

2021 Annual Report



Community Service Since 1955



Report Managed and Directed by:

Chief Kevin Lewis

Captain Donald Vanaman

Lieutenants Charles Ryan, John Armbruster and Robert Smith

Report Compiled and Produced by Susan Wilson

April 28, 2022



Table of Contents

Letter from the Chief of Police & Mission Statement	4
NJSACOP Accreditation Program	6
Organization & Personnel	7
Calls for Service, Criminal Activity	10
Use of Force, Police Pursuits, Police Injuries and Accidents	15
Vehicle Related Incidents	16
Internal Affairs	18
Operational Initiatives	19
Administration	22
Patrol Division	27
Detective Division	31
Support Operations Unit	35
School Resource Officer Program	36
Records Division	39
Police Chaplains	41
Specialized Units	43
Outside Agency Roles	45
Training and Education	46
Community Projects and Programs	53
2021 Accomplishments	62
2021 Goals	66

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

It is my pleasure to present the 2021 Lower Township Police Department's Annual Report.

The Lower Township Police Department is comprised of fifty full-time dedicated sworn men and women, four Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) Class II, and six civilian employees who provide administrative/logistical support as well as a wide range of services to our community. We have a renewed focus on Honor, Integrity and Service. Community-oriented policing with an emphasis on a high quality of service, transparency and accountability is our new cornerstone. Officer safety and the well-being of our community and its visitors are paramount.

In 2021, the police department accomplished six significant professional milestones.



(1) In March of 2021, the department was re-accredited by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Accreditation Program Commissioners, after an extensive assessment process.

(2) The Police Administration implemented an enormous amount of police reform to include, but not limited to, new Use of Force, Internal Affairs, Body Worn Cameras (BWC), Warrant Executions, Legalization/De-criminalization of Marijuana, Diversity in Recruiting, Reducing Implicit Bias and De-escalation through newly trained strategies and tactics.

(3) Our Police Chaplaincy program was formalized and highly modified. Lower Township Police Chaplains have undergone an extensive background process, been formally trained, and have sworn an oath. Our Police Chaplains are now embedded with the department and have expanded their outreach, offering a plethora of services available to our officers/employees and the community as a whole.

(4) There has been a paradigm shift in law enforcement towards technology. Technology is allowing us to be more efficient in our efforts to deter, prevent, as well as, investigate and solve crimes. The department released a completely new website, which now features online job applications, historical data, history and so much more. Our department was also able to procure, using dedicated grant funding, state of the art Axon Fleet 3 in-car video camera systems and new Body Worn Cameras for all officers, which will be fielded in 2022. The Axon purchase also included high tech encrypted redaction software and cloud based secure data storage. The agency is also in the preliminary stage of fielding a Law Enforcement Drone program focusing on search and rescue as well as scene documentation, with an emphasis on preserving privacy.

(5) The Lower Township Police Department was awarded the South Jersey Gas First Responders Grant, which will be utilized to support the purchase of life saving medical and first aid equipment.

(6) A Support Operations unit was established to address specific community concerns, provide agency training, and assist in planning and executing special events.

Please read on to learn more about these and other accomplishments that took place within the Lower Township Police Department this past year. It is my heartfelt hope that everyone who takes the time to read this report will have 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, enforce the law and contribute to quality of life efforts throughout the township. I am confident in doing so we can overcome any future challenges that we face, as a community.

Finally, I have been impressed with the forbearance of the public. You stride arm in arm with us as we traverse these changes, during a pandemic no less, and continue to support us in the community. Cooperation with the public is the foundation of our success, and for that, we thank you.

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

Chief Kevin E. Lewis



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.

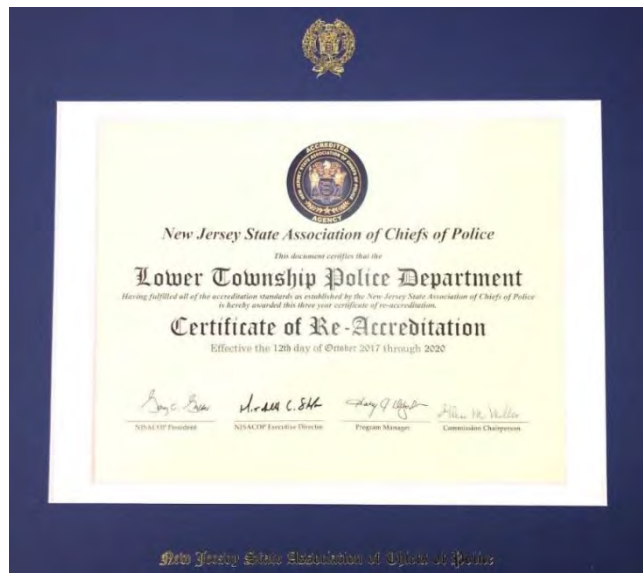
NJSACOP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

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. The accreditation program requires compliance with a series of over 100 evolving professional standards designed specifically for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best policies, practices, and professional standards in law enforcement. The Department was initially accredited in 2009 and 2013 and reaccredited in 2017 and 2021.

On October 28, 2021 the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Program was designated an “Independent Credentialing Body” by the U.S. Department of Justice. The designation complies with the Presidential Executive Order 13929 Safe Policing for Safe Communities, issued June of 2021. Non-Credentialed agencies in New Jersey will be ineligible for federal grants.

From November of 2017 through November of 2020, we were working towards re-accreditation. The Lower Township Police Department underwent a thorough evaluation from 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. The NJSACOP assessment team for board consideration recommended us for final accreditation.

Accreditation status represents a significant professional achievement and acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. Accreditation also 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 a set of predetermined standards and reporting requirements. Additional information on NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation can be found at www.njsacop.org.



ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Current Sworn Employees - The following list reflects the Department Personnel as of December 31, 2021.

ADMINISTRATION
Chief of Police
William Priole
Captains
Kevin Lewis
Donald Vanaman
Lieutenants
Charles Ryan
John Armbruster
Robert Smith, Jr.
Administrative Sergeant
Ryan Hansberry

DETECTIVE BUREAU
DSG. Brian McEwing
DFC. Michael James
Corey Scheid
Kaitlin Black
James Mathis
Eric Danze

PATROL SERGEANTS
Michael Majane
Michael Perry
William Barcas
Anthony Greto

CORPORALS
James McNulty
Matthew Gamble
Michael Szemcsak
Jason Felsing

PATROL OFFICERS
Robert Fessler
Dallas Bohn
Kevin Boyle, Jr.
Stephen Flitcroft
Louis Bartleson
Anthony Micciche
Jonathan Scheck
Kyle Boyle
Adam Hegarty
Kenneth Walker
William Kocis
William Omrod
William Porch
Thomas Shough
Kevin O'Brien
Steven Trunfio
Michael Harkin
Eric Campbell
Austin Parker
Austin Craig
Christopher Vassar
Patrick Dunn
Antonio Marroquin
Samuel Gellura
Anthony Prats, Jr.
Matthew Reilly
Simba Elam-Hampton
SUPPORT OPERATIONS
Michael Nuscis
Jordan Saini
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS
Cpl. Jennifer Elwell
Eric Coombs

Promotions

Chief William Priole – 1/21
Captain Donald Vanaman – 1/21
Lieutenant Robert Smith, Jr. – 1/21
Lieutenant John Armbruster – 1/21
Sergeant First Class Ryan Hansberry – 1/21
Sergeant Michael Perry – 1/21
Sergeant William Barcas – 1/21
Sergeant Anthony Greto – 1/21
Corporal Jason Felsing – 1/21
Corporal James McNulty – 2/21



Chief William Priole - Swearing In Ceremony

New Officers – 2021

Patrol Officer Anthony Prats, Jr.
Patrol Officer Samuel Gellura
Patrol Officer Matthew Reilly
Patrol Officer Simba Elam-Hampton – 12/21

Retirements – 2021

Chief William Priole – 12/21



Sergeant Michael Perry - Swearing In Ceremony



Lieutenants Robert Smith & John Armbruster and Sergeants Anthony Greto & William Barcas – Swearing In Ceremony



Swearing in Ceremony for Officers Samuel Gellura (left) and Anthony Prats, Jr. (right)



Chief William Priole's Retirement, pictured with new Chief Kevin Lewis



Chief William Priole's Retirement, pictured with Congressman Jeff Van Drew

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. 2020 Calls for Service numbers decreased due to a less proactive stance, due to Covid-19.

	2019	2020	2021
Calls for Service	45,482	33,910	48,559
Officer Initiated (MDT) Calls	8,811	6,568	8,029

Investigations

Investigation Reports generated by officers totaled: **743**
Supplemental Investigations or follow up reports generated: **516**

Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of “individuals” arrested in 2021. 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: **388**
Total # of Juvenile Arrests: **14**

Indictable Complaints sent by the Lower Township Police Department to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office for the year of 2021 - **254**.



Items from our display case in the LTPD Lobby

Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

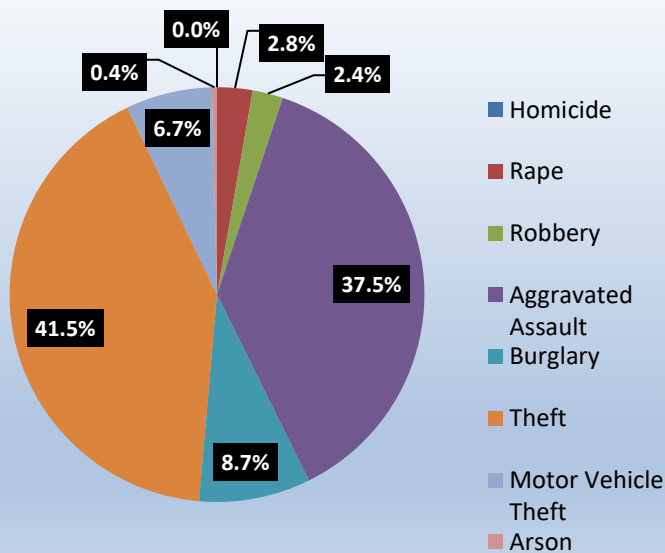
Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 cities, college/university, county, tribal, state and federal law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. 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 the last three years.

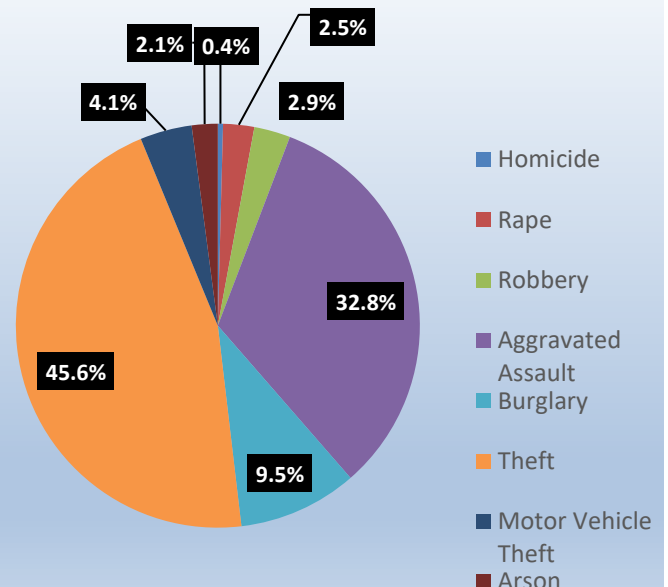
Offense	2019	2020	2021
Homicide	0	0	1
Rape	10	7	6
Robbery	3	6	7
Aggravated Assault	146	95	79
Burglary	35	22	23
Theft	128	105	110
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	17	10
Arson	0	1	5
TOTAL UCR	330	253	241
Violent Crime	159	108	93
Non Violent Crime	171	145	148

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

UCR Crime Breakdown for 2020



UCR Crime Breakdown for 2021



From the FBI website: UCR Focuses on NIBRS and Other Tools to Make More Relevant Data Available to Users



January 1, 2021, marks a new era in the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program’s partnership with law enforcement to provide more meaningful data to help understand crime in our communities and in our nation as a whole. Not only is the UCR Program completing its transition to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), but it is also completing its migration from traditional electronic publications to dynamic data presentations through the Crime Data Explorer (CDE). With each of these changes endorsed by law enforcement, the UCR Program remains committed to making available the types of data that aid in combatting crime and promoting transparency.

Since the CJIS Advisory Policy Board recommended the FBI transition to the NIBRS-only data collection five years ago, thousands of agencies have made the move from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the more detailed data of NIBRS, and thousands more are committed to making the switch. As of October 31, 2020, 43 states were NIBRS-certified, i.e., the states have records management systems that meet the FBI’s requirements for collecting crime data according to established technical specifications. At that time, 8,742 law enforcement agencies representing 48.9 percent of the population were reporting NIBRS data to the UCR Program. The FBI also collaborated with federal and tribal agencies to develop the NIBRS Collection Application as a solution for these agencies to submit their data. The UCR Program conducted virtual training for approximately 45 federal and tribal agencies since from June through November 2020. The FBI continues to assist all law enforcement agencies with their transition through training, data integration, and technical assistance with NIBRS data specifications and reporting requirements

The Lower Township Police Department has been working with the NJ State Police in transitioning to NIBRS and the Department will be transitioned by 2022.

Other Types of Calls for Service

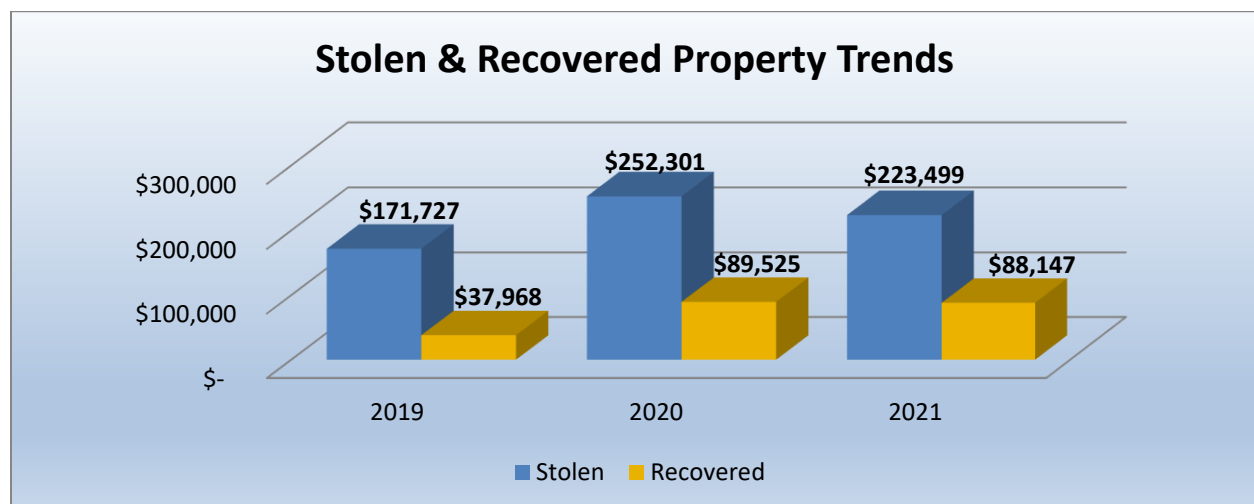
The following list shows the classification of the other type of calls for service, both criminal and non-criminal in nature, handled by the members of the Police Department.

	2019	2020	2021
Sex Offenses, other than rape	15	9	15
Simple Assaults	22	14	16
Medical Calls	1897	1668	1805
Fire Calls	88	126	101
Animal Complaints	285	325	366
Burglar, Fire or Medical Alarms	834	724	656
Death Investigations	37	47	43
Disorderly Conduct Incidents	666	774	593
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	93	105	111
Missing Persons and Runaways	86	61	59
Assisting Other Agency Incidents	116	189	153
Bias Incidents Investigated	2	16	16
Criminal Mischief Complaints	150	151	158
Residential and Commercial Property Checks	24,054	17,405	29,676
Community Policing	330	129	113

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.

	2019	2020	2021
Stolen	\$171,727	\$252,301	\$223,499
Recovered (Amount)	\$37,968	\$89,525	\$88,147
Recovered (Percentage)	22.1%	35.5%	39.4%



Domestic Violence:

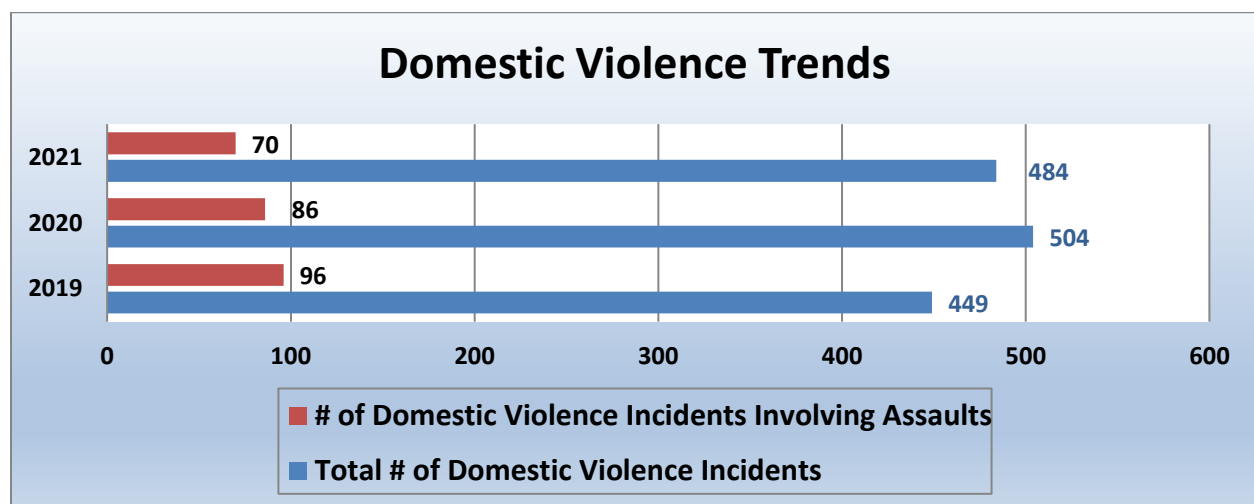
Domestic violence in New Jersey is viewed as a serious crime and carries with it penalties such as fines and prison time. Victims have the right to file restraining orders, both temporary and final, against the accused. Police officers must follow guidelines under the NJ Protection of Domestic Violence 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. We have a room at the department that is designated just for domestic violence victims and families, so they have a more comfortable and peaceful space during a challenging time.

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.

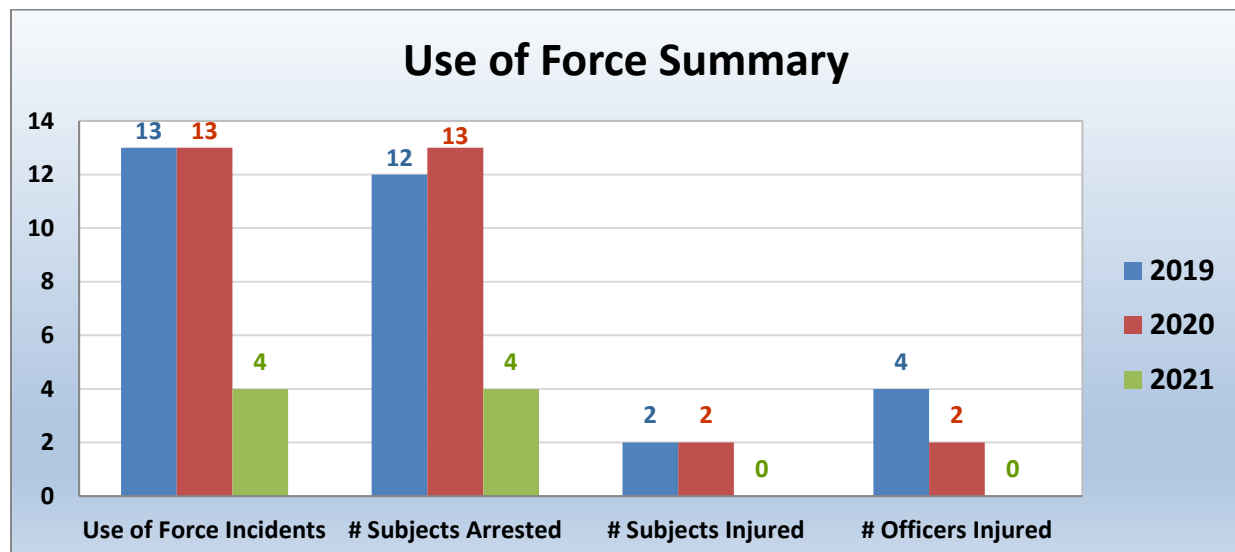
	2019	2020	2021
Total # of Domestic Violence Incidents	449	504	484
# of Domestic Violence Incidents Involving Assaults	96	86	70
Temporary Restraining Orders Granted	75	97	96
Temporary Restraining Orders Violated	31	28	42
Total Criminal Complaints	126	139	114



Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

There has been sweeping changes and reform across the county in recent years in regards to Use of Force. One change that New Jersey implemented was an online portal (vs. prior paper system) for agencies to submit Use of Force forms for any incidents involving Use of Force. The overall goals are to reduce Use of Force incidents and increase transparency. For more information on the changes implemented in New Jersey, visit <https://www.njoag.gov/force/>.

	2019	2020	2021
Use of Force Incidents	13	13	4
# Subjects Arrested	12	13	4
# Subjects Injured	2	2	0
# Officers Injured	4	2	0



Police Pursuits:

Lower Township Police Officers were involved in 1 pursuit during 2021.

Police Department Injuries and Accidents

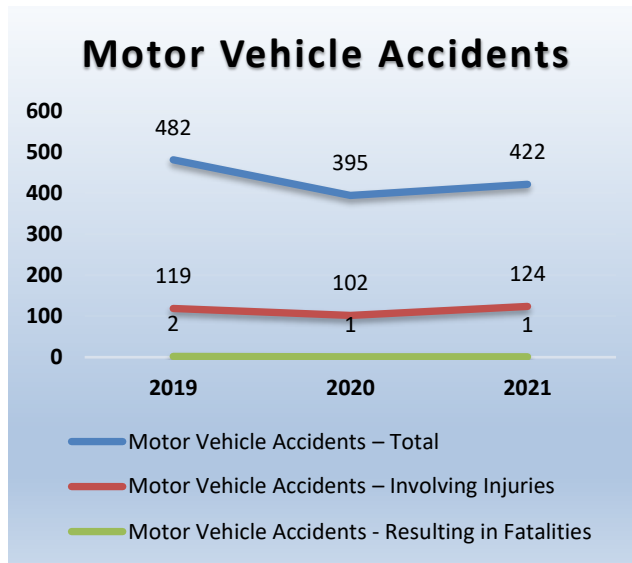
The Lower Township Police Department is insured under the Atlantic County Joint Insurance Fund for workers compensation claims. In order to ensure the proper level of police services for the citizens of Lower Township, there has been a concerted effort by all police officers to reduce incidents of work 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 addition, officers have been navigating the pandemic the last two years. In 2021, there were **20** cases of work related injuries. There were 127 work days missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2021, our Police Officers were assaulted on **1** separate occasion. 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 2021 and although every precaution and extreme care is taken, there were **4** traffic accidents involving department vehicles.

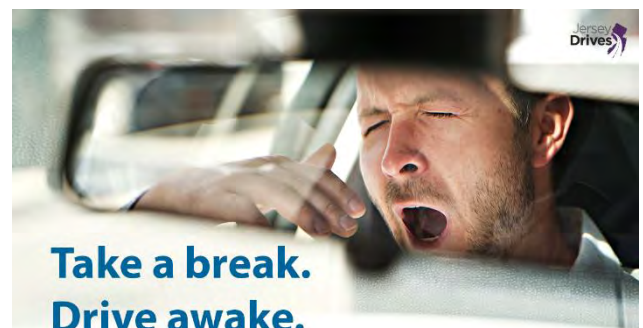
VEHICLE RELATED INCIDENTS

The Lower Township Police Department investigated **422** motor vehicle accidents and conducted **4645** motor vehicle stops during the year of 2021. In an effort to reduce traffic incidents, the Department participates in National and State social media campaigns to encourage citizens to use more caution on the roads, as well as providing safety tips and suggestions.

Traffic Summary	2019	2020	2021
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Total	482	395	422
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Number of Injuries	119	102	124
Motor Vehicle Accidents - Resulting in Fatalities	2	1	1
Motor Vehicle Stops – Total	5906	2334	4645
Motor Vehicle Stops – Vehicle Summonses Issued	1797	997	1230
Motor Vehicle Stops - Written Warnings Issued	15	3	25

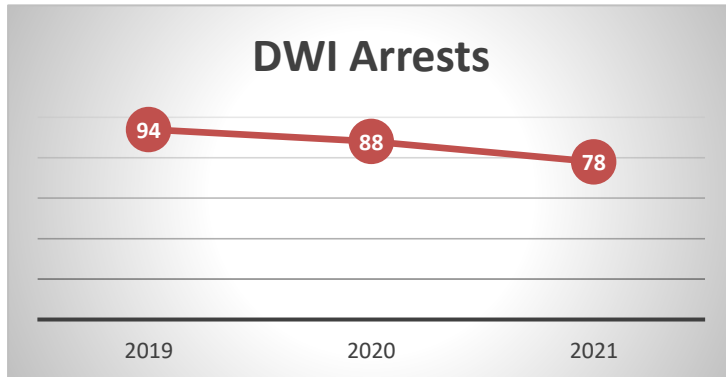


Examples of Social Media Campaigns posted in 2021



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

	2019	2020	2021
DWI Arrests	94	88	78



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 officer for 2021 was:

Officer	# of DWI Arrests
Patrol Officer William Porch	9



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 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 2021, the Lower Township Police Department conducted **10** internal affairs investigations, as compared with **19** investigations in 2020. Of the **10** investigations, **11** complaints of misconduct were alleged. The complaints involved on and off duty actions and/or conduct of Lower Township Police Department employees. Of the **10** investigations handled in 2021, **4** resulted in disciplinary action. In 2021, there were **0** Police Officers suspended for more than **5** days. Below is a list of the type of cases and their dispositions received in 2021:

Excessive Force (0)

Improper Arrest (1), 1 Not Sustained

Differential Treatment (1), 1 Administratively Closed

Domestic Violence (0)

Other Criminal Violation (2), 2 Pending

Demeanor Complaint (4), 2 Exonerated, 1 Sustained, 1 Unfounded

Other Rule Violations (3), 3 Sustained

Improper Entry (0)

Improper Search (0)

Serious Rule Violation (0)

The Internal Affairs Division was managed by Captain Kevin Lewis in 2021.

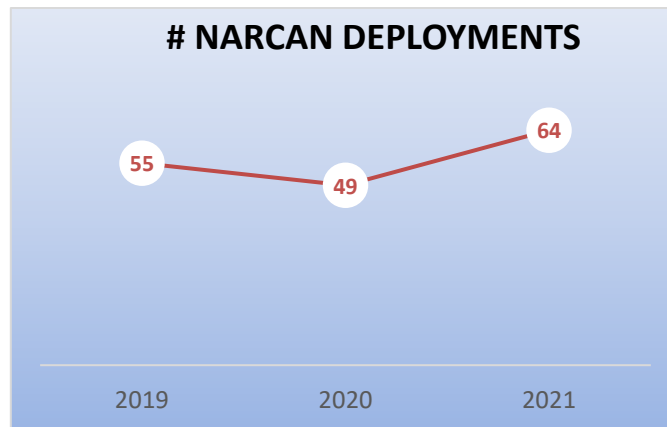
OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

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. All of our officers are trained in the life-saving deployment of Narcan. In 2021, our officers deployed Narcan **64** times, saving many of those lives. We are fortunate to receive some of our Narcan through donations from the CARES program at Cape Regional Medical Center.

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 2021, the Lower Township Police Department collected and disposed of **387.5** pounds of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications through Project Medicine Drop.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAYS

The Lower Township Police Department participates in National Prescription Drug Take-Back Days in the Spring and Fall each year. Due to the pandemic, the Department participated in only the Spring event. 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. For more information visit: <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.



The Department also continues to work with Cape Assist, Cape Counseling, CURE, the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition, CARES 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 a grant in the amount of \$13,500 to pay for overtime patrols to enforce and combat DWI offenses. (*Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over Campaigns*)



- April is Distracted Driver Awareness Month and during one week in April, many departments, including the Lower Township Police Dept., participate in the NJ Campaign of U Drive, U Text, U Pay. With the continuing pandemic, no grant money was received in 2021 for this initiative and the Department still participated in the campaign.



- “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

Chief William Priole



Captains Lewis & Vanaman, Lieutenant Ryan



Lieutenants Armbruster & Smith



The Lower Township Police Administration consists of seven Administrators: Chief William Priole, Captain Kevin Lewis, Captain Donald Vanaman, Lieutenant Charles Ryan, Lieutenant John Armbruster, Lieutenant Robert Smith, Jr., and Sergeant First Class Ryan Hansberry, *(missing from photos)*

Chief William Priole was 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, 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 Hiring Process

Captain Kevin Lewis served as the Executive Officer and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Patrol Operations
- Internal Affairs
- Early Warning / Guardian Tracking
- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Patrol Division Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Weekly Command Meetings
- Power DMS Paperless System
- ODMAP Administrator (Primary)
- NJ Learn Administrator
- Homeless Trust Fund Appointee
- Body Armor Grants
- Wellness Coordinator
- Annual Departmental Report
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief

Captain Donald Vanaman served as the Administrative Services Commander and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Investigative Operations
- Accreditation Manager
- SOPs/Rules & Regulations
- Open Public Record Act (OPRA) coordinator
- Expungements
- Secondary Review and Approve Investigative Bureau Reports
- CI / Confidential Files
- Military & Veteran Affairs
- Public Information Officer
- Emergency Generator
- Photo ID Cards
- Animal Control
- Power DMS Paperless System
- NJ Learn Administrator
- Traffic/DWI Grants
- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Advanced Licensed Plate Reader (ALPR) Administrator

- Administrative Division Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Weekly Command Meetings
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief
- Annual Departmental Report
- Internal Affairs Investigator

Patrol Lieutenants Charles Ryan and John Armbruster were responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Secondary Review Accident, DV and Calls for Service Reports for Assigned Squads
- Staff Inspections of Overall Operations
- Scheduling (Patrol Division)
- Monitor Traffic Grants
- New Hires
- Oversee Class II Officer Program
- Review and Track All Use of Force, Pursuit and Bias Incident cases
- Payroll
- On-call Administrator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Captains
- Employee Evaluations
- Manage the Guardian Tracking System
- ODMAP Administrator (Secondary)
- Bail Reform Coordinator
- Press Releases
- Internal Affairs Investigator

Administrative Lieutenant Robert Smith was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Training Records Maintenance
- GPS Tracking Administrator Maintain & assign GPS tracking of Patrol Vehicles / Portable Radios
- Nixle
- Supervision and Management of NCIC Records and Audits
- Liaison to County Dispatch
- Radio System Administrator
- Building Maintenance
- Fleet Manager
- Records Section
- Alcotest Machine
- Order/Replace Uniforms and Equipment
- Manage Network & Computers at Headquarters with approval from Wes Barber and the Chief
- Live Scan Fingerprint System
- Manage Accident/Injury Reports (Workers Compensation)
- Manage Retirement Events

- OSHA/Right to Know Compliance Officer
- Safety Officer
- JIFF Coordinator
- Light Duty Manager
- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Extra Duty Contracts
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Captains

Administrative Sergeant Ryan Hansberry was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Oversee Support Operations Unit
- Court Liaison Officer
- Court Discovery Information and Requests
- State Mandated Jail Cell Inspections
- Domestic Violence Response Team
- Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
- Honor Guard Liaison (Nuscis, Scheid)
- Fire Department Liaison
- Weekly Vehicle Inventory Packet
- Special Events
- SRO Scheduling and Report Review
- Coordinate JV programs (L.E.A.D./Explorers, etc.) (Coombs / Elwell)
- 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
- Infectious Control Officer
- Alternate Public Information Officer
- Project Life Saver
- On-Call Administrator
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Captains and Lieutenants

Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Review and Approve Investigative Reports
- Press Releases
- Monitor schedule for Detectives
- Ensure adequate coverage for on-duty and on-call periods
- Manage Neighborhood Watch and other Programs (Barcas, Perry, Coombs, and Nuscis)
- Maglocen Liaison (Mid Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network)
- Coordinate Periodic Narcotic Operations
- Maintain Necessary Operational Supplies for Detectives
- Manage School Security Plans (Majane/Perry)
- Manage, Approve and Audit Use of CI/Buy Funds
- Monitor Detective's caseload and assign cases
- Prepare Quarterly and Annual Report of Unit Statistics
- Manage, Oversee & Train on the Use of The Beast Evidence System (Det Scheid / DSG. McEwing)
- Manage DWI/DVD Videos and In-house audio for Evidence
- Oversee and conduct Agency Drug Testing Program at the discretion of the Chief
- Crime Analysis Officer
- Manage Radar Units/Tuning Forks (DFC Iames)
- Cape May County Child Protective Services Liaison
- Background Investigation of New Employees (Sworn and Non- Sworn)
- Manage Firearms Background Investigations
- Manage Firearms Training and Records
- Manage and Prepare Forfeiture Funds Reports
- Manage Stationhouse Adjustments
- Maintain Gang File
- VICAP Liaison
- Bias Crime Officer
- Prosecutor's Office Liaison
- Megan's Law
- Crash Team Coordinator
- Oversee Evidence Unit
- Conduct Annual Evaluations
- Project Medicine Drop Off
- Internal Affairs Investigator



Captain Vanaman with TAC Officer Suzanne Scheid

PATROL DIVISION





The Patrol Division of the Lower Township Police Department is the largest of all the divisions within the agency with 4 Class II Special Officers, 25 full time Patrol Officers, 4 Sergeants 4 Corporals, 2 Provisional Lieutenants, and a Patrol/Operation's Captain.

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. 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, ATVs 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.

PATROL BUREAU NOTABLE CASES FOR 2021

Bank Robbery Suspects

In January 2021, Lower Township police officers were advised of a bank robbery that just occurred in a neighboring jurisdiction in which the suspects fled in a vehicle. The vehicle description was given and officers began checking for the vehicle. Officers located a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle parked at residence in the Cold Spring section of Lower Township. The officers then used intelligence they gathered from a previous incident at the residence, to identify the suspects of the bank robbery. The information was forwarded to the investigating agency and the suspects were apprehended. It was also learned that same suspects were also responsible for two other unsolved bank robberies in South Jersey.

Life Saving Award

In September 2021, officers were dispatched to the Cold Spring section of Lower Township for the report of an unresponsive 2 year old child that was drowning.

Officers responded to the residence and sprinted to the backyard where the child was lying down on a table, unconscious. Officers immediately recognized the child was exhibiting agonal breathing and made a decisive decision to initiate back slaps to help remove water from the child's lungs. Officers on scene immediately took command of the situation, helped calm the family members and rendered first aid as a professional. The child began coughing and started to regain consciousness. He was then transported by Inspira EMS to the Cape May County Airport and was airlifted to Cooper University Hospital and made a full recovery.

Officer Fessler's and Officer Saini's quick response, recognition of the severity of the medical emergency and immediate actions, directly resulted in the saving of this young child's life. Any delay or absence of their actions could have led to a tragic outcome. Officer Robert Fessler and Officer Jordan Saini received a distinguished Service and Life Saving Award from Mayor Sippel and Chief Priole at a Township Council meeting.



Officers Fessler and Saini receiving the Distinguished Service & Life Saving Award in 2021

SLEO CLASS II PROGRAM

Currently the Lower Township Police Department has 4 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, NJ 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. 153, for information about applying as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II.

Special Law Enforcement Officers (Class II Officers)

Patrick Aiken

Simba Elam-Hampton- (*appointed full-time 12/21*)

Steven Gindville

Megan Reilly

Daniel Martinez

Captain Kevin Lewis was the Executive Officer and Operations Commander overseeing the Patrol Division which is run by Lieutenants Charles Ryan and John Armbruster.



Officer Danze awarded the 2020 MADD Award, presented in 2021

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 2021, the Detective Division was assigned **191** investigations and conducted an additional **90** follow-up investigations. They also responded to **28** death investigations. The Detective Division conducted **76** Megan’s law investigations. They assisted the uniformed Patrol Division in **8** missing person cases, where all parties were located.

The Detective Division conducted all firearms background investigations:

	2019	2020	2021
Total Number of Applications Completed/Investigations	280	625	588
Firearms ID Cards Only Issued	62	91	80
Firearms ID Card & Handgun Permits Issued	82	292	261
Handgun Permits Only Issued	120	225	246
Permit to Carry (Renewal) Issued	1	1	1
Application Denials	2	15	13
Applications Withdrawn/Not Completed	2	90	99
Total # of Handgun Permits Issued (<i>applicants can apply for multiple permits</i>)	375	984	836

The Detective Division conducts all police recruit, police employment and volunteer police chaplain 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 Eric Danze 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 **\$3520.00** 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.

Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing, reporting to the Administrative Captain, was the Detective Bureau Commander and was responsible for the supervision of personnel assigned to the bureau.

The members of the Detective Division are:

Detective Sergeant Brian McEwing
Detective First Class Michael James
Detective Corey Scheid

Detective Kaitlin Black
Detective James Mathis
Detective Eric Danze

The Detective Division oversees and maintains all evidence within the police department. Presently, **7,124** items are logged into the evidence system, with **975** items added in 2021.

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

DNA/Fingerprint cases: - 18/10 for 2021



DETECTIVE DIVISION NOTABLE CASES FOR 2021

During 2021, LTPD Detectives conducted investigations into **8** missing persons, **17** Juvenile Welfare Complaints, **13** Burglaries, **16** Suspected Bias Incidents, **13** Assaults, **4** Robberies, **30** Sexual Assaults and **27** Deaths.

“Sticky Fingers”

In February 2021, patrol officers responded to the McDonalds in North Cape May for an abandoned vehicle. The ensuing investigation revealed that the vehicle had been stolen out of Jackson Township, New Jersey. While this investigation was on-going, patrol officers made contact with a male subject just a few miles away who explained that he left the vehicle there after it had broke down. The vehicle was processed by members of the detective division. Latent finger prints were lifted and a cigarette butt was collected for DNA evidence. The following day, Lower Township Police was contacted and advised that a vehicle was located on the railroad tracks in Cape May City. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Lower Township. It was processed by detectives and evidence was retrieved. As a result of both incidents, the male subject was charged with several criminal offenses.

“Bad Burglar”

In March 2021, detectives were summoned to an address in the Villas section of the township for a reported burglary where a handgun was stolen. The scene was processed, however nothing of evidentiary value was collected. The firearm was entered into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as stolen. The following day a call was received by the Salem County Sheriff’s Department who stated they had a male subject under arrest who was in possession of a handgun that was reported stolen out of Lower Township. After several follow ups, it was determined that the firearm was indeed the one stolen just a few days prior from a residence in the Villas. The male was subsequently charged with several criminal offenses.

“Regret”

In May 2021, detectives were called out to a commercial property located in the Villas section of Lower Township for a reported burglary. The investigation revealed that an unknown subject or subjects cut a lock off a gate, entered the fenced section of the property and stole a skid-steer machine and a trailer. It was learned a short time later that a male subject who lives in Middle Township may be in possession of the equipment. This information was obtained from the victim after he received notification from the accused asking him not to call the police if he just gave the equipment back. The equipment, valued at just over \$20,000.00, was recovered and as a result, a male subject was charged.

“Detour”

In September 2021, while travelling to Ocean City, Maryland for a motorcycle convention, a dispute occurred in a vehicle just outside the Cape May Lewes Ferry terminal. During the dispute, a man demanded the woman exit the vehicle. As she got out, the man sped away with their children in the vehicle. Officers located the vehicle and attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop. The driver had other plans and eluded police. A pursuit was initiated, however was called off on the Garden State Parkway. The children were entered into NCIC as missing/endangered and the vehicle’s information was also entered in NCIC. While speaking with the woman, she was found to be in possession of a handgun and arrested. The man was arrested in Rahway, NJ after being involved in a minor motor vehicle accident. The children were unharmed during this incident.

“Drive By”

In September 2021, two separate ‘drive by’ incidents were reported to Lower Township Police. Each victim reported while walking down Bayshore Road in the Villas section of the township they were struck with a projectile, which appeared to have come from a moving motor vehicle. Surveillance video was obtained from local businesses and a vehicle was identified as being present during both incidents. Detectives applied to the Superior Court of Cape May County for a search warrant for the vehicle and the home of the registered owner. During the investigation, two rifle style air soft guns were seized. Subsequent to the investigation, one adult and several juveniles were charged appropriately.

“Product Recall”

In October 2021, patrol officers responded to a residence for a double overdose. It was learned that a male subject showed up at the home and told a female there to check on her parents. When she checked on them, she found them to be unconscious and unresponsive. Lifesaving measures were performed on both patients, including the deployment of Narcan. One of the patients succumbed to the overdose. During the investigation, it was learned that the male who showed up had just left an overdose in Cape May City after seeing a female overdose. The male responded to the home in Lower Township to check on the subjects there. After a thorough investigation by the Detective Division, the male was subsequently charged with Strict Liability Drug Induced Death and Manslaughter.

“Lights Out”

In November 2021, following a dispute over mechanical work on a vehicle, a man struck another man in the head with a flashlight causing significant bodily injury. The victim sought treatment at Cape Regional Medical Center and was transferred to Cooper Medical Center in Camden, NJ for further care. The accused was located during a motor vehicle stop and arrested without incident. He was charged with Aggravated Assault and weapon related criminal charges.

“Caretaker”

In August 2021, detectives were called out to a residence of an elderly couple that had approximately \$12,000 stolen from within their home. Several interviews were conducted with occupants of the home, including two women that care for the elderly female resident. Using advanced interview techniques, one of the caretakers confessed to taking the money. The money was returned to the rightful owner and the female was charged with the theft.



SUPPORT OPERATIONS UNIT

In May of 2021, the Lower Township Police Department established a Support Operations Unit consisting of two dedicated full-time year round officers with assistance from the two School Resource Officers (SROs) during the summer months.

The Support Operations Unit is led by Sergeant First Class Ryan Hansberry, who is under the command of the Executive Officer, Captain Kevin Lewis. Support Operations conducts and documents training of the department, plans and executes all special events, handles specific traffic needs, court liaisons, provides school security, instructs L.E.A.D., weapons armorers, firearms qualifications, community policing, coffee with a cop program, recruitment, third party contract management and running the youth summer camp.



Officers Nuscis & Saini with campers at 2021 Youth Camp

Patrol Officers Jordan Saini and Michael Nuscis were selected for the initial two positions from an interview process and prerequisite list. Both officers are active members with the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team.

Officer Saini is instructor qualified in ICAT/ABLE, American Heart Association, American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED, Basic Tactical Medical, Bleeding Control, Rifle & Pistol Marksmanship, Axon Taser (CED), Active Threat, MILO/Survival, L.E.A.D., as well as a Glock Armorer. He has also been trained in Method of Instruction (MOI), Field Training Officer (FTO), Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Police Sniper, Court Room Security, Active Shooter Response/Threat, Advanced Roadside Impairment Detection Enforcement (ARIDE), National Tactical Officer's Association Team Leader Course, Resiliency and De-Escalation. Officer Saini is also a veteran of 1st Battalion, 9th Marines, United States Marine Corps; where he served in Afghanistan, Haiti, North and South Carolinas. Officer Saini holds an Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from Atlantic Cape Community College, where he made the Dean's list from 2012 – 2014.

Officer Nuscis is instructor qualified in Basic Tactical Medical, American Heart Association, L.E.A.D., Rifle and Pistol Marksmanship, Field Training Officer (FTO), Field Force Operations, De-Escalation, Physical Conditioning, Radar (Speed Enforcement), as well as a Glock Armorer. He has also been trained in Gracie Survival Tactics, Tactical Emergency Casualty Care, SWAT M-4 Operator's Course, Methods of Instruction (MOI), Taser (CED), Physical Security, Instructor Development, Street Survival, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Honor Guard Drill & Ceremony and Resiliency. He is also a prior Cape May County Correction's Officer and holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education from East Stroudsburg University.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM



Cpl. Jennifer Elwell



Eric Coombs

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program has been in place for the past 28 years and continues today as a collaborative effort with the Lower Cape May Regional School District. Corporal Jennifer Elwell is assigned to the Lower Cape May Regional High School and School Resource Officer Eric Coombs is assigned to the Richard M. Teitelman School. The SROs report to Sergeant First Class Ryan Hansberry.

Goals and Duties of the School Resource Officer:

1. Provide law enforcement and police services to the schools, school grounds and areas adjacent to the schools. Investigate allegations of criminal incidents per police department policies and procedures. Enforce state and local laws, as well as local 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 crises, 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.
9. The Statewide Handle with Care Program is an early assessment and intervention for children with may have experienced adverse childhood events. The program opens up the line of communication between law enforcement and the schools. It also provides the student with assistance rather than compounding the trauma from adverse experiences with discipline in school.

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: such as goal setting and how to combat negative peer pressure. 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 **6,634** Lower Township students have gone through the program, which is now taught at the Sandman Consolidated School sixth grade. This program is 10 to 12 weeks long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum. *In 2021, no students were taught the L.E.A.D. Program, due to covid.*

At the commencement of the class, the students are invited to participate in L.E.A.D. Day. L.E.A.D. day consists of activities pertaining to the curriculum of the course mixed with fun activities such as pedal go-cart courses. The student graduates of the program are provided a certificate for actively participating in the course and finishing. Every student is provided a t-shirt and wins a prize and 4 bicycles are given away. Food is provided as well as ice cream and LTPD officers stop by to meet the students and enjoy spending time with them in a fun atmosphere. Unfortunately, due to covid this did not happen in 2021 either.



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 and file uploads, etc.
- Firearms – NJ Firearms ID Cards, Permits to Purchase, Permits to Carry & Voluntary Registrations (utilizing NJSP online Firearms Application & Registration System (FARS))
- Open Public Records Act (OPRA) Requests
- Processing of Fingerprints (Criminal & Non-Criminal Prints)
- Maintain FBI/SBI File Index
- Motor Vehicle Accident Reports & Violations (Tickets)
- Burglar Alarm, Property Check & Senior Call Program Registrations
- Correspondence Liaison
- Departmental Purchasing
- Payroll Preparation & Processing
- Human Resources Functions
- Budget Planning and Preparation Assistance
- Third Party Contract Assistance
- Grant Management Assistance
- Assist with Vehicle/Fleet Management
- Collect and Prepare Data for Administration as needed/requested
- 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 Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly and Annual Statistics
- Prepare and finalize Uniform Crime Reports

- Records Retention/Destruction for all Sections of the PD within State guidelines
- Sending/Posting of Press Releases
- Nixle 360 Administration
- Assist with Social Media Management
- Assist with Website Content Management
- Process Mobile Video Recorder (MVR) & Body Worn Camera (BWC) 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-ups and research
 - Maintain the police active files
 - 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

The Chaplain Program began as an innovative approach to meeting several needs in our community and the program was revamped and formalized in 2021 to meet the ever-changing needs of today. Captain Kevin Lewis (Executive Officer) spearheaded this endeavor and four new Volunteer Police Chaplains were sworn-in during August of 2021 by Mayor Frank Sippel: Pastor Tim West, Pastor Glenn Scheyhing, Pastor Leo Dodd, and Pastor Scott Durbin. We are proud to announce that the four new Chaplains have met the rigorous requirements of a formal application, full background check, completed a six-prong training & orientation process, swore an oath of office, and completed a 10-tier basic training certification process.

The Chief of Police will appoint chaplains to a one-year term pending re-appointment or termination, at the end of each year. The Lower Township Mayor is the appointing authority in accordance with the ordinance indicated below and consent of Township Council. Each year, one of the chaplains will serve as the Senior Chaplain, which currently has been assigned to Chaplain Tim West.

The duties of Police Chaplain shall include, but are not limited to,

- Assisting the Police Department in death notifications,
- Station house adjustments,
- Bias incidents,
- Critical incident response
- Other duties that may be assigned by the Chief of Police.

On May 3, 2021, the Lower Township Mayor and Council approved/adopted the formal establishment of the Lower Township Police Chaplain Program by Ordinance #2021-09, which went into effect May 23, 2021. The ordinance established the position of Chaplain, in accordance with Title 40A:14-141, as a volunteer position. Furthermore, all appointed Chaplains shall be required to be an ordained clergyman in good standing. Effective July 22, 2021 by General Order, the Lower Township Police Chaplains Corps Program was formerly established at the direction of Police Chief William Priole. The general order also identifies other possible use of the Chaplains:

- Officiate weddings,
- Counsel employees experiencing personal problems at the employee's request
- Attend funerals/viewings of officers, retirees, and their families
- Attend & officiate at city events as appropriate
- Participate in a police ride alongs
- Assist in managing stress, suicide awareness, and domestic violence assistance

The faith-based leaders will perform tasks of a more emotional, social, or spiritual nature. Chaplains are here to provide appropriate assistance, advice, comfort, counsel, and referrals to those in need who may request support. The Department looks forward to collaborating with the Chaplains in this formalized program, to bring needed support to our entire community.



Chaplains Leo Dodd, Tim West, Glen Scheyhing & Scott Durbin



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. *Due to the ongoing pandemic, official functions were minimized in 2021.*

Members of the Honor Guard include:

Ptlm. Michael Nuscis	Cpl. James McNulty
Det. Corey Scheid	Sgt. Michael Perry
DFC. Michael James	Det. Kaitlin Black



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.

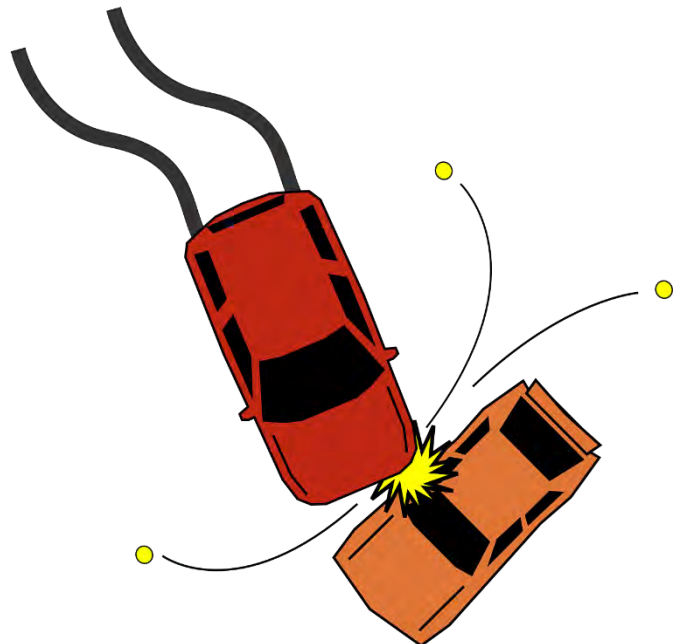
Members include:

DSG Brian McEwing

SRO Eric Coombs

Patrol Officer Stephen Flitcroft

Detective Kaitlin Black



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 very rigorous training, 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 **22** times in 2021. 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:

Sergeant Michael Perry
Patrol Officer Jordan Saini
Patrol Officer Michael Nuscis
Patrol Officer Kenneth Walker

Detective Eric Danze
Patrol Officer William Kocis
Patrol Officer Michael Harkin

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all its personnel. The 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 John Armbruster is the Department Training Coordinator and his 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 Charles Ryan assists with training and education as well.

The men and women of the Lower Township Police Department attended a wide variety of training courses throughout 2021, including, and not limited to the list below. *(Due to the continuing pandemic in 2021, some non-essential in-person training was cancelled, while required training was done on-line.)*

- NJSP - DWI Detection & SFST Course
- NJSP – Alcotest Operator’s Course
- Alcotest Re-Certification
- In-Service Training
- Weapons Qualification – Return from Military Duty
- Cape May County Hostage/Crisis Negotiations Training
- Methods of Instruction (MOI) CMCPA
- Report Writing
- Sniper Training
- SWAT Training
- Street Survival
- L.E.A.D. Conference
- Spring Range
- NJ State PBA Convention
- Active Shooter Incident Management
- Traffic Safety Meeting/Tuning Forks
- Cape May County Police Academy SLEO II Class
- NJTR-1 Crash Form Refresher:
- State PBA Meetings
- NJSACOP Command & Leadership Orientation & Training
- PRIDE Committee Conference
- State PBA Collective Bargaining Seminar
- Field Training Officer Course
- Tactical Medical Instructor Program
- NJ State PBA Convention
- Firearm’s Instructor Course
- Taser Recertification
- IA training
- NJSACOP Annual Training Conference

- Resiliency Training
- Glock Armorer's School
- Fall Firearm's Qualification
- Rifle Instructor & Night Fire Rifle Instructor Courses
- SWAT – Less Lethal Operator Training
- CED Certification
- Reid Technique (Interview & Interrogation)
- Intro to Link Analysis
- Radar Instructor Refresher Course
- American Red Cross Training
- Front Line Supervision
- Locating Trafficking Victims
- NJSACOP New Police Chiefs Orientation
- Marijuana Law Review
- Intro to Strategic Intel
- Non-fatal Strangulation
- Disrupting Disinformation Webinar
- Advanced Crime Scene Training
- Special Police Officer Patrol Practices
- JIF Command Staff Training
- Command Staff Resiliency
- Dolan Group Detective Training
- ATV Course
- J. Harris Command Series II
- Survival Training
- Integrating Communication and Tactics (ICAT) & Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Training
- Social Media and Officer Discipline Training
- De-escalation & Intervention Strategies
- Hostage Team Training
- Leadership in Crisis
- FBI NAA NJ Conference
- Trafficcloud Training
- Basic Life Saving Instructor Training
- Law Enforcement Work Zone Safety Refresher Training
- Police Executive Institute
- Field Force Operations
- NJ Public Safety Accreditation Coalition Accreditation Conference
- Cop to Cop Program
- Risk Management
- FBI Manhunts – A Roll for Crisis Negotiators
- Sex Crimes Conference
- Tactical Emergency Critical Care – LEO Course
- Crisis Intervention Training

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

Captain Kevin Lewis	Officer Kyle Boyle
Lt. Charles Ryan	Officer Michael Harkin
Lt. John Armbruster	Officer Thomas Shough
SFC. Ryan Hansberry	Officer Kevin O'Brien
Sgt. William Barcas	Officer Steven Trunfio
Sgt. Anthony Greto	
Cpl. Michael Szemcsak	
Cpl. Matthew Gamble	DSG. Brian Mc Ewing
Cpl. James McNulty	DFC. Michael James
Officer Robert Fessler	
Officer Kevin Boyle, Jr.	Det. Corey Scheid
Officer Stephen Flitcroft	Det. Kaitlin Black
Officer Michael Nuscis	Det. Eric Danze
Officer Jordan Saini	
Officer Anthony Micciche	SRO Cpl. Jennifer Elwell
Officer Adam Hegarty	SRO Eric Coombs
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:

Administration

Captain Kevin Lewis

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Lt. Charles Ryan

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Firearms Instructor
- A.L.E.R.R.T. Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training
- Train The Trainer, In The Line of Duty Deaths
- Active Shooter Instructor

Lt. John Armbruster

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

Lt. Robert Smith Jr.

- Train The Trainer, In The Line Of Duty Deaths
- Critical Intervention Training (CIT) Instructor

SFC. Ryan Hansberry

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Firearms Instructor
- Rifle Instructor

Detective Division

DSG. Brian McEwing

- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- Human Trafficking

DFC. Michael James

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Vehicle Operations Instructor
- Radar Instructor

Detective Corey Scheid

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Detective Kaitlin Black

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Law Enforcement Response To Individuals With Special Needs, Train The Trainer

Detective James Mathis

- Resiliency

Detective Eric Danze

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Firearms Instructor
- Rifle Instructor
- Taser (CED) Instructor
- CTS Less Lethal Instructor

SRO Eric Coombs

- Bike Instructor
- Not Even One, Train The Trainer
- L.E.A.D.

SRO Cpl. Jennifer Elwell

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Resiliency
- L.E.A.D.
- Critical Intervention Training (CIT) Instructor

Patrol Division:

Sgt. Michael Majane

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

Sgt. William Barcas

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Sgt. Michael Perry

- Active Shooter
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation & Bias Crime Reporting
- Fair And Impartial Policing

- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- CTS Less Lethal Instructor

Cpl. Matthew Gamble

- Road Wise, Train The Trainer

Cpl. Michael Szemcsak

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Physical Fitness Instructor
- Drill Instructor

Cpl. James McNulty

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Master Resiliency

Officer Stephen Flitcroft

- Police Work Zone Safety, Train The Trainer

Officer Adam Hegarty

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Officer William Kocis

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Resiliency

Officer Anthony Micciche

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Advanced Bicycle Operations Instructor

Officer Michael Nuscis

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Rifle Instructor
- 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

Officer Jordan Saini

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Rifle Instructor
- Firearm's Instructor
- Taser (CED) Instructor
- Survival Training Instructor
- Tactical Medical Instructor

Officer Kenneth Walker

- Firearm's Instructor
- Rifle Instructor
- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)

Officer Kevin Boyle, Jr.

- Firearms Instructor

Officer Kyle Boyle

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)



Ptl. Nuscis & SRO Coombs at L.E.A.D. Conference



SRO Coombs, Ptl. Flitcroft, Ptl. Nuscis & Cpl. Elwell with Lt. Colonel (Retired) David Grossman at L.E.A.D. Conference

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

Due to the continuing pandemic, some community projects and programs were cancelled for 2021, which allowed the department to keep focusing on our community's safety and wellness. Several programs that took place are listed below:

- Cop Stop Program was held at local businesses to facilitate police/citizen interaction
- 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
- Summer Youth Camp
- Douglass/Coombs Run
- Annual National Night Out Event at the Cape May-Lewes Ferry Terminal
- Blue Knights MC Ride
- 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
- LCMR Military Appreciation Football Game
- 1st Responder Appreciation Day – Seashore Community Church
- Autumn Festival & Trunk or Treat
- No Shave November
- Veteran’s Day Parade
- 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



**KICKBALL GAME AT CHARLES W. SANDMAN
CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL - MAY 2021**



**911 CEREMONY AT SUNSET BEACH
SEPTEMBER 2021**



**POLICE UNITY TOUR
OCTOBER 2021**



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – OCTOBER 2021



VETERANS DAY PARADE – NOVEMBER 2021



NO SHAVE NOVEMBER 2021



Summer Youth Camp

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

The camp is designed to foster a positive and healthy interaction between police officers and 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 Demonstration
- ★ Boat Trip
- ★ SWAT Demonstration
- ★ Police Drills
- ★ Police Simulators
- ★ Field Trips & Tours
- ★ Police Marching
- ★ Phillies Game
- ★ Life Skills Lessons







Military Appreciation Football Game

Lower Cape May Regional Football - Military Appreciation Night was held on September 17, 2021 and sponsored by the school. LCMR played Lindenwold in football that evening and they honored all active duty Military, Veterans and First Responders by inviting them to join them on the field for the National Anthem. Additionally, there were fun family activities at the game including: food trucks, military equipment displays, silent auction, raffle, military game jerseys and hat sales. All proceeds benefit NJ Run for the Fallen which honors men and women (and their families) who have given their lives for our freedom.





2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Administrative Division

- March 11, 2022 - Re-Accredited by the NJSACOP Commissioners
- AVL status with CMC Dispatch/Axon tracking capabilities/Radio tracking

Patrol Division

- Support Operations Unit Created

Technology and Communications

- 64 Axon Body 3 (AB3) Body Worn Cameras (BWC)
- 16 Axon Fleet 3 In-Car Video Camera Systems (with ALPR Capability)
- Axon Cloud-based BWC and In-Car Video storage
- Axon Evidence.com & Respond Software
- 4 Solar Powered Fixed Speed Display Signs
- 2 Stat Trak Traffic Data Collectors/Recorder
- ALPR additions, etc.?
- Five Dell Desktop OptiPlex 3090 Ultra Computers with 24" Monitors
- Drone purchase
- Additional Electronic Ticketing Systems
- Backtrace Software

**For More Information on our Technology & Communications Accomplishments –
See Below:**

Backtrace is software by GTBM, Inc. specifically for NJ Law Enforcement Agencies

Backtrace is a unique service feature, which pairs with GTBM's Info-Cop® software. This investigative tool provides all New Jersey Law Enforcement Agencies the ability to search for persons who have been arrested and their interactions with Law Enforcement. Through a simple and intuitive web application that requires no additional special software. In its initial testing phase alone, clients used Backtrace to solve several crimes. Its time-saving information promotes efficiency and recoups investigative man-hours.



Axon Fleet 3 Integrated In-Car Video Systems

We have converted our patrol fleet into a dynamic network of plate-reading capable cameras. With the new Fleet 3, every vehicle has Automatic License Plate Recognition (ALPR) capabilities, giving us eight times more plate reads for the same cost as traditional systems.

The dual-view state of the art camera records a clear panoramic view and integrates a 4K ALPR camera covering three traffic lanes. The interior camera is just as robust, capturing a knee-to-head occupant view with infrared (IR) for night view. A second camera has a wide-angle high definition (HD) image sensor capturing panoramic video. This allows us the ability to incorporate video evidence capture and license plate recognition in one compact in-car camera. This single camera with dual capabilities keeps costs down, making it much more affordable for agencies to have ALPR capabilities in additional vehicles.

The Fleet 3 and Axon system allow us access to situational awareness features including alerts, live maps and live streaming. These new features work with real-time operations platforms to allow users visibility into what is happening in the field.

Fleet 3's all-new architecture can support up to five cameras per vehicle and expands functionality over time as new technologies like 5G come online. Fleet 3 integrates seamlessly with the rest of the Axon network and Flock Safety's fixed ALPR, to include our new Body Cam 3 (BWCs), Evidence.com and secure cloud storage.

Key features:

- Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR), Anywhere
- Supports up to 5 cameras
- 5G Compatible
- Livestreaming Capability
- Integrates with Axon Respond
- Eliminates Officers from Manually Running Plates (Safety)



Why ALPR in every car?

There are many benefits of having automated license plate recognition (ALPR) technology. In a survey published by the National Criminal Justice Reference Service, 68% of agencies that had implemented ALPR technology reported notable increases in stolen vehicle recoveries. Additionally, 55% of agencies reported an increase in arrests, 50% reported an increase in officer productivity and 35% reported an increase in crimes solved. And that's with limited use of ALPR, as most agencies can only afford to outfit a small portion of their fleet with the technology. Individual stats are even more compelling. According to a report by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, a single Montgomery County Police Department vehicle equipped with ALPR for 96 hours over the course of 27 days captured 48,101 plates. Those plate reads resulted in the recovery of 4 stolen vehicles, 3 arrests, 26 suspended drivers and 255 traffic citations.

Axon Body Cam 3 (BWCs)

Axon Body 3 isn't just a camera: it's a rugged communications beacon front-and-center on every call. Featuring enhanced low-light performance, reduced motion blur and an LTE connection that enables real-time features like live streaming, Body 3 empowers officers with more support in the moment.

Axon body cameras drive better behavior and provide indisputable documentation of any incident. The rugged, proven cameras have an error proof UI that requires minimal training and automates the capture and upload of data. Axon offers companies a smarter and more transparent way to protect and serve their customers. With real-time insight into officer or employee encounters, it is possible to immediately understand what took place and quickly dispel any false claims.

Key features:

- Clear Frame Playback
- Multi-Mic Audio
- Alerts, Live Maps, and Streaming
- Wireless Activation
- Ironclad Security
- Video Recall
- Rugged Design
- Axon Respond Compatible
- LTE capabilities
- Full-Shift Battery



AXON BODY 3

Axon Evidence.com



Axon Evidence is a secure, centralized, digital evidence management system that accepts all types of evidence and organizes it in one place. With expansive ingest, dynamic review, smooth playback, and intuitive search, Axon Evidence makes it simple to connect and manage your growing stores of data—video, photos, documents and more—in a single, secure system. Dive deeper into your evidence and get clearer insights into where evidence was collected over time. Review optimized reporting metrics and review metrics in near-real time with Axon Performance. Complete your case with a powerful case management experience, including bulk actions, access controls, and automated suggestions. And save time with efficiency tools like AI-based redaction and transcription. Grant access to external partners or share content with a secure link. And with the industry's only scalable solution for prosecutors and public defenders, you can seamlessly share evidence with frequent collaborators.

Key features:

- Data Encryption
- Analytics and Audit Tools
- CJIS-Compliance
- Mobile Integration
- Configurable Retention
- File Support
- Audit trails
- Evidence Lite for Taser Management
- Future AI Implementations

- Transcription
- Auto-Tagging

Drone Program

- Search & Rescue
- Emergency & Natural Disaster Response
- Crash Scene Reconstruction
- Outdoor Crime Scene Documentation
- De-Escalation Capabilities
- Real-time situational awareness
- Integrated with Axon Evidence.com
- Integrated cloud-based digital evidence management
- Comprehensive Program Management



Drone Photo from 2021 Youth Camp

GOALS FOR 2022

Police Administration

- **Procure and Field Multiple Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)**
- **Update Fingerprint machine**
- **Implement Department Wellness Program with in-house training facility**
- **Expand E-Ticketing Program**
- **Procure and field 9 new sub guns to replace older equipment**
- **Expand Police Drone Program**
- **Enhance Bike Patrol Program**
- **Enhance Police ATV Program**
- **Digitize Archived Records**

Patrol Division

- **Continue to Educate, Train, and Prepare the Patrol Division for the Effects of the 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 impaired drivers and prosecuting them without a conventional means. The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) programs provide necessary tools to bridge the identified gap in prosecuting these cases. The department currently has 5 DRE trained officers and approximately 17 trained ARIDE officers. The Patrol Division will expand its DRE & ARIDE programs by training and equipping additional officers with these tools to combat impaired driving. In 2021, the Lower Township Police Dept. DWI arrests remained high, just slightly lower than 2020. We maintain an above average prosecution rate of DWIs and are currently ranked 49th in the State of NJ. This overall higher DWI arrests are attributed to an increase in 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.

- **Increase the utilization of the deployment of Bike Patrol to increase officer visibility and accessibility to members of the public as well as business owners.**

Train and designate a minimum of two officers per patrol squad, in addition to the already trained department bike officers. As available personnel and weather permit, conduct bicycle patrols on the Delaware Bay front, residential areas, bike path and community parks. Increase the amount of officers on bicycles during large-scale events. Increase bike patrols in designated areas based on needs of the community, crime reporting, etc.

- **Foster & promote juvenile resiliency through increased positive interactions**

Conduct a minimum of one community policing contact per shift with a juvenile. Increase walk through details at the Township Recreation Center and Parks. Increase walk through details at all Lower Township Schools. Increase positive field contacts with juveniles during routine patrol shifts. Increase Officer “meet & greets” during annual Police Youth Camp.

Support Operations Unit

- **Quality Training**

Continue to provide a high level of training to all members of the Lower Township Police Department while using engaging techniques to promote participation and a high level of understanding. Some of these engaging techniques will be to use advanced interactive training aids (such as trauma mannequins) that allow the trainees to get “hands on” experience with such things as open wounds or other trauma incidents. Other techniques will include putting the trainees through “real-world” scenarios that the trainees can use the learned skills in a culminating event. The “real-world” scenarios will include various instruments to stimulate all of the trainees’ senses. This in turn will continue to be an effective strategy to give the most optimal training experience.

- **Multi-Agency Training**

Communicate with other agencies to provide a multi-jurisdictional training event(s), which would simulate the most likely incidents that would require a multi-agency response. One example of training that could be conducted with other local agencies is active shooter training. It is known that officers from various agencies would respond to an actual incident. It is a goal of the Support Operations Unit to get these agencies to train together so that everyone responding would have a clear understanding of what goals needed to be accomplished and the tactics to properly accomplish them. In the near future, this could become an annual multi-jurisdictional training event.

- **Community Policing**

Provide a comfortable atmosphere during community events to allow citizens of Lower Township to ask questions or voice their concerns about what is happening in ~~on the on-goings~~ of the community. Specific examples of these community events would be utilizing our "cops-in-shops" program more frequently. Another example could be safety outreaches, such as firearms safety seminars, drug recognition seminars, CPR classes and how to improve the physical security of resident properties and vehicles. This will promote positive relationships and cooperation between the officers and citizens of Lower Township.

Detective Bureau

- **Juvenile Matters**

With the ever-changing laws concerning juveniles in the State of New Jersey, it is important that all officers maintain an accurate understanding of the new laws, guidelines and policies. The Detective Division’s Juvenile Officer will be developing a multi-part curriculum to assist in keeping the department up to date. These abbreviated training courses will cover curbside warnings, the NJ Handle with Care Program, NJ juvenile alcohol and marijuana laws as well as any additional changes from the Attorney General’s Office.

- **UAS Program**

In 2021, the Detective Division conducted a study into the potential use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS). With multiple missing person cases, water rescues and areas within the Township containing rugged terrain, it was determined that obtaining a UAS with a thermal camera would give officers an advantage trying to find someone lost or injured in certain inaccessible locations. This year the Detective Division plans to acquire a UAS, train several officers to the FAA Remote Pilot Standard and obtain an FAA Certificate of Authorization allowing the Department to fly as a public entity.