

HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

- June 10, 2025
- July 8, 2025
- October 14, 2025

Meeting minutes from June 10, July 8, and October 14, 2025, were reviewed and approved by all members present.

General Discussion

Health Department Report

Review Draft Health Ordinances

The Health Officer reviewed the previously circulated chicken, child-care center, and massage ordinances and provided updates on departmental activities. Discussion focused on ordinance language and next steps.

The Health Officer introduced their new Social Worker, Ally Joseph.

OEM Report

The OEM Coordinator provided a brief update on preparedness activities and coordination efforts.

- Ida Projects are finished and all that's left is submitting the documentation for village roads and receiving the reimbursements for that.
- The State of NJ has hired a consulting firm and offered to work with municipalities on their EOP and South Orange has taken them up on the offer.
- Coordinator Egelberg attended the 12/4 county OEM meeting.



Rescue Squad Report

The Rescue Squad shared updates on staffing, call volume, and operational status.

- Calls for service
- SORS stood by at three Columbia High School football games where we treated multiple patients across all three games.
- Four SORS EMTs attended a full-scale training scenario with the New Jersey EMS Task Force, New Jersey State Police, FBI, and multiple other law enforcement, EMS, and Fire Department agencies in preparation for the FIFA World Cup matches scheduled for next year.
- SORS' 2026 class of Cadets began training. By the end of their training, they will be certified at Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs) — The Cadet Program is a program offered to South Orange and Maplewood high school students which gives them the opportunity to gain real world medical and patient care experience under the direction and supervision of our seasoned EMTs. They also receive mentorship from our members who hold positions and are professionals in various career fields such as medicine, entertainment, education, and more.
- SORS received an incredibly generous donation from South Orange residents and SORS Life Member Sharon and her husband, Jimmy Schwarz, which will be used to purchase two Lifepak15 cardiac monitors/defibrillators. These units are capable of obtaining a patient's blood pressure, oxygen saturation, heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature, SPCO, EtCO2, and cardiac rhythm (through a 4 or 12 lead EKG). We are proud to be the first BLS ambulance in Essex County and the second volunteer EMS service in the entire state to carry such an advanced piece of equipment. Once these machines are rolled out, we intend to be one of only two BLS ambulances in the entire state to assess EtCO2. SORS has a reputation across the state of NJ as a progressive, forward-thinking squad and the introduction of this equipment will continue this tradition.
- 12 SORS EMTs crossed the Hudson River to assist FDNY EMS with the NYC Marathon.

For more information on the SORS report, please see attached.

Police Department Report

- **Mental Health Advocate Update**

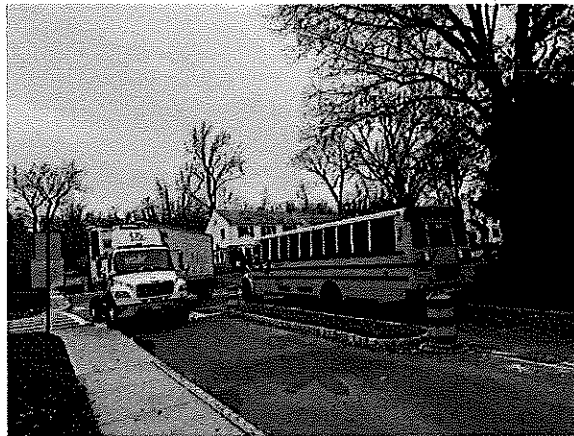
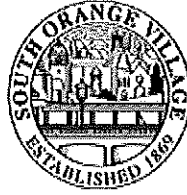
The Police Chief reported on department activity, public safety issues, and community initiatives. A mental health advocate update was also provided stating the search continues for a qualified candidate to fill the open position for co-responding social worker, highlighting ongoing support efforts and collaboration. For a more detailed report, please see attached.

Traffic/Engineer Report



In the absence of Mr. Battaglia a report was submitted and read to the public.

- Lenox Avenue Improvements construction was conducted in November. This project includes traffic-calming & pedestrian improvements at intersections such as curb ramp upgrades and pedestrian islands. Paving and final striping & signage have been postponed until spring due to winter temperatures.
1. The lane widths on each side of the islands are 12 feet. 12 feet is a standard lane width that any driver would encounter on an interstate highway. The islands create the impression of narrowing, which impels drivers to slow down...so when people subjectively opine that the lanes are too narrow, the islands are in fact functioning exactly as designed. They should slow down.
 2. Speed humps are not permitted on roadways which exceed 12% slope, in accordance with Section 15 of the NJDOT Design Manual. Speed humps on sloped roadways serve as ramps for errant vehicles. This is the same reason why the pedestrian islands constructed do not have sloped curbs.
 3. We expect that unaccustomed drivers, especially of larger vehicles, will drive over the islands. This is an issue with islands, and it occurs on all islands all over the Village and elsewhere. It will be an ongoing maintenance issue, as any roadway is.
 4. The orange barrels are temporary to highlight the new construction for unaccustomed drivers. Once the roadway is milled & paved, there will be high visibility striping and signage marking the islands.
 5. A recent picture was posted of a tractor-trailer truck turning left from Wyoming up Lenox I in the vicinity of #458 Lenox Avenue. First > This truck should not be making a turn here. There is no reason for a US Foods tractor trailer to be turned into a residential neighborhood. It is the truck that is creating an unsafe condition, not the island. The island is protecting the school bus by forcing the truck to make a tighter turn. Second > The truck was able to make the turn without driving over the island. See the photo below that I took this morning. The drum is unmoved and there are no tire tracks across the island.



6. The picture of the school bus above shows yellow curbing along the frontage of #458 Lenox Avenue. This is because State law prohibits parking within 50 feet of a stop sign. There is approximately 20 feet beyond the yellow curb within which people do park (see 2024 Google Earth image below). A vehicle parked in this location both blocks the sight distance of the driveway for #460 Lenox and forces downhill drivers to briefly drive into opposing traffic over the double yellow which had been there. The double yellow is partially replaced by the new pedestrian island, the remainder of the existing double yellow is visible in the bus photo. No one should ever be parking there, regardless of the island.



- Vose Avenue Improvements. This project includes pedestrian improvements such as curb ramps, pedestrian bumpouts, and a raised intersection at Comstock. Due to the weather, we are expecting a spring start for the bulk of construction. Some minor work may occur during winter, such as survey layout.
- Church and West Third Improvements have been awarded to a contractor for the anticipated Spring 2026 start of construction. There will be pedestrian bumpouts, improved crosswalk striping, and sharrows.
- 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 includes a line item for design and construction of a traffic signal.

Walk/Bike Ride South Orange Committee Update

Executive Session

There was no executive session.

Public Comments

The Chair opens the meeting for public comments.

The Chair opened the meeting for public comments.

Ed Moore, S.O Resident, asked about the protocol residents need to follow to voice concerns regarding speeding or any other public safety issues.

In response to Mr. Moore, Ms. White stated that the first step is to contact the administrative staff and if the issue isn't resolved, it will be brought before the council for further discussion. Councilwoman Lewis-Chang added that public safety issues may also be brought to the TAPS committee.



Next Meeting Date

February 10, 2026

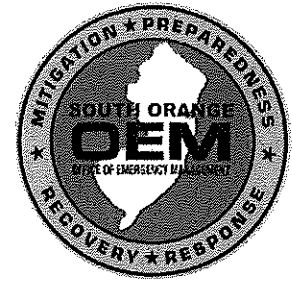
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm
Respectfully submitted by Joycelyn White.

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OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**
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Suite 302
South Orange
Essex County
New Jersey 07079

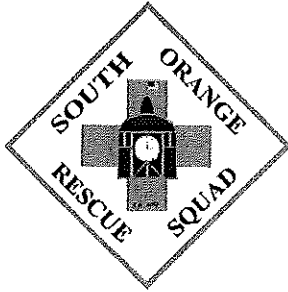
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Scott Egelberg
OEM Coordinator

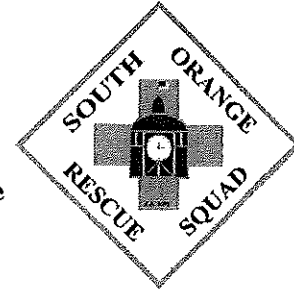


December Public Safety Committee Report

- Ida projects are finished and all that's left is submitting the documentation for our roads and receiving the reimbursement for that.
 - We are still anticipating roughly \$3,000,000 more in reimbursements for repairs to the roads.
- The State of New Jersey has hired a consulting firm and offered to work with municipalities on their EOP and South Orange has taken them up on that offer.
 - The report is finished and is now being signed off on by the respective departments.
- Coordinator Egelberg attended the 12/4 county OEM meeting.
 - South Orange is working on their 5 year Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Greer Patras, Julie Doran, Joe Foligno, David Battaglia and Coordinator Egelberg are meeting with a firm hired by the state to complete the plan.



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, December 9th, 2025
Victor Rothstein – Chief
Nikhil Engineer – President

October Calls

South Orange	Maplewood	Irvington	Newark	Orange	East Orange	West Orange	Total
114	21	13	10	3	3	1	165

Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 1 Minute: 47.56%

Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 3 Minutes: 76.21%

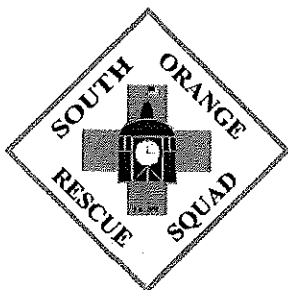
Membership Application Submissions: 11

“Second Due” Call Responses: 16 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

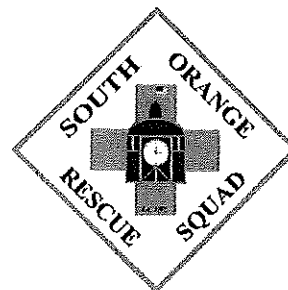
Cardiac Arrest Assignments: 3

General Updates

- SORS stood by at three Columbia High School football games where we treated multiple patients across all three games
- SORS stood by at the Turtle Back Zoo’s Sea Turtle Recovery 5K
- Four SORS EMTs attended a full scale training scenario with the New Jersey EMS Task Force, New Jersey State Police, FBI, and multiple other law enforcement, EMS, and Fire Department agencies in preparation for the FIFA World Cup matches scheduled for next year.
- SORS visited block parties to spread awareness of our organization and gave ambulance tours to the children
- SORS hosted Brownie Troop 22831 at our building and showed them various first aid techniques
- SORS ran a community CPR class and an EMT refresher series
- SORS stood by at the Diwali Festival of Lights in Maplewood
- SORS’ 2026 class of Cadets began training. By the end of their training, they will be certified at Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs)
 - The Cadet Program is a program offered to South Orange and Maplewood high school students which gives them the opportunity to gain real world medical and patient care experience under the direction and supervision of our seasoned EMTs. They also receive mentorship from our members who hold positions and are professionals in various career fields such as medicine, entertainment, education, and more.
- SORS distributed over 1,000 reflective slap bracelets at Spooky Spiotta and the Maplewood Halloween Parade to promote pedestrian safety for Halloween. We are proud to have run this initiative for the third year in a row.



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November Calls

South Orange	Maplewood	Newark	Irvington	Orange	Millburn	Total
104	26	24	7	1	1	163

Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 1 Minute: 44.45%

Average time from Dispatch to En-Route < 3 Minutes: 72.23%

Membership Application Submissions: 6

"Second Due" Call Responses: 16 (24 hours, 7 days a week)

Cardiac Arrest Assignments: 0

General Updates

- SORS received an incredibly generous donation from South Orange residents and SORS Life Member Sharon and her husband, Jimmy Schwarz, which will be used to purchase two Lifepak15 cardiac monitor/defibrillators.
 - These units are capable of obtaining a patient's blood pressure, oxygen saturation, heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature, SPCO, EtCO2, and cardiac rhythm (through a 4 or 12 lead EKG)
 - We are proud to be the first BLS ambulance in Essex County and the second volunteer EMS service in the entire state to carry such an advanced piece of equipment. Once these machines are rolled out, we intend to be one of only two BLS ambulances in the entire state to assess EtCO2. SORS has a reputation across the state of NJ as a progressive, forward thinking squad and the introduction of this equipment will continue this tradition
- SORS attended the Seton Hall University Volunteer Fair where we ran recruitment and provided general information of our organization to the SHU community
- 12 SORS EMTs crossed the Hudson River to assist FDNY EMS with the NYC Marathon
- SORS hosted a Girl Scout Troop and a Daisy Troop at our building. During their visits, we showed them various first aid techniques
- SORS stood by at the Girls on the Run 5K
- SORS stood by at the Seth Boyden PTA's Turkey Trot 5K
- SORS stood by at the D&I Fitness Turkey Trot 5K
- SORS stood by at the Columbia High School Frisbee Team's "Ultimate Frisbee Founders Day"
- SORS ran multiple community classes in CPR and First Aid



**SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

201 South Orange Avenue
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SOPD MONTHLY REPORT – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2025

In October 2025 SOPD received reports of 25 Part 1 crimes, with 223 Part 1 crimes year to date. The clearance rate for October was 24%, and year to date clearance rate was 45%.

The majority of the October crimes were Theft: (6) Shoplifting, (6) Theft from an Unlocked Motor Vehicle, (3) Package Theft, and (1) Theft of a Bicycle. Additionally, there were (3) Auto Thefts, two of which were unlocked and stolen with the vehicle keys, all were recovered.

In November 2025 SOPD received reports of 27 Part 1 crimes, with 250 Part 1 crimes year to date. The clearance rate for October was 33%, and year to date clearance rate was 44%.

The majority of the November crimes were Theft: (11) Shoplifting, (4) Theft from an Unlocked Motor Vehicle, (3) Package Theft, (1) Auto Theft, which was unlocked and stolen with its keys. There were (3) Burglaries, in two of which entry was made through an unlocked window or door.

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. As always we strongly recommend for people to lock their vehicles and homes to help protect their homes and vehicles from crimes of opportunity. Additionally, home security systems that include alarms and cameras have proven effective in deterring crime; property owners are encouraged to consider them. SOPD also offers free home security screenings where officers evaluate your residence and make recommendations on ways to improve your security.

1547 tickets and warnings were issued in October, 16784 tickets and warnings year to date.

1440 tickets and warnings were issued in November, 18224 tickets and warnings year to date.

MHA Update – MHA continues to search for a qualified candidate to fill the open position for a co-responding social worker.

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>

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 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.



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In October our police officers' union (PBA/SOA) conducted their annual coat drive and distributed 150 coats and other clothing to those in need. The event was moved to October to attempt to get the warm clothing to people before the winter season.

In November, the PBA/SOA conducted their annual Thanksgiving Turkey distribution, and thanks to a generous donation from our local Stop and Shop, was able to include a turkey, stuffing and cranberry sauce. Within one hour of starting the event, all 96 turkeys, over 1500 pounds of food, was given out.

This month, until December 17, the PBA is accepting donations of new and unwrapped toys for our annual Holiday Toy Drive. Once all the toys are collected, thanks to our partnerships with local organizations, our officers will distribute to families and children needing some help in this holiday season.

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>