

# 2023 Annual Report



*Community Service Since 1955*



**Report Managed and Directed by:**

**Chief Kevin Lewis**

**Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman**

*Report Compiled and Produced by Susan Wilson*

**January 31, 2024**



## Table of Contents

<b>Letter from the Chief of Police</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>NJSACOP Accreditation Program</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Organization &amp; Personnel</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Calls for Service, Criminal Activity</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Vehicle Related Incidents</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Agency Statistics</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Operational Initiatives</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Public Safety Initiatives</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Administrative Requirements in Policing</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Patrol Division</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Detective Division</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Support Operations Unit</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>School Resource Officer Program</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Records Division</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Police Chaplains</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Specialized Units</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Outside Agency Roles</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Training and Education</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>Community Projects and Programs</b>	<b>62</b>
<b>2023 Accomplishments</b>	<b>73</b>
<b>2024 Goals</b>	<b>75</b>

# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

It is my pleasure to present the 2023 Lower Township Police Department's Annual Report.

The Lower Township Police Department is comprised of forty nine full-time dedicated sworn men and women, one Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) Class II, three academy recruits, 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 continued 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. Through the use of technology, intelligence, and the constant analyzing of data, we're able 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 2023, the police department accomplished seven significant professional milestones.

- 1) Underwent our triennial re-accreditation on-site assessment and recommendation achieved
- 2) Fully integrated Axon Fleet 3 MVR Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) with New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and NJ SNAP in each patrol vehicle
- 3) Procured and fielded stationary ALPR units throughout the Township
- 4) Procured and fielded Axon Taser 7s, replacing end of life X2 Tasers
- 5) Promoted the first Deputy Police Chief
- 6) Expanded our Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) program, licensed multiple FAA certified pilots and attended/participated in an advanced UAS training program
- 7) Purchased and implemented Axon Signal Sidearm and Auto-Tagging software and hardware

It is my sincere hope that everyone takes the time to view this report and have a better understanding of the department's inner-workings and services we provide. We will continue to work with our residents, business owners, visitors and elected officials to solve problems as they arise, enforce the law and contribute to improved quality of life efforts throughout the township. I am positive in doing so, we can overcome any future challenges that we face together, 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.



*Lower Township Police - 2023 Departmental Photo*



*LTPD with motivational speaker Danny Bader after he shared his "Back to Life®" message*

# NJSACOP ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound.

The Lower Township Police Department is a four time accredited/reaccredited agency that participates in a New Jersey law enforcement accreditation program. The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police's (NJSACOP) accreditation mission is to promote and enhance the highest ethical and professional standards in law enforcement at all levels throughout New Jersey. This is a voluntary state program developed by the 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 and specifically tailored 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 completed our fifth formal agency assessment in December of 2023. This took place only after a full policy review and a thorough self-analysis.

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 continued through 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 and attending 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 certain federal grants.

Starting November of 2020 through November of 2023, we worked towards re-accreditation. The Lower Township Police Department, once again, underwent an in-depth and thorough evaluation from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police to ensure that we are meeting the current best practices according to the commission's standards. The NJSACOP assessment team sends their findings to the NJSACOP accreditation board for consideration of final accreditation, in March of 2024.

Accreditation 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](http://www.njsacop.org).

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting law enforcement agencies to calculate and improve their overall performance. The foundation of Accreditation lies in the adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these standards and objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained, independent assessors verifies that the applicable standards have been successfully implemented.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police has pursued the concept and development of a voluntary statewide law enforcement accreditation program for New Jersey which has resulted in the formation of the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, consisting of commissioners with the overall responsibility of adoption of program standards, as well as review of all assessment reports and approval of all recommendations for the granting of accredited status of applicant agencies.

The attitudes, training and actions of personnel of New Jersey's law enforcement agencies best reflect compliance with the standards contained in this program. Policy and procedure based on Accreditation will not insure mistake-free policing or a crime-free environment for citizens. Nor will it ensure an absence of litigation against law enforcement agencies and executives. However, comprehensive and effective leadership through professionally based policy development is directly influenced by a law enforcement program that is thorough, complete, and obtainable, and based on standards that reflect professional best practices.



## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

**Current Sworn Employees** - The following list reflects the Department Personnel as of December 31, 2023.

<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>Chief of Police</b>
Kevin E. Lewis
<b>Deputy Chief</b>
Donald Vanaman, Jr.
<b>Captain</b>
Charles Ryan
<b>Lieutenants</b>
John Armbruster
Michael Majane
Brian McEwing
<b>Administrative Sergeants</b>
Michael Perry
Ryan Hansberry

<b>DETECTIVE BUREAU</b>
Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid
Detective First Class Michael Iames
Senior Detective Kaitlin Black
James Mathis
Thomas Shough
Kevin O'Brien

<b>PATROL SERGEANTS</b>
Jason Felsing
James McNulty
William Barcas
Anthony Greto

<b>CORPORALS</b>
Matthew Gamble
Michael Szemcsak
Dallas Bohn
Robert Fessler

<b>PATROL OFFICERS</b>
PFC Kevin Boyle, Jr.
Stephen Flitcroft
Jordan Saini
Anthony Micciche
PFC Eric Danze
PFC Jonathan Scheck
PFC Kyle Boyle
Adam Hegarty
Kenneth Walker
William Kocis
William Omrod
William Porch
Steven Trunfio
Michael Harkin
Austin Parker
Christopher Vassar
Patrick Dunn
Antonio Marroquin
Samuel Gellura
Anthony Prats, Jr.
Matthew Reilly
Simba Elam-Hampton
Steven Gindville
Robert White

<b>SUPPORT OPERATIONS</b>
Michael Nuscis
<b>SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS</b>
Corporal Jennifer Elwell
Louis Bartleson

<b>IN ACADEMY</b>
Thomas Girard
Andrew DiDonato
Catherine DelGuidice



## **Promotions**

Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman – 9/23  
Sergeant First Class Michael Perry – 9/23  
Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid – 9/23  
Corporal Robert Fessler – 9/23  
PFC Eric Danze – 9/23  
PFC Kyle Boyle – 1/23  
PFC Kevin Boyle, Jr. – 1/23  
PFC Jonathan Scheck – 1/23  
Senior Detective Kaitlin Black – 1/23

## **New Full-Time Officers**

Steven Gindville – 6/23  
Robert White – 6/23

## **Retirements**

Eric Coombs – 12/23



*Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman – Swearing-In Ceremony*



*SFC Michael Perry and DSG Corey Scheid – Swearing-In Ceremony*



*Officers Steven Gindville and Robert White – Swearing-In Ceremony*



*SRO Eric Coomb's Retirement Celebrations*





## CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

	2019	2020*	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total # of Calls for Service</b>	45,482	33,910	48,559	51,412	47,647
<b>Officer Initiated (MDT) Calls</b>	8,811	6,568	8,029	28,086	29,103

\* *Calls for Service numbers decreased, due to Covid-19*

### Investigations

Investigation Reports completed by officers totaled: **632**  
 Supplemental Investigations or follow up reports completed: **391**

### Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of “individuals” arrested in 2023. 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: **303**  
 Total # of Juvenile Arrests: **30**

**Indictable Complaints** sent by the Lower Township Police Department to the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office for 2023 – **175**.

### Calls for Service Types:

The following list shows the classification of some of the other type of **calls for service** handled by the Police Department that are not reported in NIBRS. *(see the following pages for NIBRS)*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Medical Calls	1897	1668	1805	2282	1884
Fire Calls	88	126	101	141	111
Animal Complaints	285	325	366	445	358
Burglar, Fire or Medical Alarms	834	724	656	643	586
Death Investigations	37	47	43	36	39
Disorderly Conduct Incidents	666	774	593	642	520
Missing Persons and Runaways	86	61	59	68	27
Assisting Other Agency Incidents	116	189	153	185	205
Residential & Commercial Property Checks	24,054	17,405	29,676	32,274	29,717
Community Policing	330	129	113	81	116

# 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. *The Lower Township Police Dept. is NIBRS certified.*

*From the U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Justice Programs*

<b>Highlights</b>	
<b>Differences between Summary UCR and NIBRS</b>	<b>Sources of data discrepancies between Summary UCR and NIBRS</b>
<p><b>Summary UCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consists of monthly aggregate crime counts for eight Index crimes</li> <li>• Records one offense per incident as determined by <i>hierarchy rule</i></li> <li>• <i>Hierarchy rule</i> suppresses counts of lesser offenses in multiple-offense incidents</li> <li>• Does not distinguish between attempted and completed crimes</li> <li>• Applies <i>hotel rule</i> to burglary</li> <li>• Records rape of females only</li> <li>• Collects weapon information for murder, robbery, and aggravated assault</li> <li>• Provides counts on arrests for the 8 Index crimes and 21 other offenses.</li> </ul> <p><b>NIBRS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consists of individual incident records for the 8 Index crimes and 38 other offenses with details on —               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offense</li> <li>• Victim</li> <li>• Offender</li> <li>• Property</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Records each offense occurring in incident</li> <li>• Distinguishes between attempted and completed crimes</li> <li>• Expands burglary <i>hotel rule</i> to include rental storage facilities</li> <li>• Records rape of males and females</li> <li>• Restructures definition of assault</li> <li>• Collects weapon information for all violent offenses</li> <li>• Provides details on arrests for the 8 Index crimes and 49 other offenses.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Human error</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misclassifications of —               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggravated assault</li> <li>• Motor vehicle theft</li> <li>• Larceny</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Hierarchy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppression of multiple offenses by <i>hierarchy rule</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Operational</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modified offense definitions</li> <li>• Converting State penal code to FBI crime definitions</li> <li>• Over-reporting because of State practices</li> <li>• Recording every possible offense with which offender may be charged</li> </ul> <p><b>Computer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate programming</li> </ul> <p>When comparing data from the same year for the jurisdictions in this study, NIBRS rates differ only slightly from Summary UCR —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Murder rates are the same</li> <li>• Rape, robbery, and aggravated assault rates in NIBRS are about 1% higher, on average, than in Summary UCR</li> <li>• NIBRS burglary rates are lower by an average 0.5%</li> <li>• NIBRS larceny rates are higher by an average 3.4%</li> <li>• NIBRS motor vehicle theft rates are higher by an average 4.5%.</li> </ul>

## NIBRS Reporting

2023 is the first full year reporting NIBRS data. The 8 major crime categories that were reported prior via UCR are highlighted in blue, to help with the transition.

### LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT *NIBRS – Group A Offense Report (2023)*

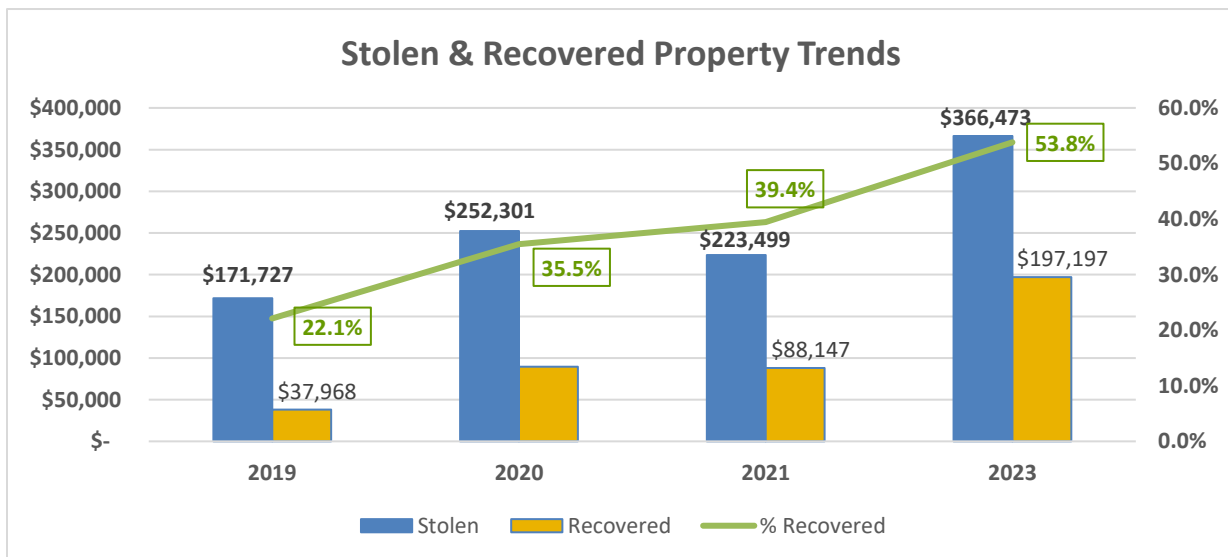
Offense	Reported in 2023
Kidnapping/Abduction	0
Rape	5
Sodomy	0
Sexual Assault With An Object	0
Fondling	7
Murder & Non-negligent Manslaughter	1
Negligent Manslaughter	0
Incest	0
Statutory Rape	0
Aggravated Assault	9
Simple Assault	51
Intimidation	241
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0
<b>Crimes Against Persons Total</b>	<b>314</b>
Arson	1
Extortion/Blackmail	7
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	38
Pocket-picking	0
Purse-snatching	0
Shoplifting	14
Theft From Building	0
Theft From Coin-Operated Machine or Device	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	2
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	1
All Other Larceny	104
Motor Vehicle Theft	12
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1
False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	52
Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud	17
Impersonation	0
Welfare Fraud	0
Wire Fraud	2
Identity Theft	0
Hacking / Computer Invasion	0
Embezzlement	0
Stolen Offenses	1
Destruction / Damage / Vandalism of Property	80

Offense	Reported in 2023
Bribery	0
Robbery	2
<b>Crimes Against Property Total</b>	<b>334</b>
Weapon Law Violations	5
Pornography/Obscene Material	0
Betting/Wagering	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0
Gambling Equipment Violation	0
Sports Tampering	0
Prostitution	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0
Purchasing Prostitution	0
Drug/Narcotic Violations	5
Drug Equipment Violations	0
Animal Cruelty	0
<b>Crimes Against Society Total</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Group "A" Offense</b>	<b>658</b>

**Property Stolen and Recovered:**

Property offenses include burglary, theft, criminal mischief and shoplifting. The exact amount of value in theft-related offenses is hard to determine, as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. Below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Stolen	\$171,727	\$252,301	\$223,499	n/a	\$366,473
Recovered (Amount)	\$37,968	\$89,525	\$88,147	n/a	\$197,197
Recovered (Percentage)	22.1	35.5	39.4	n/a	53.8



### Domestic Violence:

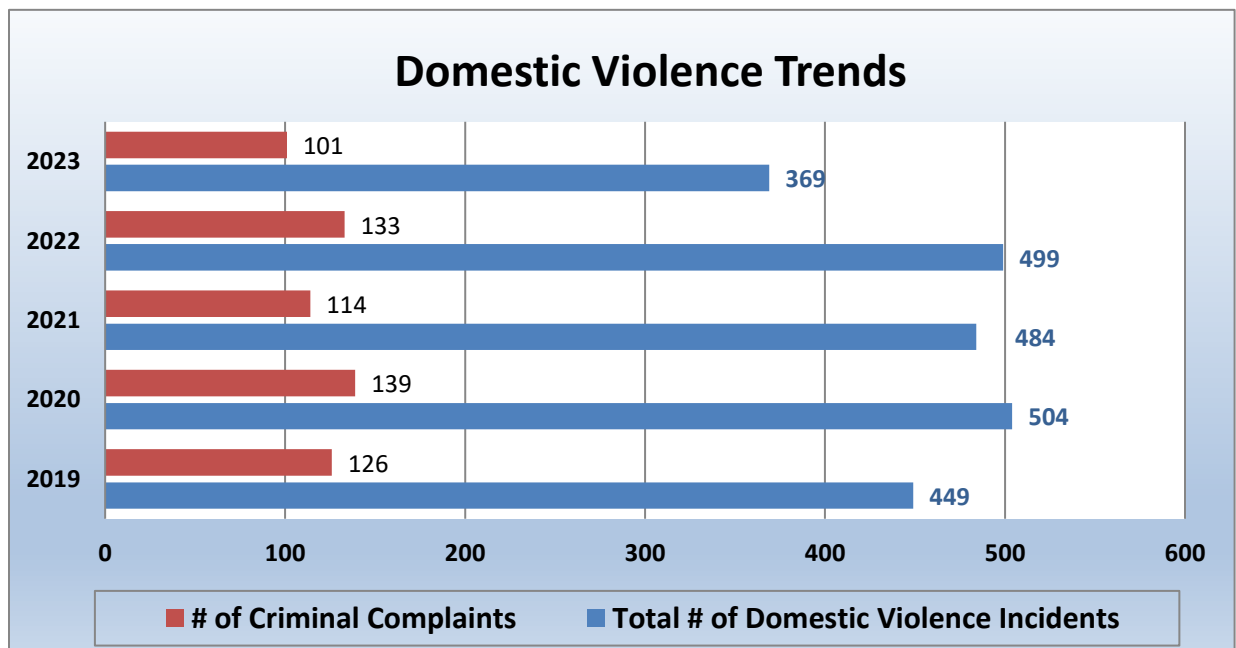
Domestic violence in New Jersey is viewed as a serious crime and carries with it penalties such as fines and prison time. Victims have the right to request temporary restraining orders; if granted a final restraining order hearing is automatically scheduled. Police officers must follow guidelines under 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 request a restraining order against their assaulter. The second is criminal relief, which allows the victim or police to sign criminal complaints against the aggressor.

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 (DVRT) has been developed. This team has been formed to offer 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:

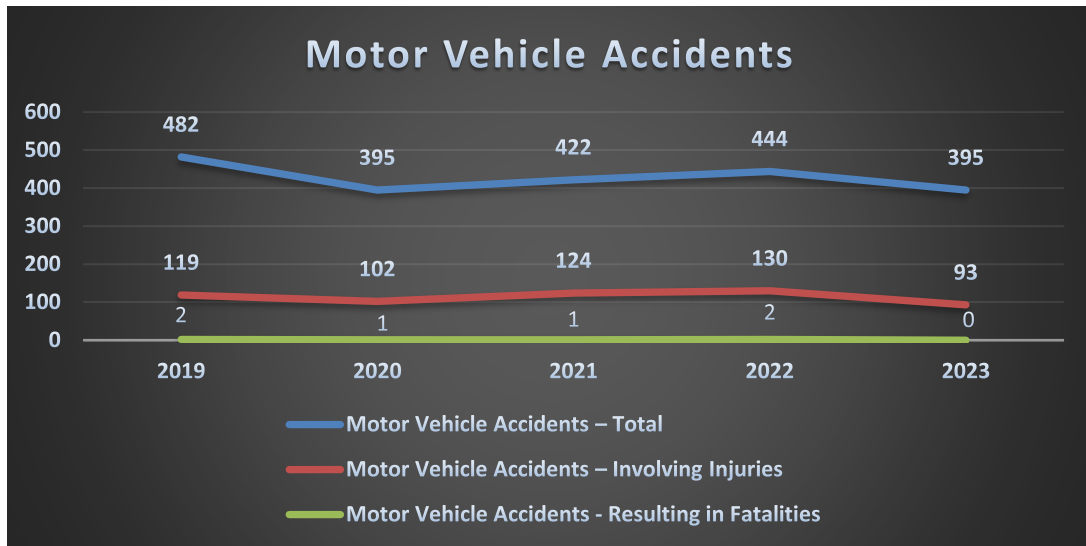
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Total # of Domestic Violence Incidents</b>	449	504	484	499	369
<b>Temporary Restraining Orders Granted</b>	75	97	96	101	74
<b>Temporary Restraining Orders Violated</b>	31	28	42	37	22
<b>Total Criminal Complaints</b>	126	139	114	133	101



# VEHICLE RELATED INCIDENTS

The Lower Township Police Department investigated **395** motor vehicle accidents and conducted **4359** motor vehicle stops during the year of 2023. 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	2023
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Total	482	395	422	444	395
Motor Vehicle Accidents – Number of Injuries	119	102	124	130	93
Motor Vehicle Accidents – With Fatalities	2	1	1	2	0
Motor Vehicle Stops – Total	5906	2334	4645	4404	4359
Motor Vehicle Stops – Vehicle Summonses Issued	1797	997	1230	1090	1112
Motor Vehicle Stops - Written Warnings Issued	15	3	25	155	171



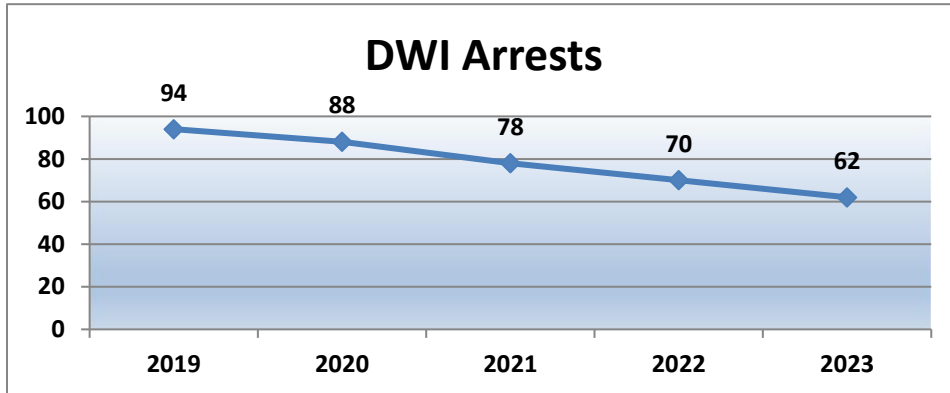
## Examples of Social Media Campaigns posted in 2023





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

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DWI Arrests	94	88	78	70	62



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. Due to the pandemic, presentation of awards had been delayed for the last couple of years. Our top officer for 2023 was Patrol Officer Matthew Riley with 12 DWI arrests in 2023.



**Ptl. Porch – Top Cop in Lower Twp. - 2021**  
(awarded in 2-2023)



**Det. O'Brien – Top Cop in Cape May County - 2022**  
(awarded in 12-2023)

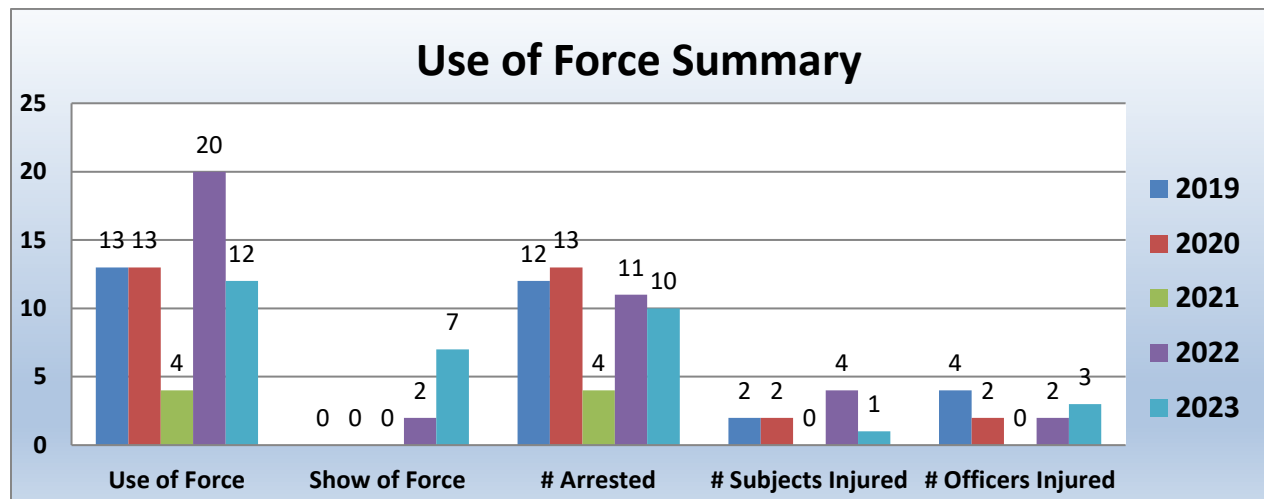


# AGENCY STATISTICS

## 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	2023
Use of Force Incidents	13	13	4	20	12
Show of Force Incidents	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	7
# Subjects Arrested	12	13	4	11	10
# Subjects Injured	2	2	0	4	1
# Officers Injured	4	2	0	2	3



## POLICE PURSUITS

Lower Township Police Officers were involved in **1** pursuit during 2023.

## POLICE DEPARTMENT INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS

The 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 2023, there were **8** cases of work related injuries. There were **293** work days/shifts missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2023, our Police Officers were assaulted in the line of duty on **8** separate occasions.

The Lower Township Police Department logged many miles in department vehicles in 2023 and although every precaution and extreme care was taken, there were **8** 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 2023, the Lower Township Police Dept. conducted **13** internal affairs investigations. Of the **13** investigations, **7** 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 2023, **7** resulted in disciplinary action. In 2023, 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 2023:

<b>Excessive Force (0)</b>	<b>Demeanor Complaint (3), 3 Unfounded</b>
<b>Improper Arrest (0)</b>	<b>Improper Entry (0)</b>
<b>Differential Treatment (0)</b>	<b>Improper Search (0)</b>
<b>Serious Rule Violation (0)</b>	<b>Domestic Violence (1) Pending</b>
<b>Other Criminal Violation (0)</b>	<b>Other Rule Violations (3) 1 Sustained, 2 Pending</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Accidents (On-Duty) (6), 6 Sustained</b>	

*(Note: 6 investigations were agency-initiated for on duty vehicle accidents)*

The Internal Affairs Division was managed by Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman in 2023

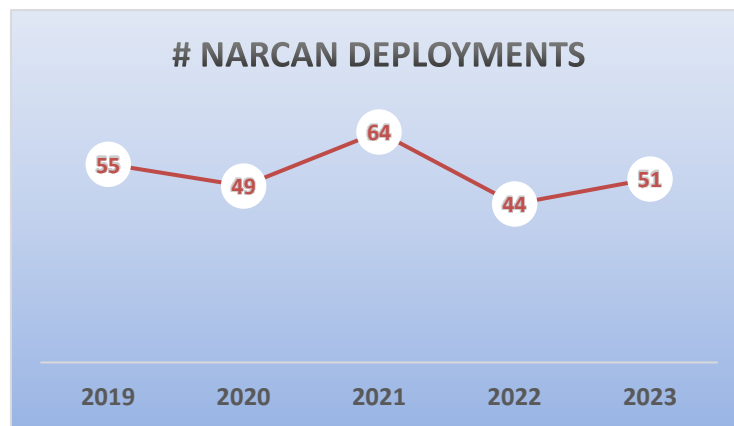
# OPERATIONAL INITIATIVES

## 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 2023, our officers deployed Narcan **51** 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 CARES 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.



The Lower Township Police Department has a drop-box in the lobby. 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 2023, the Lower Township Police Department collected and disposed of **460** 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. 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/>.



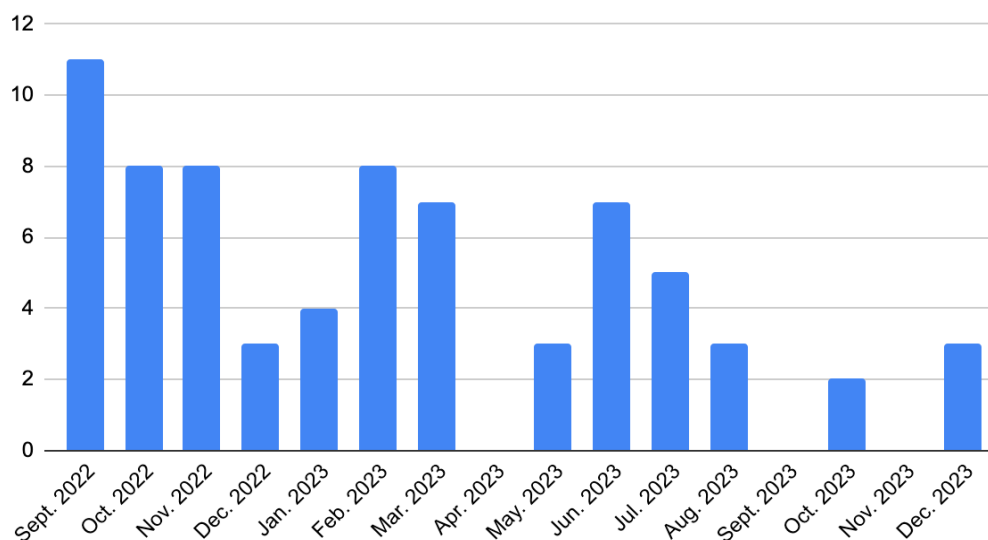
## CAPE ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES (CARES) PROGRAM

Lower Township is currently the only municipality in the County who are in the 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. Excerpts from the CARES report below show a positive downward trend in overdoses. To review the entire CARES report, [click here](#).

---

*From the Cape Regional CARES Program Outcomes Report (9-1-22 to 12-31-23):*

Overdose Trends - Sept. 22 to Dec. 23



### Success Stories:

In November of 2022, a Lower Township police officer responded to a fatal overdose. Although the Opioid Response Team (ORT) could not interact with the overdose victim, they witnessed an unnamed officer taking a moment to compassionately check on the family and friends of the survivors. While the ORT team primarily responds to individuals who survive an overdose, their commitment extends to providing recovery support services for the loved ones grappling with the trauma of someone else's overdose. This single moment of compassion facilitated the ORT team's connection with and subsequent follow-up support for the survivors.

Another noteworthy success story revolves around the journey of a man whose substance use disorder resulted in the loss of fingers, homelessness, and persistent depression. In April of 2022, he survived an overdose and became linked with the LT ORT. Through this connection, the man initiated the process of rebuilding his life, guided by the non-clinical recovery support provided by the specialized ORT team.

Even amidst overwhelming adversity, his progression through the ORT and CARES program serves as a compelling testament to the transformative power of resilience and redemption inherent in peer support. This man attributes much of his success to the intervention of the ORT team and the connections they facilitated within the recovery community.

<b>Month</b>	<b>Count Month</b>
Sept. 2022	11
Oct. 2022	8
Nov. 2022	8
Dec. 2022	3
Jan. 2023	4
Feb. 2023	8
Mar. 2023	7
Apr. 2023	0
May. 2023	3
Jun. 2023	7
Jul. 2023	5
Aug. 2023	3
Sept. 2023	0
Oct. 2023	2
Nov. 2023	0
Dec. 2023	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

---

The Police Department also continues to work with Cape Assist, Cape Counseling, 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
- Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over
- Summer Shore Pedestrian Awareness

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

- 🚓 The Lower Township Police Department received grants in the amount of \$25,475.07 to pay for overtime patrols to enforce and combat DWI offenses from alcohol and/or drugs. (*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 2023 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.



- 🚓 The NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety’s Summer Shore Pedestrian Awareness education & enforcement campaign runs from early July through mid-August. New Jersey experiences a disproportionate number of pedestrian injury crashes and fatalities compared to the nation as a whole. The enforcement component involves targeted police patrols at high-risk crash locations.



# 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 public safety messages/alerts at a lesser cost. If you have not already registered for your choice of alerts, please do so [here](#).

Additionally, the Lower Township Police Department is one of only 4 Police Departments to complete and maintain IPAWS (Integrated Public Alert & Warning System) Certification through FEMA. It is an option within most major alerting systems, such as Rave. At this time, the department is the ONLY certified agency in Cape May County (*besides NJSP, which is certified for the entire state*). In an emergency, IPAWS 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**  
Sign up NOW to receive LT Alerts  
POWERED BY RAVE  
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 at Police, Township or MUA websites

The graphic includes icons for a phone, text messages, email, and a mobile app, along with the logos for Lower Township and RAVE.

PLAN AHEAD FOR ANY EMERGENCY

DOWNLOAD THE SMART911® APP TODAY

The graphic shows a smartphone with a notification bubble containing icons for a warning, a cloud, and a truck, set against a light blue background.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Rave, like most alerting systems, has the capability to send alerts via several different modes, including social media. With social media's ability to share posts, it is also a tool the department engages in to get information out to our community. The department currently uses Facebook (Meta), Instagram and Twitter (X). **Please follow the Department by clicking on the icons below:**



Facebook



Instagram

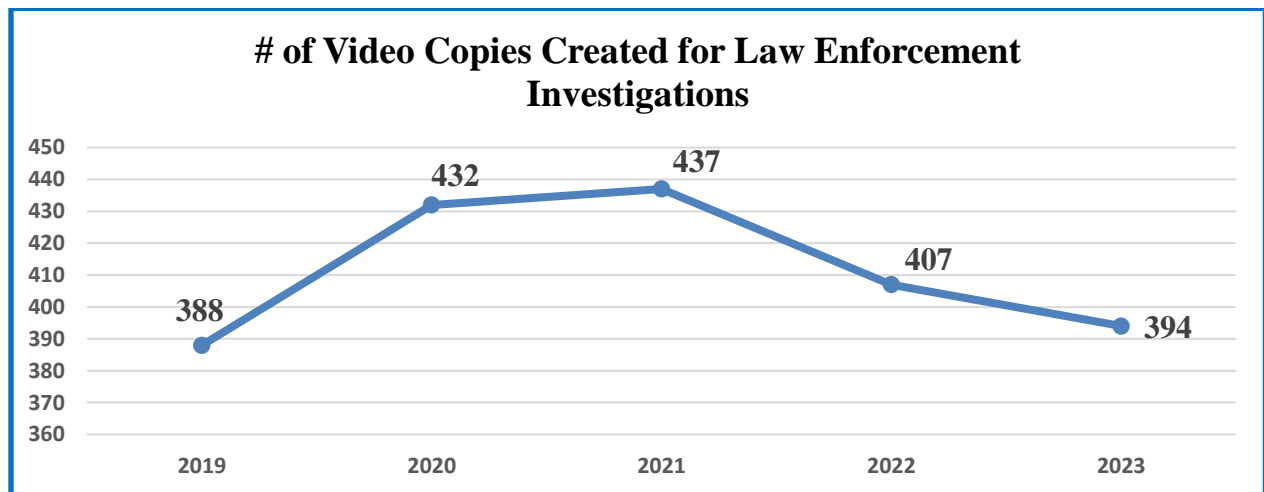


X (Twitter)



# 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 necessary 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 stay abreast of ever-changing 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, cannabis 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. In 2023, 150 expungement requests were received.

## 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. In 2023, 224 alarm registrations were processed. 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, Deputy Chief Donald Vanaman, Captain Charles Ryan, Lieutenant John Armbruster, Lieutenant Michael Majane, Lieutenant Brian McEwing and Sergeants First Class Michael Perry (*not pictured*) and 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

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



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

- Training
- Secondary Review and Approval of Patrol 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, Deputy Chief and Captain
- 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)
- Power DMS
- Light Duty Management

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

- GPS Tracking Administrator
- Supervision and Management of NCIC Records and Audits
- Liaison to County Dispatch
- Radio System Administrator
- Building Maintenance
- Fleet Manager
- Records Section
- Order/Replace Uniforms and Equipment
- Manage Network & Computers at Headquarters with approval from Wes Barber and the Chief
- Live Scan Fingerprint System
- Manage Accident/Injury Reports (Workers Compensation)
- Manage Retirement Events
- OSHA/Right to Know Compliance Officer
- JIFF Safety Officer
- Emergency Generator
- Photo ID Cards
- Animal Control
- Safety Officer

- JIF Coordinator
- Light Duty Manager
- Payroll
- On-Call Administrator
- Extra Duty Contracts
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief, Deputy Chief and Captain
- Monitor Weekly Fleet Inventories
- Body Armor Grants
- UAS Program

**Administrative Sergeant Michael Perry** 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)
- Oversight of the Infectious Control Officer
- Fire Department Liaison
- Special Events
- SRO Scheduling and Report Review
- Coordinate JV programs (L.E.A.D./Explorers, etc.) (Coombs / Elwell)
- Alcotest Machine
- Manage and Inspection of Tow Trucks and Logs
- Commercial Vehicle License Inspection
- Approval of Permits
- Volunteer Workers/Coach Applications
- Traffic Coordinator
- Code Enforcement
- Project Life Saver
- On-Call Administrator
- Internal Affairs Investigator
- Wellness Coordinator
- Station duties at the discretion of Chief and Deputy Chief

**Detective Sergeant Corey Scheid** was responsible for overseeing the following functions:

- Manage, Oversee and Train on the use of the B.E.A.S.T. evidence system
- 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)
- Magloclen 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
- Training
- Megan's Law
- Oversee Evidence Unit
- Conduct Annual Evaluations
- Project Medicine Drop Off
- Internal Affairs Investigator



# PATROL DIVISION

## SQUAD PHOTOS





**The Patrol Division** of the Lower Township Police Department is the largest of all the divisions within the agency with 19 full-time Patrol Officers, 1 Class II Special Officer, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 4 Patrol Officers First Class, 2 Patrol Lieutenants and a Patrol/Operation's Deputy Chief.

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 often turned over to the Detective Division.

The Patrol Division utilizes mostly 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 and PFC supervises each squad of 6 to 7 additional full-time patrol officers assigned. The Patrol Officer First Class position was created and implemented this year to give each squad more depth and support.



## PATROL BUREAU NOTABLE CASE FOR 2023

### PATROL:

1. On June 24, 2023, the Patrol Division was called to Sun Retreats Campground at 669 Route 9 in Erma for the report of a missing person. The reporting party advised responding officers that an acquaintance, a 69-year-old man, had not been seen since approximately 1 a.m. During the initial investigation it was learned that the man may have been suffering from a health condition as he was seen by other campers around 3 a.m. acting confused. The patrol officers acted swiftly, deploying every asset at their disposal including CMC Sheriff K9, The LTPD UAS Unit, all-terrain vehicles, the US Coast Guard Aviation Unit and state search and rescue teams from surrounding counties. Utilizing all of these resources, the man was located in a densely wooded area of the campground in a semi-conscious state. The quick actions of all the responding officers and volunteer personnel directly led to the safe recovery of the man.
2. On March 26, 2023 at approximately 2111 hours, Lower Township Officers were informed by Cape May County Dispatch that a stolen motor vehicle from Middle Township was travelling south on Bayshore Road towards Lower Township's jurisdiction. County Dispatch provided the suspect's name, who was also wanted out of Lower Township for an aggravated assault he committed earlier that day. A Lower Township Officer who was parked at a local business conducting a property check observed the vehicle in question drive by him Southbound on Bayshore Road travelling at a very high rate of speed. The Officer attempted to locate the vehicle but due to its rate of speed, was unsuccessful. The Officer then saw a bright light flash in the sky and continued traveling that direction. As the Officer negotiated a curve on Bayshore Road, he observed smoke and a debris field in the road. The suspect vehicle had left the roadway to the right and struck a utility pole. The Officer attempted to conduct a high-risk car stop and began giving commands to the driver who was not responding. The Officer then began moving towards the vehicle, negotiating debris and downed electrical wires. He observed the suspect to be unconscious and unresponsive in the driver's seat. The Officer had to break the driver's window to unlock the door and pull the suspect to safety. The driver was moved away from the smoking vehicle and live electrical wires to a safe area where the Officer could access and treat the patient before he was ultimately transported to Atlantic City Medical Center for his injuries. Atlantic City Electric responded to the scene and turned the power off to the live wires so the vehicle could be removed. An Officer travelled to Atlantic City Medical Center to obtain a warrant for blood draw due to the suspect possibly driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. He was released from the hospital a few hours later and was charged with multiple offenses in Lower Township and ultimately turned over to Middle Township Police for their investigation.
3. On April 25, 2023, Officers responded to an address for the report of a domestic violence incident. During their investigation, it was discovered that the victim is from another state and had no friends or family members in the area other than her newborn child. The child's father was the offender. The Officers transported the victim and her child to the Police Station and attempted to assist the victim by contacting local resources, in addition to getting the victim food. With the help of local resources, the Officers were able to get the victim and her child to a safe location for shelter, as well as food and other essential needs.

5. On July 14, 2023 at approximately 1522 hours, Cape May County Dispatch notified Lower Township Police of a vehicle that was stolen from Wildwood travelling into Lower Township on Fulling Mill Road. The vehicle was described as a white Hyundai driving erratically. Officers in the area observed the vehicle travelling West on Fulling Mill Road at a high rate of speed and then turn onto Star Avenue. Officers activated their overhead emergency lights and attempted to stop the vehicle but it continued accelerating and turned on Matthews Avenue. The driver of the vehicle then lost control of the vehicle and struck a tree, disabling it. The driver of the vehicle quickly fled the scene on foot. Two passengers exited the vehicle and were immediately detained by Officers. Additional Officers pursued the driver on foot as he ran through yards and jumped fences. The Cape County Sheriff's Department K9 unit responded to the scene and assisted in searching for the suspect. The suspect was ultimately located hiding in a yard a few blocks away. The three suspects, identified as juveniles, were charged with Juvenile Offenses in Lower Township then turned over to Wildwood Police for their investigation.

#### **UAS UNIT:**

1. Fraud: On September 9, 2023, the LTPD UAS Unit was called to assist in an operation involving the takedown of suspected scammers that had defrauded a resident out of tens of thousands of dollars. The UAS Unit deployed and provided live overwatch to the officers involved in the operation, ensuring the safety of the team members and residents in the area. The UAS Unit was able to observe the suspects arrive to pick up the money and they were ultimately apprehended without incident.
2. Missing Person: The LTPD UAS Unit was deployed to assist patrol with an investigation into a vehicle that had been located after dark on the beach in the area of Higbee Beach. The Unit provided aerial thermal images to officers and began a systematic search of the water and vast wooded area of the state park. Officers feared that the owner of the vehicle had walked off and became lost or was suffering a medical episode and inadvertently entered the water. The UAS Unit was able to cover a large amount of the projected search area, before the subject was located in a residential area by Cape May Officers assisting in the search.



## **SLEO CLASS II PROGRAM**

Currently the Lower Township Police Department has one Special Law Enforcement Class II Officer and three Class II Recruits currently attending the 55th Basic Course for Police Officers at the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduating, these officers can either be appointed as Special Law Enforcement Officers or as full-time Police Training Commission Certified Officers. This is a statewide shift from the traditional method where Class II Officers were required to attend an additional academy to transition to a full-time role. Since the 55<sup>th</sup> BCPO training course is significantly longer, officers that are not initially appointed as full-time Officers are trained to a much higher standard than those that attend an academy class designated only for Class II's. This results in all of the department's officers, Class II and full-time officers receiving the highest training standard set by the Police Training Commission. This training 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 simulated live fire). Additionally, officers receive a Community Water and CPR certification through the American Red Cross.

Class II Officers are assigned to the Patrol Squads upon graduating the academy and work in overlapping shifts during peak call for service hours. During the summer months, these officers are assigned to work in the Diamond Beach area of the Township to provide an expedited response to calls in the area.

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. 252, for information about applying as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II.

### **Special Law Enforcement Officers as of December 31, 2023 (Class II Officers):**

Patrick Aiken

Thomas Girard

Andrew DiDonato

Catherine DelGuidice

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



*PFC Kyle Boyle Accepting the LTPD Distinguished Service Award*



## DETECTIVE DIVISION



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

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

During 2023, the Detective Division was assigned **210** investigations and conducted an additional **66** follow-up investigations. They also assisted the uniformed Patrol Division in **9** missing person cases, where all parties were located.

Additional types of investigations include:

- 10** Juvenile Welfare Complaints
- 21** Burglaries
- 15** Suspected Bias Incident
- 14** Assaults
- 21** Sexual Assaults
- 18** Deaths
- 16** Fraud Investigations

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. 2023 was another year of significant changes in firearms laws, systems and applications. Permit to Carry (PTC) applications changed at the beginning of the year. Originally they were sent to and approved to by the Cape May County Superior Court and now they are approved by our Chief of Police, as of 2-1-23. The department initiated a project to reissue all the court-issued cards with Chief approved cards, for consistency. Additionally, there have been numerous changes to the paper applications, processing guidelines, training guidelines, reporting statistics, etc. In mid-year, the new Electronic Permit to Carry system was rolled out from the New Jersey State Police. The Department transitioned to it beginning August 1<sup>st</sup> and now all PTC applications are processed online. In September, further changes to the laws and guidelines were released with an updated training form and [CCARE protocol](#). The FARS system, which is for Firearms ID cards and Permits to Purchase Handguns, had some minor updates/enhancements in 2023 as well. Due to the change in data availability, the data tracked has been updated again for 2023:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
TOTAL # of Applications Completed / Investigations (PTC & FARS)	280	625	588	472	391
# of Permit to Carry Applications Approved	*1	*1	*1	*46	82
# of Permit to Carry Applications Denied	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
# of Permit to Carry Applications Withdrawn	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
# of FARS Applications Approved	n/a	n/a	n/a	419	306
# of FARS Application Denials	2	15	13	6	3
# of FARS Applications Withdrawn	2	90	99	54	37
TOTAL # of Handgun Permits Executed	n/a	n/a	n/a	325	301

*\*Approved & Issued by the Superior Court of Cape May County*

The Detective Division is also tasked with handling Megan’s Law registrants within the township. Detective Kevin O’Brien primarily oversees the registrants with the assistance of Detective Thomas Shough. 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. Registrants must also register upon moving into Lower Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving out of Lower Township to another jurisdiction. The Detective Division conducted 72 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 Corey Scheid, 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 Corey Scheid

Detective First Class Michael James

Senior Detective Kaitlin Black

Detective James Mathis

Detective Thomas Shough

Detective Kevin O'Brien

The Detective Division oversees and maintains all evidence within the police department. Presently, 8,121 items are logged into the evidence system, with 475 items added in 2023.

Primary Evidence Custodian: DSG Corey Scheid

Secondary Evidence Custodian: DFC Michael James

**DNA/Fingerprint cases: - 12/8 for 2023**



**Detective First Class Michael James at the Autumn National Drug Take Back Day**

## DETECTIVE DIVISION NOTABLE CASES FOR 2023

**“Revolving Door”** - In February of 2023, Police were dispatched to the area of the Higbee beach parking area for a report of a male subject who had pointed a revolver at the caller. While responding to the area, police officers located a red Dodge truck leaving the area. The vehicle was stopped and determined to be involved in the incident. Detectives responded to the scene, where statements were taken from the victim and witness. It was learned that the caller and the suspect engaged in a verbal altercation, during which time the accused pulled out a silver revolver and pointed it at the victim. Multiple court authorized searched warrants were executed during the investigation, resulting in the seizure of a 9mm Taurus pistol. The accused was charged with multiple criminal offenses and jailed accordingly.

**“Dazed and Confused”** - In June of 2023, patrol officers and detectives investigated the report of a 69 year-old male who was reported missing from a local campground, where he was staying with family. The male was reported to have dementia and was last seen by the family at 1AM, 6 hours prior to the call time. A command post was quickly established in the area with members of the Cape May County, Camden County and Burlington County, Urban Search & Rescue teams responding to the scene to assist. The Lower Township Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) was deployed and the United States Coast Guard provided a helicopter to help search the area. The Cape May County Sheriff’s Department K9 also responded for tracking. The large scale, multi-jurisdictional effort ultimately resulted in the victim being located several hundred yards from his campsite, in a wooded area. The victim was lying face down, was injured and confused, but alive. The victim was transported to an area hospital for treatment.

**“Gold Standard”** - During the month August of 2023, a victim reported to the Lower Township Police Department that she was defrauded \$160,000.00. Detectives took a statement from the victim and learned that she had received a phone call from individuals portraying themselves as federal law enforcement and claimed that she owed the agency large sums of money as “bail”. The suspects later arrived at the victim’s residence, where she turned over a large quantity of money to them in their vehicle. The victim additionally agreed to purchase a large quantity of gold bars and turn them over to the suspects. Detectives worked diligently with the victim and a multi-jurisdictional operation plan was set into place. At the execution of the operation, a large scale take-down occurred, resulting in the arrest of two individuals. Multiple search warrants were prepared and executed. The two individuals were both charged and jailed accordingly. A good portion of the victim’s money was recovered.

**“Held Up”** - During the course of an ongoing criminal investigation, detectives from the Lower Township Police Department and the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office attempted to conduct a follow up with the accused individual in the area of East Hudson Avenue in the Villas section of the Township. During the time of the follow up, detectives learned that the suspect was suicidal and was potentially inside the residence with firearms. Detectives set up a perimeter around the residence and patrol officers responded to assist. A command post was set up in the area and members of the Cape May County SWAT & Crisis Negotiations Unit responded to assist. The Lower Township Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) was deployed to maintain a constant line of site view of the residence. A Lower Township detective, assigned to the Crisis Negotiations Unit, made contact with the suspect inside the residence. After a lengthy negotiation with the suspect, he ultimately agreed to exit the residence and surrender to police. The suspect was safely taken into custody without incident.



**“Boyle Bucks”** - During the month of October of 2023, detectives conducted a lengthy fraud investigation. The modus operandi of this investigation was similar to a previously reported fraud investigation. The victim reported being defrauded of \$60,000.00 under similar pretense of operation “Gold Standard”. A multi-jurisdictional operations plan was set in place with the assistance of the Cape May County Prosecutor’s Office, SWAT team and the Lower Township Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS). Upon executing the operation, a takedown occurred which resulted in the arrest of one individual. Multiple search warrants were prepared and executed. As a result of the post-arrest investigation, it revealed evidence that the suspect was actively responsible for over one million dollars in multiple fraud operations committed in Connecticut and Virginia. Detectives made contact with the victim’s in these incidents, whom both reported they were still actively supplying money to the suspect. As a result, the Federal Bureau of Investigations was notified and brought into the investigation to assist.



**Detective First Class James with Corporal Bohn – lending a hand at the Summer Youth Camp**



**Detective Mathis at National Night Out**

## 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 Michael Perry, who is under the command of the Executive Officer, Deputy Chief 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.

Officer Nuscis is an active member of the Cape May County Regional SWAT Team/Sniper Team and instructs at the Cape May County Police Academy. 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, Resiliency, Axon Taser Instructor's Course, Basic Tactical Medical Instructor Program, Hostage Rescue and High-Risk Warrant Course. He also holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Health and Physical Education from East Stroudsburg University.

In 2023, Officer Michael Nuscis completed the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Instructor train-the-trainer course, Drill Instructor School, Special Event Management Training, FBI Sniper School, Expandable and Straight Baton Instructor Course and OC Spray Instructor Course.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM



Cpl. Jennifer Elwell



Louis Bartleson

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program has been in place for the past 29 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 Louis Bartleson is assigned to the Richard M. Teitelman School. The SROs report to Sergeant First Class Michael Perry. SRO Eric Coombs retired this year after serving at the department for 20 years, with over three of those years in the capacity of a School Resource Officer. His service is appreciated and he will be missed.

## **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 schools. It 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 **6,968** 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 2023, **149** 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 many other prizes are given away too. 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.

In 2024, 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) and the EPTC System)
- 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 Modular Homes, 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 Emergency Notification Administration
- IPAWS (Integrated Public Alerting & Warning System) FEMA Certified Coordinator
- Assist with Social Media Management
- Website Content Management
- Compile and Organize and Produce 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
- Assist with Community Events and Youth Camp
- 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 Leo Dodd.

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 Glen Scheyhing, Leo Dodd, & Scott Durbin*



# SPECIALIZED UNITS

## UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) UNIT



In 2022, the department acquired its first police drone and 2023 was the first operational year of the program. The UAS program was utilized in several real world deployments which included crowd safety and over watch at the annual “Escape the Cape” Triathlon and the Fourth of July Celebration along the Bayfront. The drone was also deployed for search and rescue and missing persons investigations.

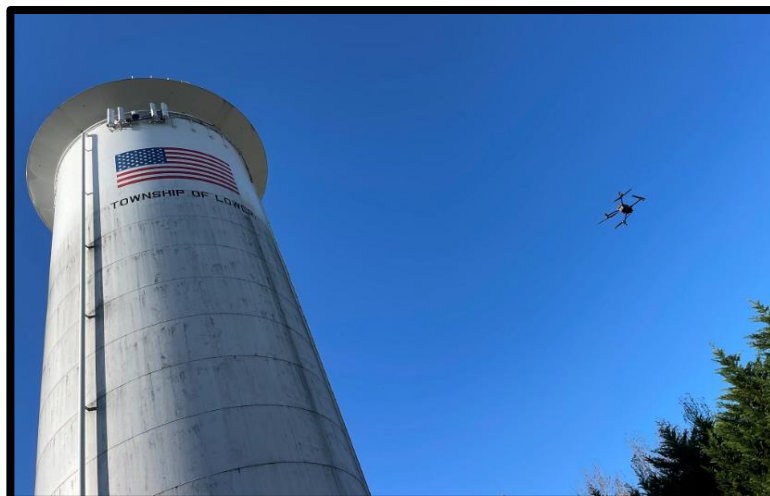
In addition to conducting monthly training in 2023, the Air Support Unit collaborated with surrounding agencies, assisting in setting up UAS programs, training, equipment and networking.

Last year the Department had 5 FAA licensed Officer/Pilots. This year two more officers have begun the preparatory classes with the goal of achieving their FAA Part 107 licenses in 2024. The Department is budgeting for 2 additional systems for redundancy and more diverse mission sets.

The Air Support Unit will continue to evolve and keep up with the ever-changing technological changes in order to maximize this life saving program.

### **Members of the Air Support Unit:**

Captain Charles Ryan  
Lieutenant Brian McEwing  
DFC Michael Iames  
SRO Louis Bartleson  
PtI. William Omrod



## 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:**

SFC Michael Perry

DSG Corey Scheid

Sgt. James McNulty

Senior Det. Kaitlin Black

PFC Eric Danze

PFC Kevin Boyle

PFC Kyle Boyle

Ptl. Michael Nuscis

Ptl. Jordan Saini

Ptl. William Kocis

Ptl. Michael Harkin

Ptl. Kenneth Walker



## 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 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: FARO, DJI Matrice 30T Drone, Event Data Recorder, Drag Sled, 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  
Senior Detective Kaitlin Black  
Patrol Officer Stephen Flitcroft  
Patrol Officer William Porch



# OUTSIDE AGENCY ROLES

## SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)



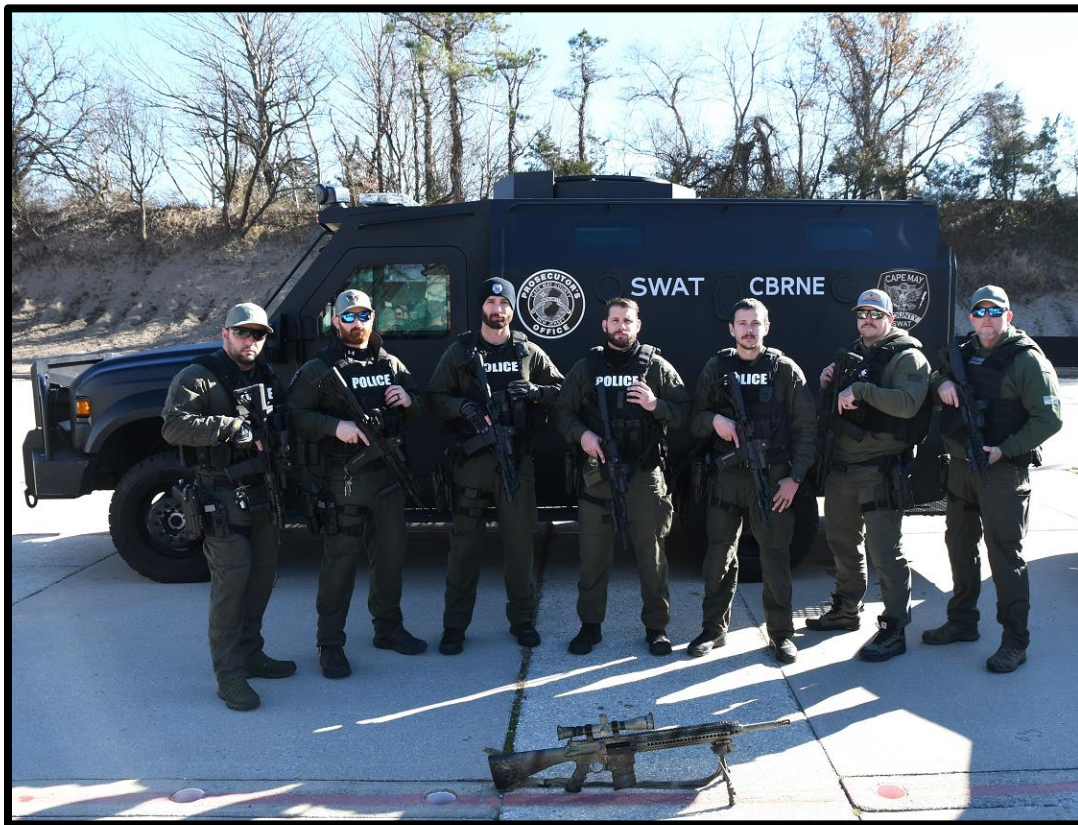
*Cape May County Regional SWAT Team*

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.

The Cape May County Regional SWAT Team was activated a total of **39** times in 2023. These call outs involved assisting the FBI, DEA, Cumberland County Prosecutor's Office and Atlantic City Police and also providing security and doing demonstrations. The SWAT Team provided security for **9** events in the county, including the Sea Isle City Polar Bear Plunge, USCG Family Festival, City of Wildwood Beach Concerts. The team did **14** demonstrations during the year at various events in the county, including the Lower Township Youth Camp and Lower Township National Lower Township Night Out.





**Lower Township Police Officers assigned to the Regional SWAT Team include:**  
SFC Michael Perry (*retired from SWAT in 2023*)    Officer Kenneth Walker  
PFC Kyle Boyle    Officer William Kocis  
PFC Eric Danze    Officer Michael Harkin  
Officer Michael Nuscis    Officer Jordan Saini (*missing from photo*)



*Cape May County SWAT Team Demonstration at the Youth Camp*

# 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 review, schedule, distribute and 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. 77 Personnel Orders were completed for training, sending a total of 212 officers to specialized training. Additionally, there were 21 total in-house/computer based training courses completed by members of the department, mostly sworn members and some for all members, including civilian personnel.

The men and women of the Lower Township Police Department attended a wide variety of training courses throughout the year, in addition to completing computer based training.

## **Training and Courses Attended:**

- ◆ 2023 NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy Training
- ◆ Management of Aggressive Behavior for Public Safety
- ◆ Field Training Officer Course
- ◆ DRE Instructor School
- ◆ Ways to Corroborate Information Obtained During a Forensic Interview
- ◆ Firearms Law and ID Application Training
- ◆ Zoom In on Crime Scene and Evidence Photography
- ◆ Advanced Crime Scene Investigation
- ◆ Taser X2 CED Course
- ◆ Paul Butler Seminar
- ◆ Alcotest 7110 Re-certification Course 2023
- ◆ Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE)
- ◆ DWI Detection and SFST Course
- ◆ Alcotest 7110 Initial Operator Course 2023
- ◆ Drug Impaired Driving (DID)
- ◆ DWI Detection and SFST Refresher Course
- ◆ Spring Range Qualifications
- ◆ Fall Range Qualifications
- ◆ Active Threat Tactics
- ◆ Case Law: Road Cop Essentials
- ◆ Command Series Level 2: Developing "Next Level" Middle Managers
- ◆ J. Harris Use Of Force
- ◆ Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing and Advanced Interrogation Techniques
- ◆ Glock Armor Course
- ◆ SWAT Team Leader Development
- ◆ Responding to a Bomb Threat
- ◆ FEMA – IPAWS – When Minutes Matter: Alert & Warning Communications TA
- ◆ Crash 2

- ◆ J Harris NJ Annual Training Conference
- ◆ Cape May County Urban Search and Rescue
- ◆ Electronic Investigation and EDD
- ◆ NJSACOP 111th Annual Training Conference
- ◆ OPRA for Practitioners
- ◆ 2023 Convention of the AFSCME NJ Council 63
- ◆ SWAT Breaching School
- ◆ Class II Field Training
- ◆ MPX Operator's Course
- ◆ FBI/DEA presentation on Xylazine
- ◆ Bias Crime/Incident Training for Bias Crime Officers
- ◆ Bias Crime/Incident Training for School Administrators and School Resource Officers
- ◆ Megan's Law/Offender Watch Training
- ◆ Homicide First Responder Essentials
- ◆ First Amendment Audit Training
- ◆ Basic Internal Affairs
- ◆ Report Writing, Courtroom Testimony
- ◆ Responding to and Investigating Bomb Threats and Swatting Hoaxes
- ◆ Safe Schools Resource Officer/Liaison Training
- ◆ Command & Leadership 2023 Fall Session
- ◆ Joint Insurance Fund (JIF) 2023 Risk Management Training
- ◆ Field Training Patrol Officer
- ◆ Crisis Communication
- ◆ 2023 FBI NA NJ Chapter Annual Training Conference
- ◆ Atlantic JIF Police Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting, Avalon
- ◆ Top Gun Class 60
- ◆ OC Aerosol Instructor Course
- ◆ Baton Instructor
- ◆ Below 100 Training Program
- ◆ NJSP Firearms Investigation
- ◆ Special Events Management - J.A. Montgomery
- ◆ Basic Sniper Observer Course
- ◆ Child Passenger Safety Technician Course
- ◆ Crisis Interventions Team Training
- ◆ NJSACOP Building a Latent Shield
- ◆ CJIS TAC Training
- ◆ FAA Part 107 Prep Class
- ◆ Active Threat Integrated Response Course
- ◆ SWAT 1
- ◆ PT Instructor

## **2023 Computer Based Training**

### **First Quarter: January, February, March**

1. Detainee Transportation
2. Radar Recertification
3. Leadership Training Module
4. JIF Cyber Security Awareness Part I
5. NJ AG Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)

### **Second Quarter: April, May, June**

6. Bias Based Policing
7. Use of Force - Spring
8. Vehicular Pursuit – Spring

### **Third Quarter: July, August, September**

9. HazMat Refresher
10. Workplace Harassment Prevention
11. JIF Cyber Security Awareness Part II
12. Legal Updates 2023
13. CJIS Compliance
14. CLEAR: Asian American Pacific Islander Community

### **Fourth Quarter: October, November, December**

15. Domestic Violence
16. Bloodborne Pathogens
17. Temporary Detention, PREA
18. Use of Force – Fall
19. Vehicular Pursuit – Fall
20. Right to Know 2023
21. Cape May County 2023 In-Service



*DFC James and SFC Perry at the Opening of the Child Advocacy Center in April*



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



*Squad 2 with Philadelphia Eagles Center, Jason Kelce, who was in town for a charity event*

## **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
- Firearms Instructor
- Survival Training/MILO Instructor

#### **Lt. Brian McEwing**

- Nark II Field Test Instructor
- Human Trafficking

#### **SFC 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

## **Detective Division**

### **DSG Corey Scheid**

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

### **DFC Michael James**

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

### **Sr. 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 Thomas Shough**

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

## **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

**PFC Kevin Boyle, Jr.**

- Firearms Instructor

**PFC Kyle Boyle**

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

**PFC Eric Danze**

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

**Officer Stephen Flitcroft**

- Police Work Zone Safety, Train The Trainer

**Officer Adam Hegarty**

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

**Officer William Kocis**

- M.O.I. (Methods of Instruction)
- Resiliency
- Physical Fitness 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
- Firearms Instructor
- Taser (CED) Instructor
- Survival Training Instructor
- Tactical Medical Instructor
- Active Shooter Instructor
- L.E.A.D. Instructor
- AXON TASER Instructor

### **Officer Kenneth Walker**

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

### **Officer Michael Harkin**

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



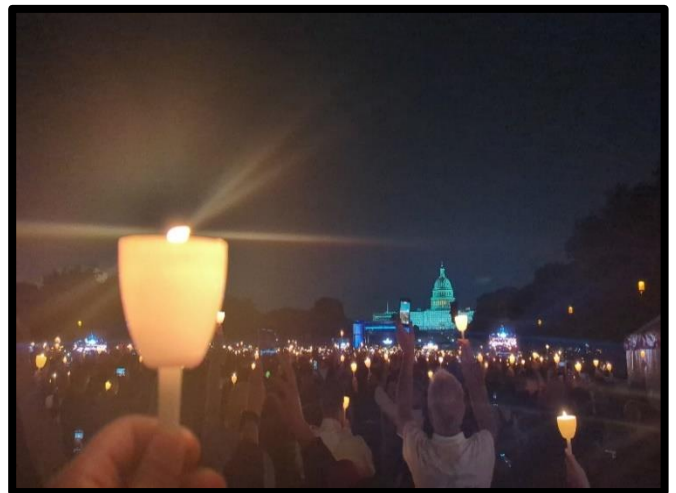
# COMMUNITY PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- Superhero Adventure Camp & Scout Out Weekend At Beachcomber Campground
- Law Enforcement United/Police Unity Tour
- Escape the Cape Triathlon
- Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics
- L.E.A.D. Day
- School Graduations and Activities
- Lower Township Fireworks and Club at Diamond Beach Fireworks
- LTPD Summer Youth Camp
- Cops Stops
- Annual National Night Out Event
- Douglass/Coombs Run
- Lower Township 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
- Safety Day at KidSpace Academy
- National Faith and Blue Events – Food Drive & Fraud Prevention Program
- Haunted Trails & Trunk or Treat
- No Shave November & December
- 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 Program
- Fraud Prevention and Fall Prevention – Senior Citizen Programs





# POLICE UNITY TOUR – MAY 2023



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – AUGUST 2023





## NATIONAL FAITH & BLUE COMMUNITY EVENTS – OCTOBER 2023



Lower Township Police and their Police Chaplain Team participated for the first time in National Faith & Blue Weekend on October 6, 2023. Our two events were:

### 1. LTPD Food Drive & Coffee with a Cop & Chaplain

Stop by and drop off non-perishable food items for the food bank and have a cup of coffee (and light refreshments) with our officers and members of our police chaplain team. If you cannot attend the event, there will be a food drop box in the lobby of the Lower Township Police Dept., located at 405 Breakwater Road, Erma, NJ 08204 and one at the Township of Lower Municipal Building at 2600 Bayshore Road, Villas, NJ 08251.

### 2. Visit Our Seniors – Presentation & Discussion on Fraud Prevention

You do not have to be a senior to join us and our police chaplain team for a presentation and discussion on Fraud Prevention – all are welcome! Light refreshments will be available. Bring a friend and leave with some wisdom on fraud prevention.

National Faith & Blue Weekend ([www.faithandblue.org](http://www.faithandblue.org)) is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and reduces biases by facilitating engagement between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. Research has shown that non-enforcement engagement of officers and residents is transformative to safety and inclusion. Over a four-day weekend each year, Faith & Blue consists of thousands of locally organized events in all 50 states. These activities include community forums, service projects and hundreds of other initiatives that bring the community together in the spirit of reconciliation. Faith & Blue organizers represent every major national law enforcement group and faith tradition in the United States. The effort is co-convened by MovementForward, Inc.'s One Congregation One Precinct (OneCOP) initiative, and the USDOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office).

The events offer an opportunity for community-officer engagement and are part of the nation's largest annual collaborative policing initiative. Strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement and faith institutions are key pillars of each community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.



**SAFETY WEEK AT MITNICK SCHOOL – OCTOBER 2023**



**TRUNK OR TREAT – OCTOBER 2023**



**KIDSPACE ACADEMY - OCTOBER 2023**





# LOWER TOWNSHIP VETERANS PARADE – NOVEMBER 2023





## NO SHAVE NOVEMBER 2023

Every year the Lower Township Police Department, along with many other departments nationwide, participate in “No-Shave November.”

One of the goals of “**No-Shave November**” is to raise cancer awareness by embracing our hair (which many cancer patients lose), and letting it grow wild and free. Another goal is to use the money you typically would spend on shaving and grooming, to educate about cancer prevention, save lives and aid those fighting the battle. Our officers and staff contribute a minimum of \$50.00 per month to participate.

This year we support Mark Bohn and his family. Last year Mark was diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer and does not have health insurance. He underwent chemotherapy treatments and was doing well. However, he recently was diagnosed with two new cancer spots on his liver. If you know Mark, you know he has a heart of gold and is always willing to help anyone in need. Even now while going through treatment he is still making sure everyone else is okay. It’s his turn to receive help. We are hoping this will help him out tremendously. He has a big family and everyone has been pitching in to make sure he is okay.

If anyone else would like to donate to this worthy cause, the family also has set up a gofundme campaign at <https://gofund.me/a64eeb99>

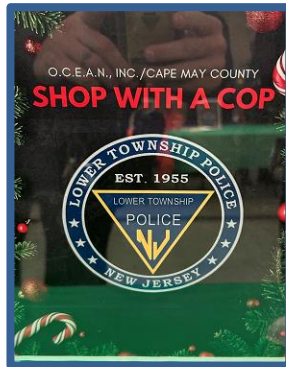
For more information about the program, please visit their website at <https://no-shave.org/>



*LTPD and Wildwood Crest PD present a check to Mark Bohn and his family for No Shave November*



# SHOP WITH A COP - DECEMBER 2023

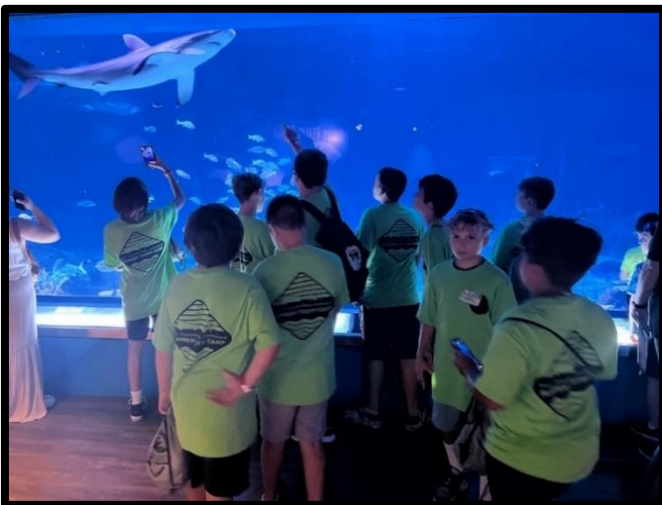




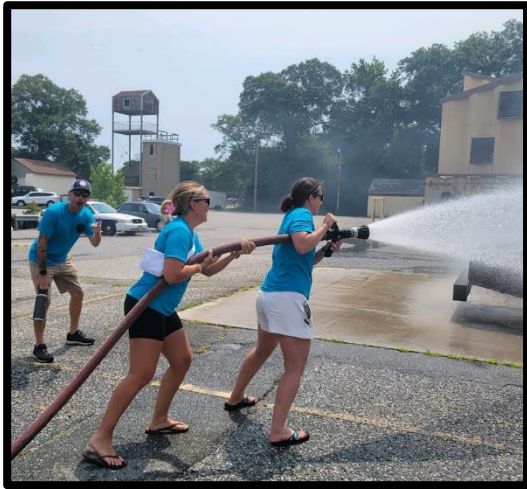
## SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

The Lower Township Police Department offers a free week-long police youth camp for Lower Township 6th and 7th grade students. Each year an average of 60 children attend 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.

Day 1 of camp is spent at the Cape May County Police Academy where campers learn about the different aspects of the first responder professions. They see a SWAT and a Taser demonstration. They get to use the interactive MILO machine and a fire hose to extinguish a controlled fire. They also interact with K-9, SWAT and the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. Day 2 was a new experience this year at Adventure Aquarium, where all the campers were able to interact with stingrays, sharks and see penguins and walruses. It was a favorite day among many. On Day 3 it rained so the traditional waterpark day turned into a day of games at the Lower Township Recreation Center. When the rain let up the counselors made a huge slip and slide outside for everyone to enjoy. Even with the rain, the day ended on a good note as campers overcame the adversity of missing a much-anticipated trip to the waterpark. Day 4 was a Phillies baseball game. The entire group travels to Philadelphia to enjoy a game and for some, it is the first time they have visited a baseball stadium. After the game, the campers were allowed to use the tunnel that the players walk through and allowed to run the bases on the field. Every camper enjoyed this, whether they were a baseball fan or not! The last day of camp was at Seashore Campground where campers and counselors swam, joined in scavenger hunts and corn hole tournaments. Due to another rain day, all the campers were taken to see a movie and afterwards had pizza. The rain cleared up and campers were able to end the day at the Seashore Campground where families were invited to enjoy ice cream and awards were given out. Our local restaurants, businesses and community, generously provide donations and food each year and we are grateful for the support.













## 2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### **Police Administration:**

- Procured and Fielded Multiple Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs); project to continue in 2024.
- Updated our Headquarters digital fingerprint machine.
- Fully implemented our Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) or drone program and executed real world operations with it. Expanded training and personnel for this life saving program.
- ATV Program expanded with 12 additional trained and licensed operators
- Procured and fielded Axon 7 Tasers, replacing end of life X2 Tasers.
- Axon auto-tagging software fully interfaced and operational
- Axon Signal Sidearm software and hardware fully integrated
- Fielded Axon Fleet 3 in-car camera systems in 16 patrol vehicles
- Completed a full departmental policy and general order review to revise as needed, in order to comply with current laws, guidelines and directives.
- Implemented the Alternative Responses to Reduce Instances of Violence and Escalation “ARRIVE Together” program. Connecting law enforcement officers with mental health clinicians to improve the outcome of calls involving members of the community suffering from mental and behavioral health emergencies.
- Updated, implemented and enforced juvenile curfew ordinance in an effort to maintain a safe environment for township residents and visitors.
- Created Patrolman First Class (PFC) and Senior Detective (SRD) positions
- Implemented Deputy Chief position within the rank structure and swore in first ever LTPD Deputy Chief
- Underwent our triennial re-accreditation on-site assessment with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) by preparing for an in-depth third party assessment. Obtained triennial re-accreditation recommendation from on-site NJSACOP Assessment Team. Anticipating re-accreditation status to be granted in March of 2024 from the NJSACOP Accreditation Certification Board.
- Restructured Field Training Officer program to facilitate electronic system
- Fielded new PowerReady digital Evaluation and Field Training software
- Conducted 77 specialized training courses department wide
- Issued and completed 14 courses derived from Lexipol Training Consultants
- Established baseline training schedule in order to project all future training cycles.

### **Patrol Division:**

- Patrol Officer First Class Rank (PFC): In 2023, the Department implemented this new position and promoted 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 designates specific officers as the third in line supervisors on each squad and they 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 were selected based on a multitude of criteria including seniority, supervisor recommendation and past-demonstrated ability as a leader.
- Provided 24 hour/7 day a week protection and service to our community

- Patrol Division - two officers were trained in the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) course. Two new officers completed the New Jersey State Police (NJSP) DWI Detection and Standardized Field Sobriety Tests (SFST) Course. Eight officers were re-certified on the Alcotest 7110 by the NJSP. Two officers completed their initial Alcotest Operator's training, certified by the NJSP. Two Officers attended the NJSP Drug Impaired Driving (DID) course and two additional Officers attended the NJSP DWI Detection and Standardized Filed Sobriety Refresher Course. Two Officers attended the Field Training Officer Course. Another Patrol Officer was selected to be on the Cape May County SWAT Team (6 total Officers from LTPD are on the regional County SWAT Team). Two of LTPD SWAT Officers were selected to be on the County SWAT Team Sniper Unit. 1 Patrol Sergeant graduated the prestigious NJ Chiefs of Police Command and Leadership Academy.
- Our Drug Recognition Experts (DREs) were active throughout the year maintaining their certifications and receiving advance court room testimony and report writing training.
- Community Policing events were successfully held throughout the year with additional training completed in all aspects of community relations.

### **Support Operations:**

- Executed all firearms training for the department
- Trained the Department in Active Threat Integration
- Provided all in-service departmental training
- Planned and conducted Lower Township Police Youth Camp
- Provided School Security
- Planned and operated National Night Out
- Conducted Senior Citizen Fraud Prevention Seminars
- Managed all Lower Township Special Events, planning and execution
- Participated in the Lower Township Healthy Youth Coalition
- Instructed L.E.A.D. program to all Sandman Elementary 6th graders
- Instructed Drug and Alcohol Education to Maud Abrams Elementary 4th Graders
- Instructed First Responder Training for the Lower Cape May Regional High School
- Participated in Lower Township Elementary Field Day and Reading Bowl
- Trained the Department in the Implementation of the Fleet 3 System



*Officer Nuscis at Beachcomber Hero Event Weekend*

### **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.
- The Detective Bureau took a proactive stance on large-scale fraud investigations. Detectives co-operated with other agencies, including the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office, Sheriff's Department, State Police and Federal Investigators, resulting in multiple successful take-downs and arrests.

# GOALS FOR 2024

## **Police Administration:**

- ◆ Continue to Procure and Field Additional Stationary Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) throughout the Township
- ◆ Implement Axon Air Program to manage UAS data collection, storage and pilots
- ◆ Expand UAS program, training, personnel and equipment including the purchase of a DJI Maveric3 Thermal Drone and DJI Avata Pro-View Combo Compact Drone
- ◆ Continue to Expand the Police Bike Patrol Program
- ◆ Continue to Expand the Police ATV Program
- ◆ Digitize Archived Records
- ◆ Purchase and field a SpeedAlert 24 Digital Signboard with ATS-5 Traffic Trailer
- ◆ Procure and implement a StatTrak Data Collector that provides Speed/Traffic Surveys up to 4 lanes simultaneously
- ◆ Obtain our triennial re-accreditation status with NJSACOP Accreditation Board in March 2024
- ◆ Adhere to new 2024 Police Licensing Standards
- ◆ Purchase and implement Truleo Body Worn Camera (BWC) Audio Analytics Software
- ◆ Replace three end of life patrol vehicles
- ◆ Implement DT – Defensive Tactics training to yearly training schedule

## **Patrol Division:**

- ◆ Continued Career Development and Training for all officers, to include the Alcotest Conversion Course provided by the Division of State Police Alcohol Drug Testing Unit.
- ◆ Provide senior officers with a training program for front-line supervisors
- ◆ Successfully complete the Field Training Officer Program for the department's two new hires.
- ◆ **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.
- ◆ **Continue to 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 and elected officials to address and improve quality of life issues; specifically in reference to juveniles.

## **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. To further improve proficiency, the support operations unit will be looking to add additional open range training days for all officers throughout the year.
- ◆ **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 interactions and events to allow citizens of Lower Township to ask questions or voice their concerns on the state of the community. Specific examples of these community interactions 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 officers and citizens.

## **Detective Bureau**

- ◆ **Juvenile Matters** - Over the last year, the designated Juvenile Detective has continued to work within the bounds of the ever-changing juvenile law landscape. The designated Juvenile Detective will continue to explore various solutions to juvenile matters, including alternate methods of stationhouse adjustments, in lieu of criminal charges, when appropriate.
- ◆ **Evidence Storage** - Due to changes within the County, the Lower Township Police Department is now required to maintain all Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS) and firearms that are not directly related to an indicatable investigation. The Evidence Custodians within the Detective Bureau are responsible for finding and maintaining a solution to safely and properly store CDS and firearms in accordance with state law and NJSACOP guidelines.
- ◆ **Technologically Advanced Investigations** - Detectives will continue to be at the forefront of technological investigations. With many investigations having a nexus to an electronic device or application, Detectives are continuing to hone in on technological trends and advancements. Due to the ever-changing advancements in technology, Detectives will work with partners in the law enforcement community to stay up to date on the latest technology.