



Sgt. Louis Cinque - The Man Behind the Badge

Sgt. Louis Cinque is the longest continuous service member of the Putnam Police Department. He joined the force on April 17, 1997, more than 26 years ago. The Community Beat sat down with Sgt. Cinque to share the human side of police work and to reminisce what those 26 years have been like patrolling the streets of Putnam.

I grew up in East Haven, Connecticut and went to Notre Dame High School—West Haven. Like many young people of my era, I was involved in track and football and did well enough in class to get into college.

I was unsure of what I wanted to do in life, but I credit a nun, Sr. Eleanor in the Guidance Department, with leading me toward a career in law enforcement. It was through her effort I was able to land an internship at the Branford Police Department. During the 4th quarter of my senior year, I shadowed and rode with three Branford policemen, Lt. Stan Konesky and Officers Washington and Trotter. They were big influences in my decision to be in law enforcement.

I attended Southern Connecticut State University and began with studies in Criminal Justice; however, I found the material dry and subsequently changed to Business. Following graduation in 1993, I again began my quest to become a police officer. I knew in my heart that I wanted to work in a small-town environment. I took many police tests over the next three years for smaller town/cities in the greater New Haven area, never getting hired and learning that politics played a role in many of the hiring processes.

Late in 1996, I broadened my horizon to all of Connecticut. I learned that a small town by the name of Putnam was hiring. I didn't know anything about Putnam but traveling out here just prior to Christmas, I knew this was the type of community I'd like to be a part of.

In 1997, I was notified of my appointment to the Putnam Police Department. Despite

some objections from my mother about being a police officer, I accepted the Patrolman position. Since making that decision I haven't had one regret and my mother has become very supportive. She follows Putnam on Facebook, always asking about the town events. My work ethic came from my father who worked many jobs when we were young to provide for his family.

There's a certain comfort about working in a department the size of Putnam. You build a special bond with the other members of the force and there are numerous opportunities to get to know and work with the citizens. Putnam is known as a department that follows the 'community policing' philosophy.

Although I've had to unholster my weapon a number of times in 26 plus years, I feel that being able to speak to offenders and calm them is the best weapon at my disposal. There are times however, that action must be taken.

I was on a call with Officer Donna Brown where a man brandishing a kitchen knife was threatening himself, family members and when we entered, he was menacing to us. He came at us with the knife forcing me to deploy the Taser. We stunned him enough that we were able to handcuff him and transport him to Day Kimball Hospital, where he was in safe hands.

During COVID, I received a call to respond to a home on Hospital Hill for a possible home break-in. Upon arrival, I found an automobile that was stuck in a snow bank. The driver stated he was making a delivery and had arrived at the wrong address.

After ascertaining that he was telling the truth I started working to dig him from the snowbank.



Sgt. Louis Cinque with his Avalanche Shovel. "You do make a difference."

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Chief's Corner

Preparing for this issue of *The Community Beat*, I was struck by the reality of how quickly the summer of 2023 is passing. The torrential rains and oppressive heat of July have hampered some outdoor activities but the bustling community of Putnam has managed to stay cool and avoid the raindrops for the majority of its scheduled events.

The men and women of your Putnam Police Department have been very visible at events such as the 4th of July Fireworks and the outdoor concerts in Rotary Park. I'm pleased to share that the large crowds have been very cooperative with no major disruptions.

Our department personnel have been able to maintain our community presence, and on large scale town events we are supplemented by the mutual aid support of other local departments. In turn, we provide mutual aid to other towns at their large-scale events. We currently have two police officer vacancies. We have ongoing selection processes to fill the vacancies. I'm optimistic that we'll find qualified individuals to fill those slots.

The department witnessed the retirement of our longtime Administrative Assistant Carole Pacheco. Carole was with the department for many years and was a valuable asset to me and the previous chief Rick L. Hayes. Sadly, following her retirement Carole lost her husband. The entire department expresses its sincere condolences to Carole and her family.

In this issue you'll be introduced to Carole's replacement Liza Morrell, a resident of nearby Woodstock. She brings a wealth of clerical and administrative knowledge to the position. This issue will also feature a story on our department's longest continuous serving officer Sgt. Louis Cinque. You'll read of some of Sgt. Cinque's work and why he decided to become a career police officer.

On the topic of careers, *The Community Beat* also sat down with former Chief Rick L. Hayes and caught up with him in his new position as 51st Assembly District State Representative. Former Chief Hayes candidly relates how his experience as a Chief of Police is playing an important role in his position at the capitol in Hartford.

In the fast-paced world of technology, as many people know, there are individuals who are always attempting to take advantage of the folks who aren't technologically advanced. This issue will offer some tips and warnings on the wiles of criminals who are attempting to take advantage by scamming less technologically astute individuals.

This summer, the department has been fortunate to have the benefit of a Criminal Justice major, Justin Le from Mitchell College, as an intern. He follows in the footsteps of Officer Hailey Griffin and Forensic Case Services Manager Jaidyn Gillette. Gillette and Griffin both did tours as interns in our department and are now fully employed.

In closing, enjoy the remainder of the summer and the ambience of our attractive community. In January, when the cold and snow are on our doorstep, we may all be asking for some of the warm weather we're now experiencing.

My door remains open to the citizens of Putnam.



Putnam Police Chief
Christopher Ferace

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Without a shovel, I used my hands and an ice scraper. After much jostling and pushing I freed the vehicle, and stopped traffic so the car could exit safely. The gentleman was so pleased with my assistance he kept asking if he could do something for me. I told him I was just doing my job. His reply was that this was not my job and most cops would have just called a tow truck at best.

He took a photo of my name and badge. Months later when he saw me on patrol he pulled up and asked, "Do you remember me? I'm the guy you helped from the snowbank." He came over to the cruiser and presented me a beautiful Avalanche Shovel engraved with my name and the date I assisted him. Just doing your job has its rewards.

The shovel now goes with me in the cruiser during the winter. If I had an office, I'd display it on the wall.

I've had many other rewarding situations, like the man who offers me water whenever he sees me even though I once had to handcuff him. He says I was doing my job in a professional manner.

As I said earlier, I have no regrets about being a police officer in Putnam. I love this community. My biggest regret is that being a police officer robbed me of some personal times and time with my family. I try to have good relations with people from all walks of life that I encounter on the job.

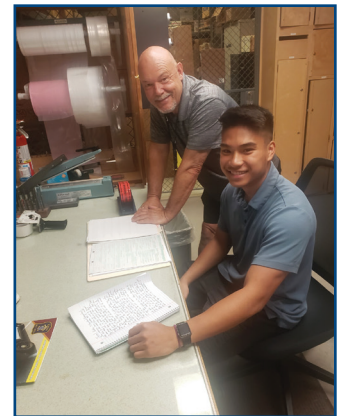
In 2008 Officer Louis Cinque, commonly referred to as "Louie," was promoted to Sgt. Louis Cinque. He continues on the job as the 'day shift' Supervisor.

Internships – Opening the Door to Success

As part of college curricula, many institutions are now urging or requiring students to seek internships in their selected area of study. During the months of June and July the Putnam Police Department hosted Justin Le of Norwich, an incoming senior at Mitchell College for a 100-hour internship.

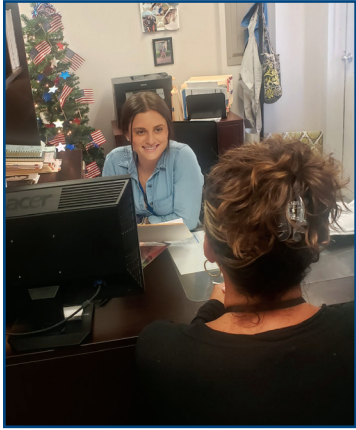
Le, who is majoring in Criminal Justice, was exposed to a varied experience in Putnam. He rode along with day and evening Shift Officers, sat in on change of shift meetings, worked in the evidence room with Evidence Room Coordinator Michael Picard and performed a number of other tasks within the department as needed.

"Experiencing hands on what life is like in a small police department gave me a good perspective of police work as opposed to the knowledge that's imparted in the classroom. It was a great experience that I would definitely recommend to other students," said Intern Le.



Evidence Room Coordinator Michael
Picard and Intern Justin Le

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Forensics Services Case Manager
Jaidyn Gillette

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Hosting interns is nothing new to the Putnam Police Department. In the past, a number of individuals who currently work in the department have completed internships in Putnam. Among them are Captain Justin Lussier, Officer Kyle Maheu and Officer Hailey Griffin. Forensics Services Case Manager Jaidyn Gillette, who works under the auspices of United

Services and is assigned to Putnam was recently an intern. All of these individuals have worked closely with PD Evidence Specialist Michael Picard, a retired 24-year member of the Connecticut State Police.

“When I was a little girl, I aspired to become a police officer or corrections officer. During my internship I was exposed to all aspects of police work and that led me to my current position,” said Gillette

Officer Hailey Griffin echoed similar sentiments as Gillette. “Initially, I was inclined to a career as a parole or probation officer. This internship provided me with the confidence to pursue my current role as a police officer,” said Griffin.

According to Intern Le he was fortunate to ride along with officers Mark Boulanger, Kyle Maheu and Nick Ustin. He was also exposed to evidence work under Michael Picard, who had glowing remarks about Le.

“Justin has a great work ethic and was an enthusiastic learner. He’s very respectful and willing to take on any assigned task. I believe this internship will serve as a stepping stone for him to become a police officer,” said Picard.

“All reports that I received from our staff that worked with Justin were exemplary. It was a pleasure to host Justin this summer,” said Chief Chris Ferace.

Intern Le, much like his predecessors is thankful for the opportunities and exposure he experienced during his internship. Looking forward to college graduation in 2024, he now understands the value of moving from the classroom into the real world. Like Putnam’s most recent interns, Gillette and Griffin, time spent as an intern working with men and women who patrol the streets daily may open the door to Le’s future in law enforcement.



Administrative Assistant
Liza Minelli working
with her predecessor
Carole Pacheco as
she transitions into
her new role.

Carole Pacheco retired
following many years as
Department Administrative
Assistant.

See story on page 4.



SCAM & FRAUD – BEWARE

The words SCAM and FRAUD are often used interchangeably. SCAM belongs to the broader category of FRAUD. They are both types of financial wrongdoing, but FRAUD is more serious and

broader than SCAM. FRAUD usually involves unauthorized activity, while SCAM typically involves convincing someone to authorize a transaction or supply information. Scams often use sophisticated lies to gain your confidence and steal your money or information. One thing is certain! You don’t want to be a victim of either.

The following are some of the more common types of SCAM and FRAUD, followed by some Dos and Don’ts.

PHONE: DON’T answer any unfamiliar number. If you answer, DON’T engage in conversation. DO learn to affirmatively say “NO” or “I don’t do business over the phone!” If the call is important the caller will leave a message.

DO delete the number from your Smart Phone. DON’T respond to bogus texts posing as companies. If you’re on Facebook DON’T respond to random messages from strangers. DON’T engage anyone saying they’re from the IRS or a Disaster Relief Fund, Lottery, family members in peril or calls with a sense of urgency. DON’T give out bank pass codes or passwords.

COMPUTER: This type of SCAM or FRAUD can be alarming to the elderly or those who are less technically savvy.

When a computer threat is detected, it is usually with a blaring and/or flashing notice to call a number listed on the screen. DON’T call the number! DO turn off your computer, even if it means at the risk of losing information.

DON’T accept calls associated with tech support. DO update your security software or antivirus software regularly. DON’T open E-Mails you don’t recognize. DO double check the E-Mail address even if you know the sender. The address is often slightly different. Note: scammers aren’t particular with spelling names correctly.

HOME SECURITY: DO pick up mail as quickly as possible. Always take outgoing mail directly to the Post Office. DO shred paper that contains private information.

DO refuse to sign for unfamiliar packages or pressure to donate. DON’T allow anyone into your home, especially someone posing as a utility worker. DO consider installing front door video camera and alarm system.

DO remove any unnecessary cards and information from your wallet or purse.

Always be alert!
Be aware of your surroundings,
whether at home or outside the home.

Catching Up with Former Chief Rick Hayes

July 18 marked the 5th Anniversary of the retirement of former Putnam Police Chief Rick L. Hayes. The Community Beat caught up with Hayes recently to see what life has been like since his retirement, following a 32-year career in law enforcement.



State Rep, Rick Hayes

In November 2018, only four months into retirement, Hayes was tapped to run for State Representative in the 51st Assembly District. Not surprisingly, the gregarious Hayes won the election and has been representing the people of Putnam, Thompson and a portion of Killingly ever since.

When asked if there were differences in the pace of life as State Rep as opposed to Chief of Police, Hayes was very forthcoming.

“As police chief I was constantly interacting with people. My phone rang all hours of the day. I love being State Rep because I’m in constant contact with the constituents of my District. As far as the phone is concerned, it rings quite frequently. The main differences are the content of the calls,” said Hayes.

Hayes found that making the transition was routine. The biggest difference is the fact that he has to prepare for an election campaign every two years. As a police officer, he frequently found himself traveling to calls and now he travels to Hartford during the session (January to June) and for committee meetings.

“I don’t mind the travel. The biggest hurdle is when we have a late-night session and I have to be back at the capitol early the next morning,” Hayes commented.

As police chief, he was proud to be part of a team. In Hartford, he quickly acclimated to the political environment. He’s proud that he represents his party but feels comfortable enough to also vote his mind and the sentiment of his constituents. As far as comfort in the capitol building, he related, “When the Capitol Police found out I was a former police chief, they now greet me each day by saying ‘Hi Chief.’”

The pace of serving as State Rep and Police Chief are both demanding but Hayes has made the move very smoothly. He does admit that he sometimes has to juggle the schedule for family time and commitments. As a change of pace, Hayes works with the ground crew at Connecticut National Golf Club, which also affords him an occasional round of golf to relax.

Walking out of the Putnam Police Department on his final day left him with a hollow feeling. One that he’s been able to fill by immersing himself into his position as State Representative.

“Since retiring from the Putnam Police Department, I’ve intentionally stayed away. It’s Chief Ferace’s department and he’s doing a great job. He and I speak on a regular basis but I’m only there to answer questions when he asks for assistance,” summarized Hayes.

Putnam Police Chief to State Representative two different positions but with many similarities. “I love what I’m doing. And I loved what I did,” said Hayes.

PD Appoints New Administrative Assistant

Putnam Police Chief Chris Ferace recently announced the appointment of the department’s newest member, Administrative Assistant Liza Morrell. The appointment was effective June 20, 2023 following the retirement of her predecessor Carole Pacheco.

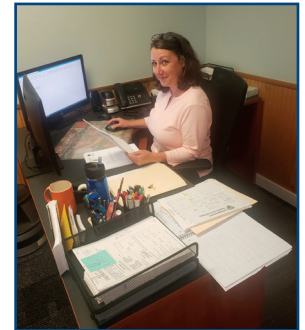
Liza, who says “my name is Liza like Liza Minelli,” is a resident of Woodstock, where she’s lived for more than a decade. Morrell was hired as a 25-hour per week employee, working from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Morrell, who’s background is small business office administration, maintains a part-time role at a small law firm in Oxford, Massachusetts. In Putnam her duties will entail data entry of payroll, overseeing invoicing, answering and directing phone calls and general administrative duties.

“Although I have big shoes to fill, I feel very comfortable. Everyone has been so incredibly welcoming. I feel like I’m part of the team already. Having previously worked as a senior customer support staff, I love speaking with people and directing their requests to the appropriate person,” said Morrell.

Morrell and her husband John Paul have two daughters, Zia who recently graduated from Quinebaug Valley Community College and Lillian who is pursuing a degree in nursing at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester, Massachusetts. Morrell’s interests include hiking and cooking.

“Liza has adapted to the job requirements and the staff very quickly, making her very effective in her position. Her outgoing personality lends itself to the atmosphere of the department,” said Chief Chris Ferace.



Administrative Assistant Liza Morrell

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