



## **BOROUGH OF AMBRIDGE**

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### **PUBLIC STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF CHIEF MARK J. ROMUTIS**

**Ambridge, PA** – It is with an extremely heavy heart that Ambridge Mayor David Drewnowski and members of Borough Council announce the passing of our Chief of Police, Mark J. Romutis. Chief Romutis passed away last evening from complications of COVID-19.

Chief Romutis will be remembered fondly as the people’s policeman devoutly dedicated to his wife Renee, their son Sam, the Ambridge community and to a lifelong career in police work. “Being highly dedicated, Chief Romutis brought many aspects of modern community policing to Ambridge that created lasting friendships and respected relationships with our citizens. His unique abilities brought progressive change to the Ambridge Police Department including his monthly ‘Coffee with a Cop,’ to routinely walking a beat on Merchant Street interacting with business owners and his personal approach of firsthand seeing tips and concerns addressed with compassion and sincerity,” stated Mayor Drewnowski.

Chief Romutis was an active member of Ambridge’s Saints Peter and Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, where he and his family routinely volunteered making perogies and making improvements around the church.

“The Chief prided himself as an old beat cop, and his 41 years of decorated experience truly helped make Ambridge a better place,” commented Michael Mikulich, President of Council. Prior to serving Ambridge as Chief of Police from 2006 to 2011, and recently as Interim Chief of Police from August 2018 to present, Chief Romutis started out his law enforcement career in 1979 as a Patrolmen with the Upper St. Clair Police Department, then from 1983 to 2004 he proudly served with his hometown Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, raising to the rank of Lieutenant. He also served as the Chief of Police for Ellwood City Borough from 2011 to 2014. Chief Romutis’s passion for public service and good law enforcement was also bestowed upon future generations of police officers as he currently served as an adjunct criminal justice professor at the University of Pittsburgh and the Community College of Beaver County.

The Borough of Ambridge thanks the Romutis family for sharing Mark with us. His wit, dedication and enthusiasm will be missed. He will be remembered for his professionalism, sense of humor, compassion to others and his steadfast ability to lead by example will truly leave his mark on Ambridge and it’s 21 member police force.

The Ambridge Police Department is a traditional municipal law enforcement agency, under the direction of Mayor David Drewnowski. The APD is composed of 10 full-time officers, 11 part-time officers and respond to over 12,000 calls for service each year within the Borough.

Chief Romutis first developed symptoms of COVID-19 on March 20<sup>th</sup>, his last day of work. To-date Chief Romutis remains the only Ambridge Police Officer and employee to have any symptoms of COVID-19. We ask that you please do your part to remember Mark, and that can be simply staying the course to stop the spread of COVID-19 by **STAYING CALM, STAYING HOME, STAYING SAFE.**