

# Nassau County



# Police Department

BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

1490 Franklin Avenue  
Mineola, New York 11501  
(516) 573-8800

PATRICK J. RYDER  
POLICE COMMISSIONER

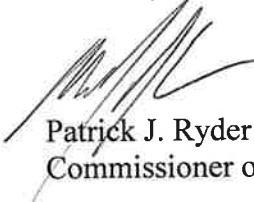
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There is a disturbing new trend in the opioid crisis that needs immediate attention. Criminal drug networks are producing millions of counterfeit prescription pills, and lacing them with the powerful synthetic opioid, fentanyl. These pills are made to look exactly like real prescription medication such as oxycodone, Xanax, and Adderall. These counterfeit pills contain lethal doses of fentanyl, and are contributing to the Countries historically high fatal overdose levels. Statistics indicate that one in four pills are counterfeit and one in twenty of these counterfeit pills are lethal. It is no longer safe to assume that the labelling on a pill is accurate unless the pill is directly obtained from a pharmacist. As alarming as it may sound, one pill, one time, can be fatal or have consequences that last a lifetime. It is more important than ever that young people be made aware of the everchanging reality of illegal drug use. No one is immune; athletes and scholars have fallen victim and lost their life.

One of my first acts as Police Commissioner was the implementation of Operation Natalie, named in honor of Natalie Ciappa, a teenager from Massapequa who died from an opioid overdose. Operation Natalie focuses on providing communities with as much education and intelligence-led enforcement as possible. Despite Operation Natalie's successes, there has been an increase of synthetic opioid use in part due to mislabeled pills. Since 2019, there has been an increase in over 500% of synthetic opioid overdoses. This statistic reminds us that ending illegal drug use will require increased coordination, overdose prevention and treatment, and community and school involvement.

The Nassau County Police Department is committed to combating the opioid epidemic and supporting schools and communities in education and diversion efforts. Our common mission is to keep people safe and healthy. Through our continued partnership with the communities we serve, I am confident that the Nassau County Police Department will continue to lead on the front lines of the fight against illegal drug use and continue its community-based policing model to find innovative solutions. Together we can prevent further addiction and prepare for future challenges.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Ryder  
Commissioner of Police



Left: Authentic oxycodone M30 tablets (top) vs. counterfeit oxycodone M30 tablets containing fentanyl (bottom). Right: Authentic Xanax tablets (white) vs. counterfeit Xanax tablets containing fentanyl (yellow).

Source: Drug Enforcement Administration