 **Gulf Coast 10-13 Newsletter**

 **September**

 **If You Served, You Belong**

**Due to the Covid-19, our meeting location is still closed. We will contact our members via Email if we will have a meeting in September with date and location.**

**Bob Federici, President**

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Operations Desk 1-640-610-5580**

**NYPD Pension 1-866-692-7733**

**Employee Benefits 1-212-513-0470**

**P.B.A. 1-212-233-5531**

**P.B.A. Retired 1-121-298-9246**

**P.B.A. Drug Plan 1-877-722-7911**

**D.E.A. 1-212-349-0424**

**S.B.A. 1-212-226-2180**

**L.B.A-C.E.A. 1-212-964-7500**

**Social Security 1-800-772-1213**

**G.H.I 1+800-358-5500**

**Empire Blue Cross 1-800-433-9592**

**Medicare A & B 1-800-333-7586**

**N.Y.C Health Line 1-800-521-9574**

**N.Y.P.D. (DIF) 1-212-374-5508**

**V.A. Benefits 1-800-827-1000**

**Stuart Rothbaum, Vice-President**

**Charlie Fugerie, Treasurer**

**Past Presidents**

**Bill Reilly, Bill Condon, Hans Fredericks**

**Joe Monteleone, Ed. Wright, Ed. Barker**

**Mike Lubrano, Bob Federici**

**Newsletter: Bob McGuire**

**All meetings are the 2nd Wednesday of**

**each month from October thru May. No**

**meetings during June, July and August.**

**The September meeting is always the 3rd**

**Wednesday of the month. Our next**

**meeting will be *at 24 Twenty One Event***

***Center located at 2421 Tamiami Trail***

***Port Charlotte, FL 34287***

**OUR COUNCIL IS ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR MEMBERS**

[**New York State Supreme Court ordered NYPD to turn over PII of those granted a firearm license in 2018.**](https://valorguardians.com/blog/?p=102830)



Daily News v NYPD (NY state court): Judge grants petition, orders NYPD “to turn over the name, zip code and license category of all persons to whom [NYPD] granted a firearm license during Calendar Year 2018”.

Too hard to confiscate illegal firearms from criminals, but need to DO SOMETHING? Out legal owners, of course. That this is an invasion of privacy and opens legal citizens to harassment, stalking, doxxing and the like is immaterial to the Daily News.

Or is it? Poetrooper sends.

By: Beth Baumann

The New York State Supreme Court last week granted a motion ordering the New York City Police Department (NYPD) to turn over the name, zip codes and license category of anyone who was granted a firearm license in 2018.

The New York Daily News made the request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request process, which provides public information from government agencies to citizens and journalists.

According to the lawsuit filed against the NYPD, the newspaper makes the argument that they should have access to the information because their reporters “frequently cover gun-related political and policing issues.”

The Daily News argues that the information can be turned over because of a state law – known as the SAFE Act – that declared “that names and addresses of all firearms licenses were public information.”

Under the SAFE Act, gun owners have the ability to opt-out of their information being handed over in FOIA requests but their application has to be approved. It’s the information of those that did not opt-out that the newspaper wants.

“The SAFE act requires disclosure of the names and addresses of gun licensees unless they have applied for and been granted an exemption under the statute,” the lawsuit stated.

The NYPD denied the request on multiple occasions, citing various reasons, like an “invasion of privacy” and “extraordinary effort” would have to be put forth to collect the records.

The licensing department did, however, provide information about the types of permits that were Issued by zip code from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2017. They did not hand over specific names. After an appeal, the licensing department provided a list of 132 names for people who attempted to opt-out but were denied. The newspaper, however, wasn’t happy with the list because it didn’t specify what kind of firearm the licensee possessed.

The court concluded that the department violated the FOIA.

Read the rest of the article Here: [Townhall](https://townhall.com/tipsheet/bethbaumann/2020/07/27/how-one-newspaper-is-working-to-dox-gun-owners-n2573220)

Doubtless the ink is still wet on the appeal, and how soon they forget this is a two-edged sword:

 

[**9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS AT HIGHER RISK OF DEMENTIA**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001e3FHuqXs_o8k-sxq_pmIUh2hMcqs9olNIXx8ysT_YueZR03eZZhVAHgI18exInif91pOZhnIEIim04iCmuD4K2Qxfo7a-xwKdgzTAL8uWGoHVSClao0cJAN4V2GYob7xtTwjvo-xef5C0B-wzwLuY2JNjKJQnSEJ7sf9d0-ET4Zw-2y3rnqgcEy6qhbnGh3oXvLLV4MYQLh3uijBfTOw3iR3tyKbHtwUe0bKW7N1aFJ7GNXivzTfDA==&c=1iIPF-ee9ZcomhVdL9bQokNsPb_ae83zISEPDr517qHDjhFHDiZLOw==&ch=0cSIw0dOJp3lE1MwHK5vBpToTXmrOBgwm91K7U3o5y0n9FJsVKrL7g==)

**Two new studies indicate 9/11 first responders at higher risk of dementia from exposure to Ground Zero toxins**

by Larry McShane - NY Daily News - 7/28/20

Firefighters work beneath the destroyed mullions, the vertical struts which once faced the soaring outer walls of the World Trade Center towers, after a terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York.

In the 19 years since Sept. 11, 2001, the mantra among surviving World Trade Center first responders was always the same: Never forget.

**Now some of those heroes who spent weeks digging through the toxic rubble of the twin towers are at risk of losing their memories to dementia linked to their time working at Ground Zero,** according to a pair of new studies by Stony Brook University researchers.

“It is very ironic,” said Dr. Benjamin Luft, director of the Stony Brook WTC Health and Wellness Program, who partnered with Dr. Sean Clouston on the projects. “We’re looking at a responder community, covered in the toxic dust that covered lower Manhattan. It really gives us pause.”

The first study’s findings, to be presented virtually Tuesday at the Alzheimer Association’s International Conference, used **MRI imaging to assess the brain’s gray matter thickness in participating first responders. The researchers discovered a dangerous thinning of the gray matter, with evidence the responders’ “brain age” is about 10 years older on average than the typical person of the same age.**

**The second study, among 181 male 9/11 first responders with an average age of 55, found changes in their blood proteins consistent with Alzheimer’s and other neuropsychiatric conditions.**

“Listen, I run into it every day,” said first responder and activist John Feal. “People call us for help, and their memory is a little foggy or they don’t remember certain details. We know cancer is still killing people. Now let’s see if dementia rears its ugly head.”

Clouston says the research into the dementia issue began about five years ago, leading to the two latest studies. The brain scans involved patients between the ages of 45 and 65, where brain atrophy is rare in the general population.

“What’s different about this one is we put people into the MRI, and it allowed us to take a look at the structure of the responder’s brain,” he said. “We measured the thickness of gray matter all around the brain. And **people who had some symptoms of cognitive impairment had substantially thinner gray matter.”**

For many of those afflicted, self-diagnosis is not easy.

“People often mistake dementia for something else,” explained Clouston. “It’s hard to notice if your memory is missing. Instead, people just don’t show up at things. People call and ask, ‘Where were you?' It’s something that can be misread. It’s really crucial for us to understand what the actual symptoms are.”

Feal — who recently survived a COVID-19 infection that knocked him for a loop — said the results could help those with potential issues by identifying the problems and giving those afflicted a chance to deal medically with the issues.

**“Nobody wants to be told they have cancer, that they have dementia,” he said. “But if these are the tests we have to take, I’m all for it. ”**

For many of those afflicted, self-diagnosis is not easy.

**Weekend of 8/14 to 8/16**

Fifty-one victims were shot in 40 separate incidents across the five boroughs from Friday through Sunday, according to NYPD data Monday morning. Seven people were killed.

Those statistics are up from eight victims in eight shooting incidents over the same period last year. Five of those shootings were homicides.

The crime wave [caps a bloody week of 62 total shootings](https://nypost.com/2020/08/16/nyc-shootings-76-injured-14-killed-by-gunfire-this-week/), up from 26 gun incidents over the same one-week period last year.

**NYPD reportedly facing internal revolt as city leaders fail to defend rank-and-file officers**

'Honestly, we feel alone out there'

As police departments nationwide face increased scrutiny, the New York Police Department, the largest police force in America, is facing a possible internal revolt.

NYPD rank-and-file officers are apparently angry that city leaders have failed to defend them in the wake of the civil unrest that exploded across America in the wake of George Floyd's death. That unrest eventually resulted in numerous [NYPD officers being targeted](https://www.theblaze.com/news/brooklyn-protest-attack-officers-injured); officers [have been shot, stabbed](https://www.theblaze.com/news/nypd-police-officers-attack-shot-riots), and even [targeted with Molotov cocktails](https://www.theblaze.com/news/nypd-molotov-cocktail-attack-riots).

Absent of city leadership, the NYPD is facing a possible mass exodus.

Former NYPD Commissioner Bernard Kerik [said Saturday](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/former-nypd-commissioner-claims-600-officers-considering-exit-from-the-force-amid-george-floyd-protests) that hundreds of NYPD officers were injured in the protests and hundreds more are considering turning in their badge — or have already done so.

"You have some in the hospital. But there were over 300, 300 injuries. And the thing that scares me, judge, I'm hearing close to 600 cops have either put in their papers, or they're talking to the department about resigning or retiring, like this is insane," Kerik told the Examiner.

An NYPD sergeant [who spoke with the Washington Examiner](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/nypd-police-prepare-to-leave-force-saying-top-brass-abandoned-them) corroborated Kerik's claims.

"The rumor is over 600 went to pension," the sergeant said. "I have less uniformed cops by me."

In fact, the sergeant said his only protection now is from his union, the Sergeants Benevolent Association.

"The [SBA] and the thousands [of dollars] I've sent them provide me with a lawyer and dental plan. Very important. No one else will back us at this point. Chiefs taking knees and humiliating themselves," the sergeant told the Examiner.

Indeed, SBA President [Ed Mullins](http://private.sbanypd.nyc/content/sba-audio8.mp3) laid blame at the feet of Mayor Bill de Blasio, Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), and top NYPD brass for discord within NYPD's ranks.

"Honestly, we feel alone out there." Mullins told the Examiner. "You go out and spend 17 hours on this day, and then you check your phone, and you have certain members of Congress, the governor, the mayor, and they're saying that we're not doing a good job."

Rob O'Donnell, a retired NYPD detective, also confirmed the rumors.

"I personally know three close friends who wanted to do between two to three more years that retired last week, as they've had enough with a radical mayor and spineless police leaders," O'Donnell said.

Over the weekend, de Blasio [announced that he would begin "shifting funds"](https://www.theblaze.com/news/defund-police-de-blasio-nypd) away from the NYPD and instituting several reforms.

**NYPD sees 'exodus' after spike in uniformed cops retiring since George Floyd protests**

**NYPD retirements are up 49%**

Following weeks of anti-cop rhetoric after the death of [George Floyd](https://www.theblaze.com/tag/george-floyd), the "[defund the police](https://www.theblaze.com/tag/defund-the-police)" movement gaining popularity nationwide, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio (D) declaring that he will be [shifting funds away from the NYPD](https://www.theblaze.com/news/defund-police-de-blasio-nypd), it appears that some law enforcement in the Big Apple have had it with the treatment they have received in the past month.

The New York Police Department announced that 272 uniformed officers have filed for retirement in the time since George Floyd's death on May 25 until June 23. Compared to the same period in 2019, this year is seeing a 49% increase, according to the [New York Post](https://nypost.com/2020/06/27/272-nypd-cops-file-for-retirement-since-floyd-protests/).

Police Benevolent Association President Patrick Lynch said that NYPD cops are "at their breaking point, whether they have 20 years on the job or only two."

"We are all asking the same question: 'How can we keep doing our job in this environment?'" Lynch told the Post. "And that is exactly what the anti-cop crowd wants. If we have no cops because no one wants to be a cop, they will have achieved their ultimate goal."

"We are worried about a surge in attrition reducing our headcount beyond what we can sustain without new recruits, and are afraid the City Council has not taken the surge into account," a source told the Post.

Mayor de Blasio said he was "committed to moving resources from the NYPD to youth and social services." The Democratic mayor said New Yorkers "[need to be reached, not policed](https://www.theblaze.com/news/defund-police-de-blasio-nypd)."

Ed Mullins, president of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, said an "exodus" has begun and nearly 80 of his members have recently filed for retirement, and that morale is "at the lowest levels I've seen in 38 years."

"People have had enough and no longer feel it's worth risking their personal well-being for a thankless position," Mullins stated. "There is no leadership, no direction, no training for new policies. Department brass is paralyzed (and) too afraid to uphold their sworn oath in fear of losing their jobs. Sadly, the people of this city will soon experience what New York City was like in the 1980s."

Between May 28 and June 11, more than [350 NYPD officers were injured](https://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/nearly-400-nypd-officers-hurt-during-nycs-two-weeks-of-protest-over-george-floyds-death/2455285/) in the police brutality and Black Lives Matter protests that have turned violent at times.

Earlier this month, [at least seven Minneapolis Police Department employees quit](https://www.theblaze.com/news/minneapolis-police-officers-quit) their law enforcement jobs. The MPD cops left their positions because they were frustrated with the way the police department and city leaders failed to support them following the George Floyd protests.

The entire SWAT team of the Hallandale Beach Police Department in Florida [resigned three weeks ago](https://www.theblaze.com/news/florida-swat-team-resigns-kneeling) after their police chief kneeled with protesters.

**NYPD does away with weekends off for most uniformed cops**

NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea has ordered sweeping changes to police schedules that will ruin weekends for a lot of cops, The Post has learned.

The changes are meant to beef up weekend staffing during a [spike in shootings](https://nypost.com/2020/08/21/at-least-12-shot-overnight-in-nyc-2-fatal-in-the-bronx/) and sometimes violent protests and will affect all uniformed officers under the rank of sergeant who currently have both Saturdays and Sundays off, according to an internal memo obtained by The Post.

One-third of those cops will keep their prized weekends, according to the memo.

But another one-third will have to start working Sunday through Thursday, and the remaining one-third will have to start working Tuesday through Saturday, the Shea-signed memo instructs.

The memo leaves it up to the bureau heads to divide up the new schedules.

The schedule changes must be locked in by Aug. 31, the memo instructs.

**Protester seen in viral NYPD arrest video nabbed for 18th time**

A young protester with a history of vandalism whose arrest by last month went viral after she was tossed in an unmarked police van, has been nabbed for an 18th time, sources said.

Nikki Stone is accused of criminal mischief for allegedly graffiting a window on the 7 train in Queens, sources said.

Stone, 18, who has been accused of damaging NYPD cameras and graffiting the Oculus inside the World Trade Center, was arrested Thursday by the NYPD and received a desk appearance ticket. The same day, she was arrested by the Port Authority on an open graffiti case, a source said.

Both de Blasio and Gov. Andrew Cuomo decried the NYPD over a now-viral video showing cops[picking up Stone in an unmarked van](https://nypost.com/2020/07/28/manhattan-protester-busted-by-nypd-loaded-into-unmarked-minivan/) for vandalizing police gear at a protest near City Hall Park.

THE BADGE

The Badge:

This badge ran towards certain death as the Towers collapsed on 9-11.

This badge ran into the line of fire to save the people in the Pulse Night Club.

This badge sheltered thousands as bullets rained down from the Mandalay Hotel in Las Vegas.

This badge protected a BLM rally that left five officers dead in Dallas.

This badge ran into the Sandy Hook School to stop a school shooter.

This badge killed the Oregon District mass shooter in seconds.

This badge has done CPR on your drowned child.

This badge has fist fought the wife beater who left his spouse in a coma.

This badge has run into burning buildings to save the occupants.

This badge has been shot for simply existing.

This badge has waded through flood waters to rescue the elderly trapped on the roof.

This badge has intentionally crashed into the wrong way driver to protect innocent motorists.

This badge has helped find the lost child so his mother would stop crying hysterically.

This badge has helped the injured dog off the road and rushed it to the vet.

This badge has escorted the elderly woman across the street because she couldn't see well and was afraid to cross.

This badge has bought food for hungry kids because they had been abandoned.

This badge has been soaked in blood and tears.

This badge has been covered by a mourning band to honor those who have sacrificed everything in service.

You may hate me because I wear it.  But, I wear it with pride.  Despite your hate and your anger, I will await the next call for help.  And, I will come running without hesitation.  Just like the thousands of men and women across this great nation.

This badge. ~Unknown

**Court lets public see complaint data on 81,000 NYPD officers**

**New York City police officers have faced more than 320,000 complaints from the public since the mid-1980s, but less than 3 percent resulted in penalties, according to newly released data. Photo: Richard Drew/AP**

New York City police officers have faced more than 320,000 complaints from the public since the mid-1980s, but less than 3 percent resulted in penalties, according to [newly released data](https://www.nyclu.org/en/campaigns/nypd-misconduct-database) that offers a rare glimpse into the long-veiled realm of police misconduct and accountability.

The New York chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union on Thursday published data on complaints against more than 81,000 current or former NYPD officers after prevailing in a fight with public safety unions that had sought to keep the records secret.

They include more than 18,000 complaints about “nasty words,” cursing or ethnic and homophobic slurs; 2,200 allegations of officers using flashlights, radios or guns to beat people; 5,400 instances of guns allegedly being pulled or pointed; and more than 1,700 complaints of officers using chokeholds, which have long been banned by the department and were recently outlawed. There were also more than two dozen complaints about conduct regarding animals.

Top of Form

Bottom of Form

The complaints touch virtually every part of the department, from beat cops to men and women who’ve ascended to top leadership posts.

Commissioner Dermot Shea’s record includes three substantiated complaints stemming from a vehicle stop in August 2003, when he was working his way up from captain to deputy inspector. He was ordered to receive extra instructions as punishment.

Crime Control Strategies Chief Michael LiPetri has been the subject of 25 complaints since he started at the NYPD in 1994 — but only three were substantiated, leading to minor punishment.

A message seeking comment was left with a police spokesperson.

The NYCLU posted the [records to its website](https://www.nyclu.org/en/campaigns/nypd-misconduct-database) after the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals lifted a stay that had been blocking the organization from making them public despite a change in state law meant to promote transparency in the wake of the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd.

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“History has shown the NYPD is unwilling to police itself,” NYCLU legal director Christopher Dunn said. “The release of this database is an important step towards greater transparency and accountability and is just the beginning of unraveling the monopoly the NYPD holds on public information and officer discipline.”

A spokesperson for the unions, which represent city police officers, firefighters and jail guards, said the appeals court’s decision “in no way means the battle to permit constitutionally guaranteed right to due process for public safety workers ceases.

“In fact, we continue to fight the de Blasio administration and the improper dumping of thousands of documents containing unproven, career damaging, unsubstantiated allegations that put our members and their families at risk. And we’re not done,” said the spokesperson, Hank Sheinkopf.

While it’s difficult to draw any conclusions from the data — for example, one officer was listed as having 64 substantiated complaints against her, but all seemed to stem from one incident — there are some broader takeaways.

According to the data, 8,699 complaints led to a penalty, 19,833 officers were named in five or more complaints, and 12 officers were terminated as a result of complaints lodged during the decades-long span covered by the records.

Those officers include Damian Marcaida, who had no complaints before he was charged in 1999 with beating a woman who asked for his name and badge number after the police killing of Amadou Diallo, and Charles Dorcent, who was exonerated of using excessive force less than a year before a videotaped beating in 2002 that led to his conviction on criminal charges.

A federal district court judge is expected to rule Friday in another aspect of the union lawsuit: whether to keep barring the city’s police watchdog agency, as well as the police department and other entities from releasing disciplinary records.

The unions sued the city July 15 to block Mayor Bill de Blasio from taking advantage of last month’s repeal of a decades-old state law, which had kept disciplinary records secret, by starting to post misconduct complaints on a government website.

U.S. District Judge Katherine Polk Failla [initially sided with the unions](https://apnews.com/d3acfc3ee051eef71ca0c51289fe12f2), pausing the release of disciplinary records and barring the NYCLU from publicly releasing records it obtained from the watchdog agency, the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Failla [later reversed herself](https://apnews.com/a3c97bd82d2d628aa710517e9fef3fe9) on the NYCLU, saying it was impossible for her to reach back and prevent the release of records that the organization received before the unions filed their lawsuit. That [led to the union’s appeal](https://apnews.com/8612ddf6f425a513e228ecada9feaedd) and the ruling Thursday in favor of the NYCLU.

Scores of disciplinary records have already reached public view since the repeal last month of a law that had kept them secret for decades.

ProPublica [published a database](https://projects.propublica.org/nypd-ccrb/) last month containing complaint information for thousands of officers, while news outlets including the AP have published numerous stories based on newly public disciplinary documents.

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 **FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION REJECTS PBA BACKING PRESIDENT TRUMP TRUMP**