

# 2024

## ANNUAL REPORT

# Township of Union Police Department



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# Union Police Mission



It is a top priority of the Township of Union Police Department to protect and serve the residents of the Township of Union, utilizing the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing, which provides for the delivery of police services with a focus on the needs of the residents of the Community. It is the mission of the Union Police Department to be sensitive to the needs of community and to work with residents to improve and maintain the quality of life within the Township. The Township of Union Police Department encourages communication and listens to the concerns of the community. Through a proactive approach, utilizing community education and crime prevention, officers and the community become members of a team with the common goals of reduced crime and improved quality of life.

# Union Police Core Values

**INTEGRITY | FAIRNESS | RESPECT | HONESTY | COURAGE | COMPASSION**



1. **INTEGRITY** - A value which represents incorruptible adherence to the other core values. Integrity does not stand alone; it is supported by the other key values: Fairness, Respect, Honesty, Courage and Compassion. These basic values require constant self-discipline. They are the foundation for law enforcement in a democratic society, which holds accountable those who it entrusts to enforce its laws.

2. **FAIRNESS** - A value characterized by freedom from self-interest, prejudice or favoritism. Fairness is the essential attribute of impartiality and a cornerstone of the relationship between the citizenry and those sworn to protect and to serve them. Law enforcement officers must treat all witnesses, victims and suspects fairly without reference to personal feelings, beliefs or interests. Fairness requires respect for cultural and ethnic diversity.

3. **RESPECT** - A value that denotes pride and a high regard for all citizens, and the Constitution, power and authority of office. Law enforcement officers must show respect for others through temperance, fairness and courteous execution of their duties and conduct of their personal lives.

4. **HONESTY** - A value that is the anchor of Integrity. Honesty means being trustworthy and sincere in accordance with experience and facts. Lying, cheating, stealing, or the appearance of impropriety is unacceptable to the profession of law enforcement.

5. **COURAGE** - A value that law enforcement officers must possess to preserve life and property. Courage is control under adversity of fear and the ability to do what is right. Courage is the value that prompts law enforcement officers to take control, and if necessary, risk their lives to defend and protect human life.

6. **COMPASSION** - A value that is inherent to understanding or sympathy for victims or another's suffering. Compassion is the ability to restore order to others lives while controlling and understanding personal feelings which influence individual actions. Humility is a necessary attribute of compassion.

# Union Police Code Of Ethics



As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve the community; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice. I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to me or to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed both in my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the law and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, political beliefs, aspirations, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities. I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will never engage in acts of corruption or bribery, nor will I condone such acts by other police officers. I will cooperate with all legally authorized agencies and their representatives in the pursuit of justice. I know that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

## Staff Services Bureau

The Staff Services Bureau incorporates Educational Services (Training), Planning & Research, Community Policing, School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer Program, Crime Prevention, Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D), Alarm Enforcement, Accreditation, Jobs-In-Blue, and the Bicycle (Community Police) Unit.

### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SECTION (TRAINING)

The goal of the Educational Services section is to provide effective, quality training, while at the same time maintaining a streamlined operation. This continues to be accomplished through the utilization of a training regimen, which provides for all of the *mandated* and ancillary training programs, while allowing for the fielding of adequate manpower. Noteworthy training activities that were undertaken in 2024, include some of the following:

Officer Safety – Weapons Training	CJIS Training
Active Shooter Training	Narcan Deployment
Domestic Violence	Defensive Tactics
Vehicle Pursuit /Block and Lock Training	Body Worn Camera
Use of Force Training	Drone Operation
Field Training Officer Program	M4 Operators Courses
9-1-1 and EMD Recertification Training	Workplace Harassment
Law Enforcement Interaction with Orthodox Jewish Community	Civil Disturbance Training
Mental Health & Special Needs Crisis Stabilization Training	Swift Water Rescue

The Union Police Department continued its participation in the Union County Emergency Response Team (*U.C.E.R.T.*) SWAT training. Additional training for Entry & Containment has continued as well. Currently, four Union Police Officers are assigned to the *Union County Emergency Response Team*, regular training team; in addition three officers are assigned to specialty training in the Entry & Containment Team.

Major mandated and voluntary training undertaken in 2024, included semi-annual firearms, training, pursuit training, and Racial / Biased Policing training, with once again a major focus on Use of Force training.

In 2024, the Training Bureau continued expanding our digital sight (Red Dot) training to officers further increasing handgun accuracy. The department plans on continuing training in 2025, to increase the number of officers with digital sights.

As part of our on-going firearms maintenance program, which is conducted semi-annually, firearm instructors/armors continue to inspect each and every handgun that's in service and ultrasonically clean them. This program allows the department to ensure serviceability of all department issued weapons and to intervene early on if problems occur.



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## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SECTION (TRAINING)

The Training Bureau offers Township of Union residents the chance to gain a glimpse into the field of Law Enforcement with the department's bi-annual Law Enforcement Active Participant Program (L.E.A.P). The L.E.A.P. Program is held at the Township of Union Police Department's training range. Registered participants play the role of a police officer in various non-physical contact scenarios. The program is open to all Township of Union residents ages 18 and up.



The Township of Union Police Department Presents

### UPD LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVE PARTICIPANT TRAINING PROGRAM

## Participants Needed

Join the Township of Union Police Department for our annual "Law Enforcement Active Participant Training Program" (L.E.A.P.). Participants will play the role of a police officer in various non-physical contact scenarios while interacting with real police officers acting in multiple roles. The program is open to Union residents ages 18 and up.

**REGISTER TODAY!!**

**October 16th, 2024**  
05:00 PM - 08:00 PM  
SPACE IS LIMITED (15 SPOTS ONLY)

**Union Police Department Range**  
990 Jefferson Avenue, Union, NJ 07083  
(Behind Home Depot on Route 22)

To register, please contact the Training Bureau via email at [rdelvalle@uniontownship.com](mailto:rdelvalle@uniontownship.com).

For More Details:  
Call us at (908) 851-5068  
@TWPUNIONNJ  
@UNIONPOLICENJ



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## Staff Services Bureau

The police department supplies body armor to all of our police officers. The department also replaces a percentage of the body armor to ensure all of our officers are issued up to date body armor. In 2024, we issued 42 new body armor vests requiring replacement.

In the spirit of cooperation (as well as fulfilling our obligation), Union Police officers continue to serve as instructors at the John H. Stamler Police Academy. Instructors from various departments throughout Union County, as well as from state and federal agencies, staff the police academy. For the training of recruits, as well as providing in service training to sworn officers.

### ALARMS

The Alarm Enforcement Unit managed the Township's business and residential alarm accounts for 2024. Funds in the amount of **\$1,300** have been received for business alarm accounts.

The Alarm Enforcement Unit also maintains emergency information files on all registered businesses and residences within the Township. Maintenance and daily updating of these files assist the communications personnel in making rapid contact to home and business owners in case of break-ins or other emergency situations. These files are also a source of important information for responding patrol personnel.

The Alarm Unit monitors the number of false alarms generated by business and commercial establishments within the Township. Premises that continue to produce unacceptable numbers of false alarms are subject to an initial warning and graduated penalties determined by the Police Director. As a result of the program, a noticeable decrease in false alarm activity has resulted and the department will continue to strive for elimination of even more unnecessary alarm activations. The total 2024 false alarm fees were **\$475.00**.

Careful monitoring to reduce the number of false alarms is necessary to insure rapid emergency response to the residents of the township, while protecting the safety of the officers on the road.

Excessive false alarms cause inefficient utilization of department resources and detract from the expeditious delivery of public safety resources to the community at large.

### ALARM FEES 2024

Alarm fees collected for the year 2024 - **\$1,300**

False alarm fees for 2024 - **\$475.00**



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### CRIME PREVENTION / L.E.A.D. / EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Crime Prevention/Community Police Unit performs functions that support and enhance the mission of the Police Department. The unit provides education and information on Crime prevention and personal safety; encourages and assists in the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups and other prevention and public safety activities. L.E.A.D. officers support and play key roles in many of the community policing and crime prevention activities and events. As of 2024, there are 3 Sworn Police Officers trained through the L.E.A.D. program.



### EXPLORERS

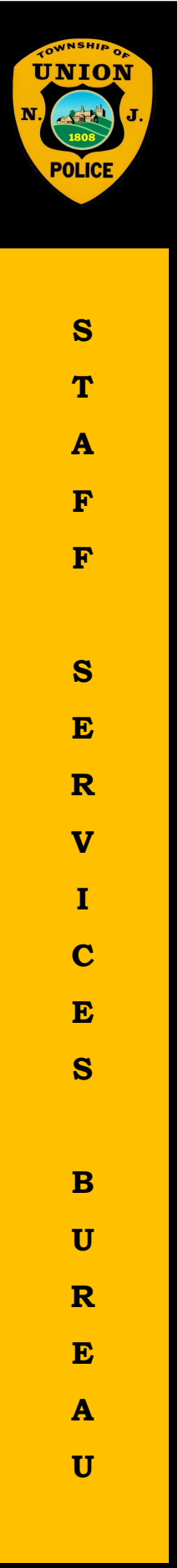
The Township of Union's Police Division maintains an active Law Enforcement Explorer Post. Exploring is a division of the Boy Scouts of America program, designed for young men and women between the ages of 14 and 18. A major purpose of Exploring is to develop character building, citizenship training and fitness programs for the youth of the participating community.

As of December 2024, the Union Police Law Enforcement Explorer Posts consist of 13 young members. The total number of adult Explorer advisors is 13. The program enables youth to participate in various aspects of law enforcement through training scenarios, community service programs, and social activities. Some of the training and activities included in the monthly meetings were CPR and First Aid Training, Morals and Ethics, Radio Communications, Crime Prevention, Bicycle Registration, Military Drill, along with attendance and participation at town events.

During 2024, Union Law Enforcement Explorers were able to supply over 250 volunteer hours to the Township of Union. Explorers continued their monthly meetings, and completed hundreds of training hours in the process. In the 25 year history of the Township of Union Police Department's Law Enforcement Explorer Post, 14 Police Explorers have gone on to become police officers. Four of the 14 are employed by the Township of Union Police Department.



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### PERSONNEL

In 2024, the Township of Union Police Department hired five (5) new sworn Police Officers, maintaining our manpower at 147 sworn Police Officers. The Township of Union Police Department hired two (2) new Civilian employees. The Township of Union Police Department had four (4) Retirements and five (5) Resignations. Three (3) Officers were promoted from Patrolman to Sergeant; three (3) Detectives were promoted to the rank of Sergeant, and two (2) Sergeants were promoted to the rank of Lieutenant.

### NEW HIRES

Marco Rodriguez	January 5th	Police Officer
Steve Beauduy	January 5th	Police Officer
Sarah DeMelo	June 10th	Communications Officer
Amanda Schulz	November 11th	Communications Officer
Charles J. Sisto	November 21st	Police Officer
Charles R. Fischetto	November 21st	Police Officer
Kyle J. Cipkins	November 21st	Police Officer

### PROMOTIONS OF SWORN PERSONNEL

Matthew Mularz	February 15th	Sergeant to Lieutenant
George Moutis	February 15th	Sergeant to Lieutenant
Christopher Lensi	February 15th	Detective to Sergeant
Patrick Bradley	February 15th	Detective to Sergeant
Cristiano Ribau	February 15th	Police Officer to Sergeant
Robert Leamy	February 15th	Police Officer to Sergeant
Sergio Pereira	February 15th	Detective to Sergeant
Matthew Brady	February 15th	Police Officer to Sergeant

### RETIREMENTS

Paul Ward	February 1st	Civilian
MaryAnn Zalewski	February 1st	Civilian
Mark Martin	July 1	Detective Lieutenant
Adam Jovic	August 1st	Sergeant



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### RESIGNATIONS

Marco Rodriguez	January 15th	Police Recruit
Manuel Vaz	January 22nd	Police Officer
Kathleen Rosenbluth	February 23rd	Communications Officer
Brian Estevez	November 22nd	Communications Officer
Steven Cedenó	December 22nd	Police Officer



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## GRANTS

The Police Department received funds throughout the year from the following grants:

2024	HTS Federal Highway Safety Grant 2024	\$40,500.00
2024	HTS Federal Highway Safety Grant 2024	\$32,070.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$72,570.00</b>

## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGNS / GRANTS

Each year our agency participates in a number of enforcement campaigns. These campaigns are funded by grants from the federal and state government. The campaigns include:

Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund

Pedestrian Safety

Labor Day DWI

Holiday Crackdown DWI

Safe Corridor

Distracted Driver

Click it or Ticket



Our Agency was awarded \$ 72,570.00 from the NJDOT Highway Safety 2024 . Allocated funding is used to help improve safety on Highways. Our agency used this money to strictly enforce violations Route 22, a designated safe corridor zone. Officers assigned to these special details focused primarily on speeding violations, distracted drivers, and violations involving work zone safety offenses.



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## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### “BLACK HISTORY MONTH SPOTLIGHT”

For the month of February, to celebrate “Black History Month, the Township of Union Police Department’s Community Policing Unit chose to spotlight and show recognition to several community-based leaders, innovators, and business owners within the Township of Union. A short interview was conducted, shared, and posted on our social media platforms.



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## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### MARCH MADNESS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

On Friday, March 22nd, 2024 the Township of Union Police Department proudly hosted the second annual “March Madness Final Four Tournament” Basketball Game at Union High School. The concept of the fundraiser was developed by SRO N. Senyon and members of the Staff Services Bureau. The fundraiser included prizes, raffles, entertainment, and friendly competition against the “Final Four”, bringing together teams from the Union Board of Ed., UPD, DPW, and UFD. Team members voluntarily participated in the community policing event which included weekly practices, assigned uniforms, and event entrance theme music. All proceeds of the event benefited Union High School Athletics and the Township of Union Police Department’s Explorer Program. The event proved to be a great success, while supporting the development and enrichment of local youth. The event was filled with sportsmanship, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to continue to make a positive impact on the Township of Union community.



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## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### “Let’s Get Summer Fresh”

On Sunday, June 30th, 2024, the Community Policing Unit hosted the first annual “Let’s Get Summer Fresh” event at Stache Barbershop (414 Chestnut Street). The Township of Union Police Department partnered with Stache Barbershop to promote community outreach among our local schools. Fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, and High School students, from Township of Union Public Schools were treated to a day of pampering to celebrate the end of another successful school year. The pampering event included free haircuts, manicures, and eyebrow waxing from volunteers from local businesses and several of our first responders.



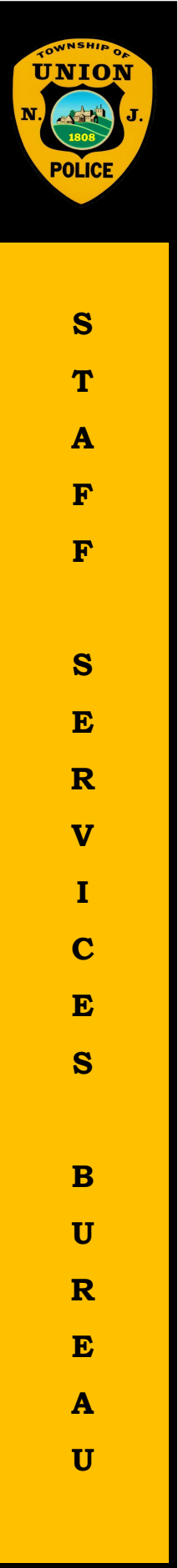
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## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY PROGRAM

In 2024, the Township of Union Police Department, through the Staff Services/L.E.A.D. Unit, conducted the Junior Police Academy program. This program was conducted through the week of July 8th, 2024—July 12th, 2024. The program was offered to the graduating fifth grade class, having 50 spots available, which 48 spots were filled. The program offers participants to experience a mini Police Academy, complete with marching drills, and physical training. Participants are broken up into 5 teams and have daily team building exercises. JPA recruits spent time learning various insights of law enforcement and additional career options as a first responder with demonstrations from numerous agencies including the Union County Sheriff's K-9 Unit, Union County Crime Scene Unit, United States Secret Service, Union County Bomb Squad, Narcotics Strike Force, Union FMBA Local 46, and the New Jersey State Police. The week came close with a visit from the DEA Helicopter Unit, a field trip to the US Coast Guard Station, and finally, the graduation Ceremony. NBA Legend John Starks, from the NY Knicks, paid a special visit to our program, and judged our annual "Foul Shot" Competition!



## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

National Night Out is a community-police oriented event held every year in the United States on the first Tuesday of August. In 2024, National Night Out was postponed due to inclement weather, and rescheduled to Wednesday, August 28th, 2024. The Township of Union Police Department participates in this every year hosting the event in our parking lot, having well over 800 attendees. During this event we provide many services to the resident including, DWI goggle demonstrations, Alzheimer Awareness, Child Restraint programs, & Drone Demonstrations. There is also a dunk tank where children could dunk officers, musical entertainment and food for all guests.



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## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### HALLOWEEN 2024 & HALLOWEEN SAFETY

The Township of Union Police Department Presents “Trunk or Treat” is an annual community policing event hosted by the Township of Union Police Department to celebrate Halloween. The event takes place in the Union Police Department parking lot located at 981 Caldwell Avenue. “Trunk or Treat” is a free community event which offers an alternative to traditional trick or treating. During the “Trunk or Treat” event, contests were held for best decorated vehicle and best costume, as families mingled and collected candy. The event continues to be a huge success with hundreds of visitors. The department continues to receive positive feedback from providing safe measures to help the Township of Union safely celebrate Halloween.



“Un-Mischief Night” is an annual community policing event organized and ran by the Township of Union Police Department. “Un-Mischief Night” is dance held at one of the local Township schools to help celebrate Halloween for local sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. The purpose of “Un-Mischief” night is to deter children from possible dangers and engaging in typical vandalistic behaviors on the night before Halloween known as “Mischief Night” by providing a fun and safe environment. Students are chaperoned for the evening by Union Police Officers, and given the opportunity to dance, socialize with friends, enjoy music, play games, win prizes, eat pizza and snacks, and interact with Union Police Officers.



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## Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

### SANTA IN BLUE PROGRAM

The Union Police Department coordinates and administers the annual Santa-In-Blue Program. Unfortunately, too many families, more importantly the children of local communities are struggling to live day to day due to stressing factors and unforeseen circumstances that can make the holiday season a tough time to get through. For over twenty years, the Township of Union Police Department's "Santa in Blue" program has benefited families in need through the annual collection of new and unwrapped toys for children (newborn to 18 years of age). The "Santa in Blue" program works in conjunction with local business, Township officials, Township residents, local organizations, and the local school district. Officers of the Community Policing Unit and D.A.R.E./L.E.A.D run programs throughout the holiday season to promote the collection of gifts for needy families. Civilian employees, volunteers, and officers worked diligently in organizing, sorting, wrapping, and distributing new and donated collection of toys. By utilizing officers from throughout the department, dozens of gifts and toys were personally delivered to 133 families within the Township of Union. After the gifts were delivered throughout the Township, remaining gifts and toys were donated to various veteran organizations to be dispersed to the children of disabled Veterans. The "Santa in Blue" program helps make Christmas morning that much more special to a child as well as their families as they awake to see an extra gift under the tree which contributes to the magic and joy of the holiday season.



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# Staff Services Bureau—Community Policing

## SANTA IN BLUE PROGRAM



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### Bicycle Unit

The Bicycle Unit consists of 8 officers and 2 supervisors. The unit works a 4/4 schedule. Bicycle Unit Officers also change their schedules, split shifts, and exchange workdays in order to accommodate the needs of the community and the department. Bicycle patrols are effective in delivering police services on a more personal level. The public finds the Bike Officers to be more accessible, similar to the officers on the walking beat, but unlike officers assigned to walking posts, bicycle officers have the advantage of a higher level of mobility. Bicycle Patrol allows the officers to interact more easily with the members of the community, and, therefore, becomes an extremely effective police/community relations medium. The use of bicycles makes the patrolling of parks, wooded areas, alleys, and other areas not available to motor vehicles, more easily accessible. The Bicycle Unit serves as a means of delivering proactive services and provides the ability to access suspects and affect criminal apprehensions.

The Bicycle Unit utilizes electric “E-bikes” for their patrol. The “E-Bike” allows the officers to travel safer in the roadways and also allows the officer to stay mobile for longer periods of time without needing to rest.

All officers assigned to the Bike Unit have completed the Police Training Commissions course Bicycle Patrol. This course is a rigorous 5 day/40 hr. course designed to equip the candidate with the skills to successfully and safely operate a bicycle while in performance of their job duties. Candidates will be taught how to maneuver the Police Bicycle at moderate and high speeds, negotiate obstacles, ascend/descend stairs, accident avoidance, braking maneuvers, proper nutrition, fitness, pedestrian stops/contact, crowd control and using the bicycle as an alternate means of force.

The Bicycle Unit/Community Policing Unit continues to prioritize community outreach with maintaining a high level of involvement and participation in community-oriented policing. In 2024, the Bicycle/Community Policing unit has participated in over seventy-five (75) departmental and municipal community events. The Bike unit was able to provide 168 families and over 375 children with gifts during the Santa in Blue toy drive. During the Annual Trunk or Treat, over 700 children were treated to an alternative to traditional trick-or-treating in an engaging and secure environment. Additional community-policing events included the 2024 Special Olympics, Junior Police Academy, “Let’s Get Summer Fresh”, “Holiday Movie Matinee”, “Coffee With a Cop”, National Night Out, and dozens of small township events, classroom presentations, and local block parties.

In addition to their normal duties, the Bicycle Unit Officers also provided assistance to other departmental Bureaus when needed. For example, the Bicycle Unit assisted the Patrol Bureau with accidents scenes, respond to calls for service, and major crime scenes. Additionally, the Bicycle Unit assisted the Detective Bureau with assigned investigations, and arrest situations. Officers from the Bicycle Unit have also worked with the LEAD/SRO Units to provide additional assistance with community and school programs. Finally, the Bicycle Unit assisted with extensive background investigations for Municipal Policing, Auxiliary Policing, and Communications’ Officers candidates for the Internal Affairs/Professional Standards Bureau.



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### 2024 POLICE DIVISION - STAFFING

POLICE DIRECTOR	1
DEPUTY CHIEF	1
CAPTAINS	3
LIEUTENANTS	13
SERGEANTS	22
DETECTIVES	14
POLICE OFFICERS	92
<b>TOTAL SWORN PERSONNEL</b>	<b>145</b>
CIVILIAN SUPPORT STUFF	35
DISPATCHERS	24
CROSSING GUARDS	60
POLICE EXPLORERS	13
<b>TOTAL CIVILIAN PERSONNEL</b>	<b>278</b>



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# Records, Property & Court Departments



## RECORDS, TECHNICAL SERVICES, PROPERTY AND COURT SECTION

The Records/Technical Services Bureau consists of four Civilian clerk typists, a Civilian Property Clerk, and a Civilian Court Coordinator.

The Record Clerks are responsible for the proper maintenance, filing, and release of records and information produced by the Police Department. The Police Department produces over 50,000 paper reports annually. Each report is categorized and placed into a filing system in accord with government and civil regulations. The Records Section is responsible for providing blotter and report access to the public and government requests, while assuring the confidentiality of information necessary to protect active investigations. The Record Section serves the public with copies of accident reports, investigation reports, and blotter information. The section is responsible for background investigations of individuals as required by government and private agencies. The Police Department received several hundred OPRA requests this year. Each one of these is reviewed by the section supervisor to determine what information can be released and the clerk compiles the information.

During the past year, the Department continued utilizing an online system for OPRA requests to be submitted. This enables citizens to file OPRA request from the comfort of their home and many of the responses can be delivered electronically as well reducing time and cost.

The Records section supervisor is also responsible for uploading nearly 3,500 motor vehicle accident reports to the web services "<https://buycrash.lexisnexisrisk.com/search/index> " Where citizens can obtain a copy of their accident report online.

The Property Officer maintains the storage and security on all evidence and property recovered by members of the Police and Fire Department. The clerk handled over 5,000 pieces of property during the year. Each item is checked for stolen ownership and evidentiary values. Appropriate items are forwarded to other agencies for scientific evaluation of evidence. The Property Officer ensures the court chain of custody is maintained on all property. The officer is responsible for the legal disposition of all property held by the departments. The Property Officer is also responsible for the transfer to the Union County Prosecutor of all confiscated weapons under the Domestic Violence Act. The Property Section operates a Property and Lab Management computer system called 'The Beast'. The Beast is a bar code system that tracks all evidence and property acquired by this department. There was a complete 100% audit of the all the stored property in 2024 due to personnel changes within the department.

The Court Coordinator position holds the responsibility of answering all requests for discovery on court cases before the Municipal Court of Union. This responsibility extends to assisting the Municipal Prosecutor's office with cases originated by the Union County Police, NJ State Police and Kean University Police, NJ Transit Police and other agencies. The Court Coordinator works hand in hand with the Police Officers and the Prosecutor to ensure all reports, certifications, evidence, and witnesses are presented before the Court.

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## Records, Property & Court Departments

The Police Clerk Typists and Computer Operators assigned to the Technical Services Bureau are responsible for the data entry of all incident information received on police reports. All reports created by the Police Department funnel through the Technical Services section prior to filing in the Records Section. The data entered creates the information necessary to provide the State of NJ with a Uniform Crime Report. The database is used as a central repository for the name and case number file used in retrieving reports from the Records Section. Technical Services is the unit that maintains the attendance records for the Police. Reports are created for the Payroll Department for use in pay allowances. The section also maintains the computerized personnel file with a complete database of employees and their contractual allowances. On a daily basis, the section members review the information uploaded into the CAD system (Lawsoft). Personnel in the Police and Fire Departments assign cases, research information and retrieve the public records through the CAD system. Lawsoft currently contains over 1,000,000 records available on line 24 hours a day for use by the department.

The police department deployed AXON body worn cameras in March of 2019, and continued its use throughout 2024, expanding to the latest, cutting edge technology. All patrol officers were outfitted with updated body worn cameras. In 2023, all sworn officers assigned a body worn camera received an upgraded AXON body worn camera known as the AB4. The potential benefits of body worn cameras include creating objective records of stop encounters, encouraging lawful and respectful police-citizen interactions when both parties know exchanges are recorded, alleviating mistrust between the police and the public, and offering a way to substantiate whether officers have been wrongly or rightly accused of misconduct.

The department continues to utilize the latest ALPR technology (automatic license plate reader) We also implemented Axon Fleet 3 cameras into twenty vehicle in our fleet. These devices utilized the latest ALPR (automatically license plate reader) technology to enhance our ability to keep the community safe.



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### GENERAL DIVISION ACTIVITIES

ITEM	2024	2023
TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENT NUMBERS	116,218	119,179
ANIMAL CALLS	434	418
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTED	71	60
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	137	152
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARMS	2,487	2,356
ESCORTS PROVIDED	659	613
TOTAL MEDICAL AID CALLS EXCEPT MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	5,498	5,157

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<b>COST IN DOLLARS OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED</b>		
<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN (EXCEPT VEHICLES)</b>	\$2,964,833	\$2,258,840
<b>VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES</b>	\$2,439,798	\$3,4305.99
<b>***TOTAL ALL STOLEN PROPERTY ***</b>  (NIBRS replaced UCR which calls for more detailed reporting of stolen property including frauds which were never tabulated in prior years)	<b>\$5,404,631</b>	<b>\$5,687,439</b>
<b>VALUE OF STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED (EXCEPT VEHICLES)</b>	\$134,942	\$248,559
<b>VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED</b>	\$1,923,651	\$1,509,075
<b>TOTAL VALUE ALL STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED</b>	<b>\$2,058,593</b>	<b>\$1,757,634</b>



### DEPARTMENTAL COMPSTAT REPORTING

OFFENSES	2024	2023	Percent
	Totals	Totals	Change
Homicide/ Murder	1	0	100%
Rape/Sexual Offenses	9	18	-67%
Robbery	19	28	-32%
Aggravated Assault	27	36	-25%
Simple Assault	76	119	-36%
Burglary	168	125	34%
MV Burglary	169	232	-27%
MV Theft	87	123	-29%
Theft	378	529	-28%
Arson	1	0	100%
Total	935	1,210	-23%

The Above information represents actual offenses which occurred within the Township of Union as reported through the **Uniform Crime Reporting** System. They only represent crimes that are under this agency's jurisdiction and do not include offenses that occurred at Kean University, Union County Parks located in the Township of Union or crime committed in New Jersey State Police jurisdiction. (**Garden State Parkway, I-78**)

**Note:** These figures also include attempts to commit the indicated offenses.

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## Records, Property & Court Departments



### Statewide Crime Profile—State Police NJ

Agency: UNION TWP PD

Municipality: All

Offense	Reported in 2024	Reported in 2023	Percent Change	Offenses Cleared	Percent Cleared	Percent Of Category	Rate Per 100,000*
Murder	4	0	NA	4	100.00%	2.06%	6.39
Aggravated Assault	34	37	-8.11%	30	88.24%	17.53%	54.33
Simple Assault	150	166	-9.64%	100	66.67%	77.32%	239.68
Robbery	17	17	0.00%	6	35.29%	1.25%	27.16
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	58	72	-19.44%	17	29.31%	4.27%	92.68
Larceny/Theft Offenses	869	1,060	-18.02%	207	23.82%	63.94%	1388.56
Motor Vehicle Theft	101	115	-12.17%	4	3.96%	7.43%	161.39
Arson	2	0	NA	2	100.00%	0.15%	3.2
Fraud Offense	259	256	1.17%	8	3.09%	19.06%	413.85

*Note: The Rate per 100,000 will be 'NA' when the Adjusted Population Base is Zero.*

Statewide Crime Profile

\* Adjusted population base: 62,583

2024 Crime in New Jersey



The Above information represents actual offenses which occurred within the Township of Union as reported through the **Uniform Crime Reporting** System. They only represent crimes that are under this agency's jurisdiction and do not include offenses that occurred at Kean University, Union County Parks located in the Township of Union or crime committed in New Jersey State Police jurisdiction. (**Garden State Parkway, I-78**)

**Note:** These figures also include attempts to commit the indicated offenses.

## Professional Standards Division

### Case Dispositions



# P R O F E S S I O N A L S T A N D A R D S

Type of Complaint	Cases Received	Sustained	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded
Crime	1	1	0	0	0
Excessive Force	15	0	5	10	0
Improper Arrest	3	0	3	0	0
Improper Entry	2	0	2	0	0
Improper Search	1	0	0	1	0
Differential Treatment	5	0	5	0	0
Demeanor	27	5	6	5	11
Rule Violation	37	20	5	7	5
<b>Totals</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>

**Sustained:** The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation.

**Exonerated:** The actions of the officer were proven to be justified, legal and proper.

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

**Unfounded:** The alleged incident did not occur or there is insufficient information to conduct a meaningful investigation.

- **Note:** There were 2 open cases at the year's end.

## Professional Standards Division

### Case Dispositions



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Number of pursuits initiated	83
Number of pursuits resulting in accidents	6
Number of pursuits resulting in injury (NO DEATHS)	7
Number of pursuits resulting in death	0
Number of pursuits resulting in arrest	9

Number of Vehicles in Accidents	
Pursued vehicles	2
Police vehicles	1
Third party vehicles	3

Number of People Injured	
Pursued vehicles	1
Police vehicles	4
Third party vehicles	0
Pedestrians	0

Number of People Killed	
Pursued vehicles	0
Police vehicles	0
Third party vehicles	0
Pedestrians	0

Number of people arrested	5
Number of pursuits in which tire deflation device used	0

## *Professional Standards Division*

### *Case Dispositions*

<b>Number of Use of Force Incidents</b>	48
<b>Number of Suspects Involved</b>	48
<b>Number of Suspects Under the Influence</b>	13

<b>Type of Suspect Resistance (Incidents):</b>	
<b>Physical Resistance</b>	35
<b>Threat / Physical Attack on Officer</b>	18
<b>Threat / Attacked Officer with Weapon</b>	4

<b>Type of Force Used by Officer (Incidents):</b>	
<b>Physical Force</b>	47
<b>Mechanical Force</b>	1
<b>Deadly Force</b>	0

<b>Injuries Sustained During Incidents:</b>	
<b>Number of Suspects Injured</b>	11
<b>Number of Officers Injured</b>	7
<b>Total Number of Arrests during this Period</b>	1,988
<b>Percentage (%) of Arrests where Force was Used</b>	2.4%



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## Patrol Bureau

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Union Police Department and is the Department's largest and most visible component, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year.

In 2024 the Patrol Division was staffed by 1 Captain, 7 Lieutenants, 14 Sergeants and 75 patrol officers. The Supervisors and Officers are divided into four separate platoons that work 11.5 hour days on a four day rotation. A Lieutenant led each platoon along with three Sergeants. Sixteen or Seventeen officers were assigned to each of the platoons and almost half of the officers assigned to patrol have less than ten years of experience.

Uniformed Patrol Officers are the first response to calls for service that come into the Department. Patrol Officers respond to all types of emergencies, they conduct initial investigations at crime scenes and motor vehicle crashes. They address quality of life complaints, and are often called upon to respond to disturbances and disputes. They handle noise complaints, restore order and preserve and maintain the peace. Uniformed Patrol Officers are often the first on the scene of medical aides and in years past have saved numerous lives by performing CPR and rendering aid. Patrol Officers also respond to drug overdoses and have successfully administered nasal Narcan on a growing number of occasions since it was first deployed back in 2014, resulting in the saving of countless lives.

Patrol officers are responsible for enforcing motor vehicle traffic laws. In 2024, Patrol Officers made over 15,100 motor vehicle stops and issued more than 28,000 motor vehicle summonses. The Department also participated in the "2024 State and Community Grant Project", funded by the NJ Division of Highway and Traffic Safety, with conducted driver and pedestrian safety enforcement details. The department conducted its annual holiday season overtime patrol, beginning the day after Thanksgiving until a few days after Christmas, to promote driver and pedestrian safety. The patrols were primarily focus in high traffic areas such as on Rt. 22, Springfield Ave, and Union Center.

The Department has continued an aggressive stance towards DWI enforcement. There were 13,384 deaths from alcohol-impaired-driving crashed nationwide in 2021. The Patrol Bureau conducts proactive DWI enforcement. Many officers have received advanced training in DWI detection and enforcement. Officers have been trained to utilize HGN (Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus) testing, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), as well as being certified in the operation of the Alcotest machine to determine Blood Alcohol Content (BAC). There are three officers currently certified as a Drug Recognition Experts. DRE Officers are specially trained to recognize impairment in drivers under the influence of drugs other than, or in addition to, alcohol. Our DRE Officers have assisted in numerous DUI investigations, many of them involving motor vehicle crashes. There are plans to continue training additional officers to be certified as DRE's in the near future. In 2024, the Twp. of Union Police made over 1780 arrests and 162 of those arrests for driving while intoxicated in 2024.

Patrol officers also conduct pro-active directed patrols to deter and prevent criminal activity and to detect and apprehend offenders. Patrol Officers conducted approximately 35,300 directed patrols in 2024. Directed Patrols were often conducted to address specific complaints in specific areas of the town at specific times, and have led to motor vehicle stops or pedestrian stops that often resulted in some type of enforcement action. Patrol Officers also conduct "Park and walks" at our schools. Officers, throughout the day, visit schools on their assigned posts and walk around the schools checking for open/unlocked doors.



# P A T R O L B U R E A U

## Patrol Bureau—Quality of Life Unit

Formerly known as the Street Crimes Unit, the departmental Quality of Life Unit, maintains the Township of Union Police Department's commitment and initiative to improve public safety. The Quality of Life Unit is divided into two squads. Each squad has a Sergeant, with three sworn officers, depending on manpower. The officers assigned to this unit are required to maintain flexibility in assignments, work schedules, and dress/attire. Quality of Life Officers make these changes to adjust to criminal activity on a daily basis and to quickly address any emerging crime trends or tasks that the police department command staff assigns to them. All Quality of Life Personnel are under the immediate supervision of the Patrol Bureau. The unit works closely with the Special Operation/Narcotics Detectives in attacking street-level narcotics activity and related crimes. Additionally, "Quality of Life" details/concerns and special event details are assigned to these Officers.

The Quality of Unit made 153 arrests during the year, most of them being self-initiated. The assigned Officers often encounter numerous crimes in progress, and often times share intelligence information with Detective Bureau personnel. Many of the Detective Bureau's highlights, from this current Annual Report, had immediate involvement and assistance from the Quality of Life Unit. When manpower allows for flexibility, the Patrol Bureau routinely rotates new officers throughout the Quality of Life Unit for additional training to gain on-hands experience with "Quality of Life" assignments and investigations.



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## Highlights for 2024:

On 01/04/24 at around 0300hrs, HQ received a call regarding a suspicious person in the area of Maple Ave. The caller reported seeing an unknown black male dressed all in black with a black puffy coat pulling on his vehicle door handle that was locked. He then saw the male jump a fence into the neighbor's yard. The male suspect was seen by officers responding to the area and a foot pursuit ensued. The male was lost in the area of Hilton Ave near Laurel in the backyards. Officers set up a perimeter and diligently searched the area but were unsuccessful in locating the male. No crimes were reported in the area.

On 1/13/24, officers were dispatched to the area of Spruce St and Pinewood rd. for a report of a suspicious male looking into vehicles. While officers were responding to area dispatch advised that a resident had confronted the suspect while he was burglarizing the resident's vehicle. The resident was attempting to detain the suspect and they were currently fighting. Officers quickly arrived on scene and took the suspect into custody without further incident. The suspect was charged with 2 counts of burglary to a motor vehicle and transported to HQ for processing.

On 1/27/24, Officers observed a vehicle parked illegally on Indiana St. Upon approaching the vehicle officers found an individual sleeping in the driver seat. After a few attempts at waking the individual, officers were finally able to get the driver to wake up and open door. Officers immediately observed CDS and CDS paraphernalia in plain view on the drivers lap and passenger seat and open container of alcohol. The driver was removed from the vehicle and arrested for DWI along with possession of CDS along with distribution of CDS charges.

On 01/30/24, Detectives located a stolen vehicle on Rte. 22 e/b. This vehicle was suspected in 2 motor vehicle burglaries from our town earlier in the day along with multiple other burglaries in Millburn. Detectives positioned their vehicle behind the suspect vehicle and attempted a motor vehicle stop. The stolen vehicle accelerated away from officers initiating a motor vehicle pursuit. Officer's pursuit the vehicle into Hillside where the vehicle became disabled. Officers were able to arrest both occupants for the vehicle without further incident. They were transported to HQ for processing and charged accordingly.

On 2/10/24 at 0300hrs and 2/21/24 at 0456hrs, dispatch received burglar alarms for 1385 Stuyvesant Ave (Restoration Pharmacy). Dispatchers immediately sent officers to the business, officers quickly arrived on scene and reported the front window smashed and advised there was a commercial burglary. Officers set up perimeters and entered the business. Both times officers were able to locate and arrest a suspect inside the business and charged the suspect accordingly.

On 2/21/24, officers Okafor and Pinto conducted a motor vehicle stop of a vehicle for illegal tints on Rte. 22. Officers quickly learned that the driver of the vehicle had active warrants for his arrest. Officers removed the suspect from the vehicle and search incident to arrest they located 174 blue capsules containing CDS. Officers then searched the interior of the vehicle and located more CDS and CDS paraphernalia. The suspect was transported to headquarters and charged accordingly.

On 02/26/24, Officers were dispatched to 492 North Ave (Quick Stop) for a report of 2 suspicious males in the rear of the building. Numerous officers quickly responded to the area and quickly set up a perimeter as some responded directly to rear of business. Officers located 2 adult males with bolt cutters and crow bars attempting to break into the rear of the business. One suspect attempted to flee the area but was quickly apprehended by officers and the second suspect was arrested without incident. Both suspects were transported back to HQ and charged accordingly. No entry was ever gained into the building.



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## Patrol Bureau



# P A T R O L B U R E A U

On 03/07/24, officers conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle occupied by 3 males. As officers attempted to detain the driver, the suspect attempted to run from officers. Officers were able to take the suspect to the ground and after a brief struggle officers were able to place him in handcuffs and determined the suspect had a loaded handgun in his waist band. As officers were attempting to arrest the driver, both other occupants fled the vehicle with a backpack. Numerous officers responded to the area and set up a perimeter. After a search of the area was conducted, officers were able to locate and arrest both suspects and recovered a 2<sup>nd</sup> loaded handgun in the backpack. All three suspects were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 03/14/24, Officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop of a vehicle for motor vehicle violations. The vehicle fled from the officers onto the GSP N/B. The officer continued his investigation and determined the vehicle was in fact stolen from Union. Later that day officers from the Community Policing unit while riding their bicycles through the area of Union high school located the vehicle and alerted uniformed officers. Officers and detective responded to the area and were able to box the stolen vehicle in and after a brief foot pursuit, they arrested the suspect. He was transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 04/02/24, officers were dispatched to the area of Stecher Ave for two suspicious males that were observed by the caller attempting to break into several vehicles. The caller continued to follow the suspects as they fled the scene in a vehicle. Officers responding to the area located the suspect vehicle on Vauxhall Rd. Officers stopped the vehicle and detained all 3 suspects in the vehicle. After the caller positively identified the suspects they were placed under arrest. A search of the vehicle revealed a loaded handgun under the driver's seat. All 3 males were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 4/3/24, officers were dispatched to the area of 2222 Halsey St for a report of two suspicious males walking up the resident's driveway towards the rear of her house. Officers responded to the area and after a search of the area they located 2 males matching the caller's description. Officers attempted to detain both males due to their behavior and one male refusing to show officers what he was holding in his hand. As officers approached the male, he attempted to flee the scene. Officers were able to take the suspect to the ground and after a struggle they were eventually able to secure the suspect in handcuffs. A search of his person revealed a loaded handgun in his pocket and in his hand, that he refused to open, was spent shell casing. Officers later determined that both suspects attempted to shoot the weapon a short time prior to being stopped by officers. They were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

## Patrol Bureau

On 4/8/24, Officers were dispatched to Carnegie Place for a report of a shooting where a victim was shot in the leg. The suspects had fled the scene on foot. Quality of life officers responding to the scene observed a black BMW with heavily tinted windows driving away from the area. Officers followed the vehicle and conducted a motor vehicle stop on Astoria Place. Officers quickly established they were the suspects from the shooting. All four occupants were removed from the vehicle and placed in handcuffs. Officers located 2 handguns in the back seats. All four suspects were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 05/07/24, the Detective bureau along with the quality of life unit executed a search warrant on Indiana St for CDS distribution after 2 month long investigation. Officers arrested 2 individuals and located a large quantity of drugs, cash, and a handgun. Both suspects were charged accordingly.

On 05/07/2024, Officers were dispatched to a report of a juvenile female who was sexually assaulted by an adult male who picked her up near a park where she walked home from school. Officers on scene investigation was able to determine a suspect description, a suspect vehicle, and a location where the suspect possibly resided. Union Officers worked in coordination with the Union County Prosecutors Office and within 24hrs a suspect was identified and taken into custody.

On 05/09/24, a resident of Biscayne Blvd called reporting that multiple suspects wearing masks were attempting to enter his house. Officers were nearby and were able to locate the vehicle on Biscayne Blvd as it attempted to flee. The suspect vehicle drove across a lawn and down a sidewalk before ramming into the police vehicle. The suspect vehicle (which was stolen from South Hackensack) became disabled and all 5 individuals fled from the vehicle. Officers converged on the area and set up a perimeter. Officers were able to locate and arrest 2 of the suspects and working on identifying the remaining suspects. Officers located 1 handgun in a yard near where the suspect originally fled and a second handgun in the stolen vehicle. The 2 suspects were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 6/15/24 officers stopped a vehicle and arrested the registered owner for possession of an imitation handgun, a 31 round magazine, and 42 hollow point rounds. The arrest was for a warrant and search incident to arrest they recovered a hollow point bullet on the persons of the arrestee. A PC search was conducted and they recovered the imitation Glock handgun, 31 round magazine and the 42 hollow point rounds. The suspect was transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 7/7/24 at approximately 0140 hrs, officers located and pursued a stolen Ford F150 (entered stolen out of Elizabeth) through town until the suspect vehicle eventually crashed on Hillcrest Ter. At that point, three male suspects fled on foot and officers pursued the suspects on foot. Officers were quickly able to apprehend one of the suspects who was found to be in possession of a handgun. Union County Sheriffs K9 responded to the scene and assisted with locating a second suspect. While on scene it was determined that the suspect vehicle was involved in a shooting earlier in the night out of Elizabeth.



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## Patrol Bureau



# P A T R O L B U R E A U

On 7/25/24 at approximately 2244 hrs., Officers attempted to pull over a Honda Civic for motor vehicle violations. The Honda refused to pull over and eluded officers. Shortly after, Officers located the Honda and arrested the driver nearby for eluding the officers. Recovered from inside the Honda was a handgun that was stolen in Elizabeth in 2022.

On 7/30/24 at approximately 1605 hrs., Quality Of Life units located a Mercedes at the Home Depot on Springfield Ave in Newark that was wanted in connection with a burglary to the Shell Gas station on Rte. 22 on 7/28/24. QOL units arrested the driver of the Mercedes for the Burglary and recovered stolen merchandise that was taken during the burglary.

On 8/21/2024 at approximately 0403 hrs., Officers located a Jeep Grand Cherokee that was stolen out of NYC on Liberty Ave in town. Officers conducted a traffic stop, arrested the three occupants, and recovered the stolen vehicle.

On 08/30/24, Officers were able to check a vehicle stolen out of Union on previous day to Elizabeth, NJ. Officers located the vehicle occupied by 3 male suspects. Officers attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop and the suspect vehicle fled initiating a motor vehicle pursuit through Elizabeth into Linden where the vehicle became disabled. All 3 suspects fled into the Linden airport. With the assistance of multiple jurisdictions, officers were able to locate and arrest all 3 males. They were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

On 09/05/24, Officers conducted a motor vehicle stop of a vehicle for careless driving. Officers identified the driver and determined the driver was wanted out of North Carolina for a homicide that occurred on the morning of 09/04/24. The suspect was taken into custody without incident and transported to Union County Jail to await extradition back to North Carolina.

On 09/18/24, a resident reported hearing people inside of his house. Officers were immediately dispatched to area, as officers arrived on scene they observed 2 males running from the house. PO Cocca advised dispatch he was in foot pursuit of 2 male suspects. One of the males was able to jump into a suspect vehicle that was stolen out of Maplewood. The second suspect was apprehended by PO Cocca and Maplewood PD. The suspect vehicle that fled the scene was pursued by Union officers until the pursuit was terminated in Newark. The adult male suspect was transported to HQ, placed on a warrant, and transported to the county jail.

On the morning of 10/18/24, Union Police received a call from a resident on Ostwood Terr. in reference to people attempting to gain entry into his house. Multiple officers immediately responded to the area and were able to locate the suspect vehicle as it was fleeing the scene. The suspect vehicle refused to stop and initiated a motor vehicle pursuit. The pursuit continued onto Rte. 78 into Newark where the vehicle became disabled. Approximately 4 male suspects exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Officers immediately gave chase and set up a perimeter. Officers were able to locate and arrest 2 of the suspects. They were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.

## Patrol Bureau

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On 10/29/24, Officers located an occupied stolen vehicle in the Walmart parking lot on Rt22. Officers attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop of the suspect vehicle. The vehicle fled from officers onto Rte. 22 initiating a motor vehicle pursuit. Officers lost sight of the vehicle in the area of the Garden State Parkway. Moments later, officers again located the vehicle on Union Ave. They attempted to conduct another stop for the vehicle, which again fled from officers. The vehicle traveled onto Walker Ave heading into Irvington where it collided with a civilian vehicle. Minor injuries were reported at the accident and both occupants of the stolen vehicle were arrested. During the search of the vehicle officers located a loaded handgun in a purse. Both arrestees were transported to headquarters and charged accordingly.

On 12/1/24, Officers were dispatched to Winthrop Rd on a report of a possible residential attempted burglary. As officers turned onto the street they observed a Silver Hyundai driving at a high rate of speed way from the victim's house. Officers attempted to conduct a motor vehicle stop of the suspect vehicle but the vehicle fled from officers initiating a motor vehicle pursuit. Officers pursued the vehicle until the suspects lost control of the vehicle and crashed in the Twp. of Irvington. 5 suspects fled from the vehicle in different directions. Multiple officers arrived on scene and were able to apprehend 3 of the males. They were transported to HQ and charged accordingly for residential burglary and numerous other charges.

On 12/29/24, Quality of Life officers located a stolen vehicle, which was entered stolen out of Orange, in the 5 points area of town. Officers were able to remain undetected and attempted to block the stolen vehicle in using 2 unmarked police vehicles. The suspects attempted to use the stolen vehicle to ram its way out of the block. Officers were eventually able to stop the vehicle and arrest all 3 suspects without incident. They were transported to HQ and charged accordingly.



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## Detective Bureau

The Investigative Bureau is primarily assigned cases and investigations related to indictable crimes along with general investigations not cleared through preliminary investigations. The Investigative Bureau is comprised of five (5) sub-units, all of which are commanded by one Captain. The five (5) sub-units include: General Investigations, Family Relations and Youth Services (FRY), Identification Section and Special Operations/Narcotics. Investigative personnel and civilian staff work hand in hand with other law enforcement agencies and the Union County Prosecutors Office to investigate crimes and ensure thorough pre-trial preparation. One detective is assigned to the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Task Force and another to Homeland Security HSI Drug Interdiction Unit. This assignment enabled the department to utilize resources that would not have been available and returned additional benefits. These Detectives has been involved in long-term investigations across the country. A third detective is assigned to the Union County Homicide Task Force.

In February 2024, the Detective Bureau lost two senior Detectives. Detective Chris Lensi and Detective Sergio Pereira were promoted to Sergeant, and transferred to the Patrol Bureau. They were a great loss to the Detective bureau. In July of 2024, Detective Lieutenant Martin retired from the Township of Union Police Department, and was replaced with Detective Lieutenant Lagoa. FRY Detective Raymond Delvalle was transferred to the Training Bureau in early 2024 as well. Along with DLT Lagoa being added to the Bureau, two additional detectives were added to replace Sgt. Lensi and Sgt. Pereira. Detective Freeman and Santos were added in November 2024, and they are doing well for being in the Bureau for such a short time.

Three Supervisors, nine Detectives, and one civilian are assigned to general investigations. The unit is responsible for the investigation of all crimes reported. The unit is also responsible for all arrest follow-ups, firearms investigations, warrants, liquor, towing, taxi and other municipal licensing investigations. The Licensing Detective was again busy this year, receiving 709 new firearms ID card and permit to purchase applications were received. Additionally, due to recent Supreme Court decisions striking down various State laws restricting carry permits the Department has also seen an increase in these applications, issuing 152 permit to carry firearms application. Licensing also investigated and approved 3 liquor license, which is a time consuming process, including intensive background and financial checks of the principals. 2 Towing licenses, 0 taxi licenses, 9 limo licenses, 15 canvass permits, 0 bingo permits were also investigated by the licensing unit. Additional Detectives and civilian personnel assisted the licensing section.

One supervisor, three detectives and one civilian are assigned to the Family Relations and Youth Services section. The unit is responsible for handling all juvenile matters and works closely with the administrators and security staff of the township schools. Activity is also coordinated with the Union Police School Resource Officers assigned to Union High School and the two Middle Schools. Investigations of child abuse, bias offenses, missing persons, criminal mischief, (graffiti) and Domestic Violence are also the responsibility of the unit.

Three detectives are assigned to the Identification Unit, with one civilian technician to provide assistance. The investigators process crime scenes for any and all physical evidence. The investigators are trained in some of the latest forensic techniques and routinely collect DNA and other items of evidence for laboratory testing. Additionally, investigators use Livescan fingerprinting technology and the automated fingerprint Identification System of the New Jersey State Police. This technology identifies criminal suspects electronically. Additionally, almost all of the photographic images taken by the department are in digital format. The Detectives regularly assist the patrol division with evidence collection and preservation of evidence.



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## Detective Bureau

The Narcotics Unit/Special Operations is comprised of two detectives, under the supervision of Investigative Bureau supervisors. Detectives conduct narcotics and vice investigations in addition to assisting outside law enforcement agencies with investigations in Union. The detectives of the unit often work with and coordinate activities with officers of the Quality of Life Unit and share information.



### 2024 Notable Detective Bureau Investigations

# D E T E C T I V E B U R E A U

24-029636 – May 7, 2024 – Execution of Narcotics Search Warrant – 314 Indiana Street – Execution of Narcotics Search Warrant which led to the arrest of 3 individuals for a large quantity of CDS (cocaine), a loaded handgun as well as \$300,000 in cash.

24-053743 – June 12, 2024 – Brighton Street - Theft – Fencing – Search Warrant - Generator SW – over 200K in sales, arrested with one stolen generator – charged with fencing and receiving stolen property. This investigation began when outside agency from another state contacted Union Police regarding the suspect living in Union NJ. After a lengthy investigation, search warrant was applied for and executed ultimately resulting in the arrest of the suspect.

24-064757 – July 19, 2024 - Carjacking that occurred on North Ave (Paul's Service Center) – suspect was in the act of committing a motor vehicle burglary when victim found him in their vehicle. The suspect pushed the victim and threatened him with a firearm (made motion like he had weapon, weapon was never recovered. Detectives interviewed the suspect (after being properly Mirandize and suspect admitted to the MV Burglary and that he made a “reaching motion” but never produced a weapon. He was subsequently charged with 1<sup>st</sup> degree carjacking.

24-066024 – July 23, 2024 – 1156 Wooley Ave - MV burglary – attempted MV Theft – arrest of juvenile – Detectives were able to make an identification of the suspect and subsequently charge a juvenile for motor vehicle burglary.

24-066477 – July 25, 2024 – WAWA (US HWY 22 E/B) 2<sup>nd</sup> degree vehicle theft – suspect apprehended in Newark after he threatened to stab detectives with a needle. Suspect taken into custody with minor injuries and no detectives were injured during the incident.

24-067458 – July 28, 2024, Shell Gas Station (2515 US HWY 22) Commercial Burglary solved – ALPR identified vehicle – QOL officers found car in Home Depot with suspect in it. Suspect wearing the same clothes from the job – Detective called an Assistant Prosecutor from scene who approved the charges of burglary, theft, criminal mischief, and burglary tools. The suspect spoke with detectives after waiving his Miranda rights and confessed to the crime.

## Detective Bureau

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# D E T E C T I V E B U R E A U

24-077053 – August 30, 2024 – Vehicle pursuit of stolen vehicle – vehicle taken from O’Lagar – pursuit in Elizabeth car chase to Linden Airport where all three occupants were captured. Numerous agencies assisted. Three suspects were apprehended and charged with eluding, Motor Vehicle Theft, Receiving Stolen Property and Resisting Arrest.

24-082901 – September 18, 2024 – Denk Court - Home burglary – There was a foot pursuit where officers apprehended one suspect. Detectives initiated a Vehicle pursuit where the pursuit was terminated in Newark. Suspect arrested in this incident is suspect from pursuit where officer from Kenilworth was injured on December 31, 2024 (ref to case# 24-116046).

24-082911- September 18, 2024 - Detective while working case 24-082901 at Denk Court, hear a radio transmission regarding another residential burglary respond to 30 Skyview Road and capture a burglar that just attempted to make entry into the residence. The victim’s only spoke Spanish and Detective were able to communicate with the victim and positively identify the suspect, who was detained at the scene. This was all due to the diligence of the detectives that were on the road and quickly responded and caught the suspect as he was fleeing the residence.

24-092909 - October 18, 2024- 2408 Ostwood Terr - Home burglary – car burglaries – pursuit of stolen vehicle that ultimately crashed on Route 78 and later 2 juveniles were taken into custody after being located by a Patrol Sergeant who was responding to assist in the area of Newark where the vehicle crashed.

24-116046 – December 31, 2024 - Pursuit of stolen vehicle. Crash in Newark – two suspects apprehended - Driver is suspected to be arrestee from home invasion attempt on September 18, 2024 refer to case # 24-1082901, this incident is still pending and under investigation with the ECPO.

# 2024 Detective Bureau (Main) Totals (Assigned Cases)

Case Status	Main
Total Assigned Cases	2,831
Total Closed	1,533
Clear Arrest/Court	495
Unfounded	132
X/Clear Closed	60
Administrative Closed	373
Open	238
Total Cleared	2,593



**Juveniles Arrested = 85**

**Juveniles taken into short-term custody = 151**



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# 2024 Detective Bureau Division Totals (Assigned Cases)

DIVISION	FRY	ID
<b>CASE STATUS (Assigned)</b>	<b>FRY</b>	<b>ID</b>
Total Cases	460	407
Total Active	13	3
Total Closed	266	186
X/Cleared	4	14
Cleared Arrests	100	75
Administrative Closed	64	99
Unfounded	12	29



**Juveniles Arrested = 85**



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# Identification Division Activity Report

January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024



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Out of Office Investigation:	Criminal	56
	Non-Criminal	28
In-House Investigations	Criminal	21
Latent Investigations:	Total Items Processed	285
Photographs Taken:	Criminal (digital)	2,163
	Non-Criminal (digital)	1,049
Persons Fingerprinted:	Criminal	1,077
	Non-Criminal	99
DNA Swabs:		15
Municipal Court:	Calendars Processed	0
	CDR Forms	0
Photographic / Darkroom Work	Mugs printed	
	DVA Photos Requested	0
	Lineups	14
	Digital Photos Printed	74
	8 x 10 Enlargements	102
	Other Enlargements	0
Arrest Reports:	Reports Processed	237
Arrests by ID Bureau:	Persons Arrested	94
Fingerprints/AFIS	Matches/Hits	128
Closed Cases by ID Detectives		292

## Traffic Bureau

The Traffic Division oversees the investigation, tabulation, and filing of all reported motor vehicle crashes occurring within the Township, as well as the follow-up investigations of all leaving the scene and fatal crash investigations. The Traffic Division consists of the following personnel: the traffic sergeant, 2 motor officers, 1 traffic officers, 3 parking enforcement officers, 60 school crossing guards, and a civilian clerk.

In 2024, there were 3,063 State-reportable crashes (where property damage exceeded \$500 and/or someone was injured) and 490 non-reportable crashes. A total of 836 people were involved in crashes in which they reported an injury, and one of the crashes resulted in a fatality. There were 258 crashes involving property other than vehicles. 619 summonses were issued for violations occurring during motor vehicle crashes.

In 2024, there were 645 crashes where one or more involved drivers left the crash scene without reporting it. Officers assigned to the Traffic Division were tasked with reviewing and investigating these leaving-the-scene crashes.

In 2011, the Township of Union Police Department further enhanced its commitment to traffic safety by re-establishing the department's motorcycle unit. The unit consists of 2 full-time motor officers and 2 relief motor officers. In addition to supplementing the Patrol Division, the motor officers handle traffic safety concerns and other traffic and parking-related complaints throughout the Township. Each of the 4 police motorcycles is equipped with Laser Radar Speed detection technology, portable Tough pad computers, and printers with E-ticket technology. The motorcycle unit has been very active in conducting multiple escorts for numerous township-sponsored special events such as the Union Commerce Mayor's Day 5K run, Bike Rodeo, The Township Santa Claus Escort, Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade, and numerous funerals.

The Traffic Division also coordinates and supervises the Township's School Crossing Guard Program. Sixty (60) School Crossing Guards are deployed to various locations throughout the town to cross school-aged children who are walking to and from the Township's elementary, middle, parochial schools, and Union High School.

The Traffic Division has two dedicated Traffic Enforcement Officers assigned to its unit. These officers specialize primarily in addressing speeding violations, red light infractions, and ensuring compliance with truck regulations. In 2024, the unit made commendable efforts by stopping 2,231 vehicles for speeding, which led to the issuance of 2,407 summonses for various speeding and related offenses. Furthermore, they stopped 447 vehicles for failing to adhere to red light signals, resulting in 479 summonses for red light violations and additional infractions. The unit also focused on truck compliance, stopping 274 trucks for lightweight street ordinance violations and issuing 252 summonses for noncompliance.

The Traffic Division employs 3 Parking Enforcement Officers whose responsibility is to enforce parking laws and ordinances throughout the Township. These officers collectively issued 5,596 parking summonses this year. Parking enforcement officers are also trained to perform school crossing guard duties as needed.



# T R A F F I C B U R E A U

## Traffic Bureau

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# T R A F F I C B U R E A U

The Traffic Division continues to utilize state-of-the-art speed enforcement technology to help keep our roadways safe. The Patrol and Traffic Division utilize traditional Radar and Laser Equipment, which enables Officers to detect speeders with pinpoint accuracy. The Traffic Division has 3 Traffic Logix radar trailers at its disposal which are advanced traffic and speed measurement devices. The radar trailer enables the police department to measure a variety of traffic data, including volume, time of day, and speed, in order to efficiently and effectively address speeding problems in town. The Traffic Division officers have deployed the radar trailers to diverse locations on a bi-weekly basis to conduct traffic studies to determine precisely where and when enforcement is needed. Traffic officers are then deployed to locations where speeding issues have been detected to conduct enhanced traffic enforcement. The Traffic Division has 17 EVOLIS Radar Speed Signs installed throughout the town at locations determined to be high-speed roads based on crash data and data retrieved from our Traffic Logix Radar Trailers. These radar speed signs are effective traffic-calming devices that inform the motorist of their speed by displaying their speed and a message to slow down. These signs have been proven to reduce the speed by 25%. In an ongoing effort to improve pedestrian safety, the Traffic Division had 5 crosswalk light warning systems, which include rapid flashing beacons installed in high pedestrian locations. These systems are effective in prompting drivers to yield to pedestrians within the crosswalks. The Traffic Division has 6 message board trailers that are deployed through the Township to provide the residents with safety information, a notice of upcoming events and upcoming road closures, and provide a roadway with a temporary traffic control device as needed.

The Traffic Division conducts all traffic-related investigations, including traffic complaints, parking surveys, handicap on-street parking space requests, and fatal crashes. The Traffic Division works closely with the Township Committee, Engineering Office, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment, Department of Public Works, and Township attorney. The Traffic Division reviews safety, parking, traffic concerns, construction, site plans, variance applications, and ordinance revisions for the Township.



# T R A F F I C B U R E A U

### *Major projects reviewed in 2024 were:*

- |     |                           |   |
|-----|---------------------------|---|
| 1.  | 332 Indiana Street        | Jeb Foods, LLC.   |
| 2.  | 2936 Vauxhall Road        | 2936 Vauxhall Rd Associates, LLC.                                 |
| 3.  | 928 Arnet Avenue          | Mireille Jean-Pierre  |
| 4.  | 2208 Stanley Terrace      | Ukranian Evangelical Assemblies of God, d/b/a Living World Church |
| 5.  | 2400 Morris Avenue        | NY SMSA Limited Partnership, d/b/a Verizon Wireless               |
| 6.  | 642 Chestnut Street       | Union County Savings Bank   |
| 7.  | 367 Chestnut Street       | Chestnut 367 LLC  |
| 8.  | 1005 Larchmont Road       | Watchung Developers LLC   |
| 9.  | 1235 West Chestnut Street | Phoenix Salon Suites  |
| 10. | 401 Lum Avenue            | Kevin Costa   |
| 11. | 811 Chestnut Street       | Michael Preguica  |
| 12. | 320 Chestnut Street       | NATC Donuts, Inc.   |
| 13. | 2255 Springfield Avenue   | Trademark Signs, LLC.   |
| 14. | 2210 Route 22 East        | Krystal Restaurants LLC   |
| 15. | 2655 Route 22 West        | BASF Corporation  |
| 16. | 407 Chestnut Street       | 407 Chestnut LLC  |
| 17. | Earl Street               | Creative Property Management                                      |
| 18. | 2322 Morris Avenue        | New Cingular Wireless, PCS LLC                                    |
| 19. | 553 Thoreau Terrace       | Jay Katz  |
| 20. | 779 Roessner Drive        | 779 Roessner Dr., LLC   |
| 21. | 1060 Commerce Avenue      | Grip Tight Tools  |
| 22. | 1945 Route 22, West       | TNR Holdings, LLC.  |
| 23. | 1865 Morris Avenue        | 1865 Morris Avenue, LLC.  |
| 24. | 2395 Springfield Avenue   | RD Management, LLC.   |
| 25. | 281-283 Oswald Place      | Robin Fu  |
| 26. | 103 Union Avenue          | Toros Home, LLC.  |
| 27. | 558 Rahway Avenue         | Amanda Jennifer, LLC  |

# Traffic Bureau

## Crash Data - 2024



### Traffic Bureau – Crash Data by Month – 2024

DATA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Totals
Reportable By Police	237	237	257	245	263	218	246	244	270	284	275	287	3063
Non-State By Police	33	42	51	37	56	66	22	26	47	45	37	28	490
Citizens' Reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL CRASHES</b>	270	279	308	282	319	284	268	270	317	329	312	315	3,553
Total DWI Involved	5	1	10	1	7	0	3	8	6	4	6	5	56
DWI Under 21	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
# Tickets Issued	32	45	61	38	65	40	45	45	53	53	56	52	585
Prop. Other than Veh	27	29	22	12	24	17	22	27	23	17	20	18	258
Lv/Scene By Police	31	21	44	32	34	21	21	33	31	21	25	34	348
Lv/Scene Citizen Rp	16	35	26	26	21	28	33	15	22	28	28	19	297
<b>TOTAL L/SCENE</b>	47	56	70	58	55	49	54	48	53	49	53	53	645
Pedestrian Injured	5	2	2	3	1	1	2	6	10	5	8	5	50
Motorists Injured	74	54	64	42	68	73	55	66	56	92	61	51	756
Bicyclists Injured	0	0	1	2	5	4	2	2	6	5	3	1	31
<b>TOTAL INJURED</b>	79	56	67	47	74	78	59	74	72	102	71	57	836
Crashes w/ Injuries	58	40	47	34	52	55	47	51	64	59	55	48	610
<b>TOTAL KILLED</b>	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

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# Traffic Bureau

## Crash Data



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CATEGORY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Vehicular Crashes	2,361	2,960	3,405	3,645	3,553
Leaving Scene Crashes	396	579	584	682	645
Pedestrian Injuries	40	36	35	50	50
Bicyclist Injuries	8	14	12	25	31
Total Crashes with Injuries	508	495	518	824	610
Vehicular/Pedestrian Fatalities	1	2 (same MVA)	4	0	1
Total Arrests For DWI (Involved in Crashes)	44	65	51	58	57

FIVE YEAR TRAFFIC CRASH & STATISTICAL TOTALS 2020 - 2024		
CRASH INFORMATION	5 YEAR TOTAL	5 YEAR AVERAGE
Total Vehicular Crashes	15, 924	3, 185
Leaving Scene Crashes	2, 886	577
Pedestrians Injured	211	42
Bicyclists Injured	90	18
Vehicular Crashes with Injuries	2, 955	591
Vehicular/Pedestrian Fatalities	8	2
Total Arrests For DWI (Involved in Crashes)	275	55