

*Many of you know who I am at least by name if not by face, Sheila Byron-Lagattuta, Chief and Acting Director of Public Safety for Glen Ridge Police Department.*

*My roots were planted here in 1968 when my family relocated to Essex Avenue in Glen Ridge from Colorado. All my siblings and I are proud products of the Glen Ridge School System.*

*Over the years I have had so many wonderful opportunities to interact with the residents of our Borough and have established lifelong friendships.*

*In 1982 I was hired as a dispatcher for the Glen Ridge Police Department and over the past 40 years I have proudly served in every rank and position in the department and am a certified firearms instructor and a lifelong member of the Local PBA #58. Throughout my career I spent many years training and working with both juveniles in crisis and victims of Domestic Violence. These causes are near and dear to my heart. In 1996 we established the Borough's DVRT (Domestic Violence Response Team) which is still active today. This group of volunteers are trained to work with the often unseen and silent victims of Domestic Violence within our Borough.*

*It has been a privilege serving as your Police Chief and Acting Director of Public Safety for the past 11 years. Police Chiefs, no matter the size of the municipality, are charged with overseeing the daily operations of their department that runs 24 hours a day. By interacting with the administration, the GRVAS and the MFD, the Board of Education and neighboring municipalities we are able to oversee community safety in all aspects. Enhancing the safety of our school and protecting our children has been a number one priority post Sandy Hook and I am pleased to say that we have made great strides in the Glen Ridge School system and with safe routes to schools.*

*Throughout my career we have also been committed to improving our hiring standards and have expanded diversity within the department, which I am extremely proud of and believe will serve the Borough residents for years to come. The highly sought title of Accreditation awarded by NJ State Chiefs Association has enabled the department to update our policies and procedures to meet the highest ethical and professional standards in policing. This professional achievement will ensure our residents that the Glen Ridge Police Department will continue to adhere to the States best practices.*

*It has truly been an honor to watch the department change and grow over the years and I am confident that as the times we live in continue to change we will continue to adapt and grow as a department and a Borough.*

*I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Borough of Glen Ridge for the honor and privilege of serving as a member of the Glen Ridge Police Department throughout my 40-year career in law enforcement. It is with great pride and gratitude I announce my retirement from the GRPD as your police chief and acting director of Public Safety. I am certainly looking forward to the future retirement will bring me and the opportunity to spend more time pursuing other interests and spending time with my husband Charles, retired Law enforcement officer in Cedar Grove and my three children Philip, Jillian and Candace. I will miss the day to day interactions with residents and colleagues but am confident the true friendships established here will continue to grow and flourish as will the Glen Ridge Police Department.*

*Yours in Law Enforcement,*

*Chief Sheila Byron-Lagattuta*