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Chief's Message
17th Anniversary of the September 11, 2001, Attacks

Today marks the 17th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001- the day almost 3,000 people were killed in New York City, Washington DC, Virginia, and outside of Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

This is our opportunity to take the time to remember all those who perished that day; the 343 New York City firefighters, the 23 New York City police officers, and the 37 Port Authority police officers. These courageous individuals who rushed toward danger to save innocent lives will live forever as heroes in our memories.

Let us not forget the many more first responders who reported to Ground Zero in the days and weeks that followed, performing many more heroic acts to clear debris and locate survivors. Those who responded, as well as those who survived the attacks, continue to suffer from illnesses and diseases caused by the toxic substances generated during the collapse of the Twin Towers. More than 5,400 first responders and civilians were affected by the dust and debris, with over 135 law enforcement officers succumbing to these "9/11-related illnesses" in the 17 years since.

The actions taken by these officers, and all first responders, that day made us proud to be part of the public safety profession. And the way we as a country came together to overcome this tragic attack demonstrated the strength of the American people. None of us will ever forget these devastating events as we go forward each and every day to defend freedom and all that is good and just in our country – our home.

As we remember the sacrifices made on September 11, 2001, let us be vigilant to the words of Gaylor Nelson, "The ultimate test of a person's conscience may be his or her willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."


WILLIAM SCOTT
Chief of Police