

WWZY-FM

QUARTERLY ISSUES

2Q - 2016

WWZY PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMMING

2nd Quarter 2016

News Reports:

1-1 minute news reports per hour from 6am to 9am weekdays (3 minutes per day)

Total of 15 minutes per week

Weather Reports:

2-1 minute weather update per hour from 6am to 9am weekdays (6 minutes per day)

Total of 35 minutes per week

Traffic Reports:

2-60 second traffic updates per hour from 6am-9am weekdays (6 minutes)

1-60 second traffic update per hour from 3pm-7pm weekdays (4 minutes)

Total of 10 minutes per day, 50 minutes per week

TOTAL LOCAL NEWS, WEATHER AND TRAFFIC

REPRESENTS 90 MINUTES PER WEEK

These 25 Port Authority employees each earned more than \$110K in overtime



By [Kelly Heyboer](#) | [NJ Advance Media for NJ.com](#)

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on June 15, 2016 at 7:00 AM, updated June 15, 2016 at 5:18 PM

Nearly five years ago, New York State's comptroller complained overtime "flows like water" at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and called on the bi-state agency to dramatically reign in the extra hours its employees work.

Though the Port Authority has attempted to curb costs, the agency is still struggling to cut overtime, according to public documents.

Nearly 170 Port Authority employees -- mostly police officers and maintenance supervisors -- earned more than \$75,000 each in overtime last year, according to the agency's payroll. The top 25 on the list each earned more than \$110,000 in overtime on top of their regular salaries.



24 N.J. police chiefs who make \$200K or more

A look at the top-earning municipal police chiefs, along with the size of the forces they oversee, the populations of their towns and average property taxes.

Many employees more than doubled their base salaries by working overtime, the records show. Several took home nearly as much or more than their boss, Port Authority Patrick Foye, who earned \$305,111 last year.

Added security for Pope Francis' visit to New York in September, police coverage for construction projects and an unusual number of snow and ice emergency days **helped drive up overtime costs** in 2015, Port Authority officials said in a report.

"In total, the agency incurred 2 million overtime hours through the fourth quarter. Total overtime expenses were \$221 million, which was 17 percent of total labor expenses and \$17 million over plan," the report said.

But, Port Authority officials were not too concerned about the extra money.

"After recoveries through flight fees, grants and other reimbursements, and taking into account under-budget straight-time hours at Port Authority Police Department, there was minimal financial impact," the report said.

The Port Authority operates as a joint agency overseen by the New Jersey and New York state governments. Its employees and police force help oversee the region's airports, bridges, tunnels, ports and the World Trade Center site. Its budget is partially funded by bridge and tunnel tolls.

In recent years, the Port Authority has attempted to be more transparent about its finances by publicly tracking its overtime costs and posting its payroll on its website.

The top overtime earner of 2015 was Stephen Olmo, a chief maintenance supervisor in the aviation department who has worked for the Port Authority for 30 years, according to the payroll records.

Olmo earned \$186,846 in overtime on top of his \$104,814 base pay, the records show. When a longevity bonus, pay for unused time off and other payments were added, his total pay for the year was \$325,880.

He was followed by Sgt. Kevin Cottrell, the top overtime earner in the Port Authority Police Department. Cottrell, who has worked for the Port Authority for 24 years, earned \$173,706 in overtime on top of his \$112,061 base pay.

When his cashed-in comp time, longevity bonus and other pay were added, Cottrell's total pay for the year was \$343,335.

Neither Olmo nor Cottrell could be reached for comment.

Cottrell has been cited several times in recent years for helping **stop people from jumping off the George Washington Bridge** while on duty at the crossing.

The 2011 audit released by New York Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli called on the Port Authority to **cut overtime by at least 20 percent** and require departments to better justify why they were asking employees to work extra hours.

Port Authority overtime helps drive up public pension costs, DiNapoli said. Because employees at the end of their careers are able to boost their salaries with overtime, their pensions are also inflated.

In its latest overtime report, Port Authority officials listed their plan to help alleviate some of the overtime costs in 2016. The plan includes deploying a new class of Port Authority police graduates to increase the number of available officers and implementing new scheduling software to help better track overtime needs.

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Treatment begins for nearly 300 dogs rescued from N.J. 'hoarding house'



By **MaryAnn Spoto** | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on June 04, 2016 at 12:34 PM, updated June 04, 2016 at 6:53 PM

EATONTOWN — Staff at three animal shelters in New Jersey are working feverishly to treat nearly 300 dogs pulled from a Howell Township home on Friday where they lived in "deplorable conditions" and almost never left the confines of the house, officials said on Saturday.

Crews taking turns in shifts over 10 hours removed a total of 276 dogs – ranging in age from 4 years old to 15 minutes old – from a Bennett Road home where they lived in their own filth and took up every inch of the split-level house, said Ross Licitra, chief enforcement officer for the Monmouth County SPCA.

The owners, who have not been identified, have not yet been charged, primarily because authorities are more immediately concerned at this point with addressing the health concerns of the animals who are now at three different shelters, Licitra said.

"Our first concern, first and foremost, is with the animals," Licitra said. "Monday morning we'll sit down with the prosecutor and figure out what to do."

He said charges could range from failing to provide veterinary care to allowing animals to live in inhumane conditions. He said no dead animals were found on the property.

"We have to charge them," Licitra said. "We have to get the message out to people (that) we can't allow this to happen."

He said all the animals were in "fairly good" health for the conditions in which they were living. None had been vaccinated, spayed or neutered and all were infested with fleas, he said. Their fur was matted, their nails overgrown and they had filth on their paws and legs from living among their own feces and urine, he said.

Overall, the dogs were fed well, he said. The owners told Licitra they went through 100 pounds of food a day to feed the dogs, he said.



N.J. couple had more than 270 dogs in 'extreme hoarding situation'

The dogs are mostly smaller breeds and will be put up for adoption after they're assessed and treated

The animals – mostly mixes of yorkies, poos, Chihuahuas and pugs – haven't been socialized to be among people and they're not housebroken, said Kim Tamborra, office clerk at the Associated Humane Societies of New Jersey in Tinton Falls, which took 30 of the animals.

She said the Humane Societies sent 10 of the pets to its sister-facility, the Popcorn Park Zoo in Lacey Township, to make room for more dogs it will get from the SPCA.

"We're packed to the gills. We've got animals in rooms we don't normally keep animals in," Licitra said. "The last time we were this packed was after (Hurricane) Sandy."

Licitra said his facility has 105 dogs and St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center in Madison has 141.

"They're frightened to death. The look in their eyes tells the story," Licitra said. "They're in need of help. It's sad. It's a sad situation."

The shelters are in need of donations to buy vaccines and other supplies for the animals, Licitra and Tamborra said. They need blankets, food and other items.

As the dogs' health concerns are treated, they will become available for adoption, possibly as early as Tuesday, Tamborra said.

"The phone is ringing off the hook with people want to help, adopt or foster," she said.

Licitra said the situation came to the attention of animal control officers a couple of weeks ago when an officer for the Associated Humane Societies was in the area trying to find the home of a dog that had gotten loose. The officer knocked on the door of this so-called hoarding house and heard barking of what he assumed was about 20 dogs.

Fearing it may be a hoarding situation, the officer alerted the MCSPCA, which sent an investigator to the house several times because the owners were either not home or did not answer the door, he said. Finally, on Thursday night an investigator made contact with the couple.

What the officer saw when the owners opened the door shocked him, Licitra said. There was a full-size scale of a habitrail-type habitat if tunnels and stoops for the dogs taking up the entire living room, he said.

"When you opened the door, there were at least 80 dogs staring at you – lined up on shelves like statues," Licitra said.

Because of the late hour, number of dogs, and the generally good condition they were in, Licitra said he decided to wait until Friday morning to start removing the dogs so that he would have enough time to formulate a plan.

After about four hours of work on Friday when they removed 80 dogs "our people inside were saying 'we're not even scratching the surface,'" he said.

They estimated there were another 100 dogs to take out. That 100 turned into 200 by the time they finished at 8 p.m., he said.

They were in "every nook and cranny" of the house, even living in the walls, he said.

Initially, veterinarians were administering vaccinations and treating them for fleas and worms on site as the animals were taken out. Eventually, though, they ran out of vaccine, so Licitra changed the plan to one of triage – getting them out of the house and to shelters.

One dog had given birth to a litter of four while rescuers were there, he said. He estimates at least another 20 dogs are pregnant.

Paramedics were on hand to monitor the health condition of the rescuers going inside, he said. They were being watched for physical and emotional fatigue.

"A lot of our people, they were coming out in tears," he said.

Rotating in and out were teams of between five and 10 people from the Monmouth County SPCA, St. Hubert's, Associated Humane Societies and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, he said.

"As we go through these animals and they become ready for adoption, they'll be hitting the floors (of pet adoption centers)" Licitra said. "We want them to live harmoniously with their new owners and be happy."

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Six Flags' newest coaster shuts down Thursday after riders get stuck



By [Rob Spahr](#) | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on May 26, 2016 at 2:14 PM, updated May 27, 2016 at 9:47 AM

JACKSON — Several rides after the unveiling of Six Flags Great Adventure's newest roller coaster on Thursday, the ride was shut down for the day.

The maintenance team worked to fix a car on The Joker, the park's new 4D, free-fly coaster, for several hours after two riders got stuck.

But, shortly before 3:30 p.m., officials decided to close The Joker down for the day. Kristin Siebeneicher, a spokeswoman for Six Flags, said park officials hope to reopen the ride to the season ticket holders on Friday and the general public on Saturday, but they possibly wouldn't know that for sure until Friday.

Season ticket holders were given passes for another ride or to ride The Joker at a later date.

The car had stopped about an hour after the unveiling ceremony. Siebeneicher said the vehicle's "dampeners," equipment that controls the flipping of the car, needed to be adjusted.

The ride was running flawlessly non-stop for the three days prior to the unveiling, Siebeneicher said

"It's a new ride and new rides occasionally need to be tweaked," she said.



WATCH: 50 seconds of mayhem on The Joker at Six Flags

Riders gave Six Flags Great Adventure's new 4D coaster, The Joker, rave reviews.

Park President John Fitzgerald said the fix itself only took minutes but the car had camera equipment on it due to media day, delaying the process. He said two passengers at the end of the ride were trying to swing the car and it got stuck.

"We clearly don't want that to happen, so we swapped out that vehicle," he said. "No one's safety was ever at risk."

Toms River resident Joe Bracco was one of the riders who was stuck on the ride. He said he wasn't intentionally trying to flip the car but that the ride "swings back and forth so much maybe our momentum just got it stuck there."

Bracco said he wasn't completely upside down but was "definitely not where we should be." It took workers about 15 minutes to get him off the car, he said.

Park employees worked to fix the ride for more than an hour. At approximately 1:30 p.m., employees started doing test runs. But

no one was allowed back on the ride, and at around 3:30 p.m., they closed it down for the day.

The ride stopped about an hour after an 11:30 a.m. unveiling ceremony, which featured comedian Joe Piscopo.

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Could this futuristic bridge across the Hudson solve N.J.'s transit woes?



A rendering shows the proposed twin suspension bridges of the Empire State Gateway project that would cross Manhattan and accommodate trains, buses, pedestrians and bicyclists as an option to building new Hudson River rail tunnels. (Tevebaugh Associates Architects)



By [Larry Higgs](#) | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on May 20, 2016 at 8:07 AM, updated May 20, 2016 at 4:48 PM

A transportation consultant with big dreams is proposing twin suspension bridges that could sweep across mid-Manhattan as an alternative to building new tunnels under the Hudson River.

The Empire State Gateway twin suspension bridges would span about 3.5 miles between New Jersey and Queens, crossing Manhattan at 38th and 39th streets, with a rail station located in midtown, said Scott R. Spencer, a rail transportation consultant and founder of the project.

"It's very futuristic," said Spencer, of Wilmington, Delaware, who was a consultant on the cancelled ARC Tunnel project. "This is above 38th and 39th streets and it stays within the street scape."

A bridge was briefly considered as an early alternative to ARC, which **was canceled by Gov. Chris Christie in October 2010**, he said. Spencer said he worked for Parsons-Brinckerhoff as a Senior Technical Specialist, evaluating rail operations capacity and the feasibility of each alternative to building the ARC tunnel.

The two spans needed to cross Manhattan would each be roughly the length of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, Spencer said.

Each Gateway bridge would have two rail lines on the lower level, which would be more than 100 feet above the street. Two lanes for buses, and either light rail or a magnetic levitation train would use the second level, which could **ease congestion at the Port Authority bus terminal** and the Lincoln Tunnel, Spencer said. Pedestrians and bicycles would use a walkway on the third level, Spencer said.

Buses in the outer lane would make stops on the span in Manhattan and at the midtown station, while other buses would use the inner lane to pass them, Spencer said. Bus stops would have elevators to and from the street, he said. The second level of the bridge would only be for commercial passenger vehicle use only.

One bridge could be built faster than **the Gateway Tunnel**, which would allow one of the existing 106-year-old tunnels used by Amtrak and NJ Transit to be taken out of service and rehabilitated, because prefabricated sections could be used to build the span.

"One of the twin bridges with two tracks can be completed within 60 months of (a) notice to proceed," Spencer said. "It is the fastest solution to provide an alternative rail route."

As important, he said, is that the bridge project has revenue streams that have attracted interest from investment banks, which he declined to name.

"Seventy-five percent of the investment cost could be covered," Spencer said, estimating a \$20 billion construction cost.

Revenue sources could include tolls for buses, taxis and limos, fees paid by NJ Transit and Amtrak to use the span, transit oriented real estate fees, and revenue from cell phone, TV and radio antennas, he said. Trucks would be barred from the bridge, due to the noise and fumes, Spencer said.

Spencer officially proposed the twin bridge option at a **meeting about the tunnel on Tuesday, which started the environmental review process** for that project. He plans to send concept drawings and documents to Federal Railroad Administration and other officials next week.

The bridges would have the necessary 212 feet clearance over the Hudson River, and be constructed using six 1,000 foot towers, Spencer said.

The 38th Street span would carry eastbound traffic, while a 39th Street bridge would move westbound traffic. The triple decker bridge would use the air rights over Route 495 to reach New Jersey and align with 38th street, Spencer said.

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N.J. approves more than 100 school religious holidays



By **Adam Clark** | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

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on April 11, 2016 at 12:01 PM

TRENTON — The state Board of Education this week approved a list of religious holidays in the upcoming school year on which schools must allow excused absences.

The list, **updated annually**, includes more than 100 holidays for the 2016-17.

Students celebrating those holidays must present a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian. Schools are required to provide students the opportunity to make up any tests or other assessments that they missed.

Here is the list of religious holidays for 2016-17:

July 2016

July 2 Laylat as-Qadr (Islam)

July 7-9 Eid al Fitr (Islam)

July 9 Martyrdom of the Bab (Baha'i)

July 19 Asalha Puja Day (Buddhist)

July 19 Guru Purnima (Hindu)

August 2016

Aug. 1 Fast in Honor of the Holy Mother of Lord Jesus (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

Aug. 1 Lammas (Christian and Wicca)

Aug. 6 Transfiguration of the Lord (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

Aug. 7 Naga Panchami (Hindu)

Aug. 14 Tish'a B'Av (Jewish)

Aug. 16 Ulambana/Obon (Buddhist)

Aug. 18 Raksha Bandhan (Hindu)

Aug. 25 Krishna Janmashtami (Hindu)



These N.J. schools spend the most per student

Can you guess which towns are at the top and bottom of the list?

September 2016

Sept. 1 Ecclesiastical Year begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 Sept. 5 Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu)
 Sept. 7 His Holiness Sakya Trizin's Birthday (Buddhist)
 Sept. 8 Nativity of Mary (Christian)
 Sept. 8 Nativity of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 Sept. 10 Hajj Day (Islam)
 Sept. 11-14 Eid al Adha (Islam)
 Sept. 14 Onam (Hindu)
 Sept. 14 The Elevation of the Holy Cross (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

October 2016

Oct. 1-10 Navaratri (Hindu)
 Oct. 3 Feast of Trumpets (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
 Oct. 3-4 Rosh Hashanah (Jewish)
 Oct. 11 Duserra (Hindu)
 Oct. 12 Yom Kippur (Jewish)
 Oct. 12 Day of Atonement (Christian, Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God) Oct. 17-23 Sukkot (Jewish)
 Oct. 17-23 Feast of Tabernacles (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
 Oct. 20 Birth of B'ab (Baha'i) Installation of the Scriptures as Guru Granth (Sikh) Oct. 24 Last Great Day (Church of God, Philadelphia Church of God)
 Oct. 24 Shemini Atzeret (Jewish)
 Oct. 25 Simcat Torah (Jewish)
 Oct. 30 Diwali (Hindu, Jain and Sikh)
 Oct. 31 Goverdhan Puja (Hindu)

November 2016

Nov. 1 All Saints' Day (Christian) Samhain-Beltane (Wicca)
 Nov. 2 All Souls' Day (Christian)
 Nov. 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
 Nov. 14 Guru Nanak Dev Sahib Birthday (Sikh)
 Nov. 15 Nativity Fast begins (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 Nov. 21 The Presentation of the Theotokos to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 Nov. 24 Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom (Sikh)
 Nov. 26 Day of Covenant (Baha'i)
 Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent (Christian)
 Nov. 28 Ascension of 'Abdu'l Baha (Baha'i)

**What these 27 school jobs pay in N.J.**

Find out the projected average salaries for teachers, principals and other school employees.

December 2016

Dec. 8 Bodhi Day (Buddhist)
 Dec. 8 Immaculate Conception (Christian)
 Dec. 14 Mawlid an Nabi (Islam)
 Dec. 21 Yule (Wicca and Christian)
 Dec. 25 Christmas (Christian)
 Dec. 25 The Nativity of Christ (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 Dec. 25- Jan. 1 Hanukkah (Jewish)
 Dec. 26 Zarathosht Diso (Zoroastrian)

January 2017

Jan. 1 Gantan-sai (Shinto)
 Jan. 1-8 Holy Convocation (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
 Jan. 5 Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Sahib (Sikh)
 Jan. 6 Feast of Epiphany (Christian)
 Jan. 6 Feast of Theophany (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Nativity of Christ
 Jan. 6 (Armenian Orthodox)
 Jan. 7 Feast of the Nativity (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 Jan. 13 Maghi (Sikh)
 Jan. 14 Makar Sankranti and Pongal (Hindu)
 Jan. 15 World Religion Day (Baha'i)
 Jan. 28 Chinese/Lunar New Year (Confucian, Daoist, Buddhist)

February 2017

Feb. 1 Vasant Panchami (Hindu)
 Feb. 2 Imbolic-Candlemas (Wicca and Christian)
 Feb. 2 The Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Eastern Orthodox Christian) Feb. 11 Tu B'shvat (Jewish)
 Feb. 15 Nirvana Day (Buddhist)
 Feb. 25 Maha Shivaratri (Hindu)
 Feb. 25-28 Intercalary Days (Baha'i)
 Feb. 28 Shrove Tuesday (Christian)



24 new charter schools proposed in N.J.

The state received 24 applications, including eight in one county.

March 2017

March 1 Ash Wednesday (Christian)
 March 12 Purim (Jewish)
 March 13 L. Ron Hubbard's Birthday (Church of Scientology)
 March 13 Holi (Hindu)
 March 13 Hola Mohalla (Sikh)

March 20 Ostara (Wicca)
 March 21 Nowruz (Zoroastrian)
 March 21 Naw Ruz (Baha'i)
 March 25 The Annunciation of the Theotokos (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 March 25 The Annunciation of the Virgin Mary (Christian)
 March 27 Clean Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 March 28 Khordad Sal (Zoroastrian)
 March 28 Chandramana Yugadi (Hindu)

April 2017

April 1 Lazarus Saturday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 2 Palm Sunday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 5 Ramnavami (Hindu)
 April 9 Palm Sunday (Christian)
 April 9-17 Passover/Days of Unleavened Bread (Church of God and Saints of Christ)
 April 10 Passover (Philadelphia Church of God); Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)
 April 11 Lord's Evening Meal (Christian, Jehovah's Witness) Hanuman Jayanti (Hindu)
 First Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God)
 April 11-14 Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
 April 11-17 Days of Unleavened Bread (Philadelphia Church of God)
 April 11-18 Passover (Jewish)
 April 13 Holy Thursday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 14 Holy Friday (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 16 Easter (Christian, Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 17 Easter Monday (Christian)
 Last Day of Unleavened Bread (Church of God) Bright Monday (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 April 21 First Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
 April 24 Lailat al Miraj (Islam)
 April 25 The 11th Panchen Lama's Birthday (Buddhist)
 April 29 Ninth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)

May 2017

May 1 Beltane (Wicca)
 May 1 Yom Ha'Azmaut (Jewish)
 May 2 Twelfth Day of Ridvan (Baha'i)
 May 10 Buddha's Birthday/Buddha Day – Visakha Puja (Buddhist)
 May 12 Lailat al Bara'ah (Islam)
 May 14 Lag B'Omer (Jewish)
 May 23 Declaration of the Bab (Baha'i)
 May 25 Ascension of Our Lord (Christian)
 May 27 Ramadan (Islam)
 May 29 Ascension of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i)
 May 31 – June 1 Shavuot (Jewish)

June 2017

June 4 Pentecost (Christian)
 June 4 Pentecost (Eastern Orthodox Christian)
 June 16 Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Sahib (Sikh)
 June 21 Litha (Wicca)
 June 29 Fast of the Holy Apostles (Eastern Orthodox Christian)

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Christie administration loosens tough N.J. gun permit, transport laws



By **Claude Brodessa-Akner** | NJ Advance Media for NJ.com

[Email the author](#)

on April 08, 2016 at 7:11 PM, updated April 10, 2016 at 2:04 PM

TRENTON — New Jersey residents who can prove "serious threats" against their lives may now get their gun permits processed in as little as a month, acting state Attorney General Robert Lougy announced Friday.

The attorney general's office also moved to clarify parts of New Jersey's gun transport laws, which carry some of the harshest punishments in the nation. For example, Garden State gun owners with firearms in their car will now be permitted to stop at a gas station or to use a restroom on their way home from the gun range.

On the **eve of his presidential campaign** launch in June, Gov. **Chris Christie** vowed to expedite the processing of gun permits for New Jersey residents whose life safety has been threatened, and to offer greater clarity on how gun owners can comply with the firearm transport laws.

When submitting an application for a permit to carry a handgun, New Jersey residents must detail a "justifiable need" to local police to be approved to carry a firearm. However, almost no one outside of former police and sheriffs deputies and those employed as armed security guards are ever approved to do so.

The new regulation adds evidence of "serious threats" to the circumstances that could demonstrate a special danger to the applicant's life, including those that "are not directed specifically at an individual but which establish more than mere generalized fears or concerns."

The changes were made **in response** to the murder of a Berlin Township woman last June. Three weeks after Carol Bowne, 39, was murdered in the driveway of her home while still awaiting approval for a gun permit, the governor announced he would appoint a commission that would make recommendations on how to reform the permitting process.

Bowne had both **secured a restraining order** against her ex-boyfriend and filed an **application for a firearm permit** in April 2015. Less than two months later, with her application delayed beyond the 30-day processing deadline, she was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend.



Christie commission calls for looser gun laws

A commission created by Gov. Chris Christie to examine New Jersey's tough gun laws recommends they be loosened to allow broader access for those seeking to carry a concealed firearm.

In a statement, Christie called Bowne's murder a "terrible tragedy" that was "a jarring example of a permitting system that had failed and needed to be reexamined and fixed."

However, gun rights activists were not so sure that the problem has been fixed.

In an interview with New Jersey Advance Media, Alexander Roubian, president of the New Jersey 2nd Amendment Society, said while the move was "a step in the right direction" there was no incentive to force local police departments to move expeditiously when processing gun permit applications.

"Until there are punishments for those officials who break the law, we don't expect much to change," Roubian said. "We don't expect police departments to respect it."

The new regulations do not contain any penalties for officers who delay in processing of gun permit applications.

"Remember: The statutes were already there," said Roubian. "We expect the police to respect and obey the law when it comes to applying for a firearm and a permit. But certain towns actively work against you to make sure you don't get it."

In a statement emails to NJ Advance Media, Scott L. Bach, the executive director of the Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs, also welcomed executive actions, calling the new rules a "modest incremental improvement."

Meanwhile, the attorney general's office also moved to clarify vague portions of New Jersey's strict gun transport laws.

"I have seen far too many instances in my time as governor of otherwise lawful gun owners facing severe criminal penalties when they have no intent to violate the law in the routine transport of their lawfully owned firearms," Christie said.

In New Jersey, residents may transport a firearm that is unloaded and properly stored without a carry permit to and from their home and business, hunting, shooting ranges and while moving between residences.

New Jersey law allows, but does not define, "reasonably necessary" deviations in the course of that direct travel. As such, someone carrying a gun in their vehicle may find it legally impossible to stop for gas or even use a restroom on the way home.

While not an exclusive list, some examples of deviations that now qualify as "reasonably necessary" include "collecting and discharging passengers; purchasing fuel, food and beverages, medication, or other needed supplies; using a restroom; contending with an emergency situation; or driving around a traffic jam."

Lougy said in a statement that the new transport guideline would "provide uniformity across the state" and provide "additional clarity to police, prosecutors, and law abiding gun owners."

Bach, the gun rights activist, agreed.

"Honest citizens who choose to exercise their Second Amendment rights should not have to wait months or years for permits, and should not have to live in fear of imprisonment for stopping while traveling to the range," Bach said in an email.

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