

2022 Annual Report



Community Service Since 1955



Report Managed and Directed by:

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Captain Donald Vanaman

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January 27, 2023



Table of Contents

Letter from the Chief of Police	4
Mission Statement	5
NJSACOP Accreditation Program	6
Organization & Personnel	7
Calls for Service, Criminal Activity	10
Vehicle Related Incidents	14
Agency Statistics	16
Operational Initiatives	18
Public Safety Initiatives	21
Administrative Requirements in Policing	22
Administration	23
Patrol Division	28
Detective Division	32
Support Operations Unit	36
School Resource Officer Program	37
Records Division	40
Police Chaplains	42
Specialized Units	43
Outside Agency Roles	45
Training and Education	47
Community Projects and Programs	55
2022 Accomplishments	64
2021 Goals	65

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

It is my pleasure to present the 2022 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. Honor, Integrity and Service remain our focal points in delivering police services. Our goal is to advance effective, accountable policing and Criminal Justice practices to enhance public trust and safety. Our community-oriented policing model utilizes the proactive development of solutions to underlying, often quality of life, conditions that contribute to local issues. The use of technology, intelligence and the constant analyzing of data allows us to address problems often as they arise and before they become endemic. Officer safety and the well-being of our community remain our highest priority.



In 2022, the police department accomplished eight significant professional milestones:

- 1) Completed a full integration of a Comcast Business Fiber Optic Phone System.
- 2) Purchased 7 administrative laptops with full mobile operational capabilities.
- 3) Procured and fielded Agency360 software, which digitally documents agency evaluations and the entire field training process.
- 4) Developed an in-house wellness program and equipped a fully operational police fitness center, within the Public Safety Building, almost entirely from generous donations.
- 5) Developed and instituted a Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program, licensed multiple FAA certified pilots and attended/participated in an advanced UAS training program.
- 6) Fielded 9 new sub machine guns.
- 7) Partnered with the Rodgers Group/Lexipro for accreditation consulting and an annual digital agency training curriculum.
- 8) Converted all emergency notifications from Nixle Alerts to the Rave Alert Notification System with FEMAs Integrated Public Warning System (IPAWS).

It is my sincere hope that everyone takes the time to read this report and has a better understanding of the inner-workings and services we offer. We will continue to work with our residents, business owners and elected officials to solve problems as they arise, 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.

Transparency and partnering with our community are the essential elements of our success. 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.



LTPD's Current Re-Accreditation Certificate



Pastor West and members of Seashore Nazarene Church dropping off meals for the Department during National Police Week

NJSACOP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



The Lower Township Police Department is a four time accredited/reaccredited agency that participates in a New Jersey law enforcement accreditation program. This is a voluntary state program developed by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP). Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting agencies to calculate and improve their overall performance. 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 2020. Our agency is scheduled for our fifth formal agency assessment in November of 2023. This will take place only after a full policy review and a thorough self-analysis prior to the formal assessment.

In 2022, the Lower Township Police Department contracted and partnered with the Rodgers Group/Lexipol for Accreditation Consulting and a Cutting Edge E-learning Departmental Training Program. A full review and potential revisions of all policies and general orders was immediately initiated and continues into 2023. The onboarding of this professional consulting and highly effective training reduces the agency's liability and risk. The online portion of this training allows officers more time serving the community and less time commuting to or attending remote classes.

On October 28, 2022, 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 2022. Non-Credentialed agencies in New Jersey will be ineligible for federal grants.

Starting November of 2020 through November of 2023, we have been working towards re-accreditation. The Lower Township Police Department, will once again, undergo an in-depth and thorough evaluation from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police to ensure that thje department is meeting the current best practices according to the commission's standards. The NJSACOP assessment team sends their findings to the NJSACOP Accreditation Board for consideration of 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, potential insurance rate discounts, 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, 2022.

ADMINISTRATION
Chief of Police
Kevin E. Lewis
Captains
Donald Vanaman
Charles Ryan
Lieutenants
John Armbruster
Michael Majane
Brian McEwing
Administrative Sergeant
Ryan Hansberry

DETECTIVE BUREAU
Detective Sergeant Michael Perry
Detective First Class Michael James
Corey Scheid
Kaitlin Black
James Mathis
Eric Danze

PATROL SERGEANTS
Jason Felsing
James McNulty
William Barcas
Anthony Greto

CORPORALS
Matthew Gamble
Michael Szemcsak
Dallas Bohn

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
Austin Parker
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
Corporal Jennifer Elwell
Eric Coombs

Promotions

Chief Kevin Lewis – 1/22
Captain Charles Ryan – 1/22
Lieutenant John Armbruster – 5/22
Lieutenant Michael Majane – 5/22
Lieutenant Brian McEwing – 5/22
Sergeant First Class Michael Majane - 2/2
Sergeant Jason Felsing – 2/22
Sergeant James McNulty – 8/22
Corporal Dallas Bohn - 2/22

New Officers – 2022

None

Retirements – 2022

Sergeant Robert Smith, Jr. – 10/22



Chief Kevin Lewis - Swearing In Ceremony



Lieutenants John Armbruster, Michael Majane & Brian McEwing - Swearing In Ceremony



Sergeant James McNulty - Swearing In Ceremony



Sergeant Jason Felsing - Swearing In Ceremony



Sergeant Robert Smith Jr.'s Retirement Celebrations

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	2022
Calls for Service	45,482	33,910	48,559	51,412
Officer Initiated (MDT) Calls	8,811	6,568	8,029	28,086

Major Crimes

Offense	2019	2020	2021	2022
Homicide	0	0	1	0
Rape	10	7	6	6
Robbery	3	6	7	5
Aggravated Assault	146	95	79	34
Burglary	35	22	23	27
Theft	128	105	110	162
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	17	10	5
Arson	0	1	5	2

Investigations

Investigation Reports generated by officers totaled: **726**
 Supplemental Investigations or follow up reports generated: **428**

Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of “individuals” arrested in 2022. 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: **327**
 Total # of Juvenile Arrests: **37**

Indictable Complaints sent by the Lower Township Police Department to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office for 2022 – **196**.

National Incident-Based Reporting System (*Replaced UCR*)



From the FBI website: Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes.

Unlike data reported through the UCR Program’s traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS)—an aggregate monthly tally of crimes—NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared.

As recommended by professional law enforcement organizations, the FBI has made nationwide implementation of NIBRS a top priority because NIBRS can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing. To increase participation, the UCR Program is partnering with the Bureau of Justice Statistics on the National Crime Statistics Exchange, working with advocacy groups to emphasize the importance of NIBRS data, and transitioned the UCR Program to a NIBRS-only data collection, as of Jan. 1, 2021. In addition, the UCR Program has made resources available to help agencies address the cost of transitioning, as well as the potential perception that an agency has higher crime levels when NIBRS actually establishes a new baseline that more precisely captures reported crime in a community.



The Lower Township Police Department is fully certified in NIBRS

NIBRS Reporting

Due to a federal mandate, 2022 was a transitional year for crime reporting. Historically, the Uniformed Crime Report (UCR) was utilized for statistics. The UCR was an antiquated summary reporting system (SRS). The Lower Township Police Department has fully converted to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Currently less than 50% of Law Enforcement Agencies in New Jersey are NIBRS compliant. The new national standard will be how crime is measured, analyzed, and estimated by the Federal Government. The broad scope of this new reporting information collected will greatly improve the nation's understanding of crime and public safety. Due to 2022 being a transitional year, partial UCR and partial NIBRS reporting annual data base summaries are not comparable to previous years. 2023 will be our first full year of NIBRS reporting and we look forward to reporting a much more comprehensive annual summary report next year.

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	2022
Sex Offenses, other than rape	15	9	15	8
Simple Assaults	22	14	16	27
Medical Calls	1897	1668	1805	2282
Fire Calls	88	126	101	141
Animal Complaints	285	325	366	445
Burglar, Fire or Medical Alarms	834	724	656	643
Death Investigations	37	47	43	36
Disorderly Conduct Incidents	666	774	593	642
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	93	105	111	78
Missing Persons and Runaways	86	61	59	68
Assisting Other Agency Incidents	116	189	153	185
Bias Incidents Investigated	2	16	16	18
Criminal Mischief Complaints	150	151	158	170
Residential and Commercial Property Checks	24,054	17,405	29,676	32,274
Community Policing	330	129	113	81

Domestic Violence:

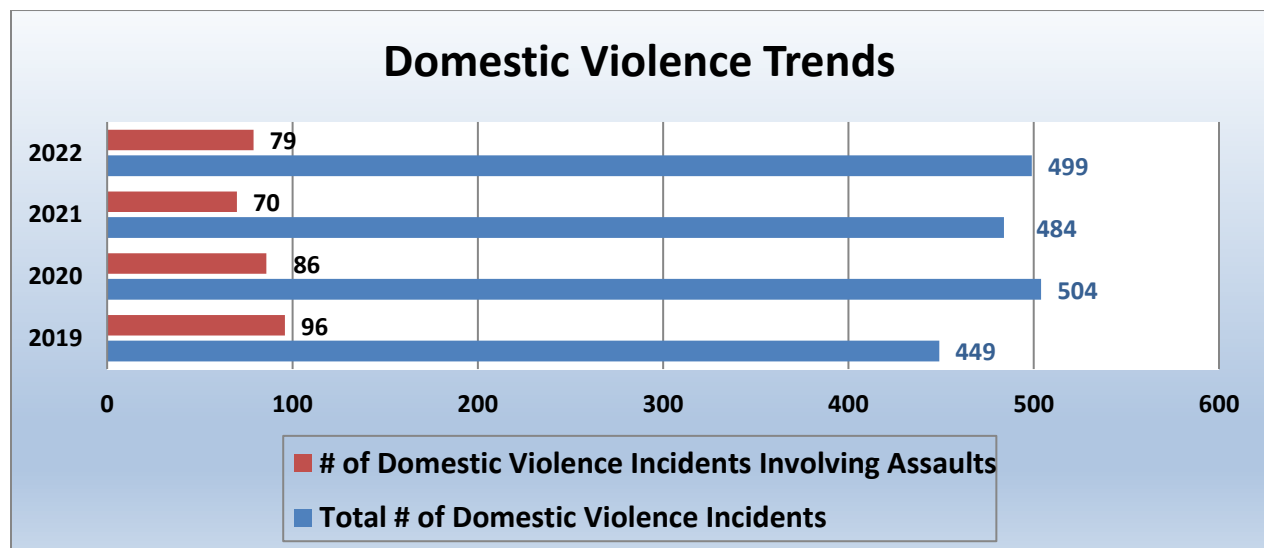
Domestic violence in New Jersey is viewed as a serious crime and carries with it penalties such as fines and prison time. Victims have the right to file restraining orders, both temporary and final, against the accused. Police officers must follow guidelines under the NJ Protection of Domestic Violence 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. There is 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.

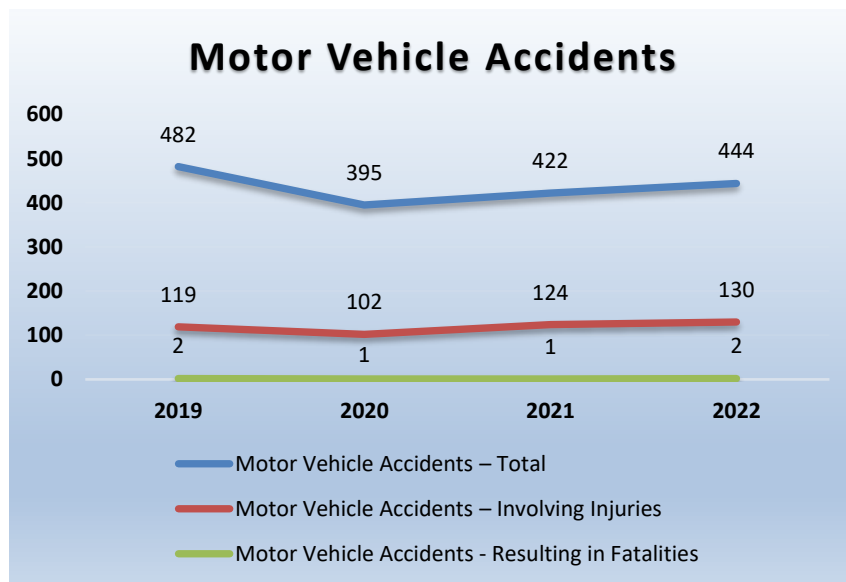
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total # of Domestic Violence Incidents	449	504	484	499
# of Domestic Violence Incidents Involving Assaults	96	86	70	79
Temporary Restraining Orders Granted	75	97	96	101
Temporary Restraining Orders Violated	31	28	42	37
Total Criminal Complaints	126	139	114	133



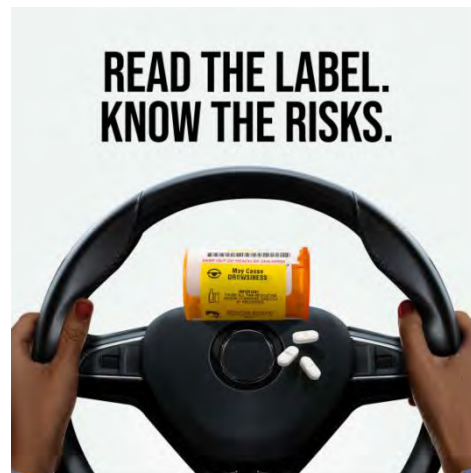
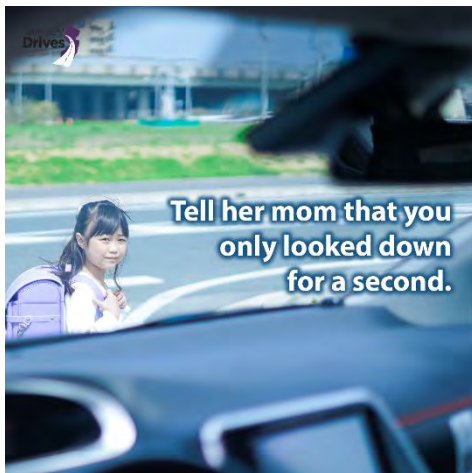
VEHICLE RELATED INCIDENTS

The Lower Township Police Department investigated **444** motor vehicle accidents and conducted **4404** motor vehicle stops during the year of 2022. 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	2022
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Total	482	395	422	444
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Number of Injuries	119	102	124	130
Motor Vehicle Accidents - Resulting in Fatalities	2	1	1	2
Motor Vehicle Stops – Total	5906	2334	4645	4404
Motor Vehicle Stops – Vehicle Summonses Issued	1797	997	1230	1090
Motor Vehicle Stops - Written Warnings Issued	15	3	25	155

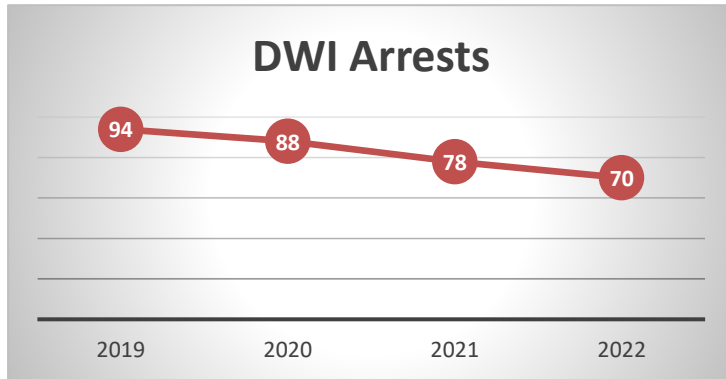


Examples of Social Media Campaigns posted in 2022



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

	2019	2020	2021	2022
DWI Arrests	94	88	78	70



MADD
 Activism | Victim Services | Education™

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 2022 was:

Officer	# of DWI Arrests
Patrol Officer Kevin O'Brien	11



Detective Eric Danze and Patrol Officer Jonathan Scheck were awarded the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) New Jersey Recognition of Excellence Award for outstanding dedication and support for their efforts in deterring impaired driving on New Jersey's roads and highways during 2020.

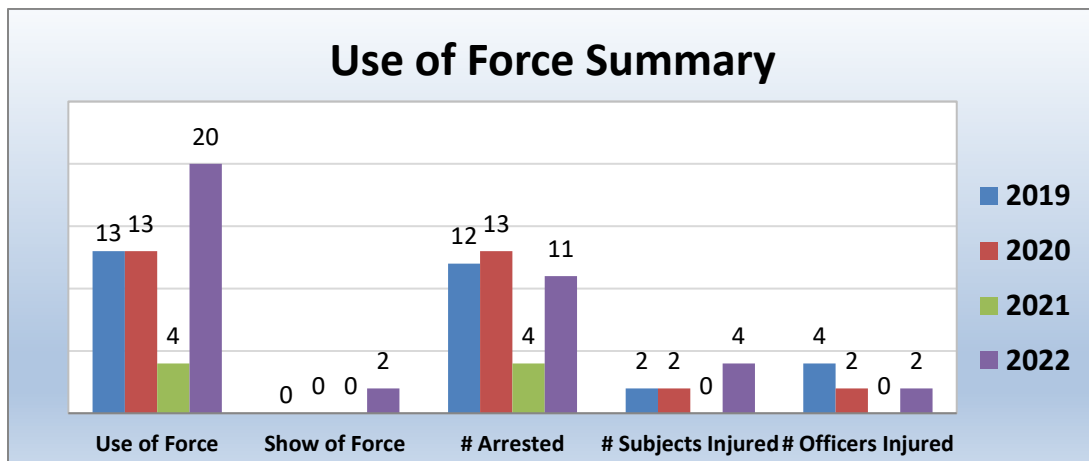
**Due to COVID-19, the 2020 awards were not completed until March of 2022.*

AGENCY STATISTICS

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	2022
Use of Force Incidents	13	13	4	20
Show of Force Incidents	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
# Subjects Arrested	12	13	4	11
# Subjects Injured	2	2	0	4
# Officers Injured	4	2	0	2



POLICE PURSUITS

Lower Township Police Officers were involved in 1 pursuit during 2022.

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 three years. In 2022, there were **19** cases of work related injuries. There were **78** work days/shift missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2022, our Police Officers were assaulted in the line of duty on **2** separate occasions.

The Lower Township Police Department logged many miles in department vehicles in 2022 and although every precaution and extreme care is taken, there were **7** traffic accidents involving department vehicles.

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 2022, the Lower Township Police Dept. conducted **13** internal affairs investigations, as compared with **10** investigations in 2021. Of the **13** investigations, **11** complaints of misconduct were alleged. The complaints involved on and off duty actions and/or conduct of Lower Township Police Dept. employees. Of the **13** investigations handled in 2022, **5** resulted in disciplinary action, including **3** terminations. Two terminations were investigations pending from 2021 and both termination effective dates were retroactive to 2021. In 2022, 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 2022:

Excessive Force (0)	Demeanor Complaint (0)
Improper Arrest (0)	Improper Entry (0)
Differential Treatment (1), 1 Unfounded	Improper Search (0)
Serious Rule Violation (1), 1 Sustained	Domestic Violence (0)
Other Criminal Violation (1), 1 Pending	
Other Rule Violations (10), 4 Sustained, 4 Unfounded, 1 Exonerated, 1 Pending	
<i>(Note: 3 investigations were agency-initiated for on duty vehicle accidents)</i>	

The Internal Affairs Division was managed by Captain Donald Vanaman in 2022.

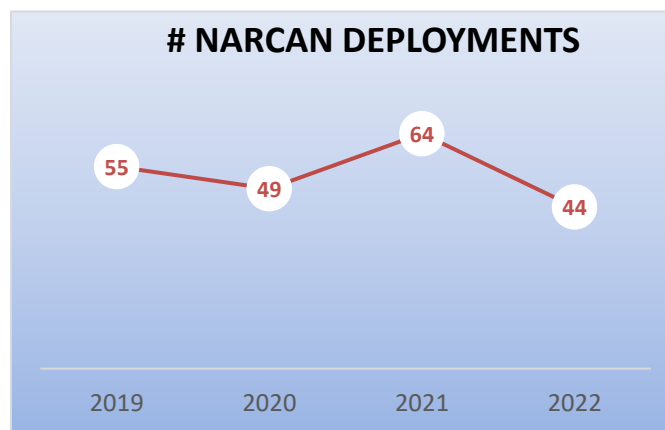
OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

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 2022, our officers deployed Narcan **44** times, saving many of those lives. In the event of an overdose and the individual does not go to the hospital for treatment, Lower Township Police officers offer to leave Narcan and a CURE program pamphlet. We refer to this as the “leave behind” program and each is documented, in accordance with the Overdose Protection Act of 2021, N.J.S.A. subsection 24:6J-5.1. 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 2022, the Lower Township Police Department collected and disposed of **315.5** 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, held in the Spring and Fall each year. In 2022, the department participated in 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/>.



CARES PROGRAM

Lower Township is currently the only municipality in the County who are in this pilot CARES program. When an officer responds to a call that is an overdose, he/she will refer the call to the CARES Mobile Response Team (*provided by Cape Regional Medical Center*). The team will travel to the scene of the overdose and provide non-clinical assistance, recovery support and information to individuals who are struggling with substance abuse-related disorders and who have suffered an overdose in Lower Township.

The Department also continues to work with Cape Assist, Cape Counseling, CURE, the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition and the 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:

- 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 \$17,500 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. No grant money was received in 2022 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.



PUBLIC SAFETY INITIATIVES

RAVE MOBILE SAFETY

In 2022, Lower Township switched to Rave Mobile Safety for its emergency and community notifications. Rave Alerts are sent via phone, text, email, mobile app and/or social media, depending on the type of message sent. The new system has all of the same features as the prior system, including anonymous tipping, yet provides our community with even more features at a lower cost. One of those features is Rave Prepare.

Rave Prepare leverages your existing Smart911 service and provides the capabilities needed to better prepare for and proactively respond to disasters and other emergencies when a citizen signs up and provides the requested information. Some examples of situations that use Raved Prepare information are:

- **Power Outages:** Rapidly identify and locate individuals who have critical dependencies on electricity, such as ventilators, kidney dialysis or medications requiring refrigeration.
- **Evacuation:** Locate those individuals who require assistance due to mobility limitations or transportation challenges and plan for the necessary transportation resources.
- **Transportation Interruptions:** Determine which residents have critical needs – such as kidney dialysis, home healthcare, in-home oxygen requirements – that will go unmet during a sustained transportation disruption.
- **Shelter Resource Planning:** Provide the resources the community will need during an incident requiring emergency sheltering. Information related to medical conditions, disabilities, pet information, primary language spoken and other access and functional needs can all be obtained in advance of a disaster.

The Lower Township Police Department is one of only 2 Police Departments (*besides NJSP*) to complete and maintain IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert & Warning System) Certification through FEMA. It is the only certified agency in Cape May County (*besides NJSP, which is certified for the entire state*). In an emergency, this enables us to send messages to ALL cell phones in our geographical area, in addition to TV and radio broadcast messages.



Citizens are encouraged to [register here](#) and see all of the notification options.

LT Alerts
Emergency Alerts, Traffic & Weather Advisories, Local News and Events via:
Phone Call, Text, Email and Mobile App.
Set your messaging preferences when you register.
Download the Smart911 app after registering.

Sign up NOW to receive LT Alerts
POWERED BY RAVE

Sign Up at Police, Township or MUA websites

The graphic includes logos for the Lower Township Police Department, Lower Township, and the RAVE logo. It also features four circular icons representing a phone, a text message, an email, and a mobile app.

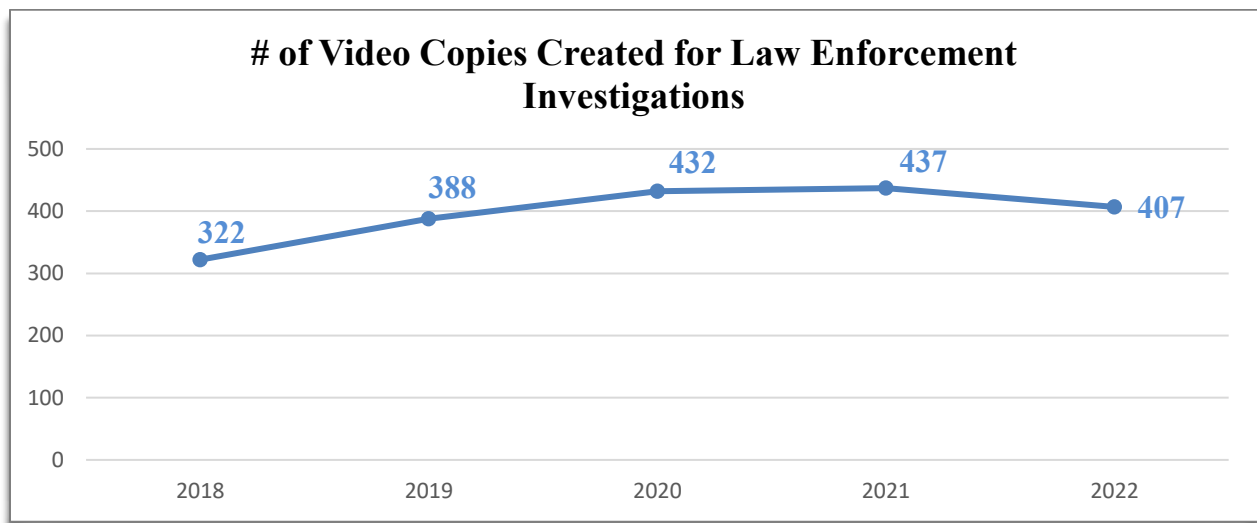
PLAN AHEAD FOR ANY EMERGENCY

DOWNLOAD THE SMART911® APP TODAY

The graphic shows a smartphone with a blue notification bubble on the screen containing icons for a warning triangle, a lightning bolt, a house, and a person. The background is a light blue gradient.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS IN POLICING

With changes to policing and legislation in recent years, there have been some shifting changes in work and tasks at the police department. One significant advancement and change was the implementation of body worn cameras, which the Lower Township Police began using in 2017. Not only did the officers need to learn new policies and procedures, the Records Department took on the responsibility of downloading/uploading videos, making video copies (including redaction), troubleshooting cameras and associated equipment, tracking video requests, etc. Our Administration and Supervisors have taken on the additional task of reviewing videos for various purposes. The graph below shows the trend in videos requests for law enforcement investigations for the last several years.



OPRA REQUESTS

Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests have become increasingly complex and more in-depth each year as modes of information continue to grow and record keeping continues to evolve. Administration and Records need to understand laws regarding OPRA and record retention policies set by the State of NJ Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services in order to complete OPRA requests. The department attends training when offered, to stay up to date on any changes.

EXPUNGEMENTS

With changes in laws, (for example marijuana law reform in 2022), expungement requests have increased dramatically. From inception to 2017, the department had processed approximately 220 expungements in total. From 2018 through 2022 that number increased to an additional 778 total expungements processed by the Records Department and reviewed by Administration.

RESIDENTIAL ALARMS

Lower Township Ordinance 153-4 requires the registration of residential alarms with the police department. This is a continuing initiative that the Records Department has taken on, increasing our number of registered alarms from 33 in 2018 to 195 in 2022. If a citizen needs to register an alarm, they can [download the form with instructions here](#).

ADMINISTRATION



The Lower Township Police Administration consists of seven Administrators: Chief Kevin Lewis, Captains Donald Vanaman and Charles Ryan, Lieutenant John Armbruster, Lieutenant Michael Majane, Lieutenant Brian Mc Ewing and Sergeant First Class Ryan Hansberry

Chief Kevin Lewis 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
- Liaison with Cape May County Chiefs monthly
- Attend State meetings and conferences, as needed
- Prepare and manage the Police Department's budget
- SOPs/Rules & Regulations (manage/update)
- Oversee Hiring and Promotion Process

Captain Donald Vanaman served as the Executive Officer and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Patrol and Support Operations
- Internal Affairs
- Early Warning / Guardian Tracking
- Accreditation Manager
- Public Information Officer (Primary)
- On-Call Administrator
- Rave Alerting System
- CI / Confidential Files
- Patrol Division and Support Operations Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Weekly Command Meetings
- Power DMS Paperless System
- ODMAP Administrator (Primary)
- NJ Learn Administrator
- Traffic/DWI Grants (Primary)
- Advanced Licensed Plate Reader (ALPR) Administrator (Secondary)
- Military & Veteran Affairs (Primary)
- Annual Departmental Report
- Training
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief

Captain Charles Ryan served as the Administrative Services Commander and was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Investigative Operations
- SOPs/Rules & Regulations
- Open Public Record Act (OPRA) coordinator
- Expungements
- Periodic Review and Approve Investigative Bureau Reports
- Military & Veteran Affairs (Secondary)
- Public Information Officer (Alternate)
- Emergency Generator
- Photo ID Cards
- Animal Control
- Power DMS Paperless System
- NJ Learn Administrator (Secondary)
- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Administrative Division Employee Evaluations (Annually)
- Weekly Command Meetings
- Training
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Homeless Trust Fund Appointee

Patrol Lieutenants John Armbruster and Brian McEwing were responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Periodic Review and Approval of Investigative Bureau Reports
- 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
- Advanced Licensed Plate Reader (ALPR) Administrator (Primary)
- 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
- Domestic Violence Working Group Liaison
- Crash Team Coordinator
- Public Information Officer (Alternate)

Administrative Lieutenant Michael Majane was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Training Records Maintenance
- GPS Tracking Administrator
- 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
- Advanced Licensed Plate Reader (ALPR) Administrator (Secondary)
- Live Scan Fingerprint System
- Manage Accident/Injury Reports (Workers Compensation)
- Manage Retirement Events
- OSHA/Right to Know Compliance Officer
- Safety Officer
- JIF Coordinator
- Light Duty Manager

- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Extra Duty Contracts
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Captains
- Monitor Weekly Fleet Inventories
- Body Armor Grants

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
- Assistant Emergency Management Coordinator
- Honor Guard Liaison (Nuscis, Scheid)
- Fire Department Liaison
- 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
- Oversight of the Infectious Control Officer
- Project Life Saver
- On-Call Administrator
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Captains and Lieutenants
- Wellness Coordinator

Detective Sergeant Michael Perry was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Training
- Review and Approve Investigative Reports
- Reviews Investigative 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
- 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 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/PTL Nuscis)
- Cape May County Child Protective Services Liaison
- Background Investigation of New Employees (Sworn and Non- Sworn)
- Manage Firearms Background Investigations
- Manage and Prepare Forfeiture Funds Reports
- Manage Stationhouse Adjustments
- Maintain Gang File
- VICAP Liaison
- Bias Crime Officer
- Prosecutor's Office Liaison
- Megan's Law
- Oversee Evidence Unit
- Manage, Oversee and Train on the Used of the B.E.A.S.T. evidence system
- Conduct Annual Evaluations
- Project Medicine Drop Off
- Internal Affairs Investigator



PATROL DIVISION





The Patrol Division of the Lower Township Police Department is the largest of all the divisions within the agency with 3 Class II Special Officers, 23 full time Patrol Officers, 4 Sergeants 3 Corporals, 2 Patrol 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 28 days. A Sergeant and Corporal supervises each squad of 6 to 7 additional full-time patrol officers assigned.

PATROL BUREAU NOTABLE CASE FOR 2022

Active Shooter Response:

On October 14, 2022, Cape May County Communications received a phone call from a male stating that there was a female in the high school with a gun and that 13 students were shot. While the incident was later determined to be a hoax, it was initially assumed to be factual and handled as such. Immediately after County Communications dispatched the call, the on duty patrol squad responded to the High School and made entry to locate and eliminate the threat.

Secondary responding officers set up a command post, while personnel from other jurisdictions arrived and were assigned tasks. No injured students or threats were discovered during the first tactical search of the school, so a secondary search was conducted to ensure the safety of the students before the start of the evacuation. Eventually the students were evacuated from the school with the coordination of School Officials, Transportation Staff, Officers from numerous jurisdictions, as well as Cape May County SWAT.

In the end, the call was determined to be a hoax, however all who responded that day believed they were responding to a real event and showed no hesitation in the performance of their duties.



Drone for Investigations

SLEO CLASS II PROGRAM

Currently the Lower Township Police Department has 3 Special Law Enforcement Class II Officers and 3 Class II Recruits currently attending the 62nd Basic Course for Class Two Special Law Enforcement Officers at the Cape May County Police Academy. 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 as of December 31, 2022 (Class II Officers)

Patrick Aiken Brian George
Steven Gindville Robert White

Captain Donald Vanaman was the Executive Officer and Operations Commander overseeing the Patrol Division which is run by Lieutenants John Armbruster and Brian McEwing.



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 2022, the Detective Division was assigned **169** investigations and conducted an additional **96** follow-up investigations. They also assisted the uniformed Patrol Division in **7** missing person cases, where all parties were located.

Additional types of investigations include:

- **12** Juvenile Welfare Complaints
- **11** Burglaries
- **18** Suspected Bias Incident
- **11** Assaults
- **13** Sexual Assaults
- **16** Deaths

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.

Additionally, the Detective Division conducts all firearms background investigations, while the Records Division handles all the administrative tasks for firearms applications. Due to the change in data availability, the data tracked has been updated for 2022:

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total Number of Applications Completed/Investigations	280	625	588	472
Number of Applications Approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	419
Number of Application Denials	2	15	13	6
Number of Applications Withdrawn/Not Completed	2	90	99	54
Total # of Handgun Permits Executed				325
Permits to Carry Issued	1	1	1	46

The Detective Division is also 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 Detective Division conducted **69** Megan’s law investigations.

The Lower Township Police Department received a grant in the amount of **\$1440.00** 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 Michael Perry, 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 Michael Perry	Detective Kaitlin Black
Detective First Class Michael James	Detective James Mathis
Detective Corey Scheid	Detective Eric Danze

The Detective Division oversees and maintains all evidence within the police department. Presently, **7,842** items are logged into the evidence system, with **913** items added in 2022.

Primary Evidence Custodian: DSG Michael Perry
 Secondary Evidence Custodians: DFC Michael James, Det. Corey Scheid

DNA/Fingerprint cases: - 13/7 for 2022

DETECTIVE DIVISION NOTABLE CASES FOR 2022

“Bad Batch”

In January 2022, detectives were summoned to a Villas residence for a reported suspicious death. The ensuing investigation revealed that the deceased 40-year-old male died of an apparent drug overdose. During the nearly yearlong investigation, six search warrants and seven communication data warrants were executed and several interviews were conducted. As a result, two subjects have been charged with Strict Liability Drug Induced Death and Manslaughter.

“Everything but...”

In January 2022, detectives responded to the 500 block of Seashore Road in Erma for a reported theft of a boat and surfboards. Evidence was collected on scene and later processed at police headquarters. During the investigation, a male suspect was developed. A day later, a residential burglary was reported close to the previously reported boat theft. During the burglary investigation, an item was left behind, identifying the burglar. Information was received from the New Jersey State Police explaining that the male identified as our burglary suspect was also suspected of stealing a truck in their jurisdiction. Video surveillance was obtained which showed the male towing the stolen boat with a stolen truck. After several interviews and the execution of search warrants, a stolen truck, two stolen boats, stolen trailers, and over \$100,000 worth of other stolen items were seized. The male subject was charged accordingly by all appropriate jurisdictions.

“Innocent Victim”

In February 2022, patrol and detectives responded to East Atlantic Avenue in the Villas for a well-being check and they found an injured male that had been assaulted. During the assault, money he had on him was stolen. Information obtained named three potential suspects. A search warrant was executed on a residence where the stolen money and other items were recovered. As a result of the investigation, three male subjects were charged with Robbery and Aggravated Assault.

“Comeback Tour”

In February 2022, detectives were called to a commercial burglary in the Villas section of the township. During the investigation, it was learned that two male subjects forced entry into the back door of the property. While inside, the cash register drawer was stolen. After a review of the video surveillance, a clear description of the suspects was given to all responding officers. While on the scene investigating, the two burglary suspects came back to the scene wearing the same clothing depicted in the surveillance video. They were taken into custody without incident. The two males, one being a juvenile, were charged with Burglary, Theft, and Criminal Mischief. The adult male was additionally charged with Employing a Juvenile in the Commission of a Crime.

“Hot Rod”

In June 2022 while investigating a 9-1-1 hang-up, patrol units observed smoke coming from a vehicle parked in the 1400 block of Bayshore Road in the Villas section of the Township. The Cape May County Fire Marshall’s Office, as well as the Lower Township Police Detective Division, responded to investigate the fire due to the vehicle being a total loss. Video surveillance was located and reviewed. Two subjects were identified and brought in for questioning. As a result of the investigation, both subjects were charged with Aggravated Arson and Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Arson.

“On Edge”

In July 2022 patrol officers observed a Ford Edge SUV driving erratically out of the North Cape May Wawa Market with a male subject holding onto the outside of the vehicle. An attempt to stop the vehicle was unsuccessful and a pursuit was initiated. During the pursuit, the subject who was affixed to the exterior of the vehicle jumped off and suffered injury. The pursuit was terminated at that time and the male was treated. It was learned that the male was the owner of the vehicle, which had just been stolen from the Wawa Market. Through investigative means, a male subject was identified as a potential suspect. A check of his social media revealed a video of him inside a restaurant in Atlantic City. Video surveillance was obtained, positively identifying the subject. Charges were prepared which included Attempted Murder, Eluding, Car Jacking, and Aggravated Assault. The subject was arrested in another state and extradited back to New Jersey for court.



The Detective Bureau was honored at the Lower Township Council Meeting on July 6, 2022 for receiving the Unit Award, specifically the Guns, Gangs, & Drugs Law Enforcement Award, from the NJ Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association (NJNEOA) for their accomplishments made in vigorous drug enforcement efforts.

Detective Eric Danze with Summer Youth Camp children



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 Donald Vanaman. Support Operations conducts and documents training of the department, plans and executes all special events, handles specific traffic needs, acts as court liaisons, provides school security, instructs L.E.A.D., weapons armorers, firearm's qualifications, community policing, coffee with a cop program, recruitment, third party contract management, and running the Lower Township Police Youth Summer 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 and instruct at the Cape May County Police Academy.

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.

In 2022, Officer Jordan Saini completed the Active Threat Instructor Course, the L.E.A.D. Instructor Course, the Sig Sauer Armorer's 516 and MPX Course, Sport and Special Event Risk Management Course, Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC) and train-the-trainer, Axon Taser Instructor Update.

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.

In 2022, Officer Michael Nuscis completed the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructor train-the-trainer course, the Axon Taser Instructor's Course, Gracie Survival Tactics, Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Program, Hostage Rescue and High Risk Warrant Course, the Police Training Commission's (PTC) Defensive Tactics Instructor Course, Sport and Special Event Risk Management and Sig Sauer MPX Armorer School.

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. Although the School Resource Officer's main concern is safety and security, SRO's are integrated into the fabric of the school. A big part of their job is getting to know the students and staff. SRO's are expected to keep the entire campus safe and look for weaknesses in the security. SRO's also attend homecoming dances, Prom, athletic events, plays and they are a part of the holiday events. They provide information on back to school night and teach classes such as DWI Prevention and Graduated Driver's License Rules.

The stationhouse adjustment has become an intricate part of the SRO's job. A stationhouse adjustment is an alternative method that law enforcement agencies may use to handle first-time juvenile offenders who have committed minor juvenile delinquency offenses within their jurisdiction. The intent of the stationhouse adjustment program is to provide for immediate consequences, such as community service or restitution and a prompt and convenient resolution for the victim, while at the same time benefitting the juvenile by avoiding the stigma of a formal juvenile delinquency record.

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 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 **6,819** 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 2022, **185** students were taught the L.E.A.D. Program.

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 2022 either.

In 2023, our aim is to further develop and nurture relationships with juvenile programs around the county to include Cape Assist and School Based Youth Services. These programs can assist the SRO with students who need counseling or as part of a Station House Adjustment as part of the terms and conditions.

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 include and is not limited to:

- Records/Reports – Manage Case Files which include Investigation, Supplemental Investigation, Sudden Death, Special Reports and file uploads, etc.
- Firearms Application Administration – 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)
- Residential 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 & Reports 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 as needed

- Prepare and finalize NIBRS Reports
- Records Retention/Destruction for all Sections of the PD within State guidelines
- Sending/Posting of Press Releases
- Rave Mobile Safety/Nixle 360 Emergency Notification Administration
- IPAWS (Integrated Public Alerting & Warning System) FEMA Certified Coordinator
- Assist with Social Media Management
- Website Content Management
- Compile and Organize the departmental Annual Report
- 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. 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. Chaplains in our program 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.

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 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
- Critical Incident Response
- Other duties that may be assigned by the Chief of Police
- Station House Adjustments,
- Bias Incidents

Effective July 22, 2021 by General Order, the Lower Township Police Chaplains Corps Program was formerly established and also identifies other possible use of the Chaplains:

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

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. Additionally, each year the Chaplains plan a Christmas Lunch/Dinner for the entire department and it provides a means for the officers and staff to get to know the Chaplains in a fun and positive environment. The Department is pleased to collaborate 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 and the members wear a formal uniform blouse.

Members of the Honor Guard include:

Ptl. Michael Nuscis	Sgt. James McNulty
Det. Corey Scheid	DSG 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 Lieutenant Brian McEwing.

Members include:

Lieutenant Brian McEwing
Sergeant Jason Felsing
School Resource Officer Eric Coombs
Patrol Officer Stephen Flitcroft
Detective Kaitlin Black



OUTSIDE AGENCY ROLES

SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)



Cape May County Regional SWAT Team

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. The position of a SWAT member is voluntary and they are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Upon vacancies on the team, tryouts are posted 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 and 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.

Additionally, Officers Nuscis, Kocis, Walker and Harkin all attended the Hostage Rescue and High Risk Warrant Course at T.E.E.S (Tactical Energetic Entry Systems) for a week long training that took place in Byhalia, Mississippi in April.

The Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was activated **32** times in 2022. These call outs involved assisting the FBI, DEA, Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office and Atlantic City Police. Along with the SWAT callouts, the SWAT Team provided security for the Sea Isle City Polar Bear Plunge, USCG Family Festival, City of Wildwood Beach Concerts and the Lower Township Military Appreciation Football Game. The team also does demonstrations for the Lower Township Youth Camp and National Night Out among other events.



Cape May County Regional SWAT Team providing a demonstration for the 2022 Summer Youth Camp



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

DSG Michael Perry

Patrol Officer Jordan Saini

Patrol Officer Michael Nuscis

Patrol Officer Kenneth Walker

Detective Eric Danze

Patrol Officer William Kocis (*missing from photo*)

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.

Captain Charles Ryan is the Department Training Coordinator and his duties are to keep track of all the mandatory department training, as well as any additional in-service training, officers receive, and to maintain all training records for each officer in the agency. Patrol Commanders and Support Operations assist with training and education as well.

The men and women of the Lower Township Police Department attended a wide variety of training courses throughout 2022, including, and not limited to the list below.

- ◆ Calibre Press Street Survival Seminar
- ◆ Gracie Survival Tactics (GST)
- ◆ Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
- ◆ NJSP DWI Detection and SFST Course
- ◆ Zoom-In on Crime Scene & Evidence Photography
- ◆ Advanced Crime Scene Investigation
- ◆ Advanced Crash Investigation
- ◆ Alcotest Re-certification Course
- ◆ Alcotest Initial Operators Course
- ◆ Drug Impaired Driving (DID)
- ◆ NIBRS Training
- ◆ FBI Virtual NIBRS Training
- ◆ Basic Crash Investigations
- ◆ Below 100
- ◆ Police Academy Training
- ◆ Field Training Patrol Officer
- ◆ Spring Firearms Qualifications
- ◆ Active Shooter Instructor Training Program (FLETC)
- ◆ L.E.A.D. Instructor's Course
- ◆ PBA Collective Bargaining Seminar
- ◆ Rifle Operator
- ◆ Physical Conditioning Instructor
- ◆ Methods of Instruction
- ◆ Front-Line Leadership and Supervision Course
- ◆ Active Threat Training
- ◆ NJSTART Update & Use Training
- ◆ P.R.I.D.E. Conference
- ◆ Basic Crash Investigations
- ◆ Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Training
- ◆ Annual SART Training & Medical In-service Day/CPR Certification
- ◆ J. Harris - Command Series Level 1: Developing First Line Supervisors
- ◆ Supervision School



Lt. Armbruster & Ptl. Nuscis at Gracie Survival Tactics Training (Level 2) – 2022

- ◆ SIG Armorer Course
- ◆ Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Virtual Symposium
- ◆ Domestic Violence Virtual Symposium
- ◆ PTC Certified Humane LEO Waiver Training for Police and County Investigators
- ◆ Annual SART Training & Medical In-service Day/CPR Certification
- ◆ 2022 Special Police Officer Patrol Practices Update
- ◆ Career Survival Class for First-Line Supervisors
- ◆ NJ Advanced Search & Seizure / NJ Advanced Traffic Stops
- ◆ NJ Open Public Records Act - OPRA
- ◆ Training Program For Front-Line Supervisors
- ◆ Offender Watch Training
- ◆ NJSP Drug Recognition Expert DRE
- ◆ Spanish For Law Enforcement Officers
- ◆ Police Training Commission's 2-day wrap-around Defensive Tactics Instructor
- ◆ Internal Affairs Course (CMCPA)
- ◆ Domestic Violence Investigations
- ◆ CART Training
- ◆ Special Victims Training
- ◆ Field Training for Patrol Officers
- ◆ 2022 Internal Affairs Training (CMCPA)
- ◆ New Jersey Resiliency Program
- ◆ SLEO II Police Academy Training
- ◆ Sport and Special Event Risk Management/LS-AWR167-277
- ◆ Field Training Class II
- ◆ IPTM Training – Advanced Marijuana Impaired Driving Detection
- ◆ CAMPS Access Training (Civil Service Commission)
- ◆ Taser Recertification
- ◆ AXON Taser Instructors Course (Cert & Re-Cert)
- ◆ Taser Recertification
- ◆ SIG SAUER MPX Armorer Course
- ◆ Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC)
- ◆ MPX Operator's Course
- ◆ Fall Firearms Qualifications
- ◆ Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1 Instructor Certification Course
- ◆ NJLTAP Training – Traffic Incident and Management
- ◆ Methods of Instruction
- ◆ Arrest Search and Seizure
- ◆ OPRA 2 Day course (Open Public Records Act)
- ◆ Public Information Officer Update
- ◆ Criminal Investigation
- ◆ Verbal Judo
- ◆ CMC Airport Runway Safety and Protocol Training
- ◆ Women in Law Enforcement Conference
- ◆ Grant Writing for Profit and Nonprofit Entities
- ◆ ICS 200 – Incident Command Systems
- ◆ PTC 2 Day DT Instructor Course

- ◆ FBI National Academy Associates Training Conference 2022
- ◆ Beast Administrators Group 2022
- ◆ Child Abduction Tabletop Exercise
- ◆ Special Victims Investigation Course
- ◆ ICS 200 – Incident Command Systems
- ◆ Physical Conditioning Instructor
- ◆ Using Social Media to Solve Crimes Webinar
- ◆ Crisis Intervention Team Training (CIT)
- ◆ FEMA – IPAWS – Alert & Warning Communications – Collaborative TA
- ◆ ICS 300 – Incident Command Systems
- ◆ Unmanned Tactical Applications Conference (UTAC 2022)
- ◆ Mobile Field Force
- ◆ Fall MPX Operator's Course
- ◆ JIF -Management of Aggressive Behavior
- ◆ NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety Basic Crash Investigation
- ◆ M4 Operator Course
- ◆ Crisis Negotiation Training
- ◆ Code of Ethics
- ◆ Legal Updates
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Bloodborne Pathogens
- ◆ Use of Force
- ◆ Vehicular Pursuit
- ◆ Right to Know
- ◆ HazMat Awareness Refresher Course 2021-2022 (NJ Learn)
- ◆ JIF Cyber Security Awareness Training
- ◆ CLEAR 2022 - Mental Health & Special Needs Training



Cpl. Bohn, Ptl. Harkin & Ptl. Shough at Gracie Survival Tactics Training (Level 1) – 2022

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

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



Support Operations Officers Nuscis and Saini at 2022 L.E.A.D. Day

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

Chief Kevin Lewis

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

Captain 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
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1 & 2

Lt. 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
- Firearm's Instructor
- Survival Training/MILO Instructor

Lt. Brian McEwing

- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- Human Trafficking

SFC Ryan Hansberry

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

Detective Division

DSG 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

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

Detective Eric Danze

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

Patrol Division:

Sgt. William Barcas

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

Sgt. James McNulty

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

Cpl. Matthew Gamble

- Road Wise, Train The Trainer

Cpl. Michael Szemcsak

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

Cpl. Dallas Bohn

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1

SRO Cpl. Jennifer Elwell

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

SRO Eric Coombs

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

Officer Stephen Flitcroft

- Police Work Zone Safety, Train The Trainer

Officer Adam Hegarty

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

Officer William Kocis

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Resiliency
- Physical Conditioning Instructor

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
- Basic Tactical Medical Instructor
- AXON TASER Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1 & 2

Officer Jordan Saini

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Rifle Instructor
- Firearm's Instructor
- Taser (CED) Instructor
- Survival Training Instructor
- Tactical Medical Instructor
- Active Shooter Instructor
- L.E.A.D. Instructor
- AXON TASER 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)

Officer Thomas Shough

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1

Officer Michael Harkin

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Gracie Survival Tactics (GST) Level 1

COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- Scout Out, Derby Extravaganza Weekend At Beachcomber Campground
- Law Enforcement United/Police Unity Tour
- Escape the Cape
- Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
- School Graduations and Activities
- Lower Township Fireworks and Club at Diamond Beach Fireworks
- Summer Youth Camp
- Douglass/Coombs Run
- Cop Stop Program
- Sunset Beach 9/11 Ceremony
- Atlantic Cape Community College Career Day
- 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 Run
- LCMR Military Appreciation Football Game
- Safety Day at KidSpace Academy
- Annual National Night Out Event
- LCMR Military Appreciation Football Game
- Haunted Trails & Trunk or Treat
- No Shave November
- Veteran’s Day Parade
- Lower Township Tree Lighting Ceremony & Veteran’s Tribute
- Lower Township Annual Rotary Christmas Parade
- West Cape May Christmas Parade
- Shop with a Cop
- Fraud Prevention and Fall Prevention – Senior Citizen Programs



**SCOUT OUT, DERBY EXTRAVAGANZA WEEKEND
AT BEACHCOMBER CAMPGROUND – APRIL 2022**



POLICE UNITY TOUR – MAY 2022



SUMMER LEMONADE STAND – JULY 2022



SAFETY DAY AT KIDSPACE ACADEMY – OCTOBER 2022



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – OCTOBER 2022



LOWER TOWNSHIP VETERANS CEREMONY – NOVEMBER 2022



SHOP WITH A COP - DECEMBER 2022



SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

The Lower Township Police Department offers a free police youth camp for Lower Township 6th and 7th grade students. In 2022, the department had its largest camp yet with 62 campers accepted. Campers enjoyed water activities such as the waterpark and the Silver Bullet Boat Ride, along with boardwalk rides, a tramcar ride and of course ice cream! Campers learned about the different aspects of the first responder professions and spent a day at the Cape May County Police Academy using the MILO machine, learning how to use a fire hose, interacting with K-9, the State Police and their marine division, SWAT and the Prosecutor's Office. The campers toured the Lower Township Police Department meeting all personnel and getting to watch a [taser\[SW1\]](#) demonstration.

Everyone's favorite day is the Phillies baseball game day. The entire group travels up to Philadelphia to enjoy a game, sit with friends and counselors and eat junk food. For some, it is the only time visiting the stadium. The final day is at the Seashore Campground where campers and counselors swim and join in scavenger hunts and corn hole tournaments. Each day, food is provided by our local restaurants and businesses who always support the camp.

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. The bond between counselors and campers becomes more evident each day as a camper arrives to camp and races in to join his/her group. The bond is seen as counselors are invited to ride roller coasters together or go down a water slide or cheer loudly at the Phillies game side by side, yet it is most evident when officers arrive on scene to an incident and a camper recognizes the officer as a friend and feels safe. It is also evident when officers walk through a school and their name is called out numerous times because now they are a welcome person in the secret teenage community.







MILITARY APPRECIATION FOOTBALL GAME

Lower Cape May Regional Football - Military Appreciation Night was held on October 7, 2022 and sponsored by the school. LCMR played Pitman 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, military game t-shirts and hat sales. All proceeds benefit NJ Run for the Fallen (www.njrun.org) which honors men and women (and their families) who have given their lives for our freedom.



2022 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Police Administration:

- Implemented Department Wellness Program with in-house training facility
- Expanded E-Ticketing Program
- Procured and fielded 9 new MPX Carbine weapons to replace older equipment
- Expanded Police Drone Program
- Replaced phone system with Comcast Business Advanced Communication System
- Accreditation and Training Consultant Partnership, The Rodgers Group/Lexipol
- Acquired a new Police Unity Tour enclosed trailer through donations
- Fielded Police Administration laptops with encrypted remote server access
- Fielded new Agency360 digital Evaluation and Field Training software
- Launched a pilot program for NJ Cares
- Created and fully implemented a Support Operations Unit
- Transitioned from Nixle Alerts to Rave Emergency Alert System with FEMA Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS)

Patrol Division:

- Currently ranked 47th in the State of NJ (top 10%) and 1st in the County for DWI arrests.
- Provided 24 hour/7 day a week protection and service to our community

Support Operations:

- Fully trained and certified all department personnel in CPR and First Aid
- Executed all firearms training for the department
- Provided all in-service departmental training
- Planned and conducted Lower Township Police Youth Camp
- Managed all Lower Township Special Events, planning and execution
- Planned and operated National Night Out
- Provided School Security
- Participated in the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition
- Instructed L.E.A.D. program to all Lower Township Elementary 6th graders

Detective Bureau:

- Juvenile (JV) Detective has worked vigorously with the Cape May County Prosecutor's Officer, JV Assistant Prosecutor, patrol division, elected officials, and available juvenile resource contacts to conform to New Jersey Attorney General Juvenile Justice Reform, while simultaneously addressing quality of life issues within the township.
- Investigated all major crimes within the township and liaised with County, State, and Federal Law Enforcement Officers as needed.

GOALS FOR 2023

Police Administration:

- ◆ **Procure and Field Multiple Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)**
- ◆ **Update our headquarters digital fingerprint machine**
- ◆ **Implement Police Drone (UAS) Operationally**
- ◆ **Enhance Bike Patrol Program**
- ◆ **Enhance Police ATV Program**
- ◆ **Digitize Archived Records**
- ◆ **Replace end of life Tasers with new Axon 7 technology**
- ◆ **Add Axon auto-tagging through County Digital Records Management System (RMS)**
- ◆ **Implement Axon Signal Sidearm equipment and software**
- ◆ **Complete a full policy and general orders review; revise as necessary**
- ◆ **Obtain our triennial re-accreditation status with NJSACOP by preparing for and passing an in-depth third party assessment scheduled for end of year 2023**
- ◆ **Establish Patrol Officer First Class (PFC) and Senior Detective Positions**

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 newly impaired drivers and prosecuting them without a conventional means. The Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) and Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) provide necessary tools to bridge the identified gap in prosecuting these cases. The department currently has 6 DRE trained officers and approximately 21 trained ARIDE officers. The Patrol Division will expand our DRE and ARIDE programs by implementing, training, and equipping additional officers with the tools to combat impaired driving. Continue to maintain an above average prosecution rate of DWIs. The 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.

- ◆ **Continued utilization of the Bike Patrol to increase officer visibility and accessibility to members of the public as well as business owners.**
Maintain a minimum of two officer per patrol squad in addition to the already trained department bike officers. As available personnel and weather permitting, 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 the needs of the community, crime reporting, etc.

◆ **Foster and promote juvenile resiliency through increased positive interactions with law enforcement.**

Conduct a minimum of one community policing contact per shift with a juvenile in Lower Township. 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 Introductions during annual Police Youth Camp. Partner with the community, parents, schools, recreation department, elected officials to address and improve quality of life issues; specifically in reference to juveniles.

◆ **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) Program:**

Last year the Department set a goal of acquiring a UAS with a thermal camera and training officers to the FAA's Part 107 standard for UAS Pilots. In 2022, that goal was accomplished with the purchase of a DJI Matrice 30T drone. In addition to obtaining the UAS, Lt. McEwing and Captain Ryan attended training in Georgia put on by industry leaders. That knowledge was brought back and the department conducted its first successful "Air Support Unit" training on December 5th with 5 FAA licensed Officer/Pilots. In 2023, we aim to take our UAS program a step farther. We will continue to train new officers in the safe operation of the UAS and insure they are FAA compliant. The Air Support Unit will train monthly and add several additional pilots to the unit, increasing the probability of an on-duty pilot being immediately available for rapid deployment in emergent circumstances. The Air Support Unit will continue to hone their skills and expand the technological capabilities of this life saving program.

◆ **Patrol Officer First Class Rank (PFC):**

In 2023, the Department will be promoting several senior officers to the newly established rank of Patrolman First Class. With the ever-changing demands put on our front line supervisors, the need for dependable, highly trained leaders is evident. This new PFC rank will designate specific officers as the third in line supervisors on each squad and will fill in the leadership roles of the Corporal and Sergeant in their absence, as well as stand in as a mentor and resource for junior officers. These officers will be selected based on a multitude of criteria including seniority, supervisor recommendation and past-demonstrated ability as a leader.

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 better training aids that the trainees will want to get their hands on such as bleeding wounds or trauma manikins. 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 experience during community relations to allow citizens of Lower Township to ask questions or voice their concerns on the on-goings of the community. Specific examples of these community relations 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 "harden" resident properties and vehicles. This will promote a positive atmosphere and relationship 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.

◆ **Surveillance Equipment**

Acquiring quality surveillance equipment will assist our officers/detectives in their investigations by identifying suspects involved in committing crimes, ultimately leading to their arrest and prosecution. Surveillance equipment documents the incident, which will be used as evidence in court during the prosecution. When there is an increase in criminal activity in an area, this equipment will assist in solving those crimes and could act as a deterrent. Surveillance equipment is also more cost-effective than having officers conduct physical surveillance for prolonged periods. Law Enforcement Surveillance equipment is used throughout the United States as an effective tool to combat crime effectively.

◆ **Cyber Crime-Based Training**

With the rise in Cyber Crimes across the country, our goal is to send our officers/detectives to Cyber Crime-Based investigation training. This training will provide them with the legal techniques for investigating identity theft, money laundering and access device fraud. This knowledge will also help us educate the public on the trends of these crimes and help them to avoid being victimized.