



2023

Annual Report

Hazlet Township

HAZLET TOWNSHIP

Police Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The year 2023 seemed to have flown by for the Hazlet Township Police Department. Though call volume was lower than last year, the severity of some calls remained. The Township of Hazlet as a community suffered a great loss when a house fire in January took the life of a young child and her heroic mother, a US Customs and Border Patrol Officer. Jaqueline Montanaro died while trying to save her six year old daughter Madelyn, from the second floor of their home which was ablaze. It was a heartbreaking way to begin the new year and we keep the Montanaro family in our thoughts and prayers always.



Also in January, the Hazlet Police Department held a mini walk-out ceremony for one of our Officers who retired. K9 Bane served the Hazlet Community for 7 years and we applaud his dedication to his job. Bane can now retire the K9 title and live out the rest of his life with his handler, Lt. Dickens. The New Year also brought Officers back into the Hazlet Schools for #NotEvenOnce program for the High School and LEAD curriculum for the 7th and 5th grades.



In February, The Hazlet Township Police Department also hosted a Stop The Bleed and Tourniquet training for the Hazlet Township Public School District teachers. During the training, teachers from schools throughout the district learned valuable, lifesaving skills which could help them save lives in the unimaginable event of a casualty situation at the school. In preparation for this event, a fundraiser was held called “Tourniquets for Teachers”. All proceeds from this fundraiser went directly to purchasing tourniquets for the teachers who attended the Stop the Bleed training!

In March, Officers took part in the Hazlet Middle School fundraiser, playing alongside teachers from the district in a basketball game against the Harlem Wizards. Additionally, the members of the department also participated in the annual Climb with a Cop event with the Middletown Police Department. In coordination with 180Turning Lives Around and Bayshore Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, the department hosted its their Annual Smart Strong Safe program for the young women in high school.

Members of the Hazlet Township Police Department and the Hazlet Police Honor Guard were privileged to attend “A Proper Tribute”, a ceremony honoring public safety professionals who lost their lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a procession involving departments from all over the state who escorted the families of those who lost their loved ones during the Covid epidemic. They escorted the families on the Garden State Parkway from the PNC Bank Arts Center to the Epic Church in



Sayreville. There, a beautiful mass was held to honor all of the law enforcement and first responder community lost during that time!

During the spring we held our first Faith & Blue Event of a community gardening day at the James J Cullen Center aka The Senior Center.



Thanks to our sponsor, The Home Depot of Hazlet, the police department, the Hazlet Bible Church, and any residents who wanted to join came together to beautify the Senior Center with flowers and bushes. It was a beautiful day and a great way to connect with community members in a cooperative project. In the spirit of community we also held a Coffee with a Cop at the local McDonalds. It was a fun experience working with the employees to serve up breakfast and early lunch to surprised drive-thru customers.

The Crisis Intervention Team Training has played a pivotal role in community caretaking for those with mental health issues. Lieutenant Michael Galvin and Patrolman Nathan Rucinski attended

the CIT Training in May of this year, with Patrolman Patrick Kiley and Patrolman Richard Wilhelm attending the fall session in October. With these four Officer's trained, the Hazlet Police Department currently has eight Officers trained in Crisis Intervention. These skills are essential to service all members of our community, regardless of the situation. In fact, Officer John Corcione, who was previously trained CIT, received an award from the 200 Club of Monmouth County for his ability to mitigate a crisis situation involving a man with a knife. The 200 club also recognized Lieutenant Robert Dickens for his quick actions on a call at the end of 2022 where a baby accidentally overdosed. Lt Dickens assisted in administering Narcan to the baby which saved them from the overdose and the baby was able to make it to the hospital to recover.

As summer approached, the Department participated in the 40th Annual Torch Run for Special Olympics NJ. A fun fact is our retired Chief Broderick participated in ever torch run that has come through the township of Hazlet except for one- which he was on a family vacation. We kicked off our Summer Reading initiative to encourage the kids of our community to keep up with their reading skills all summer. The program provided a worksheet where a child was required to color in each day they read ten minutes. Once they reached 500 minutes of reading, they turned their worksheet in to the police department and was rewarded with a gift card to the Bowlero or a pass to the Movies. This was a great program to keep our Officers connected with the youth while encouraging education all summer long.



During the summer months, we noticed a rise again in vehicle thefts in our town and surrounding towns. Chief Ted Wittke recognized more needed to be done to help prevent these car thefts and burglaries. After careful development on best practices to safe guard a home, the Hazlet

Township Police Department began going door to door, specifically in targeted neighborhoods, offering a Home Security Assessment. After reaching many residents this way, the program was opened up to allow any resident in town to request an appointment to have the assessment completed. By the end of 2023 the department had contacted 488 residents and completed a Security Assessment for 188 homes. We still offer this free service to all our residents, you can make a request through our website.

The month of August we held our 7th Police Youth Academy. 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. Lieutenant Acevedo has been a significant part of running this program for the past 7 years. This year was his last time being the lead instructor for our cadets, as he is retiring in early 2024. His wisdom and wit will be missed in the years to come. We had a great turnout in participants and a lot of fun interacting with our community's youth!



This year we bid farewell to two Officers of the Hazlet Township Police Department, who reached 25 years of service and retired. Officer Thomas Enright and Lieutenant Scott Randolph both served the residents of Hazlet dutifully during their years on the job and we hope they both have an enjoyable retirement. With their retirement, however, we were able to hire three new Officers to our ranks to ensure our patrol numbers remain at a level to fully service the town appropriately. More about our new officers can be read about in the Field Training section of this report.



We celebrated National Coffee with a Cop day at Starbucks this year where we had a great time interacting with community members inside and taking orders at the drive thru window. In October we hosted our third Special Needs Open House. Near the end of October, the Hazlet Township Police Department held a class called “Run Hide Fight” at the Hazlet Bible Church where parishioners from local churches came to talk about how they can protect their congregations and what circumstances may lead to active resistance against a threat or escaping the situation. As in years past, the department closed out

the year volunteering with the RAINE Foundation for Thanksgiving Dinner. These events are always a favorite for our Officers to volunteer their time and really embrace the meaning of community. The Township committee also approved the swearing in of two more police officers in anticipation of the retirement of Chief Ted Wittke and Lieutenant Christopher Acevedo in the first quarter of 2024.

Sworn Personnel

Chief of Police

Ted Wittke

Deputy Chief of Police

Robert Mulligan

Lieutenants

Christopher Acevedo
Nicholas Greene
Joseph Forgione
Michael Galvin
Robert Dickens

Detectives

Det/Lt Kevin Geoghan
Michael Tristao
Steven Venticinque
Russell Surdi

Sergeants

William Marvel
Richard Jaeger
Tara Theis
Edward Schmidt
Patrick Wood

Patrol Officers

Patrick Kiley
Nathan Rucinski
Cody Sachs, K9 Rico
Brian Jelinski
Kevin Quinn
David Turner
Nicholas Pasquenza
Joshua Wagner
William Poulos

Richard Wilhelm
Nicholas Hungerford
John Corcione
Megan Quinn
Michael Pease
Zachary Kruk
Danielle LaCapria
Michael Vamos
Shane Hicks

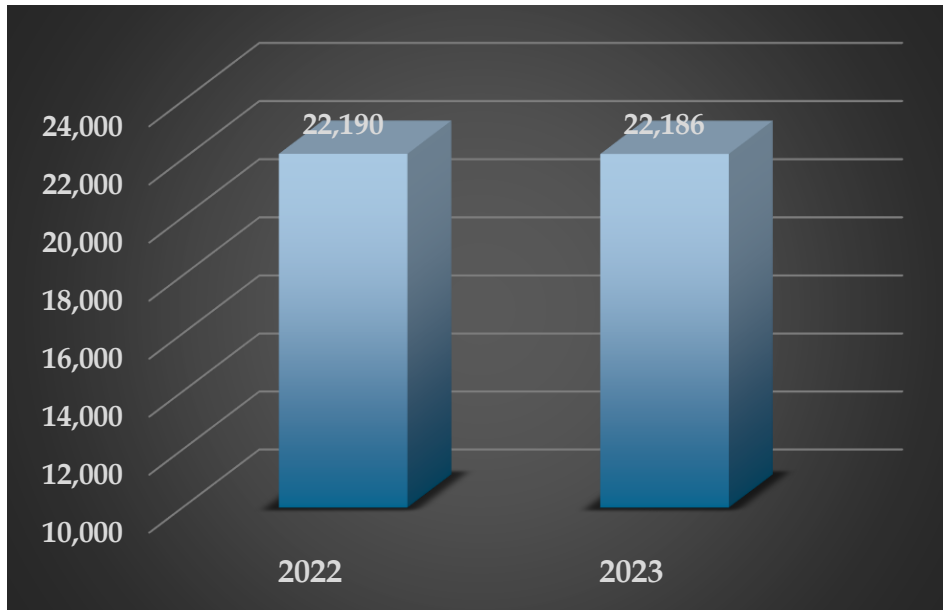
Charleigh Logothetis
Nicholas Torres
Douglas Centrone
Joseph Eckel
Ernie Vega
Connor Sheehan
Rocco Serpico Jr
Kevin Furlong

Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III

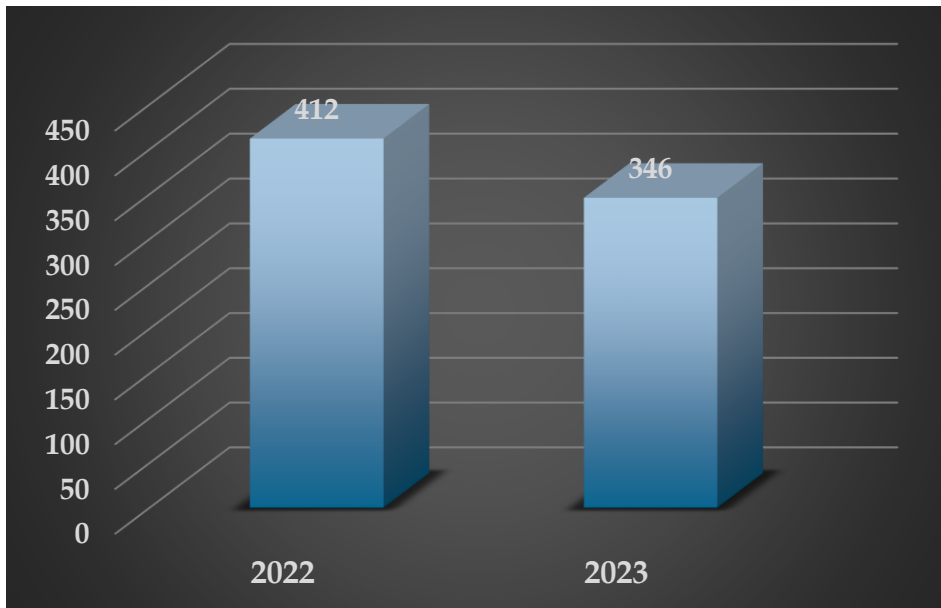
Richard Gizzi
Thomas Ferrari
George Mundo
Christopher Doxbeck

Calls for Service/Criminal Activity

Calls for Service		
<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
22,190	22,186	-4



Arrests		
<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Change</u>
412	346	-66





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	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	1	0	-1
Rape	6	0	-6
Robbery	1	4	+3
Assault	55	93	+38
Burglary	21	50	+29
Theft	154	258	+104
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	12	0

Note: Data is estimated base 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 2022 compared to 2023.

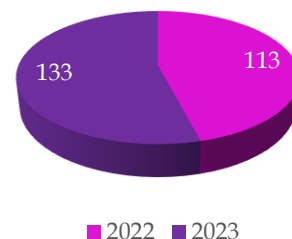
Call Type	2022	2023	Change
Sex Offense, non-rape	6	9	+3
Medical Calls	1,561	1,444	-117
Fire Calls	72	65	-7
Death Investigations	7	11	+4
Disorderly Conduct	389	371	-18
Fraud, forgery, bad checks	98	106	+8
Criminal Mischief	33	73	+40
Missing Persons	38	68	+30
Directed Patrol	275	300	+25

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 2023 the Hazlet Police responded to 133 Domestic Violence related call, which was an increase from 2022. Hazlet Police works 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.



DV Incidents



Emergency Medical Treatment

The Hazlet Township Police Department's Patrol Division answered 1,444 first aid calls in 2023. Included in those 1,444 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 11 times during 2023.

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 Pumps at the ready during patrol shifts, and the Hazlet First Aid deploys an additional Pump as well.

A new addition to our emergency medical care is the LifeVac Anti-Choking Device. This is a non-invasive airway clearance device that can be used on anyone. When other measures, such as the Heimlich Maneuver, are unsuccessful, this tool gives officers another option to clear a victim's airway.



Among other EMS calls, the Patrol Division responded to 30 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 2023, there were 8 work related injury incidents reported, however none resulted in days missed of work.

Motor Vehicle Crashes on Duty

Officer were involved in 3 motor vehicle crashes while on duty in 2023;

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
Cody Sachs	06/08/2023	Backed into parked patrol vehicle
Kevin Quinn	07/07/2023	Struck Vehicle while assisting motorist
Tara Theis	10/14/2023	Side swiped retaining wall

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

	2022	2023
Use of Force Incidents	13	10

Of the force used this year, five (5) incidents involved a subject actively resisting a lawful arrest. Five (5) 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 Conducted Energy Devices 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 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.

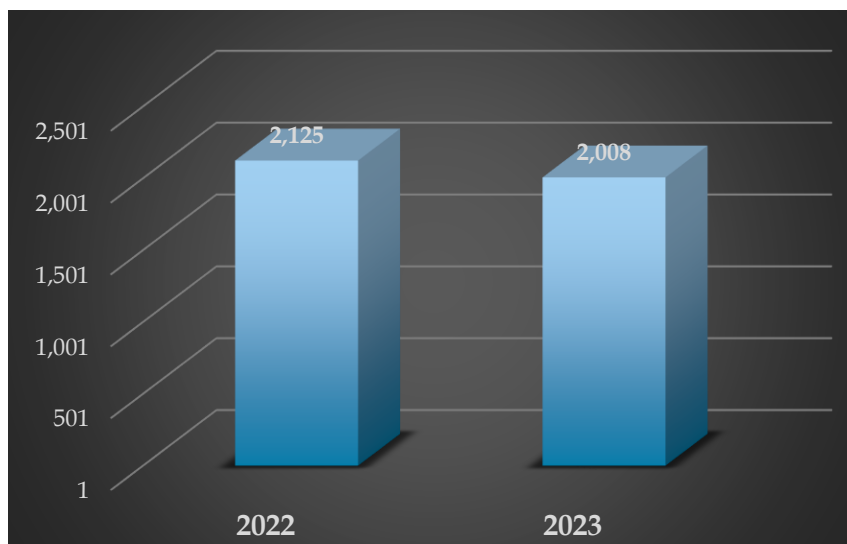
Patrol Division

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 extra hours throughout the month after or before their shift to enforce distracted driving laws. There were 151 motor vehicle stops for distracted driver violations, and 59 tickets issued during the designated enforcement times.

Total Summonses for Motor Vehicle Violations

2022	2023	Change
2,125	2,008	-117



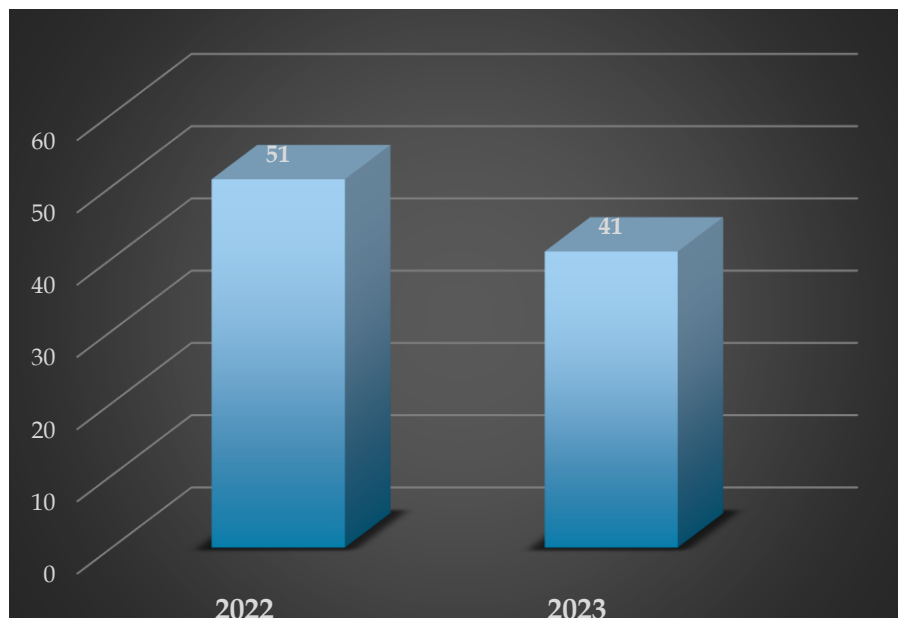
Driving Under the Influence

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) latest data, every day about 37 people in the United States die in drunk-driving crashes – that's one person every 39 minutes. As in past years, to help keep your community safe, the Bayshore Task Force teamed up with the U.S. Department of Transportation's 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 dangers 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

2022	2023	Change
51	41	-10



Field Training

In 2023 we appointed five new full-time patrol Officers, Kevin Furlong, William Poulos, Shane Hicks, Bruce Strickland, and Derek Ernst. All candidates were hired off the NJ Civil Service List of Eligible candidates who pass the entry level Law Enforcement Exam. Furlong, Poulos and Hicks began the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Monmouth County Police Academy in July, graduating at the end of December. Upon graduation they 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.

Strickland and Ernst will begin their training at the Monmouth County Police Academy in January 2024. Once they complete the Basic Course for Police Officers, they will also partake in a 12 week field training program.

The Field Training Commander (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. Patrick Kiley

Ptl. Nicholas Hungerford
Ptl. Brian Jelinski

Ptl. Nicholas Torres
Ptl. Michael Pease

Traffic Safety

Our Traffic Safety Bureau is headed by Traffic Safety Officer (TSO) Douglas Centrone. His duties include fleet management, conducting traffic studies, scheduling traffic related trainings, fielding traffic complaints, establishing traffic plans for special events, and collecting traffic data, among other things.



The Traffic Safety Bureau received an upgraded vehicle this year, ensuring we will always have equipment readily available for any traffic incidents.

A major accomplishment for the Traffic Safety unit this year was to change the light cycling at Highway 35 and Bethany/Poole. This was achieved by working with the state Department of Transportation and provide accident data from that area. In years past, we have seen many serious crashes at this intersection due to driver's attempts to "beat the light" crossing over Highway 35. T-bone, head on, roll overs, you name it, we saw it. Once a major accident happens at a busy State Highway intersection, the traffic pattern and congestion in the Township becomes a navigation nightmare.

Since the cycle change, we have seen a drastic decrease in accidents at this intersection. The accidents we do encounter are minor in nature. Officers are typically able to remove the vehicles from the roadway, which keeps people safe and keeps traffic flowing.

Traffic Safety also acquired two new sign boards for the Township. The Police Department can utilize the sign boards to get out information about community events, scheduled road closures, parking instructions for Township events and public service announcements.

Total Motor Vehicle Accidents: 843

Total Hit and Run Investigations: 110



Notable Patrol Events

August 15th, 2023 Attempted Vehicle Theft

At approximately 0139hrs we receive a call from a good Samaritan regarding suspicious activity at the Buhler Car Dealership. Officer Nicholas Pasquenza and K-9 Officer Cody Sachs responded to the dealership and observed the flashing lights and alarm sounding of a vehicle in the dealerships parking lot. A dark colored SUV was also observed on the side of Holmdel Road with the lights off. As Officers approached the area, the SUV started pulling away. Ptl. Pasquenza then observed a male wearing all black running in the parking lot in the direction of Bayview Avenue towards the vehicle that had just taken off. Ptl. Pasquenza and Ptl. Sachs were able to apprehend the male who was running as he was attempting to get into the moving SUV. The vehicle then sped away and was not able to be stopped. The suspect that was apprehended was a 20-year-old male from East Orange New Jersey. He was processed and transported to the Monmouth County Correctional Institute in Freehold.

August 16th 2023, Package Theft

On this day at approximately 8:13pm, we received a 911 call of a male subject attempting to steal a package off a resident's front stoop. Patrol Officers quickly flooded the area and received a second call of a suspicious male laying on the front lawn of a residence a few streets over. Patrols spoke with the subject who claimed to be coming from the hospital and provided a fake name. After further investigation, the subjects real name was discovered and he was identified as the male attempting to steal the package. This subject had multiple warrants out for his arrest and was also charged with Hinder Apprehension, Theft, and Disorderly Conduct.

October 24th 2023, Crisis Intervention

At approximately 1300hrs a call was received to conduct a welfare check on a male subject who made comments of self-harm to his girlfriend. The subject barricaded himself in a detached garage and refused to come out. Members of the Hazlet Township Police Department were able to speak with the subject, however their efforts to convince him to come out without incident were futile. Hazlet patrol officers assisted in holding the perimeter in the area to ensure no citizens were in danger. It was determined to activate the MOCERT team, who eventually made entry into the garage and detained the subject without incident. The subject was found to have a long gun in the garage with him, though stored and not on his person. He was transported to Bayshore Community Hospital for an evaluation.

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:

	2022	2023	Change
Cases Assigned	155	223	+63
Cases Closed	149	206	+57
Arrests	12	34	+22

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, 2023: 16



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.

In 2023 there were 3 new registrants to move into town, while 4 relocated out of Hazlet. The total of Megan's Law registrants in town is 26.

In 2023 there were (20) Tier 1, (6) 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.

Notable Detective Cases

March 18th 2023, Armed Robbery

On this date, we received a 911 call to a Chinese Food Restaurant in town regarding a subject who entered the establishment with a handgun, assaulted the victim and stole their phone. Upon arrival, patrol officers learned the male suspect assaulted a juvenile and stole his cell phone then attempted to steal the cell phone of another. During the course of the assault, the accused dropped a handgun onto the floor. After picking up the gun he left the scene in a vehicle driven by a young woman. Subsequent investigation revealed the identities of both persons. On March 29, 2023 detectives from Hazlet Township Police Department arrested a 17 year old juvenile from Middletown after executing a search warrant at his residence. The search warrant yielded evidence, including a loaded handgun, from this incident. The 17 year old male juvenile was charged with 1st Degree Armed Robbery, 2nd Degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, 2nd Degree Possession of a Weapon for Unlawful Purpose, 3rd Degree Resisting Arrest, 2 counts of 4th Degree Aggravated Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer, 3rd Degree Throwing Bodily Fluid at Law Enforcement and Disorderly Persons Offense of Simple Assault. The female juvenile was charged with Hindering Apprehension and Unlicensed Driver.

February 11th 2023, Attempt Burglary

On this date, the Hazlet Township Police Department received a call from a resident who noticed a window in their home to be broken. Patrols responded met with the homeowner who showed Ring Camera footage of two suspicious suspects walking around his home. Due to the time of night the subjects were walking and the area they were walking around the home it was concluded they attempted to break into the residence. Det. Tristao was called to process the scene. Det. Tristao was able to successfully pull latent fingerprints and blood samples from the scene and submit them to the state police. Due to Det. Tristao crime scene processing skills, the evidence found at the scene led to an identification of the suspect and a warrant for Burglary and Criminal Mischief has been signed for his arrest.

October 7th 2023, Carjacking

On this date, we receive a 911 call of a reported vehicle theft. The victim reported he was at his residence when two other subjects he was hanging out with stole his vehicle and almost ran him over while taking it. It was also noted one of the subjects had a handgun in his possession. Detective Surdi responded after the stolen vehicle was located in Union Beach. After a thorough investigation, the two suspects were positively identified as juveniles from Union Beach. Det. Surdi was provided a search warrant for the residences of each suspect. During the search, an illegal handgun was recovered and seized. One suspect was charged with Carjacking, Conspiracy to Commit Carjacking, Aggravated Assault, Terroristic Threats, Theft of a Motor Vehicle, Possession of a Weapon, Possession of a Weapon for Unlawful Purpose and for a Defaced Handgun. The second suspect was charged with Carjacking, Conspiracy to Commit Carjacking, Aggravated Assault, and Theft of a Motor Vehicle.

Detective Case Update

You may remember the case we reported in last year's Annual Report regarding robbery at the Shell Station on Highway 36. Officers were unable to locate the suspect and 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 were 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. We are proud to announce Det. Venticinque was able to close this case as the suspect was positively identified and verified through DNA results. He was arrested on May 5th, 2023 and charged with Attempted Murder, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon.

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 2023, there was only 1 Internal Affairs Complaint received.

The single complaint was filed by a citizen regarding the Officer's demeanor. The complaint was sustained and the officer was counseled on the issue.

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 calls such as utilizing 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 to:
 - Civilians
 - Attorneys
 - Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Handle Firearms Transactions
- Discovery Requests for Court Cases
- 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 2023, the Records Division handled 389 OPRA requests. Of these, 343 requests were granted and 46 were denied. There were also 214 discovery requests by attorneys.

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, 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 works 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.

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.

	2022	2023
Evidence/Property Taken in:	1,726*	734
Evidence taken to NJSP Lab:	37	36
Forfeiture cases to MCPO:	3	0
Bio Metric lab print submissions:	6	0
Firearms Applications Investigated:	501	477
Firearms FID Card Approved:	260	214
Pistol Permits Approved:	842	521
CCW Permits Issued	24	68
CCW Pending Investigation	3	21

*This included a merge from old evidence system

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. HLEO's 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 2023, Detective Venticinque worked on a case with the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Humane Law Enforcement Division on a case of an aggressive dog continuously getting out of its residence and caused harm to the general public by biting. The owner was given multiple summonses for having their dog at large and for a potentially dangerous dog.



Officers Sacha and Eckel take time to pose with dogs that were found unsupervised in the township...



...however some Officers get better cooperation from our canine friends than others.

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.



The Hazlet Township Police Department currently has two members assigned to MOCERT:

Off. Brian Jelinski

Off. Rocco Serpico Jr

Officers from Hazlet PD responded to 3 MOCERT Activations in 2023

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 6 RDF Activations in 2023

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 2023;

Sgt. Patrick Wood

Officer Wood responded to 5 SCART activations this year.



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 4 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.

Officer Centrone responded to 4 MERT activations 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 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. Robert Dickens

Lt. Michael Galvin

Sgt. Edward Schmidt

Sgt. 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

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. By providing this invaluable service, we help keep dangerous prescription drugs out of the hands of those who could abuse them and off the streets. This program has been hugely successful. In 2023 we collected and disposed of 321lbs of unused prescription medicine.



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 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 Tuesday at the 255 Middle Road in Hazlet between the hours of 10am and 12pm.

Mike "The Situation" paid us a visit during ASSIST to show his support for our town's addiction services.

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 four (4) 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 William Marvel

#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. Danielle LaCapria

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. Seventh 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

Off. Joseph Eckel

Off. Danielle LaCapria



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 (NJSACOP) 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 had an on-site assessment on October 30th 2023. Two assessors from the NJSACOP completed a tour and inspection of the police headquarters including the evidence vault, armory, and patrol vehicles. An hour long, open to public, call-in was also held for the assessors to hear any and all questions or comments about the Hazlet Township Police Department. After the on-site assessment was complete, it was determined the Hazlet Township Police Department would be recommended for re-accreditation.

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.

Awards Given in 2023

Letter of Recognition

Presented to Deputy Chief Robert Mulligan and Sgt. Robert Dickens



On July 6, 2021, dozens of officers responded to Hazlet for a multi-agency search of a wooded area for a suspect accused of stabbing a person in Keyport. After several hours of an intensive search during unbearable heat and resulting thunderstorms, the Police Department received a call from a witness who observed the wanted subject behind St. Johns Methodist Church. By this time the search had already been called off

because of the weather and Deputy Chief Robert Mulligan and Sgt. Robert Dickens were on their way home. Once the call was broadcasted over the radio they both redirected towards the area where the subject was observed. A brief search revealed that the subject was naked and was hiding behind a fence and air conditioning unit. While Sgt. Dickens held the subject at gunpoint and provided verbal commands, Deputy Chief Mulligan entered the fenced area to place the subject in custody. While making the arrest, Deputy Chief Mulligan sustained injuries to his head from the impact of the fence. Deputy Chief Mulligan and Sgt. Robert Dickens, you are commended for your actions in which you rose to surpass the normal everyday duties and support the core values and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department.

Squad Award

Presented to Sgt Robert Dickens, Ptl Patrick Kiley, Ptl Cody Sachs, Ptl David Turner, Ptl Connor Sheehan, and Ptlwm Danielle LaCapria



On June 17 2022, Several Officers responded to a report of a motor vehicle accident in which the driver fled the scene. Sergeant Dickens responded and observed the driver fleeing from the vehicle on foot. Dickens then engaged the operator in a foot chase until losing the subject in a nearby wooded area. Officers Kiley, Turner, Sheehan and LaCapria set up a perimeter around the area while K9 Rico, Ptl. Sachs and Sgt. Dickens attempted to locate the subject. After an exhaustive search, Ptl. Kiley was able to identify the subject and place him at the scene through investigative means. The subject was apprehended the next day and confessed to the charges of Eluding, Obstruction, and several motor vehicle offenses. All officers performed at a high level with having multiple scenes, and follow up investigative work, needed to make the arrest. They are all commended for their efforts working as a single unit to accomplish a departmental task.

Meritorious Award

Presented to Ptl John Corcione

On June 29th, 2022, Patrolman John Corcione, along with other officers, were dispatched to Home Depot in reference to a suicidal male who was in possession of multiple weapons, particularly knives. The male subject was threatening to harm himself. The officers on location formulated a plan where a perimeter would be established to secure the scene while Patrolman Corcione began to communicate with the suicidal subject. While conversing, it was evident the subject was agitated and he continuously raised the knife in his hand. Using his Crisis Intervention Training, Patrolman Corcione empathized and built a rapport with the male subject. Patrolman Corcione was eventually able to get the suicidal subject to drop the knife to the ground. The subject was subsequently secured and brought to a medical facility for treatment. Patrolman Corcione used outstanding communication and listening skills and prevented risk to life or limb where death or injury could have occurred. Patrolman Corcione is commended for an act of heroism rising under adverse conditions which created risk of injury to another and was prevented by the officer.



Squad Award

Presented to Sgt Edward Schmidt, Ptl Nicholas Hungerford, Ptl Michael Pease, Ptl Rocco Serpico, and Ptl Michael Vamos

On June 29th, 2022, these officers were dispatched to Home Depot in reference to a suicidal male who was in possession of multiple weapons, particularly knives. The male subject was threatening to harm himself. The officers developed a plan to create a perimeter and quickly began their de-escalation tactics. Patrolman John Corcione was able to establish a rapport with the male subject as remaining patrols took up tactically advantageous positions and ensured the scene was safe for all. After a very long duration in which Ptl. Corcione was able to convince the person to surrender, the officers were able safely secure the male subject without harm. These officers are commended for leading the effort in working with a single unit to accomplish a departmental task. This effort saved a life.

Letter of Recognition

Presented to Sgt Edward Schmidt, Ptl Joseph Eckel, Ptl Cody Sachs, Ptl Nicholas Hungerford, Ptl Michael Pease, and Detective Steven Venticinque



On August 9, 2022 officers responded to a Robbery at the Shell Gas Station on Hwy 36 and Middle Road. During the robbery the attendant had been stabbed and the suspect fled on foot prior to police arrival. These officers quickly treated the victim for his injuries and took steps to obtain as much information as possible. Det Venticinque, Ptl

Sachs, and K9 Rico were called to the scene to take statements, locate and process evidence. Using the K-9, Officers on scene were able to track the route that the suspect traveled. During this track, the K9 was able to help officers locate evidence that was ultimately used to identify the wanted person. These officers are commended for their actions as they have surpassed their everyday duties and helped in the apprehension of a violent criminal.

Honorable Service

Presented to Sgt Edward Schmidt, Det Michael Tristao, Ptl John Corcione, Ptl Nicholas Hungerford, and Ptl Joseph Eckel.

On August 17th, 2022, these officers responded to a local residence for a report of an aggravated assault. Once on scene, officers determined the victim needed advanced medical attention. It was also determined the accused was still on location. Quickly, the accused was properly secured. At this time, the Hazlet Township Detective Division as well as the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, specifically the Major Crimes Unit,



were called upon. These officers ensured the crime scene maintained its' integrity as they continued to assist and help process. Detective Tristao processed the scene and conducted the follow up investigation. Subsequent to this lengthy and multifaceted investigation, the accused was charged with homicide. These officers are commended as they rose to and exceeded the challenges they were confronted with an atypical situation.

Exceptional Service

Presented to Sgt Robert Dickens, Sgt Will Marvel, Ptl Patrick Kiley, Ptl Cody Sachs, Det Steven Venticinque, and Ptl David Turner.

On December 29 2022, Officers were dispatched to an emergency in the area of Laurel Avenue and Middle Road, in reference to an unresponsive baby. It was quickly determined that the baby was actively overdosing and NARCAN was administered. The baby was transported to the hospital as he regained consciousness. Officers on scene continued to investigate the incident and eventually secured a residence in Hazlet Township, obtained a search warrant, and seized a substantial number of illegal narcotics. This led to the arrest of the child's father. These officers are commended for the innovative accomplishment which brings praise to Hazlet Township Police Department shown through dedication of service to the community and the law enforcement profession.



Letter of Recognition

Presented to Det Lt Kevin Geoghan, Det Tristao, Det Surdi, and Det Venticinque.



On March 29, 2023 Detectives Michael Tristao, Russell Surdi, Steven Venticinque and Detective Lieutenant Kevin Geoghan, followed up on an investigation of an armed robbery. Detectives were able to quickly identify the suspect and where he lived. They took the additional steps to secure a court ordered search warrant. Due to the fact that the suspect was armed with a handgun and believed to be dangerous, detectives conducted a surveillance operation in order to affect the search warrant safely. After a period of time the suspect was seen exiting his

residence and an attempt was made at taking him into custody before he could reenter the home. The suspect resisted arrest but was taken into custody. The subsequent search of the residence revealed that the suspect did in fact possess an illegal, fully loaded weapon. He was charged with multiple offenses to include Robbery, Simple Assault, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, and Resisting Arrest. These detectives are commended for rising up to surpass the normal everyday duties and supporting the core values and mission of the Hazlet Township Police Department.

Exceptional Service Award

Presented to Sgt. Tara Theis.

In June of 2023 Sgt. Tara Theis showed initiative in working with school district personnel to develop and implement a summer reading program for Hazlet students. This type of creativity lends itself to further foster good police community relations. Sgt. Theis, you are commended for your actions which show an innovative accomplishment bringing public praise to the Hazlet Township Police Department through dedication of service to the community and law enforcement profession.



Squad Award

Presented to Ptl. Serpico, Ptl. Kevin Quinn, Det. Venticinque, Det. Surdi

On June 15, 2023 Ptl. Serpico and Ptl. Kevin Quinn responded to a local gas station for a



report of a robbery in which two subjects stole merchandise and then assaulted the attendant in the process of leaving the premises. Immediately, Ptl. Serpico along with the assistance of Ptl. K. Quinn went to work on identifying the assailants. They took numerous investigative steps to develop two suspects and share that information with the Detective Bureau. The following day Det. Venticinque and Det Surdi followed up on the leads provided and were able to positively identify both of the suspects as the persons that committed the robbery. They

subsequently charged both with a series of crimes. Ptl. Serpico, Ptl. K. Quinn, Det. Venticinque, and Det. Surdi, you are commended for an effort set forth by a group of three or more officers, who worked together as a single unit to accomplish a departmental task rising to the level of protection of life or property.

Letter of Recognition

Presented to Rhonda Schultz

This letter of recognition is to express the utmost appreciation and admiration for your exceptional dedication and commitment to this agency for a remarkable 24-years as the Department's Administrative Assistant. Rhonda Schultz, your unwavering work ethic, outstanding multitasking abilities, fiscal responsibility, commitment, and genuine care for this organization has played a pivotal role in the success we have achieved over the years.



Your commitment to our organization is evident to the entire Department in every task you undertake and your contributions extend far beyond your day-to-day duties. It is with great honor and gratitude that I recognize your exceptional achievements on behalf of the entire Police Department and extend our sincerest appreciation for your contributions in making this agency one of the best. Thank you for your exceptional service and congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.



Alex Mann visits!



Alex Mann, 23 year old Malvern, Pa resident has been on a mission for the last 5 years spending time with police officers while promoting autism awareness. Alex, who at an early age was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, makes it his mission to visit police departments from across the country. During his visits he spreads awareness and shows his support for law enforcement. We were Alex's 395th police department visit!



In the schools





Summer Reading Program



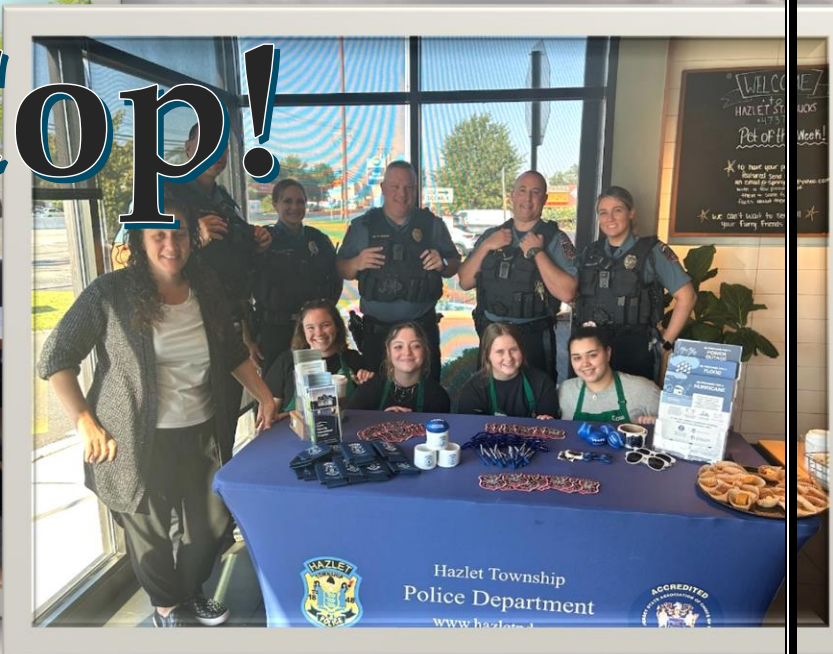


In the Community



Coffee with a

Cop!




FAITH & BLUE



Community Gardening Day

