

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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



Prepared by:  
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Captain W. Adams  
Captain D. Nelson  
Lt. R. Shepherd  
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Sgt. M. Higginbottom  
Sgt. C. Stocker  
Sgt. K. Martin

Released: March 8, 2017

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department made considerable progress in 2016 expanding our services, restructuring the Department to include Code Enforcement, reduce crime, and continue our transition to policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

### *Rio Grande Efforts*

One of the highlights in 2016 was the opening of the Rio Grande Substation on Route 47 in the heart of the retail hub of Cape May County. The Rio Grande Substation opened on Memorial Day and would not have been possible without the support of the Feraco Family who leased the space to us for \$1.00 a year. Middle Township Committee approved \$50,000 in Capital funds which allowed us to open a fully functional Police Substation accessible to the public 24 hours a day. Since the opening of the Rio Grande Substation, residents and visitors have come to the Rio Grande Substation 139 times to speak with an officer. In addition, because of the size of the lobby, we were able to offer a new service to our residents, “Safe Exchange Zone”. This service allows residents and visitors who buy items through on-line websites access to a space open 24 hours a day, where both buyers and sellers can have a sense of security. This Rio Grande Substation complimented our newly created Street Crimes Unit which launched in January. The Street Crimes Unit dedicated a considerable amount of time and resources to the Rio Grande area. The Street Crimes Unit was highly successful in 2016. They made 85 arrests, executed 26 Search Warrants, seized over 1500 bags of Heroin, 14 grams of raw unpackaged Heroin, over 125 grams of unpackaged Crack/Powder cocaine, individual bags of cocaine, seized \$19,966.00 in cash and 3 handguns.

### *Proactive Policing Strategies*

In 2016 we continued to focus as much effort and resources to Intervention and Education/Prevention as we do in Enforcement. In the fall, we announced our partnership with Lighthouse Church’s Christian United for Recovery (CURE) Advocating for Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). This program was inspired by the Angel Program in Gloucester Massachusetts. The Advocating for Substance Abuse program allows us to assist citizens with obtaining help with their addiction. If a Middle Township Police Officer comes in contact with a citizen either through arrest, a field contact or they walk in the Police Department and they want help, we treat them with respect and compassion while working with CURE to get them help. Since the launch of the program in September of 2016 we have referred 10 people for help. This program compliments our Public Advocate Program in the Municipal Court through a partnership with Cape Assist where we have been connecting people with services for over two years. Lastly, Patrol Officers continued to carry Narcan and deployed it 26 in 2016 times compared to 13 times in 2015. *(Note: Cape Regional Medical Center also has a partnership with CURE for addiction services)*

On the Education/Prevention side we worked with Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor on providing access to the “Pills to Heroin Program” to our residents online. We also worked with the Middle Township Middle School to put the framework in place to expand our L.E.A.D. Program (Law Enforcement against Drugs prevention course)

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currently in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade to now also be delivered in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. As a result all our efforts (increased visibility, increased enforcement, increased intervention and education/prevention efforts) reported Part I offenses were down 28% in Rio Grande and 13% in Township in 2016. (*See page 8*)

### **Body Cameras**

In the area of technology, we made significant progress with the planning for implementation of body cameras. After significant research and testing we selected Watch Guard as the vendor for the program. We also replaced our in car video system which was over 10 years old, and consolidated our entire in car video equipment and software into the Watch Guard body camera system. We now have one vendor and one software system. With the retirement of an evidence clerk, we were able to hire a retired police officer with extensive background in evidence and computers to handle the increased volume of evidence expected when an agency begins using body cameras. The technological infrastructure, the policies, the training, and the new evidence clerk were all in place by the end of 2016 and we went live in January of 2017.

### **Community Outreach**

In the area of Community Outreach, we continued with existing programs and added some new ones. Sgt. Fran Fiore lead the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Crayons for Cancer Drive” to support children receiving critical treatment at Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia. We participated in “No Shave November” for a second year in a row and the proceeds went to a local family with a youngster fighting cancer. The Middle Township Police Officer Association had another successful year with our Toy Drive and Thanksgiving giveaway. The Meet and Greet Officer Program is now in its third year with the Middle Township AARP and is going strong. We had Bicycle Officers patrolling the business district in Rio Grande out of our Rio Grande Substation for a second year in a row. We continue to promote the dangers of Distracted Driving through our magnets.

In 2016, we created a program, “What to Expect with Encounters with Police Officers” and offered it to the public for the first time in July. This event drew over 100 people and provided the public a positive program to help educate our citizens and especially our teenage youth on what to expect when interacting with Police Officers. The event concluded with food and refreshments provided by Cape May County Prosecutor Robert Taylor through the use of Forfeiture funds. We have since delivered the program to all Middle Township High School Students and some students from throughout Cape May County at Cape Assist’s Peer Leadership Conference.

Finally, we launched a Mobile App as a free download available to our residents through either the Apple App Store or Google Play. The new app allows the department to quickly disseminate emergency alerts, and post news about missing persons, traffic delays, and weekly crime reports. Citizens can easily send comments, crime tips, and images— anonymously if they wish — and place calls to our non-emergency number with the touch of a button.

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## *Criminal and Traffic Activity*

In 2016 we saw a 14.2% reduction in non-violent crime: 489 offenses in 2016 compared to 570 in 2015. In 2016 was essentially flat in violent crime with 50 offenses in 2016 compared to 52 offenses in 2015. Our Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) initiative showed a significant decrease in offenses in the Rio Grande area in 2016: 200 offenses in 2016 compared to 278 offenses in 2015. We use 2012 as our baseline for measuring success in our DDACTS program because due to launching DDACTS on January 1, 2013. In 2012, we had 307 offenses, and in the following four years there has been a decrease in reported offenses: in 2013 we had 229 offenses, in 2014 we had 281 offenses, in 2015 we had 278 offenses, and in 2016 we had 200 offenses.

Traffic activity within the Township saw a 5.6% decrease in total crashes. In 2016 we had 975 crashes compared to 1033 in 2015. Injuries as result of crashes were also down in 2016, a 20% decrease. In 2016 we had 118 injuries from crashes compared to 148 in 2015. We saw no change in traffic fatalities in 2016, 4 in 2016 and 4 in 2015. Motor Vehicle Summonses were down 14.5%, a total of 2,514 summonses in 2016 compared to 2,940 in 2015. Motor Vehicle stops were up approximately 3.2%, a total of 5629 in 2016 compared to 5455 in 2015. Driving While Intoxicated arrests were down 20.5%, a total of 66 in 2016 compared to 83 in 2015.

In closing, there has been considerable change in policing in the last few years. This is expected to continue as we adapt to the use of body cameras and the new bail reform policies and procedures, the largest change in the Criminal Justice System in New Jersey since 1947. The members of the Middle Township Police Department worked hard in 2016 to meet the challenges of policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We remain committed to providing the best possible services as we enter a new age of policing.



Rio Grande Substation Opening May 27<sup>th</sup>



MTPD Training Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center in April.

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## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

### **Current Sworn Employees**

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2017.

#### **Chief of Police**

Christopher Leusner

#### **Captain**

William Adams

Don Nelson

#### **Lieutenant**

Robert Shepherd

James Loftus

Doug Osmundsen

#### **Detectives**

Det/Sgt. Clint Stocker

DFC Allan McClure

Giacomo Trombetta

Jason Sweitzer

Daniel Martin

#### **Special Services Unit**

Sgt. Mark Higginbottom

Cpl. Phil Johnson

Cpl. Eugene Castellano

Cpl. James D'Alonzo

PFC Steve Novsak

Class II Kirk Rohrer

Class II Joni Frangieh

Class II Jacob Zeller

Class II Robert Kelly

Class II Andrew Garcia

Class II Gregory Dececco

Class II Trevor MacCormack

#### **Patrol Sergeants**

Fran Fiore

Jennifer Delanzo

Tracey Super

Josh Bryan

#### **Corporals**

Fred Crawley

John Norton

Leonard Larkin

Ronald Miller

#### **Street Crimes Unit**

Sgt. Ken Martin

#### **Patrolman**

PFC Dave Hagan

PFC Julio Ruiz

PFC Michelle Brown

Matthew Martino

Kurt Saettler

Daniel Geiger

Martin Lindholm

Armondo Jones

Jeffrey Salveson

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Brian Murphy

Justin Vitola

Michael Pastore

Shawn Karge

Joseph Gamble

Michael Reardon

Benjamin Stiefel

Jonas McInnis

Thomas Ritterhoff

Mark Bakley

Thomas Flounders

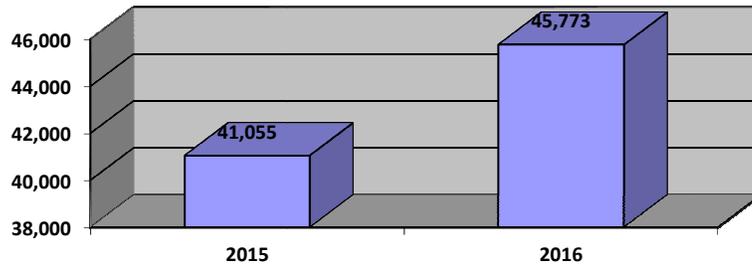
Dylan Young

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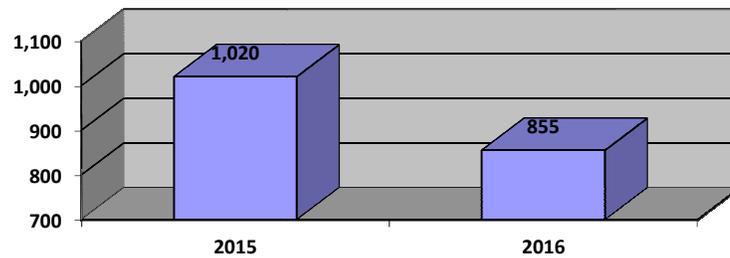
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## CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

<b>Calls for Service:</b>	<u>2015</u> 41,055	<u>2016</u> 45,773	<u>Change</u> +4,718
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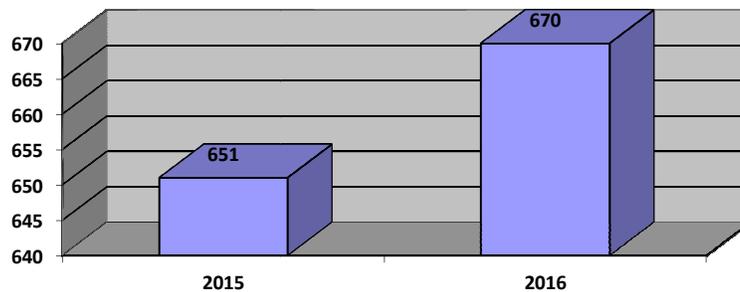


<b>Arrests:</b>	<u>2015</u> 1,020	<u>2016</u> 855	<u>Change</u> -165
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*Note: An update to our reporting procedures for warrant arrests from different jurisdictions contributed to the decrease in arrest.*

<b>Indictable Complaints</b>	<u>2015</u> 651	<u>2016</u> 670	<u>Change</u> +19
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## Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

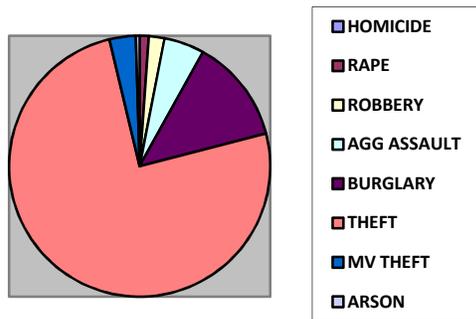
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications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

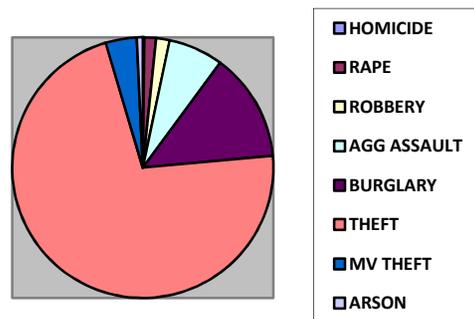
<b>Offense: 2015</b>		<b>Offense: 2016</b>		<b><u>Change</u></b>
Homicide	1	Homicide	0	-1
Rape	8	Rape*	4	-4
Robbery	12	Robbery	9	-3
Aggravated Assault	31	Aggravated Assault	37	+6
Burglary	80	Burglary	73	-7
Theft	467	Theft	391	-76
Motor Vehicle Theft	20	Motor Vehicle Theft	21	+1
Arson	3	Arson	4	+1
<hr/>		<hr/>		
Total UCR:	622		539	-83
Violent Crime:	52		50	-2
Non Violent Crime:	570		489	-81

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

UCR 2015



UCR 2016



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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.

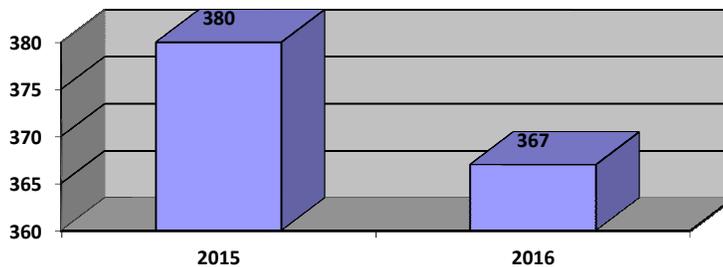
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	39	20	-19
Simple Assaults	141	123	-18
Medical Calls	3419	3395	-24
Fire Calls	854	930	+76
Death Investigations	36	30	-6
Disorderly Conduct incidents	1,013	1,072	+59
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	104	111	+7
Malicious Damage incidents	56	86	+30
Missing Persons and Runaways	142	123	-19
Assisting other agency incidents	481	489	+8
Property and Building Checks	13,077	16,357	+3,280
Bias Incidents Investigated	1	0	-1
Directed Patrol	2,444	2,898	+454
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports generated:	1,408	1,397	-11
Supplemental Investigations generated:	1,581	1,623	+42

### 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 2016 Middle Township Police responded to **367** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior Middle Township police responded to **380** Domestic Violence incidents.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	380	367	-13



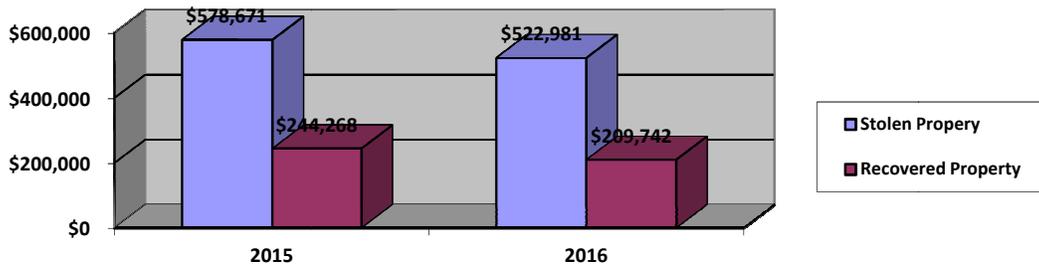
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## Property Stolen and Recovered

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>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	<b>\$578,671.00</b>	<b>\$522,941.00</b>	<b>-\$55,730</b>
Recovered:	<b>\$244,268.00</b>	<b>\$209,742.00</b>	<b>-\$34,526</b>




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## Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or Crashes:

During 2016, Personnel Officer Kalish reported 8 work related injury incidents. As a result of the injuries, only one of the officers missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>#Days Missed</u>
Joni Frangieh	6 days

## Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 8 motor vehicle crashes in 2016.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Mary Creamer	May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Officer struck a parked vehicle.
Ron Miller	July 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Officer struck a parked vehicle.
Jonas McInnis	July 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2016	Driver opened a door into the roadway as officer was driving.
Michelle Brown	September 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Officer struck a motorcycle.
Martin Lindholm	October 13 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Officer struck a pole.
William Candell	November 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2016	Officer struck a parked vehicle.
Tracey Super	December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Officer backed into a tree while parking.
Kirk Rohrer	December 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2016	Officer Struck vehicle at intersection while responding to an emergency call.

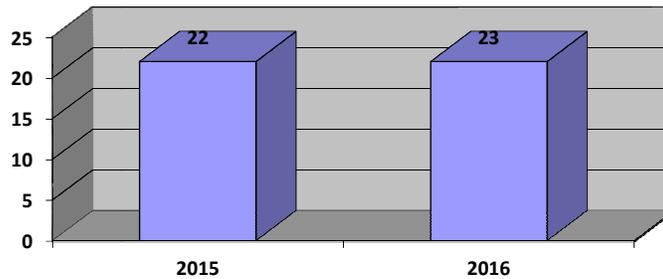
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## Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

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>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents	22	23	+1



Of those 23 Use of Force incidents, 22 subjects were arrested, 1 subject was 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 in 11 of these cases only compliance holds were used by officers*

Officers injured using force:	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
	7	5

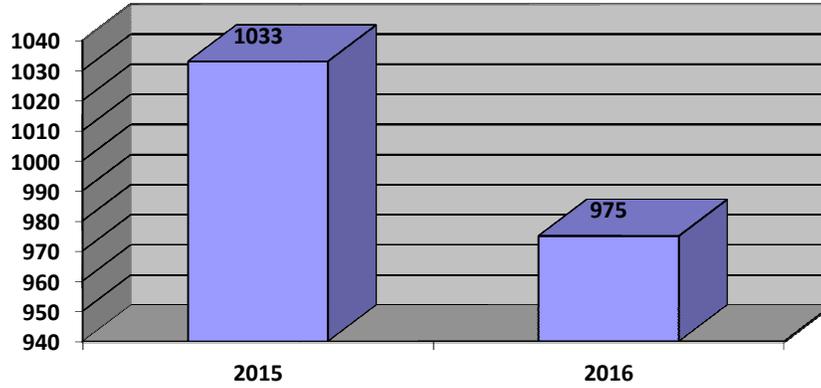
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Police Pursuits:	4	3

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 3 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there were 4 people arrested, and one crash.

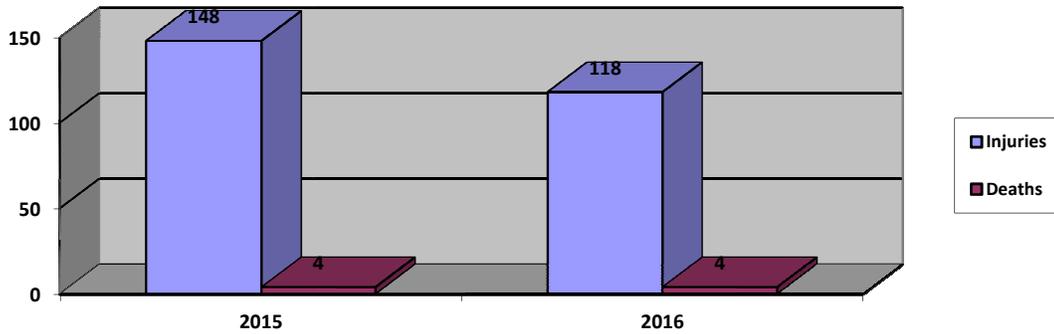
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## TRAFFIC

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>Motor Vehicle Crashes</b>	1033	975	-58



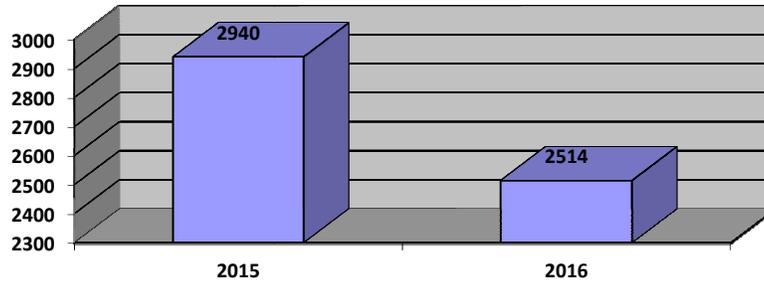
	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>Injuries:</b>	148	118	-30
<b>Deaths:</b>	4	4	0



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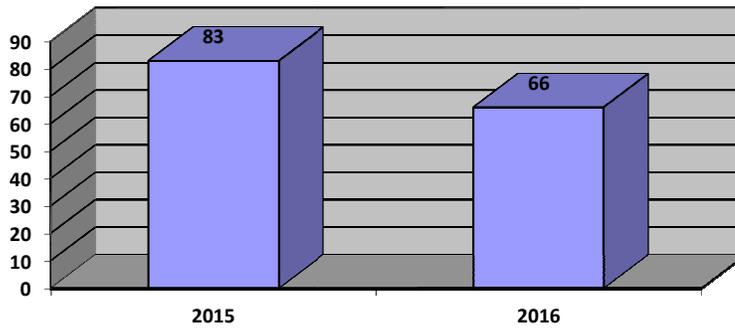
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	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>Motor Vehicle Summonses issued</b>	2,940	2,514	-426



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

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>DWI Arrests</b>	83	66	-17



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## ADMINISTRATION

The Police Administration was expanded in 2016 as part of a restructuring with the addition of the Street Crimes Unit and assuming the Code Enforcement function. The Administration includes 6 officers, including the Chief. The officers are Chief Christopher Leusner, Captain William Adams, Captain Donald Nelson, Lieutenant Robert Shepherd, Lieutenant James Loftus and Lieutenant Douglas Osmundsen. 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 the community, civic and religious groups, prepare grants, prepare and manage the Police Department's Budget and, also, to report at least monthly to Township Committee.

The Operations Captain is responsible for the following areas: Public Information Officer, Accreditation Manager, Manage Standard Operating Procedures and Rules and Regulations, Manage Payroll, Manage In Car Cameras-Body Cameras (Watch Guard System), Traffic Committee, Infectious control officer, Manage Alcotest units Manage Radar units/tuning forks, NJ Learn Coordinator, Emergency Management officer, Traffic/DWI grants, Fleet manager, Building/cell inspections, On-call administrator, Nixle Administrator, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Manage Station Video System, Body Armor Grants, Guardian System Administrator, Power DMS Administrator, Managing Human Resources-hiring and background process, GPS Trackstar Administrator, Supervise Patrol Lieutenant.

The Administrative Captain is responsible for the following areas: Internal Affairs Commander (Review/Recommend), JIFF Coordinator, False Alarm Administrator Bail Reform Coordinator, Review Investigation and Supplement Reports Assistant Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Radio System Administrator Employee Evaluations, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Fire Department Liaison, Maintain Battery Back Up System, Maintain Generators, Manage Station Video, Supervise and Manage IT Operations, On-call administrator, MVS 2000 Reports and Analysis, Manage and Prepare reports for Forfeiture funds Prepare and Disseminate Weekly Crime Blotter and Arrest Blotter Reports Prepare Grants, Manage Sick time log/Early Warning Guardian Procedure Parole and Probation Liaison, Cyber Security Coordinator, Supervise Lieutenants.

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The Patrol Commander is responsible for the following areas: Vehicle maintenance, Patrol equipment (purchase, maintain, issue), POSS Administrator (schedule/time off/OT, etc..), Review all DWI's and accident reports, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Manage Off-duty details, Prepare Grants, Manage Statistics, Schedule training, Training Development Coordinator, Hotel/Motel Association Liaison, Assistant Public Information Officer, On-call administrator, Order/Replace Uniforms, Field Training Officer Coordinator, Manage Class II Program  
OSHA Compliance Officer, Special Events Committee, Municipal Court Operational Liaison, Manage and conduct vehicle inspections, Dive Team (people/training/equipment), Supervise Patrol Sergeants and Special Services Sergeant, L.E.A.D. Coordinator.

The Administrative Lieutenant is responsible for the following areas: Dispatch Administrator, Records Administrator, Supervise Animal Control, Supervise Code Enforcement, Review Investigation and Supplement Reports, Internal Affairs Investigator, Crash Team Commander, Manage Crime Analysis Function Assistant Public Information Officer, Assistant Social Media Administrator Coordinate National Night Out, Prepare Grants, On-call administrator Hostage Negotiation Liaison, Honor Guard Coordinator, Manage CrimeWatch Video Program, Manage Vacant Property Program/Ordinance, Municipal Court Administrative Liaison, Manage Livescan systems: Crossmatch and Morphotrak  
Manage Comcast Accounts: Headquarters/Rio Grande Substation.

The second Administrative Lieutenant is responsible for the following areas: Major Crimes Unit Administrator, Street Crimes Unit Administrator, Review Investigation and Supplement Reports from MCU/SCU, Internal Affairs Investigator, Megan's Law liaison, VICAP Officer, Maglocen Liaison, Manage Towing, Assistant Public Information Officer, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Bias crime officer  
DYFS liaison, Internship Coordinator, Prepare Grants, On-call administrator  
Manage, approve, and audit Confidential Funds, Webmaster [www.middlepd.org](http://www.middlepd.org)  
Appmaster-MTPD App: Google Play Apple App Store, South Jersey Real Time Crime Center Liaison, ACS/ATS Coordinator, CJIS/TAC Coordinator, Manage Verizon Wireless Account, Oversee Evidence Function.

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## PATROL DIVISION

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



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

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

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into five squads. Four patrol squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant 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 20 officers trained and 10 Tasers for use. Over the next year, we plan on training the remainder of the patrol division, so all officers working the street have another force option available before using deadly force.

### **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

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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:

Sergeant Josh Bryan  
Corporal Phillip Johnson  
Corporal James D'Alonzo  
Corporal John Norton  
Patrolman Brian Murphy

Patrolman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Steven Novsak  
Patrolman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Dave Hagan  
Patrolman Kurt Saettler  
Patrolman Matt Martino

\*\*\* Six more Patrolman have been selected to be trained as FTO's in March of 2017

Patrolman Armondo Jones  
Patrolman Justin Vitola  
Patrolman Michael Pastore

Patrolman Martin Lindholm  
Patrolman Brian Vergantino  
Patrolman Joseph Gamble

## DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division, otherwise known as the Major Crimes 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>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	47	44	-3
Supplemental Investigations:	1174	1137	-37
Arrests:	48	43	-5

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruitment, police employee employment background investigations. In addition, the Detective Division conducts all firearm application backgrounds, which has grown tremendously over the past year. The unit completed a total of 437 firearms backgrounds, which is an increase of 96 from 2015.

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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 as 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 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, 2016:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	255	244	-11
Cases Closed:	256	277	+21

Current number of active cases as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016: **81**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2016 include:

- **2016-04927**- Counterfeit money operation resulting in the arrests of two individuals in Rio Grande.
- **2016-00091** – Armed robbery at CVS - Man arrested for robbing clerk armed with a machete.
- **2016-04035** – Arson - man arrested for setting fire deliberately to his girlfriend's vehicle
- **2016-19734** – Armed robbery at 76 gas station – Rio Grande – man arrested for robbing a patron at gun point.
- **2016-27992** – Man arrested for shooting at a occupied residence in Whitesboro.
- **2016-11010** – On going investigation involving an individual shot in the leg by an unknown actor in Whitesboro.
- **2016-20566** – 8<sup>th</sup> grade student attempted to take Cpl. Castellano's firearm from him in school – JV was arrested.
- **2016-05494** – Prostitution investigation – Rio Grande. Three individuals were arrested for promoting prostitution via the internet and providing services at local motels.
- **2016-17577** – Man arrested for threatening another at Court House Wawa with a knife.

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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 2016 included:

Detective Sergeant Clint Stocker  
Detective First Class Allan McClure  
Detective Jack Trombetta  
Detective Jason Sweitzer  
Detective Dan Martin  
Part Time Evidence Clerk Mark DeVico

### STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Street Crimes Unit was implemented to focus on reducing crime with a focus on Rio Grande and the Opium epidemic in Middle Township. In addition to street level narcotics investigations, the unit worked closely with the Major Crimes Unit investigating major cases to include several shootings and robberies within the township over the past year. As a result of the Unit's success, we have seen a decrease in disorderly persons offenses overall to include thefts and shopliftings, which attributes to the reduction of more serious crimes, burglaries and strong armed robberies. During 2016 ten members of the Middle Township Police Department were assigned to the Street Crimes Unit. During their assignment, all of the members authored a Court Authorized Search Warrant and were present and involved in the execution of the search warrant.



#### **The following is a list of Officers assigned to Street Crimes for 2016:**

Sgt. Kenneth Martin  
Cpl. John Norton  
Ptlm. Martin Lindholm  
Ptlm. Kurt Saettler  
Ptlm. Brian Murphy  
Ptlm. Matthew Martino  
Ptlm. Mike Pastore  
Ptlm. Brian Vergantino  
Ptlm. Justin Vitola  
Ptlm. Armondo Jones

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### **The following is a synopsis of the Street Crimes Unit's 2016 case load:**

**Arrests:** Eighty-five.

A majority of the arrest were for Narcotics Violations. Other arrests included: Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Counterfeit/Forgery, Shoplifting, and Graffiti/Criminal Mischief. The unit also handled one DWI and wrote two local ordinance summons for urinating in public.

**Search Warrants:** Twenty-six search warrants were executed in Middle Township resulting in the arrests of individuals for drug related and other criminal offenses.

**Heroin seized:** Over 1500 bags of prepackaged heroin and 14 grams of raw unpackaged heroin was seized during 2016.

**Crack/Powder Cocaine seized:** Over 125 grams (4 1/2) ounces of unpackaged and 33 individual bags of cocaine was seized during 2016.

**Prescription Medication:** Over 200 prescription pills most of which were Xanax, Percocet and Oxycodone were seized by the unit

**Marijuana:** Over ¼ pound of marijuana was seized in 2016.

**Currency seized:** \$19,966.00 was submitted for forfeiture as proceeds of criminal activity.

**Vehicles seized:** 2002 BMW 530I was submitted for forfeiture as being utilized for criminal activity.

**Weapons seized:** A 9mm semi-automatic handgun and two .38 revolvers were seized by the Street Crimes Unit in 2016.

### **The following in a list of a few of our notable cases:**

- **2016-00939-** A subject was observed engaging in a hand to hand CDS transaction at the bus stop located in front of the Dunkin Donuts in Rio Grande. The subject then arrested and found to be in possession of 137 bags of heroin and \$1172.00 in cash.
- **2016-10570-** On Tuesday, March 29, 2016, while conducting surveillance in the Rio Grande area the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit arrested a subject from Pleasantville, NJ who was the target of a narcotics investigation. The subject was arrested on several outstanding ATS warrants. The subject was found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana, several

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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counterfeit \$5 and \$10 dollar bills, a printer, laptop computer, resume paper and other items used to manufacture counterfeit money. The Secret Service was contacted and assisted in the investigation and the subject was charged with possession of marijuana, possession of counterfeit devices and manufacturing counterfeit money.

- **2016-24459**-On July 7, 2016, the Middle Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, executed a Court authorized search warrant in the Burleigh section of Middle Township. As a result of the search, over one ounce of crack cocaine, over ¼ ounce of unpackaged raw heroin was seized along with \$2,800.00. Two subjects from Millville NJ were arrested and charged as a result of this investigation.
- **2016-26285**- On Friday, July 22, 2016, members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit observed a hand to hand CDS transaction in the Village Shoppes Parking lot in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. As a result, two subjects were arrested. Thirty-five bags of heroin and \$708.00 were recovered.
- **2016-25587**- On Thursday, July 28, 2016, at approximately 0700 hours the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant in the Burleigh section of Middle Township. As a result of that search a ¼ pound of marijuana, over one ounce of crack cocaine and \$1680.00 was recovered.
- **2016-30533**- On Tuesday, September 06, 2016, members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit arrested two subjects from Brooklyn NY in the Burleigh section of Middle Township. As the result of a search warrant seventy-nine white wax fold stamped "Big Red" containing heroin, and approximately two grams of powder cocaine were located.
- **2016-30728**- A search warrant was executed at a residence in the Whitesboro section of Middle Township. Two subjects were arrested and over one ounce of cocaine, 3.5 grams of heroin, an amount of marijuana and over \$1200.00 in cash was seized.
- **2016-32588**- On Wednesday, September 14, 2016, members of the Middle Township Police Department observed a hand to hand CDS transaction in a parking lot in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. As a result, a search warrant was executed and 700 bags of heroin were recovered.
- **2016-42898**- On December 15, 2016, the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit concluded a narcotics investigation with a Court authorized search warrant of a vehicle. One subject from Edison, NJ, was observed in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township distributing narcotics. Surveillance was initiated until a motor vehicle stop was initiated in the Goshen section of Middle

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Township. A Court authorized search warrant was approved for the vehicle. As a result of the search, over one ounce of cocaine, a small amount of heroin, and thirty-seven pills believed to be ecstasy were seized from the vehicle.

## **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 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.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
<b>New registrants and/or moves:</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>+15</b>
<b>Average monthly registrant count:</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>- 6</b>
<b>Low count</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>- 10</b>
<b>High count</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>- 7</b>

During the year 7 details were conducted to verify the addresses of the registrants. As a result, 1 arrest was made for failure to re-register with their new address.

## **SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT**

The Special Services Unit is led by Sgt. Mark Higginbottom, and is under the command of Patrol Lieutenant Robert Shepherd. The Unit has several different tasks to include school resource officers, training of the entire police department, court security, community outreach, all community events, maintain police fleet, maintain and monitor the Juvenile Station House Adjustment Program along with various other responsibilities.



During 2016 the Special Services Unit completed (8) briefing training sessions, (13) community events, (3) directed patrol details at the request of citizens in that area. The training officer for the Department is Cpl. James D'Alonzo. He is charged with making sure officers of the Department are up to date with our training. This includes semi-annual firearms qualifications and policy reviews with officers on the subject of use of force, vehicular pursuits and domestic violence. Cpl. D'Alonzo also reviews safe tactics

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 **12 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
- 4<sup>TH</sup> of July Fireworks
- Annual 4H Fair
- National Night Out
- Cape May County Health and Wellness Fair
- Miss America Pageant/Parade
- Grace Gospel Book Bag giveaway
- Rio Grande K-Mart Safety Fair
- Middle Township Harvest Festival
- Annual Whitesboro Reunion
- Take Back NJ- Prescription Drug Program
- What to expect during a Law Enforcement Encounter MTHS and MTMS

The SSU provided court security on **46 Court days during the year** and supplemented **street coverage on 6 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 Cpl. 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



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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.

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

Cpl. James D’Alonzo

Ptl. Dan Geiger

Ptl. Brian Vergantino

Ptl. Justin Vitola

Ptl. Martin Lindholm

## FORFEITURE

<b><u>Forfeiture Fund:</u></b>	<b><u>2015</u></b>	<b><u>2016</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
Began year balance:	\$14, 919.41	\$21,533.73	+\$6,614.32
Forfeited monies received:	\$6,624.32	\$8,397.84	+\$1773.52
Forfeited monies expended:	\$0	\$4201.00	\$4201.00
Balance:	\$21,533.73	\$25,730.57	+\$4,196.84

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)*



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 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. In 2016 the Middle Township Police Department hosted 3 school presentations on “What to expect during a Law Enforcement Encounter”, at both the Middle Township High School and the Middle Township Middle School. These presentations covers grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> for the school districted.

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>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	38	41	+3
Supplement Investigations:	13	20	+7
Arrests:	21	27	+6

<u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	14	10	-4
Supplement Investigations:	7	5	-2
Arrests:	7	10	+3

**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



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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 2016, 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  
Sergeant Jennifer Delanzo  
Sergeant Tracey Super  
Sergeant Joshua Byran  
Corporal Eugene Castellano

## 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
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports



The work they do and the support they provide is invaluable. They are a great asset to this department. During 2016 the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens  
Sandra Linz  
Sandra Sickerott

Patricia Cornwell  
Margo Silcox

# 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 used to cover vacations, training, illnesses, and other time off issues, which helps in minimizing overtime costs. The department employs an additional eight part time communications operators who assist in staffing the Dispatch Center as needed during unscheduled shortages or other time off. 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 12/31/16:

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham  
Senior Operator Keith Woodrow

Senior Operator Robert Eagan  
Senior Operator Ted Farina

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Operator Dustin Gaskill  
Operator Brandon Mitchell  
Operator Tara Love  
P/T Operator Jeremy Embs  
P/T Operator Dustin Kelly  
P/T Operator William Belles  
P/T Operator Joe Repici

Operator Dave Atkinson  
Operator Kyle Lindholm  
P/T Operator Richard Sittineri  
P/T Mark Newman  
P/T Operator Joseph Eagan  
P/T William Mulligan

Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for service:	<b>41,055</b>	<b>45,773</b>	<b>+4718</b>
9-1-1 Calls:	<b>12,341</b>	<b>11,293</b>	<b>-1048</b>
Average 911 calls per day:	<b>33.8</b>	<b>30.9</b>	<b>-2.9</b>

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham is a certified Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor as well as a 911 Instructor. Operator Graham is also a Terminal Agency Coordinator. Senior 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 2016 there were a total of **29 Internal Affairs Investigations** conducted. There were 25 cases that reached a conclusion. See the below chart for the disposition types.

## 2016 Dispositions

Excessive Force:	1 Not Sustained
Other Rule Violation:	17 Sustained/4 Not Sustained/1 Exonerated
Improper Search:	1 Exonerated
Other Criminal Violation:	1 Not Sustained

## **Major Discipline Disclosure:**

1. An employee was suspended for 90 days for Misconduct.
2. An employee was suspended for 30 days for Abuse of Sick Time.
3. An employee was suspended for 20 days for Neglect of Duty.
4. An employee was suspended for 15 days for Misconduct.
5. An employee was suspended for 6 days for Failure to Perform Duty.

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 Don Nelson.

## **CODE ENFORCEMENT**

The Middle Township Police Department recognizes that quality of life issues can have a direct impact on crime as well as the ability of residents to feel safe within their neighborhoods. In an effort to improve the quality of life for the residents of Middle Township, the Police Department assumed control of the Code Enforcement function of Middle Township. The Code Enforcement Unit is a civilian staffed unit tasked with investigating and enforcing the local ordinances of Middle Township.



The Code Enforcement Unit consists of one full time officer and one part time officer.

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Full Time Officer James Amenhauser  
Part Time Officer Mike Elias

## ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal control services for Middle Township are overseen by the Middle Township Police Department. Animal complaints are investigated and handled by one full time animal control officer/animal cruelty investigator. During the first half of 2016, we had one part time animal control officer who assisted with animal related calls. The part time officer resigned during 2016. The Township also has a relationship with Animal Control of South Jersey to assist with animal complaints when the animal control officer is unavailable.



Total Animal Related Calls for 2016:	1247
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated:	122
Unlicensed Dog Cases:	46

## 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 is under the command of Lt. Robert Shepherd, who along with Sgt. Mark Higginbottom, oversees the training component of the department. Corporal James D'Alonzo and Cpl. Phillip Johnson, members of this unit, keep track of all the mandatory training records. In addition, they identify problems and trends and then formulate strategies for training to deal with the issues 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 2016 including but not limited to:

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- 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

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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
Lt. Robert Shepherd	Criminal Law, Physical Training Instructor
Lt. James Loftus	Firearms
Lt. Doug Osmundsen	Narcotics, Firearms, Social Media
Sgt. Mark Higginbottom	Patrol Concepts, Fair and Impartial Policing
Sgt. Josh Bryan	Physical Training Instructor
Cpl. Fred Crawley	Physical Training Instructor, Defensive Tactics, Exp. Baton
Cpl. Phil Johnson	Firearms Instructor
Cpl. Leonard Larkin	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill
Cpl. John Norton	Patrol Concepts
Cpl. James D'Alonzo	Firearms, Officer Survival, Police Simulator Instructor
Pfc. David Hagan	Patrol Concepts
Ptlm. Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law, Juvenile Law, Megan's Law, ABC Laws
Ptlm. Mike Pastore	CPR / First Aid, First Responder, Military Drill
Ptlm. Matthew Martino	Megans Law, Juvenile Law, ABC Laws
Det. Giacomo Trombetta	Physical Training instructor, Boxing, Defensive Tactics
Det. Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill

## SPECIAL UNITS

### SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)

The Middle Township Police had 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. Middle Township Officers are assigned to the Mainland Division.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 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 Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was activated 67 times in 2016. The Mainland division was called out on 45 of those assignments, 28 being strictly Mainland Division Operations. The SWAT Team was also used for mutual aid for out of county assistance on 8 separate occasions. These call outs involved assisting the FBI, the DEA, Cumberland County Prosecutors Office and Atlantic City Police Department.

Along with the SWAT callouts, the SWAT Team provided security for Sea Isle City Polar Bear Plunge, The USCG Family Festival, the Wildwood Roar to the Shore Motorcycle Event, and the City of Wildwood's Beach Concerts.

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

Corporal Phil Johnson (Asst. Commander)    Corporal James D'Alonzo  
Corporal Ronald Miller                              Patrolman Brian Murphy

## DIVE TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a fully operational and Certified Marine Search and Recovery Dive Team. The team is overseen by Lt. Robert Shepherd, with operations being supervised by Det/Sgt. Clinton Stocker. The department maintains 2 vessels: one is a Carolina Skiff center console, and the other is an aluminum johnboat.



The department has seven certified divers with a full complement of dive equipment. The team had thirty-four training sessions in 2016. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team also attended/assisted

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## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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with the Wildwood Polar Plunge, Stone Harbor Polar Plunge, Sea Isle Polar Plunge, Ocean City Air Show, National Night Out, the county 4-H Fair as well as the Middle Township L.E.A.D day. 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:

Lt. Robert Shepherd (Team Commander)	Det/Sgt. Clinton Stocker (Team Leader)
Lt. James Loftus	Sgt. Mark Higginbottom
Sgt. Kenneth Martin	Pfc. Steven Novsak
Cpl. John Norton	

### **CRISIS / HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM**

The Middle Township Police Department employs officers that are certified and highly trained in Crisis and Hostage Negotiations. A county regional team was formed in 2009 with Middle Township's existing team acting as a foundation for the Cape May County Crisis Negotiation Team. The Middle Township Police Department has five (5) officers assigned to the Cape May County Crisis 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 Cape May County Regional SWAT team.



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

Lt. James Loftus  
Sergeant Fran Fiore  
Sergeant Jennifer DeLanzo  
Patrolman Julio Ruiz  
Detective Dan Martin

### **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



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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, LEAD 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:

Lt. James Loftus (Unit Commander)

Sergeant Tracey Super (Unit Leader)

Sergeant Josh Bryan

Corporal Ron Miller

Detective Dan Martin

Patrolman Dave Hagan

Corporal John Norton

Corporal Len Larkin

Detective Jason Sweitzer

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: Basic Crash Investigation (Crash I), Advanced Crash Investigation (Crash II),



Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Occupant Kinematics, 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

## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- 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, Crash Zone software for scale diagrams, 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.

Members include:

Lt. James Loftus (Commander)  
Cpl. James D'Alonzo (Unit Leader)  
PFC. Steve Novsak (Asst. Unit Leader)  
Ptl. Martin Lindholm  
Ptl. Armondo Jones  
Ptl. Matt Martino  
Detective Dan Martin  
Ptl. Justin Vitola  
Ptl. Kurt Saettler

### **BIKE UNIT**

The Middle Township Police Department utilizes bicycles to supplement patrol, as well as for special community events, throughout the year. The members assigned to the unit can be assigned to regular patrol cars and patrol units, but will be equipped with racks that will hold the bicycle. When manpower permits, 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.

The bicycles are also used when we experience increased issues, such as burglaries or criminal mischief problems, in certain areas of the Township. The officers may be assigned to these areas to address the issue. Class II officers also may receive bicycle training and be assigned to the Rio Grande area during the summer months. The Class II officers assigned to this area help to increase officer visibility as well as making themselves more approachable to members of the public as well as business owners.



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## Members:

Cpl. James D'Alonzo  
Cpl. Dave Hagan  
Cpl. Len Larkin  
Cpl. Ron Miller  
Det. Jason Sweitzer  
PFC. Steve Novsak  
Ptl. Armondo Jones  
Ptl. Dan Geiger

## DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS

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



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

The Department currently has two Drug Recognition Experts: Patrolman David Hagan, Corporal Leonard Larkin and Patrolman Brian Murphy. During 2015 these officers performed 14 evaluations (7 for this Department, 7 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 2016, \$1980.00 was reimbursed back to the Department through this grant.

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## 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 and 2013.



On October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016, 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 105 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 2019, the department will again go through the process to be reevaluated for accreditation.

Captain 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.



## MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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In the past Middle Township had well over 1000 false alarms a year that could be easily prevented. Each alarm in Middle Township must be registered so we can reach people in the event of emergencies. Unfortunately, approximately only 400 alarms were registered in Middle Township out of approximately 1000 in operation. Many times officers and dispatchers 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.

	<b>JAN</b>	<b>FEB</b>	<b>MAR</b>	<b>APR</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUN</b>	<b>JUL</b>	<b>AUG</b>	<b>SEP</b>	<b>OCT</b>	<b>NOV</b>	<b>DEC</b>
2009	117	81	103	101	82	99	122	139	132	96	97	107
2010	92	150	135	117	116	118	142	99	77	78	78	106
2011	95	79	65	76	70	77	78	99	69	78	75	71
2012	77	59	74	69	72	90	69	79	68	78	59	76
2013	71	57	68	61	71	76	85	99	58	86	90	87
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
2016	91	69	54	54	60	80	80	65	57	59	82	74

2009 total: 1,276

2010 total: 1,216

2011 total: 932

2012 total: 870

2013 total: 909

2014 total: 880

2015 total: 965

2016 total: 829

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.

Comparing 2015 to 2016 alarms are down by 136 which is a 14% decrease from 2015.

Since the inception of the program in 2009 to 2016 alarms are down by 447 which is a 35% 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 987 registered

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# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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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 reinstated in 2010. The Awards Committee consists of Lieutenant James Loftus, Detective Sergeant Clint Stocker, Detective First Class Allan McClure and Detective Jason Sweitzer. The committee reviews submissions for awards and has the 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
- Capt. John Edwards
- Lt. William Adams
- Sgt. Stocker
- Sgt. Mark Higginbottom
- Sgt. Fran Fiore
- Sgt. Shepherd
- Sgt. James Loftus
- Sgt. Osmundsen
- Cpl. Jen Delanzo
- Cpl. Crawley
- Cpl. Phil Johnson
- Ptl Armondo Jones
- Ptl. Ron Miller
- Ptl. Ray Bradley
- Det. Jason Sweitzer
- Ptl. Brian Murphy
- Ptl. Dan Geiger
- Ptl. Dan Martin
- Ptl. Martin Lindholm
- Ptl. Brian Vergantino
- Ptl. Salvesson
- Ofc. Alison Akke
- Ofc. Brown
- Ptl. Kurt Saettler
- Ptl. Joe Gamble
- Ptl. John Norton
- Ptl. Matt Martino
- Ptl. Len Larkin
- Ptl. Justin Vitola
- Det. Ken Martin
- Ptl. Steve Novsak
- Ptl. Martin Lindholm
- Life Saving
- Education, and Top Gun
- FBI Academy
- Meritorious Service
- Dive Team, Honor Guard, Good Conduct, and Command and Leadership
- Meritorious Service, and Life Saving
- Good Conduct
- Education, Command and Leadership, Dive Team, Crash Team, Bike Unit, SRO, and Motorcycle Unit
- Command and Leadership
- Dare, Good Conduct, and Hostage Negotiator
- Meritorious Service
- Good Conduct, Swat Team, and FTO
- Bike Unit, and Crash Team
- SWAT Team, and Good Conduct
- Military
- Honor Guard, and Bike Unit
- Meritorious Service, Education, Good Conduct, and FTO
- Education, Motorcycle Unit, and Bike Unit
- Good Conduct, FTO, Crash Team, and Life Saving
- Meritorious Service
- Meritorious Service
- Meritorious Service
- Education, and Life Saving
- Good Conduct, and EMT
- Education, FTO, and Honor Guard
- Life Saving, Baby Delivery
- Meritorious Service, and FTO
- FTO, Crash Team, Good Conduct, and Motorcycle Unit
- Life Saving, Good Conduct, Honor Guard, Bike Unit, and Drug Recognition
- Life Saving,
- Dive, and SRO
- SRO, Crash Team, and Bike Unit
- Life Saving, and Crash Team

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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- 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 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 and partnered with the community to help those less fortunate. The highlights of 2016 included our annual toy drive where we delivered more toys than we have in the history of the drive, partnered with ACME Markets to deliver Thanksgiving meals, participated in No Shave November to raise \$1,850 for Cape May County resident Joey Povio who is fighting cancer and donated to the Police Unity Tour for fallen officers. The Fund also supports the Awards Dinner and Retiree Luncheon.



# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic group's meetings/events in 2016: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, NAACP Martin Luther King Breakfast, Middle Township Chamber Commerce, Cape Atlantic Philadelphia Retired Police Officer Association, and Elementary#1 Reading Night.
- Chief Leusner was invited to the White House in July to receive a briefing on the President's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing Report.
- 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.
- 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, Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro Reunion Weekend, and the Cape May county Health Fair.
- Coordinated the annual and very successful "America's National 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.
- Middle Township released a Mobile App available for free download to all residents and visitors to receive updates and information from us.



## 2016 Goals/Results

### **Patrol Division**

In 2016, the Patrol Division had set two Goals; we were successful on both. The first goal was to improve quality of life and improve the safety of residents and motorists in the Rio Grande Section of Middle Township. The objective of this goal was to maintain the same level of enforcement in the DDACTS area as in 2015 and conduct a minimum of one foot patrol per shift. Our enforcement was essentially flat but our visibility was significant with the addition of the Rio Grande Substation and adjusted our zone patrol area to focus more in the DDACT zone. 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 in 2016 to 200 offenses from 278 in 2015, which is a 28% decrease. This continues to remain below the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. Shoplifting offenses decreased to 131 in 2016 from 194 in 2015, which is a 32.44 % decrease. Crashes decreased approximately 5%, there were 294 crashes in 2016 versus 307 in 2015. Crashes involving injury were also down, approximately a 17% reduction. There were 29 Crashes involving injury in 2016 compared to 35 in 2015. In 2016 we made considerable progress in managing Shopping Carts littered throughout the DDACTS zone. Part Time Code Enforcement Officer Mike Elias through enforcing our existing code and communicating with various business showed a noticeable improvement.

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 2016, officers of this Department performed 666 traffic details resulting in 837 motor vehicle stops and the issuance of 902 summonses in the targeted area. We increased our details in 2016 to 666 from 576 in 2015. Motor Vehicle stops went up on Route 47 North by 26 and down by 55 on Route 47 South. Motor Vehicle Summonses were down by 15 on Route 47 North and down by 223 on Route 47 South. The increased presence due to the increased number of details on the roadway most likely deterred motorists from committing traffic violations. There was 1 crash fatality in the targeted areas of enforcement in 2016, which is up from zero from the previous year.

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Special Services Unit

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2016. The first goal was to increase the Department's interaction with private businesses in the Rio Grande Business section. The objective of this goal was to 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 residence and customers. Due to restructuring of the Police Department in 2016, and the changing of supervision and manpower within the Special Services Unit, we only partially succeeded in this goal. The Patrol Commander along with department's Special Services Unit, met with the Rio Grande Motel Owners to attempt to build a better relationship with them and to open the flow of communication. In these meetings, information was exchanged to create email groups and the request was made to have the motel owners communicate more amongst each other to help Law Enforcement control the criminal element utilizing the motels. A list of owners and managers contact information was created and kept by the unit. Monthly contact was maintained to stay up to date with the needs and concerns between the police department and the motel owners.

The second goal was to help the residents of Middle Township suffering from addiction, to get access to substance abuse treatment services. The objective of this goal, was to establish a formal partnership with Christians United for Recovery (CURE) and to create a standard operating procedure to outline the process of referring individuals who the Middle Township Police Department comes in contact with and to outline the provisions of services provided. In October the department finalized its Standard Operating Procedure concerning officers requesting a CURE volunteer. Also the Special Services Unit trained all officers in Middle Township concerning the proper way to request the CURE volunteer. The Special Services Unit conducted background investigations on twelve CURE volunteers and as of today there has been 10 individuals placed in treatment for addictions.

## 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: 2017 PROPOSALS

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### **Middle Township Police Youth Camp**

The Middle Township Police Department will offer a six-day youth camp for children aged 10-12 in July. Enrollment in the program will be limited and selection will be done through a lottery. Camp activities will include physical training, military etiquette, K-9 interaction, team building exercises, positive interaction with police officers from all the different units within our department, simulated police pursuit driving, and trips to other police agencies. The police camp graduation ceremony will be held during the Annual Night out against Crime celebration on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **#NOTEVENONCE Drug Awareness Program**

In an effort to connect with high school students and teach them about the dangers of opiates, the Middle Township Police Department will be delivering a comprehensive drug awareness program created by the Manchester Township Police Department for 11<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2017. The program, called #NotEvenOnce, touches on a common theme Officers often hear when they speak with a person addicted to opiates — if they hadn't tried opiates even once, they never would have become addicted and encountered the numerous health, legal, and social issues that are associated with opiate addiction. Middle Township Police Officers will be attending training in May of this year with a goal of delivering the program in the fall to all 11<sup>th</sup> grade students at Middle Township High School and the Cape May Technical High School.

### **Vacant Property Ordinance**

Middle Township Police Department assumed control of the Code Enforcement in January of this year. One of the priorities we have set this year is to create system to track vacant properties within the Township. The consequences of the housing crash as left many communities with a significant number of vacant properties and Middle Township is no different. These vacant properties create a whole host of public health and safety concerns. The proposed ordinance would require the registration of all vacant properties to register every six months and pay a \$500.00 fee. We recommend Township Committee authorize the privatization of this function using our False Alarm Billing Model to identify and invoice the owners of these vacant properties, who is almost in all cases Banks. We are recommending the company that identifies these properties, also conduct monthly visits to ensure they are in compliance with our property maintenance code and there are no public safety or health concerns.

### **Capital Improvements**

*Evidence Room Storage System:* The number of items in our Evidence Room as been steadily growing over the years. This has caused the need for either relocating the Evidence Room or utilizing a Evidence Room Storage System where we can store more items with less space. We are currently planning for high density shelving through the

## APPENDIX A: 2017 PROPOSALS

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use of Evidence Storage System to increase our capacity to handle evidence for not only today but for the future. Our goal is for the new system to in place by the end of 2017.

Major Crimes Interview Room: The Major Crimes Unit Video/Audio Interview Recording Software is at the end of its useful life. We will be purchasing a new Video/Audio Interview Recording Software by the end of the year. In addition, our plan is to soundproof the interview room to improve the quality of the recordings and improve privacy.

Emergency Operations Center: The Middle Township Emergency Operations Center is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Middle Township Police Department. The EOC has supported the Township responses to Hurricane Irene, Hurricane Sandy and other storm related events. Our plan is to upgrade the technological infrastructure in 2017 and other equipment in the Emergency Operations Center by the end of the year.

## Appendix B: 2017 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 and the Whitesboro/Burleigh of Middle Township.

#### Objective:

Increase the number of DDACTS Traffic Stops in 2017 by 10% compared to 2016, conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift in the DDACT Zone and conduct at least 2 Directed Patrols per shift in the area of Catalina Motel or Wildwood Park Motel.

#### Strategies:

1. Continue DDACTS enforcement 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 Ordinance through Code Enforcement 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. Advocate for the State to install Targeted Enforcement Area Signs between milepost 5 and 8 and 12 and 16.
2. Position an older Patrol Car on State Highway 47 in strategic areas of the roadway during high-risk weekends or holidays.
3. Use the increase in Class II officers to partially focus on the Route 47 in the above areas.
4. Educate the public through social media and traditional media on aggressive driving, distracted driving, and driving while under the influence.

## Appendix B: 2017 Goals

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### Major Crimes Unit

#### Goal#1

Increase the awareness of scams targeting Middle Township residents.

#### Objective:

Post at least one video a month to Social Media describing a scam seen in Middle Township and present at least 4 presentations to the community by the end of 2017.

#### Strategies:

1. Utilize federal and state resources dedicated to fraud prevention and push out to our residents through Nixle, Social Media and Traditional Media.
2. Distribute pamphlets to the Patrol Division about recent scams for officers to share with residents in the course of their duties.
3. Conduct briefing training for Patrol Officers with the purpose of better preparing them to educate the public through field contacts.
4. Establish a point of contact with Middle Township AARP for distribution of information related to fraud prevention at their monthly meetings.

#### Goal #2

Increase the likelihood of recovering stolen property from residents of Middle Township.

#### Objective:

Develop a DNA Home Marking Program and offer to residents of Middle Township by the end of 2017 and conduct an audit of second hand merchants for compliance with our local ordinance by the end of 2017.

#### Strategies:

1. Identify a vendor to provide DNA marking capabilities to be offered to our residents and businesses.
2. Promote the DNA Home Marking Program through Nixle, Social Media, and Traditional Media to serve as a deterrent.
3. Conduct an audit of second hand merchants to ensure compliance with our local ordinance requiring entry into the RAPID system.
4. Identify any second hand merchants operating in Middle Township currently not registered and entering information into the RAPID system.

## Appendix B: 2017 Goals

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### Special Services Unit

#### **Goal#1**

Increase the Department's positive interactions with Middle Township youth.

#### **Objective:**

Develop and hold a Middle Township Police Youth Camp in 2017.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Work with our partner Cape Assist to identify and assist in obtaining funding of the camp.
2. Develop an application and lottery system to select candidates.
3. Develop curriculum, events, and camp activities.
4. Plan and coordinate graduation from the camp on National Night Out.

#### **Goal#2**

Increase awareness of the risk of opiate addiction amongst high school students in Middle Township.

#### **Objective:**

Deliver the #NOTEVENONCE Opiate Awareness Program to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students by the end of 2017 and post at least one video quarterly on the dangers of opiates.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Ensure training of Police Officers to deliver the #NOTEVENONCE Program.
2. Ensure the Program is delivered in Middle Township High School and Cape May Technical High School.
3. Educate the public through social media and other community events on the dangers of opiate addiction.
4. Establish a point of contact with at least two High School age student organizations and arrange distribution of information on the dangers opiates.

## Appendix B: 2017 Goals

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### Street Crimes Unit

#### Goal#1

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

#### Objective:

Conduct at least 25 Search Warrants for Narcotics Related Offenses and make at least 80 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.
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.

#### Goal #2

Improve the safety of pedestrians on the Bicycle Path and Whitesboro area.

#### Objective:

Conduct at least weekly details to identify subjects riding All-Terrain Vehicles on roadways in Whitesboro and the Bicycle Path.

#### Strategies:

1. Conduct Surveillance Details utilizing photographs to identify subjects riding All-Terrain Vehicles in the above areas.
2. Develop intelligence from citizens and informants to identify subjects riding All-Terrain Vehicles in the above areas.
3. Distribute information to raise awareness of the enforcement in the above areas to serve as a deterrent.