

Trump tweets photo of himself as Rocky



Actress, model file lawsuit saying they were beaten in anti-white attack at Midtow...



Sam Darnold is the best quarterback in the AFC East right now



New Jersey hospital gave kidney transplant to wrong patient



Live-in defende him 'mc



NYC CRIME NEW YORK

# NYPD rolling out new sign-language app to help officers speak with the deaf

By THOMAS TRACY  
NEW YORK DAILY NEWS | JAN 29, 2019 | 12:25 PM



Police Officer Kevin Seidita communicates with a deaf woman with the help of an American Sign Language interpreter on his department-issued cell phone. (NYPD)

## RECOMMENDED

The NYPD has given a thumbs up to a new video teleconferencing system that will help cops communicate with the deaf, the Daily News has learned.

As of Friday, every police officer in the five boroughs was given access to a Skype-like app on their NYPD smartphones, which will bring city sign-language interpreters face-to-face with victims in the field.

The decision to roll out the service comes after a successful two-month pilot program in three precincts in Manhattan, Queens and Staten Island, said NYPD Deputy Commissioner Susan Herman, the head of the department's Office of Collaborative Policing.

"We got terrific feedback from people, both the officers and members of the public who said they were so pleased to be able to communicate that well," Herman explained. "I think that there's growing awareness that the NYPD is focusing on maximizing our communication with the public in many different ways. This is just the latest example."

The program was tested in communities with "significant" deaf populations — in the 9th Precinct in the East Village, the 115th Precinct in Jackson Heights, Queens, and the 121st Precinct in Graniteville, .

[\[More New York\] Woman, 80, fatally struck by car in Queens crosswalk »](#)

Cops in the three precincts used American Sign Language teleconferencing about a dozen times — helping deaf crime victims with everything from executing an order of protection to filling out complaint reports.

Police Officer Kevin Seidita was sitting at the telephone switchboard at the 9th Precinct stationhouse when a deaf woman came in to report that her groceries had been stolen.

She immediately took to a pen and paper — how deaf people historically communicated with cops — until Seidita used his smartphone

**Download our mobile app**  
**Subscribe for unlimited access**

[About Us](#)

[Careers](#)

[Site Map](#)

[Media Kit](#)

[Special Sections](#)

[Manage Subscription](#)

[The Active Times](#)

[Terms of Service](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Place an Ad](#)

[Contests](#)

[BestReviews](#)

[The Daily Meal](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[TAG disclosure](#)

Copyright © 2019, New York Daily News