

Reform and Reinvention of Policing  
Village of Barker  
Police Department



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**Barker Police Department**

**Mission Statement**

The Barker Police Department, as a part of, and empowered by, the citizens of our community, is committed to protect the lives, property, and rights of all people, to preserve order, and to enforce the law impartially. We will provide quality police service in collaboration with other members of the community. To accomplish our mission, we will strive to attain the highest degree of ethical behavior and professional conduct at all times.

## **Introduction**

The Village of Barker Police Department is a part-time agency, currently we have a Chief of Police, Sergeant and 5 Police Officers. Additionally, we have a K9 Unit which currently consists of a K9 handler two firearms/explosive canines and a narcotic detection canine. All of our Officers work in a part-time status, and our hours of operation fluctuate. Barker Police Department is in the Eastern portion of Niagara County. We currently serve approximately 540 residents.

## **Members of the Police Department**

Chief Timothy P. Braughler Sr.

Sgt. Jeremy Blair

K9 Officer Anthony Bartucca

Officer Larry Weibert

Officer Jacob Januchowski

Officer John Dowd

## **Members of the Village Board**

Mayor Aaron Nellist

Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley

Trustee R. James Baker

Trustee Aaron Davis

Trustee Jordan Gow

Clerk-Treasurer Amanda Detschner

Clerk Jennifer Mason

## Deployment of Police Resources



### **Officer Deployment**

- Considering that we are a part-time department and only consist of 7 employees when fully staffed, our Chief of Police, Sergeant, K9 handler and all of our Officers are charged with responding to calls for service, as well as follow up investigations.
- Our department Prides ourselves in always going above and beyond just answering a call for service and taking reports as we are continuously engaging in ongoing investigations in response to complaints of criminal activities. This has been demonstrated through several significant drug trafficking investigations, which have resulted in several arrest charging multiple counts of felony Penal Law violations over the past three years. Our Department, regardless of the nature of a call for service or complaint appears to be, always follows through ensuring that the incident is resolved to the satisfaction of the complainant with the utmost urgency and professionalism. We have established an excellent ongoing partnership with all other Niagara County Law Enforcement agencies and do not hesitate to assist other departments anytime our assistance is needed.

## Proposed Reform and Action

### **Training**

Within our department our Chief of Police is New York State Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS) Master Instructor, Defensive Tactics Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Use of Force Instructor, Baton Instructor, Aerosol Restraint Instructor, Active Shooter Emergency Response Instructor, Suicide Prevention and Crisis Intervention Instructor, Physical Fitness Instructor, Domestic Violence Instructor, Implicit Bias Instructor, General Topics Instructor, and a Certified Field Training Officer (FTO). Additionally, we have two Police Officers who are NYS DCJS General Topics Instructors. We also have and continue to provide in-service training to other local law enforcement agencies.

*Action: In 2020 we initiated a mandatory annual in-service training for all Officers in Use of Force and De-escalation techniques. Going forward this will be a mandatory requirement. Chief of Police will continue to develop our current General Topic Instructors as well as assisting other Police Officers within the agency obtain certifications needed to become credentialed in other areas within our training unit ie: Use of Force, Firearms and crisis intervention etc. We are also continuing to encourage and sponsor all of our Police Officers to pursue General Topics and other law enforcement training certifications in efforts to continue fostering the trusting relationships and the confidence of the community that we have developed.*

### Use of Force Amendment:

Use of Force (UOF): Barker Police Officers, as established in the (Graham V. Connor) objective reasonableness standard, are authorized / justified to use the amount of force necessary and reasonable to effect an arrest and / or complete their lawful objective. The amount of force used MUST be both reasonable and necessary, and the force must cease once the resistance is stopped and the subject is stabilized and controlled. A subject having their hands and/or legs secured by temporary restraining devices (hand-cuffs/leg irons) does not necessarily mean that they are stabilized and controlled; therefore additional force may be necessary to ensure the safety of the Officer(s) and / or a combative subject. The use of additional force is authorized and justified as long as it is reasonable and necessary to stabilize and control the combative subject, and once the subject is stabilized and controlled the use of force must stop.

Deadly Physical Force (DPF): The Barker Police Department has a strict defense of life policy regarding the use of DPF. Barker Police Officers are authorized / justified to use deadly physical force when there is an imminent deadly threat towards themselves and / or another person. Barker Police Officers are not authorized to fire warning shots.

The Barker Chief of Police or his designee is to be notified immediately or as soon as practical and safe of any and all Officer involved Use of Force incidents.

Additionally, the Barker Mayor and / or Deputy Mayor will also be apprised of any and all use of force incidents.

## Community Involvement

Our Department protects and serves a population of approximately 540 citizens. We continuously facilitate community events within our jurisdiction fostering trusting and positive relationships with the citizens we serve. Three years ago we began an annual adopt a family initiative in which our Department, the Village Board and the Community work together to obtain gifts and other needed essentials for multiple families during the holiday season.

During the month of December our Officers participate and assist the Village Board in hosting a “Light up Barker” event which brings the community together through an annual 5K race and parade.

Our Department participates in birthday parades, graduations, and other events throughout the community. During Halloween all Officers conduct foot patrol throughout the community as well as host a K9 demonstration, and candy check completed by canine Rocco.

Additionally, our Officers participate in the National Walk to School Day, and we also have and continue to facilitate Pistol Permit Firearms Safety trainings for the public with no fees or charges of any kind to community participants.

*Action: Although we have no record of any complaints against the Officers at the Barker Police Department, in response to the Governors mandate ([Executive Order 203](#)) we have formed a committee consisting of Chief of Police Timothy P. Braughler Sr. and/or Sergeant Jeremy Blair, Mayor Aaron Nellist and Deputy Mayor Seanna Corwin-Bradley as well as an open invitation to any community members interested in joining our team to ensure the highest standard of professional and non-biased service is being provided to the community we serve. Our first meeting was held October 27, 2020 at which time the floor was open for public comment, recommendations, and concerns regarding any and all policies and operations of our Police Department. Members of the community who were in attendance provided feedback regarding concerns of citizens non-compliance to Police Officer commands, and communication of Police Officers Authority to affect lawful arrest. The only other recommendation received was given by Mayor Aaron Nellist who requested that an amendment to the Barker Police Use of Force policy so that it would require that the Village Board will be notified of any Use of Force Incidents. This recommendation was well received by Chief Braughler as well as all others in attendance of the meeting, and the Barker Police Department Use of Force*

*policy has since been amended to include these changes. We will continue to have these community meetings periodically throughout the year.*

*Current upcoming initiative: Networking out with local school systems and local law enforcement training programs to have our Officers available to facilitate presentations and educate those who have an interest in becoming Police Officers on what is required to become a Police Officer and how to pursue a career in law-enforcement.*

### **Bias-Free Policing**

Our Officers continuously uphold the highest standard of professionalism and non-biased community policing and hold a significant amount of pride in the positive relationships and trust that we have developed with the community we serve.

This is demonstrated on a regular basis through the numerous phone calls and emails received praising our Officers for the professionalism in handling all situations. We have received phone calls and emails from citizens in other states praising our Officers actions while on vacation with their families off duty.

In keeping with the principled policing philosophy, Barker Police Department has adopted the model policy from IACP which states; Citizens having contact with officers shall be treated in a fair, impartial, bias-free, and objective manner, in accordance with law, and without consideration of specified characteristics or based on personal prejudices or partiality of officers toward classes of people based on specified characteristics. Citizens shall be treated in the same manner under the same or similar circumstances irrespective of specified characteristics.

*Action: Chief Timothy P. Braughler Sr. will provide Officers with basic and periodic in-service training and, where necessary, remedial training on subjects related to fair and bias-free policing. We also have and will continue to utilize other available trainings offered through New York State DCJS as well as other law enforcement training providers.*

# Community Engagement



## **Summary**

In response to the Governors Executive Order our commitment and dedication to providing non-biased professional community policing to the community we serve can be summarized as follows:

- Adherence to amended Use of Force policy changes.
- Annual mandatory in-service Use of Force/De-escalation training.
- Periodic open forum meetings with the community.
- Sending Officers out to local school systems and law enforcement trainings to share knowledge relating to the job of a Police Officer.
- Providing Officers with basic and periodic in-service trainings relating to bias-free policing.