

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT



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



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

Released: February 24, 2015

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department continued to build on a number of initiatives and proposals in 2014: first, the hiring of officers moved us closer to fulfilling our plan put in place with Township Committee to reach a 48 officer department; second, the success of DDACTS (Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety) continued to show solid results with a reduction in crime from 2012; third, the results of our partnership with Cape Assist in the development of a diversion program focusing on younger juvenile offenders and the launch of the Public Advocate Program in our Municipal Court. The diversion program was inspired by Gloucester Township's Police Department's MARS Program and was funded as one time pilot program by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office that ran in December. The program was very successful that a grant funding stream was obtained to run the program on a continuous basis throughout 2015. In October, Middle Township was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Municipality in the state to launch a Public Advocate Program in our Municipal Court, and it has been a huge success. A trained drug counselor is in the Municipal Court each week to offer assistance to the defendants, the Judge, the Prosecutor, and Defense Attorneys. As a result of contact with the Public Advocate, 18 persons were referred to various services such as Inpatient Substance Abuse Treatment, Mental Health Services and Veteran Affairs Services. Finally, the Major Crimes Unit made progress in two areas worth noting: the unit completed the application process for 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Merchants to register and track sales after Township Committee approved an ordinance earlier in the year; and, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children approved a cold case review of the Mark Himebaugh Missing Person case for February of 2015. This prompted Detective Allan McClure to be assigned full time in August to prepare the case file for the review with the assistance of the Records Division.

The Special Services Unit and Major Crimes Unit played a critical role in Operation Whitehouse led by the Cape May County Prosecutors Office in partnership with various federal agencies to target Heroin dealers in the region. As a result of the operation significant amounts of Heroin were seized and taken off the streets of Cape May County. Other efforts in fighting the Heroin Epidemic in Middle Township during the year included our Public Advocate Program, Quick Reference Cards were printed with information on resources for those fighting addiction; also, training and equipping officers with Narcan, a total of 4 reversals in 2014; in addition, an application to the state to receive a Medicine Cabinet through Project Medicine Drop; and the presentation of the Pills to Heroin at schools within Middle Township.

In criminal activity, we saw a 25% reduction in violent crime, 46 offenses in 2014 compared 62 in 2013. On the non-violent side we saw a slight increase in non violent crime, a 5 % increase, 631 offenses in 2014 compared to 598 in 2013. We view this as a positive, because it is basically flat after a significant decrease of 30% in non violent crime in 2013. We launched our DDACTS initiative on January 1, 2013 and saw a 25% reduction in Part 1 offenses and a 2.6% decrease in crashes in the DDACT Zone. In 2014 we saw an 18% increase from 2013, but still below the pre-DDACTS year of 2012 that we used a base line to measure our effectiveness. The number of Part I offenses in the

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DDACTS Zone are as follows: **2012: 307, 2013: 229, and 2014: 281.** The increase was almost entirely driven by an increase in Shoplifting, 172 in 2014 as compared to 151 in 2013. We believe this was driven by the Heroin epidemic and consistent with increases seen in other municipalities as seen and reported by NBC10 earlier this year in a news story. Crashes in the DDACTS Zone saw a slight increase in 2014 after a slight decrease in 2013.

Traffic Activity within the Township saw an increase in total crashes, a 7% increase from 2013. In 2014 we had 956 crashes compared to 895 crashes in 2013. Although total crashes were up, crashes involving injury were down 12%, with 148 in 2014 compared to 169 in 2013. We had a very disappointing year in fatalities in 2014, a total of 7 as compared to only 1 in 2013. 4 of these fatalities occurred on Route 47, including 1 crash that claimed 2 lives on Route 47 in the area of the Water Works bend. Motor Vehicle Summonses were down approximately 21%, a total of 3290 summonses in 2014 compared to 4186 in 2013. Although summonses were down, the numbers of motor vehicle stops conducted by officers were not, a total of 6059 motor vehicle stops were made by officers in 2014 compared to 6062 in 2013. DWI arrests were down 12%, a total of 69 DWI arrests made in 2014 compared to 76 in 2013.

In closing, our community outreach remained a priority with the Cops and Coffee Program, our social media presence, participation at various community events and the Chief's community outreach efforts such as attending a Night with the Chief sponsored by the NAACP in February and sitting as a panelist on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Society of NJ. We firmly believe that coordinated deployment of resources based on data analysis while building relationships with the residents and community partners to engage in problem solving initiatives is the best approach to provide police services to the residents of Middle Township.

*Press Conference announcing the Advocate Program on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.*



(Photo Credit Dale Gehard Press of Atlantic City)

*Ptl. Clifford and Karge at Police Academy Graduation with Mayor Donohue, Deputy Mayor Lockwood Committeeman Clark and Chief Leusner*



MTPD Photo

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## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

### **Retirements**

Cpl. Richard Sittineri

### **Current Sworn Employees**

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2015.

#### **Chief of Police**

Christopher Leusner

#### **Captain**

John Edwards

#### **Lieutenant**

William Adams

Donald Nelson

#### **Detectives**

Doug Osmundsen

Allan McClure

Ken Martin

Tracey Super

Giacomo Trombetta

Jason Sweitzer

#### **Special Services Unit**

James Loftus

Marcus Phillips

James D'Alonzo

Class II Matthew Lamanteer

Class II Michael Reardon

Class II Brian Gibson

#### **Patrol Sergeants**

Fran Fiore

Mark Higginbottom

Robert Shepherd

Clint Stocker

#### **Corporals**

Phil Johnson

Jennifer DeLanzo

Fred Crawley

Eugene Castellano

#### **Patrolman**

Julio Ruiz

Steven Novsak

Michelle Brown

Joshua Bryan

Ron Miller

Dan Martin

Matthew Martino

Kurt Saettler

Armondo Jones

Martin Lindholm

Dan Geiger

David Hagan

John Norton

Alison Akke

Jeffrey Salveson

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Brian Murphy

Justin Vitola

Mary Creamer

Mike Pastore

Joseph Gamble

Christopher Clifford

Shawn Karge

Pasquale Conte

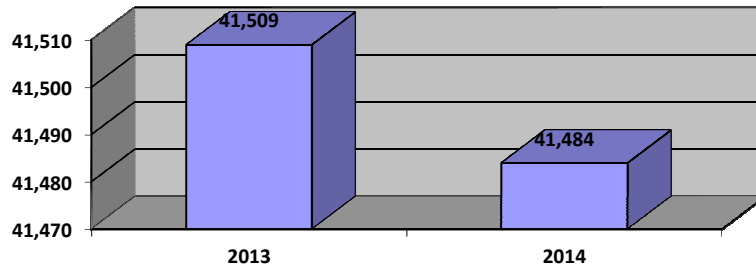
Leonard Larkin

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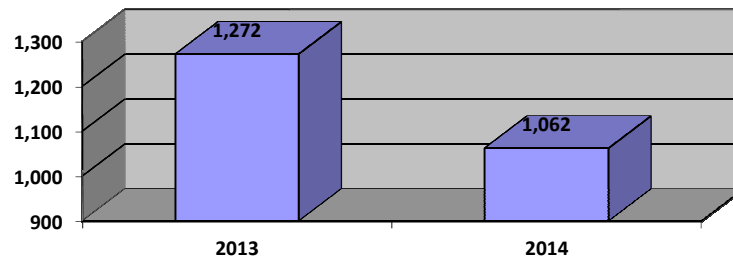
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## CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	41,509	41,484	-25

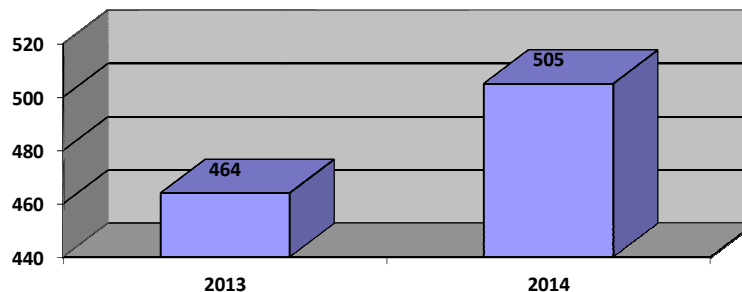


	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	1,272	1,062	-210



*Note: An update to our reporting procedures for warrant arrests from different jurisdictions contributed to the decrease in arrest.*

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	505	510	+5



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## Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

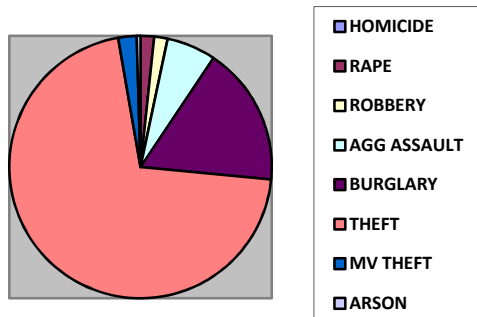
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications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

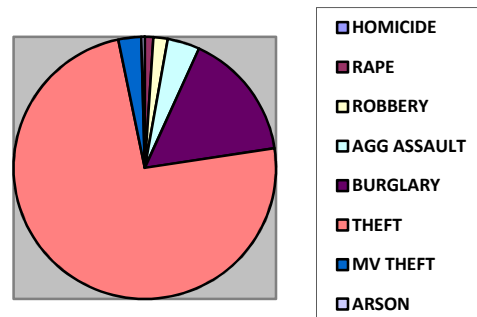
Offense: 2013		Offense: 2014		<u>Change</u>
Homicide	0	Homicide	0	0
Rape	11	Rape	7	-4
Robbery	11	Robbery	12	+1
Aggravated Assault	40	Aggravated Assault	27	-13
Burglary	113	Burglary	107	-6
Theft	467	Theft	502	+33
Motor Vehicle Theft	15	Motor Vehicle Theft	19	+4
Arson	3	Arson	3	0
Total UCR:	660		677	+17
Violent Crime:	62		46	-16
Non Violent Crime:	598		631	+33

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

UCR 2013



UCR 2014





## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The following list indicates the classification of the other types of calls for service, both criminal and non-criminal in nature, and, handled by the members of the Police Department in 2014.

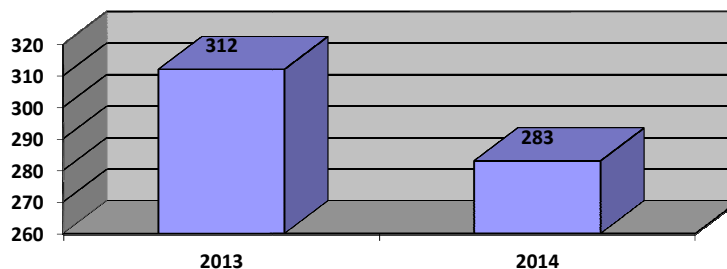
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	32	30	-2
Simple Assaults	114	133	+19
Medical Calls	3434	3344	-90
Fire Calls	785	751	-34
Death Investigations	31	32	+1
Disorderly Conduct incidents	1,280	1,081	-199
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	110	139	+29
Malicious Damage incidents	136	118	-18
Missing Persons and Runaways	100	127	+27
Assisting other agency incidents	505	488	-17
Property and Building Checks	13,474	12,019	-1,455
Bias Incidents Investigated	4	5	+1
Directed Patrol	1048	2568	+1520
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports generated:	1,564	1,497	-67
Supplemental Investigations generated:	1,743	1,682	-61

### 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 2014 Middle Township Police responded to **283** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior Middle Township police responded to **312** Domestic Violence incidents.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	312	283	-29





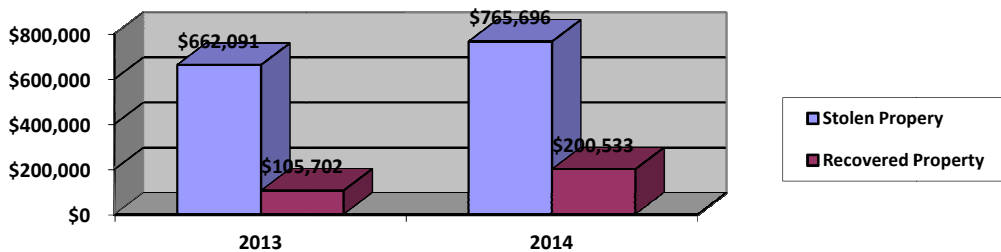
## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$662,091.00	\$765,696.00	+\$103,605.00
Recovered:	\$105,702.00	\$200,533.00	+\$94,831.00



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### Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or crashes

During 2014, Personnel Officer Kalish reported 4 work related injury incidents. Of those 4 incidents 2 officers suffered injuries, while in the performance of duty; this caused 15 missed days at work. All other injuries had no time loss from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Days missed</u>
Alison Akke	14
Brian Vergantino	1

### Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 5 motor vehicle crashes in 2014.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Joshua Bryan	01-15-2014	Hit a curb while responding to an emergency
Alison Akke	05-08-2014	Struck while directing traffic
Shawn Karge	05-17-2014	Struck by a drunk driver
Jeff Salveson	07-08-2014	Hit a guardrail while responding to an emergency
Michael Reardon	08-18-2014	Rear ended another vehicle

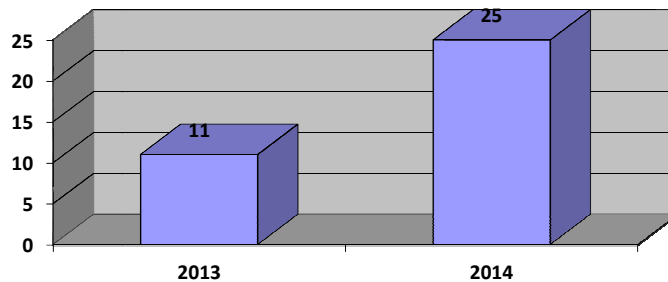
## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

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

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents	11	25	+14



Of those 25 Use of Force incidents, 24 subjects were arrested, 7 subjects were injured.

*Note: Each incident where Use of Force is used by an officer is reviewed by the Captain and the results forwarded to the Chief of Police. It should be noted that 12 of these cases only compliance holds were used by officers.*

Officers injured using force:	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
	3	1

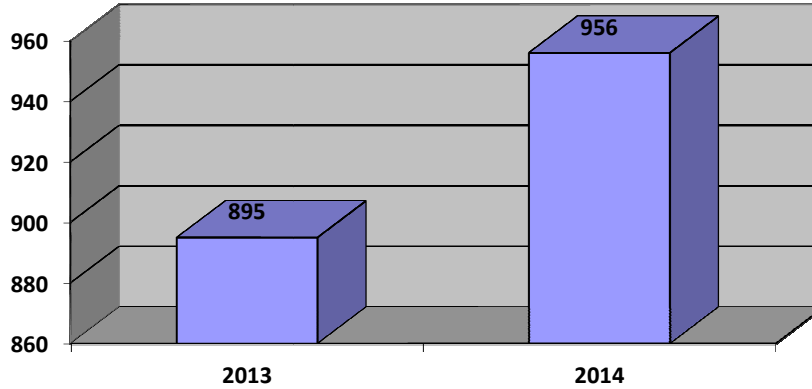
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Police Pursuits:	2	2

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 2 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits there were 5 people arrested, and no crashes.

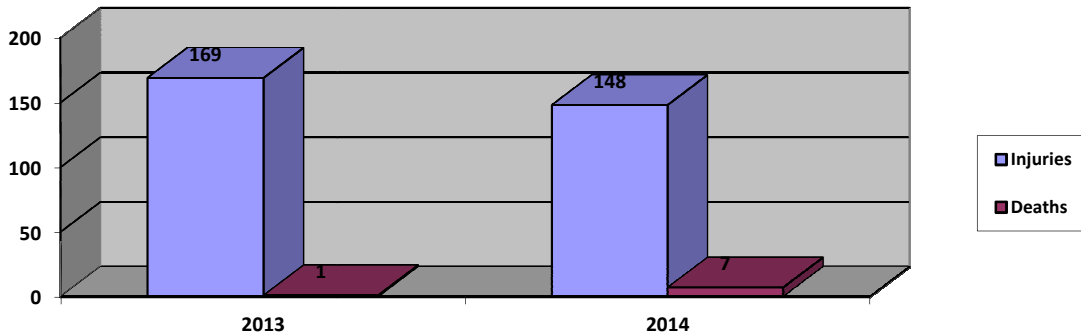
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## TRAFFIC

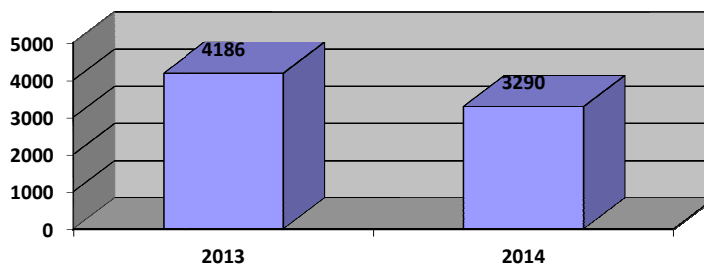
	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	895	956	+61



	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Injuries:	169	148	-21
Deaths:	1	7	+6



	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	4,186	3,290	-896



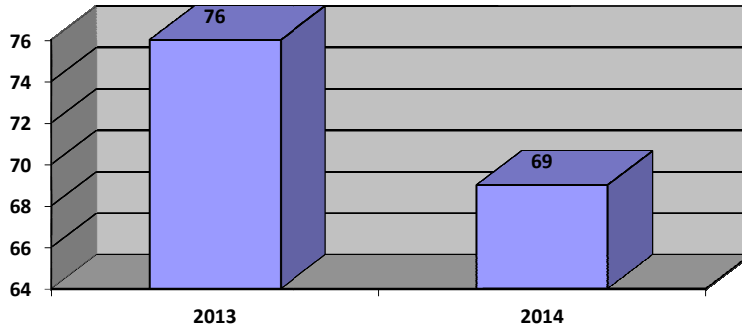
*Note: Motor Vehicle stops were only down 3 stops: 6059 in 2014 compared to 6062 in 2013.*

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

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	76	69	-7



## 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: to administer and enforce rules and regulations and special emergency directives, to the discipline of the force and its personnel, to prescribe duties and assignments, to delegate authority for efficient operation of the force, to issue policies and directives, to meet with community, civic and religious groups, to prepare grants and prepare and manage the Police Department's Budget and to 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 and radar units, NJLearn coordinator, assistant Emergency Management officer, crash team commander; in addition, manage and apply for DWI grants, traffic committee, fleet manager, honor guard liaison, radio system administrator, Building and cell inspections, Nixle Emergency Notifications Network administrator, training administrator, on-call

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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, schedule training, preparation of Grants, POSS administrator, patrol equipment, review all driving while intoxicated and accident reports, management of the uniform budget, on-call administrator, off-duty details, municipal court liaison, towing ordinance, manage statistics, 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, the 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, to conduct business and property checks, and to initiate 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:

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Training function, Court Security, Community Events, School Resource Officers, and assist the patrol division during peak times.

### **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 they are on duty or on-call. They also initiate case investigations.



The Detective Division generated the following:

	<u><b>2013</b></u>	<u><b>2014</b></u>	<u><b>Change</b></u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	<b>120</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>-35</b>
Supplemental Investigations:	<b>1513</b>	<b>1240</b>	<b>-273</b>
Arrests:	<b>172</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>-15</b>

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

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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 meets monthly with each Detective to discuss their active cases and strategies.

The following is a breakdown of cases as of December 31, 2014:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	<b>392</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>-31</b>
Cases Closed:	<b>350</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>+64</b>

Current number of active cases as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013: **76**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2014 include:

- Student with a Gun (2014-07540) - Elementary#4 School (13 year old juvenile arrested)
- Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash (2014-22801) – Rt. 47 Goshen (11 year old victim)
- Aggravated Arson of 2 Residences (2014-22877)-Avalon Links Swainton (Active)
- Armed Robbery (2014-26014) – Bank of America Rio Grande (29 year old male arrested)
- Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash (2014-27684) – Rt. 47 Green Creek (25 year old victim)
- Helicopter Crash (2014-27792) - Boyd Street Baseball Field CMCH (55/23 year old victims)
- Criminal Mischief (2014-27998) - Memorial Field CMCH (8 juveniles and 1 adult arrested)
- Armed Robbery (2014-29140) – Family Dollar Rio Grande (32 & 48 year old males arrested)
- Bomb Threat (2014-35056) – Middle Township High School (15 year old juvenile arrested)
- Death Investigation (2014-31964) – Indian Trail Road Burleigh, NJ (Active Investigation)
- Robbery (2014-38644) – Rt. 9 & Rt. 47 Rio Grande (1 Adult Arrested)
- Home Invasion (2014-38644) – Wiley Street Whitesboro (Active Investigation)

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



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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 Prosecutor's Office. In 2012 an anonymous donor offered a reward of \$10,000 for the discovery of Mark Himebaugh, and \$25,000 if the information leads to Mark's safe 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 2014 included:

Detective Sergeant Doug Osmundsen  
Detective First Class Allan McClure  
Detective Clint Stocker (Promoted to Patrol Sergeant in August of 2014)  
Detective Kenneth Martin  
Detective Tracey Super  
Detective Leonard Larkin (Reassigned to the Patrol Division)  
Detective Jack Trombetta  
Detective Josh Bryan (Reassigned to the Patrol Division)  
Detective Jason Sweitzer (Assigned to the Detective Division in August of 2014)  
Part Time Evidence Clerk Bob Bongiovanni

### MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

Megan's  
Law

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 within the same building to a different apartment or motel room. 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.

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	45	27	-18
Average monthly registrant count:	64	69	+5
Low count	61	65	+5
High count	68	72	+4

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### 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 changed its focus during 2014. Previously the Unit was charged with a number of responsibilities including but not limited to: Narcotics Enforcement, supplement Patrol as needed,

Training, Community Relations, and Court Security. In August of this past year narcotics enforcement returned to the responsibility of the Major Crimes Unit and the School Resource Officers became the responsibility of the Special Services Unit.



During the past year, the Middle Township Police Department's Special Services Unit, has conducted a total of **29 Quality of Life details** in the Rio Grande section of the township resulting in **31 arrests** for various offenses. There were also numerous summons and warnings issued 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 regard to illegal activity and also allowed the officers to witness criminal activity first hand and make arrests.

The SSU was involved in **14 narcotics investigations** during 2014 prior to narcotics investigations going back to the Major Crimes Unit, some of which were cooperative cases with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. As a result of these investigations, **4 search warrants** were authored and executed. As a result, **5 individuals were arrested** for numerous drug related offenses and numerous drugs, drug paraphernalia, money and other proceeds were seized. Also, during this time members of the Unit were assigned to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office to assist with "Operation

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Whitehouse”, a multi-county investigation involving the distribution of heroin. This operation resulted in the seizure of large quantities of heroin, cash and other related items.

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 **11 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:

- Drug Information Seminar at the Middle Township Senior Center
- Annual 4H Fair
- Middle Township Harvest Festival
- Annual Whitesboro Reunion
- National Night Out
- Take Back NJ- Prescription Drug Program
- Safety Seminar at the Branches Outreach Center-Village Shoppes
- Pills to Heroin Presentation at MTHS and MTMS
- 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

During the year (1<sup>st</sup> half of 2014) the unit conducted **146 firearms related background checks**. The SSU provided court security on **45 Court days during the year** and supplemented **street coverage on 24 days (to cover Patrol, Major Crimes or School Resource Officer)**.

## FORFEITURE

<b><u>Forfeiture Fund:</u></b>	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Began year balance:	\$7,216.92	\$5,331.45	-\$1,885.47
Forfeited monies received:	\$1,673.62	\$9,469.00	+\$7,795.38
Forfeited monies expended:	\$3,565.50	\$0	-\$3,565.50

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Balance transferred over:                \$5,531.45                \$14,919.41                +\$9,387.96

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

### 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 2014 the School Resource Officer Program was restructured and now is incorporated with the Special Services Unit. *(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 among the members of 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>Middle Township</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	33	41	+8
Supplement Investigations:	13	10	-3
Arrests:	29	15	-14
 <u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	 <u>2013</u>	 <u>2014</u>	 <u>Change</u>
Investigations:	11	18	+7
Supplement Investigations:	15	4	-11



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Arrests: 6 5 -1

**Note:** Both SRO's do other tasks with the Special Services Unit during the summer months 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 5,000 Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program which is now taught at Elementary #2's fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade. This program is 15 weeks long, and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum.



In 2014 approximately 200 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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- 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 2014 the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens  
Sandra Jarosz  
Pat Cornwell

Sandra Linz  
Stacy Watson

## 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.

Many 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).

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 covers vacations, training, illness, minimizing overtime, etc. The department employs an additional two (02) part time communications operators and there are currently two (02) part time communications operators in training. 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 12/31/14:

Senior Operator Madonna Sill	Senior Operator Jennifer Graham
Senior Operator Keith Woodrow	Senior Operator Robert Eagan
Operator Dustin Gaskill	Operator William Mulligan
Operator Ted Farina	Operator Dave Atkinson
Operator Jacob Loefflad	P/T Operator Lauren Anzelone
P/T Operator Brandon Mitchell	P/T Operator Yvonne Hernandez (Training)
P/T Operator William Chrzanowski (Training)	

Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<b><u>2013</u></b>	<b><u>2014</u></b>
Calls for service:	<b>41,509</b>	<b>41,404</b>
9-1-1 Calls:	<b>12,323</b>	<b>11,788</b>
Average 911 calls per day:	<b>33.8</b>	<b>32.3</b>

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.

Operator Ted Farina is a certified CPR Instructor.



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## 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. The adherence of Officers 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. This 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 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 2014 there were a total of **36 Internal Affairs Investigations** conducted. There were 33 cases that reached a conclusion. See the below chart for the disposition types.

### 2014 Dispositions

Excessive Force:	1 Sustained	1 Not Sustained	3 Unfounded
	1 Administratively Closed		
Improper Arrest:	1 Unfounded		
Differential Treatment:	1 Unfounded		
Demeanor:	2 Sustained	7 Unfounded	1 Not Sustained
	3 Administratively Closed		
Other Rule Violation:	9 Sustained	4 Exonerated	2 Unfounded

### Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. An employee was suspended for 8 days for failure to perform duties.

The Middle Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 this unit, keeps track of all the mandatory training records. In addition, he recognizes problems and trends and then 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 2014 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

# 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 instructors 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 and Community Policing
Sergeant Doug Osmundsen	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, Simulation, and 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 and Boxing instructor
Patrolman Mike Pastore	CPR and First Aid

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

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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The position of a SWAT member is voluntary. Selection to become a member of the team is very competitive and 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 **21** assignments in 2014. The total callout for the County Team was 47, 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 is a Carolina Skiff center console boat, and the other is an aluminum johnboat vessel.



The department has seven (7) certified divers with a full complement of dive equipment. The team had fourteen (14) training sessions in 2014. 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 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:

Sgt. Clint Stocker (Team Leader)  
Det. Kenneth Martin  
Ptl. John Norton  
Sgt. James Loftus

Sgt. Mark Higginbottom  
Ptl. Steven Novsak  
Sgt. Robert Shepherd



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department employs officers that are certified and highly trained in Police Hostage Negotiations. A county regional team was 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

### 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 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 Tracey Super  
Patrolman Ron Miller

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Patrolman Gino Castellano  
Patrolman Jason Sweitzer  
Patrolman David Hagan  
Patrolman Kurt Saettler

Patrolman Dan Martin  
Patrolman Len Larkin  
Patrolman Giacomo Trombetta  
Patrolman Josh Bryan

## 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 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 employs 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.

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Members include:

Sgt. James Loftus

Ptl. Dan Martin

Ptl. Martin Lindholm

Ptl. Matt Martino

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 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:

Sgt. James Loftus

Cpl. Marcus Phillips

Ptl. James D'Alonzo

Ptl. Dave Hagan

Ptl. Jason Sweitzer

Ptl. Armondo Jones

Ptl. Ron Miller

Ptl. Dan Geiger

Ptl. Steve Novsak

Ptl. Len Larkin

## 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





## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 to witness 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 two Drug Recognition Experts, Patrolman David Hagan and Detective Leonard Larkin. During 2014 these officers performed the following number of evaluations:

Hagan: 3	(all for this Department)
Larkin: 6	(3 for this Department, 3 for other jurisdictions)

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 (\$110.00 if the officer is on duty at the time he or she is needed). The grant will also reimburse the Department an additional \$220.00 or if an officer has to appear in court for up to 2 court dates. During 2014, \$990.00 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

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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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, and during this period the department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards, those with which it received accreditation. This year the department will going through the process to be revaluated 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 an 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.



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 were 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 number of false alarms for each month.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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
2014	101	66	76	60	76	80	64	77	74	66	74	66

2009 total: 1,276

2010 total: 1,216

2011 total: 932

2012 total: 870

2013 total: 909

2014 total: 880

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.

Comparing 2013 to 2014, alarms are down by 29, which is a 3.2% decrease from 2013.

Since the inception of the program in 2009 to 2014 alarms are down by 367 which is a 31% 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 958 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, or 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.

## 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
- Lt. William Adams
- Lt. William Adams
- F.B.I. Academy Accreditation
- Drug Recognition Expert

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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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• 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
• 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 Next Awards Dinner will be held in March 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



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 the 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. The Fund also supports the Awards Dinner and Retiree Luncheon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Retiree Luncheon was held in May of 2014.

*In the photo is Chief Leusner with the newest members of the Middle Township Police Department Retiree Club, Sgt. Mike Elias, Cpl. Sharon Price and Cpl. Jeff DeVico. The next Retiree Luncheon will be held in May of 2016.*





# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic group's meetings/events in 2014: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, NAACP- Night with the Chief, and 2nd Amendment Society of NJ, Cape Assist Breakfast and Macedonia Baptist Church Breakfast.
- 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 supplies 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.



## **2014 Goals/Results**

### **Patrol Division**

In 2014 the Patrol Division had set two Goals; we were partially 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 maintain the same level of enforcement in the DDACTS area as in 2014 and reduce motor vehicle crashes by 10%. We were able to accomplish part of this objective by continuing 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 were able to conduct 29 special details, which resulted in 31 arrests and the issuance of numerous warning summonses for jaywalking. Even with the increased presence, the overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone increased from 229 in 2013 to 281 in 2014, which is a 22.7% increase. Though there was an increase in the crime rate this year it remained below the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. This increase was driven mainly by a large increase in shoplifting incidents, 131 in 2013 to 172 in 2014. Shoplifting accounted for 61% of the Part Offenses occurring in the DDACTS zone. Accidents increased 3.3% to 281 crashes in 2014 versus 272 in 2013. We will be 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 Department's use of the station house adjustment process to divert juveniles from the Juvenile Justice System. The objective of this goal was to increase the number of stationhouse adjustments to a total of 25 for 2014. We did not achieve our objective of 25 but we did achieve our goal increasing the number of stationhouse adjustments to 17 in 2014 from only 10 in 2013. That is a 70% increase. There are many factors involving eligibility for stationhouse adjustments to be used in lieu of arrests. Some of those include the type of crime committed by a juvenile, a repeat offender, and the victim is willing to agree to the use of a stationhouse adjustment.

## **Special Service Unit**

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2014. The first goal was to increase Narcotics enforcement within Middle Township, specifically by targeting the use and distribution of Heroin. The objective for this goal was to increase the number of CDS arrests related to Heroin by 10%. The Department was unable to attain this goal. There were 26 arrests made for heroin related offenses in 2014. That is a 29% decrease from 2013 in which there were a total of 37 arrests for heroin related offenses. However, it should be noted the Special Services Unit committed a significant amount of time and resources to Operation Whitehouse that resulted in the seizure of a significant amount of Heroin that was not anticipated in the beginning of the year.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The second goal was to improve traffic safety on the roadways of Middle Township. The objective of this goal was to increase motor vehicle stops and summonses by 35% over 2013. Members of the Special Services Unit were able to partially accomplish this goal by doing traffic details throughout the township. Traffic stops increased 174% from 59 in 2013 to 162 in 2014 and summonses issued increased 32% from 52 in 2013 to 69 in 2014.

### Major Crimes Unit

For 2014 the Major Crimes Unit set two goals:

**Goal #1: Designate time for detectives to review old case files, which are classified in Case management as “Cold Cases”.**

Members of the Major Crimes Unit were re-assigned cold cases for the purpose of doing a review of the respective case with a “fresh set of eyes” and to look into possible leads to attempt to close the case with an arrest. This 2014 goal was achieved with positive results. The cold cases, with no leads, suspects or evidence obtained from the initial investigation, and the victim had no updated information regarding the crime(s) they were administratively closed. These cases were primarily burglaries or thefts that a detective was called out to the scene for in an attempt to collect latent prints, which either had negative results in obtaining or were unable to be submitted into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System due to various reasons after being examined by the New Jersey State Police AFIS Unit. The total amount of cases that were in cold status and were administratively closed after all leads were exhausted consisted of 44.

The cold cases, which were administratively closed, and where all investigative leads were exhausted by the assigned detective, BUT evidence was collected and submitted into a national database, specifically CODIS or AFIS, and are waiting a contributor match is 11. The cold cases that were reviewed and the assigned detective developed additional investigative leads that resulted in the arrest of a suspect(s), or a contributor match was located from previously submitted evidence into CODIS or AFIS consisted of five 5 cases. Cold cases that were reviewed by the assigned detective where investigative leads were obtained and each case is moving forward after being in a stagnant period of time consist of 25. Some of the cases the suspect(s) cannot be located, after various investigative attempts, which would place them in cold status, but are still being actively investigated.

**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. Special Services Unit took responsibility of this goal with a restructuring in the middle of the year. Special Services was successful in developing a diversion program with Cape Assit focusing on younger offenders and developing a new policy for how the department handles runaway/missing person investigations. The stationhouse adjustment goal was partially achieved and is addressed above in the Special Services section.

## APPENDIX A: 2015 PROPOSALS

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### **Radio System**

The most important proposal of the year is finding a solution to our communication problems. This has been an on-going problem going back many years. A brand new radio system was built in December of 2004 and never worked properly. In the spring of 2010, a number of improvements were made that did not solve our problems. A number of parts for the system are no longer supported and recent repairs required parts to be purchased from second hand dealers through E-Bay. We have been researching two possible solutions:

1. A DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) Simulcast System through Hytera
2. Joining the State-wide 700 megahertz radio system

We have been testing the state-wide radio system and the early results are promising with coverage. This solution would fit with the overall concept of Central Dispatch if it were to develop in the future. The DMR system, a relatively new technology is not Project 25 compliant (a Public Safety Standard for Public Safety Digital Radios) and we would not be able to test the system prior to purchasing the system. This is a concern since we purchased a system in the past that did not work as promised and upgrades that did not solve our problems as promised.

### **Body Camera Pilot Program**

We have been testing the use of body cameras by officers in the field. The Middle Township Police Department has utilized cameras in patrol cars since 2007 and it has proven to be a valuable tool. The use of body cameras has the potential to offer similar benefits but also presents many unique challenges. When does an officer record? Do we record inside a private residence? Do we record crime victims in sensitive cases? Are these videos subject to OPRA? How long do we keep the videos? Do we pay for storage in the cloud or house on site with purchasing a server? What effect does it have on the evidence function and time needed to burn videos and submit to evidence? These are important questions that the pilot program will help us answer. It is also important to note that body cameras will not provide all the answers in an investigation and is not a substitute for a thorough and complete investigation. A camera depicts a broad scene, but it does not track the officer's eyes and sees what the officers are looking at within the broad scene at any given moment. In addition, cameras only record in 2-D and do not record depth of field and the camera speed differs from the speed of life. These are just a few of the limitations that need to be acknowledged when examining body cameras and split second decisions officers must make under very frightening and stressful conditions. They may be a useful tool at the end of the day and most likely will, but it is important that the public, press and community activists understand these limitations.

### **Increase Class II Officers**

We have requested Township Committee increase the number of Class II Officers in our ordinance to a total of 7 from the current number of 5. These two additional Class II

## APPENDIX A: 2015 PROPOSALS

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Officers will help us increase our presence in the DDACT Zone of Rio Grande and on Route 47 in our targeted enforcement areas between milepost 5 and 8 and 12 and 16.

### **Tasers**

A small number of Middle Township Police Officers started to carry Tasers while on patrol in 2014. We will be expanding this number in 2015 to a total of 12 officers, 3 patrol officers per shift. In addition, we proposed an increase in our budget requests for 2015 to accommodate the cost of cartridges needed for training. A newly trained officer must discharge 7 cartridges to receive a certification to carry a Taser. The cost of a cartridge is \$30.00.

### **Training**

First, Chief Leusner as Chairman of the Training Committee for the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association is working with Director Thomas DePaul of the Cape May County Police Academy to bring a state of the art use of force training simulator to the Academy. This will be a significant purchase but it will allow officers to train in a simulated environment under stress induced conditions. The simulator would be 300 degrees with 5 screens and police then can train for the most difficult real-world situations. These situations can include ambushes, active shooters, and maintaining situational awareness during extreme stress. This type of training will allow officers to experience extreme stress and practice decision making and tactics that will better prepare officers for real life situations.

Second, officers will be trained in Fair and Impartial Policing: A Science Based Approach. This training is being made possible by a grant through the U.S. Department of Justice obtained by the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association. This training will help educate officers on implicit bias that are present in humans in all professions that may be related to gender, sexual preference, socio-economic status, and religious beliefs. Police Officers make many decisions with limited information in a very fast moving environment. This training will provide tools and strategies to help officers make the best possible decisions.

## Appendix B: 2015 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 2014 and conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift in the DDACT Zone.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Continue the DDACTS area in Rio Grande (Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety policing model).
2. Send an officer to Traffic Engineering School through Rutgers and make recommendations to the traffic patterns in Rio Grande.
3. Maintain patrol time and police activity during our peak days and times.
4. Utilize the additional increase of Class II Officers to partially focus on the DDACT Zone and Route 47.
5. Focus on environmental conditions such as enforcing Shopping Cart theft and advocating to the state to clean up the vacant lot at Route 47 and Route 9.
6. Strategically place newly purchased Radar Display sign within the DDACT Zone on a periodic basis.

#### **Goal#2:**

Increase the level of safety of motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

#### **Objective:**

Conduct a minimum of one radar detail a shift on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Increase traffic enforcement by assigning at least one officer per shift to conduct radar details in 2014.
2. Strategically position our Traffic Message Display Sign on State Highway 47, warning motorists they are entering a High Enforcement Area.
3. Position an older Patrol Car on State Highway 47 in strategic areas of the roadway during high-risk weekends or holidays.
4. Use the increase in Class II officers to partially focus on the Route 47 in the above areas.
5. Educate the public through social media and traditional media on aggressive driving, distracted driving, and driving while under the influence.

## Appendix B: 2015 Goals

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### **Major Crimes Unit**

#### **Goal#1**

Identify existing and incorporate new locations within Middle Township that would be adopted by code as public parks or school property under N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7 and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7.1.

#### **Objective:**

Create new maps to be utilized by the Patrol Division, the Special Services Unit and the Major Crimes Unit to help determine if the distribution of controlled dangerous substances were being conducted within a 1,000 feet of a school zone or within 500 feet of a public park.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Determine which locations within Middle Township are considered school property, then determine which locations are within a 1,000 feet of the school property as listed under N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7.
2. Determine which locations within Middle Township are considered public parks, public housing facilities, libraries or museums, then determine which locations are within 500 feet of these locations as listed under N.J.S.A. 2C:35-7.1.
3. Verify that these locations are identified by code and if they are not initiate and complete the process so they are legally designated as school property or a public park, public housing facility, library or museum.
4. Generate maps which are clear and easily readable and understandable for all members of the department to utilize.

#### **Goal #2**

Create a training guide/manual for evidence procedures in accordance with the New Jersey State Police and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office of Evidence Guidelines/Procedures.

#### **Objective:**

Ensure that all officers understand the policies and procedures for the handling and the submission of evidence.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Generate a clear and understandable training guide on how to handle and submit evidence into the BEAST and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Info Share System, which will be loaded into Power DMS and updated as needed.

## Appendix B: 2015 Goals

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2. Conduct training with all members of the department at briefing on how to handle evidence at a scene.
3. Conduct training with all members of the department at briefing on how to submit evidence into the B.E.A.S.T. and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Info Share System.

### **Special Services Unit**

#### **Goal#1**

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 20 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.

#### **Goal#2**

Support the Patrol Division in improving the quality life in Rio Grande and improving the safety of motorists on Route 47.

#### **Objective:**

Conduct frequent details in the DDACT Zone and on Route 47 in the targeted areas; and to identify a partner community agency and make contact with homeless persons within the Township on a periodic basis.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Conduct Bicycle and Foot Patrol Details in the DDACT Zone.
2. Identify Chronic Offenders in the DDACT Zone and develop an investigative strategy.
3. Conduct Anti-Shoplifting details and enforce no trespassing court orders for previously convicted shoplifters.
4. Utilize Community Service Workers to clean up vacant lots and wooded areas in Rio Grande that are littered with trash and other materials.