

# East Hampton Police Department

The Challenges of Law Enforcement in the Modern Era



# Basic Law Enforcement Services

- To provide a safe and secure environment for all members of our community, including those that are passing through. Anyone can be a victim of a crime 24/7 365 days a year.
- To provide continuous, effective, and efficient criminal investigations, all while facilitating proactive policing efforts.
- To provide sufficient staffing levels to facilitate proper policing in compliance with current legislature and best practices.

# Basic Law Enforcement Services

- With the current facility and staffing levels:
- To provide a safe and secure environment for all members of our community, including those that are passing through. Anyone can be a victim of a crime 24/7 365 days a year. Unable to provide to our community
- To provide continuous, effective, and efficient criminal investigations, all while facilitating proactive policing efforts. Unable to provide to our community
- To provide sufficient staffing levels to facilitate proper policing in compliance with current legislature and best practices. Unable to provide to our community

# How The Current Facility is Detrimental to Operations:

- Lack of On-Site Locker Rooms

Current locker room and Officer parking is about 2 miles away from the PD.

Passing of relevant shift to shift information is difficult, leading to possible dangerous situations for oncoming officers or lack of services to complainants. **Approximately 550**

**man hours are spent yearly on the transporting of patrol vehicles and equipment to and from 205 East High Street.**

- Statutorily non-complaint detention facilities
- No “Sally Port” – increases risk to officer safety, use of force and community safety
- Lack of secure and on-site impound lot and large evidence storage
- Drastically undersized secure areas for storage and records retention – weapons, records..
- No safe area for evidence processing – opioids laced with fentanyl
- Minimal parking for on duty officers
- Inappropriate areas for decontamination... chemicals, blood, and other bodily fluids are brought in to the department before officers can decontaminate

# How The Current Facility is Detrimental to the Community:

- No 24/7 Lobby

Victims of crimes in the Town of East Hampton during other than Town Hall hours are met by an unheated, poorly lit, 27 sqft vestibule to speak with a dispatcher located in Glastonbury. This area is barely large enough to accommodate two adults, and it is almost impossible for handicapped individuals to gain access inside.

- No parking for customers, victims, grieving families

Our only access to YOUR emergency is Eversource's driveway.

- No community space, e-commerce or child custody exchange, Drug Drop off

- Parents and children must enter criminal detention areas to provide statements or obtain fingerprints i.e. Pistol Permits or Board of Education.



# How The Current Facility is Preventing Progress:

- Constant negative impact on morale:

**Would you want to work in that environment?**

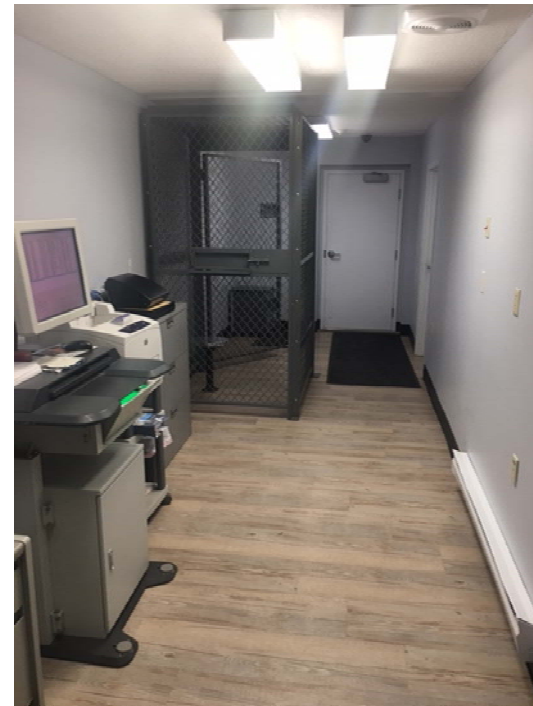
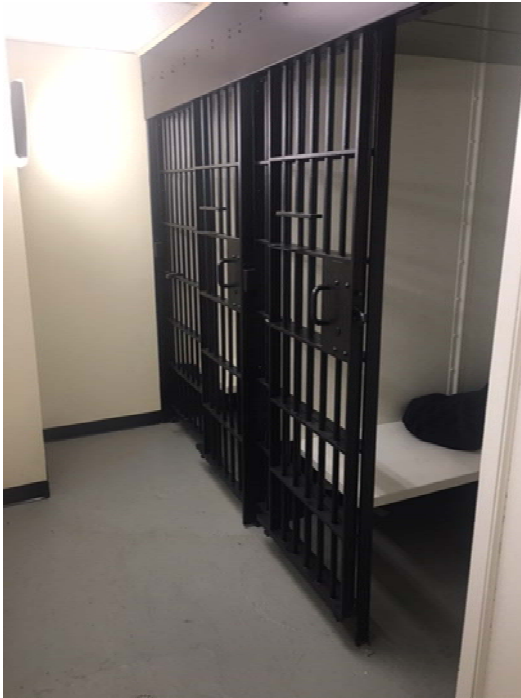
- Current building does not exude professionalism to victims and complainants.

**If you were a victim of a crime, would you have confidence in our competence?**

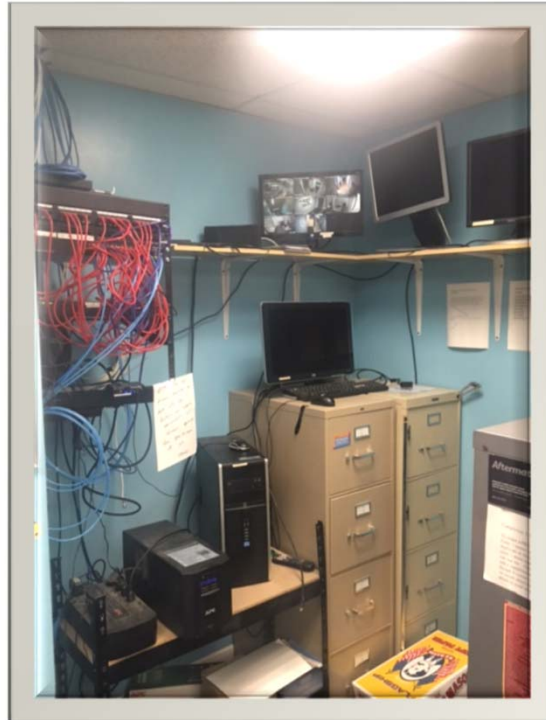
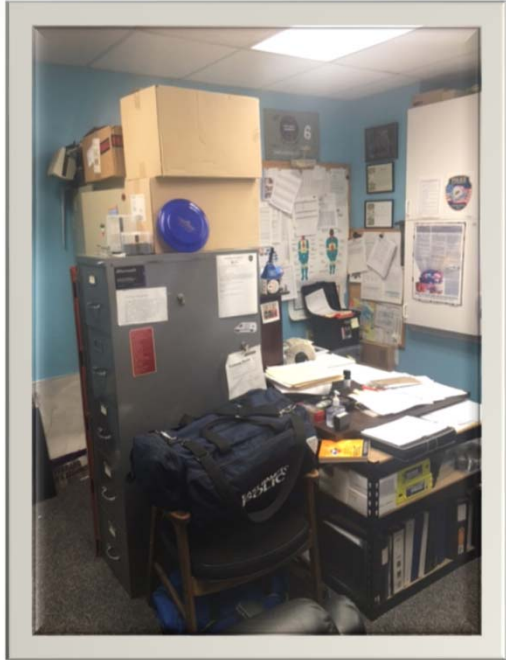
- Current size limits staffing levels, which in turn limits services to the community.
- Impedes our ability to attract qualified candidate who would diversify the agency
- Limits Recruitment of qualified individuals

**While attempting to hire a Certified Lateral Transfer Officer the Department received 0 Certified Officer applications during the 3 month window it was open.**

# Detention Facilities



# Working Conditions





# Lunch Area & Bathroom



# Statistics:

- In 2006, then Chief Matthew Reimondo was quoted In the Herald Press, that at that time staffing, “was going back to the level we were at 8 years ago.” At that time Reimondo said, “5 additional officers were needed now”
- In 2006 the EHPD employed 15 Officers. In March of 2017 the East Hampton Police Department hired its 15<sup>th</sup> Officer who has yet to graduate the Police Academy. Since approx. 1998 the East Hampton Police Department has not hired and retained one additional police officer.
- East Hampton has 1.15 officers per 1000 residents. National Average is 2.4. [www.Trendct.org](http://www.Trendct.org) singled East Hampton out in a 2011 report on Police Departments as having, “only one officer per thousand residents – one of the fewest in the state among towns with their own municipal department.
- As of noon today the EHPD has responded to 4922 calls for service, of which nearly 488 were for medical emergencies.
- Numerous High Profile/ Violent Crimes
  - Weapons Related
  - Narcotics
  - Sexual Assaults
  - Stolen Motor Vehicles/Car Burglaries
  - Homicides
  - Fatal MV Accidents
  - Home Invasions

# If Not Now... Then When?

In 2006, then Chief Matthew Reimondo was quoted In the Herald Press, saying *“the inadequate building and a feeling of being overwhelmed are part of a larger challenge with which the public and police are dealing”*

Modernization to the Infrastructure would provide:

- A safe and secure environment accessible to all 24/7
- ADA Compliance
- CALEA Accreditation
- The ability to improve recruitment efforts, allowing diversity, to better serve the community.
- Proper holding and processing area
- Safe and secure storage areas (Records retention, Evidence, Vehicles, etc.)
- Building Security



**Officer Ringer says.....**

Progress should not be measured in dog years...

Men make history and not the other way around. In periods where there is no leadership, society stands still. Progress occurs when courageous, skillful leaders seize the opportunity to change things for the better.

Harry S Truman