



Vestal Police 2016

The Town of Vestal is located in Broome County, New York. It is bordered on the east by the City and Town of Binghamton, on the south by the State of Pennsylvania, to the west by Tioga County and on the north border, the Susquehanna River separates the town from the Villages of Endicott and Johnson City. The major east-west commercial and commuter routes are State Route 17, State Route 434, and Vestal Road. The major north-south commuter routes are State Route 26 and State Route 201.

The Vestal Police Department consists of 34 sworn officers, one dispatcher, and two police clerks. The 34 sworn officers are made up by the Chief of Police, a Patrol Lieutenant, an Administrative Lieutenant, 4 Patrol Sergeants, 1 Detective Sergeant, 3 Detectives, 22 patrol officers and a School Resource Officer.

During 2016 the department lost 5 members to retirement who were replaced by 5 new patrol officers; 3 who attended and graduated from the police academy and 2 who transferred from a local police department.

In addition to the thoroughfares listed above, the town is primarily a suburban community with shopping areas that include large shopping malls, smaller strip malls, restaurants, motels, and other major businesses. These businesses are located mainly along the Vestal Parkway East corridor. Within the Town of Vestal lies Binghamton University which has a population of approximately 17,300 students and 3,000 faculty and staff. Approximately 7,300 of those students live on campus while another 3,000 of those students live off-campus and in the town of Vestal.

The town encompasses rural areas as well as heavily traveled commercial areas. Accordingly, there is a strong demand for a variety of public safety services. Our mission is to affirmatively promote a feeling of safety and security to the members of our community. We do this by providing high quality police services related to the protection of life and property, taking steps to prevent criminal activity, detecting and investigating criminal activity, the apprehension of offenders and the enforcement of criminal laws, recovering property, providing leadership in community involvement and awareness programs, keeping and maintaining records, training of personnel, and maintaining high ethical standards. All officers of the Vestal Police Department use the enforcement of laws in a fair and consistent manner.

Year End Report 2016

➤ Department Workload

The department recorded 12,508 incident occurrences in 2016. In addition 1,320 “Quick-Calls” were registered until mid-March of 2016. These “Quick Calls”, many of which are vehicle stops and officer initiated reports, such as suspicious behavior, represent patrol activity which does not require the filing of a written police report. In March of 2016 Broome County Communications underwent a major software change regarding the documentation of complaints and incidents and the subsequent recording of data. All police agencies in Broome County were a part of this upgrade. After the upgrade went into effect in March these Quick-Calls were no longer tabulated separately from other calls for service or complaints.

The department responded to 167 incidents in which a New York State Domestic Incident Report was completed. There were 42 adults and 8 juveniles arrested as a result of these incidents. An additional 63 incidents were coded as domestics yet for various reasons no domestic report was filed. An additional 3 adults and 1 juvenile were arrested related to these incidents.

All members of the Vestal Police Department are trained in the use of Naloxone Hydrochloride which is administered to victims of an opioid overdose. During 2016 Vestal officers administered this opioid antagonist 4 times. In 3 of those cases the patient survived their overdose.

✚ Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the police department. They are the face and physical presence of the Vestal Police Department. They are responsible for responding to and the handling of complaints, crime prevention, citizen safety, and all vehicular traffic within the town's 53 square miles.

The Patrol Division is made up of 23 officers, including the School Resource Officer, that are distributed across 3 working shifts; 7:00am-3:00pm, 3:00pm-11:00pm and 11:00pm-7:00am. They are supervised by 4 sergeants and 1 lieutenant.

❖ 2016 Patrol Division Highlights

On *Saturday July 2nd* Officer Keith King responded to a 911 call about a distressed man in a wheelchair on a busy road. The wheelchair's battery was dying and the resident was stuck on the shoulder of state route 434 with heavy traffic. He reported to officer King that he did not have enough battery power to make it to his residence. Officer King pushed the resident in his wheelchair most of the remaining mile-long distance until he was close enough to make it home safely with the little battery charge he had left.

Officer King's efforts were noticed by many people driving by including one who snapped a photo of the effort and posted it on social media. The story quickly made the local, then nation

news media and became a positive example of the pro-community policing that we strive to accomplish every day.



Photo of Officer King taken by passer-by

On **Wednesday July 20th** Officer William Serkiz identified a wanted subject riding his bicycle in the four-corners area of state route 434 and attempted to apprehend him. The male suspect resisted arrest and fled the area eventually ending up in the Susquehanna River. After swimming across the river he was met by members of the Endicott Police Department when he again physically resisted arrest before reentering the river. After a short time officer Serkiz observed that the suspect appeared to be struggling to keep his head above water and entered the river to rescue him.

Both officer Serkiz and officer King were given Chief Recognition Awards acknowledging that their actions are a credit to their service and dedication to the Town of Vestal.

✚ Detective Division

The department's Detective Division primarily conducts case investigations, assists patrols when needed, handles intelligence gathering, develops confidential informants, collects and processes evidence and supervises all registered sex offenders residing in the town. They are made up by 3 investigators, 1 which is assigned to juvenile investigations, and a sergeant. They are overseen by the administrative lieutenant.

The Detective Division also processes crime scenes by collecting evidence and taking photographs. In addition to the evidence collected at a crime scene, officers from the Patrol Division may also collect evidence or property which needs to be maintained or stored at the police department. During the year, 342 new case files were opened in the evidence program. As of December 31, 2016 the department held 2347 individual pieces of property and evidence (down from 2,621 in 2015). In 2016 there were 983 pieces of property and evidence submitted for various reasons. 1389 of the items in evidence storage were disposed of, destroyed, returned to its owner or sent to the crime lab for processing and analysis. This is an increase from the 931 items disposed of, destroyed, returned to its owner, or sent to the crime lab for processing and analysis in 2015.

During 2016 the Vestal Police assigned a new Evidence Technician to manage the processing and storage of evidence and property. As a part of that transition a complete inventory was conducted of the Evidence Room. Prior to this transition 2 investigators completed a state certified course in Evidence Room Management. The ensuing inventory directly resulted in a higher number of items disposed of, destroyed or returned to its owner than in recent previous years. The Detective Division also performed its yearly audit of the evidence room.

Members of the Division are also assigned to process individuals arrested by this department at the time that they appear in the Town of Vestal Court for arraignment if they were not processed at the time of their arrest. This processing includes the fingerprinting, photographing, and completion of any unfinished paperwork regarding the arrest.

In addition to their investigative case load, the Detective Division is responsible for various other tasks including warrant control and maintenance. Warrant maintenance consists of ensuring that all active warrants have been entered into the New York State Integrated Justice Portal and that all leads are pursued in searching for persons with warrants for their arrest.

❖ *2016 Detective Division Highlights*

On ***Friday December 11th, 2015*** officers responded to a local motel for a report of a deceased female. The death was ruled a drug overdose and nothing suspicious was noted. Discovery of unknown motel security video and further investigation by members of the detective division determined that the victim had been visited in her room shortly after checking in by an unknown male. The male was identified and the investigation determined that he provided a combination of illegally obtained prescription pills to the victim which caused her death. He also removed any evidence of his presence from the room and left her in a state of medical emergency. If not for the discovery of the motel video and the successful interrogation of the suspect, the details of this incident and the circumstances of the victim's death may never have been discovered. The investigation and grand jury indictment carried into 2016 and was culminated on March 7th when Raymond Ellis, of Newark Valley, NY, pled guilty to criminally negligent homicide and tampering with evidence along with criminal possession and sale of a controlled substance. He was subsequently sentenced to consecutive sentences of 1-3 years and 2 years in prison.

On ***Wednesday May 25th*** two Vestal residents reported that they discovered that their homes had been broken into and items had been stolen. The next day Investigator Shane Rollison became aware that a residential burglary had been reported in the Village of Owego. Communication with the Owego Police led to the identifying of two suspects and subsequent search warrants at various locations in Johnson City and Binghamton solidified the case against Charlton Barfield and Kelsi Shamblin. Both defendants had traveled to the area from out state and were eventually found to be responsible for the burglaries in Vestal and Owego as well as multiple other locations in Tioga County. Shamblin, of West Virginia, and Barfield, of South Carolina, both pled guilty to burglary charges in Tioga and Broome County Courts. If not for Investigator Rollison's foresight and communication with other police departments the burglary cases in Vestal may have gone unsolved. As a result of his actions the victim's in these cases were able to recover some of their stolen property.

➤ **Specialized Units/Enforcement**

Metro SWAT Team

The Vestal Police Department partners with the Johnson City Police Department and the Binghamton Police Department to make up the joint Metro SWAT Team. Vestal PD commits 3 members; (1 sergeant and 2 patrol officers) to the team who participate in addition to their regular patrol responsibilities. The team regularly trains bi-monthly with more specialized training occurring throughout the year.

The team can be called out for a variety of reasons including when the threat of a barricaded person with a gun reaches a stage where it presents a threat to police/civilian personnel or civilians in the area, anytime active shooter activity is confirmed or for a high risk drug or felony warrant entry. During 2016 there were 6 Metro SWAT Call-Outs in the greater Binghamton area including 1 in Vestal.

Crisis Negotiation

The Vestal Police Department has 3 specially trained Crisis Negotiators who often work in conjunction with the Metro SWAT Team. They may also be called to assist in a variety of incidents such as barricaded subjects, suicidal subjects, non-compliant individuals, individuals suffering from issues of mental illness or whenever deemed necessary.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)

Vestal patrol officer Steven Will has been a certified Drug Recognition Expert or (DRE) since 2013. He is the only local police officer with this certification and 1 of only 4 such officers working in Broome County. These officers are selected and prepared through extensive training to make a positive impact on drugged driving deterrence in New York State.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) police officers have been trained to observe the signs of drug and or alcohol impairment. DRE officers participate in training that has been approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). After successfully completing the training, all DRE officers are certified for two years and are expected to meet certain requirements to be considered for re-certification at the end of this period.

In addition to the 5 DRE evaluations he conducted in Vestal during 2016, officer Will assisted other Broome County police agencies by conducting 23 combined evaluations for all of the local departments including the Broome County Sheriff's Office and New York State Police. Officer Will also made 29 DWI arrests and 3 DWAI arrests in 2016 in the town of Vestal. All of this productivity was in addition to his normal duties as a patrol officer.

School Resource Officer (SRO)

Our department has developed a close liaison with our schools, both public and private, to ensure the safety of our youth. Among the 34 sworn members is a School Resource Officer (SRO) who works daily in the Vestal School District. Through an agreement with the Vestal School District the Vestal Police Department dedicates a full-time police officer to the School. Between his office in the high school and regular visits to each school in the district, Officer Conor Talbut

provides both the staff and students with training, support and if necessary, law enforcement. Officer Talbut's presence helps to provide a safe environment to all students and staff in the Vestal School District. In addition to the Vestal public schools, officer Talbut regularly visits the private schools in Vestal and provides support and security advice to them as well.

Child Passenger Safety Technician

Patrol officer Brian Thorick has been a federally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician since 2008 and regularly participates in events or programs to educate the public in the proper installment and use of child safety seats. During 2016 officer Thorick conducted 27 seat inspections/installations in Vestal and as a part of the program provided 5 child safety seats for those in need. Officer Thorick is available any time that he is working for a child seat inspection or installation and regularly participates in Child Seat Safety Checks both in and out of the town of Vestal.



Officer Thorick working a Child Safety Seat Detail in the Walmart parking lot.

➤ **Crime Prevention & Community Service**

The Vestal Police Department takes pride in being a community-oriented police department. Throughout the year we organize and participate in several community outreach programs with the many residents and visitors to the town of Vestal. During 2016 members of our department attended and participated in such events as the Monthly Retail Theft Meeting, Stranger Danger for Pre-K children, Fire Expo, Touch-a-Truck, Olum's Kid's Day, Breakfast with Santa and multiple Police Station Tours for various groups of children and their families.

One of our largest and most popular community events is the Annual Cruise In and Cook Out for National Night Out (NNO). National Night Out is an annual community-building event that culminates across the nation every year on the first Tuesday in August. Last year the Vestal Police, in conjunction with Target, held our 19th Annual Cruise In & Cook Out. This event is well attended by the community and annually raises money for the Broome County Crime Victims Center (CVAC) while also collecting non-perishable food items for Broome County CHOW. The 2016 National Night Out donation to CVAC was \$1378.00.



2016 National Night Out Photos courtesy of J. Kreider Photography

Last year we held our third annual Citizen's Police Academy. Adult participants from the community attended the program which was presented in 2 hour blocks, one evening a week for ten weeks. During this free program the participants are exposed to multiple aspects of policing and various topics relevant to our community. Some of the topics covered regularly include Patrol, Use of Force, Criminal Investigations, DWI enforcement, The Role of the Bystander, Drug Recognition, Self Defense, Firearm Safety, Personal Safety, Active Shooters and SWAT. The training also included presentations by members of The Vestal Emergency Squad and the Vestal Volunteer Fire Department.

During the summer we held our 6th annual Youth Police Academy for students of the Vestal School District. The Youth Academy is organized by the School Resource Officer and held at the Vestal High School. As with the Citizens Academy the students are exposed to various aspects of police work and are presented information on such topics as Crime Scene Investigation, Self Defense, Physical Training, Courtroom Procedures (including a mock trial), Drug Awareness, DWI, Undercover Work, SWAT, First-Aid & CPR, Safe Driving, Traffic Stops and Firearm Safety. Through 2016 we have graduated 150 students through the Youth Academy.



The 2016 Youth Academy Class with Sgt. Kintner and SRO Talbut

➤ **Training**

We recognize that quality training that is both current and applicable to the functions of the department will further our objective of making Vestal a safe place to live and visit therefore we make every effort to provide our employees with the best training available.

In 2016 our officers attended and participated in a variety of training programs and classes ranging from our annual In-Service and Firearms training to more specialized training such as SWAT and Hostage Negotiation. During the annual In-Service Training officers are presented with mandatory updates on legal issues, first aid and use of force issues.

The annual In-Service training is often conducted in joint training sessions with other local police departments in Broome County. Throughout 2016 several of our officers received certifications to become Field Training Officers and Police Instructors.

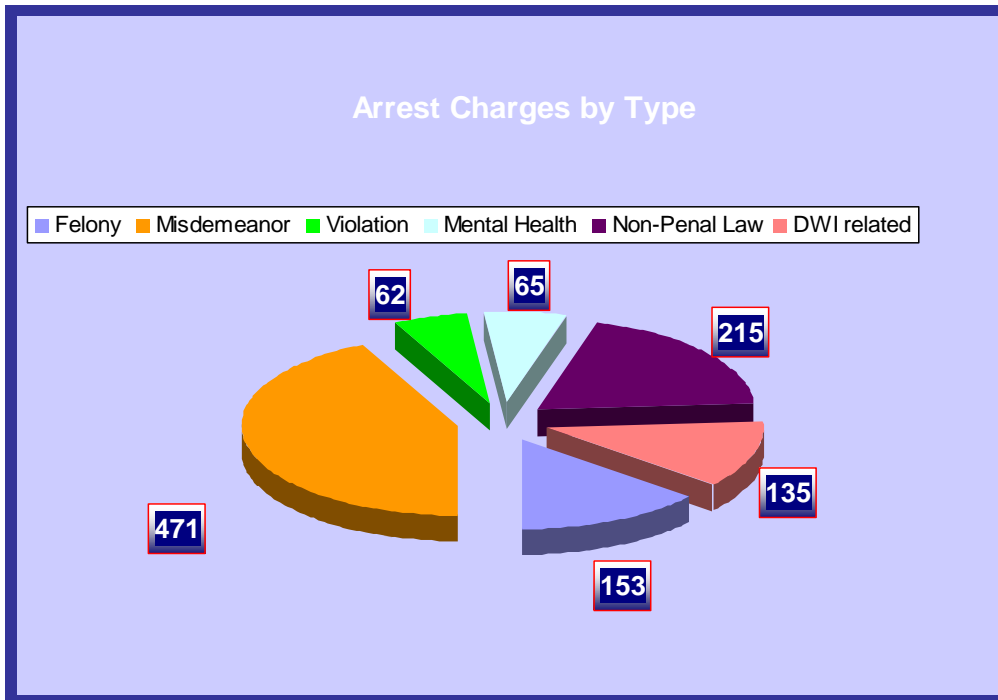
Many of our officers are certified law enforcement instructors and participate in the presenting of training to various audiences. Our officers regularly participate as presenters and instructors at the Broome County Law Enforcement Academy, the Broome County Government Security Academy, the Broome County Police Supervisors School, the Broome County Corrections Academy, the Vestal Police Citizens Academy and the Vestal Youth Academy.

In 2016 our members were involved in the presenting and instruction of more specialized training and presentations such as Responding to Reports of Child Abuse, Safety for Seniors and also participated in several Opioid Abuse Symposiums.

ADULT ARRESTS

In 2016 members of the department made 856 arrests with 1101 charges for adult offenses. A breakdown of 2016 adult arrest charges is as follows: 153 Felony charges, 471 Misdemeanors, 62 Violations, and 415 Non-Penal Law Offenses including 65 Mental Hygiene Law Arrests.

ALL

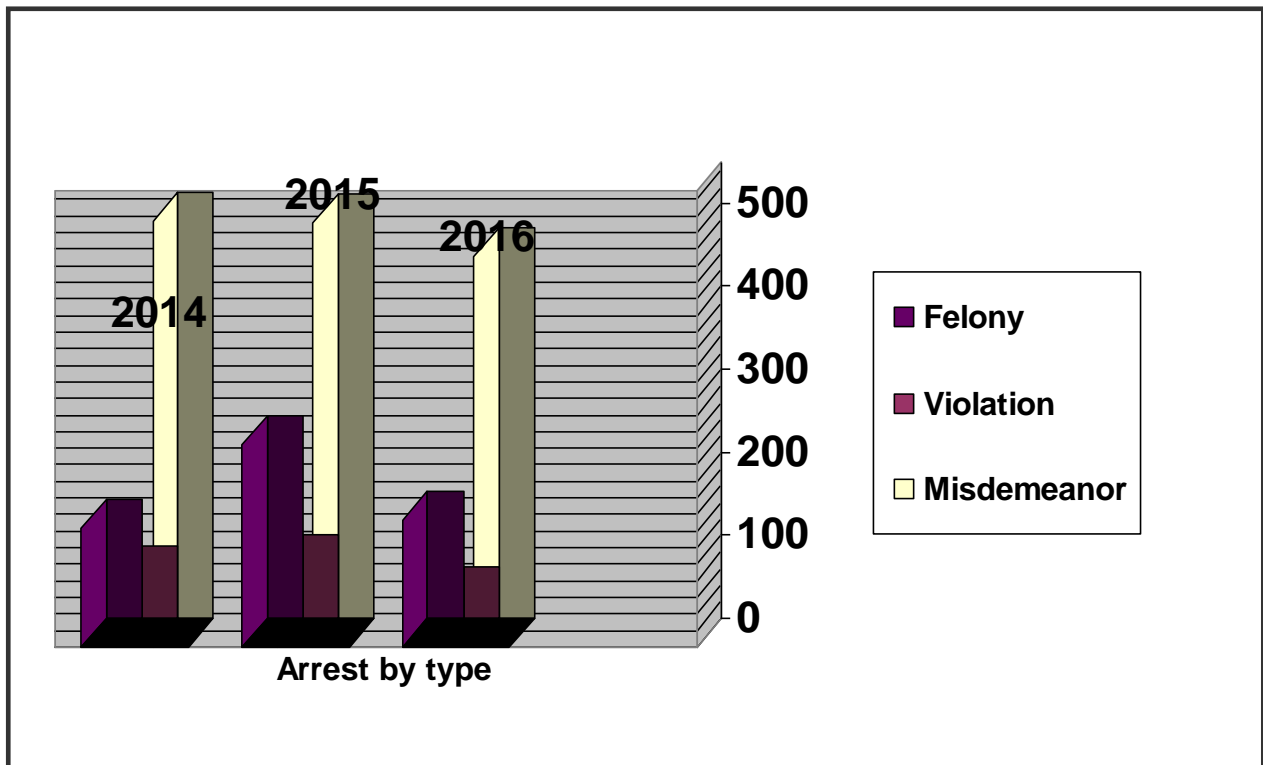


ADULT CHARGES FILED 5 YEAR TREND (INCLUDES AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED AND DWI ARREST)

2012	1352
2013	1186
2014	1137
2015	1279
2016	1101

NON PENAL LAW ADULT ARRESTS IN 2016

ARREST TYPE	NUMBER OF ARRESTS 2015	NUMBER OF ARRESTS 2016	CHANGE FROM 2015
Town/County Ordinance Violations	3	0	-3
Mental Hygiene Law	73	65	-8
Alcohol & Beverage Control Law	2	2	0
Fugitive From Justice	3	2	-1
Fail to Register Sex Offender Law	0	2	+2
Ag. & Markets	0	0	0
Public Health Law	0	2	+2
Total	81	73	-8



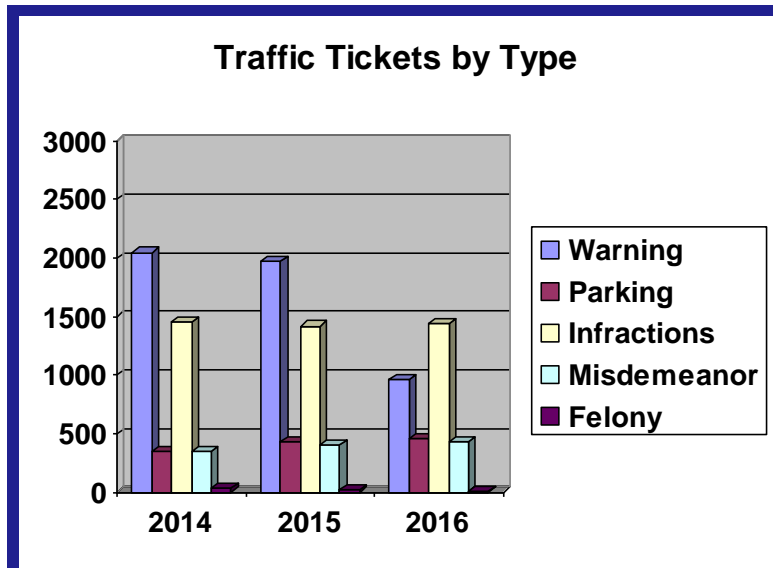
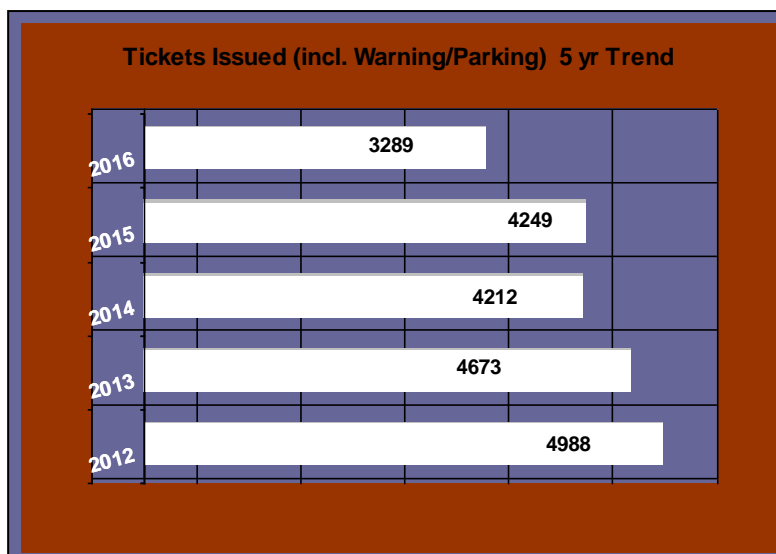
INCIDENT BASED REPORTING OFFENSES

OFFENSE	NUMBER REPORTED 2016	NUMBER REPORTED 2015	NUMBER REPORTED 2014
Murder	0	1	0
Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	0
Rape (forcible)	1	2	1
Robbery	6	8	1
Aggravated Assault	5	6	5
Simple Assault	84	97	94
Burglary	34	62	38
All Larceny	515	566	552
Motor Vehicle Theft	7	13	19
Criminal Impersonation	48	70	61
TOTAL	701	825	771

SOURCE: NYS DCJS INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM

VEHICLE & TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

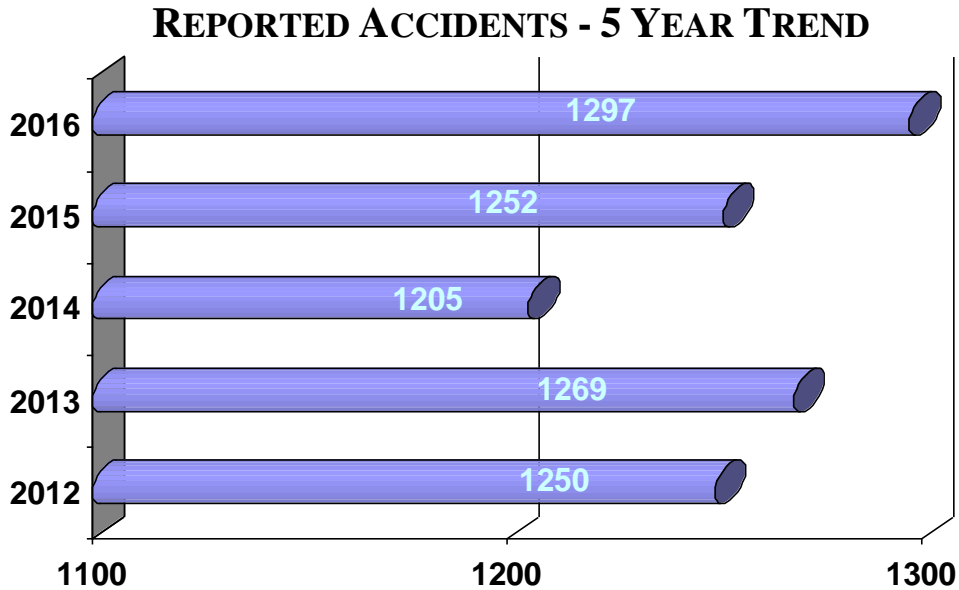
Members of the Department issued 1,867 Uniform Traffic Tickets in 2016. There were 6 felonies, 424 misdemeanors and 1,437 traffic infractions of the Vehicle & Traffic Law. Officers also issued 459 parking tickets during the year. An additional 963 Warning Tickets were also issued to motorists.



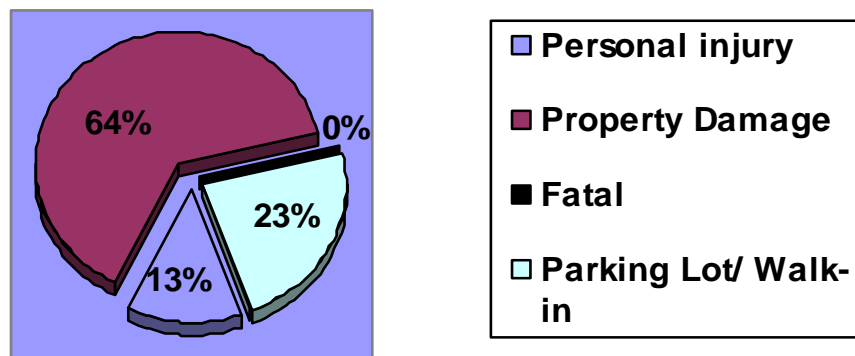
The implementation of Broome County's new dispatching system allows officers to make a computerized record of a verbal warning to a traffic violator rather than by a hand-written ticket issued to the offender. As a result, while the number of actual warnings has no significant change, the number of hand-written paper warnings has decreased significantly.

➤ Motor Vehicle Accidents

Overall, 1,297 accidents were reported to the department in 2016. These accidents, after investigation and classification, consisted of: 170 Personal Injury Accidents, 825 Property Damage Accidents, 301 Parking Lot/Walk-in accidents, and 1 fatal accident.



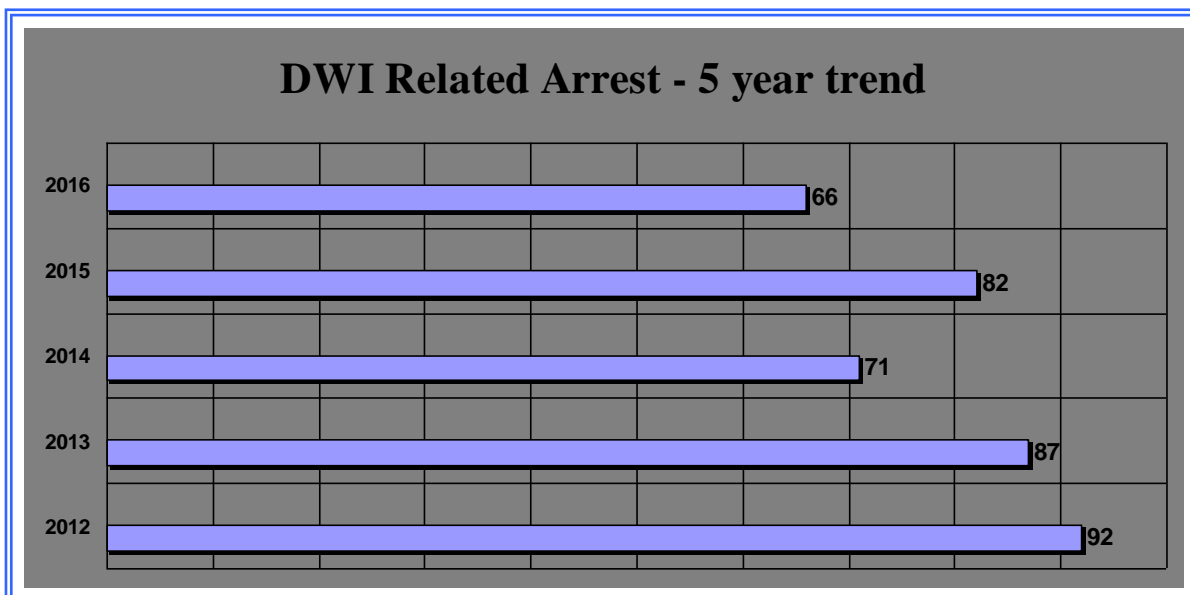
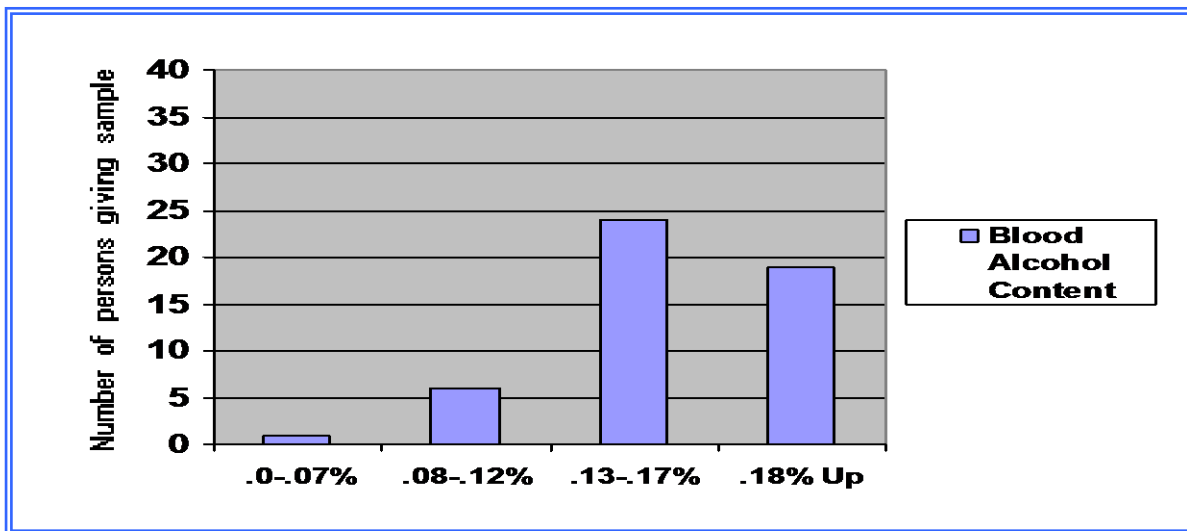
Motor Vehicle Accidents by Type



➤ DWI Enforcement

Members of the department made 62 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) offenses in 2016. Of these 62 arrests, 5 were Felonies which means that the person arrested has a prior conviction for DWI in the past ten years or may have had a child in the vehicle. Of the 62 DWI arrests, 19 persons were found to have a blood alcohol content of 0.18% and over and were additionally charged with the section of 1192-2a(a) "Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated." The department also made 4 arrests for driving while ability impaired by drugs.

The first Chart below compares the number of persons arrested who gave a breath sample and the range into which their blood alcohol content measured.



FIVE YEAR AVERAGE FOR DWI RELATED ARRESTS – 80 PER YEAR

➤ Juvenile Offenses

During 2016 the department filed 32 Juvenile Delinquency Petitions and of those petitions two (2) of the offenses were felonies.

A total of 15 juveniles were arrested under the Mental Hygiene Law and were transported to the Crisis Center at Binghamton General Hospital for evaluation. The criteria for such an arrest are that the person is deemed to be harmful to themselves or others and are in need of immediate crisis intervention.

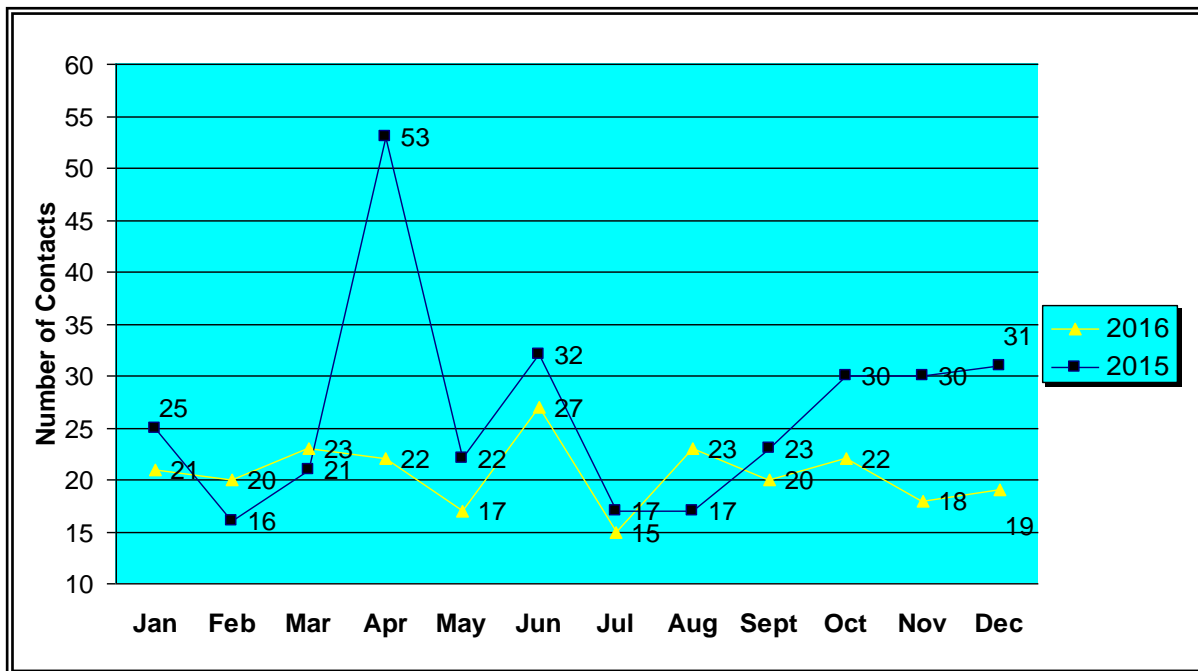
The Juvenile Office continues to maintain a strong working relationship with the Vestal School District's administration and the School Resource Officer. Additionally, the juvenile officer maintains ties with Broome County Probation, Broome County Attorney's Office, The Child Advocacy Center of Broome County, and other local police department's juvenile divisions.

JUVENILE CONTACTS - BY MONTH 2014 v. 2015

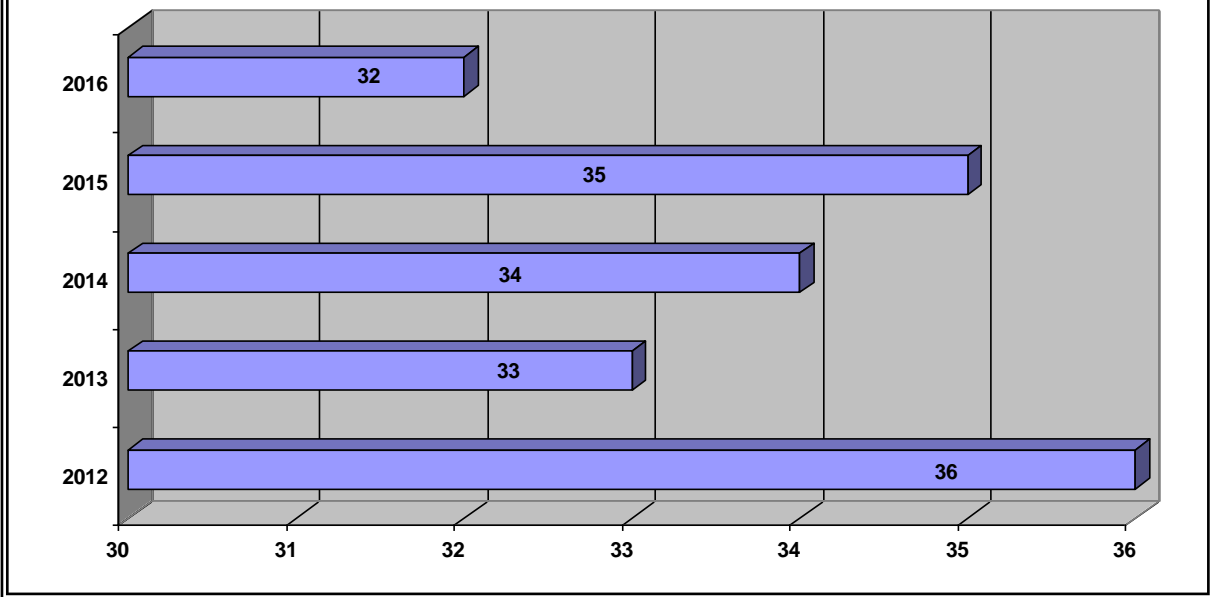
Total number of Juvenile contacts for 2016 = 247

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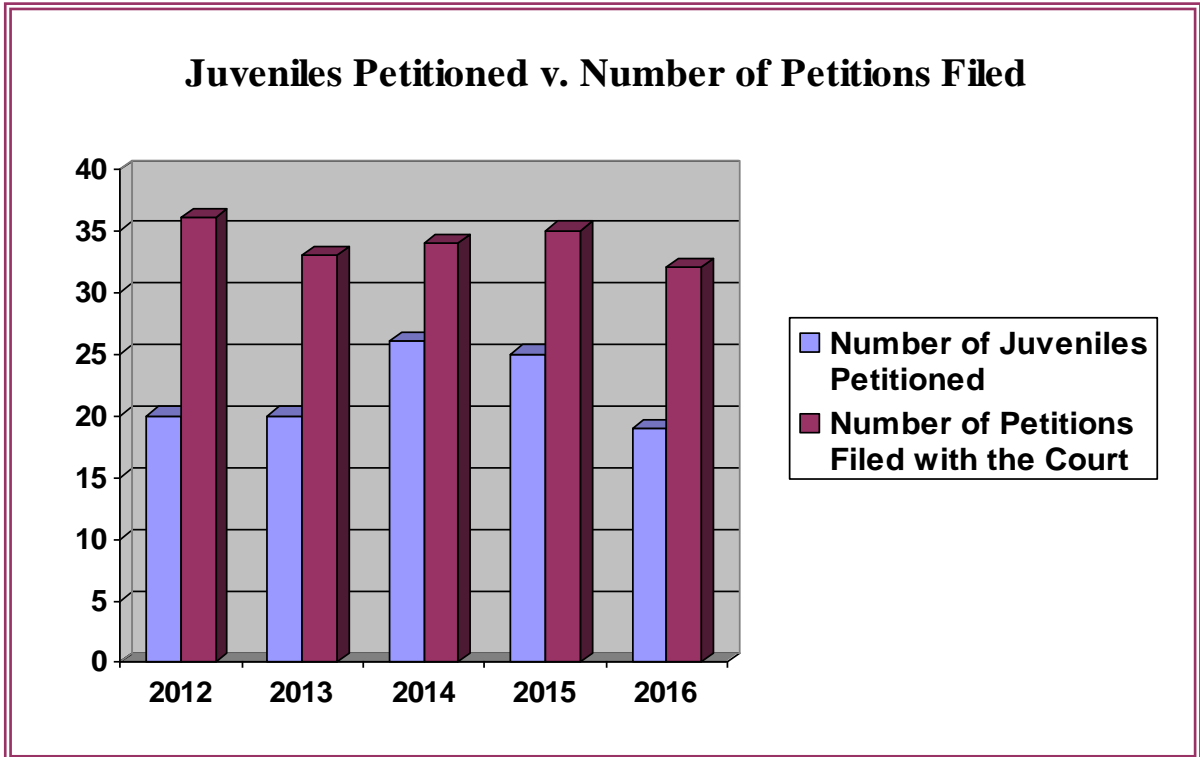
Total number of Juvenile contacts for 2015 = 317



Juvenile Petitions - 5 Year Trend



Juveniles Petitioned v. Number of Petitions Filed



JUVENILE PETITIONS - BY PENAL LAW SECTION

<u>PENAL LAW SECTION</u>	<u>DEGREE OF CRIME</u>	<u>PETITIONS</u>
Criminal Sexual Act 1 st	“B” Felony	1
Petit Larceny	“A” Misdemeanor	1
Mental Health Law 9.41 arrest	N/A	15
Assault in the 3 rd degree	“A” Misdemeanor	1
Criminal Mischief in the 4 th degree	“A” Misdemeanor	7
Criminal Sexual Act in the 1 st degree	“B” Felony	1
Endangering the Welfare of a Child	“A” Misdemeanor	4
False Personation	“B” Misdemeanor	1
Making a False Written Statement	“A” Misdemeanor	1
Sexual Abuse	“D” Felony	1

Total of Juvenile arrests in 2016 = 32

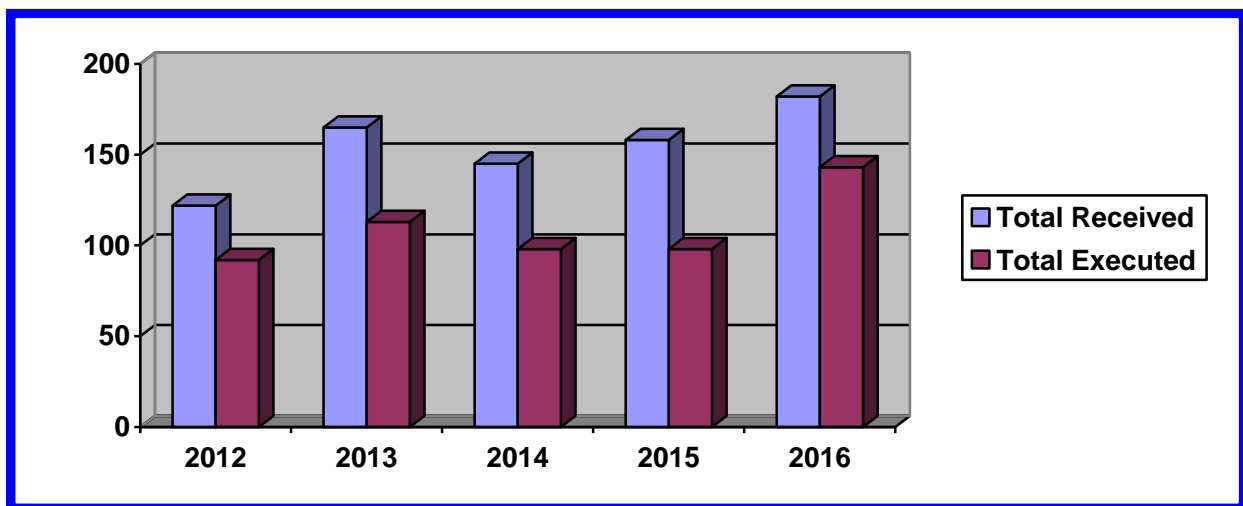
➤ Warrant Control

In addition to their investigative case load, the Detective Division is responsible for various other tasks including warrant control and maintenance. Warrant maintenance consists of ensuring that all active warrants have been entered into the New York State Integrated Justice Portal and that all leads are pursued in searching for persons with warrants for their arrest.

182 new warrants were issued in 2016. 70 of these were Arrest Warrants, 102 were Bench Warrants and 10 were listed as 'Other'.

143 warrants in the Vestal Police Department files were either executed by members of the department or canceled by the court during 2016. This number includes ALL warrants executed, including those that were still open from years prior.

As of December 31, 2016 the Department still had a total of 179 active warrants dating back to the year 2000.



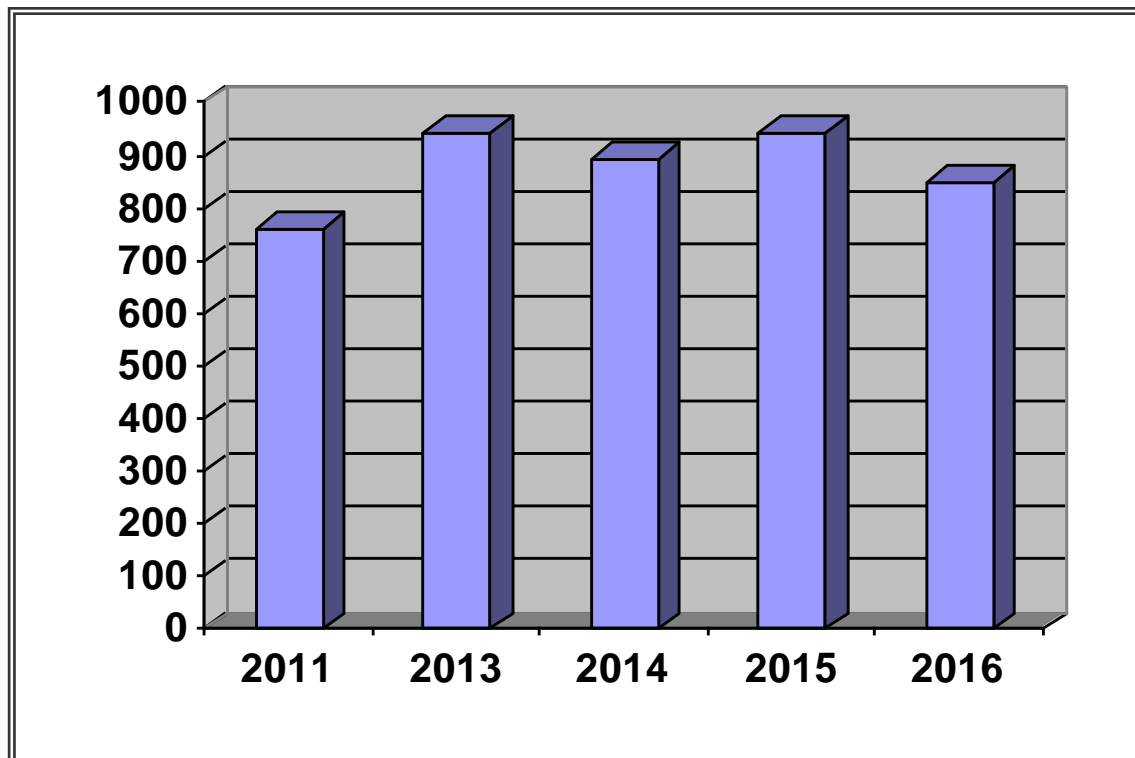
➤ Response to Alarms

In 2016 The Vestal Police Department Patrols responded to 847 police related alarms. These alarms consisted of 567 business alarms, 271 residential alarms, and 9 deemed as “other”. The 847 responses to alarms is a decrease of 93 alarm responses from the 940 in 2015.

This however does not take into account Fire Alarms, Medical Alert Alarms, and Car Alarms that patrols may respond to. In 2016 Vestal Police Patrols handled a total of 12,508 calls for service with approximately 9.9 % of these calls being alarms which is about a 1% increase in the percentage from 2015.

The department regularly communicates with owners of residences and local businesses when we experience problems with repeated false alarms. During the year numerous personal contacts were made with these individuals to educate them regarding the law and our procedures. This is done in an effort to work together to help bring them into compliance with the town ordinance regarding repeated false alarms. In repeated cases a homeowner or business owner/manager could face an arrest for a violation of the town code. As new businesses open in the town these educational contacts are made in an effort to avoid such violations.

5 Year Alarm Response Trends



➤ **2016 Department Reaccreditation**

New York was the first state in the country to sponsor a law enforcement accreditation program and in 1992 the Vestal Police Department was one of the first departments accredited in New York State.

The accreditation program has had a significant impact on law enforcement in the years since its inception. Insurance benefits, enhanced community support, and a greater overall standard of professionalism are just a few of the many tangible benefits that accredited agencies enjoy.

Since our initial Accreditation in 1992 we have successfully been reaccredited during each 5 year reassessment period. The most recent being the fall of 2016 during which time members of the state's Accreditation Council conducted an intense compliance audit of our policies and procedures ensuring our adherence to the current minimum standards of New York State Accreditation.

To date there are 150 accredited agencies in New York which is only 27.5% of the eligible law enforcement agencies in the state.

The Accreditation Program continues to provide a comprehensive blueprint for effective, professional law enforcement.



Accreditation Chairperson Chief Marvin Fischer, Vestal Police Chief John Butler, Lt. Christopher Streno and DCJS Commissioner Michael Green at the 2016 Reaccreditation Ceremony in Albany on December 8th.

