



BOROUGH OF TARENTUM

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Tarentum Police Release First Annual Report Covering Police Services in Both Tarentum and Brackenridge

Tarentum, PA — The Tarentum Police Department has released its first annual police report, presenting combined, side-by-side data on police services provided to both Tarentum and Brackenridge Borough under the Boroughs' police services agreement. Through this agreement, Tarentum Police now provides coverage to approximately 7,500 residents across both communities.

While total activity levels differ between the two boroughs, the report confirms that these differences are driven by population size, traffic patterns, and call volume, not by differences in enforcement philosophy or service quality. When adjusted for population and service demand, enforcement outcomes remain consistent across both communities. Arrest and citation rates, when measured as a proportion of calls for service, are nearly identical between Tarentum and Brackenridge, demonstrating that Tarentum officers apply the same standards and practices regardless of municipal boundaries.

In short, police activity follows need, not geography.

The data further shows that serious violent crime represents a very small share of overall police activity. In 2025, violent offenses, including robbery and aggravated assault, accounted for well under 2% of total incidents across the combined service area. By comparison, national data indicate that violent crime accounts for approximately 3–5% of reported police activity in similarly sized jurisdictions, placing the service area below typical national proportions.

The vast majority of incidents involved quality-of-life and public safety matters such as traffic offenses, drug and narcotics violations, disorderly conduct, and property-related crimes. This distribution reflects a proactive policing approach focused on roadway safety, drug interdiction, and maintaining community standards, rather than a reactive response to violent crime.

Use-of-force incidents remain exceptionally rare. During the December reporting period, fewer than 0.5% of incidents involved any use of force, and force was not used in more than 99% of police interactions. National studies frequently report use-of-force rates of approximately 1–2% of police encounters, indicating that Tarentum Police's use-of-force rate is substantially lower than typical national benchmarks and consistent with a culture of restraint, professionalism, and de-escalation.

Providing police services through a single department has enabled this level of transparency and analysis. Standardized reporting, unified command, and consistent enforcement practices allow for meaningful year-over-year comparisons and more effective deployment of personnel and resources. This report establishes a clear baseline for evaluating performance, staffing, and service delivery in future years.

"This report confirms what residents expect and deserve, fair, consistent policing rooted in professionalism and accountability," said Bob Lang, Mayor of Tarentum. "Regardless of which borough an officer is serving at any given moment, the standard is the same. That consistency strengthens trust and makes both communities safer."

Chief Bill Vakulick emphasized the department's focus on service and restraint. "Our officers are committed to treating every call, every resident, and every situation with the same level of care and professionalism," Vakulick said. "The data reflects a department that prioritizes de-escalation, community

presence, and proactive public safety. We're proud of the work our officers do every day on behalf of both boroughs."

Tarentum Borough extends its sincere thanks to the officers and leadership of the Tarentum Police Department for their continued professionalism and commitment to service, and to the elected officials of both Tarentum and Brackenridge for their cooperation and support in advancing a regional approach to public safety that ensures consistent, fair, and community-focused policing.

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