
End of Year Report 2020

January 22, 2021

Borough of Lawnside

By: Public Safety Chair- Steven Pollard

Committee Members: Eric Wilcox
Ronald Deabreu

THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2020

COVID-19 placed our community in an unprecedented circumstance to the likes that I have never experienced before. Twenty-twenty has been a difficult year for many people across the globe. Many of the ideas and projects that I had hoped to achieve throughout the community, were postponed due to the pandemic.

I have recently battled my own health issues and have experienced a variety of challenges in keeping myself COVID free. Although, I had very few in-person meetings in 2020, I always made myself available to help with community events that I was informed of. I am glad to say that the Mayor and Council were kept well informed of the Governor's executive orders and took every precaution to keep our resident's safe. During this time, I was able to fulfill my council duties; by utilizing Zoom and conference calling.

POLICE

The Police department has had many challenges as COVID-19 appeared to cripple our borough, but Captain Plenty has kept the department intact. He was able to procure the proper PPE needed from the county and other sources, making sure our officers and employees were safe. Captain Plenty and I are in constant communication and I am truly knowledgeable of the inner workings of the department and street activity. In the early stages of the pandemic, the Captain implemented the 20-minute neighbor/business safety and security activity check. During this time, we were able to replace two (2) and hire one additional needed Police Officer. Emergency equipment was purchased from a local merchant for both the Police and Fire departments.

I have been contacted by many concerned residents who are now experiencing high volumes of traffic and traffic violations on streets coming from Rt. 30 (White Horse Pike). The Captain, Officer Chase and I, have been working on a traffic and patrol plan to handle this issue and others we will be facing with the completion of the Oak Avenue Project. Not one officer has faltered, nor missed a call, during these trying times. Residents were never placed in harm's way. Several lives have been saved, including a young choking child. Officer's Chase and Tatem, Sgt. Batista, and Cpl. Hernandez have all received letters of accommodations for heroism during this time. They continue to patrol our streets and write violations and citations. The officers have received praise from the community on their professionalism, helpfulness, and understanding.

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REPORTS FOR 2020 STATS

FIRE

The Fire Department headed under Chief Michael Harper, Jr., has been overwhelming during this pandemic, answering over 420 calls. However, this would not have been possible without the help of volunteers. Because of COVID-19 many major equipment purchases have not been made, other than, the need of 4" hose. They have completed required yearly tests on hoses, pumps, and ladders. Meanwhile, repairs were made on all fire apparatus. Former Chief's Gaines, Funchess, Harper, and I have had a discussion on building a new fire station that would be capable of housing all the fire equipment.

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SUMMARY

Public safety departments have held up well during COVID-19. Hopefully, with the administering of the new vaccine we will be able to get out, do more, and not have to be as cautious. Nonetheless, we are still in need of a part-time Class II, and a Matron in the police department. The Fire department will be retiring some long-time fire veterans this year and are in need of volunteers.

We have lost resident's and loved ones, and we have a long road to recovery, but I have confidence and faith that our community will remain resilient.

Councilman Steven Pollard

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