23	23	33	22	97	6
April	469	18	18	51	5	3	0
May	668	20	20	61	10	27	2
June	682	17	17	47	17	30	2
July	735	16	16	47	21	86	5
August	746	19	19	48	22	60	2
September	768	17	17	39	23	64	2
October	685	17	17	44	25	55	2
November	733	15	15	47	28	58	1
December	598	16	16	44	27	63	0
TOTAL:	8,136	212	212	526	235	768	36

Rome Police Department 2020

B-Line Watch

The B-line watch is a service related shift which conducts traffic control and safety management during special events. The events were limited in number for 2020 due to restrictions and precautionary measures related to the COVID19 pandemic. Major events such as Honor America Days, Canal Fest, Ride for Missing Children and World Series of Bocce were cancelled for 2020. The B-Line shift did assist with the following events during 2020:

Events

Martin Luther King, Jr. March (Route 26 Arterial)

Fort to Fort Run (Roman Runners 10K)

Shop with a Cop

RACC 5K run

NYSDOCS escape drill

Wreaths Across America Event

Political rallies (Trump/Tenney)

Civil protests (BLM)

Rome Police Department 2020

B-Line Watch

Evaluation of 2020 Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the B-line watch, as well as the department, is to protect and preserve life and property. The officers assigned to this watch give this community a sense of security during the daylight hours, this in itself, is a tremendous accomplishment. The City of Rome has a low serious crime rate during these hours, which can be attributed in some measure to the diligence of the men and women who patrol the streets.

Goal: A concentrated effort in city code enforcement was the goal of the watch in 2020. A goal of 70 investigations / enforcements was set to increase in the number of general code violation enforcement within the city.

Evaluation: 21 code violations were investigated and enforced by the B-line watch in 2020. The watch goal was not achieved as priorities and focus of public contact dramatically changed due to the COVID19 pandemic.

The following code violations were issued during 2020 on the B-line watch:

Open container alcohol: 5	Unleashed dog: 3
Littering: 5	Scooters/skates in street: 4
Removal shopping cart premise: 1	Illegal burn: 2
Unreasonable noise: 1	

2021 Goals and Objectives

Goal: An effort to enforce city code violations is an important issue facing quality of life issues in neighborhoods within the city. It is the belief that a concentrated effort in codes enforcement is a vital aspect to the City of Rome, and the citizens who make up our community. Therefore, the goal of code enforcement will remain the concentrated effort of the B-line watch for 2021, and will be set at 30 investigations of enforcement during the 2021 calendar year.

Objective: With the use of the department's community impact officers and uniformed patrols, a department initiated effort of codes enforcement will continue to be a priority for the B-line watch.

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch



Lieutenant John Reilly
Watch Commander



Lt. Michael DeMatteo
Assistant Watch Commander



Sergeant Ferdinando Pacicca
Patrol Supervisor



Sergeant Brian Stevens
Patrol Supervisor

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

C-Line Watch Personnel

The staffing of the C-line watch for 2020 is as follows:

Command – Lieutenants (2)

Lieutenant John A. Reilly currently serves as the watch commander of the C-line watch. He assumed the position after the retirement of Lieutenant Thomas Smith in May of 2020. Lieutenant Reilly is responsible for the daily operations and personnel assigned to the shift. In addition to his watch commander duties, Lieutenant Reilly also oversees the Volunteers in Police Service program, nuisance abatement, STOP DWI coordinator, oversight of the departments vacation time off board, and the department's liaison for New York State Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC Law) investigations.

Lieutenant Michael DeMatteo currently serves as the assistant watch commander of the C-Line watch. He assumed the position after being promoted in July of 2020. His additional duties include managing departmental forms and supply.

Supervision – Sergeants (2)

Sergeant Christopher Shean served as the senior sergeant until his retirement on August 24, 2020. Sgt. Kelly Lupinski served as the junior sergeant until her promotion to detective on August 03, 2020.

In August 2020, Officer Brian Stevens was promoted to the rank of sergeant and serves as the senior C-line patrol supervisor. In addition to his supervision duties, Sergeant Stevens is also responsible for oversight of the New York State Governor's Safety Program (GTSC), the department's audio and DVR systems, liaison for the Repository for Integrated Criminal Information (RICI) electronic fingerprint submission system, departments polygraphist, and liaison for taxi cab licensing.

In August 2020, Officer Ferdinando Pacicca was promoted to the rank of sergeant and serves as the junior C-line patrol supervisor. In addition to his supervision duties, Sergeant Pacicca is responsible for the department's patrol equipment, vehicle equipment and maintenance, booking room and cell block, car wash tokens, and coordinating and scheduling for the New York State Stop DWI Program

Investigative – Detective (1)

Detective Richard Galluppi served as the C-line detective until his retirement on June 20, 2020. On August 3, 2020, Sergeant Kelly Lupinski was promoted to the rank of detective and serves as the detective assigned to the C-line watch. The presence of a detective on the shift provides a great benefit to the department and personnel assigned to the shift. Having a detective permanently assigned to the shift not only provides a cost savings advantage, as opposed to calling back a detective on overtime when circumstances arise, but a knowledge base for officers to seek advice and investigative guidance.

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Patrol— Patrol Officers (13)

The C-line watch was allotted 9 patrol officers and 2 rotating officers in 2020. Throughout the year, some officers were reassigned to different administrative assignments due to staffing shortages and other personnel issues. Between April 1, 2020 and April 24, 2020, Officer James Pruckno was deployed to New York City, as a member of the Army National Guard, assigned to assist at the onset of the COVID pandemic. During the last quarter of 2020, the C-line watch included the following officers: Hollie Silverman, who was temporarily assigned to the department's detective division, James Pruckno, George Gebo, James Bristol, Alexzandra Carletta and K-9 Arko, Nicholas Schreppel, Alexis Perry, Zachary White and Matthew Heinrich. The C-line watch continues to utilize part-time officers to augment the shift. Part-time officers are usually assigned to desk duties and are utilized when staffing levels need to be supplemented or adjusted. These assignments are cost efficient for the department and serve as an alternative to paying overtime to maintain full staffing.

Patrol Activity

The C-line watch responds to a high volume of calls for service. The officers assigned to the shift strive to maintain a high visibility presence in problem areas and locations. At the same time, officers conduct routine patrol activities within their assigned zone boundaries. This high visibility acts as a deterrent to any potential problem or incident about to occur, especially in areas deemed to be focal points of police attention. These areas are addressed by oversight from the patrol supervisor with assigned saturation patrols, walking beats, building checks, deployment of the community impact officers to the area, and placement of the department's Viper surveillance unit. By implementing these techniques, problem areas receive increased police presence, and the needed attention to negate unlawful activities.

Zone responsibilities are addressed by the patrol officers, and consist of assigned details such as walking beats and business checks. All assignments and details are reviewed routinely by the shift supervisors for the effectiveness of their objectives. Adjustments and assignment reviews are made as needed and allows the shift to identify new problems in areas of concern. Flexibility is needed to address these concerns in a timely and effective manner. The review process is not based strictly on department criteria, but also on input from city residents and ward representatives. This is accomplished by investigating complaints from residents, citizen assessment surveys, and the direct interaction of officers who attend neighborhood watch meetings, coalition meetings, and common council meetings. The intelligence gained from these meetings has decreased in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic and the canceling of many of these meetings. Community impact unit officers Patrolman Schreppel and/or Patrolman Pruckno exchange pertinent information and updates via meetings that are broadcasted virtually.

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Patrol Activity continued;

This proactive community policing strategy has proven to be very successful, as evident by the increased confidence from community members. The police department listens and responds to the concerns of its residents.

Patrolmen James Pruckno and Nicholas Schreppel are assigned to the community impact unit on the C-line watch. These officers are tasked with addressing specific concerns and quality of life issues within effected neighborhoods. Proactive measures adapted by the unit have proven to be effective approaches to resolving public safety concerns within the city and is a successful tool used by the department to combat legitimate quality of life concerns. The community impact officers often overlap patrol zones when manpower allows in attempts to saturate areas which are of particular concern or in need of special attention. This strategy also allows the community impact officers to take the necessary time to interact with residents on a more personable level. The method in turn opens the trust and confidence of the police within the neighborhoods and generates information to the police, which at times can otherwise be unavailable or missed. Common complaints addressed by the community impact officers are complaints of noise, illegal solicitors, open or illegal outdoor burns, open container violations, and numerous city codes violations. During 2020, the C-line watch community impact officers attended 4 common council meetings in person and virtually attended 1 common council meeting. The officers also virtually attended 2 neighborhood watch ward meetings,

Significant Events, Arrests, and Investigations

During 2020, the C-line watch conducted numerous investigations into complaints, which resulted in detailed investigations and/or arrests. Some of the significant investigations and arrests include the following:

<i>January</i>	Patrol responded to 3 non-fatal heroin overdoses, seized 31 marijuana plants, investigated an unattended death, responded to a 3 car physical injury motor vehicle accident, and investigated a robbery from a person.
<i>February</i>	Patrol responded to 3 non-fatal overdoses, a stolen vehicle, a robbery with a gun displayed, missing 5 year old, and an unattended death.
<i>March</i>	Patrol responded to two unattended death investigations, an MVA car into a pole with a subsequent arrest of the driver for DWI, tractor trailer rollover, in progress burglary (founded), and assisted the New York State Police with the death of a fisherman who fell through the ice into the Barge Canal.

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Significant Events, Arrests, and Investigations continued;

<i>April</i>	Patrol responded to 2 unattended deaths, one fatal heroin overdose, a stolen vehicle complaint which resulted in an arrest, and a dog bite complaint in which the neighbor was accused of killing the dog.
<i>May</i>	Patrol responded to a homicide/suicide on Whittier Avenue, 3 separate shots fired complaints, a stabbing, a felony assault, and a fatal car/pedestrian MVA on Black River Boulevard at E. Dominick Street that resulted in the arrest of the female driver.
<i>June</i>	Patrol responded to a fully involved structure fire, 2 peaceful BLM protests, an animal cruelty investigation, a burglary in progress with arrest, 1 shots-fired complaint, a stolen vehicle recovered, and the assault of a one month old child with multiple fractures.
<i>July</i>	Patrol responded to one unattended death, 2 separate sex offenses, an MVA PI motorcycle that struck a parked vehicle, a stolen vehicle, and a dispute involving a handgun.
<i>August</i>	Patrol responded to shots-fired from a vehicle with a New Jersey registration. The vehicle was seized as evidence. An additional shots-fired complaint was investigated with the victim being located on E. Park Street with a gunshot wound to his forearm. The shift responded to a robbery investigation at the rear of 1003 N. James Street where a suspect displayed a handgun, and a barricaded subject Richard Cayton, who was taken into custody after a standoff in an apartment complex with the assistance of SRT and a hostage negotiator.
<i>September</i>	Patrol responded to an unattended death investigation, a call of shots fired on Laurel Street, a stabbing, and complaint of patrol vehicles being damaged in the department's parking lot, which resulted in an arrest.
<i>October</i>	Patrol responded to a BLM protest in front of Rome Police Headquarters, which resulted in three arrests, and an unattended death at 201 W. Court St.

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Significant Events, Arrests, and Investigations continued;

November

Patrol responded to two unattended deaths, a robbery at 1400 E. Dominick Street, a menacing with a firearm (suspect arrested), a reported rape, and a shots-fired into a residence call at 508 Expense Street.

December

Patrol responded to an unattended death, investigated a shots-fired call on Croton Street, recovered a stolen vehicle on Lynch Street with the arrest of two juvenile suspects, and negotiated the surrender of a barricaded suspect that was wanted pursuant to a Rome City Court arrest warrant.



Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Accomplishments

The table below is a statistical review of the major categories relating to the activities of the C-line watch during 2020. The C-line watch responded to 9,049 calls for service, which was a 14.2 % decrease from 2019. The C-line watch experienced a 24.2 % decrease in motor vehicle accidents, a 10% decrease in alarm responses, a 3.0% decrease in domestic dispute investigations, a 45% decrease in arrests, a 59% decrease in vehicle and traffic summons, and a 50% decrease in parking violation citations. The C-Line watch also responded to 34 overdoses that occurred this year, which represents a 2.9% increase in responses over last years total of 33.

<i>Month</i>	<i>Calls for Service</i>	<i>MVA's</i>	<i>Alarms</i>	<i>Domestics</i>	<i>Arrests</i>	<i>V&T</i>	<i>Parking</i>
January	689	24	17	61	30	113	13
February	756	36	15	54	40	159	13
March	771	24	12	61	34	135	21
April	618	7	5	44	20	15	0
May	810	26	17	69	11	21	0
June	1,034	22	15	89	34	20	0
July	1,033	30	20	80	16	69	2
August	852	22	23	78	31	79	0
September	833	30	11	78	31	75	0
October	767	45	19	93	41	70	1
November	651	35	10	85	33	68	4
December	656	33	15	68	29	64	5
TOTAL:	9,049	334	179	860	350	888	59

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Rome City Code Violation Arrests

One goal of the Rome Police Department is to serve the community while protecting life and property within the jurisdiction of the City of Rome. Officers staffing the C-line watch are committed to maintaining a safe community and will continue to serve and protect life and property in a professional manner. In 2020, the C-line patrol made 18 city code violation arrests to address quality of life issues throughout the city. This is a 21 % decrease from 2019, where they made 23 city code related arrests.

The following is a categorical breakdown of city code violation arrests for 2020:

- Open alcoholic container : 2
- Leash law violations: 7
- Possession of fireworks: 3
- Open burn: 1
- Removal of shopping cart from premise: 1
- Coaster in roadway: 1
- Littering: 1
- Peddling without a permit: 2

Rome Police Department 2020

C-Line Watch

Evaluation of 2020 Goals and Objectives

Goal: In an attempt to enhance public safety and reduce the overall number of motor vehicle accidents, the C-Line goal for 2020 was a 5% increase in the number of uniformed traffic tickets issued for speed violations. This goal was not met. A goal of being more proactive with the businesses and its owners/employees was also an effort started in 2020 by the C-line watch. Due to the COVID pandemic, face to face encounters were reduced in 2020, including vehicle and traffic stops.

Evaluation: This goal was not accomplished. The C-line watch fell short of their goal of a 5% increase in tickets issued for speed violations, with officers issuing 888 uniform traffic tickets, and 94 issued for speed violations. This was a 70% decrease from 2019. Additionally in 2020, officers assigned to the C-line watch investigated 334 motor vehicle accidents, which was a 24% decrease from 2019.

2021 Goals and Objectives

Goal: Increase the issuance of vehicle and traffic summons by 15%. In 2020, C-line watch issued 888 traffic summons. A 15% increase will result in an additional 133 traffic summons issued. This will be accomplished by assigning officers strictly to traffic enforcement. The officers will enforce New York State vehicle and traffic laws by continually assessing areas that need traffic enforcement based on frequency of violations, frequency of motor vehicle accidents, and citizen complaints.

The C-line platoon is a very active shift that can and will step up its involvement in its enforcement of New York State vehicle and traffic law. With this approach of zero tolerance and attention to aggressive driving to include speeding violations, I believe will make a difference in the City of Rome, reducing motor vehicle accidents, and enhance the safety of all citizens and visitors to the City of Rome.

Rome Police Department

Detective Division

2020



Kevin James
Detective Commander



Detective Jeffrey Lanigan



Detective Bryan Zoeckler



Detective Alex Sypniewski



Detective Kelly Lupinski



Detective Robert Galluppi

Rome Police Department

2020

Detective Division

Introduction

The detective division is charged with investigating all types of felony and special investigations. These investigations are assigned to the detective division due to the nature and type of special circumstances involved. This includes misdemeanor crimes, as well as violations if warranted.

It is the responsibility of the detective division to initiate and pursue investigations, apprehend offenders, develop intelligence on criminal activity, cultivate informants, establish and maintain mutually cooperative relationships with other criminal justice agencies, assist in investigations being conducted by the patrol and other divisions, recover stolen property, and complete tasks as they are assigned. The detective division also manages and maintains the department's sex offender registry, city wide crime prevention surveillance camera system, pawn shop database, Leads Online, warrants, social media functions, and the department's website - www.romepd.com.

Detective Commander Kevin James is the detective division commander. Detective James also oversees the daily operations of the special investigations unit, forensic unit, the Rome Police detective assigned to the Oneida County Child Advocacy Center, warrants division, and S.O.R.A.

Personnel - Detectives (9)

In 2020, the detective division consisted of eight detectives and a detective commander. Staffing in the division included the following personnel: Detective Commander Kevin James, Detective Jeffrey Race, Detective Jason Worth, Detective Richard Galluppi, Detective Jeffrey Lanigan, Detective Michael DeMatteo, Detective Sharon Rood, Detective Bryan Zoeckler, Detective Alex Sypniewski, Detective Daniel Vescio, Detective Kelly Lupinski, Detective David Salle, and Detective Robert Galluppi. Members of the division are assigned to both the B-line and C-line watches; however, assignments are sometimes altered to better serve the needs of the department and community.

The special investigations unit, (SIU), detectives in 2020 were: Detectives Race, Worth, Vescio, and Salle. In 2020, Detective Alex Sypniewski was assigned to the Oneida County Child Advocacy Center. During 2020, three members of the patrol division were assigned to the detective division in a training capacity. They were: Officers David Salle, Michael Swezey, and Hollie Silverman.

Two detectives were promoted to lieutenant. They were: Lieutenant Michael DeMatteo on July 06, 2020, and Lieutenant Sharon Rood on August 03, 2020.

There were three retirements: Lieutenant James Boyer on January 31, 2020, Detective Richard Galluppi on June 30, 2020, and Detective Jason Worth on August 29, 2020.

Rome Police Department

2020

Detective Division

City Wide Crime Prevention Camera Surveillance Camera System

Since 2012, the Rome Police Department has utilized pole mounted surveillance cameras in an effort to reduce crime, collect video evidence for committed crimes, and to allow for extra visual capabilities in high crime areas. Three cameras were initially purchased. At present, there are 21 cameras that are in place throughout the city. Since the inception of this program, many cases have been solved due to the video evidence from the cameras. This equipment also serves as a crime deterrent as marked cameras are often deployed in an effort to seek compliance.

Special Assignments/Additional Duties

Detective Commander Kevin James

Sex Offender Registry

Warrants Division

Department Webmaster

Fleet Registrations

Pawn Shop Registry

S.O.R.A.

Detective Jeff Lanigan

Discovery Compliance Officer

Detective Jeffrey A. Race (SIU)

Field Intelligence Officer/Homeland Security

Detective Bryan Zoeckler

Department Grant Writer

Detective Kelly Lupinski

Accreditation

Detective David Salle (SIU)

Parole Release Notification Officer/Field Intelligence Officer

Rome Police Department

2020

Detective Division

Significant Investigations for 2020

Case #20-03745 (Red Flag Law) On February, 02, 2020, the Rome Police Department Detective Division investigated a harassment incident that occurred at the Liquor Warehouse. During the incident, Jason DeShane made several statements regarding killing people. The incident was recorded and shared on social media. Once the Rome Police Department became aware, the detective division began an investigation. It was determined the threats made by DeShane rose to the level of the newly implemented Red Flag Law. An Extreme Risk Protection Order was secured for both Jason DeShane and his father, Michael DeShane, as they resided in the same residence. Over 80 firearms were seized from the home of Michael and Jason DeShane and secured at the Rome Police Department for safe keeping. No charges were filed against Jason DeShane and the renewal for the Extreme Risk Protection Order is currently pending.

Case #20-09799: (Homicide) On May, 09, 2020, at 6:05 pm, the Rome Police Department Patrol Division responded to 107 Wittier Ave. for a report of shots fired. Patrol arrived and discovered one male victim, Daniel Casey, on the driveway. Casey was found deceased from a gunshot wound. A second female victim, Kathy Wright, was located inside a rear screened in porch. Wright was suffering from a gunshot wound to the abdomen, but was conscious. A perimeter was set up as the suspect was still on scene. Patrol was able to rescue Wright, and get her medical attention. Two other subjects were rescued from the residence. The suspect, Robert Martin, committed suicide on scene. Due to the suspect, Robert Martin, committing suicide, no charges were filed.

Case #20-09799: (Vehicular Manslaughter) On May 21, 2020, at 11:58 pm, Rome Police Department Patrol Division responded to the intersection of Black River Blvd. and E. Dominick St. for a report of a serious physical injury motor vehicle crash involving pedestrians. Patrol discovered one male victim, Travis Carpenter, suffering from multiple injuries, and one deceased female, Jasmine Finch, located in the roadway. The operator of the vehicle was Greish Ortega-Lebron, and her passenger was Amanda Tarbania. The investigation revealed Ortega-Lebron was operating the vehicle in excess of 100 miles per hour while intoxicated. Ortega-Lebron was charged with Manslaughter second degree, Vehicular Manslaughter second degree, Assault in the third degree, DWI, and several other penal law and vehicle and traffic law violations. Due to New York State Bail Reform Laws, Ortega-Lebron was released pending Grand Jury indictment. Ortega-Lebron was indicted on October 28, 2020 for second-degree manslaughter, second-degree vehicular manslaughter, third-degree assault, second-degree reckless endangerment, driving while intoxicated, driving with a blood alcohol content of 0.08% or greater, reckless driving, failure to exercise due care, and two counts of speeding. Ortega-Lebron is currently awaiting sentencing.

2020 Detective Division Cases

The Rome Police Department Detective Division investigated a total of 238 cases during 2020. Of those, 219 were criminal investigations. There was a 33% increase in detective division cases from 2019 to 2020. The following are the criminal cases investigated, and the total numbers. Non-criminal cases included background investigations, internal investigations, and assists.

Rome Police Department 2020

Detective Division

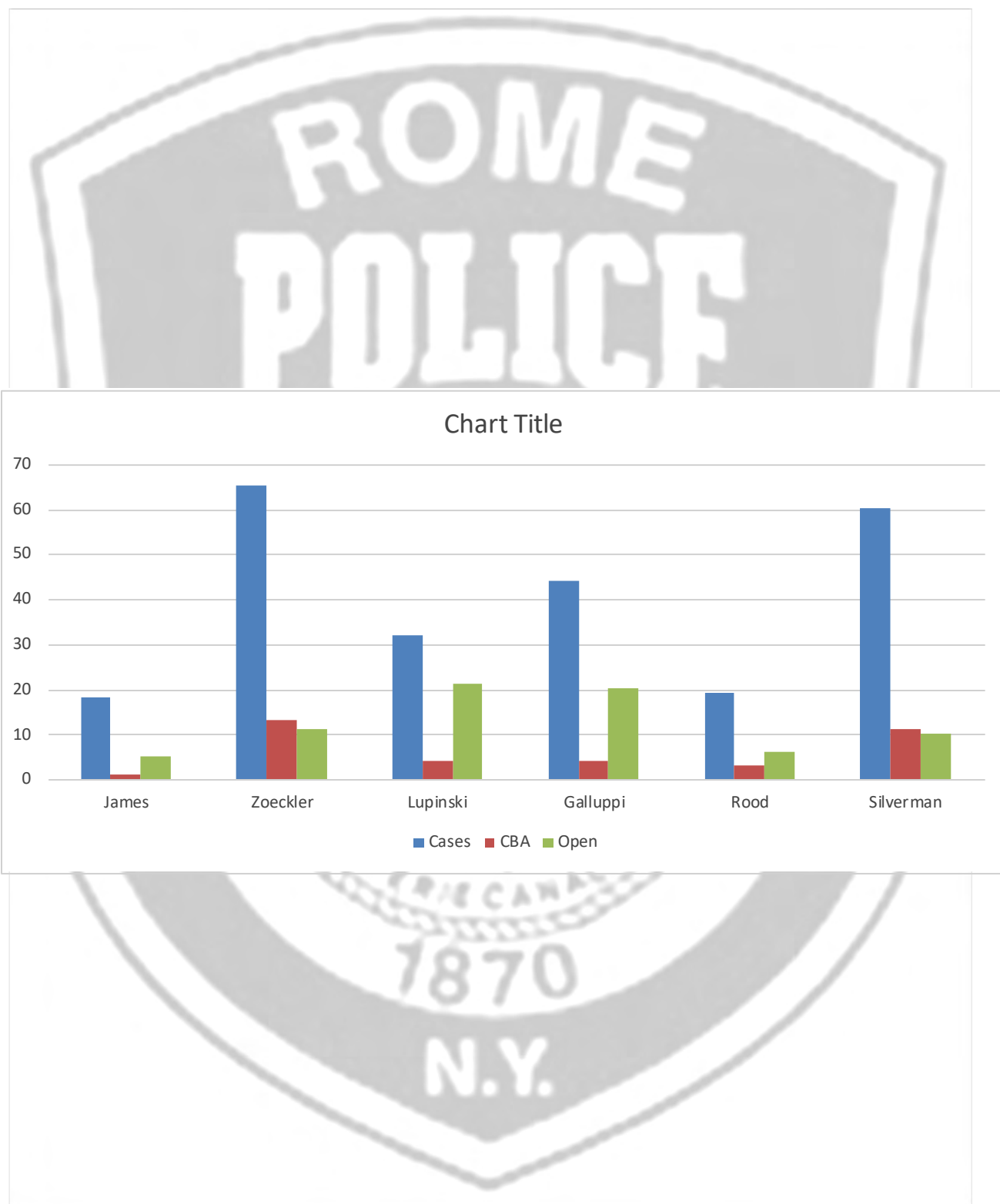
2020 Detective Division Cases

<i>Crime Classification</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Detective Cases</i>
Assault	33	7
Burglary	68	42
Death / (Unattended/Suicide)	47	47
Fires/Arson	3	2
Larceny/Grand Larceny	423	28
Homicide	1	1
Vehicular Manslaughter	1	1
Identity Theft/Fraud/Counterfeiting	N/A	22
Robbery	11	11
Sexual Assault/Rape	9	9
Shots Fired	69	16
Sex Offender Investigation	13	N/A
Non-Criminal Investigations	N/A	19

Note: In the major crime categories, the first number represents the total number reported, with the second number representing the number of cases assigned to the detective division for further investigation.

Rome Police Department 2020

Detective Division



Rome Police Department

2020

Detective Division

Evaluation of 2020 Goals and Objectives

Goal: Obtain funding and training for Cellebrite forensic phone examination capabilities at Rome Police Department Headquarters. .

Objective: This will be obtained by reaching out to outside agencies for financial assistance and training, as well as research for possible grant assistance. Having these capabilities would greatly streamline our investigations in the detective division and forensics division in 2020

Evaluation: Due to the financial burden this would place on the City of Rome, lack of grant funds, and financial impact of COVID-19, the funding was not secured. The goal was not met.

Goal: Reduce the number of burglaries by 10%

Objective: The crime of burglary is one of the most frequently investigated crimes within the detective division, and certainly plays a big role in the view of community safety. By working closer with the patrol division, pawn shops, public outreach through social and news media as well as developing new informants, we hope to reach this goal for 2020.

Evaluation: The detective division handled 43 burglaries in 2019 and 42 in 2020. Due to the changes created by Bail Reform and Discovery protocols, the amount of re-offending has increased dramatically. No suspects were held on bail following their custodial arrests for burglary charges in 2020. Instead, the charges were sent to Grand Jury for indictment. Due to COVID restrictions, Grand Jury was often postponed. This drastically affected our ability to effectively police our community. The goal of reducing burglaries by 10% was only partially met.

2021 Goals and Objectives

Goal: Obtain funding for 2 more pole mounted surveillance cameras for the City of Rome. These camera systems are instrumental in solving and preventing crimes within the city.

Objective: This will be obtained by reaching out to outside agencies for financial assistance, as well as research for possible grant assistance.

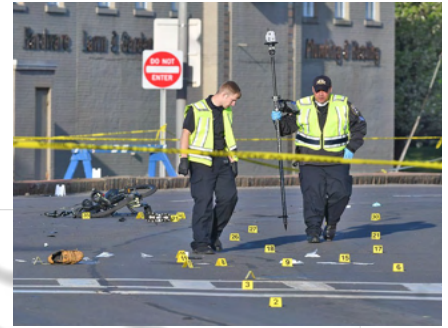
Goal: Set up a mapping report to track the locations, and offenders involved in gun related crimes.

Objective: 2020 saw a dramatic increase in gun related crimes in the City of Rome. Mapping these crimes and setting up a data base for gun related offenses would assist the patrol division and detective division with their investigations. Having known locations and offenders would give patrol more up to date information on persons of interest during daily patrols. It would also provide a reference for detectives to begin investigating these types of crimes.

Rome Police Department

2020

Accident Reconstruction



Introduction

The accident reconstruction unit was formed in 1994, with an emphasis on providing the department with trained motor vehicle accident analysts to identify contributing factors involved in serious motor vehicle accidents and fatalities.

In January of 2020, Sergeant Shane Riolo was assigned to the position of the unit commander. At that time the unit consisted of five certified members, Sergeant Alex Sypniewski, Sergeant Shane Riolo, Sergeant Jason Fairbrother, Patrolman Hollie Silverman, and Patrolman Dan Roberts. Sergeant Alex Sypniewski was promoted to the rank of Detective in February 2020, at which time his position was vacated.

In the spring of 2019, Sergeant Shane Riolo attended both the Basic and Intermediate Crash Management Course presented by the Division of Criminal Justice Services. In the Winter of 2019, Sergeant Shane Riolo, Sergeant Jason Fairbrother, and Officer Dan Roberts attended the Advanced and Technical Crash Management Course presented by the Division of Criminal Justice Services. Sergeant Shane Riolo, Sergeant Jason Fairbrother, and Officer Dan Roberts will attend the next available IPTM Crash Reconstruction Course to complete their certification training.

Objectives

The objectives of the unit continue to be the same year after year. The main objective is to discover the cause and determine contributing factors of severe accidents through investigation. Accidents investigated by the unit include; accidents involving substantial property damage, accidents to city owned vehicles, and accidents resulting in severe injuries or fatalities. Accident crash reconstruction is a special field of criminal investigations, and forensic engineering. Reconstructionists are trained to identify factors involved in crashes such as speed, and mechanical defects. They use mathematics and physics to determine what caused a crash, and to determine fault or blame. Upon identifying contributing factors, the accident analysis can then initiate any necessary enforcement techniques to quell specific driving behaviors that serve as a catalyst for the accidents.

Activity

In 2020, the unit received a new Ford Explorer SUV, which is designated as unit 165. The marked vehicle assists the unit in transporting officers and equipment to the scenes of serious motor vehicle accidents, and is shared with the forensics division. A new Ford utility van, designated unit 164, was also acquired for use by the ARU, and the forensics division, and contains much of the ARU equipment. Officers serving the unit are on call throughout the year on rotating one-week assignments.

Rome Police Department

2020

Accident Reconstruction

The information below reflects the 2020 investigations conducted by the accident reconstruction unit.

DATE	COMPLAINT #	LOCATION	CLASSIFICATION	OFFICER(S)
05/21/2020	20-10853	Black River Boulevard @ E. Dominick St.	MVA—Car/Pedestrians	Sgt. Riolo

Activity (Cont.)

On May 21, 2020, at 11:58 PM, the Accident Reconstruction Unit was called out to the intersection of Black River Boulevard and East Dominick Street for a motor vehicle accident (MVA) involving one vehicle striking two pedestrians. One of the pedestrians was pronounced deceased at scene, and the other pedestrian was airlifted to Upstate Hospital via Mercy Flight with serious injury. Patrolman Eric Stevens conducted the forensic portion of the investigation, while Sergeant Shane Riolo conducted the accident reconstruction portion of the investigation. The results of the reconstruction revealed irrefutable evidence that the driver of the vehicle was operating the vehicle in an intoxicated condition, at egregious speeds, contributing to the crash. The final outcome of the investigation resulted in the driver of the vehicle being charged with Driving While Intoxicated, Assault in the Third Degree, and Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree. On January 05, 2021, the driver of the vehicle pled guilty and accepted a sentence to a prison term of 4-12 years.

Goals of the Accident Reconstruction Unit

The accident reconstruction unit continues to be the department's foremost resource in the investigation of serious motor vehicle accidents. Its assistance to the city, in terms of accident liability involving city vehicles, is invaluable. A goal for the unit in 2020, was to establish full training to all members in the use of computer generated mapping of accident scenes. This goal has been accomplished, and all reconstructionists have been trained in the use and mapping using the Total Station and the software included it. Another goal was to increase the compliment of accident analysts to the unit as required courses are made available. This goal was achieved, but due to the promotion of Detective Sypniewski, the unit is again in need of accident analysts, which will remain a goal for 2021. Through training and the use of current technology, the accident reconstruction unit will continue to evolve and keep abreast of today's ever changing accident investigation practices.

Rome Police Department

2020

Accreditation



Introduction

Accreditation is a progressive and contemporary way of helping police agencies evaluate and improve their overall performance. It provides formal recognition that an organization meets or exceeds general expectations of quality in the field. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

The New York State Accreditation program became operational in 1989 and encompasses four principle goals:

- To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of law enforcement agencies utilizing existing personnel, equipment, and facilities to the best extent possible.
- To promote increased cooperation and coordination among law enforcement agencies and other agencies of the criminal justice services.
- To ensure the appropriate training of law enforcement personnel.
- To promote public confidence.

Accreditation demonstrates that the agency consistently performs in a professional manner, that sound policies are in place to govern its operational practices and procedures, and that all employees contribute to the agency's mission and understand what's expected of them.

The New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation is currently comprised of 110 standards, and is divided into three categories; administration, training, and operations. The standards in the administration section have provisions for such topics as agency organization, fiscal management, personnel practices, and records. The training standards encompass basic and in-service instruction, as well as training supervisors and specialized or technical assignments. The operations standards deal with such crucial and litigious topics as high speed pursuits, roadblocks, and unusual occurrences.

History of the Rome Police Department Accreditation Program

On September 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2003, an accreditation assessment was conducted for the Rome Police Department. After which, it was unanimously recommended that the department be "favorably" considered for accreditation.

On December 16th, 2003, a formal ceremony was held at Rome City Hall, where New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Deputy Director James R. Delapp presented the Rome Police Department with an official Certificate of Accreditation.

Rome Police Department

2020

Accreditation

History of the Rome Police Department Accreditation Program

On October 14th, 15th, and 16th, 2008, an on-site accreditation assessment was conducted for the Rome Police Department. It was unanimously recommended that the department be “favorably” considered for re-accreditation. On December 4th, 2008, it was unanimously passed by the Accreditation Council that the Rome Police Department receive its re-accreditation.

On Tuesday, September 10th, 2013, the Rome Police Department’s second on-site assessment was conducted by retired Elmira Police Deputy Chief David Sadler. Methods of verification included a formal tour of the entire department, review of agency files, scheduled and unscheduled interviews with departmental personnel, escorted visits to work areas, and chance meetings with sworn and civilian members of the department. At the conclusion of this assessment, the department was “favorably” considered for its second re-accreditation.

In June of 2014, the Division of Criminal Justice Services conducted an internal audit of the activities and procedures of the accreditation unit. This audit revealed that members of the unit should be making onsite visits to accredited agencies to ensure that the agency is continually maintaining compliance with the standards during the period of accreditation. The Accreditation Council instated a policy, which starting in 2015, would require the Law Enforcement Accreditation Unit to begin conducting onsite visits to accredited agencies. These site visits are intended to identify potential areas of concern within the agencies formal administration of the accreditation program, and to provide an opportunity for accreditation unit staff members to aid an agency in the correction of any issues prior to reassessment.

In September of 2015, the NYS DCJS in conjunction with the Accreditation Council revised program standards, reducing the total number of standard from 133 to 110. Additionally, the council created 5 new standards that addressed evidence custodian training, serious injury to personnel, social media, missing persons, and continuity of operations. Upon the creation of the new standards, program manager Lieutenant Cheyenne Schoff and Sergeant David Collins began drafting policies, which were approved by Chief of Police Kevin C. Beach, and began demonstrating the required compliance with the new standards.

After an internal audit in June of 2014, the Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Council determined that unit staff should be making site visits to accredited agencies to ensure that they are maintaining compliance with the standards during the period of accreditation. Commencing with the first quarter of 2015, the Law Enforcement Accreditation unit staff began making such visits.

On January 30th, 2017, council members met with program managers Lieutenant Schoff and Sergeant Collins at the Rome Police Department to conduct an on site visit. During the visit, policies addressing newly established standards along with proof of compliance was reviewed and additionally property and evidence rooms were inspected.

Rome Police Department 2020 Accreditation

Reaccreditation 2018 to Present Day

In September of 2018, over the course of three days, an assessment team conducted a complete onsite assessment of the Rome Police Department. The team reviewed all 110 standards, conducted 96 interviews, and completed inspections of evidence and evidence storage. At the conclusion of their assessment, the team concluded the department had done an excellent job maintaining program standards, and unanimously recommended the department be reaccredited. December 13th, 2018, the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council recognized the efforts of the Rome Police Department and approved the department for reaccreditation.

In September of 2019, Detective Kelly Lupinski successfully completed program manager training in Monroe County. Det. Lupinski assisted Captain David Collins prior to becoming the program manager in August of 2020. The Rome Police Department continues to strive to maintain the highest degree of professionalism and integrity by maintaining compliance with the New York State Accreditation Program.

Evaluation of 2020 Goals:

- 1.) The accreditation team will conduct training to ensure that all department members are familiar with the current Continuity of Operations Plan.

Evaluation: This goal was met through training during several lineups with all three shifts.

- 2.) Seek out additional training to assist the department with maintaining accreditation standards.

Evaluation: Detective Kelly Lupinski successfully completed Accreditation Program Manager training.

2021 Goals:

- 1.) To ensure all department members are trained on newly implemented Standard 43.8, Health of Persons in Custody.
- 2.) Continue to review all policies and procedures to ensure relevancy and accuracy.
- 3.) Seek program manager training and assign an assistant program manager to assist Det. Lupinski with maintaining accreditation standards.

Rome Police Department

2020

Canine Unit



Introduction

The Rome Police Department's Canine Unit was formed in 1989. Captain Dominic Corigliano is the unit commander and oversees the daily duties, operations, scheduling, and training needs of the unit.

Patrolman Frederick Carnevale is assigned to the unit with canine "Spock", who is a dual purpose canine used for both patrol and narcotic detection. Patrolman Carnevale is currently assigned to the B-line watch from 9am to 4pm, and performs both his regular patrol duties in addition to his responsibilities of handling, training, and maintaining his canine. Patrolman Alexzandra Carletta is assigned to the unit with canine "Arko", who is also a dual purpose canine, certified in both patrol and narcotic detection. Patrolman Carletta and "Arko" are currently assigned to the C-line watch from 4pm to 11pm.

Training

Officers Carnevale and Carletta train with their canines in accordance to New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services standards, and are currently certified by the State of New York as Police Patrol and Narcotic Detection Canine Teams. Training is ongoing and meets the required 24 hours per annual quarter, as mandated by the Division of Criminal Justice Services. This training is performed in the presence and under the direction of a certified canine trainer. NYS DCJS waived the mandated training hours for 2020 due to COVID precautions and restrictions. Both officers and their canines underwent a week long recertification process by a NYS DCJS K9 examiner in November 2020 at Gold Shield Kennels in Columbus, Ohio.

Activities

The Rome Police Department Canine Unit was deployed 96 times during 2020. These deployments were for the purpose of building searches, tracking, narcotic searches, crowd control, and public relations. Narcotic detection and building searches were the most active areas for the canines. The unit assisted outside agencies for canine related activities three times during 2020, mainly for the purpose of tracking and narcotic searches. Normally many K9 public demonstrations are conducted throughout the year as requested however, these were cancelled for 2020 due to COVID precautions and restrictions. The officers and canines serve as a valuable tool, supplementing the patrol officer during the course of their normal duties. The canines can be deployed within a short period of time when situations dictate. The officer and canine are on call twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, and can be activated by the judgment of the on-duty shift commander or canine commander when needed.

Rome Police Department

Canine Unit

2020



Summary

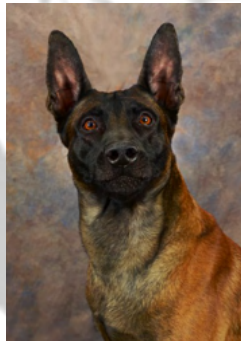
With the department's canine program continuing to function with the services provided by Officers Carnevale and Carletta, the unit remains highly motivated and dedicated to the community it serves. The responsibilities of being a canine handler are many, both at work and home. Officers Carnevale and Carletta have shown the willingness to work hard at their daily duties with the added workload that comes with the responsibility of being a canine handler.

Statistical Review of Canine Activity

- Building searches (suspects) 22
- Building searches (narcotics) 10
- Vehicle searches (narcotics) 18
- K9 demonstrations 2
- Tracking: 11
- Outside agency assists 3



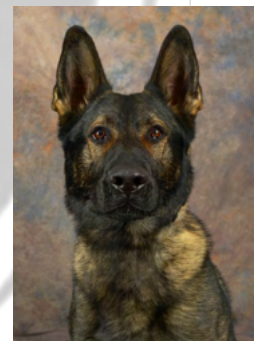
Patrolman Fred Carnevale



K9 Spock



Patrolman Alexzandra Carletta



K9 Arko

Rome Police Department

2020

Child Passenger Seat Program



Introduction

During 2020, the Rome Police Department conducted 5 child passenger safety seat inspections at 5 different fitting stations. These inspections enabled the officers to inspect personal vehicles for the proper installation and fit of child passenger safety seats in the vehicle. These inspections were conducted at the Rome Police Department. Due to a cancellation of the department's annual Law Enforcement Day event, the annual inspection station set up for the event was not performed. In 2020, the Rome Police Department Child Passenger Safety Program was able to provide 4 new car seats to residents who fit the criteria set under the New York State Child Passenger Seat Safety Program Grant. All seat fitting appointments during the year were made through the department's designated child passenger safety seat coordinators, Sergeant Shane Riolo, or Patrolman Eric Stevens. In the past, seat fitting appointments were made by using an inspection sign-up sheet located at the department's main desk.

Currently, the Rome Police Department has five certified child passenger safety seat technicians: Sergeant Jason Fairbrother, Sergeant Kelly Lupinski, Patrolman Sanel Galijasevic, Patrolman Tyler Wilson, and Patrolman Zachary Hadasz. The certifications of Sergeants Fairbrother and Lupinski as child passenger safety seat technicians will remain valid through May of 2021. The certifications of Patrolman Wilson, Galijasevic, and Hadasz, will remain valid through June of 2021. These officers will continue to be certified in order to continue their commitment to the safety of children and the child passenger safety seat program.

History

In 2005, the Rome Police Department was the recipient of a grant from the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) for a child passenger safety seat program. At the time, Sergeant David Iacovissi (Retired/Captain) made the application for the grant in March 2005. The department received official notification in June 2005 that it had been awarded a \$3,000 grant to administer the program. The grant was to cover the time period from June 2005 through October 2005, and was to be utilized to establish a department fitting station at the police department. Since its inception, the department has inspected and installed close to 975 child passenger safety seats for the citizens of Rome, New York, and the surrounding communities.

Rome Police Department

2020

Child Passenger Seat

Program

Installations and inspections - January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

January = 2 February = 0 March = 1 April = 0 May = 0 June = 0

July = 0 August = 0 September = 2 October = 1 November = 1 December = 0

(Total Inspections = 5)

Child passenger safety seats that came into the fitting station installed correctly = 0

2020 Child Passenger Safety Seat Program - Statistical information:

- Child passenger safety seat fitting stations = 5
- New child passenger safety seats given out (convertible and high back booster) = 3
- Child passenger safety seats installed and inspected = 3

Common issues seen with the child passenger seats at fitting stations

Infant Seats:

- Seat was expired
- Incorrect seat angle (not 45 degrees)
- Seat was not tight enough in the vehicle
- Child was not the correct size for the seat
- Child was not secured in the seat tight enough
- Both the latch system and vehicle seatbelt were being used to secure the seat in the vehicle
- Harness system was not tight enough on the child
- Seatbelt, when being used was not in locking mode

Rome Police Department

2020

Child Passenger Seat

Program

Convertible Seats

- Seat was expired
- Seat was not tight enough in the vehicle
- Both the latch system and vehicle seatbelt were being used to secure the seat in the vehicle
- Harness system was not tight enough on the child
- Harness system was threaded in the wrong slots on the seat for the size of the child
- Retainer clip was not in the correct location on the child
- Child was not secured in the seat tight enough

Booster Seats

- Seatbelt, when being used, was not in locking mode
- Seatbelt was not through the correct belt path
- Tether strap was not being used or was being used incorrectly
- Seat was expired
- Not using the high back when needed
- Child was not age or weight appropriate
- Seatbelt was not going across the child's hips
- Seatbelt was not going across the child's chest
- In 2019, the Rome Police Department was awarded a 2020 Child Passenger Safety Seat Grant of \$700.00, with the grant period running from October 2019 to September 2020. Of this grant, \$0.00 was used. Within the grant, \$400 was in place for the purchasing of new seats. There was no reason to purchase more seats as there was no room to store them, and the Rome Police Department had a abundance of car seats that were not expired from the previous grant's approval purchase. Additionally, the number of car seats requested by the public from the previous year did not necessitate the purchase of additional seats. If the Rome Police Department is granted future award moneys from the 2020 grant will be used for continuing education and certification of the current certified installers, and for the purchase of new seats to maintain inventory of unexpired seats.

Rome Police Department 2020

Child Passenger Seat

Program

Child Passenger Seat Program Goals For 2021

For 2021, the goal for the child passenger safety seat program will continue to be the safety of all child passengers. The department will apply for the 2022 grant, with the anticipation of getting more funding for supplies and child seats. More specifically, with this award, the department will look to add additional officers to the list of educated and certified Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians if possible, and recertify current technicians who expire in May and June of 2021. Additionally, the department will attempt to set up additional check-point events to assist the community with inspections and education on proper installations of their child passenger seats. With the knowledge and dedication of the officers in this program, we will continue to assist the community with as much education and the proper installations of child passenger safety seats as possible.



Rome Police Department

2020

Communications

Introduction

The ability to communicate is very important in any organization. This ability is critical in law enforcement. In any law enforcement organization, the flow of information provided through proper and effective communication facilitates the ability to respond safely in a prompt manner, as well as being the catalyst necessary to insure a successful conclusion. The ability, or inability to communicate, assures or prevents the police function to be either effective or ineffective. It is imperative that the Rome Police Department continue to provide fully capable, effective, and well-trained communications personnel to fill this most important function. Another major consideration in the proper flow of information is the acquisition and use of technology. The communications division continues to dedicate its resources to procuring the best available technologies to serve the public.

Responsibilities and Duties

The responsibilities and duties of the Communications Division of the Rome Police Department are complex, extensive, and varied. In addition to the basic radio and telephone communications, the division is responsible for a number of auxiliary operations and related systems within the building. These responsibilities include (but may not be limited to) inputting information into the Total Enforcement Records Management System, administering the New York State Integrated Justice Portal (IPJ), and as a liaison to the Oneida County 911 Dispatch Center. The communication division is currently comprised of one police officer (either full or part time) assigned to desk duty. At times, officers that were designated as being on “modified duty” were given desk duty as their daily assignment. All patrol officers must be familiar with the responsibilities and duties associated with being assigned to the desk. Captain David Collins oversees the communications division and serves as the terminal agency coordinator, with Sergeant Josef Hall serving as the assistant terminal agency coordinator.

Radio System

As in previous years, since the Rome Police Department achieved accreditation, the communications division will continue to review and improve on all communication standards to comply with requirements for accreditation. In December 2015, the Oneida County 911 Center received 7.9 million dollars in grant money for various communications upgrades. These upgrades included maintenance to both antenna and tower infrastructure in (2016), and the distribution of new Motorola 4000 Model 2 portable radios and Motorola APX4500 02 Control Head mobile radios to the Rome Police Department (2017).

Rome Police Department

2020

Communications

Integrated Justice Portal/NYSPIN/e-justice

The communications division is also responsible for the maintenance, security, and administration of the major auxiliary New York/National Informational System that is available to the department, that being the Integrated Justice Portal (IJP). Pursuant to New York State Executive Law, this police information system is the confidential source of privileged information on citizens for use by law enforcement agencies within the state and nationally. Any information obtained through IJP is only for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

Captain David Collins is the terminal agency coordinator (TAC) for the IJP, with Sergeant Josef Hall acting as the sub-TAC. The TAC is responsible for all aspects of the IJP, which include insuring that all authorized members using this system are trained and certified. The TAC is also charged with system backups, monthly validations for all files, semi-annual local audits, reports investigations for violations, maintenance of criminal history logs, and training. The TAC also has the special responsibility to ensure the security of the system as well as any information gathered from it.

Over the past few years, New York State undertook an initiative to combine e-Justice with NYSPIN, making them a web based system, and essentially giving the users throughout all the branch's of criminal justice services, including the court system, corrections, department of motor vehicles, and parole, the best of both worlds. The intent of the IJP is to enhance and improve the administration of justice and homeland security information, when and where it is needed. The system is state of the art advanced public safety technology in a user-friendly database. The IJP enables law enforcement personnel to access relevant time sensitive information that can be amended as dictated.

The IJP provides a direct connect to associated investigative systems such as SAFETNet, enhanced Sex Offender Registry, DMV access, and UNYRIC center for homeland security issues. All personnel, including part time officers have been trained in the use and capabilities of the IJP. Certification for all aspects of the IJP are required every two years.

Conclusion

One of the major aspects of any police department is the uninterrupted and continuous flow of two-way information. When the flow of information is compromised, the entire department is impacted. The Communications Division of the Rome Police Department is committed to facilitating that proper flow of information. For 2021, the division will continue to promote consistent training to keep all the members of the department up to date and professionally proficient. The division will also maintain continued communications with the Oneida County 911 Center in regards to the new radio system in order to utilized the new system to its fullest extent.

Rome Police Department 2020

Community Impact Unit

Introduction

The Rome Police Department is committed to the safety, security, and quality of life for all citizens of the City of Rome. Beginning in September of 2012, the Rome Police Department initiated a program to increase the quality of life for citizens. The program, known as the Community Impact Unit (CIU), was initiated with a 90 day trial period. The unit in 2020, which is overseen by Sergeant Derek Utter, successfully operated with five officers, two of which were assigned to the B-line watch (8am - 4pm), and three were assigned to the C-line watch (4pm - 12am).



Mission

The overall mission of the unit is to address quality of life issues and to build a rapport between the police department and the residents of the City of Rome. This is accomplished by creating a more approachable and recognizable law enforcement element. The unit routinely attends neighborhood watch meetings, which give attendees the opportunity to inform the police department of nuisance problems and areas of concern within their neighborhoods. Once these concerns, which initially can appear minor in nature, are brought to the attention of the members of the unit, they can be addressed before they can materialize into larger problems.

Activities

In June of 2018, a local business owner donated a barbeque grill to the department to be used by CIU officers for “community picnics” where officers could cook for kids at various locations. The first events were held at the Liberty Gardens Apartment Complex and the Rome Police Department for all attendees of the KOPS for Kids program.

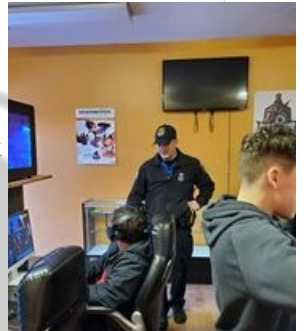


On January 15th, 2020, officers participated in an informational meeting regarding bank alarm procedures involving various members from local financial institutions. This event was intended to educate bank officials on safety and security, in addition to build rapport with local businesses in the community.

Rome Police Department 2020

Community Impact Unit

On January 20th, 2020, officers participated in a gaming event with youth members of the community at a local gaming establishment named LanMob located at 409 N. James St.



Throughout the month of April 2020, Officer Medlin was commended for his efforts of promoting Autism Awareness, including the ordering and distribution of patches and decal magnets.



Conclusion

Throughout the year, members of the unit were again able to seize illegal drugs, consisting of marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and prescription medications, but were drastically limited when charging such offenses due to the implementation of the state's bail reform laws. 39 codes violations were investigated and enforced by the B-line and C-Line watch in 2020.

2020 Arrest Totals:

Quality of life offenses: 39

Drug related offenses: 12

Warrants: 24

Other: 23

VTL: 59

Rome Police Department 2020

Community Impact Unit

Evaluation of 2020 Goals and Objectives

The primary goal of the community impact unit, is to protect and preserve life and property. The officers assigned to this unit give this community a sense of security during the B-Line and C-Line hours, this in itself, is a tremendous accomplishment. The City of Rome has a low serious crime rate, which can be attributed in some measure to the diligence of the men and women who patrol the streets.

Goal: A concentrated effort in city code enforcement was the goal of the unit in 2020. A goal of 95 investigations / enforcements was set to increase in the number of general code violation enforcement within the city.

Evaluation: 39 code violations were investigated and enforced by the unit in 2020, which resulted in a 60% decrease from 2019. The units goal was not achieved as focus of public contact dramatically reduced with the changes from the COVID-19 pandemic. The quality of life offenses, warrants, VTL / enforcement, and arrests decreased a considerable amount, as did drug related enforcement, due to the state's changes to bail reform and COVID-19 restrictions.

Goals for 2021

In 2021, the Rome Police Department Community Impact Unit will continue to be a proactive and approachable unit, and begin to additionally focus on communicating with businesses regarding loss prevention trends within the city. The unit plans to host several meetings to inform businesses of these trends so they may protect their assets and increase their awareness.

Goal: An effort to enforce city code violations is of great importance in addressing quality of life issues in neighborhoods within the city. It is the belief that a concentrated effort in codes enforcement is a vital aspect to the City of Rome, and the citizens who make up our community. Therefore, the goal of code enforcement will remain the concentrated effort of the unit for 2021 and will be set at a 20% increase to 47 investigations of enforcement during the 2021 calendar year throughout the B-Line and C-Line shifts.

Objective: With the use of the department's community impact officers and uniformed patrols, a department initiated effort of codes enforcement will continue to be a priority for the unit.

Rome Police Department

2020

Crime Prevention



Introduction

In the late 1970's, the country was experiencing a noticeable rise in crime and violence. This was affecting all communities both large and small.

Police administrators and community leaders determined that to ensure that peace and tranquility would prevail within their communities, it became a priority to establish a mechanism within their agency that would recognize these acts of crime and violence, record data, and then put into effect a program that could effectively deal with these problems. Most law enforcement agencies named this initiative the crime prevention unit.

Crime prevention units across the country became very effective. Crime prevention officers found a way to deal with stolen property, and gave presentations to homeowner's on how to identify, photograph, and mark all of their valuables, and officially record the data. This program proved to be very effective. In many instances, when police recovered stolen property they were able to find a marking on it that would identify the actual owner. As a result of this program, many suspects were actually identified and arrested. Stolen property was recovered, burglaries were solved, and the market for stolen property began to diminish. Another crime prevention program was the mass fingerprinting of children. This program was put into operation to effectively deal with missing and runaway children, children who were victims of custodial interference, and children who had been kidnapped. The school districts were a great resource and assistance in this program, as it not only was a big help to them, but relieved fears of all parents as their children left home each day to attend school.

The City of Rome was also facing some of the same concerns and problems as other cities. Therefore, the Rome Police Department established a crime prevention unit about forty years ago. One of its first missions was to increase community awareness, educate the public on how to report and prevent a crime, and how to protect their property. The crime prevention unit of the Rome Police Department is very active and is committed to keeping the community safe. Programs for children, adults, senior citizens, business community, and financial institutions have all been formulated and presented.

Through the years, as other problems arose, the crime prevention unit identified them and appropriately addressed ways to counteract them. Vandalism and drug activity became prevalent in certain neighborhoods. The crime prevention unit identified the problem, finding that to effectively deal with these problems, Neighborhood Watch Programs must be established. The Neighborhood Watch Program identified certain areas within a neighborhood that was experiencing widespread vandalism and illegal drug activity. The crime prevention officer organized concerned citizens within the neighborhood, trained them on what to be especially watchful for, and to report these illicit activities to the police department, who would record the information received and then effectively deal with the problems. The Neighborhood Watch Program really took hold and is now one of the most sought after police department programs.

Rome Police Department

2020

Crime Prevention

Activity

Identity theft is a rising crime not only in the United States, but also in Rome, New York. With increased use of the Internet and the convenience of automated teller machines and credit cards, identity theft has become a major problem in the United States. The crime prevention officer has passed on information concerning identity theft to neighborhood watch groups and the general public to inform them of ways to protect their identity from being stolen. Some of the ways to prevent identity from being stolen are shredding important documents, limiting the number of credit cards carried on a person, cancelling inactive credit cards, and avoiding giving personal information by phone or Internet. In addition to destroying or shredding important documents and paperwork, the Rome Police Department has partnered with New York State Senator Joseph Griffo to conduct a document destruction once a year at a specified location in the City of Rome.

Another responsibility that is delegated to the crime prevention unit is the monitoring and the enforcement of the City of Rome Alarm Ordinance. The Rome Police Department responds to these alarms on a routine basis. These alarms are put into a data base by Patrolman Eric Stevens on a monthly basis. Currently, there are 860 active alarm systems installed and registered throughout the City of Rome. In 2020, the billing cycle ran from October 1st, 2019 through September 30th, 2020. The alarm ordinance allows two avoidable alarm responses each year. Any amount over two avoidable alarms is billed to the home or business owner in the amount of \$100 for each avoidable alarm. In 2020, Rome Police responded to 576 alarms. Alarm fines were sent out by the City of Rome Treasurer's Office to 89 businesses or residences with a total amount of \$13,800.00 being owed in fines. In the past, there was no legislation on how to acquire the fines from these people if they did not pay. With this in mind, the crime prevention officer worked with the treasurer's office and the city clerk's office to make a more efficient way of retaining alarm fines. If a person does not pay their fine, the amount owed will be put on the following year's property tax bill.

Rome Police Department

2020

Crime Prevention

Neighborhood Watch/Ward and Block Meetings

The following information on Neighborhood Watch and block meetings is for the year 2020.

There were no known Neighborhood Watch meetings through the 2020 year. The reason for the lack of meetings is due to precautions instituted in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the lack of response from Neighborhood Watch block captains. In January of 2021, an attempt was made to gather up to date contact information from block captains and officials. There was minimal response from organizers; dates, places and times of meetings were unknown to the public. Additionally, if there was an issue in a neighborhood, rather than reporting to block captains of the Neighborhood Watch, members of the public often contacted the police department directly, or through social media, regarding issues which were then addressed by the department. It will be a goal of the crime prevention program to utilize Rome Police Department social media accounts for future information and complaints from members of their Neighborhood Watch.

EZ Child ID System and Ink Fingerprinting for Children

In 2020, the Rome Police Department was not able to attend usual community related events to utilize the EZ Child ID system. The Covid-19 pandemic generated an overwhelming and immense canceling of community events, and gatherings in which the EZ Child System could be used. In accordance with mandates from public officials, the Rome Police Department did not attend events they were able to in the past.

Rome Police Department

2020

Crime Prevention

Viper Usage

In 2020, the Rome Police Department utilized the Viper at 9 various locations throughout the city for police investigations, at the request of local residents, city counselor's and business owners, for a total usage of 7,248 hours, an increase of approximately 3,431 hours from 2019. Reasons the vehicle was used were: surveillance, demonstrations, presentations, Neighborhood Watch meetings, crime deterrence, and parades.

Viper Deployment

719 Kent St. Rome NY	Tuesday 1/28/2020 11:00:00 AM	Monday 2/10/2020 3:00 PM	336
213 Spring St.	Friday, March 13th at 3:00PM	Friday, April 03, 2020 1:00 PM	504
507 River Road	Friday, April 03, 2020 1:00 PM	Monday, April 20, 2020 @ 11:00 AM	408
904 Highland Ave.	Monday, April 20, 2020 @ 11:00 AM	Monday, April 27th, 2020 3:00 PM	168
213 Spring St.	Monday, April 27th, 2020 3:00 PM	Monday, June 15th, 2020 11:00 AM	1416
W. Bloomfield @ Wood St.	Monday, June 15th, 2020 11:00 AM	Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 3:00 PM	2208
424 W. Liberty St.	Tuesday, September 15th, 2020 3:00 PM	Monday, October 26th, 2020 11:00 AM	984
400 W Park St.	Friday, November 13th, 2020 11:00 AM	Thursday, December 17th, 2020 11:00 AM	816
W. Park @ N. Jay St	Thursday, December 17th, 2020 11:00 AM	Will be moved Monday, January 4th, 2020	408

Evaluation of 2020 goals

Goal: To update the Neighborhood Watch Program by contacting officials involved

Evaluation: In 2020, there was a complete default of the Neighborhood Watch meetings between all participating blocks and wards. The default was caused by mandates to reduce public gatherings due to pandemic restrictions. The section of the 2020 goal that was not met was to update contact information of block captains. The reason was no meetings or current contact information available.

Rome Police Department

2020

Crime Prevention

Evaluation of 2020 goals

Crime Prevention Program Goals for 2020

Goal: For 2020, the department will put forth efforts to utilize the technology and resources, specifically the Viper surveillance truck, pole camera's and new WatchGuard in car camera systems in deterring crimes, and violations before they occur. For 2020, the unit would like to reduce the number of avoidable alarm responses, by educating the residents and business owners on proper alarm and maintenance procedures. The criteria by which the alarm is deemed avoidable will also be evaluated and adjusted. The unit combined with City Clerk's Office will continue to notify residents, who do not have alarm permits, of the Rome City Alarm Ordinance.

Evaluation:

In 2020, the Rome Police Department put forth efforts in the use of its Viper surveillance truck, WatchGuard in-car camera systems, and introduced new pole cameras, which contributed to the deterrence of crimes and apprehension of criminals. The Viper surveillance vehicle was utilized over %100 more than in 2019 and in reported problem areas. For each placement of the Viper, calls for service significantly dropped after the deployment of the deterrence vehicle. A new pole camera placed at the Rome Police offsite evidence storage and impound lot allowed for the apprehension of a trespasser looking to retrieve evidence being stored at the facility. Additionally, for the 2020 alarm calendar year, the procedure in which the police alarms were deemed avoidable was evaluated and adjusted. Every alarm report was reviewed and verified as to its false status. In the past, members of the community were being penalized for required police services. The new evaluation decreased the amount of false alarms from 470 to 138, even after having an increase in police responses. Overall, even with the current Covid-19 pandemic and staffing limitations, two of the three goals of 2020 were accomplished.

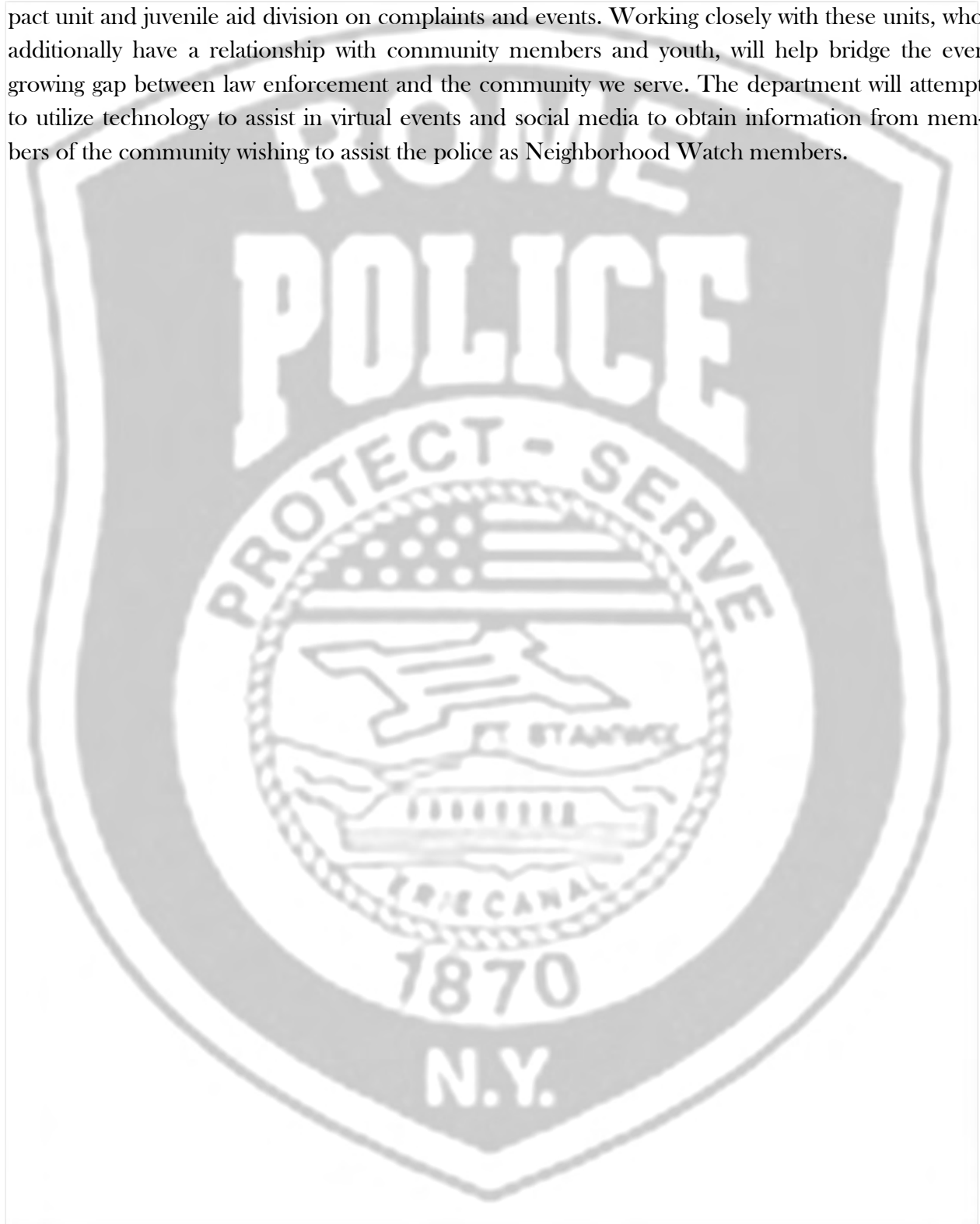
Crime Prevention Program Goals for 2021

Goal: For 2021, the department will continue the efforts to utilize the technology and resources, specifically the Viper surveillance truck, pole camera's, and new WatchGuard in car camera systems in deterring crimes, and violations before they occur. Additionally the crime prevention unit will continue the Neighborhood Watch Program through the use of social media rather than in-person. This will allow reporting persons to remain anonymous, and the uniformed patrol division to adequately and tactically utilizing marked and unmarked units in reported and observed areas of increased criminal activity. For 2021, the unit would like to reduce the number of avoidable alarm responses, by educating the residents and business owners on proper alarm and maintenance procedures. The criteria by which the alarm is deemed avoidable will again be evaluated; however, not adjusted. The unit, combined with the City Clerk's Office, will continue to notify residents of the Rome City Alarm Ordinance that do not have alarm permits. In 2021, the unit will increase the number of events attended, and reach out to event organizers in an effort to attend any possible virtual events.

Rome Police Department

2020

Objective: The department will continue to update officer knowledge by utilizing developed routines, and by passing along information from the crime prevention office. The crime prevention unit will also work collectively and cooperatively in an increased measure with the community impact unit and juvenile aid division on complaints and events. Working closely with these units, who additionally have a relationship with community members and youth, will help bridge the ever growing gap between law enforcement and the community we serve. The department will attempt to utilize technology to assist in virtual events and social media to obtain information from members of the community wishing to assist the police as Neighborhood Watch members.



Rome Police Department

2020

Domestic Violence



Introduction

In November of 2005, the Rome Police Department established the domestic violence program. The program was established to work collaboratively with members of the YWCA of the Mohawk Valley, local police agencies, local courts, the district attorney's office, and other local social service agencies, in an effort to enhance the investigation and disposition of domestic incidents.

Sergeant Scott Hoag is currently assigned as the Domestic Violence Coordinator for the Rome Police Department. Sergeant Hoag's duties include liaison with the domestic violence advocates from the YWCA, contacting the victims of domestic violence to ensure that the appropriate investigative actions were taken, confirming all of the information in submitted domestic incident reports are complete and accurate, providing the chief of police a detailed year-end report, and documenting the progress of the domestic violence unit.

In December 2019, the YWCA hired Emily Reilly to be the domestic violence advocate assigned to the Rome Police Department. Ms. Reilly works closely with Rome City Court and Oneida County Family Court, as well as victims of domestic violence, to ensure that information submitted in domestic incident reports is complete and accurate. Additionally, Ms. Reilly acts as a liaison between domestic violence victims and law enforcement to ensure that all appropriate investigative actions have been pursued as well as completing the needed data entry of all domestic incident reports into the Rome Police Department Domestic Incident Report database.

Domestic Violence Home Visit Initiative

In 2011, the Rome Police Department was awarded a grant from the Division of Criminal Justice Services to create and implement a "Domestic Violence Home Visit Program." Only 11 police agencies throughout New York State were awarded this grant. The goal of the home visit program is to strive for the ongoing safety of the domestic violence victim. Additionally, the initiative is meant to provide some level of surveillance of the offender, to ensure compliance with the laws and orders of protection, as well as deter future abusive behavior towards victims. The program also provides domestic violence victims with a resource, contact information, and lets the victim know that the agency is invested in their safety. Home visits can have a substantial positive impact on the lives of domestic violence victims, and have the potential to reduce repeat victimization. Contacts made through the home visits can instill the victim with a sense of trust and confidence in the police. Home Visit Initiative is no longer in effect due to funding.

Rome Police Department 2020

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence High Risk Team-Oneida County

Several years ago, Oneida County law enforcement agencies, various community agencies, and YWCA Domestic Violence Services noticed an increase in lethal or near lethal assaults, as a result of intimate partner violence. The agencies began discussions for developing a team that could train law enforcement and domestic violence personnel on a danger assessment to create a coordinated response and coordinated services to decrease domestic violence related homicide and near lethal assaults. The Domestic Violence High Risk Team (DVHRT) model, created by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center in 2005, is an innovative strategy to prevent domestic violence homicides.

The DVHRT for Oneida County is being created to:

- Have early identification of high-risk offenders through risk assessment.
- Create increased communication and coordination across disciplines.
- Have an intervention plan that is tailored to each set of circumstances.

Members of the DVHRT will monitor:

- Court dates and status.
- Offender accountability.
- Release dates, parole hearings and outcomes.
- Probation conditions and compliance.
- Order of protections and renewals.
- Criminal activity, re-assaults.
- Other safety concerns for victims.

Law enforcement will be trained in danger assessment, domestic violence staff will be trained on the danger assessment created by law enforcement.. Once operational community wide, the DVHRT will meet regularly to review high risk cases and create an intervention plan.

Rome Police Department and the domestic violence advocate was involved in bi-weekly phone and video conferences with program specialist Heather Davies from the Geiger Crisis Center. A DA-LE form and strangulation supplement is expected to be added to Rome Police Department policy and procedure in the 1st quarter of 2021. There will be a 3 1/2 hour train the trainer course required prior to implementing the forms.

Rome Police Department 2020

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence Program Reporting for 2020

The Rome Police Department Domestic Violence Program has recorded the following data for 2020:

- 2031 Domestic violence incident reports, (15.7% increase over previous year).

As in previous years, a significant number of the domestic incident reports are due to a family court procedure that requires parties involved in custody disputes to have their custody exchange occur at the police department and when necessary a domestic incident report is generated.

- 1774 Non-criminal domestic violence incidents, (17.7% increase over previous year).

Non-criminal domestic violence incidents represent 87% of the total number of domestic incidents that have occurred in the City of Rome.

- 963 Follow-up investigations of domestic incident reports.
- 481 Referrals made to victims of domestic incidents.
- 132 Domestic violence arrests, (Represents 6.4% of the total number of domestic incidents)
- 99 Requests for orders of protection.
- 125 Requests for warrants for offenders.

Rome Police Department 2020

Domestic Violence

Evaluation of 2020 Domestic Violence Program Goals

In 2020, the number of domestic incidents that occurred increased 15.7% from last year's high. The domestic violence program did not achieve its main goal of reducing the number of domestic incidents from the previous year. Many factors can account for the increase in domestic incidents this year. The biggest factor was the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic, along with orders by the government, had people spending more time at home with household members due to quarantine and high unemployment rates. This also increased substance and alcohol abuse, which can account for an increase in domestic incidents as well. The number of domestic incidents that result in an arrest is down slightly at 8.4%. The domestic violence unit strives to improve the quality of investigations, reporting of incidents, and the prosecutions of offenders of domestic violence. The YWCA's continued representation in Rome City Court and victim advocacy through follow ups and referrals, has been and continues to be an integral part of making the program successful.

Domestic Violence Program Goals for 2021

The domestic violence program goals for 2021 remain the same as previous years:

- 1) Attempt to decrease the total number of domestic violence incidents in the City of Rome by **5%** through educational awareness, and provide victims with services to prevent future domestic incidents.
- 2) Decrease recidivism, and increase offender accountability among domestic violence offenders through home visits, victim service referrals, and educational awareness.
- 3) Continue to improve the quality of investigations, reporting of incidents, and the prosecution of offenders of domestic violence, by working with the training division to conduct needed in-service training sessions.

To achieve the aforementioned goals, the Rome Police Department will continue to closely monitor the quality of domestic incident investigations, and continue to put an emphasis on offender accountability.

Conclusion

The Rome Police Department Domestic Violence Program will continue to grow their partnership with the YWCA in order to enhance victim safety through offender accountability and referrals to domestic violence service providers.

Rome Police Department 2020

Drone Unit

Introduction

The Unmanned Aerial System (Drone) Unit is a mobile unit capable of rapidly deploying in support of the operational needs of the Rome Police Department, including, but not limited to, criminal apprehension, search and rescue, crime scene forensics, accident scene forensics, event security, tactical operations and public relations.



Personnel and training

The drone unit is commanded by Lieutenant Mark Glasso and is staffed by three licensed pilots; Lieutenant Mark Glasso, Detective Daniel Vescio, and Sergeant Shane Riolo. All drone unit personnel received their initial training in May 2018 at the Griffiss International Airport. Training consisted of three days of classroom and hands-on training at the Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance Inc., NUAIR, facility. Following initial training by NUAIR, all personnel completed the Federal Aviation Administration part 107 knowledge test for Remote Pilot Certificate with a sUAS rating.

Equipment

The drone unit utilizes a Yuneec Typhoon H520 Commercial Series Unmanned Aerial Aircraft. The Typhoon H520 weighs 4.2 pounds including the camera upon takeoff and can sustain flight for 25-28 minutes per battery. It can fly in sub-freezing temperatures, as well as temperatures up to 115 degrees Fahrenheit, hover stable in wind speeds up to 30 mph, and fly at a maximum speed up to 43 mph.

The drone control station requires a single pilot and features left hand and right hand joystick controllers; still or video on/off functions; pan and tilt camera modes with speed control; obstacle avoidance; manual, angle, and return to home operation. The seven inch imbedded tablet controls Yuneec's Datapilot software, which can plan autonomous flights with up to 500 waypoints, control flight mode, altitude, speed over ground, distance from home, camera status, GPS position coordinates and return to home at the conclusion of the flight plan or if the battery level gets low.

Rome Police Department 2020

Drone Units

Equipment continued:

The drone unit currently utilizes a Yuneec CGOET camera. The CGOET is a combination of a thermal imaging and a low-light camera with a 3-axis gimbal capable of a continuous 360° rotation. With the thermal imaging camera, the temperature in the image measures and indicates relative temperature differences using different color spectrums. The light sensitivity of the RGB lens is 20 times higher than the human eye, and captures images in low-light conditions.

Evaluation of 2020:

In 2020, the drone unit's training and required certification was hindered by an unexpected retirement and a re-assignment at the unit's command staff level. In August 2020, Lieutenant Glasso was assigned to the drone unit commander position. On December 7, 2020, all drone unit members successfully passed the FAA re-current knowledge test and will hold valid Remote Pilot Certificates with an sUAS rating until December, 2022.

Goals and objectives for 2021:

Goal: To conduct 4 hour training sessions with each pilot once every three months. Training sessions will include a minimum of two unit members that will alternate between pilot and visual observer roles. All drone unit pilots will complete three takeoffs and three landing events during each training session.

Objective: The key to continued and safe operations is by maintaining a professional level of aviation competency. The frequency of pilot training and practice of utilizing pilot and visual observer teams will improve pilot proficiency and train unit members to work together to safely and successfully complete missions.

Rome Police Department 2020

Firearms Division

Introduction



The Rome Police Department's Firearms Division is responsible for training all department officers in the proper and efficient utilization of all department issued weapons. The training is to ensure that each officer maintains the minimum acceptable level of proficiency with all issued weapons. The division is overseen and directed by Captain Cheyenne Schoff, who is assisted by Sergeant Derek Utter, Detective Daniel Vescio, and Sergeant Brian Stevens.

Training

On May 27th and on June 2nd, 3rd, 10th, and 16th the department completed handgun qualifications at the Oneida County Sheriff's Office Firearms Range. On these days, all firearms training was conducted between the hours of 8am and 4pm each day. During these training dates, officers were first required to successfully complete the departments qualification course. This course of fire was shot "cold" with no prior instruction. By shooting the course of fire in this manner, officers can evaluate their level of marksmanship. After completing a basic qualification course, officers were required to complete a series of drills. During these drills, an emphasis was placed on proper target identification and use of force. This was achieved by having the shooter stand with their backs facing away from the target line. An instructor would then hang a series of "shoot" and "no-shoot" targets. Equipped with a pro-timer, instructors gave each shooter an audible "que", which both started and would end the drill. By running the drill in this manner, it allowed the instructors and the shooters an opportunity to gauge the ability of the shooter to recognize a threat and respond with the appropriate level of force.

On September 8th, 9th, 22nd, and 23rd the department completed a second round of firearms training. During this training, a second handgun qualification was conducted at the beginning of the training day. Once all officers successfully qualified, they received a refresher on the nomenclature and functionality of all department long guns, which include AR-15 style patrol rifles, and Remington 870 pump-action shotguns. The remainder of the day was spent conducting long gun qualifications, drills that require the officer to clear malfunctions, and conduct proper and efficient reloads.



Rome Police Department 2020

Firearms Division

Evaluation of 2020 Goals

Goal: To seek out a localized DCJS Firearms Instructor Course, and certify two additional department members as firearms instructors and add them to the instructor staff.

Evaluation: In March of 2020, Ptlm. Brian Stevens, who has now been promoted to the rank of Sergeant, attended and successfully completed a NYS Firearms Instructor Course held at Monroe County Police Academy. After receiving certification, Sergeant Stevens assisted with conducting departmental firearms training and qualifications.

Goal: To have two current firearms instructors attend Glock Armorers School. After receiving the certification, each department owned Glock service pistol will be cleaned and inspected and the results documented.

Evaluation: In January of 2020, Captain Cheyenne Schoff and Sergeant Derek Utter attended and were successfully certified as Glock Armorers. This training was held in Herkimer County NY and was hosted by Glock. After receiving this training all issued Glock firearms were cleaned and inspected for proper functionality.

Firearms Division Goals for 2021

Goal: To again seek out a localized DCJS Firearms Instructor Course and certify one additional officer as a firearms instructor.

Goal: The firearms division will schedule and provide specific shooting instruction along with qualifications during low light hours combined with a night shoot. This essential training will give officers relevant training in an environment that they are likely to be exposed to during their assigned shifts.

Rome Police Department

2020

Forensic Division



Introduction

The forensic division is responsible for the recovery, preservation, and analysis of all evidence located at crime scenes. The “Theory of Transfer” states that when two surfaces come into contact, a transfer of material or an impression from one to the other usually takes place. It is the job of the investigator to identify the evidence that is left behind by this transfer, and then collect, preserve, and present it to court. There are numerous techniques for evidence recovery, including but not limited to photographing the scene and latent fingerprint recovery. The type of evidence collected determines the technique to be used, e.g., firearms, body fluid (DNA), fingerprints, tool marks, and computer crimes. In 2020, the forensic division was composed of nine certified crime scene investigators. During the course of 2020, the unit lost the services of several evidence technicians due to re-assignment, temporary military leave, and agency transfers. In 2020, two crime scene investigators were promoted to the position of Police Detective, and one crime scene investigator was promoted to the rank of Police Sergeant. The promotion to supervisory role on their respective shifts eliminates them from being available to cover crime scene investigations while working their shifts. Due to these circumstances, members of the department had an opportunity to apply for the evidence technician position. Two members were selected for positions of crime scene investigators Patrolman Daniel Roberts and Patrolman Jenna Kiskiel. Patrolman Roberts and Patrolman Kiskiel both completed their photography and evidence technician training while attending the police academy. They were assigned to the unit and completed on the job training under the supervision of trained crime scene investigators. We are currently staffed with eight crime scene investigators.

Having additional officers in the unit on all three shifts has been a great asset to the forensic unit and improves departmental efficiency and reduces overtime. However, at times this is beyond the departments control, and dependent on the shift’s manpower and/or what type of forensic investigation is needed. The need to fill vacancies within the unit and train newly selected members is an ever evolving task. The members of this unit are an integral part of the investigative team, which seeks to effectively resolve investigations through forensic science. The actions of this unit can provide facts, and/or information not available from other investigation team members.

Forensic Division Officers in 2020

Sergeant Shane Riolo	Crime Scene Investigator - (Unit Supervisor)
Sergeant Jason Fairbrother	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Eric Stevens	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman James Bristol	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Tyler Nutting	Crime Scene Investigator

Rome Police Department

2020

Forensic Division

Forensic Division Officers in 2020 (Cont.)

Patrolman James Bristol	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Alexis Perry	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Nicolaus Schreppel	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Daniel Roberts	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Jenna Kiskiel	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Alexis Perry	Crime Scene Investigator
Patrolman Nick Schreppel	Crime Scene Investigator

Investigations

The forensics division was involved in the following investigations of criminal offenses, and also in the non-criminal services listed below:

- Homicides: 2
 - Burglary: 14 (scenes processed by the forensic unit)
 - Overdoses: 10
 - Deaths: 50 (scenes processed by the forensic unit, these include accidental and natural causes.)
 - Robbery: 2
 - Arson/Fires: 2
 - Sex Crimes: 4
 - Assaults: 6
 - Traffic Accidents: 2
 - Responses: 117
- Note - These responses also include executed search warrants and the processing of stolen vehicles, as well as minor crimes not listed.

Significant Investigations

While all investigations the forensic division responds to require time and resources, numerous hours of investigation are needed for homicides and other significant cases.

On May 09, 2020, the Rome Police Department investigated the reported of a shots fired on Whittier Avenue in the City of Rome. It was quickly learned through the initial investigation by the patrol unit that a male suspect had shot and killed one male and had shot and seriously injured a female at the same address. The suspect then turned the gun on himself committing suicide. Though there were no charges in the case, the scene was extensively processed by this unit.

On May 21, 2020 the forensic unit and the accident reconstruction unit were called out to process a scene where it was reported that a vehicle had struck two pedestrians on Black River Boulevard.

Rome Police Department

2020

Forensic Division

Significant Investigations (Cont.)

It was reported that one of the pedestrians was pronounced deceased on scene and the other pedestrian was air lifted from the scene with serious physical injury. The scene was an extensive scene which took several weeks to complete. Both units worked with the New York State Police Accident Reconstruction Unit. Investigation showed the driver of the vehicle was driving while intoxicated and traveling at speeds near 100 MPH before striking both pedestrians. The driver of the vehicle was subsequently arrested for Vehicular Manslaughter, Driving While Intoxicated and Assault in the Third Degree. The driver has accepted a plea bargain and is facing 4-12 years in prison.

On May 31, 2020 the Forensic unit responded to a report of shots fired at a male outside of a residence on West Park Street in the City of Rome. The investigation showed at least nine rounds were fired from a high powered assault rifle. The victim was struck several times, but was able to successfully recover from his injuries. The victim refused to cooperate in the matter, but the scene was documented and evidence collected by this department.

On June 19, 2020 the forensic unit responded to a report of a stabbing on West Liberty Street in the City of Rome. The victim in the stabbing suffered serious injury and was in critical condition for a while. The scene was processed by the forensic unit. The investigation, in respect to the evidence collected, led to the arrest of three suspects for attempted murder.

Additional duties

In 2020, the Rome Police Department continued to process pistol permits for the outside district, which was a change from previous years when only inside district residents were processed. This change has allowed the department to better serve the community and increase revenue for the city. The Rome Police Department also provides the services of fingerprinting for non-criminal offenses, which include backgrounds for employment services. The total amount of revenue collected for non-criminal fingerprints and pistol permit processing was \$2,465.00. This was a decrease of \$555.00 as compared to 2019 figures. This decrease is due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Personal appointments were cancelled and not rescheduled for several months due to the pandemic.

- Pistol Permits: During 2020, Sergeant Shane Riolo processed 52 pistol permit applications.

Rome Police Department

Forensic Division

2020

Mobile Command Center

Sergeant Riolo also maintains the Rome Police Department's Mobile Command Center. In 2017, funding was secured by Senator Joseph Griffo, allowing the Rome Police Department to purchase a new mobile command center, which can be used as a satellite police station and as a command post for incidents such as crime scenes, fire fighting operations, and major events. The new command center is brand new Freight Liner semi truck with a large conference room, five work stations, and a galley. There is access to telephone, radio, and audio/video equipment along with wireless computer technologies. The new command center also features a telescoping mast with two closed circuit video cameras to survey an area. Local television and satellite "send and receive" capabilities are accessed via a satellite dish. The new command center was delivered and decalated in the year 2020. It was shown to the public on October 15, 2020 during a press conference. It was deployed one time since to assist the Rome Fire Department at a Fire scene where it proved to be a great asset to personnel on scene.



Rome Police Department

2020

Forensic Division

Summary

In 2020 forensics cases and scene processes were up by 24%. The categories that we showed a decrease in were death scenes, MVAs and fire scenes. Burglaries were down 12.5%, MVAs were down 50%, and fire scenes were down by 60%. All other scenes were up considerably leading to the 24% total increase in total cases.

In 2020, two digital cameras were being utilized by the patrol division. Patrol secured 890 memory cards into evidence, which was 2% increase from 2019. These cards were downloaded and maintained by Sergeant Riolo and/or Patrolman Eric Stevens. In 2020 the forensic unit was able to secure funding for two new Nikon Cameras. These cameras have been placed into service for use on more serious crime scenes.

In 2020, there were 18 total patrol units. In 2020, the forensics division, along with the administration agreed that the Martel camera systems and customer support were not meeting the expectations set forth by the department. After months of research, several in car camera companies were being considered by the department. Watch Guard Video was chosen as the new in car camera system supplier for the department. Throughout 2020, eight patrol units were equipped with the new Watch Guard Video System. Sergeant Sypniewski, Sergeant Riolo, and Patrolman E. Stevens were responsible for maintaining, downloading, and saving upon request all audio/video from these units in 2020.

Also in 2020, the need for storage of digital evidence has increased dramatically. Some examples of the digital evidence that we store as cell phones downloads, digital photographs, video surveillance, audio evidence and other miscellaneous digital evidence. With the help of Polce, we implemented and installed a 45 terabyte NAS Unit server at City Hall. This will assist with the storage of all digital evidence taken from the in car camera program. We also had another private server with 55 terabytes of data designated specifically for the storage of digital evidence within the forensic department. This will meet the needs of the unit and assist with the proper and secure storage of digital evidence.

Rome Police Department

2020

Forensic Division

Conclusion / Goals for 2020

The goal of the forensic division is to support the actions of the criminal investigation and patrol divisions of the Rome Police Department, in an effort to provide a safe and secure environment for the entire community. The Rome Police Department's Forensic Unit consist of high technology and evidence gathering response technicians. The unit is staffed by highly trained sworn police officers who are all certified through the Division of Criminal Justice Services. The members of the unit maintain a high level of excellence and technical skill applying effective and scientific practices.

In 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic severely changed the way that we conducted business. Due to the pandemic, we were not allowed to attend and conduct all of the trainings that were scheduled due to social distancing requirements. In this respect we were not able to meet the 2019 goals for the forensic department by meeting the training goals set by Sergeant Sypniewski.

For 2021, the forensic division will look to continue the training needs of the unit, whether the training is from in-service days or specialized training at other locations. It is critical to maintain a high level of excellence and technical skills by applying effective and scientific practices to new and old training techniques. The forensic unit will once again attempt to schedule an in-service training day twice per quarter during 2021, which will ultimately total eight in-service training days for the year. In addition to a training day twice per quarter, the forensic unit will attempt to achieve specialized training outside of the department in the forensic field.

The unit will also attempt to increase staff by two members in the year 2021. We are currently down one forensic investigator and the increasing demand on the forensic unit would constitute the implementation of at least two more members. This will be accomplished by working with administration and the training division.

Rome Police Department 2020

Griffiss Business Park & Airport



Introduction

Griffiss International Airport is located inside the City of Rome's jurisdiction. The Rome Police Department, in accordance with a mutual aid agreement with Oneida County, has maintained random patrols of the airfield ramps, aprons, hangars, and facilities, as well as conducting duty related activities throughout 2020 utilizing a satellite field office located in Building 45 on the airport grounds. As a result of this agreement, the Rome Police Department has agreed to render law enforcement assistance to the airport for security or during emergency situations. Captain Dominic Corigliano serves as the department's liaison officer to the airport and is responsible for maintaining an effective relationship that is advantageous to both the department and the airport.

In the event of an emergency within the airfield confines, the Rome Police Department is responsible for security of the airfield, uninterrupted access to and from security points by emergency apparatus, and any assistance required or requested by airport personnel. An annual emergency table top exercise was conducted on August 24, 2020 with Rome Police Department personnel participating.

Department personnel undergo certified training as required by the FAA, mandating training in relation to vehicle operations within the airfield perimeter. This training includes ramps, taxiways, movement and non-movement areas within the operations of an active airfield.

Within the confines of the airfield, there is the passenger terminal and United States Customs and Border Protection Center. Improvements during 2020 included the continued resurfacing of both the taxiways and runways. In addition to the construction work, Griffiss International Airport is one of six major test sites for unmanned aerial drone testing. NUAIR Alliance is the anchor company attracting multiple businesses to the airfield. Several public demonstrations were conducted by NUAIR in 2019 in order to display their technological advancements in the unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) field.

Mercy Flight Air Ambulance continues to operate out of Griffiss Airport. It has proven to be a vital resource of emergency medical services providing life-saving medevac airlifts of critical patients to hospitals throughout central New York. The Rome Police Department has assisted in numerous landings and departures when requested at Rome Hospital and Griffiss Air Field throughout the year.

Griffiss Airport was also designated as a COVID-19 test site by the New York State Department of Health. Drive-thru testing was conducted from May through December from 7am to 6pm daily. There were also numerous food give-a-ways sponsored by the Oneida County Dairy Organization. Milk, eggs and cheese products were distributed to the public. The Rome Police assisted with traffic patterns in and around the park.

Rome Police Department 2020 Griffiss Business Park & Airport

Department Activities at the Airport

The 2020 department related activities at the business park include: visits from dignitaries, along with the support of military training arrivals and departures. The Rome Police Department responded to 1590 calls for service at the Griffiss Business Park and Airport during 2020. New construction of two multi-story “Air-City” apartments and a 790,000 square foot Orgill Distribution Center, which will employ over 225 people, is adding business activity to the business park. With the continuation of the Rome Police Field Office at the Griffiss International Airport, relations remain positive between the airport, business park and the department. The Rome Police Department will continue to maintain an active presence in and around the airport and business park grounds in 2021.



Rome Police Department

2020

Homeland Security

Introduction

The Rome Police Department is committed to the safety of the citizens of Rome, New York. Due to past terrorist attacks, natural disasters, and large-scale emergencies, the Rome Police Department actively trains to better prepare for any future incidents that may arise. On the local level of homeland security, the department is taking a more active approach to gang activity and the trends of criminal activity they are involved in.

Activities

The Rome Police Department is involved in the Field Intelligence Officer (FIO) Program. This program is designed to facilitate the sharing of relevant information between law enforcement agencies, to include local, state, and federal agencies. Currently, the Rome Police Department has one designated field intelligence officer, Detective Jeffrey Race. As part of this program, field intelligence officers receive and disseminate information received from other agencies. This includes the New York State Intelligence Center (NYSIC) and the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center (MVCAC), which releases information of various types of criminal activities, to include: possible terrorist threats, wanted persons, officer safety bulletins, gang intelligence newsletters, and other criminal activity.

The Rome Police Department is actively involved with the National Center for Security Preparedness (NCSP). The center provides training in various aspects of disaster preparedness and law enforcement response. In the past, the Rome Police Department has sent officers to numerous training classes and seminars at the Preparedness Center. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, training opportunities were very limited.

The Rome Police Department has participated in the past with the Zone 7 Joint Terrorism Task Force. This multi-agency task force collects and disseminates information, conducts training exercises, and evaluates response and security capabilities of area agencies and communities. The Joint Terrorism Task Force has assisted the Rome Police Department with investigations, and has been assisted by this department as well.

Goals

In 2020, our goal was met by utilizing the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center (MVCAC) more to assist with investigations and overdose tracking throughout Oneida County and the surrounding areas.

In 2021, our goal is to continue to increase utilization of the Mohawk Valley Crime Analysis Center (MVCAC) in assisting with ongoing investigations, criminal activity, and overdose tracking in the City of Rome, throughout Oneida County and the surrounding area.

Rome Police Department

2020

Juvenile Aid Division



Introduction

The Juvenile Aid Division (JAD) consists of a supervisor and 3 school resource officers (SRO). Sergeant Scott Hoag is currently assigned as the supervisor. Officers James Richardson, Brian Gualtieri, and Ryan Crever are the SROs' assigned to the high school and middle school. JAD is involved with all cases involving a juvenile, a person under the age of 18, who is a suspect. JAD also follows up on all missing persons reported in the City of Rome; criminal investigations and non-criminal matters involving juvenile suspects, which require police intervention. Juvenile investigators are trained to investigate crimes, mediate, counsel and provide additional resources. The goal is to provide diversion resources whenever possible and prosecution when indicated. Youthful and adolescent offenders are treated with special safeguards and procedures that assess the seriousness of each offense and determine the precise course of action that best suits the offenders and the community. Investigators and officers assigned work with, and interact with agencies such as the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), the Oneida County Attorneys Office, Oneida County Probation Department, Oneida County Family Court, and Oneida County Supreme Court/Youth Part.

Duties of Juvenile Aid Investigators

Criminal investigations involving juveniles: These crimes require all of the same skills as those involving adults, with the added burdens of safeguarding the juveniles within the laws pertaining to them. Juvenile incidents have a great expectation of privacy and anonymity under New York State Law, and these rights are scrupulously protected at all times. Young offenders, especially first-time offenders, require extensive oversight and protection to divert them from future recidivism. Youthful victims need clear and visible support from law enforcement, especially if issues exist concerning their immediate family and guardianship. The procedures and courts related to juvenile justice are separate and distinct from adult venues, and juvenile investigators and officers must be completely acquainted with these to effectively perform their duties.

Stationhouse Adjustment: This program was developed to encourage all police agencies to divert juvenile offenders with minor infractions from the justice system. Stationhouse adjustments are made when the investigators or officers determine that a juvenile has been involved in a minor incident, and have little or no prior history of delinquent behavior. Juvenile investigators review all such cases and attempt to resolve them through means other than the signing of complaints of juvenile delinquency. Methods involved with stationhouse adjustment include the use of community service, assignment of restitution, referral to qualified counseling or youth associations, and direct interaction between investigators and the juveniles.

Rome Police Department

2020

Juvenile Aid Division

Duties of Juvenile Aid Investigators continued;

School resource officers are trained, certified police officers, assigned full-time to Rome Free Academy and Strough Middle School as a police liaison and youth specialist for daily interaction with students, faculty, and staff. This program places the juvenile aid division in direct contact with school children at a critical age, and is designed to address issues and intervene positively at the earliest stages of potential conflict. The officer also creates and promotes a positive image of law enforcement that aspires to attain optimal acceptance and cooperation with the community's younger members.

The juvenile aid division personnel are charged with the protection and safety of society's most vulnerable members. Investigators and officers maintain strong contact with parents, schools, community groups, and all individuals who share the goal of serving the youth of the City of Rome.

The juvenile aid division receives annual funding through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, which is used to supplement the salary of the juvenile aid division investigator. This funding is processed by Oneida County Youth Bureau, forwarded to the Rome City Treasurer, and deposited into the general fund. The amount for 2020 was set at \$2,312.00, that is a 20% reduction due to COVID-19. This amount represents the total allotment of funds that have been made available to operate the juvenile aid division.

Activity for 2020

Throughout 2020, the juvenile aid division handled a total of 237 youth cases, which was a 33% decrease over last years total of 353 youths. This number represents a unduplicated number of juveniles that are suspects in crimes, and juveniles brought to police headquarters by their parents for counseling. Among the total number of juveniles processed, 106 have been issued appearance tickets to Oneida County Family Court or Oneida County Juvenile Probation for committing acts that would constitute a misdemeanor or a felony, if committed by an adult. This number represents a 52% increase from last years total of 50 appearance tickets. In reality, the juvenile aid division investigates more non-aggressive type felonies and misdemeanors than the above numbers reflect, as these certain categories of cases are handled internally and given stationhouse adjustment. Many times cases are adjusted within the juvenile aid division when the victim and family can come to an agreement as to what is to happen with the juvenile suspect. Family court or juvenile probation will not accept juveniles for offenses, which include city code ordinances, harassments, and vehicle and traffic problems. This includes the many cases of youths who become involved in minor physical altercations. In these cases, the extent of injury does not fit the definition of an assault.

Rome Police Department

2020

Juvenile Aid Division

The juvenile investigator is then left with the responsibility to act as mediator between the suspect's family and the victim's family. If the child has been a persistent problem, their parents are advised to seek help through the PINS referral program operated by the Oneida County Probation Department. PINS refers to "Person in Need of Supervision" and is for juveniles under the age of 18, who do not attend school or who are incorrigible, ungovernable or habitually disobedient. The remaining youths had their case handled within the juvenile aid division. Many of these cases consisted of harassments, runaways, and counseling. All of these offenses are the type that family court/juvenile probation, as a matter of law, cannot accept. An attempt is made to see the juvenile and his/her parents at police headquarters to discuss all complaints.

A program that was instituted in 2002 by the Oneida County Probation Department is the domicile restriction program or electronic monitoring. The family court judge can order a juvenile placed on domicile restriction. Upon the order of the judge, the juvenile is fitted with an electronic bracelet worn on the ankle. The receiver is hooked up to the home telephone. The juvenile is allowed to attend school and then given a set time in which to be at his/her home. The probation department monitors the juvenile.

Juveniles processed/served by the juvenile aid division are categorized as is required by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services as follows:

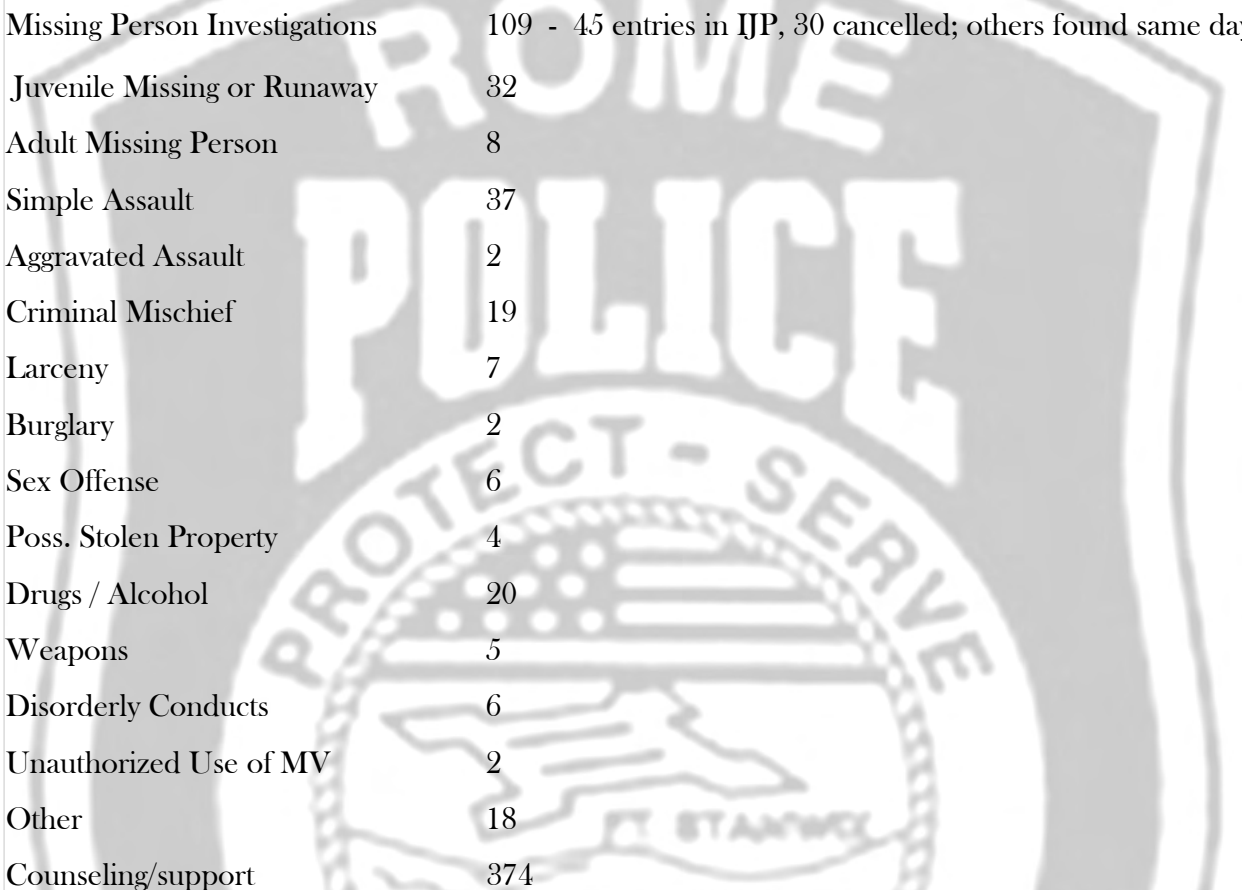
<u>Gender:</u>	60 males / 42 females
<u>Ethnicity:</u>	68 White / 30 Black / 10 Hispanic or Asian
<u>Juvenile age groups:</u>	0-9 years old (0)
	10-15 years old (61)
	16 years old (19)
	17 years old (21)

Rome Police Department

2020

Juvenile Aid Division

According to the uniform crime report, the cases investigated by the juvenile aid division can be categorized as follows:

The background of the page features a large, faint, light-gray seal of the Rome Police Department. The seal is shield-shaped with a double border. Inside the border, the words "ROME POLICE" are written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, a circular emblem contains a landscape scene with a bridge, water, and hills. The words "PROTECT - SERVE" are written in a circle around the emblem. Below the emblem, the year "1870" and "N.Y." are written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters.

Missing Person Investigations	109	- 45 entries in IJP, 30 cancelled; others found same day.
Juvenile Missing or Runaway	32	
Adult Missing Person	8	
Simple Assault	37	
Aggravated Assault	2	
Criminal Mischief	19	
Larceny	7	
Burglary	2	
Sex Offense	6	
Poss. Stolen Property	4	
Drugs / Alcohol	20	
Weapons	5	
Disorderly Conducts	6	
Unauthorized Use of MV	2	
Other	18	
Counseling/support	374	

Rome Police Department

2020

Juvenile Aid Division

Juvenile Aid Division Goals for 2021

Our overall goal for 2021 will be to reduce the number of in custody/arrests by 55%. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our numbers referred with appearance tickets increased by 50%. This has a lot to do with the fact that the JAD could not meet with juveniles. Most cases are handled by the SROs while in the schools with stationhouse adjustments. We will attempt to complete this goal by meeting with juveniles and family members, and offering referrals and support in order to keep the case from entering the justice system.

Raise the Age legislation is implemented, the process of how to expand and address juvenile crime committed by 16 and 17 year olds. The landmark law raised the age of criminal responsibility from 16 to 18 years of age. Our goal regarding the newly added 16 and 17 years olds is ensuring that youth involved in the criminal justice system are provided with age-appropriate, rehabilitative programs and facilities to become productive and successful adults.

Our efforts to correcting behavior will continue. Our goal is to provide juveniles and family members with the resources available before entering them into the justice system. Using the knowledge of possible incidents and preventive measures we can provide an increase of mediations and counseling. These efforts may raise encounters with juveniles, but may lower our referrals to probation and the court systems.

With the help of the Rome Police Department, we will also increase the number of events with Kops 4 Kids and the Community Impact Unit throughout this year. The publicity and impact within our community will build trust and respect of the Rome Police Department.

Rome Police Department

2020

Mountain Bike Patrol



Introduction

The Rome Police Department's Mountain Bike Patrol has been a community policing operation since its inception in 1995. The unit was established with private funding from the Rotary Club of Rome and individual donations from other businesses and citizens. Since its inception, the unit has grown from six officers to a high of 16 officers. The unit enhances the department's community policing efforts during the course of the year, with officers giving safety presentations to children and community groups such as: senior citizens, the Rome Rotary, and other civic groups. The unit is under the command of Lieutenant Nicholas Martin.

Objectives

The objective of the unit is to patrol areas of the city that are not accessible to patrol vehicles. City parks, recreation areas, and school grounds, along with trails adjacent to the Mohawk River, will continue to be the focus. The mountain bike patrol promotes an open line of contact to the community through its youth, and allows the officer to be more approachable without having the barrier of a police vehicle between them. The mountain bike program also enhances the department's community policing efforts.

Personnel

In 2020, personnel staffing for the mountain bike patrol stood at 16 officers. The unit is comprised of police officers of various rank within the patrol division, including patrolmen, sergeants, lieutenants, and captains. Assignments for mountain bike patrol are usually drawn from the patrolmen serving the unit who are assigned to the three shifts. Patrol supervisors may work within the unit as their duties and responsibilities permit.

Statistics

During 2020, the department experienced a shortage in the number of staff per shift, as a result, the mountain bike unit saw limited use on each shift. Due to COVID-19, the community events, such as Law Enforcement Day, Drums Along the Mohawk, and Canal Fest were all canceled; therefore, the Mountain Bike Unit was not utilized.

2018 marked the first time in several years that the department purchased new mountain bikes. Two TREK mountain bikes were purchased through the 2018 department budget, with six old mountain bikes being utilized as part of a trade toward the purchase of the new bikes. In 2019, two FUJI mountain bikes were purchased through the 2019 budget, and the last three old mountain bikes were traded toward the purchase of the new bikes.

Rome Police Department

2020

Mountain Bike Patrol

Mountain Bike Patrol Unit Goals for 2021 As we enter the 2021 season, the main goal is to utilize the mountain bike unit whenever possible, incorporating them into the day to day operations of the department. With the City of Rome having completed nearly five miles of recreational walking trails accessible to the public, one objective is to increase patrol officer visibility to the public utilizing this trail system. The mountain bike patrol will be used to serve the public along the trail corridor, as well as the city parks and recreational areas. The mountain bike patrol is now staffed with certified officers that are assigned to both B-line and C-line shifts. The goal is for the mountain bikes to be incorporated in the day to day operations of each shift, as weather and staffing allow. In 2017, the city introduced a newly constructed navigation center along the Barge Canal waterway in East Rome.

Adjacent to this newly developed area is a city owned and maintained bicycle rental operation that is accessible to the public. This is another area where the mountain bike unit can be utilized to give officers a chance to meet with members of the public as well as visitors to the city. It is a goal to combine the use of the mountain bike unit, along with the community impact unit, to provide the residents and visitors of the City of Rome with the best possible police service and safety as they recreate within our parks and trail system.

Rome Police Department

2020

Oneida County Child Advocacy Center



Introduction

The Oneida County Child Advocacy Center is responsible for investigating all sexual offenses committed against children under the age of 17, provided those offenses occurred within Oneida County. The members of the advocacy center utilize a multidisciplinary team approach when dealing with the child victim. This approach minimizes the emotional trauma that victims may suffer during and after the disclosure process, and streamlines the various services available to victims and their families. Located at 930 York St. in the City of Utica, New York, the child advocacy center team is comprised of representatives from a number of disciplines including law enforcement, child protective services, victim advocacy, medical staff, and mental health. Many of the center's services are provided on-site. The services include, but are not limited to, victim interviews by trained law enforcement and protective services workers, medical examinations by a physician and other specialized staff, and counseling through various agencies such as the Neighborhood Center. Detective Alex Sypniewski is the assigned Rome Police Detective to the Child Advocacy Center.

Personnel

Members of the Rome Police Department, Oneida County Sheriff's Office, Utica Police Department, and New York State Police represent the law enforcement arm of the center. The detective, a sergeant, and investigators from all of the involved agencies are assigned to the center on a full time basis. The Oneida County Child Advocacy Center is supervised and directed by Chief Deputy Derrick O'Meara, of the Oneida County Sheriff's Office. The law enforcement investigators work side by side with four child protective services case workers and four victim advocates. Case workers are supervised by Jessica Pekmez from the Oneida County Child Protective Services. The victim advocates are employed and overseen by the YWCA of Utica.

Activities

The Child Advocacy Center's law enforcement team investigated 771 sexual abuse cases in 2020. Of that figure, 58 cases (7.5%) were closed by arrest. The total case load increased from the total cases (659) reported the previous year.

The City of Rome generated 106 sex abuse cases in 2020, or 13.7% of the total law enforcement case-load. Of that figure, 6 cases (5.6%) were closed by arrest.

Rome Police Department 2020

Oneida County Child Advocacy Center

The following is a dispositional breakdown of all sex abuse cases reported throughout Oneida County in 2020.

	All	Rome	Utica	Towns/Villages
Closed by Arrest (CBA)	58	6	12	40
Closed by Investigation (CBI)	414	69	54	291
Exceptional Clearance (EXC)	11	1	5	5
Open Investigation (OPN)	180	20	25	135
Pending Disposition (PFD)	2	0	2	0
Transferred Investigation (TOT)	17	4	4	9
Unfounded (UNF)	72	3	9	60
Transferred to Dist. Atty.	17	1	4	12
Total Breakdown by Area	771	104	115	552

The law enforcement coordinator at the Child Advocacy Center closely monitors the case assignment of each detective/investigator, with about 17% of the total caseload assigned to each detective/investigator.

Detective Sharon Rood was assigned 26 cases from January 1, 2020 to April 1, 2020. Detective Sypniewski was assigned 72 cases from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. Of that total, 6 cases were closed by arrest, 79 cases were closed by investigation, 4 cases were turned over to another agency, 0 cases were closed by exceptional clearance, 0 cases are pending further disposition, 0 cases were closed as unfounded, 2 case remains open for further investigation by the District Attorney's Office, and 7 cases remain open active investigations.

Rome Police Department *2020*

Oneida County Child Advocacy Center

Significant Cases

The following is a sample of some significant Child Advocacy Center cases that were assigned to and investigated by Detective Sypniewski in 2020:

- People vs Terry Decker, 65. Decker was arrested by Det. Sypniewski on September 04, 2020. Cossette was charged with criminal sexual act in the third degree, a class E felony, after admitting to Det. Sypniewski that he engaged in oral sexual conduct with a fifteen year old male at the victim's home in the Clinton, NY. Decker was processed and arraigned at the Oneida County Correctional Facility. Immediately after his release, Decker took his own life while at his residence located in Waterville, NY.
- People vs. Miguel Rodriguez. On July 21, 2020, Detective Sypniewski interviewed an 11 year old female Utica resident, who disclosed that while she was residing in Las Mareas, Salinas, Puerto Rico in 2019, she was inappropriately touched on numerous occasions by a Puerto Rican Law Enforcement Officer, while the officer was both on and off duty. The nature of the allegations would constitute third degree felony charges under Puerto Rican law. Detective Sypniewski conducted the investigation with the US Attorney's Office Child and Exploitation Unit, and the US Homeland Security Crimes Against Children Unit. The case was turned over to the Federal Authorities for further investigation and prosecution in Puerto Rico. The case is pending at this time.
- On November 17, 2020, Detective Sypniewski charged a fifteen year old male, as a juvenile delinquent, with Rape in the first degree, following an investigation into numerous incidents which occurred in the City of Rome, NY. The suspect had sexual intercourse with an eight year old female on approximately five occasions. A detention hearing through Oneida County Family Court is scheduled for January 27, 2021.

Rome Police Department 2020

Oneida County Stop-DWI



Introduction

The Oneida County Stop-DWI Program annually provides the Rome Police Department with funding and support necessary to continue its aggressive approach toward the detection, apprehension, and successful prosecution of intoxicated motorists operating within the City of Rome. While conducting Stop-DWI patrols, a zero tolerance approach is taken toward enforcement actions, with the goal of reducing traffic related injuries and fatalities caused by the impaired or intoxicated violators. The Stop DWI program is funded through fine money collected by the New York State Court System for DWI and DWAI related offenses. That money is distributed to each county by New York State, and subsequently awarded to law enforcement agencies within each county on a competitive basis using DWI/DWAI arrests statistics from the prior grant year. In 2020, the Oneida County Stop-DWI program was administrated by SDWI Coordinator Edward Stevens. The Rome Police Department Stop-DWI Grant was overseen by Detective Bryan Zoeckler, assisted by Records Clerk Ann Copperwheat, and scheduling oversight by Sergeant Kelly Lupinski. In 2020, the Rome Police Department was awarded no funding from the Oneida County Stop-DWI program, as well as no additional “Stop-DWI Crackdown” funds. Oneida County failed to apply for any Stop-DWI or Stop-DWI Crackdown funding for 2020, missing the required deadlines. As a result of Oneida County’s failure to apply for these funds, no funding could be distributed to any law enforcement agencies within Oneida County, except the New York State Police.

Activities

In 2020, the Rome Police Department continued the pro-active, aggressive, and zero tolerance enforcement relative to DWI violations despite having no available Stop-DWI funding. The department made a total of 29 (-12) arrests for driving while intoxicated or impaired by drugs. The department made no arrests using Stop-DWI program funds.

Accomplishments

Although awards nominations have not yet been solicited by the Oneida County Stop-DWI program for 2020, the Rome Police Department intends to acknowledge Officer Zachary Hadasz for his outstanding DWI enforcement efforts. Officer Hadasz made nine DWI/DWAI arrests in 2020, and led the department in DWI/DWAI enforcement. Officer Hadasz was additionally nominated for the MADD New York individual officer achievement award for his DWI/DWAI enforcement efforts.

Rome Police Department 2020

Oneida County Stop-DWI

Summary

The Rome Police Department Stop-DWI program did not achieve the goal of 30 arrests for driving while intoxicated/driving while ability impaired by drugs (DWI/DWAI-D) as a direct result of not having Stop-DWI funds. No overtime scheduling could be utilized for SDWI patrols. It was anticipated at the end of 2019, Oneida County would be authorized “left over” Stop-DWI crack down funds from New York State, despite failing to meet the application deadlines. The “left over” Stop-DWI crack down funds were never made available to Oneida County.

Stop-DWI Program Goals for 2021

The Rome Police Department was awarded \$3,750.00 by Oneida County Stop-DWI for Stop-DWI crackdown enforcement. No standard “Stop-DWI” funds were obtained by Oneida County and therefore were not allocated to the Rome Police Department, a decrease of \$15,000.00 from 2019. The Rome Police Department will continue the past strategies and scheduling of DWI patrols used in 2019, while further encouraging newly hired patrolmen to participate in the Stop-DWI program. The strategy of scheduling Stop-DWI patrols during busy bar/restaurant hours and weekends will continue in 2021.

In 2021, the Stop-DWI program will look to make 35 arrests for driving while intoxicated/driving while ability impaired by drugs (DWI/DWAI-D). This will be accomplished by scheduling proactive officers working in four hour blocks. The officers will have a zero tolerance approach towards the intoxicated/impaired driver.

Rome Police Department 2020

Part-Time Officer Program

Introduction

In 2020, the Rome Police Department, with the agreement of the Rome Police Benevolent Association, continued to operate the part-time police officer program. The goal of the program is to provide a part-time police officer for non patrol related duties, thus allowing more full time officers for road patrol duties. The part time officers are authorized to perform desk duties, communications, and prisoner watch. Another benefit of the part-time officer program is to allow additional time off opportunities for full time officers.

The part-time police officer program is under the control and supervision of Captain David Collins. The program is comprised of both retired and former full-time police officers, who complete annual training requirements to retain police certification. Part-time officers are scheduled for non-patrol duties at the beginning of each time off board, and are also called in for duty when coverage is needed at a moments notice. In addition to desk duties, communications, and prisoner watch, part-time officers are assigned at Rome City Hall. One officer is assigned daily, Monday through Friday, from 8:30am to 3:30pm each day. The part-time officer is assigned to the front desk lobby area to provide security and to monitor the main telephone line.

The following is a list of current part-time officers:

- Enrico L. D'Alessandro (Retired Chief NYS Univ. Police, Retired Captain, Oneida Co. Sheriff's Office)
- Russell Pitoniak (Retired Rome Police Lieutenant)
- John Gualtieri (Former Oneida County Sheriff's Deputy/Full-time Rome Firefighter)
- Richard Peroni (Retired Rome Police Patrolman)
- Salvatore Fanelli (Retired Rome Police Patrolman)
- Robert Pinti (Retired Rome Police Patrolman)
- John Bielby (Retired Rome Police Captain)
- Kenneth Dapson (Retired New York State Park Police Officer)
- Gerald Pohorenec (Retired Rome Police Sergeant)
- Merino Ciccone III (Retired Rome Police Patrolman) [SSO](#)
- Don D'Aiuto (Retired Rome Police Sergeant) [SSO](#)
- Albert Ciccone (Retired Rome Police Patrolman) [SSO](#)
- Jay DiMaggio (Retired Rome Police Lieutenant) [SSO](#)
- Stewart Rood (Retired Rome Police Patrolman) [SSO](#)
- Thomas Smith (Retired Rome Police Lieutenant) [SSO](#)
- Edwin D'Alessandro (Retired Rome Police Captain) [SSO](#)

Rome Police Department 2020

Part-Time Officer Program

Analysis/Evaluation of Program Goals for 2020

The part-time police officer program had two goals for 2020:

- 1) Ensure that each officer receives at a minimum all required annual training set by New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services. This goal was achieved through continued in-service training provided by the Rome Police Department Training Division.
- 2) Ensure that each part-time officer has the proper issued equipment and replace any overly worn uniform items, which are not presentable. This goal was achieved through honoring all requests for worn items. The uniform/equipment budget was managed in a way which allowed all officers, part-time, and full-time to replace worn equipment and uniform items at request.

Part-time Officer Program Goals and Objectives for 2021

- 1) Continue to train part-time officers to meet the 21 hours of in-service training as outlined by New York State Accreditation. In addition to maintaining accreditation hours, continue to train part-time officers to meet New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services standards. This training will include continued training on the department's records management system and Integrated Justice Portal
- 2) Maintain or expand the number of part-time officers in the program.
- 3) Attempt to secure additional funding to increase the pay and shift differential for all part-time officers. This increase in pay should draw more people to open positions.

Conclusion

The Rome Police Department's Part-time Police Officer Program continues to be successful. The program has proven to be cost effective to the City of Rome and has provided full-time officers the opportunity for additional time off. Part-time officers have covered staffing shortages on all three shifts, holiday staffing, and prisoner watches. Additionally they have been utilized for desk operation at City Hall. These openings, that would have required the use of a full-time officer, can now be covered by a part-time officer at a much lower hourly rate. Due to retirements, injuries, and the COVID-19 virus, the need for part-time officers remained ever present during 2020. The cost savings of using part-time officers for these openings continues to be instrumental in allowing the Rome Police Department to remain inside their budget requirements.

Rome Police Department 2020 COVID-19 LIAISON OFFICER

Introduction

In early 2020, the coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), struck countries around the world. The pandemic spurred widespread job losses, community shutdowns, school and business closures, and overwhelmed the countries health care system.



New York State's first confirmed case of COVID-19 was on March 1, 2020. On March 7, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo declared a state of emergency. On March 12, 2020, Chief Kevin Beach held a meeting with essential personnel to determine a plan of action for police operations going forward. On March 12, 2020, Captain David Collins was selected as the liaison between Rome Police Department and New York State Department of Health, as well as the Oneida County Health Department, for COVID related issues.

Activity

On March 17, 2020, Oneida County experienced its first positive COVID-19 case. On March 19, 2020, the police department began limiting operations, and began utilizing a modified work schedule. The modified schedule consisted of administrative personnel working 7 days on (in building) work days, and 7 days administrative leave (work from home) rotating schedule. This was done in an effort to reduce the number of personnel inside of the police station. The records division was closed to the public. The patrol division was divided into platoons, and worked with minimum staffing on the road. The patrol work schedule consisted of 7 days on with 7 days off in a standby capacity. The intent of leaving personnel on standby was to have personnel available to back fill any shortages caused by potential illnesses due to the virus. Platoons were assigned specific patrol vehicles and equipment to minimize the number of personnel handling equipment.

In effort to keep officers safe, a mask protocol was put into place. Officers were advised to wear masks when social distancing was not possible. Hand sanitizing dispensers were installed throughout the police station, and a disinfectant fogger was purchased. Individual hand sanitizer bottles and masks were issued to patrolman. Officers were assigned extra details on a rotating basis. The details consisted of sanitizing the police station and equipment, as well as sanitizing computers and fogging common areas. Lineup/roll call was temporarily suspended and officers were given their assignments via emails and text messages.

Rome Police Department 2020

COVID-19 LIAISON OFFICER

Additional efforts were put forward to minimize officer contact with the public. Rome Police Department desk officers carefully screened and reduced walk-in complaints, directing calls for service to be handled at the complainant's residence, or location of occurrence. Once officers arrived on the scene, and when possible, officers requested the complainants exit the building to be interviewed. Traffic enforcement for minor violations were suspended. Only major traffic violations that posed a threat to the public were being enforced. Proactive attempts to secure non-violent, petty offense warrants were also suspended. This approach reduced the need for officers to have unnecessary contact with the public, and reduced the need to give members of the public access to police headquarters. Officers also adjusted their approach for arrests stemming from calls for service. All non-violent and petty offenses were released with an appearance ticket on the scene. This approach further reduced the need to unnecessarily transport individuals to headquarters.

In late September, New York began to see an increase in cases, with over 1,000 new cases reported in a single day. In late September 2020, the Rome Police Department had its first police officer test positive for COVID-19. In October 2020, Rome Police Department had another officer test positive. In November 2020, three Rome police officers tested positive. In December 2020, the police department experienced its highest number of positive cases within the department. The total number of positive cases for December was 7 police officers and one civilian infected with the COVID-19 virus. All employees of the police department recovered without complications. These employees were returned to work following guidelines set forth by the State of New York Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On December 11, 2020, the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) issued the first emergency use authorization for a vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19. On December 14, 2020, the first COVID-19 vaccine was administered in NY to frontline health care workers. On December 21, 2020, Rome Hospital, City Hall, Rome Fire Department, and the Rome Police Department began coordinating efforts to vaccinate first responders. Through the remainder of December 2020, efforts were made to have interested police personnel vaccinated. There were a total of 33 employees of the police department who came forward for vaccination. A vaccination clinic is scheduled to be held at Rome Police Headquarters on January 11, 2021 for employees wishing to be vaccinated with their first dose of the immunization.

Summary

At this time, the number of positive COVID cases continues to fluctuate. Captain Collins will continue to review statistical data released by the State of New York and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In these challenging times, police departments and other agencies can continue to learn from one another by understanding how colleagues around the world are responding to this pandemic. As new data is released, and with guidance from the State Health Department, the City of Rome Police Department will continue to operate to the fullest extent of its ability.

Rome Police Department 2020

Polygraph Division



Introduction

The polygraph is an instrument that records certain physiological changes in a person being interviewed, in an effort to obtain truth or deception. A polygraph simultaneously records a minimum of respiratory activity, galvanic skin resistance or conductivity, and cardiovascular activity. The polygraph examination is a valuable investigative aid used in conjunction with, but not as a substitute for, a thorough investigation. The polygraph may be employed consistent with department policies to verify, corroborate or refute statements, obtain additional investigative leads, narrow or focus criminal investigations, serve to screen candidates for positions within this agency, and assist in the investigation of internal police complaints, among other authorized purposes.

The Rome Police Department's Polygraph Division was established in 2014, and consists of one polygraph examiner, Sergeant Brian A. Stevens. Sergeant Stevens attended the required 12 week Academic Phase Certification Training at the Northeast Counterdrug Training Center at Ft. Indiantown Gap in Annville, Pennsylvania from June 2020 until September 2020. The training received at Ft. Indiantown Gap is fully accredited by the American Polygraph Association, and meets or exceeds all standards established by the American Society for Testing and Materials for Forensic Psychophysiological Detection of Deception Schools.

Activity

The activities for the polygraph division this year included 2 criminal tests and 16 pre-employment screening exams. The use of the pre-employment screening exam, which has been in place since 2015, has proven to be a valuable tool in the background investigation process for all police officer candidates. A significant increase in candidate disclosures regarding drug usage and previous crimes committed was noted throughout this past hiring process, along with a significant increase in the detection of applicants who attempted to withhold information that would disqualify the candidate from the hiring process. The polygraph also served as a significant deterrent for unsuitable candidates who elected to remove themselves from the applicant pool, knowing that their past transgressions and activities would, in all likelihood, become known to the background investigators and administrative authorities. The polygraph division saw a significant increase (100%) in pre-employment screening tests for police recruits in 2020. The cause of this is due to a number of vacancies needed to be filled at the Rome Police Department.

Rome Police Department 2020

Goals for 2021

The 2021, goals for the polygraph division will be for Sergeant Stevens to complete the internship phase to become fully certified in the use of Polygraph. In addition, it will be the polygraph divisions goal to increase the use of polygraph in criminal investigations. In order to achieve this goal, patrol and the detective division will be educated on the capabilities of the polygraph, and how it can aid in criminal investigations. The goal for 2021 will be to increase the number of criminal tests from two to four (100% increase).



Rome Police Department

2020

Professional Standards

Unit

Introduction

Discipline within an organization requires compliance to a code of ethics and standards of performance supported by a system of authoritative guidelines such as rules, regulations, general orders, and other policies and procedures. Discipline is a necessary element in the maintenance and growth of any person or organization. Any employee violating his oath and trust by committing an offense punishable under laws or statutes of the United States, the State of New York, or any other state or local ordinances, violates any provision of the rules and regulations of the department, disobeys any lawful order, is incompetent to perform their required duties, or commits any on-duty immoral conduct, is subject to the appropriate disciplinary action. Establishment of procedures for investigating complaints and allegations of employee misconduct is crucial to demonstrate and protect this agency's integrity. The Rome Police Department shall accept and investigate fairly and impartially all complaints of employee conduct to determine the validity of allegations and to impose any disciplinary actions that may be justified in a timely and consistent manner. Therefore, in acknowledging that final departmental disciplinary authority and responsibility rests with the chief of police, in March of 2013, the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) was created within the Rome Police Department with a mission:



- 1) To ensure the integrity of the Rome Police Department by establishing procedures for recording and processing all complaints and internally initiated investigations.
- 2) To provide a system for citizens to pursue grievances or complaints against the police department and/or its personnel, and to have these allegations promptly, fairly, and objectively investigated in a thorough and professional manner.
- 3) To seek redress for false accusations made against the agency and its members.

OPS members meet monthly to review active investigations. In addition to the internal affairs function, OPS has taken on the responsibility for departmental awards and, with the chief of police's approval, has instituted awards for "Officer of the Month" and "Officer of the Year."

Rome Police Department

2020

Professional Standards

Unit

Purpose

The Rome Police Department Office of Professional Standards will insure:

- A. Public complaint packages shall be made available to the public through police personnel and at the Rome Police Station.
- B. Complaints shall be received by supervisory members of this agency either in person, over the telephone or in writing, and may be lodged anonymously or by any other means.
- C. Employees shall provide assistance to those who express the desire to lodge complaints against any employee of this agency. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - 1. Calling a supervisor to the scene to document the complaint,
 - 2. Explaining the agency complaint procedures,
 - 3. Providing referrals to individuals and/or locations where such complaints can be made in person, or
 - 4. Explaining alternative means for lodging complaints, such as by phone or mail.

Role and Responsibility

The chief of police shall appoint five to seven members of the department to serve as members of the office of professional standards (OPS). The office may consist of one deputy chief of police, one supervisory level officer, the commander of the detective division, a detective, and a member of the training division and/or accreditation division, and/or any other member serving at the pleasure of the chief of police.

Current members serving with the office of professional standards are Deputy Chief Kevin Simons, Captain Dominic Corigliano, Captain Cheyenne Schoff, Captain David Collins, Lieutenant Sharon Rood, and Detective Commander Kevin James.

OPS has primary responsibility for review and investigation of all complaints against employees, whether initiated by the public or by a member of the department.

Rome Police Department

2020

Professional Standards

Unit

If a supervisor's preliminary investigation identifies grounds that may support disciplinary action, the supervisor shall cause further investigation of the complaint and shall notify OPS of this action. OPS may assume concurrent or sole authority for the investigation at any point in the investigation upon notification to the subject employee's supervisor and/or commander. Should an investigation at any time reveal evidence of criminal conduct, all available information shall be forwarded to the chief of police and to OPS as soon as possible.

OPS may initiate an investigation of alleged employee misconduct, with or without a formal complaint, with prior knowledge and approval of the chief of police or his/her designee.

OPS shall have the following additional responsibilities:

1. Maintain a complaint log;
2. Maintain a central file for complaints in a secured area and in conformity with records retention requirements of state law;
3. Conduct a regular audit of complaints to ascertain the need for changes in training or policy;
4. Maintain statistical and related information to identify trends involving all complaints of excessive force and abuse of authority;
5. Track complaints against individual employees to assist in employee risk analysis; and
6. Provide the chief of police with an annual summary of complaints against employees and final dispositions that may be made available to the public or otherwise used at the discretion of the chief of police.

2020 Investigations and Analysis

In 2020, the office of professional standards oversaw the internal investigation of ten (10) complaints consisting of 21 officer involvements entailing 21 different officers. These investigations can be broken down as follows:

Official Misconduct	2
Policy and Procedure Violations	5
Violations of Constitutional Rights	2
Penal Law Violations	1

Rome Police Department

Professional Standards

Unit

2020

2020 Investigations and Analysis cont.

The disposition of these investigations can be categorized as follows:

Exonerated	1
Not Involved	0
Not Sustained	1
Policy Review (In Addition to the Categorization)	1
Sustained	6
Unfounded	1
Still Open/Active	1

As a result, the following actions occurred:

Verbal Counseling	1
Counseling Memoranda	5
Training Instituted	1
Letters of Reprimand	0
Cases where Formal Departmental Disciplinary Charges were Filed	4
Cases sent to the District Attorney for Review	0
Fines (Forfeiting of Time and/or Money including Suspension)	3
Resignation	1
Termination	0
Arrest	0

Rome Police Department

2020

Professional Standards

Unit

In addition, the office of professional standards evaluated 8 motor vehicle accidents involving officers on duty. These are categorized as follows:

One Car MVA's	5
Two Car MVA's	3
Three Car MVA's	0
No Injuries Sustained	7
Injuries Sustained	1
Officer at Fault	1
Officer Not at Fault	7
Undetermined	0

Officer of the Month

The office of professional standards made the following recommendations for "Officer of the Month," which were accepted and recognized by Chief Beach:

January 2020	Patrolman Joseph Hall
February 2020	Patrolman Jenna Kiskiel
March 2020	Patrolman Brian Stevens
April 2020	Patrolman James Pruckno
May 2020	Patrolman Michael Sweezey
June 2020	Patrolman Jenna Kiskiel
July 2020	None
August 2020	Patrolman James Bristol
September 2020	Detectives Bryan Zoeckler/Kelly Lupinski
October 2020	Patrolman Zackary Hadasz
November 2020	None
December 2020	None

Rome Police Department

2020

Professional Standards

Unit

Each year, the office of professional standards organizes a communion breakfast and award ceremony at St. Peter's Church to be held in conjunction with National Police Week. Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, this ceremony could not be held in 2020.

Injuries on Duty

The office of professional standards oversaw the investigation into 10 reports of injuries sustained while on-duty. The outcome of these investigations were as follows:

Sustained	9
Not Sustained	1
Pending	0

Giglio

In order to comply with United States Federal Law as determined by Giglio vs. the United States, which refers to information or material tending to impeach the character or testimony of the prosecution witness in a criminal trial, and as directed by the Oneida County District Attorney's Office, an updated list was compiled of current Rome Police Department officers who have been disciplined for deceit, dishonesty, or excessive force. This list contains the names of 8 officers and has been supplied to the District Attorney's Office.

Analysis of 2020 Goals

To ensure the integrity of the Rome Police Department and assure the community that they are served by the most professional police department possible, the office of professional standards had the following goals for 2020:

- 1) Reduce officer involved motor vehicle accidents by an additional 10% through training and accountability.
- 2) Reduce injury on-duty complaints by 10 % through training, safety awareness, and accountability.

Rome Police Department 2020

Professional Standards

Unit

Goal #1 was met as the department saw a decrease in police vehicle accidents from 16 in 2019 to 8 in 2020. This is a decrease of 50%. Most accidents were minor in nature; however, the number of accidents where officers were found to be at fault was 1, or merely 12.5% of the crashes. The officer that was at fault was counseled accordingly. A concerted effort will continue to be made to make officers aware of their surroundings while driving.

Goal #2 was met as the number of injury on-duty complaints decreased from 19 in 2019 to 10 in 2020, or a reduction of 47.4%.

Even with such a low rate of complaints, the office of professional standards and the administration continue to strive for perfection. Those officers who were found to be in violation of department rules and regulations and those who fell short of the high standards expected from officers serving at the Rome Police Department were held accountable and disciplined accordingly. The Rome Police Department Office of Professional Standards and Administration remain committed to serving the community and keeping the lines of communication open with all citizens residing within their jurisdiction.

Professional Standards Unit Goals for 2021

To ensure the integrity of the Rome Police Department and assure the community that they are served by the most professional police department possible, the office of professional standards will have the following goals for 2021:

- 1) Reduce officer involved motor vehicle accidents by an additional 10% through training and accountability.
- 2) Reduce injury on duty complaints by 10 % through training, safety awareness, and accountability.
- 3) Reduce the number of complaints filed against officers by 10% through training and accountability.

Rome Police Department

2020

Professional Standards

Unit

Conclusion

The year 2020 was an extremely demanding year for law enforcement across the nation. The Covid-19 pandemic, officer-involved homicides, and police use-of-force incidents caught on camera and going viral through social media fueled a distrust between police agencies and the citizens they have been entrusted to serve and protect. What has occurred in various parts of the country has affected the attitudes of a few local citizens and certainly, the Governor of the State of New York, who has mandated every police agency in the state perform a comprehensive review of current police force deployments, strategies, policies, procedures, and practices, and develop a plan to improve such by addressing the particular needs of the community served by such police agency. This plan must include input from all aspects of the community. Such plan must be offered to all citizens in the locality for comment, presented to the local legislative body, and ratified into law by April 1, 2021. Following ratification, certification must be made to the New York State Director of the Division of the Budget. This process has already begun at the Rome Police Department and will be completed by the date set forth by the Governor.

In reviewing the activities of the office of professional standards in the year 2020, great satisfaction can be taken by the community served by the Rome Police Department having been assured that the members of the department are held to the highest standards and are accountable for their actions. OPS will continue to monitor complaint trends, training practices, and concerns from the public to insure the greatest confidence in the police department serving the great community residing in the City of Rome. The Rome Police Department Office of Professional Standards will maintain confidential logs and files, analyze the data, and provide the chief of police with the information necessary to sustain the highest degree of public confidence.

Rome Police Department 2020

Property & Evidence Unit



Introduction

The property and evidence unit is an integral and necessary function for proper case preparation, management, and control within the Rome Police Department. In 2020, the unit was comprised of Detective Alex Sypniewski, Sergeant Shane Riolo, and Patrolman Eric Stevens. Without the disciplined and orderly operation of this unit, success in case presentation and closure, which is crucial to the effective prosecution of all crimes, would not be accomplished. Maintaining the chain of custody and control of evidence is a requirement, and has always been observed. The property and evidence officer continued with the computerization and documentation of all evidence and property received by the department. The unit also continues the maintenance of all records with the highest degree of integrity.

Activities

Computerization and the encompassing surrounding technology is a ever ensuing process. In 2012, Patrolman Ciccone and Sergeant D'Aiuto incorporated a new barcode evidence storage system within the Rome Police Department. This system is the Evidence Room Information Network (ERIN). This system allows the department to be more efficient with storing and managing evidence. Also, it has allowed the property and evidence unit to give more accurate statistical information when requested for past, present, and the future years to come. By using this barcode system, it makes evidence collection and evidence storage much quicker and easier for the patrol division. It allows patrol officers to more efficiently and quickly log in evidence collected, and at the same time, allows that officer to return to his/her patrol duties quicker. This system also assists in the second phase of evidence collection, which is the storage of all the items and the management of all property collected by the department, and the cases the items are involved with. It especially helps for cases that have multiple pieces of evidence. By using this system, it lessens the possibility of human error by manually putting each item in a computer. With this system, each item is issued a specific barcode number. The system also manages and records a chain of custody report for each and every item that is logged in for storage. With this report, everything is properly documented in order to track the movement of each item, as well as keeping the integrity of each item logged into evidence or storage at the Rome Police Department. This system has also eliminated the need for evidence books. The ERIN barcode system became effective on August 27th, 2012.

The Rome Police Department Property & Evidence Unit continues to store all drug and drug related items that are collected by the patrol division. In the past, all drug related items were stored by the Rome Police Department's Special Investigations Unit. As a result of the property and evidence unit taking control of drugs and drug related items, a more consistent, efficient, and accurate way of storage for these items is now in place.

Rome Police Department 2020

Property & Evidence Unit

Statistical Data from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 (all items)

Items logged and stored - 3,691

Items returned to their proper owners or DMV - 315

Evidence/property that was destroyed (re: owner not found, outdated, or not needed) - 0.55 Tons

Items/evidence sent to laboratory for analysis - 158

Evidence that was returned from a laboratory after analysis - 78

Items sent to Oneida County Court, Grand Jury, Rome City Court or Family Court - 36

Items returned from court after prosecution - 0

Bicycles donated by the City of Rome to the Bikes for Kids Program - 80

Total number of cases with property and evidence attached - 1,476

Total number of cases involving drugs and/or paraphernalia - 131

Total number of drugs and drug paraphernalia items - 337

Drug statistics from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020

Marijuana: 80

Cocaine: 15

Heroin: 14

Prescription: 51

Synthetic: 09

Methamphetamine: 23

Other: 27

Paraphernalia: 117

Over the Counter Medication: 1

Total money seized: \$2,970

Rome Police Department 2020

Property & Evidence Unit

Summary

The property and evidence unit continued the computerization of all property and evidence received, and maintained all records with the highest degree of integrity. The unit also inventoried and researched old items in property and evidence, trying to locate the rightful owners or destroy the items, while following all departmental rules and regulations. Researching these criminal cases required many hours, but in the long term opened space for storage of new items.

By continuing to follow cases through city and county court proceedings, in which property and evidence has been attached, and keeping accurate records through the Evidence Room Information Network system, this will allow the unit to destroy or eliminate the unnecessary long term storage of items. The unit will also continue to make attempts to contact property owners to retrieve their property, and if unable to contact or locate the owner, the unit follows the proper department rules and regulations regarding the destruction of evidence. Currently, the unit is using Personal Property Law for items of safekeeping. For evidentiary items, an order of destruction through the Rome City Corporation Council's Office and the Oneida County District Attorney's Office must be obtained. The unit also has at least one destruction of drugs every year, and a destruction of guns when necessary. By eliminating these items, the property and evidence unit will save space and have a greater efficiency in storing property.

2020 Evaluation

- In 2020, numerous destructions were completed following the Rome Police Department's policy and procedure, and applying for a destruction order. For all completed destructions, numerous items were able to be destroyed after being researched through Rome City Court and Oneida County Court. Items that were not destroyed due to the status of the case will be researched again at a later time. In total, 0.55 tons of items were destroyed in 2020, which included destructions of NYS license plates, illegal narcotics, and general property. The destructions were based on the research of over 185 closed cases. Destruction amount met the goal of increasing previous years destruction amount by 5%
- In 2020, 3,691 items were stored, as compared to 2019, where 3,532 items were stored. This was an increase in only 4.5%. A correlation may be made to the amount of major cases requiring forensic work.
- In 2020, 494 items were returned to the rightful owner, as compared to 2019, where 315 items were returned to the rightful owner. This is a 36.2% decrease in items returned to the rightful owner.

Rome Police Department 2020

Property & Evidence Unit

2020 Evaluation continued

The unit goal for 2020 was to increase stored found property and evidence returned to the rightful owner by 3%. This goal was not met, as there was a 36% decrease in items returned. This goal is dependent on the department receiving items that are capable of being returned.

In 2020, the Property and Evidence Unit secured 64 vehicles as part of investigations, the largest amount in a single year in department history. This was accomplished by efficient use of the offsite impound storage facility. Additionally, 181 firearms were secured in 2020. Destruction of firearms will be necessary in the future in order to create appropriate storage space; however, due to delays in the court processes of certain cases, the storage space for firearms will become an issue in the future. In December of 2019, Patrolman Eric Stevens along with ERIN system owner Dennis Lamb were able to configure a option for case number format that will allow items stored in the old property and evidence system, still being physically stored by the Rome Police Department, to be transferred to the ERIN system. The new format will allow for a more efficient management of storage, and destructions of items and DNA evidence. This process will continue to be utilized with DNA evidence in order to reorganize cold storage evidence areas.

2021 Property and Evidence Unit Goals

Goal (Property & Evidence Destruction)

To maintain the percentage of property and evidence destruction within 5%. Additionally, old evidence in the filing cabinets of evidence room 1 will be researched and destroyed. The purpose of this is to remove the old filing cabinets from evidence room 1, and replace it with shelving. This will create a more efficient storage area.

Objective

The unit will research cases to determine whether the evidence or property collected and stored qualifies for destruction proceedings. Evidence destruction of illegal drugs, general property, and DNA will be a target for 2021.

Goal (Evidence/Property Return)

To increase stored found property and evidence returned to the rightful owner. This goal has not been met for several years, and is dependent on the amount of property and evidence capable of being returned.

Objective:

All general and found property being secured from the temporarily logged in status will immediately be evaluated to determine if the items can be returned promptly. Case responsible officers will promptly conduct follow-up interviews in an attempt to return property

Rome Police Department

2020

Radio System

Introduction

This (2020) was the third full year that the Oneida County backed radio system was utilized by the Rome Police Department. The old UHF 400Mhz system was taken out of service and made available to other departments within the City of Rome. The county supplies the hardware, software, and is responsible for the service and maintenance of the equipment. The equipment provided by the county is broken down below.

The Current Radio System Breakdown is as Follows:

- 2 Base radios: One located in the RPD communications room, and one in the lineup room in the basement of 301 N. James Street.
- 51 Portable radios: Motorola model APX 4000.
- 25 Mobile radios: Motorola model APX 4500.
- 51 Remote power microphones.
- 25 Individual radio chargers to be utilized for staff positions.
- 4 Six bank radio chargers to be utilized for patrol radios.

Four additional Motorola APX 4000 portable radios, as well as four additional remote power microphones, and individual radio chargers were purchased in 2018. These portable radios were placed into service and are exclusively used by personnel in the “School Safety Officer” positions. The addition of these four radios increased the total number of portable radios being used by the police department to 55.

Currently, there is an amplifier and speaker system installed throughout the police station. Speakers are located just outside of the two main interview rooms located on the first floor, and additional speakers are located in the basement offices of the training division, forensics division, the warrant control office, and the men’s locker room. This speaker system allows for all radio transmissions to be heard throughout the station, and in areas where portable radio transmissions are lacking.

Main Radio System with Antenna Sites, Repeaters, and Related Equipment

Over the past several years, the City of Rome has been working with Oneida County to implement a new interoperable radio system for public safety. The county began this process when they applied for, and received a 3.5 million dollar grant in 2015. In addition to the grant money, the county bonded and budgeted an additional 15 million dollars to complete the county wide upgrade.

Rome Police Department 2020

Radio System

Main Radio System with Antenna Sites, Repeaters, and Related Equipment

Oneida County is now a member of the Central New York Interoperable Communications Consortium (CNYICC). The acquired grant allowed for the upgrade of existing proprietary system infrastructure in Rome, Utica, and the Town of New Hartford. The project provided the county with an IP based PSAP at a primary and backup location, ISI interoperable gateway connection to the CNYICC counties, federal, and state interoperability channels countywide, countywide IP network connectivity compliant with New York Network Common Internet Protocol, and upgrade the Legacy VHF infrastructure equipment for county fire and EMS to P25 digital capable simulcast. This included the construction of a radio tower on the south side of the 800 block of Erie Blvd. West, and an additional “receive only” antenna that was constructed on the 100 building inside the Griffiss Business Park.

The new systems open architecture eliminates proprietary radio technologies, aligning all radio operations, so users carry one radio for countywide and interagency communications, maintain in building coverage in cities, and deploys national and state interoperability channels throughout the county. Testing has shown that when using one of the new Motorola radios, a user is able to communicate with an officer sitting in the communications center at the police station while they are at the Child Advocacy Center Office in the City of Utica. This was not possible with our old system.

As a result of the Oneida County Radio Project, the Rome Police Department received 25 mobile (vehicle) radios and 51 portable (hand held) radios in 2018. Each portable radio included a detachable shoulder microphone, radio case, and duty belt swivel. Twenty-five individual radio battery chargers were also included, as well as four — six slot radio battery chargers. The county project also supplied the Rome Police Department with two new base stations, one being installed at the front desk, and one in the downstairs line up room.

With the acquisition of the new radio equipment, it allowed our department to restructure the portable and mobile radio identifiers for specific agency departments and individuals. Mobile (car) radios are identified using the 100 series of numbers and run sequentially from 100 to 169. Portable radio identifiers utilize the 100 series numbers, and run sequentially from 170 to 199. For those individuals or positions that are issued an individual portable and vehicle, the identifiers have been merged to make identification easier. For example, the Chief of Police mobile radio is “152” and the portable radio is “152.” However, this cannot be utilized among the patrol division, due to the ratio between vehicles and portable radios.

Rome Police Department

2020

Radio System

Conclusion

The utilization of the new county wide radio system has allowed the Rome Police Department to maintain all of its former channels and talk groups, allowing us to increase our interoperability with other agencies within Oneida County. This was accomplished by allowing direct access to another agencies dispatch channel. Additional talk groups were created to include countywide operation channels that could be used in a multi-agency incident. Encrypted special response talk groups have also been added. One will allow for each individual department to communicate among their own members, and an additional talk group to allow for members of different agencies to communicate when assisting in other jurisdictions. In 2019, Oneida County implemented phase two of the radio project, which included adding all other agencies in Oneida County not included during the initial phase.

Evaluation of 2020 Goals:

Goal: Acquisition of at least three more portable radios, one six bank charging station, and six extra portable radio batteries.

Evaluation: The police department was able to accomplish this task by adding three portable radios, an additional six bank charging station, and six extra portable radio batteries.

Goal: To have building repeaters installed at Rome Memorial Hospital and Rome Free Academy High School.

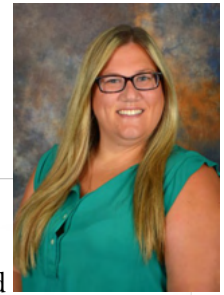
Evaluation: This goal was accomplished when members of the County 911 center, along with representatives from the Rome Police Department, were able to coordinate efforts to have the repeaters installed at Rome Memorial Hospital and Rome Free Academy. The installation of these repeaters improved the quality of radio reception by boosting radio signals inside of the buildings.

2021 Goals:

The radio system goals for 2021 are to keep the portable and car radios maintained and in proper working order. This will be accomplished by training users in the proper use and care of the equipment. At the first sign of an equipment malfunction, that piece of equipment will be taken out of service and repaired by the departments radio equipment contractor.

Rome Police Department Records Division

2020



Introduction

The Rome Police Department Records Division is under the command of Captain David Collins, overseeing Records Clerk Melissa Rowland, who maintains all divisions records and reports. Melissa replaced Ann Copperwheat in August 2020, as Ann retired after 45 years in the Rome Police Department Records Division.

The record division activities for 2020 are as follows:

Complaints handled: Total: 27416

Inquiries: This includes record checks on individuals for the purpose of entering the armed forces, employment, bingo and bell jar licenses, inquiries for the purpose of immigration, etc.
Total: approximately 1,800.

Missing persons reported: Total: 51.

Stolen bicycles: Total: 21.

Arrests handled: Total: 3,808 (2,577 males and 1,231 females)
Total includes carding on master cards/V&T arrests, and Rome City Court processing. Approximately 96 first time offenders were fingerprinted and 181 were repeat processes.

Bail handled: Total: \$0.00 New York State introduced Bail Reform, which changed the way bail was issued, essentially ending cash bail for police departments and judges. Certain crimes can still have bail set by the deciding judge.

Number of accidents: Total: 430 (including 92 personal injuries and 1 fatality in May.)

Accident and complaint reports: In 2020, there were 199 requests for copies of accident and complaint reports. Revenue from these requests totaled \$1,423.75.

Rome Police Department Records Division

2020

Part I Offenses:

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
658	654	671	687	589	578	583

Homicides

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
2	1	0	1	1	1	1

Rape

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2020</u>
5	10	18	10	9	8	6

Robbery

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
7	11	14	18	18	11	10

Assault

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
18	17	25	47	27	34	33

Burglary

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
156	122	128	109	116	84	68

Larceny

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
451	482	468	440	411	416	423

Arson

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
2	3	3	3	1	2	3

Part II Offenses:

(Forgery, Vandalism, Criminal Mischief, Drugs, Sex Offenses, and Miscellaneous offenses)

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
1,562	1,616	1,611	1,518	1,581	1,305	1,103

Rome Police Department 2020

School Crossing Guards

Introduction

The Rome Police Department is responsible for the administration of the school crossing guard program, which is overseen by Sergeant Derek Utter. This program is comprised of civilians who are trained to perform safety officers duties at designated intersections adjacent to inner-city schools. Their main function is to insure the safety of elementary school students as they walk to and from school each day.

The men and women, who insure the safety of our youngest citizens, are a dedicated group who take their positions very seriously. They withstand the extremes of temperature that is common to Central New York with rarely a complaint. Many of the guards have been with the program for many years and are senior citizens. The community is fortunate to have such dedicated, professional people as a source of protection for their children.

Duties and Activities

Background checks and interviews are done on all new applicants. If an applicant is accepted, all paperwork is forwarded to administrative services for processing. The current hiring system has been very effective for the city, the police department, and the crossing guards. There are also a number of substitute crossing guards available to cover a post when a full time guard is absent. These guards are recognized for being on post and alleviating the use of police officers to cover for them when they are absent. All crossing guards are equipped with yellow-green traffic safety vests that conform to current ANSI standards.

The crossing guard program is an integral part of this city's focus on quality of life issues. The safety of our children is paramount in that focus, and the crossing guards who work in these trying times and under arduous conditions ensure that our focus is preserved. The crossing guards are dedicated to "their" children and posts, and are a true asset to our community. The guards are committed to making each post the safest it can be for the children.

Rome Police Department 2020

School Crossing Guards

Personnel and Locations

The following is a list of current full-time and substitute school crossing guards and their assignments:

Crossing Guards

<i>Location</i>	<i>Crossing Guards</i>
Erie Blvd East at Bouck Street	Amy Accuri
Laurel Street at Union Street	Sam Gleba
Floyd Ave at East Bloomfield Street	Jeff Nisiewicz
East Garden Street at East Bloomfield Street	Paul Lavine
Expense Street at West Liberty Street	Roberto Gonzales
Laurel Street at Ruby Street	Julie Kent
West Liberty Street and North Doxtator Street	Brenda Outwater
West Dominick Street at North Doxtator Street	Gloria Carmen
Laurel Street at Lee Street	Patricia Perry
Brennan Avenue at Bellamy School	Doreen Sawicki
Floyd Ave at East Linden Street	Andrew Barber

Substitute Crossing Guards

- William Drake
- Ralph Lighthall
- Terri LaMay
- Larry Carro
- Helen Jackson

Rome Police Department 2020

School Crossing Guards

Summary

The school crossing guard unit maintained all required standards. These standards include providing a safe and secure environment for the young children who walk to and from school each day and crossing the children at busy intersections on their way to school in the safest manner possible. These standards are paramount to the success of this program.

Evaluation of 2020 goals:

During 2020, the unit will look to add more substitute crossing guard positions.

This goal was accomplished by hiring three substitute crossing guards. The unit was able to utilize the substitute crossing guards more often. This resulted in a decrease in the amount of times patrol officers were utilized to cover these positions.

Goals for 2021:

The unit will strive to maintain the current compliment of full-time and substitute crossing guards.

This will be accomplished by diligently monitoring the attendance, and availability of the crossing guards assigned to the program.

Rome Police Department 2020

School Resource Officer

Program

Introduction

In August of 2004, the Rome Police Department and the City of Rome School District developed a school resource officer (SRO) program to be utilized at Rome Free Academy and Strough Middle School. The program is a comprehensive interagency strategy designed to assist communities in focusing leadership and resources on the issues related to creating and maintaining a safe school environment. The SRO program is coordinated by Rome Police Sergeant Scott Hoag and Superintendent Peter Blake of the Rome City School District.

Objectives

The main objective of the school resource officer (SRO) is to prevent juvenile delinquency by promoting positive relationships between students and law enforcement officer. The SRO position encompasses three major components which allow the officer to achieve this goal: law enforcement, education, and counseling. These three components allow the school resource officer to take a proactive approach to law enforcement. The school resource officer's are not just "cops" on campus. They provide all law enforcement duties on their campus and educate the students by teaching law related classes and other related subjects in the classrooms. They also counsel both students and parents on various topics. The school resource officer becomes involved in the students lives, as a positive role model with the intent that the positive experiences students have with the officer will bridge the gap between juveniles and law enforcement. In doing so, the desired affect is to help prevent juvenile crime. The goal is to assist in changing poor behavior traits.

Personnel

Personnel are selected for this intense and gratifying job from the patrol division. The criteria for the officers include having a base of knowledge regarding youth trends, current social issues, and the criminal justice system. Personnel should also possess effective verbal, interpersonal, and written communication skills, including the ability to address public audiences in the school, business, and community settings. Officers Brian Gualtieri and James Richardson are assigned to the Rome Free Academy campus, while Officer Ryan Crever is assigned to Strough Middle School.

Rome Police Department 2020

School Resource Officer

Program

Activity

The school resource officers reported the following incidents for the period between January 2020 and December 2020:

Rome Free Academy

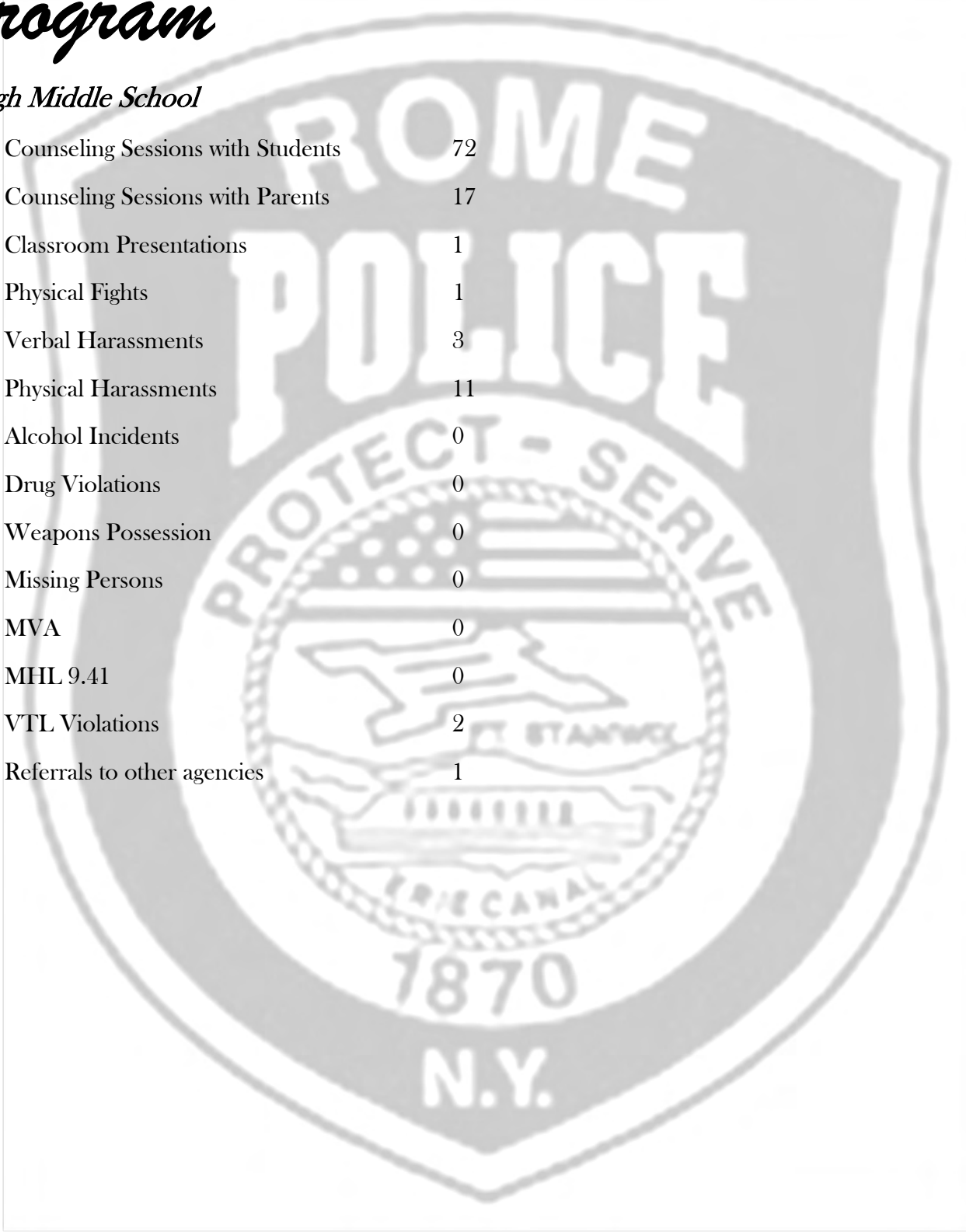
Counseling Sessions with Students	142
Counseling Sessions with Parents	21
Classroom Presentations	1
Physical Fights	4
Verbal Harassments	12
Aggravated Harassments	0
Alcohol Incidents	0
Drug Violations	0
Weapons Possession	0
Missing Persons	3
MVA	0
MHL 9.41	1
VTL Violations	0
Arrests	8
Referrals to other agencies	6
(Safe Schools, Probation)	

Rome Police Department 2020

School Resource Officer

Program

Strough Middle School

The background of the table features a large, faded seal of the Rome Police Department. The seal is shield-shaped with a thick border. Inside the border, the words "ROME" and "POLICE" are written in large, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below "POLICE", the words "PROTECT - SERVE" are written in a smaller font. In the center of the seal is a circular emblem containing a map of the state of New York, with the words "ST. STANDICE" and "ERIE CANAL" visible. At the bottom of the seal, the year "1870" and the letters "N.Y." are displayed.

Counseling Sessions with Students	72
Counseling Sessions with Parents	17
Classroom Presentations	1
Physical Fights	1
Verbal Harassments	3
Physical Harassments	11
Alcohol Incidents	0
Drug Violations	0
Weapons Possession	0
Missing Persons	0
MVA	0
MHL 9.41	0
VTL Violations	2
Referrals to other agencies	1

Rome Police Department 2020

School Resource Officer

Program

Goals of the School Resource Officer Program

- 1) To develop positive attitudes toward police officers and to develop positive relationships between youth and the police.
- 2) To provide administrators, students, counselors, and teachers with a resource in the areas of law and police work in the community.
- 3) To provide information to students on the law, the work of the police, and legal consequences.
- 4) To provide individual counseling and assistance to students relative to the law.
- 5) To gather information on youth activities in schools and the community.
- 6) To reduce crime on school property and in the community, now and in the future.
- 7) To create a safer school environment.

Conclusion

The Rome Police Departments School Resource Officer Program will continue to develop and foster positive rapport and relationships with both the staff and students of the Rome City School District, building on a long standing trust that makes the schools and our city a much safer place. The SROs will also continue to create and promote a positive image of law enforcement that aspires to attain optimal acceptance and cooperation with the community's younger members.

Rome Police Department 2020 School Safety Officer Program

Introduction

In 2018, the Rome Police Department, in conjunction with the Rome City School District, created the “School Safety Officer Program” as a response to school violence across the country, utilizing four retired Rome Police Officers to initiate the program on a part-time basis. Officers Donald D’Aiuto, Albert Ciccone, Stewart Rood, and Jay DiMaggio were selected and hired to pioneer this valuable program. In 2020 the unit was expanded with the addition of retired Rome Police Officers Ed D’Alessandro, Thomas Smith, and Merino Ciccone. This unit is directed by the Juvenile Aid Division and supervised by Sergeant Scott Hoag.



The goal of the program is to provide safety and security to all of the Rome City School District’s Elementary Schools, while fostering a favorable relationship with the children, parents and school staff. The school safety officers rotate and maintain three security positions. These positions are broken down into three zones ensuring coverage of each elementary school.

The school safety officers actively maintain the safety of the building, while taking time to socialize with the students. These officers have taken the opportunity and initiative to interact with the children in the classrooms, hallways, and during the lunch periods. The officers also prepare short classroom presentations, play games with students, and assist school district staff.

The school safety program is jointly funded by both the City of Rome and Rome City School District, with the city paying for equipment, wages, uniforms, and vehicles, and the school district compensating the City of Rome \$210 a day per SSO assigned.

Goals for 2021

In 2021, the School Safety Officer Program is hoping to expand by adding 2 more officers. This will allow the officers to spend more time in each school and reduce the risk of violence. The goal is, with the continuity of the officers, to foster better relationships with the children, thus creating more peaceful interactions with children and adults alike.

Rome Police Department

2020

Sex Offender Unit



Introduction

The Rome Police Department Sex Offender Unit is responsible for the monitoring of all registered sex offenders residing within the inside corporation district of the City of Rome. Detective Commander Kevin James is assigned to oversee the sex offender management program, with Patrolman Jeffrey Buckley responsible for daily operations of the unit.

The sex offender management program is responsible for the following activities:

- 90 day address verification for level 3 offenders
- Offender photo updates
- Offender address changes
- Offender home visits
- Rome Police Registry updates
- Notifications to the community and to vulnerable populations.

Activities and Objectives

There are currently 123 registered sex offenders within the jurisdiction of the Rome Police Department. This is the same number of offenders from the end of 2019.

Total registered sex offenders: 123

Number of level 3 offenders: 35

Number of level 2 offenders: 48

Number of level 1 offenders: 40

Number of level pending offenders: 0

The objectives of the sex offender management program are to monitor and track all sex offenders residing in the inside corporation district of the City of Rome to ensure the safety of the community. The program ensures that all registered sex offenders are in compliance with the New York State Sex Offender Registration Act, and/or parole and probation restrictions. Arrests will be made on all registered sex offenders who are found to be in violation of the law.

Rome Police Department

2020

Sex Offender Unit

Arrests and Investigations

In 2020, the sex offender management program investigated a total of thirteen incidents. Of the thirteen incidents, one was for suspicious or inaccurate social media accounts and twelve were for fail to report changes. Of the thirteen incidents, two offenders were found to be in violation and charges were sent to Oneida County Court for grand jury, but were never prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office. The remaining eleven incidents were investigated and it was determined that no violations were committed. This information was compiled and forwarded to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services - Sex Offender Registry.

Evaluation of 2020 Goals

There were two goals for 2020. These consisted of providing training to the department in regards to completion of Change of Address and 90 Day Update forms and to attend a training seminar for the social media aspect of the sex offender registry. Neither of these goals were able to be met due to the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Unit did update the audit of "vulnerable populations" within the City of Rome. These populations include the Rome City School District, City of Rome Parochial School System, Pre-schools, and registered daycares. Each entity was contacted by the sexual offender management unit to update the entities information, and address any questions or concerns they may have.

Sex Offender Unit Goals for 2021

To provide training to the department in regards to completion of Change of Address and 90 Day Update forms.

To conduct a sex offender verification sweep within the City of Rome jurisdiction.

To attend a training seminar for the social media aspect of the New York State Sex Offender Registry and E-stop enforcement.

Rome Police Department

2020

Special Events

Introduction

In 2020, the Rome Police Department was responsible for the safety and security of the citizens of Rome, as well as all visitors to the city during several special events. These events often required additional resources and the presence of uniformed police officers. The events were limited in number for 2020 due to restrictions and precautionary measures related to the CO-VID 19 pandemic. Major events such as Honor America Days, Law Enforcement Day, Canal Fest, Ride for Missing Children, and World Series of Bocce were cancelled for 2020. The following is a schedule of the special events that the Rome Police Department participated in during 2020.

January

- Martin Luther King Jr. Walk—Memorial Highway Bridge/Rt. 49/46/26 Arterial
- Community gaming event at 409 N. James St.

February

- Great American Heart Walk/Run

March

- City of Utica's St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Flag Raising Ceremonies—Rome City Hall

April

- Roman Runners Fort to Fort 10K Road Race
- Drive-by Birthdays
- Autism Awareness Challenge
- Swearing-in ceremony for police recruits at Rome City Hall

May

- Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Memorial Park
- Great Strides for Cystic Fibrosis Walk/Run
- RACC 5K Run
- Drive-by Birthdays



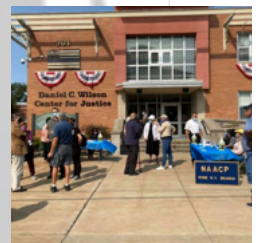
Rome Police Department

Special Events

2020

June

- Patriot Run—Griffiss Business Park
- Rome Free Academy 2019 Graduation Ceremony
- NYS-Department of Correctional Services—Prisoner Escape Drill
- Humane Society Motorcycle ride
- Flag day/Trump Birthday rally Fort Stanwix National Monument
- Drive-by Birthdays
- Civil Protests (BLM)



July

- K-9 Demo
- Civil Protests (BLM)
- Funeral Escort Detail



August

- Civil Protests (BLM)
- Drive-by Birthdays



Rome Police Department

Special Events

2020

September

- 9/11 Prayer Breakfast and Ceremony—Hearts Hill Inn/Whitesboro
- 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony
- Food Drive at RFA with Redeemer Church
- Civil Protests (BLM)



October

- Haunted House Harbor Way Cayo Industries
- Civil Protests (BLM)
- Political Rallies (Trump/Tenney)



November

- City of Rome Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony
- Veteran's Day Ceremony—Veteran's Park
- No Shave November Fundraiser/Rome Rescue Mission
- Political Rallies (Trump/Tenney)



Rome Police Department

Special Events

2020

December

- Rome Police Shop with a Cop at RFA
- Wreaths Across America
- Christmas Gift Give-away



Conclusion

The Rome Police Department provided uniformed police officers to attend all of the aforementioned events. Additionally, these officers provided traffic control, escorts, and crowd control when needed. The hard work and professionalism of these uniformed officers, officers assigned to the community impact unit, and volunteers in police service (VIPS), were instrumental in the successful execution and completion of these events. These events were a positive reflection of not only the Rome Police Department, but for the entire City of Rome. There was a significant decrease in the number of events that were scheduled during this year of 2020 due to the state's restrictions and precautionary measures taken related to the CO-VID 19 Pandemic. The Rome Police Department will continue to be committed to providing a safe and secure environment for the community during all future special events of 2021.

Rome Police Department 2020

Special Investigations Unit

Introduction

The Rome Police Department Special Investigations Unit (SIU) is a highly specialized unit comprised of detectives trained in the investigation, recognition, and testing of illegal substances. The unit focuses mainly on narcotic investigations throughout the City of Rome. The special investigations unit also conducts any other investigation that may be assigned by the Chief of Police. All members are deputized as “Special Deputies” with the Oneida County Sheriff’s Office. This status allows them to conduct narcotic investigations throughout Oneida County.

Personnel (3) Detectives

Detectives assigned to the special investigations unit include: Detective Jeffrey Race, Detective Jason Worth, Detective Kevin James, Detective Daniel Vescio, and Detective David Salle. Detective Kevin James was promoted to Detective Commander on January 31, 2020 and Detective Jason Worth retired on August 29, 2020. These detectives are experienced in many different aspects of investigations. These detectives also continue to work jointly with a number of outside agencies. The unit has an excellent working relationship with these agencies, which makes the exchange of information very easy, and in many cases ties together different aspects of our investigations. These agencies include the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Marshal’s Service, New York State Division of Parole, and police agencies throughout New York State and Connecticut.

Significant Investigations for 2020

In July of 2020, the Rome Police Special Investigations Unit assisted patrol officers in a failure to comply complaint in the area of West Willett Street. The driver, Richard Cayton, was driving on a suspended license and is known to be in possession of drugs. During the pursuit, SIU responded to the residence of Richard Cayton, which is 102 Expense Street. While SIU was parked on the side of the road on Expense Street facing South, Cayton was observed turning right onto Expense, and proceeding in a northerly direction. Cayton then made a left hand turn onto Camp Street, and then parked into the rear yard of 704 West Dominick Street. SIU members exited our vehicle and observed Cayton and another male, Alfredo Capocchetta, run in a southerly direction through the yard of the residence. A foot pursuit ensued with Cayton and Capocchetta. Capocchetta was taken into custody, Cayton escaped due to lost line of sight and his direction of travel being unknown. Capocchetta was in possession of Methamphetamine. Cayton dropped a black bag with a black container in it, which contained ~10.7 grams of Molly, ~15.5 grams of Methamphetamine, and ~6.1 grams of Methylenedioxy. Two cell phones were secured from Cayton’s property and a search warrant was drawn to access the contents of the cell phones.

Rome Police Department 2020

Special Investigations Unit

Significant Investigations for 2020 continued;

On Thursday, August 20, 2020, the Rome Police Department Special Investigation Unit, Detective Division, and Patrol Division executed search warrants at 313 Gansevoort Ave., on the person of Michael Gonzalez, and on Gonzalez's vehicle. During the searches, over 4 ounces of cocaine, a loaded Ruger 9mm handgun, in excess of \$1,100 cash, a digital scale, packaging material, several different adulterants (cutting agents), a quantity of marijuana, and several other items of drug paraphernalia were located and seized. Based on the search warrant executions, Michael R. Gonzalez (1-9-1993) was arrested and charged with the following NYS Penal Law violations: Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd degree (having been previously convicted of a crime), a D-felony, Criminal Possession of a firearm, an E-Felony and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th degree (Firearm), an E-Felony. The handgun was reported stolen out of Lancaster, PA. Gonzalez is currently on parole for Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 5th degree. Additional drug charges pending. Based on the new bail reform, the drugs will be sent to the NYSP Crime Lab for certified analysis and weight before additional felony charges are filed. The Oneida County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division and the DEA Syracuse Office assisted in this investigation.

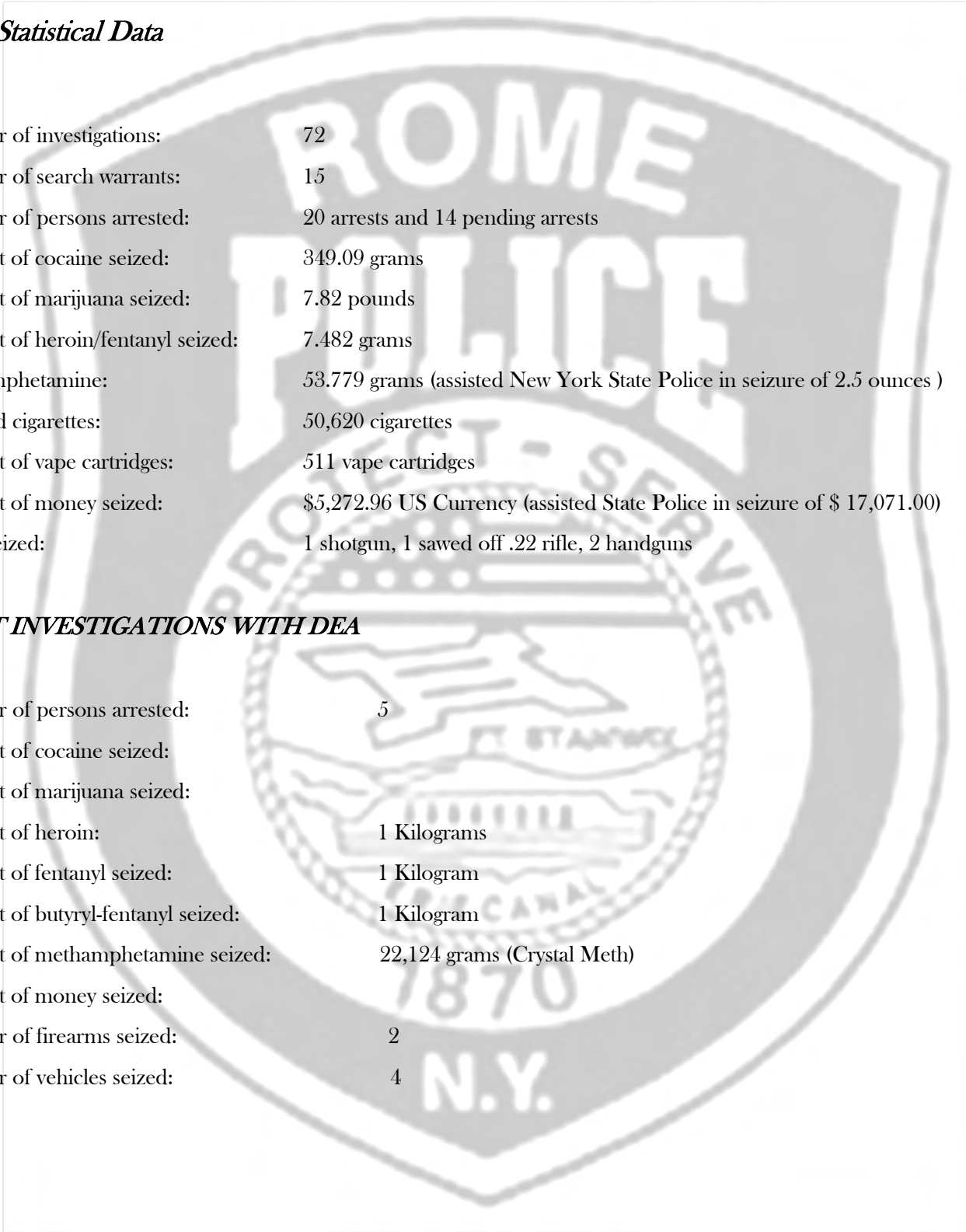
On Friday, September 4, 2020, the Rome Police Department Special Investigation Unit, Detective Division, and Patrol Division executed search warrants at 218 S. James Street (Benny's Market), and 612 E. Dominick Street (A+A Deli). During the searches, approximately 179 cartons of unstamped cigarettes, over \$900.00 US currency, THC/Cannabis vapes, and a large quantity of flavored nicotine vapes were seized at Benny's Market. Over 52 cartons of unstamped cigarettes, over \$500.00 US currency, and 155 bags of synthetic marijuana were seized at A+A Deli. The Oneida County Sheriff's Office Narcotics Division assisted in this investigation.

On Tuesday, October 27, 2020, members of the Rome Police Department Special Investigations Unit, Patrol Division, and Oneida County Sheriff's Narcotic Division executed search warrants at Liberty Gardens, 200 North Levitt Street, apartment 705, and on the person Iabriel Sumter. During the searches, over 4.6 ounces of cocaine, in excess of \$1,200 cash, a digital scale, packaging material, and several other items of drug paraphernalia were located and seized. Based on the new bail reform, the drugs will be sent to the NYSP Crime Lab for certified analysis and weight before additional felony charges are filed.

Rome Police Department 2020

Special Investigations Unit

2020 Statistical Data



Number of investigations:	72
Number of search warrants:	15
Number of persons arrested:	20 arrests and 14 pending arrests
Amount of cocaine seized:	349.09 grams
Amount of marijuana seized:	7.82 pounds
Amount of heroin/fentanyl seized:	7.482 grams
Methamphetamine:	53.779 grams (assisted New York State Police in seizure of 2.5 ounces)
Untaxed cigarettes:	50,620 cigarettes
Amount of vape cartridges:	511 vape cartridges
Amount of money seized:	\$5,272.96 US Currency (assisted State Police in seizure of \$ 17,071.00)
Guns seized:	1 shotgun, 1 sawed off .22 rifle, 2 handguns

JOINT INVESTIGATIONS WITH DEA

Number of persons arrested:	5
Amount of cocaine seized:	
Amount of marijuana seized:	
Amount of heroin:	1 Kilograms
Amount of fentanyl seized:	1 Kilogram
Amount of butyryl-fentanyl seized:	1 Kilogram
Amount of methamphetamine seized:	22,124 grams (Crystal Meth)
Amount of money seized:	
Number of firearms seized:	2
Number of vehicles seized:	4

Rome Police Department 2020

Special Investigations Unit

Evaluation of 2020 Goals

Goal: Increase the number of search warrants executed for narcotics related offenses.

Objective: The special investigations unit will be vigilant in arresting street level, mid level and upper level dealers. The special investigations unit will coordinate its efforts with members of the DEA, New York State Parole, and other law enforcement agencies to investigate and apprehend the narcotic dealers in the City of Rome, and increase the number of narcotics related search warrants by a projected 10%..

Evaluation: Although there was a decrease in the amount of search warrants executed in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the amount of cocaine seized increased by a very significant amount (25.7 grams to 349.09 grams)

Goal: Increase the total number of crystal methamphetamine investigations by 10%.

Objective: By working closely with the patrol division, monitoring open media sources, US Postal Service, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, along with conducting surveillance and conducting debriefs of suspected narcotics users, the members of the special investigations unit will strive to increase the total number of crystal methamphetamine investigations by 10%.

Evaluation: The evaluation of the above goal indicates that there were 6 methamphetamine investigations for 2019. For 2020, a total of 10 investigations were conducted for methamphetamine related offenses. That is a 66% increase from 2019. This goal was obtained.

Special Investigations Unit Goals for 2021

Goal: Increase number of heroin / fentanyl investigations by 10%.

Objective: With the amount of overdoses on the rise due specifically to heroin & fentanyl, members of the special investigations unit will work closely with the patrol division, monitoring open media sources, US Postal Service, Federal Express, United Parcel Service, along with conducting surveillance and conducting debriefs of suspected narcotics users. The members of the special investigations unit will strive to increase the total number of heroin / fentanyl investigations by 10%.

Goal: Increase arrests related to narcotics sales.

Objective: The special investigations unit will be vigilant in arresting street level, mid level and upper level dealers. The unit will coordinate its efforts with members of the DEA, New York State Parole, and other law enforcement agencies to investigate and apprehend the narcotic dealers in the City of Rome, and increase the arrest of those dealers by a projected 10%.

Rome Police Department

Special Response Team

2020

Introduction

The Rome Police Department's Special Response Team was formed for the purpose of responding to and resolving situations for which specialized training and equipment is required. This would include incidents such as hostage situations, barricaded persons, high-risk search and arrest warrants, intelligence collection, and dignitary security.



Personnel

The unit is currently comprised of 13 members and is led by SRT Commander Captain Cheyenne Schoff. Captain Schoff oversees two team leaders—Alpha Team Leader Sergeant Scott Hoag and Bravo Team Leader Detective Kevin James. As team leaders, Sergeant Hoag and Detective Cmdr. James supervise multiple officers assigned to their specific teams. The following officers are currently assigned to Alpha Team: Sergeant Hoag, Lieutenant Nick Martin, Patrolman Aaron Page, Patrolman James Pruckno, Detective Robert Galluppi, and Patrolman James Bristol. The following officers are assigned to Bravo Team: Detective Kevin James, Sergeant Derek Utter, Detective Daniel Vescio, Patrolman Eric Stevens, Patrolman Daniel Roberts, and Sergeant Brian Stevens. All officers are required to maintain a mandatory physical fitness standard and weapon proficiencies. As a certified crisis negotiator, Detective Kelly Lupinski supports the tactical element of the special response team. Detective Lupinski received certification in 2019 at the New York State Preparedness Training Center, by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, after several trained negotiators retired. This training is crucial with assisting the team at bringing high risk incidents involving barricaded suspects to a peaceful conclusion.



Rome Police Department 2020

Special Response Team

Training

Most of the training is accomplished in house or in conjunction with another specialized team from a neighboring department. The use of the buildings at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park, Rome City School District, NYS School for the Deaf and the NYS Division of Homeland Security State Preparedness Training Center have made this specialized training possible.

During 2020, there were 9 training days held specifically for the special response team, in which specialized training was conducted for all team members. This training consisted of basic tactical operations, building entries, room clearing, active shooter response, physical fitness evaluations, less lethal and chemical munitions, self aid tactical emergency casualty care, warrant execution, woodland tactics, and weapons qualifications.



Traditionally, special response team members attend advanced schools to enhance the teams capabilities. These schools range from such specialty topics as SWAT Operator, Sniper Operations, Woodland Tactics etc. However, due to the pandemic created from Covid 19, special response team members did not attend any outside training. The vast majority of these schools were either cancelled or have been re-scheduled for 2021.

Operations

The special response team conducted 3 tactical operations during 2020. These operations were as follows:

- February 19, 2020, (Assisted Metro SWAT with the execution of a search warrant at 5950 Rome Taberg Road following an investigation involving the violation of NYS Red Flag Law's.)
- March 5, 2020, (Execution of a narcotics search warrant at 502 N. Madison Street, following an investigation conducted by members of the departments Special Investigation Unit.)
- August 31, 2020, (Assisted the Patrol Division at Urbandale Apartments after a suspect fled a traffic stop on foot and barricaded himself in a storage building.)

Rome Police Department 2020

Special Response Team

Summary

The special response team continues to make progress towards the accreditation process, both with equipment and training. With the continuation of training, and the willingness of the team members to become more proficient, positive results in the unit's future deployments will be made. The members of the special response team continue to be conscientious, hard working, and dedicated police officers. With this dedication and goal, members of the special response team will continue to be a viable asset to the Rome Police Department and the community.

Evaluation of 2020 Team Goals

In 2019, the Special Response Team set a goal and intended to send both Patrolman Dan Roberts and Brian Stevens to Basic SWAT Operator School in 2020. With the certification of these remaining members, the team would have met an additional standard set by NYS. This goal was not accomplished due the cancelation of numerous SWAT schools as a result of the current pandemic.

Team Goals for 2021

Objective: The special response team will continue to work toward achieving NYS SWAT Accreditation and to provide a professional response to high risk situations that require advanced tactics beyond that of an initial patrol response.

Goal: The special response team intends to seek out a localized SWAT school and send those members who are lacking this initial training. Additionally, the team intends to send an additional member to a basic sniper school.



Rome Police Department 2020

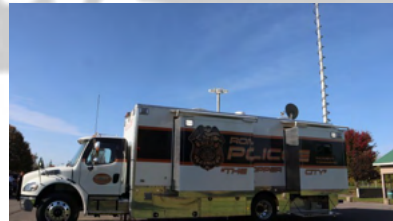
Specialized Vehicles

Introduction

The Rome Police Department possesses and utilizes several specialized and recreational vehicles to assist in its service to the community. These vehicles function in all aspects of police work. Investigations, crowd control, and traffic duty are just some of the areas in which the Rome Police Department is able to fulfill its mission by having the availability of these vehicles.

Police Units

Mobile Command Center 100 (MCC-100)



The Rome Police Department's current Mobile Command Center is a 2020 Freightliner Van that became operational in 2020 after having completed interior and exterior modifications. The purchase of this vehicle was made possible by State Senator Joseph Griffo, who in 2017 secured the funding for this purchase. The mobile command center, designated as "MCC-100", is fully equipped to operate as a mobile police station and command post. Operations include: computers, radios, audio-visual equipment, an 80 ft telescopic pole camera, generator, satellite, work and interview areas, and amenities that include a microwave oven, and refrigerator. All of this equipment is powered by the on-board generator, and enables the command center to be deployed for extended periods of time. The mobile command center has also been used as a satellite police station during special events. The mobile command center provides an on-site workplace and command center, as well as a shelter for evidence technicians, detectives, crime scene personnel, and support staff during all types of weather. The mobile command center has proven to be a valuable asset for the Rome Police Department, enabling the department a means to better serve the community in crime prevention, community relations, and investigations.

Ranger EV LSV (Electric Vehicles)

Currently, the department maintains a single EV, R4. Due to rising petroleum prices, and as a way to lower operational expenses with its motorized inventory, the department researched the possibility of using electric vehicles. In November 2011, the department added four Polaris Ranger electric vehicles to its fleet.

Rome Police Department 2020

Specialized Vehicles



The vehicles have an operation range of twenty-five to fifty miles on a single charge, travel at a maximum speed of twenty-five miles per hour, and are primarily utilized by the community impact unit and school resource officers during the spring, summer, and fall months in the inner part of the city. The department attempted to use tablet style computers in the field with the EVs, but the demands on the electrical system, which powers the EVs, were greater than anticipated. It was impractical for the officers using this type of vehicle to complete reports through the departments new record management system and as a result, the vehicles have not met the expectations that the department expected to achieve. After many attempts to fully utilize these vehicle, it was determined they were not practical for routine patrol use. Because of this, the po-

lice department decided to keep one EV (R4) to utilize within the city parks and trail system during the summer months, redeployed a second EV to the City of Rome Department of Recreation to utilized during the summers for various tasks, and sell the remaining two.

All Terrain Unit (ATU)



The all terrain unit (ATU) is a highly mobile unit capable of rapidly deploying to remote areas of the city. The unit gives the department greater flexibility when patrolling the city and ensuring public safety. There are presently nine officers that staff the unit. All officers assigned are fully trained and are certified to the standards of the ATV Safety Institute, a not-for-profit division of the Specialty Vehicle Institute of America®. The ATU is comprised of one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant, and six patrolmen.

The unit operates two Polaris ATVs, designated Terra 1 (T1) and Terra 2 (T2). T1 is a 2004 600cc Polaris Sportsman and T2 is a 2018 Polaris Sportsman 570.

During the winter months, the unit can be found on the numerous snowmobile trails throughout the city. Snow 1 (S1), a 2018 Polaris Indy 500, and Snow 2 (S2), a 2009 Polaris 550 IQ, are the snowmobiles currently utilized during winter operations. The officers assigned to the unit attend a 40 hour snowmobile law enforcement school conducted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.



Rome Police Department 2020

Specialized Vehicles

THE “VIPER”



The Viper is an armored surveillance vehicle placed into service on March 16th, 2014. Formerly, a decommissioned 2000 International armored Brinks bank car that the department had refurbished. The vehicle was purchased from Brinks in Columbus, Ohio in the Summer of 2012 for \$10, and retrofitted with funding obtained by Senator Joseph A. Griffo, private donations, and drug seizure funds. The vehicle is equipped with the latest technology including Axis PTZ outdoor cameras, Axis 6MM vandal res dome light finder cameras, and a two terabyte storage platform. A naming contest for

the vehicle was conducted through the public and parochial schools of the city, which received over 400 submissions. The “VIPER” name was selected from an entry made by Dominic Manna, a student at Bellamy Elementary School. Once the name was chosen, graphics befitting of the vehicle’s name were applied by Gulla’s Graphics of Rome. The “Viper” serves as an excellent deterrent to crimes that diminish the quality of life within our community. It provides real-time video of incidents that are in progress, thereby providing another set of eyes in troubled neighborhoods. Further details on the deployments of this specialized vehicle can be found in the 2020 Crime Prevention Unit section of this report.

Uniform Motorcycle Patrol (R-11)



In 2018, the department purchased a 2018 Harley Davidson Electra Glide Motorcycle to utilize for traffic enforcement and special events throughout the year. This unit is designated as R-11, and replaces an older Harley Davidson motorcycle that was plagued with mechanical issues. The motorcycle patrol unit currently has six officers assigned and includes two sergeants, one detective, one patrolman, and two captains, Captain Dominic Corigliano who oversees the unit and Captain David Collins. The motorcycle patrol was utilized numerous times, on all three shifts, during the months of May through September 2020. Many traffic stops and uniform traffic tickets were issued during these patrols. The motorcycle patrol unit was also utilized for various special details and escorts throughout the season; however, due to the Covid -19 pandemic, most of these details were cancelled in 2020. In August, R-11 escorted a group of 100 bikers, most of them were retired military who were involved in escorting a Vietnam Era Huey helicopter from Exit-33 in Verona to the MVCC Aeronautical School located at Griffiss Air Base, where it will be refurbished and set on display at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Park. All officers assigned to the motorcycle patrol unit have received specialized training in the safe operation of a police motorcycle. Officers Michael Swezey and David Salle received additional training, attending the two week Police Motorcycle Operator Certification Course, sponsored by Harley Davidson in Parma, Ohio.

Rome Police Department 2020

Specialized Vehicles

Aside from traffic enforcement details, the motorcycle officers are also used for regular zone patrol duties and special assignments. Special assignments include patrolling the city's recreational trail system and public relation assignments. During 2021, the unit will be placed into service complimenting the patrol division as an additional resource to patrol the streets, trails, and parks. This unit has proven to be a successful tool and an asset to the Rome Police Department.

It is anticipated that in the future, the department will see the addition of newer vehicles to replace those that have become outdated. The Rome Police Department will continue to strive for new ideas and innovations for special vehicles to compliment the various units of the department in an effort to best serve the residents of the City of Rome.



Rome Police Department

2020

Taxi Cab Unit

Introduction

The taxi cab unit is supervised by Sergeant Brian Stevens, who works closely with the city clerks office to monitor all taxi cab companies as they perform their day to day operations within the City of Rome. The taxi cab companies have been cooperative in addressing any issues that were brought to their attention. All companies work with Sergeant Stevens and the commission to correct any complaints or issues that may arise.

The City of Rome Taxi Cab Commission is comprised of the following three individuals: The Commission Chairman, Mr. Frank Vetrone, Mr. John Bielby, and Mr. Anthony Trips. The taxi cab commission plays a vital role with regards to obtaining compliance from the taxi cab companies. The commission ensures taxi companies are adhering and conforming to all aspects of the City of Rome Taxi Cab Ordinance. The corporation council's office and the city clerks office have also played an important role in the implementation and administration of this ordinance.

Activity

Throughout 2020, the taxi cab unit processed 9 driver applications. Every applicant was investigated, including background checks and criminal history based on fingerprint responses. All of the 9 applicants were approved and issued taxi cab licenses. In 2020, 8 drivers renewed their licenses, while there was one new driver issued a taxi cab license. The number of driver applications dropped significantly in 2020, approximately 73% from the number of applicants in 2019. During 2020, there was one taxi cab company in operation in the City of Rome. This is down from six businesses in 2019. The taxi company in operation is VIP Taxi of New York. The services provided by these companies included Medicare and Medicaid transports as well as personal transport.

In 2020, there were zero complaints filed against either a taxi cab driver or a company. This is consistent with there being zero complaints in 2019.

In 2021, it appears there will be a decline in taxi activity due to the COVID-19 pandemic playing a role in all transportation and public interactions. The decrease in taxi businesses operating within the City of Rome will also play a role in the decrease of taxi business activity. The growth of businesses such as Lyft and Uber continue to have major effect on the number of taxi cab companies and drivers applying to the City of Rome.

Rome Police Department

2020

Taxi Cab Unit

Statistical Data for 2020

Taxi Cab Licenses

Taxi cab license applications	9
New taxi cab license applications approved and issued	1
Renewal license applications (all approved and issued)	8
Taxi cab license applications denied	0

Taxi Business Licenses

Taxi business licenses approved and issued	1
Taxi businesses in operation	1

Taxi Companies Operating in 2019

VIP Taxi of New York	4 vehicles registered
----------------------	-----------------------

Conclusion

The taxi cab unit has become an asset for addressing areas of concern within the community and taxi cab companies operating within the city. In 2020, the City Clerk's office, the taxi cab committee, and Sergeant Stevens worked together to evaluate, assess, and decide if changes were needed with regard to the enforcement of the city code. This was done to ensure the public's safety and quality of service provided to members of the community. The taxi cab unit continues to work with the taxi committee and the city clerk's office to enforce the city ordinance pertaining to taxi cabs, and to provide adequate service to the City of Rome community.

Rome Police Department

2020

Taxi Cab Unit

Taxi Cab Unit Goals for 2020

The taxi cab unit will continue to work with the committee and the city clerk's office to evaluate/investigate complaints and help enforce all aspects of the city code pertaining to taxi cabs. It appears the changes made in 2017-2018, aimed at improving the quality of drivers, cabs, and taxi businesses within the City of Rome, have worked as there continued to be zero complaints filed. The 2020 goals remain the same, improving quality service and overall safety to members of the community utilizing taxi services. After zero complaints filed in 2020, it is hopeful this is a continual trend the City of Rome finds with it's taxi cab services.



Rome Police Department 2020

Technology

Introduction

The Rome Police Department's IT department is primarily overseen and managed by MA Polce Consulting. IT Liaison Robert Pinti is the on-site network administrator, and a part time patrolman for the Rome Police Department. The computer network is comprised of several virtual servers, desktop computers, tablet computers, laptop computers, modems, vendor software, and hardware systems. There are 50 workstations, fifteen notebook portable computers with docking (workstation) capability, primary virtual servers held off-site at City Hall (Archonix server, Spectrum Justice System, Tiburon Tri-Tech, Citrix, and Cisco VPN), 19 mobile data terminals (MDT), a fingerprinting and photograph station (RICI), an audio log system, a card access system, the building security video system (Integrated Systems and Ocularis), two in-car video systems (WatchGuard and DC3 Digital Martel), an Automated Vehicle Location System (AVL), and the RUOK Telephone Reassurance system effectively making up the entire department network.

Network Statistics

• Shared Drive	(F:):	6,841 Folders	144,000 Files	418 GB Storage used
• Cases Drive	(L:):	884 Folders	23,503 Files	80.1 GB Storage used
• Home	(P:):	—	—	69.3 MB Storage used
• DA Submissions	(Q:):	1,360 Folders	13,398 Files	26.7 GB Storage used
• NYDMVData	(T:):	15 Folders	988 Files	739 MB Storage used

Objectives

The information technology department's primary responsibility is to ensure that department personnel have access to the local network, vendor software, camera monitoring/playback, and appropriate New York State databases. The department databases automatically obtain information from completed reports and makes the data available for later use. The data entered into the databases by the investigating personnel is verified to be accurate, uniform, and National Incident Based Reporting Systems (NIBRS) compliant by supervisors through a submission, approval, and rejection process. The approved data is later analyzed to help assign departmental resources in an efficient manner. The IT department must ensure that these databases are maintained with regular updates, backups, security protocols, and user permissions to ensure the integrity of the recorded data. All new software installed onto the servers must be tested by the IT department for stability and compatibility prior to live installation.

Rome Police Department 2020

Technology

Website

The department's website (www.romepd.com) was managed in 2020 by Detective Commander Kevin James. Between January 1st, 2020 and December 31st, 2020, the website was visited 28,503 times, a decrease of 19% from 2019. The average number of visits per day was 78, with a total of 61,074 pages viewed. The day of the year with the highest number of visits was Friday May 22, 2020, the date of a fatal car pedestrian motor vehicle accident, with a total of 458 visits.

The Rome Police Department website has been visited by viewers in six different continents and 85 countries. The viewers reportedly speak at least 79 different languages. The website was visited by desktop/tablet computers 13,839 times, and by smartphones 19,292 times. The primary referral services generating website visits were: Google, Bing, Yahoo, Sogou, and Facebook.

Law enforcement related news articles specific to Rome, New York, are posted to the department website, along with helpful information to the reader such as: community events, reminders, safety tips, police department personnel awards, arrests for serious offenses, and employment opportunities available. The website provides limited agency policy information to the public, such as the Use of Force Policy. The website includes links to several other local law enforcement agencies, the Rome Police Department Facebook page, a map of local sex offenders, City of Rome local ordinances, forms and reports, access to the on-line motor vehicle accident report database, and the local weather. There is general information about the department, including a description of the specialized units and divisions, department history, personnel roster, and a photograph gallery of department functions. Readers can sign up for text or email alerts from the City of Rome regarding road closures, severe weather, or other public safety alerts. Active Rome City Court warrants are listed on the website, downloadable in an XLS format. At the completion of 2020, there were 696 active warrants listed on the Romepd website. The warrant list is updated at least once every seven days.

Facebook

The Facebook page was created in February of 2009, and is managed by Patrolman Jeffrey Buckley. The Facebook page is accessible to the general public and encourages the participation of the public to engage with the Rome Police Department in public safety related conversations. The Facebook page allows for further understanding of the department's functions and the role the community plays in public safety. The Facebook page directs viewers towards the department website through hyperlinks. Viewers are discouraged from using the Facebook page to file a complaint, as the Facebook page and department website are not actively monitored at all times. Viewers are encouraged to file a complaint by phone or in person.

Rome Police Department

2020

Technology

Facebook continued;

A link on the Facebook page directs viewers towards the anonymous tips form on the department website. The Facebook page is regularly updated with address changes for registered sex offenders, announcements for department involved community events (Shop with a Cop, Law Enforcement Day, and the charity basketball game), heroin and opiate support groups, Halloween safety tips, scam alerts, and “Officer of the Month” announcements.

The Rome Police Department Facebook page currently has 22,010 “likes”, an increase of 2,480 “likes” since 2020 (+11%). Facebook provides statistics based on the user-submitted demographics for “followers”, which is categorized separate from “likes”. The following demographic information was provided for the current 23,012 “followers”:

Geographic regions with at least one “follower”:

United States:	21,207 (+1,664)
Germany:	137 (-2)
Denmark:	92 (-1)
Canada:	55 (+5)
United Kingdom:	34 (+12)
Hungary:	28 (-2)
Norway:	28 (-1)
Mexico:	26 (+3)
Austria:	21 (+1)
Puerto Rico:	21 (+2)
Philippines:	20

Rome Police Department

2020

Technology

Demographics based on gender and age:

<u>Women:</u> 67% (+2%)	<u>Men:</u> 33% (-2%)
Age 13-17:	1% (-1)
Age 18-24:	7% (+0)
Age 25-34:	25% (+0)
Age 35-44:	25% (+0)
Age 45-54:	19% (+0)
Age 55-64:	13% (+0)
Age 65+:	10% (+1)

Training

Training and assistance from the IT department continues to be an ongoing process because of changing software, hardware, and required forms. Primarily emails and lineups were the method of training personnel on IT related changes to ensure personnel have readily accessible written instructions. During 2020, departmental personnel continued using the DEMS system to upload discovery material to the Oneida County District Attorney's Office, a deviation from the LaserFiche system previously used for DA submissions. This change primarily affected supervisory, detective division, and discovery personnel.

Goals

The goal of the IT department for 2021, will be a projected increase in activity related to the departments' Facebook webpage, amounting to 23,110 "likes" (+5%). Two sub-pages will be added to the department website allowing for personnel complaints to be initiated and for information related to the records division.

Summary and Goals

The goal of the IT department for 2020 was to have the department Facebook page increase "likes" by 5%. Upon the conclusion of 2020, the department Facebook page received 22,010 "likes" an increase of 11%, thereby achieving the goal. New laptop computers were purchased to replace existing workstations and will be implemented in 2021.

Rome Police Department

2020

Traffic Safety



Introduction

The Rome Police Department has implemented numerous traffic safety initiatives for 2020. In 2020, the Rome Police Department continued to utilize several state grants to support traffic enforcement. These grants include Buckle Up NY, Stop DWI, and Aggressive Driving Enforcement. Through the use of these grants, extra officers were able to be assigned solely to enforce traffic laws in the city. The department has the ability to deploy a traffic enforcement speed/message trailer. At this time, all front line patrol cars are equipped with radar units to assist officers with speed enforcement. All road patrol officers also have access to utilize four hand held LIDAR units for speed enforcement.

Activities

In 2017, the Automated Traffic Data Recorder was rebuilt and calibrated by its manufacturer, Jamar Technologies. The retrofitted unit is now more capable and user friendly than before. This unit has continued to be a very good tool, and was used approximately 5-6 times in 2020 for traffic studies. The unit is small and easy to manage. It can be attached to a stationary object (telephone pole, tree, etc.) and locked into place. The unit counts the traffic volume in either direction, speeds of travel, time of day, etc. This data is then downloaded onto a laptop computer and brought back to an office setting where it can be studied. The program also allows the user to put this data into comparison graphs to help the reader get an accurate picture. With this unit, patrol officers are freed up from completing these traffic studies and can concentrate on patrol duties. This also gives a true recording of what is actually going on in this particular area as people change their driving habits when they see a marked patrol unit on the street. The department receives numerous calls throughout the year from concerned citizens in regards to vehicles traveling at high rates of speed, especially in residential neighborhoods. The unit, as a visual alone has proven to be an asset in the reduction of aggressive driving. The unit confirmed that as a whole, the vehicles were not speeding, and that a very small percentage in the study had actually been speeding. This unit is going to be taken out of service at the end of 2020 and will be replaced with a new unit in 2021. It will be deployed as soon as weather permits.

Rome Police Department 2020

Traffic Safety

The traffic enforcement speed/message trailers were also utilized at several problematic areas within the city to raise driver awareness of excessive speed and to further assist the department with traffic safety. The two trailers were deployed in nine different locations during the summer months. At this time, the department is currently down to just one traffic trailer. In November of 2020, one of the trailers, while deployed at the intersection of East Dominick Street and Gansvoort Ave., was struck by a motor vehicle. The extent of damage necessitated removing the unit from service.

In 2020, 2,936 traffic tickets were issued. In an effort to reduce motor vehicle accidents, an emphasis was placed on enforcing moving violations. With this effort 362 tickets were issued for speeding. Other tickets issued were: 104 for suspended registration, 338 for aggravated unlicensed operation 3rd, 145 aggravated unlicensed operation 2nd, 38 for driving while intoxicated/impaired related offenses, 356 for unlicensed operation, 181 for no inspection, and 154 for no insurance.

In 2020, 881 motor vehicle accidents were investigated, with one being a fatality as opposed to 1,228 in 2019. The goal to reduce traffic accidents by 5% was met. The COVID-19 pandemic is believed to be a contributing factor to the significant decrease in motor vehicle accidents, due to a reduction in travel resulting from citizens staying home, and the reduction in working hours caused by state mandated restrictions placed on business closures and/or reduction in hours of operation.

Traffic Safety Goals for 2021

In 2021, the goal is to continue to reduce motor vehicle accidents through traffic enforcement and the traffic safety programs. Distracted drivers and moving violations are leading factors of motor vehicle accidents. An increased focus in these areas will assist in educating drivers and enforcing traffic safety, thus having an impact of MVA reduction.

The Rome Police Department will continue to use the Automated Traffic Data Recorder to assist with necessary traffic studies. The traffic enforcement trailer will also be utilized in problematic areas within the city where higher rates of speed are reported by citizens as problematic. The Rome Police Department will continue its traffic safety initiatives funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Council. These initiatives include the Child Passenger Safety Program, the STEP Grant, Buckle Up NY Grant, and the Stop-DWI Program.

Rome Police Department

2020

Traffic Services Grant



Introduction

In 2020, the Rome Police Department was awarded a grant through the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) under the Police Traffic Services Grant program (previously STEP and BUNY grants). Award amounts were based upon a competitive data driven application process, with obtainable objectives. The total award amount for fiscal year 2020 was \$9,450.00, an increase of \$450.00 from 2019. Grant funds were utilized for the Rome Police Department to participate in New York State wide enforcement initiatives including; aggressive driving enforcement campaign (STEP), and distracted driving enforcement. The grant is provided to law enforcement agencies to specifically target violations of vehicle and traffic law directly contributing to the causes of motor vehicle accidents. The guidelines set by New York State require enforcement strategies, which attribute directly toward a reduction in personal injury and fatal motor vehicle accidents. NYS GTSC allotted \$1,680.00 of the total awarded funds to be used only for agency participation with the "Seatbelt Mobilization Enforcement" campaign. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and precautionary measures taken to limit the spread of the virus, the Seatbelt Mobilization Enforcement period was postponed and ultimately cancelled by the NYS GTSC. The 40 overtime hours funded by the NYS GTSC for Seatbelt Mobilization Enforcement efforts were not permitted to be reallocated or reimbursed in any manner. During the designated Police Traffic Services Enforcement campaign, between July and September of 2020, 156 of the budgeted 185 overtime hours were used. Patrol staffing shortage, and frequent overtime assignments limited the number of available uniformed officer participants.

Selective Enforcement Activity

The New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee solicited applications from local law enforcement agencies to develop and propose enforcement strategies with specific quantitative goals. These strategies needed to be based upon local data to determine specific problem areas, during specific problem times, and develop counter measures to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities. Members of Rome Police Department Patrol Division are assigned by Sergeant Brian Stevens to participate in the enforcement campaigns, using overtime man hours. These assigned officers were directed to focus on the identified VTL violations within the identified problem locations and times. A press and social media public education campaign brought attention toward these dangerous driving behaviors, prior to, and following the enforcement periods. Violators were issued traffic summons for violations including but not limited to: speed in zone, reckless driving, following too closely, unsafe lane change, unsafe backing, improper/no seat belt, operating a vehicle while using a mobile device. A total of 156 overtime man hours were used under the traffic service grant for 2020, a decrease of 69

Rome Police Department 2020

Traffic Services Grant

Grant Statistics

Traffic Summons:

- Speeding 39 (-77)
- Aggressive Driving 50 (-33)
- Cell Phone/Text 6 (-7)
- Restraint Use 15 (-15)
- Other 49 (-28)
- Total Violations 159 (-160)

Evaluation of 2020 Goals

2020 Goals as established within the grant application:

1. The Rome Police Department will set a goal to reduce the number of personal injury and fatal crashes along Erie Boulevard during September of 2020 from seven (2018*) to six or less with no fatal crashes. Only two crashes meeting the goal criteria were reported, achieving this goal.
2. The Rome Police Department will set a goal to reduce the number of personal injury and fatal crashes along Black River Boulevard during July through September of 2020 from five (2018*) to four or less with no fatal crashes. Only three crashes meeting the goal criteria were reported, achieving this goal.
3. The Rome Police Department will set a goal to reduce the number of personal injury and fatal crashes along North/South George Street during September of 2020 from six (2018*) to four or less with no fatal crashes. Only one crash meeting the goal criteria was reported, achieving this goal.

**2018 statistics were used to establish the goals in accordance with the guidelines of the NYS GTSC grant application process.*

Upon final review of the motor vehicle crash statistics for the City of Rome, it is evident the Rome Police Department accomplished all three goals established by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee.

Rome Police Department 2020

Traffic Services Grant

Goals for 2021

The Police Traffic Services grant funding awarded for 2021 is \$10,912.00 (+\$1,462.00). The grant application for 2021 included Rome Police Department participation in the “Buckle Up New York” initiative, “Operation Safe Stop”, and an aggressive/distracted driving campaign.

Goals as established within the grant application:

1. The Rome Police Department will set a goal to reduce the number of personal injury and fatal crashes along Erie Boulevard during July and August of 2021 from eight (2019) to six or less with no fatal crashes.
2. The Rome Police Department will set a goal to reduce the number of personal injury and fatal crashes along Black River Boulevard during October of 2021 from five (2019) to four or less with no fatal crashes.
3. The Rome Police Department will set a goal to reduce the number of personal injury and fatal crashes along Chestnut Street during June and July of 2021 from four (2019) to three or less with no fatal crashes.

**2019 statistics were used to establish the goals in accordance with the guidelines of the NYS GTSC grant application process.*

Objective:

These goals will be accomplished by using a combination of marked and unmarked patrol vehicles equipped with low profile lighting and LIDAR speed enforcement equipment at problem locations and supported by a public education campaign. Officers who demonstrate a proficiency in the area of traffic enforcement will be given additional opportunities to participate in the enforcement campaigns.

Rome Police Department

2020

Training Division



Introduction

The Rome Police Department Training Division is under the direction of Lieutenant Sharon Rood. During 2020, the training division ensured that all 21 hours of required in-service training mandates were met, as required by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services standards. These mandates include firearms qualifications, defensive tactics, legal issues, law enforcement skills, community interaction, emergency management (NIMS), police investigations, and at least nine hours of police elective topics. The training division also continued to develop relationships with multiple agencies for additional training, not mandated by the State of New York. These relationships were created in effort to provide officers of the Rome Police Department with the best and most current training available to meet the growing needs associated with being a police officer.

Departmental Training

The training given to the officers of the Rome Police Department can be broken down into several different categories that include: in-service training, individual unit training, re-certifications, training updates, and outside training courses. Department in-service training is the most common and frequent. In addition to department in-service training, the training division also schedules supervisor training and individual unit training such as accident re-construction unit (ARU), special response team (SRT), identification unit (ID), the honor guard unit, and outside training courses. .

Department In-service Training

Most of the department's in-service training occurs on Wednesdays throughout the calendar year. Each block of in-service training covers a specific topic or topics, and meets all New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Accreditation requirements.

Rome Police Department

2020

Training Division

The following is a list of in-service training conducted during 2020, the topics covered, and the instructor or agency who led the training session.

In-service #20-01:

Topic

Legal Updates
Discovery Laws
Bail Reform
Search and Seizure
Raise the Age

Instructor

Lt. David Collins
ADA's Office
ADA's Office
Det.'s Kevin James and Bryan Zoeckler
Sgt. Scott Hoag

In-service #20-02:

Topic

CPR Certification
Officer Wellness Schedule
First Source Federal Credit Union
Financial Advisor

Instructor

Rome Fire Department
Debbie Grogan (First Source)
Alex Taylor

In-service #20-03:

Topic

Use of Force

Instructor

Lieutenant David Collins (GT/EVOC)

In-service #20-04:

Topic

COVID-19 Mask

Instructor

(On-line Training)

Rome Police Department

2020

Training Division

In-service #20-05:

Topic

Leave Behind NARCAN

Instructor

Video

In-service #20-06:

Topic

Firearms Training

Mental Health Training

Instructor

Firearms Instructors

Captain David Collins and Sgt. Scott Hoag

In-service #20-07:

Topic

Cultural Diversity

Ethics

De-Escalation

Instructor

Elder Patricia Brown and Captain David Collins

Captain David Collins and Sergeant Scott Hoag

Captain Schoff/RBT Instructors

In-service #20-08:

Topic

Defensive Tactics

Firearms

Instructor

Detective Kevin James

Captain Cheyenne Schoff /Firearms Instructors

Rome Police Department 2020

Training Division

In-service #20-09

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
Taser	Detective Daniel Vescio
Pepper Spray	Captain Cheyenne Schoff
NIMS	Lieutenant Sharon Rood
Police Encounters	Lieutenant Sharon Rood

Individual Unit Training - The following trainings were also done with individual units during the course of 2020. The topics covered during these unit trainings will be explained further in their individual sections.

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
Special Response Team	Captain Cheyenne Schoff
Identification / Forensics Unit	Sergeant Shane Riolo
Honor Guard Unit Training	Sergeant Scott Hoag
Accident Reconstruction Unit	Sergeant Shane Riolo

Re-certifications

All department certifications were kept up to date and were done in house, with the exception of the K-9 certifications and Radar/Lidar certifications. Breath analysis operator certifications were completed on-line through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services.

Training Exercises

One training exercise was conducted with government facilities. Due to safety concerns, the locations will not be published. The exercises included the Rome Police Department Patrol Division, Oneida County 911 Center, Oneida County Sherriff's Office, New York State Police, and New York State Department of Corrections.

Rome Police Department 2020

Training Division

Recruit Police Academy Training

During 2020, the Rome Police Department added eight new police officers to the ranks. Police Officer Joseph Longo was hired as a certified Police Officer from the Yorkville Police Department. The new recruit officers are Recruit Police Officers Kevin Fisher, John Petrelli, Markell Griggs, Megan Pritchard, Kayln Olney, Anthony Pacicca, and Mikayla Blumenstock. These new officers began the Mohawk Valley Police Academy in Utica, New York, on June 29, 2020, and completed their academy instruction on December 10, 2020. Each recruit officer will receive an additional 12 weeks of supervised field training before being certified as a police officer. The formal police academy graduation will be held on April 16, 2021.



Field Training Officer Program

When a recruit officer from the basic police academy or a lateral transfer joins the Rome Police Department, he or she must complete the departments field training program. The basic police academy recruit undergoes a twelve-week program, while the lateral transfer undergoes a condensed six-week program. At the end of the field-training period, a final evaluation is completed. If the officer has achieved all of the departments field training objectives, they are released from the program to the patrol division.

Internship Program

This program continues to provide a valuable service to the Rome Police Department and the schools who participate in the program. Each year, students from local colleges participate in the intern program to gain college credits towards their degrees. In 2020, the Rome Police Department hosted five students in the internship program. Three of the five were able to begin their program in person then move to a virtual program due to COVID-19. Two students participated in an entirely virtual program. These students were enrolled in Utica College and Keyuka College. The program would not be a success without the dedication of the officers.

Rome Police Department

2020

Training Division

Training Schools and Seminars

During 2020, numerous Rome Police Officers attended and completed thirty one (31) specialized training courses held throughout Upstate New York State, New York City, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. These specialized courses consisted of: Canine training, Executive Leadership, Use of Force Refresher updates, Course in Police Supervision, GLOCK Armorer's Course, Reid Technique of Investigative Interview, 2020 Snowmobile LE Development School, ICISF Crisis/Group Crisis, CIT (Crisis Intervention Team), Officer Wellness/Suicide, Basic Narcotics Officer Course, Firearms Instructor Course, Microsoft Excel, Aquatic Death and Homicidal Drowning Investigations, Mid-Level Leadership Workshop, Transitioning to Supervisor, FBI Interview and Interrogation Training, NYTOA Conference, Grant Management Class, Polygraph Program, Police Field Training Officer Program, Managing Emotions under Pressure, Suicide Prevent Police Lockup Instructor Course, Fundamentals of Death Investigations, Investigating Drowning Deaths, Perspectives on Police Reform, Accreditation Program Management, and Positive Persuasion Virtual Training, Principles in Policing Train the Trainer, Investigative Interview and Positive Persuasion, and Firearms Trafficking Investigations Course.

Evaluation of Training Division Goals for 2020

Goal: To continue to provide the training hours mandated by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services for Police Officer in-service topics.

Objective: The training division will continue to cover the 21 hours of in-service training mandated by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, covering the required topics; legal updates, use of force, firearms qualifications, community interaction, emergency management, investigations, and nine hours of elective topics. Additional in-service hours and instruction will be added based on the needs of the department and community.

Evaluation: This goal was accomplished, with all 21 hours of New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services required in-service training mandates met. Most officers received an additional 37.5 hours of in-service training, for a total of 58.5 in-service hours.

Goal: To provide, maintain, and seek out additional specialty training for Rome Police Officers.

Objective: The training division will continue to seek out and provide the best training possible to the members of the Rome Police Department. Continue to explore innovative ways to ensure that our officers are highly trained and able to safely handle the requirements of their duties, while taking into consideration the financial status of the City of Rome.

Evaluation: This goal was met by sending numerous officers to the thirty one specialized outside training courses, seminars, or conferences.

Rome Police Department

2020

Training Division

Training Division Goals for 2021

Goal: To continue to provide the training hours mandated by the New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services for Police Officer in-service topics.

Objective: The training division will continue to cover the 21 hours of in-service training mandated by the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, covering the required topics set forth by accreditation standards. Additional in-service hours and instruction will be added based on the needs of the department and community.

Goal: To provide, maintain, and seek out additional specialty training for Rome Police Officers.

Objective: The training division will continue to seek out and provide the most current, up to date training to the members of the Rome Police Department. The training division will continue to seek new ways to ensure that our officers are highly trained and able to safely handle the requirements of their duties, while taking into consideration the financial status of the City of Rome.



Rome Police Department 2020

Vehicle Fleet



Introduction

In the course of routine patrol, the Rome Police Department relies upon the use of a number of vehicle makes and models. The department utilizes Ford Police Interceptor Sedans, Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicles, Dodge Chargers, and a Ford F-150 SSV Pickup as its primary patrol vehicles. The patrol fleet is kept in good condition, and vehicles are cleaned using car washes provided by Falcone's Auto on Erie Boulevard West and Liberty Car Wash on West Liberty Street. The vehicle fleet program is under the direction of Deputy Chief Kevin M. Simons, with the maintenance for the fleet under the responsibility of the City of Rome Central Maintenance Department.

Accomplishments



It should be noted that there was a major change in the method used to procure the department's fleet in 2020. The City administration has entered into a lease program with Enterprise. Under Enterprise Fleet Management, front line service vehicles will be exchanged on a 3-year rotation and secondary/unmarked vehicles will be replaced on a 5-year rotation schedule. The schedule for 2020 saw the replacement of front line vehicles 116 and 117 with two 2020 Ford Interceptor Utilities. Additionally, replacements of secondary vehicles, 128, 165, and SSO 1 were completed with one 2020 Ford Interceptor Utility, one 2020 Ford Base Explorer, and one 2020 Dodge Charger. Unmarked vehicles 134, 152, 153, and an SIU vehicle were replaced with one 2020 Ford Base Explorer and three 2020 Nissan Rogues. Finally, the police department's plow truck (163) was replaced with a 2020 Ford F-250 3/4 ton pickup truck, and the aging 2003 Chevrolet SRT van was replaced with a 2020 Ford E350 box van.

It is anticipated that in 2021, marked patrol units 112 and 114 will be replaced with 2021 Dodge Chargers, the SIU 2007 Pontiac G6 will be replaced with a 2021 Nissan Rogue, and the SIU 2011 Dodge Grand Caravan will be replaced with a 2021 Chrysler Voyager.

Rome Police Department 2020

Vehicle Fleet

The department continues to purchase and install digital imaging cameras and recorders in all of its marked patrol vehicles. Prior to 2014, the department utilized the I.C.O.P. model 20/20. As of 2014, the department began changing over to the Martel Digital System. In 2019, the department made a switch to the Watch Guard in-car camera system as the Martel System was proving unreliable. Additionally, in the past, most other equipment, including but not limited to light bars, radios, and long rifle/shotgun racks were retro fitted from the old vehicles into the new vehicles being put in service. With the changing styles of the newer models, not all of the equipment, with the exception of the radios and computers, can be retrofitted.



Police vehicles have to be able to withstand more than an average vehicle. Long hours, high mileage, emergency vehicle driving, and harsh driving conditions are all taken into account when designating a vehicle as a police patrol vehicle. Ford continues to offer the Police Interceptor Utility, which has proven to be reliable, but has discontinued offering a standard police sedan. The Dodge Charger is now the only standard police sedan on the market. Vehicle makes, models, affordability, options, and features are continually monitored and taken into account when making the decision on which vehicles to buy, and now lease, in order to assure the best value (efficiency and effectiveness) to the City of Rome, Rome Police Department, it's officers, and the community. The fleet management agreement with Enterprise will be closely monitored and scrutinized to insure the department and the City are getting the best "bang for the buck."

Rome Police Department 2020

Volunteers in Police Service "VIPS"



Introduction

2020 was a year of inactivity for the Volunteer's in Police Service (VIPS) organization and the citizens of Rome. Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, all VIPS operations ceased. During 2020, the VIPS were utilized only one time. On October 31st, 2020, Halloween night, three two man units assisted Rome Police Patrols in monitoring the city's neighborhoods.

The organization's office is in the heart of the city, located at 513 W. Dominick St., and is used for the volunteers to complete paperwork, meet with other interested volunteers, hold meetings, and as location open to the public to hear concerns and answer questions. This office was inactive during 2020.

In 2020, all of the VIPS' vehicles were prepared and ready for use. VIP 3 was taken out of service due to extensive repair needs. One of the goals for 2020 was more VIP patrols and visibility along the Mohawk Trail. This was not accomplished due to the VIPS operations being reduced due to COVID 19.

The VIPS organization, which does not receive government funding, is sustained by the volunteers conducting their own fund raising programs. Presently all officers and ranks of the VIPS' program are sworn members.

The VIPS' funds will continue to be used to allow the VIPS to purchase needed equipment, uniforms, training, and the equipment and decals for any additional vehicles acquired by the organization for patrol functions.

The goal for 2020 was for additional officers to join the ranks of the VIPS. A meeting was scheduled with Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC) Administration, but cancelled due to the pandemic. Talks will resume with MVCC once restrictions created by the pandemic are under control.

Rome Police Department 2020

Volunteers in Police

Service "VIPS"

Historical Background of Volunteers In Police Service (Nationally)

After the 9/11 bombings, President George W. Bush created the United States of America Freedom Corps. The creation of the Freedom Corps was to build on the countless acts of service, sacrifice, and generosity that followed September 11th. As a White House office, U.S.A.F.C. is charged with building a culture of service, citizenship, and responsibility in America. The Citizen Corps, a vital component of U.S.A.F.C., was created to help coordinate volunteer activities to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to any emergency situation. Citizen Corps partner programs build on the successful efforts in place in many communities around the country to prevent crime and respond to emergencies. The Volunteers in Police Service Program is one of five Citizen Corps partner programs. The International Association of Chiefs of Police manages and implements the VIPS Program in partnership with, and on behalf of the White House Office of the United States of America Freedom Corps and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, and the United States Department of Justice. The VIPS program ultimate goal is to enhance the capacity of state and local law enforcement to utilize volunteers.

Origins of the Volunteers in Police Service of Rome

In 2006, the Rome Police Department, under the auspices of the Weed and Seed Program, held its first civilian police academy. In 2009, the 6th Rome Police Civilian Police Academy was conducted, bringing the total number of attendees to approximately ninety. The major goals of the civilian police academy were to:

- 1) Dispel the misconceptions by the public as to how the police department operates by educating them with regards to departmental policies and procedures, state and federal laws, and appellate court rulings that govern the actions of our officers.
- 2) Build trust between the police and the community by opening lines of communications and fostering co-operation by building partnerships with the public.
- 3) Continue to increase an awareness and appreciation of the police function by creating informed community members who can in turn assist our department by helping to eliminate rumors and provide factual information.

Rome Police Department 2020

Volunteers in Police

Service "VIPS"

Another goal of conducting these civilian police academies was to provide a cadre of civil minded persons that might be interested in providing volunteer services to the police and fire departments as the Rome Auxiliary Police had in the past. It had been several years since the auxiliary police had become inactive due to a variety of reasons. Among these reasons was several core members passed away. Those that remained were older and not fully able to complete the functions that were required, and the auxiliary police lacked qualified applicants to replace these individuals.

At the time, Lieutenant John Bielby (Capt./Retired) was tasked with the planning, creation, and execution of the Rome Police Civilian Police Academy, as well as the reformation of the "Rome Auxiliary Police." The main concern was to determine what might be the best, most practical method to establish a new and more modern approach to restore the "old" auxiliary police. It was during the research to address this concern that the Volunteers in Police Service was discovered. This research indicated that the VIPS program fit the profile of what was needed to start a new volunteer group. In addition, VIPS coincided with both the department's effort with the civilian police academy, and with what the city was accomplishing with the Weed and Seed Program. In the Spring of 2007, Lieutenant Bielby and Weed and Seed Coordinator Kathy Stockbridge attended a Department of Justice seminar in Buffalo on the "Building Blocks of a Law Enforcement Volunteer Program." Based on the knowledge and information gained from this seminar, the actual development and implementation of the Volunteers in Police Service of Rome began.

In the first couple of months of 2008, the plans for the actual formation of Rome VIPS began. An invitation was sent to all of the past graduates of the Rome Civilian Police Academies to attend an informational meeting for potential volunteers. From this meeting, a group of sixteen individuals expressed an interest to attend the additional training to join the organization. Lieutenant Bielby and Deputy Fire Chief Mark Kohlbrenner conducted this six week training course. This training included such subjects as civil liability, crowd and traffic control, fire basics, CPR, and radio communications. After successfully completing this training, fifteen individuals were sworn by Rome City Clerk Louise Glasco to serve as members of the City of Rome Volunteers in Police Service.

Rome Police Department 2020

Volunteers in Police

Service "VIPS"

This core group of volunteer members began to develop the organizational structure of the VIPS. It was decided by this group, that the organization would formally call themselves Volunteers in Police Service of Rome, New York. Elections were held naming Bruce Melnick as Chief, Charles Pelano as Assistant Chief, David Constable as Secretary/Sergeant at arms, Kristy Maggio as Scheduler, and Philip Trela as Treasurer. Rules of conduct, policy and procedure, and by-laws were established. Additionally, official Rome Police Department identification cards and a VIPS' uniform, bearing a distinctive logo developed by Ryan Stockbridge, were issued to each member. These uniforms, consisting of black cargo-type pants, a light blue professional uniform shirt, and an A.N.S.I. certified, multi-season jacket. The uniforms were purchased with money obtained, with the assistance of Kathy Stockbridge, from the city's community development block grant. As the year went on, other needs were determined and committees were set up to address those needs.

Conclusion

In 2020, the VIPS experienced the loss of Chief Bruce Melnick who passed away in December of 2020. Once VIPS meetings start again, a new Chief will be appointed.

The VIPS organization will continue to assist the community, Rome Police Department, and the Rome Fire Department when requested or as needed. From the inception of the Volunteers in Police Service of Rome in 2008, this organization has become a very visible and positive force in the City of Rome. This is directly due to the dedication, enthusiasm, and esprit de corps of its members. It is rare to find a group of people that are so willing to volunteer their time and energy without the expectation of anything other than the personal satisfaction that is obtained through service to the community in return. The Volunteers in Police Services of Rome and its membership are worthy of all due respect, esteem, and cooperation from the administration of the City of Rome, its public safety departments, and citizenry of the city for their dedicated service to the community.

The Rome Police Department liaison between the department and the VIPS is Lieutenant John A. Reilly. The relationship between the police department and the VIPS is one of mutual respect. Lieutenant Reilly has called upon the assistance of the VIPS at many functions throughout years past, many on a day or two notice. On each occasion, the VIPS were able to supply members for particular events. No matter the circumstance (time of



Rome Police Department 2020

Volunteers in Police

Service "VIPS"

Goals for 2021

In 2021, the VIPS will work with the Rome Police Department to hold a 10 week Rome Police Civilian Police Academy. The VIPS hope to gain additional volunteers for the organization from the successful completion of a civilian police academy. As of the date of this report, the VIPS currently have a total of 11 volunteers. In 2021, the VIPS organization will continue its recruitment efforts through various community and veteran organizations to increase their membership, and help reduce the likelihood of burnout. In 2018, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was drafted by the VIPS' administration and introduced to the administration of the Rome Police Department, and the administration of the Mohawk Valley Community College (MVCC). The MOU is an attempt by the VIPS to gain membership from students that are presently enrolled in MVCC's criminal justice program. The incentive for the students would be to not only gain knowledge of law enforcement and volunteerism, but to also get credit through the college course work. With this, the goal would be to increase membership by three members. The VIPS will also attempt a more concentrated patrol effort on the City's Mohawk Trail system with the golf cart and VIPS' patrol vehicles. Additionally, the organization will continue to seek out replacement patrol vehicles to supplement its current aging fleet, and schedule a ceremony for the VIPS' members moving up in rank with the organization, and recognize all officers for their commitment and volunteerism to the citizen's of the City of Rome.

Rome Police Department 2020

Warrants Division

Introduction

The Rome Police Department is charged with the care and custody of all warrants of arrest issued by Rome City Court. To minimize the liability in the handling of these warrants of arrest, the Rome Police Department utilizes a warrant control officer. The warrant control officer is a sworn member of the department, who has the responsibility of maintaining the proper computerized and written records of all active and executed Rome Police Department city court warrants. The proper handling of warrants is crucial in avoiding liability associated with the improper arrest or detention of subjects on invalid or already executed warrants. The current Rome Police Department Warrant Control Officer is Patrolman Jeff Buckley, who is supervised by Detective Commander Kevin James

Activity

In 2020, the warrant division continued to update the active warrant list every week for the Rome Police Department's website. The warrant division worked with Rome City Court to vacate all 2010 warrants. There were 34 total warrants vacated due to the warrants being over ten years old. The warrant division presents Rome City Court with a current warrant list at the beginning of each year. This list is then reviewed by the presiding judges to determine validity.

Warrant Division Statistical Data for 2020

The Rome Police Department Warrant Division has the following data regarding warrants of arrest activity for the year 2020:

Active on file at year end:	658
New warrants received from Rome City Court:	460
Warrants executed by arrest:	272
Warrants withdrawn by Rome City Court:	65
Oneida County Court warrants executed:	2
Local agency warrants executed:	6
Outside county warrants executed:	1
Drug court warrants executed:	0
NYSP:	1

Rome Police Department 2020

Warrants Division

Conclusion

In reviewing the warrant division for the year of 2020, the following observations were made:

- The total number of active warrants on file increased by 41 which is an increase of 6.2%.
- The number of warrants received from Rome City Court decreased by 193 which is a decrease of 29.5%.
- The number of executed warrants decreased by 26 which is a decrease of 8.7%.
- The amount of vacated warrants decreased by 254 which is a decrease of 80%.
- The number of Oneida County Court warrants executed decreased by eleven which is a decrease of 84.6%.
- The number of family court warrants executed decreased by seven which is a decrease of 100%.
- The number of local agency warrants executed decreased by nineteen which is a decrease of 76%.
- The number of outside county warrants executed remained the same at one.
- The number of drug court warrants executed decreased by three which is a decrease of 100%.
- The number of NYSP warrants executed decreased by seven which is a decrease of 87.5%.
- The number of Fugitive from Justice Warrants remained the same at zero.

Overall, there was a larger number of warrants on file in 2020. The Covid-19 pandemic limited a large majority of warrant issuance, withdraw, and execution. Going forward into 2021, all warrants are easily accessible. The process to research and update through the Total Enforcement System, along with the updated warrant file system at the communications desk, has helped in executing and updating warrant status' in real time.

Goals

The warrants division did not attain the 2020 goal to increase warrant executions by 5%. The warrants division did not meet the goal of ensuring warrant activity narratives were being completed by patrol within 14 days of activity. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Rome City Court was not functioning at full capacity, which limited the number of warrants issued.

Rome Police Department 2020

Goals (continued)

The warrants division will continue a high standard of communication with Rome City Court to establish continuance, or withdrawal on active warrants. Due to NY State Bail Reform, there was a large spike in the number of warrants issued as Court did begin to reopen. Going forward into 2021, it is believed the new reform will continue to cause a large increase in the number of warrants issued. The combination of this reform, along with future initiatives, create a goal of the warrants division to increase warrant executions by at least 5% for 2021.

It is also a goal of the warrants division to complete a warrant training block for the entire department during the course of 2021. This training should ensure warrant activity narratives will be completed by patrol within 14 days of activity.



Rome Police Department 2020

Weapon Storage

Introduction

Weapons are turned into the Rome Police Department for safekeeping and various other reasons and situations. Weapons are also confiscated as a result of investigations, and secured as evidence. When members of the department secure a weapon, an investigation is conducted to ascertain the ownership, and whether or not the weapon may have been stolen or used in the commission of a crime. Once a weapon is determined to be legitimately owned, and there is no indication of it being stolen or used in the commission of a crime, it is then returned to the rightful owner. Patrolman Eric Stevens, the department property and evidence officer, oversees this function.

Weapons received for safekeeping, secured pending proof of ownership, or used in a crime

Currently, there are 850 firearms (shotguns, rifles, and handguns) in weapons storage. A total of 181 firearms were secured in 2020. While people are away on vacation, or are experiencing some type of problem, they will, from time to time, turn in firearms for safekeeping. These firearms are eventually returned to their owners after a period of time, or as a result of an investigation or “cool down period.” Firearms that are secured for proof of ownership are also returned to their proper owner once ownership has been established. Firearms that are turned in for safekeeping while their owners are away on vacation are returned to them when they return.

During 2020, a total of 28 firearms were returned to their rightful owners, or released to a federal firearms dealer.

Weapons currently in storage

There were many firearms that were stored in years prior to 2020. The legal owners of these weapons can no longer be located or are non-traceable. This research requires many hours. Once it has been determined that the firearm should properly be destroyed, the district attorney and the corporation counsel’s office need to be advised, and an “order to destroy” is required prior to destruction. There were also numerous weapons that have been secured by officers of this department that with proper research and documentation could be destroyed. Some of these weapons were used in the commission of crimes. Legally, they cannot be returned to their owner, and require destruction. There are also weapons secured within weapons storage that the owners no longer desire. They will be destroyed after obtaining the appropriate documentation.

Rome Police Department 2020

Weapon Storage

Summery

For 2021, the Rome Police Department will continue assisting people in our community with the storing of their firearms while they're away. The firearms will be stored for safekeeping and returned to the owner upon their return. By doing this, it gives them the sense of relief, and alleviates the threat of having them stolen while on vacation. The department will also research old cases with the intentions of returning weapons to the rightful owners, or destroying weapons that are no longer needed for court.

Goals for 2021

For the 2021 year, the unit will reorganized all firearms into designated evidence bins. Further, the firearm storage area will be cleared of non-firearm materials to create more room for the increasing number of firearms being secured. This re-organization of firearms will allow for more storage space in the designated evidence room.

