Honorable Paul Lisovicz  
Chairperson, Public Safety Committee  
Glen Ridge, New Jersey  

July 20th, 2020

Dear Commissioner Lisovicz:

I hereby submit the semi-annual report for the Department of Public Safety from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020.

On June 30, 2020 the Public Safety Department consisted of the following employees:

1 Chief of Police  
1 Captain  
1 Lieutenant  
6 Sergeants  
2 Detective  
11 Police Officers  
4 Community Service Officers  
1 Records Clerk  
1 Mechanic

The following part time employees were under the supervision of the Public Safety Department:

20 School Crossing Guards  
90 Volunteer Ambulance Members  
6 Domestic Violence Response Team Members  
2 Per-diem Community Service Officers
Volunteer Ambulance Unit

The Volunteer Ambulance Unit responded to 471 calls for service during the first six months of 2020. Of these, 183 were for Glen Ridge emergencies and 280 were mutual aid requests to Montclair, Verona, Belleville and Bloomfield. This is a decrease of 54 calls for service from 2019, a 10% decrease between 2019 and 2020. There were 53 ambulatory patient transports for the first half of 2020.

Activity

During the first six months of 2020, the police department investigated 7 Assaults, 4 Burglaries, 4 Motor Vehicle Thefts and 35 Larcenies. Part 1 UCR reportable offenses have decreased 27% as compared to the first six months of 2019.

COVID-19

The Glen Ridge Police Department continues to adapt to the ongoing pandemic involving COVID-19. The department has modified the way it operates and handles calls for service in an effort to minimize unnecessary interactions and maintain the safety of the public and the Officers. We are continually reviewing best practices as the virus continue to develop, safety is the priority for both the public and the department. The protocol changes and the pandemic have had a direct impact on the way the department functions and operates; this is a leading cause for the reduction in statistics when compared to past years.

Crime Prevention Biannual Report

The Crime Prevention Unit consist of Chief Sheila Byron-Lagattuta, D/Sgt. Daniel Manley, Sgt. Medico, Det. Rivera and Patrol Officer Chris Grogan. Detective’s maintain full security responsibility to specific schools. This remains vitally important to the safety and security of our schools. The Crime Prevention Unit along with the Glen Ridge Board of Education continue to work to improve security & safety measures for all of the schools. The Glen Ridge Police Department coordinates training drills between all schools and the Police Department throughout the school year.

The Crime Prevention Unit continues to increase awareness of the services offered to our residents. These services include, but are not limited to, Home Security surveys, Bicycle Registrations, Internet Safety presentations, Bicycle Safety talks, Security Camera Registrations, Identity protection and other services.

Traffic Unit Bi-Annual Report

Traffic studies play a vital role in providing accurate data that is essential in the matters of enforcement. There have been a total of 69 motor vehicle crashes between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020, of which 14 resulted in injuries, 4 involved vehicles leaving the scene (hit and run) and 2 involved a bicyclist struck. This represents a 38% decrease from the first six months of 2019.
During the first six months of 2020, the Department issued a total of 760 motor vehicle summonses, a -59% decrease from 2019. Of these, 275 have been issued for motor vehicle violations, 480 have been issued for parking violations and 5 for Borough Ordinance violations. The department currently uses three approved tow companies, which have resulted in 43 tows for the first half of the year.

Our Traffic Data Collection is an on-going process that provides the Patrol Division and Public Safety Committee the information needed to make proper decisions based upon fact. Once the data is collected, analyzed, and reviewed the Patrol Division conducts traffic enforcement and radar enforcement details in the area to alleviate any of the traffic concerns. The Department has also utilized an electronic LED Speed sign to combat speeding violations. There have been eight (8) area specific traffic details resulting in 152 individual traffic details, 80 stops and 34 summonses. These details are assigned as a result of national initiatives, state initiatives, and traffic complaints received from the public.

**Domestic Violence Unit Report**

The Domestic Violence Unit consists of Chief Sheila Byron-Lagattuta and Sergeant Dean Gnardellis. A member of this unit, along with the Detective Bureau, is responsible for reviewing all domestic violence and family trouble cases by following up with the victims and families as well as maintaining an on call status. This service provided by the Domestic Violence Unit is utilized 365 days a year 7 days a week.

Our police department has fielded four (4) domestic violence calls for service yielding one (1) arrest. These calls have included criminal complaints such as Simple Assault and Harassment. Our department has fielded seven (7) family trouble calls.

The Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) consists of 6 trained volunteers who help victims cope with the incidents that have occurred both at the time of the call and in the past. These volunteers are trained to offer information about shelters, free legal services, counseling programs, preparation of escape plans, and emergency relief to assist victims with certain needs during a domestic violence incident.

**LEAD Officers Unit Bi-Annual Report**

The LEAD Unit is made up of Captain Sean Quinn (Coordinator), Sergeant Dean Gnardellis, Sgt. Michael Medico & Det. Anthony Rivera. The LEAD Officers completed 5 of the 10 session course curriculum with the 6th grade. The class was postponed and shortened due to the state of emergency for COVID 19.

**Noise Officer Bi-Annual Report**

During the first half of 2020, the Patrol Division received 36 noise complaints. There have been four noise investigations conducted by Officer Christopher Grogan to date this year.
Bi-Annual Revenue Report

For the first six months of 2020, the Records Bureau has received $548.95 in revenue collected for discovery and OPRA requests. The Record Bureau has also collected $10.00 for letters of good conduct and $100.00 in revenue was collected for dumpster permits. There were $350.00 collected for a violation of the Boroughs false alarm ordinance. This is a grand total of $1,008.95 in revenue collected through the Glen Ridge Police Department Records Bureau.

The Detective Bureau has received $89.00 in revenue for firearms related fees.

The total revenue received by the Glen Ridge Police Department during the first six months of 2020 was $1,097.95.

Respectfully,

Sheila Byron-Lagattuta
Chief of Police
Acting Director of Public Safety
Swearing in of Officer Andrew Waring

In February of 2020, Officer Andrew Waring was officially sworn in as a police officer in front of the Borough Council and his family.
The Glen Ridge Police Department conducted its second citizens police academy with the Montclair, Bloomfield, Verona and East Orange Police Departments. The CPA was shortened due to the pandemic, however it was still a great success.
The Glen Ridge Police Department wished Borough Administrator Michael Rohal a well deserved retirement!

The Glen Ridge Police Department also began two community campaigns during the first half of the year.

The first was Birthday Driveby’s during the month of April 2020. This program was designed to wish children a Happy Birthday during the pandemic quarantine, videos are available on the Department’s official Facebook page.

The second event was the Get to know your Officers Campaign which began in May and is on going. Videos and biographies about the Officers are available on the Glen Ridge Police Department’s Official Facebook Page.
Sadly, on May 11th, 2020, the Glen Ridge Police Department lost a true hero, Sergeant Charles E. Roberts. Officers Roberts passed away as a result of contracting COVID 19 while at work. The passing of Sergeant Roberts was a true tragedy and a true loss for both the department and borough. We continue to honor his legacy day after day by remaining #RobertsStrong.