

**FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK**  
**CHIEF JOHN RUSSO, RUTHERFORD PD**



The responsibilities of the NJSACOP Elected Board of Officers continue to move forward at a feverish pace. Since being sworn in as President back in June, I had not really had the time to reflect on the gravity of this position, but I have recently been thinking about what this represents. I find it hard to put into words how honored I am to be able to represent all of the Chiefs of this Association. I know I speak on behalf of the entire Board as well as our Executive Director when I say that we take all of your concerns as if they were our own. I am so proud of this group and look forward to continuing our mission.

On November 14th, I took part in a Strategy Meeting with Attorney General Platkin and law enforcement leaders from across the State to discuss a plan to address the home invasion issues most of our jurisdictions and agencies are dealing with. I appreciate the call from the AG to take part in this meeting, as I firmly believe any statewide policy or initiative needs this Association’s input to be effectively implemented.

If you recall, home invasions were the topic of our testimony last spring in front of the Senate Judiciary. This most recent legislation signed by Governor Murphy was in part due to those hearings we took part in along with the State PBA President and several County Prosecutors. I would like to thank Governor Murphy for signing that legislation and most importantly, the legislators from both parties who pushed for this change: Senators Bucco, Stack, and Gopal, and Assembly Members Stanley, Karabinchak, and Schnall. Collaboration with our legislators is a win for this Association and for law enforcement and I have to thank Michael Turner and Edmund Devereaux of our government relations firm who have really helped with these introductions and guidance.

Just recently, the OAG announced a new division within their office, the Office of Police Strategy and Innovation. I will be meeting with the Executive Director of the division during late November to offer the NJSACOP assistance in those new policy endeavors. Director Isa Abbassi has already approached the Association with an offer to work together and I look forward to that partnership. Obviously, we may not always be in alignment with policy ideas, but with the NJSACOP being offered a seat at that table, the future bodes well for OPSI.

In closing, please don’t forget to register yourself and your personnel for our Mid-Year 1-Day Conference to be held on December 5. Our presenters look to be engaging and the topics very appropriate, as many of us across the State have already begun our FIFA World Cup 2026 planning. The World Cup will touch on all parts of the State, so having your personnel involved at this early stage will be a benefit to your agencies.

Finally, I wish you and your families a happy and healthy Thanksgiving!

***NJSACOP Monthly State Chiefs Briefings***

<b>January 9, 2025 (date change due to holiday)</b>	<b>February 6, 2025</b>
<b>March 6, 2025</b>	<b>April 3, 2025</b>
<b>May 1, 2025</b>	<b>June 5, 2025</b>
<b>September 4, 2025</b>	<b>October 2, 2025</b>
<b>November 6, 2025</b>	