

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



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Chief of Police



Prepared by:
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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, The Middle Township Police Department continued to work through challenges from the second year of the pandemic and significant changes to police practices from directives, mandates, and legislation. We were determined for 2021 to be a transition year with a goal of returning to as normal of operations as possible. We held our Police Youth Camp and National Night Out celebration after both were cancelled in 2020; we made a total of seven promotions and four new hires in September to replace retiring officers and reinstituted the Street Crimes Unit in October.

We needed to meet a number of mandatory mandates in 2021. First, we successfully transitioned our crime reporting from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system, which we have used for over twenty-five years to the new National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS) system. Second, the Attorney General issued the first revisions to the Use of Force policy in two decades in December 2020, which went into effect in 2021. The Attorney General ordered that all 38,000 state, county, and local law enforcement officers in New Jersey complete an immersive, two-day training program on de-escalation and other tactics for limiting the use of force. The training program incorporates two training programs: Integrated Communication and Tactics, or “ICAT,” training developed by the Police Executive Research Forum, and Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement, or “ABLE,” training developed by Georgetown University and others. This training has been ongoing for most of 2021 and into 2022. We will have all of our officers trained by the end of the first quarter of 2022.

Third, was the Marijuana Decriminalization and Cannabis Legislation signed by the Governor in February of 2021. This new piece of legislation created substantial issues and concerns from law enforcement statewide. The new law as it relates to the possession of marijuana or alcohol by an underage person requires a written warning and no other enforcement actions, even for repeat offenses. If the officer engages in certain actions while investigating these incidents, even without intent, the officer can face a criminal charge for Deprivation of Civil Rights, a third degree crime. This legislation has required us to modify our operations and had a chilling effect on law enforcement statewide.

Fourth, in July we were notified by the state that our Communications Center would need to upgrade our 9-1-1 system. This triggered a comprehensive analysis of our existing operations that included the cost of the upgrades, a review of personnel costs and ability to attract and retain Communications Operators. At the same time, we studied the feasibility of joining the Cape May County Central Dispatch Center. In October, Chief Leusner recommended we join the Cape May County Central Dispatch system and Township Committee accepted it.

The extensive planning process began immediately to convert our data, modify procedures, coordinate and merge systems when possible and prepare training for all personnel in the new records management system, Infoshare. We are currently scheduled

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

to shut down our Communications Center on March 1st and officially switch to the county. We are pleased to report that all Middle Township Communications Operators who applied to County were hired and will be transferred through the intergovernmental transfer program.

Finally, we are actively working to recruit individuals to apply to the Middle Township Police Department as full time Police Officers and Class II Officers. We currently have two open full time positions and have been unable to find candidates through the civil service entry-level list. We have had some success with transfer officers that we can now hire from a recent change in the law, but not enough to allow us to fill all of our open positions. We hope a new entry-level test being offered by Civil Service this year and work by our Special Services Unit to increase more applications will bring some relief in 2022.

Despite these challenges, the men and women of the Middle Township Police Department rose to the occasion to meet our goals and provide the best possible police services to the residents of Middle Township.

Criminal and Traffic Activity

As mentioned above, we moved from the Uniform Crime Reporting System (UCR) to the new National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2021. NIBRS was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement and results in the reporting of offenses not captured in the previous Uniform Crime Reporting System. In addition to the reporting of new offenses, NIBRS requires the reporting of numerous offenses resulting from one incident, compared to UCR which required the reporting of the most serious offense.

These changes in reporting result in more offenses being captured in our reporting when compared to UCR. In 2021, we reported 944 Group A offenses. When deducting offenses not reported in the previous UCR system and the change in definitions for reporting offenses, we can estimate our UCR number would have been in the low 400 range for 2021, which would represent a modest increase in criminal activity for 2021 when we reported 294 offenses in UCR. Our NIBRS number for 2021 will be our baseline going forward to analyze criminal activity occurring in the Township.

Traffic activity within the Township saw an increase in total crashes with 855 crashes in 2021 compared to 726 in 2020. Injuries as result of crashes decreased with 94 in 2021 compared to 101 in 2020. The number of traffic fatalities went up in 2021, with 6 fatalities compared to 4 in 2020. Motor Vehicle Summonses were up in 2021 with 1,871 summonses compared to 1,776 in 2020. Driving While Intoxicated arrests increased to 115 in 2021 compared to 111 in 2020.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 2021 and build upon our existing efforts launched in 2018. In 2021, we hosted over 60 kids for our fourth annual Police Youth Camp and it was another huge success. 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 collaborated 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 post camp surveys, campers reported they were more likely to seek out a police officer if they had a problem and that police officers cared about them. This camp is made possible due to the support of our business community in Middle Township.

We continued with our Police Officer Trading Card Program and recently placed a new order for trading cards. 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. As we put the pandemic behind us, we look forward to promoting this program more in 2022.

We also continued with our Handle with Care program with the School Districts in Middle Township to assist youth exposed to traumatic events. In 2021, we had 77 Handle with Care referrals.

The Department was able to continue delivering most of the school based prevention programs. Please see the Proactive Policing Strategies section below for more information.

Proactive Policing Strategies – Intervention, Education, Prevention

In 2021, we continued to focus 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). The ASAP program allows us to assist citizens with obtaining help with their addiction. 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 2021, the Public Advocate assisted 28 people and helped to connect them with various services. The Municipal Court continued to work virtually due to the

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

pandemic in 2021. Patrol Officers continued to carry Narcan and deployed it 29 times in 2021. This compares to Narcan deployments of 41 in 2020, 41 times in 2019, 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) in the 5th and 7th grade was started but then suspended because of the pandemic. We successfully delivered the #NOTEVENONCE Prevention Program again to the 10th grade students at Middle Twp. High School and our “Operation Prevention” to the 4th grade students in Elementary #2.

The Project Medicine Drop in our lobby continues to be used frequently by our residents. In 2021, we collected 514 pounds of prescription medication through our Dropbox located in the lobby of the headquarters compared to 504 pounds in 2020.

Community Outreach

In the area of Community Outreach, we attempted to stay connected with our residents through smaller events and virtual events. We held four Cops and Coffee events in 2021. These events are held periodically 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 look forward to holding more events in 2022 as we put the pandemic behind us.

In September of 2020, Township Committee created by Ordinance the “Middle Township Law Enforcement Community Engagement Committee”. The Committee’s mission is to give a voice to a diverse group with a shared mission - to foster trust and mutual respect between the police, and the community. This Committee consists of nine members appointed by Township Committee and is made up of a balanced mix of local clergy, educators, a representative from the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, a member of the local chapter of the NAACP, a representative from the Township’s Social Service partners, and three appointed members that reside in Middle Township. The panel includes a liaison for the MTPD, who furnishes the committee with quarterly data on police interaction in the community, updates on new and existing programs, and partners with the committee to enhance communication and understanding of available resources.

The Police Department participated in the following events in 2021 and set up booths at the following events:

- Whitesboro Annual Summer Reunion
- Middle Township Juneteenth Celebration
- Kindle Ford’s Octoberfest Community Event
- Harvest Festival
- National Night Out

We also participated in the following Community Outreach programs in 2021:

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

- We held our second Shop with A Cop program at Christmas where we partnered with Ocean Inc. and the Progressive Black Initiative. This program paired a child with a Police Officer who then went shopping together at Wal-Mart in Rio Grande. The program was a great success.
- We participated in “No Shave November” for the sixth year in a row, and the proceeds went to Lunch for Lynch Foundation.
- The Middle Township Police Officer Association had another successful year with the Toy Drive.

Rio Grande Efforts

The Rio Grande Substation continues to be a very busy place. In 2021, residents and visitors came to the Rio Grande Substation 215 times to speak with an Officer compared to 172 in 2020. 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 an increase in NIBRS offenses in the Rio Grande area in 2021.

- In 2021, we had 241 offenses compared to 191 in 2020.

Note: The numbers of offenses reported is higher because of the change to NIBRS and we adjusted 2020 numbers previously reported to reflect the changes in NIBRS reporting for comparison purposes.

The Street Crimes Unit was only operating full capacity the last quarter of 2021 due to staffing challenges and the pandemic. In their limited time assigned to the Street Crimes Unit in 2021, the Officers made 9 arrests and executed 3 Search Warrants. They seized \$520.00 in cash as well as fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, suboxone, and prescription medication. The unit also conducted several ATV details in the area of the bike path throughout Middle Township due to numerous citizen complaints. These details resulted in two local ordinance violations, several motor vehicle summons and arrests for resisting arrest and eluding.



Promotional/Hiring Ceremony in September



Officers were honored to attend and surprise 9 year old, Jace Suarez, for his 10th birthday dinner in November.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Table of Contents

Organization & Personnel	8
Calls for Service/Criminal Activity	9
Traffic	15
Police Data Initiative	17-20
Administration	21
Patrol Division	22
Detective Division	24
Street Crimes Unit	26
Forfeiture Fund	28
Special Services Unit	28-29
School Resource Officer Program	31
Records Division	33
Communications	34
Internal Affairs	36
Code Enforcement/Animal Control	37-39
Training and Education	39-41
Special Units	41-46
Accreditation Program	46
Community Outreach	51
Achievement Goals and Objectives: 2021	52-54
Proposals: 2022	Appendix A
Goals/Objectives: 2022	Appendix B

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Current Sworn Employees

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 19, 2022.

Chief of Police

Christopher Leusner

Captain

William Adams

Robert Shepherd

James Loftus

Lieutenant

Jennifer DeLanzo

Mark Higginbottom

Tracey Super

Detectives

Det/Sgt. Brian Murphy

DFC Kurt Saettler

Thomas Flounders

Jonas McInnis

Thomas Ritterhoff

Blake Martindale

Special Services Unit

Cpl. Phil Johnson

Cpl. Eugene Castellano

Cpl. James D'Alonzo

PFC Julio Ruiz

PFC Martin Lindholm

Class II Kenzee Delgado

Class II Christian Quaranta

Class II Andrew Eskander

Class II Tyler Jackson

Class II Christopher Rudy

Patrol Sergeants

Leonard Larkin

Ronald Miller

Jason Sweitzer

Daniel Martin

Josh Bryan

Corporals

David Hagan

Michael Pastore

Shawn Karge

Armondo Jones

Street Crimes Unit

Sgt. Ken Martin

Cpl. John Norton

Patrolman

PFC Matt Martino

PFC Daniel Geiger

Raymond Bradley

Justin Vitola

Michael Reardon

Benjamin Stiefel

Mark Bakley

Trevor MacCormack

Shawn Rocca

Thomas Runyon

Gregory DeCecco

Pamela Gittle

Christopher Russ

Jenna Cuomo

Patrick Vendetta

Kerri Schrader

Michael Smith

Alyssa Jones

Josh Musick

Timothy Urquhart

Christopher Baczek

John Sunderhauf

Paul Damiano

Jeffrey Rigg

Thomas Reynolds

Joseph Trombetta

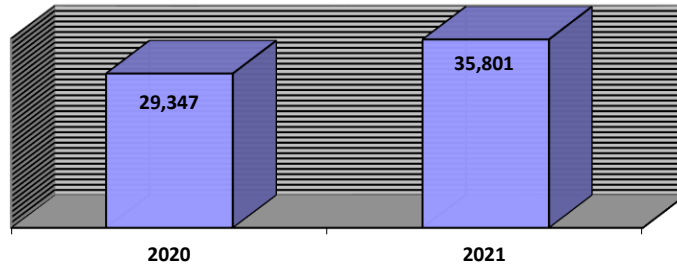
The following officers retired from the Middle Township Police Department in 2021:

Capt. Donald Nelson and Detective Sergeant Clint Stocker.

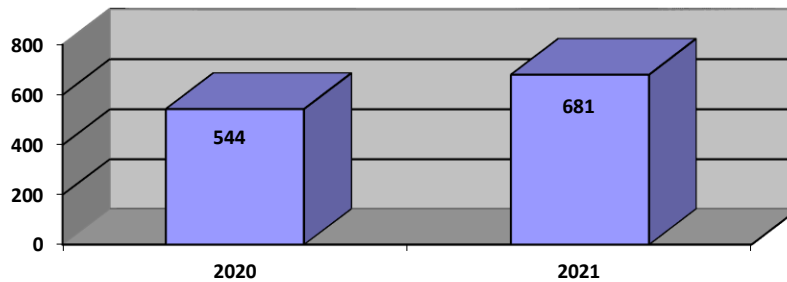
MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

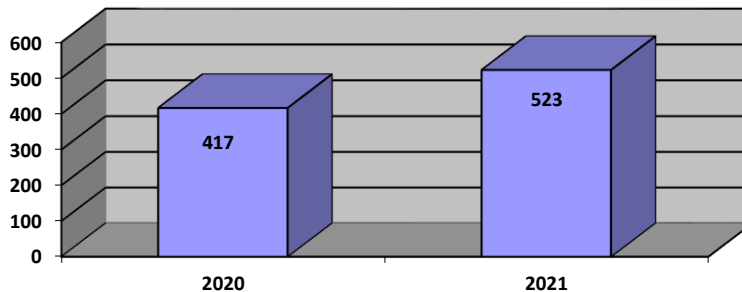
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	29,347	35,801	+6,454



	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	544	681	+137



	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	417	523	+106



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

As mandated by the New Jersey State Police, we moved from the Uniform Crime Reporting System (UCR) to the new National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2021. NIBRS was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement and results in the reporting of offenses not captured in the previous Uniform Crime Reporting System. In addition to the reporting of new offenses, NIBRS requires the reporting numerous offenses resulting from one incident, compared to UCR which required the reporting of the most serious offense. These changes in reporting result in more offenses being captured in our reporting when compared to UCR.

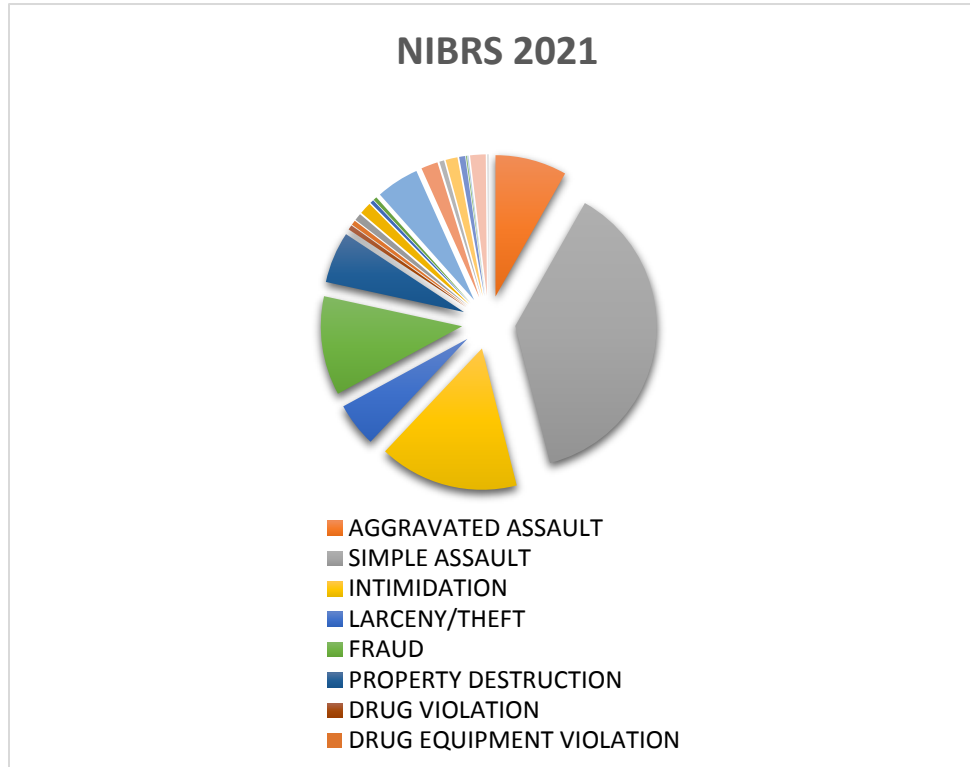
Below is a list highlighting Group A offenses reported by Middle Township in 2021.

Offense	Reported in 2021	Offense	Reported in 2021	Offense	Reported in 2021
Murder	0	Robbery	3	Drug/Narcotic Violations	83
Negligent Manslaughter	1	Burglary/Breaking & Entering	36	Drug Equipment Violations	43
Justifiable Homicide	0	Larceny/Theft Offenses	277	Gambling Offenses	0
Non-consensual Sex Offenses:	0	Motor Vehicle Theft	14	Pornography/Obscene Material	1
Rape	10	Arson	4	Prostitution	0
Sodomy	4	Destruction Of Property	37	Weapons Law Violation	13
Sexual Assault with Object	4	Counterfeiting/Forgery	10	Animal Cruelty	1
Fondling	6	Fraud Offense	117	Crimes Against Society Total	141
Aggravated Assault	48	Embezzlement	5		
Simple Assault	163	Extortion/Blackmail	0		
Intimidation	60	Bribery	0		
Kidnapping/Abduction	3	Stolen Property Offenses	1		
Consensual Sex Offenses:	0	Crimes Against Property Total	504		
Incest	0				
Statutory Rape	0				
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0				
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0				
Crimes Against Persons Total	299				

Total Group "A" Offenses in 2021	944
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Note: This is an estimate based on our monthly reports; the official report is released by the New Jersey State Police.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



The following list indicates the classification of 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. Below compares the numbers from 2021 to 2020.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses UCR/2020 NIBRS/2021	27	24	-3
Simple Assaults UCR/2020 NIBRS/2021	138	163	+25
Medical Calls	3501	4132	+631
Fire Calls	857	909	+52
Death Investigations	42	52	+10
Disorderly Conduct incidents	1022	1090	+68
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	85	102	-21
Mal Damage Crim Mischief	64	66	+2
Missing Persons and Runaways	60	72	+12
Assisting other agency incidents	451	452	+1
Property and Building Checks	7730	10,742	+3012
Bias Incidents Investigated	3	9	+6
Directed Patrol	1615	2006	+391
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports:	1133	1400	+267
Supplemental Investigation Reports:	1232	1373	+141

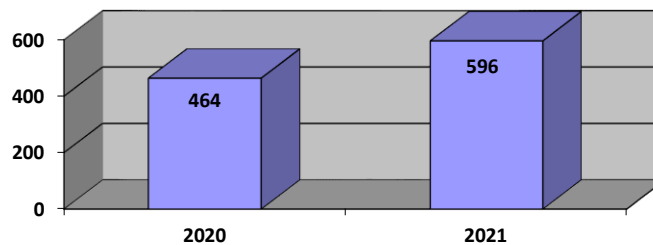
MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 2021, Middle Township Police responded to **596** Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior, Middle Township police responded to **464** Domestic Violence incidents.

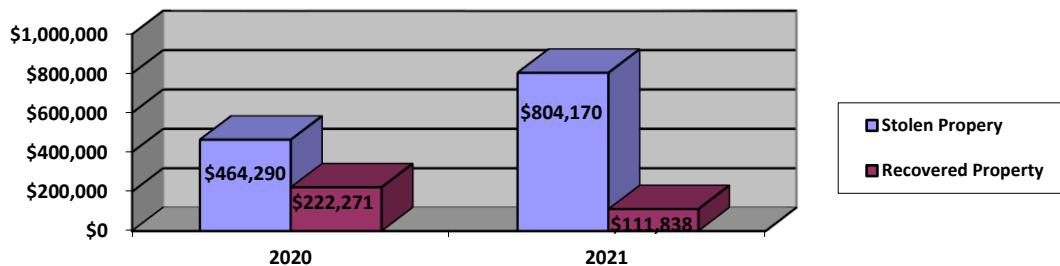
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	464	596	+132



Property Stolen and Recovered

Property offenses include Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief, Fraud, 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 2020 and 2021. ***Note: The significant increase in stolen property is due to NIBRS data including monetary loss as a result of fraud cases. UCR did not.***

	<u>2020/UCR</u>	<u>2021/NIBRS</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$464,290.00	\$804,170.00	+339,880.00
Recovered:	\$222,271.00	\$111,838.00	-110,433.00



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or Crashes:

During 2021, there were 13 work related injury incidents reported. As a result of the injuries, five of the Officers missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u># of Days Missed</u>
Ptln. Andrew Eskander	11
Ptln. James D'Alonzo	2
Off. Alyssa Jones	8
Ptln. James D'Alonzo	20
Lt. Robert Shepherd	2

During the year 2021, several officers contracted Covid-19 and were unable to work.

Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Employees were involved in 13 motor vehicle crashes in 2021.

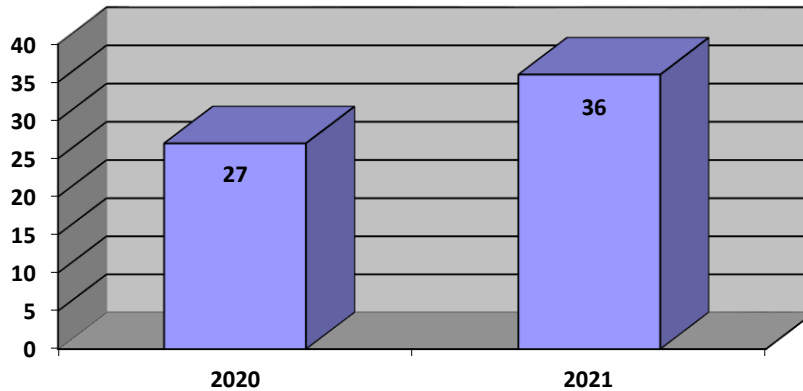
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
John Mihal	February 20, 2021	Struck object in parking lot
Michael Smith	March 10, 2021	Damaged gas pump
Michael Smith	May 28, 2021	Patrol vehicle was rear-ended
Timothy Urquhart	May 29, 2021	Struck by another vehicle
Jenna Cuomo	June 10, 2021	Struck by another vehicle
Patrick Vendetta	June 23, 2021	Made a U-Turn causing crash
Andrew Eskander	July 9, 2021	Struck parking bollard
Alyssa Jones	July 31, 2021	Struck call box
Alyssa Jones	August 28, 2021	Struck by another vehicle
James D'Alonzo	September 10, 2021	Motorcycle accident
Kenzee Delgado	October 16, 2021	Struck curb
John Sunderhauf	November 11, 2021	Backed into parked vehicle
Michael Pastore	December 8, 2021	Falling object from vehicle

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.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents:	27	36	+9



Of the 36 Use of Force incidents, 32 subjects were arrested and 5 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.

Officers injured using force:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
	7	9	+2

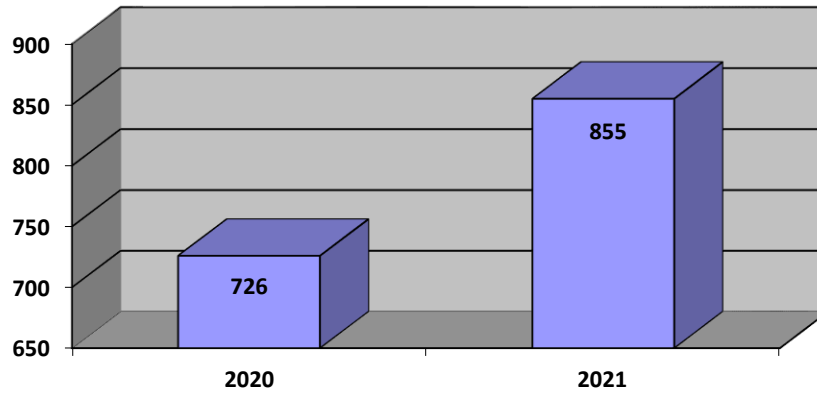
Police Pursuits:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
	12	7	-5

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 7 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there were 4 people arrested and no crashes.

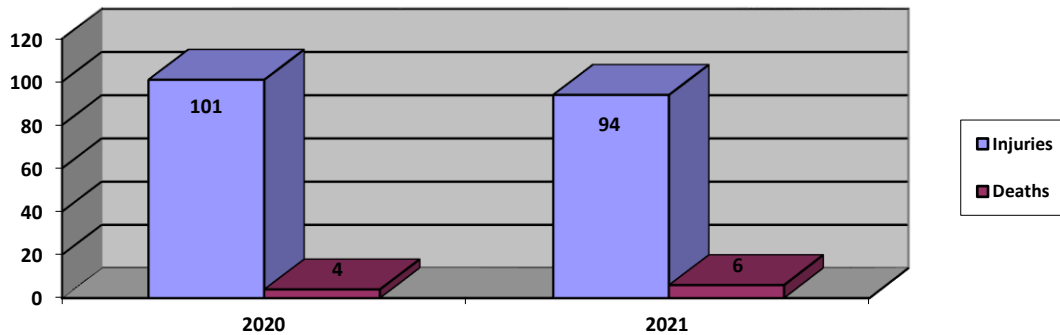
MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAFFIC

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	726	855	+129

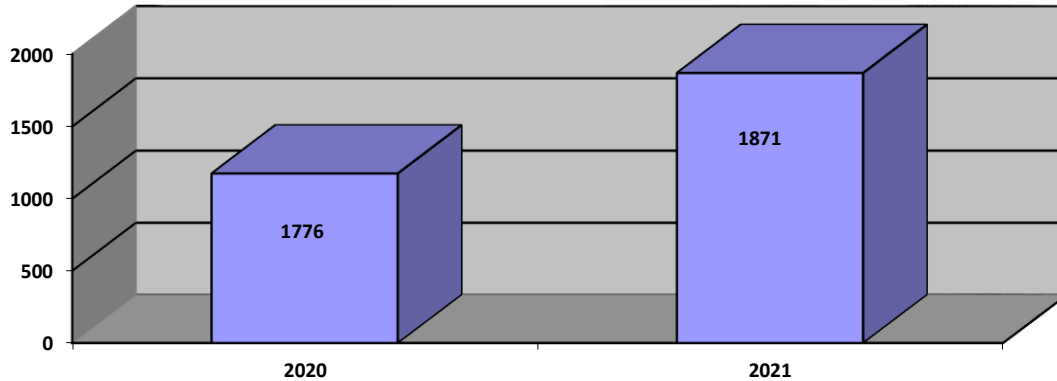


Injuries:	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
	101	94	-7
Deaths:	4	6	+2

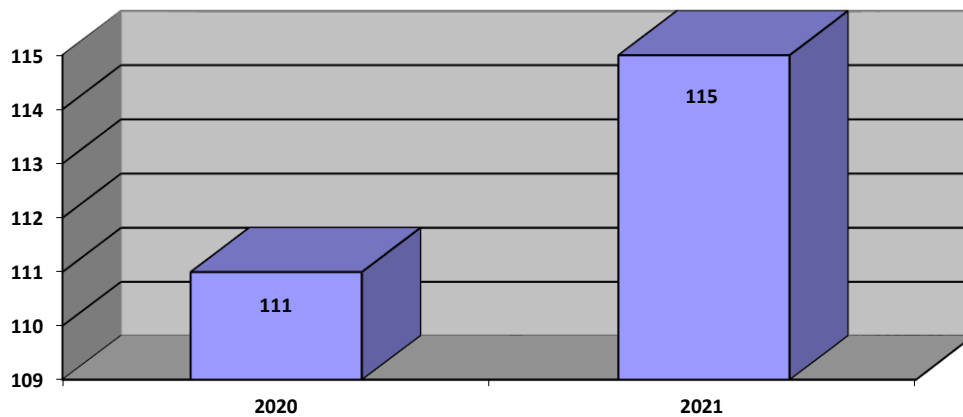


MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	1776	1871	+ 95



	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	111	115	+ 4



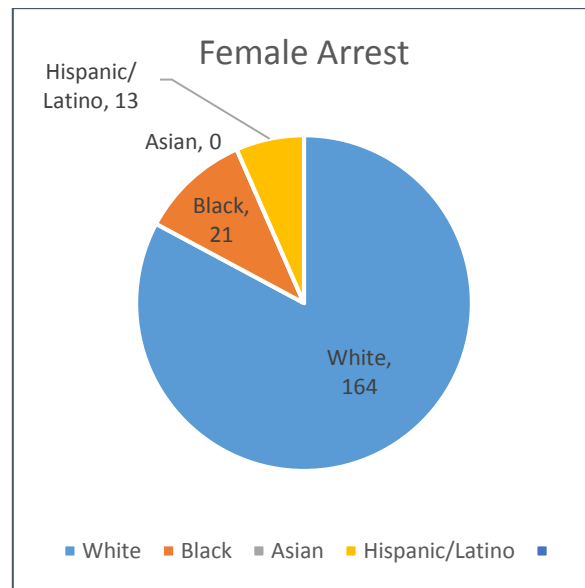
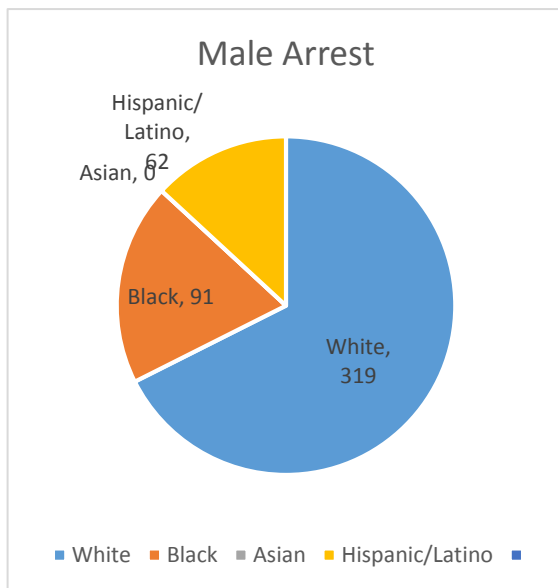
MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE DATA INITIATIVE

The purpose of this section is to share additional data with the public to increase transparency, accountability and trust with our community. The additional sharing of data is one of the recommendations of the 21st Century Policing Report and the National Police Foundation. The data shared below is a gender and race/ethnicity breakdown for Arrests, Use of Force incidents, Motor Vehicle Stops and Sworn Officers of MTPD. The most recent Census estimates for Middle Township is also included.

Arrests Race/Ethnicity Breakdown TOTAL ARREST 670

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	319	164
Black	91	21
Asian	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	62	13

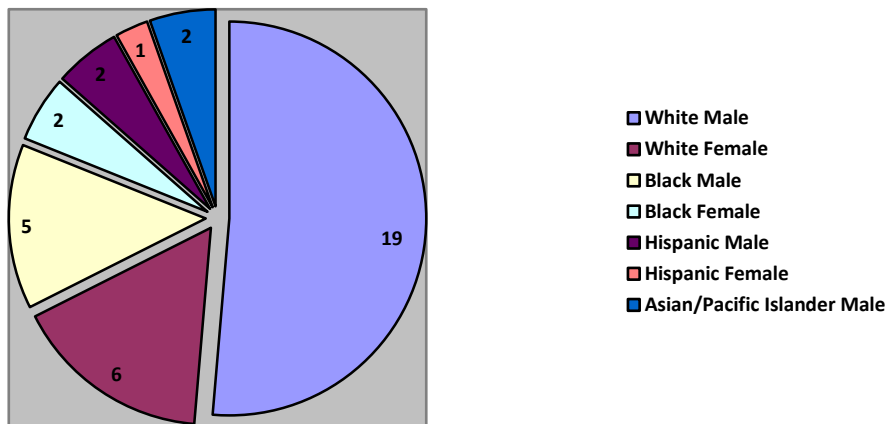


MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Use of Force Race/Ethnicity Breakdown Total use of Force: 37

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	19	6
Black	5	2
Hispanic	2	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	2	0

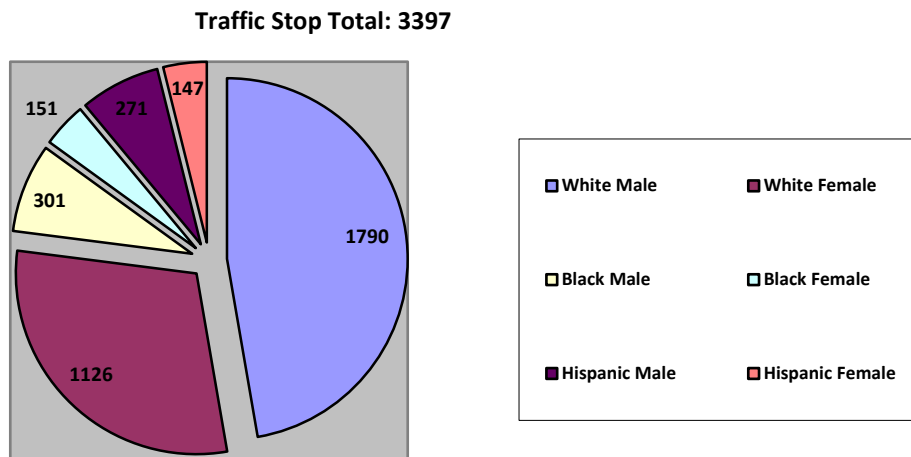
USE OF FORCE TOTAL: 37



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Traffic Stops by Race/Ethnicity Total Traffic Stops: 3397

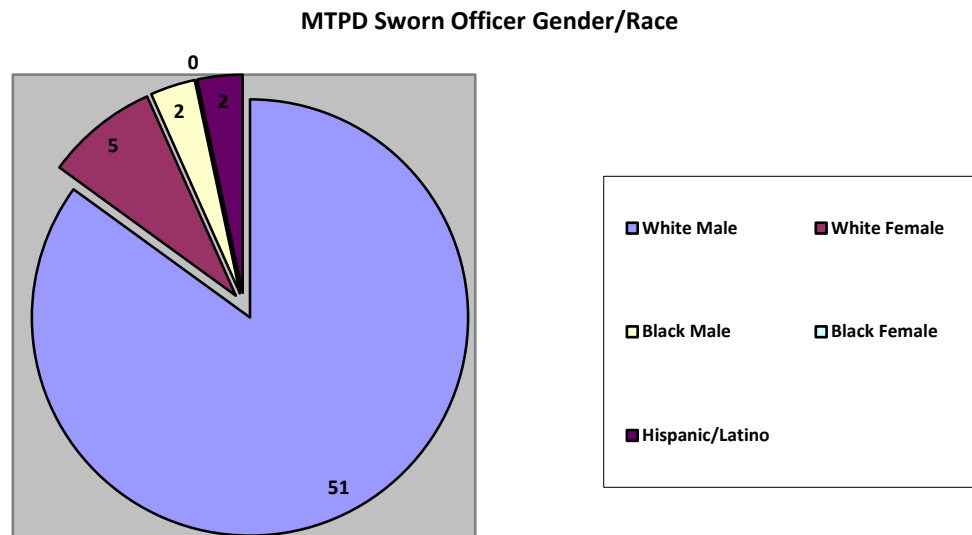
RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	1790	1126
Black	301	151
Unknown	8	2
American Indian	9	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	19	10
Hispanic	271	147



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Middle Twp. Police Dept. Police Officer Gender/Race Breakdown Total Officers: 60

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	51	5
Black	2	0
Hispanic	2	0



Middle Township United States Census April 2020 Population and Demographic Estimates

2020 Population Estimate	20,380
Race/Ethnicity Breakdown	
White	75%
Black or African American	12.30%
Asian	1%
Two or More Races	2.60%
Hispanic or Latino	9.90%

Source:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/middletownshipcapemaycountynewjersey>

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 Robert Shepherd, Captain James Loftus, Lieutenant Jennifer DeLanzo, Lieutenant Mark Higginbottom and Lieutenant Tracey Super. The Chief of Police is responsible for the day to day operations of the Department: to administer and enforce rules, 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 backup 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.

The Patrol Commander is responsible for the following areas: vehicle maintenance,

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 Crime Watch 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.com 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 and its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents and traffic accidents, to burglaries in progress and death investigations.

As the First Responder to criminal complaints, Patrol Officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has been committed, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, initiating contacts with community members to further the Department's commitment to community and problem oriented policing.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into five squads. Four patrol squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant with seven Patrol Officers and, at times, supplemented with Class II Officers. The fifth squad, the Special Service Unit works 5 days a week. The squad is utilized to fill special needs of the Department: training function, court security, community events, School Resource Officers, and assist the Patrol Division during peak times.

In 2014, our Department began the process of training our Officers for the use of tasers. Our Department currently has 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:

Corporal David Hagan
Corporal James D'Alonzo
Corporal Armondo Jones
PFC Martin Lindholm
Patrolman Justin Vitola
Corporal Shawn Karge
PFC Dan Geiger
Patrolman Raymond Bradley

Corporal Phillip Johnson
Corporal John Norton
PFC Matt Martino
DFC Kurt Saettler
Patrolman Thomas Runyon
Corporal Michael Pastore
Patrolman Michael Reardon
Patrolman Trevor MacCormack

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Initial Investigation Reports:	50	64	+14
Supplemental Investigations:	934	839	-95
Arrests:	36	46	+10

The Detective Division also conducts all employee employment background investigations and there were **42** background investigations completed in **2021**. In addition, the Detective Division conducts all firearm application backgrounds. The unit completed a total of **582** firearms background investigations in 2021 a **decrease of 45** from 2020.

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, 2021:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	201	196	-5
Cases Closed:	156	151	-5

Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2021: **71**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in **2021** include:

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

- **2021-00664:** Bank Robbery
- **2021-03623:** Shooting
- **2021-05854:** Arson
- **2021-08096:** Aggravated Sexual Assault
- **2021-08961:** Aggravated Assault
- **2021-09114:** Robbery
- **2021-09117:** Arson
- **2021-10241:** Attempted Murder
- **2021-12042:** Aggravated Sexual Assault
- **2021-17057:** Carjacking
- **2021-23133:** Drug Induced Death
- **2021-25307:** Assault by Auto
- **2021-27380:** Aggravated Assault
- **2021-28497:** Aggravated Assault (Stabbing)
- **2021-28944:** Bias Incident
- **2021-29629:** Aggravated Sexual Assault
- **2021-31032:** Attempted Murder (Shooting)
- **2021-33030:** Aggravated Sexual Assault
- **2021-33543:** Armed Home Invasion Robbery

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 2021, we collected over 514 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 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. November 25, 2021 marked the 30th anniversary of the disappearance of Mark Himebaugh. "Maureen and her family deserve closure to this case," said Chief Christopher Leusner. "The Middle Township Police Department and its partners continue to investigate and will never give up until it is solved. We ask the public to report any information, even the smallest detail or piece of information they may have, it might be the piece we need to find Mark"

Anyone with Information regarding the disappearance of Mark Himebaugh is urged to contact the Middle Township Police Department at 609-465-8700, the National Center

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678, the Cape May County Crime Stoppers at 609-463-2800 or the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office at 609-465-1135. You can also leave an anonymous tip by text 888777 and put "tips mtpdtips" in the text field. A reward fund has been created and offers a \$10,000 reward for information leading to the closure of the case, and \$30,000 for the safe return of Mark to Cape May County.

Members of the unit during 2021 included:

Detective Sergeant Brian Murphy
Detective First Class Kurt Saettler
Detective Thomas Flounders
Detective Jonas McInnis
Detective Thomas Ritterhoff
Detective Blake Martindale
Part Time Evidence Clerk Mark DeVico

STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Street Crimes Unit was implemented to focus on reducing crime with a focus on the Rio Grande and Burleigh sections of Middle Township, as well as the opioid epidemic. In addition to street level narcotics investigations, the unit worked closely with the Major Crimes Unit investigating major cases to include a bank robbery and overdose investigations within the Township over the past year. During 2021, three (3) 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. It should be noted the Street Crimes Unit was only running at its full capacity from October 1st of 2021 until December 31, 2021, due the Coronavirus Pandemic



The following is a list of Officers assigned to the Street Crimes for 2021:

Sgt. Kenneth Martin
Cpl. John Norton
Ptlm. Gregory DeCecco

The following is a synopsis of the Street Crimes Unit's 2021 case load:

The Street Crimes Unit was only running at its full capacity from October 1st 2021, until December 31st, 2021, due the Coronavirus Pandemic. A majority of the arrest were for

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

narcotics violations. Other arrests included: Eluding, Resisting Arrest and local ordinance violations.

Arrests: 12 an increase of 4 from 2020.

Search Warrants: 3 search warrants were executed in Middle Township resulting in the arrests of individuals for drug related and other criminal offenses.

Narcotics Seized: Fentanyl, Heroin, Methamphetamine, Cocaine, Suboxone and Prescription Medication.

Currency seized: \$520.00 was submitted for forfeiture as proceeds of criminal activity, a reduction of \$405.00 from 2020.

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

Several ATV details were conducted in the area of the bike path throughout Middle Township due to numerous citizen complaints. These details resulted in two (2) local ordinance violations, several motor vehicle summons and arrests for resisting arrest and eluding.

2021-32321- Due to an overdose death in the Rio Grande section of Middle Township and investigation was opened into the suspected dealer who sold the narcotics to the overdose victim. As a result of the investigation a search warrant was executed on the suspects' vehicle. Heroin, Cocaine, Marijuana, Suboxone and imitation prescription pills laced with Fentanyl were located in the vehicle. As a result of the investigation, the suspect was charged with numerous CDS offences as well as the drug induced death.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

FORFEITURE

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Beginning balance:	\$37,121.81	\$13,918.09	-\$23,203.72
Forfeited monies received:	\$1,107.00	\$371.35	-\$735.65
Forfeited monies expended:	\$24,416.26	\$8,783.93	-\$15,632.07
Balance:	\$13,918.09	\$5,503.40	-\$8,414.69

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

MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

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

Megan's Law

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	10	5	-5
Average monthly registrant count:	88	91	+3
Low count	86	88	+2
High count	92	94	+2

During 2021, the Major Crimes Unit used the newly mandated Offender Search Tracking System to track the movement of Sex Offenders within Middle Township.

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The Special Services Unit is led by Cpl. Phil Johnson and is under the command of Patrol Lieutenant Jennifer DeLanzo. The Unit has several different tasks to include School Resource Officers, training of the entire Police Department, court security, community outreach, all



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

community events, maintain Police fleet, weapons armorers, running the Police Department's Youth summer camp and monitor the Juvenile Station House Adjustment Program along with various other responsibilities.

Corporal Johnson is a Glock Armorer and Patrol Rifle Armorer, while Corporal 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 Manor Homeowners, Shannon Oaks Neighborhood Watch (Rio Grande), Gatherings at Cape May (Rio Grande).

The Special Services Unit was only able to hold **4 Cops and Coffee** details due to Covid restrictions. The Unit also participated in or hosted several events throughout the year including the following:

- Whitesboro Reunion
- Middle Township Juneteenth Celebration
- Right to Unite
- Kindle Ford's Octoberfest Community Event
- Harvest Festival
- Halloween Parade
- National Night Out
- 4th of July Fireworks
- MTPD Christmas Toy Drive
- Christmas Parade
- Memorial Day Parade
- Township Santa Escort
- 9/11 Memorial Service
- New Jersey Run for the Fallen

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. **Officers referred 4 residents to CURE in 2021.**

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 “Recovery Court”. However, with less serious offenses that are heard under the authority of the Local Municipal Court, there are no resources available for these defendants.

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

The Public Advocate also serves as a resource for the Middle Township Police Department in providing information about treatment programs to individuals who need assistance and information regarding substance abuse for themselves, a friend, or a loved one. **The Public Advocate assisted 28 defendants in 2021.**

The Special Services Unit is responsible for providing Municipal Court security and acting as the Municipal Court Liaison to the Municipal Prosecutor.

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, they 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.

This program was ultimately adopted by the NJ Attorney General who mandated this program to be adopted by every Police Department in New Jersey. Middle Township’s program was a model to help launch the program statewide with Chief Leusner, Middle Township School Superintendent Dr. David Salvo and School Resource Officer, Julio Ruiz playing a role in the statewide mandatory training session. During the year of 2021 we handled **77 Handle with Care Referrals.**

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 Corporal James D'Alonzo, the community service workers are assigned to clean Municipal vehicles and property, clean up abandoned property where trash and debris have accumulated, pick up trash along Municipal roadways, clean up graffiti, assist setting up areas for community events, and other tasks to assist the community. In addition to the services the workers provide, this program also strives to develop positive relationships with the workers with the goal of reducing future acts of criminal behavior.



The community service program expanded in 2015 with an agreement with the Middle Township Municipal Court to allow municipal offenders to have the opportunity to 'work off any new fines or outstanding municipal court fines that were unable to be paid by the offender. Many offenders were unable to pay off fines and were finding themselves in 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	PFC Dan Geiger
Ptln. Justin Vitola	PFC Martin Lindholm

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



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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. The SSU annually prepares school security/action plans for all schools in Middle Township, including the Cape Christian Academy and the State Department of Human Services School. All plans are reviewed annually and updated if necessary, by the School Resource Officers.

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

<u>Middle Township</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	13	41	+28
Supplement Investigations:	7	17	+10
Arrests:	14	4	-10

<u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	8	3	-5
Supplement Investigations:	13	2	-11
Arrests:	1	0	-1

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 Middle Township Elementary #2 and Cape Christian's fifth (5th) grade classes. This program is 10 weeks long, and trained Officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2021 L.E.A.D was taught by Ptlm. Julio Ruiz via Zoom.



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

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrolman Justin Vitola
PFC Julio Ruiz
Cpl. Eugene Castellano

Ptln. Patrick Vendetta
Ptln. Jenna Cuomo
Cpl. Shawn Karge

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 statistic
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports



The work they do and the support they provide is invaluable. They are a great asset to this Department. During 2021, the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens
Sandra Wilson
Molly VanTrieze
Alexis Kalish

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

Full time Public Safety Telecommunication Operators staff the Middle Township Police Department Communications Center 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are the initial point of contact for a majority of the public requiring police services. They are an extremely vital component in delivering effective police services to the community, and their dedication and importance should not be overlooked. Many times, they are required to maintain a reassuring and calming demeanor in the face of extraordinary circumstances in order to assist the caller and the Police Officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication Operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:



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

The Middle Township Police Department employs (nine) full time Telecommunication Operators, (two) assigned to each of the (four) patrol squads and (one) part time Telecommunication Operator. The 9th 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 seven 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 12/31/2021

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham
Senior Operator Kyle Lindholm
Operator Dustin Kelly

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Operator Josh Tozer
Operator Paul Fritsch Jr.
Operator Lauren Cajigas
Operator Samantha Grassi
Operator Kaitlin Bowman
Operator Wayne Bryant
P/T Operator Abdiel Nieves

Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators handled the following:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for service:	33,705	35,801	+2,096
9-1-1 Calls:	11,985	13,961	+1976
Average 911 calls per day:	32.83	38.24	+5.4

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.

Cape May County Central Dispatch

In July, we were notified by the state that our Communications Center would need to upgrade our 9-1-1 system. This triggered a comprehensive analysis of our existing operations, which included the cost of the upgrades, a review of personnel costs and ability to attract and retain Communications Operators. At the same time, we studied the feasibility of joining the Cape May County Central Dispatch Center. In October, Chief Leusner recommended we join the Cape May County Central Dispatch system and Township Committee accepted it.

The extensive planning process began immediately to convert our data, coordinate and merge systems when possible and prepare training for all personnel in the new records management system, Infoshare. We are currently scheduled to shut down our Communications Center on March 1st at 9AM and officially switch to the county. We are pleased to report that all Middle Township Communications Operators who applied to County were hired and will be transferred through the intergovernmental transfer program.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Middle Township Police Department is committed to providing Law Enforcement Services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, our 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 2021, there were a total of **50 Internal Affairs Complaints** received and 47 cases, which 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.

2021 Internal Affairs Dispositions

Improper Arrest: 1 Sustained

Differential Treatment: 2 Unfounded

Other Criminal Violation: 4 Unfounded/ 2 Sustained

Demeanor: 7 Unfounded

Domestic Violence: 1 Administratively Closed

Other Rule Violation: 13 Sustained/3 Unfounded/1 Exonerated

5 of the Sustained Other Rule Violations were traffic crashes

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. On November 19, 2020 an officer was the subject of a random toxicology test and submitted a urine sample. A prohibited illicit substance (amphetamine) was present in the urine sample. The officer admitted to taking a prescription drug not prescribed to him. Ptlm. Hotaling was terminated.
2. An Investigation revealed information to believe an officer possessed and/or used illicit substances, specifically steroids. The Department sought Termination and the officer resigned.
3. On May 18, 2021, an officer was the subject of a toxicology test and submitted a urine sample. A prohibited substance (steroids) was present in the urine sample. The Department sought termination and the officer resigned.

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 Robert Shepherd.

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.



Code Enforcement Officer Nikki Hober and James Amenhauser, who retired in January of 2022.

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.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Total Code Enforcement calls for service in 2021: 2097

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

Property maintenance violations 1001

Uncut grass 636

Unregistered/Junk Vehicles 56

Illegal Dumping 1

Complaint Summonses issued for non-compliance: 16

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 ensure 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 2021: 59

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

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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. The Township also has a relationship with Animal Control of South Jersey to assist with animal complaints when the township's Animal Control Officer is unavailable.



	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Animal Related Calls:	1147	1129	-18
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated:	92	97	+5
Unlicensed Dog Cases:	38	28	-10

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 Capt. James Loftus and Lt. Jen Delanzo, oversees the training component of the Department. Cpl. James D'Alonzo and Cpl. Phillip Johnson, members of this unit, keep track of all the mandatory training records and equipment. In addition, they identify current problems, trends and issues in law enforcement and the community and formulate strategies for training to deal with the issues, for submission to the Chief of Police. This ongoing training self-evaluation ensures our officers are receiving up to date and relevant training.

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 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.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

In 2017, the Department 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 and virtual training courses throughout 2021 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
- ICAT
- ABLE
- 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
- 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

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

- Mental Health First Aid

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
Capt. Robert Shepherd	Criminal Law, Physical Training Instructor
Capt. James Loftus	Firearms
Lt. Mark Higginbottom	Patrol Concepts, Fair and Impartial Policing, Firearms, Resiliency
Sgt. Josh Bryan	Physical Training Instructor
Sgt. Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill
Cpl. Phil Johnson	Firearms Instructor
Sgt. Leonard Larkin	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill
Cpl. John Norton	Patrol Concepts
Cpl. James D'Alonzo	Firearms, Officer Survival, Police Simulator Instructor, ABLE
Cpl. David Hagan	Patrol Concepts
Cpl. Mike Pastore	CPR / First Aid, First Responder, Military Drill
DFC. Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law

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



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department in the County has representation on the team. Middle Township Officers are assigned to the Mainland Division.

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 22 times in 2021, 12 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 provides security for different community events throughout the County. The SWAT Team was also used to make appearances at different Police Youth Camps and National Night Out.

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

Corporal Phil Johnson (Asst. Commander)	Det. Jonas McInnis
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 Department maintains 2 vessels: one is a Carolina Skiff center console, and the other is an aluminum johnboat.



The Department has Six (6) Certified Divers with a full complement of dive equipment. The team had eight (8) training sessions and one (1) dive assignment in 2021. This year's training was cut due to the Coronavirus pandemic. 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 City Air Show, National Night Out, as well as the Middle Township Police Youth

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Summer Camp. The team has been utilized many times to assist other Agencies in rescue and recovery operations.

Lieutenant Mark Higginbottom, Corporal John Norton and Detective Thomas Ritterhoff are the only divers with Specialty Dive Certifications in Underwater Crime Scene Investigations, Underwater Criminal Investigations, Evidence Recovery, Body Recovery, Vehicle Recovery, and Underwater Metal Detecting and hold the Master Underwater Crime Scene Investigator certificates.

Members of the Dive Team are:

Lt. Mark Higginbottom (Team Leader)
Cpl. Michael Pastore
Cpl. Shawn Karge

Cpl. John Norton (Assist. Team Leader)
Sgt. Kenneth Martin
Det. Thomas Ritterhoff

CRISIS / HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department employs Officers that are certified and highly trained in Crisis and Hostage Negotiations. A County regional team was formed in 2009 with Middle Township's existing team acting as a foundation for the Cape May County Crisis Negotiation Team. The Middle Township Police Department has 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:

Sgt. Dan Martin
Det. Tom Flounders
PFC Julio Ruiz

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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:

Lieutenant Tracey Super (Unit Commander)

Sergeant Ron Miller (Unit Leader)

Sergeant Dan Martin

Corporal Dave Hagan

Corporal Michael Pastore

Patrolman Justin Vitola

Patrolman Michael Smith

Patrolman Joshua Musick

Corporal John Norton

Detective First Class Kurt Saettler

Detective Jonas McInnis

Patrolman Greg DeCecco

Patrolman Chris Russ

CRASH TEAM

Members of the Middle Township Crash Investigation Team have specialized training to investigate serious motor vehicle crashes. The members receive specialized training provided by North Western University and the Institute of Police Technology and Management. The courses are: Basic Crash Investigation (Crash I), Advanced Crash Investigation (Crash II), Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Occupant Kinematics, Vehicle Dynamics and Traffic Crash Reconstruction.



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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:

Capt. James Loftus (Commander)
Cpl. James D'Alonzo (Unit Leader)
PFC Martin Lindholm (Asst. Unit Leader)
Cpl. Armondo Jones
PFC Matt Martino
Sgt. Dan Martin
Ptl. Justin Vitola
Det. Tom Flounders
Ptl. Greg Dececco
Ptl. Mark Bakley

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



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

by the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The DEC Program focuses on a 12 step examination which makes up the DRE drug influence examination. The training consists of three phases: a two day Pre-School, a seven day DRE School and Certification Training which consists of 6 field evaluations and witnessing 6 other field evaluations. Upon completion of all three phases certification is achieved.

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

The Department currently has one Drug Recognition Expert: Detective Sergeant Brian Murphy.

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.

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

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lieutenant Tracey Super is the Accreditation Manager.

FALSE ALARM REDUCTION PROGRAM



On May 3, 2010 the Township Committee of Middle Township, repealed their prior false alarm Ordinance and approved a new alarm Ordinance to encourage alarm users to properly use and maintain the operational effectiveness of alarm systems; in order to improve the reliability of alarm systems 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 through 2021. Numbers are the number of false alarms for each month.

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
2009	117	81	103	101	82	99	122	139	132	96	97	107
2010	92	150	135	117	116	118	142	99	77	78	78	106
2011	95	79	65	76	70	77	78	99	69	78	75	71
2012	77	59	74	69	72	90	69	79	68	78	59	76
2013	71	57	68	61	71	76	85	99	58	86	90	87
2014	101	66	76	60	76	80	64	77	74	66	74	66
2015	78	79	70	77	77	100	86	89	76	89	73	71
2016	91	69	54	54	60	80	80	65	57	59	82	74
2017	61	57	77	75	57	72	91	66	64	84	77	93
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
2020	74	56	50	51	70	69	61	82	50	42	49	55

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 54 45 36 79 67 45 65 63 56 53 63 53

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

2020 - 709

2021 - 689

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.

Comparing 2019 to 2020, alarms are down by 201, which is a 22.01% decrease from 2019.

Comparing 2020 to 2021, alarms are down by 30, which is a 3% decrease from 2020.

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 874 registered alarms which is more than double the initial number. It should be noted that on several occasions the Officer is “cancelled” prior to arrival, or when the alarm owner/company determines Police are not needed. This aspect of the program allows Police to remain free to respond to other valid calls. This program has also resulted in better contact information being provided for Police.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP AWARDS COMMITTEE

The Middle Township Awards Committee was reinstituted in 2010. The Awards Committee consists of Capt. James Loftus, DFC. Kurt Saettler, Det Blake Martindale, Ptlm. Tom Runyon and Ptlm. Pat Vendetta. 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 partial list of the award recipients is listed below:



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Chief Leusner | Academy Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • Capt. Bob Shepherd | Academy Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • Capt. James Loftus | Crash Team |
| • Lt. Mark Higginbottom | Academy Instructor and Firearms Instructor |
| • Lt. Jen Delanzo | Firearms Instructor and 20 Years Award |
| • Lt. Tracey Super | Accreditation and Distinguished Honor |
| • Sgt. Jason Sweitzer | Meritorious Service and 2 Distinguished Honor |
| • Sgt. Daniel Martin | Medal of Valor, Meritorious Service, 2 Distinguished Honor, Accreditation, |
| and Crash Team | |
| • Sgt. Brian Murphy | 2 Distinguished Honor |
| • 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 | Underwater Investigator, Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, |
| • Sgt. 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 |
| • DFC. Kurt Saettler | Meritorious Service and 2 Distinguished Honor |
| • PFC. Daniel Geiger | 2 Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, Good Conduct, and Community |
| Service Unit | |
| • PFC. 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. Justin Vitola | Life Saving, Distinguished Honor, Crash Team, Community Service Unit, and |
| • Cpl. Michael Pastore | Meritorious Service, 3 Distinguished Honor, 2018 Marksman, Baby Delivery |
| • Cpl. Shawn Karge | Life Saving, Training Officer, and Good Conduct |
| • Ptlm. Michael Reardon | 2 Meritorious Service, Distinguished Honor, Good Conduct |
| • Ptlm. Ben Stiefel | Education Achievement |
| • Det. Jonas McInnis | 2 Distinguished Honor and Honor Guard |
| • Det. Tom Ritterhoff | Master Underwater Investigator and Education Achievement |
| • Ptlm. Mark Bakley | 2017 Marksman and Crash Team |
| • Det. Thomas Flounders | Meritorious Service, Crisis Negotiator, Education Achievement, Crash Team |
| • 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 |

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Ptl. Officer Pamela Gittle | Military Member |
| • Ptlm. Christopher Russ | Distinguished Honor |
| • Dispatcher Jennifer Graham | 25 Years Award |
| • Records Kendra Karstens | 10 Years Award |
| • Records Wilson | 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 |
| • Sgt. Jason Sweitzer | Senior Officer - 12 years of service, August 2013 |
| • Sgt. Daniel Martin | Senior Officer - 12 years of service, August 2018 |
| • Sgt. Brian Murphy | 2017 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC |
| • PFC. Matthew Martino | Senior Officer - 12 years of service, February 2019 |
| • DFC. 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 |
| • Cpl. Michael Pastore | Performance while on the Street Crimes Unit |
| • Det. Thomas Ritterhoff | Performance while on the Street Crimes Unit |

The Next Awards Dinner will be held in the fall 2022.

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 2021 included our Annual Toy Drive, participated in No Shave November to raise \$2,000 towards an upcoming joint project with Lunch with Lynch to benefit Middle Township Schools. This year was the second year the Middle Township Police Department participated in "Shop with a Cop", an event targeting positive youth interaction with our Officers during the holiday season, this event was hosted with the cooperation of the Progressive Black Initiative and non-profit, Ocean Inc. Fifteen (15) children were selected from Middle Township Elementary Schools to participate. The fifteen students, from various age groups, then spent some time shopping with an Officer from our Department shopping for the Holiday Season. This two-hour event was held on December 20th, 2021 and provided valuable positive police interactions at the local Walmart. The Fund also supports the Awards Dinner and Retiree Luncheon.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Law Enforcement Community Engagement Committee

In September of 2020, Township Committee created by Ordinance the “Middle Township Law Enforcement Community Engagement Committee.” The committee’s mission is to give a voice to a diverse group with a shared mission - to foster trust and mutual respect between the Police and the Community. This Committee consists of nine members appointed by the Township Committee and is made up of a balanced mix of local clergy, educators, a representative from the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, a member of the local chapter of the NAACP, a representative from the Township’s Social Service Partners, and three appointed members that reside in Middle Township. The panel includes a liaison for the MTPD, who would furnish the committee with quarterly data on Police interaction in the community, updates on new and existing programs, and partner with the committee to enhance communication and understanding of available resources. “We are excited that we have been able to put this dynamic and diverse group of caring citizens together,” Mayor Tim Donohue stated. “We look forward to building on our ongoing efforts at community policing and outreach. On behalf of Township Committee, I thank all the members for stepping up to help us build a better Middle Township.”

The committee members in 2021 were:

- Melisha Anderson, educator, three-year term,
- Butch Hamer, Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, three-year term,
- Quanette Vasser-McNeal, Cape May County NAACP, three-year term
- Dan Auld, Middle Township resident, two-year term,
- AG Anderson, Middle Township resident, two-year term, Maureen Hagan, Middle Township resident, two-year term, Patrick Miller, CARES social service program, one-year term,
- Chief Christopher Leusner, Middle Township Police Department liaison, one-year term, Rachel Shepherd, secretary, one-year term

Additional efforts Community Outreach efforts in 2021 include:

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic groups in person meetings and/ or virtual events in 2021: Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Middle Township Chamber of Commerce, Cape May County Chamber of Commerce, Cape Assist, Progressive Black Initiative, Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office Social Justice Committee, Soar Church and Safe Community Coalition meeting and events.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

- The Middle Township Police Department continues engage residents on social media through Facebook fans, Twitter followers and registered users on Nixle.
- Officers maintained an informational show booth at a number of community events.
- The Middle Township Police Department supplied our Dive Team and boat for the Polar Plunge in Wildwood.
- Middle Township released a mobile app available for free download to all residents and visitors to receive updates and information from us.

2021 Goals/Results

Patrol Division

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.

In 2021, the Patrol Division had set two Goals. The first goal was to 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 conduct at least 1400 traffic stops within the DDACT zone in 2021, conduct a minimum of 1 foot patrol per shift in the DDACT Zone, conduct a minimum of one radar detail per shift on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16.

The Patrol Division made 864 stops in the DDACTS zone in 2021 which is up from 781 in 2020. They conducted 293 foot patrols in the DDACTS zone, which is down from 329 in 2020. Radar details and directed patrols along Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16 increased in 2021, which resulted in an increase in traffic stops along the Route 47 targeted milepost areas. A total of 681 traffic stops were conducted along these targeted areas in 2021.

The overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone in 2021 was 241 offenses, up from 191 offense in 2020. This total is down 21.49% from the 2012 rate of 307, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. Motor Vehicle crashes in the DDACTS zone increased from 236 in 2020 to 271 in 2021. In 2020, there were 36 Crashes involving injury, this decreased to 30 in 2021.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

The second goal was to foster and promote resiliency through positive police youth engagement. Our objective was to conduct a minimum of four monthly youth contacts when there is a not a call for service or emergency. In 2021 we had 137 youth

Special Services Unit

The Special Services Unit (SSU) had set two goals for 2021. The first goal was to educate the public about marijuana use and the negative consequences amongst youth and young adults. The Special Services Unit implemented the “Not Only Once” program in the Middle Township Middle and High School. This program teaches the risk and dangers of vaping, THC, and the inherent risks of smoking marijuana with the possibility of being laced with fentanyl. It also explains the dangers of fentanyl, its effects and ways it can be introduced into the body. Officers also taught our 5th grade students the Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D) program, which explains the dangers of vaping, Jules, and marijuana when used by youth. In an effort to bring awareness to the harmful effects of marijuana, educational pamphlets were made available and distributed at all of the Township Community events.

The second goal was to increase the Police Departments sworn Officer’s demographics to reflect as closely as possible the demographics of the Township of Middle based on the most recent Census data. Offices attended numerous events in an attempt to target underrepresented groups. At these events officers handed out information on how to become a Middle Township Law Enforcement Officer. This informational hand out included eligibility requirements as well as the website to the New Jersey Civil Service Commission where they could get additional information on the entrance exam. Officers additionally had applications on hand for interested parties and were available for any potential questions in regards to the hiring process.

Major Crimes Unit

In 2021, the Middle Township Police Department’s Major Crimes Unit set two goals. The first goal was to increase the investigative knowledge, skills and abilities of our officers and improve case outcomes. The second goal was to improve the tracking of Sex Offenders within Middle Township using the newly mandated Offender Search Tracking System.

2021: Goal # 1

The members of the Middle Township Major Crimes Unit provided several “briefing trainings” to patrol officers. During these trainings the patrol officers were provided

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

knowledge on proper evidence collection, additional interview techniques for victims and defendants as well as photography techniques.

2021: Goal #2

Conduct 4 random checks to verify Sex Offenders residing at their registered addresses, to ensure all Sex Offenders are not in violation and to help track the location of all Sex Offenders within Middle Township.

Detectives performed a minimum of four (4) random address checks each quarter to confirm the addresses provided by the Sex Offender at the time of their registration. The Street Crimes unit were able to provide intelligence on the current homeless population and address any Megan's Law Violations.

Appendix A: 2022 Proposals

E-Ticket software and hardware

\$46,000

We have researched E-ticket technology in the past and have come very close to purchasing the system. There are many benefits to the technology such as officers scanning driver's licenses and registrations, which can then automatically populate traffic summons and crash reports. This will allow officers to complete traffic stops and crash investigations more quickly and return to patrol.

In addition, the data will automatically be entered into our records management system and eliminate the need for data entry by records personnel. This will also eliminate the need for data entry by court personnel. This automated process should lead to more productivity and time created within both departments. We are requesting \$46,000 to purchase the equipment, which includes installation of the equipment in all twenty-one front line patrol vehicles. There will be an annual license cost of approximately \$6,000 in the operating and expense budget. We do have the option of paying no upfront cost but paying a fee of \$3.00 a ticket. We estimate that cost would be approximately \$10,800 a year. We believe the best option is to purchase the equipment and pay the per person license cost.

Drone

\$15,000

We have been researching drones and potential uses to assist us in search and recovery operations and investigations. The cost of a commercial grade drone has come down significantly over the last few years and are used more frequently by law enforcement agencies. We have had a number of incidents over the last year where a drone would be extremely beneficial. One particular case was a 9-1-1 call where the caller reported his friend was drowning in a lake in wooded area off Indian Trail. We searched the area to the best of our ability with our patrol vehicles and with the help of the local fire company but many of the areas were not accessible. In this particular case, the ability to quickly deploy a drone to search the area and provide a real time video feed to the command post would have been extremely valuable. The drone would be equipped with thermal imaging, spotlight, and audio capabilities. We have many wooded areas in Middle Township and the use of a drone would serve many purposes to search for individuals in distress or locating a dangerous suspect fleeing into a wooded area. We could also utilize the drone to view the area of a large planned event to assist in the development of our operations plan.

The cost of the drone is approximately \$10,000 but we will need to get officers trained and certified to be drone pilots. I propose training 3 to 4 officers and the cost of the training would be approximately \$5,000. The training would be done in person and on-site here in Cape May County.

Appendix A: 2022 Proposals

Records Storage System

\$40,000

We are rapidly running out of space for our records and need to take immediate steps to address the issue and put a plan in place for the future to manage our records. In the short term, I am asking for a record management storage system that will free up space in our records room and storage areas in headquarters. The system will help us access records more quickly and will result in increased efficiency and productivity. In addition, it will improve safety and reduce the risk of an injury to the clerks. Our current system of storing records, involves boxes of records in various locations throughout headquarters and at times involves moving heavy boxes off of shelves stacked in closets. This system will eliminate the need to access these records in this manner.

Electronic Records Storage Solution-Phase#1

\$41,000

We utilize the second floor of the firehouse for storage of our older records, some of which go back to 1958. The room is filled with boxes stacked on one another throughout the room. We will run out of space in the next few years and need to put a plan in place for the long term storage of records. We propose a third party vendor, Accuscan, to scan these documents into the cloud which will be backed up and meet the standards of the state.

Accuscan, will also purge records eligible for destruction, which is a time consuming process. Another advantage of the Accuscan, is these records will now be searchable electronically. Currently, if we get a request for older records, we need a specific date or period of time and search the records manually for the requested records.

The cost from Accuscan to scan all of our records on the second floor of the firehouse was \$122,835. I understand this is a significant amount and propose we do this project in three phases and fund phase#1 in the 2022 Capital Program. The cost would be approximately \$41,000.

Replacement Video System Headquarters-Town Hall-Rio Grande Substation

\$130,000

Our existing stationhouse video system, which includes cameras on the town hall side and the exterior of the building, was installed in approximately 2010. We respond to many requests for copies of the stationhouse video for cases pending in Municipal Court and Superior Court. The process to burn these videos to a DVD or upload to the cloud is very labor intensive. We would like to upgrade our existing system that will make the process of burning or uploading videos more user friendly and efficient. In addition, the system is also over 10 years old and is approaching the end of its useful life.

Appendix A: 2022 Proposals

Access Control Doors

\$17,500

We would like to add key fob access for the exterior doors at the firehouse and the SWAT door inside the firehouse. We would also like to add key fob access to the doors inside our headquarters to include our evidence room, storage room and the door entering the rear of the Court Room. This will allow us to better secure these areas and provide flexibility to allow access to the specific doors during certain times.

Less Lethal Options

\$TBD

The new state Use of Force policy provides new guidance on the use of less-lethal force as an alternative to deadly force and as a tool for de-escalation. MTPD currently utilizes Conducted Energy Devices (CED) and most patrol officers have been trained and are equipped with CEDs while on patrol. We plan on researching other forms of less lethal options recently made available and will be evaluating if any of these options could be an additional tool for MTPD to safely resolve dangerous calls for service.

Appendix B: 2022 Goals

Patrol Division

Goal #1

Improve quality of life and safety of Residents in Rio Grande and increase safety for Motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

Objective:

Conduct at least 1400 traffic stops within the DDACTS zone during 2022, conduct a minimum of one foot patrol per shift, in the DDACT Zone, conduct a minimum of one radar detail per shift, on Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16.

Strategies:

1. Continue DDACTS enforcement actions in the Rio Grande area. (Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety policing model).
2. Focus patrol time and Police activity during peak days and time.
3. Utilize Class II Officers to partially focus on the Route 47 in the above areas when possible.
4. 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:

Increase our presence at No Limits Academy in Rio Grande and the Township Recreation Centers by conducting at least 1 Police Youth Engagement per officer each week at one of these locations.

Strategies:

1. Obtain schedule of activities at the above locations and distribute to the patrol division for situational awareness.
2. Conduct walk through details at the Township Recreation Centers and No Limits Academy on a regular basis.
3. Distribute materials on various events and activities offered at the above locations to youth in Middle Township at special events.
4. Work with the School Resource Officers to distribute materials on various events and activities at the above locations.

Appendix B: 2022 Goals

Major Crimes Unit

Goal#1

Improve the efficiency of the evidence function.

Objective:

To decrease items in evidence through purging items that are no longer needed to facilitate an investigation by 10% in 2022.

Strategies:

1. Perform monthly checks of the evidence systems to locate, return or destroy items that are no longer required to
2. Verify any closed investigations in which the evidence is no longer required to be stored.
3. Contact owners of the property to return item.
4. Report findings to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.

Goal #2

Increase the knowledge of the members of the Major Crimes Unit involving the ever-changing trends in social media, social media investigations and threats made on social media.

Objective:

Identify at least 3 training seminars for at least 2 Detectives to attend and prepare a briefing training to be delivered by the end 2022.

Strategies:

1. Research available courses offered in person and virtually.
2. Identify resources from the International Association Chiefs of Police.
3. Meet with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office High Tech Crime Unit to understand latest trends in the region.
4. Meet with FBI Atlantic City Office to understand latest trends seen nationally.

Appendix B: 2022 Goals

Special Services Unit

Goal #1

Improve the Department's ability to bring mental health crisis situations to a conclusion safely for all involved when the individual is armed with a weapon other than a firearm.

Objective:

In 2022 deliver training during one of the Department's Advanced Training Days on tactics for responding with individuals in crisis in conjunction with the use of less lethal options recently made available through the change state Use of Force policy.

Strategies:

1. Research various less lethal options available in New Jersey and make recommendations to the Chief for purchase.
2. Research and make recommendations to the Chief on the number of officers to be trained on these less lethal devices.
3. Develop lessons plans on training based on best practices and include lethal over watch as a last resort.
4. Coordinate with the Cape May County Police Academy on integrating these advanced training sessions into the Use of Force Simulator.

Goal#2

Increase the number of applications for employment to the Middle Township Police Department in 2022.

Objective:

Develop a recruitment plan that will increase the number of applications by 20% from 2021 for full time police officer through the Alternate Route Program and for entry level Class II positions.

Strategies:

1. Contact all Police Academies in the State who run Alternate Route training programs and supply each class with recruitment material for MTPD.
2. Advertise employment opportunities with diversity organizations, publications, and websites and boost posts on social media.
3. Use Police App to advertise all open positions and periodically repost.
4. Attend job fairs throughout the South Jersey Region, focusing on job fairs promoted as "diversity" events.

Appendix B: 2022 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 2022.

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 heroin/fentanyl in Middle Township.

Objective

Initiate criminal investigations into the distribution of heroin/fentanyl that results in at least 6 arrests by the end of 2022.

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 heroin/fentanyl.
3. Execute search warrants on residences where heroin/fentanyl is being distributed and arrest those distributing heroin/fentanyl.