



June 13, 2017

The Chamber of the Northern Poconos represents more than 600 member businesses in Wayne and Pike Counties and the Pocono Lake Region. Our mission includes supporting our membership by serving as the center of commerce for the Northern Pocono Mountains Region, while informing consumers and advocating for responsible economic growth, industry, local business, and tourism, thus enhancing the region's quality of life.

The ambush on the State Police Barracks in Blooming Grove had a significant impact on our local businesses. This tragedy affected businesses, families, school districts, non-profit organizations, gated communities and our major industry, tourism.

The manhunt impacted thousands of lives here in this rural part of the Commonwealth. The Northern Pocono Mountains made headlines across the United States. This is not how our region would like to be portrayed. The Pocono Mountains are known internationally for our beauty, recreation, tourism and quality of life. This tragic event happened in the start of our fall foliage season, and had a negative impact on the entire season. Our area residents, businesses, communities and schools were on high alert during the entire manhunt.

The vast majority of these businesses are small and family-owned. They are the backbone of our membership and our local economy. These hard-working families operate restaurants, service stations, grocery stores, hardware stores, inns and other accommodations and tourist attractions. Businesses had to take extra security measures during the manhunt, which was a cost for which they were not prepared.

Our hotels and resorts did not report a significant monetary loss. In fact, those who had cancellations from recreational visitors augmented those losses with law enforcement and media involved with the manhunt.

September and October are the peak months for fishing in the Northern Pocono Mountains. Hundreds of hunting and fishing clubs were affected by the manhunt. This impacted the local grocery stores, convenience markets, gas stations and taverns. Unfortunately it affected the area taxidermists the most. They had little to no work at all in this timeframe.

Our tourist attractions experienced the greatest financial impact. Costa's Family Fun Park had a 57% net loss in comparison to the same weeks in September and October of 2013. This seasonal attraction is less than one mile from the location where Mr. Frein's Jeep was found. This business is only open weekends once area schools are in session. They had to completely close on several weekends and opened only limited hours, when possible, during the manhunt.

Keen Lake Camping & Cottage Resort reported that occupancy percentage was down 19% the month of September 2014. They received numerous cancellations even though they are located 45 minutes from the area in which the search for Mr. Frein was conducted. Many guests, not familiar with the geography of the region, assumed they were better to stay away during this time. Guests traveling on State Route 402, a common travel route to access the Northern Pocono Mountain Region, were unnerved by the police presence in that area.

There are dozens of gated residential communities throughout Wayne and Pike Counties. Many of the members of these communities own second homes that are not occupied year-around. Many of these homeowners and

their communities had to increase security during the manhunt. This cost them extended and overtime hours that were not in their annual budgets in order for their residents to feel safe and protected. Public safety departments were also on alert for any suspicious persons at an unoccupied home.

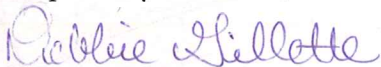
The Pocono Film Commission provided information regarding the most significant impact to the local economy. They lost a film production that was scheduled to be filmed in the State Game Lands and the Delaware State Forest on Route 390. The film commission was unable to scout for two other projects that were considering filming in the region, therefore lost the opportunity to submit our location to the producers. The project scheduled in the Game lands had a \$3-\$5 Million filming budget. The local businesses would have benefited at least an additional \$500,000 in ancillary services if they did not have to move their location.

Additionally, there are many businesses that provided ancillary goods and services to assist law enforcement during the manhunt. The Lake Region IGA donated meals and food totaling over \$6,000. Overboards Restaurant, Ehrhardt's Resort and The Boathouse Restaurant each provided meals on several occasions for 300 people. The American Red Cross reached out to many of our local businesses and were not turned away. Our communities strongly supported the efforts to capture the man who devastated our sense of security.

While we may never be able to truly quantify the total economic impact that the Frein manhunt had on the Northern Pocono Mountain Region, it is clear that businesses, communities, schools and residents experienced an unprecedented event. Fortunately, as we often do, we banded together in support of our local law enforcement and in prayer for the families of State Troopers, Corporal Bryon Dickson and Alex Douglass.

Unfortunately, our region was thrust into the national spotlight as collateral damage from the horrific acts of one man. Our wish is for the Northern Pocono Mountain Region to garner national headlines for its natural beauty, economic opportunity and outstanding quality of life.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie Gillette
Executive Director