

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT



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Chief of Police



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Captain D. Nelson
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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department continued to make progress in our mission to improve public safety for all residents and visitors of Middle Township. We are happy to report for the first time our Uniform Crime Rating was driven under 500 reported offenses in 2017. This was accomplished in large part because of the hiring of new officers reaching our goal of 53, investments in technology, and increased community outreach efforts. The decrease in reported crime and the first ever Police Youth Camp in July made 2017 a year to remember.

Rio Grande Efforts

The Rio Grande Substation continues to be a very busy place. In 2017, residents and visitors came to the Rio Grande Substation 194 times to speak with an officer, compared to 139 times in 2016. Our partners, Cape May County Probation and New Jersey State Parole utilized the Rio Grande substation on a regular basis and help us drive as much law enforcement presence in the area as possible.

Our Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) initiative which focusing specifically on Rio Grande showed a significant decrease in UCR reported offenses in the Rio Grande area in 2017:

- **In 2017 we had 151 offenses compared to 200 offenses in 2016.**
- We use **2012 as our baseline for measuring success in our DDACTS program** due to launching DDACTS on January 1, 2013. **In 2012, we had 307 offenses.**
- The number of reported offenses in **2013 was 229 offenses**, in **2014 we had 281 offenses**, in **2015 we had 278 offenses**

The Street Crimes Unit dedicated a considerable amount of time and resources to the Rio Grande area again in 2017, they made 119 arrests an increase from 85 in 2016, they executed 29 Search Warrants an increase from 26 in 2016, seized 4 illegal firearms an increase from 3 in 2016, and seized \$8396.00 in cash a decrease from \$19,966 in 2016. The Street Crimes Unit seized Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Marijuana and Prescription Medication in 2017.

Proactive Policing Strategies

In 2017 we continued to focus as much effort and resources on Intervention and Education/Prevention as we do in Enforcement. Our partnership is still alive and well 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 through arrest, a field contact or if a citizen walks in the Police Department and wants help with their addiction, they are treated with respect and compassion while we work with CURE to get them help. In 2017, we 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

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connecting people with services for over two years. In 2017, the Public Advocate assisted 109 people and helped to connect them with various services. Lastly, Patrol Officers continued to carry Narcan and deployed it 26 times in 2017. We deployed Narcan 26 times in 2016 and 13 times in 2015,

On the Education/Prevention side in we were very proud to bring Rachael's Challenge in partnership with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office to Middle Township schools grades 6 through 12 and a community presentation in the evening. Rachel's Challenge exists to equip and inspire individuals to replace acts of violence, bullying, and negativity with acts of respect, kindness, and compassion. Rachel's Challenge is based on the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott who was the first victim of the Columbine school shootings in 1999. Through her example, Rachel's Challenge is making a positive impact in the lives of millions of people every year. Superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and students bring Rachel's Challenge into their schools because of escalating problems such as: bullying, student isolation, discrimination, school violence, and increased disciplinary actions. Through powerful presentations, trainings, community events, and professional development, Rachel's Challenge provides the sustainable solution. The feedback from students and faculty after the presentation was incredible and we hope to bring Rachael's Challenge back in the future.

Our L.E.A.D. Program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs prevention course) was delivered to the 7th grade classes in Middle Township for the very first year. The 7th grade program builds on our L.E.A.D program curriculum delivered to 5th grade students in Middle Township. We also completed the planning for the #NOTEVENONCE Prevention Program currently being delivered to 10th grade students at the Middle Township High School.

The Project Medicine Drop in our lobby continues to be used frequently by our residents. In 2017, we collected 537 pounds of prescription medication through our Dropbox located in the lobby of headquarters.

Community Outreach

In the area of Community Outreach, the first ever Police Youth Camp was one of the highlights of the year. We hosted 47 kids for a six day camp in July. Camp activities included physical training, military etiquette, K-9 interaction, team building exercises, and positive interaction with police officers. We partnered with Cape Assist for the Youth Camp, and they delivered a curriculum to the campers to help them improve decision making.

We continued with our existing Community Outreach programs in 2017:

- Sgt. Fran Fiore lead the 3rd 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 third year in a row and the proceeds went to family members of Middle Township Officers battling cancer.

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- 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 fourth year with the Middle Township AARP and is going strong.
- We had Bicycle Officers patrolling the business district in Rio Grande and our Bike Path that is now connected to Lower Township.
- Our Program “What to Expect with Encounters with Police Officers” was delivered again in 2017 to students from throughout Cape May County at Cape Assist’s Peer Leadership Conference.
- Our Mobile App continued to grow in popularity with more residents downloading the Mobile App and sharing information with us on issues ranging from crime to Code Enforcement and Animal Control issues. The App is as a free download available to our residents through either the Apple App Store or Google Play.
- We continued to raise awareness of the dangers of Distracted Driving by promoting our magnets that are displayed on vehicles throughout Middle Township.

Criminal and Traffic Activity

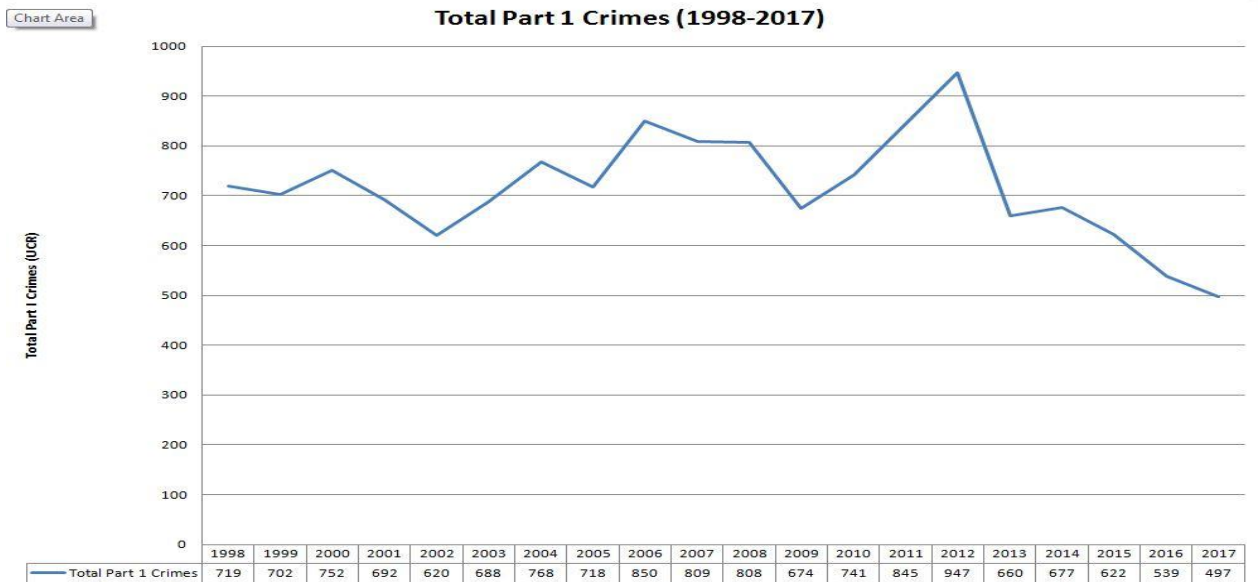
The Total Uniform Crime (UCR) reported crime number for 2017 was 497 compared to 539 in 2016. We saw a 14.2% reduction in non-violent crime: 460 offenses in 2017 compared to 489 in 2016. In 2017 we saw a 25% reduction in violent crime with 37 offenses in 2017 compared to 50 offenses in 2016. There was 1 Homicide in 2017 compared to 0 in 2016.

Traffic activity within the Township saw a 5.6% decrease in total crashes. In 2017 we had 920 crashes compared to 975 in 2016. This continued with the decrease shown in 2016 compared to the 1033 crashes in 2015. However, injuries as result of crashes were up in 2017, a 30% increase. In 2017 we had 152 injuries from crashes compared to 118 in 2016. (Note in 2015 we had 148) We saw a decrease in traffic fatalities in 2017, 3 compared to 4 in 2016. Motor Vehicle Summonses were up 23%, a total of 3098 summonses in 2017 compared to 2,514 in 2016. Driving While Intoxicated arrests were up 21%, a total of 87 in 2017 compared to 66 in 2016.

In closing, local ordinance violations increased in the Rio Grande area in 2017, primarily driven by an increase in the homeless population. We work with the Branches Outreach Center to provide services to help the homeless population but we also take a firm approach for quality of life violations such as Urinating in Public, Open Container, Sleeping in Public and Aggressive Panhandling. In 2017, we issued 95 local ordinance violations in the Rio Grande area. This was increase from the 33 issued in 2016. Our Public Advocate in Municipal Court attempts to connect people with services who come into Municipal Court and our Community Service Worker program offers alternatives to those who cannot afford fines. Our ultimate goal is public safety and helping the person get assistance to get on a better path.

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Middle Twp. Uniform Crime Reporting Numbers past 25 years



Police Youth Camp pictures July 2017

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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 Joni Frangieh

Class II Andrew Garcia

Class II Christopher Russ

Class II Cory Hoffman

Class II John Jefferson

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 Salvesen

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Brian Murphy

Justin Vitola

Michael Pastore

Shawn Karge

Michael Reardon

Benjamin Stiefel

Jonas McInnis

Thomas Ritterhoff

Mark Bakley

Thomas Flounders

Dylan Young

Trevor MacCormack

Shawn Rocca

Blake Martindale

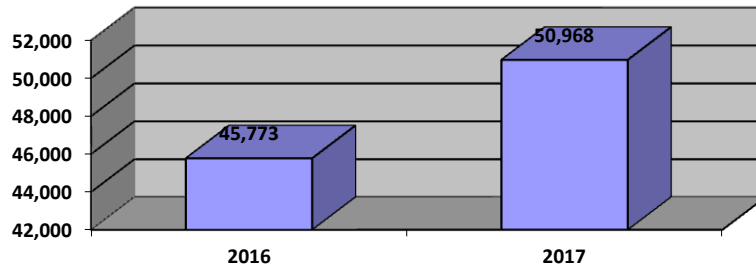
Christian Maldonado

Gregory DeCecco

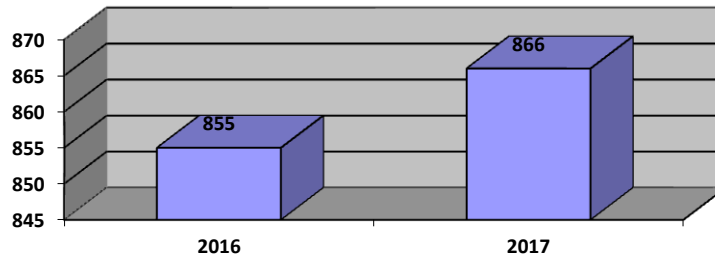
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CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

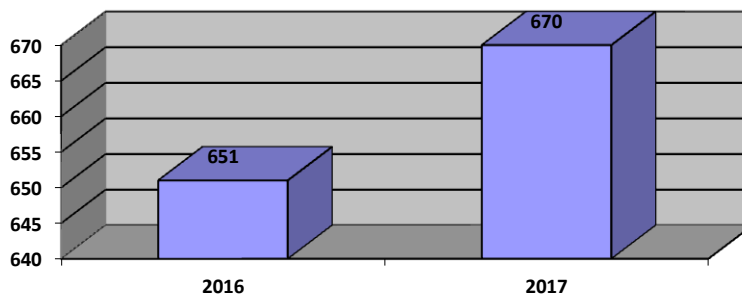
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	45,733	50,968	+5,235



	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	855	866	+10



	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	670	540	-130



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Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

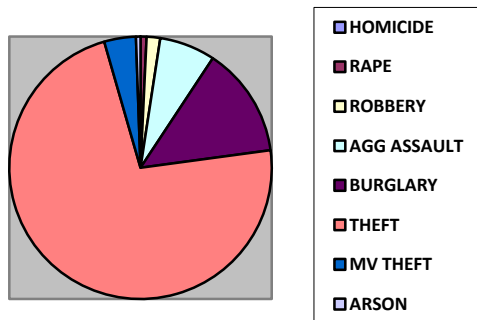
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications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

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

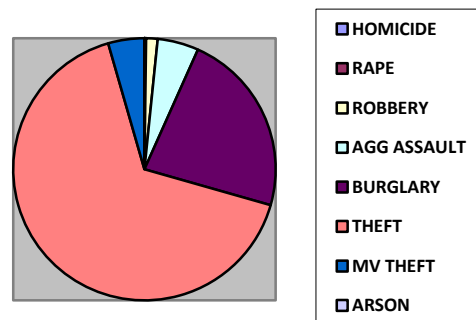
Offense: 2016		Offense: 2017		Change
Homicide	0	Homicide	1	+1
Rape	4	Rape*	4	0
Robbery	9	Robbery	7	-2
Aggravated Assault	37	Aggravated Assault	25	-12
Burglary	73	Burglary	112	+49
Theft	391	Theft	326	-65
Motor Vehicle Theft	21	Motor Vehicle Theft	22	+1
Arson	4	Arson	0	-4
Total UCR:	539		497	-42
Violent Crime:	50		37	-13
Non Violent Crime:	489		460	-29

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

UCR 2016



UCR 2017



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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 2017.

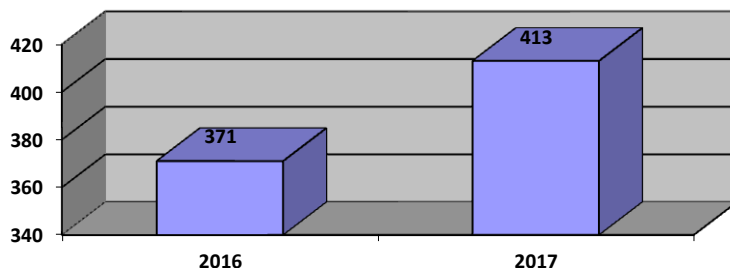
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	20	23	+3
Simple Assaults	123	150	+27
Medical Calls	3395	3572	+177
Fire Calls	930	788	-142
Death Investigations	30	38	+8
Disorderly Conduct incidents	1,072	1,013	-59
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	111	125	+14
Malicious Damage incidents	86	80	-6
Missing Persons and Runaways	123	99	-24
Assisting other agency incidents	489	501	+12
Property and Building Checks	16,357	18,936	+2,579
Bias Incidents Investigated	0	0	None
Directed Patrol	2,898	2,710	-188
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports generated:	1,397	1,594	+197
Supplemental Investigations generated:	1,623	1,732	+109

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 2017 Middle Township Police responded to **418** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior Middle Township police responded to **371** Domestic Violence incidents.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	371	418	+47

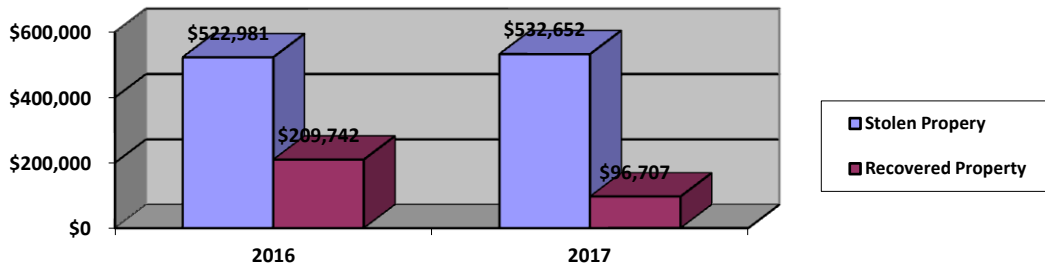


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Property Stolen and Recovered

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>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$522,941.00	\$532,652.00	+\$9,711.00
Recovered:	\$209,742.00	\$96,707.00	-\$113,035.00



Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or Crashes:

During 2017, Personnel Officer Kalish reported 6 work related injury incidents. As a result of the injuries, two of the officers missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>#Days Missed</u>
Ptln. Julio Ruiz	58 Days
Ptln. Dylan Young	6 Days

Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 10 motor vehicle crashes in 2017.

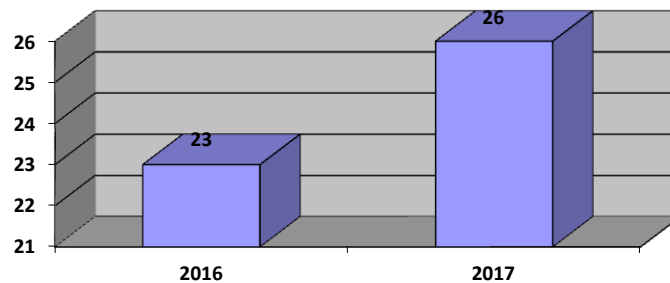
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Robert Kelly	1/11/2017	Officer rear-ended a vehicle
Mike Pastore	3/5/2017	Officer backed into a vehicle
Ron Miller	4/11/2017	Rear-ended by another vehicle
Andrew Garcia	4/18/2017	Backed into a post
Jacob Zeller	4/26/2017	Struck a mailbox
Jacob Zeller	8/10/2017	Rear-ended another vehicle
Raymond Bradley	10/8/2017	Struck a trash can
Ken Martin	11/29/2017	Struck another vehicle
Dan Geiger	12/4/2017	Rear-ended by another vehicle
Dylan Young	12/9/2017	Struck by another vehicle

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Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

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

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents	23	26	+3



Of those 26 Use of Force incidents, 25 subjects were arrested, 4 subjects were injured.

Note: Each incident where Use of Force is used by an officer is reviewed by the Captain and the results forwarded to the Chief of Police. It should be noted that in 13 of these cases only compliance holds were used by officers

Officers injured using force:	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
	5	2

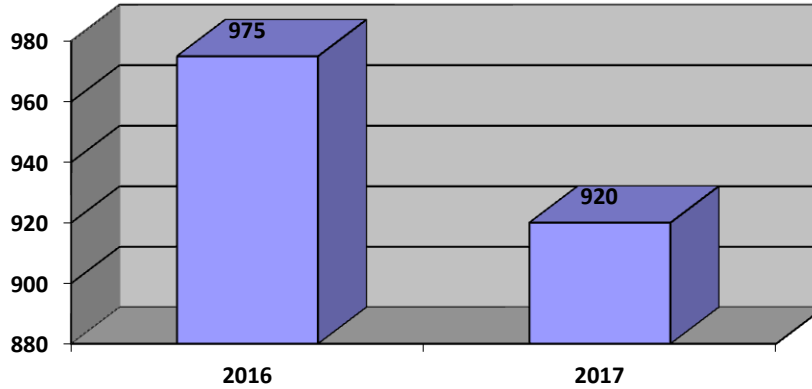
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Police Pursuits:	3	6

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 6 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there were 4 people arrested, and two crashes.

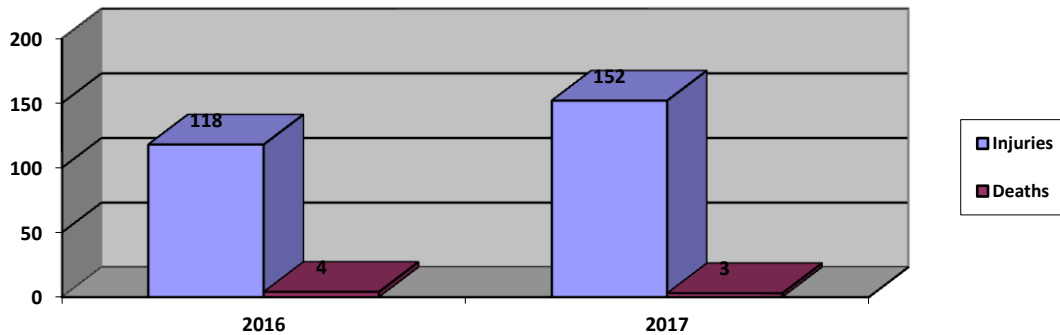
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TRAFFIC

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	975	920	-55

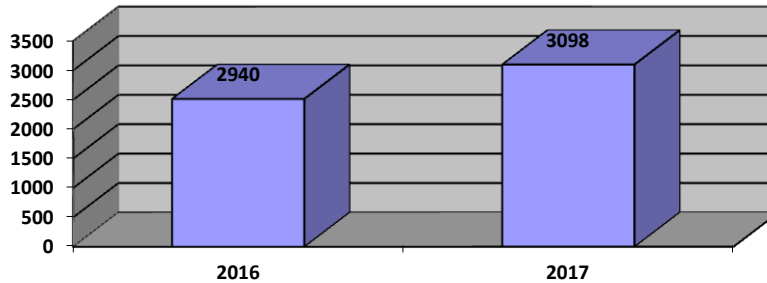


Injuries:	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Deaths:	118	152	+34
	4	3	-1



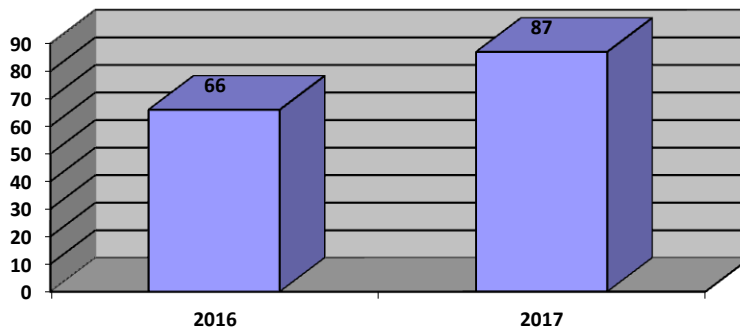
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	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	2,514	3098	+584



Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI)

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	66	87	+21



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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 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, 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 29 officers trained and 10 Tasers for deployment. As we move forward, the remaining few officers of the patrol division, as well as all new hires will be trained, 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 1st Class Steven Novsak
Patrolman 1st Class Dave Hagan
Patrolman Kurt Saettler
Patrolman Matt Martino
Detective Daniel Martin

The following officers were trained in March 2017, and added to the program to be utilized as Field Training Officers:

Patrolman Armondo Jones
Patrolman Justin Vitola
Patrolman Michael Pastore

Patrolman Martin Lindholm
Patrolman Brian Vergantino

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>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	44	42	-2
Supplemental Investigations:	1137	1214	+77
Arrests :	43	49	+6

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 years. The unit completed a total of 335 firearms background investigations in 2017.

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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, 2017:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	244	277	+27
Cases Closed:	277	238	-39

Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2017: **49**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2017 include:

- **2017-01281:** Homicide, Rio Grande resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-49405:** Attempted Murder, Rio Grande resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-12676:** Prostitution, Rio Grande resulting in an arrest of one female.
- **2017-22012:** Burglary and Theft of an ATM machine in Cape May Court House resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-41833:** Home Invasion in Rio Grande resulting in (5) five arrests.
- **2017-42596, 46136, 46144, 46155:** Four victims of an employee theft of over \$16,000.00 at Bank of America resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-50262:** Aggravated Assault (stabbing) in Burleigh resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-45777:** Robbery/Aggravated Assault, Cape May Court House resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-42166, 42168, 42171, 42175:** Burglary, Theft and the recovery of a stolen motor vehicle at five businesses in Rio Grande resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-38003:** Activity funds theft of over \$1,800.00 resulting in an arrest.
- **2017-11067:** (03.19.2017) Missing Person, Michael Carty (active investigation)
- **In 2017**, thirteen (13) burglary and theft cases were solved from 2016, cases, 2016-36404, 36405, 36407, 36409, 36411, 36423, 36427, 36411, 36466, 36590, 36982, 37158 and 37563 resulting in two arrests.

EVIDENCE ROOM: During 2017, the Major Crimes Unit Evidence Room was renovated. Over 9,000 items were removed from the Evidence Room, new shelving, CD and DVD-R storage drawers were installed and all the evidence was placed back into the Evidence Room. While doing so, and an audit of all the items in the Evidence Room was completed.

The Project Medicine Drop Program where residents can dispose of prescription medication 24/7, 365 days a year by simply coming into the lobby and dropping in a Dropbox has been hugely successful. **In 2017, we collected over 537 pounds of prescription medication.**

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



The division works on a number of open cases, such as the Mark Himebaugh investigation, with various agencies including the FBI, New Jersey State Police and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. In 2012 an anonymous donor offered a reward of \$10,000 for the discovery of Mark Himebaugh, and \$25,000 if the information leads to Mark's safe return home. Anyone with information on the above cases, is asked to contact the Major Crimes Unit at 609-465-8700. In February of 2015, the Major Crimes Unit, along with members of the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and the FBI traveled to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, located in Alexandria Virginia, where a cold case review of the Himebaugh Case was conducted. Following the review, investigators followed up on new leads and are actively working on the case.

Members of the unit during 2017 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 the Rio Grande and Burleigh sections of Middle Township as well as the opioid epidemic. In addition to street level narcotics investigations, the unit worked closely with the Major Crimes Unit investigating major cases to include several robberies and theft investigations within the township over the past year. During 2017 nine (9) 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 the Street Crimes for 2017:

Sgt. Kenneth Martin
Ptlm. Kurt Saettler

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Ptln. Brian Murphy
Ptln. Matthew Martino
Ptln. Mike Pastore
Ptln. Brian Vergantino
Ptln. Tom Ritterhoff
Ptln. Shawn Karge

The following is a synopsis of the Street Crimes Unit's 2017 case load:

A majority of the arrest were for Narcotics Violations. Other arrests included: Robbery, Prostitution, Shoplifting, and Graffiti/Criminal Mischief.

Arrests: One hundred nineteen (119)

Local Ordinances: Twenty-nine (29)

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

Narcotic Seized: Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Marijuana and Prescription Medication.

Currency seized: \$8396.00 was submitted for forfeiture as proceeds of criminal activity.

Weapons seized: Four (4) illegal firearms, AR-15, .22 revolver, .45 Taurus, and a .357 magnum.

The following is a list of a few of our notable cases:

- **2017-02938-** Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit received information a subject was storing stolen construction equipment and trailers in the Green Creek section of Middle Township. A Search Warrant was ultimately authored and executed at the property. Located on the property was a Kubota Tractor valued at \$40,000 which was stolen out of Media Pennsylvania and an AZT Trailer valued at \$3,500.00 which was stolen out of Vineland, New Jersey. Both items were returned to their owners.
- **2017-12676 -** Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit with the assistance of the Major Crimes Unit arrested a female from Marmora for prostitution after numerous citizen complaints. The subject was living at a motel in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township where she met with an undercover officer. The subject agreed to engage sexual acts for money with the undercover officer. The subject was arrested and charged with prostitution.

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- **2017-13519**-Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit executed a search warrant at a motel in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. Sixty (60) bags of suspected heroin and prescription medication (Percocet) was recovered. One subject was arrested and charged with CDS related offenses.
- **2017-33847**- Members of the Middle Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit saw an ad on SWIP SWAP OF MIDDLE TOWNSHIP for a golf cart for sale for \$400.00. Knowing golf carts are valued well over \$400.00 and the numerous golf cart thefts we had recently, an investigation was conducted. It was determined the golf cart was reported stolen from a local golf course in August of 2017 and was valued at over \$4000.00. The golf cart was ultimately recovered and returned to the owner. A subject was arrested for the theft of the golf cart as well as possession of marijuana.
- **2017-35930**-Members of the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit observed a hand to hand CDS transaction between two individuals in the parking lot of a convenience store in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. As a result, three (3) subjects were arrested and one hundred and one (101) bags of heroin, prescription medication and \$613.00 was recovered.
- **2017-42738** Members of the Middle Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit observed two subjects engage in a suspected CDS transaction in a local fast food restaurant parking lot in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township. One subject was arrested, (100) one-hundred bags of heroin, prescription medication and \$1169 in cash was recovered. As a result, a search warrant was obtained for the subject's residence and a loaded Ruger .357 magnum handgun was recovered along with 1/4 ounce of crack cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

FORFEITURE

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Began year balance:	\$21,533.73	\$25,789.49	+\$4255.76
Forfeited monies received:	\$8,397.84	\$8807.25	+\$409.41
Forfeited monies expended:	\$4201.00	\$4800.00	+\$599.00
Balance:	\$25,730.57	\$29,796.74	+\$4066.17

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

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MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

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

**Megan's
Law**

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	21	18	-3
Average monthly registrant count:	68	73	+5
Low count	64	64	0
High count	71	83	+12

During the year 4 details were conducted to verify the addresses of the registrants. As a result, no arrest were 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, Weapons armorers, maintain and monitor the Juvenile Station House Adjustment Program along with various other responsibilities.



In 2017, Sgt. Higginbottom, Cpl. Johnson became Glock Armorers, while Cpl. D'Alonzo became an Advanced Glock Armorer. This allows our Special Services Unit to maintain and repair the department's weapons in house.

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

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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 Special Services Unit 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 unit also participated in or hosted several events throughout the year including the following:

- 4TH of July Fireworks
- Annual 4H Fair
- National Night Out
- Cape May County Health and Wellness Fair
- Miss America Pageant/Parade
- Middle Township Harvest Festival
- Annual Whitesboro Reunion
- What to expect during a Law Enforcement Encounter (Peer Leadership Conference)
- Trunk or Treat at Family Success Center Rio Grande
- Trunk or Treat at Middle Twp. Elementary #2
- Gift bag pickup at Middle Twp. Elementary #1
- Middle Twp. Middle School Veteran's Appreciation Day
- Hamer's Christmas Party at the Martin Luther King Center
- Safety Presentation at the Holy Redeemer
- WalMart Bike Safety Event
- Home Depot Safety fair
- Meet the Candidate Night at the Sand Barrens Golf Course
- Okie Recreation Area Ribbon Cutting
- Brookdale Assisted Living Community event
- Middle Twp. Bike Path Dedication Ceremony
- Rachel's Challenge Middle Twp. Performing Arts Center

The Special Services Unit also manages two very important programs to assist residents in obtaining services for issues ranging from homelessness to addiction. The first program is through a partnership with CURE, (Christians United for Recovery) and their Advocating Substance Abuse Program (ASAP). We provide access to recovery support services to a person requesting them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whether an individual is under arrest or simply walks into the lobby, officers treat the person with dignity and respect and call CURE for a member of their Crisis Response Team to respond. **In 2017 we referred 10 people to CURE for help with their addiction.**

The second program is our Public Advocate Program in Middle Township Municipal Court through our partnership with Cape Assist. Middle Township provides a New Jersey Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor and or Prevention Specialist in our Municipal Court Room. It is well understood that those suffering from addiction often

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commit crime in an effort to support their addiction. They steal merchandise from stores, metal from vacant buildings, jewelry and money from family and friends, and even resort to more serious crimes such as robbery and burglary. When those suffering from such addiction are arrested for these crimes they often appear in Municipal Court. Defendants who suffer from addiction and are arrested for more serious crimes often have the ability to learn about addiction services available to them, often through “Drug Court”. However, with less serious offenses that are heard under the authority of the local municipal court, there are no resources available for these defendants.

The absence of any resources available in municipal court often leaves defendants, family members of those suffering from addiction, and even the Judge with few options regarding treatment or assistance. The Public Advocate is present in the Middle Township Municipal Court to assist defendants suffering from addiction, their family members, the Municipal Prosecutor, and the Judge with providing information about available treatment programs.

The Public Advocate also serves as a resource for the Middle Township Police Department in providing information about treatment programs to individuals who need assistance and information regarding substance abuse for themselves, a friend, or a loved one. **In 2017, 109 people we referred to services by the Public Advocate.**

The SSU also provided court security on **47 Court days during the year.**

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, clean up graffiti, assist setting up areas for community events and other tasks to assist the community. In addition to the services the workers provide, this program also strives to develop positive relationships with the workers with the goal of reducing future acts of criminal behavior.



The community service program expanded in 2015 with an agreement with the Middle Township Municipal Court to allow municipal offenders to have the opportunity to ‘work off’ any new fines or outstanding municipal court fines that were unable to be paid by the offender. Many offenders were unable to pay off fines and were finding themselves in

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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.

Community Service Program Members

Cpl. James D'Alonzo
Ptl. Justin Vitola

Ptl. Dan Geiger
Ptl. Martin Lindholm

Ptl. Brian Vergantino

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a collaborative effort with both the Middle Township School District and with the Cape May County Technical High School. The School Resource Officer Program is incorporated within the Special Services Unit. (*Note: Middle Township has an inter-local agreement with the Technical High School for the services of the School Resource Officer*)



The School Resource Officer Program has two main components: first is designed to enhance the relationship among the members of the school district, its students, teachers/administrators and the police department. The daily communication between police and school officials prevents many problems and mitigates existing problems for both the school and the police; second is a component to provide a law enforcement 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 2017 the Middle Township Police Department hosted a school presentation, titled "Rachel's' Challenge" at the Middle Twp. Performing Arts Center. This presentation covered the students in grades 6th-12th for the school district.

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>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	41	33	-8
Supplement Investigations:	20	19	-1
Arrests:	27	40	+13

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<u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	10	15	+5
Supplement Investigations:	5	6	+1
Arrests:	10	7	-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 Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program. The L.E.A.D. Program is taught at Elementary #2's fifth (5th) grade and Elementary #4's seventh (7th) grade. This program is 15 weeks long, and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2017, approximately 360 students were taught through the L.E.A.D. Program.



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

Sergeant Mark Higginbottom
Sergeant Tracey Super
Corporal Eugene Castellano

Sergeant Jennifer Delanzo
Sergeant Joshua Byran

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

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- 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 2017 the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens

Patricia Cornwell

Sandra Linz

Sandra Sickerott

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).

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The Middle Township Police Department employs nine full time Telecommunication Operators, two assigned to each of the four patrol squads. The ninth 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 12/31/17:

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham
Operator Dustin Gaskill
Operator Kyle Lindholm
Operator William Belles
Operator Dustin Kelly
P/T Operator Jeremy Embs
P/T Operator Lauren Cajigas
P/T William Mulligan
P/T Samantha Kelly
P/T Beth Colquhoun

Senior Operator Robert Eagan
Operator Dave Atkinson
Operator Tara Love
Operator Maria Campaniello

P/T Mark Newman
P/T Operator Joseph Eagan
P/T Operator Joe Repici
P/T Dan McDonald
P/T Brandon Mitchell

Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for service:	45,733	50,968	+5235
9-1-1 Calls:	11,293	10,552	-741
Average 911 calls per day:	30.9	28.9	-2.9

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.

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

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upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

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

In 2017 there were a total of **30 Internal Affairs Complaints** received. There were 32 cases that reached a disposition. It should be noted some of the dispositions were carried over from the previous year. See the below for the disposition types.

2017 Internal Affairs Dispositions

Excessive Force: 1 Unfounded/1 Administratively Closed

Improper Arrest: 1 Exonerated

Other Criminal Violation: 2 Unfounded

Demeanor: 1 Not Sustained

Other Rule Violation: 17 Sustained/2 Not Sustained/2 Exonerated/3 Unfounded/2 Administratively Closed

Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. An employee was terminated for Insubordination and Sick Time Abuse.

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.

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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 two full time officers. Mike Elias also assists the Middle Township Zoning and Construction Departments as part of his duties.

Full Time Officer James Amenhauser
Part Time Officer Mike Elias

The Code Enforcement Officers issue violation notices to residents who are not in compliance with the Middle Township Code. If a property is not brought into compliance, a complaint summons may be issued to ensure compliance.

Total Code Enforcement calls for service in 2017: 1144

Below is a breakdown of some of the more common violations;

Property maintenance violations	568
Uncut grass	398
Unregistered/Junk Vehicles	37
Illegal Dumping	8
Complaint Summonses issued for non-compliance:	42

VACANT PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Middle Township enacted a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance which became effective in 2017.

The Purpose of the ordinance is to:

- Identify properties in the foreclosure process (vacant or occupied)
- Require mortgage lenders to register properties that are in the foreclosure process and provide emergency contact information

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- Provide emergency contact information concerning these properties and input that information into the Police Department Records Management System
- Identify deteriorated or neglected properties detracting from neighborhood values and report them to Code Enforcement for follow-up action
- Conduct regular follow-up and monthly inspections of the registered properties to insure compliance
- Conduct monthly inspections of the entire township visually looking for other properties that are abandoned or neglected and report them to township authorities

These duties are assigned to a contractually approved third party company that specializes in this type of activity. The current company who is handling this for the Township is *Preferred Neighborhood Solutions*, based out of North Wildwood, NJ.

Total Properties Registered in 2017: 309

This figure fluctuates throughout the year as properties are bought and sold and are no longer falling under the guidelines of the ordinance.

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. In 2017, we added a trained part time Animal Control Officer, Kyle Lindholm. Kyle Lindholm is also a full time Communications Operator and has a good working knowledge of the Animal Control function. The Township also has a relationship with Animal Control of South Jersey to assist with animal complaints when the animal control officer(s) are unavailable.



Total Animal Related Calls for 2017: 1329
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated: 127
Unlicensed Dog Cases: 48

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

The Special Services Unit, under the command of 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 lead 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 for officers to use during the many different situations officers may face during the performance of their job.

In 2017, Cpl. D'Alonzo and the Special Services Unit implemented two additional eight-hour training sessions, labeled as "Advanced Training". It was mandatory for all officers and detectives to attend this training, and these advanced sessions will become part of the mandatory annual training for the department. These training sessions hit on training in such areas as active shooter, building and room clearing, weapon control and shooting, use of force, departmental policy updates, Court Case Law updates, dealing with Critical Incidents, De-escalation techniques and many more areas experienced in today's policing

The men and women of the Middle Township Police Department attended a wide variety of in service training courses throughout 2017 including but not limited to:

- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Firearms Qualifications
- SWAT Training
- Hostage Negotiation Training
- Dive Team Training
- Assault Rifle Qualifications
- Active Shooter Response
- CPR recertification
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command

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- 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
- Fraudulent Document School
- Police Supervision School
- Taser Training
- Field Training Officer
- Firearms Instructor
- Sex Crimes Investigations
- Search Warrant Preparation

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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	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
Ptln. Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law
Ptln. Mike Pastore	CPR / First Aid, First Responder, Military Drill
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 Department 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.



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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 54 times in 2017, 24 call outs being strictly Mainland Division Operations. The SWAT Team was also used for mutual aid for out of county assistance on 2 separate occasions. Both of these call outs were to assist other agencies in Atlantic County.

Along with the SWAT callouts, the SWAT Team provided security for the Wildwood Roar to the Shore Motorcycle Event, the City of Wildwood's Beach Concerts and the USCG Family Festival. The SWAT Team was also used to make appearances at different police youth camps, LEAD events, and National Night Out.

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 nine certified divers with a full complement of dive equipment. The team had twenty (20) training sessions in 2017. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team also attended/assisted with the Wildwood Polar Plunge, Stone Harbor Polar Plunge, Sea Isle Polar Plunge, Ocean

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City Air Show, National Night Out, as well as the Middle Township L.E.A.D day and The Middle Township Police Department Youth Camp. 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
Cpl. John Norton	Pfc. Steven Novsak
Det. Jack Trombetta	Ptln. Shawn Karge
Ptln. Thomas Ritterhoff	

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 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

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HONOR GUARD

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Middle Township Police Department at various official functions and community events. The Honor Guard members wear a formal uniform blouse and utilize ceremonial rifles and flags. The Honor Guard presents the colors at events such as Police Academy graduations, 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 John Norton
Corporal Ron Miller	Detective Dan Martin
Detective Jason Sweitzer	Patrolman Dave Hagan
Patrolman Kurt Saettler	Patrolman Jonas McInnis
Patrolman Brian Vergantino	

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.



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These training courses allow the unit to complete the following:

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

The Middle Township Crash Team employs the following equipment to assist with crash investigations: Laser Impulse, Recon Data Recorder, Map Star System Angle Encoder, Prism and Pole, Drag Boot, 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
Det. Dan Martin
Ptl. Justin Vitola
Ptl. Kurt Saettler

BICYCLE PATROL

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 are 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



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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. During the summer months of 2017, the Special Services Unit routinely utilized the bikes to maintain a police presence on the bike path, riding back and forth between Cape May Court House and Rio Grande.

Trained Bike Officers:

Sgt. Mark Higginbottom
Cpl. Phillip Johnson
Cpl. Geno Castellano
Cpl. Len Larkin
Ptl. Armondo Jones

Cpl. James D'Alonzo
Cpl. Dave Hagan
PFC. Steve Novsak
Cpl. Ron Miller
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 2017 these officers performed 20 evaluations (12 for this Department, 8 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

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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 2017, \$1980.00 was reimbursed back to the Department through this grant.**

ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department participates in the New Jersey State Association Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This is a voluntary state program developed by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and is modeled after the CALEA national program. The accreditation program requires compliance with a series of professional standards designed specifically for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best practices in law enforcement. The Department was initially accredited in 2006 and reaccredited in 2010 and 2013.



On October 23rd and 24th, 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 a new alarm ordinance to encourage alarm users to properly use and maintain the operational effectiveness of alarm systems in order to improve the reliability of alarm systems



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and reduce or eliminate false alarms. Middle Township has always had an ordinance dealing with False Alarms, but with a decrease in manpower both sworn and civilian personnel, it is very time consuming to manage. A decision was made to privatize this function and Middle Township, on behalf of the Middle Township Police Department, entered into a contract with ATB Services to administer its Alarm Ordinance. In 2012, ATB Services was sold to PMAM Corporation.

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

The alarm program has yielded positive results which can be seen by the false alarm data below. Shown is a comparison of the years 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Numbers are the number of false alarms for each month.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2009	117	81	103	101	82	99	122	139	132	96	97	107
2010	92	150	135	117	116	118	142	99	77	78	78	106
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
2017	61	57	77	75	57	72	91	66	64	84	77	93

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

2017 total: 874

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.

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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.
Comparing 2016 to 2017 alarms are up by 45 which is a 5.4% increase from 2016.
Since the inception of the program in 2009 to 2017 alarms are down by 402 which is a 31.5% 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 979 registered alarms which is more than double the initial number. It should be noted that on several occasions the officer is “cancelled” prior to arrival, or when the alarm owner/company determines police are not needed. This aspect of the program allows police to remain free to respond to other valid calls. This program has also resulted in better contact information being provided for police.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Middle Township Awards Committee was reinstituted in 2010. The Awards Committee consists of 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 Fourth Awards Dinner was held in March of 2017 and a list of the award recipients is listed below:



- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| • Chief Leusner | 15 Year Award |
| • Capt. William Adams | 15 Year Award |
| • Capt. Don Nelson | 20 Year Award |
| • Lt. Bob Shepherd | 15 Year Award |
| • Lt. James Loftus | 15 Year Award, FTO and Firearms Instructor |
| • Lt. Doug Osmundsen | 20 Year Award, FTO and Drug Expert Pin |
| • DSG. Clint. Stocker | 20 Year Award, Medal of Valor, Master Underwater Crime Scene Diver, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Sgt. Mark Higginbottom | 15 Year Award, Master Underwater Crime Scene Diver, Distinguished Honor Award, Academy Instructor |
| • Sgt. Fran Fiore | 20 Year Award, Meritorious Service |
| • Sgt. Jen Delanzo | 15 Year Award, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Sgt. Tracey Super | Meritorious Service Award |
| • Sgt. Ken Martin | 15 Year Award, Drug Expert, Meritorious Service Award |
| • Sgt. Josh Bryan | Instructor of Physical Training |
| • DFC Allan McClure | 20 Year Award, Distinguished Honor Award |
| • Det. Jack Trombetta | Meritorious Service Award, Dive Team, Academy Instructor |
| • Det. Jason Sweitzer | 15 Year Award |
| • Det. Dan Martin | 3 Meritorious Service Awards, Distinguished Honor Award, Crisis Negotiator |
| • Cpl. Fred Crawley | 20 Year Award |
| • Cpl. Gino Castellano | 15 Year Award, SRO |
| • Cpl. Phil Johnson | 15 Year Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards |

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• Cpl. James D'Alonzo	15 Year Award, Firearms Instructor, FTO, Academy Instructor
• Cpl. John Norton	Life Saving Award
• Cpl. Ron Miller	2 Meritorious Service Awards, Medal of Valor
• Cpl. Len Larkin	Meritorious Service Award, Instructor
• PFC. Dave Hagan	Meritorious Service Award, Instructor
• PFC. Julio Ruiz	15 Year Award
• PFC. Steve Novsak	Distinguished Honor Award
• PFC. Michelle Brown	Life Saving Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards, Distinguished Honor
• Ptlm. Matt Martino	Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Kurt Saettler	Medal of Valor, Instructor
• Ptlm. Daniel Geiger	Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Martin Lindholm	FTO, Crash Reconstructionist, Good Conduct, Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Armondo Jones	Meritorious Service Award
• Ptlm. Jeff Salvesen	Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Ray Bradley	Life Saving Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards
• Ptlm. Brian Vergantino	Distinguished Honor Award, FTO
• Ptlm. Brian Murphy	SWAT, DRE, Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Justin Vitola	FTO, Good Conduct Award
• Ptlm. Michael Pastore	Life Saving Award, Distinguished Honor Award, FTO, CPR
• Ptlm. Shawn Karge	Dive Team, Distinguished Honor Award
• Ptlm. Joseph Gamble	Distinguished Honor Award, FTO
• Ptlm. Ben Stiefel	Meritorious Service Award, Distinguished Service Award, Military Award
• Ptlm. Jonas McInnis	Life Saving Award, Meritorious Service Award
• Ptlm. Tom Ritterhoff	2 Meritorious Service Award, 2 Distinguished Service Awards, Dive Team
• Class II Rohrer	2 Distinguished Service Awards
• Class II Frangieh	Meritorious Service Award
• Class II Zeller	Meritorious Service Award
• Class II Dececco	Distinguished Service Award, Military
• Dispatcher Atkinson	Life Saving Award
• Dispatcher R. Eagan	15 Year Award
• Dispatcher Ted Farina	5 Year Award
• Dispatcher Dustin Gaskill	5 Year Award
• Dispatcher Jen Graham	25 Year Award, Recognition Award
• Records Kendra Karstens	10 Year Award

The Next Awards Dinner will be held in March of 2019

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 2017 included our annual toy drive, partnered with ACME Markets to deliver Thanksgiving meals, participated in St. Baldrick's, participated in No Shave November to raise \$2,000 (\$12,000 when combining efforts



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from other county departments) for 3 Cape May County residents fighting cancer and donated to the Police Unity Tour for fallen officers. The Fund also supports the Awards Dinner and Retiree Luncheon.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic group's meetings/events in 2017: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, Middle Township Chamber Commerce, New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, the Branches Outreach Center, Family Success Center and Elementary#1 Reading Night.
- 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.



2017 Goals/Results

Patrol Division

In 2017, the Patrol Division had set two Goals. The first goal was to improve the quality of life and improve the safety of residents and motorists in the Rio Grande Section of Middle Township. In 2013, the Department established the DDACTS zone in Rio Grande. Patrols were increased in the zone during peak days and times of criminal activity and motor vehicle accidents. The objective of the 2017 goal was to increase the number of Traffic Stops in the DDACTS area by 10% compared to 2016, and conduct a minimum of one foot patrol per shift. Our enforcement saw only a 1% increase in traffic stops, but our number of foot patrols was 972 for the year compared to 548 from 2016. This reached our goal of at least one per shift, and was an increase of 77%, or 424 details. The traffic stop enforcement was essentially flat but our visibility was significantly increased with the increase in foot patrols in the target area. The overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone decreased in 2017 to 151 offenses from 200 in 2016, which is a 24.5% decrease. This continues to steadily drop, from the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. This is an approximate 51% decrease overall in the reduction of the crime rate. Shoplifting offenses decreased to 75 in 2017 from 131 in 2016, which is a 42.75 % decrease. Crashes decreased approximately 2%, there were 289 crashes in 2017 versus 294 in 2016. Crashes involving injury increased in 2017. There were 47 Crashes involving injury in 2017 compared to 29 in 2016.

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 2017, officers of this Department performed 491 traffic details resulting in 1005 motor vehicle stops and the issuance of 1081 summonses in the targeted area. Our stationary details in 2017 decreased to 491 from 666 in 2016. But, motor vehicle stops went up on Route 47 North by 77 and up by 91 on Route 47 South. Motor Vehicle Summonses were up by 49 on Route 47 North and up by 162 on Route 47 South. There was one crash resulting in a fatality in the targeted areas of enforcement in 2017, which was equal to the previous year.

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Special Services Unit

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2017. The first goal was to increase the Department's interaction with the youth of Middle Township. The objective of this goal was to develop and hold a Middle Township Police Youth Camp. During the year, extensive preparations were made with the cooperation of Cape Assist. We reached this goal, as the camp was run at the end of July, and approximately 50 of Middle Township's Youth attended to camp. After the completion of the camp, the attendees took part in a graduation ceremony conducted during The National Night Out Event.

The second goal was to increase awareness of the risk of Opiate addiction amongst high school students in Middle Township. The objective of this goal, was to deliver the #NOTEVENONCE Opiate Awareness Program to high school students during the 2017 school year. School Resource Officer Corporal Gino Castellano attended training to become an instructor in the #NOTEVENONCE program. We partially reached this goal, by having the curriculum added to the 2017-2018 School year, but we were unable to get the curriculum started until January of 2018.

Major Crimes Unit

Goal #1: Increase the awareness of scams targeting Middle Township Residents.

Detectives briefed the Patrol Division of scams the Major Crimes Unit has come across such as, Paving Seal Coating Scam, IRS Scams, Lottery Winner Scams where winners were directed to mail in processing fees for their winnings, the Microsoft Scam where a caller would ask for someone's IP address to access their computers. This allowed the Patrol Division to pass this information on to the public and helped them as they worked these types of investigations. We also used Social Media Sites to alert the public of possible scams.

We did not provide community presentations in 2017 but we are scheduled to deliver one to the AARP this spring.

Goal #2: Increase the likelihood of recovering stolen property from residents of Middle Township.

Detective Sweitzer has conducted audits with our local Pawn Shops. It was found they have been in compliance with our local ordinance and have been complying with using the Regional Automated Property Information Data Base System, "RAPID" No other businesses were found to be conducting operations within the township that require them to be using the "RAPID" system. At times, items sold to the pawn shops and reported through the "RAPID" system were later found to be stolen and were able to be returned to their owners, which also led to arrests in burglary and theft cases.

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DFC. McClure and Detective Martin have been going through our evidence attempting to match and return recovered, found or stolen items to their owners. This entailed reviewing investigations where items were reported stolen and matching them to recovered, found or stolen items stored evidence.

We did not meet our goal to have a DNA marking program in 2017. We have not finalized the details but expect to launch option to residents in 2018.

Appendix A: 2018 Proposals

New Public Safety Building Study

The Middle Township Police Department Police Headquarters is approaching the end of its useful life. We are lacking functional space to deliver the proper level of service to our residents and visitors. We can expect this problem to worsen as the Township and the Police Department grow in the coming years. We believe it is important to explore all options to understand what the best path is forward in a fiscally responsible manner to address these concerns. The Township approved a small contract with an experienced Architect to consider all options and we look forward to working with this firm in 2018.

Constitutional Center Training

We will begin to send Middle Township Police Officers through a training program at the National Constitutional Center in Philadelphia. The training program, called “Policing in a More Perfect Union”, will focus on the power and responsibility of officers' role as police in a democratic society to protect the constitutional rights of all people. This training will build upon the training program officers received in 2015, “The Law Enforcement and Society: Lessons of the Holocaust” at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County in Glen Cove, New York.

Adverse Childhood Experiences- Trauma Informed Training

We are constantly trying to understand the root cause of many of the issues we face in Middle Township. Chief Leusner serves on a coalition called, “Cape Regional Wellness Alliance” who believes children that are exposed to significant amounts of trauma are the root cause of many of the challenges facing our communities. The focus of the work of the Alliance is to identify ways to support and promote resiliency amongst our youth in Cape May County. In an effort to reach that goal, in 2018, all Middle Township Police Officers will receive training in Adverse Childhood Experiences to help officers recognize youth in need of support services.

Capital Improvements

1. Police Vehicles - 3 Patrol, 1 Unmarked, 1 Pickup Truck \$220,000

This is continuation of our plan to purchase patrol vehicles every three years through capital in addition to the two patrol cars we purchase every year through Operating Expenses. In 2010 we reduced the number of vehicles we purchased to 2 from 4.

2. Replace Stationhouse Video System \$25,000

We currently have a stationhouse video that is over 7 years old. It takes a considerable amount of time to burn videos and it drags down our video evidence function. Our other camera systems burn video much quicker and an upgraded stationhouse video system will significantly improve efficiency.

3. New Alcotest Machine \$21,000

This new machine is a mandate from the State of New Jersey. The current machine is being replaced and will not be supported by the New Jersey State Police.

Appendix A: 2018 Proposals

4. Fire Prevention System \$5,000
We would like to add enhanced fire detection sensors in server/radio room and records room on the second floor of the old Firehouse.

5. Portable Radios \$15,000
We have hired new officers and need some additional portables radios to outfit these officers.

6. Surveillance Cameras on Bike Path and some Intersections \$75,000
We have met with Verizon and identified surveillance systems at a reasonable cost. The bike path is being utilized by more residents and visitors each year and this will help not only deter crime but assist in the investigation if we have an incident. We would also like to install cameras at some major intersections to help solve crimes that occur within the Township.

7. Security Doors \$10,000
We installed key fobs for enhanced security throughout most of the Police Department in 2017. If we decide not to move forward with a new Police Headquarters in the next few years, we should add key fobs at the Firehouse Garage doors and SWAT and Dive Storage Rooms in the rear of the Firehouse.

Appendix B: 2018 Goals

Patrol Division

Goal#1

Improve quality of life and safety of residents in Rio Grande and Whitesboro/Burleigh areas and increase safety for motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

Objective:

Maintain the number of DDACTS Traffic Stops in 2018 as compared to 2017, conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift in the DDACT Zone, conduct a minimum of one radar detail a shift on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16.

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. Position an older Patrol Car on State Highway 47 in strategic areas of the roadway during high-risk weekends or holidays.
4. Utilize Class II officers to partially focus on the Route 47 in the above areas.
5. Educate the public through social media and traditional media on aggressive driving, distracted driving, and driving while under the influence.

Goal#2:

Promote resiliency in Township youth increasing by positive interactions with law enforcement.

Objective:

Conduct a minimum of 1 Community Policing contact a week with a juvenile residing in Middle Township and recruit them to join Cape May County Sheriff's Department Police Explorer Program.

Strategies:

1. Conduct walk throughs on a regular basis at the Township Recreation Centers.
2. Conduct walk throughs on a regular basis at Township Schools.
3. Enhance our partnership with the Cape May County Sheriff's Department Police Explorer Program.
4. Increase positive field contacts with juveniles during routine patrol
5. Use the Police Youth Camp as an opportunity to recruit youth to the Cape May County Sheriff's Department Explorer Program.

Appendix B: 2018 Goals

Major Crimes Unit

Goal#1

Increase the awareness of the dangers of sexting and cell phone safety amongst youth.

Objective:

Post at least one video a quarter to Social Media on the dangers of sexting and deliver presentations to all schools from grade level 7 to 12.

Strategies:

1. Utilize resources from respected organizations about dangers of sexting in youth and push out to our residents through Nixle, Social Media and Traditional Media.
2. Distribute pamphlets to the Schools to share with students.
3. Conduct briefing training for Patrol Officers with the purpose of better preparing them to educate the public through field contacts.
4. Arrange for a Community Presentation for parents from the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.

Goal #2

Reduce the number of items currently in evidence and improve the efficiency of the Property/Evidence Function.

Objective:

Reduce the number of items in Evidence by purging all available items in at least half of our nine thousand pieces of evidence by the end of 2018.

Strategies:

1. Assign a Detective to Evidence Purging full time starting July
2. Assign Part Time Evidence Custodian to assist
3. Utilize any officer on light duty from worker's compensation to assist
4. Identify resources through the BEAST software and utilize the system to their fullest capacity

Appendix B: 2018 Goals

Special Services Unit

Goal#1

Increase the Department's communication with school districts related to youth in need of support and raise awareness of youth to report concerning behavior anonymously.

Objective:

Develop a Standard Operating Procedure for a "Handle with Care Program" where law enforcement will communicate a child has experienced a traumatic event for follow up support and resources.

Strategies:

1. Utilize resources from West Virginia Center for Children Justice to develop a Standard Operating Procedure.
2. Train all Middle Township Police Officers on the Handle with Care Procedures.
3. Develop a process with Middle Township School Officials for follow up support services to the child.
4. Coordinate with the Cape Regional Wellness Alliance to promote countywide.

Goal#2

Reduce the number of outstanding warrants for non-violent offenses in Middle Township in a manner to help them move forward in productive manner.

Objective:

Plan, Schedule and Promote a Community Safe Surrender Event in coordination with New Jersey Superior Court, Middle Township Municipal Court and Community Partners.

Strategies:

1. Identify a community organization to host the Community Safe Surrender Event.
2. Work with New Jersey Superior Court Criminal Division Trial Court Administrator to plan the event.
3. Educate the public about the event.
4. Work with local media to promote the date, time and location of the event.

Appendix B: 2018 Goals

Street Crimes Unit

Goal #1

Improve quality of life for all residents in Middle Township through narcotics enforcement, improving communication with businesses and working with community partners on homelessness to connect them with services and mitigate public safety concerns.

Objective:

Maintain the level of narcotics enforcement in 2018 as compared to 2017, build database of business owner contact information for e-mail communication and submit a quarterly report to the Chief of Police on the number of homeless individuals in Middle Township and actions taken to work with community partners and mitigate public safety concerns.

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 and identify homeless individuals.
3. Meet with business owners weekly and connect with Chamber of Commerce.

Goal#2

Increase awareness of the risk of opiate addiction amongst teenagers and young adults as well as offering to assist with recovery utilizing agencies such as Cape Assist and C.U.R.E.

Objective:

Educate teens and young adults encountered by the Street Crimes Unit during the course of our duties on the dangers of opioid addiction and the resources available to assist them with recovery such as Cape Assist and C.U.R.E. and meet with each pharmacy in the Township to promote Project Medicine Dropbox pamphlets on site by the end of 2018.

Strategies:

1. Contact C.U.R.E. to speak with any teen or young adult arrested who is suspected of being drug dependent.
2. Provide literature and contact numbers for Cape Assist and/or C.U.R.E. to any teenager or young adult contacted during a narcotics investigation whether they are the target of the investigation or an innocent victim in the home.
3. Interview arrested teenagers/young adults arrested and suspected of being drug dependent to determine the best practices for law enforcement to combat the issue.