

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Lewis - Chang
Councilwoman Greenberg
Councilwoman Jones
Acting Police Chief Dolinac
SORS Chief Rothstein — **Absent**
Ms. Davenport, Health Officer — **Absent**
Mr. Egelberg, OEM Coordinator
Mr. Battaglia, Village Engineer — **Absent**
Ralph Goduco, Engineer
Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary - **Absent**
Ojetji Davis, Village Clerk

Approval of Minutes

- **June 10, 2025**
- **July 8, 2025**

The committee decided to approve the meeting minutes at the next meeting on December 9, 2025.

General Discussion

Health Department Report

In the absence of Ms. Davenport, there was no report. The health report will be sent to the committee via email.

- **Medicare for All — Dr. Alterman**

Dr. Alterman presented an overview of Medicare for All advocacy and implications for local health programs.



- **Domestic Violence Awareness—Betty Neal**

Betty Neal discussed Domestic Violence Awareness Month and community partnership efforts.

OEM Report

Mr. Egelberg shared updates on emergency preparedness and coordination for winter storm readiness. For detailed information, on Mr. Egelberg's report, please see attached.

Rescue Squad Report

In the absence of Chief Rothstein, Mr. Engineer reported steady call volumes and volunteer recruitment progress. Plans for community CPR training in early 2026. For detailed information on the SORS report, please see attached.

Police Department Report

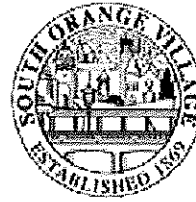
- **Mental Health Advocate Update**

Acting Chief Dolinac reported stable crime trends and growth of the Mental Health Advocate Program. A second advocate is currently being trained. For detailed information on the PD report, please see attached.

Traffic/Engineering Report

In the absence of Mr. Battaglia, Mr. Goduco discussed ongoing traffic-calming projects, including crosswalk improvements on South Orange Avenue. Please see the full report.

- West Montrose Avenue has been substantially completed. Final punch list items like signage, markings, and bollards are ongoing. The green bike marking scheme on West Montrose matches what Maplewood will be doing, so that cross-town users will have consistent markings. Mead will also be remarked to match.
- Lenox Avenue Improvements construction is slated to begin on or about October 20th pending NJDOT's approval to proceed. This project includes pedestrian improvements at intersections such as curb ramp upgrades and pedestrian islands.
- Vose Avenue Improvements contracts are signed, and we are working with the contractor to establish a schedule. This project includes pedestrian improvements such as curb ramps, pedestrian bumpouts, and a raised intersection at Comstock.
- Church and West Third Improvements are out to bid. A public concept meeting was held to discuss a potential one-way configuration with a



dedicated bike lane. Ultimately, the one-way concept was not chosen, the plans that have gone out to bid maintain the existing traffic configuration. There will be pedestrian bumpouts, improved crosswalk striping, and sharrows. An excerpt of the bid plans is available on our Roads Repaving webpage. Field work on this project is expected in the spring.

- Academy Street. The Village and Academy Heights neighborhood association had a meeting about roadway safety. We are developing a striping & signage plan to add travel lane and parking lane striping to visually narrow lanes for traffic-calming. Given the time of year and temperature constraints on striping, we expect that field work will be in the spring.
- We performed a traffic signal warrant analysis at West 3rd & S. Ridgewood which concluded that a traffic signal is warranted. Therefore, our 2026 Engineering Department Capital Budget request will include line items for design and construction of a traffic signal.

Walk/Bike Ride South Orange Committee Update

The committee is finalizing bike route safety recommendations and planning a spring community event.

Public Comments

The Chair opens the meeting for public comments.

Chair Lewis-Chang opened the floor for public comments.

- Residents commended the domestic violence awareness campaign.
- A resident requested better lighting on Academy Street for pedestrian safety; the Engineering Department will review.

Next Meeting Date

December 9, 2025; 6pm

Adjournment

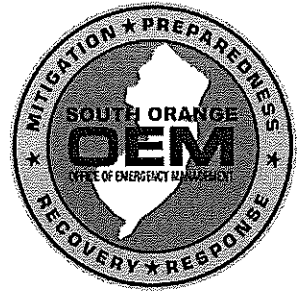
The meeting was adjourned at 7:42pm

Respectfully Submitted, Joycelyn White.

**SOUTH ORANGE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**
76 South Orange Ave
Suite 302
South Orange
Essex County
New Jersey 07079

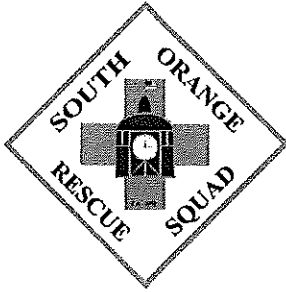
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Scott Egelberg
OEM Coordinator

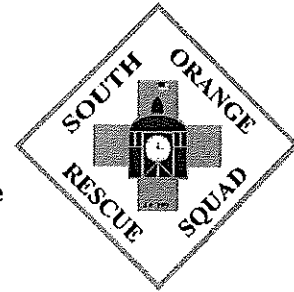


October Public Safety Committee Report

- Coordinator Egelberg submitted the first phase of the final Ida reimbursement request to the state.
 - \$5.1 million of reimbursements were submitted to the state in September.
- Coordinator Egelberg attended the quarterly Essex OEM meeting on September 18.
- Coordinator Egelberg was reappointed to another three-year term as OEM coordinator on September 8.



South Orange Rescue Squad
62 Sloan Street
South Orange, N.J. 07079
Phone: (973) 762-5647
www.SouthOrangeRescueSquad.org



Report to the Health and Public Safety Committee
Tuesday, October 14th, 2025
Victor Rothstein – Chief
Nikhil Engineer – President

July Calls

South Orange	Maplewood	Newark	Irvington	Orange	Millburn	East Orange	Total
119	29	43	7	5	3	2	208

(South Orange Only) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route: 02:49

(South Orange Only) Average time from Dispatch to On Scene: 05:54

(All Jurisdictions) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 1 Minute: 52.66%

(All Jurisdictions) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 3 Minutes: 76.81%

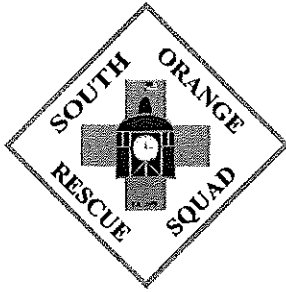
Membership Application Submissions: 14

"Second Due" Call Responses: 36 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

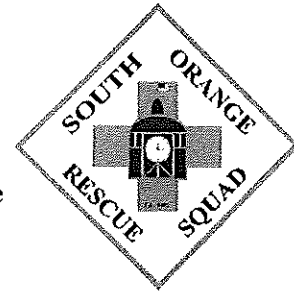
Cardiac Arrest Assignments: 2

General Updates

- SORS stood by at multiple events consisting of:
 - July 4th 5K
 - July 4th Fireworks Show
 - Maplewoodstock (33 of our volunteers contributed their time and expertise to ensure the event was adequately covered for both days)
 - Sassquad Trail Running Club's 10K
- SORS runs two community CPR classes
- On July 19th, our Thursday day crew responded to a cardiac arrest. In conjunction with SOPD officers, the patient was treated using our advanced cardiac arrest protocols. The patient was successfully resuscitated and even regained consciousness enroute to the hospital and was asking to be driven home instead of the hospital
- Funds are acquired for the purchase of much needed rehab equipment and repairs to our rehab trailer
 - Our rehab trailer responds to any structure fire here in South Orange, and beyond when requested. This trailer carries equipment needed for firefighter rehabilitation, which is a process that monitors firefighters on scenes of physically demanding scenes that could result in them going into a medical emergency. Firefighter rehabilitation was not performed here in South Orange until SORS identified this absence of service and began providing it. Our rehab unit is funded solely through fundraising and grants



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August Calls

South Orange	Maplewood	Newark	Orange	Irvington	Total
102	30	30	4	1	167

(South Orange Only) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route: 01:44

(South Orange Only) Average time from Dispatch to On Scene: 04:23

(All Jurisdictions) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 1 Minute: 51.80%

(All Jurisdictions) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 3 Minutes: 79.51%

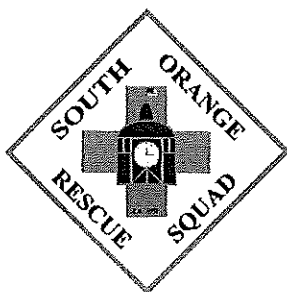
Membership Application Submissions: 21

"Second Due" Call Responses: 22 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Cardiac Arrest Assignments: 2

General Updates

- SORS stood by at the Columbia High School's Varsity Football Game
- SORS hosted the SOPD Junior Police Academy recruits at our station, where we showed them various medical treatments and equipment we carry on the ambulance
- SORS attended National Night Out where we engaged with the community and showcased our various vehicles and equipment. Thank you SOPD for organizing another amazing evening!
- SORS runs two community CPR classes
- SORS became the first municipal based EMS service in Essex County to be approved for, and began carrying glucometers to assess patients blood glucose levels. This will help us identify patients experiencing diabetic emergencies
- SORS runs a blood pressure and blood glucose screening event at Bnai Brith apartments for its community members
- SORS is invited to, and attends the Dimensions of Light Church community day where we engaged with the community members and gave ambulance tours to the children
- On Overdose Awareness Day, SORS distributed narkan kits and informational pamphlets on Sloan Street. We gave out approximately 75 narkan kits. Thank you to the South Orange Health Department for your collaboration in this effort



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September Calls

South Orange	Maplewood	Newark	Irvington	Orange	Total
130	32	31	8	1	192

(South Orange Only) Average time from Dispatch to En-Route: 02:15

(South Orange Only) Average time from Dispatch to On Scene: 04:47

Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 1 Minute: 44.27%

Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 3 Minutes: 71.36%

Membership Application Submissions: 17

"Second Due" Call Responses: 31 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Cardiac Arrest Assignments: 1

General Updates

- SORS stood by at multiple events consisting of:
 - Columbia High School's Varsity Football Game
 - The Montclair Jazz Festival (the Montclair EMS service reached out to every ambulance service in Essex County for help. SORS was the only organization, volunteer and paid, to step up and assist them, continuing our reputation of being reliable and ready to help when called upon.
 - The Newstead 5K
- SORS is invited to and visited the following block parties:
 - Academy Street
 - Fairview Avenue
 - Colgate Road
 - Arcularius Terrace
- SORS runs two community CPR classes
- SORS attends the South Orange community day
- SORS attends the Winchester Gardens Fair



**SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

201 South Orange Avenue
South Orange
New Jersey 07079
www.southorange.org
P 973.763.3000

SOPD MONTHLY REPORT – SEPTEMBER 2025

In September 2025 SOPD received reports of 24 Part 1 crimes, with 181 Part 1 crimes year to date. The clearance rate for September was 50%, and year to date clearance rate was 48%.

The majority of the crimes were Theft: (8) Shoplifting, (2) Theft from an Unlocked Motor Vehicle, (1) Package Theft, and (1) Theft of a Bicycle. In anticipation of the upcoming holiday season, we recommend that you arrange to have your valuable packages delivered while you're present to accept them or to safe locations such as a trusted neighbor or a secure shipping location. We ask people to lock their vehicles and homes to help protect your homes and vehicles from crimes of opportunity. SOPD also offers free home security screenings where officers evaluate your residence and make recommendations on ways to improve your security.

1633 tickets and warnings were issued in September, 25565 tickets and warnings year to date.

MHA Report-

- 6 total calls for service, 4 with co-response, 1 during off-hours, 2 direct call to the clinician, 1 walk-in
- Co-response calls – 3 voluntary transport to the hospital, 1 call resolved on scene
- Follow ups – 13 individuals contacted, with 9 successful linkages to services

Our community relations team met with Seton Hall University fraternity and sorority leadership to discuss town-university issues and police response. It was a positive meeting and the students left with a better understanding of our local ordinances and how to remain compliant with them. With University staff, we're exploring additional opportunities to bring this information to more SHU students.

Traffic studies continue to be conducted and data will be posted to our website when available.

<https://southorange.org/986/Traffic-Studies>

Annual Crash Analyses: <https://southorange.org/224/Traffic>

SOPD worked to implement a new traffic pattern around Columbia High School as a response to changes that occurred in Maplewood. The new pattern looks to maintain safety during peak usage times and facilitate the flow of traffic in the CHS area. We will continue to monitor the situation.

SOPD participated in the first Traffic and Pedestrian Safety (TAPS) committee meeting. We provided information and data regarding our contributions to the Church Street road improvement plan created by the Village Engineer. We have also increased traffic enforcement actions in the area to address complaints that were brought to our attention.

SOPD accepted a Silver Recognition by EZ Ride for our collective efforts within the Village for developing and maintaining the public safety component of Safe Routes To Schools program. EZ Ride is a public-private partnership with a 40-year history of helping individuals, businesses, and government agencies address transportation challenges that has been nationally recognized for its achievements.

In addition to placing a strong emphasis on the enforcement of our state and local motor vehicle statutes, SOPD seeks to be a resource to the community for information on traffic safety. We regularly share materials intended to educate the public and improve safety. Some examples include School Bus Safety, How Do You Know if Your



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Electric Bike/Scooter is Street Legal?, information on Crossing Guards, Child Safety Seats, and the responsibilities of the Traffic Bureau. We also post regularly about traffic safety in our social media channels. As a reminder, to improve safety and reduce injuries, South Orange Village has local ordinance in place requiring all bicycle operators to wear a helmet.

Sign up for public safety alerts and SOPD social media at:

<https://www.southorange.org/610/South-Orange-Alerts>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SOPDNJ>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/southorangepd/>

X - <https://x.com/SouthOrangePD>