

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



Christopher M. Leusner
Chief of Police



Prepared by:
Chief C. Leusner
Captain W. Adams
Captain D. Nelson
Lt. R. Shepherd
Lt. J. Loftus
Lt. D. Osmundsen
DSG. C. Stocker
Sgt. M. Higginbottom
Sgt. K. Martin

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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Middle Township Police Department is pleased with the continued progress to improve public safety in Middle Township. In 2019, we saw another decrease in crime with a total of 339 offenses. This is a 32 % drop in two years, and is the lowest recorded level of crime in the last 21 years in Middle Township. We believe this is a direct result of the investments made by Township Committee in personnel, programs and technology.

Police Youth Engagement

The Middle Township Police Department recognizes the significant impacts and risks to children who experience traumatic events. Children who experience significant amounts of toxic stress, as a result of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), are more likely to have poor health, educational, and social outcomes. Police are in a unique situation to play a pivotal role in mitigating these impacts through trauma informed and responsive police practices and making referrals to our partners to help these children build resiliency.

We continued to make investments in Police Youth Engagement in 2019 and build upon our existing efforts launched in 2018. We held our third annual Police Youth Camp and it was another huge success. In 2019, we hosted 75 kids for a six-day camp in July compared to 65 kids in 2018. Camp activities included physical training, military etiquette, K-9 interaction, team building exercises, and positive interaction with police officers through fun activities such as waterpark or rides. We partnered with Cape Assist for the Youth Camp, and they delivered a curriculum to the campers to help them improve decision making and goal setting skills.

In 2019, we launched a Police Officer Trading Card Program and provided many officers with a Trading Card. If a child meets fifteen different Middle Township Police Officers and collects a card, they are eligible for a prize bag. The prize bag contains a \$10.00 Gift Card to McDonalds and toys provided by Gateway 26 and can be redeemed at the Police Department during business hours.

We also launched two additional Police Youth Engagements programs in Middle Township Schools. The first program is at our Middle School and involves kids and Police Officers interacting through E-Gaming. We partnered with Cape Assist who provided the gaming systems and delivers an evidence based life skills lesson followed by Police Officers and kids playing appropriate video games together. This program was modeled off programs started by Pine Hill Police Department and Gloucester Township Police Department.

The second program is Paws on Patrol, where uniform officers go into Middle Township Elementary School#1 periodically throughout the school year. The officers spend

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approximately twenty minutes playing and interacting with the kids and then move to the next classroom. This program was suggested by a Middle Township Elementary School Teacher and has been a huge success.

In 2018, we launched a new partnership with the School Districts in Middle Township to assist youth exposed to traumatic events. The program is called Handle with Care. It requires officers to notify the school when a child is present at a traumatic event before the bell rings the following day. The purpose of the program is to provide awareness to the teachers and staff, so they can support the student if necessary rather than compound the trauma by discipline. None of the details of the incident are disclosed other than the fact that the child was present during a traumatic event. In 2019, Middle Township Police Officers made 119 Handle with Care referrals to school districts.

Rio Grande Efforts

The Rio Grande Substation continues to be a very busy place. In 2019, residents and visitors came to the Rio Grande Substation 324 times to speak with an officer compared to 219 in 2018 or 194 times in 2017. Our partners, Cape May County Probation and New Jersey State Parole, utilized the Rio Grande substation on a regular basis and helped us drive as much law enforcement presence in the area as possible.

Our Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) initiative, which focused specifically on Rio Grande, showed a decrease in UCR reported offenses in the Rio Grande area in 2019.

- **In 2019, we had 122 offenses compared to 184 in 2018.**
- **We use 2012 as our baseline year for measuring success in our DDACTS program** due to launching DDACTS on January 1, 2013. **In 2012, we had 307 offenses.**

The Street Crimes Unit dedicated a considerable amount of time and resources to the Rio Grande area again. In 2019, they made 84 arrests, an increase from 69 in 2018. The Unit executed 16 Search Warrants in 2019, the same as in 2018. They seized \$1,083 in cash as well as heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, K2 Spice, marijuana, and prescription medication.

Proactive Policing Strategies

In 2019, we continued to focus our efforts and resources on Intervention and Education/Prevention. Our partnership continued with the Lighthouse Church's CURE ASAP (Christians United for Recovery - Advocating for Substance Abuse Program). This program was inspired by the Angel Program in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The ASAP program allows us to assist citizens with obtaining help with their addiction. In 2019, we referred 3 people for help. This program compliments our Public Advocate Program in the Municipal Court through a partnership with Cape Assist, where we have been connecting people with services since 2014. In 2019, the Public Advocate assisted 148 people and helped to connect them with various services. Lastly, Patrol Officers

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continued to carry Narcan and deployed it 41 times in 2019. We deployed Narcan 39 times in 2018, 26 times in 2017, 26 times in 2016, and 13 times in 2015.

Furthermore, we continued our school based prevention programs. Our L.E.A.D. Program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) was delivered to the 7th grade classes in Middle Township for the second year. The 7th grade program builds on our L.E.A.D. curriculum for 5th grade. We also delivered the #NOTEVENONCE Prevention Program again to the 10th grade students at Middle Twp. High School. Another program we do is “Operation Prevention” for the 4th grade in Elementary #2. The program was provided by the DEA and was a success in its second year.

The Project Medicine Drop in our lobby continues to be used frequently by our residents. **In 2019, we collected 769 pounds of prescription medication through our Dropbox located in the lobby of headquarters compared to 750 pounds in 2018.**

Community Outreach

In the area of Community Outreach, we continued our very successful Cops and Coffee program, and in 2019, we held 11 events. These events are held monthly at different businesses and they allow residents and police officers to meet one another over a cup of coffee to discuss problems or concerns. We also attended and set up booths at numerous events throughout the Township in 2019 such as Harvest Festival, Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro Annual Reunion, and 4H Fair to name a few. We held another successful National Night Out that drew over 3,000 residents to share in the community fun.

We continued with our existing Community Outreach programs in 2019:

- We partnered with the New Jersey Superior Court and various community partners to host an Expungement Seminar at Christ Gospel Church where over 100 people received assistance with clearing up criminal records.
- We participated in the 1st Annual *Unity in the Community* Event with Cape May County for a Safe Community Coalition at Cape May County Park and Zoo.
- The Middle Township Police Department was a partner to bring Dan McDonald from Tampa Police Department to hold a community forum on Homelessness. The forum discussed strategies communities can institute to reduce homelessness.
- We participated in “No Shave November” for a fifth year in a row, and the proceeds went to Sgt. Higginbottom’s family.
- The Middle Township Police Officer Association had another successful year with the Toy Drive and Thanksgiving giveaway.
- The Meet and Greet Officer Program is now in its sixth year with the Middle Township AARP and is going strong.
- We continued to raise awareness of the dangers of Distracted Driving by promoting our magnets that are displayed on vehicles throughout Middle Township.

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Criminal and Traffic Activity

The Total Uniform Crime (UCR) reported the crime number for 2019 was 339 compared to 449 in 2018. We saw a 23% reduction in non-violent crime: 306 offenses in 2019 compared to 397 in 2018. In 2019, we saw a 38% decrease in violent crime with 33 offenses in 2019 compared to 52 offenses in 2018. There were zero homicides in 2019.

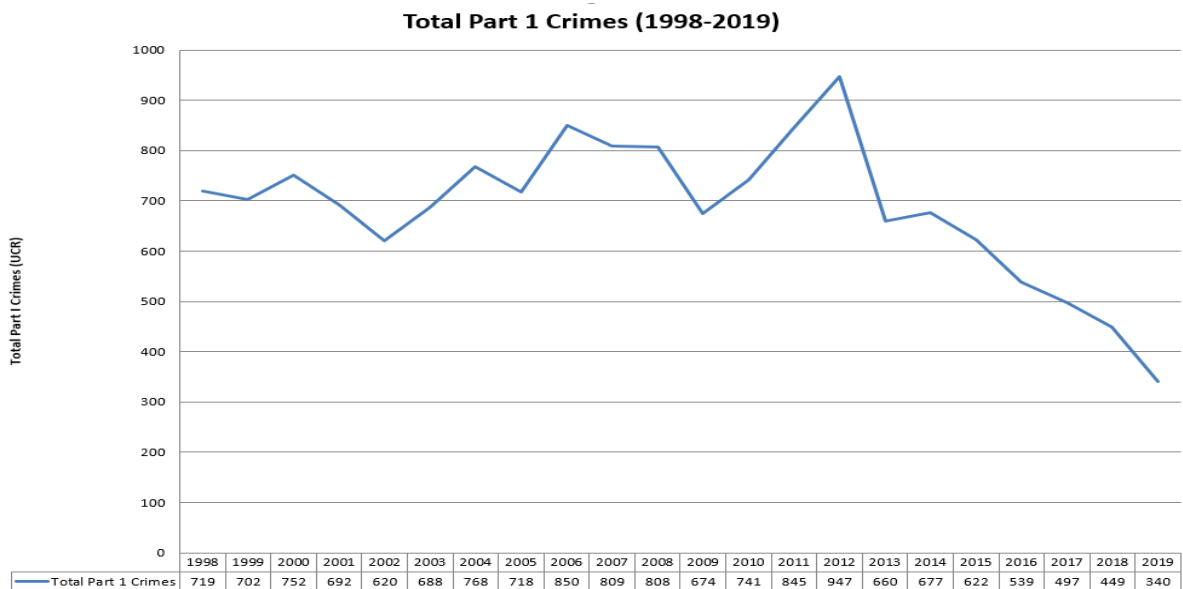
Traffic activity within the Township saw a slight increase in total crashes. In 2019, we had 911 crashes compared to 902 in 2018. However, injuries as result of crashes were down again -122 compared to 129 in 2018. And, in 2018, we had had a 15% decrease in crashes resulting in injury compared to 2017. So, we are pleased to see this trend continue.

The number of traffic fatalities went down in 2019, with 1 fatality compared to 3 in 2018.

Motor Vehicle Summonses were down approximately 16 %, a total of 3,032 summonses in 2019 compared to 3,618 in 2018.

Driving While Intoxicated arrests were down slightly, a total of 101 in 2019 compared to 103 in 2018.

Middle Twp. Uniform Crime Reporting Numbers past 21 Years.



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ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Current Sworn Employees

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2020.

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

Kurt Saettler

Special Services Unit

Sgt. Mark Higginbottom

Cpl. Phil Johnson

Cpl. Eugene Castellano

Cpl. James D'Alonzo

PFC Julio Ruiz

PFC Martin Lindholm

Class II George Eskander

Class II Paul Mueller

Class II John Mihal

Class II John Sunderhauf

Class II Patrick Vendetta

Class II Joseph Trombetta

Class II Michael Smith

Patrol Sergeants

Brian Murphy

Jennifer Delanzo

Tracey Super

Josh Bryan

Corporals

Fred Crawley

Leonard Larkin

Ronald Miller

Dave Hagan

Street Crimes Unit

Sgt. Ken Martin

Cpl. John Norton

Patrolman

PFC Matt Martino

PFC Daniel Geiger

PFC Armondo Jones

Jeffrey Salvesen

Raymond Bradley

Brian Vergantino

Justin Vitola

Michael Pastore

Shawn Karge

Michael Reardon

Benjamin Stiefel

Jonas McInnis

Thomas Ritterhoff

Mark Bakley

Thomas Flounders

Dylan Young

Trevor MacCormack

Shawn Rocca

Thomas Runyon

Blake Martindale

Gregory DeCecco

John Hotaling

Pamela Gittle

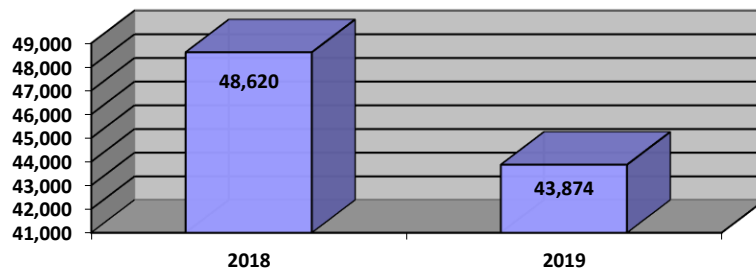
Christopher Russ

Jenna Cuomo

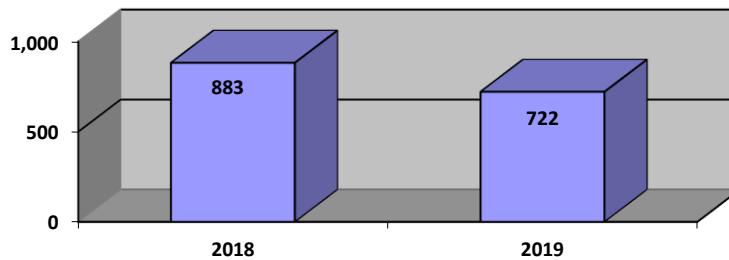
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CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

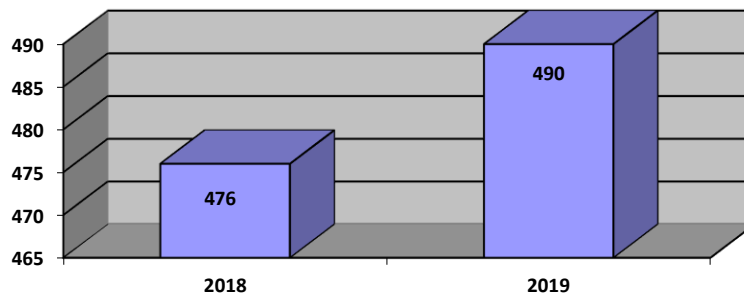
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	48,620	43,874	-4746



	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	883	722	-161



	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	476	490	+14



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Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

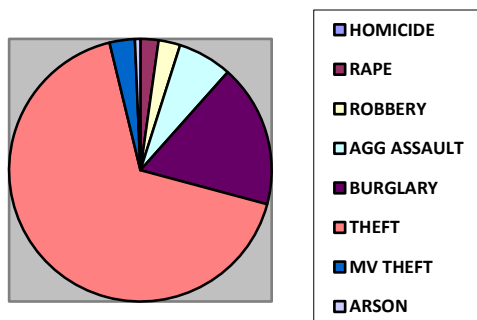
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications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

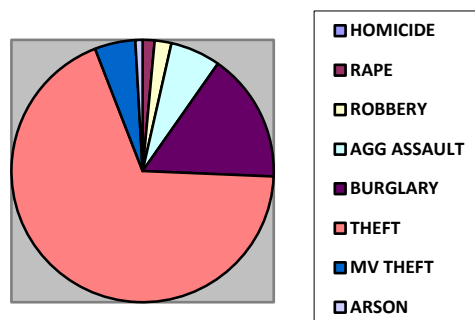
Offense: 2018		Offense: 2019		<u>Change</u>
Homicide	0	Homicide	0	0
Rape	10	Rape	5	-5
Robbery	12	Robbery	7	-5
Aggravated Assault	30	Aggravated Assault	21	-9
Burglary	79	Burglary	54	-25
Theft	301	Theft	232	-69
Motor Vehicle Theft	14	Motor Vehicle Theft	17	+3
Arson	3	Arson	3	0
Total UCR:	449		339	-110
Violent Crime:	52		33	-19
Non Violent Crime:	397		306	-91

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

UCR 2018



UCR 2019



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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. The following call types were handled by the members of the Police Department in 2019 compared to 2018.

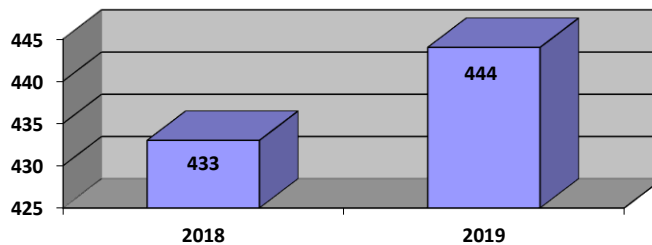
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses	38	27	-11
Simple Assaults	145	155	+10
Medical Calls	3,605	3,850	+245
Fire Calls	895	895	even
Death Investigations	32	50	+18
Disorderly Conduct incidents	866	947	+81
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	113	106	-7
Mal Damage Crim Mischief	87	70	-17
Missing Persons and Runaways	108	60	-48
Assisting other agency incidents	566	461	-105
Property and Building Checks	16,399	12,780	-3,609
Bias Incidents Investigated	0	2	+2
Directed Patrol	3,358	2813	-545
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports:	1,461	1,383	-78
Supplemental Investigation Reports:	1,896	1,692	-204

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 2019, Middle Township Police responded to **444** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior, Middle Township police responded to **433** Domestic Violence incidents.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	433	444	+11

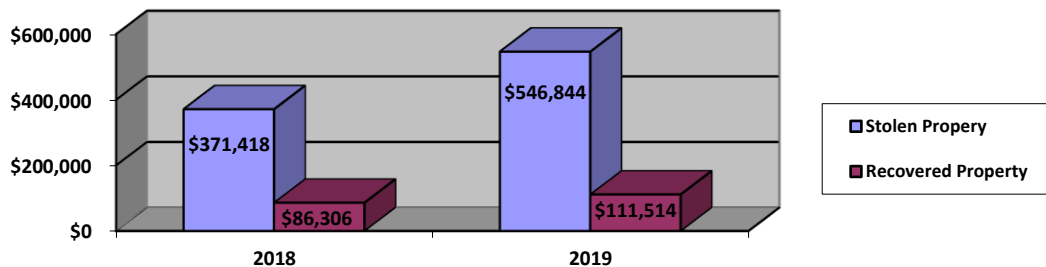


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Property Stolen and Recovered

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 2018 and 2019.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$371,418.00	\$546,844.00	+ \$175,426.00
Recovered:	\$86,306.00	\$111,514.00	+ \$25,208.00



Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or Crashes:

During 2019, there were 17 work related injury incidents reported. As a result of the injuries, three of the officers missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u># of Days Missed</u>
Detective Jack Trombetta	98
Sergeant Ken Martin	16
Ptlm. Mike Pastore	4

Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 12 motor vehicle crashes in 2019.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Ritteroff, Tom	May 6 th , 2019	Rear ended a vehicle
Candell, Willilam	June 19 th , 2019	Struck a post
Jones, Armondo	July 29 th , 2019	Struck a tree
Mihal, John	August 4 th , 2019	Struck a shopping cart
Bakley, Mark	August 21 st , 2019	Backed into a vehicle
Salvesen, Jeff	August 30 th , 2019	Struck a curb
Norton, John	October 8 th , 2019	Struck a deer
Martin, Ken	October 15 th , 2019	Struck a trash can
Trombetta, Joe	October 18 th , 2019	Struck a parked car

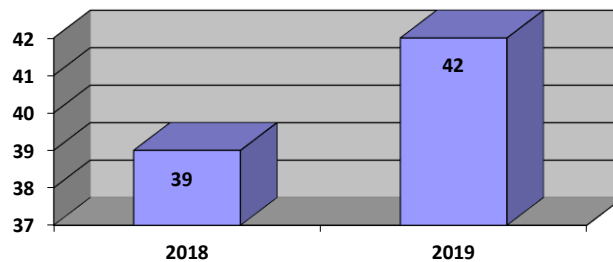
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Cuomo, Jenna	November 4 th , 2019	Rear ended a vehicle
Mihal, John	November 16 th , 2019	Struck a fence post
Runyon, Tom	December 15 th , 2019	Struck a curb

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 Prosecutor's Office.

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents:	39	42	+3



Of the 42 Use of Force incidents, 36 subjects were arrested and 7 subjects were injured.

Note: Each incident where Use of Force is used by an officer is reviewed by the Captain and the results forwarded to the Chief of Police. It should be noted that in 29 of these cases only compliance holds were used by officers

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Officers injured using force:	5	7	+2

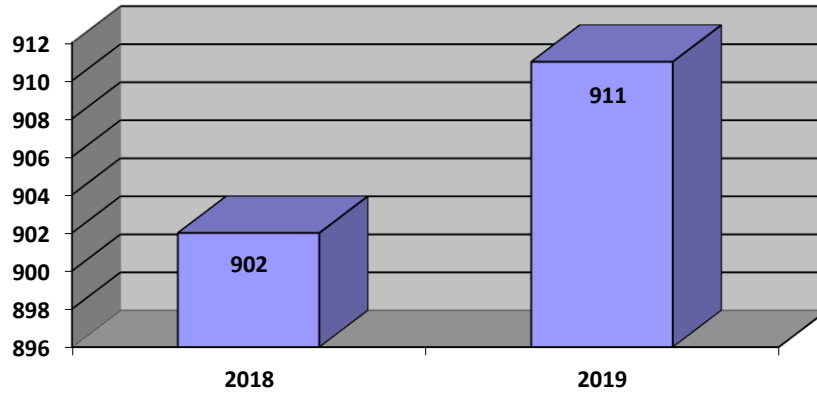
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Police Pursuits:	5	4	-1

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in four incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there was one person was arrested, and two crashes.

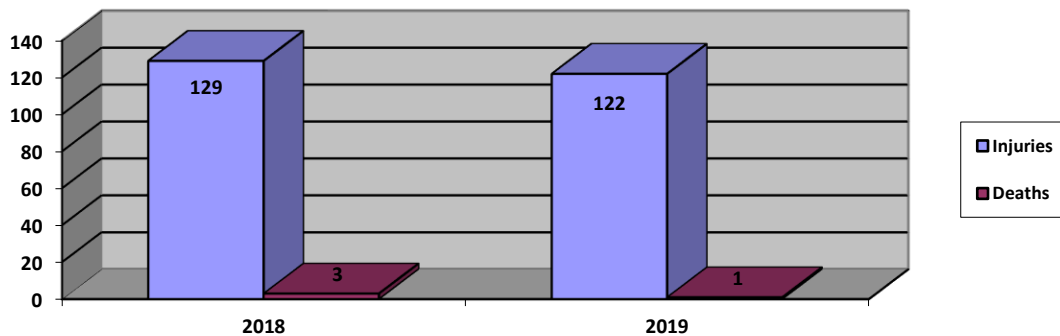
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TRAFFIC

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	902	911	+9

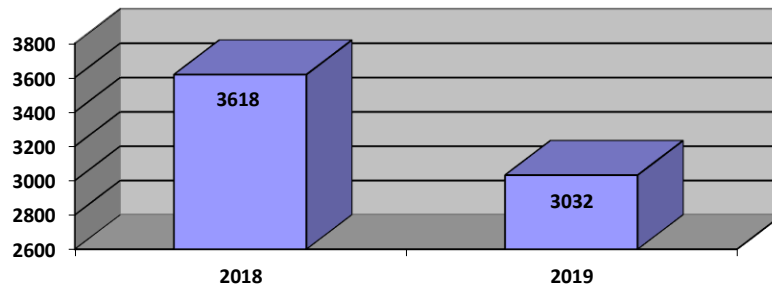


	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Injuries:	129	122	-7
Deaths:	3	1	-2



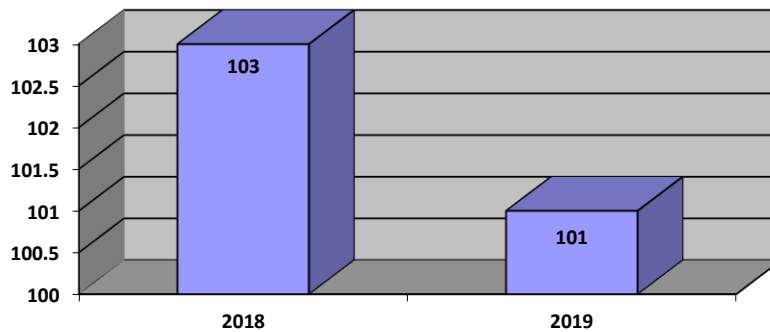
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	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	3618	3032	-586



Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI)

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	103	101	-2



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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 force and its personnel, 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 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, Handle with Care Program.

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.

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.



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

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

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into five squads. Four patrol squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant with seven patrol officers and, is at times, supplemented with Class II officers. The fifth squad, the Special Service Unit works 5 days a week. The squad is utilized to fill special needs of the department: Training Function, Court Security, Community Events, School Resource Officers, and assist the patrol division during peak times.

In 2014, our department began the process of training our officers for the use of Tasers. Our Department currently has 30 officers trained and 10 Tasers for deployment. As we move forward, all officers, 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 (564 hours) of intensive training and evaluation where the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. The FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

The following Officers are designated as FTO:

Sergeant Josh Bryan
Corporal Dave Hagan
Corporal James D'Alonzo
PFC Armondo Jones
PFC Martin Lindholm
PFC/Detective Daniel Martin

Sergeant Brian Murphy
Corporal Phillip Johnson
Corporal John Norton
PFC Matt Martino
Detective Kurt Saettler
Patrolman Justin Vitola

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Patrolman Shawn Karge
Patrolman Brian Vergantino

Patrolman Michael Pastore

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>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	53	34	-19
Supplemental Investigations:	1203	1133	-70
Arrests :	54	31	-23

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruitment, police employee employment background investigations, **42 in 2019**. In addition, the Detective Division conducts all firearm application backgrounds. The unit completed a total of **250** firearms background investigations in **2019**.

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, 2019:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	231	218	-13
Cases Closed:	244	203	-41

Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2019: **61**

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Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2019 include:

- **2019-07194:** Impersonating A Police Officer
- **201912188:** Lewdness
- **2019-19858:** False Police Reports.
- **2019-13285:** Assault By Auto
- **2019-14545:** Official Misconduct
- **2019-09454:** Arson
- **2019-03008:** Assault By Auto
- **2019-06913:** Motor Vehicle Theft
- **2019-00887:** Terroristic Threats
- **2019-02525:** Theft by Deception
- **2019-03387:** Receiving Stolen Property
- **2019-09141, 09298:** Aggravated Assault

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

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 2019, we collected over 769 pounds of prescription medications.**



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 2019 included:

Detective Sergeant Clint Stocker
Detective First Class Allan McClure
Detective Jack Trombetta
Detective Jason Sweitzer

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Detective Dan Martin
Detective Kurt Saettler
Part Time Evidence Clerk Mark DeVico
Part Time Evidence Clerk David Tomkinson

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 2019, five (5) 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 2019:

Sgt. Kenneth Martin
Cpl. John Norton
Ptlm. Mark Bakley
Ptlm. Tom Ritterhoff
Ptlm. Tom Flounders

The following is a synopsis of the Street Crimes Unit's 2019 case load:

A majority of the arrest were for Narcotics Violations. Other arrests included: Driving Under the Influence (DUI), endangering the Welfare of a Child and Warrant Arrests.

Arrests: Eighty-Four (84) +16

Search Warrants: Sixteen (16) (No change from 2018) search warrants were executed in Middle Township resulting in the arrests of individuals for drug related and other criminal offenses.

Narcotics Seized: Heroin, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Marijuana, K2 Spice and Prescription Medication.

Currency seized: \$1083 (-\$26,237) was submitted for forfeiture as proceeds of criminal activity.

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

- 2019-21132-** During the month of June, members of the Street Crimes Unit conducted a motor vehicle stop on subject from Philadelphia, PA after information was received that the subject was delivering narcotics to the Middle Township from Philadelphia, PA. After a positive K-9 sniff on the vehicle, the vehicle was towed back to Middle Township Police Headquarters where a search warrant was executed and distribution quantities of Heroin and Methamphetamine were recovered. The driver of the motor vehicle was charged accordingly.
- **2019-24904-** During the month of July, members of the Street Crimes Unit initiated an investigation into residence on Hand Avenue in Cape May Court House after several citizen complaints of possible drug activity at the residence. The Street Crimes Unit executed a court authorized search warrant at the residence. Four (4) subjects were arrested and charged with various narcotics related crimes. Distribution quantities of Methamphetamine, Heroin and Cocaine were seized from the residence.

FORFEITURE

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Beginning balance:	\$33,093.46	\$42,070.78	+\$8977.32
Forfeited monies received:	\$13,810.07	\$1,467.59	-\$12,342.48
Forfeited monies expended:	\$4,946.87	\$6,944.41	+\$1997.54
Balance:	\$41,956.66	\$37,121.81	-\$4,834.85

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

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MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

Megan's
Law

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

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	8	10	+2
Average monthly registrant count:	84	85	+1
Low count	83	83	0
High count	87	87	0

During the year, 4 details were conducted to verify the addresses of the registrants. As a result, no arrests 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, running the police department's youth summer camp and monitor the Juvenile Station House Adjustment Program along with various other responsibilities.



Sgt. Higginbottom and Cpl. Johnson of this unit are Glock Armorers, while Cpl. D'Alonzo is an Advanced Glock Armorer and a Patrol Rifle 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 Davis and Teal (Rio Grande), Friends of 13 Curves (CMCH/Green Creek), Stone Harbor

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Manor Homeowners, Shannon Oaks Neighborhood Watch (Rio Grande), Gatherings at Cape May (Rio Grande) and Antina Lane Lookouts (Swainton). The Special Services Unit held **11 Cops and Coffee details** where they went to a local coffee shop or business and discussed with citizens any concerns they may have related to illegal activity in the Township. The 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
- Middle Township Harvest Festival
- Annual Whitesboro Reunion
- 3rd Annual Police Youth Summer Camp
- Operation Safe Surrender
- Homelessness Forum
- Pride Conference
- School Threat Assessments
- Local Bank Threat Assessment Meeting
- Home Depot Safety fair
- Kindle Ford's Octoberfest Community Event
- Parent Night for Youth Summer Camp

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 2019 we referred 3 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 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".

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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 2019, 148 people we referred to services by the Public Advocate.**

The Special Services Unit is responsible for providing Municipal Court security and acting as the Municipal Court Liaison to the Municipal Prosecutor. The SSU also provided court security on **57 Court days during the year.**

In 2018, the Special Services Unit was responsible to launch our new partnership with the School Districts in Middle Township to assist youth exposed to traumatic events called Handle with Care. Many times when officers come in contact with a juvenile during a traumatic event, there are limited options for the officers to assist that juvenile. If a juvenile is exposed to a traumatic event, he might not be able to comply with school's requirement the following day or longer. Through no fault of their own, the teachers or school administration might compound the trauma by disciplining the child (ex. homework not done, absent-minded in class, or acting out). The Handle with Care Program bridges the gap between the juvenile's out of school and in school life and will provide for an opportunity to receive additional support from school. The program started in September of 2018, which covered the 2018-2019 school years. September of 2019 started the second school year for this program. During the year of 2019 we handled **119 Handle with Care Referrals.**

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



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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 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

PFC Dan Geiger
PFC 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 and Middle Township School District for the services of the School Resource Officers)*

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, 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.



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

<u>Middle Township</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	31	35	+4
Supplement Investigations:	16	17	+1
Arrests:	39	37	-2

<u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	24	24	Even
Supplement Investigations:	18	19	+1
Arrests:	15	2	-13

Note: Our 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 6,400 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 Middle Township Middle School seventh (7th) grade. This program is 10 weeks long, and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2019, approximately 400 students were taught through the L.E.A.D. Program.



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

Sergeant Jennifer Delanzo
Sergeant Tracey Super
Sergeant Joshua Bryan
Corporal Eugene Castellano

PFC Julio Ruiz
Ptlm. Justin Vitola

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RECORDS DIVISION

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

- Data entry
- Report maintenance/
Filing/Retrieval/OPRA requests
- Issuing Licenses
- Copy Reports for Civilians /
Attorneys / Law Enforcement
Agencies / Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Issue Temporary Handicap
Placards
- Division of Child Protection and
Permanency 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 2019, the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens
Sandra Sickerott

Patricia Cornwell
Alexis Kern

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



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order to assist the caller and the police officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication Operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:

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

The Middle Township Police Department employs nine full time Telecommunication Operators, two assigned to each of the four patrol squads. The 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 12/31/19:

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham
Senior Operator Dustin Gaskill
Operator Kyle Lindholm
Operator William Belles
Operator W. Kyle Bryant
P/T Operator Jeremy Embs
P/T Operator Mark Newman
P/T Operator Joe Repici
P/T Operator Jen Teasenfitz
P/T Operator Josh Tozer
P/T Operator Paul Fritsch
P/T Operator Nicole Day

Senior Operator Robert Eagan
Senior Operator Dave Atkinson
Operator Dustin Kelly
Operator Lauren Cajigas

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Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for service:	48,620	43,874	-4746
9-1-1 Calls:	10,496	11,200	+704
Average 911 calls per day:	28.9	30.7	+1.8

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 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 2019, there were a total of **37 Internal Affairs Complaints** received. There were 37 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.

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2019 Internal Affairs Dispositions

Excessive Force: 2 Exonerated

Improper Arrest: 1 Sustained

Other Criminal Violation: 1 Not Sustained/1 Unfounded/1 Administratively Closed

Demeanor: 1 Not Sustained/1 Unfounded/1 Administratively Closed

Other Rule Violation: 19 Sustained/4 Exonerated/2 Not Sustained/3 Administratively Closed. **14 of the Sustained Other Rule Violations were traffic crashes**

Major Discipline Disclosure: There was no major discipline in 2019.

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

The Internal Affairs Division is commanded by Captain Don Nelson.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

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



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

Officer James Amenhauser
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.

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Total Code Enforcement calls for service in 2019: 1096

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

Property maintenance violations 534

Uncut grass 102

Unregistered/Junk Vehicles 10

Illegal Dumping 1

Complaint Summonses issued for non-compliance: 119

VACANT PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROGRAM

Middle Township enacted a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance which became effective in 2019.

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
- 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 2019: 196

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

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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.



	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Animal Related Calls:	1297	1179	-118
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated:	111	130	19
Unlicensed Dog Cases:	23	82	59

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 mandated firearms qualifications, less than lethal weapons qualifications, and policy reviews with officers on the subject of use of force, vehicular pursuits and domestic

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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 Lt. Shepherd implemented two additional eight-hour training sessions, labeled as "Advanced Training". This training is now mandatory for all officers and detectives to attend, as they have become part of the standard 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 2019 including but not limited to:

- Bloodborne 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
- Hazmat
- Radar Instructor and Operator
- High Risk Motor Vehicle Stops
- Accident Investigations I and II
- Alcotest Operator Training
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement
- Cell Block Management
- Arrest Search and Seizure Updates and Retraining
- HGN-DWI Refresher
- Fraudulent Document School
- Police Supervision School
- Taser Training
- Field Training Officer
- Firearms Instructor
- Sex Crimes Investigations
- Search Warrant Preparation
- Handle with Care Training
- Mental Health First Aid

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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, Firearms,
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
Cpl. David Hagan	Patrol Concepts
Det. Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law
Ptl. 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 Prosecutor's 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 41 times in 2019, 32 call outs being strictly Mainland Division Operations. The SWAT Team was also used for mutual aid for out of county and out of Jurisdiction assistance on multiple occasions.

Along with the SWAT callouts, the SWAT Team provided security for the annual Whitesboro Reunion, 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	Sergeant Brian Murphy
Patrolman Tom Ritterhoff	

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 thirteen (13) training sessions in 2019. 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.

Det/Sgt Clint Stocker, Sergeant Mark Higginbottom, Corporal John Norton and Ptlm. Thomas Ritterhoff hold Specialty Dive Certifications in Underwater Crime Scene Investigations, Underwater Criminal Investigations, Evidence Recovery, Body Recovery, Vehicle Recovery, Underwater Metal Detecting and hold the Master Underwater Crime Scene Investigator certificates.

Members of the Dive Team are:

Lt. Robert Shepherd (Team Commander)
Sgt. Mark Higginbottom
Cpl. John Norton
Ptlm. Shawn Karge

Det/Sgt. Clinton Stocker (Team Leader)
Sgt. Tracy Super
Det. Jack Trombetta
Ptlm. Michael Pastore

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 six 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 Jennifer DeLanzo
Detective Dan Martin
Ptl. Tom Flounders
PFC Julio Ruiz

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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 over two decades.



Members of the Honor Guard include:

Lt. James Loftus (Unit Commander)

Sergeant Tracey Super (Unit Leader)

Sergeant Josh Bryan

Corporal Ron Miller

Corporal Dave Hagan

Detective Kurt Saettler

Patrolman Brian Vergantino

Patrolman Justin Vitola

Corporal John Norton

Detective Dan Martin

Patrolman Jonas McInnis

Patrolman Greg Dececco

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),



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Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Occupant Kinematics, Vehicle Dynamics and Traffic Crash Reconstruction.

These training courses allow the unit to complete the following:

- Scaled computer diagramming
- Mathematical analysis
- Damage evaluations
- Seatbelt, headlamp and tire examination
- Scene measurements
- Documentation of road type and tire friction
- 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 Martin Lindholm(Asst. Unit Leader)
PFC Armondo Jones
PFC Matt Martino
Det. Dan Martin
Ptl. Justin Vitola
Ptl. Tom Flounders
Ptl. Greg Dececco
Ptl. Mark Bakley

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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 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 officers assigned to these areas help to increase officer visibility as well as making themselves more approachable to members of the public as well as business owners. The Special Services Unit can also utilize 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
PFC Armondo Jones
PFC Dan Geiger

Cpl. James D'Alonzo
Cpl. Dave Hagan
Cpl. Ron Miller

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS

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



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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 three Drug Recognition Experts: Patrolman David Hagan, Corporal Leonard Larkin and Patrolman Brian Murphy. **During 2019 these officers performed 8 evaluations (7 for this Department, 1 for other jurisdictions).**

In 2011, the Department joined a grant with Atlantic County. The grant reimburses the Department \$220.00 each time a DRE is called in to complete an Evaluation when the officer is off duty (\$110.00 if the officer is on duty at the time he or she is needed). The grant will also reimburse the Department an additional \$220.00 or if an officer has to appear in court for up to 2 court dates. **During 2019, \$1,320 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, 2013 and 2016.



On November 3rd, 2019, 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 112 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

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with those standards with which it received accreditation. In 2022, the department will again go through the process to be reevaluated for accreditation.

Captain William Adams is the Accreditation Manager.

FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM



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

In the past Middle Township had well over 1,000 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 1,000 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, 2017, 2018 and 2019. 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

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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
2018	75	50	80	48	68	89	75	73	74	58	54	71
2019	94	66	62	71	101	78	91	60	65	92	87	43

Yearly Totals:

2009 - 1,276

2010 - 1,216

2011 - 932

2012 - 870

2013 - 909

2014 - 880

2015 - 965

2016 - 829

2017 - 874

2018 - 815

2019 - 910

Year to year comparisons:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Comparing 2016 to 2017, alarms are up by 45 which is a 5.4% increase from 2016.

Comparing 2017 to 2018, alarms are down by 59 which is a 6.8% decrease from 2017.

Comparing 2018 to 2019, alarms are up by 95 which is a 11.7% increase from 2018.

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 924 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.

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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, Detective Jason Sweitzer, and Detective Daniel Martin. The committee reviews submissions for awards and has the sole authority in making the final determination. Our Fifth Awards Dinner was held in March of 2019 and a list of the award recipients is listed below:



- | | |
|---|--|
| • Chief Leusner | Academy Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • Capt. Don Nelson | 20 Years Award |
| • Lt. Bob Shepherd | Academy Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • Lt. James Loftus | Crash Team |
| • Lt. Doug Osmundsen | Academy Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • DSG. Clint. Stocker | Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, and 20 Years Award |
| • Sgt. Mark Higginbottom | Academy Instructor and Firearms Instructor |
| • Sgt. Fran Fiore | Medal of Valor and 20 Years Award |
| • Sgt. Jen Delanzo | Firearms Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • Sgt. Tracey Super | Accreditation and Distinguished Honor |
| • DFC. Allan McClure | Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, and 20 Years Award |
| • Det. Jack Trombetta | Meritorious Service Award, 2 Distinguished Honor, and Firearms Instructor |
| • Det. Jason Sweitzer | Meritorious Service and 2 Distinguished Honor |
| • Det. Daniel Martin | Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service, 2 Distinguished Honor, Accreditation, |
| and Crash Team | |
| • Det. Brian Murphy | 2 Distinguished Honor |
| • Cpl. Fred Crawley | Meritorious Service, 2016 Marksman, and 20 Years Award |
| • Cpl. Gino Castellano | LEAD, Motorcycle Unit, and Bicycle Unit |
| • Cpl. Phil Johnson | Firearms Instructor |
| • Cpl. James D'Alonzo | Crash Team and Community Service Unit |
| • Cpl. John Norton | Master Underwater Investigator, Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, |
| Academy Instructor, and Firearms Instructor | |
| • Cpl. Ron Miller | Firearms Instructor |
| • Cpl. David Hagan | Distinguished Honor and Academy Instructor |
| • PFC. Julio Ruiz | School Resource Officer and LEAD |
| • PFC. Matthew Martino | Distinguished Honor and Crash Team |
| • Det.. Kurt Saettler | Meritorious Service and 2 Distinguished Honor |
| • PFC. Daniel Geiger | 2 Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, Good Conduct, and Community |
| Service Unit | |
| • Ptlm. Martin Lindholm | Crash Team, School Resource Officer, LEAD, Community Service Unit |
| • PFC Armondo Jones | Meritorious Service, 2 Distinguished Honor, Accident Reconstructionist, |
| Crash Team, and Training Officer | |
| • Ptlm. Jeff Salvesen | Education Achievement |
| • Ptlm. Brian Vergantino | Life Saving, Training Officer, Community Service Unit, Honor Guard, and |
| Good Conduct | |
| • Ptlm. Justin Vitola | Life Saving, Distinguished Honor, Crash Team, Community Service Unit, and |
| Honor Guard | |
| • Ptlm. Michael Pastore | Meritorious Service, 3 Distinguished Honor, 2018 Marksman, Baby Delivery, |
| Dive Team, Academy Instructor, and Good Conduct | |

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- Ptlm. Shawn Karge Life Saving, Training Officer, and Good Conduct
- Ptlm. Michael Reardon 2 Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, Good Conduct
- Ptlm. Ben Stiefel Education Achievement
- Ptlm. Jonas McInnis 2 Distinguished Honor and Honor Guard
- Ptlm. Tom Ritterhoff Master Underwater Investigator and Education Achievement
- Ptlm. Mark Bakley 2017 Marksman and Crash Team
- Ptlm. Thomas Flounders Meritorious Service, Crisis Negotiator, Education Achievement, and Crash Team
- Ptlm. Dylan Young Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, and Baby Delivery
- Ptlm. Trevor MacCormack Education Achievement
- Ptlm. Thomas Runyon Meritorious Service and 2 Distinguished Honor
- Ptlm. Blake Martindale Distinguished Honor
- Ptlm. Gregory Dececco 3 Distinguished Honor, Crash Team, and Honor Guard
- Ptl. Officer Pamela Gittle Military Member
- Ptlm. Christopher Russ Distinguished Honor
- Class II Paul Mueller Military Member
- Dispatcher Jennifer Graham 25 Years Award
- Dispatcher Robert Eagan Distinguished Honor and 15 Years Award
- Dispatcher Dustin Gaskill 10 Years Award
- Dispatcher Atkinson Meritorious Service, 2 Distinguished Honor, and 5 Years Award
- Dispatcher Kyle Lindholm 2 Meritorious Service and Distinguished Honor
- Dispatcher William Belles Distinguished Honor
- Records Kendra Karstens 10 Years Award
- Records Sandra Sickerott 5 Years Award

The following officer received Certificates of Recognition for various accomplishments:

- Sgt. Kenneth Martin 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
- Cpl. James D'Alonzo 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
- Cpl. David Hagan 15 Years of Service
- Det. Jack Trombetta Senior Officer - 12 years of service, March 2019
- Det. Jason Sweitzer Senior Officer - 12 years of service, August 2013
- Det. Daniel Martin Senior Officer - 12 years of service, August 2018
- Det. Brian Murphy 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
- PFC. Matthew Martino Senior Officer - 12 years of service, February 2019
- Det. Kurt Saettler 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC and Performance while on the Street Crimes Unit
- Ptlm. Raymond Bradley 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
- Ptlm. Brian Vergantino 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
- Ptlm. Michael Pastore Performance while on the Street Crimes Unit
- Ptlm. Thomas Ritterhoff Performance while on the Street Crimes Unit

The Next Awards Dinner will be held in March of 2021

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 2019 included our annual toy drive, partnered with ACME Markets to deliver Thanksgiving meals, participated in No Shave November to raise \$2,070 for Sgt. Higginbottom's family whose wife is fighting cancer. 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 2019: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Cape May Court House AARP, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Cape Assist, Christ Gospel Church, the Branches Outreach Center, Family Success Center, Unity in Community Event held by Soar Church and Safe Community Coalition.
- 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 Corporal 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



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Olympics and supplies the Dive Team and boat for the Polar Plunge in Wildwood and Sea Isle City.

- The Middle Township Police Department was a partner to bring Dan McDonald from Tampa Police Department to hold a community forum on Homelessness. The forum discussed strategies communities can institute to reduce homelessness.
- Middle Township released a Mobile App available for free download to all residents and visitors to receive updates and information from us.

2019 Goals/Results

Patrol Division

In 2019, the Patrol Division had set two Goals. The first goal was to maintain our enforcement goals set for the Rio Grande area, as well as the Route 47 corridor through Middle Township. Improve the quality of life and safety of residents in Rio Grande and increase safety for motorists traveling on State Highway 47. Our objective, was to maintain the number of DDACTS Traffic Stops in 2019 as compared to 2018, conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift per squad in the DDACT Zone, conduct a minimum of one radar detail a shift per shift per squad on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16.

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 2019 goal was to maintain the number of Traffic Stops in the DDACTS compared to 2018, and conduct a minimum of one foot patrol per shift. Our number of foot patrols in 2019 was 584, which is down 314 from 898 in 2018. Traffic stops were at 2,103, which is an increase from 2,061 in 2018. The patrol division saw a decrease in foot patrols in the immediate area, but an increase in Motor Vehicle stops. There was also an increase along the Route 47 south area, from 949 in 2018 to 1113 in 2019. The overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone in 2019 was 122 offenses, down from 184 offense in 2018. This total is down 39.75% from the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. Motor Vehicle crashes in the DDACTS zone increased from 317 in 2018 to 337 in 2019. In 2018, there were 37 Crashes involving injury, this increased in 2019 to 52.

The second goal was to Foster and promote resiliency through positive police youth engagement. Our objective was to conduct a minimum of two monthly youth contacts when there is a not a Call for Service or Emergency. With 2019 being the first year recording this statistic, officers initiated 310 youth contacts

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Special Services Unit

The Special Services Unit had set two goals for 2019. The first goal was to increase the Department's positive interactions with youth in the township. In 2019, we developed and implemented a trading card program. The Special Services Unit identified a company to print the Police Officers Trading Cards, coordinate with the Major Crimes Unit for photographs of the officers, develop a template trading card and train our officers on the goal of the program. The goal of this program is to increase the interaction between our officers and the youth of the township. Since the start of the program approximately 25 officers have had their trading cards made and some officers have distributed over 500 cards.

The second goal was to increase the safety of all Middle Township Schools. The Special Services Unit coordinated, planned, and scheduled a live training scenario for all Middle Township Schools focusing on the security of the schools. After the scenarios were complete, all personnel involved conducted an after action review of each scenario and addressed all concerns.

Major Crimes Unit

In 2019, the Middle Township Police Department's Major Crimes Unit set two goals. The first goal was to develop a plan to enhance Criminal Investigations department wide through increased continuing education and training.

2019: Goal # 1

Detective Jack Trombetta, Detective Danial Martin and Detective Kurt Saettler of the Middle Township Police Department's Major Crimes Unit met with the individual patrol squads and went over the following procedures: proper evidence procedures, legal blood draw procedures, evidence collection procedures, evidence storage procedures. They also went over report writing and documentation. Officers were also trained in the evidence "BEAST" system, the county "INFO SHARE" system.

All the officer's passwords and logins for the department's computer programs were checked for verification and ensured they were all working properly. If an officer's passwords and logins were not working, they were reset and the officer was shown how to reset their logins and passwords and who to contact to do so if needed in the future.

2019: Goal #2

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

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Members of the Middle Township Police Departments Major Crimes Unit is currently operating under the Offender Watch System. This system electronically monitors Megan's Law offenders so other agencies can view the registration information. This helps the investigators see where Megan's Law registrants live and when he/she registers with the agency.

All the Megan's Law registrants in Middle Township were placed into the department's computer system "ENFORSYS", so if officers are dispatched to a specific address where a Megan's Law offender is registered, they are notified a Megan's Law offender resides at that specific address.

Also, members of the Middle Township Police Departments Major Crimes Unit conducted five Megan's Law address verification details. These details involved Detective's going to the residence where Megan's Law offenders are living to ensure he/she are physically at their registered address.

Appendix A: 2020 Proposals

First Net

FirstNet is a nationwide wireless broadband network for first responders being built and deployed through a first of its kind public-private partnership between the federal government and AT&T. FirstNet offers public safety a communications network built and customized to meet their needs.

Middle Township Police Department has utilized Verizon Wireless for our communication network for years. However, with the build out of the FirstNet network in the State of New Jersey, we will begin the process of transitioning to the FirstNet network. We believe this will improve our communication capabilities and lower our wireless communication costs.

Online Reporting System and Kiosk

We plan on offering an on-line reporting system and kiosk option for minor offenses to our residents by the end of 2020. This will offer citizens a more convenient option for to report minor offenses, many of which are done for insurance purposes. This will also allow us to operate more efficiently and free up time for officers to focus on pro-active activities.

National Incident Based Reporting System

The New Jersey State Police will be requiring all Police Departments in New Jersey to transition from the Uniform Crime Reporting System to the National-Incident Based Reporting System or NIBRS on January 1, 2021. Detailed, incident-based data is what the National Incident-Based Reporting System brings to the UCR table. The NIBRS-only data collection will provide more detailed, richer data on more offenses than is currently available through summary data.

The National Incident-Based Reporting System was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in the crimes.

We will be working with our Records Management Software Vendor, Enforsys, to update our software and train our personnel in 2020.

Capital Improvements

1. On-Line Reporting System Kiosk \$14,500

There are a number of situations where police officers are simply being utilized for simple data entry for insurance or documentation purposes. An example would be a lost cell phone or a very minor neighborhood dispute the citizen wants documented. I would like to have kiosk in the lobby of headquarters and the Rio Substation where a citizen can fill out the report themselves. I believe this is a situation where the citizen will benefit

Appendix A: 2020 Proposals

from the convenience and we can free up time for our police officers to attend to more pressing matters. Note: We are exploring an option in house with IT Kevin Wong but it is in the beginning stages.

2. Sergeant Vehicles and Pick Up Truck

\$160,000

Our Sergeant Expeditions are ten years old and approaching the end of their useful life. The expenses are starting to rise to keep these vehicles in a safe condition and on the street. I recommend we purchase four Ford Explorers to replace these vehicles.

We have been utilizing a Hummer we obtained from the 1033 program for the Crash Investigation Team and the Dive Team. We have recently been experiencing a lot of problems and will most likely be recommending it for auction. We have had it for a period of time where the federal government allows to auction the vehicle. I recommend we buy a pickup truck with a cap to replace the hummer.

3. Access Control Doors

\$10,000

We would like to add some access control doors to our existing system. The doors include our evidence room, storage room and the door entering the rear of the court room which we can set to certain times during court hours as opposed to physically locking the door.

4. Voice Recorder

\$10,000

Our voice recording system for our telephone lines and radio transmissions is approximately ten years old and approaching the end of its useful life. There would also be an opportunity to include some Township lines for quality assurance purposes if the Township wanted to go in that direction.

Appendix B: 2020 Goals

Patrol Division

Goal #1

Maintain our enforcement goals set for the Rio Grande area, as well as the Route 47 corridor through Middle Twp. Improve quality of life and safety of residents in Rio Grande and increase safety for motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

Objective:

Maintain the number of DDACTS Traffic Stops in 2020 as compared to 2019, conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift per squad in the DDACT Zone, conduct a minimum of one radar detail a shift per shift per squad 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:

Foster and promote resiliency through positive police youth engagement.

Objective:

Conduct a minimum of 4 monthly youth contacts per shift when there is a not a call for service or emergency.

Strategies:

1. Conduct walk through details on a regular basis at the Township Recreation Centers.
2. Conduct walk through details on a regular basis at Township Schools.
3. Provide resources to juveniles on various youth activities developed by the Special Services Unit.
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 and/or other Programs.

Appendix B: 2020 Goals

Major Crimes Unit

Goal#1

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

Objective:

We will conduct a complete review of one hundred and twenty (120) cold cases by the end of 2020.

Strategies:

1. Assign the cold case to a detective who has no knowledge of the case, in an effort to get a new prospective and method of continuing the investigation.
2. Determine if there are any witnesses/suspects that were not located. If so, use the internet/social media to try and locate these individuals so they can be interviewed, or re-interview suspects/victims.
3. Determine if there is any physical evidence which can be submitted to the lab to be tested for DNA.
4. Review cold case files with the Street Crimes Unit for potential intelligence.

Goal#2

Educate residents and raise awareness of the Cybercrime.

Objective:

Post at least one video a quarter to Social Media about how residents can protect themselves from Cybercrime and present at least 2 presentations to the community.

Strategies:

1. Utilize federal and state resources dedicated to Cybercrime prevention and push out to our residents through Nixle, Social Media and Traditional Media.
2. Distribute pamphlets to the Patrol Division about recent scams for officers to share with residents in the course of their duties.
3. Conduct briefing training for Patrol Officers with the purpose of better preparing them to educate the public through field contacts.
4. Identify pamphlets for the Special Services Unit to distribute at our monthly Coffee and Cops event.

Appendix B: 2020 Goals

Special Services Unit

Goal #1

Enhance the Department's Missing Person investigations with a focus on juvenile runaways.

Objective:

Update Missing Person Standard Operating Procedure 21B by the end of 2020 to include processes to identify needs for the family and the juvenile to make appropriate referrals for support.

Strategies:

1. Conduct research on latest best practices in runaway investigations.
2. Contact Gloucester Township Police Department to review their procedures.
3. Contact Pine Hill Police Department to review their procedures.
4. Conduct patrol briefing training on the updated policy.

Goal#2

Enhance the Department's response to reduce impact of trauma on children.

Objective:

Equip every patrol car by the end of 2020 with a comfort bag for officers to hand out at scenes where a child has been exposed to trauma.

Strategies:

1. Research what other Police Departments have instituted a comfort bag program.
2. Conduct training with all patrol squads on the comfort bags contents and goal of the program.
3. Update Standard Operating Procedure#206-Trauma Responsive Policing to include the comfort bag program.
4. Work with community to identify funds for the bags.

Appendix B: 2020 Goals

Street Crimes Unit

Goal #1

Reduce the use and distribution of methamphetamine throughout Middle Township.

Objective:

Initiate criminal investigations into the distribution of methamphetamine that results in at least 6 arrests by the end of 2020.

Strategies:

1. Work closely with and share information with the Major Crimes Unit as well as the Cape May County Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force.
2. Gather intelligence information pertaining to the subjects responsible for the distribution of methamphetamine.
3. Execute search warrants on residences where methamphetamine is being distributed and arrest those distributing methamphetamine.

Goal#2

Reduce the use and distribution of synthetic marijuana in Middle Township.

Objective

Increase the number of arrests for individuals distributing synthetic marijuana in 2020 as compared to 2019. Also, work with Special Services Unit to raise awareness amongst youth as to the dangers of synthetic marijuana.

Strategies:

1. Target synthetic distributors and distribution locations identified through intelligence information received from the public and confidential informants.
2. Conduct briefing training on how to spot warning signs for synthetic marijuana and distribution.
3. Work with the Special Services Unit on existing drug prevention curriculum to ensure the dangers of synthetic marijuana use are covered.