

MORRIS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2024 ANNUAL REPORT

# MORRIS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**Robert W. Shearer, Chief of Police**

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The following is the Annual Report of the Police Department for 2024. The information presented in this report summarizes the activities, accomplishments, and areas of responsibility for the organization in 2024. Provided in this report is a synopsis of each area of responsibility within the agency. During 2024, we accomplished our mission through the dedicated efforts of the men and women of this department.

Our police department exceeds the mandatorily required training established by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Police Training Committee. Our focus is on not only completing the mandatory training as prescribed by the Police Training Commission and the Attorney General's Office, but to make sure that our officers are well rounded and capable of handling whatever situations they may encounter.

Our commitment to assure proper police conduct begins with our extensive selection process during the hiring phase and continues with demanding a high level of standard compliance and expectations. This is accomplished through departmental communication of expectations, training, and our high level of supervision from our Sergeants, Lieutenants and Captains.

On behalf of the members of the Morris Township Police Department, I would like to thank the Morris Township Community and the Township Committee for your continued support of our organization.

Thank You,  
Chief Robert W. Shearer

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**OPERATIONS DIVISION**

Captain James Perruso

The listed responsibilities for the Operations Commander are Patrol, Detective Bureau, Public Information Officer, OPRA, Forfeiture, Major Crimes, Body Worn Cameras, Bias Incident Coordinator, SLEO III's, Records Bureau, and our newly outlaid ARRIVE program. The Operations Division consists of one Division Commander that oversees both Patrol & Detectives. The Patrol Division consists of four squads and includes four Lieutenants who serve as shift commanders with collateral duties, four Sergeants with collateral duties and twenty-six patrol officers. The Detective Bureau consists of one Lieutenant, four Detectives, one Detective Bureau Administrative Assistant. The Records Bureau has one Supervisor and one full-time clerk. There are six Class III Sworn Law-Enforcement Officers assigned to our elementary schools and middle school. Additionally, this year we added an Administrative Sergeant, who is in charge of traffic, event planning, and other administrative functions.

Patrol is responsible for handling all calls for service, crash investigations, initial criminal investigations, and traffic enforcement. Calls for service include first aid calls, fire calls, burglar and fire alarm activations, motor vehicle complaints and numerous other calls for police service. Patrol Officers are also called upon to investigate many types of offenses and crimes including, but not limited to, disorderly conduct, criminal mischief, assaults, domestic violence, robbery, aggravated and sexual assaults.

The Table of Organization chart assigns twenty-six officers to four Patrol Squads when we are fully staffed. In 2024, officers responded to 55,735 calls for service. This is an increase of 3,715 calls for service from 2023. The calls for service ranged in nature from property checks and enforcement details, to criminal and non-criminal investigations. The enforcement piece resulted in 334 arrests and 103 juvenile investigations. There were 3,527 motor vehicle summonses, 347 of these summonses were issued upon the conclusion of a traffic crash investigation, the remainder were issued as a result of the 6,453 motor vehicle stops that were conducted.

**SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION**

Captain Kyle Laauwe

The listed responsibilities for the Support Services Commander are Internal Affairs, Training Coordinator, Mechanic, ERPO Liaison, Resiliency Program, Pitman Schedule, Evaluations, Cell Management, P&R Committee, TSU, OEM, ESU/RDT, FTO, and Courts.

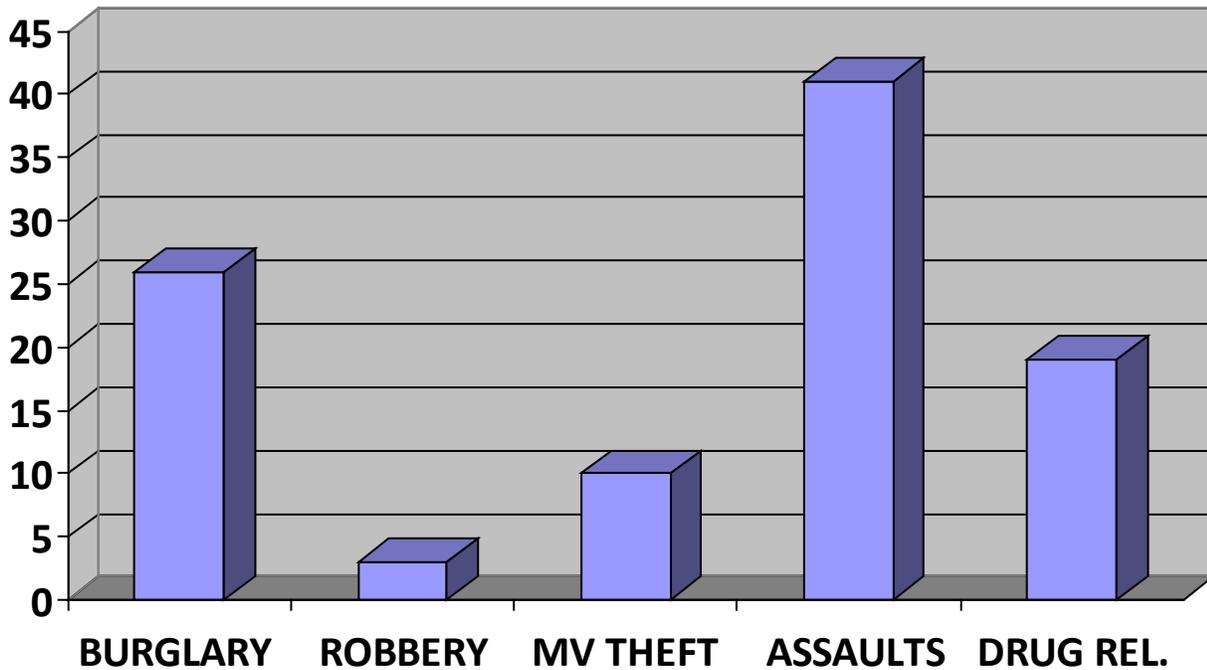
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**CALLS FOR SERVICE OVERVIEW 2024**

\*This is not a full representation of our calls for service. It is just a selection of the most common. \*

INCIDENT	TOTAL	INCIDENT	TOTAL
PROPERTY CHECKS	16,919	BURGLARY	26
ALARMS	1,276	ASSAULTS	41
THEFTS / FRAUDS	177	DRUG RELATED	25
MV STOPS	6,453	DWI OFFENSES	76
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	378	MEDICAL CALLS	1,582
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	532	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	150
RADAR DETAILS	4174	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	74

**Offenses that impact the Quality-of-Life 2024**



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**2024 PATROL PERSONNEL ADDITIONS**

With the cooperation and support of the governing body, we were fortunate enough to hire three (3) new patrol officers in 2024.

**PATROL OFFICER Dominick Pisciotto #180**

Ptl. Dominick Pisciotto was hired by this agency on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ptl. Pisciotto had previously worked at Washington Township in Morris County as a Police Officer. Ptl. Pisciotto grew up in Morris Township, where he graduated from Morristown High School.

**PATROL OFFICER Haley Buchana #181**

Ptl. Haley Buchana was hired by this agency on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and she graduated from the Morris County Police Academy on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ptl. Buchana previously worked at the St. Louis Police Department in Missouri, and had held other jobs in private security, just prior to joining this agency.

**PATROL OFFICER Dong Lee #182**

Ptl. Dong “Dave Lee” was hired by this agency on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and he graduated from the Morris County Police Academy on November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Ptl. Lee previously served in the Army, where he was honorably discharged, and he then reenlisted into the Army Reserves.

\*\*\*\*\*

**2024 OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

**DETECTIVE Kevin Yarzab**

I am proud to recognize Det. Yarzab as the officer of the year. Det. Yarzab is assigned to the Detective Bureau. Det. Yarzab has taken an active role in training new Detectives as they become acclimated to their new role, and is our de-facto training officer for the Detective Bureau. He also serves as a bridge with patrol as he actively assists supervisors in the beginning stages of investigations to ensure, the initial investigation is completed up to conclusion or until referred to the Detective Bureau. Detective Yarzab is commended for his commitment to thoroughly investigating complex criminal investigations.

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**2024 OFFICER ROSTER**

<b>BADGE</b>	<b>NAME</b>
111	Chief Robert Shearer
116	Lieutenant Christopher Tongring
117	Sergeant Mark Osterhoudt - Assigned to Traffic Safety Unit (Promoted in 2024)
121	Captain James Perruso
123	Patrolwoman Natisha McIver – Assigned as School Resource Officer
127	Detective Lieutenant Justin Crowell
128	Patrolman Robert Hydock
129	Lieutenant Clay Boeninghaus
130	Patrolman Victor Gallardo
134	Sergeant Diego Pinheiro
135	Lieutenant Ryan Farrell
138	Patrolman Anthony Sandelli
139	Patrolman Matthew Flynn
140	Captain Kyle Laauwe
141	Lieutenant Robert Dombrowski
142	Patrolman Louis Mangiaracina
146	Sergeant J. Whitney Burk
148	Detective Kevin Yarzab
150	Sergeant Derek Adair
153	Patrolman Caleb Hough
155	Detective James Lezak
156	Patrolman Kojo Yeboah
157	Detective Kristopher DaFonseca
159	Sergeant Robert Ribnicky
160	Detective Saul Gutierrez
161	Patrolman Darren Dungee
162	Patrolman James VanValen
163	Patrolman Oscar Ponciano
165	Patrolman Christopher Sages
166	Patrolman Paul Luna
167	Patrolwoman Kathryn Ridley (Resigned in 2024)
168	Patrolman Ryan Macarico
169	Patrolman Steven Windt (Resigned in 2024)
170	Patrolman Joseph Pisciotto
172	Patrolman Miguel Palacio
173	Patrolman Panagiotis Tsekouras
174	Patrolwoman Taylor Nelson
175	Patrolman Kevin Smith
176	Patrolman George Chanturia
177	Patrolman Ryan Carlin
178	Patrolman Chris Fuehring
179	Patrolwoman Samantha Nakouzi

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180	Patrolman Dominick Pisciotto
181	Patrolwoman Haley Buchana
182	Patrolman Dave Lee

**TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Captain Kyle Laauwe  
Sergeant Mark Osterhoudt (Traffic Safety Officer/Supervisor)  
Sergeant Robert Ribnicky (Traffic Safety Officer/Supervisor)  
Patrolman Caleb Hough

For 2024, our Traffic Safety Unit has transitioned with the promotion of Sergeant Mark Osterhoudt, our long-time traffic officer. Sergeant Osterhoudt is an Administrative Sergeant, assigned to administrative duties and traffic. Sergeant Osterhoudt oversees all traffic matters and assigns tasks to officers with traffic experience or to patrol depending on the need associated with the traffic complaint. Traffic Safety is considered one of the primary functions of the uniformed patrol force and is routinely regarded as a significant quality of life issue concerning the residents of Morris Township. Each year, several officers attend a two-week Basic Crash Investigation School, with several of those officers also attending a two-week Advanced Crash Investigation School. Sgt. Osterhoudt, Ptl. Hough, and Sgt. Ribnicky are also part of the Morris County Prosecutors Office Vehicular Homicide Unit Task Force, which investigates motor vehicle accidents that are fatal or result in serious bodily injury with potential criminal charges.

Ptl. Hough is assigned traffic unit related assignments while still assigned to patrol in order to assist Sgt. Osterhoudt. These responsibilities included details such as sign board placement and other traffic related duties.

Our Officers handle numerous traffic related functions on a daily basis that includes: motor vehicle crash investigations, speed enforcement, selective enforcement, DWI patrols; disabled and abandoned vehicle investigations and traffic studies. In addition to these daily matters, a significant amount of time is devoted to administrative functions directly related to traffic safety. These include, but are not limited to, processing work orders for sign repairs and installations, preparation of documents for court cases, providing monthly statistics on accidents, radar, and summonses. Additionally, recommendations and evaluations are made with respect to the following local traffic issues: Local Ordinance regulations, parking, fire lanes, towing company compliance, traffic calming research, and impact analysis of future local development.

The traffic unit is responsible for compiling data, providing research, and making recommendations on issues related to speed enforcement, traffic control devices, engineering issues, safety education and other traffic concerns presented by the community.

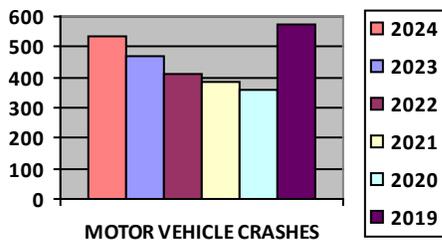
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**MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES**

The following chart is a comparison of motor vehicle crash investigations, summonses, injury, and impaired driver arrests for the years 2019 through 2023.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH DATA	2024	2023	2022	2021
TOTAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES	532	469	414	387
MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES W/ INJURIES	89	100	112	86
TOTAL SUMMONSES ISSUED AT CRASHES	347	396	242	219
TOTAL DWI ARRESTS	76	102	85	82
TOTAL DWI ARRESTS INVOLVING MV CRASH	12	12	14	12
TOTAL FATAL MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES	0	1	1	0
TOTAL ASSAULT BY AUTO	0	6	1	2

There was an increase from 469 to 532 motor vehicle crashes, but a decrease in the number of crashes involving injuries, from 100 to 89 in 2024. The Traffic Safety Unit will continue to monitor crash trends and, based on analysis, target those areas and violations that are contributing to these crashes. Crash summonses decreased from 396 to 347 in 2024. Although this is a slight decrease it is higher than years past and I believe is the direct result in a greater investment in all new officers attending basic crash investigation schools. Their increased knowledge in crash investigation, allows them to make a determination on fault and issue the appropriate summons.



Motor vehicle crashes related to impaired drivers remained the same from 2023 to 2024, with 12 total crashes due to impairment from liquor and/or drugs. There was a decrease of 26 total number of DWI arrests (76) compared to DWI arrests made in 2023 (102). This is a number still significantly higher than surrounding agencies, showing our commitment to removing intoxicated drivers from the roadways.

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**INTERSECTION CRASH ANALYSIS**

The most hazardous intersections based on the total number of motor vehicle crashes were, Columbia Road at Normandy Parkway followed by East Hanover Avenue at Ridgedale Avenue. This trend was the same as in 2023. We will conduct enforcement activity at the below intersections in the hopes of reducing crashes at these intersections specifically. Summonses were issued in most of these intersection crashes.

<b>INTERSECTION</b>	<b>TOTAL CRASHES</b>
Columbia Rd at Normandy Pkwy	10
East Hanover Avenue at Ridgedale Avenue	6
Whippany Road at Lindsley Drive	3
Mendham Road at Kahdena Road	3
MLK Avenue at Emmett Avenue	3
Speedwell Avenue at Gregory Avenue	3

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**TRAFFIC SUMMONSES DATA**

In 2024 a total of 3,977 (2023 total 3,573) summonses were issued by our Officers. This was an increase of 404 summonses for the year. The summonses issued are broken down as follows:

<b>RADAR</b>	<b>MOVING / EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>PARKING</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
520	2,851	415	3,977

**Total Number of Select Violations issued for 2024**

<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
SPEEDING	537
IMPROPER PLATE	102
CARELESS	313
UNREGISTERED MV	493
DL/REG. SUSPENDED	106
SEAT BELT ADULT	26
OBEY TRAFFIC SIGNAL	41
UNLICENSED	105
LAMPS	97
CELL PHONE	29
RECKLESS	89
STOP / YIELD	75

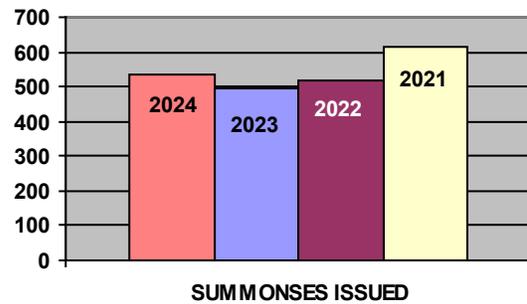
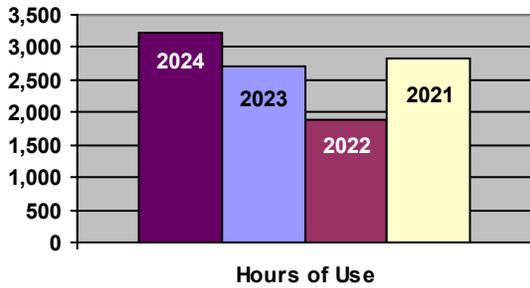
<b>VIOLATION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
DWI SUMMONSES	99
FAILURE TO INSPECT	72
PRODUCE DOCUMENTS	71
WINDSHIELD OBSTRUCTION	40
UNSAFE LANE CHANGE	22
PROVISIONAL VIOLATIONS	2
OPEN ALCOHOL IN MV	41
OBSTRUCT TRAFFIC	222
TURN ON RED	18
MOVE OVER LAW	5
PASS SCHOOL BUS	10
IMPROPER TURN	34

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**RADAR ENFORCEMENT**

There were 3,235 hours of RADAR operation during 2024. A total of 534 RADAR summonses were issued. In comparison to 2023, RADAR use INCREASED by 527 hours and 39 more summonses were issued.

	2024	2023	2022	2021
Total Hours of use	3,235	2,708	1,875	2,843
Total Summonses issued	534	495	518	613
Hourly Rate of Summonses issued	6.0	5.5	3.6	4.6



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DWI ENFORCEMENT

During 2024, our Officers made a total of 78 arrests for Driving While Intoxicated. Impaired drivers accounted for nine (9) motor vehicle crashes in 2024. Our agency used DDEF grant funding to supplement our DWI enforcement efforts as well as *Over the Limit, Under Arrest* grant funding.

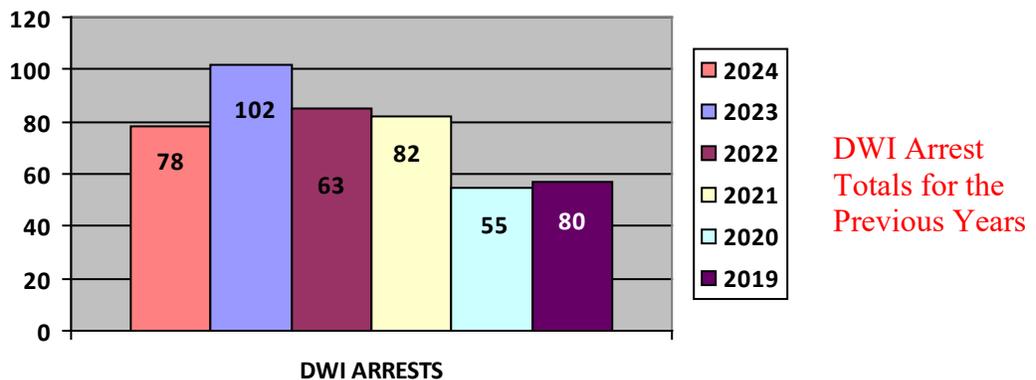
The chart below provides a comparative analysis of the DWI offenses based on several factors: Refusals, Defendants under the age of 21, drug related incidents and BAC reading ranges.

COMPARATIVE CHART ANALYSIS

2024		2023
78	TOTAL DWI ARRESTS	102
9	DWI ARRESTS INVOLVED IN MV CRASH	22
19	BREATH TEST REFUSALS	17
3	DEFENDANTS UNDER 21	7
5	DEFENDANTS DRUG IMPAIRMENT	2

2024	ALCOTEST BAC % READINGS	2023
7	.20 % AND ABOVE	10
5	.15 % TO .19 %	16
16	.11 % TO .14 %	24
9	.08 % TO .10%	15
6	.07% AND LESS	7



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Ptl. RYAN MACARICO was awarded the 2024 MADD Award



**MISCELLANEOUS TRAFFIC DETAILS:**

The following traffic related details were completed by the department, some of which are specific to the Traffic Safety Unit. They include:

<b>DETAIL</b>	<b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>
CAR SEAT INSTALLATIONS	14
SIGN BOARD DEPLOYMENTS	98
STREET LIGHT REPAIRS	99

**TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT OUTLOOK 2024**

Traffic safety continues to be the #1 quality of life issue affecting most residents of Morris Township. This trend is expected to continue as residential development and corporate development continues. The growing traffic volume may continue to increase our overall traffic collisions. We will continue to minimize this impact using innovative traffic engineering solutions and an aggressive approach to enforcing the motor vehicle laws of the state. Ptl. Hough was assigned traffic unit related assignments while still assigned to patrol in order to assist Sgt. Osterhoudt and Sgt. Ribnicky. These responsibilities included details such as sign board placement.

In 2024, the Traffic Safety Unit was reimagined. Sgt. Osterhoudt was promoted to Sergeant, and placed in an administrative role to specifically proactively address traffic issues. He is assisted by Sgt. Ribnicky and Ptl. Hough in these matters.

Driver inattention, speed/aggressive driving, alcohol/drug impairment, and driver inexperience are some of the most significant contributing factors for traffic collisions. Upon review of the statistical data, recommendations and or training to improve our Traffic efficiency should be made. Intersections and roadways that have higher rates of crashes should see an increase in Selective Enforcement details. Intersections that are significantly lower in crashes should have a reduced rate in enforcement. Emphasis areas should include: occupant protection (safety belts and car seats); speeding/aggressive driving, impaired/distracted driving; pedestrian, bicycle, and motorcycle safety; and young and older drivers. An effort will continue to be made to identify

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locations and specific motor vehicle statutes to educate our officers on elements of an offense to provide a higher enforcement rate.

Continued efforts will be made to further our training and use our “*Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund*” funding to reduce the number of collisions related to impaired drivers. Training in DWI detection/investigation provided by the NJSP will continue to be sought out and assigned. Our goal is to ensure that every officer has been trained on Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. We are also attempting to increase the number of officers that are AlcoTest certified. All officers are in the process of taking Basic Crash Investigation, which is a 2-week course to gain further knowledge on investigating crashes. Once they complete the Basic Crash School, several officers are scheduled to attend a two-week Advanced Crash Investigation. This training along with annual updates on motor vehicle laws and search and seizure law will continue to be a focus of the agency. These components will keep the officers current on best practice and can be satisfied using departmental personnel.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Crisis Response Team  
Lt. Robert Dombrowski

In February 1997, our agency was one of the first police departments in Morris County selected to begin a pilot program to further assist victims of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team was developed and operates under the direction of the Morris Township Police Department. The Team's volunteer members enable this agency to respond with sufficient resources to comply with the 1994 revisions to the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act. The Domestic Violence Crisis Response Team was formulated to assist Officers in providing the most effective intervention in the most effective manner.

Domestic Violence investigations continue to be one of the most time-consuming investigations that we respond to each year. Of the 74 incidents in 2024 in which our Officers responded to, it translates to over 350 investigative hours during the year. This includes all resources applied to the investigation.

The chart below reflects the number of domestic violence calls for the calendar year 2024, the number of calls fitting the criteria for a Crisis Response Team member and the actual number of responses by the team. Reported domestic violence calls increased by 1 incident. Continuing since the COVID pandemic, victims were able to speak with CRTs via phone more than in person. This was if the victims accepted the services of the CRT. Also, victims that respond to headquarters during business hours are afforded the opportunity to respond to the family justice center to receive all services available to victims of domestic violence.

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**January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**

Domestic Violence Incidents

<u>YTD</u>	<u>2024</u>
Total Domestic Violence Calls:	74
Number of CRT Responses:	48
Reasons why Victim did not meet with CRT:	26

FIVE YEAR PERIOD COMPARISON

YEAR	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	79	70	87	73	74

**BIKE PATROL**

Lt. Robert Dombrowski



In 2005 the Department received two Smith and Wesson Police Bikes from Atlantic Health to be used by our agency. The current trained and active officers for 2024 were: Ptl. Osterhoudt, Ptl. Hydock, Ptl. Gallardo, Ptl. Sandelli, and Ptl. Yeboah. Department Bike Unit members completed their annual required refresher training in 2024. This training satisfied the requirements established under S.O.P. 146. The Bike Unit was deployed on a shift-by-shift basis at the discretion of the patrol supervisor. Officers are required to utilize the bike each month. Officers began riding the bikes in May and concluded in October. Officers on the bikes were used for enforcement details, however most of the deployments were for community-oriented policing details at our

schools, parks, and pools.



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**HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (HLEO)**

Lt. Clay Boeninghaus

In 2020, Lt. Boeninghaus was certified as the Morris Township Police Department's HLEO Officer. HLEO Officers are tasked with investigating cases of domesticated animal cruelty. There were two HLEO event investigated by the Lt. Boeninghaus in 2024, neither of the investigations rose to the level of criminal charges.

As part of his collateral duties as the assigned HLEO Officer, Lt. Boeninghaus also oversees the Morris Township Deer Culling program which is meant to maintain a healthy population of deer throughout Morris Township. The 2024 to 2025 Deer Hunting season had 8 hunters approved for Hunting on Morris Township land and 1 hunter approved to hunt on private land.



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**DEPARTMENTAL TRAINING**

Ret. Det. Lt. Kevin O'Shea

This report is a summary of all training given or received by members of the Police Department during the year 2024. If at the conclusion of this report you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**In-House Training**

The bulk of departmental training is historically conducted in-house. In 2024, there was a total of six in-house training days. The following is a synopsis of the training provided:

\*(writing in **BOLD** indicates mandatory training)

The first training sessions were held on January 16 & 23 at MTPD. The topics included: RADAR, NJTR-1, Gangs, and Work zone Safety.

The second training sessions were held on March 19 and 26 at Delbarton. The topics were defensive tactics and SOP review.

The third training sessions were held on April 2 and April 4 at Frelinghuysen School. These were active shooter training days.

The fourth training sessions were held at MTPD. Topics included Dom Vio strangulation, Narcan, and bail reform.

The fifth training sessions were held on September 10 and September 17 at Picatinny Arsenal. The training was for room breaching with a Halligan tool, removing a driver from a vehicle, and teamwork exercises involving civilian extractions.

The sixth training sessions were held December 10 and 17 at MTPD. Topics included ABLE training, SOP review with a UOF test, juvenile update, Miranda, case law update, and racial profiling.

**Power DMS**

Required and voluntary elective training through Power DMS continued during 2024. A Mental Health Quiz-CLEAR 2024 was assigned to all sworn personnel.

**GSMJIF/in2vate**

Right to Know online training was assigned.

**NJ Learn**

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Bloodborne pathogens and Hazmat were assigned. CJIS biennial recertification was also completed.

**Roll Call**

In 2024, squad sergeants and lieutenants continued to provide informal "roll call" trainings on a regular basis within their own squads.

**Firearms/Policy Review**

Semi-annual firearms qualifications were conducted in May and September. The department's Use of Force Policy, Pursuit Policy, and Firearms policy was reviewed semi-annually as well. In the spring, the Pursuit test was completed and reviewed with all officers. In the fall of, the Use of Force and Weapons test was completed and reviewed by all officers.

**Bike Unit Training**

The trained and active officers (at various times) for 2024 were: Ptl. Osterhoudt, Ptl. Hydock, Ptl. Gallardo, Ptl. Sandelli, and Ptl. Yeboah. Department Bike Unit members completed their annual required refresher training in 2024. This training satisfied the requirements established under S.O.P. 146. The Bike Unit was deployed on a shift-by-shift basis at the discretion of the patrol supervisor. Officers began riding the bikes in May and concluded in October. Officers on the bikes were used for enforcement details; however, the majority of the deployments were for community-oriented policing details at our schools, parks and pools.

**Schools and Seminars**

During 2024, Morris Township Police Employees attended **126** different schools or seminars (does not include in-house or NJ Learn training) which accounted for a total of **2220** hours of training. The total cost of training was \$12,338.

Some of the significant schools attended by members of the Department were:

DRE (Ponciano)  
Command and Leadership (Dombrowski)  
Front Line Supervision (Ribnicky)  
Glock Armorer (Dombrowski, Tongring, Adair)  
IA (Tongring, Adair, Laauwe, Farrell)  
MOI (Pinheiro)  
Police Executive Institute FBI-LEEDA (Shearer)  
Supervision Leadership Institute FBI-LEEDA (Tongring, Perruso, Laauwe, Pinheiro)

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A printout of the training conducted during 2024 is included.

**Instructional Services**

Each year members of the department are invited to teach recruit and in-service training classes at the Morris County Public Safety Training Academy. This year we continued to support the Academy with instruction in Defensive Tactics by Ptl. Dungee.

**Mandatory Training**

All yearly required training mandated by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office was completed by all members of the police department. This training included Semi-annual firearms training and policy review (Use of Force, Firearms, and Vehicle Pursuit). Hazmat, Blood Borne Pathogens, CLEAR and Right to know training. The required Domestic Violence training was completed. PR24, ASP, and OC Spray training was also conducted during 2024 during In-Service training.

**Field Training Program**

During 2024 our department utilized 4 Field Training Officers: Patrolman Macarico, Patrolman Mangiaracina, Patrolman Hydock and Patrolman Luna. There were three new hires during 2024. All newly hired officers receive 14 weeks of Field Training. They are assigned to a Field Training Officer for 6 weeks on day shift, then assigned a different Field Training Officer for another 6 weeks of training on night shift. Once they complete those 12 weeks, they complete a 2-week shadow phase. This is when the officer is solo and they are shadowed to calls for service by their Field Training Officer.

All Field Training Officers receive a 4- hour block of training which includes reviewing and updating all the Field Training paperwork and checklists, reviewing what is expected of the Training Officer, going over new trends and ways to improve training for newly hired officers.

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**Training Hours by Officer.**

<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b># SCHOOLS ATTENDED</b>	<b># HOURS TRAINING</b>
111	CHIEF	3	82
116	LT	7	104
117	PTL	17	78
121	CAPT	3	48
123	SRO	5	47
127	LT	2	16
128	PTL	1	40
129	LT	2	16
134	SGT	4	136
135	LT	2	20
138	PTL	1	3
140	CAPT	3	64
141	LT	6	148
142	PTL	1	80
146	SGT	2	12
148	DB	3	58
150	SGT	5	36
153	PTL	1	32
155	DB	3	52
156	PTL	3	136
157	DB	3	36
159	SGT	2	48
160	DB	3	38
161	PTL	1	80
162	PTL	1	80
163	PTL	2	164
165	PTL	3	64
166	PTL	1	16
167	PTL	1	8
168	PTL	4	36
170	PTL	4	104
172	PTL	3	50
173	PTL	2	80
174	PTL	3	64
175	PTL	3	20
176	PTL	4	56
177	PTL	3	24

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178	PTL	1	8
179	PTL	2	12
180	PTL	1	4
525	SRO	1	7
530	SRO	1	8
531	SRO	1	7

Training Hours and schools attended in 2024 by all officers (does not include in-service). **2220 HOURS (2023 hours)**

Patrol "A" Side Total School Hours	696 (1238)
Patrol "B" Side Total School Hours	1063 (948)
Detective Bureau Total School Hours	200 (269)
Administration Hours	194 (180)
Services (SRO, Class III)	68 (99)

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**DEPARTMENT VEHICLES**

Lt. Ryan Farrell

For the calendar year 2024, our vehicles were driven a total of 331,465 miles, or an average of 24,273 miles per month for the most part patrolling the roads in the Township of Morris 24/7. The total miles increased by 21,614 miles for the calendar year. All scheduled and routine maintenance were completed by our department mechanic which continues to prove to be very cost effective. All warranty related issues were completed by Nielsen Ford on Ridgedale Ave.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Katelyn Woebse, Secretary to the Chief of Police

**Website**

In 2024, the website continued to be updated with necessary information, forms, and registries available to residents. In addition, the website acts as a tool for the Police Department to post any mandatory reporting as mandated by the Attorney General's Office.

**Facebook**

As of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024, our Facebook page has 5,900+ followers (an increase of 100 followers). This page is used to warn residents of potential crimes/scams in the area, highlight the work of our officers, and provide any information publicly that would benefit our residents and agency.

**Instagram**

Our Instagram is used in conjunction with Facebook, and again used to highlight traffic advisories, highlight the work of our officers, and positively engage with members of the public.

**Nixle**

Our Nixle has been set up for a number of years and it allows subscribers to receive email notifications of certain activity throughout Morris Township. These messages can be crime related, traffic related, or even event related along with many other reasons. It is one of our primary sources for communicating with people who live or work in Morris Township or have to travel through. We can utilize a text message feature as well if it is an emergent situation.

We also utilized other platforms for information sharing such as Municipal Messenger and Media Releases.

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**COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS and RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Captain Kyle Laauwe  
Detective/Lieutenant Justin Crowell  
Patrolman Caleb Hough

The following information is a summary of the Department's Communications systems in 2024:

Radio communications and dispatch services continued to be contracted through the County of Morris Department of Law and Public Safety. Currently, we continue to share a communications channel with the Morristown Police Department, an agency that we work very closely with on a day-to-day basis. As a part of this agreement with the County of Morris, we also have our Police Reports & Records Management System (RMS) through the Morris County system. This provides a cost savings to the Township as the 'Server' is maintained at the County site and maintained by the County as well. All patrol officers assigned portable radios and the radios in each departmental vehicle were upgraded in 2023. That upgrade was noticeable in 2024 as we have increased range and clarity with our radios.

The RMS contractor continued to enhance their product with additional features, and updates to their current programs. They have made sharing of information between agencies much more simplified. Prior to 2015, the Morris Township & Morristown Police Departments opened our lines of communication through the RMS system as a pilot program, and were able to share reports with each other. Late in 2015, after it was determined that this pilot program was a success, the contractor opened up the lines of communications county-wide, so that we can share reports and information with any agency utilizing the RMS.

Another component of RMS, is the Police Mobile system that we utilize. This program is an integral part of the dispatch system, as it allows officers to be dispatched by computer when appropriate, and allows officers to initiate entries without having to tie up the airwaves. The system also allows officers to conduct their own checks of the NCIC system for wanted persons / vehicles. The system also has a GPS feature which allows all officers to see the locations of their fellow officers. This feature plays a very important part in officer safety, as we can always tell where an officer's vehicle is in the event they cannot be reached by radio, and could possibly be in need of assistance. Police Mobile was developed after input by various officers in the County. Ptl. Caleb Hough, is on the County committee that continuously meets to upgrade and meet the needs of all officers throughout the County of Morris. He has developed a good working knowledge of these IT systems and can troubleshoot issues we encounter during the year.

**MUNICIPAL COURT**

Chief Robert Shearer

In 2024, our department completed its tenth year working with the Madison Joint Court. The court staff has been very professional and has responded to our needs in a timely manner. Due to the court making a concerted effort to schedule officers for cases while they are working, our court overtime numbers were considerably lower than prior years.

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Most of the overtime for court is for County Court or for cases heard in different courts, not the Joint Court. In 2024, \$729.00 was paid in overtime for Officers to attend court.

A summary of cases submitted to the court is below:

New Cases – Morris Township (Includes NJSP, MCPP, etc.)

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
<b>2024</b>													
DWI	6	11	10	4	10	7	6	9	8	4	8	11	94
Traffic	281	396	395	343	355	289	269	329	359	324	327	272	3,939
Parking	51	106	93	109	133	134	126	134	141	157	102	112	1,398
DP/PDP	5	2	2	6	3	13	4	3	6	7	7	9	67
Other	2	4	0	3	7	5	1	6	6	11	0	8	53
Indictable	13	19	18	7	6	16	28	29	22	19	11	10	198
<b>2023</b>													
DWI	12	3	11	13	6	11	13	8	13	7	8	5	110
Traffic	307	340	393	367	364	355	329	303	328	337	263	252	3,938
Parking	76	73	62	112	138	119	133	119	150	92	79	51	1,204
DP/PDP	9	9	6	6	3	7	5	8	23	6	7	7	96
Other	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	0	19
Indictable	24	11	13	4	16	8	3	4	25	13	26	6	153
<b>Deviation</b>													
DWI	-6	8	-1	-0	4	-4	-7	1	-5	-3	0	6	-16
Traffic	-26	56	2	-24	-9	-66	-60	26	31	-13	64	20	1
Parking	-25	33	31	-3	-5	15	-7	15	-9	65	23	61	194
DP/PDP	-3	-7	-3	3	3	6	1	-3	-12	0	0	7	-7
Other	2	3	-5	-2	1	-3	-4	-1	-11	11	-2	8	-3
Indictable	-11	8	5	3	-6	8	26	25	5	7	-15	4	59

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**EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT**

Sgt. J. Whitney Burk



In 2016 the Special Operation Unit was replaced with an Emergency Services Unit. The SOU team typically responded to less than three calls per year, consisted of four supervisors, eight officers and was not an efficient use of department resources. Lt. DiCarlo was assigned to develop an ESU that would better serve the residents of the community and to address violent encounters and threats of terrorism.

With the support of the Township Committee the Police Department proposed to develop a specifically trained unit to address the needs that rise above the “normal” response from the Patrol Division. The Emergency Services Unit was established to support members of the Department with an enhanced response to potential high-risk incidents. Our community continues to experience serious motor vehicle accidents, mental health problems and life-threatening medical emergencies. The Police Department has taken a pro-active approach to mitigate these types of situations with the creation of an Emergency Services Unit. Officers assigned to the Unit will be specially trained and equipped to handle these situations to minimize the likelihood of a negative outcome and increase the chances of a successful resolution.

The following activity was performed in the Emergency Service Unit Program during 2024.

**Incidents:** E.S.U. has handled 93 calls for service in 2024 vs. 123 calls for service in 2023. The busiest month was identified as July, with 12 incidents handled. August was the lightest month for reportable incidents with 4 responses. The average monthly response to reportable incidents was 7.75. Mental health concerns (E.D.P.’s/crisis intervention), and criminal investigations were the most common reportable incidents responded to in 2024 by ESU members.

**ESU OFFICERS**

Officers in the Emergency Services Unit were selected based on their ability to perform under stress, firearm skills, level of experience, personal physical fitness and dedication to the community and law enforcement profession. Officers will be trained in the use of ‘special’

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tactical equipment and qualified in the deployment of various firearms and less-lethal devices. Emergency Service Unit members will be further equipped to respond and handle a variety of situations ranging from the aggressive bear complaint to a serious motor vehicle crash or an active shooter incident.

All Emergency Services Unit members must attend and successfully complete a variety of training courses that are specific to their job responsibilities. Several of the members maintain an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certification. Officers also participate in mandatory monthly training exercises to maintain their skills. Each ESU Officer is assigned a designated vehicle, identifiable with "Emergency Services Unit" lettering.

The ESU is under the Command Ptl. Burk and consists of two (2) Officers from our four squads. The intent is to provide a more efficient and cost-effective product for the community.

We are continuing to get the new officers proficient in their duties as an ESU member. The members of the ESU unit for 2024 were Ptl. Robert Hydock, Ptl. Lou Mangiaracina, Ptl. Caleb Hough, Ptl. Darren Dungee, Ptl. James VanValen, Ptl. Oscar Ponciano, Ptl. Paul Luna, and Ptl. Panagiotis Tsekouras.

The Emergency Services Unit may respond to incidents as defined but not limited to:

- Advanced Medical – Serious ALS medical calls with life threatening conditions
- Serious Motor Vehicle accidents
- Active Shooter
- Crowd Control
- Terrorism response/prevention
- Disaster Response
- Search and or Rescue incidents
- Evidence recovery
- Dangerous animal control / Bear response
- Surveillance details
- Weapon, ammunition, explosives recovery/surrender
- Armed or violent offenders/incidents
- Armed or violent suicidal individuals
- Emotionally disturbed persons
- Community Oriented Policing
- Warrant service/search warrants
- Special Events

**SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:**

Officers assigned to the ESU are provided special equipment to carry on their persons and in their assigned ESU vehicles to include:

AR-15 Rifles

Less than lethal launcher FN-303

Tasers

Epinephrine

Tactical Vests

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Figure 1 - ESU incidents by month 2024

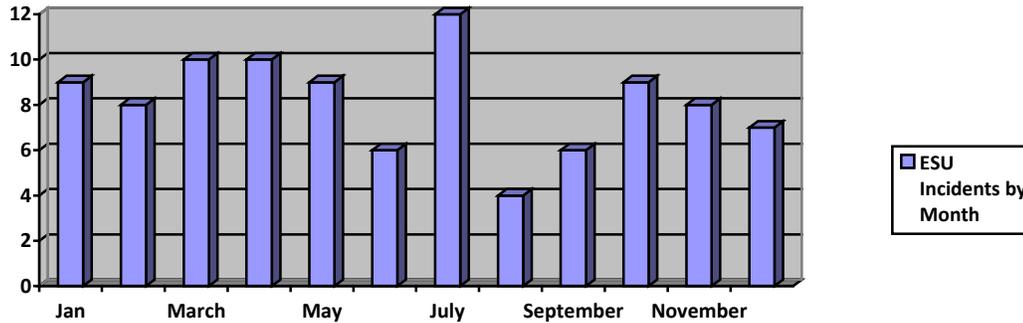
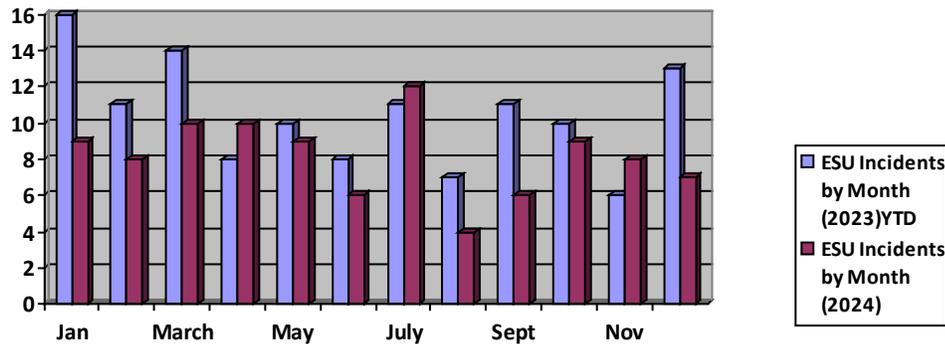


Figure 2 – ESU incidents by month, 2023/2024 Comparison



**FIREARMS TRAINING**

Lt. Boeninghaus

In 2024, we used the outdoor ranges at NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife Bureau. Having our training outdoors gave us the opportunity for firearm drills that incorporate the use of a patrol car and other items that lend to a more realistic scenario. The State of New Jersey Attorney General requires that Officers qualify two times each year for the handgun as well as any other firearm the agency deploys. On the average 8,400 rounds of 9mm ammunition is required to qualify Officers for the Glock 19 sidearm only.

In addition to firearms qualifications, the range days included the Attorney General mandated policy review on the Use of Force, Pursuit Driving, active shooter training and de-escalation drills. Officers are tested on each policy to ensure compliance. The Department had six (6) certified firearm instructors and select Officers are certified to repair our firearms. In 2016, we replaced all the Officers sidearm with the Glock model 19. In early 2017 the new Glocks were assigned to our Officers.

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The current firearms and weapons used by the Department include:

1. Glock Model 19, 9mm semi-automatic pistol
2. Benelli Nova 12-gauge pump action shotgun
3. Heckler & Koch MP5 9mm sub gun
4. Smith & Wesson Military & Police AR 15 5.56mm Assault Rifle
5. Quarter Circle 10 9mm Rifles
6. PR 24 & PR24X side handle batons
7. ASP baton
8. FN303 Less-Lethal Launcher
9. Taser X2 Conducted Energy Device (CED)

The Ammunition our Agency uses accounts for a significant percent of the operating budget (\$21,000 avg) each year as follows:

1. Winchester Ranger 147 grain SXT 9mm; RA9T
2. Speer Lawman Centerfire 9mm luger
3. Winchester Ranger 1-ounce Rifled Slug-Segmenting
4. Wildlife Control 12 Gauge Shot shell Pyrotechnic Ammunition
5. Defense Technology 12 Gauge .32 Caliber (18) Projectile Round used for Bear Control
6. Winchester Ranger 64 grain .223 Power Point; RA223R2
7. Winchester Ranger 180 grain .40 Caliber Smith & Wesson; RA40T
8. Winchester Ranger 95 grain SXT .380 Caliber; RA380T
9. Winchester 110 grain Silvertip Hollow Point .38 Special; X38S9HP
10. CCI 9mm Shotshell Special Purpose Ammunition
11. Federal T223L .223 64 grain Soft Point Tactical Rifle Urban
12. Federal P9HST2 9mm 147 grain HST Premium Hollow Point
13. Equivalent loads used in training programs for qualification and training purposes

**DETECTIVE BUREAU**

Detective/Lieutenant Justin Crowell

In 2024, a total of 239 cases were assigned to a Detective for further investigation. The average case load for a detective in 2024 was approximately 60 cases, or about 5 new cases per month. This does not include background checks, permit backgrounds, ABC establishment checks and any other administratively-based investigation. In 2024, a total of 67 cases were exceptionally cleared. In addition, **46 arrests were made by Detectives or in combination of Detectives and Patrol.**

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**CASE STATUS CLASSIFICATION TOTALS**

<b>CLEARED</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>CLOSED - INACTIVE</b>	<b>UNFOUNDED</b>
67	46	132	0

**PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE**

The Detective Bureau Property and Evidence function for the Department is controlled ONLY by the Det. Lieutenant, one detective and the part time evidence custodian. During 2023, items from 173 cases were accepted into our evidence room.

<b>EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>2024</b>
Cases entered	218
Evidence items entered	812
Evidence/outgoing items	512
Evidence to NJSP Lab	42
Firearms destroyed	1
Firearms returned to owners	37

**JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS**

The Detective Bureau typically has one officer who will handle all juvenile cases. In 2024, the Detective Bureau processed 153 juvenile cases. These cases included assaults, thefts, criminal mischief, liquor law violations, disorderly conduct, narcotics, runaways, and incorrigibility. Disposition of a juvenile offender depends on a few factors including the youth’s prior record, the severity of the offense, parental support, and the juvenile’s willingness to cooperate. A total of 14 complaints were signed against the juvenile offenders for action through juvenile court, probation, or juvenile conference committee. The Family Court has identified certain offenses that can be best managed by a ‘Station House Adjustment.’ Offenders without a history of offenses met with Det. Lezak. If the matter could be resolved and there is no indication of a repeat offense, working with the family and disciplinary action can close out the matter. Det. Lezak handled 14 Station House adjustments in 2024. Other diversionary programs used by the Juvenile Unit included referrals to the Morris School District, Family Crisis Intervention, and mental health professionals. Out of County juvenile offenders are handled by local authorities in the juvenile’s home jurisdiction.

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<b>JUVENILE MATTERS</b>	<b>2024 YTD</b>
Juvenile Court	14
Station House Adjustment	14
Curbside Warnings	51
Handled/ Released	47
Mental Health Referral	23
School Referral	34
DCPP Referral	91
MC Youth Services / Other Programs	6
Handled with Care	107

**PERMITS AND INSPECTIONS**

Each year a significant amount of Detective hours is dedicated to administrative details during the year. The following is a breakdown of the permits, inspections and background investigations conducted during the year

<b>DETECTIVE DETAILS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Background Invest for Volunteer Firemen Applicant	8
Background Invest for Paid FD Applicant	0
Background Invest for Hunting Permit	0
Background Invest for Canvassing Permit Applicant	13
Canvassing Permits Issued	14
Background Invest for Tow Applicants	70
Background Invest for Municipal Employment	4
Background Invest for Taxi License Applicant	2
Background Invest for Police Applicant	9
Background Invest for Liquor License Applicant	0
Raffle License's Received	0
Background Invest for Firearms Applicant Assigned	282
Firearms Identification Cards Issued	100
Permit to Purchase a Handgun Issued	303
Permit to Carry a Handgun Issued	55
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>860</b>

**Below you will find a list of the 2024 Detective Bureau Significant Cases and a brief synopsis for each.**

1. #2024-05532 – Robbery / Criminal Mischief / Simple Assault – On February 6<sup>th</sup>, our agency received a call from the victim who reported that while retrieving his work vehicle from the Streeter Pool parking lot, he was approached by an unknown suspect demanding money. The unknown suspect struck the victim in the face and fled the scene.

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Patrols responded and we were able to identify the suspect using ALPR technology ultimately locating him and charging him with Robbery, Simple Assault, and Criminal Mischief.

2. #2024-09586 – Theft by Deception – On February 29<sup>th</sup>, our agency took a report from a local company, advising that they were deceived by an unknown suspect / suspect(s) to complete a wire transfer in the amount of \$200,000.00. The Morris County Prosecutor’s Office along with the FBI Financial Crimes Unit were both notified regarding the incident. Subpoenas were sent and issued but did not lead to any possible suspects or viable leads. The case was concluded with the victim signing a Waiver of Prosecution after being refunded majority of the money that was outstanding from their insurance company.
3. #2024-10362 – Theft by Deception / Check Fraud – On March 5<sup>th</sup>, our agency took a report of a female who deposited a check and then withdrew money (\$7,722) from an account utilizing a false driver’s license. Utilizing surveillance video from a nearby business, the vehicle that the suspect was seen exiting was captured and recorded. A TRAK flyer was sent to surrounding agencies in an attempt to identify the vehicle and occupants. Our agency then received a call from the Hanover Township P.D. advising that one of their officers stopped that vehicle after our incident. After investigating further, two individuals involved in the crime were charged with Theft by Deception, Forgery and Uttering False Documents, which were placed on warrants.
4. #2024-12537 – Package Thefts – On March 6<sup>th</sup>, this agency took a report of a package theft from an apartment building in town. During the investigation it was revealed that approximately eleven (11) other package thefts occurred in the same apartment complex. A hidden camera was installed in the lobby of the complex which ultimately led to the suspect. Detective Bureau personnel then conducted a Search Warrant of the suspect’s apartment and found evidence and stolen items from the package thefts. This suspect was ultimately arrested and charged with the thefts.
5. #2024-15064 – Theft by Deception - On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, our agency was investigating a Theft by Deception, where the victim, was scammed by an unknown suspect(s) out of \$15,750 in cash. The unknown suspect(s) then proceeded to request additional money from the victim and before sending it, she notified this agency of the incident. Our detectives had the victim create a package consisting of computer paper and followed the vehicle that retrieved it. During this time, they observed a suspicious transfer between two different vehicles and intercepted a package that contained \$11,550.00 from another theft victim. This money was then returned to the owner who was extremely grateful for our quick actions.
6. #2024-21715 – False Report to Law Enforcement / Possession of Stolen Property – On May 12<sup>th</sup>, patrol officers responded to the Morristown Train Station where the reported

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victim advised that she had just been strangled and assaulted in our venue. Detective Bureau personnel responded to assist with the investigation and after reviewing surveillance video in the area, and conducting numerous interviews it was determined that the victim falsified the report to Law Enforcement in an attempt to secure Morris County assistance with housing. The victim turned defendant was ultimately charged with Filing a False Report to Law Enforcement and Possession of Stolen Property.

7. #2024-25227 – Criminal Sexual Contact / Soliciting Prostitution – On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the victim, who is a massage therapist, reported that during the course of one of her scheduled massages, she was inappropriately touched and solicited for sexual services. During the course of the investigation and follow-up interviews, the suspect ultimately admitted to the accusations and was arrested and charged accordingly.
8. #2024-25972 – Criminal Mischief / Graffiti – On June 11<sup>th</sup>, it was reported to this agency that an unknown individual had spray painted graffiti on several locations at the Convent Station Train Station. After conducting searches based on the “Tag” that was spray painted, detectives located a possible suspect utilizing social media posts and previous police reports from other jurisdictions. The suspect was located and questioned regarding the graffiti, and admitted to the crime. He was arrested and charged with Criminal Mischief.
9. #2024-32691 – Motor Vehicle Burglary / Theft – On July 26<sup>th</sup>, during a medical call, one of our officers were approached and handed a wallet that was found nearby. After contacting the owner, it was determined that his vehicle was broken into and items were removed from his wallet and vehicle. Detectives reviewed surveillance video from nearby and observed juveniles pulling on car door handles in the area of where the burglary and theft occurred. During this timeframe, one of our officers responded to the area on a welfare check of one of the juveniles. This juvenile was identified and later determined to be involved in the crime. Using this information, and speaking with the Madison Police Department, all four (4) juveniles involved in the incident were charges with Burglary, Credit Card Theft and Conspiracy to commit those crimes.
10. #2024-33640 – Sexual Assault – On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a juvenile victim and her mother, responded to Police Headquarters to report a possible sexual assault involving an adult male. After an interview at police headquarters, a “consensual intercept” was conducted where the adult suspect agreed to meet up with the victim at an undisclosed location in town. Surveillance was established by Morris Township Detectives and the Morris County Prosecutor’s Office and the suspect was arrested. The sexual allegations were ultimately denied by the suspect but based on some of his admissions, along with evidence obtained through text messages, he was charged with four counts of 2<sup>nd</sup> degree Sexual Assault, one count of Aggravated Assault and other 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree crimes.

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11. #2024-36749 – Attempted Package Theft - On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Morris Township Detective Bureau received an email from Morris County Prosecutors Office stating that there would be a FedEx delivery of an iPhone 15 256GB valued at \$1,199.00 to a residence in our venue. Based on current crime trends, surveillance was established in the area in the attempt to stop any theft from occurring. During the investigation, information was provided by East Hanover Police Department advising of a vehicle involved in a package theft in their jurisdiction. Our detectives located the same vehicle actively canvassing the target residence and a motor vehicle stop was initiated. Two individuals were arrested and charged with Attempt to Commit Theft and Conspiracy.
12. #2024-42412 – Temporary Emergency Risk Protection Order – On September 30<sup>th</sup>, our patrols responded to a Domestic Violence Incident where a gun was mentioned by the aggressor. A TERPO petition was completed and heard by a Municipal Court Judge, granting the Police Department to conduct a search of the residence and seize all weapons. During the seizure, forty (40) firearms were confiscated as well as other weapons and ammunition.
13. #2024-46324 – Invasion of Privacy – On October 27<sup>th</sup>, it was reported that a female observed an Apple iPhone which appeared to be recording her while she was in the bathroom during a Halloween party. The female's friend identified the owner of the cellphone who initially denied recording her. Based on the evidence provided, a Search Warrant was executed at the suspect's residence. Two cell phones were taken and the suspect voluntarily agreed to speak with detectives at Police Headquarters. During the interview the suspect admitted to secretly recording individuals in the bathroom, without their knowledge or consent. The suspect was arrested and charged with two counts of 3<sup>rd</sup> degree Invasion of Privacy and one count of 4<sup>th</sup> degree Criminal Attempt.
14. #2024-54777 – Death Investigation – On December 23<sup>rd</sup>, patrol officers from this agency responded to a residence for the reported infant death. On scene it was determined that one infant was not breathing and his twin brother was having difficulty breathing. Life saving measures were taken but unfortunately one infant passed away. The other infant is currently receiving treatment and this investigation is on-going into the cause of said death.

**COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT**  
Sergeant Derek Adair

In 2024, officers assigned to the Crime Prevention Unit had to coordinate the Neighborhood Watch programs and provide other programs and information to the community that affect quality of life issues. In 2024, eight (7) officers from patrol squads were assigned to the Crime Prevention Unit and were able to assume extra responsibilities which directly impacted community affairs. These patrol officers were Ptl. McIver, Ptl. Robert Hydock, Ptl. Darren Dungee, Ptl. Van Valen, Ptl. Chris Sages, Ptl, Kathryn Ridley, Ptl. Panagiotis Tsekouras.

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**Neighborhood Watch**

All the Neighborhood Watch groups are being updated to meet our electronic notification needs. We have a total of 24 active Neighborhood Watch groups in the Township. We are continuing to meet with many of the groups to discuss topics of interest in the community.

**SCHOOL RESOURCE PROGRAMS**

In the Morris School District, Ptl. Natisha McIver was assigned this position for the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 school years. As outlined in our memorandum of agreement with the district, the School Resource Officer will spend a significant amount of time at the Frelinghuysen Middle School instructing the LEAD program.

Duties and responsibilities of the SRO include;

- Supervising traffic and bus arrival/departure at the beginning and end of each school day to ensure the safety of all the students.
- Improving the school's perception as a safe learning environment and deter misconduct by remaining highly visible in the halls, cafeteria, and gymnasium.
- Serving as a role model to students, especially in terms of appropriate attitudes and respect.
- Assisting the school administration with anyone who is causing a disruption, truancy issues, and any criminal activities occurring on campus.
- Performing ongoing security checks of the campus and makes recommendations to the School Administrator.
- Attending conferences with students, parents, faculty members when necessary to assist them with law enforcement issues and or crime prevention.
- Functioning as an information-gathering source for Law Enforcement and Juvenile Officials.
- Assisting the School Administrator in developing and implementing plans and strategies to prevent and handle dangerous situations.
- Conducting classroom activities involving a wide range of topics, including security, crime prevention, drug/alcohol education, and other related issues as approved by the School Administrator.
- Ladies 'N Training: a program where the SRO meets with 20 female students and they talk about social and school pressures including family issues and how to thrive.

**COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

**First Aid Training for Residents**

We continue to offer CPR training to Morris Township Residents. The idea is that the more residents trained in CPR throughout the township, whether it be family members, volunteers, or similar, it would provide a great benefit to people in town and first responders alike. This is the second year of this program and we have received very positive feedback.

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**Annual Trunk or Treat**

The Morris Township Police Department was able to co-host this event during 2024 and it was another great turnout!



**Tri-Morris Junior Police Academy**

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Tri-Morris Junior Police Academy was completed in the summer of 2024 and we had 60 recruits participate in this two-week long training academy that mimics the actual police academy.



**L.E.A.D. Graduation**

We are extremely grateful that Frelinghuysen Middle School provided an opportunity for School Resource Officer Tia McIver to complete the L.E.A.D. training program with all 6th grade students for the 2023-2024 school year.

L.E.A.D. stands for Law Enforcement Against Drugs & Violence. Each year, SRO McIver delivers the curriculum to give kids the confidence and skills they need to grow into happy and healthy adults. The program mitigates risk factors and promotes resiliency through the

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development of the following skills and traits: ◇ Goal Setting ◇ Decision Making ◇ Effective Communication ◇ Anger Management ◇ Conflict Resolution ◇ And more!



**Operation Take Back and Medicine Drop-Off**

The Morris County Sheriff's Office responds to our headquarters to empty the full Medicine Drop off Box. It is filled with old prescriptions which are dropped off anonymously in our headquarters lobby. This service allows for people to dispose of medication in a safe manner. Operation Take Back was a collective effort with the Morris County Prosecutor's Officer in April and October of 2024. Our officers, along with detectives from the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, were present at the Shop Rite of the Greater Morristown Area and collected a total of over 1000 lbs. of medication.



**Pink Patch Project**

In 2024, we continued the tradition of the Morris Township Police Department participating in the Pink Patch Project which raised money to donate towards finding a cure for breast cancer. Officers opted to place patches on their uniform shirts for the entire month of October to show support. The community responded with incredible enthusiasm and support. This will be an ongoing tradition for our officers.

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**Domestic Violence Awareness**

The month of October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In 2020, our officers were issued purple ribbon pins and wore them on their uniform for the entire month to show our support of victims of domestic violence. Our agency is committed to investigating allegations of domestic violence and ensuring that victims of such offenses and crimes receive the services they need to discontinue the cycle of abuse. This continued into 2024 and will be an annual initiative.



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**RECORDS BUREAU**

Our Records Bureau serves as our receptacle for all operational documents created during the course of an officer’s tour of duty. The Records Bureau is also responsible for: Court discovery requests; Records Management System; Uniform Crime Report; Open Public Records Act requests; Alarm Billing. In 2024, the Records Bureau deposited \$1,850 total. This is broken down into \$1,200 for Alarms, \$375 in revenue for Discovery related billings, and \$275 in Canvassing fees.

**NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM (NIBRS)**

NIBRS was implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement. NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident – as well as 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 Uniformed Crime Report Program’s traditional Summary Reporting System, 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 following table is for comparison only. This allows not only for a comparison to the previous year but also to help determine trends when compared to the previous years (2023-2024).

<b>VIOLENT CRIME SUMMARY</b>			
<b>YEAR TO DATE ANALYSIS</b>	<b>2024 TOTAL</b>	<b>2023 TOTAL</b>	<b>Change</b>
Homicide	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	9	9	0
Robbery	1	0	1
Aggravated Assault	5	5	0
Total	15	14	-1

**Burglary Analysis**

- There was a total of 31 reported burglary offenses in 2024.

CATEGORY	2024
BUSINESS	3
RESIDENTIAL	15
MOTOR VEHICLE	9
TOTAL	27

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**Motor Vehicle Theft  
Volume/Rates/Trends**

- There were 9 motor vehicle thefts or thefts from motor vehicles reported in 2023.

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

Robert W. Shearer

**OVERTIME ANALYSIS  
2024**

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	DOLLARS
Admin Detail Salary	363	\$31,801
Bereavement Salary	9	\$1,290
Disability Coverage Overtime	0	0
Investigation Overtime	230	\$18,902
Other (Court)	8	\$729.00
Personal Time Overtime	411	\$40,024
Sick Time Overtime	785	\$73,174
Weather	0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1,801</b>	<b>\$166,191</b>

**2023**

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	DOLLARS
Admin Detail Salary	768	\$67,658
Bereavement Salary	44	\$3,126
Disability Coverage Overtime	8	\$447
Investigation Overtime	20	\$1,642
Other (Court)	200	\$13,987
Personal Time Overtime	416	\$35,791
Sick Time Overtime	855	\$67,996
Weather	0	\$0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2290</b>	<b>\$189,006</b>

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**2024 AWARDS**

<b>OFFICER</b>	<b>AWARD TYPE</b>	<b>REASON</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Ptl. Ponciano	Life Saving Award	Life Saving	07/02/2024
Det. Yarzab	Officer of the Year	Officer of the Year	12/31/2024

**EXPLANATION OF AWARDS**

**Life Saving** - Awarded to an officer for an act performed which results in saving a life.

**Officer of the Year Award** - Awarded to an officer who, during the course of the calendar year, best exemplifies outstanding performance in keeping with the goals and traditions of the department. The award is presented for one or more of the following:

1. Exceptional valor in the performance of duty.
2. Exceptional Investigative Skill.
3. Exceptional Service to the Community.
4. Overall performance of duty (i.e., appearance, productivity, attitude, attendance, individual motivation, volunteerism, etc.).

**2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS / 2025 GOALS**

In 2024, we continued several projects that were initiated in previous years while continuing to work on initiatives that promote efficiency in the services that we provide. I am also proud to mention that many of the department goals for 2024 which were identified in 2023 were achieved.

- **Targeted Enforcement Areas:** Our agency continues to focus on traffic and criminal problems in the community, as well as addressing other quality of life issues. For traffic complaints we have a defined procedure to follow that incorporates education, engineering, and enforcement. Specifically, supervisors with the assistance of traffic identify problem areas and use coordinated selective details to help curb these issues.
- **Department Inspections:** This is our 7<sup>th</sup> year in a row that we have completed department wide inspections to include uniforms, building, firearms, vehicles, computers, etc. The purpose is to identify items that need repair and or replacement, purchased, accountability and improvements.
- **Hiring, Retention and Promotional program:** One of our biggest responsibilities is the hiring, retaining, and training of officers. We want to hire good qualified officers while maintaining a makeup of the Department that reflects the diversity of the community in which we serve.

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In 2024, there were several hires (3), and a promotion due to filling a position that had been less vacant. This supervisor is assigned to administrative duties and the traffic bureau.

- **Maintain Commitment towards a Service Oriented Agency:** The Police Department has always been viewed as a service-oriented agency and going the extra step for our residents. As our work load continues to increase year after year it is important to maintain this philosophy and commitment to the residents of Morris Township. We continued to support this commitment by addressing resident concerns for traffic safety, ensuring our schools and child care facilities are safe, being proactive with narcotic and criminal activity investigations, addressing juvenile issues such as teen driving and inappropriate behavior, and directed patrol to address the criminal element.
- **Grants & Shared Services:** In 2024, we received grants for DWI enforcement, BWC equipment and ballistic vests. We will continue to actively pursue available grants for these purposes. Additionally, we receive financial support (shared services) from the Morris School District for the 2023-2024 school year. This agreement was renewed in 2024, so we will be continuing this relationship with the school district. We can anticipate future financial support from the school district for future school years.
- **Accreditation:** In 2016 our agency received formal Accreditation from the NJ State Chiefs of Police Accreditation Commission. The Accreditation process is a three-year project that reviews our operating procedures and ensures compliance with the best practice methods of policing. **I am pleased to announce that our Agency received Re-Accreditation in October of 2022. Work is continuing on our re-assessment in 2025.**
- **Alternatives to use of deadly force:** In 2024, our agency has continued our commitment to maintain our ability to have alternatives to the use of deadly force. Our officers assigned to the Emergency Services Unit are trained in the use of TASER, less lethal projectile devices. Department members on a whole receive defensive tactics training, de-escalation tactics training and verbal de-escalation training. In 2024 Morris Township continued with its commitment to A.B.L.E (Active Bystander in Law Enforcement) and was recertified as an ABLE agency. Officers have also been qualified in the new defensive tactics model, which has its roots in Jiu-Jitsu. This training has been passed down the officers, and many officers practice Jiu-Jitsu in their own time to maintain their proficiency in this important skill.
- **LEAD:** In 2024 our agency continued using a drug education program called LEADS at the Frelinghuysen Middle School. This program is very similar to and replaces the DARE curriculum that was instructed at the Middle School for numerous years.
- **Equipment:** Officers continue to train on the equipment provided, which included TASER, FN-303, rifle, quarter circle 10, handgun, and shotgun.

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- **ESU:** In 2016 our Emergency Services Unit (ESU) was developed. In 2016, five members of the Emergency Services Unit (ESU) achieved EMT certification after completing the 180-hour course. It is imperative that we continue to train our ESU officers as EMT's. Most of the calls for service handled by ESU members are medical calls that require a higher level of medical training.

The specially trained Officers handle incidents we experience on a more frequent basis: EDP's, advanced medical, violent crimes, animal control and any other type incident that may require specialized equipment. i.e., Tasers, Rifle, Less Lethal Launcher, etc.

In 2024, the ESU team has continued to train in Active shooter response and mass casualty situations. The calls for service that fall into the area of responsibility for the ESU team has increased, mostly in the categories for mental health and medical emergencies.

In **2024** we will continue with proven initiatives while also looking to develop the following:

- **Physical plant.** In 2024 we will continue to improve and address any safety issues on our property and look to expand our security measures with additional cameras. This includes upgrades to the Supervisor's Office, and retrofitting our holding cells to be complaint with new standards.
- **Accreditation:** In 2024 we will continue to meet the standards of the NJ State Chief of Police Association Accreditation Commission. The Accreditation process that is reviewed every three years. This is a review of our operating procedures and ensures compliance with the best practice methods of policing. We are due for re-accreditation in 2025.
- **Body Cameras:** The BWC Program has been a complete success as far as transparency, protecting our officers, training, and assisting with internal affairs investigations. The BWC Program will be maintained accordingly.
- **Operation Take Back:** In 2024 we participated in the DEA's Operation Take. The bi-annual program allows our residents to drop off medications they no longer require. Several hundreds of pounds were collected and disposed of by participating in this program as well as providing a Med Return Drop Box in the lobby of police headquarters. We plan to participate in 2025.
- **Community Outreach:** In 2024 we will continue with our Community Outreach efforts. Personnel from the Department have attended numerous church gatherings, community events and meetings to expose ourselves to the members of community while providing insight to our law enforcement culture. We have also continued a program which allows for free CPR training to residents.

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- **School Programs:** One Officer is assigned by an agreement with the District to our Middle School ‘full time’ as a School Resource Officer. In 2024, we will continue our commitment to have an officer provide services to other public and private schools in our community.
- **Supervisors:** We do not anticipate any retirements in 2024. This will allow for some stability in the patrol and supervisory ranks.

Law Enforcement is a dynamic profession that frequently requires us to modify our goals based on local needs and even incidents. This year and upcoming years will present unique challenges. Some of these challenges are the FIFA Club Cup (an event that is the first of its kind), followed by the World Cup. These events will propose new challenges, but as an agency we will make sure that we continue to forge new partnerships and strengthen old ones to ensure that these events are successful, and that the residents’ needs and concerns are addressed with the urgency they have come to expect. Finally, I would like to thank the members of the agency for their continued professionalism and commitment, and to the Township Council and Administrator for their continued support and guidance. I look forward to a great 2025 for this agency and Township.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Robert W. Shearer**  
Chief of Police