

**Preliminary Report on the Village of Tarrytown Police Department  
For public discussion on Wednesday, June 24, 2020**

Prepared by  
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**Mission Statement**

The Mission of the Tarrytown Police Department is to ensure the constitutional rights, peace, and safety of all persons; to protect and preserve property; to serve; and to maintain good order within the confines of the jurisdiction.

As a public service provider it is our sworn duty to enforce enacted federal, state, and local laws in a fair and impartial manner. We strive to offer efficient, professional, and courteous response to all calls for service regardless of their nature or degree of urgency.

In order to achieve our commitment we recognize the need to be flexible and attentive to the concerns of the community and accept the responsibility for maintaining open communications with community agencies and their representatives.

**History**

The Village of Tarrytown was incorporated as a Village under the laws of the State of New York one hundred and fifty years ago, on December 9, 1870. Tarrytown is an area of approximately 3.1 square miles, situated on the eastern shore of the Hudson River, in an area called the Tappan Zee, (Tappan for the Tappan Indians who once lived in what is now Rockland County, and Zee meaning sea in Dutch). During the history of the incorporated Village, Tarrytown has had some means of providing for the public safety of our citizens and residents. Today, the Tarrytown Police Department continues to enforce the laws and ensure the protection of the public. As our Village population has grown, our Police Department has also grown. The Department staffing has remained stable over the last 20 years. In the year 2000 our population was 11,090. It increased to 11,277 in the year 2010, and at present estimates put our population at approximately 11,370 (Source: US Census).

Additional population statistics on Tarrytown are as follows:

Race and Hispanic origin (population statistic estimates as of July 1, 2019)

White alone, percent	76.9%
Black or African American alone, percent	5.3%
American Indian or Alaska Native alone, percent	0.0%
Asian alone, percent	6.0%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, alone, percent	0.0%
Two or More Races, percent	2.5%
Hispanic or Latino, percent	27.4%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, Percent	61.2%

(Source: US Census, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/tarrytownvillagenewyork>)

**Police Department Budget and staffing**

Between 2000 and 2020, the Village of Tarrytown Budget and staffing for the Tarrytown Police Department was as follows:

**Budgets – 1999-2000 Adopted Budget compared to 2019-2020 Adopted Budget (summary)**

Budget	2000 (1999-2000 Adopted)	2020 (2019-2020 Adopted)
Personal Services (100's)	\$2,447,141	\$4,097,189
Equipment and Capital (200's)	\$ 60,000	\$ 119,000
Contractual Expenditures (400's)	\$ 151,300	\$ 400,300
Total Police Budget	\$2,658,441	\$5,393,815

**Staffing -- 1999-2000 Adopted Budget compared to 2019-2020 Adopted Budget**

Job Title	2000 (1999-2000 Adopted)	2020 (2019-2020 Adopted)
Chief	1	1
Lieutenants	2	3
Sergeants	8	7
Police Officers (includes Detectives)	22	23
Total Police Budget	33	34

**Current Police Officer makeup of officers**

Of the 34 officers, 31 are men, 3 are women.

24 or 70% are white

10 or 29.4% are minorities

3 are Black

6 are Hispanic or Latino

1 is Pacific Islander

44% of the officers were born in and/or grew up in Tarrytown

Based on a population of 11,400, there is one police officer for every 335 residents

(This does not take into account the daytime population of the Village including commuters who use the Tarrytown Train Station, or people who come to work in Tarrytown.)

Notes:

1. The increase in the number of police officers by one (1) officer was implemented during Fiscal Year 2019-2020 to help cover the Criminal Justice Reform requirements, including the need to produce case discovery records within a short timeframe enacted by New York State approximately a year and a half ago.
2. The personnel numbers (100's) from 2000 and 2020 both include two civilian administrative employees.

**Police Department Operations**

Over the past three years, the following public call load was responded to or handled by the Department. Also included in the report are criminal investigations, emergency events such as snow storms, or wind storms that cause trees to fall and close roads, or traffic control for utility projects that are regularly taking place in the Village, or other regular activities of the Department. Activities such as criminal investigations could generate dozens of hours of police work, depending on the complexity of the investigation. Tarrytown also has 140,000 vehicles drive across the Governor Mario Cuomo Bridge on a daily basis (during normal times), which causes our local traffic to increase to a higher level than a Village or community that does not have a major arterial road. A study performed in 2016 revealed that over 140,000 per week drive along Route 9 within the Village on a weekly basis, translating into approximately 20,000 vehicles driving through the Village on a daily basis. Tarrytown is also a major transportation hub with the second busiest Metro North stop on the Hudson line. Traffic control is one of the Police Department’s major tasks.

As with most police departments in New York State, the Tarrytown Police Department is a 24 hour/7 day a week/365 day per year operation.

**Statistics:**

<b>3 Year Totals 2017-2019</b>			
	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Calls for Service</b>	12361	12303	12000
<b>Aided cases</b>	934	987	1002
<b>Accidents</b>	369	392	374
<b>Village Code Violations</b>	39	73	63
<b>Village Code Arrests</b>	64	49	63
<b>Criminal Cases</b>	481	435	434
<b>Arrests</b>	450	400	365

This does not include crime investigation hours per case, or emergency events such as snowstorms, or windstorms that cause trees to fall and close roads, or traffic control for utility projects that are regularly taking place in the Village, or major public events that take place in Tarrytown such as parades, the Street Fair, the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks, concerts, and other major events that take place each year.

The table above shows that the Tarrytown Police Department handled 36,664 calls in a three (3) year time frame. In the time frame of 2015 to present (during which the call total was approximately 60,000 calls), the Village of Tarrytown received seven (7) complaints about police officers, all of which were investigated and cleared, and follow-up action taken, if necessary.

**Accomplishments:**

- The Department's recruitment efforts have been directed toward increasing diversity in order to create a multicultural workplace that mirrors the community it serves
- The Department has banned chokeholds since 2001, along with recognizing and addressing the issue of positional asphyxia, which is death caused by placing an individual in a body position that interferes with someone's ability to breathe
- The Department works within a force continuum, emphasizing that officers should apply only the minimum amount of force necessary to defuse a situation, or, when necessary, take someone into custody
- Over the past 3 years, our officers have trained an average of approximately 3,550 hours each year
- In the police academy, officers receive training in topics which includes but is not limited to the following topics:
  - de-escalation
  - professional communication
  - mental health/crisis intervention
  - cultural diversity
  - principled policing (which covers both implicit bias and fostering relationships within the community).
- On an ongoing basis officers receive specialized training and participate in courses that refresh areas they have already been exposed to. Recently our entire Department completed training in Implicit Bias and the entire department completed a course directed at de-escalation. The Department at the time of this writing has started another training course on anti-bias in police work.
- Training is an integral part of the Department's mission and one that is constantly evolving based on what the needs of the Tarrytown community are perceived to be
- Our officers do not receive warrior training
- The Village's policy is to never discharge a weapon at a moving vehicle unless the individual is using deadly physical force in addition to the vehicle or someone's life being in imminent danger (for example in instances where someone is trying to drive a vehicle into a crowd seeking to cause mass casualties)

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- The Department has a policy that is highly restrictive and regulatory of pursuits
  - The department has not received any equipment from the military
  - In 2015, the police administration realized that, in order to ensure that any individual wishing to report misconduct by a member of the Department should not feel intimidated, the policy was implemented whereby any such complaint could be submitted without the need to speak directly to an officer. A complaint form was made available on the Department's website and the form may be emailed, faxed, mailed or physically submitted.
  - The Department is currently in the final stages of updating policies and procedures that will reinforce the mission of protecting the rights of every individual and follows principles governed under NYS accreditation standards as well as the Governor's Executive Order
  - The Board of Trustees, the Police Department and the Administration have committed to purchasing body cameras and establishing a program for the preservation of records created through their use
  - Our Officers are actively involved in the community, mostly on their own time, participating in events such as:
    - a. Coffee with a Cop
    - b. Tarrytown Seniors Breakfast
    - c. DARE picnic
    - d. Donating and delivering food to the local food pantry and
    - e. Assisting in an annual toy drive that historically provides over \$5,000 worth of toys to the Community Opportunity Center and the local Salvation Army
    - f. Other similar and related activities

It is important to note that certain services are provided by other levels of government than the Village. Social Services and subsidy programs are provided by the Westchester County Department of Social Services (DSS). Mental Health support and counseling and shelter programs are offered by the County and State levels of government. Housing programs are offered by the County and State levels of government, as well as Federal programs and subsidies ranging from the Section 8 rent voucher program, affordable housing programs set up through County, State and Federal programs.

Moving Forward:

Pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order the Board of Trustees has scheduled a first "Town Hall Meeting" for Wednesday, June 24, 2020, to start the public process to review and

allow input on the current state of the Tarrytown Police Department, and discuss possible ways it can be guided and improved over the months and years ahead.

#### Appendices

1. Organizational Chart of the Tarrytown Police Department
2. Tarrytown Police Budget page from 6/1/1999 through May 31, 2000
3. Tarrytown Police Budget page from 6/1/2019 through May 31, 2020
4. Governor Cuomo's Executive Order No. 203 – New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative signed June 12, 2020
5. Village of Tarrytown Police Department Community Outreach Publication