



# Busing Questions



# **How many personnel are presently assigned to the Bruno M. Ponterio Ridge Street Elementary School and Blind Brook Middle/High School?**

- Officers are assigned to work in a geographical area of the village commonly referred to as a patrol post. There are two patrol posts; Blind Brook Middle/High School and Ponterio Ridge Street School are located in the northern patrol post. Similarly, Port Chester High School and Port Chester Middle School are located in the southern post.
- The officer assigned to the northern patrol post is responsible for Blind Brook Middle/High School and Ridge Street School.
- The Blind Brook School District during the 1999 – 2000 school year did hire a police officer off-duty to assist in the Ponterio Ridge Street School parking lot during the dismissal time each day. That option is still available.



## **In the event that the Busing Regulations change how much more personnel will be assigned?**

- Since no study has been completed to determine what the impact busing restrictions will cause, changes in the deployment of officers have not been considered. Any impact once identified will need to be evaluated to determine the best strategy to deploy personnel



# **To what extent were Police resource allocations changed when Port Chester changed their busing regulations a few years ago?**

- Port Chester School District implemented busing at state mandated levels in 1996. The impact that was experienced was increased students walking to school and also increased traffic during the school arrival and dismissal time. The area of Bowman Ave, Westchester Avenue and South Ridge Street around Port Chester Middle School was most impacted.
- Police resource allocations were not changed as a result of the change in busing restrictions in the Port Chester School District. In order to accommodate the result of change in busing restrictions, the Port Chester School District made changes to their operation and personnel.
- Changes were made at Port Chester Middle School to the parking lot configuration to accommodate the increase in the number of cars and school monitors were assigned to the parking lot during the arrival and dismissal times.


# **To what extent were Police resource allocations changed when Port Chester changed their busing regulations a few years ago? (cont.)**

- Changes were made in conjunction with suggestions from the Chief of Police at that time.
- The Police Department in 2001, made changes to the deployment of police officers to coincide with the morning rush hour and afternoon school dismissal time; this was due not only to traffic and pedestrian congestion in the Port Chester School District, but also to the increase in population of the village due to the development of BelleFair, Blind Brook Estates and Hidden Pond. Also renovations made at the Blind Brook Middle High School and the increase in Blind Brook School District population contributed to the changes in police officer deployment.
- To address the traffic congestion on King Street, the entrance/exit to Blind Brook Middle/High School was moved to the intersection of King Street and Glennville Street when the Hutchinson River Parkway was expanded in 1998 – 1999. This was done to take advantage of the traffic light at that intersection.




## **Is the Village of Port Chester paying these costs?**

- Neither the Village of Port Chester nor the Port Chester School District is paying any costs to the Village of Rye Brook for police coverage due to busing restrictions.



**In your opinion, will the schools' current traffic plans, with their current entrances and exits, be able to safely and effectively handle the significant increase in traffic that will occur during drop off and pick up if the proposed referendum on busing is passed?**

- Since no study has been completed to evaluate the impact of any changes to busing, I cannot evaluate whether or not the traffic patterns in the school will be sufficient to accommodate any changes. I will offer my assistance to help evaluate and give suggestions.




# **What safety concerns does the PD have regarding the additional traffic that would necessarily be a result of the proposed modification of the transportation eligibility requirements?**

- Increase in traffic may not necessarily translate into an increase or decrease in safety. The department is always analyzing and monitoring incidents and accidents that are reported, summonses that are issued in the village and also concerns that are communicated by the residents; if necessary, officers will be assigned to directed patrol of an area to solve the problem.



**What effect will there be on traffic patterns in the village during drop off and pick up hours? How will the increase in cars on the road be handled by the PD?**

- Any effect in traffic patterns that are identified will be brought to the Village Traffic Commission to evaluate. The Traffic Commission will make recommendations to the Village Board.
- Any acute problems that are found will be evaluated and a response will be developed.




**Will the significant increase in traffic in the village require either that members of the PD be deployed to the school during drop off and pick up hours or that staff will need to be hired by the school to direct traffic?**

- Changes to traffic that are created by the busing restrictions will be evaluated and also referred to the Village Traffic Commission. If the school district determines that police officers are needed at either of the campuses during drop off or pick up hours, those officers would be hired to work while off-duty by the school district just as the school district hires off-duty officers for special and athletic events.




**Overall, what additional costs does the Rye Brook Police Department expect to incur if the referendum on transportation eligibility is passed?**

- No empirical data has been presented to demonstrate what the impact will be and therefore an estimate on additional costs cannot be made. The 2009 – 2010 Police Department Budget does not include funds for this purpose.




**Given the location of the Rye Brook Emergency Services, the past decade's significant school age population growth in Rye Brook, and the inevitable dramatic increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic along King Street and Ridge Street, to what degree would the response time of these emergency services be impacted?**

- Questions on the impact on the response times of Fire and EMS should be directed to Port Chester Fire Chief Robert Drought and EMS Administrator Scott Moore.
- Police response times are determined by many factors including but not limited to call location, call volume and the nature of the call. Since police officers are on patrol and are not responding from one static location, officers may be within close proximity to where they are responding to.
- Changes in busing restrictions to state mandated levels in the Port Chester School District in 1996 had no influence on police response times.



**In the event of a severe medical emergency, such as cardiac arrest, how would this inevitable delay in response and transport impact the prognosis for the individual?**

- Questions on EMS response and impacts that may be realized due to changes in busing should be addressed to Port Chester-Rye-Rye Brook EMS.



**In addition, given the aforementioned increase in pedestrian and vehicular traffic and the limited capacity of the main roads, how is the safety of our children being compromised and how dramatic is the increase in likelihood that a pedestrian incident will occur vs. the existing situation?**

- Public Safety is always considered and is never taken lightly. The extent of any impact of the proposed change in busing will create has not been identified and therefore predicting if the likelihood of a pedestrian incident will be created by any change is impossible to make.



**There is already much traffic on King St and on the ramps going onto King St. from the Merritt Parkway. Will there be more police presence to monitor traffic?**

- Since there are very few children who walk this route currently and it is unknown if changes to busing will cause additional students to walk this route to school, there are no plans to post crossing guards on the Hutchinson River and Merritt Parkway ramps onto King Street. School crossing guards are posted at exit 29 entrance and exit of the Hutchinson River Parkway on North Ridge Street.

# Additional Comments

- It is difficult to answer some of the questions posed because steps the school district may take to mitigate the impact have not been identified and only an estimate of students who will no longer be bused to school has been provided to me.
- It would be helpful for me to know what the breakdown of students who would no longer be bused would be in grades K through 5, 6 through 8 and 9 through 12 and how many high school seniors drive to school.

# Additional Comments (cont.)

Other factors that could mitigate the impact of busing restrictions are:

- Plans to accommodate increased parking and traffic on each school campus and giving the consideration to create additional parking at both campuses.
- A professional traffic study for the Village to evaluate the deployment of police personnel. The Village Traffic Commission may be able to assist in any study that is commissioned.
- Hiring of off-duty police officers by the school district for problem areas identified by the police department that are caused by the busing restrictions.
- Implementation of staggered dismissal and arrival times to ease any additional traffic congestion.
- Changes to the layout of the parking lots of both campuses to reconfigure the traffic patterns to prevent the stacking of cars onto King Street and North Ridge Street.
- Assigning additional school personnel in the parking lots of both campuses to keep traffic moving.
- Promoting car pooling among the parents.



# Questions and Answers

All presentations will be available at the  
Blind Brook web site

[www.blindbrook.org](http://www.blindbrook.org) under the 2009-2010  
Budget Information link