

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



**Christopher M. Leusner**  
**Chief of Police**



Prepared by:  
Chief C. Leusner  
Captain J. Edwards  
Lt. D. Nelson  
Lt. W. Adams

Released: February 18, 2014

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department took a step in the right direction after a challenging year in 2012. We were successful in achieving our goals outlined in the beginning of the year, especially our new program, “Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety”. The officers worked hard implementing the DDACT initiative and it paid off. We increased our patrol hours in the DDACT Zone (Rio Grande) to 7921 in 2013 from 5896 in 2012, an increase of 2025 additional patrol hours. We increased our motor vehicle stops in the DDACT zone to 2147 in 2013 from 559 in 2012, an increase of 1588. This increased presence in combination with pro-active targeted details by the Special Services Unit resulted in a 25% reduction in Part I offenses in Rio Grande and a 2.6% reduction in crashes. We are very pleased that there was only 1 fatality township-wide on the roadways in 2013 after 6 in 2012. The Special Services Unit efforts related to pedestrian safety awareness and enforcement outlined in the beginning of 2013 appears to have made an impact. We closed out the year with another successful reaccreditation and we are very proud to be an accredited Police Department since 2006.

Another highlight in 2013 was Operation Blood Clot, a multijurisdictional operation that started after a gang related shooting in the Burleigh section of Middle Township. While an act of gang violence is a concerning event in Middle Township, the law enforcement community in Cape May County, led by the Cape May County Prosecutors Office responded with a comprehensive Operation that dismantled a set of the Bloods operating in various communities in Cape May County, including Middle Township. The Middle Township Major Crimes Unit and Special Services Unit played a critical role in this cooperative effort.

In criminal activity we saw significant crime reductions in our overall crime rating in 2013 with a 30% reduction, from 947 Part I offenses in 2012 to 660 in 2013. The reduction was driven mostly by a decrease in thefts, in 2012 there were 678 compared to 467 in 2013. However, Violent Crime increased by 30%, from 47 to 66. ***(Note: There was change in the reporting requirements for Rape which resulted in an increase of 7 reported rapes from 2012 and we are dealing with significantly lower numbers of violent crime compared to the Non Violent Part I offenses.)*** We believe that our efforts in the DDACT zone reaped benefits Township wide.

The traffic data in 2013 was relatively flat from 2012 numbers, with the exception of a sharp decrease in fatalities. Motor Vehicle Crashes were up slightly to 894 an increase of 7 from 2012 numbers. Motor Vehicle Crashes resulting in injury were up 14 from 2012 numbers to 169. The number of motor vehicle summonses issued increased by approximately 14% in 2013 to a total of 4241 from 3724 in 2012. Driving While Intoxicated arrests decreased by approximately 20% in 2013 to a total of 76 from 96 in 2012.

We continued with our community outreach efforts by meeting regularly with community groups, conducting Cops and Coffee, promoting our Street of the Week program, growing our Facebook fans, Twitter followers and Nixle contacts. We held a very

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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successful Firearms Safety Program that was offered for free to residents of Middle Township and even some out of town residents that filled open slots in the final week. Each attendee received a certificate and a free gun lock. The program was the first of its kind offered in Cape May County by a police department and was well received. Finally, we partnered with the Cape May County Sheriff's Department to promote Tip411, a service where residents can report crimes and suspicious activity via text or an app through their smart phone. We have used social media and displayed posters in our schools, recreation centers and other public areas to promote this service. The ability of residents in this day in age to communicate anonymously with law enforcement is a win-win for law enforcement and the community.

*Picture of Retired Middle Township Police Officers at our 1<sup>st</sup> Retiree Luncheon in May of 2012. The planning for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Retiree Luncheon is underway for May 6<sup>th</sup> and the invitations will be in the mail shortly.....*



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Table of Contents

<b>Organization &amp; Personnel</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Calls for Service/Criminal Activity</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Traffic</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Patrol Division</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Detective Division</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Special Services Unit/Forfeiture Fund</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>School Resource Officer Program</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Records Division</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Communications</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Internal Affairs</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Training and Education</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Special Units</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Accreditation Program</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>False Alarm Reduction Program</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Achievement Goals and Objectives: 2013</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Proposals: 2014</b>	<b>Appendix A</b>
<b>Goals/Objectives: 2014</b>	<b>Appendix B</b>

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

### Personnel

#### Retirements

Sgt. Michael Elias

#### Current Sworn Employees

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2014.

#### Chief of Police

Christopher Leusner

#### Captain

John Edwards

#### Lieutenant

William Adams

Donald Nelson

#### Detectives

Doug Osmundsen

Allan McClure

Clint Stocker

Ken Martin

Len Larkin

Tracey Super

Giacomo Trombetta

#### Special Services Unit

James Loftus

Marcus Phillips

Jason Sweitzer

Class II Matthew Lamanteer

Class II Michael Reardon

Class II Shawn Karge

Class II Brian Revoir

Class II Zachary Russ

#### Patrol Sergeants

Fran Fiore

Mark Higginbottom

Robert Shepherd

#### Corporals

Phil Johnson

Jennifer DeLanzo

Fred Crawley

Eugene Castellano

#### Senior Patrol Officers

Richard Sittineri

#### Patrolman

Julio Ruiz

Steven Novsak

Michelle Brown

Joshua Bryan

Ron Miller

Dan Martin

Matthew Martino

Kurt Saettler

Armondo Jones

Martin Lindholm

Dan Geiger

James D'Alonzo

David Hagan

John Norton

Alison Akke

Jeffrey Salveson

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Brian Murphy

Justin Vitola

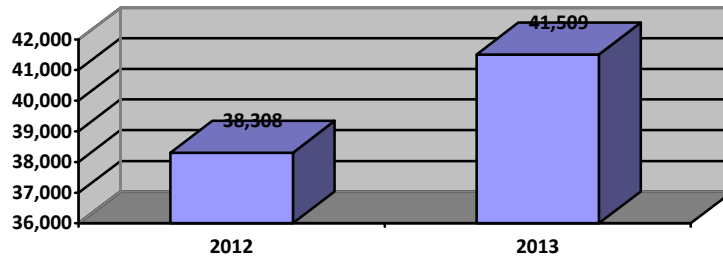
Mary Champion

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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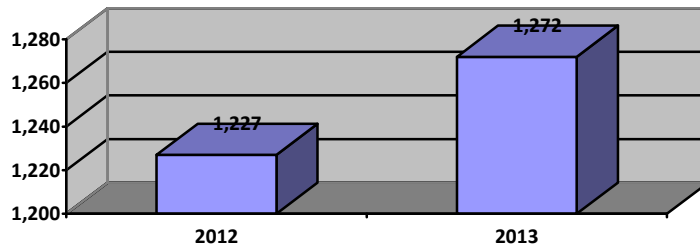
## CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	38,308	41,509	+3,201

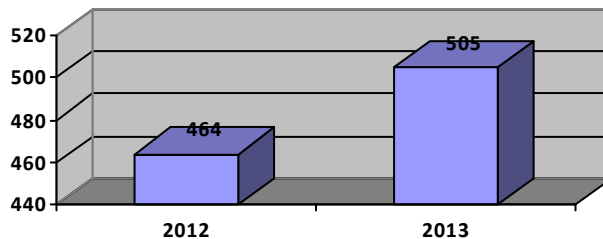


Note: The increase in the calls for service can be attributed to increases in the following call types: Directed Patrol (+688), DDACTS Details (+618), Traffic Enforcement (+1,384), Community Policing (+157), Firearms ID Card (+120).

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	1,227	1,272	+45



	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	464	505	+41





# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

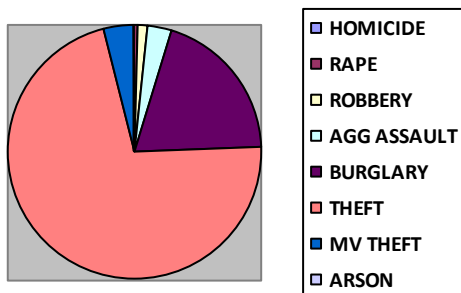
Below is a list highlighting the crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Middle Township for the past two 2 years.

Offense: 2012		Offense: 2013		Change
Homicide	0	Homicide	0	0
Rape	4	Rape*	11*	+7*
Robbery	12	Robbery	11	-1
Aggravated Assault	31	Aggravated Assault	40	+9
Burglary	184	Burglary	113	-71
Theft	678	Theft	467	-211
Motor Vehicle Theft	37	Motor Vehicle Theft	15	-22
Arson	1	Arson	3	+2
Total UCR:	947		660	-287
Violent Crime:	47		62	+15
Non Violent Crime:	900		598	-302

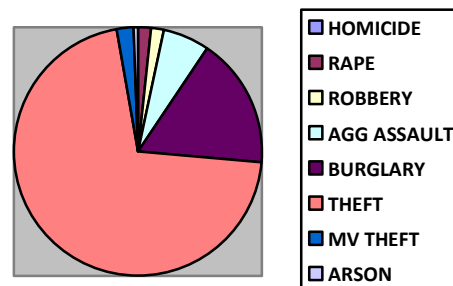
**Note:** This is an estimate based on our monthly reports; the official report is released by the New Jersey State Police later in the year.

\*In January 2013 the F.B.I. changed the definition of rape for reporting purposes. The updated definition is a now a broader and more accurate definition.

UCR 2012



UCR 2013



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The following list shows the classification of the other type of calls for service, both criminal and non-criminal in nature, handled by the members of the Police Department in 2012.

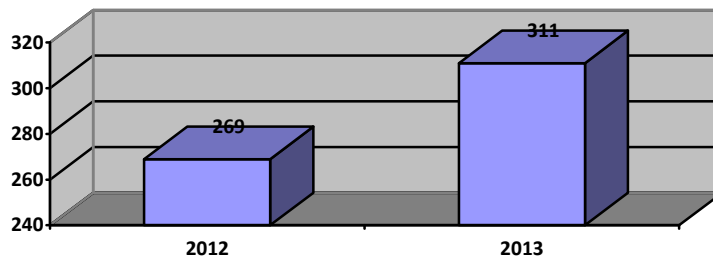
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	38	32	-6
Simple Assaults	83	85	+2
Medical Calls	3326	3434	+108
Fire Calls	728	785	+57
Death Investigations	28	31	+3
Disorderly Conduct incidents	1,489	1,280	-209
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	145	110	-35
Malicious Damage incidents	133	136	+3
Missing Persons and Runaways	103	100	-3
Assisting other agency incidents	434	505	+71
Property and Building Checks	14,121	13,474	-647
Bias Incidents Investigated	1	4	+3
	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports generated:	1,812	1,564	-248
Supplemental Investigations generated:	1,687	1,743	+56

### Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a serious crime against society and both law enforcement and the courts must aggressively address it. New Jersey has strong laws and protective measures for victims of Domestic Violence.

Middle Township is not immune from the problems and concerns of Domestic Violence. In 2013 Middle Township Police responded to **311** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior Middle Township police responded to **269** Domestic Violence incidents.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	269	311	+42





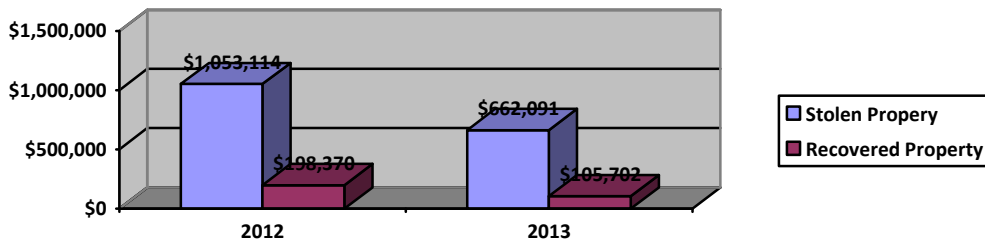
# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Property Stolen and Recovered

Property offenses include Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief, and Shoplifting. The exact amount of value in the theft related offenses are hard to determine as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. Below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered for the year of 2012 and 2013.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$1,053,114.00	\$662,091.00	-\$391,023.00
Recovered:	\$198,370.00	\$105,702.00	-\$92,668.00



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## Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or crashes

During 2013, Personnel Officer Kalish reports (14) work related injury incidents. Of those (14) incidents (3) officers suffered injuries, while in the performance of duty, which caused 40 missed days at work. All other injuries had no time loss from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Days missed</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Martin Lindholm	1	Fall
Robert Shepherd	29	Injured at the Police Academy
Marcus Phillips	10	Injured while training

Officers were involved in (2) motor vehicle crashes while on duty in 2013.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
James Loftus	01-24-2013	Struck at an intersection not at fault
Justin Vitola	10-27-2013	Struck at an intersection not at fault

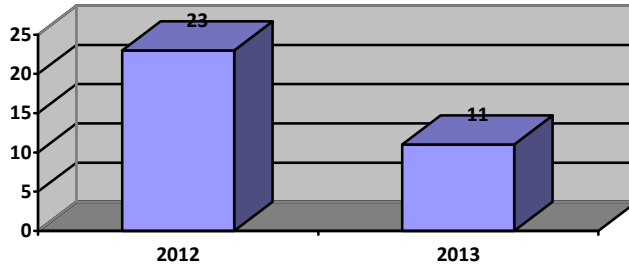
## Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

As required by law, each officer who uses force while making an arrest, or while handling an individual uses some form of force to gain compliance, must complete a state Use of Force reporting form. This report is supplied each year to the Cape May County Prosecutors Office.

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents	23	11	-12



Of those (11) use of force incidents, (10) subjects were arrested, (2) subjects were injured.

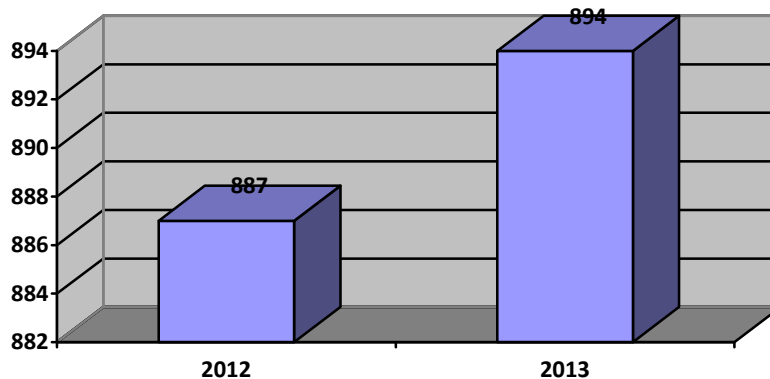
Officers injured using force:	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
	3	3

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Police Pursuits:	2	2

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in (2) incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits. As a result of the pursuits there were (2) people arrested, and no crashes.

## TRAFFIC

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	887	894	+7

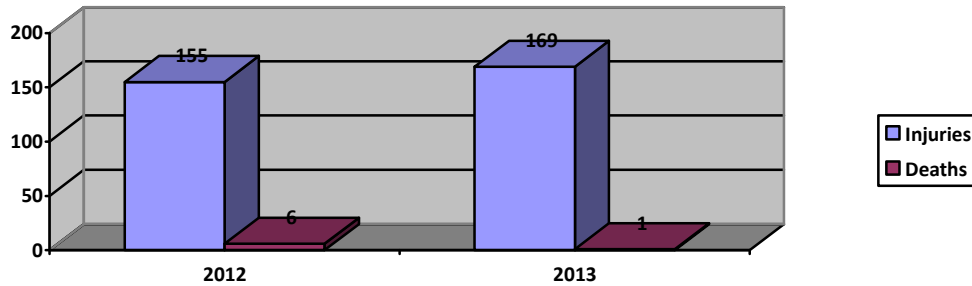


## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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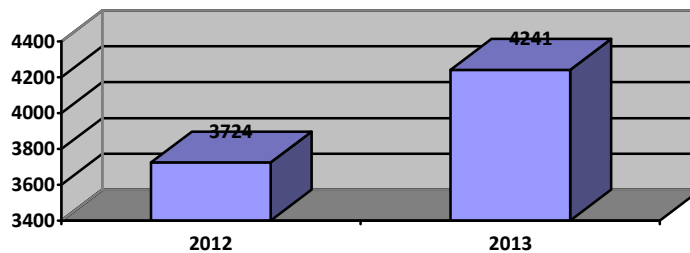
### Motor Vehicle Accident Injuries/Deaths

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Injuries:	155	169	+14
Deaths:	6	1	-5



**Note:** In past annual reports the total number of injuries was calculated by a reported complaint of pain. We are now using the number of injured persons transported, which will reflect a more accurate account of the severity of accidents in the Township.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	3724	4241	+517



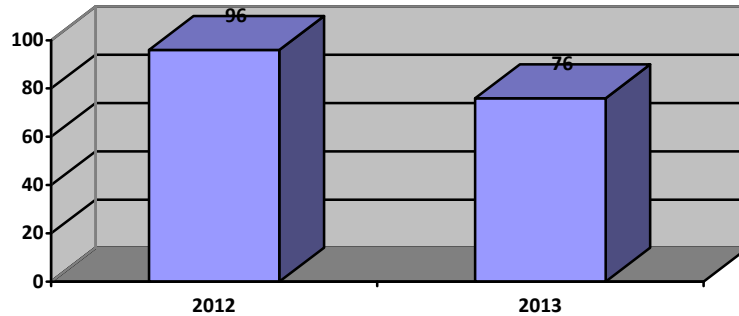
Note: There were 1,384 more motor vehicle stops in 2013 compared with 2012 which would explain the increase in summons issued.

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI)

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	96	76	-20



## ADMINISTRATION

The Police Administration is one of the smallest in the county and is composed of four officers, including the Chief. The officers are Chief Christopher Leusner, Captain John Edwards, and Lieutenants William Adams and Donald Nelson. The Chief of Police is responsible for the day to day operations of the Department, administer and enforce rules and regulations and special emergency directives, discipline of the force and it's personnel, prescribe duties and assignments, delegate authority for efficient operation of the force, issue policies/directives, meet with community, civic and religious groups, prepare grants, prepare and manage the Police Department's Budget and report at least monthly to Township Committee.



The Captain serves as the Executive Officer and is responsible for the following areas: Internal Affairs Commander, manage and update standard operating procedures , JIFF coordinator, safety officer, infectious control officer, manage Alcotest unit, manage radar units, NJLearn coordinator, assistant Emergency Management officer, crash team commander, manage and apply for DWI grants, traffic committee, fleet manager, honor guard liaison, radio system administrator, Building/cell inspections, Code Red Emergency Notifications Network administrator, training administrator, on-call administrator, employee evaluations, fire department Liaison, public information officer, and maintain battery back-up.

The Patrol Commander is responsible for the following areas: vehicle maintenance,

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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schedule training, prepare Grants, POSS administrator, patrol equipment, review all driving while intoxicated and accident reports, manage the uniform budget, on-call administrator, manage off-duty details, municipal court liaison, manage towing ordinance, manage statistics, manage Class II program, maintain mobile data terminals, field training officers coordinator, and the county domestic violence coordinator.

The Administrative Lieutenant is responsible for the following areas: dispatch administrator, records administrator, review all investigation and supplement reports, dive team (people/training/equipment), Internal Affairs investigator, Megan's Law liaison, Bias crime officer, oversee evidence unit, DCPD liaison, coordinate 4-H Fair, Harvest Festival & National Night Out, ACS/ATS Coordinator, CJIS TAC/Coordinator, county court liaison, Maglocen liaison, Prosecutor's Office liaison, false alarm program administrator, maintain voice recorder, Animal Control, Hotel/Motel Association Liaison, Internship Coordinator, MVS 2000 reports, maintain generator, prepare grants, and on-call administrator.

### PATROL DIVISION

Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents and traffic accidents, to burglaries in progress and death investigations.

As the First Responder to criminal complaints, patrol officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has been committed, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, and initiating contacts with community members to further the department's commitment to Community and Problem Oriented Policing.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into five squads. Four patrol squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant and has seven patrol officers. The fifth squad, the Special Service Unit works 5 days a week. The squad is utilized to fill special needs of the department. Such as Training function, Court Security, Community Events, Firearms investigations, and assist the patrol division during peak times.



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Field Training Officers: (FTO's)

All police officers hired by the Middle Township Police Department must attend and successfully complete a New Jersey State Certified Police Academy. This department predominantly uses the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduation, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. The FTO program is an additional three months of intensive training and evaluation where the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. The FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

The following Officers are designated as FTO:

Corporal Phillip Johnson  
Patrolman Dave Hagan  
Patrolman Steven Novsak  
Patrolman Kurt Saettler  
Patrolman Matt Martino

Corporal Eugene Castellano  
Patrolman John Norton  
Patrolman Josh Bryan  
Patrolman Dan Martin  
Patrolman Brian Murphy

## DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division, otherwise known as the Major Crime Unit (MCU), is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all incident reports and activities in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. Detectives work cases that are either assigned to them or come to them while on duty or on-call. They also initiate case investigations.



The Detective Division generated the following:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	78	120	+42
Supplemental Investigations:	1239	1513	+274
Arrests:	110	172	+62

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruit, police employee employment background investigations.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Major Crimes Unit utilizes a Case Management System. This system is designed to track all cases assigned to the Major Crimes Unit. It allows the Detective Sergeant to monitor the unit's overall caseload as well the caseload of each individual detective. This system also allows the Detective Sergeant to better assign new cases based on the caseload of the particular Detective. Case activity can now be tracked so as to ensure that no case is inadvertently forgotten. The Detective Sergeant also now meets monthly with each Detective to discuss their active cases and strategies.

The following is a breakdown of cases as of December 31, 2013:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	<b>398</b>	<b>392</b>	<b>-6</b>
Cases Closed:	<b>284</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>+66</b>

Current number of active cases as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013: **99**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2013 include:

- Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash, 27 year old male victim, 23 year old male arrested, 2013-02159
- Attempted Murder (Stabbing), 49 year old male victim, 45 year old female arrested, 2013-22135
- Attempted Murder (Stabbing), 43 year old male victim, 21 year old female arrested, 2013-07970
- Aggravated Assault (Stabbing), 51 year old male victim, 51 year old male arrested, 2013-08362
- Aggravated Assault (Stabbing), 42 year old male victim, 25 year old male and a 27 year old female arrested, 2013-28037
- Aggravated Assault(Pointing of a Handgun), 20 year old male victim, 23 year old male arrested, 2013-37956
- Child Pornography Investigation, 44 year old male was arrested, 2013-11558
- Several Gang Shootings were investigated along with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and as a result four males ages 23, 24, 25 and 28 were arrested, 2013-23301/2013-23667
- Theft (Over \$300,000), 51 year old female and a 41 year old male were arrested, 2013-36275
- Official Misconduct/Theft, 42 year old male arrested, 2013-04615

The unit handled numerous Aggravated Assaults, Sexual Offenses, Burglaries, Child Endangerment and Missing Person cases.



The division works on a number of open cases, such as the Mark Himebaugh investigation, with various agencies including the FBI, New Jersey State Police and Cape May County Prosecutors Office. In 2012 an anonymous donor has offered a reward of \$10,000 for the discovery of Mark Himebaugh, and \$25,000 if the information leads to Mark's safe

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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return home. Anyone with information on the above cases is asked to contact the Major Crimes Unit at 609-465-8700.

Members of the unit during 2013 included:

Detective Sergeant Doug Osmundsen  
Detective First Class Allan McClure  
Detective Clint Stocker  
Detective Kenneth Martin  
Detective Tracey Super  
Detective Leonard Larkin  
Detective Jack Trombetta  
Part Time Evidence Clerk Bob Bongiovanni

### MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

Although not officially a unit, the task of handling Megan's Law registrants within the township rests with the Major Crimes Unit. Detective Clint Stocker primarily oversees the registrants with the assistance of other detectives. Registrants are required to re-register anytime they move to a new address within the township, even a minimal move as a change to a different apartment or motel room, within the same building. Registrant's must also register upon moving into Middle Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

Megan's  
Law

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	50	45	-5
Average monthly registrant count:	70	64	-6
Low count	64	61	-3
High count	77	68	-9

### SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The Special Services Unit is led by Sgt. James Loftus, and is under the command of the Patrol Lieutenant William Adams. The Unit is charged with a number of responsibilities including but not limited to: Narcotics Enforcement, supplement Patrol as needed, Training, Community Relations, and Court Security.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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During the past year, the Middle Township Police Department's Special Services Unit, has conducted a total of **19 Quality of Life details** in the Rio Grande section of the township resulting in **68 arrests**. There were also **62 summons issued due for "Jaywalking"** in the Rio Grande area where we have had problems with pedestrian motor vehicle accidents. The details entailed plain clothed operations, doing "Cops in Shops" and also street crimes operations targeting open air drug transactions and arresting persons with active outstanding warrants. The "Cops in Shops" detail is a statewide initiative where the department received funding through grant money for the purpose of placing plain-clothed officers in retail liquor establishments to enforce laws involving the purchase of alcohol by individuals under the legal age.

During the street crimes operations, members of the patrol division would work plain clothed details walking and riding bicycles in the area of Rio Grande to investigate open air drug distributions reported along State Highway 47 and Route 9, specifically in the business and motel district. Working the plain clothed details allowed officers to approach individuals engaged in suspicious activities without alerting them of the police presence. This allowed the unit to corroborate information received from concerned citizens and confidential informants in regards to illegal activity and also allowed the officers to witness criminal activity first hand and make arrests.

The SSU was involved in **24 narcotics investigations** during 2013, some of which were cooperative cases with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. As a result of these investigations, **12 search warrants** were authored and executed. As a result, **26 individuals were arrested** for numerous drug related offenses and numerous drugs, drug paraphernalia, money and other proceeds were seized.

The Special Services Unit leads many of the community relations initiatives such as our Neighborhood Watch Program, Informational Booths at Community Events, and the "Cops and Coffee Program". Our current Neighborhood Watch Programs are Friends of Davis and Teal (Rio Grande), Friends of 13 Curves (CMCH/Green Creek), Stone Harbor Manor Homeowners, Shannon Oaks Neighborhood Watch (Rio Grande), Gatherings at Cape May (Rio Grande) and Antina Lane Lookouts (Swainton). The SSU held **8 Cops and Coffee details** where they went to a local coffee shop or business and discussed with citizens any concerns they may have related to illegal activity in the Township. The SSU also participated in or hosted several events throughout the year including the following:

- Senior Safety Event at the Lighthouse Church
- Annual 4H Fair
- Middle Township Harvest Festival
- Annual Whitesboro Reunion
- Elementary School presentations educating children on the dangers of talking to strangers and similar topics
- Firearms safety presentations at the Senior Center and Police Academy
- Cape May County Compact School- presentation on the dangers of drug and alcohol use and abuse

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The SSU also has taken over investigation of firearms background checks from the Major Crimes Unit during 2013. During the year the unit conducted **330 firearms related background checks and processed 429 handgun purchase permit requests.** The SSU provided court security on **47 Court days during the year** and supplemented **street coverage on 35 days (26 days as School Resource Officer at the Cape May County Technical High School, 6 days for patrol shortages, 3 days to cover a Major Crimes Unit shortage).**

### FORFEITURE

<b><u>Forfeiture Fund:</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Began year balance:	\$3,180.64	\$7,216.92	+\$4,036.28
Forfeited monies received:	\$4,032.54	\$1,673.62	-\$2,358.92
Forfeited monies expended:	\$ None	\$3,565.50	+\$3,565.50
Balance transferred over:	\$7,216.92	\$5,531.45	-\$1685.47

Note: Any minor discrepancies can be attributed to interest gained on the account.

#### **Equipment purchased with the use of Forfeited Funds in 2012:**

Hardware was purchased to upgrade the station house video surveillance system.

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a collaborative effort with both the Middle Township School District and with the Cape May County Technical High School. During 2012 the School Resource Officer Program was restructured and now is incorporated with the Major Crime Unit. This was done to assist in the Major Crime Unit's case load and to enhance the communication between the schools and the police department. Presently, two detectives are assigned as School Resource Officers. Detective First Class Allan McClure is primarily assigned to the Middle Township School District and Detective Kenneth Martin is assigned to the



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Cape May County Technical High School. (*Note: Middle Township has an inter-local agreement with the Technical High School for the services of the School Resource Officer*)

The School Resource Officer Program has two main components. The first is designed to enhance the relationship between the school district, its students, teachers/administrators and the police department. The daily communication between police and school officials prevents many problems and mitigates existing problems for both the school and the police. The second component is to provide a law enforcement presence in all district schools. This is accomplished through the use of patrol officers who, as part of their duties, conduct walk through visits to the facilities. The second component is to provide training and informal counseling to students, staff and parents.

School security/action plans have been completed for all schools in Middle Township, including the Cape Christian Academy and the State Department of Human Services School. All plans are reviewed annually and updated if necessary by the School Resource Officers.

The School Resource Officers conducted the following at their respective schools:

<u><b>Middle Township</b></u>	<u><b>2012</b></u>	<u><b>2013</b></u>	<u><b>Change</b></u>
Investigations:	34	33	-1
Supplement Investigations:	28	13	-15
Arrests:	27	29	+2

<u><b>Cape May County Technical High School</b></u>	<u><b>2012</b></u>	<u><b>2013</b></u>	<u><b>Change</b></u>
Investigations:	30	11	-19
Supplement Investigations:	9	15	+6
Arrests:	5	6	+1

**Note:** Both detectives work with the Major Crime Unit during the summer months handling major crime investigations and assist throughout the school year as needed.

## DARE PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department has conducted the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) Program in the Middle Township Schools since 1990. To date over 4,800 Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program which is now taught at Elementary





# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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#2's fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade. This program is 15 week long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum.


In 2013 approximately 201 students were taught through the DARE Program.

Officers who teach the DARE Program include:

Sergeant Mark Higginbottom  
Corporal Jennifer Delanzo  
Patrolman Joshua Bryan  
Detective Tracey Super

## RECORDS DIVISION

The Records division of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions as well as performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to:

- Data entry
  - Report maintenance/  
Filing/Retrieval/OPRA requests
  - Issuing Licenses
  - Copy Reports for Civilians /  
Attorneys / Law Enforcement  
Agencies / Insurance Companies
  - Expungement Orders
  - Issue Temporary Handicap  
Placards
- 
- Division of Youth and Family  
Backgrounds
  - Process Firearms Applications
  - Process Fingerprint Cards
  - Process Juvenile Complaints
  - Conduct Monthly statistics
  - Handle Petty Cash
  - Conduct Uniform Crime Reports

The work they do and the support they provide is invaluable and they are a great asset to this department. During 2013 the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens  
Muriel Anderson (Retired 12/31/2013)  
Virginia Sweitzer

Sandra Linz



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## COMMUNICATIONS

The Middle Township Police Department Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by full time Public Safety Telecommunication Operators. They are the initial point of contact for a majority of the public requiring police services. They are an extremely vital component in delivering effective police services to the community and their dedication and importance should not be overlooked.

Often times they are required to maintain a reassuring and calming demeanor in the face of extraordinary circumstances in order to assist the caller and the police officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication Operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:



- Receive and respond to telephone requests for emergency services
- In response to medical emergencies, provide First Aid or CPR instructions to stabilize the medical condition of persons until the arrival of medical assistance.
- Relay all vital information to responding police officers
- Utilize radio, telephone, or other electronic equipment to dispatch specific law enforcement, fire department or medical units to the scene of an emergency.
- Refer non-emergency situations to the appropriate public or private agencies
- Make data entries into the police department's computer system as well as various systems databases such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the State Crime Information Center (SCIC).

The Middle Township Police Department employs nine full time Telecommunication Operators, two assigned to each of the four patrol squads. The 9<sup>th</sup> operator is a “floater” who is used to cover vacations, training, illness, etc... (minimizing overtime). The department employs an additional three (03) part time communications operators. It is mandatory that at all times there are two (02) operators present in the dispatch center.

The following qualified and dedicated employees fill this highly important and stressful position as of 12/31/13:

Senior Operator Madonna Sill  
Senior Operator Keith Woodrow  
Operator Dustin Gaskill  
Operator Ted Farina  
Operator Jacob Loefflad

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham  
Senior Operator Robert Eagan  
Operator William Mulligan  
Operator Dave Atkinson  
P/T Operator Diane Shinn

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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P/T Operator Lauren Anzelone

P/T Operator Paul Fritsch Jr.

During 2013 Operator Lauren Long resigned and Part Time Dispatcher Dave Atkinson was hired full time.

Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<b><u>2011</u></b>	<b><u>2012</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>
Calls for service:	<b>40,546</b>	<b>38,309</b>	<b>41,509</b>
9-1-1 Calls:	<b>14,350</b>	<b>*2,681(9/27-12/31)</b>	<b>12,323</b>
Average 911 calls per day:	<b>39.3</b>	<b>*38.3(9/27-12/31)</b>	<b>33.8</b>

\*During 2012 the 911 computers were replaced and upgraded. As a result the data from 1/1/2012-12/31/2012 was unable to be retrieved. The 2012 data is from 9/27/2012 thru 12/31/2012.

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham is a certified 911 Instructor.

Operator Bill Mulligan is a Certified EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor as well as a 911 Instructor.

## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Middle Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officer adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency. The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. The confidence engenders community support for the police department and improves the relationship between police and the citizens they serve by facilitating cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor officer's compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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areas requiring increased training, direction or policy changes. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

In 2013 there were a total of (39) Internal Affairs Investigations conducted. There were (38) cases that reached a conclusion. See the below chart for the disposition types.

## 2013 Dispositions

Excessive Force:	(1) Exonerated
Improper Arrest:	(1) Exonerated
Demeanor:	(1) Sustained (3) Exonerated (2) Not Sustained (3) Administratively Closed
Other Rule Violation:	(16) Sustained (5) Exonerated (2) not sustained (2)Administratively closed (2) Unfounded

## Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. One Officer was terminated for retaliation.
2. One Officer was suspended for (6) days for insubordination.

The Middle Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly between both departments. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted.

The Internal Affairs Division is commanded by Captain John Edwards and Lieutenant Donald Nelson.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all its personnel. The Police Department has in place a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process, including recruit training, in service training, roll call training and specialized training



The Special Services Unit under the command of Sgt. James Loftus oversees the training component of the department. Cpl. Phillips, a member of his unit keeps track of all the mandatory training records. In addition, he recognizes problems/trends and then

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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formulates strategies for training to deal with the issue for submission to the Chief of Police.

The men and women of the Middle Township Police Department attended a wide variety of in service training courses throughout 2013 including but not limited to:

- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Firearms Qualifications
- SWAT Training
- Hostage Negotiation Training
- Dive Team Training
- Assault Rifle Qualifications
- Active Shooter Response
- Report Writing
- CPR recertification
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command
- Hazmat
- Radar Instructor and Operator
- High Risk Motor Vehicle Stops
- Accident Investigations I and II
- Alcotest Operator Training
- Cell Block Management
- Arrest Search and Seizure retraining
- HGN-DWI refresher
- Infant Car Seat Training
- Fraudulent Document School
- Police Supervision School
- Suicide Awareness Training

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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### **Police Department members who hold the rank of Instructor:**

In addition to their normal work duties several Middle Township Police Officers have attained the position of being an instructor in a specific field or multiple fields. These officers conduct intradepartmental in-service training to department members. Many of them are also instructors at the Cape May County Police Academy. Officers who are instructors are as follows:

Chief Christopher Leusner	History of Law Enforcement/Community Policing
Sergeant Doug Osmundsen	Firearms Instruction Departmental/ Narcotics instructor
Sergeant Robert Shepherd	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Corporal Fred Crawley	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Corporal Marcus Phillips	Firearms Instruction Departmental and Police Academy/ Boxing instructor/ Sim Survival instructor
Patrolman Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Patrolman Josh Bryan	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Patrolman James D'Alonzo	Firearms Instructor
Patrolman Phil Johnson	Firearms Instructor
Patrolman Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law
Patrolman G. Trombetta	Physical Training instructor/Boxing instructor

## **SPECIAL UNITS**

### **SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)**

The Middle Township Police maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 20 years. In 2007 the Cape May County Prosecutors Office with the cooperation of the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association formed a Regional Countywide SWAT Team. In 2008 Wildwood Police Department came on board. The County Team is now divided into two geographical regions; Mainland and Island divisions. Every Police Department in the county has representation on the team.



Team members undergo a very rigorous training schedule, tactically, mentally, and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as officers doing normal



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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duties, but when necessary are called upon to conduct SWAT operations. They are on call 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The position of a SWAT member is voluntary. Selection to become a member of the team is very competitive. Their own department must select officers. These officers are selected based upon their past performance and attitude. Then they must attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course. Team members must train at least twelve 12 hours per month and training sessions are held two times per month.

The Mainland division was called out on 25 assignments in 2013. The total callout for the County Team was 49, some of which involved multiple targets. The Mainland division also responded to some of these callouts as well.

Middle Township Police Officers assigned to the Regional Swat Team include:

Corporal Phil Johnson (Team Leader)  
Patrolman Ronald Miller

Patrolman James D'Alonzo  
Patrolman Joshua Bryan

## DIVE TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a fully operational and Certified Marine Search and Recovery Dive Team. The department maintains 2 vessels, one being a Carolina Skiff center console boat, and the other being an aluminum johnboat vessel.



The department has seven (7) certified divers with a full compliment of dive equipment. The team had fourteen (14) training sessions in 2013. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team also attended/assisted with the Wildwood Polar Plunge, National Night Out, the county 4-H Fair as well as



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Lower and Middle Township DARE days. The team has been utilized many times to assist the US Coast Guard and other agencies in rescue and recovery operations.

Members of the Dive Team are:

Detective Clint Stocker (Team Leader)  
Detective Kenneth Martin  
Patrolman John Norton  
Sergeant James Loftus

Sergeant Mark Higginbottom  
Patrolman Steven Novsak  
Sergeant Robert Shepherd

## HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department employs officers that are certified and highly trained in Police Hostage Negotiations. A county regional team formed in 2009 with Middle Township's existing team acting as a foundation for the North end of the county. The Middle Township Police Department have four (4) officers assigned to the Cape May County Hostage Negotiation Team. The officers are available to respond to any incident within Middle Township or anywhere within the county to assist in negotiations. The team trains on a regular basis and is often called out in conjunction with the SWAT team.



The following officers are assigned to the Cape May County Hostage Negotiation Team:

Sergeant Fran Fiore  
Corporal Jennifer DeLanzo  
Sergeant James Loftus  
Patrolman Julio Ruiz

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## HONOR GUARD

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Middle Township Police Department at various official functions and community events. The Honor Guard members wear a formal uniform blouse and utilize ceremonial rifles and flags. The Honor Guard presents the colors at events such as Police Academy graduations, DARE Graduations, Township Parades, and fallen officer funerals. The Honor Guard has presented the colors at a Philadelphia Phillies home game every year since 2006. The Honor Guard has also had the privilege of presenting the colors at the New Jersey Special Olympics opening ceremonies in Trenton for almost two decades.



Members of the Honor Guard include:

Sergeant James Loftus (Unit Leader)

Patrolman John Norton

Corporal Marcus Phillips

Patrolman Gino Castellano

Patrolman Jason Sweitzer

Patrolman David Hagan

Patrolman Kurt Saettler

Patrolman Tracey Super

Patrolman Ron Miller

Patrolman Dan Martin

Patrolman Len Larkin

Patrolman Giacomo Trombetta

## CRASH TEAM

Members of the Middle Township Crash Investigation Team have specialized training to investigate serious motor vehicle crashes. The members receive specialized training provided by North Western University and the Institute of Police Technology and Management. The courses are; Crash I, Crash II, Pedestrian Crash, Motorcycle Crash, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Vehicle Dynamics and Traffic Crash



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Reconstruction.

These training courses allow the unit to complete the following:

- Scaled computer diagramming
- Mathematical analysis
- Damage evaluations
- Seatbelt, headlamp and tire examination
- Scene measurements
- Documentation of road type and tire friction
- High and low speed collision
- Bicycle collisions
- semi truck/commercial vehicle accidents
- Motorcycle collisions

The Middle Township Crash Team uses the following equipment to assist with crash investigations: Laser Impulse, Recon Data Recorder, Map Star System Angle Encoder, Prism and Pole, Drag Boot, Power and Lighting Equipment, Laptop with Crash Zone, Measuring Tapes, Marking Paint, Chalk, and other miscellaneous equipment.

The Crash Team meets periodically during the year for training updates and familiarization with the equipment. The Crash Team is commanded by Captain John Edwards.

Members include:

Sgt. James Loftus  
Cpl. Gino Castellano  
Ptl. Martin Lindholm

Ptlm. James D'Alonzo  
Ptl. Armondo Jones  
Ptl. Steve Novsak

## BIKE UNIT

The Middle Township Police Department launched a new part-time bicycle unit. The members assigned to the unit will still be assigned to regular patrol cars and patrol units, but will be equipped with racks that will hold the bicycle. When manpower conditions permit the officers will conduct bicycle patrols in business districts of the Township, some residential areas, and the Township Bike Path. In addition, these officers will be used for various township special events throughout the year. Also, if we experience issues such as burglaries or criminal mischief



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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problems in certain areas of the Township, these officers could be assigned to these areas to address the issue. All of the equipment for the unit was purchased using grant monies through the federal government JAG program.

Members:

Cpl. Marcus Phillips

Ptl. Dave Hagan

Ptl. Jason Sweitzer

Ptl. Armondo Jones

Ptl. Ron Miller

## DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS

The Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program is a national effort to deter impaired driving by increasing the likelihood that people who drive under the influence of drugs will be detected, caught, convicted and punished. The DEC Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and is administered and coordinated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The DEC Program focuses on a 12 step examination which makes up the DRE drug influence examination. The training consists of three phases: a two day Pre-School, a seven day DRE School and Certification Training which consists of 6 field evaluations and witnessing 6 other field evaluations. Upon completion of all three phases certification is achieved.



An evaluation consists of 12 steps. The initial is the breath test completed by the arresting officer. If the Blood Alcohol Concentration reading is less than 0.08% and the officer believes the subject appears more impaired than what the reading suggests a DRE is requested. The responding DRE performs more in depth testing of the subject to determine if the subject is under the influence of one or more of seven drug categories.

The Department currently has 2 Drug Recognition Experts, Patrolman David Hagan and Detective Leonard Larkin. During 2013 these officers performed the following number of evaluations:

Hagan: 2	(2 for other jurisdictions)
Larkin: 2	(2 for this Department)

In May 2011, the Department joined a grant with Atlantic County. The grant reimburses the Department \$220.00 each time a DRE is called in to complete an Evaluation when the officer is off duty. The grant will also reimburse the Department an additional \$220.00 when an officer has to appear in court for up to 2 court dates. During 2013, \$220.00 was reimbursed back to the Department through this grant.



## ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department participates in the New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This is a voluntary state program developed by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and is modeled after the CALEA national program. The accreditation program requires compliance with a series of professional standards designed specifically for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best practices in law enforcement. The Department was initially accredited in 2006 and reaccredited in 2010.



On October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013, a team of assessors from the New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (NJLEAC) came to this Department to evaluate the Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services. The Department had to comply with 100 standards in order to be reaccredited. The assessment team was composed of law enforcement practitioners from other agencies in the state. The assessors reviewed written materials, interviewed individuals, and visited offices and other areas where compliance can be witnessed. After a review of the Department, reaccreditation was granted. Accreditation status is for 3 years, during which the department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards under which it received accreditation. This year the department will be going through the process to be reevaluated for accreditation.

Lieutenant William Adams is the Accreditation Manager.

## FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM

On May 3, 2010 the Township Committee of Middle Township, repealed their prior false alarm ordinance and approved a new alarm ordinance to encourage alarm users to properly use and maintain the operational effectiveness of alarm systems in order to improve the reliability of alarm systems and reduce or eliminate false alarms. Middle Township has always had an ordinance dealing with False Alarms, but with a decrease in manpower both sworn and civilian personnel, it is very time consuming to manage. A decision was made to privatize this function and Middle Township, on behalf of the Middle Township Police Department, entered into a contract with ATB Services to administer its Alarm Ordinance. In 2012, ATB Services was sold to PMAM Corporation.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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In the past Middle Township had well over 1000 false alarms a year that could be easily prevented. Each alarm in Middle Township must be registered so we can reach people in the event of emergencies. Unfortunately, approximately only 400 alarms were registered in Middle Township out of approximately 1000 in operation. Many times officers and dispatchers would be wasting valuable time trying to locate an emergency contact from an unregistered alarm or failure to update their contact sheet on file. This ordinance will result in a decrease of false alarms, quicker response from emergency contacts, and a more efficient use of one of the most expensive costs we have; the time of a sworn law enforcement officer.

The alarm program has yielded positive results which can be seen by the false alarm data below. Shown is a comparison of the years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013. Numbers are the amount of false alarms for each month.

	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
2009	117	81	103	101	82	99	122	139	132	96	97	107
2010	92	150	135	117	116	118	142	99	77	78	78	106
2011	95	79	65	76	70	77	78	99	69	78	75	71
2012	77	59	74	69	72	90	69	79	68	78	59	76
2013	71	57	68	61	71	76	85	99	58	86	90	87

2009 total: 1,276

2010 total: 1,216

2011 total: 932

2012 total: 870

2013 total: 909

Comparing 2009 to 2010, alarms are down by 60 which is a 4.7% decrease (updated).

Comparing 2010 to 2011, alarms are down by 284 which is a 23.4% decrease.

Comparing 2011 to 2012, alarms are down by 62 which is a 6.7% decrease.

Comparing 2012 to 2013, alarms are up by 39 which is a 4.5% increase from 2012.

Since the inception of the program in 2009 to 2013 alarms are down by 367 which is a 28.8 % decrease.

As indicated above, prior to the implementation of this program there were about 400 registered alarms within the township. As of this report date there are 953 registered alarms which is more than double the initial number. It should be noted that on several occasions the officer is “cancelled” prior to arrival, when the alarm owner/company determines police are not needed. This aspect of the program allows police to remain free to respond to other valid calls. This program has also resulted in better contact information being provided for police.



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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### MIDDLE TOWNSHIP AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Middle Township Awards Committee was reinstituted in 2010. The Awards Committee consists of Detective Clint Stocker, Ptl. Jason Sweitzer, Detective First Class Allan McClure and Sgt. James Loftus. The committee reviews submissions for awards and has the sole authority in making the final determination. Our Second Awards Dinner was held in February of 2012 and a list of the award recipients is listed below:



- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Captain John Edwards       | F.B.I. Academy             |
| • Lt. William Adams          | Accreditation              |
| • Lt. William Adams          | Drug Recognition Expert    |
| • Ptl. Josh Bryan            | DARE Officer               |
| • Ptl. Josh Bryan            | SWAT Officer               |
| • Ptl. James D'Alonzo        | Distinguished Service      |
| • Ptl. James D'Alonzo        | Life Saving Award          |
| • Pt. James D'Alonzo         | Police Commendation        |
| • Cpl. Jennifer DeLanzo      | Community Service          |
| • Cpl. Jeffrey DeVico        | Bike Unit                  |
| • Cpl. Jeffrey DeVico        | School Resource Officer    |
| • Sgt. Fran Fiore            | Lifesaving                 |
| • Ptl. Daniel Geiger         | Good Conduct               |
| • Ptl. David Hagan           | Bike Unit                  |
| • Ptl. David Hagan           | Drug Recognition Expert    |
| • Ptl. David Hagan           | Lifesaving                 |
| • Ptl. Armondo Jones         | Bike Unit                  |
| • Det. Len Larkin            | Bike Unit                  |
| • Det. Len Larkin            | Drug Recognition Expert    |
| • Ptl. Martin Lindholm       | Lifesaving                 |
| • DFC. Allan McClure         | Distinguished Service      |
| • Ptl. Ron Miller            | Bike Unit                  |
| • Cpl. Marcus Phillips       | Bike Unit                  |
| • Cpl. Sharon Price          | School Resource Officer    |
| • Ptl. James Sweitzer        | Bike Unit                  |
| • Ptl. Jason Sill            | Police Commendation        |
| • Dispatcher Madonna Sill    | Certificate of Recognition |
| • Dispatcher Theodore Farina | Certificate of Recognition |

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- |                               |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| • Dispatcher Madonna Sill     | 20 Year Pin |
| • Dispatcher Bob Eagan        | 15 Year Pin |
| • Dispatcher Dustin Gaskill   | 5 Year Pin  |
| • Dispatcher Jennifer Graham  | 15 Year Pin |
| • Dispatcher Keith Woodrow    | 10 Year Pin |
| • Dispatcher William Mulligan | 5 Year Pin  |
| • Records-Barbara Montgomery  | 10 Year Pin |
| • Records-Kendra Karstens     | 5 Year Pin  |
| • Records-Ginny Sweitzer      | 5 Year Pint |

The Awards Dinner will be held in February of 2015.

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Middle Township Police Officers have come together and formed the Middle Township Police Officers Association. Each sworn officer contributes money to fund the association. The purpose of the association is to support a morale and welfare account.



Over the past several years the association has supported numerous community events. The MTPOA sponsored a Little League team and continued to support our Annual Christmas Toy Drive, which is spearheaded by Sgt. Fran Fiore. The highlight of 2013 was the annual Thanksgiving turkey giveaway. Officers and non-sworn employees of the police department, along with the help of Acme in Cape May Court House, and Shoprite of Rio Grande came together and gave away 40 meals to members of the community who were in need.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic group's meetings/events in 2013: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, and the Rotary Club of Cape May Court House.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- The Middle Township Police Department program, “Street of the Week” receives requests regularly and is thriving.
- The Middle Township Police Department continues to grow its Facebook fans, Twitter followers and Nixle contacts to communicate with the residents.
- The Middle Township Police Department partnered with the Cape May County Sheriff’s Department to promote Tip411 to provide residents the ability to communicate via text or an App for their Smartphone anonymously.
- Officers maintained an informational show booth at the annual 4H Fair, the Harvest Festival, ACCC Community Day, Home Depot Safety Day, K-Mart safety day, and the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro Reunion Weekend.
- Coordinated the annual and very successful America’s Night Out Against Crime Event in August. Retired Patrolman Butch Hamer volunteers his time to coordinate this event.
- The Middle Township Police Department supports the Special Olympics by supplying an Honor Guard at the opening ceremonies of the New Jersey State Special Olympics and supplying the Dive Team and boat for the Polar Plunge in Wildwood.
- “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” The Middle Township Police Department helps promotes this day after Caryn Rixey, who lost her son, Kevin Lamb in a crash, approached the Department a few years ago to participate in the program. Our efforts are focused on raising awareness of safe driving with the goal of having no fatalities for one day in the United States.

### **2013 Goals/Results**

#### **Patrol Division**

In 2013 the Patrol Division had set two Goals. We were successful on both. The first goal was to improve quality of life and improve the safety of residents and motorists in the Rio Grande Section of Middle Township. The objective of this goal was to reduce crime (Part I UCR offenses) and motor vehicle accidents by 10%. We were able to accomplish part of this objective by implementing a DDACTS zone in Rio Grande. Patrols were increased in the zone during peak days and times of criminal activity and motor vehicle accidents. The Special Services Unit headed up the effort, and in conjunction with the patrol division was able to conduct 14 special details, which resulted in 55 arrests and the issuance of 24 summonses for jaywalking. Overall the crime rate in the DDACTS zone dropped from 307 in 2012 to 229 in 2013, which is a 25.4% decrease. Accidents decreased 2.4% to 276 crashes in 2013 versus 283 in 2012. We will be

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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analyzing data we have collected to offer possible changes (lower speed limits, additional stop signs, etc.) to help reduce the number of accidents in the area.

The second goal was to increase the level of safety for pedestrians on the roadways in Middle Township. 19 Plain Clothes details were conducted and along with routine patrols, 62 summonses were issued for jaywalking. The Department also had pedestrian safety information available for distribution at several community events during the year.

### **Special Service Unit**

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2013. The first goal was to increase Narcotics enforcement within Middle Township. This was another success. During 2013, the SSU was involved in 24 narcotics investigations; resulting in the issuance of 12 Court authorized search warrants. Some of these were joint investigations with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. As a result, 26 arrests were made and numerous drugs, paraphernalia, money and other proceeds were seized.

The second goal was to improve the evaluation and assessment of criminal activity and traffic accident data. Currently the Department has crime mapping software. The software is used to assist us in finding hot spots where we can focus our enforcement efforts. We are able to track criminal offenses at this current time and are in the process of having our accident data transferred from our reporting system to the crime mapping software. We were able to use the software to form our DDACTS zone in the Rio Grande area. Due to the increased view of our officers we saw a major decrease in crime and a small increase in motor vehicle accident.

### **Major Crimes Unit**

For 2013 the Major Crimes Unit set two goals:

The first goal was to improve the quality of life within the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. During the year, members of the Major Crimes Unit along with the Special Services Unit conducted four (4) plain clothes details which resulted in a total of eighteen (18) arrests for drug, theft and various local ordinance violations. During this time, the Major Crimes Unit, Special Service Unit and the Cape May County Gangs, Guns, Narcotics Task Force conducted an investigation which resulted in multiple arrests and the execution of a Court Authorized Search Warrant in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. In addition, members of the Major Crimes Unit conducted surveillance details in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township which led to several narcotics investigations.

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The second goal was to increase the quality and amount of intelligence sharing within the County's Information Sharing System by members of the Patrol Division. Members of the Patrol Division are still in the process of being trained and the number of entries in the system increased by 74% from 2012 to 2013, which exceeds the goal of 25%.

## Appendix A: Proposals

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### **Increase Staffing Levels**

We have been working with Township Committee on a plan to increase the number of full time police officers and the hard work of all involved should begin to pay off later this year. The Middle Township Police Department is currently 42 full time officers, down from 52 full time officers in 2008. The next full time Police Academy is in August of this year and we anticipate having a minimum of 4 officers in the Academy. Cpl. Richard Sittineri is retiring in the middle of the year, so this round of hires will begin to start increasing the number of full time officers from current levels with a final goal of 48 to 49 full time officers by the end of 2015. These additional officers will be used to take a more pro-active approach in the area of narcotics, intelligence gathering and used in more focused and targeted deployment of manpower to problem areas and chronic offenders in the Township.

### **Juvenile Programs**

We have two goals this year related to the Department's handling of juveniles, 1 in the Patrol Division to increase the number of stationhouse adjustments and the 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Major Crimes Unit, to enhance our Stationhouse Adjustment Policy and Missing Person Policy. We plan on identifying partners to increase the number diversion programs that can be utilized in the Stationhouse adjustment process and enhance our policies and procedures related to Missing Persons, specifically juvenile runaways. The Gloucester Township Police Department has been a leader in this area in developing innovative approaches that are clearly helping juveniles and their families and reaping benefits for the community. We will use their programs as a guide in these efforts and we believe that it will result in the prevention of some problems and diversion of some of our young people that are on a bad path by introducing services to them and in many cases their families.

In addition, we plan on offer training to local stores on implementing Code Adam protocols through a partnership with the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children. We will also work to certify all our Communications Operators through the National Center for Missing Exploited Children in best practices and protocols in handling 9-1-1 calls related to missing/abducted children.

### **Equipment:**

- Mobile Data Terminals
- Desktop Computers
- Radar Display Signs
- High Visibility Rain Gear
- EOC Equipment  
Cots/Blankets/Phones/TV
- Variable Message Sign Board
- (3) Police SUV Interceptors
- AED's for Patrol Vehicles



## Appendix B: 2014 Goals

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### **Patrol Division**

#### **Goal#1**

Improve quality of life and improve the safety of residents and motorists in the Rio Grande Section of Middle Township.

#### **Objective:**

Maintain the same level of enforcement in the DDACTS area as in 2013. Reduce motor vehicle crashes by 10%.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Continue the DDACTS area in Rio Grande (Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety policing model).
2. Remark New York Ave in accordance with MUTC guidelines.
3. Increase patrol time and police activity during our peak days and times.
4. Conduct a minimum of 10 plain clothes operations on foot or bike in the targeted area based on peak days and times of reported criminal activity.
5. Refer and meet periodically with Code Enforcement and Fire Prevention Officials on potential violations.
6. Identify areas in need of traffic control devices, or traffic control devices that need to be improved upon.

#### **Goal#2**

Increase the Department's use of the stationhouse adjustment process to divert juveniles from the Juvenile Justice System.

#### **Objective:**

Increase the number of stationhouse adjustments to a total of 25 for 2014.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Train all officers in the procedures of Stationhouse adjustments.
2. Educate all officers on the value and benefit of stationhouse adjustments.
3. Raise public awareness on the Station House Adjustment process, and the resources that are available.
4. Create a checklist of questions for runaway cases to determine the root cause, or to identify whether there is a need for referral services.



## Appendix B: 2014 Goals

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### **Major Crimes Unit**

#### **Goal#1**

Designate time for detectives to review old case files, which are classified in Case Management as “Cold Cases”.

#### **Objective:**

We will conduct a complete review of one hundred and twenty (120) cold cases by the end of 2014.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Assign the cold case to a detective who has no knowledge of the case, in an effort to get a new prospective and method of continuing the investigation.
2. Determine if there are any witnesses/suspects that were not located. If so, use the internet/social media to try and locate these individuals so they can be interviewed, or re-interview suspects/victims.
3. Determine if there is any physical evidence which can be submitted to the lab to be tested for DNA.
4. Utilize the detective assigned to the Cape May County Technical High School to review cases.

#### **Goal #2**

Improve the Department’s effectiveness to respond to runaway missing person cases and identify new diversion programs for use in the stationhouse adjustment process.

#### **Objective:**

Implement a new Stationhouse Adjustment Policy and Missing Person policy based on the principles of the Gloucester Township’s MARRS Program and BATLE Program by the end of 2014.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Establish partnerships with various non-profit organizations to be used as a diversion option in a stationhouse adjustment.
2. Develop a diversion program with a partner, specifically for juveniles under the age of 13.
3. Develop an agreement with School Districts to share information so School Counselors and meet with students that have runaway or were taken into custody by police.

## Appendix B: 2014 Goals

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4. Ensure all Dispatchers become certified call through the Missing and Exploited Children Center.

### **Special Services Unit**

#### **Goal#1**

Increase Narcotics Enforcement within Middle Township, specifically by targeting the use and distribution of Heroin.

#### **Objective**

Increase the number of CDS arrests related to Heroin by 10%.

#### **Strategies**

1. Increase the number of confidential informants.
2. Partner with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Guns Gangs and Narcotics Task Force to conduct a minimum of four joint undercover operations.
3. Work with the Patrol Division to gather intelligence in reference to Drug Distribution.
4. Promote the Sheriff's Department Tip411 service to increase the number of tips.

#### **Goal#2**

Improve traffic safety on the roadways of Middle Township.

#### **Objective:**

Increase traffic enforcement, specifically motor vehicle stops and summonses by 35% over 2013 numbers.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Use the decoy car in targeted enforcement details, by periodically following up enforcement after introducing the decoy car.
2. Conduct at least weekly traffic details in the DDACT Zone.
3. Conduct at least 2 details a month on the designated, "Street of the Week"
4. Conduct jaywalking details at least monthly in the DDACT Zone.
5. Identify and correct environmental issues within Rio Grande that can help prevent crashes.