

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Christopher M. Leusner
Chief of Police



Prepared by:
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Captain J. Loftus
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Sgt. R. Miller

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MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2022, The Middle Township Police Department continued to work through changes in police practices from directives and legislation, landmark court cases, our transition to the Cape May County Central Dispatch system, and increased criminal activity. We are pleased to report all officers completed required training by the Attorney General to include Use of Force, Pursuit, and Resiliency and the Department was recommended for reaccreditation by NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. We worked closely with the Middle Township School District and Cape May County Technical School District to enhance our security plans and increase the number of armed retired law enforcement officers on campus in fall of 2022.

On March 1, 2022, we closed our Communications Center and transitioned to the Cape May County Central Dispatch Center and trained all personnel on the new records management system, Infoshare. We made good progress in addressing a number of issues related to our data conversion from our previous system, Enforsys, and expect the project to be completed in the second quarter of 2023. Our Records Department quickly adopted policies and procedures in reference to permits to carry concealed firearms after the United States Supreme Court Case, New York State Rifle & Pistol Association Inc. v. Bruen found New Jersey's justifiable need standard unconstitutional.

We are actively working to address a slight increase in criminal activity and an increase in complaints related to quality life issues and homelessness. As a result, we are taking the following steps: increased overtime details, launching a new partnership with Volunteers of America to embed two social service navigators into the Department and have a trained mental health worker respond into the field through a state grant. The state grant which will start in May, was made possible through a collaboration with Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland and Lower Township Police Department.

Finally, we continue to recruit individuals to apply to the Middle Township Police Department as full time Police Officers and Class II Officers. We currently have multiple vacant Class II positions. The number of applications we receive has decreased in the last three years. We hope that the work by our Special Services Unit to increase applications will bring some relief in 2023.

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

In 2021, we moved to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) after over twenty five years utilizing the Uniform Crime Reporting system. 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

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required the reporting of the most serious offense. In 2022, we reported 962 Group A offenses, compared to 947 Group A offenses in 2021.

Traffic activity within the Township saw a decrease in total crashes with 835 crashes in 2022 compared to 855 in 2021. Injuries as result of crashes increased with 137 in 2022 compared to 94 in 2021. The number of traffic fatalities increased in 2022, with 7 fatalities compared to 6 in 2021. Motor Vehicle Summonses increased in 2022 with 2,121 summonses compared to 1,871 in 2021. Driving While Intoxicated arrests decreased to 83 in 2021 compared to 115 in 2021.

Police Youth Engagement

The Middle Township Police Department recognizes the importance of positive interactions and connections between youth and trusted adults in the community as a significant protective factor for the youth in their development. We continued to make investments in Police Youth Engagement in 2022 and build upon our existing efforts launched in 2018.

In 2022, we hosted over 58 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, goal setting, and healthy coping 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 2023.

The Middle Township Police Department also 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.

In this regard, we continued with our Handle with Care program with the School Districts in Middle Township to assist youth exposed to traumatic events. In 2022, we had 178 Handle with Care referrals. The Handle with Care Program requires officers to notify the

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school when a child is present at a traumatic event before the bell rings the following day. The purpose of the program is to provide awareness to the teachers and staff, so they can support the student if necessary rather than compound the trauma by discipline.

In addition, 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 2022, we continued to focus efforts and resources on Intervention and Education/Prevention. Our partnership continued with our Advocating for Substance Abuse Program, (ASAP). 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 2022, the Public Advocate assisted 9 people and helped to connect them with various services. The Municipal Court continued to work virtually in 2022. Patrol Officers continued to carry Narcan and deployed it 44 times in 2022. This compares to Narcan deployments of 29 in 2021, 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 completed with 195 children graduating the 10-week program. 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 2022, we collected 652 pounds of prescription medication through our Dropbox located in the lobby of the headquarters compared to 514 pounds in 2021.

Community Outreach

In the area of Community Outreach, we attempted to stay connected with our residents through smaller events and virtual events. We held 12 Cops and Coffee events in 2022. 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 2023.

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

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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 numerous events in 2022 and set up booths. Below is list of some of these events.

- Whitesboro Annual Summer Reunion
- Middle Township Juneteenth Celebration
- Kindle Ford's Octoberfest Community Event
- Harvest Festival
- National Night Out
- Unity the Community Event
- Youth Self Care event at No Limits Academy

We also participated in the following Community Outreach programs in 2022:

- We held our third 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 seventh year in a row, and the proceeds went to the family of Amy Baker.
- 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 2022, residents and visitors came to the Rio Grande Substation 227 times to speak with an Officer compared to 215 in 2021. 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 2022.

- In 2022, we had 378 offenses compared to 241 in 2021.

The Street Crimes Unit made 28 arrests and executed 3 Search Warrants. They seized \$5,511.25 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 the seizure of 3 ATVs and multiple citations for motor vehicle violations and local ordinances.

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ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Chief of Police

Christopher Leusner

Captain

James Loftus

Jennifer Delanzo

Lieutenant

Tracey Super

Brian Murphy

Ken Martin

Patrol Sergeant

Leonard Larkin

Daniel Martin

Dave Hagan

Michael Pastore

Patrol Corporals

Armondo Jones

Shawn Karge

Martin Lindholm

Ray Bradley

Major Crimes Unit

Det/Sgt. Jason Sweitzer

DFC. Thomas Flounders

Jonas McInnis

Thomas Ritterhoff

Blake Martindale

Gregory Dececco

Street Crimes Unit

Sgt. Kurt Saettler

Cpl. John Norton

Ptl. Michael Reardon

Special Services Unit

Sgt. Ron Miller

Cpl. Phillip Johnson

Cpl. Eugene Castellano

Cpl. James D'Alonzo

PFC Julio Ruiz

Ptlm. Justin Vitola

Patrolman First Class

Matthew Martino

Daniel Geiger

Patrolman

Ben Stiefel

Mark Bakley

Trevor MacCormack

Shawn Rocca

Thomas Runyon

Pamela Gittle

Christopher Russ

Jenna Cuomo

Patrick Vendetta

Kerri Schrader

Michael Smith

Alyssa Jones

Joshua Musick

Timothy Urquhart

Christopher Bazcek

John Sunderhauf

Paul Damiano

Jeffrey Rigg

Thomas Reynolds

Richard Herman

Kenzee Delgado

Christian Quaranta

Class II Officers

Christopher Rudy

Jayden Matthews

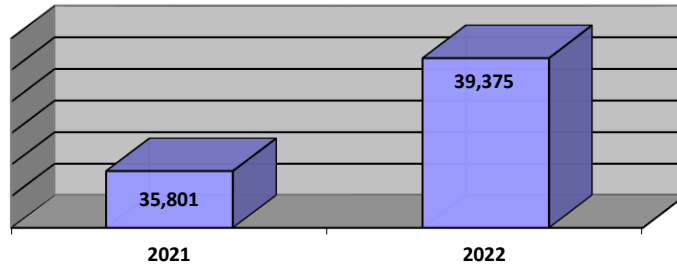
Michael Bailey

Ty Pettit

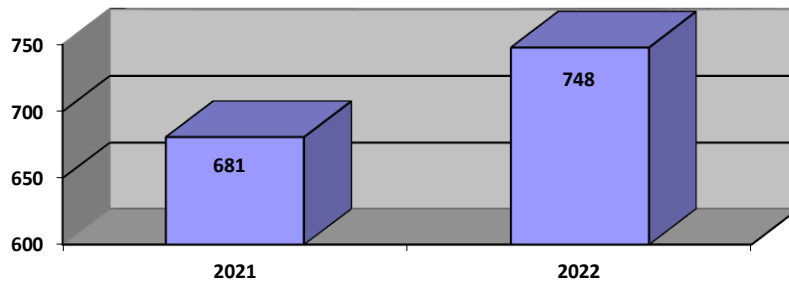
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CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

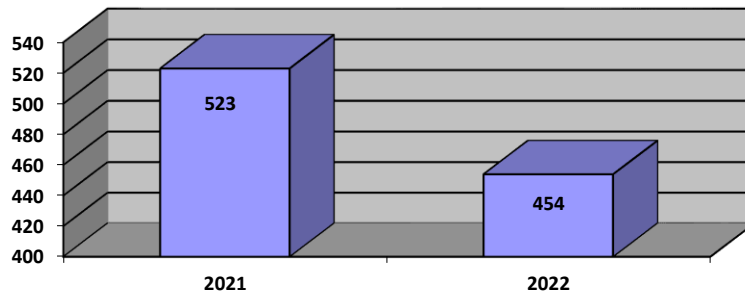
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	35,801	39,375	+3,574



	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	681	748	+67



	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Indictable Complaints	523	454	-69



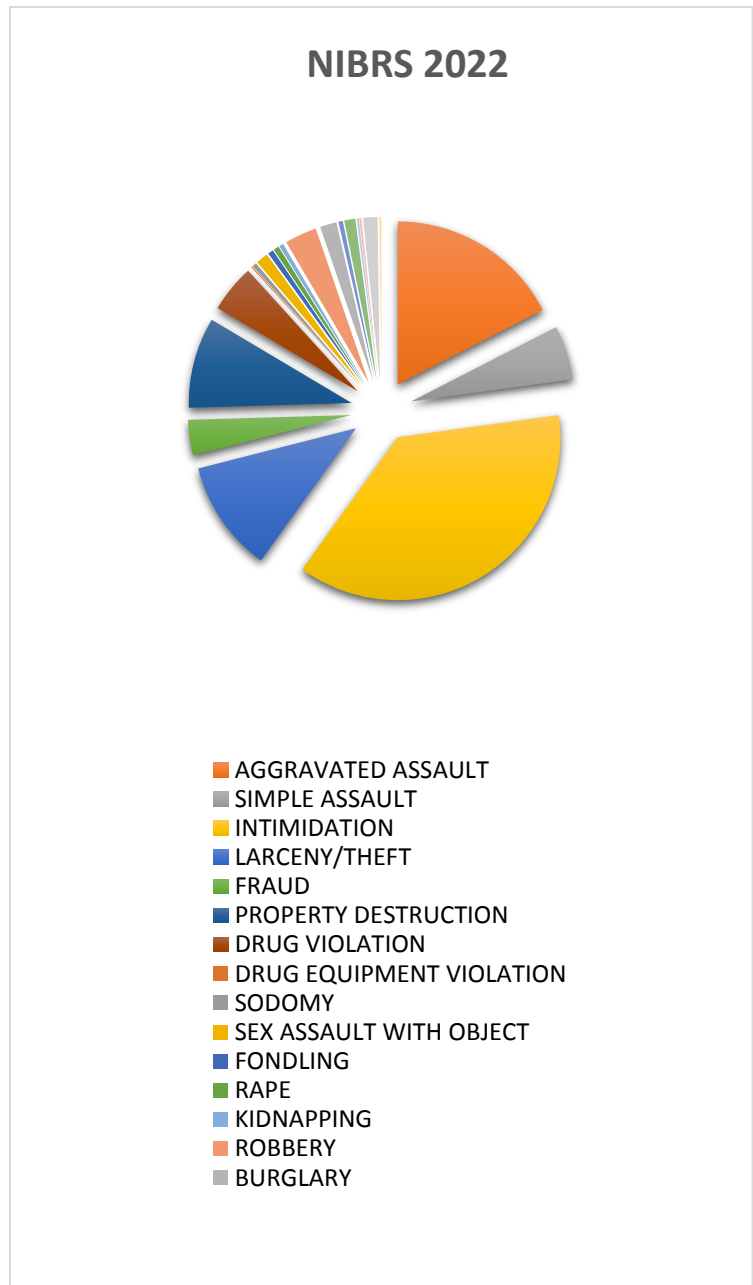
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National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

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.

Below is a list highlighting Group A Offenses reported by Middle Township in 2022 and compared to Group A Offenses reported the previous year.

Offense	Reported in 2022	Reported in 2021
Murder	1	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	1
Justifiable Homicide	0	0
Non-consensual Sex Offenses:		
Rape	5	10
Sodomy	1	4
Sexual Assault with Object	4	4
Fondling	11	6
Aggravated Assault	48	48
Simple Assault	159	163
Intimidation	49	60
Kidnapping/Abduction	5	3
Consensual Sex Offenses:		
Incest	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0
Crimes Against Persons Total	283	299
Robbery	4	3
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	29	36
Larceny/Theft Offenses	338	278
Motor Vehicle Theft	15	14
Arson	0	4
Destruction Of Property	32	37
Counterfeiting/Forgery	4	10
Fraud Offense	101	118
Embezzlement	10	5
Extortion/Blackmail	1	0
Bribery	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	2	1
Crimes Against Property Total	536	506
Drug/Narcotic Violations	82	83
Drug Equipment Violations	43	43
Gambling Offenses	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	2	1
Prostitution	1	0
Weapons Law Violation	13	13
Animal Cruelty	2	2
Crimes Against Society Total	143	142
Total Group "A" Offenses	962	947



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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 during 2022. *NOTE: The Police Department switched to a new Records Management System (RMS), Infoshare, in 2022. Previously, we utilized Enforsys RMS. Due to this switch, some final call types are categorized differently.

	<u>2022</u>
Sex Offenses NIBRS	21
Simple Assaults NIBRS	159
Theft Offenses	543
Local Ordinance Violations	1,105
Death Investigations	66
Disorderly Conduct Incidents	1,258
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	110
Property Damage / Criminal Mischief	145
Missing Persons and Runaways	83
Assisting other agency Incidents	448
Property and Building Checks	10,390
Bias Incidents Investigated	4
Directed Patrol	4,398
Trespassing	221
Community Policing	1,153

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigation Reports:	1,400	1,334	-66
Supplemental Investigation Reports:	1,373	1,060	-313

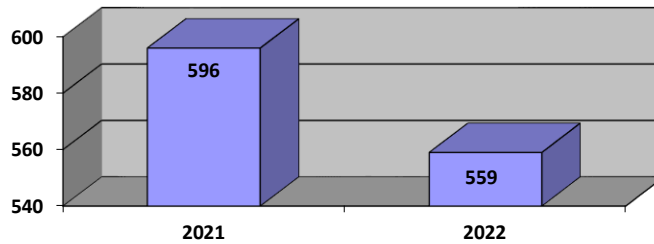
Domestic Violence

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 2022, Middle Township Police responded to 559 Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior, Middle Township police responded to 596 Domestic Violence incidents.

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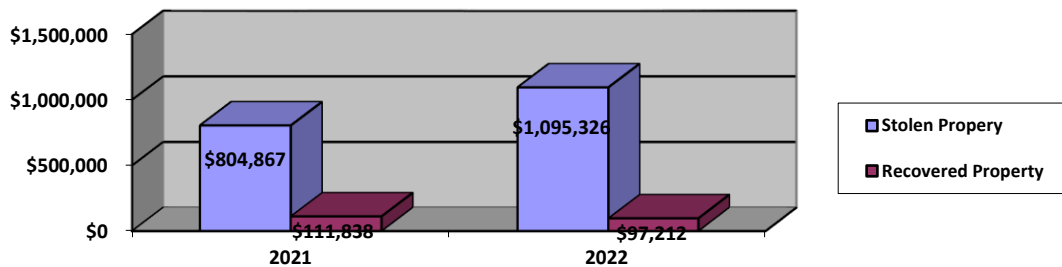
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	596	559	-37



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 2021 and 2022.

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Stolen:	\$804,867.00	\$1,095,326.00	+290,459.00
Recovered:	\$111,838.00	\$97,212.00	-14,626.00



Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or Crashes:

During 2022, there were 10 work related injury incidents reported. As a result of the injuries, three of the Officers missed time away from work. Alyssa Jones missed time from an injury that occurred in 2021.

<u>Officer</u>	<u># of Days Missed</u>
Ptln. Christopher Russ	1 day 4 hrs.
Officer Jenna Cuomo	14 days
Ptln. Paul Damiano	28 days
Alyssa Jones	7 Months 6 days

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Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

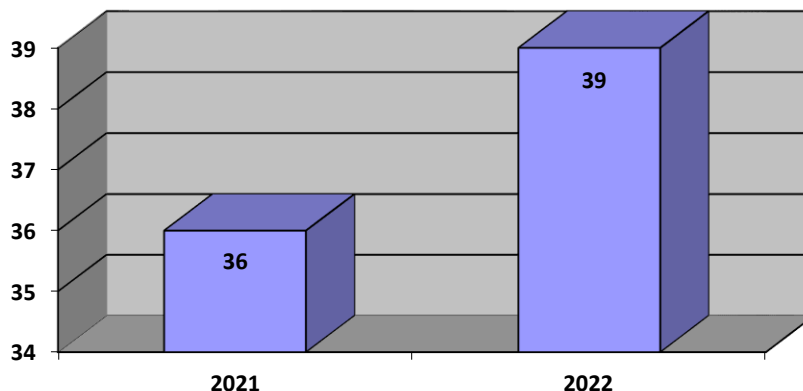
Employees were involved in 7 motor vehicle crashes in 2022.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Tyler Jackson	March 9, 2022	Struck by another vehicle
Thomas Flounders	June 9, 2022	Struck the rear of a vehicle
Christopher Baczek	July 2, 2022	Vehicle backing struck police vehicle
Patrick Vendetta	October 27, 2022	Vehicle struck parked police car
Shawn Karge	November 12, 2022	Vehicle struck parked police car
Blake Martindale	December 3, 2022	Vehicle struck parked police car
John Sunderhauf	December 4, 2022	Motorcycle struck parked police car
Thomas Reynolds	December 26, 2022	Officer struck parking post

Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

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

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents:	36	39	+3



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Of the 39 Use of Force incidents, 31 subjects were arrested and 8 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>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
	9	2	-7

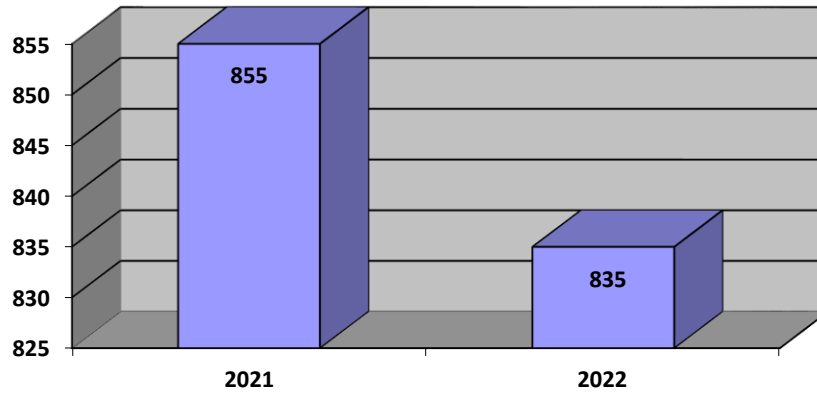
Police Pursuits:	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
	7	2	-5

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in 2 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits; as a result of the pursuits, there were 2 people arrested and 1 crash.

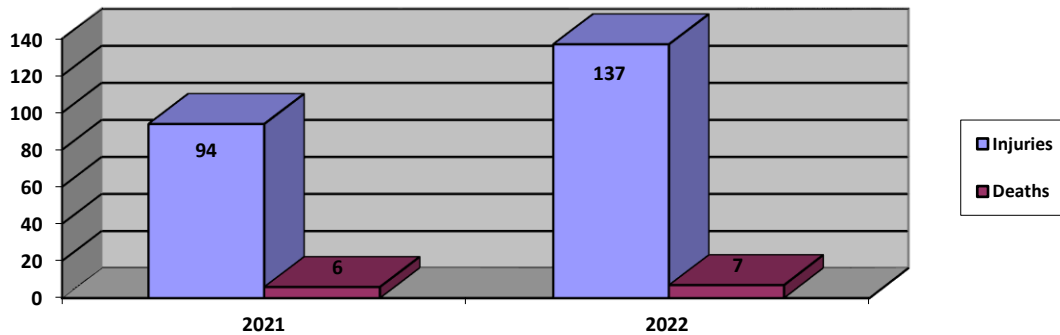
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TRAFFIC

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	855	835	-20

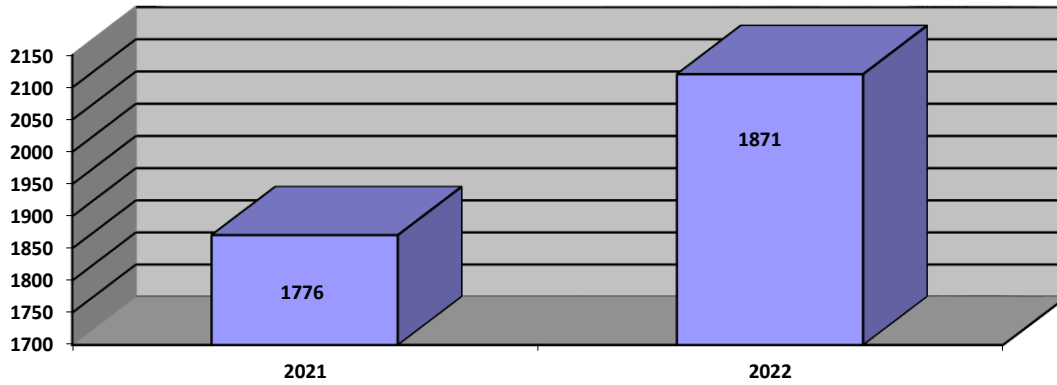


	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Injuries:	94	137	+43
Deaths:	6	7	+1

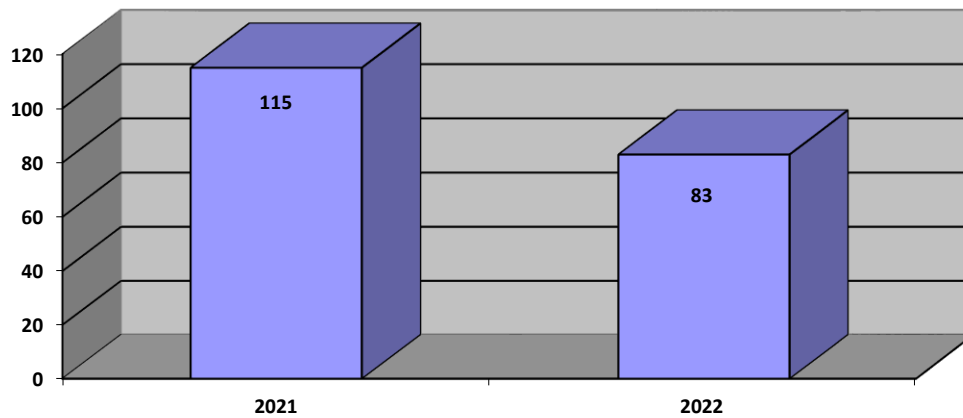


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	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	1871	2121	+ 250



	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	115	83	-32



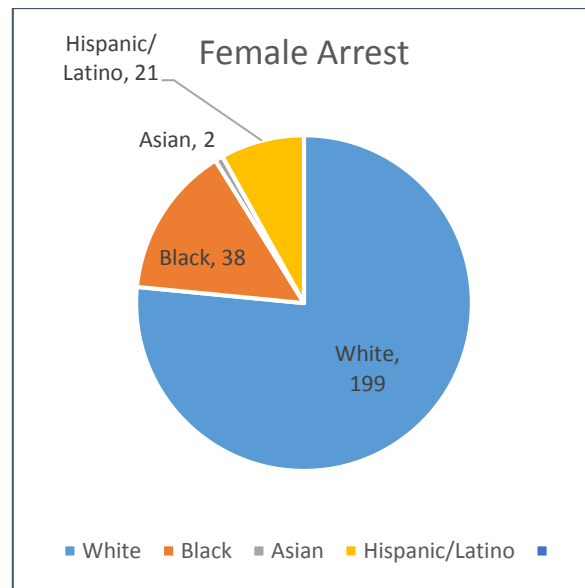
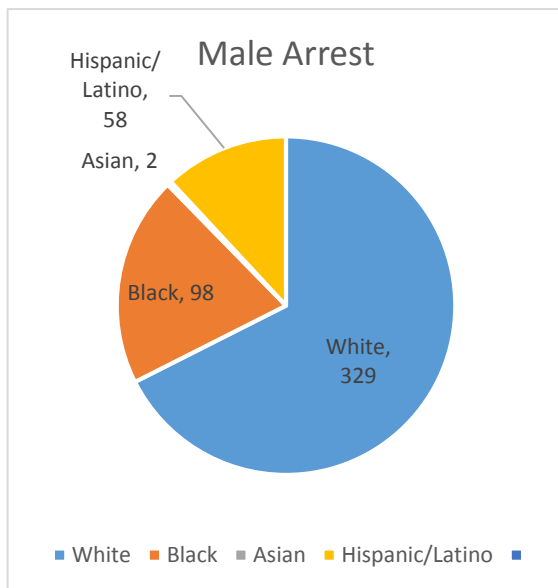
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POLICE DATA INITIATIVE

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 740

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	329	199
Black	98	38
Asian	2	2
Hispanic/Latino	54	18

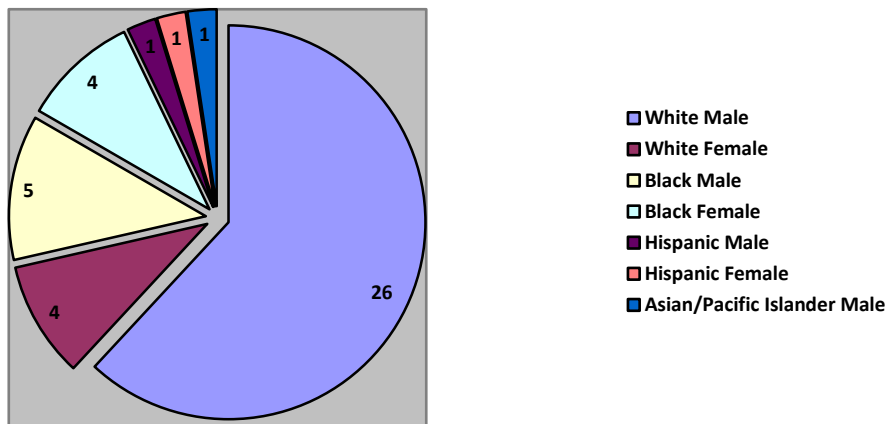


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Use of Force Race/Ethnicity Breakdown Total use of Force: 39

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	26	4
Black	5	1
Hispanic	1	1
Asian/Pacific Islander	1	0

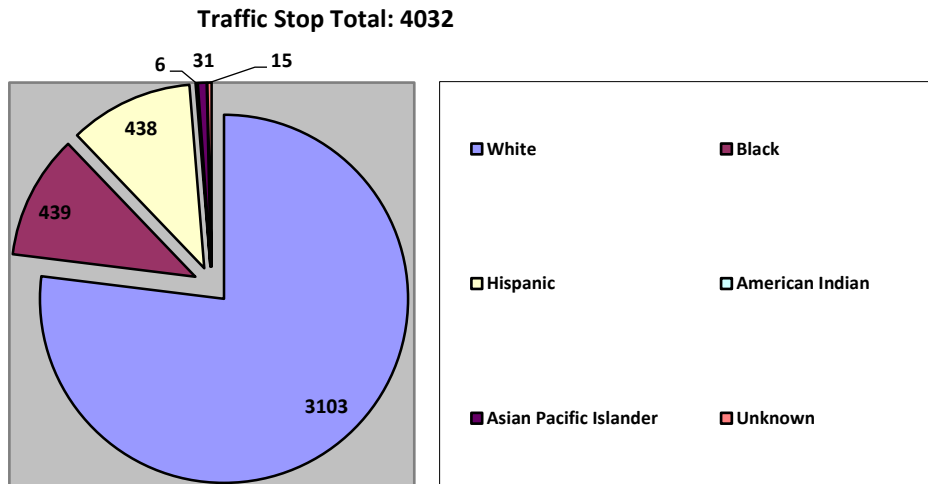
USE OF FORCE TOTAL: 37



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Traffic Stops by Race/Ethnicity Total Traffic Stops: 4032

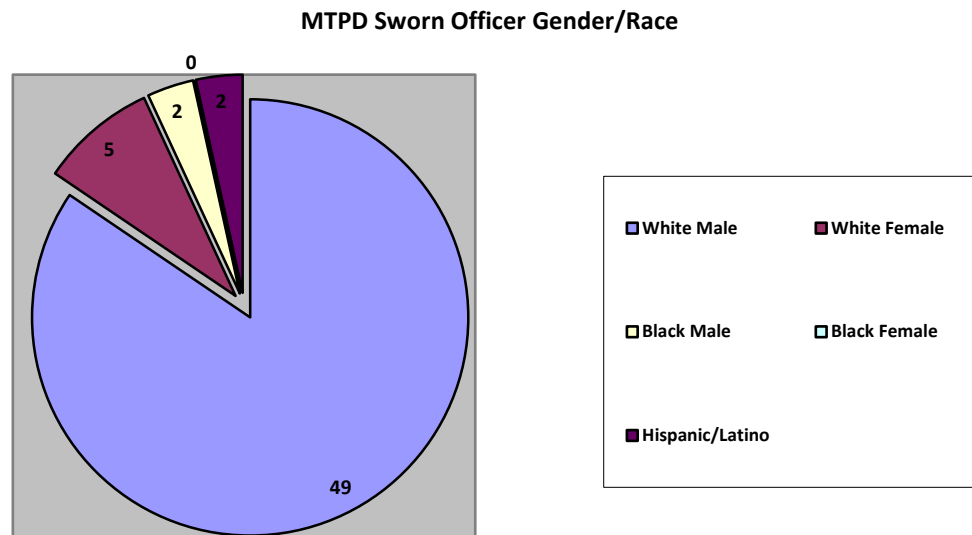
RACE/ETHNICITY	STOPS
White	3103
Black	439
Unknown	15
American Indian	6
Asian/Pacific Islander	31
Hispanic	438



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Middle Twp. Police Dept. Police Officer Gender/Race Breakdown Total Officers: 58

RACE/ETHNICITY	MALE	FEMALE
White	49	5
Black	2	0
Hispanic	2	0



Middle Township United States Census July 2021 Population and Demographic Estimates

2021 Population Estimate 20,716

Race/Ethnicity Breakdown

White	75.70%
Black or African American	9.90%
Asian	1.40%
Two or More Races	4.80%
Hispanic or Latino	10.40%

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

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ADMINISTRATION

The Police Administration was expanded in 2016, as part of a restructuring with the addition of the Street Crimes Unit and assuming the Code Enforcement function. The Administration includes 6 Officers, including the Chief. The Officers are: Chief Christopher Leusner, Captain James Loftus, Captain Jennifer DeLanzo, Lieutenant Tracey Super, Lieutenant Brian Murphy, and



Lieutenant Kenneth Martin. 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 Chief always serves as the Township's Emergency Management Coordinator.

The Operations Captain is responsible for the following areas: Public Information Officer, manage Standard Operating Procedures and Rules and Regulations, manage payroll, manage in-car cameras/body cameras (Watch Guard System), Traffic Liaison, Infectious Control Officer, manage Alcotest Units, manage radar units/tuning forks, NJ Learn Coordinator, Traffic/DWI grants, Fleet Manager, Building/Cell Inspections, On-Call Administrator, Nixle Administrator, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Manage Station Video System, Body Armor Grants, Managing Human Resources-hiring and background process, Oversee Random Drug Testing, CJIS/TAC Coordinator, Crash Team Commander, Supervise Patrol Lieutenant.

The Administrative Captain is responsible for the following areas: Internal Affairs Commander (review/recommend), JIFF Coordinator, Assistant Public Information Officer, Safety Officer, Radio System Administrator, employee evaluations, Assistant Social Media Administrator, 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, police data initiative, prepare and disseminate Weekly Crime Blotter and Arrest Blotter Reports, prepare Grants, manage sick time log/Early Warning System, Guardian Administrator, Cyber Security Coordinator, Hostage Negotiation Team Liaison, Supervise Lieutenants.

The Patrol Commander is responsible for the following areas: vehicle maintenance, patrol equipment (purchase, maintain, issue), POSS Administrator (schedule/time off/OT, etc., Domestic Violence Coordinator, Manage Off-Duty details, prepare Grants, manage

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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, Supervise Patrol Sergeants and Special Services Sergeant, L.E.A.D. Coordinator, Handle with Care Program, Narcan Program Coordinator/Reporting, Taser Audits/Spark Tests, Review Domestic Violence reports, establish new hire system logins and training, Coordinate National Night Out.

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, Assistant Public Information Officer, Assistant Social Media Administrator, prepare Grants, On-Call Administrator, Manage Crime Watch Video Program, Manage Vacant Property Program/Ordinance, Municipal Court Administrative Liaison/Discovery, Manage Livescan Systems: Crossmatch and Morphotrak, Manage Comcast Accounts: Headquarters/Rio Grande Substation, Review all DWI/Crash Reports, Domestic Violence Coordinator, Bail Reform Coordinator, False Alarm Program Administrator, Dive Team Coordinator, Safety Officer.

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, Assistant Public Information Officer, Assistant Social Media Administrator, Bias Crime Officer, DCF/DCP&P 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, Conduct BWC Audits, DNA Collection Coordinator, Accreditation Manager, ID Card Administrator, EMS Coordinator, GPS Administrator, Fire Department Liaison, Parole & Probation Liaison, Honor Guard Coordinator, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator.

PATROL DIVISION

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



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

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, and 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 and has seven patrol officers. The fifth squad, the Special Services 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.

Beginning in 2017, Middle Township Police officers started wearing body worn cameras on patrol. In addition to having in-car video cameras in patrol vehicles, officers have been equipped with the WatchGuard Wearable Body Camera. It functions as a camera and DVR combination to collect video and audio evidence.

The Middle Township Police Department's use of body worn video camera technology has been valuable to accurately document events, actions, conditions and statements made during investigative stops, field interviews, arrests and critical incidents. The use of the body worn cameras follows the guidelines issued by the New Jersey Attorney General and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office along with the policies set by the Middle Township Police Department.

According to Chief Christopher Leusner "The use of the Watch Guard body cameras will be another tool available to assist officers while performing their duties. Although it doesn't capture everything the officer sees, it will be beneficial for court and document a clearer picture of what happened during an incident. The use of the cameras increase transparency and also provides an opportunity to capture the good work the police officers do on a daily basis."

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

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officer. The FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

The following Officers are designated as FTO:

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

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

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:

	2021	2022	Change
Initial Investigation Reports	64	48	-16
Supplemental Investigations	839	594	-245
Arrests	46	46	0

The Detective Division also conducts all employee employment background investigations and there were **25** background investigations completed in **2022**. In addition, the Detective Division conducts all firearm application backgrounds. The unit completed a total of **496** firearms background investigations in 2022 a **decrease of 86** from 2021.

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The Major Crimes Unit utilizes a Case Management System. This system is designed to track all cases assigned to the Detective Division. It allows the Detective Sergeant to monitor the Unit's overall caseload as well as caseload of each individual Detective. This system also allows the Detective Sergeant to better assign new cases based on the caseload of the particular Detective. Case activity can now be tracked to ensure that no case is inadvertently forgotten. The Detective Sergeant also meets monthly with each Detective to discuss their active cases and strategies.

The following is a breakdown of cases as of December 31, 2021:

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	196	262	+66
Cases Closed:	151	195	+44

Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2022: **67**

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in **2022** include:

- 2022-32706 Aggravated Assault (Weapon)
- 2022-35598 Robbery
- 2022-35583 Aggravated Assault (Weapon)
- 2022-08316 Sexual Assault
- 2022-28489 Attempted Murder
- 2022-33435 Aggravated Assault
- 2022-35601 Robbery
- 2022-26822 Shooting
- 2022-36029 Aggravated Assault (Firearm)
- 2022-18833 Robbery
- 2022-22300 Strick Liability
- 2022-14932 Missing/Endangered Juvenile
- 2022-16588 Missing/Endangered Juvenile
- 2022-20249 Attempted Murder
- 2022-36029 Shooting

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 2022, we collected over 652 pounds of prescription medications.**

he 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

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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, 2022 marked the 31st 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 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 2022 included:

Detective Sergeant Jason Sweitzer
Detective First Class Kurt Saettler
Detective Thomas Flounders
Detective Jonas McInnis
Detective Thomas Ritterhoff
Detective Blake Martindale
Evidence Clerk: Jennifer Graham
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



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within the Township over the past year. During 2022, three (3) members of the Middle Township Police Department were assigned to the Street Crimes Unit.

The following is a list of Officers assigned to the Street Crimes for 2022:

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

The following is a synopsis of the Street Crimes Unit's 2022 case load:

As well as narcotics investigations, the unit has been assigned with targeting quality of life crimes as a result of the opioid epidemic. Other arrests besides narcotics arrests included: Eluding, Resisting Arrest, Burglary and local ordinance violations.

Arrests: 28 an increase of 16 from 2021.

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: \$5,511.25 was submitted for forfeiture as proceeds of criminal activity, an increase of \$5,139.90 from 2021.

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

2021-35411(Case started end of 2021 and concluded in 2022)- As a result of a continued narcotics investigation, on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, a Court Authorized Search Warrant was executed at Cedar Springs Trailer Park, 706 North Wildwood Boulevard, Burleigh, NJ 08210. As a result of the execution, distribution amounts of Methamphetamine, Heroin, Suboxone, \$1016.00 and a 20-gauge shotgun were recovered. Two subjects were arrested and charged accordingly.

2022-16718- On Monday, July 11, 2022, as a result of an extensive narcotics investigation a Court Authorized Search Warrant was executed at 500 Delaware Avenue in Rio Grande. As a result, an AR-15 rifle with a fully loaded magazine was recovered along with over two (2) ounces of methamphetamine, cocaine, ecstasy, and over 500 miscellaneous prescription pills to include Xanax, Suboxone, and Gabapentin. Other evidence consistent with narcotics distribution were also located in the residence. One subject was arrested.

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2022-28229 – Subsequent to an investigation initiated by patrol for domestic threats, members of the Streets Crimes Unit acted on the formal statements provided by the victims in order to execute court authorized search warrants for the accused's residence and vehicle. As a result of these searches, distribution quantities of marijuana, packaging material, a handgun and \$10,000.00 in US currency were seized. The investigated concluded with numerous criminal charges to include, Domestic Violence Offenses, Weapons Possession, Narcotics Possession and Distribution and Money Laundering.

FORFEITURE

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Beginning balance:	\$13,918.09	\$5,733.33	-\$8,184.76
Forfeited monies received:	\$371.35	\$5,511.25	+\$5,139.90
Forfeited monies expended:	\$8,783.93	\$0.00	-\$8,783.93
Balance:	\$5,503.40	\$11,257.68	+\$5,754.28

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>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
New registrants and/or moves:	5	4	-1
Average monthly registrant count:	91	86	-5

During 2022, the Major Crimes Unit used the newly mandated Offender Search Tracking System to track the movement of Sex Offenders within Middle Township.

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SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The Special Services Unit is led by Sgt. Ronald Miller and is under the command of Patrol Lieutenant Brian Murphy. The Unit has several different tasks to include School Resource Officers, training of the entire Police Department, court security, community outreach, all community events, maintain Police fleet, weapons armorers, running the Police Department's Summer Youth 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 **12 Cops and Coffee** details in 2022. The Unit also **participated in or hosted (85) events and (23) recruiting events** throughout the year including the following:

- Whitesboro Reunion
- Middle Township Juneteenth Celebration
- Middle Township Police Youth Camp
- 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

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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 our Advocating Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), in which 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 ASAP for a member of their Crisis Response Team to respond. **Officers referred 4 residents to ASAP in 2022.**



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 9 defendants in 2022.**

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

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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 2022 we handled **178 Handle with Care Referrals.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department instituted a community service program in 2011, working with the Cape May County Superior Court to have a work site for minor offenders to complete court-imposed community service. Under the direction of Corporal Martin

Lindholm, 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. Martin Lindholm	PFC Dan Geiger
Ptln. Justin Vitola	Ptln. Christopher Russ

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SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

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



The School Resource Officer Program has two main components: first is designed to enhance the relationship among the members of the school district, its students, teachers/administrators and the police department. The daily communication between police and school officials prevents many problems and mitigates existing problems for both the school and the police; second is a component to provide a law enforcement presence in all district schools. This is accomplished through the use of patrol officers who, as part of their duties, conduct walk through visits to the facilities. The second component is to provide training and informal counseling to students, staff and parents. 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>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	41	46	+5
Supplement Investigations:	17	11	-6
Arrests:	4	2	-2

<u>Cape May County Technical High School</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Investigations:	3	10	+7
Supplement Investigations:	2	3	+1
Arrests:	0	1	+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.

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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 6,595



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 officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2022 L.E.A.D was taught by Middle Township Police Officers who are certified L.E.A.D. instructors.

The following officers teach the L.E.A.D. Program:

Ptln. 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

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The work they do and the support they provide is invaluable. They are a great asset to this Department. During 2022, the Records Section staff consisted of the following employees:

Kendra Karstens

Sandra Wilson

Alexis Kalish

Eve Ulbrich

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Cape May County Central Dispatch

The Middle Township Police Department was formally responsible for operating and maintaining a full time Communications Center 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In July of 2021, 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 of 2021, 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 pleased to report that all Middle Township Communications Operators who applied to Cape May County Central Dispatch Center were hired and transferred through the intergovernmental transfer program.

On March 1st 2022 at 9AM we officially switched to County Dispatch. We were able to work through many of the issues encountered during the initial phase of the merge and are currently working to convert all data and complete the merge.

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

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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 2022, there were a total of **20 Internal Affairs Complaints** received of which 16 cases reached a disposition. It should be noted 9 cases were carried over from 2021 and all reached a disposition. See the below for the disposition types.

2022 Internal Affairs Dispositions

Theft: 1 Unfounded

Differential Treatment: 2 Unfounded / 1 Exonerated

Demeanor: 4 Unfounded / 1 Not Sustained

Domestic Violence: 1 Not Sustained

Other Rule Violation: 8 Sustained / 2 Unfounded / 3 Exonerated

Excessive Force: 1 Unfounded / 1 Exonerated

3 of the Sustained Other Rule Violations were traffic crashes

Major Discipline Disclosure:

1. Officer Bryan was charged with attempting to induce or otherwise cause a witness to testify and/or inform falsely and conduct that a reasonable person would believe would otherwise, obstruct, delay, prevent or impede and official proceeding or investigation by going to the witness and attempting to obtain information from her with regard to who she spoke to at the Middle Township Police Department. Sustained charges N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a) (12) Other sufficient cause - employee subject to arrest, N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a) (12) Other sufficient

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cause - violation of Middle Township Police Department Rules and Regulation Section III (A) 7 - High ethical standards on and off duty, and N.J.A.C. 4A:2-2.3(a)(12) Other sufficient cause - violation of Middle Township Police Department Rules and Regulation Section IV (A) 3 - Obedience to all laws and rules. Officer Bryan resigned.

2. Officer Trombetta had actual knowledge that a former co-worker procured and used anabolic steroids, a prohibited substance. He had a duty to report his former co-worker's activities to the Middle Township Police Department and/or take other appropriate measures, but failed to do so. Sustained charge N.J.A.C. 4A:2.3(a) (12) High Ethical Standards on and off duty. Officer Trombetta received a 180-day suspension.

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 Jennifer DeLanzo.

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 consist of two officers:
Officer Nikki Hober
Officer Mike Keun

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

Total Code Enforcement calls for service in 2022: 1484

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

Property maintenance violations 649

Uncut grass 324

Unregistered/Junk Vehicles 49

Vacant Structures 29

Complaint Summonses issued for non-compliance: 25

In 2022 Code Enforcement took over the Vacant Property Registration Program. They are now responsible for enforcing the Vacant Property Registration Ordinance which became effective in 2019. This was previously overseen by a third-party contractor Preferred Neighborhood Solutions.

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>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
Total Animal Related Calls:	1129	794	-335
Animal Cruelty Cases Investigated:	97	84	-13

There were two hundred twenty-three (223) dog license issued/purchased in 2022.

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TRAINING AND EDUCATION

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

The Special Services Unit, under the command of Capt. James Loftus and Lt. Brian Murphy, 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.

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



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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 2022 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
- Mental Health First Aid

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

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Department members who hold the rank of Instructor:

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. James Loftus	Firearms
Lt. Brian Murphy	Firearms, Basic Tactical Medical
Sgt. Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill
Cpl. Phil Johnson	Firearms Instructor, Taser
Sgt. Ronald Miller	Firearms Instructor, Less Lethal
Sgt. Leonard Larkin	Physical Training Instructor, Military Drill
Cpl. John Norton	Patrol Concepts, Firearms, Taser
Cpl. James D'Alonzo	Firearms, Officer Survival, Police Simulator Instructor, ABLE, Taser
Sgt. David Hagan	Patrol Concepts
Sgt. Mike Pastore	CPR / First Aid, First Responder, Military Drill
Sgt. Kurt Saettler	Criminal Law
Ptl. Jenna Cuomo	Firearms
Det. Thomas Ritterhoff	Firearms
Det. Jonas McInnis	Firearms
Ptl. Thomas Runyon	Firearms
Det. Blake Martindale	Firearms

SPECIAL UNITS

SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)

The Middle Township Police Department had maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 20 years. In 2007, the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, with the cooperation of the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association, formed a Regional Countywide SWAT Team. In 2008, Wildwood Police Department came on board. The County Team is now divided into two geographical regions: Mainland and Island divisions. Every Police Department in the County has representation on the team. Middle Township Officers are assigned to the Mainland Division.



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Team members undergo a very rigorous training schedule, tactically, mentally, and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as Officers doing normal duties, but when necessary are called upon to conduct SWAT operations. They are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The position of a SWAT member is voluntary. Selection to become a member of the team is very competitive and their own department must select Officers. These Officers are selected based upon their past performance and attitude. Then they must attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course. Team members must train at least twelve 12 hours per month, and training sessions are held two times per month.

The Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was activated 29 times in 2022, 19 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:

Lieutenant Brian Murphy (Team Leader)
Detective Tom Ritterhoff
Detective Jonas McInnis

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 ten (10) training sessions and three (3) dive assignment in 2022. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team also attended/assisted with the Special Olympics Polar Plunge (held in Wildwood), Stone Harbor Polar Plunge, Ocean City Air Show, National Night Out, as well as the Middle Township Police Youth Summer Camp. The team has been utilized many times to assist other Agencies in rescue and recovery operations.

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In March of 2021, the dive team assisted Adventures with Purpose with their attempt to locate a missing township man, who has been missing for five (5) years. Adventures with Purpose is a nonprofit organization who specialize locating missing people in bodies of water.

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.

Due to the recent retirement of Lt. Mark Higginbottom, Cpl. John Norton will assume the role of Team Leader and Det. Thomas Ritterhoff will assume the role of Assistant Team Leader. The dive team will be looking to add members in 2023.

Members of the Dive Team are:

Cpl. John Norton (Team Leader)
Cpl. Michael Pastore
Cpl. Shawn Karge

Lt. 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
DFC. 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

Sergeant Kurt Saettler

Corporal Michael Pastore

Patrolman Justin Vitola

Patrolman Michael Smith

Patrolman Joshua Musick

Corporal John Norton

Detective Jonas McInnis

Detective Greg DeCecco

Patrolman Patrick Vendetta

Patrolman Chris Russ

Patrolman Jeffery Rigg

CRASH TEAM

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



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These training courses allow the unit to complete the following:

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

The Middle Township Crash Team employs the following equipment to assist with crash investigations: Laser Impulse, Recon Data Recorder, Map Star System Angle Encoder, Prism and Pole, Drag Boot, Crash Zone software for scale diagrams, Measuring Tapes, Marking Paint, Chalk, and other miscellaneous equipment.

The Crash Team meets monthly for training updates and familiarization with the equipment.

Members include:

Capt. James Loftus (Commander)
Cpl. James D'Alonzo (Unit Leader)
Cpl. Martin Lindholm (Asst. Unit Leader)
Cpl. Armondo Jones
PFC Matt Martino
Ptl. Justin Vitola
DFC. Tom Flounders
Det. Greg Dececco
Ptl. Mark Bakley
Ptl. Tom Reynolds
Ptl. Shawn Rocca
Ptl. John Sunderhauf

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DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS

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



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

The Department currently has two Drug Recognition Experts: Sergeant Michael Pastore and Detective Greg DeCecco.

In 2011, the Department joined a grant with Atlantic County. The grant reimburses the Department \$280.00 each time a DRE is called in to complete an Evaluation when the officer is off duty (\$140.00 if the Officer is on duty at the time he or she is needed). The grant will also reimburse the Department an additional \$280.00 or if an Officer has to appear in court for up to 2 court dates.

In 2022, Middle Township Drug Recognition Experts completed the following DRE evaluations:

For Middle Township PD: 8 evaluations

For Other Police Departments: 1 evaluation

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



MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department was initially accredited in 2006 and reaccredited in 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019.

On November 21st, 2022, 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 2025, the Department will again go through the process to be reevaluated for accreditation.

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.

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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 2022. 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
2021	54	45	36	79	67	45	65	63	56	53	63	53
2022	61	40	43	58	75	49	49	62	38	49	50	40

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
2022 - 614

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 seven hundred ninety-seven 797 active permits which is almost 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 Sixth Awards Dinner was held in February of this year and a list of the award recipients is listed below:



Capt. James Loftus	20 Years Award
Capt. Jen Delanzo	2019 Marksman
Lt. Mark Higginbottom	Life Saving Award
Lt. Tracey Super	15 Years Award
Lt. Kenneth Martin	2021 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
Lt. Brian Murphy	Firearms Instructor, 10 Years Award, 2021 Presidential Inauguration
DSgt. Jason Sweitzer	20 Years Award
Sgt. Daniel Martin	15 Years Award
Sgt. Ron Miller	Meritorious Service, 20 Years Award
Sgt. David Hagan	2 Life Saving Awards, Exceptional Duty Award, & 20 Years Award
Sgt. Leonard Larkin	15 Years Award
Sgt. Kurt Saettler	Exceptional Duty Award, 15 Years Award, 2021 Presidential Inauguration
Sgt. Michael Pastore	Life Saving Award, 2020 Marksman, Drug Recognition Expert, 5 Years Award
Cpl. Gino Castellano	20 Years Award
Cpl. Phil Johnson	20 Years Award
Cpl. James D'Alonzo	2 Life Saving Awards, 20 Years Award, 2021 Presidential Inauguration
Cpl. John Norton	Exceptional Duty Award, 15 Years Award
Cpl. Martin Lindholm	15 Years Award
Cpl. Armondo Jones	2 Meritorious Service Awards, 15 Years Award
Cpl. Shawn Karge	Distinguished Service, LEAD Officer, 10 Years Award
Cpl. Raymond Bradley	Educational Achievement, Academy Instructor, Field Training Officer, 10 Years Award, Exceptional Duty Awards, 2021 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
PFC. Julio Ruiz	20 Years Award
PFC. Matthew Martino	Meritorious Service, 15 Years Award
PFC. Daniel Geiger	Field Training Officer, 15 Years Award
Dfc. Thomas Flounders	Exceptional Duty, Good Conduct, 5 Years Award
Det. Jonas McInnis	Life Saving Award, Good Conduct, SWAT, Firearms Instructor, 5 Years Award, 2021 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
Det. Tom Ritterhoff	SWAT Officer, Firearms Instructor, 5 Years Award, Exceptional Duty, 2021 Presidential Inauguration
Det. Blake Martindale	Field Training Officer, Good Conduct, Firearms Instructor, 5 Years Award, 2 Life Saving Awards, Exceptional Duty, 2021 Marksman, 2021 Presidential Inauguration
Det. Gregory Dececco	Drug Recognition Expert, Distinguished Honor, 5 Yrs Award, Exceptional Duty, Life Saving Award
Ptlm. Michael Reardon	Exceptional Duty Award, Field Training Officer, 10 Years Award
Ptlm. Ben Stiefel	Life Saving Award, 5 Years Award
Ptlm. Justin Vitola	Distinguished Service, Exceptional Duty, LEAD Officer, 10 Years Award
Ptlm. Mark Bakley	Firearms Instructor, Life Saving Award, Meritorious Service, 5 Years Award
Ptlm. Trevor MacCormack	Field Training Officer, Good Conduct, 5 Years Award, Distinguished Service
Ptlm. Thomas Runyon	Good Conduct, Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor, 5 Years Award, Life Saving Award, 2 Meritorious Service Awards, 2021 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
Ptlm. Christopher Russ	5 Yr Award, Meritorious Service, Community Service Unit, Educational Achievement, Honor Guard
Ptlm. Shawn Rocca	Bike Unit, 5 Years Award, 3 Life Saving Awards
Ptlm. Brian Vergantino	2021 Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC
Ptlm. Michael Smith	Educational Achievement, Distinguished Service, Honor Guard, Bike Unit
Ptlm. Thomas Reynolds	Educational Achievement

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Ptl. Alyssa Jones
Ptl. Jenna Cuomo

Ptlm. Paul Damiano
Ptlm. Patrick Vendetta
Ptl. Kerri Schrader
Ptlm. Christopher Baczek
Ptlm. Jeffrey Rigg
Ptlm. Joshua Musick
Ptlm. John Sunderhauf
Ptlm. Joseph Trombetta
Ptlm. Christopher Rudy
Dispatcher/Evidence Jennifer Graham
Records Kendra Karstens

Educational Achievement
Educational Achievement, LEAD Officer, Firearms Instructor, 2 Distinguished Honor Awards, 2 Life Saving Awards, Exceptional Duty
Educational Achievement
LEAD Officer, Honor Guard, Military, Meritorious Service, Exceptional Duty
Military
Exceptional Duty
Honor Guard
Honor Guard, Bike Unit, 2022 Marksman
Distinguished Honor, Exceptional Duty, Bike Unit
Meritorious Service
Life Saving Award
30 Years Award, Distinguished Service
15 Years Award

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 2022 included our Annual Toy Drive, in which we were able to provide toys to over 80 families, we participated in No Shave November and raised over \$2,000 to donate to Amy Baker and her family, Amy is an employee with the Cape May County Sheriff's Department and is battling an inoperable Brain Tumor/Cancer. This year was the third year the Middle Township Police Department participated in "Shop with a Cop", 24 children were selected from Middle Township Elementary Schools to participate in this year's event. The Fund also supports the Middle Township Police Department's 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

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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 2022 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
- Rev. Douglass Moore, local clergy, three-year term
- AG Anderson, Middle Township resident, two-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 2022 include:

- The Chief of Police attended the following community/civic groups in person meetings and/ or virtual events in 2022: 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.
- 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.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022 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 2022, 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 2022, 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 1,173 stops in the DDACTS zone in 2022 which is up from 864 in 2021. They conducted 573 foot patrols in the DDACTS zone in 2022, which is up from 293 in 2021. There were 383 radar details and directed patrols along Route 47 between milepost 5 and 8 and milepost 12 and 16 in 2022, which resulted in an increase in traffic stops along the Route 47 targeted milepost areas. A total of 1,122 traffic stops were conducted along these targeted areas in 2022, compared to 681 traffic stops in 2021.

The overall crime rate in the DDACTS zone in 2022 was 378 offenses, up from 241 offenses in 2021. This total is up 23.13% from the 2012 rate of 307 offenses, the year prior to establishing the DDACTS zone. Motor Vehicle crashes in the DDACTS zone increased from 271 in 2021 to 308 in 2022. In 2021, there were 30 Crashes involving injury, this decreased to 16 in 2022.

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 2022 we had 420 youth contacts compared to 159 youth contacts in 2021.

Special Services Unit

The Special Services Unit (SSU) had set two goals for 2022. The first goal was to improve the department's ability to bring mental health crisis situations to a safe conclusion for all involved when the individual is armed with a weapon other than a firearm. Officers were trained on how to deescalate incidents with advanced training and simulated situations during advanced training days. Officers were also sent to ICAT and ABLE Training put together by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office that further reinforced how to properly deal with mental health crisis. A policy and further training are currently being developed and drafted by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

for the use of advanced less lethal options. Additionally, we also utilized two separate organizations Acenda and Volunteers of America to further assist in deescalating mental health crisis. These organizations had sent mental health counselors, screeners, and advocates to various scenes to assist officers with deescalating of a mental health crisis.

The second goal was to increase the Police Department's number of applications for employment to the Middle Township Police Department by 2022. This was done by sending the Middle Township Special Services Unit out to various recruiting events at the local colleges. We advertised openings both in the local newspapers and social media. We contacted several academies and once the summer season was over for the island towns we recruited from the Class II's that would be unemployed through the winter. We also attended several Job Fairs and advertised at our township events. This resulted in the hiring of three (3) new Full-time Police Officers and two (2) Class II Officers.

Major Crimes Unit

In 2022, the Middle Township Police Department's Major Crimes Unit set two goals. The first goal was to 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. The second goal was to improve the efficiency of the evidence function.

2021: Goal # 1

All members of the Major Crimes Unit attended several courses involving social media investigations, threats on social media and social media trends. The courses provided information and techniques for detectives to apply to investigations. Some courses attended by members of the unit were: Dark Web Investigations and Cryptocurrency, Internet Technology and Crime Scenes, Cell Phone Records and Tower Dumps, Social Media Investigations to name a few.

2021: Goal #22

Detective First Class Kurt Saettler and Evidence Clerk Mark Devico removed or returned 5% percent of the nearly 16,000 items that were in evidence storage.

Street Crimes Unit

In 2022, the Middle Township Police Department's Street Crimes Unit set two goals targeting the use and distribution of narcotics throughout Middle Township. The first goal was to reduce the use and distribution of Methamphetamine and the second goal was to reduce the use and distribution of Heroin/Fentanyl. The unit set a target of 6 arrests for each goal.

MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022: Goal # 1

The Street Crimes Unit made 6 arrests for drug possession or distribution of Methamphetamine.

2022 Goal # 2

The Street Crimes made 5 arrests for drug possession or distribution of Heroin/Fentanyl.

APPENDIX A: 2023 Proposals

Volunteers of America Impact Program

Volunteers of America created the Immediate Mobilization of Police Assisted Crisis Teams (IMPACT) Initiative in partnership with the Pine Hill Police Department in 2019. The IMPACT program embeds social services staff within the police department working side by side with officers. The IMPACT program strives to create a welcoming presence as a trusted partner for law enforcement and a resource for those in need. Forty hours a week, IMPACT specialists conduct proactive outreach and respond to officer referrals whether it be a call for service, at the department, or meeting with an incarcerated individual at the County Jail. While crisis calls are not eliminated, the program will provide teams the opportunity to address social services needs prior to a long-term destabilization. The program is provided through state appropriations and will not cause any financial burden to the Township.

ARRIVE Program

The ARRIVE Together program, first piloted by the State Police in Cumberland County in December 2021 in partnership with the Department of Human Services, pairs a trooper with a mental health screener from the Cumberland County Guidance Center in an unmarked vehicle to respond to 9-1-1 calls for service relating to mental or behavioral health crises. The program expanded to a pilot in Union County in June 2022 run by the Elizabeth and Linden Police Departments and Trinitas Medical Center. The pilots have served hundreds of individuals in distress who come into contact with law enforcement.

On February 3, 2023, Governor Murphy announced the Middle Township Police Department along with Lower Township Police Department would be added to the program. Cape May County Prosecutor Jeffrey Sutherland was a driving force behind the grant application for both departments. In May, a trained mental health screener will be assigned to respond to calls at the request officers from both Departments.

Rio Substation

In 2016, we opened a fully functional Police Substation accessible to the public twenty-four hours a day on Route 47 in Rio Grande. We are grateful to the Feraco family who leased us the space since 2016 for \$1.00 a year. Earlier this year, the Department was offered to lease space at no charge from the County of Cape, at the County Common complex in Rio Grande. We have decided to move our Substation location to the County Commons and hope to be open by July. This opportunity will ensure the Police Department continues to have a strong presence in Rio Grande for years to come with a fully functional Substation.

Guardian Program with No Limits Academy

No Limits Academy's (NLA) Future Guardians Program will connect local law enforcement and youth within the community to develop relationships of mutual trust and respect. NLA's Future Guardians is predominantly an after-school program with

APPENDIX A: 2023 Proposals

many of the Educational Excursions and Community Nights taking place on weekends. We will be working the No Limits Academy to identify funding for a one-year program that will provide an opportunity to develop meaningful, positive relationships between law enforcement and youth within the community. Programming spread throughout the year with weekly opportunities to engage Police Officers and youth will ensure that these relationships are not only well established, but also nurtured, strengthened and maintained. Police Departments from throughout the County have previously collaborated with No Limits Academy and our hope is this program will be a regional effort.

Regional Operations Plan H20i

In September of 2022 we experienced significant challenges related to an unsanctioned car rally organized on social media that brought thousands of people to the area. The unsanctioned car rally was organized on social media under the name H20i. On Friday, September 23, 2022 this large group overtook the Lowes parking lot and engaged in dangerous behavior to include burnouts, driving at a high rate of speed, discharging fireworks, damaging property, and climbing on buildings. We were only able to bring the area under control after calling for mutual aid from neighboring police departments. We then worked with mutual aid from neighboring police departments the following day to prevent another pop up event. Unfortunately, on Saturday two people were killed in Wildwood and multiple injured as a result of this unsanctioned car rally. We have been working with the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association, Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, Cape May County Office of Emergency Management, and local elected officials on plan for next year. The City of Wildwood Police Department is in the process of arranging a regional exercise to assist in preparing for another H20i car rally if they try to return this year. We will continue to work with our partners and ensure a quick comprehensive regional response if necessary.

Appendix B: 2023 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 2023, 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: 2023 Goals

Major Crimes Unit

Goal#1

Increase the investigative skills, knowledge and abilities of Patrol Officers to improve investigation outcomes.

Objective:

Conduct at least four patrol training sessions on evidence collection, sexual assault investigations, juvenile interviews and on scene interviews.

Strategies:

1. Develop training program on interviewing strategies and techniques.
2. Develop training program on proper evidence collection.
3. Develop training program on sexual assault investigations.

Goal #2

Improve the tracking of Sex Offenders within Middle Township.

Objective:

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

Strategies:

1. Conduct checks throughout the year to verify the addresses of all Sex Offenders.
2. Conduct random audit to ensure an updated list of Sex Offenders in our Computer Aided Dispatch System. The audit will include a review to confirm a flag has been correctly entered for each address.
3. Coordinate with the Patrol Division and the Street Crimes Unit several times during the year to review intelligence on the current homeless population and address any Megan Law Violations that have occurred.

Appendix B: 2023 Goals

Special Services Unit

Goal #1

Increase the number of recruitment event details at colleges, high schools, and job fairs in order to attract the best most qualified candidates and encourage them to apply to become police officers with the Middle Township Police Department.

Objective:

Develop a Recruitment Plan that will help target the best candidates and increase the number of both minority and female applicants to continue to keep and promote diversity within the Middle Township Police Department for the future. We will look to increase the applications by 25% from 2022 for both full-time police officers and for entry-level Class II officer positions.

Strategies:

- 1) Have the Middle Township Police Department Special Services Unit attend both College and High School Job Fairs throughout the state of New Jersey, and encouraging the best most diverse minority and female students to apply to become a Middle Township Police Officer.
- 2) Advertise Middle Township Police Department employment opportunities with diverse organizations and news outlets. Also utilize the Middle Township Police Department Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts to put the employment opportunities out through social media with the website link attached www.middletownship.com/jobs
- 3) Contact all certified state of New Jersey Police Academies who have Alternate Route Training Programs and Special Class II Training Programs and supply each academy class with recruitment packet of materials for the Middle Township Police Department.
- 4) Use multiple Police Employment Apps to advertise any and all open positions with in the Middle Township Police Department and ensure that its reposted on the Apps multiple times throughout the year.

Appendix B: 2023 Goals

Goal#2

Increase the number of Middle Township Police Officer positive interactions with the youth in our community by partnering with multiple organizations and developing new youth programs that will appeal to the children in our community and encourage them to form strong positive relationships/bonds with the police officers within our department.

Objective:

Develop multiple Police Youth Engagement Programs utilizing various resources and organizations throughout Cape May County. Make these programs so appealing that the youth cannot help, but want to participate and associate with both Middle Township Police Officers and other community role models throughout Middle Township.

Strategies:

1. Contact multiple youth organizations and set up meetings to discuss numerous ideas to appeal to our youth and encourage positive interactions with police officers to make the best learning and interaction programs possible, as well as, develop strong trust building relationships with the youth and police officers.
2. Develop a structured curriculum to keep our youth engaged while also teaching them lifelong lessons of respect for one another, planning for the future, setting goals, achieving goals, paying it forward, and encouraging the youth that they too could be police officers one day serving the Middle Township community.
3. Apply for multiple grants and ask various Middle Township Organizations for help and support to finance the youth programs.
4. Advertise these programs via the Middle Township Departmental Social Media sites, all youth organizations such as Cape Assist and No Limits Boxing Academy, all Middle Township Schools, youth sports teams, youth camps, youth clubs, and local community churches.

Street Crimes Unit

Goal #1

Improve quality of life for all residents in Middle Township through narcotics enforcement, enforcing local ordinance violations in Rio Grande, and working with community partners on homelessness to connect them with services and mitigate public safety concerns.

Objective:

Maintain the level of narcotics enforcement in 2023 as compared to 2022, submit a quarterly report to the Chief of Police on the number of homeless individuals in Middle Township, and actions taken to work with community partners and mitigate public safety concerns.

Appendix B: 2023 Goals

Strategies:

1. Work closely with and share information with the Major Crimes Unit as well as other units in the department.
2. Deploy plain clothed officers to identify quality of life issues and narcotic related offenses and identify homeless individuals.
3. Meet with Volunteers of America to identify individuals who may qualify for their assistance.

Goal#2

Reduce the use and distribution of methamphetamine and heroin/fentanyl throughout Middle Township.

Objective

Initiate criminal investigations into the distribution of methamphetamine and heroin that results in at least 12 arrests by the end of 2023.

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.