



2022

Annual Report

Hazlet Township
Police Department

Chief Ted Wittke

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Executive Summary

The Hazlet Township Police Department was happy to welcome the year 2022, while we neared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and things were almost back to “normal”. Our officers continued to be there for our residents 24/7 answering calls for assistance and providing the highest level of service. As things have returned pretty much back to normal our call volume increased by almost 3200 calls this past year. We continue to proudly answer these calls when needed and feel fortunate to serve such a great community! Although responding to calls is our primary function, there are many other services and programs we provide. This past year we were very happy to build upon what we started in 2020 as Officers continued to educate students in the High School about opioid addiction through the #NotEvenOnce program. In the grade schools L.E.A.D continued as a baseline introduction to the dangers of drug use for the 5th and 7th grade classes. Our L.E.A.D. Officers/Instructors are starting to be recognized by students outside of the school setting; enhancing our police/community relations throughout the township and providing for positive engagement. In addition to these lessons and to further encourage the prevention of drug use, the Hazlet Township Police worked with township leaders to re-vamp the Hazlet Municipal Alliance. The new Alliance Coordinator, Nicole (Nikki) Tierney, has been an essential part of our #NEO program. Having overcome substance use disorder herself, she shares her very personal story with students to educate them on the reality of drug addiction and how she was able to overcome her struggle.



Also in January, our officers were invited to a special breakfast with students and staff at the Hazlet Middle School for Law Enforcement Appreciation day, furthering the strong relationship we already have!

The year continued to move in a positive direction when several months of investigation culminated in officers effectuating a search warrant on a residence that was harboring and dealing a multitude of illegal drugs. The search warrant was



executed on February 28th and resulted in the seizure of multiple types of hard drugs as well as drug paraphernalia. (Additional details on this event can be found under the patrol section of this report.) This year brought back the popular fundraiser to benefit the NJ Special Olympics, Climb with a Cop! Officers from Hazlet Police and Middletown Police Department's came together and helped belay children as they climbed the rock walls at The Gravity Vault. Money raised from this event

was donated to the NJ Special Olympics. The department also held its second “Smart-Strong-Safe” program in conjunction with 180 Turning Lives Around and Bayshore Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, to educate young women on social awareness, safety, and self-protection.

With funds obtained by a NHTSA Pedestrian safety grant, Officers deployed a pedestrian safety operation in order to educate motorists and advise them of the penalties of not stopping for a pedestrian in a crosswalk. More information on the number of vehicles stopped and warnings issued can be found in the traffic safety section, later in this report. In addition to this operation, funds from the grant assisted the Township in acquiring and installing 13 Pedestrian Crossing Systems. Special thank you to our Department of Public Works for installing these signs! The Summer started off with two department promotions as a result of a Lieutenant that recently retired, Patrolman Edward Schmidt to Sergeant and Sergeant Michael Galvin to Lieutenant. These promotions are essential in ensuring proper and effective supervision as well as upholding a high level of officer accountability.



Our Hazlet Police Honor Guard had the privilege to attend the 34th Annual Candlelight Vigil to honor the fallen officers whose names have recently been added to the Law Enforcement Memorial this year. The touching vigil took place at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial located in Washington, D.C. in May.



In June, approximately 20 Officers, including some retired Hazlet Township Policemen, took part in the Torch Run to raise money and awareness for the Special Olympics NJ. As in years past, we received the torch from Holmdel near the Chick-fil-a and ran it along highway 35, northbound, where we passed the torch off to Keyport Police Officers right before the Stop n Shop. The month of June also

welcomed three new police officers to the ranks of the Hazlet PD to replace officers that recently retired. Two of our new hires were previously Special Class II Police Officers in other jurisdictions, which meant they could immediately begin their agency field training since they had already attended the police academy. The third officer



completed the Monmouth County Police Academy in December and received an award for the highest academic average in the class. This further demonstrates that Hazlet Police are hiring the very best applicants. He has started his field training in December.

Also, in June, the US Supreme Court ruled on a case, New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen which resulted in wide sweeping changes nationwide to

citizens being able to carry a handgun. This change basically removed the New Jersey requirement of showing a justifiable need in order to ascertain a concealed carry permit. This sent the State scrambling to develop a system for the anticipated influx of applicants and it left Township Police with many unknowns. From June until the end of 2022, the department received over 50 applications from residents applying for the concealed carry permit. These unanticipated applications required our staff to perform very detailed background investigations for concealed carry in addition to the record number of applications we received for Firearm Identification Cards and Handgun Permits throughout the year.

As much as we had hoped for an uneventful summer, we can't predict when crimes happen. We experienced two notable crime events in August, a murder and robbery, which can be read about in the investigations portion of this report. It is important to point out both suspects of these violent crimes have been identified and one apprehended while the other is coming close to apprehension due to our detective work and numerous anonymous tips from the public.



As in the summer's past, the Hazlet Township Police Department held its Youth Police Academy in August. The goal of the Police Youth Academy is to familiarize children with the role of a Police Officer. Participants should be prepared for a hands-on experience in a wide variety of Law Enforcement techniques and Training. Each day will be dedicated to a different topic. We had a great turn out in participants and a lot of fun interacting with our community's youth!

Last year the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office implemented a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training. This intensive five-day interactive training provided



Officers with an in-depth look at issues including but not limited to mental illness, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities, as well as their implications for police response during a crisis. CIT Training is based on an innovative, international model with community mental healthcare and advocacy partnerships. This year we were able to send two more Officers to partake in this invaluable training. Almost immediately, one officer in particular, John Corcione, was able to put the skills he learned to work during a

situation that had the potential to become grave. We are extremely proud of his actions and the complete summary of this event can be found under the patrol section of this report.

Improvements to the Hazlet Township Police Station continued with the addition of new sidewalks and parking in the front of headquarters. These new sidewalks come equipped with ADA approved crosswalk, in order to keep Hazlet HQ accessible to all citizens who need police assistance.

In between investigating crimes perpetrated against our citizens, the detective bureau, in conjunction with the High School TV production class, deployed a Scam Prevention video in order to help prevent our vulnerable residents from becoming victims of a scam. Its an unfortunate truth that scam artists target and attempt to take advantage of our elderly population in Hazlet. The video breaks down common scams and what to do if you receive a phone call or email that seems suspicious. Detectives also visited local businesses and asked to post "STOP" signs to grab the attention of anyone attempting to buy a gift card for the wrong reason.



The Hazlet Township Police Department had such a successful special needs open house last year, we brought it back again this year! Being one of the first departments in the country to host such an event, the feedback received was



tremendous! This year we had many new faces come out to meet with officers, tour our facility and interact with local resources. A fan favorite was the addition of therapy dogs from the Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs Inc. We had even heard back that some families are scheduling more visits with the dogs who attended our event due to the impact the dog had on their child. In October Chief Ted Wittke and Lt. Joseph Forgione were honored to join Hazlet School

Superintendent's Scott Ridley and Joe Annibale in presenting at the NJ School Board Association Workshop in Atlantic City. They spoke about the working relationships that have been created between the Police Department and Hazlet Township school district and it showcased how this commitment by both organizations has strengthened school security. Many other districts and school boards were in attendance taking away best practices that have been implemented in Hazlet.

New to the Hazlet Police Department this year was the addition of three additional training days integrated into our officer's work schedule. These training days were essential in keeping our Officers well-versed on current policing trends and ever-changing Attorney General Guidelines as well as new State laws. During these additional trainings, there was an emphasis on more scenario-based training which lends itself to real life situations. A tool we used to deliver such training is known as the Milo System. It is a state-of-the-



art simulator for critical incident, verbal de-escalation, decision making and tactical training and we are fortunate to have this at our disposal.

While much of Monmouth County and the rest of the State has seen an astronomical increase in burglaries and stolen cars, Hazlet has not. We have continued to use billboards, digital sign boards, social media and SMS notification systems to remind residents to lock their cars, remove their keys and take their things. This combined with our officers being extra vigilant on patrol, we have been able to keep these types of crimes very low. That being said, we have experienced a sporadic uptick in catalytic convertor thefts that are also happening nationwide. We remind everyone to remain vigilant and if you see or hear something, call us! We are a force multiplier when residents act as eyes and ears for Police and that in turn makes us all safer!

As in years past, the department closed out the year volunteering with the Hazlet Recreation Department for Thanksgiving Dinner service and the RAINE Foundation for their Thanksgiving Dinner service and Holiday Toy Drive. These events are always a favorite for our Officers to volunteer their time and really embrace the meaning of community.



One of the last calls for service in 2022 resulted in a search warrant of a home in Hazlet that yielded the seizure of over 2,000 illegal pills, as well as paraphernalia which suggested drug distribution. More about this incident can be found under the detective section of this report. When we receive information about possible drug dealing we go on a relentless pursuit to weed this out of our community. If you are aware of anyone in Hazlet dealing drugs please contact us at crimetips@hazletpd.org.

Sworn Personnel

Chief of Police

Ted Wittke

Deputy Chief of Police

Robert Mulligan

Lieutenants

Christopher Acevedo
Nicholas Greene
Scott Randolph
Joseph Forgione
Michael Galvin



Detectives

Det/Lt Kevin Geoghan
Michael Tristao
Steven Venticinque

Sergeants

William Marvel
Robert Dickens
Richard Jaeger
Tara Theis
Edward Schmidt

Patrol Officers

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

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

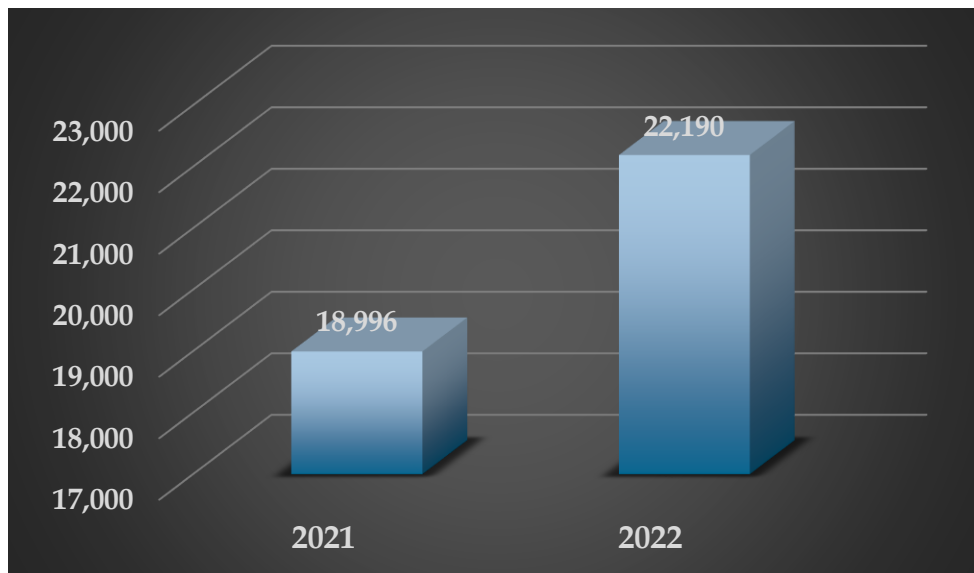
Patrick Wood
Russell Surdi
Nicholas Torres
Douglas Centrone
Joseph Eckel
Ernie Vega
Connor Sheehan
Rocco Serpico Jr
David Dillon

Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III

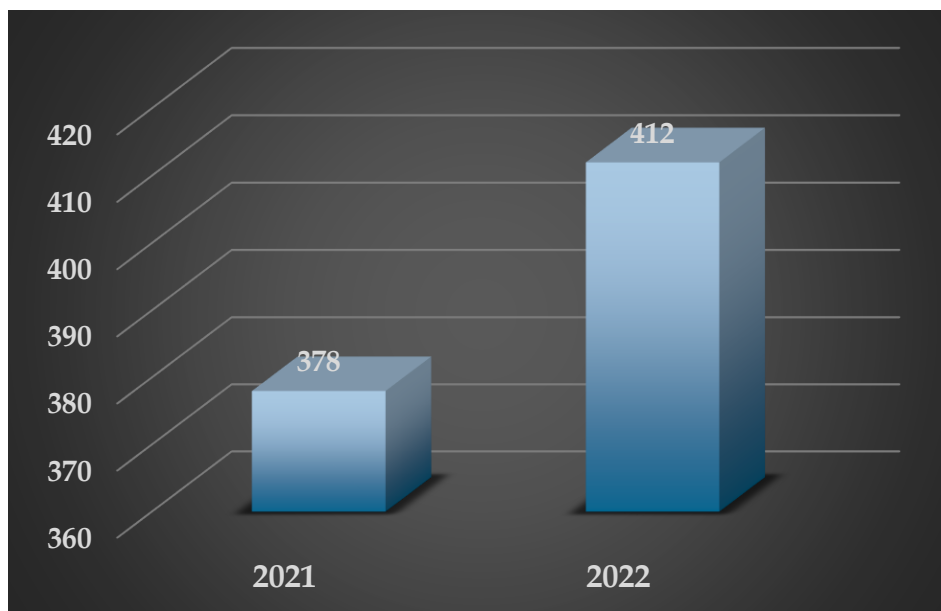
Richard Gizzi
Thomas Ferrari
Vincent Quinn
George Mundo
Christopher Doxbeck

Calls for Service/Criminal Activity

Calls for Service		
<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
18,996	22,190	+3,194



Arrests		
<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Change</u>
378	412	+34





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

Unlike data reported through the UCR Program’s traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS) – an aggregate monthly tally of crimes – NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared. The use of the Spillman records management system, which our agency migrated to in 2020, assists in proper NIBRS reporting. The software automatically checks if a report contains all required information for the NIBRS report. This is not to say it is always seamless, but we always report errors that may occur and ensure the data is reported in a timely fashion and as accurately as possible.

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

Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	0	1	+1
Rape	6	2	-4
Robbery	3	2	-1
Assault	107	55	-52
Burglary	19	21	+2
Theft	166	154	-12
Motor Vehicle Theft	16	12	-4

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

The following list indicated 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 2021 compared to 2022.

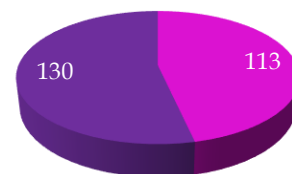
Call Type	2021	2022	Change
Sex Offense, non-rape	11	6	-5
Medical Calls	1,414	1,561	+147
Fire Calls	100	72	-28
Death Investigations	15	7	-8
Disorderly Conduct	387	389	+2
Fraud, forgery, bad checks	97	98	+1
Criminal Mischief	34	33	-1
Missing Persons	42	38	-4
Directed Patrol	362	275	-87

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 2022 the Hazlet Police responded to 130 Domestic Violence related call, which was an increase from 2021. 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 their 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.



DV Incidents



■ 2021 ■ 2022

Emergency Medical Treatment

The Hazlet Township Police Department's Patrol Division answered 1,561 first aid calls in 2022. Included in those 1,561 calls are difficulty breathing, possible strokes, mental health related issues and 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 19 times during 2022, which is ten more times than last year!

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. We currently deploy (3) CPR Lucas 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 24 overdose calls. Officers administered Naloxone (Narcan) 24 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, however as adults it is the patient's decision to deny medical care. In response to this risky behavior, the Overdose Prevention Act was updated requiring law enforcement to offer the person who suffered the overdose an additional, unopened Narcan treatment with an information sheet regarding opiate dangers and treatment options. Some cases, if the victim refuses the Narcan, we will offer it to a family member to keep in the house.

Substance use disorder does not discriminate. At any time, a person who you love could become a victim of a drug overdose. It is our goal to not only help preserve life, but to encourage those suffering to seek assistance in beginning their journey to recovery.

Officer Line of Duty Injuries and/or crashes:

During 2022, there were 3 work related injury incidents reported, two which resulted in days missed of work;

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Days missed</u>
Edward Schmidt	3
Nathan Rucinski	1

Motor Vehicle Crashes on Duty

Officers were involved in 3 motor vehicle crashes while on duty in 2022;

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Nicholas Torres	06/05/2022	Struck Vehicle while responding to call
Nicholas Pasquenza	06/05/2022	Struck Vehicle while responding to call
Ernie Vega	08/01/2022	Hydroplaned, struck barrier
Patrick Wood	10/29/2022	Collided with Police Equipment

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 and Law Enforcement Officers 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 command level officers. The meaningful command level review of the incident shall be undertaken by at least two levels of supervisors. These levels may include the immediate supervisor, internal affairs, training officers or command staff. At least one reviewer must be two levels or more above the officer who used force. The review shall include an examination of all available sources of information about the incident, including any video of the incident, reports, officer or other witness statements, medical records and records of injuries. The review also includes an analysis of whether force was used in a nondiscriminatory fashion to ensure officers are treating every person equally without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or any other protected characteristic. Finally, the reviewing supervisors shall make a recommendation of what action, if any, should be undertaken, including commendation of the officer, policy changes, remedial training, administrative action, disciplinary action or, if appropriate, referral for criminal prosecution.

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.

With the addition of having Officers trained in the Crisis Intervention Team, the Hazlet Township Police is constantly finding way to connect with citizens in crisis. This is done to avoid the need of using any type of force against them just to gain compliance to go to the Hospital for an evaluation.

	2021	2022
Use of Force Incidents	9	13

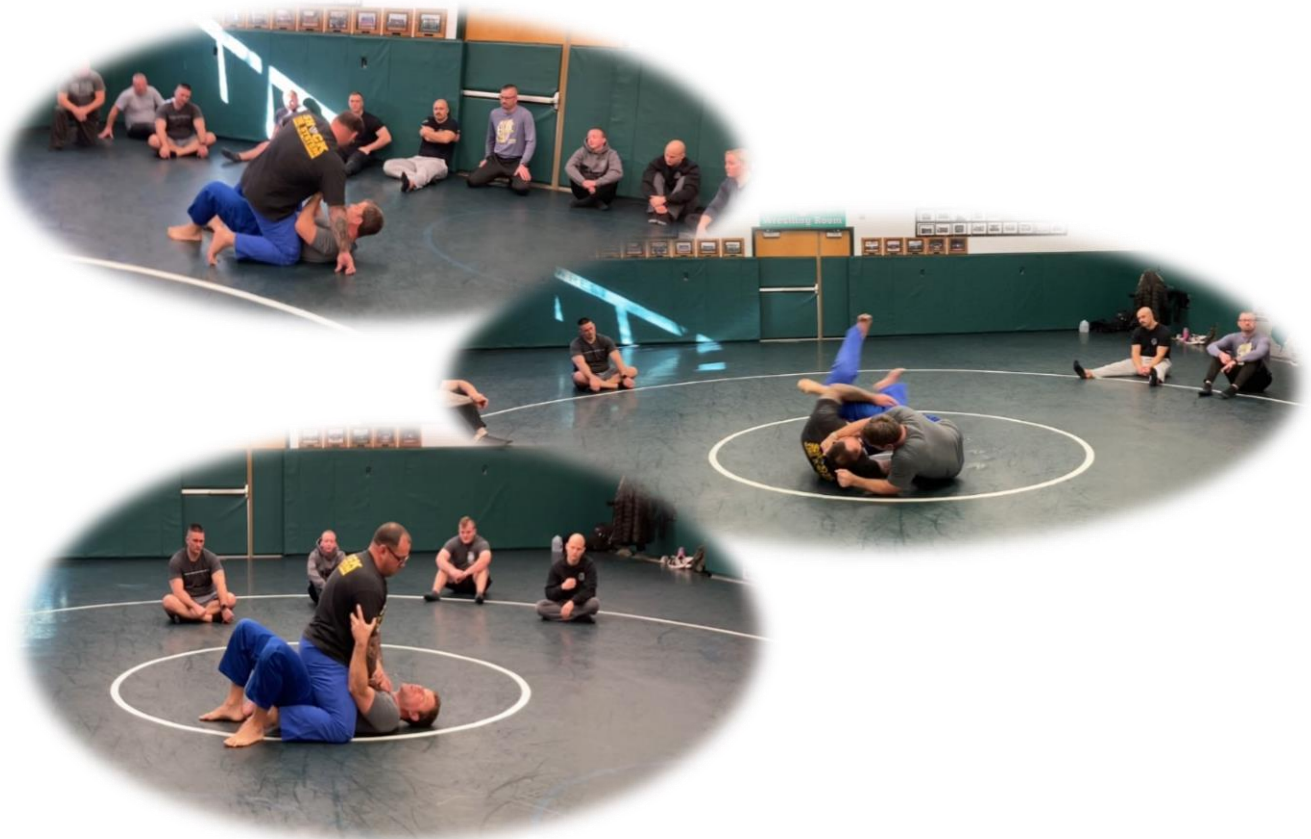
Of the force used this year, five (5) incidents involved a subject actively resisting a lawful arrest. Eight (8) incidents included using force to subdue a crisis patient who was causing harm to themselves or creating a risk to use harm to someone else. In cases where force is required to help subdue a person in crisis, they are always transported to the hospital for an evaluation. In all cases where force is used, Emergency Medical Services are requested to treat involved parties if injuries are sustained.

In 2021, our Department acquired additional Conductive Energy Devices or CEDs (aka Tasers) 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.



While Officers consistently use the least amount of force than necessary to gain control of situations, the additional training received 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 which in turn will keep everyone safer.

Additional training was added this year regarding ground fighting and hands-on Officer safety tactics. Instructors trained in Gracie Survival Tactics, the only approved self-defense martial art, held a course to teach our Officers how to escape potentially dangerous situations. While our agency maintains regular training in the use of force continuum and appropriate use of force, this additional training is beneficial in the preservation of life, and to assist Officers who find themselves in close quarters hand-to-hand combat with a subject.



Patrol Division

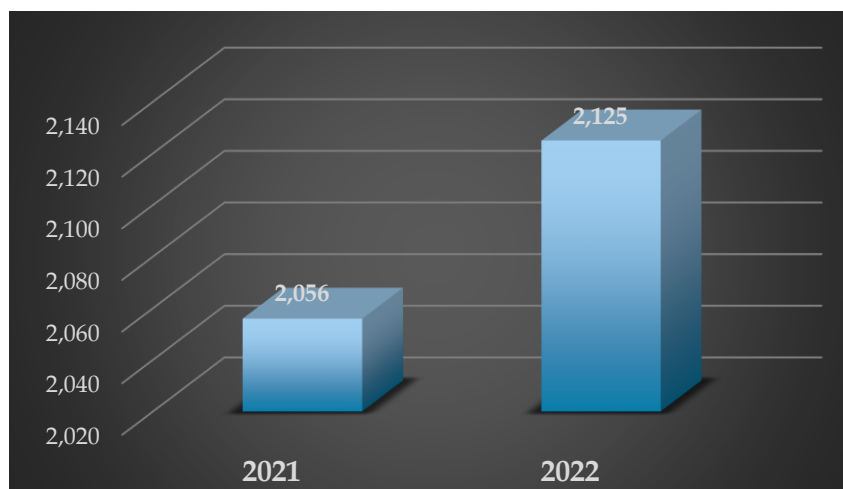
Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department and arguably the most important. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighbor disputes, domestic violence incidents, traffic accidents, burglaries, and death investigations. 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 worked an extra 58 hours throughout the month after or before their shift to enforce distracted driving laws. There were 148 motor vehicle stops for distracted driver violations, and 47 tickets issued during the designated enforcement times.

Total Summonses for Motor Vehicle Violations

2021	2022	Change
2,056	2,125	+69

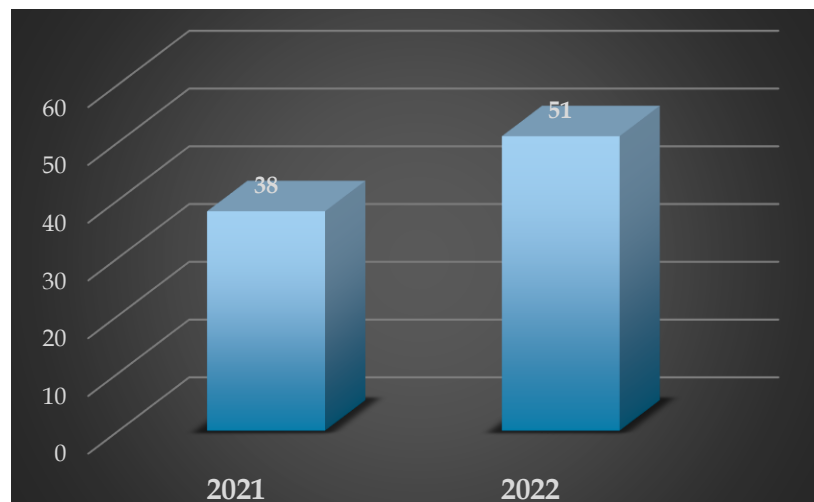


Driving Under the Influence

Every day, about 32 people in the United States die in drunk-driving crashes — that's one person every 45 minutes. This past year to help keep your community safe, the Bayshore Task Force teamed up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to spread the message about the dangers of drunk driving. While drunk driving happens throughout the whole year, special enforcement happens around the holidays, including St. Patrick's Day, summer holidays, and Thanksgiving. With the legalization of marijuana in the state of NJ, it is important to remain vigilant for any type of impairment while driving. The message of "Drive High get a DUI" was advertised on our social media to remind drivers of the illegality of driving while under the influence of marijuana (or any drug) and the dangerous of such. The Bayshore Task Force includes the following ten towns: Aberdeen, Atlantic Highlands, Hazlet, Highlands, Holmdel, Keansburg, Keyport, Matawan, Middletown and Union Beach.

Total Driving Under the Influence Arrests

2021	2022	Change
38	51	+13



Field Training

In 2022 we appointed three new full-time patrol Officers, Joshua Wagner, Michael Vamos, and David Dillon. All candidates were hired off of the NJ Civil Service List of Eligible candidates who pass the entry level Law Enforcement Exam. Dillon, a former Middlesex County College Officer, was able to immediately begin his Field Training due to already possessing a full-time police officer certificate from the Police Training Commission (PTC). Vamos just completed the Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II Academy, which entails the same classes and runs concurrent with the Basic Police Officer Course at Monmouth County Police Academy. Vamos also was able to begin his Field Training immediately. Both Vamos and Dillon completed their Field Training in September and are working in a solo beat officer status. Wagner began the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Monmouth County Police Academy in July, graduating at the end of December. Upon graduation he returned to the Department to begin the Field Training Program. The Field Training Officer (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 Field Training Coordinator (FTC) is in charge of the Field Training Program. It is his responsibility to set up the new Officers with their FTOs and create their schedule so they get ample opportunity to encounter most types of calls for service. The FTC is also responsible to review the daily activity reports for each new Officer and identify where there is a need for additional training. The FTC is Sgt. William Marvel.

The following Officers are designated and trained as FTOs:

Ptl. Richard Wilhelm
Ptl. Nicholas Torres

Ptlw. Charleigh Logothesis
Ptl. John Corcione

Ptl. Russell Surdi
Ptl. Doug Centrone

Notable Patrol Events

August 17th, 2022 Murder

A 911 call came into County Dispatch at approximately 0015hrs for a domestic dispute that was physical in nature. Officers rushed to the scene to find the caller outside relating the suspect (a family member) is inside engaged in a physical altercation with another family member. Patrol Officers approached the door to the home swiftly and tactically where they found the suspect in the living room. The suspect obeyed all orders to come outside of the residence while other Officers entered to find the victim and render aid. The victim had visible signs of injuries and was ultimately transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased a short time later. The suspect remained in custody and was later charged with murder. It should be noted that this was the result of a tragic domestic violence incident.

June 29th 2022, Crisis Intervention

At approximately 0853hrs a call was received through the suicide hotline about a person in their vehicle in Hazlet who wished to die. The person stated he had a knife and would attack police if they responded. Officer's approached the scene and secured the area to ensure no other citizen got close. Ptl. Corcione, who previously this year attended Crisis Intervention Team Training, began speaking with the person from a safe distance. The person immediately had a negative response to police presence and was argumentative with Ptl. Corcione. Thanks to his training, Ptl. Corcione remained persistent and compassionate while interacting with the person. As a result of Ptl. Corcione's efforts, the person ultimately discarded their weapon, and exited their vehicle peacefully. The person was transported to the hospital to get the help that they needed.

February 28th 2022, Search Warrant Execution

After the culmination of a month-long investigation, which included drug buys and surveillance, on February 28, Officers from Hazlet Township Police Department executed a search warrant at Locust Grove Trailer park for the distribution of illegal narcotics. The owner of the residence was charged with four possession with intent to distribute charges, each for a different narcotic and seven possession of CDS charges. The drugs seized included Crystal Meth, Heroin, LSD and methadone. An additional person was arrested and charged with possession of CDS and tampering with evidence.

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.



This year TSO Wood worked with the Township Department of Public Works to install 13 new Pedestrian Crossing signs throughout the town. This includes the additional of a cross walk at the intersection of Middle Road and Green Acres Drive, creating a safe way for residents to walk to Veteran's park.

Among these signs, there were also two lighted stop signs added to town at the intersection of Hazlet Ave and Lammers St

and Florence Ave and Middle Road. While driving down Hazlet Ave near Lammers St during the evening hours you may notice the lighted chevron signs, indicating the sharp curve. These signs were acquired with funds from the NJ Traffic Safety Pedestrian Grant. Along with the signs, this Grant was used to educate and remind motorists of the law for stopping for pedestrians in the cross walk. In April we held a Pedestrian Decoy Detail, where we had two plain clothes officers attempt to cross Laurel Ave at the crosswalk, and two uniformed Officers waiting down the road. TSO Wood measured out the stopping distance to ensure motorists had a fair amount of time and space to noticed the person trying to cross as the crosswalk. Officers were out for a mere four hours in different locations around town and issued 33 warnings to motorists who did not stop for the pedestrian. This was an educational detail; no citations were issued during this event.

Despite our best efforts to ensure pedestrian safety throughout Hazlet, there were three fatal accidents, two involving pedestrians this year. The locations were Highway 36 and Middle Road and Highway 36 and Poole Ave.

Total Motor Vehicle Accidents: 921

Total Hit and Run Investigations: 129

THIS IS A WARNING

**YOU HAVE JUST FAILED TO
STOP FOR A PEDESTRIAN
IN A MARKED CROSSWALK**

The law is clear (see reverse side).

Motorists in New Jersey **MUST** stop for pedestrians in a marked crosswalk. Failure to observe the law may subject you to one or more of the following:

- 2 POINTS
- \$200 FINE
(plus court costs)
- 15 DAYS COMMUNITY SERVICE
- INSURANCE SURCHARGES

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

**YOU HAVE JUST FAILED TO USE
DUE CARE AS A PEDESTRIAN**

The law is clear, pedestrians must obey pedestrian signals and use crosswalks at signalized intersections. Both carry a \$54.00 fine for failure to observe the law. (C.39:4-32 and 33)

This initiative is provided as an educational tool to foster public awareness about pedestrian safety and ultimately reduce injuries and deaths.

SAFE PASSAGE
moving toward zero fatalities
www.njtrafficroads.com

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:

	2021	2022	Change
Cases Assigned	221	155	-66
Cases Closed	102	149	+47
Arrests	17	12	-5

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, 2022: 5



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 reregister 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.

2021-2022 there was 1 new registrant that moved into town.
The total of Megan's Law registrants in town is 24.

In 2022 there were (21) 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

August 9th 2022, Robbery

At approximately 0257hrs the Hazlet Police Department received a call regarding a burglary in progress at the Shell Gas Station on Middle Road. Officers rushed to the scene to find the calling party had an injury to their stomach. A description of the assailant was broadcasted to surrounding towns, but Officers were unable to locate the suspect. Det. Venticinque responded to process the scene and collect evidence that was left behind. The evidence was sent out to the State lab for a DNA analysis and we are awaiting the results. Surveillance footage was obtained and an all point bulletin was put out with the images of the assailant and a description given by the victim. After also posting the images to our Facebook page, the detective bureau received multiple tips as to the identity of the assailant. Det. Venticinque is awaiting results of the DNA sample, however the outlook that this case will be solved is promising. If you have any additional information please contact us at crimetips@hazletpd.org.

December 29th 2022, Search Warrant Execution

At approximately 1127hrs the Hazlet Township Police responded to the shopping center at the intersection of Middle Rd and Laurel Ave for a 9-month-old baby who possibly ingested an opiate. Though this is technically in Holmdel Township, our Officers could not ignore a call of such a serious nature. Officers acted swiftly and administered Narcan to the baby, while keeping the two occupants of the vehicle close. The baby and its mother were transported to Jersey Shore Medical Center, where the baby was given additional treatment and recovered from the incident. Upon further investigation on how this could have happened, it was discovered the baby was suspected of ingesting the opiate at the home of the mother. The home happened to be located in Hazlet Township. Officers applied for a search warrant of the residence, which was approved by the Superior Court Judge. The parents of the child were both charged with Endangering the welfare of a child. As a result of the search warrant, over 2,000 different illegal pills were seized as well as multiple other items which suggest drug distribution. The father of the child was charged with one count of possession with intent to distribute CDS in a school zone, one count of possession with the intent to distribute over 100 doses of prescription drugs, 10 counts of possession of CDS and 7 counts of possession with intent to distribute CDS.

December 24th 2022, Robbery

At approximately 0901hrs the Hazlet Township Police Department responded to 1316 State Highway 36, for a report of an armed robbery at the United Check Cashing in Airport Plaza. Our detectives are actively working on this case and following up on several positive leads. At this time, no further information can be released. If you have any additional information please contact us at crimetips@hazletpd.org, you can remind anonymous.

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 2022, there were a total of 11 Internal Affairs Complaints received and 1 pending case from 2020.

Of the complaints received in 2022:

3 were **Not Sustained** -meaning the investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation

3 were **Exonerated**- meaning A preponderance of the evidence shows the alleged conduct did occur but an officer did not violate any law; regulation; directive, guideline, policy, or procedure issued by the Attorney General or County Prosecutor; agency protocol; standard operating procedure; rule; or training.

3 were **Sustained**- meaning a preponderance of the evidence shows an officer violated any law; regulation; directive, guideline, policy, or procedure issued by the Attorney General or County Prosecutor; agency protocol; standard operating procedure; rule; or training.

1 was **Unfounded**- A preponderance of the evidence shows that the alleged misconduct did not occur.

1 was **Administratively Closed**

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

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, rollcall training, and lastly specialized training. Training is so important to Hazlet Police, that four additional training days have been added to our schedule.

Lieutenant Acevedo is responsible for the continued development of our officers through in-house training and scheduling of classes. Lieutenant Acevedo ensures our officers are kept up-to-date with the latest information and hands-on training the State has 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. Thanks to our inhouse range and additional training days, our officers 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 is happy to announce the MILO simulator we purchased last year is fully functional. 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 to 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

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:
 - Civilians
 - Attorneys
 - Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Handle Firearms Transactions
- Prepare Uniform Crime Reports
- Typing formal statements with Detectives



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. During 2022, the Records Division handled 369 OPRA requests and 284 discovery requests. Additionally, due to the decriminalization of marijuana, Records was also inundated this year with 832 expungements to complete.

The Records staff consists of the following employees:

- Christine Fox
- Nonita Nichols
- John Fitzsimmons (Part-time)

Special Services Unit

Special Services includes the evidence vault, lab requests, Project Medicine Drop, and firearms permits. This unit is comprised of one full-time patrolman and 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, and to 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.

Our staff has worked extremely hard on conducting thorough background investigations on the firearms applicants and they continue to do so. The firearms email firearms@hazletpd.org continues to send out important information and we also posted a firearms 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.

The New Jersey Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2022-07 laid out the new requirements for New Jersey concealed carry permits which do not include having to "demonstrate a justifiable need to carry a handgun." This directive went into effect immediately when it was issued on June 24, 2022. Since then, our Special Services Department has had the additional responsibility of handling CCW (concealed carry weapon) permits.

	2021	2022
Evidence/Property Taken in:	690	1,726
Evidence taken to NJSP Lab:	23	37
Forfeiture cases to MCPO:	4	3
Bio Metric lab print submissions:	12	6
Firearms Applications Investigated:	982	501
Firearms FID Card Approved:	613	260
Pistol Permits Approved:	527	842
CCW Permits Issued	-	24
CCW Permits Awaiting Approval	-	29
CCW Pending investigation	-	3

Forfeiture

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

<u>Forfeiture Fund:</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Beginning Balance:	\$26,667.81	\$25,405.64
Forfeited moneys received	\$2,027.00	\$367.00
Interest	\$61.28.00	\$339.50
Forfeited monies expended	\$3,350.45	-
Ending Balance	\$25,405.64	\$26,112.14

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 Sgt Edward Schmidt and Det. Steven Venticinque. In 2022, Detective Venticinque worked on a case with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Humane Law Enforcement Division on a case where dogs continuously were getting out of their



residence and harming the public. If you are in Monmouth County and you would like to report suspected cruelty to animals, please call the Monmouth County cruelty hotline, (877) 898-7297. MCSPCA Humane Law Enforcement and local HLEOs work together to protect animals.



RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

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 8 RDF Activations in 2022

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 joined SCART in September of 2022;

Off. Patrick Wood

Since joining, Officer Wood has 2 SCART responses

Drug Recognition Expert

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, conducted 5 evaluations this year.



Maritime Emergency Response Team

The Monmouth County Maritime Emergency Response Team (MERT) is a valuable shared service and made up of members from

various Monmouth County law enforcement agencies who are trained to respond swiftly and professionally to critical incidents in our waterways.

The Hazlet Township Police Department has one Officer on this team, Off. Douglas Centrone.



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 visited the Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington DC, to honor those Officer who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Members of the Honor Guard include: Off. Russell Surdi (Commander)

Chief Ted Wittke

Dep. Chief Robert Mulligan

Lt. Christopher Acevedo

Lt. Kevin Geoghan

Lt. Nicholas Greene

Lt. Scott Randolph

Sgt. Robert Dickens

Lt. Michael Galvin

Sgt. Edward Schmidt

Off. Patrick Wood

Off. Richard Wilhelm

Off. Nathan Rucinski

Off. Nicholas Hungerford

Off. Nicholas Torres

Off. Cody Sachs

Off. Steven Venticinque

Off. Douglas Centrone

Off. Brian Jelinski

Off. Kevin Quinn

Off. Joseph Eckel

Hazlet Municipal Alliance

At the end of 2021 the Hazlet Committee appointed a new Coordinator for the Hazlet Municipal Alliance. We welcomed Nikki Tierney into the role, as she has been an asset for our #NEO program in the past. She has hit the ground running, working with the Division of Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Addiction Services) and the Prevention Coalition of Monmouth County to get programs into our schools.

The purpose of the Hazlet Alliance is to work with the community to reduce substance use disorders such as illicit drug use, prescription drug misuse, underage drinking, vaping and disorders related to the use of alcohol, marijuana and tobacco. It also aims to promote mental well-being.

The Alliance may work in partnership with community leaders, school staff, law enforcement, business groups, residents, and professional health care organizations and experts. to increase awareness, education, programming and resource-sharing.

In alignment with the latest data, statistics and trends, the Alliance may identify and develop appropriate and effective programs for the community and specifically for K-12 schools and parents.

The Alliance will work to reduce the stigmas surrounding substance use disorders and/or mental health disorders to encourage those affected to seek support resources and treatment.

The Hazlet Township Police works closely with the Municipal Alliance providing support where needed and look forward to the future programs they will implement.



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 it in a drop box. By providing this invaluable service, we help keep dangerous prescription drugs out of the hands of those that could abuse them and off the streets. This program has been hugely successful.

In 2022 we collected and disposed of 344lbs of unused prescription medicine.

Drug Addiction Services

On the other side of the spectrum, the Hazlet Township Police Department has a strong working relationship with a local recovery 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 privately discuss options and treatment. 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.

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 school security program has been enhanced this year with the Township Committee hiring (2) additional officers that work every day in the Township's schools ensuring a safe learning environment for students at every grade level. These retired officers 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 Robert Dickens.



#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

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:

Sgt. Edward Schmidt

Off. Charleigh Logothetis

Off. Nicholas Hungerford

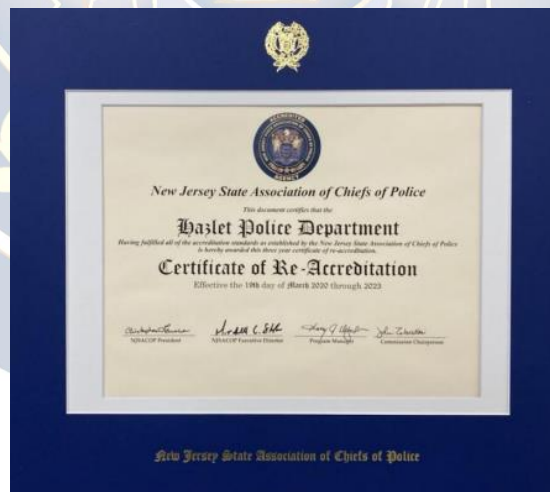
Off. John Corcione

Off. Megan Quinn



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 is preparing for another assessment in 2023. 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 Logothesis is the Accreditation Manager and oversees the program but it takes the work and cooperation of many officers to successfully attain this prestigious status.



Awards Given in 2022

A Squad Award was presented to Ptl. Russell Surdi, Lt. Chris Acevedo, Ptl. Patrick Kiley, Ptl. Zachary Kruk, Ptl. Douglas Centrone, Ptl. Brian Jelinski, and Ptl. Thomas Enright in recognition for an effort set forth by a group of three or more officers.

On February 28th, 2022, Ptl. Surdi along with Lt. Acevedo, Ptl. Kiley, Ptl. Kruk, Ptl. Centrone, Ptl. Jelinski, and Ptl. Enright conducted an extensive narcotics investigation which led to the arrest of two individuals. The investigation concluded with the seizure of a large quantity of various controlled dangerous substances. The efforts of these Officers keep the citizens of Hazlet safe by taking dangerous drugs off of our streets. Together, as a single unit, these Officers worked towards a common goal of protecting the residents of Hazlet and combating the drug epidemic.



A Squad Award was presented to Detective Michael Tristao, Sgt. Robert Dickens, Ptl. Patrick Kiley, Ptl. Russell Surdi, and Ptlw. M. Quinn in recognition for an effort set forth by a group of three or more officers.

On August 12th, 2021, Detective Tristao along with Sgt. Dickens, Ptl. Kiley, Ptl. Surdi, and Ptlw. M. Quinn, assisted in an extensive investigation into a crime spree by a single suspect. The crimes occurred in three different locations during three different times. All of the Officers assisted in the investigation which culminated in the identification and arrest of a single suspect for burglary, theft of a pocketbook, and theft of a motor vehicle. The diligent efforts of all the Officers involved are recognized for taking a menacing suspect off of the streets and concluding the investigation within four days. These Officers are commended for their efforts working together with a single unit to accomplish a departmental task and protecting the residents of Hazlet Township.



A Letter of Recognition was presented to Special Law Enforcement Officer Thomas Ferrari in recognition for surpassing the normal everyday duties.

SLEO III Ferrari is commended for his continued dedication and devotion to the community of Hazlet Township, in particular the Hazlet Township School District. SLEO III Ferrari went above the call of duty by participating in the Middle Road School Kindness Award Program. Specifically, SLEO III Ferrari added a reward to the program's participants so that they could become an Officer for a Day. SLEO III Ferrari is commended for his dedication to student outreach and providing a positive image and mentor to the students of Hazlet Township. SLEO III Ferrari's efforts surpass the normal duties, core values, and mission of the Hazlet

Township Police Department.

A Letter of Recognition was presented to Ptl. Kevin Quinn in recognition for surpassing the normal everyday duties.

On March 18th, 2022, Ptl. K. Quinn conducted a motor vehicle stop for a simple equipment violation. The driver of the vehicle provided Ptl. K. Quinn with false information that was unable to be verified through dispatch. Through an extensive investigation, Ptl. K. Quinn was ultimately able to determine the identity of the suspect who had outstanding warrants for sexual assault of a juvenile. Ptl. K. Quinn's thorough investigation and instinct helped removed a dangerous individual from the streets of Hazlet protecting both our residents and the citizens of New Jersey. Ptl. K. Quinn is commended for rising and surpassing the normal duties, core values, and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department



A Squad Award was presented to Detective Michael Tristao, Detective Nicolas Logotheitis, and Detective Steven Venticinque in recognition for an effort set forth by a group of three or more officers.

On July 19th, 2021, Det. Tristao, Det. Logotheitis, and Det. Venticinque investigated several fires in the parking lot of Cinemark Movie Theatres. During the investigation, it was determined that the fires



were started in the parking lot over the course of several nights. The investigation revealed that the arsonist was attempting to light off a Molotov Cocktail type incendiary device. A suspect was developed and a surveillance operation was set up utilizing federal, county, and local agencies. Ultimately, a suspect was identified and arrested while attempting to light another device. These Detectives are commended for their efforts working as a single unit to accomplish a common goal of protecting life and the residents of Hazlet Township.

A Letter of Recognition was presented to Sergeant Edward Schmidt and Ptl. Richard Wilhelm in recognition for surpassing the normal everyday duties.

On January 29th, 2022, Sgt. Schmidt and Ptl. Wilhlem responded to a medical call for service on Fleetwood Drive and turned over care to paramedics and EMTs. Due to heavy snow accumulation, both officers began clearing the patient's driveway and porch of snow to ensure that they could safely be transported to a medical facility. Both Officers continued to go above and beyond by clearing the snow off of the patient's spouse's vehicle to ensure she could safely travel to the hospital to accompany her husband. Sgt. Schmidt and Ptl. Wilhelm are commended for rising and surpassing the normal duties, core value, and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department.

A Letter of Recognition was presented to Ptl. John Corcione in recognition for surpassing the normal everyday duties.



On June 4th, 2021 Ptl. John Corcione responded to the skate park in Veterans Park for a juvenile involved in a skating accident with a severely broken ankle. Ptl. Corcione rendered aid and comfort to the juvenile until the First Aid Squad arrived. The mother of the juvenile related that not only were Ptl. Corcione's actions a credit to her sons' recovery but that Ptl. Corcione was "Professional and Compassionate" in such a hectic event. Ptl. Corcione is commended for rising and surpassing the normal duties, core value, and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department.

A CPR Save Award was presented to Sgt. Richard Jaeger in recognition for an act in which initiative and dedication to duty were shown.

On July 23, 2021, Sgt. Richard Jaeger responded to a medical emergency at 35 Emily Court where a 3-month old infant was unresponsive and without a pulse. Sgt. Jaeger took over life saving measures that were started by the infant's father. The life saving measures which included CPR and the administration of the AED



(Defibrillator). Sgt. Jaeger played a vital role in resuscitating the patient who was promptly transported to a medical facility and is doing well today. Sgt. Jaeger is commended for his life saving action and dedication to duty during one of the toughest of calls.

Special Needs Open House



Hazlet Day



Community Relations



In the Schools



Police Youth Academy

