

2025 Annual Report



**Hazlet Township
Police Department**

Chief Robert Mulligan

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Executive Summary...

The Hazlet Township Police Department's 2025 year was defined by strong community partnerships, proactive public safety initiatives, youth engagement, and continued dedication to service beyond our township borders. Throughout the year, Officers participated in numerous programs and events designed to strengthen relationships with residents, promote safety, and support charitable causes, while also celebrating departmental milestones and growth.



and law enforcement.

The year began in February with Officers participating in *Climb with a Cop*, a regional community event held in partnership with the Middletown PBA. This event brought law enforcement Officers and community members together for a physically challenging and inspiring experience that emphasized teamwork, resilience, and positive police-community interaction. Also during the early part of the year, the department continued its commitment to youth education through the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) to the 5th and 7th grade classes and #NEO (Not Even Once) programs in the high school. These programs focus on prevention through education, well thought out decision-making, and building positive relationships between students

In March, Hazlet Township Police Officers took part in a PTO fundraiser alongside the Harlem Wizards, joining teachers, parents, and students for a high-energy basketball game that supported the Hazlet Middle School while reinforcing the department's connection to the youth it serves. These lighthearted events provided meaningful opportunities for Officers to show their non-authoritative side and have fun in the community. April was highlighted by the *Smart Strong Safe* program, a collaborative effort with Bayshore Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and 180 Turning Lives Around. This program empowered participants with personal safety skills, confidence-building techniques, and resources for recognizing and responding to unsafe situations. The initiative underscored the department's commitment to prevention, awareness, and victim advocacy.



Throughout the year, the department hosted *Coffee with a Cop* events in partnership with local McDonald's and Starbucks locations. These informal gatherings allowed residents to engage in open conversation with Officers, ask questions, share concerns, and build trust in a relaxed setting.

A significant point of pride in 2025 was Traffic Safety Officer Centrone's participation in the Police Unity Tour. This multi-day bicycle ride honors law enforcement Officers who have died in the line of duty, while raising funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Officer Centrone's dedication to this cause reflected the department's respect for fallen Officers nationwide and its commitment to remembering their sacrifice.

In May, the department hosted a *Bike Safety Skills* event and *Learn to Ride* program in



partnership with EZ-Ride. These programs focused on teaching children proper bicycle handling, safety rules, and confidence on the road, reinforcing the importance of safe recreation and injury prevention.



June featured the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, where Officers proudly carried the torch to raise awareness and funds for Special Olympics athletes. The month also included *Craft with a Cop*, a family-friendly event that gave children the opportunity to create crafts alongside Officers, fostering positive connections through creativity and conversation.

Within the department, Officers gathered to celebrate the retirement of Detective Tristao, honoring a career marked by dedication and service to Hazlet Township. The department also welcomed two new patrol Officers, strengthening its ability to serve the community and continue its mission of public safety.

During the summer months, the department ran its *500 Minutes of Summer Reading* program, encouraging young residents to continue reading while school was out of session. This initiative supported academic growth and emphasized the department's role in supporting youth development beyond enforcement.



August was a particularly active month, beginning with the department's Youth Academy, which provided participants with hands-on learning experiences about law enforcement operations, teamwork, and civic responsibility. That same month, Hazlet Township Police hosted its first-ever *First Responder Food Drive Competition*.



Police, Fire, and EMS personnel competed to collect the most food items for donation to St. John's United Methodist Church Food Bank. Collection bins were placed in the police department lobby, allowing community members to cast a "vote" for their favorite first responders through donations.

While the Fire Department ultimately won the competition, the collective effort resulted in the donation of over 1,000 food items to the pantry, demonstrating the power of friendly competition combined with community generosity.

In the fall, the department partnered with Hazlet Bible Church to host the *Faith & Blue Fall Fest*, an event aimed at building trust and fostering relationships between law enforcement, faith-based organizations, and the community. October also included the *Special Needs Resource Fair*, providing families with access to valuable information, services, and support resources in a welcoming environment.

The year concluded with Officers giving back through volunteer efforts with the RAIN Foundation, supporting both its Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas toy drive. These efforts ensured local families in need received meals during the holidays and children were able to experience the joy of receiving gifts.



As 2025 came to a close, the Hazlet Township Police Department reflected on a year marked by service, partnership, and progress. Through community engagement, youth programs, charitable initiatives, and professional dedication, the department remained steadfast in its mission to serve and protect while strengthening the bonds that make Hazlet Township a safe and connected community.



Sworn Personnel

Chief of Police

Robert Mulligan

Deputy Chief of Police

Kevin Geoghan

Lieutenants

Joseph Forgione
Michael Galvin
Robert Dickens
Richard Jaeger
William Marvel

Sergeants

Tara Theis
Edward Schmidt
Patrick Wood
John Corcione III
Megan Surdi

Detectives

Det/Lt Nicholas Greene
Steven Venticinque
Russell Surdi
Richard Wilhelm

Patrol Officers

Patrick Kiley
Nicholas Hungerford
Douglas Centrone
Kevin Quinn
David Turner
Nicholas Pasquenza
Joshua Wagner
William Poulos
David Ernst

Charleigh Logothetis
Nicholas Torres
Brian Jelinski
Michael Pease
Zachary Kruk
Danielle LaCapria
Michael Vamos
Shane Hicks
Matthew Birdsall

Nathan Rucinski
Cody Sachs, K9 Rico
Joseph Eckel
Ernie Vega
Connor Sheehan
Rocco Serpico Jr
Kevin Furlong
Bruce Strickland
Natale Iannello Jr

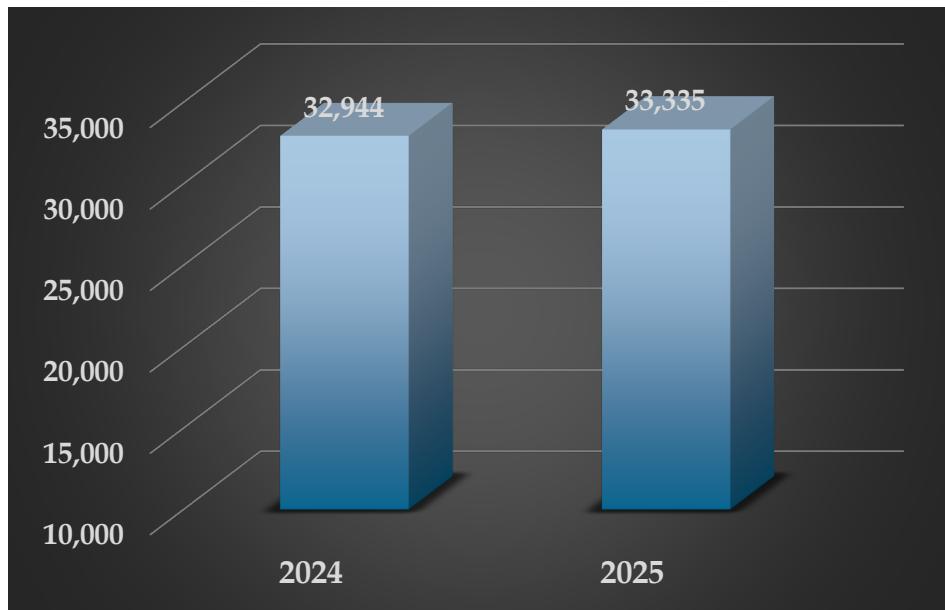
Special Law Enforcement Officer Class III

Richard Gizzi
George Mundo
Christopher Doxbeck
Scott Randolph
Christopher Acevedo

Calls for Service/Criminal Activity

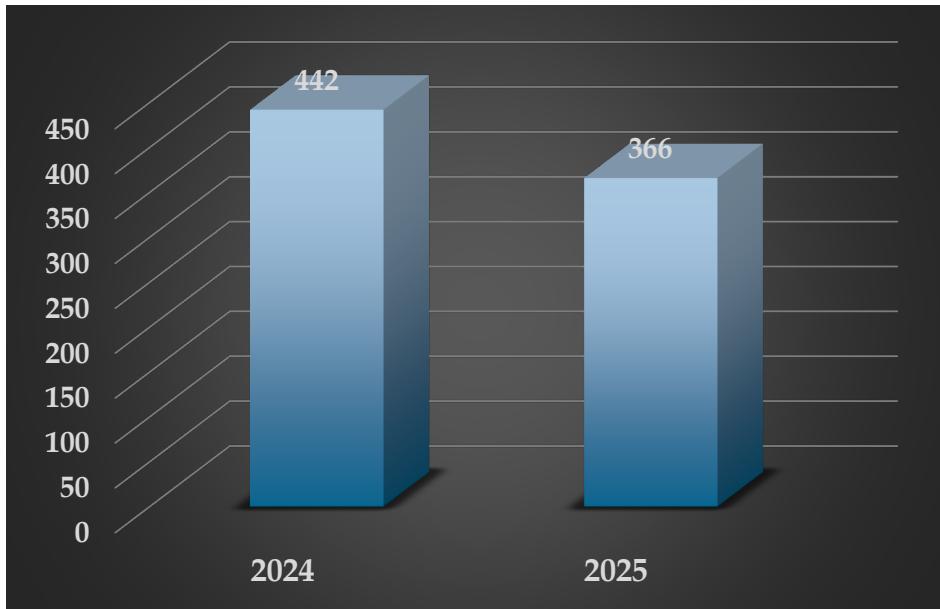
Calls for Service

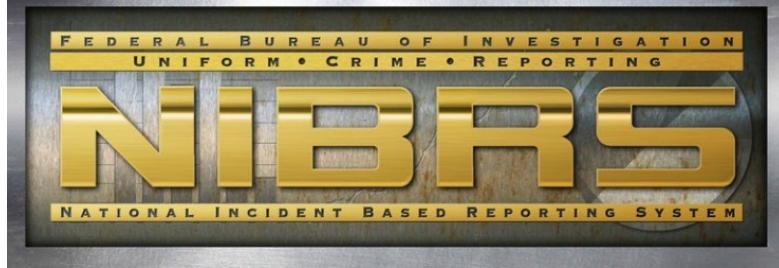
<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Change</u>
32,944	33,335	+391



Arrests

<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>Change</u>
442	366	-76





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	2024	2025	Change
Homicide	1	1	0
Rape	3	2	-1
Robbery	4	1	-3
Assault	89	77	-12
Burglary	28	15	-13
Theft	236	167	-69
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	11	+1

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

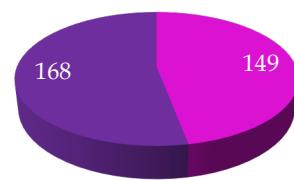
The following list indicated the classification of the other types of calls for service, both criminal and non-criminal in nature. The following call types were handled by the members of the Police Department in 2025 compared to 2024.

Call Type	2024	2025	Change
Sex Offense, non-rape	7	8	+1
Medical Calls	1,592	1676	+81
Fire Calls	92	102	+10
Death Investigations	10	13	+3
Disorderly Conduct	462	358	-104
Fraud, forgery, bad checks	72	73	+1
Criminal Mischief	40	31	-9
Missing Persons	43	35	-8
Directed Patrol	494	335	-159

Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is a serious crime against society, 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 2025 the Hazlet Police responded to 168 Domestic Violence related calls, which was an increase from 2024. 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 Turning Lives Around 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 regarding 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



■ 2024 ■ 2025

Emergency Medical Treatment

The Hazlet Township Police Department's Patrol Division answered 1,676 first aid calls in 2025. Included in those 1,676 calls are difficulty breathing, possible strokes, physical injuries, and calls that require Officers to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR).

Our Officers are trained and provided with equipment to assist in life saving efforts during cardiac arrest calls. The Stryker Lucas Chest Compression Systems we deploy, when strapped to a patient, delivers consistent, high-quality CPR every time. It works by creating 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 2025.

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. Additionally, Officers are trained in the use of automated external defibrillators (AED), which can detect an irregular heart rhythm that can potentially be fixed with an electric shock. The department purchased five (5) new AEDs, Powerheart G5, to deploy when needed. We now have 10 new AEDs for our life saving efforts.



Among other EMS calls, the Patrol Division responded to 23 overdose calls. Officers administered Naloxone (Narcan) 23 times to assist those suffering from drug overdoses. 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 to come out of the overdose state. Most times patients are brought to the hospital for further treatment, however for 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 2025, there were 7 work related injury incidents reported, one resulting in four days of work missed, another resulting in thirty three days of work missed.

Motor Vehicle Crashes on Duty

Officers were involved in 6 motor vehicle crashes while on duty in 2025;

<u>Officer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Synopsis</u>
David Turner	01/19/2025	Vehicle Struck Police Cruiser
John Corcione	02/09/2025	Vehicle Struck Deer
Nicholas Pasquenza	05/30/2025	Vehicle Struck Police Cruiser
Nicholas Pasquenza	06/16/2025	Deer Struck Police Cruiser
Doug Centrone	11/10/2025	Police Truck Struck Vehicle
Patrick Kiley	11/14/2025	Vehicle Struck Police Cruiser

Driving is a large portion of the patrol Officer's duty. All Officers must pass an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course during their academy training. All Officers involved in an accident on duty are subject to a meaningful review.



Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

Each Officer of the Hazlet Township Police Department 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 the State's use of force portal. Our internal policies require several further reviews conducted by supervisors, and ultimately all use of force is reported to the Office of the Attorney General. 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 fifteen (15) Officers trained in the Crisis Intervention Team, the Hazlet Township Police Department is constantly finding ways to connect with citizens in crisis. This helps avoid the need to use any type of force against them just to gain compliance to go to the hospital for an evaluation.

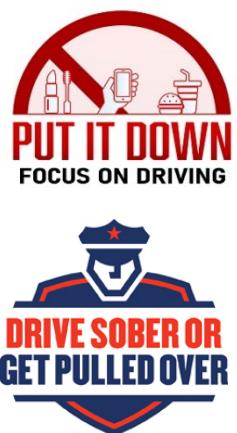


It's important to note, Officers were only involved in 6 incidents in which force was used. Sometimes there are multiple reasons force is used for one incident, and multiple Officers involved in one incident who are required to report any force they use. There was a total of 16 Officers involved in use of force incidents in 2025. Of these incidents, four Officers sustained injuries and one subject was injured. Medical Assistance is given to any injured person immediately after the threat of violence has subsided.

Patrol Division

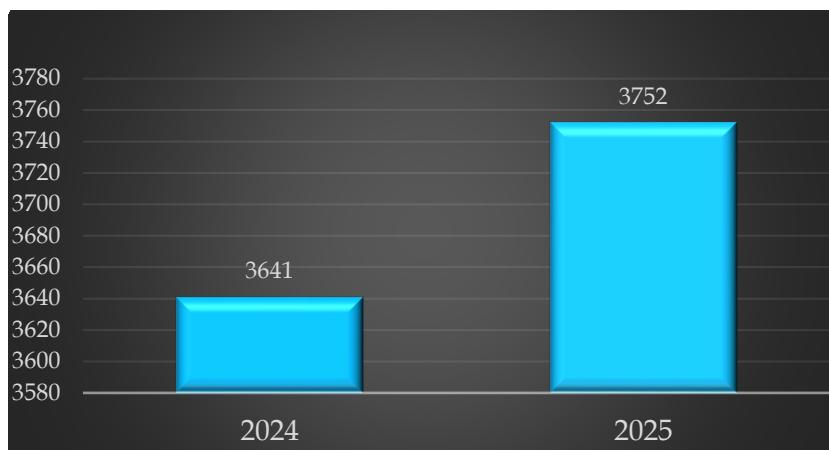
Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department and arguably the most important. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighbor disputes, domestic violence incidents, traffic accidents, burglaries, and death investigations. 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 the month of April, Grant Money from the Traffic division allowed for extra patrols to combat distracted and drunk driving. The Hazlet Township Police Department uses funds received from the Federal Highway Traffic Safety Grant to employ additional Officers on the road to keep an eye out for distracted driving among other dangerous driving behaviors. There were 703 motor vehicle stops during this enforcement period, and 281 tickets issued during the designated enforcement times.



Total Summons for Motor Vehicle Violations

2024	2025	Change
3,641	3,752	+111



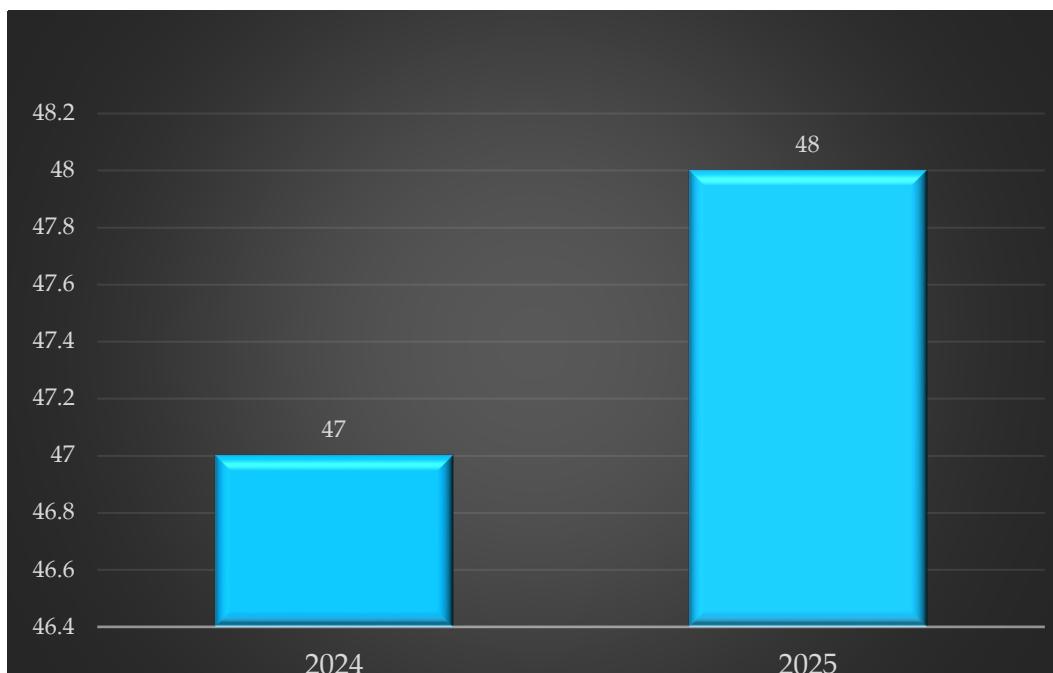
Driving Under the Influence

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 New Jersey, 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.

They 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

2024	2025	Change
47	48	+1



Field Training

In July of 2025 the Township of Hazlet appointed two new full-time Officers who began their training at the Monmouth County Police Academy in July of 2025. On December 17th 2025 Patrolman Matthew Birdsall and Patrolman Natale Iannello Jr. graduated from the 109th Basic Course of the Monmouth County Police Academy, where they spent the last 5 months learning the necessary skills to be effective Officers. They will immediately began their 12 week field training where they can apply the skills they learned in the academy to real life calls and police situations. We look forward to both Officers completing their training and becoming a solo beat Officer before the summer!

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 Lt. Michael Galvin.

The following Officers are designated and trained as FTOs:

Ptl. Patrick Kiley
Ptl. Brian Jelinski
Ptl. Connor Sheehan

Ptl. Nicholas Hungerford
Ptl. Michael Pease
Ptl. David Turner

Ptl. Nicholas Torres
Ptl. Zachary Kruk
Ptl. Rocco Serpico



Traffic Safety

Our Traffic Safety Bureau is managed by Sergeant Patrick Wood and Traffic Safety Officer (TSO) Douglas Centrone. The duties of the Traffic Safety Unit include fleet management, conducting traffic studies, scheduling traffic related training, fielding traffic complaints, establishing traffic plans for special events, and collecting traffic data, among other things.

Throughout the year, the Traffic Safety Unit conducted patrols at more than 70 traffic posts in response to community concerns and identified hazards. The unit routinely receives traffic-related complaints from the public regarding issues such as signage, speeding, and other potential safety concerns. Upon receiving a complaint, Traffic Safety Officers (TSOs) review the area for crash history, traffic violations, and prior complaints.

The Traffic Safety Unit utilizes multiple methods to collect traffic data. Radar feedback signs are used to display vehicle speeds while also recording speed data and calculating averages. In addition, traffic recording boxes, which are less noticeable to motorists, are deployed to gather vehicle speed and volume data without driver awareness. This information is analyzed to substantiate complaints and identify specific roadways and time periods where additional enforcement is needed. Once data collection and analysis are complete, the Traffic Safety Unit shares its findings with the Patrol Division. Patrol supervisors then use this information to schedule radar details and traffic posts aimed at addressing traffic concerns and improving roadway safety.

TSO Centrone continued his work on improving the Henry Hudson Trail Crossing on Laurel Ave for better visibility of pedestrians crossing. LED Stop Signs were installed at the Trail Crossing by the Monmouth County Parks System. Updated road markings on Laurel Ave are pending as well as an overhead warning system. The Traffic Safety unit also deployed two additional LiDAR systems into our Traffic Enforcement arsenal. LiDAR stands for Light Detection and Ranging, a technology using pulsed laser light to measure a vehicle's speed by calculating the time it takes for light to return, offering precise targeting for traffic enforcement. Officers receive training in the use of the LiDAR system, currently we have 7 certified LiDAR operators.



Total Motor Vehicle Accidents: 1068

Total Hit and Run Investigations: 147

Fatal Accidents in 2025: 1



Notable Patrol Events

July 19th 2025, Theft

Ptl. Rucinski responded to a burglary call at Devon Self Storage on this day at approximately 9:30AM. Ptl. Rucinski processed the scene with the assistance of Sgt. Schmidt and found that the amount of property stolen was valued at several thousand dollars. Ptl. Rucinski gathered pertinent evidence of the crime and used investigative tools to identify two suspects. Det. Venticinque assisted Ptl. Rucinski's further investigation of the incident. The combined effort resulted in the positive identification of one of the suspects. Ptl. Rucinski subsequently issued an arrest warrant for one of the actors.

October 7th 2025, Shoplifting Ring

Patrols responded to the Sally Beauty for a report of a robbery. Ptl. Hicks, Sheehan, Kruk, and Furlong canvassed the area for the suspects with the assistance of Det. Wilhelm and Venticinque. Detectives subsequently processed the scene for any available evidence while Ptl. Kruk communicated with neighboring Departments. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the suspects did not commit robbery, however, one of the suspects may have been the leader of an organized retail theft enterprise. Due to Ptl. Kruk's quick thinking, the subjects were apprehended by a neighboring jurisdiction as the suspects were possibly attempting to commit the same crime in their town at the same chain store the same day. Both suspects were arrested and charged accordingly. Ptl. Kruk applied for a search warrant for the suspect's vehicle which was granted. Ptl. Kruk and Det. Wilhelm executed the search warrant which resulted in additional charges for the suspects and the retrieval of additional evidence

November 18th 2025, Shoplifter/Drug Distribution

At approximately 10:19AM Ptl. Turner was dispatched to CVS Pharmacy for a shoplifting in progress. While enroute, county dispatch gave a description of the shoplifter and related they left the store. Ptl Turner encountered a vehicle leaving the CVS lot with the front seat passenger fitting the description given. Ptl Turner stopped the vehicle and in turn was able to identify the shoplifter as well as identify drug paraphernalia throughout the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a large amount of cocaine/crack, much more than Officers believed to be for personal use, resulting in the arrest of the driver as well. Additionally, the positive identification of this shoplifter assisted in closing previous shoplifting cases from other stores in town.

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:

	2024	2025	Change
Cases Assigned	137	222	+85
Cases Closed	124	211	+87
Arrests	32	13	-19

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

-Current number of active cases as of December 31st, 2025: 11 active cases



Megan's Law

The task of managing Megan's Law registrants within the township rests with the Detective Division. Detectives Richard Wilhelm and Steven Venticinque oversee this responsibility. Registrants are required to register anytime they move to a new address within the township, even a minimal move as a change within the same building to a different apartment or motel room. Registrants must also register upon moving into Hazlet Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

In 2025 there were no new registrants in town.

As of December 31st, 2025 there are (24) 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 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 Detectives after they register.

Notable Detective Cases

March 8th 2025, Burglary/Theft

On this date at approximately 05:45AM Ptl. Pasquenza responded to a local business located in the area of Palmer Avenue. The business owner reported that one of the business' vehicles was stolen along with a large number of tools with a value totaling over an estimated \$100k. Ptl. Pasquenza assisted Det. Venticinque in processing the scene and securing valuable evidence. Det. Venticinque diligently chased down all available leads and utilized the newest investigative tools to identify two suspects with the assistance of the NJSP. Det. Venticinque subsequently issued two arrest warrants for the suspects which led to one being apprehended.

July 4th 2025, Attempted Murder

During this night, multiple calls for service lead us to this crime. At about 10:16PM, it was discovered a male subject was stabbed multiple times in the area of Frances Place. Patrol Kruk, Ptl. Hicks, Ptl. Furlong, and Lt. Jaeger responded to the scene. The victim was able to transport themselves to an area hospital and a perimeter was quickly established at the scene of the incident by Patrols. Det. Surdi subsequently responded to the scene and established command of the investigation. Through his efforts, the suspect was quickly identified. Det. Surdi's hard work, in collaboration with the MCPO and US Marshals efforts, led to the suspect subsequently turning himself into Det. Surdi on 7/22/25.

September 4th, 2025, Stalking

On this night, Ptl. Pasquenza investigated a report of a suspicious vehicle sitting outside a mobile home in town. Ptl. Pasquenza did not locate the vehicle in the mobile home park, however encountered a vehicle matching the description on Laurel Ave. Ptl Pasquenza followed the vehicle for a short period of time while running the registration to see who the vehicle belonged to. After finding the name on the vehicle, Ptl Pasquenza performed a motor vehicle stop. A quick search of our local records system revealed the operator was a defendant for a restraining order in that mobile home and he had made multiple false reports to the police the past few nights. He was promptly arrested, and Det. Wilhelm was assigned this new investigation. Detective Wilhelm applied for search warrants for the contents of the suspect's phone. Det. Wilhelm developed Probable Cause after a thorough investigation and charged the suspect with stalking. The suspect was later housed in MCCI pending court.

Internal Affairs

The Hazlet Township Police Department is committed to providing fair, effective, and impartial law enforcement services. Officers are held to the highest standards of professional conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all individuals.

The effectiveness of the department depends on public trust and acceptance of police authority. To maintain this trust, the department provides formal procedures for the receipt, investigation, and resolution of complaints regarding Officer conduct.

The purpose of the Internal Affairs Policy is to enhance the quality and integrity of law enforcement services by ensuring accountability, promoting compliance with departmental policies, identifying training or policy needs, and safeguarding fairness and due process for both citizens and Officers.

In 2025, there were 15 Internal Affairs Complaints received, and one pending investigation from 2024 that was closed during 2025:

The complaints are laid out as follows:

# of Complaints	Complaint	Disposition
3	Differential Treatment	Unfounded
2	Improper Arrest	Exonerated
1	Improper Entry	Exonerated
2	Demeanor	Unfounded
2	Demeanor	Exonerated
1	Demeanor	Administratively Closed
1	Other Rule Violation	Exonerated
2	Other Rule Violation	Unfounded
2	Other Rule Violation	Administratively Closed

The Hazlet Township Police Department works closely with the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office. In certain situations a bifurcated investigation is conducted by both agencies. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted. The Internal Affairs function is overseen by Detective Lieutenant Nicholas Greene.

Training

Law Enforcement necessitates training to be constant, effective, and evolving. This ensures that Officers are kept abreast of 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, the department hosts ten trainings days throughout the entire year.

Lieutenant Dickens is responsible for the continued development of our Officers through in-house training and scheduling of classes. Lieutenant Dickens ensures our Officers are kept up to date with the latest information and hands-on training the State has to offer. Along with the usual training, Lieutenant Dickens plans tours of businesses in town for Officers to be able to orient themselves should a critical incident occur. This past year we toured Costco and the Cinemark movie theater.

Lieutenant Jaeger is the agency's supervising firearms instructor. Lieutenant Jaeger is responsible for all aspects related to firearms training, qualifications, and most importantly, safety. Much of our firearm's training is conducted at Hazlet Police headquarters in our in-house shooting range dedicated to the late 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 takes advantage of the MILO system equipped in the range to put Officers through real-life like scenarios, and adjusts the simulation based on the Officer's words and actions.

This past year Police Licensing has taken effect. All Officers were initially granted their license, but the State requires one third (1/3) of our Officers to apply for renewal each year. This staggering of renewals ensures thorough application and approval processes can be completed for each Officer who applies for their license renewal. In 2025 17 Officers had their licenses renewed.



Much of our training is done online using a document management system called PowerDMS. PowerDMS 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:

- Bloodborne 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
- Arrest Search and Seizure Updates and retraining
- Pre-Incarceration Searches
- DNA Collection
- Case Law Updates

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



During 2025, the Records Division handled 666 OPRA requests. Of these, 608 requests were granted and 58 were denied. Additionally, our records personnel processed 211 discovery requests for court proceedings.

The Records staff consists of the following employees:

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

Special Services Unit

Special Services include 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 reflects 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 continues to send out important information and we also have 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.

Since June of 2022, our Special Services Department has had the additional responsibility of handling CCW (concealed carry weapon) permits.

	2024	2025
Evidence/Property Taken in:	1,084	655
Evidence taken to NJSP Lab:	36	28
Forfeiture cases to MCPO:	3	1
Bio Metric lab print submissions:	4	8
Firearms Applications Investigated:	440	411
Firearms FID Card Approved:	239	211
Pistol Permits Approved:	559	539
CCW Permits Issued	108	110
CCW Pending Investigation	17	0

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 New Jersey 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.

Often our resident dogs find a way to escape the safety of their home and yard. When we locate these dogs on the run, we'll first use our chip scanner to find if there is any information available. If not, we snap a picture and post it to our Facebook page in hopes we can find their homes before calling animal control to take them off to the shelter for holding. Here are some pictures of our Officers with the "captured" canines from 2025.



MONMOUTH COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM & RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE

The Monmouth County Emergency Response Team (MOCERT) is operated by the County Prosecutor's Office and integrates tactically trained Officers from numerous municipal police departments to form one team. Currently we have two members 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:

Ptl. Brian Jelinski

Ptl. Rocco Serpico Jr

Patrolmen from Hazlet PD responded to 17 MOCERT Activations in 2025

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 four members assigned to RDF:

Ptl. Nicholas Hungerford

Ptl. Nathan Rucinski

Ptl. Nicholas Torres

Ptl. Michael Pease

Patrolmen from Hazlet PD responded to 20 RDF Activations in 2025

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.

Sgt. Patrick Wood



Sergeant Wood responded to 3 SCART activations in 2025.



Drug Recognition Experts

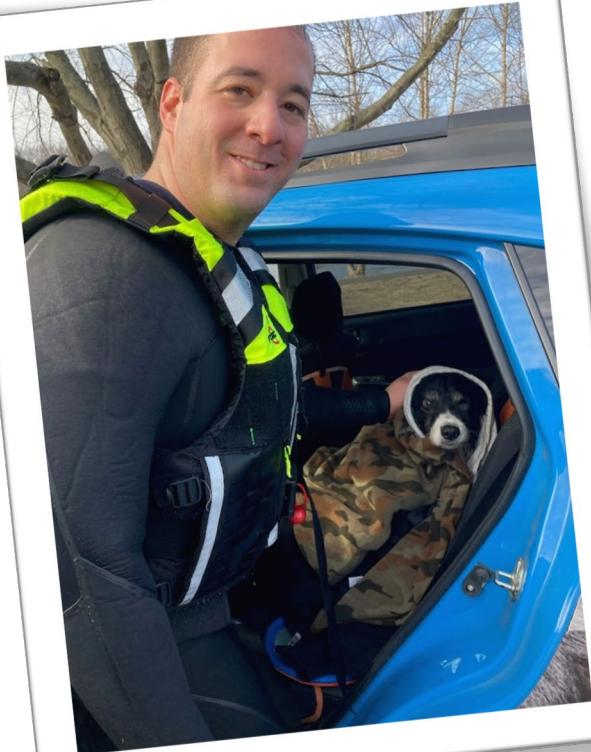
The Drug Evaluation and Classification (DEC) Program is a national effort to deter impaired driving by increasing the likelihood that people who drive under the influence of drugs will be detected, caught, convicted, and punished. The DEC Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation's 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 one Drug Recognition Experts who is on the Monmouth County Registrar of DRE's and is compensated by the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office:

Lieutenant William Marvel recertified his DRE Certification this year

Maritime Emergency Response Team

The Monmouth County Maritime Emergency Response Team (MERT) is a valuable shared service 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, Ptl. Douglas Centrone.

Patrolman Centrone responded to 4 MERT activations this year.



While not necessarily a MERT activation, on the morning of February 25th 2025, we received a frantic call for a dog who was stuck in the pond at Veteran's Park. While attempting to chase a goose, the dog fell through the ice and was struggling to get out of the water and back to the shore. Using his MERT gear and training, TSO Centrone sprung into action and got on the ice to help the struggling canine. Thanks to assistance from Officer Centrone, the dog, known as Taf, was able to safely get back to shore and wrapped up in a towel to warm up.

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 flags and rifles. 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 Officers who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Members of the Honor Guard

Ptl. Russell Surdi (Commander)

Chief Robert Mulligan
Deputy Chief Kevin Geoghan
Lt. Nicholas Greene
Lt. Robert Dickens
Lt. Michael Galvin
Sgt. Edward Schmidt
Sgt. Patrick Wood
Sgt. Megan Surdi
Ptl. Richard Wilhelm
Ptl. Rocco Serpico Jr

Ptl. Nathan Rucinski
Ptl. Nicholas Hungerford
Ptl. Nicholas Torres
Ptl. Cody Sachs
Ptl. Steven Venticinque
Ptl. Douglas Centrone
Ptl. Kevin Quinn
Ptl. Joseph Eckel
Ptl. Ernie Vega
Ptl. Joshua Wagner

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 2025 we collected and disposed of 365lbs 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 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 people 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 member of Hazlet's Hope Network 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 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 program consists of five (5) 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 for our youth-sometimes even climbing trees to help get a stuck football out! Our SLEOIII Officers are strictly employed for the calendar school year. The SLEOIII program is supervised by Sergeant Patrick Wood



#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 regarding 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 goal of this program is to educate and give our youth the tools they need to make sound decisions when it comes to drug abuse education. We also host speakers who are in recovery to give their real stories of substance use and the rocky road it took them down. The following Officers were selected to teach and guide this special program:

Lt. Joseph Forgione
Sgt. John Corcione
Sgt. Megan Surdi
Ptl. Charleigh Logothetis
Ptl. Danielle LaCapria
Ptl. Nicholas Hungerford



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. John Corcione

Sgt. Megan Surdi

Ptl. Charleigh Logothetis

Ptl. Nathan Rucinski

Ptl. Nicholas Hungerford

Ptl. Joseph Eckel

Ptl. 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 in October of 2023 where it was recommended for Re-Accreditation. After meeting with the NJSACOP's New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission board in March of 2024, the recommendation for Re-Accreditation was affirmed and the Hazlet Township Police Department remains an accredited agency.

Becoming an accredited agency reduces liability on individual Officers, the Police Department and the Township. It also ensures 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.



Retirement and New Officer Appointment



In the schools



Summer Reading Program



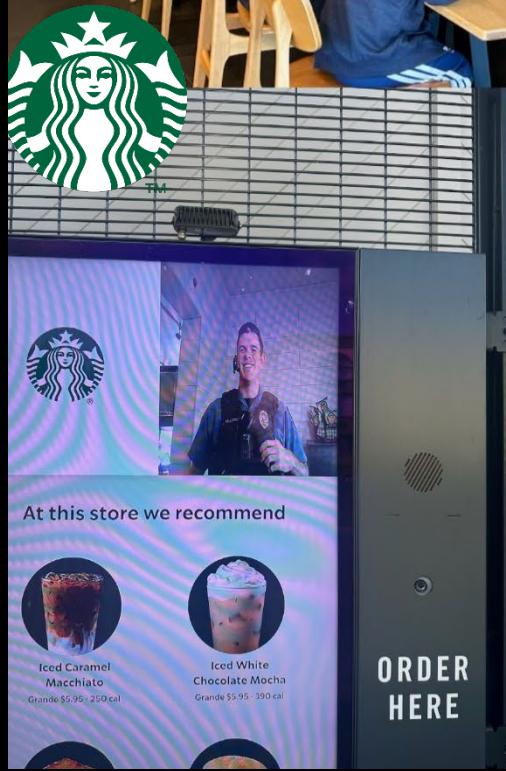
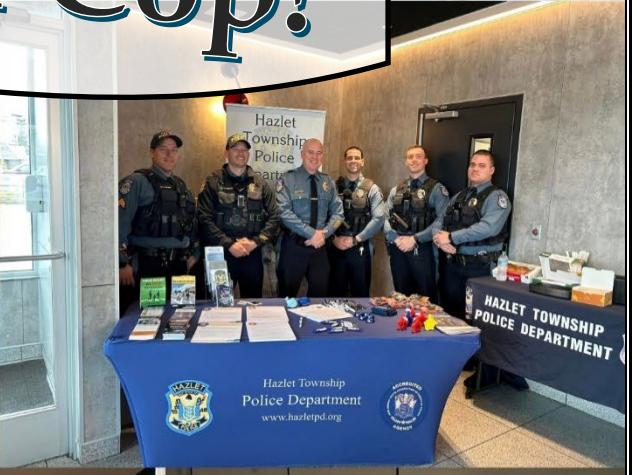
Hazlet Township Police Department.

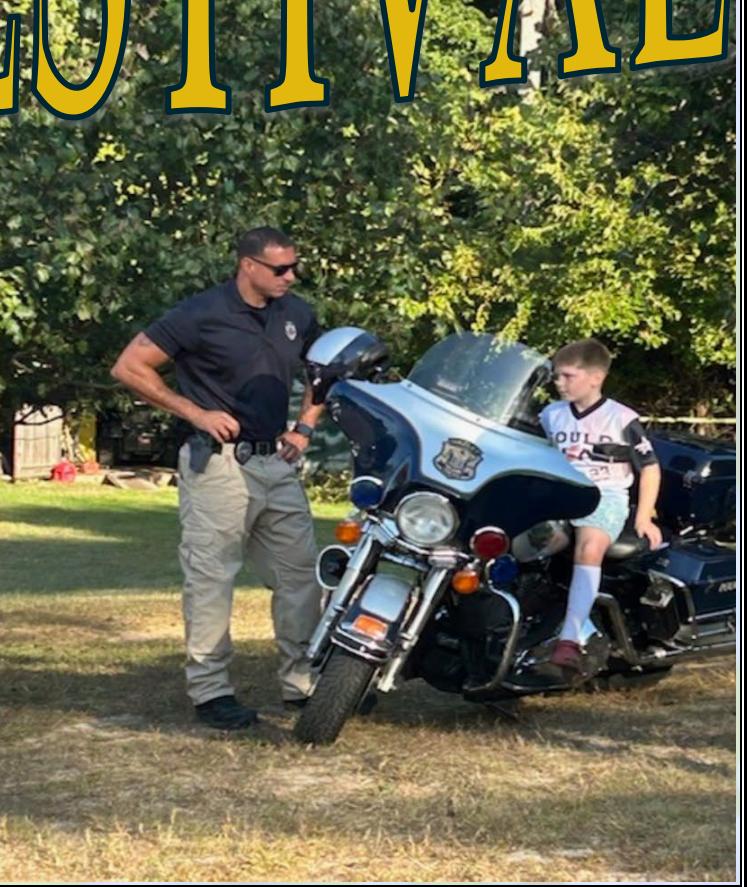
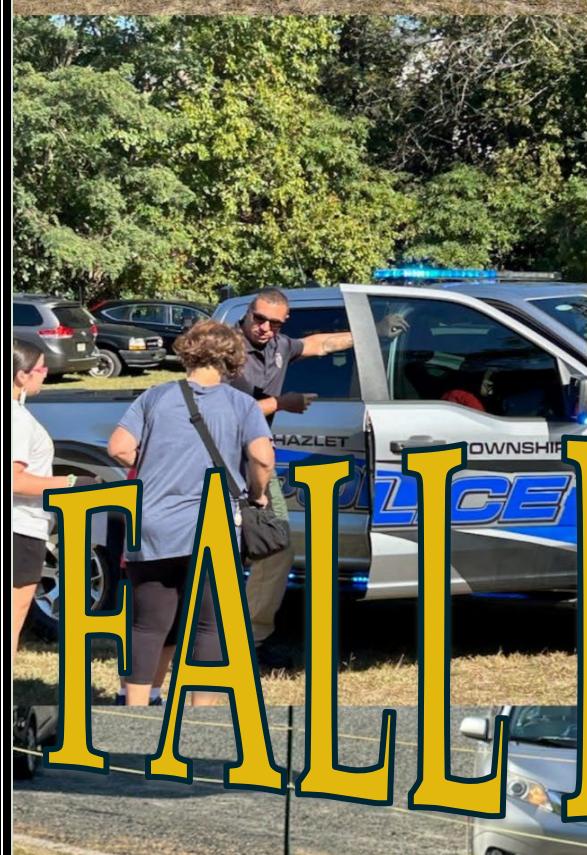


Hazlet Day Faith and Blue Food Drive Competition



Coffee with a Cop!





FALL FESTIVAL

