



# Town of Walkill Police Department

## MEDIA RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**  
**August 23, 2016**

**Incident:** Day Care Center Evacuation  
**Location:** On My Way Childcare Center, 12 Riverside Drive, Town of Walkill  
**Date/Time:** August 23, 2016/9:50 am

On Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at approximately 9:50 am, Police Officers Thomas Santosuosso and Maxim Sander responded to a report of “Strong Odor in the Building” at the On My Way Child Care, 12 Riverside Drive. Upon arrival, the officers were met by center staff who had already evacuated the 157 mostly pre-school aged children from the buildings. Members of the Mechanicstown Fire Department working with the Town’s Building Department and Orange & Rockland determined that the odor was caused by an over-heated lighting ballast. The operation was coordinated with assistance from Town of Walkill OEM Co-Director Commissioner Lou Ingrassia Jr. and OEM Coordinator Joe Andre. The Orange County Sheriff’s Office and the Town of Walkill Volunteer Ambulance Corp also provided assistance. At 11:08 am, students and staff returned to the buildings, after the ballast was repaired.

Robert C. Hertman  
Chief of Police

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