

CAC meeting 12-02-2025

1. Present: 6 CAC members and 5 non-members from Shinnecock Hills area:

Members: Diane, Bernice, Maureen, Elaine, Renee

Non-Members: Skyler Arrasate, Sam Kelly, Linn Turecamo, Shelby Turecamo, Jen Bockhaus

Guest speaker: Chief James Kiernan, Southampton Police department

2. Chief James Kiernan introduced himself, gave an overview of the department and discussed safety on CR39

- A. Chief Kiernan, spoke on his participation and proactive partnership for school safety and wellness, known as "Handle With Care". Chief Kiernan has a bachelor's degree in psychology and went back to school for his master's degree in business administration.
- B. Southampton Town Police Department recently added Four New Police officers to the force. He expressed that there will be some time before the officers are ready for duty due to training requirements.
- C. Growth of the Southampton Department has increased from 97 to 110 since 2021 with the addition of 13 police officers
- D. Chief Kiernan has experience including being a patrol officer, a member of the department's emergency services tactical team, working as undercover in narcotics investigations, involvement in the Dare program and personal involvement in community affairs. He became detective lieutenant, was promoted to captain in 2020, and then Chief after Chief Skrynecki's passing, whom he expressed admiration.
- E. Kiernan policies include Body Worn Cameras being a part of the department's service.
- F. Chief Kiernan distributed a pamphlet to those in attendance about the Southampton Town Police Civilian Academy, which offers residents a chance to learn firsthand about police work through specialized training at police headquarters. The program aims to strengthen communication and trust between the police and community, with no physical requirements. Participants will learn about areas such as Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure, Use of Force, DWI, Narcotics Enforcement, Domestic Violence, Investigations, Gangs, and more. Optional activities include ride-alongs and demonstrations at the Firearms Range and Emergency Vehicle Operations Course. The 2026 Civilian Academy begins January 15, 2026, and runs for sixteen weeks on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Seats are limited; Southampton Town residents have priority, but non-residents may be considered if space allows.
- G. Kiernan addressed the application of URBAN SDK software, a comprehensive data analytics platform that leverages geospatial AI to assist city planners, government agencies, and civil engineering firms in managing urban issues such as traffic, safety, and emergency response. Through the analysis of metrics like speed, volume, delays, and collision risks on local roads, officials are better equipped to prioritize

improvements and address citizen concerns. He noted that the cameras currently deployed do not collect personal information and are not utilized for the incrimination of individuals.

H. The chief expressed that “STPD is one of the best police services in the state.

3. Chief Kiernan responded to questions from those in attendance:

- Sam Kelly raised concerns about speeding near Tuckahoe School and mentioned radar cameras for ticketing. Kiernan noted these are not legally permitted in NYS. Sam expressed the need for speed enforcement by alternate methods.
- Jennifer Bockhaus, owner of the Classy Canine in Southampton, shared her deep concerns about the serious impact of new traffic closures at the intersection of CR39 and Sandy Hollow Road. These changes have led to safety issues for customers and caused an almost 75% drop in clients. She explained that the loss of safety and accessibility is devastating for her business, recounting an incident where one of her clients was nearly killed while coming to pick up their pet after receiving services.
- Residents of Shinnecock Hills Acres expressed concerns about police presence related to speeding on CR39 during the afternoon hours of 3pm to 7pm. Mr. Keirnan acknowledged that police have been present at other times and noted an increase in ticketing by Southampton town police. He stated that he would address the issue of afternoon police presence and speeding enforcement.
- Diane Sadowski raised concerns about residents being unable to access their homes during accidents between Hills Station Road and Tuckahoe Road. Residents using St. Andrew Road West to reach the Hilltop Acres community are often mistaken for commuters and detoured to Montauk Highway, resulting in significant delays despite being less than a mile from home. She urged Mr. Kiernan to notify the police and fire departments to ensure local residents are considered during traffic management.