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COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

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NEWS RELEASE

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Towns of Camillus and Geddes Police Cooperation

Onondaga County Comptroller Robert Antonacci, CPA, in conjunction with the Camillus Town Supervisor Mary Ann Coogan and the Geddes Town Supervisor Manny Falcone, announce the completion of the Towns of Camillus and Geddes Police CSI: Onondaga cooperation assistance.

This assistance, conducted at the request of Legislator Christopher J. Ryan and the Towns of Camillus and Geddes, is the latest in a series of CSI: Onondaga (Consolidation, Sharing Services and Integration and Information) projects that Comptroller Antonacci has undertaken to assist local governments in Onondaga County. According to Comptroller Antonacci "The ultimate goal of our CSI assistance is to help the local government officials in any way possible to deliver their services more effectively and efficiently. That, in turn, will help them control their property taxes."

At the outset of our assistance both Town Supervisors expressed a strong desire to maintain their current level of police services. Therefore, the goal of CSI: Onondaga focused primarily on assisting the towns with developing new ways to improve their community focused police services and to help control future budgets.

CSI: Onondaga conducted extensive research and review looking at current data and best practices. Based on the results and focused on their goals, the towns decided the best way to accomplish their goals would be to develop additional shared services between their police departments. Then, working cooperatively, they developed a list of initial joint service areas that the towns have decided to implement. These additional shared services include:

- Investigations
- Joint Training
- Equipment Sharing
- Grant Writing

The memorandum of understanding for these additional shared services is in the process of being developed for presentation to the Town Boards.

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According to Camillus Town Supervisor, Mary Ann Coogan "We are very enthusiastic about where we are with this project. We see the potential for providing police services to both towns more effectively and efficiently." Town of Geddes Supervisor Manny Falcone added "Everyone involved in this effort is enthusiastic. Our police chiefs are eager to begin working even more closely together and providing the taxpayers with even higher quality police services, while helping us to control police costs in the future."

According to Comptroller Antonacci, "The taxpayers of Onondaga County deserve nothing less than the most effective and efficient government services possible. The Camillus and Geddes Town Supervisors, Boards, and Police Chiefs have demonstrated how, working together, we can make important progress towards this goal. We are all proud and supportive of these results."

Questions regarding this report be directed to Robert Antonacci II CPA, at 435-2130.



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Towns of Camillus and Geddes Police Services Fact Sheet

Town Police Department Profiles

The Towns of Camillus and Geddes are coterminous towns in Onondaga County that provide police services to their residents. Early in 2014, both Town Boards approved participation in a police services study conducted by the Onondaga County Comptroller's Office, CSI Unit.

Camillus Police Department

The Camillus Police Department serves the entire Town of Camillus, including the Village of Camillus, with a population of just over 24,000 residents spread out over 34 square miles. In 2013 the department had 24 full time officers, two full time clerical staff, and various other specialized part-time staff. The department offices are located at the Camillus Town Hall, 4600 West Genesee St., Camillus.

The total Camillus Police Department 2013 expenses, including fringe benefits, were almost 3 million dollars. Police Department specific revenues for 2013 were less than \$200,000. The net cost for police services in 2013 for the Town of Camillus was approximately \$186 per \$100,000 in taxable assessed value.

Geddes Police Department

The Geddes Police Department serves the Town of Geddes area outside of the Village of Solvay, with a population of approximately 10,500 residents spread out over approximately 7 square miles. In 2013 the department had 13 full time officers, five part-time officers, and two clerical staff. The offices are located at the Geddes Town Hall, 1000 Woods Road, Solvay.

The total Geddes Police Department 2013 expenses, including fringe benefits, totaled approximately 2.3 million dollars. Police Department specific revenues for 2013 were less than \$100,000. The net cost for police services in 2013 in the Town of Geddes, outside the Village of Solvay, was approximately \$372 per \$100,000 in taxable assessed value.

Both Police Departments

Both town police departments are accredited through the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program; operate on a 24 hour, 7 day per week schedule; and provided the following police services to their citizens in 2013:

- Patrol
- Investigation (major crime, minor crime, accident, etc.)
- Traffic Safety
- School resource officers and crossing guard
- Community relations and support (public interface, support, and training)

- Back-up dispatch services (civilian personnel)
- Dog control services (dog control officer)

Both Police Departments conduct the following internal activities:

- Officer training
- Personnel administration (including internal affairs)
- Clerical (maintaining files, compiling statistics, and other administrative tasks)

Both Police Departments relied exclusively on Onondaga County for the following services in 2013:

- County jail
- Hillbrook Juvenile Detention Facility
- Dispatch services by the Onondaga County 911 Dispatch Center

Both Police Departments relied on the following services from the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office in 2013 where the technical or manpower needs exceeded their department's resources:

- Abused persons investigations
- K-9
- Aviation
- Bomb squad (Camillus only)
- SWAT (Camillus only)
- Major drug investigation (Camillus only)
- Backup investigation of major crimes (Geddes only)
- Accident investigation (Geddes only)

Both police departments relied on the following services from the NYS Police in 2013 where the technical or manpower needs exceeded their department's resources:

- Backup investigation of major crimes (Camillus only)
- K-9
- Aviation
- Polygraph (Camillus only)
- Collision reconstruction (Camillus only)
- Major drug investigation (Camillus only)

Alternatives For Providing Police Services Across Towns

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid is generally the default arrangement that municipalities use to obtain police services needed on an emergency/as needed basis. This is the current arrangement that the towns use to obtain emergency services from nearby police agencies, including each other. Generally, the Towns of Camillus and Geddes receive mutual aid from each other, the Village of Solvay, the Onondaga County Sheriff's Office, and the NYS Police. When one police agency is confronted with an emergency/need, other local agencies respond to assist in addressing that emergency/need. Once the emergency/need is resolved, the responding police agencies remove and reassign their officers to their regular service areas. Generally, mutual aid only exists for patrol and investigative functions/services. Although there are provisions in the law and there can be payments for mutual aid services, generally the services are provided on a quid-pro-quo basis.

Functional Sharing or Consolidation

Pursuant to General Municipal Law, Article 5-G towns may share or consolidate individual police functions. They can share or consolidate additional police functions with other municipal police departments, including the adjoining town. Police functions can include: patrols, investigation, traffic safety, school crossing guard and resource officers, community support (public interface, support, and training), administration, clerical, training, or any other authorized police function. The town boards, by resolution pursuant to General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, may share or consolidate any or all current town police functions. Each shared or consolidated police function(s) should be governed by an agreement that defines the rights, responsibilities, and funding requirements of the participants.

Contracting for Police Services

Pursuant to General Municipal Law, Article 5-G towns may contract for police services from other municipal police departments, including the adjoining town. Functions can include the same as listed in Functional Sharing or Consolidation section above. The town boards, by resolution pursuant to General Municipal Law, Article 5-G may contract for any or all police services that they are authorized to provide by law. Each arrangement for police services is governed by a contract that defines the rights, responsibilities, and funding requirements of the participants.

Consolidation of the Police Departments into a Separate Entity

Towns may also consider creating a separate entity to provide some or all police services to two or more towns. However, the creation of any such entity; including how it would be organized, administered, and funded would have to be accomplished by an act of the NY State Legislature, approved by the Governor. If all police services will be provided by the separate entity, then the current police departments may have to be dissolved pursuant to resolutions of the Town Boards, subject to mandatory or permissive referendum, as provided by Town Law.

Study Alternatives and Objectives

The town supervisors indicated they were satisfied with the level of police services provided in their towns and did not wish to pursue reduction in the level of police services. They also both indicated they were interested in exploring shared or consolidated police services to continually improve the effectiveness of their police services and control future costs to their towns.

Each town is a separate and distinct police jurisdiction with no overlapping service areas. Therefore, consolidation of the two town police departments would most likely not result in significant cost savings by itself. In addition, because most of the costs for police services are personnel related and many are controlled either by state requirements or by negotiated contracts, most likely significant cost savings would only be achieved through reduction of personnel and related service levels.

Therefore, the Onondaga County Comptroller's Office, CSI Unit's role in this process was to facilitate the towns with identifying new shared service areas, currently provided by the towns separately, to help improve police service effectiveness and help control future police service costs.