

Annual Report



Hazlet Township Police Department

2021

The Hazlet Township Police Department began 2021 with an emphasis on continued safety precautions due to COVID-19. Our priority throughout the pandemic has been to keep our officers healthy so our operational capacity stays strong. Although we dealt with some challenges during surges of high transmission rates, we continued to march on in an effort to provide the very best service to our residents.

During 2021 we strengthened an already strong relationship between the Hazlet Township School district and Hazlet Township Police Department by assigning Officers Megan Quinn and John Corcione to instruct the LEAD curriculum; first starting in Beers Street and Cove Road schools. LEAD, which is an acronym for Law Enforcement Against Drugs, is a ten-week evidence-based program which serves the purpose of creating a safer, healthier community. LEAD focuses on educating our youth on deterring drugs, bullying, and violence. Elements such as goal-setting, sound decision making, communication, and emotional balance are topics also discussed during the program to develop well rounded young people. Officer Charleigh Logothetis brought the LEAD program to Hazlet Middle School during the Spring. Here, Officer Logothetis was able to discuss the topics and goals of the program to our community's Eighth graders which we hope will pay dividends to the future of our youth.



The LEAD program helped us establish a mechanism of prevention but we knew that we also needed to do more in the way of intervention. We are happy to say that we developed and launched a brand new program called A.S.S.I.S.T. which is a one of a kind in Monmouth County. The Hazlet Township Police Department opened our doors for the A.S.S.I.S.T. (Addictive Substance Support Intervention and Service Team) to continue to provide support for those suffering from substance use

disorder. A.S.S.I.S.T., who works closely with the Hazlet's Hope Network, provides services for anyone looking for help with substance abuse. Every Wednesday, The Hazlet Township Police Department opens its' courtroom doors to anyone seeking help. Here, a Peer Recovery Specialist from Hazlet's Hope Network is dedicated to help. There is zero police involvement, in hopes that this will encourage those who need the help, seek it. Everything is kept confidential. Due to its' success, other police agencies in the area, have adopted the program allowing for more opportunities to seek assistance.



In March, the long-awaited renovation of Police Headquarters broke ground. The police department building was built in 1974 and served the community well but the original design was no longer conducive for a department that has more than doubled in occupancy. The project revitalized workspaces with the addition of new energy efficient LED lighting throughout and also added electrical circuits to a backup generator which will ensure operational capacity during the worst of times. Bathrooms and locker rooms were redesigned to accommodate the growing female officer population

as well as bringing them both female/male up to ADA compliance. Other offices were redesigned to increase efficiency and maximize work output. The police shooting range was remodeled to allow for the increase of police training. The renovated range allows us to concentrate on not only marksmanship but use of force situations and de-escalation scenarios. Another one of the many benefits of having a shooting range in our police department has always been that we can spend more time training our personnel instead of using that time traveling to ranges around the state. We thank the Township Committee who made this much needed renovation a priority.

Another community-oriented program we revitalized in 2021 was the Police Trading Card Program. A fan favorite, this program was led by Officer Charleigh Logothetis. Over 300 personalized trading cards were given out to each Hazlet Township Police Officer. The goal of the program was to bridge a positive relationship between our youth and the officers from our agency. The Trading Card Program absolutely accomplished this feat. We would like to thank our partners, Ralphs Italian Ices, who provided gift certificates that went to children that collected all of the cards. This program is an exciting and fun way to meet and get to know our community. The program also saw our township's school teachers get involved, as many teachers would invite officers to their class rooms to meet their students and trade cards. The interaction we had with the community was amazing and we had approximately 90 winners this year!



With the expansions of businesses and residential homes, we recognized that traffic safety needed some extra attention and we made it a goal to improve the safety of our roads. With this, the agency reinstituted a traffic safety bureau led by Officer Patrick Wood to focus on traffic needs of the Township. Officer Wood has been trained in Accident Reconstruction, Advanced Roadside Impaired



Driving Enforcement, NJ Traffic Law Title 39, Traffic Safety in the Work Zone, Drug Evaluation and Classification Training and has earned his Traffic Safety Specialist Level 1 Certification. As part of his duties, Officer Wood collects, logs, and analyzes statistical data for our roads. In 2021 a new four-way stop was created at the intersection of Beers Street and Clark Street as a result of one of his study's. This intersection alone was responsible for an average of 6 motor vehicle accidents per year, with injuries. We are happy to announce that since the 4-way stop was erected we have recorded ZERO motor vehicle accidents during the last year and the roadway has definitely been safer for all. We would

like to thank our partners, Keyport Police Department, who worked hand in hand with us to make this multi-jurisdictional intersection safe.

During the month of May, our agency implemented a speeding “crack down”. We utilized traffic data collection equipment to identify speeding “hotspots” throughout town and then assigned officers to those locations to enforce speeding laws. In combination with these enforcement actions we used grant funds to purchase and distribute lawn signs to our residents. On any given street there were signs our residents displayed that read “25 is 25”, “Drive like your kids live here”, “SLOW DOWN Children at Play” and “PLEASE SLOW DOWN, Kids Play here”. This was a highly successful interactive campaign with our residents and we plan on doing it again in 2022.



May was a historical month for the Hazlet Township Police Department. Officer Tara Theis was promoted to Sergeant, making her the first female in Hazlet’s history to receive a promotional rank. This milestone was long overdue for our department but nonetheless important to have a woman reach our supervisory ranks. Also promoted at the same ceremony was Joseph Forgione to the rank of Lieutenant. Lt. Forgione has served as an administrative officer and school security liaison to the Hazlet Board Of Education. The Hazlet Township Police Department also anointed our first police chaplain since the early 1980’s, Pastor Barry Mulligan. Pastor Mulligan has taken on this ever-important role as a support mechanism to our officers as well as the Hazlet community.



Towards the end of May, Chief Wittke volunteered our department to host a multi-agency coordination drill. Our partners from the Hazlet School District gave us unfettered access to use Raritan High School for the drill location. The drill that was coordinated by Critical Response Group (CRG) and paid for through a Department of Homeland Security Grant, concentrated on the coordination of Bayshore and Monmouth County emergency services responding to an active shooter event. Hosting the drill was a large undertaking on our part but it was an excellent opportunity to point out the things we do well and the things we need to work

on. Training like this is invaluable and continues to put us on the forefront of policing, specifically school safety.

During the summer of 2021 there was no time for Hazlet Township Police Department to rest on our laurels. Besides dealing with the influx of beach traffic, our officers had no problem keeping themselves busy. We were lucky to have an officer graduate from the first ever Crisis Intervention Team Training hosted by the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office. This groundbreaking training taught our officer strategies to de-escalate encounters with those who are affected by mental illness. The training was led by mental illness counselors from Monmouth Medical Center, the Monmouth County Mental

Health Association, the Monmouth County Mental Health Board, and CPC Behavioral Healthcare. These professionals gave the local police an in-depth look at the alarming number of issues this population faces every day. The counselors provided our officers with new skills to help these subjects and the best way(s) to respond to a person in crisis. Shortly after, our agency was able to get more officers to this necessary training.



The Patrolwomen of the Hazlet Police Department, in partnership with 180 Turning Lives Around, a private, non-profit charitable organization dedicated to ending domestic and sexual violence in our community, organized an unforgettable event at one of Hazlet's new businesses, Bayshore Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, focusing and promoting women's self-defense. The event was titled, "Smart, Strong, Safe," and focused on relationship violence, drug facilitated sexual assault, and self-defense. We are looking forward hosting this ever-important event again in 2022!

An awards ceremony was also held during the summer to honor exemplary police work by our officers as well as honoring citizens who went above and beyond to support our department. More information and images from that night can be found in this report.

The Hazlet Township Police Department had another phenomenal turn out for our agency's Youth Academy! Led by Lieutenant Christopher Acevedo, incoming 6th and 7th graders were able to see first-hand what it takes to be a police officer here in Hazlet. The cadets were instructed in physical fitness, firearm safety, water-safety, drill, and a whole bunch more! This was our 5th Annual Youth Academy and we look forward to an even better one in 2022!





We welcomed the addition of the load-bearing vest in 2021. The traditional police uniform standard consisted of a duty belt containing almost 20 pounds of gear. That's 20 extra pounds on an officer's hips. Those belts are worn during shifts lasting 11 plus hours. Can you imagine the lower back pain and the long-term effects on the body? Shifting to the load bearing vest has redistributed that weight from the officer's hips to their shoulders, and has reduced the amount of stress placed on their hips and lower back. A study done by the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in conjunction with the City of Eau Claire Police Department determined the load bearing vests, though slightly heavier than the traditional police duty belt, were more effective at evenly distributing the weight of police equipment. It was also found there were no limits to an Officer's mobility while wearing the load bearing vest. Making the switch to these vests was undoubtedly the best decision for the overall health of our officers.

We would like to thank the Hazlet Township committee for their support in making this uniform change. Our Officers are happy to provide the same service and protection to our residents- just in a more comfortable fashion.

In early September, our township was impacted by Hurricane Ida. There were major issues resulting from flooding that we have never seen before throughout the Township. Quick rising and swift moving water caused extensive flooding and left many motorists stranded while they awaited rescue. Some residents were displaced by the high water but luckily no one in Hazlet was injured during this event. We like to look at every negative as a positive and with this challenging event we sat down after and we made plans for future events. We purchased specialized equipment that can be used by our officers during these events and will have officers attend specialized training in 2022.

If you travel on Middle Road often, you will notice our newest way of getting messages to the public out front of Police Headquarters. This digital signboard was purchased with COVID relief funds and will act as another tool we can utilize to get critical information and emergency messages to the public in a timely manner.

September 11th, 2001 impacted the lives of so many. Hazlet Township, like the remainder of the country, will never forget the events, nor lives lost, on that catastrophic morning. On the 20th anniversary of the attacks, the Hazlet Township Police Department, partnered with the Hazlet Township Committee, Hazlet Township Fire and EMS, Raritan High School, and many others to host a beautiful candlelight vigil in Veterans Park on the evening of September 11th. The event also included the agency's Honor Guard and was led in prayer by newly appointed Hazlet Township Police



Chaplain, Barry Mulligan. The event was truly an unforgettable and beautiful remembrance for those who we had lost.

A new Use of Force policy put in place by the New Jersey Attorney General mandated additional training for all law enforcement in the state of New Jersey. One course, Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) is a training program that provides first responding police officers with the tools, skills, and options they need to successfully and safely defuse a range of critical incidents. Developed by the Police Executive Research Forum with input from hundreds of police professionals from across the United States, ICAT takes the essential building blocks of critical thinking, crisis intervention, communications, and tactics, and puts them together in an integrated approach to training.

ICAT is designed especially for situations involving persons who are unarmed or are armed with weapons other than firearms, and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis. The training program is anchored by the Critical Decision-Making Model that helps officers assess situations, make safe and effective decisions, and document and learn from their actions. ICAT incorporates different skill sets into a unified training approach that emphasizes scenario-based exercises, as well as lecture and case study opportunities. All Officers of the Hazlet Township Police Department attended this training in 2021. The second training, Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), focuses on how to prevent police misconduct, avoid mistakes, and promote officer health and wellness. ABLE was created to prepare officers to successfully intervene to prevent harm and to create a law enforcement culture that supports peer intervention. ABLE training is provided at no cost to law enforcement agencies, but those agencies must commit to creating a culture of active bystandership and peer intervention through policy, training, support, and accountability. Detective Nicolas Logothetis and Sergeant Michael Galvin are currently certified ABLE trainers for our Police Department. All officers have received this training as well.

In 2021 we set out to do something that no other police department has done in New Jersey. With an ever-rising population of residents with special needs we made it our goal to host a special needs open house. This event was such a great success! Vendors and participants from all over the state joined our agency as we held our first annual Special Needs Open House. More than ever, education in the area of Special Needs is paramount for police. Officer Charleigh Logothetis pioneered the program focusing on building relationships between our special needs' community and the police department. This event allowed parents and caretakers to bring their children/loved ones into a non-stressful environment where police contact would be made. Prior to this, in a majority of cases, the first interaction between someone with special needs and a uniformed patrolman were in high stress situations. Building a rapport was important to us and this event absolutely helped pave an encouraging road. During the event, individuals were able to check-out our patrol vehicles, receive their own custom police identification card, and ask officers any questions they wanted. There were representatives from local businesses and organizations on-hand to provide beneficial resources to attendees. Speech and Occupational Therapeutic Services, Parents of Autistic Children (POAC) Non-



profit, Monmouth County Special Needs Registry, Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver, Hazlet First Aid Squad, and Retired Police Capt. Jerry Turning from Blue Bridge Training all in attendance to help make this event a success. Lunch was provided by one of Hazlet's newest restaurants, Chick-fil-A.

Training and equipment are two of the most important aspects of law enforcement. These two elements are crucial in the ever day life of an officer. A few years ago, the agency was able to acquire Conductive Energy Devices (CEDs) also commonly referred to as, "tasers." This year the agency acquired additional CEDs to ensure that each officer working is equipped with this non-lethal device. A notable event that emphasized the importance and magnitude of the use of these devices occurred this past year where officers responded to a local residence with a male subject who was in crisis and was looking to hurt himself and others. The male subject, who was actively harming himself, was located in the basement of his home. Officers responded on location and began to build a rapport with the suicidal male attempting to distract him from harming himself. De-escalation techniques were used for over an hour but were unsuccessful. After all options were exhausted, an officer was able to successfully deploy his CED. The subject immediately became temporarily incapacitated. Our officers were able to quickly subdue the suicidal subject and safely escort him to a local hospital where he was provided with the help that he needed. This one incident highlights the dangers when dealing with someone in mental health crisis and the addition of these CEDs offers us an alternative to resorting to deadly force when its justified.



As the year ended, the popular, "No Shave November," fundraiser was brought back. Here, officers raised funds for the Movember foundation. No Shave November is an annual event involving the growing of facial hair during the month of November to raise awareness of men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and men's suicide. Our officers were permitted to grow their facial hair for the entire month raising over \$2,000 in the process! These beards and mustaches were in full effect as our officers volunteered at the Township's Thanksgiving Dinner, hosted by the RAINE-

Foundation. This year, the event took place at St. Benedict's church. Our officers were also involved in the RAINE Foundation annual Christmas Toy Delivery; with some of our very own dressing up as the Big Man himself! The Holiday season also saw the agency bring back our, "Letters to Santa," mailbox where we received over 100 letters to help deliver to Santa, himself!



Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
Executive Summary	2
Organization and Personnel	10
Call for Service/Criminal Activity	11
Officer Line of Duty Injuries	14
Use of Force	15
Traffic Safety Division	16
Patrol Division	17
Detective Division	22
Internal Affairs	25
Administrative Office/Records	26
Training	27
Special Services	29
School Security and Educational Programs	31
County Teams and Services	33
Honor Guard	35
Project Medicine Drop/Addiction Services	36
Awards Ceremony 2021	37
Accreditation	43
Images from Events	44
2022 Goals	49

Sworn Personnel

Chief of Police

Ted Wittke

Deputy Chief of Police

Robert Mulligan

Lieutenants

Scott Mura
Christopher Acevedo
Nicholas Greene
Scott Randolph
Joseph Forgione

Sergeants

William Marvel
Robert Dickens, K9 Bane
Michael Galvin
Richard Jaeger
Tara Theis

Detectives

Det/Lt Kevin Geohan
Michael Tristao
Nicolas Logothetis
Steven Venticinque

Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III

Richard Gizzi
Thomas Ferrari

Patrol Officers

Thomas Enright
Edward Schmidt
Richard Wilhelm
Nathan Rucinski
Cody Sachs, K9 Rico
Brian Jelinski
Kevin Quinn
David Turner
Nicholas Pasquenza

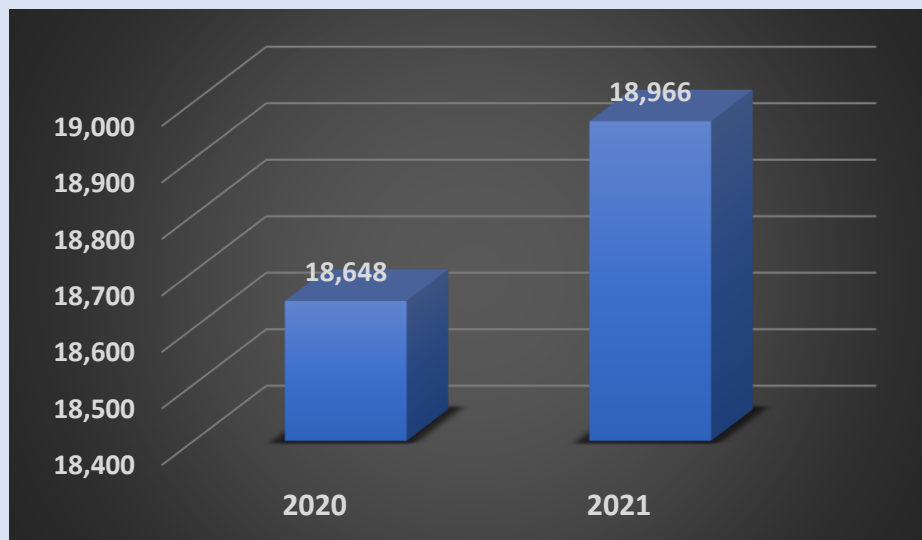
Jacqueline Struble
Patrick Kiley
Charleigh Logothetis
Nicholas Hungerford
John Corcione III
Megan Quinn
Michael Pease
Zachary Kruk
Danielle LaCapria

Anthony Forlenza
Patrick Wood
Russell Surdi
Nicholas Torres
Douglas Centrone
Joseph Eckel
Ernie Vega
Connor Sheehan
Rocco Serpico Jr

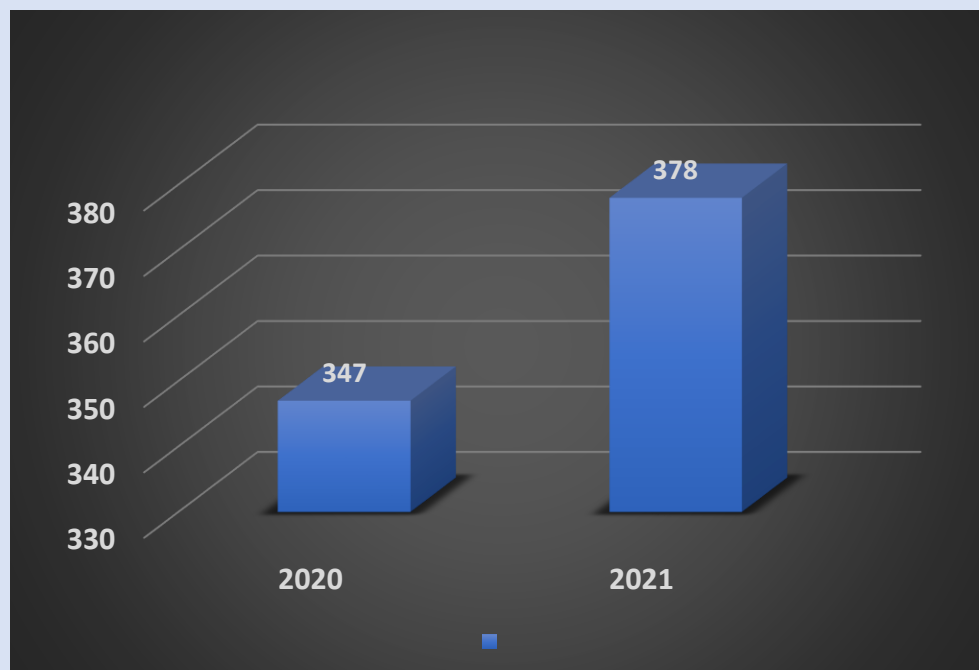
All sworn Officers as of January 1, 2022

Calls for Service and Criminal Activity

Calls for Service		
<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
18,648	18,996	+318



Arrests		
<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
347	378	+31



Uniform Crime Reporting by the National Incident Based Reporting System

The Uniform Crime Report 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 offenses classifications known as Part 1 Crimes, used as part of the UCR Program. UCR was based on a traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS), but has now transitioned into a National Incident Based Reporting System also known as NIBRS. The most significant difference between SRS and NIBRS is the degree of detail in reporting. NIBRS is capable of producing more detailed, accurate, and meaningful data because data are collected about when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators.

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

Offense	2020	2021	Change
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	4	6	+2
Robbery	3	3	0
Assault	114	107	-7
Burglary	13	19	+6
Theft	191	166	-25
Motor Vehicle Theft	19	16	-3

Note: Data is estimated base on our monthly reports; the official report is released by the New Jersey State Police.

Hazlet Police applied for a Federal Grant which required us to volunteer to be a part of the statewide pilot program for National Incident Based Reporting System The transition to the NIBRS was no simple task. It was a collaborative effort between the department, the New Jersey State Police and the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office Communications Division to accomplish this transition. As a result, Hazlet Township earned a Grant for \$55,990 in order to pay for any costs involved with the completion of this project.

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 2020 compared to 2021.

Call Type	2020	2021	Change
Sex Offense, non-rape	3	11	+8
Medical Calls	1,379	1,414	+35
Fire Calls	45	100	+55
Death Investigations	12	15	+3
Disorderly Conduct	348	387	+39
Fraud, forgery, bad checks	87	97	+10
Criminal Mischief	27	34	+7
Missing Persons	42	42	0
Directed Patrol	344	362	+18

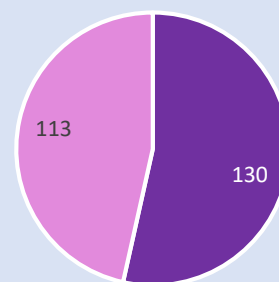
Domestic Violence

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. Though the number lowered to 113 in 2021, it is still a high amount of these types of calls. Hazlet Police work with 180 Turning Lives Around who provide survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their families with free and confidential programs and resources to process and heal from their experiences. 180 also has a Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT). DVRT are civilian members of the community who work collaboratively with law enforcement to provide support, information, and resources to victims of domestic violence at police headquarters. Advocates also discuss with victim's safety planning and their legal rights in regard to obtaining a Temporary Restraining Order. By providing empathy and a crucial perspective of the situation, these specially-trained advocates help to empower victims to make informed decisions for themselves and their families.



Domestic
Violence Incidents



■ 2020 ■ 2021

Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or crashes:

During 2021, there were 9 work related injury incidents reported. As a result of the injuries 1 Officer missed time away from work.

<u>Officer</u>	<u># of Days Missed</u>
Douglas Centrone	3

COVID-19 Pandemic

While the world is still navigating through the Corona Virus Pandemic, the Hazlet Township Police Department was not immune from the effects of the virus. In total during the 2021 year, there were 30 Officers who tested positive for the virus. Each Officer was required to quarantine for the time recommended by the CDC and Health Department at the time of the infection.

The Chief of police maintains a masking policy for all employees while in common areas of headquarters. Hazlet Police also maintains an ample supply of personal protective equipment for all Officers to use during their duties. Patrol Officers are required to wear masks while in public areas when social distancing cannot be accomplished.

Even though we are still navigating our way through the Pandemic, our Officers maintain a proactive attitude towards community service and crime prevention and Covid-19 has not slowed us down.

Motor Vehicle Crashes on Duty

Three Officers were involved in motor vehicle crashes while on duty in 2021

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Richard Wilhelm	1/31/2021	Struck fixed object in parking lot
Connor Sheehan	5/15/2021	Minor rear end
Nicholas Pasquenza	7/30/2021	Side swipe building

Driving is a large portion of the patrol Officer's duty. The Hazlet Township Police Department has taken a proactive approach to avoid Officer involved motor vehicle accidents, which went down since last year. All Officers attend driver simulator training, which teaches techniques used by military to encourage improved defensive driving tactics to help officers navigate traffic and avoid collisions.

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. All Officers in the Department have also completed the Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) Training, to further develop de-escalation skills. Of the force used this year, 4 incidents involved a subject actively resisting a lawful arrest. Five incidents included using force to subdue a crisis patient who was causing harm to themselves or creating a risk to use harm to someone else. In cases where force is used, Emergency Medical Services are requested to treat involved parties if injuries are sustained.

In 2021, our Department acquired additional CEDs in order to adequately equip all Officers on duty with a less than lethal option. All Officers in the Department are trained to use these. These CEDs act as a deterrent to offenders looking to use force on officers and others. They also make these potentially dangerous encounters safer for all involved. This year our Officers put the CED to use when a subject in crisis was actively harming himself and after all attempts at de-escalation had failed. This made a potentially dangerous situation safer for all involved.

	2020	2021
Use of Force Incidents	10	9

While Officers consistently use less force than necessary to gain control of situations, the additional training received this year through Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics will benefit Officers in using verbal de-escalation techniques to gain compliance with those individuals in crisis, further limiting the amount of times force will be needed in the future-keeping everyone safer.

Traffic Safety Division

Our Traffic Safety Bureau is headed up by Traffic Safety Officer (TSO) Patrick Wood, who is extensively trained in this area. His duties include fleet management, conducting traffic studies, scheduling traffic related trainings, fielding traffic complaints, establishing traffic plans for special events, radio management, and collecting traffic data, among other things.



With the assistance of TSO Wood's data collection and research, we were able to reach one of our 2021 goals of improving safety of drivers in town by adding stops signs to a problem intersection. In May of 2021, the intersection of Beers Street and Clark Street became a four way stop. Since the implementation of these stop signs, we have had zero reported accidents at that location.

Under the supervision of TSO Wood, we also ran a Speeding Crackdown Campaign for the town. TSO Wood fielded many complaints of speeding from residents and used his data collection tools in order to identify the most problematic streets and the time of day the speeding violations are occurring. Together with the patrol Division, Officers routinely took on radar posts during the noted times of day to enforce the speed limit on residential roadways. In total there were 56 Radar posts designated during the Speeding Crackdown Campaign during the month of May. Over 70 vehicles were stopped during the radar post time frames and 11 citations issued.

Along with radar enforcement, "Slow Down" signs were offered to residents of town. Over 270 signs were given out, free of charge, to the residents of town in order to help us enforce speed limits on streets. We have even noticed a few signs made their way into other towns...



With monies from a Distracted Driving Grant, TSO Wood organized and scheduled distracted driving enforcement, which included some extra duty hours as well as Officers on duty using under cover vehicles to identify individuals using their cell phone while driving and relaying the vehicle information to a marked patrol unit for enforcement.

TSO Wood, along with other Bayshore towns, was able to secure a Bayshore Distracted Driving Grant for the year 2022. This is grant money specifically allocated for Bayshore towns.

Patrol Division



Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department and arguably 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, and 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 on each. During Distracted Driving Awareness Month (April), Officers took to the roadways to provide enforcement and education to the motoring public. During this month, Officers dedicated 157 hours (some during regular duty) to enforcement. There were 235 motor vehicle stops for distracted driver violations, and 105 tickets issued during the designated enforcement times.

The Hazlet Police Department went green with some of it's patrol fleet, adding six new Ford Police Interceptor Utility patrol vehicles with hybrid powertrains. The new SUVs were expected to significantly reduce fuel costs due to reduced engine idling time and increased fuel economy, when compared to conventional gasoline engines. As you can see below, the savings have been substantial.

This year comparison of 6 conventional gasoline engines vs the new 6 hybrid vehicles:

Vehicle	Gas consumed in gallons	Miles Driven	Fuel Cost
Non-Hybrid*	1,491	14,438	\$3,156.13
Hybrid*	774	12,158	\$1,627.68
Difference	717	2,280	\$1,528.45

It is our goal to increase the number of hybrid vehicles in our fleet to save money while still providing excellent service to the community.

*This is an average of 6 vehicles with the same powertrain driven for the similar number of miles.

Field Training Officers: (FTO's)

In 2021 we appointed two new full-time patrol Officers, Danielle LaCapria and Rocco Serpico Jr. Both candidates were hired from the NJ Civil Service Commission List of Eligible candidates who had passed the entry level Law Enforcement Exam. Serpico, a lifelong resident of Hazlet and former Class II Officer for Middletown Township, fortunately had most of his academy training complete and only had to attend an accelerated waiver program to gain his Basic Police Officer Certification from the Police Training Commission (PTC). LaCapria began the Basic Course for Police Officers in July and graduated the Monmouth County Police Academy at the end of December. Upon graduation, all officers return to their 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 given the greatest responsibility 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 Commander)

Sgt. Robert Dickens

Off. Edward Schmidt

Det. Nicolas Logothetis

Off. Richard Wilhelm

Off. Charleigh Logothetis

Off. Russell Surdi

Off. Nicholas Torres

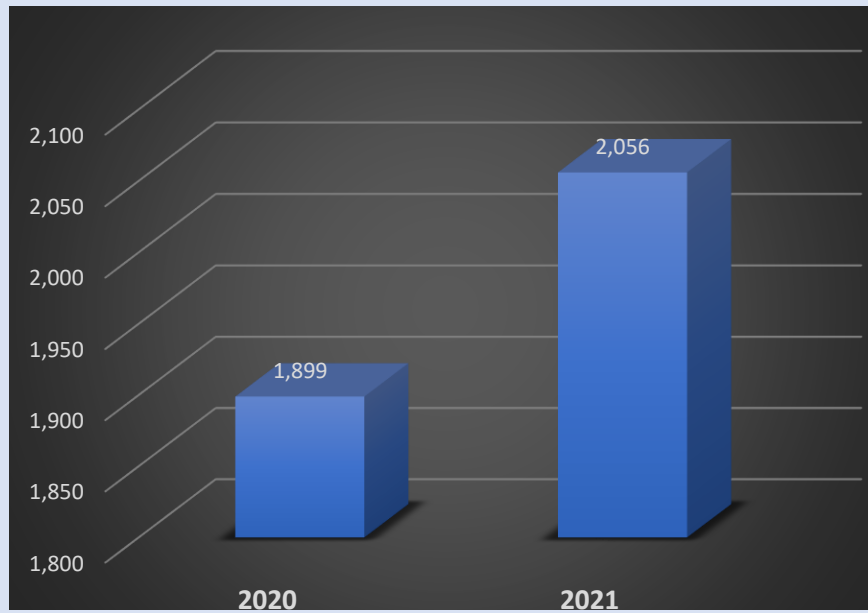
Det. Steven Venticinque

Off. John Corcione

Off. Douglas Centrone

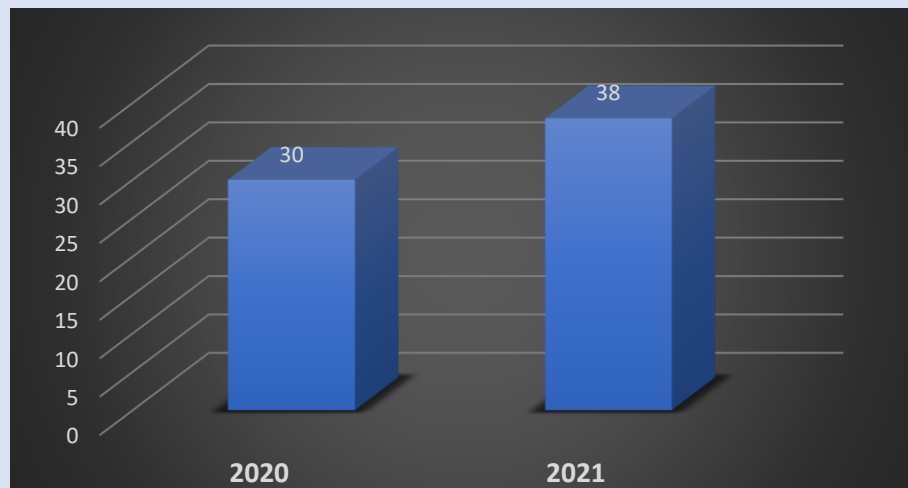
Traffic Enforcement

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Total summonses issued for Motor Vehicle Violations:	1,899	2,056



Driving While Intoxicated

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
DWI Arrests:	30	38



Emergency Medical Treatment

The Hazlet Township Police Department's Patrol Division answered 1,414 first aid calls in 2021. Included in those 1,379 calls are difficulty breathing, possible strokes, physical injuries, and calls that require Officers to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). As you know, in 2019, our department acquired two Stryker 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 9 times during 2021.



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. The Township purchased (2) additional pumps in 2020 and the cost was reimbursed through Cares Act Funding. We currently deploy (3) CPR Pumps at the ready during patrol shifts, and the Hazlet First Aid deploys an additional Pump as well.

Among other EMS calls, the Patrol Division responded to 21 overdose calls, 3 being fatal. Officers administered Naloxone (Narcan) 26 times to assist those suffering from drug overdoses (sometimes those suffering overdose need more than one dose). 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, though sometimes patients need more naloxone in order to come out of the overdose state. Most times patients are brought to the hospital for further treatment.



Notable Patrol Activities during 2021:

March 5th, 2021 Stabbing

At approximately 1:39AM on this night Officer Corcione responded to a reported stabbing on the 300 block of Middle Road. Upon arrival to the area, Off. Corcione located a subject on the sidewalk waving him down who appeared to be bleeding heavily from the neck and arm area. The victim related he was stabbed with scissors after an argument with his housemate who was still inside. Off. Corcione began treating the injuries while keeping visual contact on the home where the suspect assailant was located. The victim was swiftly transported to the hospital while patrol units began surrounding the home, in an attempt to have the suspected assailant walk out. Off. Schmidt made his way towards the rear of the residence where he heard loud talking near a window. Off. Schmidt gave verbal commands for those inside to make their way to the front of the residence and exit. Off. Rucinski gave clear commands to the subjects as they were exiting the building and two subjects were secured. Only one suspect was charged with possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes and attempted murder.

July 6th 2021 Mutual Aid for Keyport Assault

At approximately 1:23PM Keyport Police had a reported assault with a weapon. The suspect took off on foot into the area of Florence Ave in Hazlet behind the St. John's Methodist Church. Hazlet Police Officers immediately sprung into action creating a perimeter, and attempting to locate the suspect. Residents of our town were notified of the situation and advised to stay on high alert. A command was established in the area of Hazlet Pavilion as the suspect was believed to be on foot in the Shorelands Cemetery. After searching for over 6 hours through heavy brush and muddy terrain, a large rain storm came through the area which halted the search efforts for a short period of time. The search for the suspect ended at approximately 7pm. At that time, we received a call for a suspicious person behind the St. John's Methodist Church. Deputy Chief Mulligan, who was heading home for the day, heard the call and immediately responded to the area. He and Sgt. Dickens were able to locate the suspicious person, who was naked in an attempt to dry his clothing from the rain storm. The person was identified as the suspect, taken into custody and turned over to Keyport Police Department.

July 23rd 2021 Infant CPR Save

Though we receive over 1,000 EMS calls a year, some calls are particularly more impactful, especially when they involve children. On this day, Dispatch relayed there was a 3-month-old child who stopped breathing and no longer had a pulse. Sgt. Jaeger arrived on scene and was met by a hysterical mother who advised him that the child was upstairs. The child's

father was in the process of performing infant CPR. Sgt. Jaeger encouraged the father to continue those efforts while Sgt. Jaeger set up the AED with pediatric pads. Officer Struble arrived on scene at this time and began setting up oxygen. Once the AED pads were on the child, Sgt. Jaeger was advised to give a shock. After receiving a shock, the child let out a loud cry and began to breath again on their own. Officer Struble comforted the child while oxygen was administered. The child, now conscious, was turned over to Paramedics and first aid on scene. Officer Surdi also arrived on scene and assisted with getting the ambulance to the hospital at an expedited rate. Thanks to the lifesaving efforts put forth by all involved, the child is alive today.

July 26th 2021 Underage Selling of Tobacco Products

The sale of vaping products to underaged individuals has been an ongoing issue in our Town. We routinely received complaints from concerned parents who know their kids are purchasing these products locally. While we acknowledge that this may not be the crime of the century, we also feel that certain businesses are preying on our most vulnerable youth by breaking the law to make a profit and at the same time fueling an addiction to these highly addictive products. On this date, we received a report from a concerned parent that their child had been buying Vapes at the Shell Gas station convenience mart located on State Highway 36 and Middle Road, and that this establishment was routinely selling Vape tobacco products to underage persons. One of our supervisors immediately detailed officers to conduct surveillance on the convenience mart in order to see if the store clerks were checking customers for identification. During this time, the officers observed several transactions and were able to confirm that the business was selling these products to underage persons. The clerk at the store was placed under arrest for Selling Tobacco products to Someone Under the age of 21. It should be noted this location was the same business we found selling product to underage persons in 2020. During this past year, Sgt. Galvin has worked with some State Officials in order to find solutions with stricter penalties and work more on deterring these types of transactions.



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:

	2020	2021	Change
Cases Assigned	116	210	+94
Cases Closed	99	203	+109
Arrests	14	22	+8

Case closures are considered any case a Detective investigated and was concluded by: making an arrest, referring to station house adjustments or juvenile court, identifying the suspect and issuing charges against the same, or exhausting all available leads.

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: 8

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. Thanks to the PI program, in the beginning of 2021 it was determined Off. Steven Venticinque would be an asset to the Detective Division and was reassigned as a Detective full-time. We continue the PI program in order 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:

Off. Edward Schmidt Off. Patrick Kiley Off. Russell Surdi Off. Douglas Centrone

Megan's Law

The task of managing Megan's Law registrants within the township rests with the Detective Division. Detective Michael Tristao oversees this responsibility. 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.

2020-2021 there were 3 new registrants to move into town, however one has already moved out. The total of Megan's Law registrants in town is 26.

In 2021 there were (20) Tier 1, (3) Tier 2, and (0) Tier 3 registrants living in the Township.

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 provided are checked by the Megan's Law Detective after they register. There was one (1) arrest made for failure to register this year.

Notable Detective Cases:

May 9th 2021 Possession of Imitation Firearm and Terroristic Threats

On this night Patrol Officers responded to a fight on 1st street. There was a large party and numerous people outside arguing. While enroute to the scene, Dispatch alerted patrols that someone possibly brandished a firearm during the altercation. Upon arrival there were multiple people outside and on scene who related the subject who showed a firearm fled the area. Det. Venticinque took control of the investigation along with Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Detectives. After an extensive process of interviews, photo arrays, and investigations the suspect was positively identified and placed under arrest without incident. The suspect related to Det. Venticinque it was an imitation firearm he carried for protection purposes.

July 23rd 2021 Prohibited Weapons and Devices-Destructive Device/Creating Hazardous Conditions

On this date at approximately 10:10PM Ptl. Eckel responded to a small fire in the rear of the Costco/Cinemark parking lot. After extinguishing the fire, the item that was ablaze turned out to be a glass bottle with cardboard stuffed inside, similar to a Molotov Cocktail. Det. Logothetis continued the investigation by interviewing witnesses of the fire and checking for any video surveillance. Det. Logothetis also set up a camera in order to catch any activities and found another burnt Molotov cocktail in the same area while setting up his own surveillance. On July 22nd, when checking for additional footage, a third burnt device was located. It was then determined by Det. Logothetis and MCPO to set up a surveillance detail in order to catch the suspect in the act. That night while officers waited, the subject returned to the scene to set another bottle on fire. Officers moved in and arrested him before he had the chance.

August 12th 2021 Theft of Moveable Property

On this day at approximately 12:026PM patrols received a call for a purse snatching from the Lidl. The suspect grabbed a shopper's purse and then fled the area on foot while witnesses gave chase, but visual contact was lost. Det. Tristao took over the investigation. After an extensive investigation, including witness statements, a photo array and surveillance footage from the areas of the crimes during the day in question, the suspect was positively identified and placed under arrest on August 26th, 2021. The diligent work by Det. Tristao also allowed us to fully connect this suspect to a vehicle burglary that took place at Planet Fitness and a motor vehicle theft that took place at the Woroco Gas station, both in town, on the same day as the purse snatching.

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 2021, there were a total of 1 Internal Affairs Complaints received and 1 pending case from 2020. Both cases are still pending disposition.

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 Kevin Geoghan.

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 operation of 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/Open Public Records Act (OPRA)
- Issuing Licenses
- Provide copies of Reports for Civilians / Attorneys / Law Detectives
- Enforcement Agencies /
- Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Handle Firearms Transactions
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports
- Typing formal statements with

With the addition of Body Worn Cameras, records requests for footage must be reviewed by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, and then the video must be redacted in order to protect the privacy of those not involved. Due to the increase of requests, a part-time records clerk was added to our Records Division in 2021. The work they do and the support they provide ensure that we are able to offer the greatest level of transparency. During 2021, the Records Division handled 342 OPRA requests and 265 discovery requests. The Records staff consists of the following employees:



Christine Fox
Nonita Nichols
John Fitzsimmons (Part-time)



Training

Law Enforcement necessitates training to be constant, effective, and evolving. This ensures that officers are kept abreast on policies, procedures, and ever-changing laws. The Hazlet Township Police Department has a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process; including recruit training, in-service training, roll-call training, and lastly specialized training.

Lieutenants Acevedo and Geoghan are responsible for the continued development of our officers. Both Lieutenant Acevedo and Geoghan ensure our officers are kept up-to-date with the latest information and hands-on training the State had to offer. Our officers receive state-of-the-art scenario-based training at the Monmouth County Situational Training and Response Simulator (STARS) facility. Here, the STARS facility offers a virtual training sequencer offering three-hundred degrees of situational awareness. The system offers over 100 scenarios, each with different outcomes based on the officer's decision making. The STARS building also offers a driving simulator which allows officers to sharpen their driving skills when responding to emergency calls.



The STARS building also allows for training in areas of high risk/low frequency such as breaching equipment or baton usage.

Lieutenant Greene is the agency's supervising firearms instructor. Lieutenant Greene is responsible for all aspects related to firearms training, qualification, and most importantly, safety.

A majority of our firearms training is and/or will be conducted at our newly renovated shooting range which we have dedicated to Retired Captain Philip J. Noble. The Monmouth County outdoor firing range is also utilized throughout the calendar year. We look forward to the completion of the Captain Philip J. Nobile firing range so our officers can stay proficient with our service firearms. On average our officers expend approximately 20,000 rounds of ammunition during training per year!

The Hazlet Township Police Department looks forward to training in 2022 and beyond with a



recent purchase of the MILO simulator. MILO is a world-leading provider of interactive simulation training, curriculum, range design, and equipment. MILO is regarded as the nation's fastest-growing manufacturer of best-in-class firearms and use-of-force training systems. Since 1994, the award-winning MILO product line has

been continuously selected as the de-facto training simulator for all branches of law enforcement, military, security, and public safety agencies throughout the United States and the world. The Hazlet Township Police Department is beyond enthusiastic for our officers to be able to get this specialized training regularly!

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 but is not limited to:

- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command
- Hazmat
- Ethics
- Bias-Based Policing
- Community Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations
 - Topics include:
 - Law Enforcement and the LGBTQ Community
 - Understanding Drug Addiction
 - Law Enforcement and the Jewish Orthodox Religion and Culture
 - Law Enforcement and the Sikh Community
- Prisoner transport
- Workplace Harassment
- Emotionally Disturbed Persons
- DNA Collection
- Arrest Search and Seizure updates and retraining

Special Services Unit

Special Services includes the evidence vault, lab requests, Project Medicine Drop, and firearms permit background investigations. 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 custodian's 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.

Last year we experienced an influx of firearms applications. This, coupled with state wide shutdowns due to COVID-19, delayed firearms applications significantly. Our staff had worked extremely hard on conducting thorough background investigations on the firearms applicants and they continue to do so. The firearms email firearms@hazletpd.org continued to send out important information and we also posted a FAQ section on our department website (www.hazletpd.org). The state also has moved to electronic permits and Firearms IDs. This helps with a more direct delivery of the items once all processing is complete. In 2021, as long as the applicant pays all required fees and takes all the necessary steps a FID and permit can be obtained in approximately 30 days. This is a dramatic decrease in wait time from 2020, in which it was taking up to 5 months to go through the permitting process.

	2020	2021
Evidence/Property Taken in:	734	690
Evidence taken to NJSP Lab:	44	23
Forfeiture cases to MCPO:	5	4
Bio Metric lab print submissions:	8	12
Firearms Applications Investigated:	833	951*
Firearms FID Card Approved:	261	578*
Pistol Permits Approved:	527	1,217*

***There are still 35 pending firearms applications that were submitted from 10/1/2021-12/31/2021.**

The Evidence vault was also purged during 2021, which resulted in approximately 1,000 pieces of evidence being properly destroyed.

This purge reduces undue liability on the police department to hold evidence that is no longer necessary for prosecution.

Forfeiture

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

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Beginning Balance:	\$20,504.11	\$26,667.81
Forfeited monies received:	\$5,928.64	\$2,027.00
Interest	\$235.00	\$61.28
Forfeited monies expended:	-	\$3,350.45
Ending Balance:	\$26,667.81	\$25,405.64

Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO)

The Hazlet Township Police Department has designated an Officer to investigate and charge individuals committing offenses that violate State Laws and Local Ordinances regarding animal cruelty. The law also requires each County Prosecutor to designate an Animal Cruelty Prosecutor to investigate, prosecute, and take other legal action as appropriate for violations of the animal cruelty laws of the state. HLEOs have the responsibility of enforcing the State of NJ Animal Cruelty laws in Monmouth County, as well as educating the public of responsibilities and requirements of pet and animal ownership. Hazlet Township's Humane Law Enforcement Officers are Off. Edward Schmidt and as of 2021, Det. Steven Venticinque.



School Security/ Educational Programs

The Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III (SLEOIII) Program is a collaborative effort between the Hazlet Township School District and our police department. The program consists of three (3) retired officers all of which continue to show a true passion for serving and protecting. These officers have a vital role in not only the security of our school district, but, as importantly, the ever-lasting relationships with our youth. Throughout the year, our SLEOIII officers can be seen being involved with the everyday activities our school district provides to our youth! Our SLEOIII officers are strictly employed for the calendar school year. The SLEOIII program is supervised by Sergeant Michael Galvin.



#NotEvenOnce (#NEO)

In response to the growing opiate epidemic, the Hazlet Township Police Department has trained several officers in a new, highly interactive opiate awareness program geared towards our high school students. The program, #Notevenonce (#NEO), is a collaborative effort between our agency and educators with a common goal of educating our high school population in regard to opiate abuse. The reality is, we cannot be naïve and must inform our youth about the dangers they will face with these types of drugs; especially those who suffer sports injuries or suffer from some mental health disease. #Notevenonce, which meets all of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for health classes, was taught to our students during their freshman year of high school this past year. The ultimate goal from this program is to educate and give our youth the tools they need to make sound decisions when it comes to drug abuse education. The following officers were selected to teach and guide this special program:



Lt. Joseph Forgione

Off. Nicholas Hungerford

Off. Megan Quinn

Off. Charleigh Logothetis

Off. John Corcione

LEAD[®]

LAW ENFORCEMENT AGAINST DRUGS & VIOLENCE

"On the Street and in the Classroom"

Law Enforcement Against Drugs, or commonly referred to as LEAD, is another evidence-based program the Hazlet Township Police Department uses to teach and mentor our youth. The LEAD program puts social and emotional learning to work through fun and interactive lessons; building self-confidence in young adolescents. The program promotes making healthy and sound decisions which lead, pun intended, to success. The program promotes positive, pro-social attitudes and behaviors, while fostering healthy relationships, resistance to substance abuse and conflict, and resistance to negative peer pressure! Fifth graders in both Beers Street Elementary and Cove Road were taught throughout the school year for ten weeks. Eighth graders at Hazlet Middle School were also taught for the same length. Topics covered range from Goal Setting, Decision Making, Effective Communication, Bonding and Relationships, Identifying and Managing Emotions, Alcohol, Marijuana, Tobacco, Prescription drugs, and Over-the-Counter Medications.

Officers certified to be LEAD instructors are:

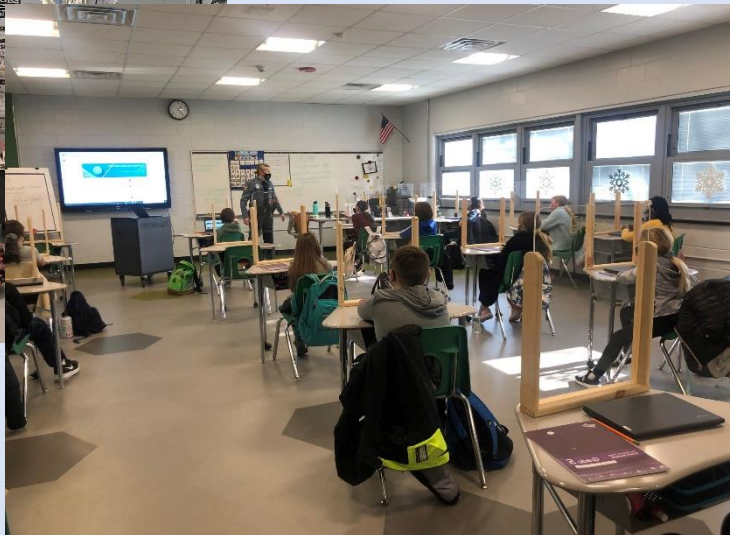
Off. Edward Schmidt

Off. Charleigh Logothetis

Off. Nicholas Hungerford

Off. John Corcione

Off. Megan Quinn



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

Sgt Jaeger responded to 5 MOCERT Activations during 2021



In 2021, Monmouth County Chiefs of Police Association appointed our very own Chief Wittke as the Chief Coordinator for the Rapid Deployment Force (RDF) for Monmouth County. The RDF is comprised of approximately 80 officers from Monmouth County Police Departments who are trained and equipped to respond to MOCERT Activations, natural and manmade disasters, school and workplace violence, crowd control, demonstrations, incidents of civil disobedience, missing persons searches, and open area suspect searches. Elements of the team receive training in mobile field force operations, CBRNE operations, wildland search, special needs search, active shooter response, and advanced incident command. The Hazlet Township Police Department currently has five members assigned to RDF:

Off. Nicholas Hungerford

Off. Nathan Rucinski

Off. Nicholas Torres

Off. Michael Pease

Off.. Megan Quinn

Officers from Hazlet PD responded to 10 RDF Activations in 2021

Monmouth County Serious Collision Analysis Response Team (SCART)

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

Det. Logotheitis responded to over 13 SCART call-outs during 2021.



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, with 2 evaluations this year.

Off. Patrick Wood, with 4 evaluations this year.

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.

This year, the Hazlet Township Police Department's Honor Guard had the privilege of presenting the colors at New Jersey's official Veterans Day Ceremony at the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans' Memorial located in Holmdel, New Jersey.



Members of the Honor Guard include:

Chief Ted Wittke	Off. Russell Surdi (Commander)	
Lt. Kevin Geoghan	Dep. Chief Robert Mulligan	Lt. Christopher Acevedo
Sgt. Robert Dickens	Lt. Nicholas Greene	Lt. Scott Randolph
Off. Patrick Wood	Sgt. Michael Galvin	Off. Edward Schmidt
Off. Nicholas Hungerford	Off. Richard Wilhelm	Off. Nathan Rucinski
Off. Steven Venticinque	Off. Nicholas Torres	Off. Cody Sachs
Off. Kevin Quinn	Off. Douglas Centrone	Off. Brian Jelinski
	Off. Joseph Eckel	

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 drop box. This program has been hugely successful.

In 2021 we collected and disposed of **150lbs** 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 nonprofit 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 request a representative from Hazlet's Hope to speak with the person. 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 choose to accept it. With the subject in custody, they discuss options

and treatment. This year we doubled down on our effort by offering recovery services to persons not under arrest, by establishing the Addictive Substance Service Intervention and Support Team (ASSIST). The ASSIST program allows a no-strings attached way for people looking for help with substance use disorder to come into the municipal court room and speak directly to a Hazlet's Hope representative who can set them up with the type of recovery services they need. There is no police interaction required, and subjects who have a sudden change of heart are at no obligation to follow through. We understand that getting help is a personal choice, and we cannot force those who are not ready. However, we encourage anyone seeking any guidance, to come in. ASSIST is open every Wednesday at the 255 Middle Road in Hazlet between the hours of 10am and 12pm.



Awards Given in 2021

CPR SAVE AWARD

Off. Patrick Wood, Off. Ernie Vega and Off. Douglas Centrone were presented with a CPR Save Award in recognition for an act in which initiative and dedication to duty were shown. On March 14, 2020, these officers responded to a medical emergency where a female subject had fallen down a flight of stairs and was unresponsive without a pulse. Working as a team, these officers immediately began life saving measures which included CPR and the administration of naloxone. Their efforts played a vital role in resuscitating the patient who was promptly transported to a medical facility. They are commended for their life saving action and dedication to duty.



LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Sgt. William Marvel was presented with a Letter of Recognition award in recognition of surpassing the normal everyday duties. On August 14th, 2020, while off-duty, Sergeant Marvel observed a suspicious interaction in a rest area parking lot near Interstate 78 West. The New Jersey State Police were investigating the same suspicious interaction as Sgt. Marvel observed. Sgt. Marvel identified himself to the NJSP with badge and identification in hand. The subsequent investigation led to an arrest of the individual(s) involved for possessing a firearm. Sgt. Marvel, who was in civilian attire and wearing no ballistic vest, did not hesitate to assist an officer in keeping the public safe. Sgt. Marvel is commended for rising and surpassing the normal duties, core values, and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department.



HONORABLE SERVICE AWARD

Off. Nicholas Hungerford was presented with an Honorable Service Award in recognition for an act in which initiative and dedication to duty were shown. On December 30th, 2020, Officer Nicholas Hungerford responded to a medical emergency on Laurel Avenue where an adult male was bleeding heavily. Officer Hungerford assessed the situation and determined the wound needed immediate packing with a blood clotting remedy. Officer Hungerford was able to insert

the packing material with his fingers which in turn stopped the bleeding. Officer Hungerford is commended for an honorable act in the line of duty which showed initiative and accomplishment during an atypical situation.

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Officer Russell Surdi was presented with a letter of recognition award in recognition for surpassing the normal everyday duties. On January 18th, 2021, Officer Surdi conducted a motor vehicle stop on Laurel Avenue after witnessing multiple traffic violations. Upon detecting the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle, Off. Surdi asked the operator to exit. A subsequent search of the vehicle was conducted and during the search, Off. Surdi located an illegal, defaced Glock-45 handgun with two magazines. Every day, Off. Surdi places a strong emphasis on taking illegal weapons and contraband off of the street and his hard work is evident. Off. Surdi is commended for rising and surpassing the normal everyday duties, core values, and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department.

SQUAD AWARD

Sgt. Michael Galvin, Off. Anthony Forlenza, Off. Patrick Wood, Off. Russell Surdi, Off. Ernie Vega, Off. Douglas Centrone, and Off. Joseph Eckel were presented with a Squad Award in recognition for an effort set forth by a group of three or more officers. On February 2nd, 2021 officers received a report of a suicidal male who was searching for his firearms in his home, in an attempt to harm himself. Upon arrival, these officers developed a plan to set up a perimeter and to get the subjects wife to come out. Once the wife reached safety, officers were able to call the subject by phone in an attempt to de-escalate the situation and build a rapport. After several minutes of them communicating with the suicidal man, they convinced him to exit the residence unarmed and without injury. Working as a team, they were able to safely secure and transport him to a medical facility for further evaluation. These officers displayed great teamwork and their quick thinking and de-escalation tactics prevented harm to all involved. Sgt. Michael Galvin, Off. Anthony Forlenza, Off. Patrick Wood, Off. Russell Surdi, Off. Ernie Vega, Off. Douglas Centrone, and Off. Joseph Eckel are commended for their effort working in a single unit to accomplish a departmental task rising to the level of protection of life.



SQUAD AWARD

Sgt. William Marvel, Off. Cody Sachs, and Off. John Corcione were presented with a Squad Award in recognition for an effort set forth by a group of three or more officers.

On February 3rd, 2021, Sgt. Marvel, Off. Sachs and Off. Corcione, were dispatched to a local residence to assist them getting to their dialysis appointment. It was learned that the patient's brother was unable to remove his vehicle from their home to provide transport due to heavy snowfall. Patrols arranged for Hazlet First Aid Squad to transport the resident to the medical facility for his treatment. Afterwards, the three officers went back to the home, with shovels in hand, and dug out the family's vehicle. They also dug out a clear, safe path for the family to enter and exit the home. Sergeant Marvel, Off. Cody Sachs and Off. John Corcione are commended for working together as a single unit to accomplish a departmental task rising to a higher level of protection for the resident's they serve. Actions such as these are a true representation of the department's commitment to our community.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Lt. Nicholas Greene, Sgt. William Marvel, Off. Edward Schmidt, Off. Nathan Rucinski, and Off. Michael Pease were presented with a meritorious service award in recognition for an act rising under adverse conditions where death or injury to another was prevented by officer(s). On April 8th, 2021, these officers were dispatched to a residence in reference to a suicidal male who was beginning to harm himself with a broken bottle. The officers were able to communicate with the victim and while creating a plan. De-escalation tactics were utilized for



over an hour with limited results. Patrols determined that deploying a Conductive Energy Device, otherwise known as a Taser, was their safest option for all. A Taser was properly deployed and the male victim was safely secured and transported to a medical facility. These officers are commended for bringing this high stress, high risk incident to a safe conclusion.

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

Off. Cody Sachs & K9 RICO were presented with the meritorious service award in recognition for an act rising under adverse conditions where death or injury was prevented by an officer. On May 25th, 2021, Off. Sachs and his K9 partner Rico, were dispatched to



Matawan Boro to assist in locating a missing adult female who suffered from dementia. After a long and exhausting K9 track, Off. Sachs and K9 Rico were able to locate the woman at the bottom of a steep embankment. The adult female was rescued and transported to a local medical facility for treatment. Off. Sachs & K9 RICO are commended for an act under adverse conditions where death or injury to another is prevented by the officer.

LETTER OF RECOGNITION

Lt. Scott Mura, Lt. Joseph Forgione, and Officer Charleigh Logothetis were presented with a letter of recognition award in recognition for achieving the Hazlet Township Police Department's re-accreditation. Lieutenant Scott Mura, Lieutenant Joseph Forgione, and Officer Charleigh Logothetis have played a vital role in the continuity of maintaining the Hazlet Township Police Department's accreditation status. Over the course of the last 3 years, they have worked as a team to ensure the agency is operating above the standards set for best practices in policing. This in turn has led to the Hazlet Township Police Department having in place sound policies and direction so our officers can provide the best possible public service. Lieutenant Scott Mura, Lieutenant Joseph Forgione, and Officer Charleigh Logothetis are commended for their dedication to the Hazlet Township Police Department as their core values and mission have surpassed the standard.

CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

John Strohmenger was presented with the civilian service award in recognition for his support of the Hazlet Township Police Department and overall welfare of Hazlet Township. The Civilian Service Award is being presented to John Strohmenger for his dedication and support to the Hazlet Township Police Department. In 2016, John approached the Police Department with a donation of office furniture for the police station. Over the course of the next several months, John volunteered his time and skills to install the furniture in nearly 20 offices. During this time, John has become a friend of many within the agency. Most recently, he has assisted with the current renovation that is happening to the building. John's dedication, volunteerism, and thoughtfulness have paid dividends within the agency and allowed the Hazlet Township Police Department to operate at the highest of levels. John Strohmenger is commended for his support, dedication and overall welfare to the Hazlet Township Police Department.

CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

Philip O'Hara was presented with the civilian service award in recognition for his support of the Hazlet Township Police Department and overall welfare of Hazlet Township. The Civilian Service Award is being presented to Philip O'Hara for his dedication and support to not only the Hazlet Township Police Department, but more importantly the township of Hazlet. Philip's vision for Hazlet's Hope Network and Hazlet's A.S.S.I.S.T. programs have been the ultimate catalyst for battling substance abuse within our community. The partnership between Hazlet Hope, Hazlet A.S.S.I.S.T. and the Hazlet Police Department have paid endless dividends. Philip O'Hara is commended for his dedication to safety, welfare, and substance abuse education within our community.





LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

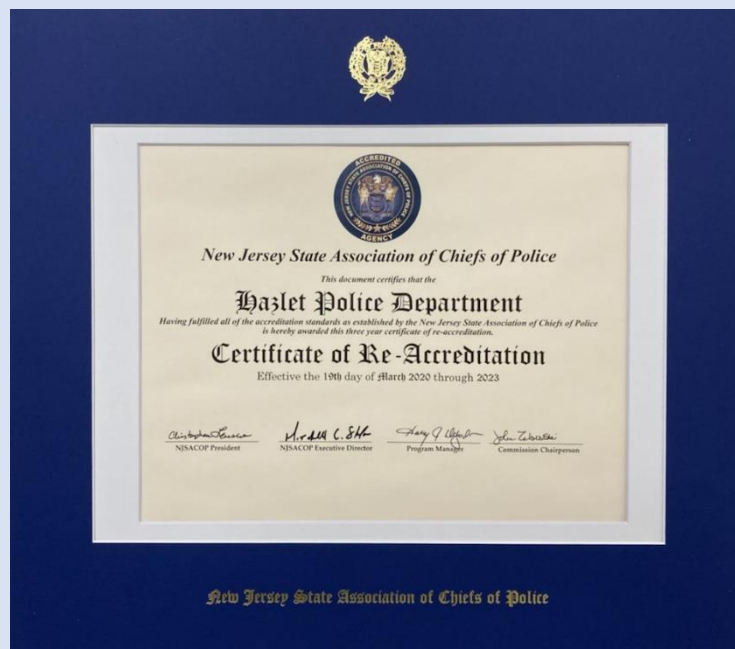
James Broderick was presented with the lifetime achievement award in recognition for his lifetime commitment of service and support to the Hazlet Township Police Department. James Broderick has dedicated his life to not only the Hazlet Township Police Department, but also the Township of Hazlet since 1977. His impeccable police service resulted in him attaining the rank of Chief in 2004. During his 12 year tenure as Chief of Police he demanded a high level of police service to the residents of Hazlet. Chief Broderick placed a strong emphasis on professionalism and transparency. His forward thinking can be credited for the police department first becoming accredited and for starting the department's social media when many departments were resisting the idea. He retired from the Police Department

in 2016 after 39 years. Broderick's commitment to community service has had no bounds and has been evident over the years by him serving as an OEM Coordinator, volunteer firefighter, a soccer coach and referee, and most recently, he has been a big supporter in volunteering with the RAINE Foundation. In 2020 Broderick returned part-time to the police department to assist in the Special Services Division and continues to share his experience and knowledge with employees, young and old. James Broderick is the definition of a public servant and today he is commended for his lifetime dedication and support to the Hazlet Township Police Department.

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.

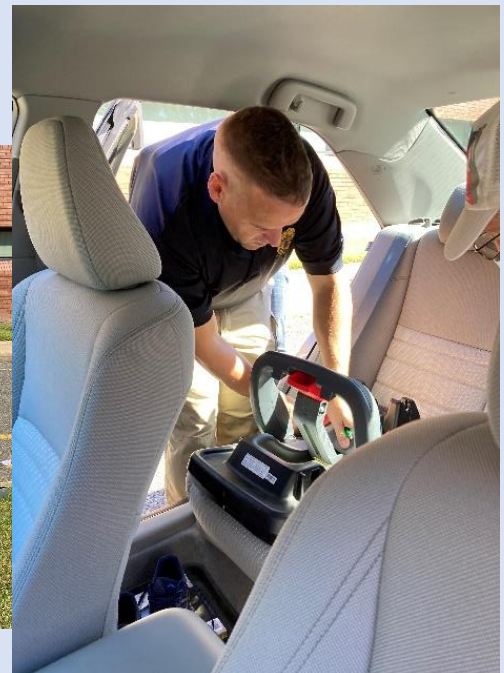
Accreditation status is for 3 years, and during this period the department must submit annual reports attesting to continued compliance with those standards with which it received accreditation. The department attained accreditation status in 2020 and in 2023 the department will again go through the 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. Officer Charleigh Logothetis is the Accreditation Manager and oversees the program but it takes the work and cooperation of many officers to successfully attain this prestigious status.



Coffee with a Cop



Car Seat Installation Event



Active Shooter Drill



Special Needs Open House





Community Relations In 2021



DEPARTMENT GOALS FOR 2022

Patrol Division

Goal #1: Improve training for patrol officers.

Objectives: Increase time spent training to ensure our officers have a clear understanding of recent changes to New Jersey laws and policy. Use different training delivery methods to further increase understanding by all on these important topics.

Strategies:

1. Create a training schedule that shortens the individual training days but allows us to increase the frequency of training. This will ensure that officers are grasping the topics covered and we are making the most of our scheduled time.
2. Create and administer a series of training topics to coincide with recent changes in Motor Vehicle Pursuit, Use of Force, and other policies.
3. Reintroduce more PowerPoint, lectured, and scenario-based training to supplement online training.
4. Utilize our MILO simulator to train officers on Use of Force and De-Escalation techniques

Goal #2: Deter aggressive panhandling and begging near all shopping plazas and stores.

Objective: Increase public safety and consumer security from aggressive panhandling. Respond and identify the issue of aggressive begging by identifying the underlying issue of the panhandler, if needed offer assistance in order to prevent future interactions.

Strategies:

1. Increase the number of documented business checks during patrol shifts.

2. Identify problem areas where the most calls are received for panhandling, issue citations for aggressive panhandlers
3. Educate the public through the use of social media
4. Identify the underlying issue for the panhandling- offer assistance if the subject is in actual need of food, shelter, or other services.
5. Review and revise Township Ordinances to reflect the issue of aggressive panhandling.

Administrative Division

Goal: Work further to reduce and prevent substance use disorders such as illicit drug use, prescription drug misuse, underage drinking, vaping in Hazlet Township.

Objectives: Work in partnership with other stakeholders to identify & solve problems by gathering and analyzing statistical data. Using established evidence-based programs to combat identifiable issues.

Strategies:

1. Work with Hazlet Alliance and other stakeholders to identify specific societal ills, we as a community are facing
2. Gather information and statistical data to support our suspicions
3. Assist Hazlet Alliance in focused prevention efforts
4. Continually evaluate these efforts to ensure success

Detective Division

Goal #1: Educate the public about SCAMS

Objectives: Reduce the amount of Fraud reports that are directly connected with Gift card or money transfer scams.

Strategies:

1. Create warning signs to hang in local businesses near the Gift card Kiosk
2. Prepare a presentation for the more vulnerable targets in town
3. Ensure attendance to the Presentations through Hazlet Rec transportation

Goal #2: Create a voluntary program to facilitate police access to elderly persons residences during times of emergency.

Objectives: Partner with a local business to provide lock boxes to store emergency keys.

Strategies:

1. Identify a sponsor/partner to provide the boxes
2. Advertise the program to Hazlet seniors and family members
3. Create and implement policies on usage of the program

Traffic Safety

Goal #1: Decrease number of motor vehicle accidents at certain Highway intersections

Objectives: Reduce the amount of crashes that cause injury and traffic delays

Strategies:

1. Capture and analyze crash data to identify causal factors
2. Look for easy cost effective fixes such as traffic signal timing and sequencing changes
3. Utilize officers to enforce violations that cause these crashes
4. Partner with State Department of Transportation to come up with attainable solutions.

Goal #2: Increase pedestrian safety

Objectives: Reduce number of pedestrians involved in accidents with motor vehicle

Strategies:

1. Utilize funds from pedestrian safety grant for enforcement and education
2. Assign pedestrian crosswalk decoy details
3. Use social media to educate the public on pedestrian safety
4. Educate youth in the community about proper bicycle safety and crossing roadways
5. Increase enforcement of persons improperly crossing Highways