

## PIP police officer arrested for cocaine, oxycodone possession, chief says

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ALPINE — A Palisades Interstate Parkway police officer was arrested on drug charges two months ago as part of an internal affairs investigation, the department said Wednesday.

Lee Frazzano, a PIP officer for three years, was immediately suspended without pay following his arrest July 16, according to a statement released on the police department's website. Frazzano was arrested for possession of cocaine and oxycodone, the agency said.

The statement was issued Wednesday night by PIP Police Chief Michael Coppola in response to an inquiry from NJ Advance Media earlier in the day.

"Our internal affairs unit received information that Mr. Frazzano had become involved in illegal narcotics thus prompting our swift and immediate action," the statement said. "Mr. Frazzano was subsequently ordered to undergo a Reasonable Suspicion Drug Test to which he complied."

Further investigation by the department revealed Frazzano was in possession of the narcotics, the statement added.

Coppola said he could not disclose details of the case, citing ongoing criminal and internal affairs investigations. He said the department issues media statements about major breaking news incidents, not every drug arrest.

"It is critical to understand that the allegations contained herein should not reflect on the exemplary professionalism of the members of this agency," the statement said.

Frazzano was scheduled for a Sept. 24 hearing, a court representative said.

An attorney for Frazzano could not be immediately reached for comment.