

Hazlet Township Police Department

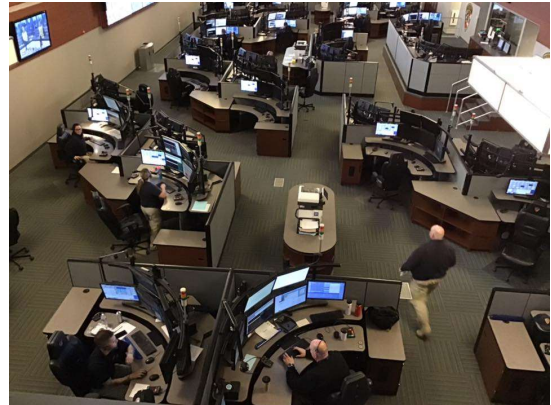


2020 Annual Report

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first quarter of 2020 brought a significant change in operations for the Police Department with the implementation of a shared service agreement and migration of our dispatch services to the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office – Communication Division. The most notable impact for the Township was an annual cost savings through salary and benefit reductions. An equally important benefit of this shared service agreement was access to an improved records management system for our department that enhanced officer safety. This new system would have cost the Township several hundred thousand dollars to purchase, but was provided at no cost under the Monmouth County Sheriff Departments licensing agreement. The acquisition of this new system gave our officers access to a database much larger than what we previously had. We now have access to information about police interactions, suspect descriptors, and police reports from over 20 towns throughout Monmouth County. This information not only increases safety for our officers, but also allows us to provide more effective and efficient service to our residents.



In February, members of our Police Department, teamed up with the Middletown Police Department for a fundraiser called "Climb with a Cop". The event was held at The Gravity Vault in Middletown, NJ and was sponsored by both PBA's. Officers were trained how to belay and use the ropes in order to support children who wanted to climb rock walls. All proceeds of the event supported the New Jersey Special Olympics.

At the end of March, when much of the State was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our officers continued to patrol streets and neighborhoods to ensure the safety of our residents. Members of our administration anticipated the arrival of COVID-19 and began acquiring Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) well before we experienced community spread. This provided safety and a sense of security for officers when responding to call for service. Throughout the pandemic we continued to develop/ amend policies and procedures based on guidance and recommendations from the CDC and the New Jersey Department of Health. We communicated daily with State and County officials, modified work schedules, and kept all staff members and the Township informed. These steps kept our officers safe so they could effectively serve our residents. As with any adversity,

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positive lessons and deficiencies were learned. One such deficiency identified was the need for a software program to allow residents to electronically submit reports. This minimized exposure to our officers and allowed for a more efficient method of reporting. For the first time, our citizens can now electronically initiate police reports for certain offenses utilizing the link on our website, www.hazletpd.org. This eliminated a great deal of person-to-person contact.

On a positive note, we were able to improve community trust and form a better relationship with the children throughout our community by providing birthday parades for those who could not celebrate their birthdays due to gathering restrictions and social distancing measures. Not only did we bring smiles to the faces of many, it was a humbling experience for our Officers to see how excited they were when we came around. We continued this program through June until the State guidelines on gatherings increased and our calls for services began to rise again.

In April 2020, as a proactive measure and before the state mandate, the Hazlet Police became one of a few departments in the Bayshore region to deploy Body Worn Cameras (BWC's). This was a project that took several years to complete, but we knew it would be worth the expense. There are several benefits for camera deployment including transparency, increased public trust, increased professionalism and accountability, documentation for evidentiary value, quick resolution of citizen complaints, call auditing, and assisting with officer training. The department purchased enough BWC's to outfit every patrol officer, as well as, in car cameras for all of our patrol vehicles. The Watch Guard BWC is worn by all Hazlet Township Patrol Officers and it is the Departments policy to utilize BWCs to assist agency personnel in the performance of their duties by providing an accurate and unbiased recorded account of an incident. Since acquiring them, a grant has been released by the State to outfit every officer in NJ with a BWC. We plan to pursue reimbursement via the State grant program.



In June, our department and community experienced events brought on by civil unrest across the country and a call for police reform, accountability, and unity. We were petitioned by a resident who wanted to organize a "Black Lives Matter" march in response to the death of George Floyd to bring awareness of police brutality to our community. The organizer communicated her plans with us and we did everything possible to respect her first amendment rights while keeping attendees/residents safe. During the event, then Chief Philip Meehan, along with the Bayshore Chiefs of Police and religious leaders from Hazlet, walked in solidarity. This peaceful event had at least 200 attendees who marched down Middle Rd and ended at the Swim and Tennis Club parking lot. Numerous participants took an opportunity to address the crowd voicing their personal views and experiences with police agencies including ours. Many of the events speakers spoke positively about interactions with the Department and its members. One particular speaker shared his personal experience with the agency stating he was

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treated professionally, respectfully, and felt safe raising his family in our community. He also shared how his experiences were very different when dealing with other police departments.

Later in June we were approached by another organizer looking to host a "Back the Blue" march. The organizers intention was to bring awareness and support for police and first responders. We afforded him the same assistance as we did with the previous march with our main objective being to ensure safety and security to all. Several hundred attendees marched waving American flags and wearing supportive apparel. At that time, there had been terrible images of rioting around the country and anti-police sentiment on the nightly news. This event was not only very different from the national news highlights, but it was very humbling for us to see how much support there was locally for law enforcement and the job we do.

No different than most jurisdictions in New Jersey, Hazlet residents were sporadically victimized by car burglaries and stolen vehicles this year. We received information that some of these suspects were coming into Hazlet by either stolen vehicle or NJ Transit Train. They would roam the neighborhoods on foot, checking for unlocked vehicles and the opportunity to perpetuate these crimes. In many of the instances, they would find valuables and key fobs. The suspects would then steal the vehicles and drive them to North Jersey. During the peak of these crimes, we proactively assigned officers to monitor the train station in patrol vehicles and sometimes in an undercover capacity. We believe that this directed patrol approach significantly reduced thefts in the area of the train station. In several instances, our officers apprehended persons in the act and found that most were juveniles from outside our community. Intelligence from our State and County partners informed us that these juveniles were part of a large organized crime group that targeted the entire state. We found that the best course of action was to educate our residents through an aggressive prevention campaign to minimize victimization. Residents regularly receive police notification via SMS text, our Facebook page, and electronic message boards flashing "LOCK YOUR CAR, TAKE YOUR KEYS, HIDE YOUR STUFF". Additionally, our officers were directed to patrol every street in town on their night shift and notify JCP&L of street lights needing repair. This ensured that each street was well lit which acts as a crime deterrent.

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In September, we bid farewell to Chief Philip Meehan who retired after serving the Township and our agency with honor and distinction. We also welcomed incoming chief, Chief Ted Wittke, who worked for many years preparing himself to take the reins. Robert Mulligan was promoted to the position of Deputy Chief, Nicholas Greene and Scott Randolph were promoted to Lieutenant, and Richard Jaeger was promoted to Sergeant. The ceremony took place outside on a beautiful night in Veterans Park.



Our Administrative Staff are continually evaluating our operation and equipment looking for ways to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the agency. An area audited on a regular basis are patrol vehicles. This is one of the most important pieces of equipment an officer relies upon. These vehicles are often driven for long periods of time, experience harsh driving conditions, and costly to operate. Vehicles average between 80,000-100,000 miles before being rotated to back-up status. After using the vehicle as a backup car for several more years, they are finally retired or recycled for some other purpose within the Township. This year, research efforts focused on purchasing new vehicles that met our needs and yet, were cost effective. The purchasing research team included members of the Department and Fleet Service mechanics. In addition to traditional research, the team attended an event sponsored by Ford to test and evaluate its newest models. This included standard vehicles and hybrid models. The team returned and praised the Ford Interceptor Hybrid SUV. This was the first pursuit rated hybrid police SUV manufactured and we were excited to explore this product more in-depth. The cost of the vehicle was approximately \$3500.00 more than a traditional gas patrol vehicle, but the average savings in fuel consumption was estimated to be \$3200.00 per year. In addition to the fuel savings, the reviews from our employees revealed there was no loss in performance. We ordered the hybrid vehicles and were one of the first police departments in the State to deploy them. They hit the roads of Hazlet in late Spring and our officers noticed that they were filling up a lot less at the gas pumps. We will continue to monitor the gas consumption over time to find out an accurate monetary savings amount.

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On October 5th and 6th, 2020, a team of assessors from the New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (NJLEAC) came to this Department to evaluate the Department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services, as well as review items virtually due to COVID-19 precautions. The Department had to comply with 112 standards in order to be reaccredited. The assessment team was composed of law enforcement practitioners from other agencies in the state. The assessors reviewed written materials, interviewed individuals, and visited offices and other areas where compliance can be witnessed. After a review of the Department, both in person and virtually, the assessment team advised that we passed the assessment with 0 issues discovered. Due to COVID we will need to wait until March 2021 to have our accreditation status approved.



For several years our department has worked closely with the Hazlet Township Board of Education (BOE) to ensure a safe learning environment for staff and students. This included a plan to reintroduce drug awareness programs to the curriculum. In November, we were granted that opportunity and the Department implemented the #NOTEVENONCE program at Raritan High School. This program teaches 12th graders the dangers of opioid abuse prior to entering the military, workforce, and college. We are confident this program will ensure our young adults are better prepared to become successful members of society.

In December, with COVID putting a damper on holiday festivities and spirits, we looked to implement programs that would spread joy throughout the community. One of the ideas formulated was to launch a tracker for our Township Santa run. We worked collaboratively with each of our Fire Departments to accomplish this task. Feedback confirmed our goal of spreading joy by making it easier for residents to get outside and greet Santa as he was escorted on emergency vehicles. We also installed a holiday mailbox in headquarters so our younger residents could mail their wish lists and letters to the North Pole. The feedback we received was amazing.

Though 2020 was a difficult year for everyone, our Police Department remained focused on providing effective and efficient service to the community. We continued to set and meet goals, build community trust, police according to the needs of the community, and set an example of professionalism for all police departments throughout the state. We remained steadfast yet flexible to address challenges. The Department experienced a change of command, saying goodbye to the outgoing Chief who helped prepare us for success. We also took time to reflect on our shortcomings and concentrated our efforts to improve in those areas.

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We continued to improve customer service and we surely strengthened the bond with community. We will continue to work hard to serve and protect all that reside within Hazlet and travel through our borders.

We at Hazlet Township Police Department thank the amazing people of Hazlet Township who rode the waves in 2020 and remained unified through it all. I'd also like to thank the women and men of the Hazlet Township Police Department who courageously served during a very difficult time and did so with the utmost professionalism.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Mayor, Township Committee and Business Administrator for their confidence in my leadership and continued support of the department.

Chief Ted Wittke

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ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Current Sworn Employees

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of January 1, 2021.

Chief of Police

Ted Wittke

Deputy Chief

Robert Mulligan

Lieutenants

Scott Mura

Christopher Acevedo

Kevin Geoghan

Nicholas Greene

Scott Randolph

Detective

Det/Lt. Vincent Quinn

Michael Tristao

Nicolas Logothetis

Sergeants

Joseph Forgione

William Marvel

Robert Dickens, K9 Bane

Michael Galvin

Richard Jaeger

School Officers

Richard Gizzi

Thomas Ferrari

Kelly Plath

Patrol Officers

Thomas Enright

Jacqueline Struble

Tara Theis

Anthony Forlenza

Edward Schmidt

Patrick Kiley

Patrick Wood

Richard Wilhelm

Charleigh Logothetis

Russell Surdi

Nathan Rucinski

Nicholas Hungerford

Nicholas Torres

Cody Sachs, K9 Rico

Steven Venticinque

John Corcione

Douglas Centrone

Brian Jelinski

Megan Quinn

Joseph Eckel

Kevin Quinn

Michael Pease

Ernie Vega

David Turner

Zachary Kruk

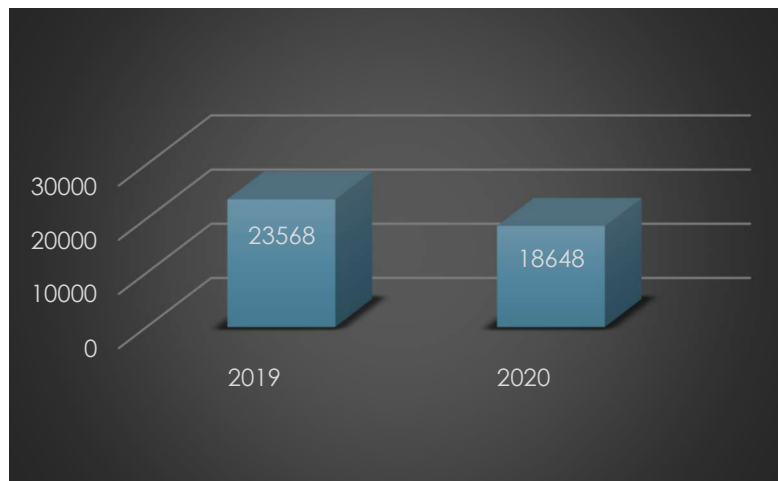
Connor Sheehan

Nicholas Pasquenza

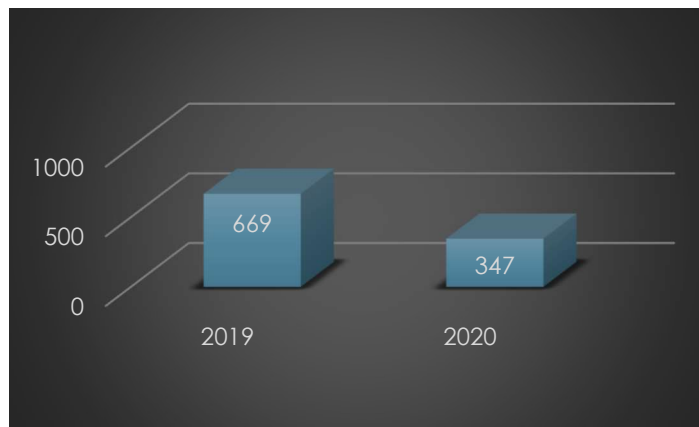
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CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Calls for Service:	23,568	18,648	-4,920



	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Arrests:	669	347	-322



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Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

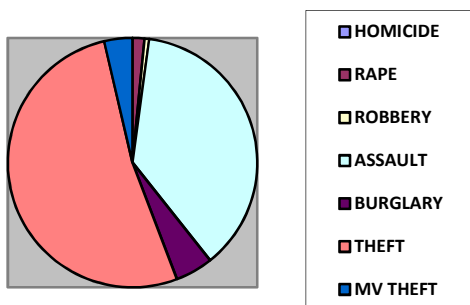
The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are main offense classifications known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Below is a list highlighting the crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Hazlet Township for the past two 2 years.

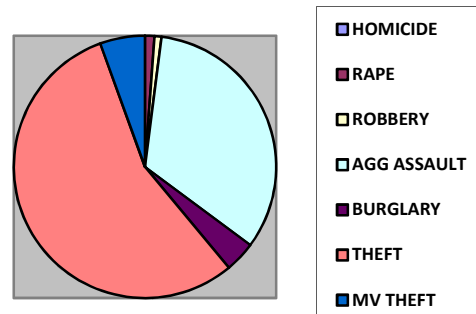
Offense :	<u>2019</u>	Offense :	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Homicide	0	Homicide	0	0
Rape	5	Rape	4	-1
Robbery	2	Robbery	3	+1
Assault	121	Aggravated Assault	114	-7
Burglary	16	Burglary	13	-3
Theft	171	Theft	191	+20
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	Motor Vehicle Theft	19	+7

Note: 2020 data is an estimate based on our monthly reports; the official report is released by the New Jersey State Police.

UCR 2019



UCR 2020



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The following list indicates the classification of the other types of calls for service, both criminal and non-criminal in nature. The following call types were handled by the members of the Police Department in 2019 compared to 2020.

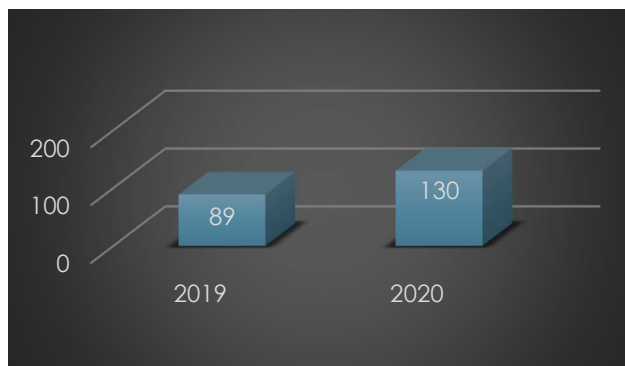
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	6	3	-3
Medical Calls	1,516	1379	-137
Fire Calls	40	45	+5
Death Investigations	15	12	-3
Disorderly Conduct incidents	435	348	-87
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	121	87	-34
Criminal Mischief Complaint	62	27	-35
Missing Persons and Runaways	17	42	+25
Directed Patrol	212	344	+132

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a serious crime against society and both law enforcement and the courts must aggressively address it. New Jersey has strong laws and protective measures for victims of Domestic Violence.

Hazlet Township is not immune from the problems and concerns of Domestic Violence. In 2020, Hazlet Township Police responded to 130 Domestic Violence incidents. In the year prior, Hazlet Township police responded to 89 Domestic Violence incidents. This is a significant increase in these types of calls and we believe that it is a collateral issue resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Domestic Violence:	89	130	+41



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Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or Crashes:

During 2020, there were 10 work related injury incidents reported. As a result of the injuries, three of the officers missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u># of Days Missed</u>
Joseph Eckel	12 Days
Jaqueline Struble	6 Days
Nicholas Hungerford	2 Days

Motor Vehicle Crashes While on Duty

Officers were involved in 5 motor vehicle crashes in 2020.

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Douglas Centrone	01/19/2020	Patrol car hit while on a MV stop
Nicholas Hungerford	06/30/2020	Struck a pole
Richard Wilhelm	08/24/2020	Struck by drunk driver
Connor Sheehan	08/24/2020	Struck by drunk driver
Steven Venticinque	11/26/2020	Struck a curb

Driving is a large portion of patrol duty. The Hazlet Township Police Department has taken a proactive approach to avoid Officer involved motor vehicle accidents by sending officers to a Driver Simulator Training, even if they were not involved in an accident. The Driver Simulator Training teaches techniques used by military to encourage improved defensive driving tactics. These techniques as well as the driving simulator, help officers navigate traffic and avoid accidents.

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COVID-19 Pandemic

During March of 2020, Hazlet Police responded to several first aid calls for residents with COVID-19 symptoms. It was not long before we had an officer who contracted the virus. Luckily, that officer fully recovered but it had made us aware of the severity of this disease on certain people and how easily it could spread. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) became a priority for our department to collect and use on every call for service after.

Before we started receiving the abundance of first aid calls for COVID symptoms, our administrative staff had been following the news and anticipating the arrival of the virus. They had the forethought to start ordering PPE which only weeks later would prove impossible to acquire. Once the virus reached a point of community spread in Hazlet, each officer was provided a kit containing PPE, (N95 mask, two sets of gloves, a gown, boot covers, a face shield, and a surgical mask for the subject they were with if needed), for use during their patrol duties.



Our department also saw an outpouring of PPE donations such as masks, face shields and hand sanitizer that were dropped off from resident and local business'. It was times like these that we look back on and feel ever fortunate to have so much community support.



Our cleaning staff, which is comprised of school district employees through shared service agreements, conducted routine sanitizing of police headquarters. Combined with regular sanitizing of our vehicles, this ensured that our officers were as protected as could be from contracting a virus that was plaguing our community. Even though every precautionary measure was taken, we had four officers contract the coronavirus in 2020. Our Department is very fortunate that all officers had time off to recover fully and are back to working at full duty capacity.

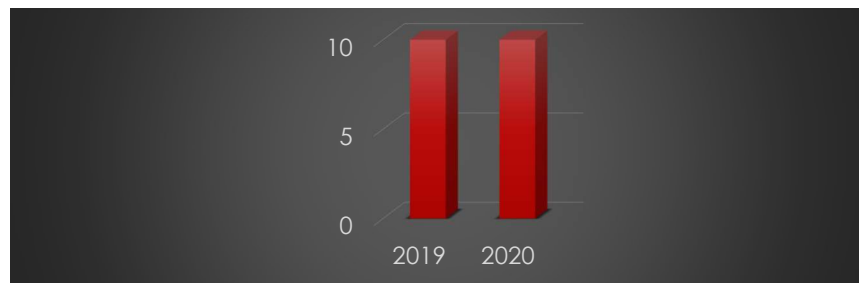
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Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

Police use of force is a hot topic these days and officers of the Hazlet Police Department show great restraint when the use of force is necessary. As required, each officer who uses force while making an arrest, or while handling an individual with some form of force to gain compliance, must enter incident information into a State use of force portal. Our internal policies require several further reviews conducted by supervisors, and ultimately all use of force is reported to the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office. The Hazlet Township Police Department trains officers biannually in use of force. We have also added training in de-escalation techniques in order to give officers other options to try and avoid the use of force. Of the 10 Use of Force incidents we encountered this year, 5 involved intoxicated subjects actively resisting arrest. Seven incidents involved only the use of compliance holds to gain control of actively resisting individuals. In several of these cases, officers used less force than what was legally justified. In 2021 we will train officers in ICAT (Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics). This training program will hopefully provide officers with the tools, skills, and options they need to successfully and safely defuse a range of critical incidents.

In 2019, our Department acquired and began the process of training our Officers for the use of Conductive Energy Devices (CEDs), commonly referred to as Tasers. During 2020 our Department was able to train the remainder of our officers in the use of these important devices with the main intent of adding another less-lethal force option. These CED's act as a deterrence to offenders looking to use force on officers and others. They also make these potentially dangerous encounters safer for all involved.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Use of Force Incidents:	10	10	+0



	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Officers injured using force:	0	3	+3

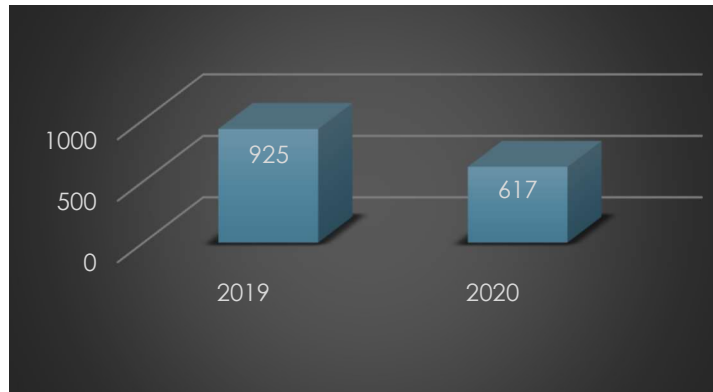
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Police Pursuits:	1	2	+1

Hazlet Township Police Officers were involved in 2 incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits. There were no injuries to anyone as a result of the pursuits.

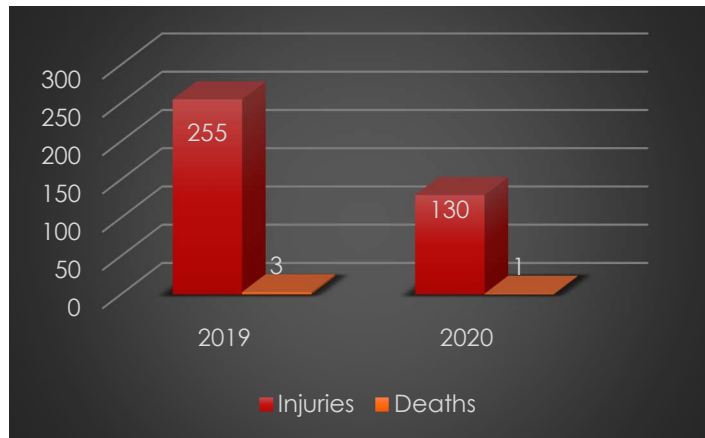
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Motor Vehicle Accidents Reports Taken

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Crashes	925	617	-308



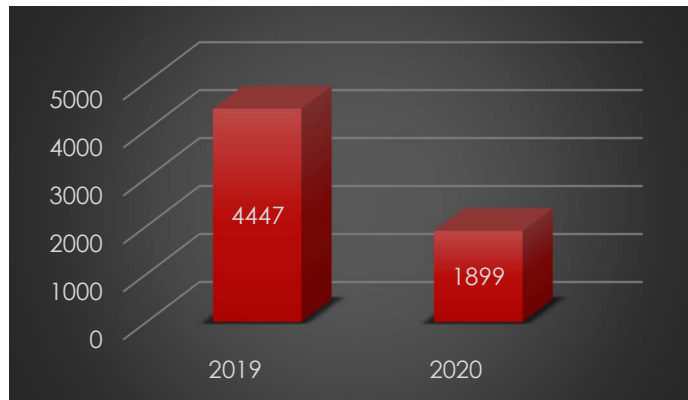
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Injuries:	255	130	-125
Deaths:	3	1	-2



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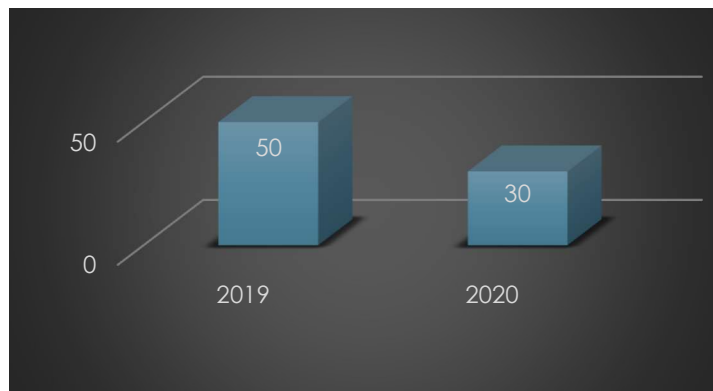
Traffic Enforcement

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Motor Vehicle Summonses issued	4,447	1,899	-2,548



Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
DWI Arrests	50	30	-20



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PATROL DIVISION

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



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

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, initiating contacts with community members. Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into four squads. Each squad is supervised by a Lieutenant and Sergeant with five or six patrol Officers.

Field Training Officers: (FTO's)

In 2020 we had three officers (Zachary Kruk, Connor Sheehan and Nicholas Pasquenza) graduate from the Monmouth county Police Academy. All police officers hired by the Hazlet Township Police Department must attend and successfully complete a New Jersey State Certified Police Academy. Upon graduation, all officers return to the Department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. The FTO program is an additional three months (12 weeks) of intensive training and evaluation where the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. The Field Training officers have been carefully selected and trained to perform the duties of training new recruits. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare probationary officers to act as solo beat officers.

The following officers are designated and trained as FTOs:

Sgt. William Marvel (*Field Training Coordinator*)

Sgt. Michael Galvin

Sgt. Robert Dickens

PtIm. Douglas Centrone

PtIm. Edward Schmidt

Det. Nicolas Logothetis

PtIm. Richard Wilhelm

PtIw. Charleigh Logothetis

PtIm. Russel Surdi

PtIm. Nicholas Torres

PtIm. Steven Venticinque

PtIm. John Corcione

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT

The Hazlet Township Police Department's Patrol Division answered 1,379 first aid calls in 2020. Included in those 1,379 calls are difficulty breathing, possible strokes, physical injuries, and calls that require Officers to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). In 2019, our department acquired two Lucas Chest Compression Systems. This device, when strapped to a patient, delivers consistent, high-quality CPR each and every time. It works by creating a positive intrathoracic pressure when the chest is compressed. This increased pressure is transmitted to the blood inside the heart.

The Lucas Chest Pump was deployed 13 times during 2020. This advanced life preserving measure can be placed onto a subject with only 7 seconds of interruption of CPR. This device also allows CPR to continue during transport to the hospital. There is no doubt that the deployment of these devices have saved lives already and will continue to do so. The Township purchased (2) additional pumps in 2020 and the cost was reimbursed through the Cares Act.



Among other EMS calls, the Patrol Division administered Naloxone (Narcan) 27 times to assist those suffering from drug overdoses. This number is slightly higher than the 22 Narcan Deployments the Patrol Division administer in 2019. Every Patrol officer carries at least one dose of nasal Narcan and it can be administered in seconds. After it is administered, the patient usually recovers quickly and most times brought to the hospital for further treatment.

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DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all incident reports and activities in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. Detectives work cases that are either assigned to them or come to them while they are on duty or on-call. They also initiate case investigations.

The Detective Division generated the following:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Cases Assigned:	137	116	-21
Cases Closed:	137	99	-38
Arrests:	22	14	-8

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruitment, police employee employment background investigations, they oversee Megan's Law, juvenile matters, and homeland security.

-Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2020: **17**

During 2020 the Department created a Patrol Investigator (PI) program. The intent of this program is to provide valuable investigative experience by having officers work alongside the detective bureau in addition to their everyday patrol duties. The goal is to create well-rounded officers in regards to investigative skills who can share those skills with others and may eventually be promoted to detective in the future. The following officers participating in the program are:

PtIm. Edward Schmidt

PtIm. Patrick Kiley

PtIm. Russell Surdi

PtIm. Steven Venticinque

PtIm. Douglas Centrone

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Some notable cases handled by the Detective Division in 2020:

20HZ05834 Stewarts Burglary

On April 2nd, 2020, Patrolman Schmidt, along with other patrol officers, responded to Stewart's Restaurant, located on State Highway 36, for the report of a burglary that had occurred. Patrolman Schmidt observed a shattered glass window along with a metal pipe believed to be used to facilitate entry into the structure. A cash register that was taken from the business was located in the vicinity. Detective Tristao was contacted and responded to the scene for processing. Detective Tristao and Patrolman Schmidt identified a blood trail coming from the cash register. This blood trail was followed to the door of motel room in the area. Upon trying to make contact with the occupant, the occupant fled through the back window. After a brief foot pursuit, the subject was taken into custody and charged with one count of burglary, one count of criminal mischief, and one count of resisting arrest.

20HZ14991 Endanger Welfare of Child at Sam's 2

On October 26th, 2020, Patrolman Corcione received anonymous reports that an employee at Sam's 2, a convenience store located on Palmer Avenue, had sexually explicit images of minors on his phone. After taking initial reports, the investigation was turned over to Detective Logothetis. Additional incidents involving the subject were identified by the Hazlet Township Police Department Detective Bureau. It was determined that on multiple occasions, the subject solicited sexually explicit images of minors in exchange for tobacco products. The subject was ultimately charged with three counts of endangering the welfare of a child and one count of selling tobacco products to minors.

Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)

On November 11th, 2020, Detective Tristao and Detective Logothetis assisted the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office with an investigation resulting in the arrest of a Hazlet resident. The investigation, which was led by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, revealed that the subject utilized a messaging application to send an item depicting the sexual abuse of a child to another person. The subject also possessed additional images depicting child sexual abuse materials. The subject was ultimately charged with one count of third degree endangering the welfare of a child for the possession of child sexual abuse materials and one count of second degree endangering the welfare of a child for the possession of child sexual abuse material.

-The division handled numerous Assaults, Sexual Offenses, Burglaries, Fraud, and other cases

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MEGAN'S LAW

Megan's
Law

The task of handling Megan's Law registrants within the township rests with the Detective Division. The Detective Michael Tristao oversees the registrants. Registrants are required to re-register anytime they move to a new address within the township, even a minimal move as a change within the same building to a different apartment or motel room. Registrants must also register upon moving into Hazlet Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

2019-2020 there were 8 new registrants to move into town, however one has already moved out. **The total of Megan's Law registrants in town is 26.**

In 2019-2020 there were 20 Tier 1, 7 Tier 2, and 0 Tier 3 registrants

Definitions

Tier 1 - This tier is for low-risk offenders. In other words, the chance of committing another sex offense is considered low. If an offender is considered a Tier 1 offender, only law enforcement agencies will be notified of this sex offender status

Tier 2 - A person is placed in this tier if it is determined that the offender presents only a moderate risk of committing another sex crime. Local law enforcement will be notified of the sex offender's status as will any facility that cares for children such as schools and children's camps. An offender that is placed into Tier 2, may also have to register on the state's sex offender registry.

Tier 3 - This is the most severe classification. It is reserved for those considered to be at a high risk for committing another sex crime. Law enforcement and facilities that care for children will be notified of this sex offender status. These offenders will also have to register on New Jersey's sex offender registry.

All addresses given are checked by the Megan's Law Detective after they register. There were no arrests made for failure to register this year.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Hazlet Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. The adherence of officers to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency. The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. This confidence engenders community support for the police department and improves the relationship between police and the citizens they serve by facilitating cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor officer's compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training, direction or policy changes. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

In 2020, there were a total of **5 Internal Affairs Complaints** received. All cases reached a disposition. See the below for the disposition.

2020 Internal Affairs Dispositions

Excessive Force: 0

Improper Arrest: 0

Other Criminal Violation: 0

Demeanor: 1 Sustained/ 2 Not Sustained

Domestic Violence: 0

Other Rule Violation: 2 Sustained

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

The Hazlet Township Police Department works closely with the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly between both departments. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted.

The Internal Affairs function is overseen by Detective Lieutenant Vincent Quinn.

FORFEITURE **(Money used in commission of crime and seized by police)**

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Change</u>
Beginning balance:	\$14,128.65	\$20,504.11	+\$6,375.46
Forfeited monies received:	\$5,900.75	\$13,810.07	+\$7,909.32
Forfeited monies expended:	\$0	\$3,350.45	+\$3,350.45
Balance:	\$20,504.11	\$26,676.45	+\$6,172.34

Note: Any minor discrepancies can be attributed to interest gained on the account.

HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER



The Hazlet Township Police Department has designated an officer to investigate and charge individuals committing offenses that violate State Laws and Local Ordinance regarding animal cruelty. In order to hold the position of Humane Law Enforcement Officer all police officers and county investigators must be certified by the Police Training Commission and attend several days of training. Hazlet Township Police Department has one HLEO:

Ptlm. Edward Schmidt

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

Special Services includes the evidence vault, lab requests, Project Medicine Drop, and firearms permits. This unit is comprised of two part-time employees who are both retired police officers. Their experience is extremely valuable and beneficial to the agency as we grow to meet the community's needs.

The Evidence Custodian works in this unit with the responsibility to maintain records, which reflect the chain of possession of evidence during the time the evidence is in custody of the Hazlet Township Police Department. The custodians functions are also to maintain property in a place and under conditions, which eliminate as much as possible any risk of loss or tampering, maintain physical control of property until it is properly disposed. Also, the destruction of evidence and property will be the responsibility of the evidence custodians in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the State of New Jersey.

During 2020, we had experienced a huge increase in firearms applications received. Our staff had worked extremely hard on conducting thorough background investigations on the firearms applicants and they continue to do so. In 2020 we established a firearms email firearms@hazletpd.org which we use to send out important information and we also posted a FAQ section on our department website (www.hazletpd.org). All to increase the communication to our residents and to keep them informed of errors that may delay their application.

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Evidence/Property taken in:	1226 Pieces	734 Pieces
Evidence taken to NJSP Lab:	88 Cases	44 Cases
Forfeiture cases to MCPO:	5 cases	5 Cases
Bio Metric lab print submissions:	13 cases	8 Cases
Firearms Applications Investigated:	176	833*
Firearms FID Cards approved	80	261*
Pistol Permits Approved	288	527*

*** There are still 375 Pending firearms applications that were submitted from 8/15- 12/31***

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

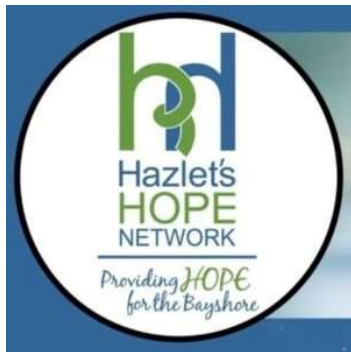
Project Medicine Drop

The Project Medicine Drop Program allows citizens to dispose of prescription medication 24/7, 365 days a year by simply coming into the lobby and dropping in a dropbox. This program has been hugely successful.

In 2020 we collected and disposed of 363lbs of unused prescription medicine.



Drug Addiction Services



The Hazlet Township Police Department has a strong working relationship with a local addiction service organization. Hazlet's Hope Network was developed in 2016 and is a non-profit organization dedicated to uniting the skills and experience of recovery teams with Bayshore area patients seeking lifesaving changes from substance abuse through long term treatment. Hazlet's Hope is a peer-based organization that fights the stigmas and negative stereotypes associated with substance abuse. Whenever an officer makes an arrest of a subject who appears to have a substance abuse problem and they meet the criteria, we offer to have them speak with one of Hazlet Hope's representatives. That peer recovery coach is welcomed into our Police Department and uses a peer to peer approach to let subjects know that there is help if they chose to accept it. With the subject in custody, they discuss options and treatment. In 2020 we had four subjects who were referred to Hazlet Hope.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

SCHOOL SECURITY AND SAFETY

The Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III (SLEO III) Program is a collaborative effort between both the Hazlet Township School District and our Police Department. The program is made up of (3) retired officers who still have a passion for serving and protecting. They play an important role in not only security of the school, but promoting a positive relationship with the students. These officers are employed only during the school year.



The SLEO program is supervised by Sergeant Joseph Forgione who has received extensive training in school and infrastructure security, active shooter preparedness as well as drug education. He also completes safety assessments annually of each school in accordance with the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness to ensure all building and staff are in compliance with the highest measures of safety for the students.

#NOTEVENONCE

In response to the growing opiate epidemic, the Hazlet Township Police Department has trained several officers in a new interactive high school opiate awareness program entitled which stands for #Notevenonce (#NEO) This course is a collaborative effort between law enforcement and educators with the goal of informing students about the dangers of opiates before they leave for college or enter the work force. This program, which meets all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health classes, was taught to students during their senior year of high school this past year. The ultimate goal behind this program is to educate students about opiate abuse and give them the tools they need to make better decisions. The following officers who were hand selected to teach this program this year were:



Sgt. Joseph Forgione Ptlm. John Corcione
Ptlw. Charleigh Logothetis Ptlw. Megan Quinn

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

The Chief's administrative assistant coordinates, oversees and performs a wide variety of administrative functions that support the effectiveness of the agency. Some of the duties include assisting the Chief of Police with budgeting, accounts payable/accounts receivable, payroll, equipment purchasing/requisitions, information technology, and human resources to name a few. This position is extremely essential to the department and is held by:

Rhonda Schultz



RECORDS DIVISION

The Records division of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions as well as performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to:

- Data entry
- Report maintenance/
Filing/Retrieval/OPRA requests
- Issuing Licenses
- Provide copies of Reports for
Civilians / Attorneys / Law
Enforcement Agencies /
Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Handle Firearms Transactions
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports
- Typing formal statements with
Detectives



The work they do and the support they provide is invaluable. They are a great asset to this department. During 2020, the Records Division handled 272 OPRA requests and 279 discovery requests. The Records staff consists of the following employees:

Christine Fox

Nonita Carroll

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

In law enforcement, training needs to be constant and effective to ensure that officers are kept abreast of the ever-changing laws, policies and procedures. The



Police Department has in place a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process, including recruit training, in service training, roll call training and specialized training.

Lieutenant Chris Acevedo and Lieutenant Kevin Geoghan are responsible for scheduling training for officers at local police academies in order to further their professional

development. In addition, officers receive state of the art scenario-based training at the Monmouth County Situational Training and Response Simulator (STARS) Facility. The STARS facility offers the virtual training system which is one of the most enhanced training simulators in the country with 300 degrees of situational awareness. It is loaded with more than 100 scenarios, each with different outcomes and has the capability of custom making situations to the areas in which first responders work.



Our supervising firearms instructor, Lieutenant Nicholas Greene, is responsible for all aspects related to firearms proficiency training and qualification trainings. Firearms training is conducted at our in-house firing range as well as the Monmouth County Outdoor range in Howell. In order to stay proficient, on average the police department expends approximately 20,000 rounds of practice ammunition annually.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Much of our training is done online using a document management system called PowerDMS. Power DMS allows the department to keep track of specific training that requires knowledge checks, as well as roll call trainings, Attorney General directives, among other policy and procedure notifications. Training that is conducted using the Power DMS system includes:

- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command
- Hazmat
- Prisoner transport
- Workplace Harassment
- Emotionally Disturbed Persons
- DNA Collection
- Arrest Search and Seizure updates and retraining

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

SPECIALIZED UNITS

MONMOUTH COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM/ RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

The Monmouth County Emergency Response Team (MOCERT) is operated by the County Prosecutors Office and integrates tactically trained officers from numerous municipal police departments to form one team. Currently we have one member of our Police Department on MOCERT. All team members have received advanced training in various fields which include but are not limited to Special Weapons and Tactics, high-risk warrant service, hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, active shooters and dignitary protection. Most recently team member training has included preparation for weapons of mass destruction and terrorism incidents.

Members train as a team bi-monthly as well as for several full weeks throughout the year. Officers are on call 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Semi-annually members undergo rigorous physical tests to remain on the team. In addition, members of the team must maintain the rank of firearms expert through firearms qualification scores

Sgt. Richard Jaeger

The Rapid Deployment Force is an additional County team, which members respond to MOCERT activations, natural and man-made disasters, school and workplace violence, crowd control, demonstrations, incidents of civil disobedience, missing person and open area suspect searches. Members must go through a rigorous try-out to ensure their physical condition. The Hazlet Township Police Department currently has three members assigned RDF:

PtIm. Nicholas Hungerford

PtIm. Nathan Rucinski

PtIm. Nicholas Torres

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

COUNTY MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT TEAM

The Monmouth County Prosecutors Office has a specialized unit that investigate serious car accidents that result in death or serious bodily injury. It is known as the Serious Collision Analysis Response Team (SCART) The members receive specialized training provided by North Western University and the Institute of Police Technology and Management. The courses include: Basic Crash Investigation (Crash I), Advanced Crash Investigation (Crash II), Pedestrian/Bicycle Crash Investigation, Motorcycle Crash Investigation, Heavy Vehicle Crash, Occupant Kinematics, Vehicle Dynamics and Traffic Crash Reconstruction. Currently the Hazlet Township Police Department has one officer that is on SCART;

Det. Nicolas Logotheitis

HONOR GUARD

The Hazlet Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Hazlet Township Police Department at various official functions and community events. We take pride in having one of the largest Honor Guard units in the State. The Honor Guard members wear a formal uniform blouse and utilize ceremonial rifles and flags. The Honor Guard present the colors at events such as Police Academy graduations, Township Parades, and fallen officer funerals.



Members of the Honor Guard include:

PtIm. Russell Surdi (Commander)

Chief Ted Wittke

Dep. Chief Robert Mulligan

Lt. Christopher Acevedo

Lt. Kevin Geoghan

Lt. Nicholas Greene

Lt. Scott Randolph

Lt. Vincent Quinn

Sgt. Richard Jaeger

PtIm. Patrick Wood

PtIm. Richard Wilhelm

PtIm. Nathan Rucinski

PtIm. Edward Schmidt

Sgt. Robert Dickens

PtIm. Steven Venticinque

PtIm. Cody Sachs

PtI, Nicholas Torres

PtIm. Nicholas Hungerford

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERTS



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

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

The Department currently has two Drug Recognition Experts who are on the Monmouth County Registrar of DRE's and are compensated by the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office:

Sgt. William Marvel

PtIm. Patrick Wood

In 2020, Sgt Marvel and PtIm. Wood both had 3 DRE evaluations each.

In 2019 Sgt. Marvel performed 9 DRE evaluations while PtIm. Wood performed 10.

With the impending legalization of Marijuana, DRE's will be in high demand and will be a crucial tool in determining whether drivers are impaired from drugs

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

The Hazlet Township Police Department participates in the New Jersey State Association Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. This is a voluntary state program developed by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and is modeled after the CALEA national program. The accreditation program requires compliance with a series of professional standards designed specifically for New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The program promotes the best practices in law enforcement.

Accreditation status is for 3 years, and during this period the department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards with which it received accreditation. The department attained accreditation status in 2020 and in 2023 the department will again go through the process to be reevaluated.

Becoming an accredited agency reduces liability on individual officers, the Police Department and the Township. It also ensures that we are following the highest standards of policing and providing the best services to our residents.

Lieutenant Scott Mura is the Accreditation Manager and oversees the program but it takes the work and cooperation of many officers to successfully attain this prestigious status.



Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

2021 Department Goals

Patrol Division

Goal #1

Increase motor vehicle enforcement for distracted driving violations. In 2019 Officers Issued 58 Summonses for Driving while using a handheld device. In 2020, 23 summonses were issued for Driving While using a handheld device.

Objective:

Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention away from the primary task of driving but mostly involves use of a cell phone device. According to NHTSA, distracted driving has claimed 2,841 lives in 2018 alone. We will look to deter this behavior by media campaign coupled with enforcement action. Driving while distracted can have deadly consequences and enforcement can be difficult because motorists generally put their phone down when they see a police car.

Strategies:

1. Assign Patrol Officers to conduct motor vehicle enforcement for a designated time throughout their shift.
2. Advise the public of the dangers of distracted driving through use of social media.
3. Advise the public of the dangers of distracted driving through billboards and signs.
4. Apply for Federal Highway Traffic Safety 2021 Distracted Driving Crackdown Grant.
5. Encourage the public to take the pledge to drive phone-free!
6. Utilize unmarked patrol vehicles to assist in the observation of infractions.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Administration Unit Goals

Goal #1

Develop and implement a revised employee evaluation template.

Objective:

Add revisions that will encourage officers to work with their supervisors to develop goals that are specific, measurable, and attainable for the upcoming evaluation period.

Strategies:

1. Use research and benchmarking in order to develop an evaluation template that is fair and effective at furthering professional development.
2. Encourage employees to browse Police Academy Class Catalogues and send supervisors requests for further learning
3. Evaluate officers progress during the evaluation period, ensure officers are taking proper steps to achieve their goals.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Detective Bureau Goals

Goal #1

Promote a Patrol Investigator into a full time Detective.

Objective:

Adding a full time Detective to the current vacancy in the Detective Division will make the unit operate more efficiently and provide a better service to the public. The officer selected should be qualified and a proven investigator with a strong worth ethic.

Strategies:

1. Analyze cases that Patrol Investigators worked on to determine their level of investigative skill.
2. Determine which Patrol Investigators will be able to work largely independent with minimal supervision.
3. Determine which Patrol Investigators will complement the detective "team" by showing that they can work together to further an investigative case.

Goal #2

Reduce the underage sale of tobacco & vape products in Hazlet.

Objective:

Improve the safety and quality of life of the youth in the Township by halting the sale of tobacco products to underage individuals.

Strategies:

1. Investigate thoroughly every claim and tip of underage sales
2. Utilize officers to work undercover to observe illegal sales to juveniles
3. Follow through on any sale to minors/ underage individuals that is witness and publicize the event to help prevent these sales from re-occurring.
4. Arrange surveillance of establishments which sell these products.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Traffic Safety Goals

Goal#1

Reduce speeding in residential areas.

Objective:

Reduce amount of speeding within the Township through a combination of enforcement as well as an awareness campaign.

Strategies:

1. Have the traffic safety officer analyze speed data to develop a schedule of "hot spots" that patrol officers can use to better direct our resources.
2. Assign patrol officers to radar posts to detect speeders.
3. Place speed radar signs in problematic areas in lieu of officers.
4. Start a speed reduction awareness campaign through the use of social media, website and good old fashion lawn signs.

Goal #2

Improve the safety of problematic intersections with high number of crashes.

Objective:

Advise the Township Committee of prospective ordinance changes necessary to reduce crashes within the Township.

Strategies:

1. Review data from previous years to decipher where the most traffic accidents happen.
2. Devise a plan to monitor those areas and figure out the causes of the accidents.
3. After all data is collected and analyzed, make proposals to governing body to make changes in order to reduce the number of accidents.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Special Services Goals

Goal #1

Purging of property in the evidence vault.

Objective:

Maintain the property storage facility and property records in an orderly fashion so the limited storage space available does not become overloaded.

Strategies:

1. Complete evidence vaults inspections when they are required.
2. Schedule a purge of property that has exceeded the retention period.
3. Keep an accurate record of the evidence inside the vault in order to determine when it no longer needs to be retained.

Training and Education Goals

Goal #1

Develop a program to improve officer mental health and resiliency.

Objective:

Promote officer wellness and ensure our officers remain effective in providing police services to the Hazlet Community

Strategies:

1. Bring in a representative from a peer to peer network to speak to officers about support that is available.
2. Encourage officers to reach out to coworkers, friends or Resiliency Officers when they are having an issue.
3. Develop a booklet with resources available and conduct annual training.
4. Hold a debriefing for any critical incident that may arise.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Community Program Goals

Goal #1

Host a Special Needs Open House at police department to promote awareness and build better bonds with the Special Needs Community.

Objective:

Increase interaction between special needs residents, their care givers and the police department.

Strategies:

1. Select a day to host the event that will bring out the most attendees.
2. Create an open dialogue between parents, police and persons with special needs.
3. Invite other stakeholders and organizations to take part in the open house (Project Life Saver, POAC, MC Special Needs Registry)
4. Set up a station where people who are not on the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry can sign up and aid the registration process if needed
5. Have numerous officers in attendance to interact with persons in a non-crisis setting.

Drug Addiction Service Goals

Goal #1

Provide additional assistance for residents suffering from drug dependency.

Objective:

Create a resource where anyone who is struggling with addiction or who has a loved one struggling can walk in to police headquarters and speak to a recovery specialist.

Strategies:

1. Develop a plan
2. Find a safe location to have persons come in and speak to someone about getting them or their loved ones help.
3. Work closely with the Hazlet's Hope Network to have a specialist available.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

2021 Proposals

New Radio's and Migrating to Monmouth County Trunking System

In 2020 the Township approved a Capital Improvement Bond in the amount of \$400,000 for a new police radio system. Our goal is to purchase, install, migrate to the county platform, and start utilizing the radio system in 2021. This system does several things to improve our communications. The first is that it allows us to utilize the Monmouth County Sheriff's Department communication platform. Besides not having to constantly maintain our radio infrastructure, migrating to the county system will provide better coverage/reception as well as clearer transmissions and they are responsible for maintaining it. It will also give us interoperability with surrounding police departments and any other departments utilizing the county system. The radios also give us the capability to monitor and speak to school staff in all of our eight schools. Lastly, these new radios will improve communication with our own First Aid and Fire Departments which lends to increased safety for all at calls for service.

Load Bearing Vests

Our staff are continually evaluating our operations and the equipment we use to ensure safety and well-being for not only our officers but the Hazlet community as well. During



the last few years officers around the country have been transitioning away from traditional police duty belts to the wearing of load bearing vests. Police Duty belts weigh roughly 15-20 lbs and carrying that weight daily causes strain on the hips and lower back, which many times result in back injuries. Statistics show that back injuries make up the bulk of officer involved injuries.

Several studies have been completed and most recently one by University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in conjunction with the City of Eau Claire Police Department. The findings from the six month study were clear and significant, that while vests weigh more, the weight is more evenly distributed so there is less strain on the hips and lower back. Researchers also determined that these vests do not limit the officers' range of motion or create other issues that would be

problematic for the officers from a safety standpoint.

Officers are required to carry (Magazines, Asp Baton, OC Spray, Gloves, Radio, Tourniquet, Handcuffs, and PPE) on their belt and this research has found that the use of these vests will distribute this weight to the shoulders and upper body. We would like to outfit all officers with these vests in 2021.

Hazlet Township Police Department 2020 Annual Report

Digital LED Sign

We pride ourselves on our communication output to our residents. We effectively utilize social media, email, website, civic ready text/email notifications to relay important information to concerned citizens. One thing we would like to add for 2021 is a digital LED sign in front of headquarters. Middle Road is a heavily traveled roadway in our township and a sign at that location would absolutely be beneficial to our mission.

Baseball Card Program

In 2018 the Police Department began a "Trading Card Program". The premise of the program was to encourage Police and Youth interaction by giving the children in town a reason to approach a police officer and start a conversation. Those children who collected the entire department set were rewarded with a gift card to a local Italian ice place. This year we were able to use funds from our Forfeiture account to create a "Series Two" of our popular program. We are looking forward to unveiling the new cards and encouraging more positive police interactions in the Spring and Summer of 2021.

Police Headquarters Renovation Project

Police Headquarters building was built in 1974 for a police department a quarter of our size and has been occupied 24/7 for the last 46 years. While the building has served its purpose over the years, some areas are in serious disrepair. Our jail cells need to be brought up to current code which will reduce liability, we have overgrown many work spaces within the building which causes inefficiency, HVAC system sporadically operates, locker rooms are too small for staff amount of staff, and the firing range needs to be renovated.

In 2019 the Township Committee had bonded for \$2.1 million dollars to make the required renovations. In the last year and a half we have worked with architects and engineers to ensure that these repairs will meet the needs of a proactive police force and last for many years to come.

We are hoping to get started on the actual demolition and construction in early 2021.