



*In Remembrance of  
Captain Martin R. Biersbach*



**2019  
Annual Report  
Lower Township  
Police  
Department**



**Captain Martin R. Biersbach**

Captain Biersbach had a 25 year distinguished career with the Lower Township Police Department that began in September 1994. He served as a Patrol Officer, before he was promoted to Sergeant in April 2005, to Lieutenant in September 2011 and to Captain in August 2015. His contributions to the agency will be long lasting and he will be missed as a colleague and friend.



**END OF WATCH, DECEMBER 15, 2019  
BADGE #157**



**Report Managed and Directed by:**

**Chief William Mastriana**

**Captain William Priole**

**Lieutenants Donald Vanaman, Douglas Whitten & Kevin Lewis**

*Report Compiled and Produced by Susan Wilson*

**March 19, 2020**



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# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

The Lower Township Police Department is pleased to present this annual report for 2019.

The Lower Township Police Department is comprised of forty-nine dedicated sworn men and women, eight SLEO Class II Officers, as well as, six civilian employees who provide a wide range of services to our community. These services include but not limited to processing Firearms Identification Card Applications and New Jersey Permits to Purchase Firearms, Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests, Social Media and Website Management, Alarm Registrations, and most departmental administrative functions.

In 2019, the police department accomplished three significant professional milestones:

1. In December of 2019, the Police Administration completed an entire review, revision, and re-publishing of all General Orders and Policies
2. Effective January 1, 2019, a new digital remote scheduling and payroll program, PlanIt Schedule, was implemented, allowing the department to go completely paperless with added features. PlanIt is one of the most efficient and precise scheduling programs for public safety services and drastically increases communication and capabilities within our organization.
3. The department converted from the conventional duty belt and under uniform ballistic vest to the outer carrier (load-bearing) vest for each uniformed patrol officers. Several benefits of the new outer vests are even weight distribution reducing the strain on the hips and lower back, increased mobility and range of motion and ease of access if the officers require medical attention. The health and well-being of our officers is a priority and made this an easy decision.

This year we faced personal tragedy with the untimely and sudden death of our Executive Officer, Captain Martin R. Biersbach on December 15, 2019. Captain Biersbach left behind his wife Jaime, and two young daughters, Ella and Avalise. We still grieve his passing and he is deeply missed by the entire Lower Township Police Department.

Please read on to learn more about these and other advancements that took place with the Lower Township Police Department this past year. It is my heartfelt hope that everyone who takes the time to read this report has a better understanding of the inner-workings and services we offer. We will continue to work with our residents, business owners, and elected officials to solve problems as they arise and enforce the law. I am confident in doing so we can overcome any future challenges that we face, as a community.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this report!

*Chief William Mastriana*

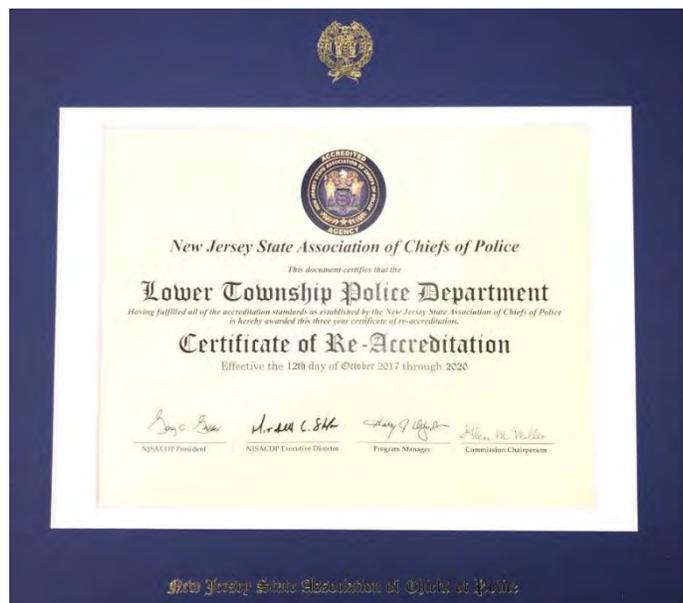
# LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lower Township Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in the Township of Lower by working cooperatively with the public and within the framework of the Constitution. Our officers will work to enforce the laws, preserve the peace, reduce fear and provide for a safe environment. We will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity and law enforcement with vision.

## NJSACOP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Lower Township Police Department is an accredited agency that participates in the New Jersey 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 105 professional standards designed specifically for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best practices in law enforcement. The Department was initially accredited in 2009 and has been reaccredited twice since that time.

From 2018 through 2020, we are working towards our fourth reaccreditation. The Lower Township Police Department will undergo another thorough evaluation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police to ensure that we are meeting the current best practices according to the commission's standards. Accreditation results in greater accountability within the agency, reduced risk and liability exposure, stronger defense against civil lawsuits, increased community advocacy and more confidence in the agency's ability to operate efficiently and respond to community needs. If approved, accreditation is valid for three years, during which time the agency must comply with the standards and reporting requirements.



## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

**Current Sworn Employees** - The following list reflects the Department Personnel as of December 31, 2019.

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>Chief of Police</b>
William Mastriana
<b>Captains</b>
Martin Biersbach
William Priole
<b>Lieutenants</b>
Donald Vanaman
Douglas Whitten
Kevin Lewis
<b>Administrative Sergeant</b>
Robert Hartman, Jr.

<b>DETECTIVE BUREAU</b>
DSG. Brian McEwing
DFC. Michael Majane
Michael Perry
Dallas Bohn
Michael James
Corey Scheid

<b>PATROL SERGEANTS</b>
Charles Ryan
Ryan Hansberry
John Armbruster, Jr.
Robert Smith

<b>CORPORALS</b>
Jennifer Elwell
Michael Szemcsak

<b>PATROL OFFICERS</b>
Robert Fessler
Michael Szemcsak
Matthew Gamble
Anthony Greto
Kevin Boyle, Jr.
Stephen Flitcroft
James McNulty
Kaitlin Black
Louis Bartleson
Michael Nuscis
Jordan Saini
Anthony Micciche
Jonathan Scheck
Eric Danze
Corey Scheid
Jason Felsing
Kyle Boyle
Adam Hegarty
Kenneth Walker
James Mathis
William Kocis
William Omrod
William Porch
Thomas Shough
Kevin O'Brien
Steven Trunfio
Michael Harkin
Eric Campbell
Austin Parker
Austin Craig
<b>SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS</b>
William Barcas
Eric Coombs

## Promotions

Sergeant Ryan Hansberry – 4/19  
Captain William Priole – 6/19  
Lieutenant Douglas Whitten – 6/19

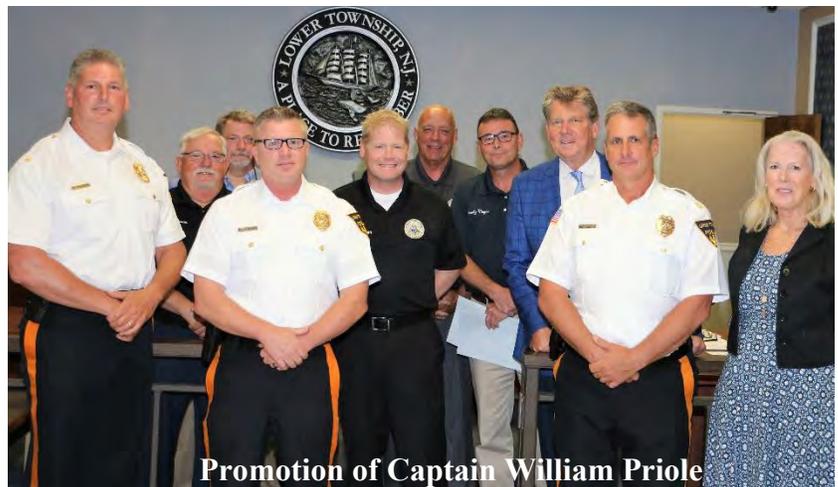
Lieutenant Kevin Lewis – 6/19  
Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing – 6/19  
Sergeant First Class Robert Hartman, Jr. – 8/19



**Promotion of Sergeant Ryan Hansberry**

**Sergeant Hansberry** has served honorably with the Patrol Division for over 16 years and previously held the rank of Corporal. He also served 5 years in the U.S. Marine Corps where he served as a Sergeant with the 3rd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, prior to entering the CMC Police Academy. He is also graduate of the NJSACOP Front Line Supervision Program.

**Captain Priole** is a 27-year veteran of the police department. His career accomplishments include Officer of the Year and he was a member of the department's Fatal Crash Investigation Team. He was promoted to Patrol Sgt. in June of 2011 and then to Lieutenant in August of 2015. Captain Priole graduated from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Command and Leadership Academy in 2017.



**Promotion of Captain William Priole**



**Promotion of Lieutenant Douglas Whitten**

**Lieutenant Whitten** is a 25-year veteran of the Dept. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and is a past recipient of the LTPD Outstanding Achievement & Commitment Award. He has been certified by the Division of Criminal Justice in Community Policing and Crime and is an Instructor for several Academy Courses. In 2019, he graduated from the NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy



Promotion of Lieutenant Kevin Lewis

**Lieutenant Lewis** is a 13-year veteran of the Dept. He earned an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice and he has 31 years of service in the NJ Army National Guard, where he is still serving at the rank of Command Sergeant Major. Lt. Lewis served in Iraq from 2003 to 2004. He was an 11 year member of the Cape May County Regional SWAT team. Lieutenant Lewis was awarded the VFW Gold Medal Officer of the Year Award a LTPD Physical Fitness Award in 2006. In 2019, he graduated from the NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy.



Promotion of Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing

**Detective Sergeant McEwing** is a 12-year veteran of the Dept. He began his career as a Class II Officer in 2003 while attending Old Dominion University. He returned in 2007 to accept a full time position and he received the Academic & Director's Awards upon graduating the CMC Police Academy. He also holds the position of Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer and Fatal Automobile Crash Team Leader.



Promotion of Sergeant First Class  
Robert Hartman, Jr.

**Sergeant First Class Robert Hartman, Jr.** has served honorably with the Patrol Division for over 24 years and previously held the rank of Corporal. SFC. Hartman has served as the Department's Policemen Benevolent Association (PBA) Representative for a combined 16 years, focusing on protecting the rights of Law Enforcement officers and increasing officer safety. He is a graduate of the NJSACOP Front Line Supervision Program.

### New Officers – 2019

Patrol Officer Eric Campbell  
Patrol Officer Austin Parker  
Patrol Officer Austin Craig



Swearing in of Offices Eric Campbell  
and Austin Parker



Swearing in of Officer Austin Craig

**Retirements – 2019**  
Corporal T. Shaun Whittington  
Sergeant Edward Edwards  
Detective Joseph Boyle



Retirement of Corporal Whittington

Corporal Whittington served 25 honorable years with the Department. Cpl. Whittington was assigned to the Patrol Division and was credited with saving a child from a fire, administering CPR to a driver and reviving a child, while off duty. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 2011. He was also an instrumental part of the department and police academy's training programs as an Instructor and he was also an active member and leader on the Lower Township and Cape May County Regional SWAT Teams.



Retirement of Sergeant Edwards

Sergeant Edwards served 25 honorable years with the Department. Sgt. Edwards also earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Stockton College. Sgt. Edwards was assigned to the Patrol Division. He was credited with saving a child from a house fire and was also commended for ascertaining, investigating, and sharing information that led to the conviction of a murder for hire, prior to the loss of any life.



Retirement of Detective Boyle

Detective Joseph Boyle served 25 honorable years with the Department and was assigned to the Detective Division. Det. Boyle's negotiation skills proved essential on the scene of a suicidal subject, which resulted in the person seeking help and no injuries reported. He also received a commendation for his diligence in an extensive investigation resulting in an arrest for the sale of stolen handguns, which led to additional arrests by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office.

# CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

In 2017, the Department implemented a new Regional Records Management System (RMS), Infoshare. This system allows the department to record and group multiple call types under a single call for service/case. Therefore, our numbers will reflect this change in how we record our calls and report our data.

	2018	2019
<b>Calls for Service</b>	42,485	45,482

## Investigations

Investigation Reports generated by officers totaled: **760**  
Supplemental Investigations or follow up reports generated: **529**

## Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of “individuals” arrested in 2019. It should be noted that most times, multiple charges are filed against a single “individual.” The arrests figures listed below reflect the number of persons (Adults / Juveniles) physically arrested by Lower Township Police Officers. The numbers below do not reflect a tabulation of multiple charges filed against an individual.

Total # of Adult Arrests: **635**

Total # of Juvenile Arrests: **51**

**Indictable Complaints** sent by the Lower Township Police Department to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office for the year of 2019 - **413**.



*Items from our display case in the LTPD Lobby*

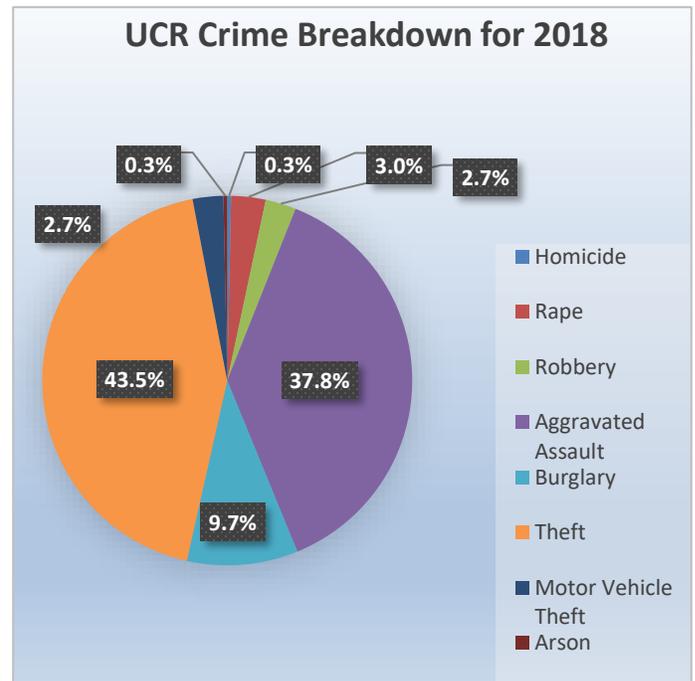
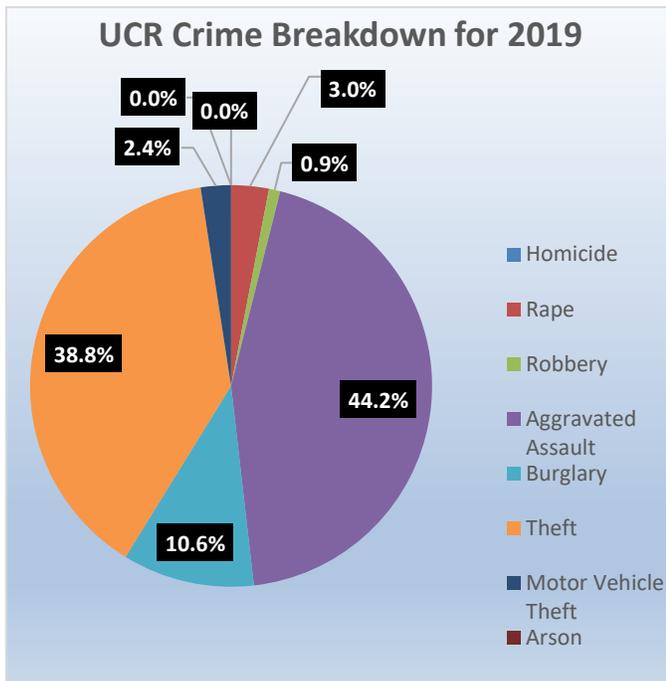
## Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 cities, college/university, county, tribal, state and federal law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are 8 main offense classifications known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

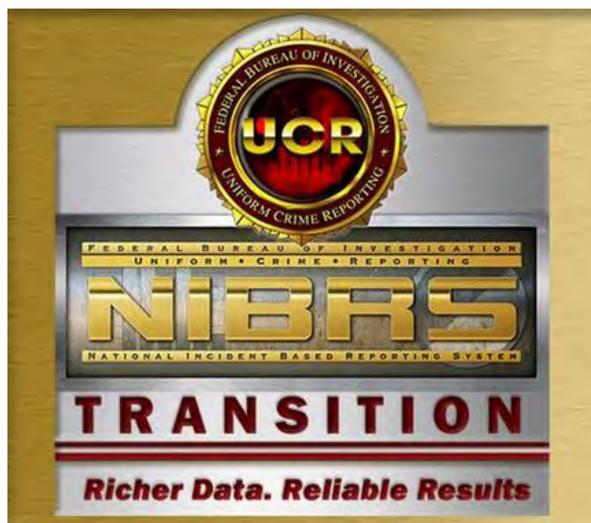
Below is a list highlighting the 8 identified crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Lower Township in 2019.

Offense	2018	2019
Homicide	1	0
Rape	9	10
Robbery	8	3
Aggravated Assault	113	146
Burglary	29	35
Theft	130	128
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	8
Arson	1	0
<b>TOTAL UCR</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>330</b>
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>Non Violent Crime</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>171</b>

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



## *From the FBI website: Transitioning from UCR to NIBRS by 2021*



Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes. Unlike data reported through the UCR Program’s traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS)—an aggregate monthly tally of crimes—NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared.

Because NIBRS can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing, the FBI has made the nationwide implementation of NIBRS a top priority. Approximately 43 percent of U.S. law enforcement agencies currently participate in NIBRS. To increase participation, the UCR Program is partnering with the Bureau of Justice Statistics on the National Crime Statistics Exchange, working with advocacy groups to emphasize the importance of NIBRS data and its utility, and transitioning the UCR Program to a NIBRS-only data collection by 2021. In addition, the UCR Program has made resources available to help agencies address the cost of transitioning as well as the potential perception that an agency has higher crime levels when NIBRS actually establishes a new baseline that more precisely captures reported crime in a community.

The vision for NIBRS is for it to become the law enforcement community’s standard for quantifying crime, which will help law enforcement and communities around the country use resources more strategically and effectively. This will further support the mission of the FBI’s UCR Program to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management.

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***The Lower Township Police Department has been working with the NJ State Police in transitioning to NIBRS and the Department expects to be transitioned by 2021.***

### Other Types of Calls for Service

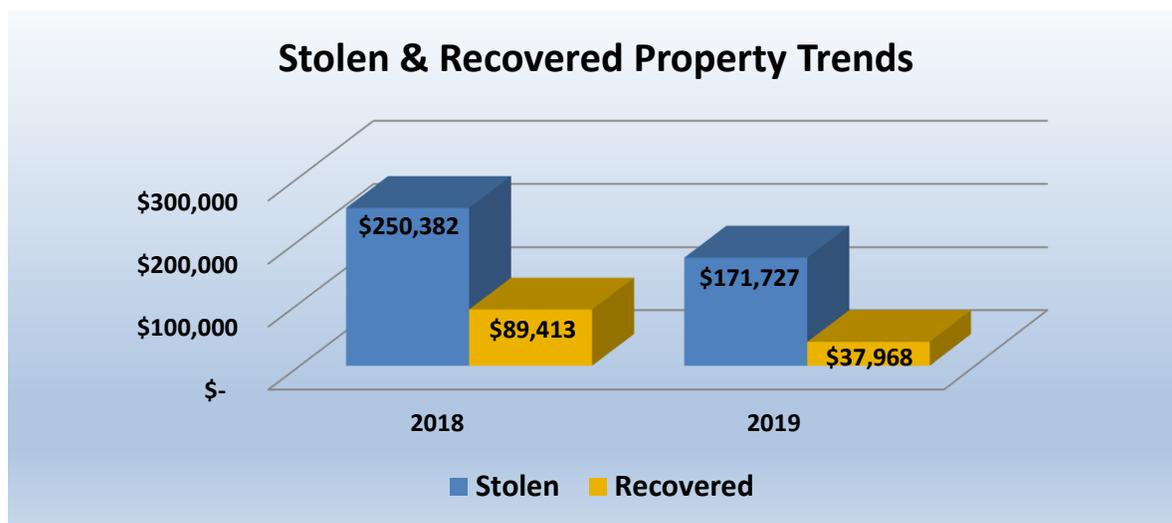
The following list shows the classification of the other type of calls for service both criminal and non-criminal in nature handled by the members of the Police Department.

	2018	2019
Sex Offenses, other than rape	13	15
Simple Assaults	21	22
Medical Calls	2215	1897
Fire Calls	109	88
Animal Complaints	247	285
Burglar, Fire or Medical Alarms	875	834
Death Investigations	25	37
Disorderly Conduct Incidents	735	666
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	74	93
Missing Persons and Runaways	63	86
Assisting Other Agency Incidents	350	116
Bias Incidents Investigated	0	2
Criminal Mischief Complaints	157	150
Residential and Commercial Property Checks	22,044	24,054
Community Policing	892	330

### Property Stolen and Recovered:

Property offenses include burglary, theft, criminal mischief and shoplifting. The exact amount of value in theft-related offenses is 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 2019.

	2018	2019
Stolen	\$250,382.00	\$171,727.00
Recovered	\$89,413.00	\$37,968.00



### Domestic Violence:

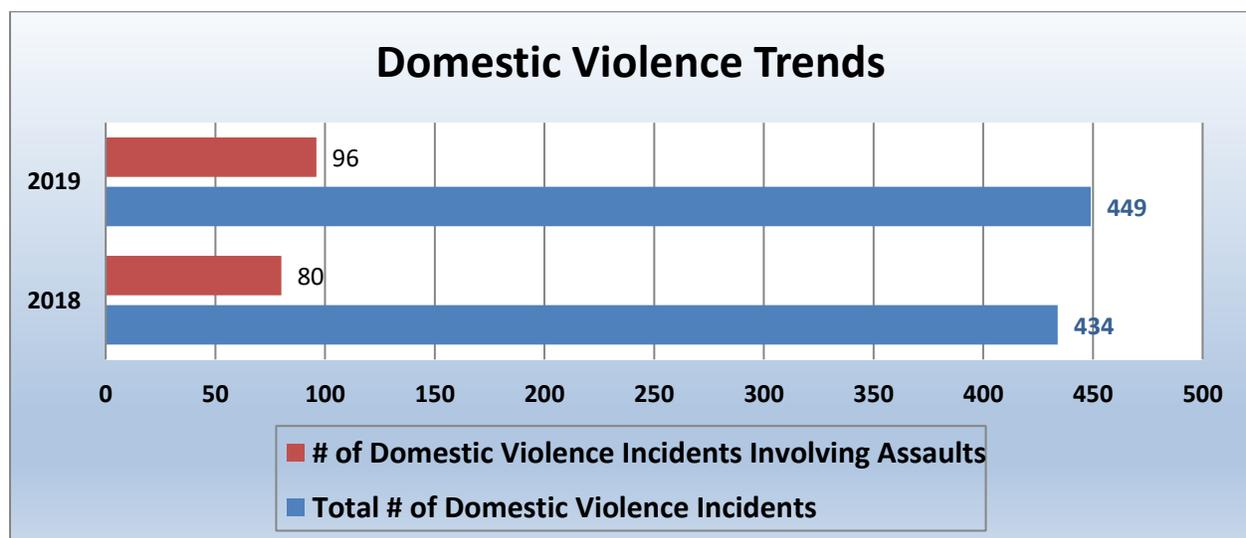
Domestic violence in New Jersey is viewed as a serious crime and carries with it penalties such as fines and prison time. Victims have the right to file restraining orders, both temporary and final, against the accused. Police officers must follow guidelines under the NJ Protection of Domestic Violence Act when arresting suspected abusers. Neglecting the elderly or handicapped can be considered domestic violence in New Jersey.

The Prevention of Domestic Violence Act, passed in New Jersey in 1991, states that domestic violence is a "serious crime against society." The Act provides two forms of relief in the event of domestic violence. The first is civil relief, which allows victims of domestic violence to obtain a restraining order against their assaulter. The second is criminal relief, which allows the victim to file criminal charges against their assailant.

By the establishment of a cooperative effort between the Lower Township Police Department, Coalition Against Rape and Abuse (CARA) and community volunteers, a domestic violence victim response team has been developed. This team has been formed to provide the domestic violence victim with the opportunity to be provided with information and services, which exist to help them through the experience of being a domestic violence victim. With the renovation of our entire building, we were able to renovate the room designated for domestic violence victims into a more comfortable space for victims and families.

Lower Township, like our neighboring jurisdictions, is not immune to the problems and concerns of domestic violence. Listed below are Lower Township's statistics related to domestic violence.

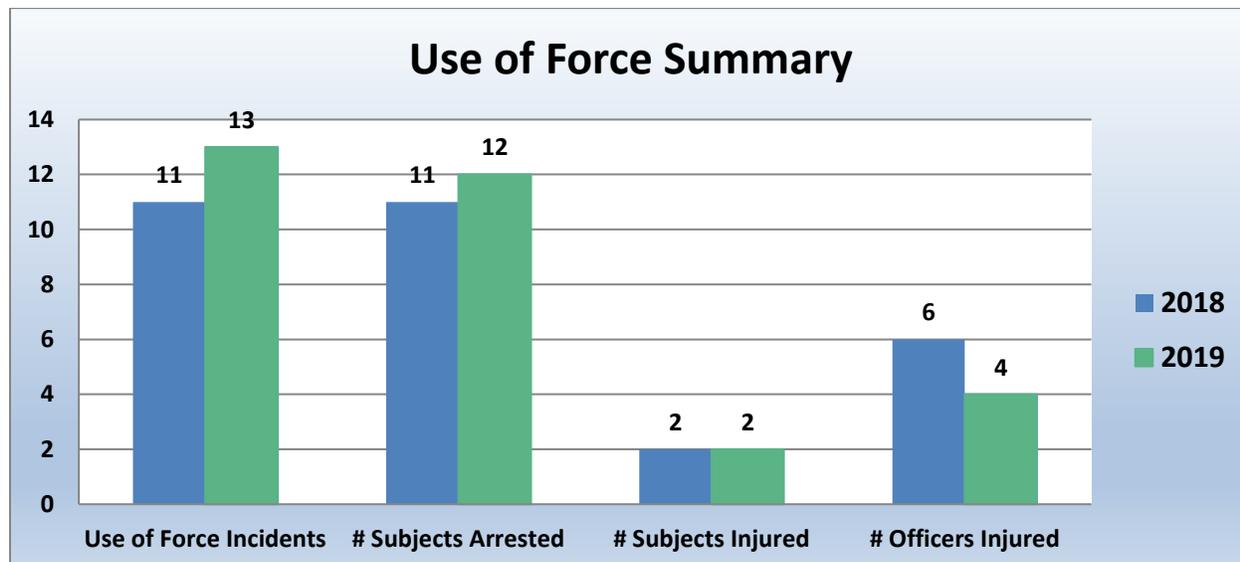
	2018	2019
<b>Total # of Domestic Violence Incidents</b>	434	449
<b># of Domestic Violence Incidents Involving Assaults</b>	80	96
<b>Temporary Restraining Orders Granted</b>	93	75
<b>Temporary Restraining Orders Violated</b>	40	31
<b>Total Criminal Complaints</b>	136	126



### Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

As required by law, each officer who must use force above the norm in arresting or handling an individual must complete a state “Use of Force” reporting form. This report is supplied each year to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office.

	2018	2019
Use of Force Incidents	11	13
# Subjects Arrested	11	12
# Subjects Injured	2	2
# Officers Injured	6	4



### Police Pursuits:

Lower Township Police Officers were involved in 2 pursuits during 2019

### Police Department Injuries and Accidents

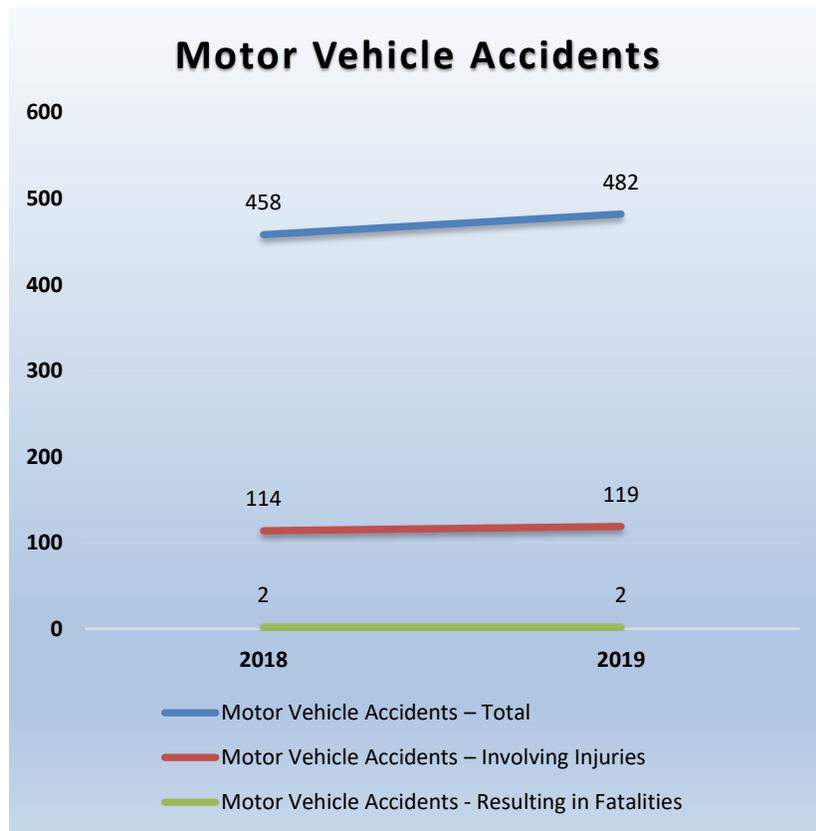
The Lower Township Police Department is insured under the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund for workers compensation claims. In order to ensure the proper level of police services for the citizens of Lower Township, there has been a concerted effort by all police officers to reduce incidents of work place injury. Unfortunately, due to the inherently dangerous nature of the law enforcement profession, it often exposes police officers to hazardous situations that are beyond their control, therefore making the potential for injury extremely high. In 2019, there were 9 cases of work related injuries. There were 28 work days missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2019, our Police Officers were assaulted on 12 separate occasions. These assaults on law enforcement officers occurred while police were investigating the following incidents: domestic disturbances, other disturbances, traffic stops and suspicious persons.

The Lower Township Police Department logged many miles in department vehicles in 2019; and although every precaution and extreme care is taken, there were 12 traffic accidents involving department vehicles.

## VEHICLE RELATED INCIDENTS

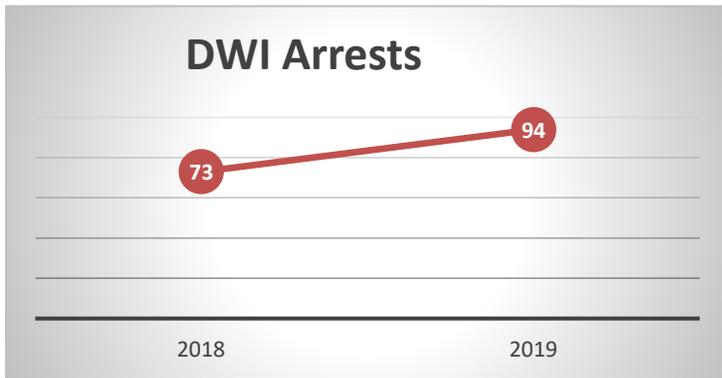
The Lower Township Police Department investigated **482** motor vehicle accidents and conducted **5906** motor vehicle stops during the year of 2019. See the table below for a breakdown of the incidents.

Traffic Summary	2018	2019
Motor Vehicle Accidents – <b>Total</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>482</b>
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Number of Injuries	114	119
Motor Vehicle Accidents - Resulting in Fatalities	2	2
Motor Vehicle Stops – <b>Total</b>	<b>4351</b>	<b>5906</b>
Motor Vehicle Stops – Vehicle Summonses Issued	1289	1797
Motor Vehicle Stops - Written Warnings Issued	64	15



**Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI) Arrests:**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>DWI Arrests</b>	73	94



Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) recognizes Law Enforcement efforts to cut down on drunk driving and hosts a New Jersey Annual Statewide Law Enforcement Recognition Event for Officers that are top DWI Arresting Officers for the year. Our top officers for 2019 were:

<b>Officer</b>	<b># of DWI Arrests</b>
Patrol Officer Eric Danze	13
Patrol Officer Thomas Shough	12

## CITIZEN COMPLAINTS - INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Lower Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective and impartially applied. Officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officer's adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency.

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

The purpose of the department's 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. The confidence engenders community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between police and the citizens they serve facilitates 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 or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of officers.

The Lower Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutor's 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.

In 2019, the Lower Township Police Department investigated a total of **13** complaints regarding on and off duty actions and/or conduct of Lower Township Police Officers and Dispatch as compared with **11** in 2018. Of the **13** investigations handled in 2019, **11** resulted in disciplinary action. In 2019, there were **0** Police Officers suspended for more than 10 days. Below is a list of the type of cases and their dispositions received in 2019:

***Excessive Force (0)***

***Improper Arrest (0)***

***Improper Entry (0)***

***Improper Search (0)***

***Other Criminal Violation (0)***

***Differential Treatment (0)***

***Demeanor Complaint (0)***

***Domestic Violence (1) - Unfounded***

***Other Rule Infractions (12), 11 Sustained, 1 Not Sustained***

***Serious Rule Violation (0)***

The Internal Affairs Division is managed by Captain William Priole.

# OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

## DRUG CRISIS INITIATIVES

### NARCAN

Our Department is continually investing in helping with the drug problems faced by our town, county and nation. One of the immediate impacts is through using the life-saving drug Narcan (naloxone) for drug overdoses. In 2019 our officers deployed Narcan **55** times, saving many of those lives. We are fortunate to receive some of our Narcan through donations from the CURE ministry of the Lighthouse Church in Burleigh and the Greg DiAntonio Memorial Foundation of Wildwood.

It has been proven if Narcan is administered within the first few minutes of an opioid overdose a life can be saved. Narcan does not have adverse effects and is not addictive, it is simply a life-saving drug when given properly.

### PROJECT MEDICINE DROP

Project Medicine Drop is an initiative involving the installation of "prescription drug drop boxes" at participating New Jersey police departments.



For safety reasons, the Project Medicine Drop boxes can **only** accept solid medications such as pills, patches, inhalers, and similar objects. The boxes **cannot** accept liquids, medical waste, or syringes. Consumers wishing to dispose of these objects should speak with their doctors or pharmacists to find the safest and best ways to dispose of them. It should also be noted that consumers may only dispose of **legal** prescription or over-the-counter medications.

During 2019, the Lower Township Police Department collected and disposed of **614** pounds of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications through Project Medicine Drop.

### NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAYS

The Lower Township Police Department participated in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day in the Spring and Fall of 2019. During these days, residents can turn in any unwanted or expired prescription medicines or drugs to Police Officers at a specified location. The program is anonymous and individuals disposing of medications are not required to show identification.



The Department also continues to work with Cape Assist, Cape Counseling, CURE, the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition and Cape May County Prosecutor's Office HOPE ONE Van in the fight against drugs.

## REDUCTION OF IMPAIRED & DISTRACTED DRIVING INITIATIVES

The Lower Township Police Department participates in National and State Campaigns to reduce accidents and fatalities due to impaired and distracted driving. We are proactive in addressing traffic safety through these campaigns throughout the year including:

- Click It or Ticket
- Impaired Driving Enforcement
- Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- Distracted Driving Campaign
- Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over

We also rely on grant funding to help off-set and supplement patrol operations in some of these campaigns and the traffic grants we received last year include:

- The Lower Township Police Department received two grants in the amount of \$25,614.16 to pay for overtime patrols to enforce and combat DWI offenses.  
*(Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over and DDEF Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund)*



- The Lower Township Police Department received a grant in the amount of \$5,500 to help combat Distracted Driving during the NJ Campaign of U Drive, U Text, U Pay.



3. “Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day” – is a National Campaign each year on October 10th, that encourages every driver, pedestrian, motorcyclist and bicyclist to be exceptionally careful so that for at least one day, there will be no fatalities on New Jersey’s roads.



# ADMINISTRATION



**The Lower Township Police Administration** consists of seven Administrators: Chief William Mastriana, Captain Martin Biersbach, Captain William Priole, Lieutenant Donald Vanaman, Lieutenant Douglas Whitten, Lieutenant Kevin Lewis and Administrative Sergeant Robert Hartman, Jr.

**Chief William Mastriana** is responsible for the following:

- The efficiency of the day to day operations of the Police Department
- Administer and enforce rules and regulations and special emergency directives for the disposition and discipline of the department and its officers and personnel
- Have, exercise and discharge the functions, powers and duties of the department personnel
- Prescribe duties and assignments of all subordinates and other personnel
- Delegate such of his authority as he may deem necessary for the efficient operation of the department to be exercised under his direction and supervision
- Report at least monthly, to the appropriate authority, in such form as shall be prescribed, on the operation of the department during the preceding month, and make such other reports as may be requested
- Issue policies/directives
- Meet with community, civic and religious groups
- Prepare and manage the Police Department's budget
- SOPs/Rules & Regulations (manage/update)
- Oversee Detective Bureau
- Oversee Hiring Process

**Captain Martin Biersbach** served as the Executive Officer and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Internal Affairs
- Early Warning/Guardian Tracking
- CI/Confidential Files
- SOPs/Rules & Regulations
- On-Call Administrator
- Review all Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Weekly Command Meetings
- OPRA Requests
- Accreditation Coordinator
- Power DMS Paperless System
- NJ Learn Administrator
- Body Armor & Traffic/DWI Grants
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief
- GPS Tracking Administrator
- Nixle

**Captain William Priole**, Administrative Services Commander, is responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Supervision and Management of NCIC Records and Audits
- Liaison to County Dispatch
- Radio System Administrator
- Building Maintenance
- Weekly Vehicle Inventory Packet
- Emergency Generator
- Fleet Manager
- Photo ID Cards
- Payroll
- Records Section
- Order/Replace Uniforms and Equipment
- Manage Network & Computers at Headquarters with approval from Wes Barber & the Chief
- Alcotest Machine
- Live Scan Fingerprint System
- On-call Administrator
- Manage Accident/Injury Reports (Workers Comp)
- Manage Retirement Events
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief
- OSHA/Right to Know Compliance Officer
- Safety officer
- JIFF Coordinator
- Internal Affairs Investigator

**Lieutenant Donald Vanaman**, Patrol Division Commander, is responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Review Accident, DV, Narcan and Calls for Service Reports
- Traffic and Statistical Data
- Agency Training
- Staff Inspections of Overall Operations
- Accreditation Manager
- Animal Control
- Scheduling
- Monitor Traffic Grants
- New Hires
- Oversee Class II Officer Program
- Review and Track All Use of Force, Pursuit and Bias Incident cases
- On-call Administrator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Captains
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Employee Evaluations
- Manage the Guardian Tracking System
- Bail Reform Coordinator
- Veteran Affairs
- Public Information Officer

**Lieutenant Kevin Lewis**, Administrative Lieutenant, is responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Court Liaison Officer
- Court Discovery Information and Request
- State Mandated Jail Cell Inspections
- Review Accident, DV, Narcan Reports and Calls for Service
- Press Releases
- On-call Administrator
- Alcotest Machine
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Domestic Violence Response Team
- Fire Department Liaison
- Honor Guard Liaison (Nuscis, Scheid)
- Code Enforcement
- Manage and Inspection of Tow Trucks and Logs
- Commercial Vehicle License Inspection
- Approval of Permits
- Volunteer Workers/Coach Applications
- Traffic Coordinator
- Crash Team Coordinator
- Infectious Control Officer
- Project Life Saver
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Captain

**Lieutenant Douglas Whitten** is responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Review and Approve Investigative Reports
- On-call Administrator
- Create and monitor schedule for Detectives
- Ensure adequate coverage for on-duty and on-call periods
- Locate and Recommend Needed/Desired Training
- Manage Neighborhood Watch and other Programs
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Magloclen Liaison (Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network)
- Prosecutor's Office Liaison
- Coordinate Periodic Narcotic Operations
- Manage School Security Plans
- Manage, Approve and Audit Use of CI/Buy Funds

**Administrative Sergeant Robert Hartman, Jr.** is responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Review Accident, DV, Narcan and Calls for Service Reports
- Court Liaison Officer
- Court Discovery Information and Request
- State Mandated Jail Cell Inspections
- Coordinate JV programs (L.E.A.D./Explorers, etc.) (Coombs, Anzelone, Barcas)
- Alcotest Machine
- Code Enforcement
- Manage and Inspection of Tow Trucks and Logs
- Commercial Vehicle License Inspection
- Approval of Permits
- Volunteer Workers/Coach Applications
- Traffic Coordinator
- Crash Team Coordinator
- Infectious Control Officer
- Project Life Saver
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Captains and Lieutenants

**Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing** is responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Monitor Detective's caseload and assign cases
- Review written reports and operational actions
- Bias Crime Officer
- Megan's Law
- Oversee Evidence Unit
- Manage, Oversee and Train on the Use of the Beast System
- Crime Analysis Officer
- Cape May County Child Protective Services Liaison

- Maglocen Liaison (Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network)
- Background Investigation of New Employees (Sworn and Non- Sworn)
- Manage Firearms Background Investigations
- Maintain Gang File
- VICAP Liaison
- Manage Firearms Training and Records
- Manage and Prepare Forfeiture Funds Reports
- Manage Stationhouse Adjustments
- Maintain Necessary Operational Supplies for Detectives
- Conduct Annual Evaluations
- Prepare Quarterly and Annual Report of Unit Statistics
- Manage DWI/DVD Videos and In-house audio for Evidence
- Live Scan Machine
- Project Medicine Drop Off
- Manage Radar Units/Tuning Forks



# PATROL DIVISION

## *Squad Photos*





**The Patrol Division** of the Lower Township Police Department is the largest of all the divisions within the agency with 8 Class II Special Officers (1 additional in the Academy), 26 full time Patrol Officers, 4 Sergeants 4 Corporals, a Sergeant First Class, an Administrative Lieutenant, and a Patrol/Operation's Commander.

The Patrol Division is responsible for responding to all calls for service within the community. This includes but is not limited to all 911 calls, motor vehicle crashes, emergency medical calls, fabricated and natural disasters, fires, reports of crime and disorderly person's offenses. The uniformed patrol division is also expected to provide proactive police services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting commercial and residential property checks, as well as daily well-being checks of our residents. All officers are highly encouraged to initiate contact with community members to incorporate a spirit of cooperation with both our local businesses and citizens alike. The entire department has received training on Narcan (naloxone) deployment for drug overdoses and in 2019, officers continued to deploy Narcan, saving many lives. Officers are bi-annually trained in the use of firearms, pursuit driving and use of force.

Patrol Officers are responsible for initial response, preliminary investigation, and scene preservation of all crimes that occur within the Township. Investigations that are sustained or require ongoing efforts are turned over to the Detective Division.

The Patrol Division utilizes mostly black and white marked patrol vehicles, equipped with emergency lights and sirens, as their primary vehicles. Also utilized are bicycles and plain-clothes patrols to complete specific initiatives or to address particular concerns of the community.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into 4 squads. These squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Patrol shifts are 12 hours rotating night and day shifts every two weeks. A Sergeant and Corporal supervises each squad of 6 to 7 additional full-time patrol officers assigned. Two full time school resource officers are assigned to our schools and supplement the patrol squads throughout the summer months.

Currently the Lower Township Police Department has 8 Special Law Enforcement Class II Officers. Upon graduating, officers receive full New Jersey Police Training Commission Certification as Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers and have the same enforcement powers as full time officers, while they work, within the Township. The Class II officers are assigned to the squads, as needed, overlapping shift changes, providing court security, Diamond Beach coverage, as well as a plethora of other special duties.

The Class II Training Program they attend at the Cape May County Police Academy consists of approximately 451 hours of training. The program includes courses in professionalism, ethics, history of law enforcement, the criminal justice system, New Jersey criminal and motor vehicle laws, laws of arrest, search and seizure, use of force, interviews, confessions and Miranda, laws of evidence, criminal investigation, narcotics, juvenile law, domestic violence, traffic enforcement, vehicle operations, stress management, first aid, community relations, physical fitness, defensive tactics, police baton, firearms and chemical agents. Officers are trained using practical exercises and in using marking firearm cartridges (real life decision-making, under live fire). Additionally, officers receive Community Water Certification and CPR certification through the American Red Cross.

Many officers use this program as a stepping-stone to full time police employment. Officers can apply for sixteen college credits through Atlantic Cape Community College, once they graduate. You may contact the Lower Township Police Department (609) 886-1619, ext. 105, for information about applying as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II.

**Special Law Enforcement Officers (Class II Officers)**

Timothy Urquhart  
Samuel Gellura  
Matthew Reilly  
Hayden Denham

George Cook  
Patrick Dunn  
Patrick Aiken  
Antonio Marroquin

Lieutenant Donald Vanaman is the Patrol Bureau Commander and may be reached at 609-886-1619, extension 148.



*LTPD Officers at the 2019 Douglass Memorial Ceremony*



*Officer William Kocis (pictured far right) receiving the Valor Award*

# DETECTIVE DIVISION



**The Lower Township Detective Division** is comprised of highly trained and motivated officers. These detectives are specially trained in the disciplines and techniques necessary for successful criminal investigations.

The primary function of the Detective Division is to review and conduct detailed investigations on most reported crimes within the Township. The Detective Division Officers are available twenty-four hours a day for serious crimes including, but not limited to, aggravated assault, robbery, arson, fraud, child endangerment, narcotics offenses and sex-related crimes. In addition, specific detectives within the division specialize in narcotics investigations, special victim crimes (juvenile, domestic violence crimes, and crimes against seniors), firearm applications, liquor sales licensing, precious metals licensing and internal affairs.

During 2019, the Detective Division was assigned **198** investigations and conducted an additional **79** follow-up investigations. They also responded to **22** death investigations. The Detective Division conducted **93** Megan's law investigations. They assisted the uniformed Patrol Division in **11** missing person cases, where all parties were located.

The Detective Division conducted all firearms background investigations:

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total Number of Applicants/Investigations	312	280
Firearms ID Cards Only Issued	48	62
Firearms ID Card & Permits Issued	123	82
Permits Only Issued	115	120
Permit to Carry (Renewal) Issued	0	1
Application Denials	7	2
Applications Withdrawn/Not Completed	8	2
Total # of Permits Issued	475	375

The Detective Division conducts all police recruit and police employment background investigations. The Division assists the Lower Township Manager and his staff in conducting any internal township wide investigations.

The Detective Division is tasked with handling Megan's Law registrants within the township. Detective Dallas Bohn 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 as minimal as a change to a different apartment or motel room. Registrant's must also register upon moving into Lower Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

The Lower Township Police Department received a grant in the amount of \$2640.00 for our Cops in Shops Program. Cops in Shops strives to tackle underage drinking through partnerships with local liquor stores and by staying on the lookout for adults who buy alcohol for people who are underage. The program places undercover cops, posing as employees or customers, in stores to stop alcohol purchases from those under 21, or using a fake ID. The campaign also uses posters and newspaper ads to warn against the repercussion of underage drinking. In places like Lower Township, the program is an aid to law enforcement during the hectic summer season.

Lt. Douglas Whitten is the Detective Bureau Commander and is responsible for the supervision of personnel assigned to the bureau. He can be reached at 609-886-1619, extension 126.

Members of the Detective Division include:

Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing  
Detective First Class Michael Majane  
Detective Michael Perry

Detective Dallas Bohn  
Detective Michael James  
Detective Corey Scheid

The Detective Division oversees and maintains all evidence within the police department. Presently, **5297** items are logged into the evidence system, with **901** items be added in 2019.

Primary Evidence Custodian: DFC Michael Majane  
Secondary Evidence Custodian: DSG Brian McEwing  
Secondary Evidence Custodian: Det. Corey Scheid

**DNA/Fingerprint cases: - 6 for 2019**



## **DETECTIVE BUREAU NOTABLE CASES FOR 2019**

### **“Kilo”**

In March of 2019, our Detective Division, in combination with the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office Narcotics Task Force, were working on an investigation involving a large amount of cocaine. Information obtained during the investigation revealed that the narcotics would be inside of a vehicle leaving a residence within the township. At the direction of the investigators, uniformed patrol officers stopped the vehicle shortly after it left the residence.

Within minutes, a Cape May County Sheriff’s Officer K-9 unit arrived to assist in the investigation. This culminated in a positive indication that narcotics were present in the vehicle. The vehicle was impounded and on the following day, a court-authorized search warrant was obtained and executed on the vehicle. The subsequent search resulted in seizing approximately one kilogram of cocaine, a significant amount of U.S. currency and a handgun.

### **“High Speed”**

In March of 2019, detectives again assisted the Cape May County Narcotics Task Force in an operation regarding the sale of a large amount of methamphetamine within the township. As officers and detectives began to converge on the suspect vehicle, the driver fled the area at a high rate of speed. Detectives observed the driver toss a package out of the window as the driver fled. That package was recovered and found to be approximately one pound of methamphetamine. The driver was pursued for a brief period before the chase was stopped to avoid any unnecessary risk to the citizens. A short time later, officers came upon a vehicle in the woods in the Whitesboro section of Middle Township. There, detectives encountered witnesses who stated the driver had fled the scene. Lower Township and Middle Township officers began a search and were able to locate the driver who initially provided a false name.

### **“Shots Fired”**

In July, detectives were called to a home in the North Cape May Section of the township for a shooting. Upon the arrival of Patrol Officers, a victim was found with non-life threatening injuries and transported to the hospital. An adult female on scene was uncooperative with the investigation, however the victim stated that the female’s husband had fired two shots at him then began striking him with a handgun before fleeing the scene. It was also learned that the three had been in the pool drinking shots which initially led to the dispute. Detectives secured the residence and obtained a search warrant in order to collect evidence. Several spent shell casings were recovered, as well as multiple firearms from inside the home, including an assault rifle and high capacity magazines. The suspect returned to the home during the investigation and was arrested without incident.

### **“Gateway Drug”**

In August of 2019, the Detective Division began an investigation into a possible home invasion in the North Cape May section of the township. Detectives learned that the initial report to police was in fact a guise in order to hide that the incident stemmed from a large narcotics transaction. Detectives conducted numerous interviews, which revealed that several subjects had gone to the home to purchase a pound of marijuana.

When they arrived, one of them was directed by the homeowner to go in the back door, where he was attacked. That subject was able to get out of the residence and fled prior to police arrival. The statements provided by those involved, combined with information obtained from previous narcotics intelligence was enough to secure a search warrant for the residence. Upon the execution of that search warrant, a large amount of marijuana was located in both its conventional form and in wax form. Cash and marijuana packaging materials were also discovered during the search.

### **“Gone Bad”**

In October, Detectives were called to a stabbing in the Villas section of the Township. Upon the arrival of Patrol Officers, the victim was located with a laceration to his left ear. The victim initially stated that he was confronted by an unknown male who attacked him with a knife. The male then fled on foot, prior to police arrival. Detectives began to process the scene and conduct interviews of other household members. During the investigation, a cell phone was found which was believed to be the suspect's. On the screen of the cell phone was a message from another resident in the home. While still on scene, a male subject walked up to detectives and claimed to have been involved in the incident. He was placed under arrest and transported to the station where he provided a formal statement, claiming that he was picked up by the alleged victim and another resident with the intentions of purchasing Methamphetamine. After getting into their vehicle to buy the drugs, he was attacked and his money taken. With this information, a Search Warrant was prepared and executed on the residence and numerous items were seized including suspected Methamphetamine, a "BB" gun, CDS paraphernalia, consistent with CDS distribution, and a fraudulent \$100 dollar bill.

### **“Child’s Play”**

In November, Patrol Officers responded to a 911 call of a subject claiming to have been robbed at gunpoint. The victim stated that he went to a residence in the Villas section of the township with a friend to purchase marijuana. Upon entering through a rear door he was immediately struck in the face by a man holding a black handgun and wearing mask. The man pointed the gun at him while a juvenile went through his pockets, taking \$180.00. A Search Warrant was secured for the residence. During the execution of the warrant, a juvenile was found in the home along with the adult friend that had originally accompanied the victim. While at the home, detectives received information that two more subjects involved in the robbery were at another location nearby. Detectives and officers responded to that residence where they took another juvenile and adult into custody. The adult was found to be in possession of a mask and money that was identified as the victim's.

***A majority of the cases investigated by the Detective Division are sensitive in nature and therefore no summaries have been provided. During 2019, the division investigated 25 sexual assaults, many of which resulted in charges of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree.***

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM



William Barcas



Eric Coombs

**The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program** has been in place for the past 25 years and continues today as a collaborative effort with the Lower Cape May Regional School District. Patrol Officer William Barcas is assigned to the Lower Cape May Regional High School and Patrol Officer Eric Coombs is assigned to Richard M. Teitelman School and both report to Lieutenant Douglas Whitten.

### **Goals and Duties of the School Resource Officer:**

1. Provide law enforcement and police services to the school, school grounds and areas adjacent to the school. Investigate allegations of criminal incidents per police department policies and procedures. Enforce state and local laws and ordinances. Make appropriate referrals to juvenile authorities or other governmental agencies.
2. Work to prevent juvenile delinquency through close contact and positive relationships with students. In addition the SRO shall develop crime prevention programs and conduct security inspections to deter criminal or delinquent activities. The SRO should monitor crime statistics and work with local patrol officers and students together to design crime prevention strategies.
3. Establish and maintain a close partnership with school administrators in order to provide for a safe school environment. Assist school officials with their efforts to enforce Board of Education policies and procedures. Ensure school administrator safety by being present during searches of school premises, including K-9 searches, which may involve weapons or controlled dangerous substances, or in such cases that, the student's emotional state may present a risk to the administrator. Assist school administrators in emergency crisis planning and building security matters. Provide a course of training for school personnel in handling crisis situations, which may arise at the school.
4. Be visible within the school community. Attend and participate in school functions. Build working relationships with the school's staff as well as with student and parent groups.

5. Develop and implement classes in law related education to support the educational efforts of the faculty. Work closely with teachers in designing and presenting law-related topics and the role of police in our society.
6. Work with guidance counselors and other student support staff to assist students and to provide services to students involved in situations where referrals to service agencies are necessary. Assist in conflict resolution efforts.
7. Initiate interaction with students in the classroom and general areas of the school building. Promote the profession of police officer and be a positive role model. Increase the visibility and accessibility of police to the school community.
8. Reports to Superintendent of School District and Lower Township Chief of Police, or designee, when assigned to the Police Department

**The Law Enforcement Against Drugs Program, (L.E.A.D.),** teaches the Too Good for Drugs curriculum and provides substance abuse awareness sessions for all *sixth grade students*.



*The Lower Township Police Department's L.E.A.D. Car*

The Too Good for Drugs (TGFD) program is a school-based drug prevention program designed to reduce students' intention to use alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs, while promoting pro-social attitudes, skills, and behaviors. The program seeks to build the self-confidence of students so they are better able to make healthy choices and achieve success. Although there are different objectives across grade levels, promoting positive, pro-social attitudes and fostering healthy relationships is a running theme throughout the program's curriculum. Overall, TGFD seeks to develop positive peer norms; appropriate attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use; personal and interpersonal skills relating to alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use; knowledge of the negative consequences of alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drug use; and finally the knowledge of the benefits of living a drug-free lifestyle.

It uses the social influence model and the cognitive-behavioral model as its framework for the prevention program. In developing the program, the Mendez Foundation sought to develop the skills of students so that they are better able to resist peer pressure and make responsible, healthy decisions. TGFD uses a developmentally appropriate curriculum that specifically concentrates on five social and emotional learning skills, (listed below), that have been shown to promote healthy development and academic success:

1. Goal setting
2. Decision making
3. Bonding with pro-social others
4. Identifying and managing emotions
5. Communicating effectively with others.

As a long-term prevention program, the TGFD curriculum builds on the curriculum in the previous grade level, requiring students to develop skills and use these skills year after year. At each grade level the TGFD program consists of:

1. 10 core curriculum lessons, including an interactive workbook delivered by trained teachers/TGFD instructors
2. A “Looking for More” component at the end of each lesson that includes suggestions for additional readings, videotapes, and activities to further reinforce the skills learned
3. Parental involvement, including newsletters and homework assignments for families
4. Community inclusion
5. A Staff Development Curriculum that is provided to educators

As part of the elementary school curriculum, the program introduces and fosters social and emotional skills to assist students in making healthy choices, developing positive friendships, communicating effectively, and resisting peer pressure. These lessons seek to teach the fundamental elements of a healthy lifestyle that can be further developed during adolescence.

The Lower Township Police Department has conducted this type of program in the Lower Township Schools since 1993. To date, over **6,409** Lower Township students have gone through the program which is now taught at the Sandman Consolidated School sixth grade. This program is 8 to 10 weeks long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. In 2019, approximately **225** students were taught the L.E.A.D. Program.

Graduates of the program are given a day of fun, exploration & learning, known as L.E.A.D. Day

### *L.E.A.D. Day 2019*





**L.E.A.D. Day 2019**



# RECORDS DIVISION



**The Records Division** of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions as well as supporting Administration and performing a variety of other services. Areas of support includes and is not limited to:

- Records/Reports – Manage Case Files which include Investigation, Supplemental Investigation, Sudden Death, Special Reports, etc.
- Firearms – NJ Firearms Identification Cards, Permits to Purchase, Permits to Carry & Voluntary Registrations (Implementing new NJSP online Firearms Application & Registration System (FARS))
- Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests
- Processing of Fingerprints (Criminal & Non-Criminal Prints)
- FBI/SBI File Index
- Motor Vehicle Accident Reports & Violations (Tickets)
- Burglar Alarm, Property Check & Business Registries
- Correspondence Liaison
- Departmental Purchasing
- Payroll Preparation & Processing
- Human Resources Functions
- Budget Planning and Preparation Assistance
- Grant Management
- Collect and Prepare Data for Command Approval
- Process Mail and Delivery
- Staff the Customer Window & Records Telephone/Email Inquires
- Receives, logs & deposits monies from applications & other processing requests.
- Issuing Licenses for Coin Drop, Dumpsters, Moving Modulars, etc.
- Copy reports for Civilians, Attorneys, Law Enforcement Agencies & Insurance Cos.
- Process Expungement Orders
- Prepare Monthly Statistics
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports

- Records Retention/Destruction for all Sections of PD within State guidelines
- Sending/Posting of Press Releases
- Nixle 360 Administration
- Assist with Social Media & Website Management
- Process Mobile Video Recorder (MVR) Requests
- Assist with Troubleshooting of Computer Equipment, Camera Equipment, etc.
- Assist with Accreditation
- TAC Officer Tasks & Responsibilities
  - Complete entries into NCIC programs as well as ACS/ATS, hit confirmation and CJIS look up's and research
  - Maintain the police active files for several files to include:
  - Check the entries of all the trained and certified terminal operators for the complete and correct information
  - Correct any incomplete information and obtain the correct information when necessary
  - Complete monthly validations
  - Conduct and complete CCH, firearms and employee background checks
  - TAC officer training of terminal operators and certifications
  - Audit and Record Retention
  - Requests from Municipal Court

The Records Division staff consists of the following employees:

Susan Wilson  
 Karen Wolf  
 Joanne Budd  
 Jania Bailey  
 Suzanne Scheid  
 Aaren Larkin



## LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE CHAPLAINS



*Annual Christmas Luncheon sponsored by our Chaplains - December 2019*

The Chaplain Program began as an innovative approach to meeting several needs in our community. Chaplains of all faiths work with law enforcement personnel on a professional level by making themselves immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist in times of loss, confusion, depression or grief, to people in crisis situations. The Chaplains provide this service to Law Enforcement and to all department employees and their families as well.

The Chaplain Program is administered by The Chief of Police and coordinated by Pastor Scott Durbin. The Chaplain must be ordained or commissioned. There are several volunteer Chaplains who participate in the program. They are provided with necessary training and resources in return for hundreds of hours of volunteer service.

The duties of the Police Chaplain may include, but are not limited to:

- Riding along with officers on routine patrol on various shifts
- Accompanying an officer to assist with notification of any suicide, death or serious injury
- Working with police officers to assist in any kind of crisis situation where the presence of a trained chaplain might help
- Counseling Department members in response to stress or family crisis problems. Any such assistance will be privileged and confidential between the officer and chaplain involved
- Visiting with sick or injured members of the Department at their home or in the hospital.
- Offering prayers at special occasions such as recruit graduations, award ceremonies and dedications of buildings, etc.
- Serving on review boards and/or other committees
- Advising the Chief of Police in all matters of a religious nature involving the Police Department and performance of law enforcement duties in the community
- Chaplains shall act as liaison with local ministerial associations and on matters pertaining to the moral, spiritual, and religious welfare of police personnel
- Assisting the Police Department in the performance of appropriate ceremonial functions.
- Providing practical assistance to victims
- Assisting at suicide incidents
- Chaplains Christmas Luncheon

# SPECIALIZED UNITS

## HONOR GUARD



The Lower Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Lower Township Police Department at official functions. The Honor Guard performs its task with a military regime; the members wear a formal uniform blouse.

**Members of the Honor Guard include:**

Detective First Class Michael Perry  
Detective Michael James  
Patrol Officer Michael Nuscis

Detective James McNulty  
Detective Corey Scheid



## CRASH TEAM

Members of the Lower Township Crash Investigation Team have specialized training to investigate serious motor vehicle crashes. Their training is through Northwestern University and Institute of Police Technology and Management. The courses are: Crash I, Crash II, Pedestrian Crash, Motorcycle Crash, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Vehicle Dynamics and Traffic Crash Reconstruction.

These training courses allow the unit to complete the following at a crash scene (if necessary):

- 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
- Motorcycle collisions
- Semi truck/commercial vehicle accidents

The Lower Township Crash Team uses the following equipment, if necessary, to assist with crash investigations: Laser Impulse, Recon Data Recorder, Map Star System Angle Encoder, Prism and Pole, Drag Boot, Power and Lighting Equipment, Laptop with Crash Zone, Measuring Tapes, Marking Paint, Chalk, and other miscellaneous equipment.

The Crash Team meets periodically during the year for training updates and familiarization with the equipment. Some Lower Township Police Crash Team members respond with the Cape May County Fatal Unit to assist with other serious crashes throughout the county. The Crash Team is led by Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing.

### **Members include:**

DSG Brian McEwing

SRO Eric Coombs

Patrol Officer Stephen Flitcroft

Patrol Officer Kaitlin Black

Patrol Officer Jason Felsing

## BIKE PATROL



# OUTSIDE AGENCY ROLES

## SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)



The Lower Township Police maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 25 years. In 2006, 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. 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.

Team members undergo a very rigorous training schedule, tactically, mentally and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as officers, and 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. Upon vacancies on the team, tryouts are advertised by the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office and individual Police Departments nominate officers to represent their departments. The tryouts are coordinated and conducted by current members of the SWAT team. Tryouts consist of a physical fitness assessment, firearms qualifications as well as a timed combat course. Following the tryouts, each candidate is interviewed by the SWAT Team leadership. The SWAT team will then make selections to fill their needs. Those selected must then attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course. Team operators are required to train at least 12 hours per month, for a total of 144 hours a year. Training sessions are held two times per month, with an additional 6 hours training per month, for the sniper element.

The Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was activated **41** times in 2019. The Mainland Division was called out on **30** of those assignments. The SWAT Team was also used for mutual aid for out of county assistance on **3** separate occasions. These call outs involved assisting the FBI, DEA, Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office and Atlantic City Police Department. Along with the SWAT callouts, the SWAT Team provided security for the Sea Isle City Polar Bear Plunge, USCG Family Festival, Wildwood Roar to the Shore Motorcycle Event and City of Wildwood Beach Concerts.

### **Lower Township Police Officers assigned to the Regional SWAT Team include:**

Detective First Class Michael Perry  
Patrol Officer Jordan Saini

Patrol Officer Eric Danze  
Patrol Officer William Kocis

# 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.

Lieutenant Donald Vanaman is the Department Training Coordinator. Duties are to keep track of all the department training, mandatory as well as any additional in-service training officers receive, and to maintain all training records for each officer in the agency. Lieutenant Kevin Lewis assists with training and education as well.

The men and women of the Lower Township Police Department attended a wide variety of in service training courses throughout 2019 including but not limited to:

## **Leadership -**

- NJSACOP Command and Leadership Training
- NJSACOP Police Executive Institute
- FBI NAA New Jersey Conference
- IACP National Conference
- NJSACOP 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Training Conference & Police Security Expo
- NJSACOP Crisis Communication and Media Relations Course
- Effective Review of Use of Force Incidents
- NJ Learn Supervisor Training
- Incident Command System (ICS) 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents
- ICS 400 Advanced ICS , Command & General Staff
- Transitioning to Supervision – Supervisor Development Course
- 29<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Forum
- MEL Leadership Skills Class
- Valor Executive Leadership Workshop

## **Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Enforcement –**

- Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Detection and SFST Course
- NJSP Alcotest 7110 Operator's Course
- NJSP Alcotest 7110 Operator Re-Certifications
- Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Certification & Re-certification
- NJSP Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) Course
- Cops in Court: Report Writing & Trial Testimony for DREs

## **Crash Investigations –**

### **Standards of Conduct –**

- Basic Internal Affairs Course

### **Active Shooter –**

- FLETC Active Shooter Threat Instructor Training
- Active Shooter Training (CMCPA) (LTPD)

### **Domestic Violence –**

- Domestic Violence Training
- DV and the Use of Technology

### **School Security/Community Policing –**

- Sports Events Risk Management
- FBI NAA School Shooting Prevention Leadership Forum
- LEAD Instructor Course
- Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Drug & Violence Prevention Conference
- Juvenile Decision-Making Influence and the Criminal Justice Role
- United States Secret Service Safe School Initiative Presentation
- Preventing School Shootings

### **Safety/Risk Management –**

- Lower Township Safety Committee Participation
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
- Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) Below 100 Training
- JIF Strategies
- Resiliency Training
- JIF - The Risks of Social Media in the Workplace (PoliceOne)
- HazMat Awareness Refresher 2019-2020 (NJLearn)
- MEL – Attention and Distracted Driving Course (NJMEL.org)
- MEL - S;ERVE – EVOC Intersection Analysis Course (NJMEL.org)

### **Officer Development –**

- Police Academy Training
- Agency Training
- Field Training
- Field Training Officer (FTO) Course
- Street Survival Seminar – Calibre Press
- Methods of Instruction (MOI)
- CODIS Overview and Update
- Firearms Instructor's Course
- Rifle Operator's Course

- Rifle Instructor's Course
- Taser (CED) Re-certification
- 2019 Cape May County In-service Training
- 2019 Spring and Fall Firearms Qualifications
- Report Writing
- Arrest, Search, & Seizure Updates
- Search & Seizure for Proactive Policing
- Advanced Search & Seizure Training
- Suspect Interview Techniques
- ESPOS Legal Updates
- CED (Taser) Instructor Attorney General update on Use of Force
- Social Media for Criminal Investigations
- Top Gun Course (Class 55)
- JIF Class II Training
- The Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) Drug Recognition Course
- Crime Prevention Course
- Patrol Narcotics Investigations
- Zoom in on Crime Scene and Evidence Photography
- Criminal Investigations
- Advanced Criminal Investigation Techniques
- Cyber Training
- REID Interviewing & Interrogation Course
- Advanced Professional Policing Practices Seminar
- Cell Phone Investigations
- Introduction to Hidden Compartments in Motor Vehicles
- Undercover Narcotics Investigation Training (U.N.I.T. Class 41)
- Attorney General Immigration Directive 2018-6 Training (NJLearn)
- Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) Training
- Ambush Awareness and Preparation (PoliceOne)
- Hazpower Emergency Response (PowerDMS)
- Attorney General Directive 2019-02 & ERPO Training (PowerDMS)(NJ Learn)
- CJIS Re-Certification Course 2019-2020 (NJLearn)

**Cape May County Regional Team Training/Participation –**

- Academi SWAT School
- Cape May County Regional SWAT Team training
- Cape May County Regional Sniper Team Training
- Cape May County Crisis Negotiations Team Training
- Field Force Operations Training
- Crisis Negotiations Seminar

### **Medical/Emotional Training/Special Needs Response –**

- NJ Bleeding Control Initiative for Law Enforcement
- NJ First Responder Bleeding Control (Train-the-trainer)
- Crisis Intervention Training (CIT)
- FLETC Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Program
- Addiction Training Seminar
- CPR, First Aid, AED
- JIF - Excited Delirium Training
- PRIDE Conference -
- Mental Health First Aid & Safe Spaces for LGBTQI Youth
- Responding to People with Mental Illness (PoliceOne)
- The Essential Components of De-Escalation and Conflict Resolution
- Attorney General Directive 2019-1 Law Enforcement Resiliency (PowerDMS)

### **Counter/Cyber Terrorism –**

- NJOHSP - Emergency Operations Planning for Houses of Worship
- Jurisdictional Threat, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Awareness
- Advanced Critical Infrastructure Protection
- Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks
- FBI FTU Liaison Day
- Surveillance Detection for Law Enforcement and Security Professionals
- NJOHSP – Current Operating Environment Briefing
- Outlaw Motorcycle Gang (OMG) Conference
- Evacuation and Re-Entry Planning
- Active Threat Integration Response Course (ATIRC)
- Cybersecurity Threats to Public Entities (PoliceOne)
- Protection from Ransomware and Phishing Attacks (PoliceOne)

### **Crimes Against Persons –**

- CLEAR Sexual Assault Training (Train-the-trainer)
- CLEAR Sexual Assault Courses (NJLearn)
- Trauma-Informed Investigations
- Hate Crimes Symposium
- Basic Homicide Investigation Course – International Homicide Investigations Assoc.
- Finding Words/Child First Course
- Crime Victim's Rights Week Conference
- Child Abduction & Missing Persons Training
- Civil Rights/Color of Law Symposium
- Complexities of Sexual Assault Investigations

- Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) Training
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sex Crimes Conference
- NJ Bias Crimes Training

#### **Police Benevolent Association (PBA) NJ –**

- PBA Conference (Collective Bargaining)
- PBA State Conference
- National PBA Conference
- State/Local PBA Meetings

#### **Miscellaneous –**

- Survival Training
- 2019 NJ Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Update
- Field Intelligence Officer Training
- CLOUD Sharing Video Evidence Training
- Firearms Application and Registration System Training
- We Check for 21 Training and Campaign
- Community Noise Enforcement Re-Certification
- 2019 UCR Fall Training
- NIXLE User Group Training



*2020 Annual Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD) Drug & Violence Prevention Conference*

## Field Training Officers (FTO)

All Police Officers hired by the Lower 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 from the academy, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. This FTO program is an additional 4 months of intensive training and evaluation in which the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. This 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.

### Field Training Officers

Lt. Kevin Lewis	Lt. Douglas Whitten
Sgt. Charles Ryan	DSG. Brian Mc Ewing
Sgt. John Armbruster	Det. Michael James
Sgt. Ryan Hansberry	Det. Corey Scheid
Cpl. Jennifer Elwell	Det. James McNulty
Cpl. Michael Szemcsak	SRO William Barcas
Cpl. Anthony Greto	SRO Eric Coombs
Officer Robert Fessler	
Officer Kevin Boyle, Jr.	
Officer Stephen Flitcroft	
Officer Kaitlin Black	
Officer Michael Nuscis	
Officer Jordan Saini	
Officer Anthony Micciche	
Officer Adam Hegarty	
Officer Eric Danze	
Officer William Kocis	
Officer Kenneth Walker	



## **Police Department members who hold the position of Instructor:**

In addition to their normal work duties, several Lower Township Police Officers have attained the position of being an instructor in a specific field or multiple fields. These officers conduct interdepartmental 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:

### **Detective Division**

#### **1. Lt. Douglass Whitten**

- Field Training Officer Program
- Fair And Impartial Policing
- Mobile Field Force Operations
- Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation & Bias Crime Reporting
- Narcan Train The Trainer
- M.O.I.
- Pressure Point Control Tactic Instructor
- Defensive Tactics/Expandable Baton

#### **2. DSG. Brian McEwing**

- Conducted Energy Device Instructor
- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- Human Trafficking

#### **3. DFC. Michael Majane**

- Expandable Baton Instructor
- Police Service Rifle (M4) Instructor
- Human Trafficking
- Vehicle Operations Instructor
- M.O.I.
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Firearm's Instructor
- Survival Training/MILO Instructor

#### **4. Det. Michael Perry**

- Active Shooter
- Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation & Bias Crime Reporting
- Fair And Impartial Policing
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Nark II Field Test Instructor

#### **5. Det. Michael Iames**

- M.O.I.
- Vehicle Operations Instructor
- Radar Instructor
- Human Trafficking

**6. Det. Corey Scheid**

- M.O.I.

**7. SRO Eric Coombs**

- Bike Instructor
- Not Even One, Train The Trainer
- LEAD

**8. SRO William Barcas**

- M.O.I.
- Response to Individuals with Special Needs

**Patrol Division:**

**Squad 1**

**1. Sgt. Charles Ryan**

- M.O.I.
- Firearm's Instructor
- A.L.E.R.R.T. Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training
- Active Shooter Train The Trainer, Camden County Police Academy Retc
- Train The Trainer, In The Line Of Duty Deaths

**Squad 2**

**1. Sgt. Ryan Hansberry**

- Firearm's Instructor
- Rifle Instructor

**2. Cpl. Jennifer Anzelone-Elwell**

- M.O.I.
- L.E.A.D.
- Critical Intervention Training (CIT) Instructor
- Blood Borne Pathogens

**Squad 3**

**1. Sgt. John Armbruster**

- M.O.I.
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Defensive Tactics/Expandable Baton Instructor
- Blood borne Pathogens, Train The Trainer / Toolbox Essentials

**2. Cpl. Matthew Gamble**

- Road Wise, Train The Trainer

**3. Officer Stephen Flitcroft**

- Police Work Zone Safety, Train The Trainer
4. **Officer Louis Bartleson**
    - Response to Individuals with Special Needs
  5. **Officer Eric Danze**
    - Firearm's Instructor
    - Rifle Instructor
    - M.O.I.
  6. **Officer Anthony Micciche**
    - Advanced Bicycle Operations Instructor
    - L.E.A.D.
  7. **Officer Kenneth Walker**
    - Firearm's Instructor

#### **Squad 4**

1. **Sgt. Robert Smith Jr.**
  - Train The Trainer, In The Line Of Duty Deaths
  - Critical Intervention Training (CIT) Instructor
2. **Officer Michael Szemcsak**
  - M.O.I.
  - Physical Fitness Instructor
  - Drill Instructor
3. **Officer Kaitlin Black**
  - M.O.I.
  - Law Enforcement Response To Individuals With Special Needs, Train The Trainer
4. **Officer Michael Nuscis**
  - M.O.I.
  - Physical Fitness Instructor
  - Modified Radar Instructor
  - Train The Trainer Work Zone Safety Awareness
  - Train The Trainer De-Escalation
  - Mobile Field Force Operations
  - Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation & Bias Crime Reporting
5. **Officer Jordan Saini**
  - Firearm's Instructor
  - Taser (CED) Instructor
  - Survival Training Instructor
  - Tactical Medical Instructor



## **NIXLE 360°**

Lower Township has partnered with Nixle to implement its Community Notification System to alert residents in real-time for localized emergency situations and relevant community advisories from the Township.

Through Nixle, the township is able to provide residents with the latest alerts, advisories and community notifications that our previous emergency alert service provided. Nixle 360° is designed to consolidate several notification systems into one easy to use platform. This new service has streamlined the public notification process by providing information to the community by text message, email, voice calls and social media. Nixle also includes a component for citizens to report anonymous tips.

All Alerts are targeted geographically, allowing residents to receive localized, relevant alerts from Lower Township. Nixle Alerts can be received via Text, Email, Voice, Web, Social Media and the Nixle Mobile App in an instant. Nixle is partnered with National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) for superior data security, as well as the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the National Blue Alert Network and Google for unmatched reach and two-way information exchange. For law enforcement, Nixle enables community-policing outreach in new ways. Building a communications structure can help solve crimes, build safer communities and promote a positive dialogue and partnership between residents and law enforcement.

In 2019, the Lower Township Police Department became the first local agency to receive IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert & Warning System) Certification through FEMA. In an emergency this enables us to send messages to ALL cell phones in our geographical area, in addition to TV and radio broadcast messages.

**Citizens are encouraged to register for emergency and community notifications by texting LTPD to 888777 or visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) to register and see all of the notification options.**

## COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- Cop Stop Program was held at local businesses to facilitate police/citizen interaction
- Officer Phil Program at all elementary schools
- Memorial School Kindergarten visit at the Lower Twp. Public Safety Building
- Law Enforcement United/Police Unity Tour
- Escape the Cape
- Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
- Lower Township Fireworks and Club at Diamond Beach Fireworks
- Whale of a Day Festival
- Summer Youth Camp
- Douglass/Coombs Run
- Annual National Night Out Event at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal
- Blue Knights MC Ride
- Lower Township Schools - Back to School Nights
- Sunset Beach 9/11 Ceremony
- Provide Patrol and Traffic Assistance for Multiple “Runs & Races” during the year
  - Beach to Brewery Run 10k
  - Run the Vineyards Down the Shore
  - NJ Run for the Fallen
  - Crest Best 10 Mile
  - Cape May Hallowed Half
  - Cape May Fitness 5k Turkey Trot
- Lower Township Health Fair
- Classic Car Cruise to Nauti Spirits
- Harpoon’s Classic Car Show
- 1st Responder Appreciation Day – Seashore Community Church
- School & Township Halloween Parades
- Autumn Festival & Trunk or Treat
- Veteran’s Day Parade
- Anchor Bowl – LCMR
- Lower Township Hospitality Night
- Lower Township Tree Lighting Ceremony & Veteran’s Tribute
- Annual Lower Township Kid’s Christmas
- Lower Township Annual Rotary Christmas Parade
- West Cape May Christmas Parade
- Police Chaplain’s Luncheon
- Police Appreciation Breakfast at Uncle Bill’s
- Captain Martin Biersbach’s Funeral

## LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS



## POLICE UNITY TOUR



## LAW ENFORCEMENT UNITED TOUR



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – 2019



**LOWER TOWNSHIP VETERAN'S DAY PARADE**



**POLICE APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**



**SCHOOL VISIT**



# Summer Youth Camp

In 2017, The Lower Township Police Department began offering a free police youth camp for students who will be entering 6th, 7th and 8th grades. The summer camp is a week-long event with a graduation at the county park.

The camp is designed to foster a positive and healthy interaction between police officers and the children in our community. Young people attending the camp will focus on building self-esteem, teamwork, good decision-making, communication skills and other educational lessons focused on life skills.

Some of the activities include:

- K-9 Demonstrations
- Boat Trips
- Field Trips
- Police Drills
- SWAT Demonstrations
- Police Simulators



# CAPTAL & MAJOR PURCHASES

## CAPITAL PURCHASES

- Message Board with Radar
- 2019 Ford Interceptor AWD
- 2019 Ford Expedition 4x4

## MAJOR PURCHASES

- The Lower Township Police Department received Body Armor Grants in 2019 in the amount of \$19,863.24 to use towards the purchase of body armor for the officers. Most body armor comes with an expiration date of five years, so it is a continuing expense for the department.



# 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Administrative Division

- Implemented new Scheduling/Payroll Software (PlanIt) - this successful implementation of this software has allowed the agency to go paperless with its payroll system and scheduling. This software has increased the ability to track leave, training, court, etc. with each officer having the ability to access the software remotely through web-based platforms on mobile devices and computers.
- Restructured the Police Administrative Staff greatly increasing the ability to effectively manage the department. The new structure has added a second Captain's position and a third Lieutenant's position.
- All General Orders were reviewed, updated, and published during 2019. They were re-formatted so that they are easier to read with the focus of clear direction on the officers' responsibilities.

## Patrol Division

- Six additional officers were trained in the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course. In 2019, the department increased our DWI arrests by approximately 29 percent. Two new officers completed the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) Course. Nine officers were re-certified on the Alcotest 7110 breathalyzer by the NJSP. Two new officers completed their initial Alcotest Operator's training, now certified by the NJSP. Our Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) were active throughout the year maintaining their certifications and receiving advance court room testimony and report writing training.
- Additionally, a Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) trained instructor was added to the program. Community Policing events were successfully held throughout the year with additional training completed in all aspects of community relations.

## Detective Division

- Purchased and implemented a technology used to analyze bulk sets of phone numbers during investigations. Effective law enforcement requires the ability to identify and locate persons, detect patterns, and create comprehensive, actionable intelligence. Whooster LE data products rapidly deliver the information you need, by filtering billions of fresh records. Currently partnering with more than 850 law enforcement divisions, the proprietary technology is unique in the industry—allowing you to acquire information within seconds on your handheld device. At a crime scene and during the aftermath, First Responders and others need to know who they are speaking with, and the location of persons of interest. Police use secure agency information platforms, intelligence products, and tools like Whooster LE to assess identity and add to current intelligence.



# GOALS FOR 2020

## Administrative Division

- **Review and Update all Rules and Regulations**  
Complete review and revision of all Rules and Regulations to reflect updates in Police Department Authority (Powers & Duties), Application of Rules and Regulations, and the Police Manual. In addition, the policies are being re-formatted to be easy to read and clear on direction and officer responsibilities in areas to include but not limited to general rules & regulations, chain-of-command, personnel regulations, and discipline.
- **Prepare for and complete the scheduled NJSACOP 3 Year Re-Accreditation Process.**  
This voluntary law enforcement program directly influences comprehensive and effective police leadership through professionally based policy development. This program is thorough, complete, obtainable, and based on standards that reflect professional best practices. Our agency will be required to meet the program standards set forth by the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. The accomplishment of this goal represents a significant professional achievement and acknowledges that an agency's policies and procedures are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

## Patrol Division

- **Create a Community Policing/Tactical Patrol Unit**  
Create and staff a unit that will supplement the normal 4-patrol squad schedule with the ability to address community policing and target enforcement needs of the township. The unit will be comprised of the top performing officers, on a rotating basis, who have demonstrated an ability to both interact well with the community and simultaneously address known problems. It will also allow for greater scheduling flexibility, while addressing real-time issues, which will not disrupt the normal minimum staffing requirements of the patrol division.
- **Continue to Educate, Train, and Prepare the Patrol Division for the inevitable Legalization and De-criminalization of Marijuana in New Jersey**  
The legalization of marijuana in New Jersey will significantly affect the safety of our roadways, with a natural increase in individuals driving under the influence of intoxicating substances other than alcohol. New Jersey currently provides no per se standard for impairment of marijuana or other drugs comparable to alcohol. The challenge will be identifying newly impaired drivers and prosecuting them without a conventional means. The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) provide necessary tools to bridge the identified gap in prosecuting these cases. The Patrol Division currently has three DRE trained officers and approximately fourteen trained ARIDE officers. The Patrol Division will expand our DRE and ARIDE programs by implementing, training, and equipping additional officers with the tools to combat impaired driving. In 2019, the Lower Township Police Department saw an approximate increase of 29% in DWI arrests with an above average prosecution rate when compared to the state average. This increase is due to proactive police enforcement, citizen reporting, state grants, and effective enforcement campaigns. Increasing the safety of our roadways will remain a continuous goal of the Patrol Division.

## **Detective Division**

- **Continue to increase the number of Narcotics Investigations**

In the notable cases portion of this report we related several significant narcotics seizures. As in previous years we recognize the disastrous impact on our community caused by the heroin epidemic. Our objective is the apprehension and successful prosecution of those involved in the distribution of this deadly narcotic and those responsible for the emergence of methamphetamine in our community. Therefore, the continuing goal of the detective division is to increase the number of narcotics investigations. With recent personnel changes in the division we believe we have enhanced our abilities, thus our investigators will continue working with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office Gangs, Guns and Narcotics Task Force and other jurisdictions. Our hope is to continue the fluid information sharing that makes these types of investigations productive. Additionally, by analyzing intelligence and increased surveillance activity, plus the further development of confidential informants, we expect an increase in narcotics arrests and seizure of contraband and property related to narcotics trafficking.

- **Pair Detectives and Patrol Officers in a Street Crimes Unit**

Create and staff a unit that will supplement the normal 4 patrol squad schedule with the ability to proactively address crimes and target enforcement needs of the Township. This unit will be comprised of the top performing officers, on a rotating basis, within the detective division who have demonstrated an ability to both interact well with the community and simultaneously address known problems. It will also allow for great scheduling flexibility, while addressing real-time issues, which will not disrupt the normal minimum staffing requirements of the patrol division.

## **Technology and Communications**

- Replace the Mobile Data Computers in all the front-line Patrol Vehicles.