



Blaze Catania
Chief of Police

**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP**

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Press Release

: For Immediate Release

The Egg Harbor Township Police Department will be serving layoff notices today (05/03/10) to nine officers due to the ongoing budget crisis. On May 15th two more officers will receive layoff notices due to the schools no longer funding 2 out of the 3 School Resource Officers. The officers being laid off all were assigned to the Patrol division which is requiring a reallocation of manpower within the police department. Four detectives and 3 members of the Traffic Safety Unit are being assigned to patrol to makeup the manpower cuts.

Two of the detectives being reassigned are from the Juvenile and Community Services Unit (JCSU) which means that many of the programs run by that unit will end. The Police Department's Annual Report lists all of these programs that they run and participate in. The JCSU will no longer function. The remaining detectives and detective sergeant will be reassigned to the Criminal Investigations Bureau. The two other detectives being reassigned to patrol are from the Criminal Investigations Bureau which will have a major impact on follow-up investigations, firearms applications, etc. Investigations will be prioritized by severity and aggravating factors.

The Traffic Safety Unit reviews road closures, conducts directed patrols to reduce accidents and investigates accidents. The reassignment of the three TSU members to Patrol means their first priority will be to answering calls in patrol. When not involved in handling priority calls they will attempt to resume their accident reduction activities. Other reassignments back to patrol are to Administrative Lt. John Woods and Training Sergeant Robert Gray. The Administrative Lieutenant oversees the Emergency Response Team, K-9 and assists the Operations Captain. The training position had the responsibility to assure officers receive the mandated training from the Attorney General's Guidelines.

The police department had a high of 101 officers 2 ½ years ago, currently has 88 officers, and will go to 77 officers after the layoffs. The last time the department's manpower was in the 70s was in the late 1990s which predated our mandated growth in population. While the department has been losing manpower the calls for service have



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increased at least 2% a year for the last couple of years. According to the Manpower Requirement Report, recognized by the International Association of Chiefs of Police and in 2000 by the NJ Department of the Treasury as a valid manpower allocation formula, the Egg Harbor Township Patrol Division should have 78 officers. Currently we have 64 officers, we will be losing 11 to lay offs and will be replacing them with 7 by diminishing our support staff. The Manpower Requirement Report can be found clicking on the Egg Harbor Township Police Annual Report at www.ehtpd.com. The report also documents many of the activities that may suffer due to the reallocation of manpower.

In order to free up more manpower the police station will only be manned during business hours. After that time period officers will have to be called-in off the street to handle any situations that may walk through the door. We will also be looking to better utilize the online reporting system to take reports of very minor situations to free up officers to handle the more serious incidents. The police department is pairing itself down to call taking and call answering, which is the basic function of the Police Department.

**FOR ANY CLARIFICATION NEEDED FOR THE ABOVE NEWS RELEASE
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