

# ELMWOOD PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT



## ANNUAL REPORT

### 2016



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Elmwood Park Police Department shall be to promote a partnership between the community, businesses, government, the media, and law enforcement designed to reduce crime and improve the overall quality of life, while encouraging the community to determine its own needs through the exchange of ideas and problem solving techniques by implementing a proactive patrol which will inspire confidence and trust in the Police Department and all of its members.

## INTRODUCTION

### *Agency History*

The Elmwood Park Police Department was first organized in the 1920's. William Bulmer was our first Chief of Police. The Elmwood Park Police Department is located at 182 Market Street, Elmwood Park, N.J. and currently employees 41 sworn officers, 2 School Security Officers, 3 Special I police officers, 4 civilian dispatchers, and 2 civilian records room clerks. Elmwood Park is bordered by the City of Paterson, the Borough of Fair Lawn, the Borough of Garfield, the City of Clifton and the Township of Saddle Brook. Elmwood Park is a very diverse community and comes with several challenges.

Some of the challenges include language and cultural differences. In order to accommodate the community and its needs, the Elmwood Park Police Department has hired several bilingual officers. Currently those officers are spread out amongst the 4 squads and are able to communicate in Spanish, German, Polish, and Italian. Additional challenges include a growing heroin epidemic and drug related crime. One of our largest borders is the City of Paterson which is one of the primary locations where heroin is purchased by drug users in the northern portion of New Jersey and some parts of New York State.

Many of these crimes spill over into our community and it has become challenging to contain. The Elmwood Park Police Department handles approximately 50,000 calls for service each year. This is becoming increasingly more difficult to handle with having only 41 sworn police officers.

My hope is that the appointing authority will increase the increase the size of the police force so that we may be able to be proactive regarding crime and community policing.

Within the 41 officers there are the following:

- 1 Chief
- 2 Captains
- 4 Lieutenants
- 4 Sergeants
- 7 Detectives
- 23 Police Officers

The Elmwood Park Police Department is comprised of the following divisions and units:

- Patrol Division
- Investigative Division
- Traffic Division
- Narcotics Unit
- Community Policing Unit

In 2014, we implemented a full time Narcotics Unit, which is staffed by 2 Narcotics Detectives. In 2015 the Narcotics unit was responsible for 327 individual narcotics related arrests, which was one of the highest totals in the County.

The Elmwood Park Police Department provides its citizens with a full time Community Policing Unit which is staffed by a Detective. This Detective is a certified L.E.A.D. Instructor. In 2015 through the newly formed community policing unit, the Elmwood Park Police Department launched its first junior police academy for children ages 10 to 16. Our 2015 class had 22 graduates. Our 2016 class graduated 67 junior police recruits.

In November of 2013 the Elmwood Park Police Department installed mobile video cameras along with audio in all of our police vehicles. Additionally, the entire department is equipped with personally worn body cameras that officers are mandated to activate during every citizen encounter. We were one of the first agencies in the state and the first agency in Bergen County to mandate the use of body cameras. My staff and I were part of a round table discussion with Acting New Jersey Attorney General John Hoffman in 2015 regarding the use of body cameras by law enforcement in New Jersey and contributed to the formulation of the current New Jersey Attorney General Directive regarding the body cameras.

Our body camera initiative has not only been successful but it has also been beneficial for the officers and the community as well.

In early 2015, with the use of Federal drug forfeiture money, the Elmwood Park Police Department purchased a \$35,000.00 state of the art use of force training simulator. The purchase was made with the utilization of narcotics forfeiture funds, at no cost to the tax payers. The simulator allows officers to train in as close to real life situations as possible while improving

their decision making and judgement skills, in all types of use of force situations from, verbal commands up to and including deadly force.

In addition to semiannual firearms qualification training, officers are required to train on the use of force simulator monthly. In all of 2015 and 2016 to date we have had zero internal affairs complaints for excessive force. I believe the acquisition and implementation of the simulator is partially responsible for this statistic.

Our agency utilizes Power DMS for internal communications and training, as well as Guardian Tracking as an early warning system for internal affairs matters in addition to accurately tracking employee performance, both positive and negative.



Michael Foligno  
Chief of Police

The following report contains statistical data and analysis of the activities of the  
Police Department in 2016.



The Honorable Mayor and Council  
Borough of Elmwood Park  
Municipal Building  
182 Market Street  
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407

January 16, 2017

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am pleased to present the herein contained report of the activities of the Police Department for the year ended December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. In addition I wish to highlight certain events and other matters addressed by the Elmwood Park Police Department in 2016.

Very truly yours,

Michael Foligno  
Chief of Police

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

<b>GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2016</b>	
New Jersey Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund Grant	\$ 12,000.00
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Click it or Ticket Grant	\$ 5,000.00
Bullet proof vest funding grants	\$ 7,500.00
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Drive sober, get pulled over 2016 grant	\$ 5,000.00
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Over the limit, under arrest 2016 Year end crackdown grant	\$ 5,000.00
Safe and Secure Communities Grant	\$ 60,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 94,500.00</b>

<b>Forfeiture Fund Deposits 2016</b>	
Federal Equitable Sharing Account (interest included)	\$ 121,189.68
Bergen County Prosecutors Office (interest included)	\$ 51,207.24
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 172,396.92</b>

<b>Fees Collected 2016</b>	
Record Bureau Fees collected	\$ 6,834.75
Outside Work Revenue	\$ 141,000.00
Towing Admin Fees	\$ 8,300.00
Municipal Court Fines	<b>\$637,110.06</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 793,244.81</b>

TOTAL MONIES COLLECTED = \$ 793,244.81

In addition to the fiscal benefits of the above with regards to outside work, Police Officers working in this capacity in a marked patrol vehicle serve as an additional deterrent to crime in the Borough.

## Municipal Court Fines:

A 9 year comparative analysis including summonses issued, net fines, and number of officers for the corresponding years is found below:

Municipal Court Fines									
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Net \$\$	791,238	1,235,300	839,000	652,364	662,355.	751,548.	665,955	628,174	637,110
Summonses	14201	10191	19860	13546	15714	8428	11718	10613	12657
Officers	46	46	41	40	40	33	35	35/37*	41

*\*35 officers for 6 months and 37 officers for the second 6 months of the year\**

**NOTE:** The above illustrates the net monetary amount of fine money actually received by the Borough in the respective years. The purpose of traffic enforcement is to enhance safety to the motoring public. An aggressive approach to enforcement therefore will yield greater results in reducing motor vehicle accidents and roadway deaths. ***The fines generated are an ancillary benefit of such a program, with public safety being paramount.***

## LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

A Comparative (10) year analysis of the major activities of the Police Department:

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Homicide	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Rape/Sexual Assault	2	6	3	4	7	6	12	8	11	4	2
Robbery	15	13	8	11	12	12	13	9	14	12	22
Burglary	55	79	56	69	87	68	75	83	52	77	58
Larceny	249	336	323	300	279	314	254	246	269	108	278
Vehicle theft	28	31	48	29	18	23	20	20	22	13	15
Alarm	1112	914	880	774	785	949	689	583	720	847	854
Assaults	190	189	154	148	164	170	135	134	120	135	116
Domestic Violence	226	277	233	220	271	214	202	161	179	181	191
Juvenile Arrests/Investigations	80	154	97	90	97	149	74	55	58	120	183
Adult Arrests	507	692	666	650	785	1006	593	612	469	706	597
MV Summonses	10590	13546	14201	10191	19860	15714	8428	11718	13661	10613	12657
Medical Calls/Officer Response	918	988	925	957	1212	1176	1213	1256	1310	1233	1370
Motor Vehicle Accidents	846	782	888	936	992	975	949	943	984	870	850
D. W. I. Arrests	83	146	182	168	235	347	169	125	70	61	35
Warrants Cleared	135	414	412	410	598	537	195	215	333	379	414
Total Calls Logged	42,194	45,321	47,419	38,631	38,730	38,472	36,794	50,032	50,275	49,288	47,235



The preceding chart highlights the areas where significant increases or decreases have occurred. By charting trends over periods of time, we have been able to utilize the statistical data to target our resources and assets properly, in order to provide proactive responses in these areas. As such, we have targeted the (violent) street crime area. This area includes robberies (muggings, armed robberies, purse snatches and aggravated assaults) with secondary emphasis on other victim crimes such as burglaries and auto theft.

## **INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

The Internal Affairs Unit of the Police Department consisted of Capt. Marc D'Amore, Capt. Frank Thorpe, Lt. Kassai and Lt. John Harris and was under the command of Capt. Marc D'Amore . The unit functions on an as needed basis, and is subject to the mandates of the Bergen County Prosecutors Office and New Jersey State Attorney General's Office.

The Unit answers directly to the Chief of Police. All members have received training relative to these duties. In 2016, the unit conducted 36 investigations involving members of the department. These investigations resulted in dispositions rendered as 13 sustained, 2 not sustained, 1 administratively closed, and 19 cases pending. Discipline rendered included no suspensions, 5 officer received a written reprimand, 0 officer received an oral reprimands and 8 officers received counseling/training notices, and a total of 3 vacation days were forfeited in lieu of suspension days. One officer separated from service from the department.

The appropriate matters were reviewed by the Bergen County Prosecutors Office, consistent with the directive from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. In all cases these matters were investigated and disposed of at the departmental level. No cause for criminal action was warranted in these cases. The purpose of the Internal Affairs Unit is to investigate at the direction of the Chief of Police, alleged instances of rule violations, criminal violations, and other matters that reflect upon the Borough of Elmwood Park and in particular the Elmwood Park Police Department. Since this program was instituted twenty one years ago only one officer was found to warrant a full criminal investigation. This is indicative of the integrity of this policy and its effectiveness in its implementation and operation.

To further demonstrate our transparency, all of our patrol vehicles are equipped with video cameras and are fully audio recorded for the protection of the officer and the public. Additionally, every member of the department is equipped with a personal body worn camera that they are required to activate during every citizen encounter.

## INVESTIGATIONS

The Detective Bureau conducted 645 criminal investigations in 2016. The investigations ranged from Aggravated Sexual Assault, and Armed Robbery, to minor petty disorderly persons offenses.

There were 191 investigations involving violations of the Domestic Violence Laws or of court orders relating to a Domestic Violence Offense. The investigations and reviews resulted in the issuance of temporary restraining orders and arrest warrants. These cases are time consuming and may require statements, photographs, collection of physical evidence and notification and consultation with other agencies such as the Division of Youth and Family Services where minor children are involved and Crisis Intervention where the volatility of the situation necessitates immediate intervention aside from any statutory mandates. There are also instances where the immediate arrest of the actor is required and a subsequent commitment to the Bergen County Jail.

The average Domestic Violence case takes 2 ½ hours to investigate and process, and an additional 1 ½ hour is required if an arrest and commitment are involved.

There were 78 adult shoplifters processed by the Detective Bureau. Each case requires by law the fingerprinting, photographing, criminal history, warrant checks, identity verification and commitment to the Bergen County Jail if warranted. There were a number of cases where the individual arrested and charged had a minor child with them at the time and arrangements or placement options had to be made for the wellbeing of the child.

In addition, there were 3 juvenile shoplifters processed in accordance with the laws governing juvenile offenders. Many of these offenders were charged with additional crimes including narcotics violations.

During the year when the municipal court was in session, the Detective Bureau, transported 112 prisoners to and from the Bergen County Jail. Also on other occasions, prisoners were transported to other municipal courts when our court was not in session or a change of the venue was ordered.

There were 8 investigations for towing application permits for the police department... There were no investigations with respect to liquor license transfers and 115 firearms permit and identification card investigations.

Detective Anthony Di Pasquale is the Megan's Law liaison officer (sex offender registry for Borough residents). This position is mandated by law. The Detective works with the Bergen County Prosecutors Office to register and investigate all aspects of Megan's Law designees. This includes individuals residing in the Borough as well as any individual that might move into or out of the Borough. In 2016 there were a total of 25 Megan's Law investigations conducted (registered sex offenders residing in Elmwood Park).

During the course of the year, there were 75 cooperative investigations with the United States Customs Service, U.S. Immigration Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Secret Service, New Jersey State Police, Bergen County Prosecutors Office, Bergen County Sheriff's Department, Garfield Police Department, Fair Lawn Police Department, Saddle Brook Police Department, Paterson Police Department, Lodi Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Bergen County Police Department, and the New York City Police Department. We also documented 329 incidents where we assisted other agencies.

The department maintains liaisons with the Bergen and Passaic County Prosecutors Office, Domestic Violence Unit, Family Court, Crisis Intervention, Division of Youth and Family Services, F.B.I., A.T.F., Homeland Security and Customs and Immigration Enforcement as well as the Bergen County Medical Examiner, Mid-Bergen Mental Health, Bergen County Narcotics Task Force, and the Elmwood Park School District.

### **JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIME**

There were 183 Juvenile Matters during the year 2016. The offenses ranged from violations of the criminal code, disorderly person offenses, missing persons, truancy, substance abuse and joint investigations with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency.

#### **JUVENILES CHARGED IN 2016:**

Aggravated Assault	Robbery	Theft	Assaults	Drug Offenses	Weapons Offenses	Disorderly Conduct	Other offenses
2	1	2	2	7	3	15	5

## **NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT**

The Borough of Elmwood Park is uniquely positioned that virtually every major highway either directly passes through us or is located close enough to allow convenient access to our community. Those roads include (The Garden State Parkway, Route 80, Route 46, Route 4, Route 20, and Route 21). In addition to this, the City of Paterson is one of our main boarders, which happens to be in the top 5 of cities in New Jersey with the highest violent crime rates. Paterson is also a breeding ground for street gang activity and gang related crimes which are not contained by a border. It is commonly known that much of the drug trade in New Jersey is gang controlled. Recently, we have experienced a significantly higher amount of spillover crime. A majority of this crime is either directly or indirectly related to narcotics activity. Heroin use and distribution is on a steady climb especially in northern New Jersey. Heroin is a highly addictive drug. Usually, a person becomes dependent on it so quickly and there is usually no turning back without serious, dedicated, and extensive intervention and rehabilitation. Addicts are so heavily addicted to the substance that they will virtually do anything to obtain the drug. If not, they become very sick or even risk dying. This becomes their motivation to do or risk whatever it takes to come up with money to support their habit that increases in cost every day. For us in Elmwood Park this means increased residential crime. In many cases these individuals drive through Elmwood Park in order to access a dealer in Paterson. The person obtains their drugs and needs to use them as soon as they are able. They have learned through experience that they should not stop in Paterson to use their drugs because they will most likely get robbed or "rolled" for their drugs. With this in mind, they frequently drive to a safe location in Elmwood Park and use their drugs often resulting in crimes of opportunity as they realize they need more drugs and have no more money.

In addition to this, many of these people are operating their vehicles through Elmwood Park high on these drugs, which creates an elevated risk for serious or fatal motor vehicle accidents as it is equivalent to if not worse than driving while intoxicated (alcohol).

In 2016 the Elmwood Park Police Department made 205 individual narcotics while operating with just a 2 man Narcotics Unit.

## **EVIDENCE OFFICER**

In 2016, Evidence Officer, Detective Christopher Liptak handled and logged into the BEAST System 585 pieces of evidence. Of these 183 were submitted to the N.J.S.P. or other agencies for forensic examination. There were 217 pieces of evidence that were controlled dangerous substances. There were 65 cases involving marijuana, 131 involving heroin and 21 cases involving other drugs such as Crack/Cocaine and Pills. The amount of evidence is steadily increasing with the amount of arrests for narcotics increasing.

Additionally, there were 4 cases where urine specimens were collected and 4 cases where blood specimens were transported to the N. J. S. P. lab for analysis.

## **JOINT TERRORISM TASK-FORCE**

The Joint Terrorism Task-force is an additional duty assigned to the Police Department, yet of grave importance. Liaison is established through the Office of the Chief of Police. In addition to the Chief the unit includes Lt. Michael Kassai, who directly supervises any and all related investigations that are conducted.

The Joint Terrorism Task-force of the Elmwood Park Police Department conducted no major investigations in 2016, however we were able to assist the unit in investigations stemming from other jurisdictions. These investigations were conducted in conjunction with the F. B. I. Joint Terrorism Task-force as well as the New York City Police Departments Anti-Terrorism Task Force.

In addition, two designated officers per tour are assigned and carry a radiation detector on patrol at all times to detect any possible nuclear threats. This program has been established by the JTF with several key Municipal and County Law Enforcement authorities involved. Elmwood Park Borough is considered as vital due to our geographical location (proximity to NYC and various highways).

There is a continued threat of homegrown extremism in New Jersey and the surrounding region. Of particular concern are individuals who attempt to receive training and join terrorist organizations overseas. These individuals could potentially return with relative ease, to the United States to conduct an attack on the homeland.

The Elmwood Park Police Department played an integral role in this investigation from the outset, including conducting surveillances and sharing information with local, county, state, and federal officials, to the eventual planning and staffing of the arrest and subsequent search warrant execution.

## **PATROL DIVISION**

The Elmwood Park Police Department, by ordinance, supervises the towing and impounding of motor vehicles for various violations of the motor vehicle laws, and/or safety reasons. During the year of 2016 there were 333 impounds, for a total of \$8,300.00 in administrative fees collected.

A total of 202,116 miles of patrol were logged for 2016.

In addition to the regular MV enforcement performed while on patrol, a total of 35 DWI arrests were made. A total of 5 DMV checkpoints were conducted in conjunction with NJ DMV. A total of 163 DWI patrols were conducted. A total of 95 Radar Posts were conducted. A total of 29 Seatbelt enforcement posts were conducted.

The Detective Bureau and Patrol Division, in addition to their traditional responsibilities, also have members perform other duties. The Internal Affairs Unit is under the direction of the Chief of Police was headed by Capt. Marc D'Amore along with Capt. Frank Thorpe, Lt. Michael Kassai and Lt. John Harris. Evidence custody and control was the responsibility of Detective Chris Liptak. Firearm permits were assigned to Lt. Ralph Sigona. The bias Officer was Lt. Michael Kassai. The firearms training records and attendance records were maintained by Capt. Thorpe. The firearms training officer's were Capt. Thorpe, Det. Centkowski, Det. Kochis and P.O. Prelich. Domestic Violence matters and liaison to the Bergen County Prosecutors Office was assigned to Lt. Barone. Narcotics evidence was assigned to Detective Liptak.

Applications for a permit to carry a concealed weapon were assigned to Lt. Ralph Sigona. The 911 system was handled by Sgt. Sudol. The service of outside warrants was assigned to Lt. Kassai, and Lt. Barone. A. B. C. Liquor license transfers were investigated by Det. Goldyn and Det. Kochis. The Field Training Officer program was under the supervision of the Patrol Commander, Capt. Thorpe. It should be noted that all officers involved in this training have receive formal education and certification as field training officers and follow established guidelines in order to assure all new officers receive standardized and proper training. All weapons seized through either an arrest, domestic violence or court order are assigned to Capt. Thorpe for inventory, custody and control. All towers report to and are supervised by Lt. Barone. Lt. Sigona and Sgt. Sudol are the Terminal Agency Control Officers (TAC), Criminal Justice Information System Officer (CJIS) and Uniform Crime Reporting Officer (UCR) for 2016. These duties include the responsibility to the Bergen County Prosecutors Office, New Jersey State Police, and Federal Bureau of Investigation for our written, electronic data records, entries maintenance and system integrity. Specified duties have been assigned to Mr. Gorge Luke, civilian employee pertaining to these needs on a daily basis.

### **TRAFFIC SAFETY**

In 2016, our agency was presented with the challenges of the eradication of courtesy busing by the board of education. P.O. David Meyers was assigned to the Traffic Safety Officer position and is responsible for the management of Crossing Guards and the coordination of traffic in the areas of the schools. P.O. Meyers also handles traffic signage, parking issues and handicap parking assessments, fleet management, and is our liaison to the Traffic Officers Association of Bergen County. In 2012, our department was obligated to augment our crossing guard staff and hours to accommodate the increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in excess of 1500 students and implement temporary parking restrictions to ensure optimal safety. Our agency also was spot checked by the JIF for risk management purposes with regards to the crossing guards to which we performed satisfactory.

## **TRAINING**

Members of the department received 1329 hours of professional training at the Bergen County Police Academy, F.B.I., D.E.A., N.J.S.P., N.Y.P.D., National Tactical Officers Training Assoc., Board of Health, and in-house training units. Communications operators attended 80 hours of training. The training consisted of state mandated training covering such topics as cell block management, use of force, vehicle pursuit policy, media relations, fatal accidents, crash investigations, criminal investigations, blood borne pathogens and other courses that are directly related to an officer's duties and responsibilities or those which would enhance and improve their professional development.

The Firearms Training Unit conducted 920 hours of firearms training, re-qualification and other statutory considerations. There was a total of 18 training sessions. The standards call for quarterly qualification with the duty weapon, shotgun and off-duty weapons approved by the department.

During the course of these training blocks, approximately 16,480 rounds of handgun ammunition were fired along with 1480 rounds of 00 buck- 12 gauge shotgun, rifle and sub gun rounds.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

The Emergency management coordinator was Chief Michael Foligno of the Elmwood Park Police Department, Capt. Frank Thorpe is the deputy and liaison from the police department. In addition, Borough employee Nick Fedorsin served as a 2<sup>nd</sup> deputy and acted as the liaison to the Fire Department.

During the calendar year of 2016 Captain Thorpe and I met on a monthly basis to maintain a proactive approach regarding Emergency Management. I have ensured that the Elmwood Park Police Department training policies are in-line with Federal, State, and County standards.

In addition Captain Thorpe, Lt. Michael Kassai, Capt. Marc D'Amore and I took a proactive approach regarding Active Shooter training and planning for the Elmwood Park Police Department. The Elmwood Park Police Department and The New Jersey State Police conducted specialized training in the area of active shooter. This training was conducted during the 2016 calendar year. The Elmwood Park Police Department plans to continue this training during the calendar year of 2017.

Additionally, in 2016, we organized 2 lockdown drills at to Borough Public Schools while being observed by the New Jersey Department of Education. These to drills served as additional Emergency Management training and preparation for the department.

In 2016 Captain Thorpe and I discovered that the Borough of Elmwood Park was due a significant reimbursement in the amount of \$237,000.00 for Super Storm Sandy from 2012

Emergency Management State and County training and meeting are on-going.

# **Elmwood Park Police Department Annual Report 2016**

## **SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS/ SCHOOL SECURITY OFFICERS**

In 2016, the Police department employed 3 Special Law Enforcement Officers. These Special Law Enforcement Officers were assigned, on a regular basis, to the Municipal Court for court room security as well special events and on occasion, the issuance of parking summonses in targeted areas to augment our traffic program, and assisted with morning and afternoon school traffic posts.

Additionally, the special law enforcement officers assisted with the St. Leo's Church post on Sunday mornings.

The utilization of the Special Officers for Court sessions saves approximately 400 hours of regular overtime for an approximate savings of \$ 25,000. The Police Department is charged with the responsibility of providing security for all municipal court sessions. The Courts are mandated by the State to establish and maintain a security plan.

Additionally, in 2016 we employed 2 armed school security officers in our Borough public school system. The addition of this position has been of great value to the Police Department and the school district. The officers provide a constant safe environment for faculty and students which is an absolute necessity considering the trend of heinous acts of terrorism being committed against our schools nationwide.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Elmwood Park Police Department has begun moving towards a combination of a Community Policing model and targeted aggressive enforcement, in a proactive, as opposed to reactive manner. We strive to be tough on crime but remain sensitive to our community's needs. Our goal is to be proactive with both situations. Proactively reach out and become involved with the community and community groups rather than only interact with citizens when they need assistance or have committed a crime or traffic violation. This builds relationships and trust. Additionally, we will strive to proactively attack crime in our community before it has time to take root. We will continue our efforts to make the streets safe by enforcing the motor vehicle laws and by getting drunk drivers off of the road.

For the upcoming year, my plan is to assess the resources of the department and develop a strategy to utilize those resources as efficiently as possible. I have implemented strategic placement of personnel to help virtually eliminate unnecessary overtime costs.

I continue to take a fiscally conservative approach to the budget, and have identified and eliminated redundancy and focused on streamlining expenditures.



## **Elmwood Park Police Department Annual Report 2016**

I plan on continuing my vision of a Community Policing model with increased visible patrols, and establishing a more direct communication between the citizens and the police department. I also implemented an initiative to increase visibility and contact with all of the schools throughout the Borough in light of the increase in school violence and active shooter incidents. In 2017 my plan is to continue to have my fulltime Community Policing officer who works directly with the residents, schools, senior citizen groups, business owners and youth organizations to establish relationships and open lines of communication between the police department and community groups to address quality of life issues and any other issues that may be present or that may arise.

Finally, I look forward to working with the Mayor and Council in providing me with adequate personnel so that our police department can continue to grow with the community so that we can continue to provide the best services possible.

I look forward to coming up with a personnel plan for 2017 with the police committee.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the police department for their professionalism and diligence in focusing on and meeting the agencies goals and objectives. I believe that the quality of life our residents experience is directly impacted by the dedication and performance of all the members of the police department. I commend the members of our Governing Body for their continued support. Our agency looks forward to working with the members of the Mayor and Council in making our Borough a safe and secure community for all of our residents and visitors alike.

Very truly yours,

Michael Foligno  
Chief of Police

