



The PROGRESS REPORT

SUMMER 2006

NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

NJASRO PRAISES NJ LEGISLATURE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING LAW

The New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers (NJASRO) met with NJ Senate President Richard Codey to applaud the New Jersey State Legislature for passing the *Safe Schools Resource Officer Training Law*, and offer support in its implementation. The law requires the Police Training Commission, in consultation with the Attorney General, to develop and offer training courses for all new school resource officers and school liaisons to law enforcement in New Jersey. The courses will provide comprehensive and consistent training in current school resource officer practices and concepts.

“New Jersey’s most valuable resource is its children,” said John Morella, NJASRO President. “This bill will further provide valuable training to officers on how to teach and protect our students. We applaud the outstanding work the legislature has done to make schools safer, and look forward to working with the Police Training Commission and the Attorney General’s office to develop an effective training program for future safe school resource officers and school liaisons across New Jersey.”

The law was authored and introduced by Assemblywoman Joan Voss of Bergen County in the Assembly, and sponsored by Sen. Fred Madden in the Senate. The bill passed the Assembly 74-2 and the Senate 38-0 and was signed into law by Sen. Codey while he served as Acting Governor on Jan. 6.

“By virtue of their daily interaction with pupils, school resource officers invariably make a strong, early impression of the institution of law enforcement,” said Assemblywoman Voss, a former teacher at Fort Lee High School. “The job of a school resource officer involves great responsibility and highly specialized skills; and the State should provide comprehensive and consistent training for those individuals entrusted with these responsibilities.”

Sen. Madden added, “The development of a training course for safe schools resource officers and public school liaisons to law enforcement ensures that our schools can continue providing a secure environment for children and staff.”



From left to right are: Robert Tessaro, NJASRO Outreach Director, Sgt. Patrick Kissane, Fort Lee PD, NJASRO 1st Vice President, State Trooper Gregory Williams, NJASRO Regional Director, Assemblywoman Joan Voss, State Senate President Richard Codey, State Senator Fred Madden, Officer John Morella, West Orange PD, NJASRO President, Det. Tim Gerity, Saddle River PD, NJASRO Vice President, Officer Keith Holley, West Orange PD, NJASRO Treasurer.

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2005 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

In case you missed last year, more than 200 SROs from across the state attended the 2005 NJASRO conference at the Resorts Casino in Atlantic City. The opening ceremonies included the U.S. Coast Guard Color Guard. Major Wendy Galloway of the New Jersey State Police welcomed the room, and shared some information about the State Police's new community relations project. Keynote Jim Reese kicked off the weekend with his speech which entertained and motivated.



Attendees attended a variety of workshops, including an active shooter demonstration at Atlantic City High School, and sessions addressing such issues as Internet Crimes, Safe Driving Campaigns, Technology in School District Law Enforcement, and Violence Prevention. During lunch, NJASRO 1st Vice President Sgt. Patrick Kissane announced a new partnership formed with the National Road Safety Foundation (NRSF). NJASRO and the NRSF have partnered to bring to New Jersey a new curriculum to educate teenage drivers on the risks of drowsy and aggressive driving. New Jersey is the first state in the country to roll out this innovative curriculum. "Almost Home: Profile on Drowsy Driving" was available at the conference, and is now on the NJASRO web site. Highlighted sessions included an active shooter demonstration at Atlantic City High School, Internet Crimes in Schools, Computer Technology for Law Enforcement, Student Threat Assessments, School Crisis Planning, and School-Police Partnerships.

It wasn't all work and no play, however. An opening night President's Reception and a social event the House of Blues allowed attendees to get to know their fellow SRO's outside of the classroom.



The conference was dedicated to fallen Newark school safety officer Dwayne Reeves. Officer Reeves was killed and his partner Officer Akhia Scott injured after exchanging gunfire with two men outside of Weequahic High School in Newark on July 18, 2005. During the conference's closing ceremonies, the family of Officer Reeves received the NASRO National SRO Medal of Honor for their ultimate sacrifice. The first NJASRO Dwayne Reeves Medal of Valor was presented to Officer Scott for placing his life at risk to protect the children of New Jersey. Officer Scott was still in the hospital recovering from his injuries, so his sergeant accepted the medal on his behalf. The family of Officer Reeves has agreed to serve on the committee to evaluate future candidates for Medal of Valor.

2006 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION, NOVEMBER 8-10

It's time to make your reservations for the upcoming NJASRO 2006 School Safety Training Conference at the Resorts Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City November 8-10th. We are finalizing our roster of speakers and events, and hope to offer even more educational and social activities than last year. The conference once again coincides with the NJEA Conference, so New Jersey schools will be closed that week. Based on feedback from last year, we have made the registration even easier, with one form and payment needed for both your room and the conference. There is an early bird special for those who register before September 30th, so get your forms in today!



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

NJASRO invites members to share their ideas and expertise at our 2006 state-wide training conference November 8-10. Those selected will be asked to deliver their presentations during one of the conference's break out sessions. Sessions should be 90 minutes long, including set up, questions and answer period and evaluation form distribution.

Topic ideas include but are not limited to:

- School Law Issues
- Community Policing Strategies
- Post traumatic Stress Response
- Bullying
- School Administrator/SRO relationship building
- Suicide
- Terrorism
- Emergency Communications Planning
- Homeland Security
- Creative Teaching Ideas
- Violence Awareness and Response
- Evaluating SRO programs
- After School Programs
- Cultural Diversity Issues
- Traffic Safety and Education
- Gang Awareness

To submit a proposal, please email a word document to NJASRO@gmail.com with the following information:

- Your name, title/rank
- Department/Organization
- Preferred mailing address
- Phone number
- Email Address
- Any co-presenters
- Session summary (two paragraphs)
- Biographical information with speaking experiences (one paragraph)
- Any media needs (PowerPoint, VCR, etc)

The conference planning committee will review all proposals as they come in and select the programs that best fit into the goals of the conference without duplicating any topics. NJASRO will make every effort to accommodate speaker's requests for dates and times, but speakers are expected to present at the time assigned. NJASRO will provide one complimentary conference registration for each speaker. You must cover your own travel and hotel expenses.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

NJASRO: November 9-10th, 2006 Resorts Hotel and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

Please print, complete, and fax to: Kris Kristie, 609-714-1313 followed by a mailed hard copy with payment to: Kris Kristie, ESP, 4 Friends Ave, Medford, NJ 08055. All payments and forms MUST be received by: Oct. 20th.

You will receive a confirmation e-mail within 2 days of receipt

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

All inclusive pricing! Only one PO needed!

If you are registering AND staying at Resorts, Please process only ONE PO, inclusive of both fees/rates!!!

The PO MUST be sent to: ESP, Kris Kristie, 4 Friends Ave, Medford, NJ 08055 and made payable to NJASRO.
DO NOT SEND TO Hawthorne or any other address!!!

REGISTRATION:

SPECIAL! If you **sign up by Sept. 30, 2006**, you will receive last years registration rates of \$130/current member or \$155/non-member (includes your membership). AFTER Sept. 30th, the rates are \$140/\$165.

ADMINISTRATORS: Register with your SRO and pay only \$75!

Payable by Check_____, Money Order_____, Cashiers Check_____, or Purchase Order_____ to NJASRO

If paying by PO, please provide the PO number: _____

Please mail payment with this form to: ESP, Attn: Kris Kristie, 4 Friends Ave, Medford, NJ 08055
(checks must arrive by Oct. 20th)

HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

Resorts, Atlantic City Check In date: _____ Check out Date: _____

Single or Double Room?: _____ If Double, sharing room with?: _____

Single or Double room rate: \$125.00 inclusive of all fees.

HOTEL PAYMENT:

Payable by CC_____, Check_____, Money Order_____, Cashiers Check_____, or Purchase Order_____ made out to RESORTS

If paying by PO, please provide the PO number: _____

Please mail payment with this form to: ESP, Attn: Kris Kristie, 4 Friends Ave, Medford, NJ 08055
(checks must arrive by Oct. 20th)

Credit Card type: _____ Number: _____ Exp.: _____

Name on Card: _____

QUESTIONS? CONCERNS?

Regarding NJASRO specifics, please contact SRO Williams: mtpdsro@yahoo.com

Regarding Hotel specifics, please contact Kris Kristie: kkristie@espkits.com or 609-714-2222 • www.njasro.com

LEGISLATION THREATENS NJASRO CLOTHING BINS MEMBERS URGED TO CONTACT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

A bill introduced in the New Jersey legislature threatens to prohibit commercial partnerships between private companies and non-profit organizations when it comes to clothing recycling bins. The Assembly bill, A2969, would prohibit clothing drop off bins from being owned by for-profit companies. Non-profits organizations, such as NJASRO, would have to purchase the bins, receive permits from their local police departments, and would be liable for any violations.

The bill arose out of complaints from Goodwill New Jersey who runs clothing drop off and recycling programs. They argue that these bins do not provide real assistance to non-profits. One of the bill's sponsors in the legislature, Assemblyman Paul Moriarty, said "The bottom line is these bins take away from organizations that are doing good things in the local community."

This couldn't be farther from the truth.

NJASRO has partnered with American Recycling Technologies (ART) of Hackensack for the past 4 years. ART manages more than 500 bins across the state of New Jersey that feature the NJASRO logo. Local SRO programs receive a royalty payment based on the number of bins they have located in their town. ART also pays a royalty payment to NJASRO to help fund our statewide trainings and other initiatives. ART owns the bins, and efficiently

and lawfully manages collection and maintenance. Annually, SRO programs across New Jersey will receive more than \$400,000 from ART to use towards training, classroom activities and fund other invaluable services.

ART has been a dedicated supporter of NJASRO and our activities, often giving above and beyond what is required to fund important NJASRO training programs. They have been responsible neighbors in our communities, and maintain and service their bins professionally.

If the bill were to become law, it would be detrimental to the mission of the New Jersey Association of School Resource Officers. NJASRO's partnership with American Recycling Technology has enabled us to train hundreds of police officers to work in the state's public schools as law enforcers, educators, counselors and mediators. NJASRO and hundreds of other non-profit organizations in New Jersey that depend on the funds from these partnerships would essentially have to go into the recycling business. Most do not have the resources to do so, and would lose substantial amounts of their funding.

We urge all SROs to contact their local representatives and urge them vote against this bill.

If you would like a sample letter you can use to send to your representative, you can contact njasro@gmail.com.

NEWARK POLICE ARREST A TEEN FOR BRINGING A LOADED UZI TO SCHOOL

Newark police arrest an 18-year-old high school graduate who allegedly was carrying a loaded Uzi submachine gun near his alma mater.

Authorities say the arrest was made this morning after a security guard at Weequahic High School told a city police officer assigned to the school that a group of four teens may be armed with a gun.

The police officer detained the teens as they walked through a nearby alley. He then noticed a bulge in the jacket of one of the boys, Keith Canyon, who was arrested.

Police say the weapon was hanging around Canyon's neck by a shoestring.

PAPERS FROM COLUMBINE KILLERS MAY HAVE INCLUDED WARNING SIGNS

Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, the two shooters and masterminds of the April 1999 Columbine High School massacre, may have given missed warnings about the impending attacks. The Jefferson County Sheriff's office recently released a collection of writings from the two students, including a diary that included a detailed script and timeline of the attack, and a collection of school notes that showed a deeply disturbed side. The pair developed a list of their arsenal, which included shotguns and homemade explosives that were used in the attack, and their training schedule to practice shooting home made targets. The diaries and school notes included dark and violent images, including Swastikas, lists of students that "should die", advertisements from gun magazines, and illustrations of

fellow students being shot. They referred to themselves as "NBK", short for Natural Born Killers throughout.

It was also revealed that the students frequently turned in papers at school on such topics as Nazi Germany, Charles Manson, and gun control. Some critics have said that these should have been warning signs to school faculty and the boys' families. The documents show the parents of Eric Harris were aware of some of their son's problems and were seeking treatment for him.

The Columbine shootings left 12 students and teachers dead, and 24 seriously injured. Both Harris and Klebold committed suicide at the scene. The incident led to a national debate on gun control and school bullying.

SCHOOL BOMB THREATS PROMPT NJASRO INTERVIEW

Following a rash of bomb threats against schools in central New Jersey, a number of media outlets contacted NJASRO to comment on how to keep students safe, and what the penalties are for offenders. NJASRO Outreach director Robert Tessaro was interviewed by NJ 101.5 talk radio about the number of bomb threats in New Jersey Schools. Tessaro said education is key. "Many children do not know that the

penalties for calling in a false public alarm are an up to \$10,000 fine and up to 18 months in prison."

He added that school districts also have their own penalties for calling in a bomb threat, usually suspension or expulsion. NJASRO is planning to address bomb threats during the upcoming Training Conference in Atlantic City.

STUDENTS RECEIVE SETTLEMENT FROM SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL DRUG RAID

A settlement was reached in class action law suit against the Goose Creek Police Department over a highly criticized drug raid at Stratford High School in Goose Creek, SC in 2003. In the highly publicized incident, school video surveillance tapes showed officers with their guns drawn ordering and forcing students as young as 14 years old face down on the ground in the school's hall ways. Several drug sniffing dogs were used to search the students and their lockers. Police found no drugs and no arrests were made.

According to the settlement, students who were searched are eligible to receive between \$6,000 and \$12,000 each of the \$1.6 million settlement. Approximately 140 students were searched during the raid. The settlement was approved by the U.S. District

Court on July 11. Since the raid, both the Goose Creek Police Department and the school district have changed their policies for drug sweeps.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), who represented 20 of the 140 students involved, announced that the settlement also includes a consent decree that "Absent a warrant, police will now need either to have probable cause and pressing circumstances or voluntary consent in order to conduct law enforcement activity on school grounds."

The school surveillance video is available online at http://stream.realimpact.net/?file=realimpact/aclu/20031205_ACLU_DrugBust.rm

THREATS ON MYSPACE.COM PAGE LEADS TO NJ STUDENT ARREST

A south Jersey high school student is accused of using a website to make terroristic threats against students. The case in Bridgeton is the latest to involve "myspace.com," a popular website among teenagers that allows them to have their own web pages.

According to the Associate Press, student Gregory Burrison used his website to express a desire to hurt kids at Bridgeton High School. Bridgeton Police Detective Lieutenant Michael Gaimari said the eighteen year old "made both directed and general threats at doing some shootings and possibly some physical harm". He says while the postings were relatively new, messages expressing hatred toward general groups of people were on the website for half a year.

Gaimari says the suspect claims that he never really intended to harm anyone. "That's the indication that he gave. It was just something he was putting on the site. That his intent on doing any harm was never really there." But he says the threats are being taken very seriously because of school shootings that have taken place in other parts of the country.

Four teenagers in another south Jersey town were recently arrested because of the website. The twelve and thirteen year old students were allegedly videotaping fist fights they would get into and posting the video on the web.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OUTDOOR CHALLENGE

On Sunday, September 24, 2006 the River Vale Police Department will be hosting the fourth annual, one day charity race involving Law Enforcement officers. The race course will span Bergen County and will be a combination run, bike, hike and raft. The teams will consist of four (4) Law Enforcement officers representing their Police Department(s). All four members of the team must complete each portion of the race together and, ultimately, finish the race as a team.

Each team will be required to raise a minimum of \$500 to compete, all of which will go to the **Justin Gerity DMD Trust**.

The trust benefits the young son of Saddle River Police Detective and SRO Timothy Gerity, who was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. DMD is an x-lined recessive disorder, the most common of the muscular dystrophies and, unfortunately the most lethal diagnosis of childhood.

If anyone from your department is interested in competing in this race, please contact Sgt. Gary Blumenthal, P.O. Valeri Guglielmotti or Judy Hawkins of the River Vale Police Department at 201-664-1111.

Volunteers and sponsors would be greatly appreciated.

RENEW YOUR NJASRO MEMBERSHIP FOR 2006

If you want to continue to receive the latest in local and national SRO news, connect with other school safety professionals, receive discounts at NJASRO sponsored events, and attend top notch training, then renew your membership today! Membership is open to SROs, school administrators, members of the law enforcement community interested in school safety, other youth or school safety professionals. Members are also given voting privileges and have a voice in shaping the future of the organization.

Annual dues are \$25 from July 1- June 20th. Payment Options include, personal check, cashier check, money order, or purchase order.

To renew your membership please send in your updated information including:

Full Name / Department or School District / Rank or Position / Address (home or work) / Contact phone number / Email Address / Level of SRO Certification

Please send payments to:

NJASRO
PO Box 2103
Fort Lee, NJ 07024



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NJASRO AND THE PARTNERSHIP FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH ENCOURAGE TEENS TO “THINK BEFORE YOU ACT”

NJASRO has received a grant from the Partnership for Community Health to provide a series of presentations called “Think Before You Act” to ten high schools across New Jersey. SRO’s will speak to groups of students about making healthy choices, both at school and at home. Based in Paramus, the Partnership for Community Health is a coalition of New Jersey organizations dedicated to improving health, well being and quality of life for New Jersey residents. Jackie Lue Raia, president of the partnership, said, “We are pleased to be teaming up with NJASRO

on this important project. We want to offer the best possible role models to encourage our young people to make healthy choices.”

NJASRO Vice President Patrick Kissane said, “This partnership will help strengthen the bonds between our two organizations while providing a much needed service to the community.”

The presentations are tentatively scheduled to take place in October.

SUBMISSIONS

If you would like to submit an article, have a story idea, or are interested in advertising in the Progress Report, please email Robert Tessaro at njasro@gmail.com.

Sign up for the free NJASRO Yahoo Group for all the latest SRO news at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NJASRO>