

# *Neptune Township Police Department*

## 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

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It is my honor to present the Annual Report for the Neptune Township Police Department for 2024. As your Chief of Police, I hope that this report serves as a testament to the dedication, commitment and hard work of our exemplary officers and staff who work to serve this community. The priority of the Neptune Township Police Department is to protect our community, prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime. In order to achieve this goal, this department and its leadership remain focused on:

**Community Policing & Engagement:** The NTPD is an agency that recognizes the importance of civic engagement, and works hard to follow our core values of being Noble, Trustworthy, Professional and Diverse. Our supervisors and officers have worked diligently to strengthen relationships with residents, local businesses and community organizations. Our officers have been actively engaged in crime prevention initiatives, community outreach programs and educational campaigns. We believe that fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility is integral to maintaining a safe and vibrant community.

**Training & Education:** The Neptune Township Police Department is committed to ensuring our officers are equipped with the latest training and resources to handle the diverse challenges that we may face. This year, we implemented dozens of new training programs including those focused on Mental Health, Community Engagement, and the Supervision, Leadership, and Mentoring the next generation of officers.

**Advanced Technology & Equipment:** Innovative technology that enhances our capabilities are embraced by the NTPD, and continue to be implemented to prevent crime and improve our investigative process. This coming year, we are planning to implement several new programs that will increase our community engagement and interaction, supported by state of the art equipment and technology.

To the residents of Neptune Township, I am proud to lead this agency and continue to prioritize positive change, forward thinking, being open minded, accountability, transparency, professionalism and leading by example. I assure you I will rise to the challenge in continuing to build off Neptune Township Police Department's strong history of community outreach and establishing new partnerships with community organizations to facilitate open and positive dialogue.

To the Police Officers and staff of the NTPD, I am extremely proud and thankful for everything you do. You have made our community a better place to live and raise a family. Your sacrifices in keeping our community safe does not go unnoticed. I am proud to lead this department and all of the hard-working men and women who proudly provide public safety services and work to enhance the quality of life to all of our residents and visitors. It is truly an honor to be your Chief.

*Chief of Police Anthony Gualario*



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# DEPARTMENT GOALS

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## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Neptune Township Police Department is to consistently work to improve the quality of life for all citizens of and visitors to our community. To promote the effective partnerships and encourage community involvement to address crime, the fear of crime and other community concerns.

## OUR VISION

The vision of the Neptune Township Police Department is to be regarded by our community and our profession as a professional, proactive, and premier law enforcement agency in Monmouth County, and the State of New Jersey. Furthermore, we strive to be an asset to other law enforcement agencies by providing assistance and support as needed in a respectful and helpful manner. The Neptune Township Police Department is also dedicated to offering its employees a safe and healthy working environment and we strive to be the ideal employer for law enforcement personnel in Monmouth County. The Neptune Township Police Department's vision is the driving force behind our success and it gives the Department a clear direction and path to follow.

## OUR CORE VALUES

**N**oble

**T**rustworthy

**P**rofessional

**D**iverse

# COMMAND STAFF

## Anthony Gualario Chief of Police



Chief Gualario is a proud native of Neptune Township and graduated from Neptune High School in 1990. Upon his graduation, he chose to serve our nation with the United States Army. During his service, he was stationed at Fort Drum, New York, assigned to the 10th Mountain Division. While serving, he was deployed to Southern Florida following the devastating Hurricane Andrew in 1992 as part of "Joint Task Force Andrew", the largest relief operation in United States history. He was then deployed as part of "Operation Restore Hope" to Somalia as the country located in the Horn of Africa experienced a massive humanitarian disaster and complete breakdown of civil order. His commendable military service during these challenging deployments earned him accolades such as the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Emblem, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, National Defense Ribbon, and New Jersey's highest military distinction, the Distinguished Service Medal, for his valorous actions in a combat theater. He remains involved with the armed forces and serves as a life member and Junior Vice Commander of the Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post #1333 in Neptune Township.

Upon his return to the United States and honorable discharge from military service, Chief Gualario began serving his local community by attending the Monmouth County Police Academy, first graduating as a Special Law Enforcement Officer II with the 21st Class and then as a Police Officer as part of the 52nd Class. During his time in the academy, Chief Gualario was given the "Merit Award" from his peers for likelihood of future advancement and success in his career.

During his 28-year career with the NTPD, Chief Gualario served in a number of supervisory positions. In 2008 he was promoted to Sergeant in charge of Traffic Safety. In 2012 he was promoted to Lieutenant in patrols as a Shift Commander. In 2013 he was reassigned as an Administrative Lieutenant in charge of Internal Affairs, administered grants, accreditation manager and other administrative duties. In 2016 he was promoted to Captain as the Division Commander of the Professional Responsibility Division overseeing Internal Affairs, Detective Bureau, Traffic Bureau, Identification Bureau, Accreditation, Training, Grants, Forfeiture, Special Law Enforcement Officers, Budgeting, Administration and many other duties. In May of 2023 he was sworn in as Deputy Chief of Police overseeing the day-to-day operations.

Chief Gualario has continued his pursuit of professional excellence outside of the workplace as he attended the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in Quantico, Virginia graduating the 274th Session and the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Command and Leadership (West Point) Academy. Chief Gualario holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Science and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, as well as a Postgraduate Certificate in Law and Public Safety Administration and an Undergraduate Certificate in Criminal Justice Education from the University of Virginia.



# COMMAND STAFF

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## **Michael McGhee** **Deputy Chief of Police**

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Michael McGhee began his law enforcement career in the Neptune Township Police Department in 1999 after graduating the New Jersey State Police Basic Course for Police Officers 201st municipal academy in April of 2000. D/C McGhee has held various roles during his tenure beginning in the patrol division and later transitioned into roles such as a member of the Quality of Life/Street Crimes Unit, School Resource Officer, GREAT instructor and as a Juvenile Detective. In 2011 he was promoted to Patrol Sergeant. Shortly after, in November 2012, he was promoted to the position of Detective Lieutenant, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the Detective Bureau. Two years later he would be reassigned as an Administrative Lieutenant in Internal Affairs, while also being the Grants Officer, Training Officer and handling the responsibilities as the department's Public Information Officer.

In August 2016, he was promoted to the rank of Captain assigned to lead the Operations Division, overseeing patrols and Street Crimes Unit. In early 2022 he was reassigned as the Administrative Captain, overseeing the Detective Bureau, Records Bureau, Traffic Bureau, the Special Law Enforcement Officers, recruitment and other administrative duties. In September 2023, he was sworn in as Deputy Chief of Police.

D/C McGhee was born, raised and still resides in Neptune Township. He attended Neptune Public Schools graduating from Neptune High School in 1995. As a decorated high school student-athlete, D/C McGhee attended The College of New Jersey, where he continued his academic and soccer career, before transitioning to play college football for three years. Obtaining a degree in Criminal Justice, D/C McGhee was hired by the Neptune Township Police Department soon after graduation. During his law enforcement career, D/C McGhee had the privilege of coaching boys' basketball at Neptune High School, coaching recreation soccer, Little League baseball and most recently as a coach in the Neptune Travel Soccer program where he also serves as a member of the board. D/C McGhee is a Monmouth County 200 Club Commendation Award recipient and has attended high level training including the NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police West Point Command & Leadership Academy, New Police Chiefs Orientation School, Police Executive Institute, the FBI-LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute, Penn State High Impact Supervision and both the New Jersey State Police and NYPD Homicide Investigators Course. D/C McGhee also holds a Master's Degree in Police Graduate Studies from Seton Hall University.

# COMMAND STAFF

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## **Michael D'Amico** **Captain, Operations Division**

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Captain D'Amico attended Neptune High School and graduated in 1988. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and attended basic training in Parris Island, S.C. He served at various duty stations during his time in the Marine Corps; attending infantry training at Camp Lejeune, N.C., Marine Corps Security Forces School in Virginia Beach, Virginia and was assigned to Naval Weapons Station Keflavik, Iceland. He finished his military service at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington D.C.

Capt. D'Amico was hired as a Patrol Officer in 1996 and is a 29 year veteran of the Neptune Township Police Department. Capt. D'Amico began in the Patrol Division and transitioned to the Quality of Life/Street Crimes Unit and the Detective Bureau. He was promoted to Sergeant and reassigned to the Patrol Division and was promoted to Lieutenant in 2014 where he was assigned to the Detective Bureau. He was promoted to Captain in 2022 and is currently in charge of the Operations Division overseeing the Patrol Division and the Street Crimes/Quality of Life Unit.

Capt. D'Amico holds a Masters Degree in Administrative Science and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University.



## **Kevin O'Donnell** **Captain, Professional Responsibility Division**

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Capt. O'Donnell's law enforcement career began in 1998 as a Dispatcher and Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer with the Avon-by-the-Sea Police Department. He was hired as a Police Officer by the Neptune Township Police Department in 2000. He was assigned to Neptune High School as a School Resource Officer in 2009 and to the Criminal Investigations Unit of the NTPD Detective Bureau in 2013 – before being promoted to Sergeant in 2014. Shortly after being promoted to Sergeant, Capt. O'Donnell was reassigned from the Detective Bureau to the Professional Responsibility Division where he still serves today. As Captain of the Professional Responsibility Division, he manages and supervises numerous areas of administration encompassing the Internal Affairs Unit; Detective Bureau; Records Bureau; Traffic Bureau; Accreditation; Community Outreach; Narcan supply; Grants; Training; and other duties. Over the span of his career, Capt. O'Donnell has been recognized for his service in several ways, including being presented with a Monmouth County 200 Club Outstanding Performance Award in 2016. Capt. O'Donnell has also maintained a steady involvement in community outreach initiatives over the years, especially ones that involve youth sports. Capt. O'Donnell has been a volunteer coach in the Neptune Travel Soccer program in addition to being a referee and volunteer coach in a multitude of other youth sports.

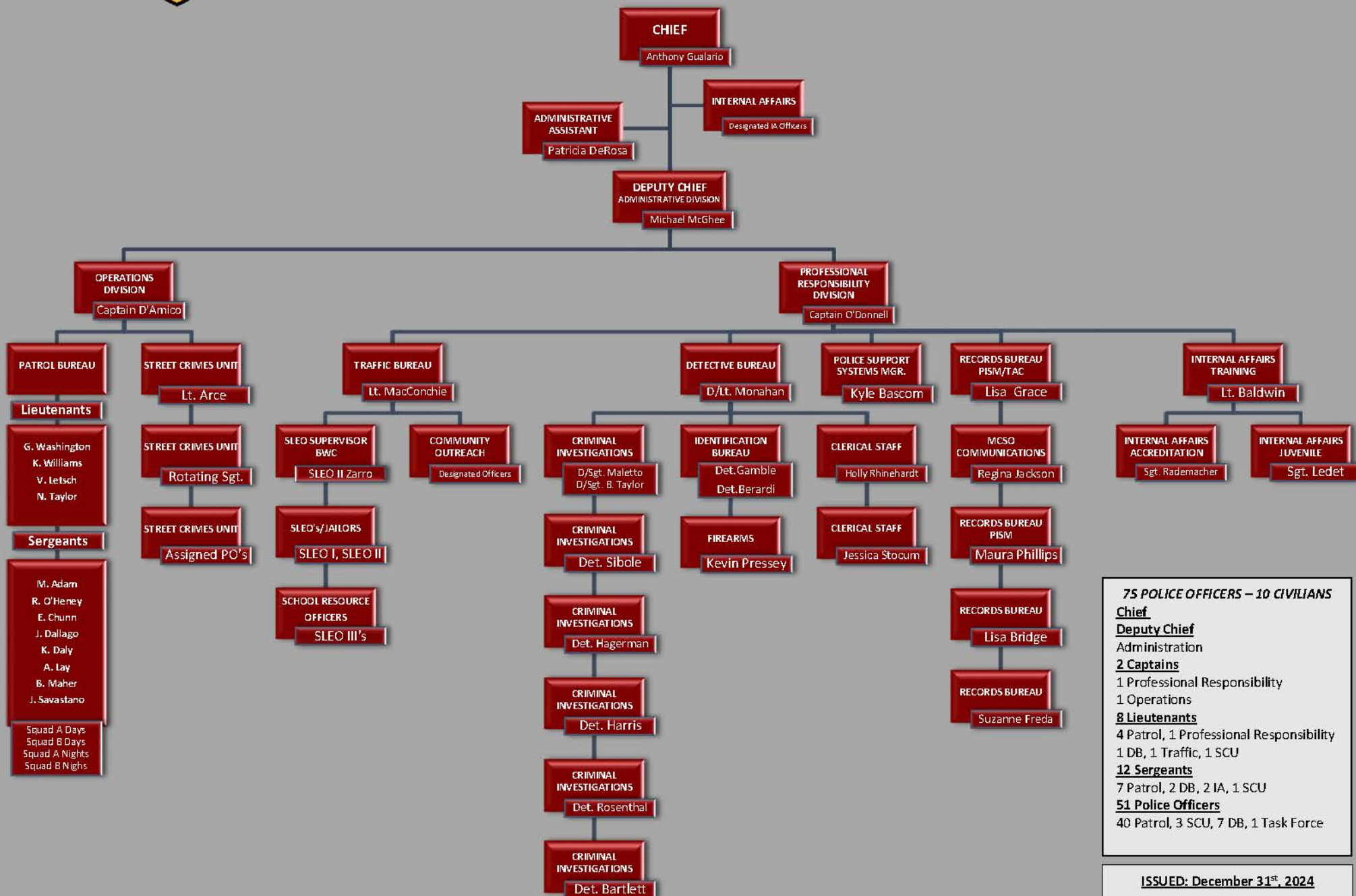
Captain O'Donnell was born and raised in Neptune Township and is a 1994 graduate of Neptune High School where he was a three-sport athlete. He then continued his academic and athletic career at the college level, playing basketball all four years and graduating from William Paterson University in 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with a Criminal Justice concentration. In 2019, he earned a Master's Degree in Human Resources and Training Development from Seton Hall University within the Police Graduate Studies Program.





# Neptune Township Police Department

## Table of Organization



### 75 POLICE OFFICERS – 10 CIVILIANS

#### Chief

#### Deputy Chief

Administration

#### 2 Captains

1 Professional Responsibility

1 Operations

#### 8 Lieutenants

4 Patrol, 1 Professional Responsibility

1 DB, 1 Traffic, 1 SCU

#### 12 Sergeants

7 Patrol, 2 DB, 2 IA, 1 SCU

#### 51 Police Officers

40 Patrol, 3 SCU, 7 DB, 1 Task Force

ISSUED: December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

**NOBLE • TRUSTWORTHY • PROFESSIONAL • DIVERSE**



# PERSONNEL ROSTER

*As Of 12/31/2024*

Chief	Anthony Gualario	PO	Robert Layton	PO	Steven Kontogiannis
Capt.	Michael D'Amico	PO	Erik Gullestad	PO	James Weinberg
DC	Michael J. McGhee	Sgt.	Joseph Savastano	PO	Bryan Bolch
Capt.	Kevin M. O'Donnell	Det	Robert Hagerman	PO	Briant Nixon
Lt.	Vincent D. Letsch	Det	Darell Harris	PO	Dylan Tortorelli
Det/Lt	Paul T. Monahan	Sgt	Aaron Lay	PO	Bernie Garcia Aguirre
Sgt.	Michael Adam	PO	Casey Crawford	PO	Yasmeen Jones-Muhammad
Det.	David T. Gamble	PO	Shane Leaming	PO	Dylan McLearn
Lt.	Jose L. Arce	PO	Evan Pollara	PO	Aaron Robertson
Lt.	Robert L. Baldwin, Jr.	PO	Richard Brogley	PO	Nicholas Turi
Sgt.	Eric P. Chunn	PO	Nicola Costagliola	SLEO III	
PO	Matthew I. Kocen	PO	Danielle DePalma	Raymond Nolte	
PO	Javaughn Rogers	PO	Aaron Haskins	Felix Torres	
Lt.	Nicholas Taylor	PO	Matthew McDonough	Richard Schwerthoffer	
Lt.	Gregory Washington	Det.	Owen Rosenthal	SLEO II	
Det.	Louis Berardi	PO	Robert Vetrano	Charles Theodora	
PO	Christopher Niskoch	PO	Ryan Calabro	Michael Zarro	
PO	Marques Alston	PO	Tressa Yurman	Robert Newman	
Lt.	James MacConchie	PO	Malcolm Jenkins	SLEO I	
PO	Kevin Schuster	PO	Milton Roman	Scott Gomes	
Lt.	Kaan Williams	PO	Matthew Simpson	Eric Farrington	
Det/Sgt	Frank Maletto	PO	Richard Cuttrell	James Martin	
Sgt.	Kristopher Daly	PO	Morgan Holland	Civilian Staff	
Sgt.	Jason Rademacher	PO	Bryan Jones	Regina Jackson	
Det.	Christopher Sibole	PO	Cadell Kennedy	Lisa Grace	
Det/Sgt	Bryan Taylor	PO	Kylee Jazikoff	Maura Phillips	
Sgt.	Mysonn Ledet	PO	Vincent Zenna	Jessica Stocum	
Sgt.	Bryan Maher	PO	Krista Panariello	Patricia DeRosa	
PO	Douglas Mattia	PO	Ryan Santos	Holly Rhinehardt	
Sgt.	Robert O'Heney	PO	Jaheem Woods	Kyle Bascom	
Det.	Carrie Bartlett	PO	Sheena Benites	Lisa Bridge	
PO	Brian Bucossi	PO	Mi'Jaut Berry	Suzanne Freda	
Sgt.	Jesse Dallago	PO	Joshua James	Kevin Pressey	

# PERSONNEL UPDATES

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## NEW HIRES

Police Officer Bernie Garcia Aguirre

Police Officer Yasmeen Jones-Muhammad

Police Officer Malik Jenkins

Police Officer Dylan McLearen

Police Officer Aaron Robertson

Police Officer Nicholas Turi



## PROMOTION

Sergeant Michael Adam



## RETIREMENT

Police Officer Ryan Chippendale

## RESIGNATIONS

Police Officer Noah DeFazio

Police Officer Malik Jenkins

Police Officer Nicholas Krimin



# TRAINING & EDUCATION

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**Officers, SLEO's and Civilian Staff earned a combined 1,615 credit hours of training in 2024, topics included:**

Active Shooter	Patrol Bicycle Operator's Course
Weapons and Devices	Child Passenger Safety Technician
Vehicular Pursuit	Mental Health First Aid
Basic Crash Investigator	Detecting Misleading Behaviors
Methods of Instruction	Cellebrite Physical Analyst
Special Victims Investigation	Field Training Officer
Emergency Vehicle Operations Instructor	Advanced Impaired Driving Enforcement
DWI Field Sobriety Testing	Computer Crimes Investigations
Homicide Investigators	Investigating Police Misconduct
Supervision, Leadership and Mentoring	Financial Crimes Investigation
Front Line Supervision	Laws of Arrest, Search and Seizure
Crisis Intervention	Gang Awareness and Identification
Investigative Interviewing	Policing of Teens
Alcotest Operator	Drug Impaired Driving
UTV Operation Training	Identifying Fraudulent Documents
Marine Police Officer	Incident Command System

## POLICY UPDATES

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**All of the below Standard Operating Procedures were updated in 2024:**

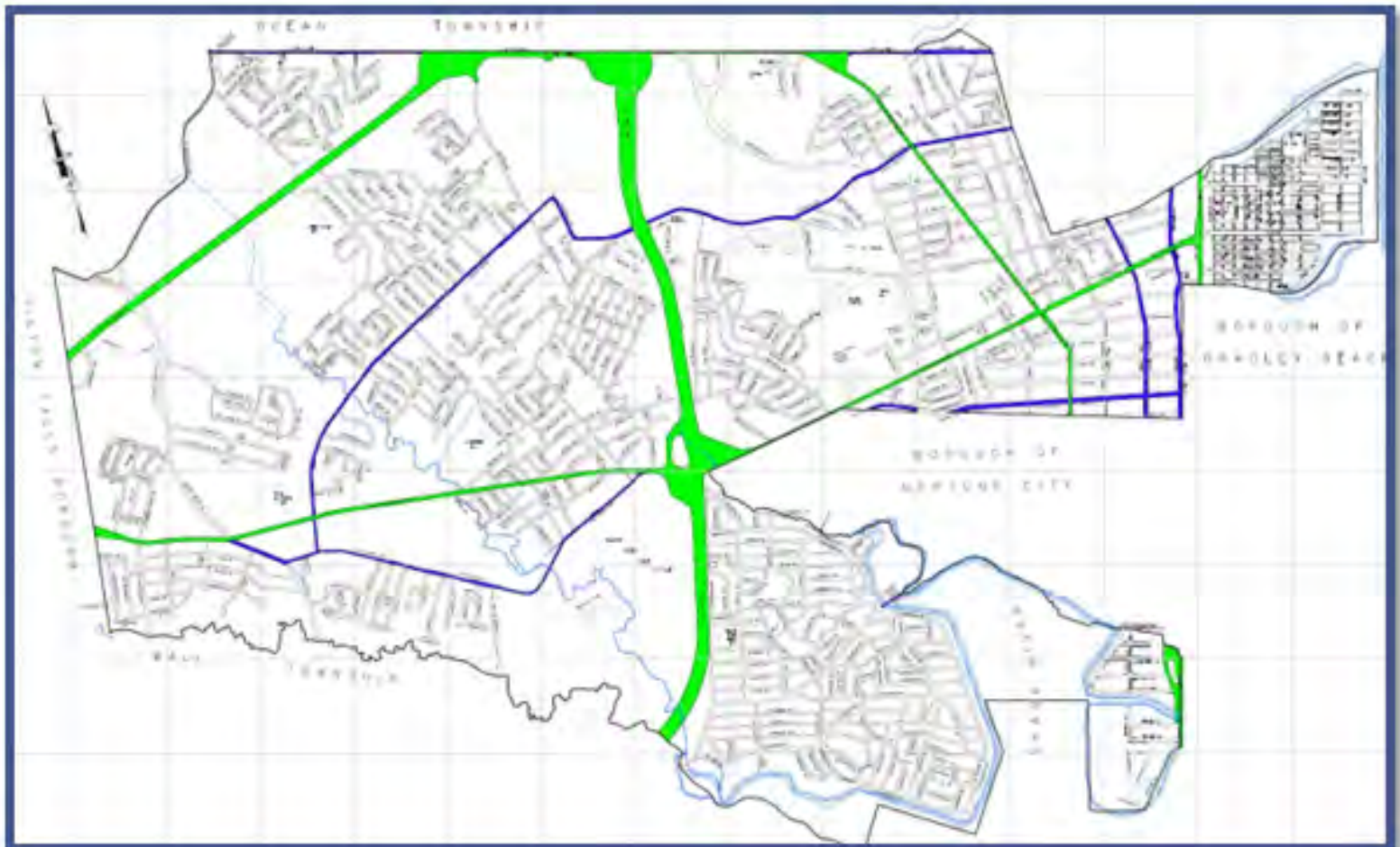
- Bias Influenced Policing
- Bicycle Patrol
- Drug Testing
- Electronic Social Media/Networking
- Evidence and Property Control
- Juvenile Operations
- Law Enforcement Notification Sharing (L.E.N.S.)
- Missing and Unidentified Persons Investigations
- Organization and Administration
- Police Chaplain Program
- Prisoner Holding Procedures
- Special Law Enforcement Officers
- Suspicious Activity & Threat Reporting
- Use of Force
- Vehicle Operation & Response
- Weapons & Ammunition

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY

- Zip Code: 07753
- 28,061 Residents (2020)
  - 8.67 Square Miles
- 260 Miles of Roadway

Neptune Township Census Estimates (2020)		Neptune Township Police Officer Demographics	
White	48%	White	68%
Black	31%	Black	23%
Hispanic	16%	Hispanic	8%
Asian	2%	Asian	1%
Other	3%	Other	0%





# RECORDS BUREAU & STATISTICS

## Records Bureau

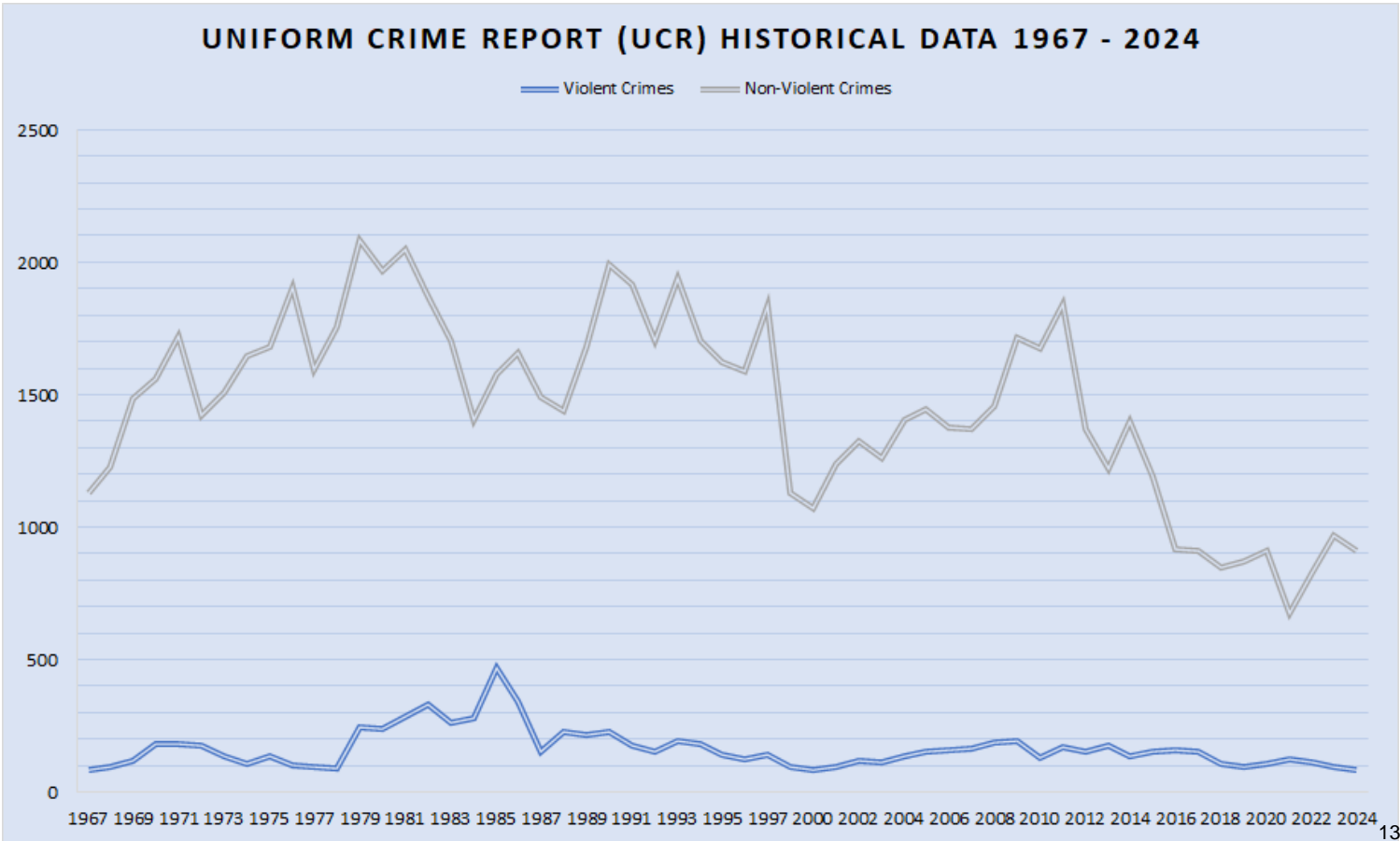
The Neptune Township Police Department Records Bureau plays a crucial role in the area of law enforcement. Prompt and accurate processing and dissemination of the police reports and associated paperwork is an integral part of the judicial process. The Records Bureau is staffed by two Records Clerks and two Terminal Agency Coordinators who report to a Captain. In 2024, the Neptune Township Police Department received 34,547 calls for service, most requiring a police report. In 2024, the Records Bureau processed 2,387 Report (OPRA) Requests (including police reports and Body Worn/Vehicle video footage), and provided discovery on 205 cases.

## Uniform Crime Report

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is official data on crime in the United States, published annually by the FBI. The UCR separates crimes into in two categories; violent crimes and property crimes.

Aggravated Assault, Forcible Rape, Murder and Robbery are classified as Violent Crimes. Burglary, Larceny/Theft and Motor Vehicle Theft are classified as Non-Violent/Property Crimes.

Crime	2021	2022	2023	2024	% Change
Aggravated Assault	98	84	72	61	-15.3
Burglary	67	117	87	72	-17.2
Motor Vehicle Theft	18	34	41	23	-43.9
Murder	0	6	1	0	-100.0
Rape	10	6	9	5	-44.4
Robbery	15	15	13	15	15.4
Theft	591	678	840	816	-2.9

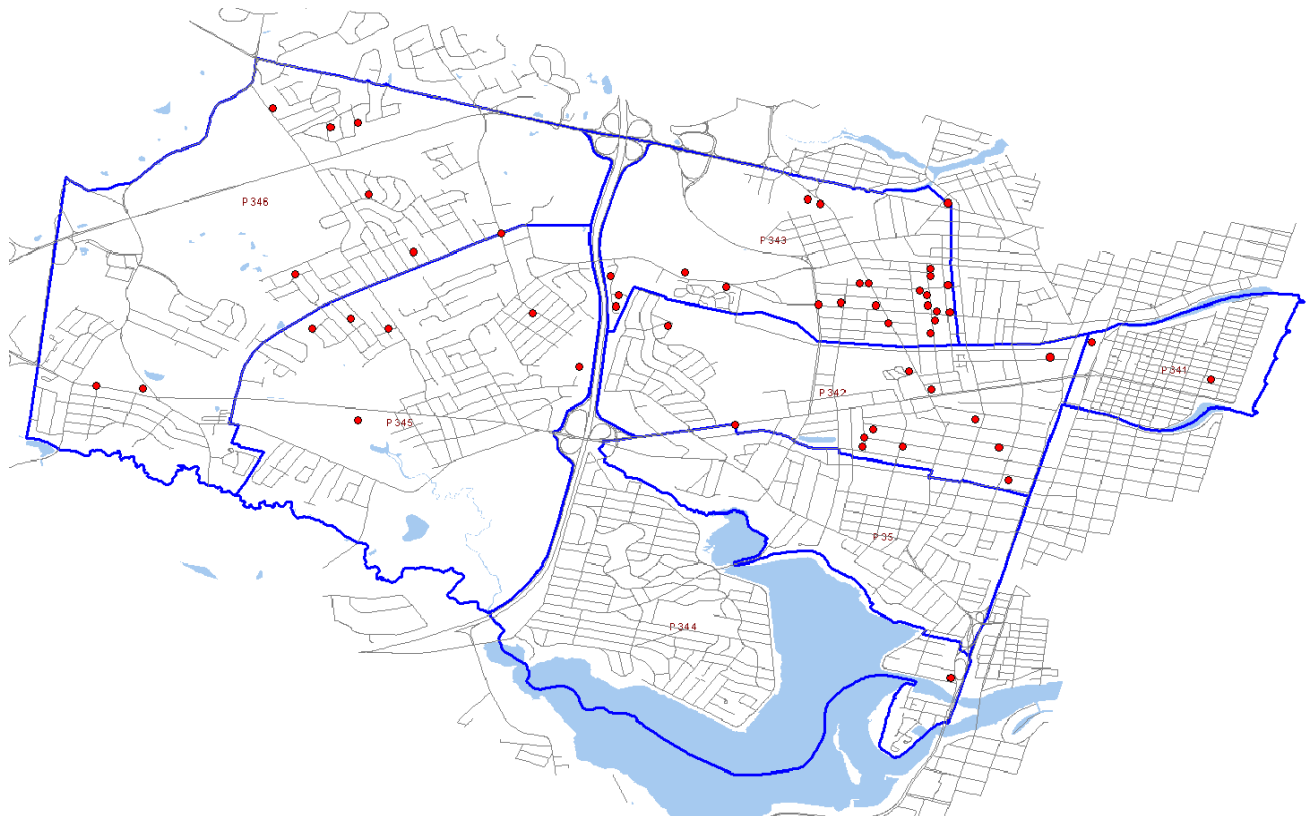


# CRIME MAPS

## **Burglary** (2024 UCR Reportable Incidents)



## **Aggravated Assault** (2024 UCR Reportable Incidents)





# CRIME MAPS

## Motor Vehicle Theft (2024 UCR Reportable Incidents)

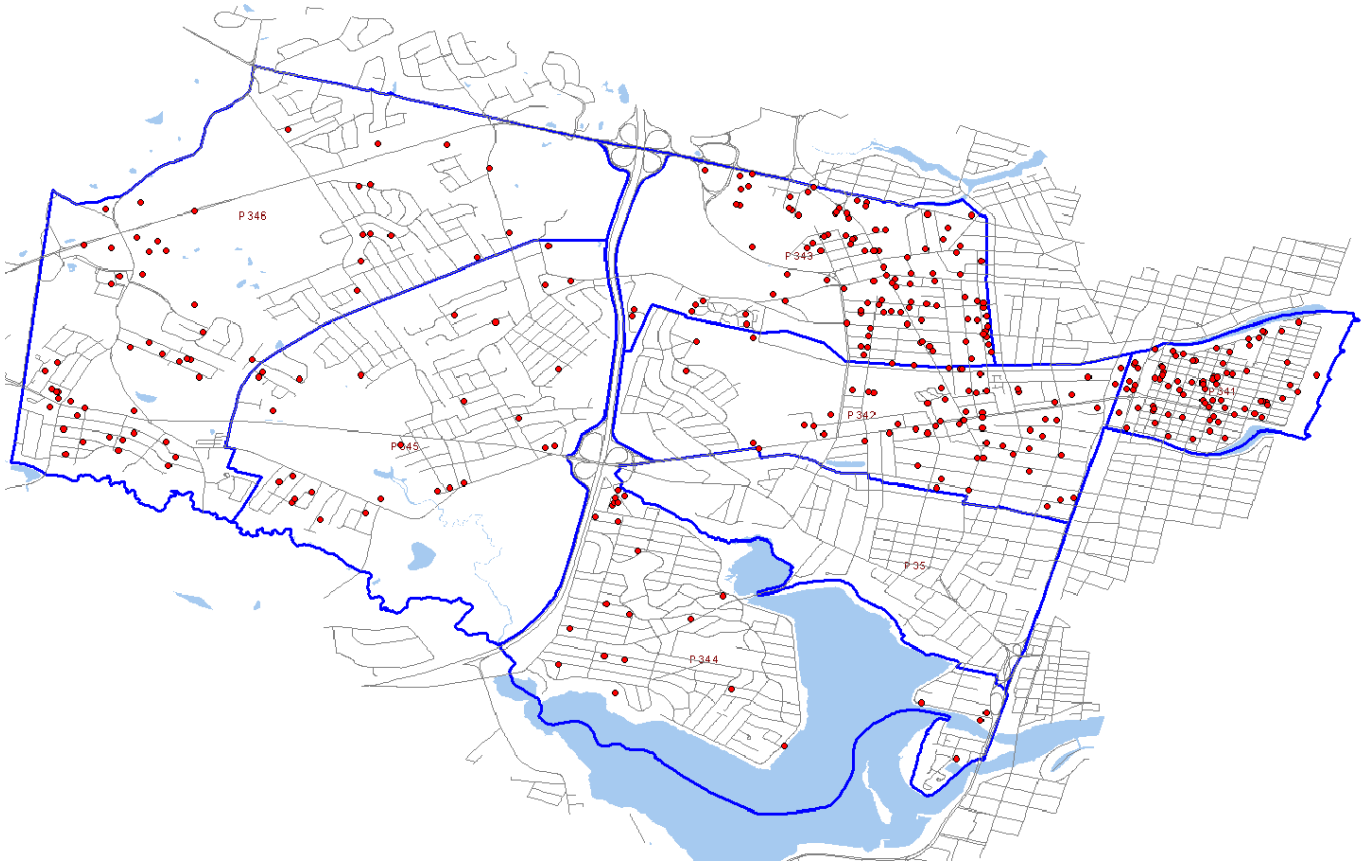


## Robbery (2024 UCR Reportable Incidents)



# CRIME MAPS

## Theft (2024 UCR Reportable Incidents)





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Neptune Township Police Department's Community Liaison Officer Program assigns various officers to active community and homeowners groups to act as a point of contact for general, non-emergent concerns. The program is designed to deepen engagement and provide meaningful interaction between our residents and officers.

**Silver Vistas Residents Association & Neptune Township Lion's Club:** Capt. Kevin O'Donnell

**Midtown Urban Renaissance Corporation:** Lt. Robert Baldwin

**Shark River Hills Property Owners Association Inc.:** Lt. James MacConchie

**Gables Residents Association:** Sgt. Mysonn Ledet

**The Central Jersey Club of the Nation Association of Negro Business and Professional**

**Women's Clubs:** D/Sgt. Bryan Taylor

**The Villas at Jumping Brook Homeowners Association:** Sgt. Michael Adam

**Winding Ridge Tenants Association:** Sgt. Michael Adam

**Seaview Island Residents Association:** Sgt. Carrie Bartlett

**Ocean Grove Homeowners Association:** P.O. Tressa Yurman



Capt. Kevin O'Donnell



Lt. Robert Baldwin



Lt. James MacConchie



Sgt. Mysonn Ledet



D/Sgt. Bryan Taylor



Sgt. Michael Adam



Sgt. Carrie Bartlett



P.O. Tressa Yurman



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Our Community Outreach Officers work with a multitude of agencies and businesses to coordinate special events and ensure a safe environment for all. This Department recognizes the importance and community value of these events, as well as our responsibility to facilitate and ensure the safety for all participants. Some of the events coordinated by the Neptune Township Police Department in the past year include:

Public Safety Kids Camp  
Faith and Blue Weekend  
Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs  
Community Clean-Up  
JumpStart Academy at Neptune High School  
Torch Run for Special Olympics NJ  
Toys for Tots & Holiday Senior Food Deliveries  
Trunk or Treat  
Touch a Truck  
Coffee with a Cop  
School District Sporting & Academic Events  
Cops vs Kids Kickball  
Shop with a Cop  
Read Across America  
Bicycle Safety Day  
& Many More!





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH









# NEW INITIATIVES



## POLICE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

Reverend Nancey Jackson Johnson (pictured, left) serves as the NTPD's first official Police Chaplain. As a department, we are always seeking ways to build on the outstanding relationship we have with our community, and partnerships with Neptune's faith-based leaders have been an invaluable asset in this mission. With over two decades of experience as an ordained minister and a respected community leader in Neptune Township, Rev. Jackson Johnson has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to fostering unity and understanding. Her efforts include organizing impactful events like the "Fight to Unite" walk and the "Love Rises" unity rally, bolstering police-community relations. In her capacity as Police Chaplain, Rev. Jackson Johnson offers vital spiritual guidance during times of crisis, and extends compassionate support to both officers and the community, regardless of religious affiliation.

## BICYCLE PATROL UNIT

In 2024, the Neptune Township Police Department proudly announced the creation of our first Bicycle Patrol Unit. The Bike Unit is comprised of six officers who patrol in pairs utilizing our new E-Bikes, which are outfitted with lights, sirens, and first aid equipment. The officers passed the rigorous Bicycle Patrol Training Course at the Monmouth County Police Academy, where they learned advanced riding and patrol techniques. These E-Bikes offer many benefits including increased maneuverability during responses in crowded areas, allowing for expanded patrol routes which increase visible patrols in our neighborhoods, and reducing fatigue in comparison to traditional bikes, which allows the officers to be better prepared to take action on foot when needed. The purpose of the Bike Unit is to conduct highly visible patrols and quick emergency responses, as well as to provide increased interaction between our community and officers. The main focus of the Bike Unit is to enhance public safety through community policing and visible patrols.





# AWARDS

## 200 Club Awards

In 2024, thirteen Neptune Township Police Department Officers were recognized by the 200 Club of Monmouth County for their actions at various critical incidents in 2023. The 200 Club of Monmouth County is comprised of law enforcement officials, prominent businesses, and community leaders.

- Sgt. Bryan Taylor received a Commendation Award and Sgt. Jesse Dallago, Sgt. Aaron Lay, P.O. Marques Alston, P.O. Danielle DePalma, P.O. Douglas Mattia, P.O. Christopher Niskoch, and P.O. Vincent Zenna received Certificates of Recognition for their actions during a response for a suicidal subject threatening to jump from a highway overpass. The officers found the subject clinging to the fence over the highway and immediately began to engage with the subject while stopping highway traffic and working to set up a jump pad. Sgt. Taylor engaged in an extended negotiation with the subject experiencing a mental health crisis and was able to successfully convince him to surrender and go to the hospital for treatment. The teamwork and compassion displayed by all involved resulted in a peaceful and safe resolution.
- P.O. Brian Bucossi received a Certificate of Recognition for his efforts at the scene of an individual armed with a knife who was experiencing a mental health crisis. P.O. Bucossi engaged in an extended conversation with the subject and was able to successfully convince the subject to drop the knife and go to the hospital for further treatment. P.O. Bucossi's compassion and empathy resulted in a peaceful resolution to this potentially volatile situation.
- P.O. Matthew Simpson and P.O. Milton Roman received Certificates of Recognition for their skillful observation and proactive policing which resulted in the recovery of a handgun, narcotics, burglary tools, and a stolen bicycle following a bicyclist stop in January 2023. The items and information obtained during the stop also resulted in the furtherance of an active burglary investigation.
- P.O. Morgan Holland and P.O. Matthew Simpson received Merit Awards for their attentiveness and proactivity during a motor vehicle stop which resulted in the recovery of a loaded handgun.



## VFW #1333 Public Servant Awards

Police Officer Ryan Santos received the 2024 Public Servant Award from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1333. During the ceremony, Commander Wilbur Martin honored P.O. Santos for his service to our community, alongside Bil Rosen (Neptune EMS) and Otis Henderson (Neptune FD). The VFW Public Servant Awards are conducted nationwide to recognize emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers and firefighters who are nominated by their respective agencies. These public servants are chosen in recognition of their consistent excellence in the performance of their duties, their consistent dedication to their official responsibilities over a period of years and their continuous growth in responsibilities and skills within their profession.





# RECRUITMENT





## JOIN OUR TEAM!

### NOW HIRING: POLICE OFFICERS

#### SALARY & BENEFITS

- Competitive benefits and time-off packages, health benefits are provided upon retirement
- Increased starting salary for applicants with prior law enforcement experience
- 12-Hour Pitman shift schedule
- Early opportunities for specialized units including Street Crimes, Detective Bureau, Bike Patrol, Federal/State/County agency loan program, & many other assignments

#### QUALIFICATIONS & REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. Citizen with a valid NJ Driver's License
- At least 21 years of age, but not over 35
- Possess a high school diploma or GED and one of the following: Associate's Degree, 60 college credits, or honorable discharge from active duty U.S. military
- Possess a valid, passing score of the written & physical exam administered by the NJ Chief's of Police, or possess a NJPTC cert. for Police Officers or waiverable SLEO II cert



### TAKE THE NEXT STEP & APPLY TODAY!

SCAN QR TO APPLY USING POLICEAPP  
OR VISIT [NEPTUNEPOLICE.ORG/CAREERS](https://neptunepolice.org/careers)



The Neptune Township Police Department Recruitment Unit attends community events and job fairs in Neptune Township and throughout Monmouth County as a part of our commitment to attracting qualified and diverse candidates to join the NTPD. In 2024, the NTPD began using PoliceApp.com to advertise job openings and accept applications. Job openings are also shared on social media, the department website, mobile app, and advertised on electronic sign boards. The Neptune Township Police Department is an equal opportunity employer in all facets of the hiring process.



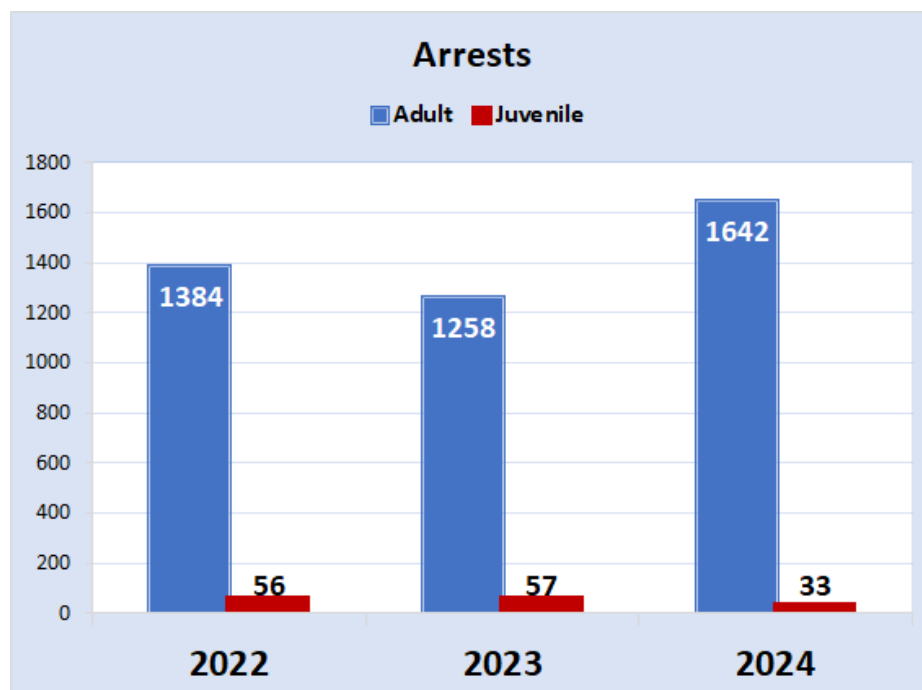
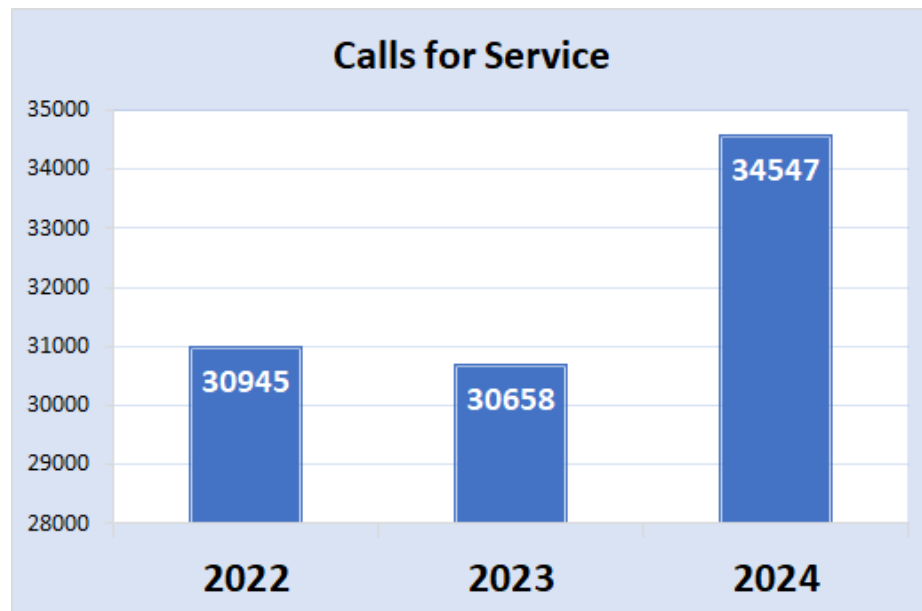
**For questions regarding recruitment, visit [NeptunePolice.org/careers](https://NeptunePolice.org/careers) and send any questions to [Recruitment@neptunepolice.org](mailto:Recruitment@neptunepolice.org).**

# PATROL BUREAU

The Neptune Township Patrol Bureau is the largest and most visible part of the department, committed to improving public safety and quality of life for the residents in our community.

The Patrol Bureau is on patrol in our community 24/7/365 and answers all calls for service, conducts investigations, and provides traffic and township ordinance enforcement.

At the end of 2024, the Patrol Bureau was staffed by four Patrol Lieutenants, eight Patrol Sergeants and forty one Police Officers. Five Police Officers were hired and completed our rigorous Field Training program in 2024.



# PATROL NOTABLE INCIDENTS

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**In 2024, the below officers were commended and recognized:**

**January 14th** - Sgt. Dallago, Sgt. Lay, PO Bolch and PO Nixon for safely locating a suicidal subject and transporting him to the hospital for treatment.

**February 9th** – PO Haskins, PO Sibole and PO Roman who were on patrol and noticed a vehicle parked at the side entrance of a business with several persons loading crates of energy drinks and an alarm sounding. The officers stopped the involved subjects and arrested them for shoplifting following an investigation.

**February 23rd** - Det. Hagerman and PO Sibole were recognized for their investigation of a robbery which quickly resulted in the identification of the suspect and his arrest.

**April 16th** - PO Kontogiannis and PO Jones for their assistance with a suicidal subject armed with a knife in a neighboring community.

**April 30th** - PO Kontogiannis and PO Jones for their response to a smoke condition in a senior housing complex, and their assistance safely evacuating multiple elderly residents.

**June 15th** - PO Zenna for his investigation into the burglary of a home and the subsequent arrest of the suspect. During a search of the suspect's residence, he recovered items from the victim's home and worked to locate other stolen items.

**June 25th** - PO Haskins, PO Holland, PO Leaming and PO Roman who attempted to stop a scooter on Drummond Ave which fled from them and was later located unoccupied. While searching the scooter, a handgun was located under the seat. The officer's investigation into the incident resulted in a suspect being identified using video footage, and charges issued related to eluding and firearms possession.

**June 26th** - PO Woods who, while assigned to Neptune Middle School, assisted a student with special needs as he was experiencing a crisis. School staff credited PO Woods with handling the situation with care and continued to assist the student throughout his assignment at the school.



# PATROL NOTABLE INCIDENTS

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**In 2024, the below officers were commended and recognized:**

**July 25th** - PO McLearen who conducted a motor vehicle stop and observed narcotics in plain view and placed the driver under arrest. During his search of the vehicle, he located a large sum of cash and several cell phones. The suspect was charged with various narcotics offenses.

**August 2nd** - PO Panariello for her effective communication and compassion when dealing with an agitated juvenile with autism at the hospital. She was able to successfully de-escalate the incident and allow hospital staff to treat the juvenile.

**August 11th** - PO Jazikoff for her thorough investigation into the theft of a cell phone which was placed into a "cash for phones" machine. During her investigation, the phone was recovered and a suspect was identified, arrested, and admitted to the theft.

**August 27th** - PO Jazikoff and PO Kontogiannis who responded to a motor vehicle crash and discovered the driver suffering apparent cardiac arrest. The officers began CPR and lifesaving measures prior to the arrival of EMS. The victim was transported to the hospital with no pulse and was revived with by hospital staff, and made a full recovery. Hospital staff credited the positive outcome to the rapid and skillful lifesaving measures the officers utilized at the scene of the crash.

**August 28th** - D/Sgt. Maletto who assisted with the rescue of three swimmers in distress, who had entered the water after dark. He and ANSWER Water Rescue Swimmers successfully removed the victims from the water uninjured.

**November 19th** - PO Crawford who responded to a person experiencing a mental health crisis. He was able to successfully de-escalate the situation and calm the patient, who was transported to the hospital for treatment.

# DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Detective Bureau is primarily tasked with conducting follow-up investigations of reported crimes such as homicide, robbery, burglary, fraud and theft, amongst others. As part of the investigation, detectives will interview suspects, victims and witnesses, as well as compile cases for prosecution. The Detective Bureau also distributes information to surrounding agencies, conducts background checks on police applicants, and maintains a high level of training necessary to handle a variety of cases. In 2024, the Detective Bureau was staffed by one Detective Lieutenant, two Detective Sergeants, and five Detectives as well as a civilian employee.

## Notable Incidents

**March 6th** - Det. Hagerman arrested and charged a male following a carjacking that occurred on Corlies Ave, where he allegedly forcefully took car keys from the victim and stole the victim's vehicle.

**June 27th** - Det. Rosenthal arrested a 16-year-old female following the theft of a vehicle and five separate motor vehicle burglaries on Shorebrook Circle, Toomin Dr. and Country Club Dr. She admitted to the theft and burglaries and was charged.

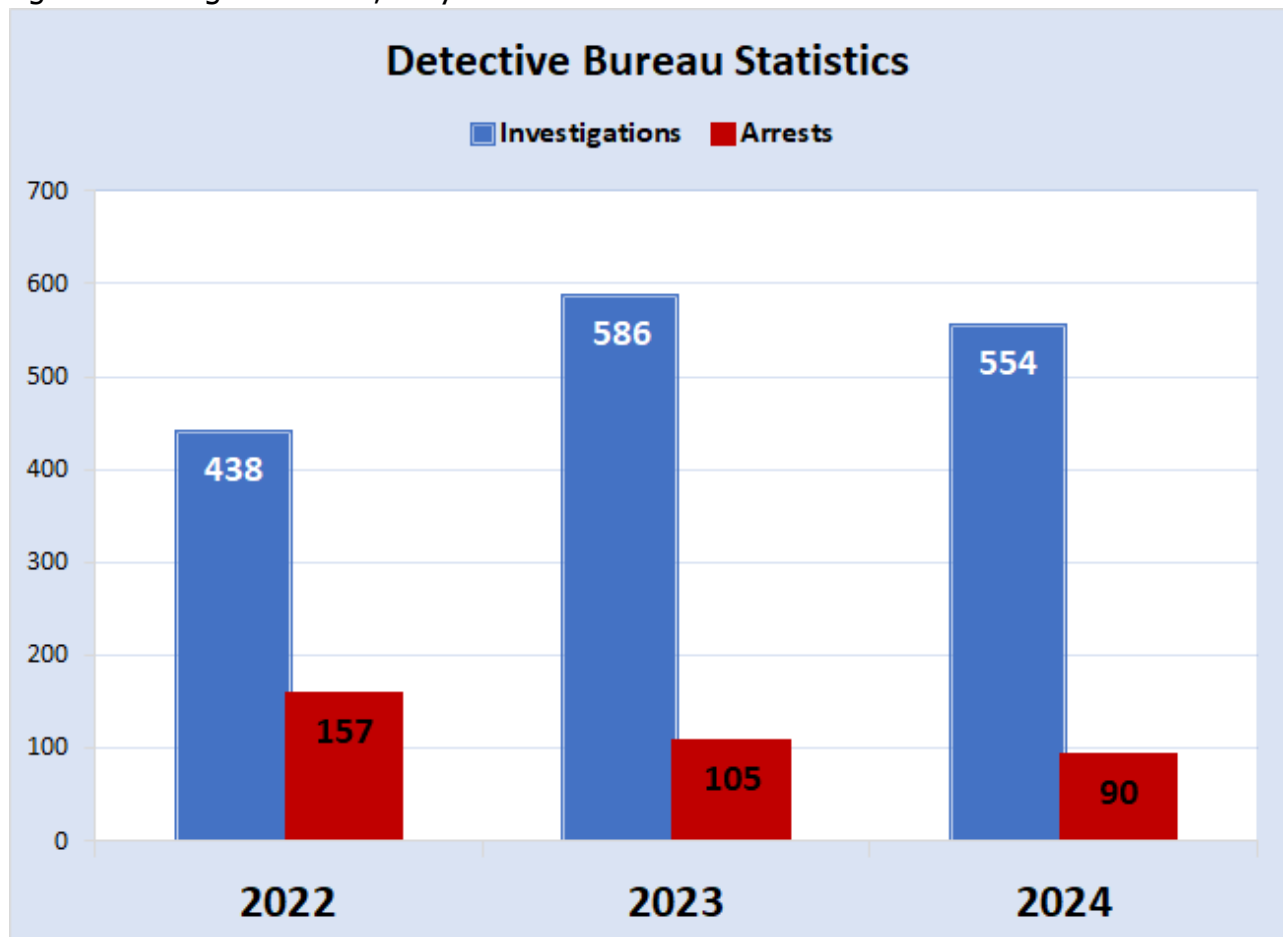
**August 8th** - Det. Sibole arrested a male following a three-month sexual assault investigation and search warrant execution at his residence on Timber Ridge Court. He was charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Sexual Assault.

**September 12th** - Det. Rosenthal arrested a 12-year-old male following three armed robberies of local businesses and residents in January and June 2024. He was charged with robbery and weapons offenses.

**October 10th** - Det. Rosenthal charged a male after he was identified as a suspect in five separate motor vehicle burglaries on Marcy Dr., Jagger Ave., and Sherry Ln.

**October 10th** - Det. Hagerman arrested a 15-year-old male following motor vehicle burglaries on Robbins Rd., Brighton Ave., Greenwood Pl. and N. Riverside Dr. He admitted to the burglaries and was charged.

**October 28th** - Det. Rosenthal arrested a male after he was identified as a suspect in six separate motor vehicle burglaries on High Point Ln., Wayside Rd. and Louisville Ave.



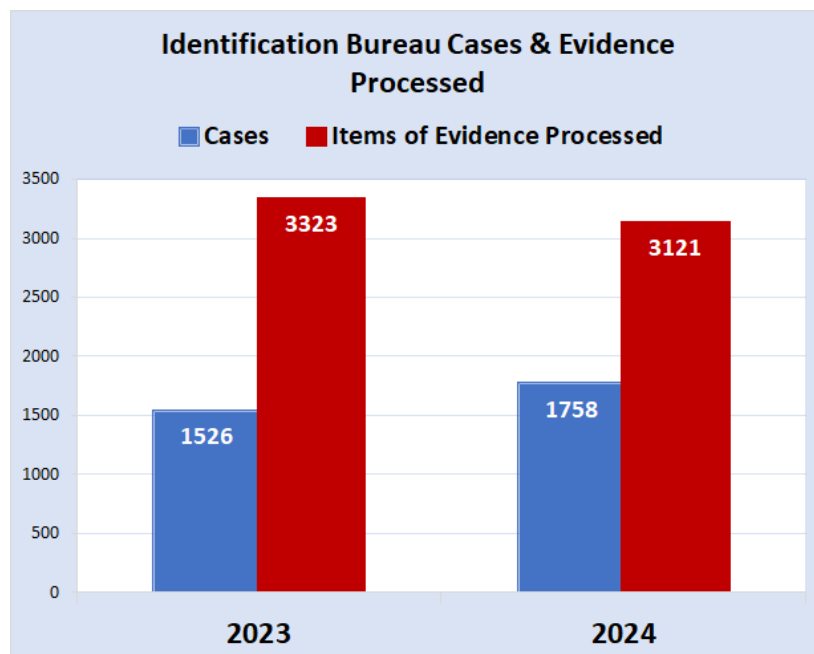
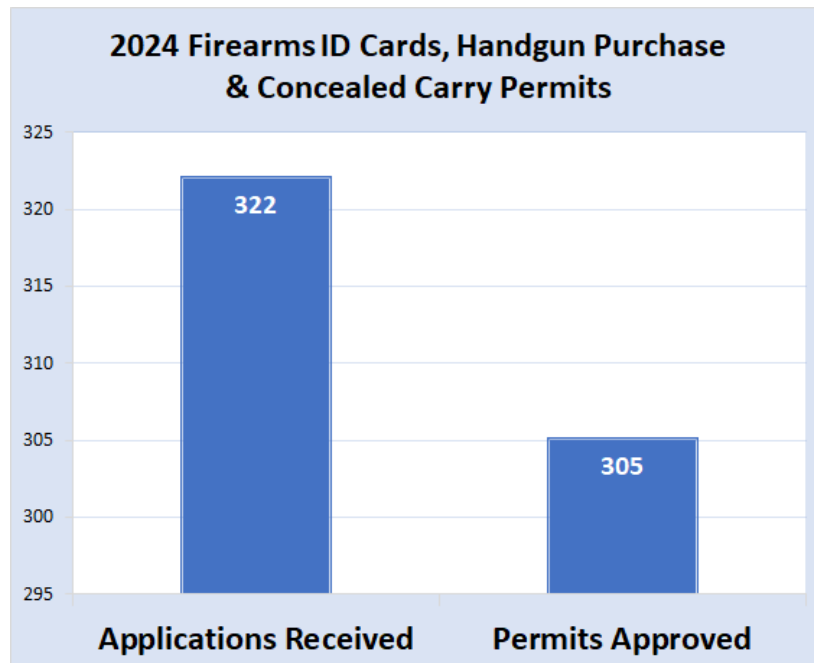
# IDENTIFICATION BUREAU

The Identification Bureau is a division of the Detective Bureau that is primarily responsible for crime scene forensics, evidence collection and retention.

The Identification Detectives also handle all Megan’s Law registrants in the Township of Neptune, which includes monitoring, registration and conducting unannounced visits to their residences.

Firearms applications, weapons purchase permits, and handgun carry permits are also handled by the Identification Bureau.

The Identification Bureau is staffed by two Detectives, a civilian staff member and assigned patrol officers as needed.

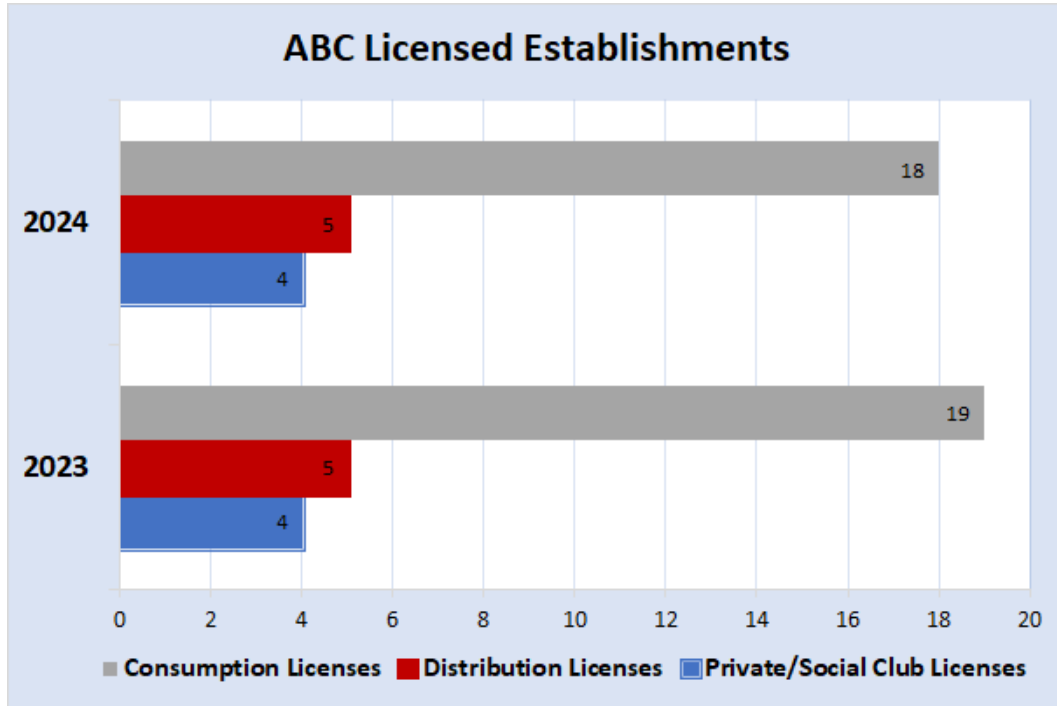




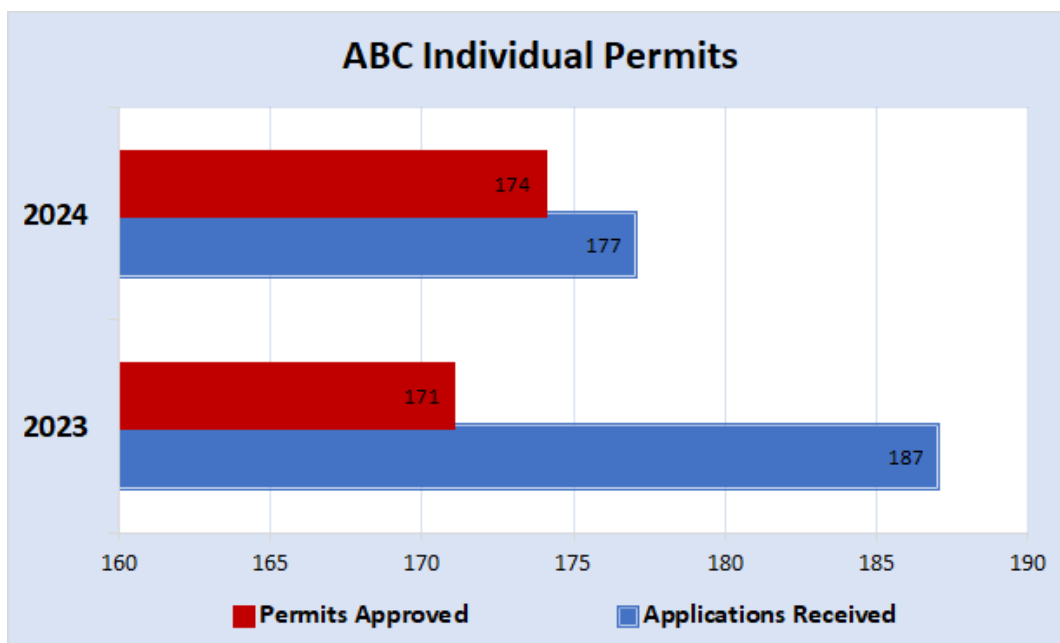
# ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

The Identification Bureau and Detective Bureau are tasked with registration and maintenance of the Alcoholic Beverage Control licensing program.

The purpose of this program is to assure businesses are in compliance with NJ Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations, to ensure public safety and to prevent the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors.



All employees involved in the sale or preparation of alcoholic beverages are required to register and submit to a criminal history check each year.



# TRAFFIC BUREAU

The Traffic Bureau is staffed by a Lieutenant and supported by designated Sergeants as well as Special Law Enforcement Officers. The bureau remains highly responsive to the needs of the community, and encourages two-way communication between the police department and the citizens with traffic related concerns. Residents are always encouraged to reach out to the Traffic Bureau with any parking concerns, traffic issues, or community outreach questions. Contact information can be found on the final page of the report.

Traffic Bureau responsibilities include:

- *Child Passenger Seat Safety Technicians*
- *Traffic Enforcement*
- *Serious/Fatal Crash Investigations*
- *Overseeing all Crash and DWI Reports*
- *Site Plan Review and Inspection*
- *Grant Supported Traffic Programs*
- *Taxi and Tow Truck Inspection*
- *Analyzation of Speed Sign Data*
- *Supervision of Crossing Guards*
- *Maintenance and Training of E-Ticket, Automatic License Plate Readers, Speed Radars and Alcotest Instruments*
- *Maintenance and Placement of Speed Radar Signs and Speed Humps*
- *Traffic Control at all Township Events*
- *Issuing of Temporary Handicap Permits*



Traffic Bureau Statistics	2023	2024	% Change
Moving Violations	1368	2291	+67.5
Non-Moving Violations	1784	3036	+70.2
Parking Tickets	405	1205	+197.5
Speeding Tickets	16	85	+431.3
DWI Arrests	63	112	+77.8
Motor Vehicle Crash Reports	1797	1795	-0.1
Crashes Inv. Struck Pedestrian/Bicyclist	53	54	+1.9
Pursuits Initiated	8	4	-50.0
Vehicles Impounded	696	765	+9.9

# STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Street Crimes Unit is staffed by a Lieutenant, a Sergeant and supported by designated Police Officers. The primary function is to investigate drug crimes and quality of life issues within the Township, including but not limited to: use and sale of narcotics, public alcohol consumption, prostitution, liquor laws, and township ordinances. The SCU works with County, State, and Federal agencies to identify and arrest individuals who are involved in the manufacturing, sale and use of illicit narcotics as well as targeting gangs and violent criminals.



Street Crimes Unit Statistics	2023	2024	% Change
Arrests	177	289	+63.3
Criminal Charges	231	343	+48.5
Search Warrants	4	4	+0.0
Currency Seized	27217	11161	-+59.0
Warrant Arrests	164	166	+1.2
Ordinance Violations	62	170	+174.2

## Notable Occurances for 2024

**February 16th** - PO Holland & SCU arrested a female during a narcotics investigation on Filmore Ave in the Richard Stout Neptune Housing. A search warrant was conducted which resulted in the seizure of \$383, Heroin and Drug Paraphernalia.

**June 25th** - PO Roman & SCU arrested a male for possession of a defaced handgun (Black Ruger SR22P .22 Caliber) and other weapon offenses after conducting an eluding investigation.

**August 7th** - PO Haskins & SCU conducted a narcotics investigation which ended in a residential search warrant on Corlies Ave, resulting in the seizure of \$817 and assorted drugs including Cocaine, Crack Cocaine, Prescription Pills and Drug Paraphernalia. This led to a subsequent investigation and the arrest of a male and the seizure 650 Bags of Heroin, 30 Grams of Powder Cocaine and \$7000.00 from a residence on Heck Ave.

**December 14th** - PO Leaming & SCU arrested a male during a motor vehicle stop at West Lake and Myrtle Ave which resulted in the seizure of 100 Bags of Heroin.



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The NTPD and the Neptune Township School District have always maintained a strong working relationship, with shared goals of protecting our students, teachers, and staff throughout all of Neptune Township's schools. Since we believe that a critical part of achieving this goal is to foster and build trust between the students and our officers, Chief Anthony Gualario and Superintendent Dr. Tami Crader are proud to announce the return of designated School Resource Officers to Neptune's schools!



While we have always assigned officers to our schools, the return of our School Resource Officer program will mean that the same officers will be present daily throughout the year. This allows them the opportunity to interact with students and staff on a consistent basis, fostering trust, building positive relationships, and allowing them to protect our schools more effectively. All of our School Resource Officers are recently Retired Law Enforcement Officers from NJ (SLEO III's) who have each completed more than 25 years of police service and have received countless hours of training in School Safety, Active Shooter, First Aid, and other training to ensure they are well-prepared to handle any safety and security concerns. To all those in our community, please remember that we need your help to protect our schools! Parents, teachers, and all others are urged to report any concerns regarding school safety by calling 9-1-1 immediately.

# SLEO & JAIL OPERATIONS

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Over the past year, our Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) program operated with three SLEO II Officers and three SLEO I officers.

SLEO II Officers have the same arresting power as a full-time officer except that it is limited to while they are on-duty. They are utilized for speed enforcement, court security, jail operations and walking patrols.

SLEO I Officers are utilized for parking enforcement, traffic details, and jail operations as well as special events.



**The SLEO program serves as a way for the command staff to evaluate potential candidates for full-time positions. Many of our current full-time officers began their career with the NTPD as a SLEO.**

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Neptune Township operates and staffs an 18 cell jail, which provides service to Neptune Township as well as Avon-by-the-Sea, the Monmouth County Sheriffs Office and other agencies as necessary.

SLEO I and II Officers hired as Jailors are tasked with jail operations, prisoner searches, property inventories and other duties.

**During the year 2024, Neptune's jail held 1,110 total prisoners.  
(2023: 958)**

# PUBLIC INFORMATION

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The Neptune Township Police Department maintains working relationships with all local and many regional and national news outlets to distribute press releases, emergency information and public service announcements.

Our Public Information Officers are on-call to assist the media, coordinate news conferences, and work with local agencies to ensure a unified and consistent release of information.

By maintaining strong relationships with the media, we can ensure a timely release of information to our residents and surrounding communities in the event a critical message must be dispersed.



# PUBLIC INFORMATION



**The Neptune Township Police Department leverages social media to reach our residents, visitors, local businesses and the media with critical emergency information and general Neptune Township community news.**

**Facebook:** 445,000 impressions 11,000 followers This is a primary source of information distribution to our local community.

**Instagram:** 52,000 impressions 2,000 followers Instagram has served as yet another way of reaching out to our community.

**Everbridge:** 31,000 registered contacts Everbridge continues to serve as our critical alert system, which can send calls, texts, and emails to all residents instantly.

**Mobile App:** Our free mobile app, a partnership with Neptune OEM, continues to serve as a crucial source of emergency info for residents and visitors.

# ACCREDITATION

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The Neptune Township Police Department was awarded initial accreditation by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) in 2016 and was re-accredited in 2019, 2022 and will be undergoing re-accreditation again in early 2025. NJSACOP's rigorous Accreditation program requires agencies to endure re-accreditation every three years in order to maintain their accredited status. Less than 12% of agencies that received initial accreditation have been re-accredited, and the NTPD is currently working towards it's third re-accreditation. The policies and procedures involved with the Accreditation process are being continually updated to ensure the department is always in compliance with nationally recognized best practice standards in each of the five functions: Administrative, Operations, Investigative, Arrestee/Detainee, and Personnel.

Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence, and competence. It is a challenging process, which includes writing and rewriting new policies, adopting nationally recognized best practices, and an in-person inspection conducted by representatives from the NJSACOP. Agencies that are accredited and their communities enjoy financial benefits including fewer liability claims and reduced costs of insurance, providing tax reductions for residents.

The Neptune Township Police Department has continued to ensure compliance with each of the 105 required best practice standards, and the Professional Responsibility Division remains confident that this agency will continue to retain Accredited Status.



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS

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The Neptune Township Police Department Internal Affairs Unit accepts, reviews, and responds to all complaints against police officers received from the public or from superior officers within the organization. Citizen complaints may be made via any method including, but not limited to: in person, by telephone, fax, internet, or through the mail. These include anonymous complaints, complaints from third party witnesses, juveniles and complaints from parties not directly involved in the incident from which an allegation arises. All allegations are carried to their logical conclusion by experienced and trained investigators.

In any given year officers of the Neptune Township Police Department are involved in tens of thousands of citizen contacts. Many are routine and many involve critical situations. The Internal Affairs Unit is tasked with handling complaints from the public regarding officer conduct, as well as rare allegations of criminal conduct by department members.

The investigative process assesses the propriety of all on or off duty conduct during the incident in which the alleged misconduct occurred. If during the course of an investigation there is an indication that misconduct occurred other than that alleged, the investigator examines the additional potential misconduct to its logical conclusion.

**The following penalties may be assessed against any member or employee of the Neptune Township Police Department as a result of disciplinary action:**

**Oral Reprimand**  
**Written Reprimand**  
**Suspension**  
**Demotion**  
**Dismissal**

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS

All complaints are categorized based on the alleged offense. Upon the completion of the investigation, the investigator will reach a conclusion based upon the facts developed in their investigation which will fall into one of the following five dispositions:

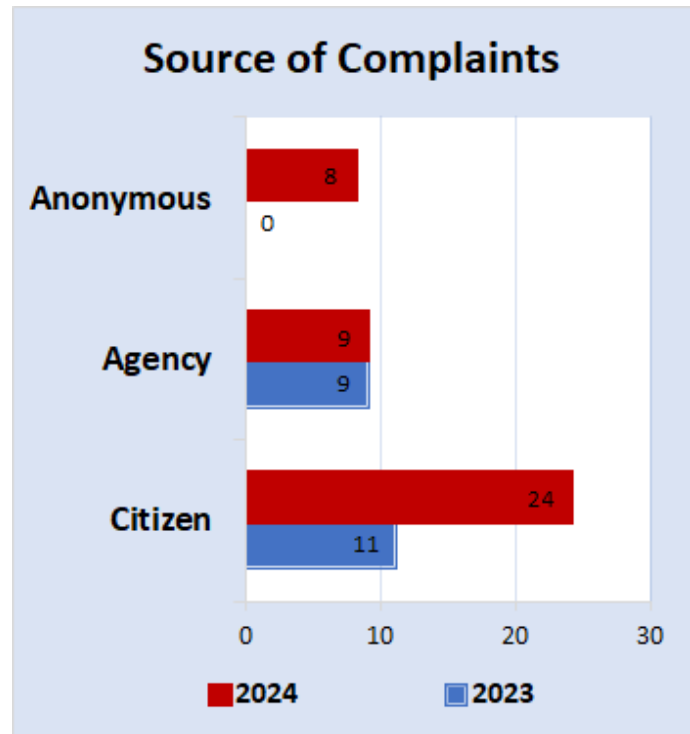
**Exonerated:** A preponderance of the evidence shows the alleged conduct did occur, but did not violate any law; regulation; directive, guideline, policy, or procedure issued by the Attorney General or County Prosecutor; agency protocol; standard operating procedure; rule; or training.

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

**Not Sustained:** The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.

**Unfounded:** A preponderance of the evidence shows that the alleged conduct did not occur.

**Administratively Closed:** This disposition is used for extraordinary circumstances that isn't defined by any of the other four dispositions. (e.g., employee passes away.)



## Internal Affairs: 2024 Annual Summary

Type of Complaint	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Admin. Closed	Pending
Excessive Force	0	0	0	3	0	0
Improper Arrest	0	1	0	0	0	6
Improper Entry	0	7	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	0	0	4	0	0
Other Criminal Violation	0	0	0	2	0	0
Differential Treatment	0	0	0	5	0	0
Demeanor	0	0	2	2	0	0
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	1
Other Rule Violation	17	1	0	0	0	4
Total	17	9	2	16	0	11



# GRANT PROGRAMS

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## **BJA Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program (JAG)**

Named in honor of fallen NYPD Officer Edward Byrne, this grant program is a leading source of federal funding to state and local police departments. The program grants funding to agencies to support a broad range of crime prevention and control activities. In 2024, the Neptune Township Police Department received \$18,657 from this grant, which was subsequently used to a trailer-mounted electronic sign board for speeding enforcement and displaying emergency notifications.

## **Department of Community Affairs Public Safety Grant**

For the first time, the Neptune Township Police Department was awarded the DCA Public Safety Grant which provided \$150,000 in funding. This grant funded the replacement of 25 vehicle mounted computers from Patrol PC, which replaced the previous computers which were nearing 10 years old. It was also used to fund an ongoing project to replace all officers duty weapons.

## **Body Armor Replacement Grants**

This year, the Neptune Township Police Department received a total of \$12,116.69 in funding for the replacement of officers Body Armor, with \$6,246.94 coming from federal funding and \$5,869.75 coming from state funding.

## **COPS Hiring Program (CHP)**

For the first time, the Neptune Township Police Department was awarded the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) which provided \$375,000 in funding. This funding was used to hire and train three new Police Officers, including officers currently in training at the Police Academy and with Field Training Officers.

# GOALS FOR 2025

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To reduce crime and the fear of crime through innovative patrol techniques, specialized units, advanced technology, information sharing, public information targeted investigations, and by leveraging connections with community groups.

To continue providing the professional, skilled service our community has come to expect by ensuring officers receive the most up-to-date training and educational opportunities.

Prioritize maintaining and developing new connections with homeowners and service groups, faith-based and non-profit organizations within our local community to foster trust and transparency while hearing concerns directly from residents which can assist with crime prevention.

Continue to provide a thorough and transparent Internal Affairs process through advanced training for investigators and by maintaining the high standards required by our law enforcement accreditation.

Implement crime-preventing and solving technology including installations of new cameras at critical intersections and license plate readers on patrol vehicles.

## **To achieve these goals, we are implementing several new programs in 2025 including:**

- Purchase, training and implementation of six Axon Taser conducted energy devices to provide an additional non-lethal option for officers when responding to critical incidents such as armed persons endangering others or themselves.
- Expansion of our recently announced Bicycle and UTV Units to increase community engagement and interaction, especially in our business districts and neighborhoods.
- Installation of 25 new Patrol PC MDT's which replaced the previous in-vehicle computers, providing new features that assist with crime prevention and investigations.
- Modernization of our patrol vehicle fleet with new graphics, technology and equipment to improve officer safety and increase community engagement.

# CONTACT US

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**[www.neptunepolice.org](http://www.neptunepolice.org)**



**[facebook.com/neptunepolice](https://facebook.com/neptunepolice)**



**[twitter.com/neptunepolice](https://twitter.com/neptunepolice)**



**[instagram.com/neptunepolice](https://instagram.com/neptunepolice)**



<b>Emergency</b>	<b>9-1-1</b>
<b>Non-Emergency</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000</b>
<b>Monmouth County Crime Stoppers</b>	<b>1-800-671-4400</b>
<b>Office of the Chief</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000 ext. 402</b>
<b>Detective Bureau</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000 ext. 420</b>
<b>Identification Bureau</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000 ext. 429</b>
<b>Traffic Bureau &amp; Community Outreach</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000 ext. 433</b>
<b>Records Bureau</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000 ext. 457</b>
<b>Street Crimes Unit</b>	<b>(732) 988-8000 ext. 416</b>