

**Pamela D. Panzenbeck**  
Mayor



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## **CITY OF GLEN COVE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **GLEN COVE POLICE DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES FIFTH GRADE GCPACT GRADUATES AT LANDING AND CONNOLLY SCHOOLS**

GLEN COVE, NY — The Glen Cove Police Department proudly celebrated the completion of its Good Choices Police and Community Together (GCPACT) program with fifth-grade students at Landing and Connolly Schools.

The 10-session program teaches students about internet safety, peer pressure, and the dangers of drugs and alcohol, while helping build trust and positive relationships with law enforcement.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, Deputy Mayor Donna McNaughton, and Chief Christopher Ortiz attended both graduation ceremonies. They were joined at Landing School by Principal Liza Carfora and at Connolly School by Principal Dr. James Grossane, along with the teachers and staff who supported the students throughout the program.

At Landing School, Sgt. Roberto Telese and Officer Darren Pittman led the program, focusing on making smart choices and building lasting community connections.

Sgt. Telese reflected on the importance of those relationships and reminded students that those bonds continue long after elementary school.

“One of the best parts of this job is seeing these kids grow up,” said Sgt. Roberto Telese. “When they get older and still stop to say hello or wave, it means something. It shows that the relationships we build here matter, and we want them to know we’ll always be here for them.”

Officer Darren Pittman, who has been part of GCPACT for eight years, shared that last year he watched his first class graduate high school and this year will see his second class reach that milestone.

At Connolly School, Det. Ted Karousos and Sgt. Peter Michaleas guided students through the same curriculum, helping them navigate important life choices and strengthen trust with law enforcement.

Det. Karousos emphasized the importance of making smart decisions early in life.

“The choices you make now can shape your future,” said Det. Ted Karousos. “Programs like GCPACT give us the chance to connect with students early, help guide them, and let them know they always have someone to turn to. Every day, we can all do better and be better.” It was a great group of students this year.

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Many of the city's leaders and officers, including Mayor Panzenbeck, Deputy Mayor McNaughton, and Chief Ortiz, are proud Glen Cove school graduates themselves, making the program especially meaningful.

“These are proud moments for our officers,” said Chief Christopher Ortiz. “This program is about more than education — it's about connection, mentorship, and building trust that lasts for years.”

The City of Glen Cove and the Glen Cove Police Department congratulate this year's graduates and thank the officers, educators, and families who helped make the program a success.

**Photo 1:** Connolly School graduates celebrate completing the GCPACT program with Det. Ted Karousos, Sgt. Peter Michaleas, Chief Christopher Ortiz, Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, Deputy Mayor Donna McNaughton, and Principal Dr. James Grossane.

**Photo 2:** Landing School graduates celebrate with Sgt. Roberto Telese, Officer Darren Pittman, Chief Christopher Ortiz, Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, Deputy Mayor Donna McNaughton, their fifth-grade teacher, and classmates, following the completion of the GCPACT program.

Photo credit: Roni Jenkins, Public Relations Officer.

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