

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT



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



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

Released: March 10, 2016

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department continued to build our efforts in Community Orientated Policing and to invest in the technology communications equipment, and, in addition, to join the New Jersey Statewide Public Safety Network. The Middle Township Police Department has not had a properly working radio system in its history. This has been the subject of concern over the years from officers, Chiefs of Police, Fire Chiefs and Elected Officials. Good faith efforts were made over the years but unfortunately none were successful in solving the problem. As we stand here today for the first time in our history, there is a properly working radio system for Police, Rescue and Fire Departments in Middle Township. Another major accomplishment this year was completing a cold case review of the Mark Himebaugh case at the headquarters of the Missing and Exploited Children in Alexandria, Virginia. This led to several important developments: one was the case of digitizing all records; they are all now searchable and, second, it led to a partnership with the Project Alert program at the National Center to assist in the investigation with a renewed focus on the case following the review.

In our community outreach efforts, we continue to make progress and a significant highlight this year was the great success of our “Crayons for Cancer Drive” coordinated by Sgt. Francis Fiore. We provided thousands of boxes of crayons and coloring books to Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia to help youngsters struggling with difficult times. The residents and businesses of Middle Township exceeded our expectations by helping us collect thousands of items and made all us proud to be part of Middle Township. Our officers also participated in No-Shave November and raised thousands of dollars to help families coping with loved ones fighting cancer. We continue to look for ways to connect with our residents, and, in 2015 we launched our MGO Program (Meet and Greet with an Officer) with the local AARP, and it has been very successful. Every month at the local AARP Meeting a different Police Officer attends the beginning portion of the meeting to introduce him/her and discusses Public Safety issues with the members. We expanded our Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II Program in 2015 and put bicycle officers patrolling the business district and residential areas of Rio Grande during the summer. The feedback from the business owners and residents was very positive. Last but certainly not least, we partnered with the community on our public awareness campaign to combat distracted driving by asking the public to display a magnet, designed by a Middle Township teenager, MariBeth Novsak. Captain Edwards led the charge and we passed out over one thousand five hundred magnets and it is common to see them throughout the township every day.

In 2015, we continued to focus on initiatives that address the root cause of crime and disorder. This was the first full year of our Public Advocate Program operating in Middle Township Municipal Court. The Public Advocate made contact with seventy eight individuals in 2015. We saw a significant increase in contact with the Advocate in October when we saw a new Judge take the bench. The majority of the individuals, 72% seen by the Public Advocate requested services related to substance abuse. The Public Advocate also made referrals for mental illness services and homeless services. We continued to look for opportunities to divert juvenile offenders away from the system as

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stationhouse adjustments and referred them to Cape Assist's Impact Program. Our Special Services Unit now conducts additional follow-ups after a runaway is returned home to ensure the safety of the runaway and refer for services if necessary. Finally, our application was approved in 2015 to join Project Medicine Drop and we installed a drop box in our lobby where residents can dispose of unused prescription medication 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

In criminal activity, we saw an 8% reduction in non-violent crime: 622 offenses in 2015 compared to 677 in 2014. On the violent side, we saw a 13% increase in violent crime: 52 offenses in 2015 compared to 46 in 2014. We had a number of shootings this year in Middle Township that are concerning: 3 during Memorial Day Weekend - a jogger struck by a pellet gun in Swainton, and, a stray bullet through a trailer in Burleigh in the fall. The murder of Nicole Angstadt in Rio Grande in December was a tragic loss of life. We have been focusing our efforts in Rio Grande over the last few years and this case renewed our commitment to combat crime in Rio Grande. This case was particularly concerning because the individuals charged with her death were recently released criminals with significant criminal histories from out of the area, but living at motels in Rio Grande.

Our Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) initiative showed a slight decrease in offenses in the Rio Grande area in 2015: 278 offenses in 2015 compared to 281 offenses in 2014. We use 2012 as our baseline for measuring success in our DDACTS program because we launched DDACTS on January 1, 2013. In 2012 we had 307 offenses, and in the following three years there have been at least 10% reduction in offenses: 2013 we had 229 offenses and 2014 we had 281 offenses.

Traffic activity within the Township saw an increase in total crashes, an 8% increase from 2014. In 2015 we had 1033 crashes compared to 955 in 2014. Although total crashes were up again for a second straight year, crashes involving injury stayed flat at 148. In 2014 we saw a 12% reduction in crashes resulting in injury when compared to 2013, and we are pleased to maintain that reduction despite the increase in overall crashes. We also saw a significant decrease in traffic fatalities, a 45% reduction with 4 in 2015 compared to 7 in 2014. One of our goals in 2015 was to increase our presence on Route 47 in the areas of milepost 5, 8, 12 and 16. We are very pleased we did not have any fatalities on Route 47 in 2015 after a challenging year in 2014. Motor Vehicle Summonses were down approximately 10%, a total of 2,940 summonses in 2015 compared to 3,280 in 2014. Motor Vehicle stops were down approximately 9%, a total of 5455 in 2015 compared to 6062. Driving While Intoxicated arrests were up approximately 20%, a total of 83 in 2015 compared to 69 in 2014.

In closing, the Middle Township Police Department is facing very strong headwinds in Middle Township related to the Heroin epidemic, homelessness issues, mental health issues, and increased development planned for Middle Township, specifically, in Rio Grande. We will tackle these issues using our Community and Problem Orientated Approach and focus our efforts in not only enforcement but also intervention, education and prevention efforts. Our Street Crimes Unit has been only operating for a couple of

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months, but the results are outstanding and make a difference. We will be looking to add to our already high visibility presence in Rio Grande through opening a substation in a visible and very accessible area of Rio Grande. On the intervention side we will continue with our Public Advocate program but also look to form a partnership with CURE, (Christians United for Recovery) to help individuals suffering from addiction, and get the help they need. We also have trained all our officers in the deployment of Nasal Narcan when called to assist overdoses on opiates. In 2015 our officers were able to assist in reviving 13 persons who had overdosed. Finally, we will look to boost our Education and Prevention efforts by expanding our L.E.A.D (Law Enforcement against Drugs Prevention Program) to include the 7th grade. We are confident with the support of the Township Committee and the utilizing of a Community and Problem Orientated Approach that will keep our residents safe and deliver the very best in police services to our residents.



*Team of law enforcement officials and analysts from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children during Cold Case review of Mark Himebaugh investigation in February 2015*



*Ptl. David Hagan addressing the Cape May Court House AARP as our first ever Meet and Greet Ofcr.*

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## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

### **Current Sworn Employees**

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2016.

#### **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

James D'Alonzo

Steve Novsak

Class II Mark Bakley

Class II Kirk Rohrer

Class II Garrett Moretti

Class II Kody Smith

Class II Joni Frangieh

#### **Patrol Sergeants**

Fran Fiore

Mark Higginbottom

Robert Shepherd

Clint Stocker

#### **Corporals**

Phil Johnson

Jennifer DeLanzo

Fred Crawley

Eugene Castellano

#### **Patrolman**

Dave Hagan

Julio Ruiz

Michelle Brown

John Norton

Josh Bryan

Ron Miller

Daniel Martin

Matthew Martino

Leonard Larkin

Kurt Saettler

Daniel Geiger

Armondo Jones

Martin Lindholm

Alison Akke

Jeffrey Salveson

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Brian Murphy

Justin Vitola

Mary Creamer

Mike Pastore

Shawn Karge

Joseph Gamble

Michael Reardon

Jonas McInnis

Matthew Lamanteer

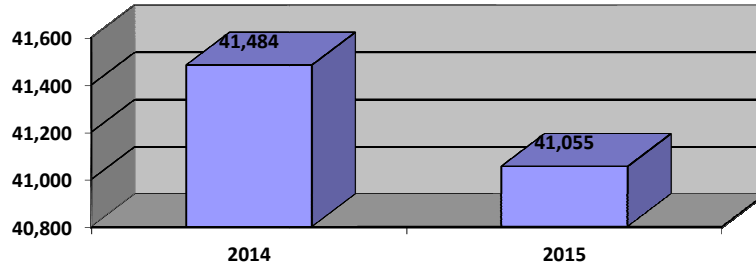
Thomas Ritterhoff

Ben Stiefel

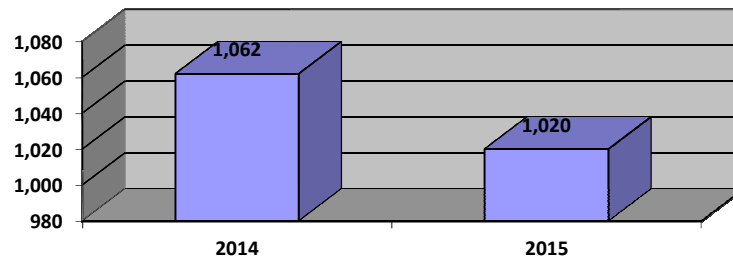
## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

### CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

|                    | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Calls for Service: | 41,484      | 41,055      | -429          |

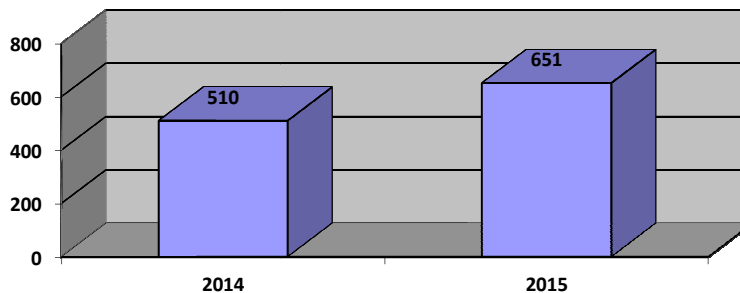


|          | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Arrests: | 1,062       | 1,020       | -42           |



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

|                       | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Indictable Complaints | 510         | 651         | +141          |



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## Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

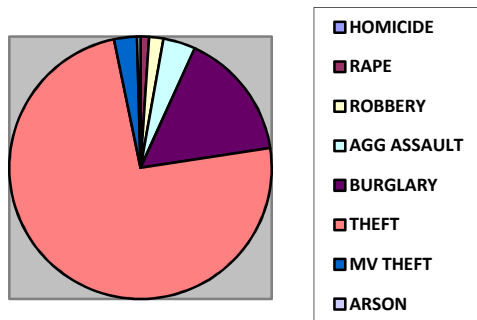
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications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

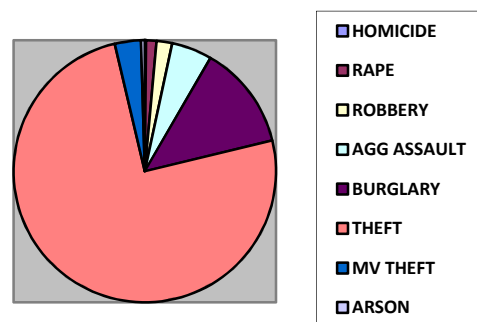
| Offense: 2014       |     | Offense: 2015       |     | Change |
|---------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|--------|
| Homicide            | 0   | Homicide            | 1   | +1     |
| Rape                | 7   | Rape*               | 8   | +1     |
| Robbery             | 12  | Robbery             | 12  | 0      |
| Aggravated Assault  | 27  | Aggravated Assault  | 31  | +4     |
| Burglary            | 107 | Burglary            | 80  | -27    |
| Theft               | 502 | Theft               | 467 | -35    |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 19  | Motor Vehicle Theft | 20  | +1     |
| Arson               | 3   | Arson               | 3   | 0      |
| Total UCR:          |     | 677                 | 622 | -55    |
| Violent Crime:      |     | 46                  | 52  | +6     |
| Non Violent Crime:  |     | 631                 | 570 | -61    |

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

UCR 2014



UCR 2015





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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 2015.

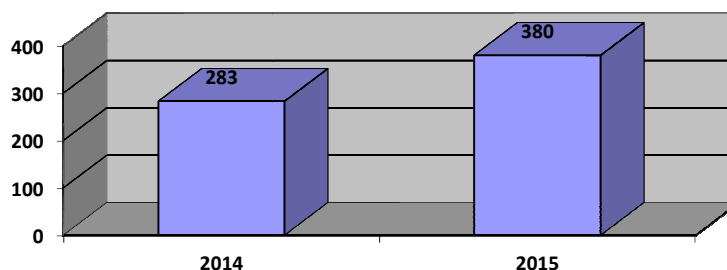
|  | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Sex Offenses, other than Rape          | 30          | 39          | +9            |
| Simple Assaults                        | 133         | 141         | +8            |
| Medical Calls                          | 3344        | 3419        | +75           |
| Fire Calls                             | 751         | 854         | +103          |
| Death Investigations                   | 32          | 36          | +4            |
| Disorderly Conduct incidents           | 1,082       | 1,013       | -69           |
| Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks             | 139         | 104         | -35           |
| Malicious Damage incidents             | 118         | 56          | -62           |
| Missing Persons and Runaways           | 127         | 142         | +15           |
| Assisting other agency incidents       | 488         | 481         | -7            |
| Property and Building Checks           | 12,019      | 13,077      | +1,058        |
| Bias Incidents Investigated            | 5           | 1           | -4            |
| Directed Patrol                        | 2568        | 2,444       | -148          |
|  | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| Investigation Reports generated:       | 1,497       | 1,408       | -89           |
| Supplemental Investigations generated: | 1,682       | 1,581       | -101          |

### 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 2015 Middle Township Police responded to **380** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior Middle Township police responded to **283** Domestic Violence incidents.

|                    | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Domestic Violence: | 283         | 380         | +97           |



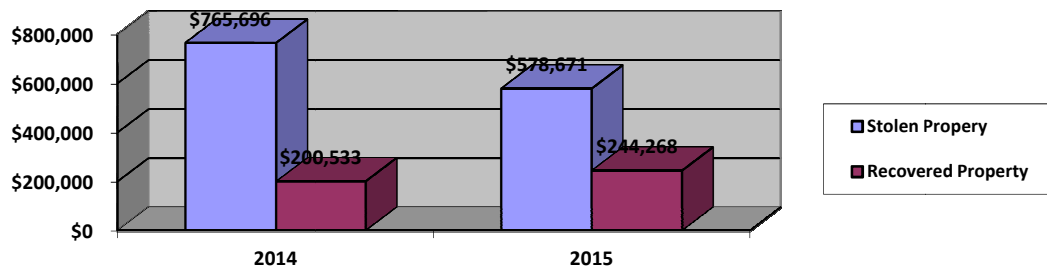
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### Property Stolen and Recovered

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 2014 and 2015.

|            | <u>2014</u>  | <u>2015</u>  | <u>Change</u> |
|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Stolen:    | \$765,696.00 | \$578,671.00 | -\$187,025    |
| Recovered: | \$200,533.00 | \$244,268.00 | +\$43,735     |



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### Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or crashes

During 2015, Personnel Officer Kalish reported 4 work related injury incidents. Of those 4 incidents, 1 officer suffered an injury, while in the performance of duty; this caused 20 missed days at work. All other injuries had no time loss from work.

| <u>Officer</u> | <u>Days missed</u> |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Kirk Rohrer    | 20                 |

### Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 4 motor vehicle crashes in 2015.

| <u>Officer</u>  | <u>Date</u>       | <u>Synopsis</u>                            |
|-----------------|-------------------|--|
| Raymond Bradley | May 5, 2015       | Struck a crash truck while on traffic duty |
| Julio Ruiz      | May 19, 2015      | Backed into a trailer                      |
| Kirk Rohrer     | September 3, 2015 | Intersection crash                         |
| Garrett Moretti | December 13, 2015 | Backed into a vehicle                      |

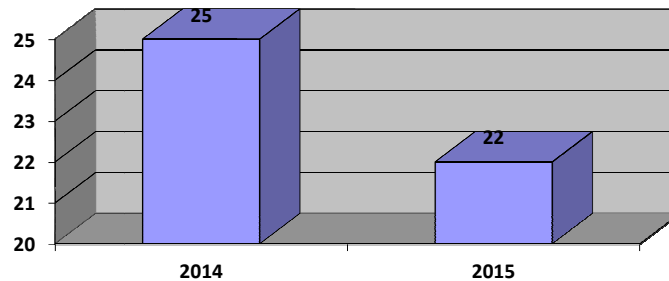
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### Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

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, must complete a state "Use of Force Reporting Form". This report is supplied each year to the Cape May County Prosecutors Office.

|                        | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Use of Force Incidents | 25          | 22          | -3            |



Of those 22 Use of Force incidents, 22 subjects were arrested, 6 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 11 of these cases only compliance holds were used by officers*

|                               |             |             |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Officers injured using force: | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> |
|                               | 1           | 7           |

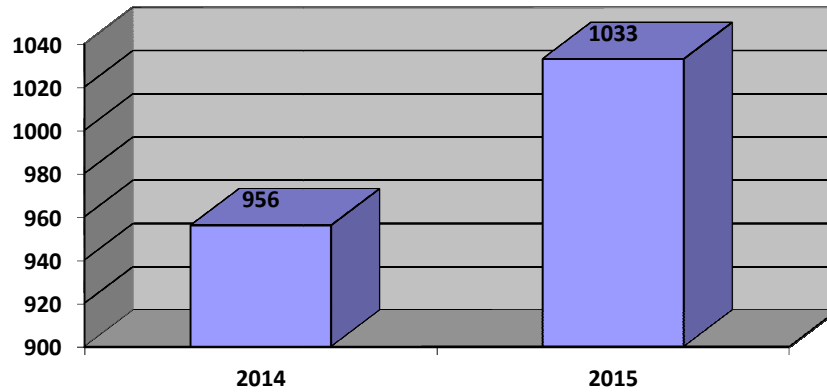
|                  |             |             |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                  | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> |
| Police Pursuits: | 2           | 4           |

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 4 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there were 4 people arrested, and one crash.

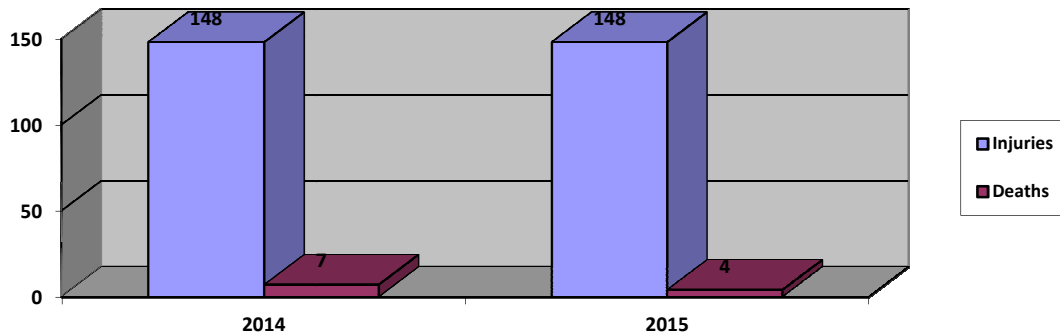
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## TRAFFIC

|                       | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Motor Vehicle Crashes | 955         | 1033        | +78           |



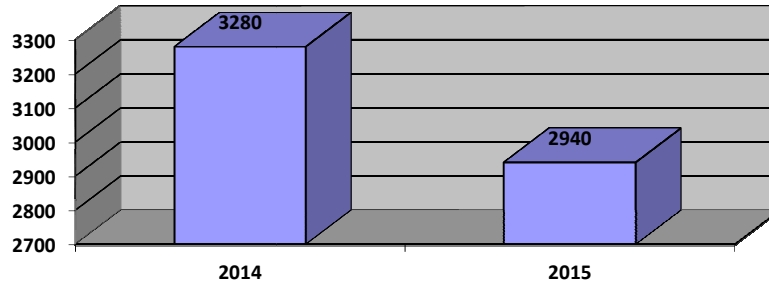
|           | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Injuries: | 148         | 148         | 0             |
| Deaths:   | 7           | 4           | -3            |



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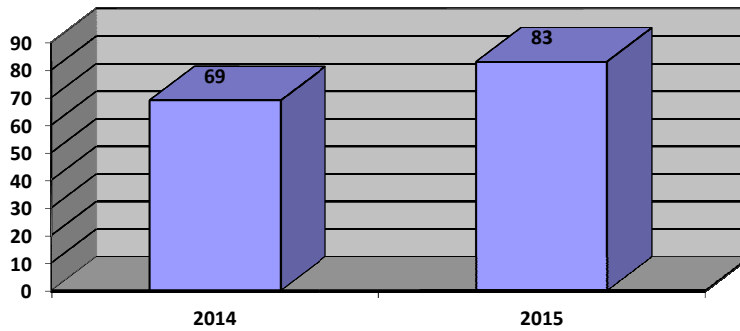
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|                                       | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>Motor Vehicle Summonses issued</b> | 3,280       | 2,940       | -340          |



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

|                    | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| <b>DWI Arrests</b> | 69          | 83          | +14           |



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## 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, and to



prescribe duties and assignments, delegate authority for efficient operation of the force, issue policies and directives, meet with community, civic and religious groups, prepare grants and prepare and manage the Police Department's Budget and, also, 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 administrator, employee evaluations, fire department Liaison, public information officer, and, also, 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, in addition, coordinate 4-H Fair, Harvest Festival & National Night Out, ACS/ATS Coordinator, CJIS



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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, 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 with seven patrol officers and, is at times, supplemented with Class II officers. The fifth squad, the Special Service Unit works 5 days a week. The squad is utilized to fill special needs of the department: Training function, Court Security, Community Events, School Resource Officers, and assist the patrol division during peak times.

In 2014 our department began the process of training our officers for the use of Tasers. Our Department currently has 18 officers trained and 10 Tasers for use. Over the next 2 years we plan on having the other half of the patrol division trained so all officers working the street have another force option available before using deadly force.

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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 First Class James D'Alonzo  
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>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Initial Investigation Reports: | 85          | 47          | -38           |
| Supplemental Investigations:   | 1240        | 1174        | -93           |
| Arrests:                       | 157         | 48          | -109          |

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

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firearm application backgrounds, which has grown tremendously over the past year. The unit completed a total of 341 firearms backgrounds.

The Major Crimes Unit utilizes a Case Management System. This system is designed to track all cases assigned to the Detective Division. 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, 2015:

|                 | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Cases Assigned: | <b>361</b>  | <b>255</b>  | <b>-106</b>   |
| Cases Closed:   | <b>414</b>  | <b>256</b>  | <b>-158</b>   |

Current number of active cases as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015: **219**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2015 include:

- 2015-00504 - Kidnapping Investigation (42 year old female arrested)
- 2014-07540 – Student with a Gun/Elementary#4 School (13 year old juvenile arrested)
- 2015-09032 Armed Robbery/Village Shoppes, Rio Grande (No arrest made as of this date)
- 2015-13326 – Aggravated Assault/Whispering Woods Motel (28 year old male arrested)
- 2015-15817 – Robbery/Shelton Motel (34 year old male and a 31 year old male were arrested)
- 2015-15845 Shooting Investigation/Chestnut Avenue, Burleigh (No arrests made as of this date)
- 2015-15937 – Aggravated Assault (Shots fired from a vehicle/Wildwood Boulevard (23 year old male and a 25 year old male were arrested)
- 2015-16211 – Attempted Murder/Church Road, Rio Grande (70 year old male arrested)
- 2015-16778 – Armed Robbery/Starbucks in Rio Grande (No arrest made as of this date)
- 2015-22645 – Aggravated Assault (Shooting)/Swainton-Goshen Road (19 year old male arrested)
- 2015-23963 Possession of a Gun/Wildwood Avenue, Whitesboro (29 year old male arrested)
- 2015-28099 Aggravated Arson/Indian Trail, Burleigh (24 year old male arrested)
- 2015-34004 Aggravated Assault (Shots fired into an occupied Mobile Home/Garden Lake Mobile Home Park, Burleigh (No arrest made as of this date)

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- 2015-38684 Armed Robbery/76 Gas Station, Rio Grande (20 year old male, 23 year old male and a female juvenile were arrested)
- 2015-39316 – Homicide Investigation/Vermont Avenue, Rio Grande (No arrests made as of this date)
- 2014-22801 (Carry over from the previous year) Vehicular Homicide – Rt. 47, Goshen (40 year old female arrested in 2015)

The division 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 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. In February of 2015, the Major Crimes Unit, along with members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and the FBI traveled to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, located in Alexandria Virginia, where a cold case review of the Himebaugh Case was conducted. Following the review, investigators followed up on new leads and are actively working on the case.

Members of the unit during 2015 included:

Detective Sergeant Doug Osmundsen  
Detective First Class Allan McClure  
Detective Kenneth Martin  
Detective Tracey Super  
Detective Jack Trombetta  
Detective Jason Sweitzer  
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 Jack Trombetta 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. Registrants 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**

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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|                                   | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| New registrants and/or moves:     | 27          | 6           | -21           |
| Average monthly registrant count: | 69          | 75          | +6            |
| Low count                         | 65          | 74          | +9            |
| High count                        | 72          | 78          | +6            |

During the year 10 details were conducted to verify the addresses of the registrants. As a result, 3 arrests were made for failure to re-register with their new address.

### SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The Special Services Unit is led by Sgt. James Loftus, and is under the command of Patrol Lieutenant William Adams. The Unit has several different tasks to include school resource officers, training, court security, community outreach and DDACTS zone enforcement and analysis.



During 2015 the Special Services Unit completed 7 quality of life details. 2 of the details consisted of bike patrols focusing on commercial establishments and bus stops where officers spoke to members of the public, checked for illegal activity and enforced parking. There were 2 shoplifting details at Walmart to deter previous offenders from entering the store and prevent additional shoplifting. There were 2 warrant details with 3 arrests made and a foot patrol checking for homeless people in the area to see if any services could be provided to them. The Special Services Unit also conducted 329 motor vehicle stops in the DDACTS zone and issued 84 summonses during 2015.

The training officer for the Department is PFC. James D'Alonzo. He is charged with making sure officers of the Department are up to date with our training and qualifications. This includes semi-annual firearms qualifications and policy reviews with officers on the subject of use of force, vehicular pursuits and domestic violence. PFC. D'Alonzo also reviews safe tactics for officers to use during the many different situations officers may face during the performance of their job.

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



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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

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).**

## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department instituted a community service program in 2011 working with the Cape May County Superior Court to have a work site for minor offenders to complete court imposed community service. Under the direction of PFC. James D'Alonzo the community service workers are assigned to clean Municipal vehicles and property, clean up abandoned property where trash and debris have accumulated, pick up trash along Municipal roadways, assist setting areas for community events and other tasks to assist the community. In addition to the services the workers provide, this program also strives to develop positive relationships with the workers with the goal of reducing future acts of criminal behavior.



The community service program expanded in 2015 with an agreement with the Middle Township Municipal Court to allow municipal offenders to have the opportunity to 'work off' any new fines or outstanding municipal court fines that were unable to be paid by the offender. Many offenders were unable to pay off fines and were finding themselves in jail resulting in the loss of employment and a continued inability to pay the court fines. Community service allows for an alternative for monetary payment, and in turn, benefits the community.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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This year, the community service program also added the ability for juvenile offenders to be assigned community service as part of the Station House Adjustment Program. The Station House Adjustment Program is a diversionary program which keeps first time juvenile offenders out of the court system with the goal of preventing future acts of delinquent behavior.

### Community Service Program Members

PFC. James D'Alonzo      Ptl. Dan Geiger  
Cpl. Gino Castellano      Ptl. Martin Lindholm

## FORFEITURE

| <u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>    | <u>2014</u> | <u>2015</u> | <u>Change</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| Began year balance:        | \$5,331.45  | \$14,919.41 | +\$9,587.96   |
| Forfeited monies received: | \$9,469.00  | \$6,614.32  | -\$2,854.68   |
| Forfeited monies expended: | \$0         | \$0         | \$0           |
| Balance transferred over:  | \$14,919.41 | \$21,533.73 | +6,614.32     |

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. The School Resource Officer Program is incorporated within 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: 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; second is a component to provide a law enforcement

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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:

| <b><u>Middle Township</u></b> | <b><u>2014</u></b> | <b><u>2015</u></b> | <b><u>Change</u></b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Investigations:               | 41                 | 38                 | -3                   |
| Supplement Investigations:    | 10                 | 13                 | +3                   |
| Arrests:                      | 15                 | 21                 | +6                   |

| <b><u>Cape May County Technical High School</u></b> | <b><u>2014</u></b> | <b><u>2015</u></b> | <b><u>Change</u></b> |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Investigations:                                     | 18                 | 14                 | -4                   |
| Supplement Investigations:                          | 4                  | 7                  | +3                   |
| Arrests:  | 5                  | 7                  | +2                   |

**Note:** Both SRO's do other tasks with the Special Services Unit during the summer months and assist throughout the school year as needed.

## L.E.A.D. PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department has conducted the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) Program in the Middle Township Schools since 1990 up until 2014. Starting in 2015, the Middle Township Police Department joined the L.E.A.D. (Law Enforcement

Against Drugs). To date over 5,500 Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program. The L.E.A.D. Program is 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 2015, approximately 200 students were taught through the L.E.A.D. Program.



Officers who teach the L.E.A.D. Program include:

Sergeant Mark Higginbottom  
Corporal Jennifer Delanzo  
Patrolman Joshua Bryan

Detective Tracey Super

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## 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 2015 the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens  
Sandra Sickerott  
Pat Cornwell

Sandra Linz  
Stacy Watson

# 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.



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).

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 five part time communications operators and there are currently three part time communications operators in training. It is mandatory that at all times there are two operators present in the dispatch center.

The following qualified and dedicated employees fill this highly important and stressful position as of 12/31/15:

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

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham  
Senior Operator Robert Eagan  
Operator William Mulligan  
Operator Dave Atkinson

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Operator Brandon Mitchell              | P/T Operator Jacob Loefflad          |
| P/T Operator Kyle Lindholm             | P/T Operator Richard Sittineri       |
| P/T Operator Jeremy Embs               | P/T Operator Lauren Lepak            |
| P/T Operator Dustin Kelly (Training)   | P/t Operator Joseph Eagan (Training) |
| P/T Operator William Belles (Training) |                                      |

Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

|                            | <b><u>2014</u></b> | <b><u>2015</u></b> | <b><u>Change</u></b> |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Calls for service:         | <b>41,404</b>      | <b>41,504</b>      | <b>+100</b>          |
| 9-1-1 Calls:               | <b>11,788</b>      | <b>12,341</b>      | <b>+553</b>          |
| Average 911 calls per day: | <b>32.3</b>        | <b>33.8</b>        | <b>+1.5</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.

## 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



## 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 2015 there were a total of **22 Internal Affairs Investigations** conducted. There were 21 cases that reached a conclusion. See the below chart for the disposition types.

### 2015 Dispositions

|                         |                 |                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Excessive Force:        | 1 Not Sustained | 1 case is still pending |
| Differential Treatment: | 1 Unfounded     |                         |
| Demeanor:               | 2 Unfounded     | 2 Not Sustained         |
| Other Rule Violation:   | 8 Sustained     | 1 Exonerated            |
|                         | 3 Unfounded     | 2 Not Sustained         |

### Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. An employee was suspended for 30 days for abuse of sick time.

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. Patrolman First Class James D'Alonzo, a member of this unit, keeps track of all the mandatory training records. In addition, he recognizes





## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 2015 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
- Taser 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        |
| 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 has 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.

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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 **24** assignments in 2015. The total callout for the County Team was 50, 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

## 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 twenty two (22) training sessions in 2015. 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, Sea Isle Polar Plunge, Ocean City Air Show, 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  
Ptlm. John Norton  
Sgt. James Loftus

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

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## 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.





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Members of the Honor Guard include:

Sergeant James Loftus (Unit Leader)

Patrolman John Norton

Patrolman Ron Miller

Patrolman Dan Martin

Patrolman Len Larkin

Detective Giacomo Trombetta

Patrolman Josh Bryan

Detective Tracey Super

Patrolman Gino Castellano

Detective Jason Sweitzer

Patrolman David Hagan

Patrolman Kurt Saettler

## 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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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.

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

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 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, Patrolman Leonard Larkin and Patrolman Brian Murphy. During 2015 these officers performed 7 evaluations (4 for this Department, 3 for other jurisdictions).

In 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 2015, \$1320.00 was reimbursed back to the Department through this grant.

### ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department participates in the New Jersey State Association Chiefs of Police 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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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, and during this period the department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards with which it received accreditation. In 2016, 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 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, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Numbers are the number of false alarms for each month.

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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|      | 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 |
| 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  |
| 2015 | 78  | 79  | 70  | 77  | 77  | 100 | 86  | 89  | 76  | 89  | 73  | 71  |

2009 total: 1,276

2010 total: 1,216

2011 total: 932

2012 total: 870

2013 total: 909

2014 total: 880

2015 total: 965

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.

Comparing 2014 to 2015, alarms are up by 85 which is a 9.7% increase from 2014.

Since the inception of the program in 2009 to 2015 alarms are down by 367 which is a 24% 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



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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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sole authority in making the final determination. Our Third Awards Dinner was held in March of 2015 and a list of the award recipients is listed below:

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| • Chief Leusner               | Life Saving   |
| • Capt. John Edwards          | Education, and Top Gun  |
| • Lt. William Adams           | FBI Academy   |
| • Sgt. Stocker                | Meritorious Service   |
| • Sgt. Mark Higginbottom      | Dive Team, Honor Guard, Good Conduct, and Command and Leadership                              |
| • Sgt. Fran Fiore             | Meritorious Service, and Life Saving  |
| • Sgt. Shepherd               | Good Conduct  |
| • Sgt. James Loftus           | Education, Command and Leadership, Dive Team, Crash Team, Bike Unit, SRO, and Motorcycle Unit |
| • Sgt. Osmundsen              | Command and Leadership  |
| • Cpl. Jen Delanzo            | Dare, Good Conduct, and Hostage Negotiator  |
| • Cpl. Crawley                | Meritorious Service   |
| • Cpl. Phil Johnson           | Good Conduct, Swat Team, and FTO  |
| • Ptl. Armondo Jones          | Bike Unit, and Crash Team   |
| • Ptl. Ron Miller             | SWAT Team, and Good Conduct   |
| • Ptl. Ray Bradley            | Military  |
| • Det. Jason Sweitzer         | Honor Guard, and Bike Unit  |
| • Ptl. Brian Murphy           | Meritorious Service, Education, Good Conduct, and FTO   |
| • Ptl. Dan Geiger             | Education, Motorcycle Unit, and Bike Unit   |
| • Ptl. Dan Martin             | Good Conduct, FTO, Crash Team, and Life Saving  |
| • Ptl. Martin Lindholm        | Meritorious Service   |
| • Ptl. Brian Vergantino       | Meritorious Service   |
| • Ptl. Salveson               | Meritorious Service   |
| • Ofc. Alison Akke            | Education, and Life Saving  |
| • Ofc. Brown                  | Good Conduct, and EMT   |
| • Ptl. Kurt Saettler          | Education, FTO, and Honor Guard   |
| • Ptl. Joe Gamble             | Life Saving, Baby Delivery  |
| • Ptl. John Norton            | Meritorious Service, and FTO  |
| • Ptl. Matt Martino           | FTO, Crash Team, Good Conduct, and Motorcycle Unit  |
| • Ptl. Len Larkin             | Life Saving, Good Conduct, Honor Guard, Bike Unit, and Drug Recognition                       |
| • Ptl. Justin Vitola          | Life Saving,  |
| • Det. Ken Martin             | Dive, and SRO   |
| • Ptl. Steve Novsak           | SRO, Crash Team, and Bike Unit  |
| • Ptl. Martin Lindholm        | Life Saving, and Crash Team   |
| • Ptl. James D'Alonzo         | Combat Cross, Crash Team, and Bike Unit   |
| • Ptl. Dave Hagan             | Good Conduct, Drug Recognition, FTO, Bike Unit, and Honor Guard                               |
| • Det. Tracey Super           | Honor Guard   |
| • Ptl. Mike Pastore           | Military  |
| • Ptl. Julio Ruiz             | Hostage Negotiator  |
| • Dispatcher Brandon Mitchell | Life Saving   |
| • Dispatcher Keith Woodrow    | Life Saving, and 15 year Pin  |
| • Dispatcher Bill Mulligan    | 10 year pin   |
| • Dispatcher Jacob Loefflad   | 5 year pin  |
| • Dispatcher Dave Atkinson    | Life Saving   |

The Next Awards Dinner will be held in March of 2017.

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### 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 2015 was the first annual Crayola Crayon Drive for Cancer. Officers and non-sworn employees of the police department, along with the help of the Community, came together and collected a truck full of crayons for Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. The Fund also supports the Awards Dinner and Retiree Luncheon.



### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic group's meetings/events in 2015: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, NAACP Martin Luther King Breakfast, and Middle Township Chamber Commerce.
- 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. Residents can also text us through Nixle by texting MTPD TIPS followed by your message to 88877.





## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- 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 and Sea Isle City.
- “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” which Middle Township Police Department helps promote recognizes the loss of Kevin Lamb in a crash, son of Caryn Rixey; she had 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.

### **2015 Goals/Results**

#### **Patrol Division**

In 2015 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 conduct a minimum of one foot patrol per shift. In 2013, the Department established 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 overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone decreased from 281 in 2014 to 278 in 2015, which is a 1% decrease. This continues to remain below the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. Shoplifting continues to be a problem in the DDACTS zone. Shoplifting offenses increased from 172 in 2014 to 193 in 2015 which is a 12.2 % increase. There were 131 in 2013. Shoplifting now accounts for 69% of the Part Offenses occurring in the DDACTS zone. Accidents increased 1% to 284 crashes in 2015 versus 281 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 safety of motorists travelling on State Highway 47. The objective of this goal was to conduct a minimum of one radar detail a shift on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16. These areas over the past couple of years have seemed to be where there have been more serious accidents involving serious injuries or fatalities. During 2015, officers of this Department performed 477 traffic details resulting in 2090 motor vehicle stops and the issuance of 1082 summons in the

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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targeted area. We increased our details by over 90% from 2014 where 248 were performed. Motor vehicle stops and summons issued did decrease from the amount in 2014 with 2278 stops and 1189 summons issues however the increased presence on the roadway most likely deterred motorists from committing traffic violations. The most important statistic for this goal was there were no fatalities on the 2 stretches of State Highway 47 we targeted in this goal.

### Special Service Unit

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2015. The first 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 20 for 2015. We did not achieve our objective of 20. During 2015, fourteen (14) station house adjustments were performed versus (seventeen (17) in 2014. 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.

The second goal was to support the patrol division in improving the quality of life in Rio Grande and improving the safety of motorists on State Highway 47. The objective of this goal was to conduct frequent details in the DDACT zone and State Highway 47 in the targeted areas. Details performed by the Special Services Unit included bike patrols, shoplifting details, warrant details and identifying homeless persons to offer assistance. 2 Class II's were assigned to the Special Services Unit for part of the year and were on bike patrol or performing traffic enforcement on a daily basis in the Rio Grande area. Members of the Special Services Unit increased their activity in the DDACTS zone by conducting 329 motor vehicle stops and issuing 84 summonses in 2015 versus 137 motor vehicle stops and 59 summons issued in 2014.

### 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.**

Members of the Major Crimes Unit accomplished this task by adding or updating over twenty (20) new locations under code for public parks and/or schools. This would include the entire Delaware Bay, bike path, route 9 and 47, etc... The maps are prepared and ready for printing but awaiting the new "zones" to be implemented. Furthermore, we have the 500 foot and 1000 foot buffers added to pictometry for accurate representations of the park and school zone locations.

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**Goal #2: Create a training guide for evidence procedures in accordance with the New Jersey State Police and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office for evidence guidelines and procedures.**

Dfc. McClure met with each squad and went over the "mistakes" that were commonly seen when submitting evidence. Since his training sessions, the amount of evidence entered incorrectly has been minimal. Some of the common mistakes were counting and documenting of money, and initialing bags.

The Cape May County Prosecutor's Office is re-writing their evidence policy and what they will and will not accept (guns and weapons). I am awaiting their new policy and the adoption by the Chiefs of Police Association prior to implementing a guide for Infoshare.

A copy of the NJSP evidence manual for collection of evidence was given to each patrol squad and placed on the server for all to access. This is a practical guide for basic collection of wet clothes, bullets, blood, and its submission to their labs.

## Appendix A: 2016 Proposals

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### **Rio Grande Sub-Station**

We currently have a small sub-station located in the rear of the Rio Plaza in Rio Grande. It is not a visible location and it is used primarily for officers to complete reports. We are hoping to relocate the Rio Grande sub-station to an area that is more visible and accessible to the public. The presence of a visible and accessible sub-station for the public would have a positive effect on the area. Residents and visitors to Rio Grande would see parked police cars and officers coming and going to our sub-station. Residents would also be able to come into the lobby of the sub-station and request to speak with an officer, just as if a resident were to come into the lobby of our headquarters in Cape May Court House. Our hope is to be operational in the Rio Grande sub-station in 2016.

### **Body Cameras**

We completed a pilot program and tested a number of different body cameras in 2015 and have decided to move forward with equipping officers with body cameras in 2016. We applied and received funding through the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and Attorney General's Office this past year and Township Committee approved Capital funds this past summer to dedicate to the project. We are in the process of making the final decision on the make and model of the body camera and plan on being operational by the end of 2016.

### **ASAP Program**

The Middle Township Police Department recognizes the significant impact substance abuse can have on not only the abuser, but also the abuser's family, friends and society as a whole. Many times when officers come in contact with a substance abuser, there are limited options for the officers to give to assist the person in receiving treatment for their addiction. We plan through a partnership with CURE, (Christians United for Recovery) and their Advocating Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), this Department will be able to provide access to recovery support services to a person requesting them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. ASAP volunteers will provide phone support, mobile outreach and crisis services to the individual.

### **Accreditation**

The Middle Township Police Department is due for an on-site assessment for reaccreditation in 2016. The Middle Township Police Department has been an accredited agency for the past ten years, first receiving accreditation status in 2006. We are committed to the accreditation process and operating the Middle Township Police Department according to best practices.

## Appendix A: 2016 Proposals

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### **Law Enforcement against Drugs Prevention Program**

The Middle Township Police Department has taught drug prevention and violence programs for years in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Middle Township Elementary #2 School. We currently teach certified curriculum in the L.E.A.D (Law Enforcement against Drugs Program) Program. In the light of the Heroin epidemic facing our community, we are looking to expand our drug prevention efforts by adding L.E.A.D block of instruction at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level. Our hope is by connecting with our students at 5<sup>th</sup> grade and again at 7<sup>th</sup> grade with a certified proven curriculum, we will have fewer kids in Middle Township get involved with drugs.

### **Redraw Zones**

The Middle Township Police Department has four patrol zones and these zones were established over twenty five years ago. Middle Township has changed considerably over the last twenty five years and we will be redrawing our patrol zones based on analysis of calls for service data and response time. Our goal is to deploy our resources in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

### **Holocaust Museum Training**

The **Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust** program enables law enforcement officers to examine the role their profession played in the Holocaust and challenges them to reflect upon their professional and personal responsibilities in a democracy. Chief Leusner attended the training while attending the FBI National Academy in 2008. Commissioner Charles Ramsey wrote a paper for the Harvard Kennedy School for Government discussing the value of this particular training for law enforcement officers in a democratic society. We will be taking approximately 20 officers for a day trip this year to attend the course at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in Glen Cove, New York.



## Appendix B: 2016 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 2015 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. Maintain patrol time and police activity during our peak days and times.
3. Utilize the additional increase of Class II Officers to partially focus on the DDACT Zone and Route 47.
4. 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.
5. 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 2016.
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: 2016 Goals

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### **Major Crimes Unit**

#### **Goal#1**

Improve the tracking of sex offenders within Middle Township and transition to the newly mandated Offender Search Tracking System.

#### **Objective:**

Conduct 4 random checks to verify sex offenders are residing at their registered addresses, to ensure all sex offenders are not in violation and to help track the location of all sex offenders within Middle Township and complete the full transition to Offender Watch in 2016.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Conduct checks throughout the year to verify the addresses of all sex offenders.
2. Provide an updated list of sex offenders, on a monthly basis, to the Records Division so that the addresses of all sex offenders will be updated in the CAD System. This will alert police personnel if they are dispatched to the address of a sex offender or in the area of where a sex offender is registered.
3. Provide an update list of all sex offenders within Middle Township to all police personnel to keep them up to date on who is a sex offender and where they reside.
4. Purchase a palm print scanner for the fingerprint system and utilize it when registering sex offenders.

#### **Goal #2**

Increase enforcement of distribution of narcotics and gathering of intelligence with an emphasis on the Rio Grande section of Middle Township and improve the safety of all residents within Middle Township.

#### **Objective:**

Supervise and direct the newly formed Street Crimes Unit and conduct at least 20 Search Warrants for Narcotics Related Offenses and make at least 60 arrests for quality of life issues/narcotics related offenses

#### **Strategies:**

1. Work closely with and share information with the Major Crimes Unit as well as other units in the department.

## Appendix B: 2016 Goals

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2. Deploy plain clothed officers to identify quality of life issues and narcotic related offenses.
3. Conduct surveillance details.
4. Develop and cultivate informants to gather intelligence on criminal activity occurring in Middle Township

### **Special Services Unit**

#### **Goal#1**

Increase the Department's interaction with private businesses in the Rio Grande Business District.

#### **Objective:**

Establish and maintain a contact list with the business owners and or managers to enhance the flow of information and to give a better understanding of issues that affect the commerce, and overall safety of residents and customers.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Establish a private Facebook page for Businesses.
2. Maintain an email list of all owners/managers.
3. Develop a mechanism to quickly identify and respond to developing trends.
4. Foot/Bike Patrols to respond to the complaints.

#### **Goal#2**

Help residents of Middle Township suffering from addiction to get access to substance abuse treatment services.

#### **Objective:**

Establish a formal partnership with Christians United for Recovery (CURE) and a Standard Operating Procedure to outline the process of referring individuals that the Middle Township Police Department comes in contact with and the provision of services in 2016.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Finalize a Standard Operating Procedure for approval by the Chief of Police.
2. Conduct training for all officers on the new policy.
3. Educate the public on the services available to residents through the newly established partnership.