

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2024



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MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of the Manchester Township Police Department is to provide the highest level of professional police service to our citizens and visitors by safeguarding lives and property, protecting the innocent, maintaining order, aggressively investigating and preventing crimes, impartially enforcing laws and upholding the Constitution, thereby enhancing the quality of life in our community

FOLLOW US



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1 Colonial Drive, Manchester, NJ 08759



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www.manchesterpolicenj.com

AGENCY ACCREDITATION



The Manchester Township Police Department is a New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police Accredited Agency. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting law enforcement agencies to calculate and improve their overall performance. The foundation of Accreditation lies in the adoption of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating agencies conduct a thorough self-analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these standards and objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of trained, independent assessors verifies that the applicable standards have been successfully implemented.

Accredited status represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police has pursued the concept and development of a voluntary statewide law enforcement accreditation program for New Jersey which has resulted in the formation of the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, consisting of commissioners with the overall responsibility of adoption of program standards, as well as review of all assessment reports and approval of all recommendations for the granting of accredited status of applicant agencies.

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Manchester Township Police Department Annual Report.

The year 2024 has been one of change and challenges—consistent with the nature of law enforcement. This year's report continues to highlight the growth and depth of our Township. Looking back at previous editions and reflecting on notable incidents from the past year, I am reminded of the professionalism and dedication of the men and women who serve our department and the public day in and day out.

Since assuming the role of Chief of Police in May of this past year, it has been my mission to ensure that we continue to provide the highest quality and most professional services to all who call Manchester home, travel through our community, or work within its borders. Our commitment to community outreach, traffic safety, education, safeguarding lives, property and impartially enforcing laws remains at the core of our mission.



This past year, we faced the dual challenge of many retirements and the difficulty of recruiting qualified candidates. While we have not lowered our standards, we have expanded our recruitment approach to attract experienced and well-trained law enforcement professionals to join our agency. In addition to filling vacancies through promotions, we continue to replace those who have retired after decades of dedicated service to the Township.

In 2024, our officers responded to more than 34,000 calls for service, over a 13% increase from the previous year. Our Communications Division handled a total of 721,112 radio transmissions, including police, fire, and EMS communications.

To meet the challenges of the future and maintain high-quality communications, we have begun the process of upgrading our police radio dispatch system to the state-of-the-art 700 MHz digital platform. Our current system is more than 23 years old and at the end of its service life. Through the support of the Township Council and Administration, we have secured funding for this critical project, which is expected to take up to 24 months to complete.

As we look ahead, we remain committed to working with our stakeholders, community members, and governing body to meet the ever-growing needs of our Township.

ANTONIO ELLIS
CHIEF OF POLICE

TAKING OVER THE HELM

On May 1, 2024, Antonio Ellis was sworn in as Manchester Township's eighth Chief of Police, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the department. Surrounded by fellow officers, township officials, family, and friends, Chief Ellis stepped into his leadership role with a strong vision for the agency's future. A member of the department since 2000, Chief Ellis is widely respected for his expertise in Traffic Safety, leadership skills, and dedication to both officer development and community engagement. Over his career, he has overseen key initiatives, including managing departmental budgets, securing major grants for Body Worn Cameras, and leading modernization projects to improve efficiency and service.

Chief Ellis brings over two decades of law enforcement experience, having served as a patrol officer, Traffic Safety Sergeant, sniper on the Ocean County Regional SWAT Team, and most recently as Administrative and Support Services Lieutenant. His leadership style is rooted in mentorship and equipping officers with the tools, training, and support they need to excel. As Chief, Ellis is committed to ensuring the department continues to meet the highest standards of professionalism while strengthening its bond with the community.



Chief Ellis succeeds Robert Dolan, who retired on April 30, 2024, after an esteemed 31-year career with the Manchester Township Police Department. Chief Dolan began his journey in 1993 as a dispatcher before becoming a full-time officer the following year. Over the next three decades, he served in numerous leadership roles, including Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Administrative Services Lieutenant, and Captain overseeing the Division of Emergency Services, before being sworn in as the Township's seventh Chief of Police in 2021. Among his many accomplishments, he successfully implemented the Spillman Computer Aided Dispatch and Records Management System, launched the Emergency Services Division in 2020, and oversaw key projects that improved emergency response capabilities for the township. His leadership earned him multiple awards and the respect of his colleagues, township officials, and the community he faithfully served. Chief Dolan's legacy of professionalism, innovation, and dedication to Manchester Township provides a strong foundation for Chief Ellis as he takes over the helm and guides the department into its next era of service.

RECRUITMENT

Attracting the Best for Manchester Township

As part of our ongoing commitment to excellence in law enforcement, the Manchester Township Police Department has enhanced its officer recruitment process to attract the most qualified candidates who embody our core values of professionalism, integrity, and service.

In 2024, we launched a targeted hiring initiative aimed at streamlining the selection of fully certified officers. This updated approach allows us to uphold the highest standards in policing while accelerating the onboarding process for candidates who are ready to serve immediately. By focusing on applicants who are already certified through the New Jersey Police Training Commission (NJPTC) or eligible for a waiver within six months, we have significantly reduced training lead times and improved operational readiness.

This initiative has successfully brought several highly qualified officers to our agency in 2024. We plan to continue this focused recruitment strategy into 2025 to build on that success and ensure we are hiring the best candidates available. Outlined below are the mandatory qualifications required to apply for the position of Patrolman.

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

RECRUITING

Police Officers



MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP, N.J.
FRIENDSHIP JUSTICE FORTITUDE
POLICE
PRIDE OF OCEAN COUNTY

Online Application:
WWW.POLICEAPP.COM/ENTRY-LEVEL-MANCHESTER-TOWNSHIP-NJ-POLICE-OFFICER-JOBS/5276/

Application Deadline:
MAY 16, 2024 12:00PM

A Rewarding Career for Those Who Are Committed to Serving the Public

A career as a Manchester Township Police Officer offers a competitive salary, excellent benefits, enrollment in the Police and Fireman's Retirement System, and continuous training and education.

GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

- Possess a Full NJ PTC Certification for Basic Course for Police Officers. Applicants currently attending a NJPTC certified police academy who anticipate receiving certification and those with certification for the Basic Course for Class Two Special Law Enforcement Officers who are NJPTC Waiver Eligible within 6 months will also be considered.
- Possess a minimum of an associate degree or two years of full-time college credits (64 credits). Credits or degrees must be recognized by the American Council on Education as listed in Accredited Institutions of Post secondary Education. Active military service may be substituted and/or used in conjunction with college credit for a total of two years of education and/or active military service. Active military service credit will be granted at a rate equivalent to 2.67 college credits for each full month (30 days) of active military service completed.
- Possess a valid New Jersey driver's license.
- Be a resident of New Jersey and a citizen of the United States.
- Between 18 and 35 years of age.
- Have no criminal history and possess a good moral character.
- Must be able to pass one or more oral interviews.

For more information visit:
WWW.MANCHESTERPOLICENJ.COM/RECRUITMENT



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

In 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department welcomed several new officers to the agency, continuing its commitment to growing a dedicated and professional team.



The newly hired officers were Carlos Belardo, Ryan Cheslock, Michael Contreras, Anthony DeBlasio, Conner Ferino, Harry Paul, and Ryan Thompson. Each new officer brings unique skills and fresh perspectives to the department as they begin their careers in law enforcement. The majority of these officers came from law enforcement backgrounds and were selected through a progressive hiring process that prioritized prior experience, strong resumes, character, and interview performance. Each brings unique skills and fresh perspectives to the department as they begin their careers in law enforcement.

RETIREMENTS



Chief Robert Dolan



Cpt. Vincent Manco



Cpt. James Komsa



Lt. Chris Hemhauser

In 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department proudly honored the retirements of Chief Robert Dolan, Captain Vincent Manco, Captain James Komsa, Lieutenant Chris Hemhauser, Corporal Chris Walaszek, Corporal Brian Collins, and Patrolman John Decker. Each of these dedicated officers served the community for more than 25 years, committing their careers to keeping Manchester Township safe and setting an example of leadership and professionalism for those who followed. Collectively, their departures marked the loss of over 180 years of combined law enforcement experience within the department—a testament to their enduring impact on the agency and the residents they served. We congratulate each of them on their well-earned retirements and wish them nothing but health, happiness, and success in the next chapters of their lives.



Cpl. Chris Walaszek



Cpl. Brian Collins



Ptl. John Decker

PROMOTIONS

In 2024, in addition to Antonio Ellis being promoted to the Chief of Police, the Manchester Township Police Department proudly promoted several officers into leadership roles, recognizing their dedication, experience, and service to the community.

- **Albert Vega** was promoted to Captain. He holds a master's degree and previously led the Investigations Bureau. He has received over 20 awards, including multiple Chief's Awards and Drug Enforcement Seizure Awards.
- **Charles Brooks** was promoted to Lieutenant. A longtime supervisor, Lt. Brooks holds a bachelor's degree and has received honors such as two Chief's Awards and a Lifesaving Award.
- **Paul Bachovchin** was promoted to Lieutenant. With a master's degree and a diverse service record—including roles in D.A.R.E., Traffic Safety, and the Honor Guard—Lt. Bachovchin is known for his broad impact across the agency.
- **Christopher Cerullo** was also promoted to Lieutenant. Lt. Cerullo brings years of patrol and supervisory experience and is respected for his leadership and mentorship.
- **Michael Guarino** was promoted to Sergeant. A former Narcotics Enforcement Team member with a master's degree, he has earned numerous awards, including the Life Saving Award and Distinguished Service Award.
- **Steven Wendruff** was promoted to Sergeant. A founding member of the Narcotics Team and K-9 handler, Sgt. Wendruff has received multiple Life Saving Awards and commendations for his work.
- **Keith Craig** was promoted to Sergeant. Formerly the School Resource Officer, Sgt. Craig is well-known for his work with students and families, and brings strong community ties to his new role.
- **Ryan Saul** was promoted to Corporal. A dedicated Honor Guard member and Court Liaison, Cpl. Saul has received three Life Saving Awards and other commendations for his service.



POLICE TRAINING

During 2024, each Officer received over 140 hours of mandated police training.

- Instructors (subject matter experts) will undergo additional training to ensure proficiency in their specific areas of expertise. They will also spend additional time developing lesson plans, power point presentations, etc.
- Note: This does not include any outside agency training officers attend.

Annual Minimum Mandatory Training Hours (Per Officer)

Firearms Qualifications Training	20
Bias	1
CPR/AED/ First Aid	20
Rifle and MP-5 Operators	20
Less Lethal Weapons	10
Handcuffing, Defensive Tactics	4
Domestic Violence	4
Use of Force	4
RADAR Recertification	4
Alcotest Recertification	4
WatchGuard BWC	3
Conducted Energy Devices	4
Vehicle Pursuit	2
Critical Incident/Active Killer	8
Detainee Processing/PREA	1
De-escalation	2
Supervisor Critical Incident Training	4
Legal Updates criminal/MV law	1
Right to Know	1
CJIS	1
Critical Incident Response Scenarios	4
Critical Incident Debriefings	2

POLICE TRAINING

Specialized Units Additional Minimum Mandatory Annual Training Hours (Per Officer)

Ocean County Regional SWAT	240
K9	240
MPD Drone Unit	60
MPD Traffic Safety Section	40
MPD Firearms Unit	40

N.J. Attorney General's Office Mandated Training Hours (Per Officer)

ACADIS

8

In addition to the mandatory training courses that our officers are required to attend each year, the Manchester Township Police Department prides itself on going beyond the minimum standards to have the best officers serving our community.

In 2024, our officers attended approximately 60 additional trainings and courses, such as investigating impaired driving detection, Methods of instructions, FBI LEEDA leadership Institute, NJSACOP Command and Leadership Academy and learning the newest case laws to name a few.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible organizational unit within the Division and provides the bulk of policing services to the public. The Patrol Bureau provides a staff of highly trained and qualified officers that work 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year.

The primary mission of the Patrol Division is emergency response, crime prevention, preliminary investigations, proactive patrol and traffic enforcement.

The Patrol Division is divided into two platoons: Platoon 1 works Sunday through Wednesday, and Platoon 2 works Wednesday through Saturday. Each Platoon has three squads: days, evening, and midnights.



75%

75% of all sworn personnel are assigned to the Patrol Division

PATROL BY THE NUMBERS

34,440

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

DOMESTICS

AVERAGE TIME ON CALL 02:45:58

459

CRASHES

1166

TRAFFIC STOPS

4346

WELL-BEING CHECKS

1354

DISORDERLY/CIVIL MATTERS

698

ARRESTS/BOOKINGS

330

DUI ARRESTS

78

MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS

AVERAGE TIME ON CALL 01:24:46

543

MISSING PERSONS

103

ALARM CALLS

AVERAGE TIME ON CALL 00:28:48

1587

PATROL NOTABLE INCIDENTS

Officers Safely Resolve Knife Incident Involving Juvenile

On August 9, 2024, at approximately 6:54 p.m., Patrolmen Brendan Brush and Julian Meaney responded to a report of a juvenile male armed with a large knife near the intersection of Ninth Avenue and Pemberton Street. Upon arrival, the officers observed a 12-year-old male standing in a grassy area with the knife partially concealed in his jacket pocket.

Due to prior interactions and the juvenile's known history of mental health issues, the officers approached with heightened caution. Utilizing a calm, non-threatening approach, they engaged the juvenile through verbal communication, with Ptl. Meaney taking the lead in establishing rapport. After a brief dialogue, the juvenile voluntarily relinquished the knife without incident.

The situation was resolved without the need for physical intervention, and no injuries were reported. The officers' measured response and use of de-escalation techniques ensured a safe outcome for everyone involved. This incident underscores the role of patience, communication, and situational awareness when responding to individuals in crisis.

Armed Barricaded Subject Peacefully Surrenders Following Negotiation

On May 31, 2024, Manchester Township officers responded to a high-risk incident involving an armed and suicidal subject who had barricaded himself inside a residence. The individual, who was aware of his active warrants, refused to surrender and remained inside despite multiple commands. Responding officers established a secure perimeter and called in certified crisis negotiators.

Detective Conklin assumed the lead role in negotiations. After making phone contact, he engaged the subject in a calm and focused manner. Drawing on his training and experience as a certified negotiator, Det. Conklin maintained steady communication, used active listening techniques, and worked to de-escalate the situation.

After approximately 45 minutes of negotiation, the subject agreed to surrender peacefully. No injuries were reported, and the scene was resolved without the use of force.

PATROL NOTABLE INCIDENTS

Officers Respond to Mental Health Crisis

On September 30, 2024, Patrolman Wiener was dispatched to a mental health crisis involving a male subject reportedly experiencing suicidal ideation. According to the initial report, the individual had poured gasoline on himself and was threatening to harm himself further.

Upon arrival in the area, Ptl. Wiener observed the subject, who initially attempted to flee on foot. The subject was located a short distance away, where he eventually stopped. Ptl. Wiener engaged the individual and, through the use of calm and clear communication, was able to de-escalate the situation. The subject, though visibly distressed, complied with commands and was safely taken into protective custody without incident.

The individual was subsequently transported voluntarily by Manchester Township EMS to Community Medical Center for a mental health evaluation and further treatment. No injuries were reported during the incident.

Reckless Discharge of Firearm Leads to Arrest

On May 12, 2024, at approximately 0209 hours, Patrolman Maliff was on routine patrol in the Whiting section of Manchester Township when he heard several loud bangs consistent with gunfire. The sounds appeared to originate from a nearby wooded area. While canvassing the area, Ptl. Maliff observed a vehicle traveling toward him from the direction of the suspected gunfire and conducted a motor vehicle stop to investigate further.

During the stop, Ptl. Maliff engaged the driver and conducted a field investigation. The driver ultimately admitted to discharging a 9mm handgun out of the driver's side window while traveling approximately 50 miles per hour. According to the driver, the shots were fired into a tree line for no specific reason. The firearm used in the incident was recovered, and the driver was taken into custody without incident.

This investigation resulted in the immediate removal of a firearm from a dangerous situation and the apprehension of an individual who had engaged in reckless and unlawful behavior.

PATROL NOTABLE INCIDENTS

Firearm and Narcotics Recovered During Overnight Traffic Stop

On July 6, 2024, at approximately 2:17 a.m., Patrolman Sean Rembach conducted a motor vehicle stop that led to the discovery of a stolen firearm, distribution quantities of marijuana, and approximately \$3,000 in cash.

During the motor vehicle stop, Ptl. Rembach observed signs of possible criminal activity. A roadside investigation was conducted, resulting in the recovery of the loaded firearm and narcotics. The driver was taken into custody without incident. This stop resulted in the removal of a stolen weapon and illegal drugs from circulation and is under continued investigation to determine any additional criminal connections.

Whiting Power Outage

On December 23, 2024, at approximately 0800 hours, a large-scale power outage impacted roughly 5,200 residents in the Whiting section of Manchester Township. The outage was caused by an overloaded power grid due to extremely low temperatures, which remained in the low 20s during the day and dropped into the teens overnight.

In response, the Manchester Township Police Department issued Nixle alerts, social media updates, and a Reverse 911 call to inform residents about warming stations and available transportation. Several intersections lost power and were manually controlled by officers for several hours. Officers also conducted welfare checks on vulnerable residents.

Warming stations were established at Manchester EMS and Whiting Volunteer Fire Company during the day, and Manchester Township High School was opened overnight by the American Red Cross, offering food, bedding, and pet-friendly accommodations. Transportation was provided by police and school district personnel for residents in need.

The incident required coordination across multiple agencies, including local police, EMS, fire departments, county services, and the Red Cross. Through effective communication and teamwork, the community's needs were met and public safety was maintained until the power was restored.

PATROL NOTABLE INCIDENTS

Multi-Vehicle Crash Involving School Transportation Van

On April 16, 2024, at approximately 0830 hours, officers responded to a three-vehicle crash at the intersection of County Route 571 and County Route 547, involving a school transportation van carrying eleven students and a driver. All vehicles sustained significant damage, with multiple airbag deployments reported.

Twelve occupants from the van were found along the roadside with varying injuries, including facial trauma, respiratory issues, and one student with a leg injury requiring assisted removal. Another driver sustained serious facial injuries.

Ptl. Saul arrived first and began triaging patients until EMS arrived. Additional officers secured the scene, assisted with medical assessments, and ensured traffic safety. All thirteen individuals were transported to local hospitals with non-life-threatening injuries. The incident was managed swiftly and professionally through coordinated response efforts.

Missing Person Located Following Medical Emergency in Parked Vehicle

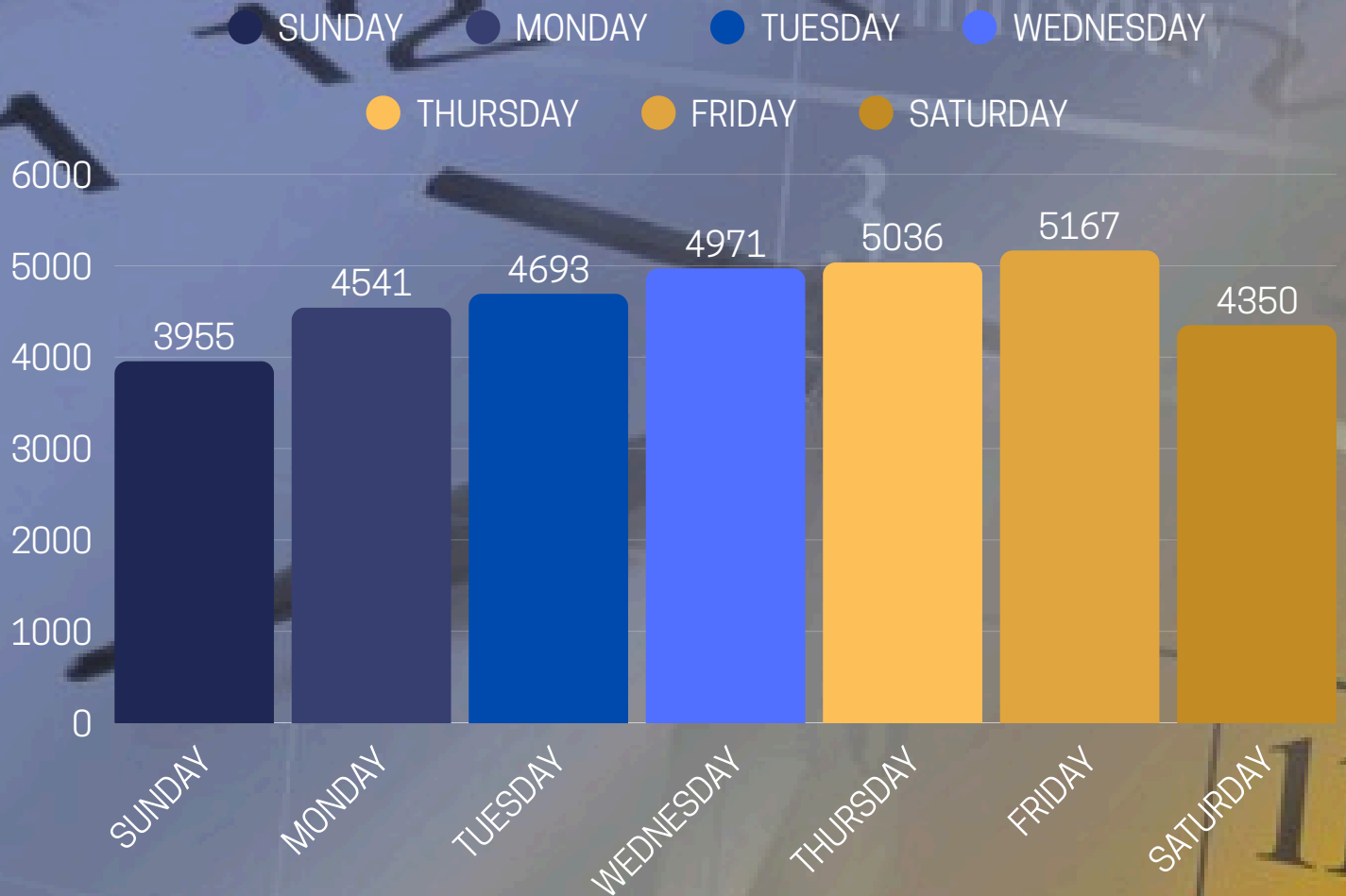
On February 29, 2024, at approximately 2013 hours, officers were dispatched to a residence in Manchester Township for a report of a missing person. A family member reported that her adult brother had left home earlier in the afternoon to visit a relative and run a few errands but had not returned. This was considered unusual, as he typically avoided driving at night.

As the initial investigation began, Patrolman Julian Meaney took proactive steps to search locations the missing individual was known to frequent. At approximately 2050 hours, Ptl. Meaney located the subject's vehicle parked in a commercial plaza lot. Upon approach, he observed the individual in the driver's seat, unresponsive. The vehicle was locked, and all windows were closed.

Recognizing the potential medical emergency, Ptl. Meaney used a glass-breaking tool he carries on his person to access the vehicle. Shortly after gaining entry, the individual began experiencing a seizure. Ptl. Meaney immediately removed him from the vehicle and placed him in a recovery position on the ground.

Manchester Township EMS and RWJ Barnabas Health paramedics arrived shortly thereafter and transported the individual to a local hospital for further evaluation and treatment.

AVERAGE CALL VOLUME PER DAY



BUSIEST TIME OF THE DAY



INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Investigations Bureau consists of two sections, the Investigations Section and the Narcotics Enforcement Section also known as the Narcotics Enforcement Team (N.E.T.). Each section has a Detective Sergeant assigned to supervise the daily operations of their respective sections.

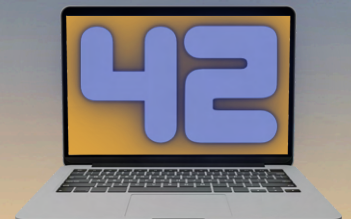
2024 proved to be a busy year, as the Investigations Section investigated over 219 cases, issued 41 criminal charges, , and conducted 42 background investigations Each background investigation for a new police officer requires approximately 60-man hours to complete. The background investigations are in addition to the assigned Detective's regular case load.



CASES



CRIMINAL CHARGES



**BACKGROUND
INVESTIGATIONS**

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Multi-Jurisdictional Commercial Burglary Pattern

Throughout April and May 2024, Ocean County experienced a string of commercial burglaries sharing similar characteristics—glass doors shattered with rocks and cash registers forcibly opened. On April 26, a Toms River bagel shop was burglarized in this manner, prompting collaboration with Manchester detectives who recognized the pattern from previous cases.

Surveillance efforts led to the identification of a suspect vehicle and two individuals tied to the crimes. Detectives secured a GPS tracking warrant for the suspect vehicle, which was located on May 11 in an industrial section of Lakewood. A Manchester detective initiated a traffic stop, resulting in the recovery of suspected stolen property, including a commercial air conditioning unit. Nearby, a business had been burglarized, and the stolen items—still in the vehicle—were valued at over \$20,000. One suspect was arrested at the scene, and his vehicle and phone were seized as evidence.

A follow-up search warrant was executed at a Jackson residence on May 15. The second suspect was arrested, and additional evidence was recovered. Both individuals were charged with multiple counts of burglary, theft, and criminal mischief. The investigation ultimately connected them to over six commercial burglaries across Ocean County and led to two additional arrests related to drug distribution uncovered during the residential search.

INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Identity Theft and Illegal Medical Practice Investigation

A narcotics theft reported at a long-term care facility led to the discovery of a complex case involving identity theft and unlicensed medical practice. Facility administrators reported the disappearance of 31 Oxycodone (5mg) pills prescribed to a resident. Internal surveillance was unavailable, but a nurse who had worked a shift on December 24, 2023, became the focus of the investigation. She was removed from duty on December 31 with a “Do Not Return” order.

Further inquiries revealed similar thefts at other healthcare facilities where the same nurse had been employed. On January 30, 2024, the nurse voluntarily participated in a recorded interview with Manchester detectives. Although she denied any involvement, she failed a polygraph examination and later admitted that her sister had been using her identity and valid nursing license to work unauthorized shifts. The sister’s own nursing license had previously been suspended due to a narcotics-related incident, and she had manipulated payroll systems to divert earnings.

Records confirmed the impersonator had worked 53 shifts under false credentials between September and December 2023. As a result of the investigation, formal charges were filed. On February 27, the nurse was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Theft by Deception, Conspiracy to Practice Medicine Without a License, and Practicing Medicine Under a False Name. Additional charges against the sister were filed on February 29, including Theft by Deception and Theft of a Controlled Dangerous Substance.

INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

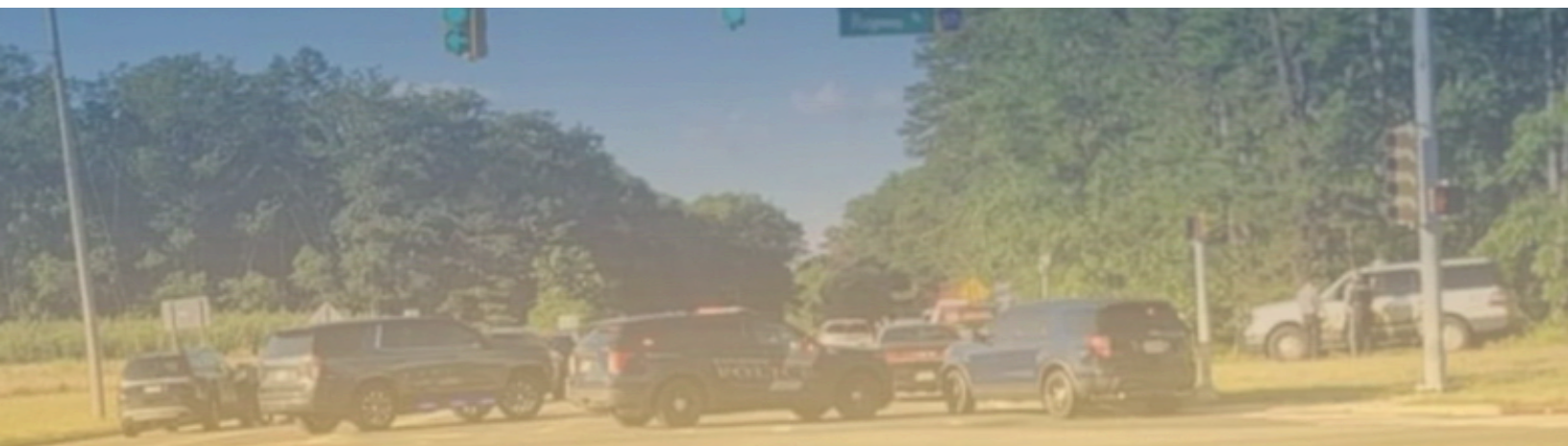
Ridgeway Liquors Homicide & Subsequent Double Murder Case

On June 27, 2024, Manchester Police responded to a reported shooting near Ridgeway Liquors. A female victim, shot by her former partner, was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center, where she was later pronounced deceased. A witness on scene described an argument between the victim and the driver of a gray Honda Pilot, which was ultimately linked to the suspect.

Detectives conducted an interview with the victim's mother, who revealed her daughter had recently expressed fear of the suspect. This, combined with other investigative leads, led to charges of murder and related offenses. On July 5, a search warrant was executed at a Newark residence connected to the suspect. Evidence recovered confirmed his presence there after the homicide, prompting an additional warrant for a residence in Toms River.

The suspect was located at the Toms River home, where he engaged in a seven-hour armed standoff with law enforcement. During the standoff, he fired multiple rounds at officers before taking his own life.

Following the incident, investigators recovered graphic photographic evidence implicating the suspect and his current partner in a separate homicide. The photo depicted the pair with the dismembered remains of the Toms River homeowner. Subsequent investigation determined that the couple had murdered and dismembered the victim, later disposing of the remains at a property in Jackson Township. A search of the Jackson location on July 12 led to the discovery of human remains and tools consistent with dismemberment.



NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

The Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET) is comprised of four Detectives and one Detective Sergeant. Two Detectives are currently assigned as Task Force Officers (TFOs) with external agencies. The NET is responsible for all narcotics-related investigations within Manchester Township and works in coordination with other local, county, state, and federal agencies on multi-jurisdictional cases.

While many investigations originate within Manchester Township, they frequently expand into neighboring municipalities. Additionally, the NET is tasked with responding to and investigating every fatal drug overdose that occurs within the Township.



SEIZURES



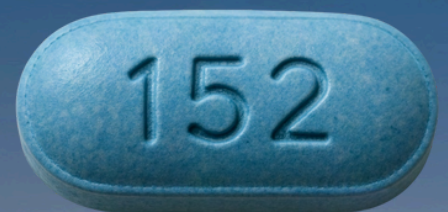
BAGS OF HEROIN



GRAMS OF COCAINE



U.S. CURRENCY



PRESCRIPTION PILLS



POUND OF MARIJUANA

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Multi-Agency Operation (Ocean County)

In May, 2024, NET Detectives identified an individual distributing crack cocaine throughout Ocean County. After a month-long investigation, simultaneous residential search warrants were executed in Jackson Township, Toms River, and South Toms River.

The operation involved coordination with the following agencies:

- Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force
- Ocean County Regional SWAT
- Jackson Township Detective Bureau
- Toms River SET & SRT
- Manchester Township Investigations Bureau

Seized:

- 85 grams of cocaine
- Drug paraphernalia
- 4 cell phones
- \$14,122 in U.S. currency

Distribution from Residence (Manchester Township)

In June, 2024, NET Detectives identified a suspect distributing narcotics from a residence within the Township. On June 26, 2024, a search warrant was executed at the home.

Seized (Residence):

- Prescription pills (Gabapentin, Alprazolam, Clonazepam) packaged for distribution
- 0.58 grams of crack cocaine
- 10.95 grams of Tusi (a powdered mixture of cocaine, tramadol, and fentanyl)
- Multiple cell phones
- Drug paraphernalia

Seized (Associated Vehicles):

- 2.48 grams of crack cocaine
- 1.1 grams of powder cocaine
- Drug paraphernalia

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM

NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Major Residential Seizure (Manchester Township)

In October, 2024, Detectives identified a female suspect distributing narcotics from her residence. On October 1, 2024, a search warrant was executed.
Seized:

- 41.39 grams of crack cocaine
- 16.66 grams of powder cocaine
- 1+ pound of marijuana
- 230 doses of heroin
- Digital scale and packaging materials
- \$2,329 in U.S. currency



TAKE FORCE OFFICER OPERATIONS NJSP Drug Trafficking Central Unit

A NET Detective assigned to the NJSP Drug Trafficking Central Unit led and assisted in numerous narcotics investigations resulting in the following seizures:

- 46 kilos of cocaine
- 19 kilos of fentanyl
- 1 kilo of heroin
- 10 pounds of crystal methamphetamine
- 67,000 pressed pills
- 15 firearms
- 7 high-capacity magazines
- \$637,162 in U.S. currency

DEA HIDTA II Task Force

A NET Detective assigned to the DEA HIDTA II Task Force focused on narcotics-related money laundering investigations. His efforts led to the following seizures:

- 1,800 pounds of marijuana
- 52 pounds of crystal methamphetamine
- \$3,502,000 in U.S. currency

DEA

U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT TEAM OVERDOSE DATA

Total Overdoses

97

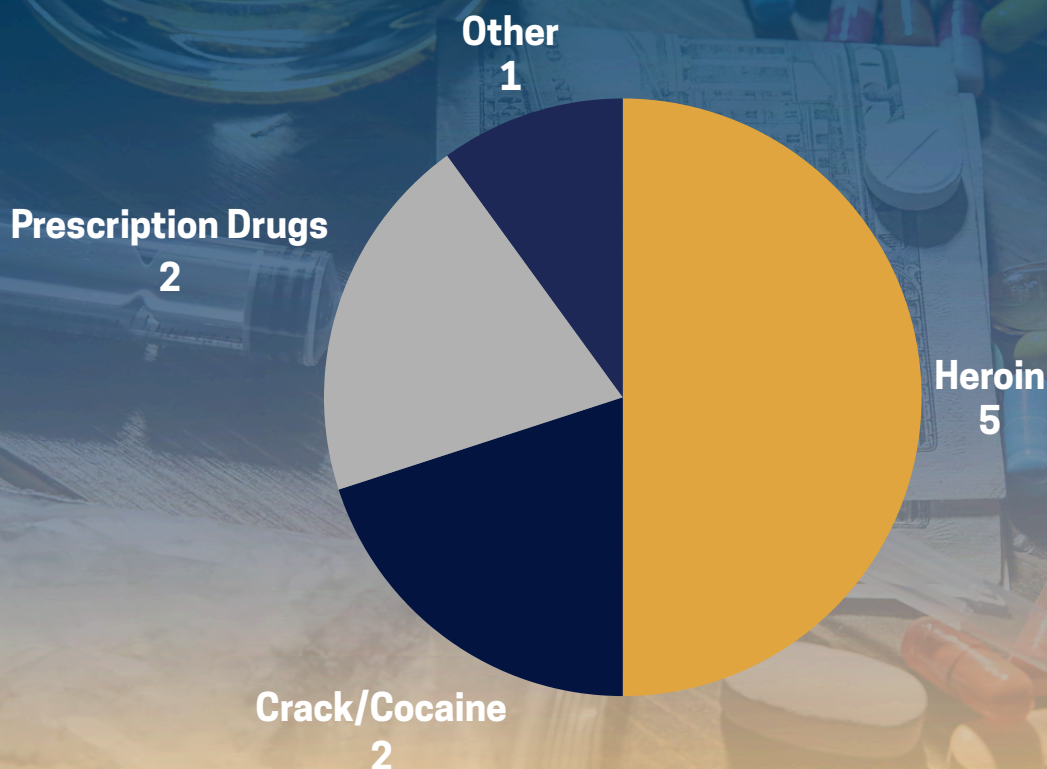
Fatal Overdoses

10

Heroin-related Overdoses

35

FATAL OVERDOSE BY SUBSTANCE



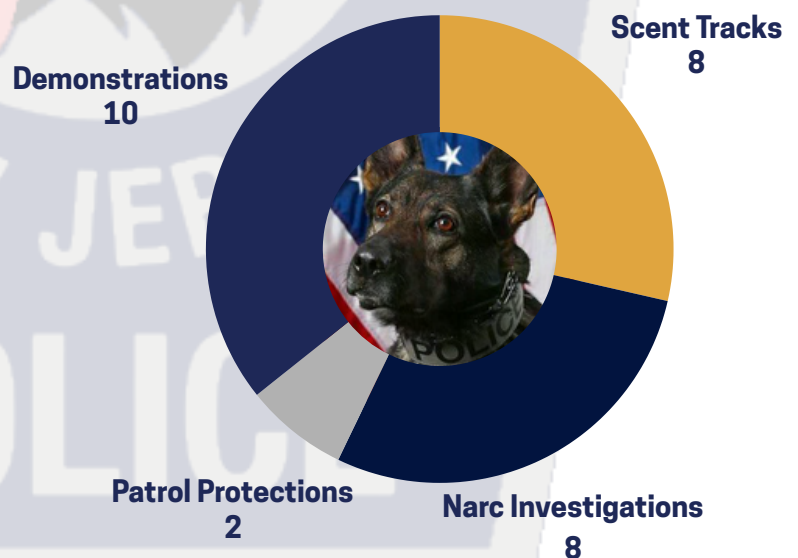
K-9 UNIT

The K-9 Unit is comprised of two Patrol Officers and their K-9 partners.

In 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department proudly welcomed the newest addition to its K-9 Unit, K-9 Buck, along with his handler, Ptl. Jon Meaney. Officer Meaney was carefully selected for the role based on his strong work ethic, proactive approach to policing, and dedication to serving the community. K-9 Buck, a red American Labrador under a year old, underwent extensive training with the New Jersey Police K-9 Association in Tinton Falls, where he specialized in narcotics detection and tracking. With their training complete, Officer Meaney and K-9 Buck are now officially partnered and ready to work together in keeping Manchester Township safe.



K-9 STATISTICS



TRAFFIC SAFETY

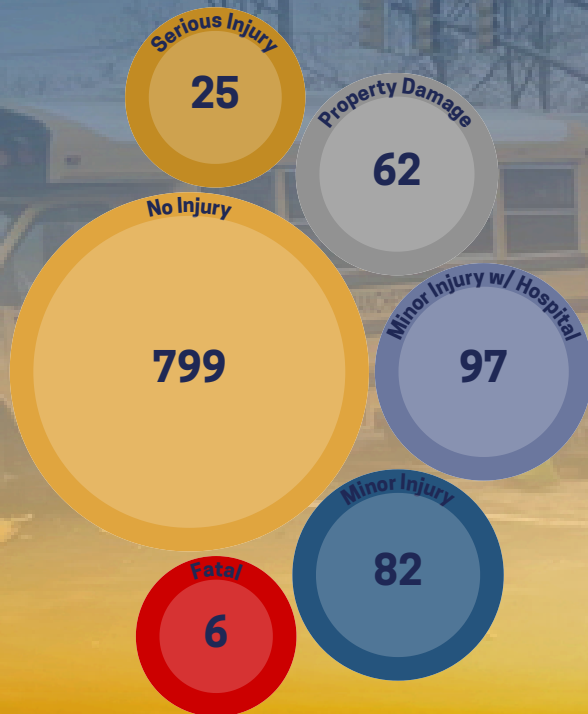
In 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Section was staffed by two full-time officers operating under the Administrative Services Bureau. These officers worked Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Additionally, six part-time officers—each possessing specialized training—were assigned to full-time patrol squads and assisted in the traffic call-out rotation.

The Traffic Safety Section maintained a 24/7 call-out capability, ensuring that a Traffic Safety Officer could rapidly respond to serious motor vehicle collisions at any time. When such incidents occur, a Traffic Safety Officer is dispatched to conduct a comprehensive investigation into the cause and contributing factors of the crash. This process includes securing and documenting evidence at the scene, obtaining search warrants, creating scaled crash diagrams, performing reconstruction calculations, and interviewing involved parties and witnesses.

Fatal crashes often require multiple officers to carry out various investigative tasks and follow-up procedures. These may involve close collaboration with detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, the Ocean County Sheriff's Office, and participation in postmortem examinations conducted by the Ocean County Medical Examiner's Office. The investigation of a serious or fatal motor vehicle crash demands a significant investment of time and resources. From the initial response to the final report, these cases typically require extensive manpower and can span several days or even weeks to complete.



MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES IN 2024



1,083 Total Crashes Reported (3% Increase)

62 Property Damage (2% Decrease)

82 Minor Injury (25% Decrease)

97 Minor Injury w/ Hospital (8% Increase)

25 Serious Injury (10% Decrease)

799 No Injury

6 Fatal crashes (9% Increase)



CHILD RESTRAINT INSPECTIONS

Traffic Safety Officers instruct and educate parents on properly installing Child Passenger Seats (CPS), consisting of, infant rear facing seats, toddler forward facing seats, and booster seats. Once per month Traffic Safety Officers participate in a Child Seat Check Event at the Manchester Emergency Services Building. Appointments are also accommodated when requested.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION



The Communications Section consists of 12 full-time Public Safety Telecommunicators, 6 Per-Diem Public Safety Telecommunicators, 2 Senior Public Safety Telecommunicator and 1 Communications Supervisor. The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. All Public Safety Telecommunicators are certified by the State of New Jersey and hold, at a minimum, a New Jersey recognized Basic Telecommunicator Certification. Communications section personnel are responsible for answering incoming administrative and emergency calls, and they are expected to solicit necessary information from callers in order to appropriately handle and direct these calls. In addition to answering calls, other responsibilities include, but are not limited to; dispatching field officers, obtaining and providing pertinent information to field officers, monitoring radio communications of law enforcement and other emergency responders, monitoring officer status, documenting information into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, accessing information from the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) as well as a multitude of other law enforcement databases.

In 2020, the Communications Section began dispatching services for the Manchester Division of Emergency Services and Manchester Volunteer Fire Companies. In 2021, the Communications Section began dispatching Manchester Township's Career and Volunteer Fire Departments.

The role of the public safety telecommunicator is that they are the lifeline between the public and emergency services.

In 2022, the State of New Jersey recognized communications personnel as 9-1-1 first responders. Our Public Safety Telecommunicators collection of critical information and disbursement and split-second actions form the foundation for effective emergency response.

RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

11/1/24-12/31/24 MPD-2 1/1/24-2/28/24
59,910 3,898 63,337

9/1/24-10/31/24
66,834

POLICE
410,545

3/1/24-4/30/24
72,113

7/1/24-8/31/24
73,075

5/1/24-6/30/24
71,378

3/1/24-4/30/24
8,653

11/1/24-12/31/24 FIRE-2 1/1/24-2/28/24
8,910 568 7,350

9/1/24-10/31/24
8,505

FIRE
54,010

7/1/24-8/31/24
9,425

5/1/24-6/30/24
10,599

11/1/24-12/31/24 EMS-2 1/1/24-2/28/24
45,974 1,091 42,834

EMS
256,557

3/1/24-4/30/24
38,116

9/1/24-10/31/24
44,334

7/1/24-8/31/24
43,332

5/1/24-6/30/24
40,876

TOTAL
721,112

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department launched Live! With the Manchester Township Police Department, a monthly livestream created to strengthen communication and engagement with our community. Hosted by Sgt. Joe Fastige, the program provides residents with department updates, township news, upcoming events, and a live Q&A session where viewers can interact directly with their police department. This new initiative has quickly become a valuable way to connect with the public, offering transparency, sharing important information, and building stronger relationships between our officers and the community we proudly serve.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS



As always, we proudly participated in Manchester Day at Harry Wright Lake, joining residents for a day filled with community spirit, family fun, and summertime festivities. Our officers enjoyed meeting with attendees, answering questions, and showcasing some of our equipment while kids explored police vehicles and grabbed giveaways. It was another great opportunity to connect with the community we serve in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS



In 2024, we hosted another successful National Night Out at Manchester Township High School, bringing together residents, vendors, and community organizations for an evening of fun and connection with law enforcement. This collaborative event, held alongside the Lakehurst Police Department, was made possible thanks to the support of Mayor Rob Arace, Manchester Recreation, Manchester Emergency Services, Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, the Manchester School District, and our dedicated volunteer first responders. Special guests included Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley Billhimer and State Senator Carmen F. Amato Jr. We're grateful to everyone who joined us in strengthening the bond between our officers and the community we proudly serve.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS



In 2024, we proudly launched our first-ever breast cancer awareness fundraiser, raising an incredible \$2,000 to support the fight against cancer. Thanks to the generosity of Manchester Township PBA Local 246, the support of our community, and our partnership with Farro's Tees, we were able to present a check to David Caldarella, founder of David's Dream & Believe Cancer Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping those affected by cancer. This was an amazing first step in what we hope becomes a lasting tradition of making a difference together.

HOPE

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



In 2024, our officers had a wonderful time joining the community for Christmas in the Pines, presented by Manchester Recreation! It was a day filled with holiday cheer, festive fun, and plenty of smiles as we celebrated the season together with our residents.



A few months earlier, our officers had a fang-tastic time handing out treats to Manchester's little ghouls and goblins while keeping neighborhoods safe and watching for extra-safe driving on our haunted streets.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

NO-SHAVE NOVEMBER

In 2024, we extended No-Shave November all the way through May, allowing our officers to keep their beards growing for a good cause. Each month, officers made donations to participate, helping us raise funds for several organizations, including a local family in need, Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD), the Police Athletic League, our K-9 Unit, and the Police Unity Tour Chapter 10. What started as a one-month tradition turned into a months-long effort to give back, with our officers proudly bristling with scruff to support causes that matter most to our community.



SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION



In 2024, the Manchester Township Police Department proudly introduced the inaugural Voluntary Physical Fitness Test, a new program aimed at promoting health, wellness, and camaraderie among our officers. Spearheaded by Sgt. Adam Emmons, this initiative provided an opportunity for officers to challenge themselves through friendly competition while showcasing their commitment to maintaining a high standard of physical fitness. The test consisted of push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, and a one-mile run, with approximately one-third of the department participating in this first year. Leading the way, Ptl. Brendan Brush finished first overall, setting the bar high for future participants. This program not only highlights the department's dedication to personal well-being but also strengthens the bond and pride shared within the Manchester Township Police family.

2024 AWARD RECIPIENTS

PHYSICAL FITNESS AWARD

PTL. BRENDAN BRUSH

UNIT CITATION AWARD

DSG. DANNY BARKER, DET. JESSE TATE, DET. JOSE DIAZ, DET. MICHAEL GARDNER ,
DET. GAVIN REILLY, PTL. KAMAR GAINEY, PTL. MICHAEL SULLIVAN PTL. JULIAN MEANEY

FIREARMS AWARD

PTL. JULIAN MEANEY, PTL. MARC MICCIULLA

CIVILIAN SERVICE AWARD

DIANE PEDROZA, DENNIS ADAMS, JOSEPH SERRATELLI, FRANK KERN, FRANK MATTINA,
CHRIS BROWN, JESSE HANSEN, CRYSTAL STEVENSON, CRYSTINA STEVENSON

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

SGT. ROBERT SHARRY, PTL. CONNER YATAURO, PTL. CHRISTOPHER KIMBIZ, CSA ERIC SKIECZIUS

GALLANTRY STAR AWARD

PTL. MATTHEW WALASZEK, PTL. NICHOLAS GREENWOOD, PTL. ROBERT CAMPOLEI

MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

SGT. RICHARD MAZZA, SGT. CHARLES GATNAREK, DSG. DANNY BARKER,
PTL. ARTHUR CRONK, PTL. JESSE HOYDIS, PTL. CHRISTOPHER KIMBIZ, PTL. BRENDAN BRUSH

CROIX DE NEGOTIATORS LAUREL AWARD

DET. RICHARD CONKLIN, PTL. JULIAN MEANEY

LIFE SAVING AWARD

PTL. JULIAN MEANEY

HONORABLE SERVICE AWARD

LT. CHRISTOPHER CERULLO, SGT. PATRICK MORGAN, SGT. MICHAEL GUARINO,
PTL. JONATHAN MEANEY, PTL. JULIAN MEANEY, PTL. BRENDAN BRUSH

EXCEPTIONAL DUTY AWARD

DET. ADAM GUKER, DET. RICHARD CONKLIN, DET. GAVIN REILLY,
DET. MICHAEL GARDNER, PTL. CONNOR MALIFF, PTL. SEAN REMBACH

CHIEF'S RECOGNITION AWARD

SGT. ADAM EMMONS, PTL. KEVIN REMBACH, PST JESSICA ZAKAR,
REC. SUPV. MELISSA MATOS, PSA MICHAEL LYNCH

MEDAL OF HONOR AWARD

PTL. MICHAEL ANDERSON, PTL. NICHOLAS GREENWOOD

CHIEF'S AWARD

SGT. JOSEPH FASTIGE

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Office of Professional Standards has the responsibility to investigate all allegations of misconduct by members of the Division, and to review and adjudicate all minor complaints which are handled by supervisors. In addition, the Office of Professional Standards will review all firearms discharges by Division personnel that are not related to training, all use of force incidents, all vehicular pursuits undertaken by Division personnel and all collisions involving Division vehicles.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

In 2024, one (1) officer allegation/ complaint was filed with the Office of Professional Standards of the Manchester Police Department. Complaints are lodged by either citizens, or members of the agency who identified behavior or actions which did not meet the agency's standards.

The one (1) complaint internally generated was as follows:

-Violation of Department Rules and Regulations and Policies,

In this case, the Office of Professional Standards conducted an internal investigation to determine whether the complaint was valid. With regard to the internally generated complaint the outcome of the investigation was documented as follows: one (1) complaint involving violation of department rules and regulations was closed with a disposition of sustained, meaning the investigation disclosed a preponderance of evidence showed that the officer violated a law, regulation, directive, guideline, policy or procedure issued by the Attorney General, County Prosecutor, agency protocol, standing operating procedure, rule or training.

During 2024, Officers of the Manchester Township Police Department received (67) compliments and notices of positive performance in 2024 from citizens and police supervisors. Every Manchester Township police officer is held to the highest levels of professionalism, performance and service and the positive feedback received from the public and our supervisors exemplifies these standards.

IN MEMORY OF



POLICE CHAPLAIN

REVEREND JAMES W. DAVIS
MAY 18, 1941 - OCTOBER 30, 2024