

Slate Belt Regional Police Department

Serving the Wind Gap, Pen Argyl and Plainfield Communities
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Southern Chester County Regional Police Department
West Grove Borough / New Garden Township

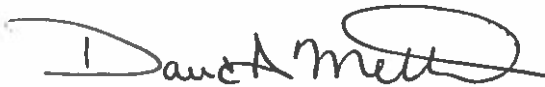
May 26, 2016

Congratulations on moving forward in the regionalization process! I have spent the last 14 years as Chief of Police with two regional police departments and realize the benefits of combining municipal police services.

In 2015, the vision of a more efficient and effective delivery of police service to Plainfield Township, Pen Argyl Borough and Wind Gap Borough (Northampton County) was realized with the launch of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department. The elected officials of these communities understood the complexity of police work and the need for a higher level of proficiency in the field. Spanning over 27 square miles, the municipalities operated three distinct and disparate police departments, employing various policies and protocols, directives, training and staffing levels, all of which were not 24 hour, full time coverage. By combining forces, these communities began to realize a greater opportunity for consistency of service, improved police presence, better community outreach, increased opportunities for supervision and training and increased accountability. The creation of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department strengthened the existing police services, including the areas of effective administration, supervision, training, investigation, patrol and specialty services. Consolidation of municipal services have proven to be a benefit for our local governments and our citizens alike. In addition to the improved service, regionalization proves cost effective.

I have included quotes from our Commission from our 2015 Annual Report, providing their opinion of the department and the regionalization process.

I wholeheartedly support your community's effort and look forward to adding one more regional department in Pennsylvania.



David A. Mettin
Chief of Police



THE SLATE BELT REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION

SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON THE FORMATION OF THE SLATE BELT REGIONAL POLICE DEPARTMENT

It is almost hard to believe that we are just about to end our first year as Slate Belt Regional Police Department. To think that a couple of years ago a conversation over a cup of coffee could lead to this department is mind boggling. I could not be happier with all of cooperation between each of the municipalities, the eagerness to work collectively and the focus and determination to accomplish this colossal task. I guess it is really not even so much that we were able to bring the department to fruition but more importantly how well it was done, how well it is being managed and commanded and the fact that the thought I had over that cup of coffee has far exceeded my expectations. I think I can speak equally for the board and each community as well in saying "A job very well done". I am excited about our first year and even more excited about what lies ahead for our regional department. Thanks again to all who made this possible!

~ Mikal Sabatine - Pen Argyl Borough, Chairman, Slate Belt Regional Police Commission

I thought that the transition to a regional police force went pretty smooth. There were a lot of hurdles in the beginning, but with good people in the right positions, we overcame those hurdles and formed a very professional department. I certainly applaud everyone's tireless efforts and I say job well done. A hearty thank you to everyone.

~ James Shoemaker - Wind Gap Borough, Vice Chairman, Slate Belt Regional Police Commission

Good things take time. And though that's a cliché, so it was with the Slate Belt Regional Police Department. It was tried several times before, but finally on April 1, 2015 it became a reality. It took the efforts of a handful of committed and concerned elected officials willing to let their egos not get in the way for the betterment of the municipalities of Plainfield Township, Pen Argyl and Wind Gap. We are fortunate to have a chief who knew what he was doing in creating his own department from scratch. Dedicated police professionals now staff the department and have been getting rave reviews from the three communities. This is an achievement the three communities can be proud of. Residents can feel secure that the Slate Belt Regional Police Department is here to serve and protect. I am honored to have been a part of this community benefit. It goes to show what local government can accomplish when we work together.

~ Steve Humi - Plainfield Township, Secretary/Treasurer Slate Belt Regional Police Commission.

More than five years ago an idea that seemed crazy to some, began with a simple, informal discussion. It is time to bring regionalized police to the Slate Belt. One meeting led to another and five municipalities appointed representatives to explore bringing a dream to reality. It was a long journey with many ups and downs. Two municipalities chose not to proceed. Frustration became a familiar feeling. The idea of Plainfield, Pen Argyl, and Wind Gap "teaming up" made perfect sense. We all agreed to go slow, as you only get one chance to do it right the first time. As the talks progressed it appeared that this once crazy idea was indeed going to become reality. Thinking back, some things could have maybe been done differently. I do know hiring Attorney Goudsouzian made things much easier. The icing on the cake was hiring Chief Mettin. He is everything and more I was hoping for as the department's first Chief. April 1, 2015 was a historic day in the Slate Belt. The Slate Belt Regional Police Department began serving Plainfield, Pen Argyl, and Wind Gap. I have heard nothing but positive feedback on the department from the residents of Wind Gap.

~ Dave Hess - Wind Gap Borough, Alternate, Slate Belt Regional Police Commission

The formation of the Slate Belt Regional Police Department has been a very rewarding process. There are many people to thank for their hard work and efforts. Those who deserve the most recognition are the officers and staff led by Chief Mettin. They are truly the hero's in this process in every sense of the word. They all have embraced the regional concept, and have made the department their own. Regionalizing our three forces have provided opportunities for our officers that did not previously exist. They have taken those opportunities and we are seeing the best from all of them. I'm confident of the continued success of SBRPD because of the outstanding team we have working with us.

~ Michael Nasatka - Pen Argyl, Alternate, Slate Belt Regional Police Commission

With the spirit of cooperation and diligent perseverance the municipalities of Plainfield Township, Pen Argyl and Wind Gap worked together since 2012 to create a regional police department that provides coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Slate Belt Regional Police Department became operational on April 1, 2015. The hiring of Chief Mettin aided in the formation of the department. Chief Mettin came with the hands on experience needed to assist in making the goal become a reality. Since the opening of the department the residents have improved police service within their communities, and the officers have a force where their achievements are recognized.

The long awaited goal has finally become a reality. I was glad to be a part of the group that made the move to make it happen. Thanks to all that assisted with the process.

~ Jane Mellert - Plainfield Township, Alternate, Slate Belt Regional Police Commission