

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS			
Mission Statement	Page 3	POLICE	
Core Values	Page 4	Р	
Code of Ethics	Page 5	O L	
Staff Services Bureau	Page 6 - 15	I C	
Records, Property, and Court Departments	Page 16 - 22	E	
Internal Affairs Division	Page 23 - 25	D E	
Patrol Bureau	Page 26 - 27	P A	
Detective Bureau	Page 28 - 34	R T	
Traffic Bureau	Page 35 - 39	Μ	
		E N	



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



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 relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law crime and with 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 com-

petence. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession . . . law enforcement.

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, and Jobs-in -Blue.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES SECTION

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. In 2020 the Staff Services Bureau established full time Training Officers to conduct even more training than in years prior., acknowledging that a better trained police force is a more effective one.

Noteworthy training activities that were undertaken in 2020, include some of the following:

Officer Safety – weapons training	Managing Informants
Active Shooter Training	Legal Updates
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	COVID 19 Training
Law Enforcement Interaction with Transgender Individuals	Proper Respirator Use

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, Five Union Police officers are assigned to the *U.C.E.R.T.* regular training team; in addition four are assigned to specialty training in the Entry & Containment Team. The Union Police Department has also disbanded its own emergency response team dedicating more time to community policing and de escalation training.

Major mandated and voluntary training undertaken in 2020, included semi-annual firearms, use of force and pursuit training.

As part of our on-going firearms maintenance program, which is conducted semi-annually, firearm instructors/armorers 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



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department weapons and to intervene early on if problems occur.



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 2020, we issued 31 officers new body armor.

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.

ALARMS

The Alarm Enforcement Unit managed the Township's business and residential alarm accounts for 2020. Funds in the amount of **\$6,000.00** have been received for business alarm accounts.

The Alarm Enforcement Unit also maintains emergency information files on all businesses 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 2020 false alarm fees - \$1,250.00.

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 2020

Alarm fees collected for the year 2020 - \$6,000.00 False alarm fees for 2020 - \$1,250.00



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CRIME PREVENTION / COMMUNITY POLICING / L.E.A.D. /

D.A.R.E.

The Crime Prevention/Community Policing 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 residents in the formation of Neighborhood Watch groups and other prevention and public safety activities. D.A.R.E. / L.E.A.D. officers support and play key roles in many of the community policing and crime prevention activities and events. Unfortunately COVID-19 restrictions and subsequent school closures prevented most of our education services. D.A.R.E. / L.E.A.D. have continued their training and are eager to resume their education programs as schools are reopened.

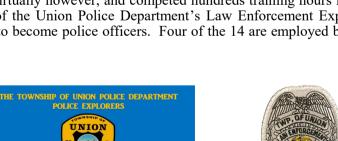


EXPLORERS

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 2020, the Union Police Law Enforcement Explorer Posts consist of 17 young members. The total number of advisors is 12. 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, and attendance at town events.

During 2020, Union Law Enforcement Explorers were unable to supply what normally constitutes over 330 volunteer hours to the Township, due to COVID-19 restrictions. Explorers did continue their monthly meetings virtually however, and competed hundreds training hours in the process. In the 23 year history, of the Union Police Department's Law Enforcement Explorer Post, 14 Explorers have gone on to become police officers. Four of the 14 are employed by the Union Police Department.





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PERSONNEL

The department hired 11 new officer in 2020, maintaining our manpower at 136 sworn officers. We hired 1 new civilian employee. Our department had 10 retirements and 2 resignations. 5 Officers were promoted from Patrolman to Sergeant, 2 Sergeants were promoted to Lieutenant, and 1 Lieutenant was promoted to Captain.

NEW HIRES

Michael T. Plaia	January 2	Police Officer	Α
Danny Mirao	January 2	January 2 Police Officer	
Nyante Senyon	January 2	January 2 Police Officer	
Juliana Hudson	January 2	Police Officer	F
Matthew F. Melody	January 2	Police Officer	
Bryan Sousa	January 6	Civilian	s
Paulette M. Simmons	February 18	SLEO III	T
Daniel Palumbo	February 18	Communications Officer	E
Randy St. Louis	August 14	Police Officer	R
Carlos J. Molina	August 14	Police Officer	v
Rushabh M. Shah	August 14	Police Officer	г
Kevin J. McDonough	August 14	Police Officer	
Raphael A. Rossi	August 14	Police Officer	С
Thomas J. Kelly	August 14	Police Officer	E
	PROMOTIONS		s
Thomas Florio	February 25	Lieutenant	
George Moutis	February 25	Sergeant	в
Juan Vargas	February 25	Sergeant	
Barry Cohen	July 28	Captain	U
Robert Donnelly III			R
	July 28	Lieutenant	
Walter Stinner	July 28 July 28	Lieutenant	
Walter Stinner Nuno Lopes	-		E
	July 28	Lieutenant	
Nuno Lopes	July 28 July 28	Lieutenant Sergeant	E
Nuno Lopes John Oliveira	July 28 July 28 July 28	Lieutenant Sergeant Sergeant	E A

RETIREMENTS

Linda Elker	1/1/2020
Sean Herrighty	2/1/2020
Daniel Mitchell	2/1/2020
William Fuentes	2/1/2020
Christopher Donnelly	7/1/2020
Anthony Marra	8/1/2020
Kevin Skiper	8/1/2020
Kevin Murphy	8/1/2020
Anthony Cavallo	8/1/2020
Benjamin Del Virginia	10/1/2020

Communications Officer
Police Lieutenant
Police Sergeant
Police Detective
Police Captain
Police Lieutenant
Police Lieutenant
Police Sergeant
Police Sergeant
Police Officer

RESIGNATIONS

Ricardo Tavares Michael Goff 8/20/2020 12/13/2020

Auxiliary Officer Communications Officer





GRANTS

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

Federal Highway Safety fund - FED 2021 Fund	\$ 64,740.00
HTS State Pedestrian Safety Enforcement & Education Fund	\$ 16,475.00
NJ Criminal Justice Body Armor Fund	\$ 23,280.63
Total	\$ 104,495.63

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 aggressively applies for any grants available to assist in enforcement efforts. In 2020, most of the regular yearly grants were unavailable due to the COVID-19 pandemic Union was awarded **\$ 16,475.00** however, in its HTS State Pedestrian Safety Enforcement & Education Fund. The funds were used in our campaign to educate pedestrians and motorists alike. Offenders were stopped by officers with the primary goal of education in mind. Many offenders were given warnings as well as educational pamphlets, highlighting statistics om pedestrian involved accidents and safety measures to help avoid them in future encounters.

Our Agency was also awarded **\$ 64,740.00** from the Federal Highway Safety fund - FED 2021 Fund. This money is allocated to help improve safety on Federal 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.





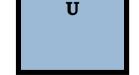
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

National Night Out is a community-police oriented event held every year in the United States on the first Tuesday of August. The Union Police Department participates in this every year hosting the event in our parking lot, having well over 700 attendees. During this event we provide many services to the residents including, DWI goggle demonstrations, Alzheimer awareness, Child restraint programs, & Drone Demonstrations. There is normally a dunk house where children could dunk officers, face painting, building tours, musical entertainment and food for all guests. Unfortunately due once again to the COVID-19 pandemic National Night Out was canceled in 2020.Our agency was saddened that we were unable to provide this experience to our residents and is looking forward to coming back better in 2021.

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JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY PROGRAM

In 2019 the department through the Staff Services/D.A.R.E. Unit conducted a Junior Police Academy program. This program was conducted through the week of July $8^{th} - 12^{th}$. This was the first time our department has hosted this program since 2012. The program was offered to the graduating fifth grade class, having 40 spots available all which were filled. Our department intended to keep the program going in July of 2020 had it not been for the pandemic. Our agency has every intention to bring the program back in 2021.



TRUNK or TREAT

Although our agency was unable to provide our yearly Halloween Safety/ Education program, we were able to conduct our own Trunk or Treat Event. This event was free to all township residents and provided a safe and sterile environment where children could participate in Halloween traditions in spite of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Every safety precaution was taken and strictly enforced to minimize the chance of COVID exposure to our officers, civilian employees, and our township residents. Contests were held for best decorated vehicle as well as for best costume. The event proved a huge success with hundreds of visitors and provided residents with a reprieve from life in quarantine.











HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Safety for the kids in town is a huge priority for our agency, and as Halloween approached we normally discuss the dangers with our fifth grade students. They would normally be taught by our D.A.R.E. / L.E.A.D. Officers about stranger danger, where and how to cross streets while trick or treating and what costumes to wear for visibility at night. Our agency also usually holds a dance the night before Halloween in which all middle school students are invited to attend. The students are chaperoned for the evening by Police Officers and have a safe environment to dance and so-cialize with their friends. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 restrictions we were unable to conduct our normal Halloween Safety education in 2020.

SANTA IN BLUE

The Union Police Department coordinates and administers the Santa In Blue Program. This program works in conjunction with local business, Township officials, Township residents, local organizations and the local school district. The Community Policing Unit, along with the D.A.R.E/ L.E.A.D. officers, run programs during the holiday season to promote the collection of gifts for needy families. This year posed a significant challenge to our department and community with the pandemic restricting community interactions along with the closure of many of our gift collection locations. Never the less thanks to the generosity of the Township residents and hard work from our officers and civilian employees we were able to continue the program in 2020 despite of COVID-19. Civilian employees and officers worked diligently to organize, sort and wrap the gifts. Utilizing officers from throughout the department, we then personally delivered the gifts to 102 homes within the township. After the gifts were delivered throughout the township, we donated the remaining gifts to various veteran organizations to be dispersed to the children of disabled veterans .

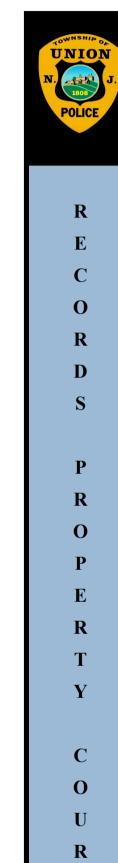




THERE WILL BE NO SORTING/WRAPPING EVENT THIS YEAR

2020 POLICE DIVISION - STAFFING

POLICE DIRECTOR	1
DEPUTY CHIEF	1
CAPTAINS	4
LIEUTENANTS	9
SERGEANTS	17
DETECTIVES	13
POLICE OFFICERS	92
TOTAL SWORN PERSONNEL	136
CIVILIANS	30
DISPATCHERS	21
TOTAL PERSONNEL	188





RECORDS, TECHNICAL SERVICES, PROPERTY AND COURT SECTION

The Records section consists of three clerk typists, a property officer, and a court coordinator.

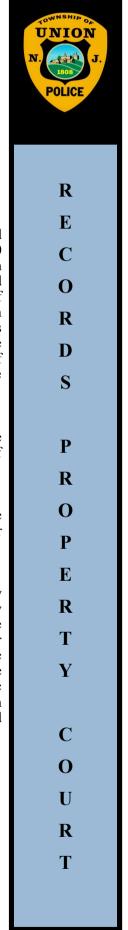
The Record Clerks are responsible for the proper maintenance, filing and release of records and information produced by the Police Department. The Police Department produces over 50,000 paper reports annually. Each report is categorized and placed into a filing system in accord with government and civil 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 Record section supervisor is also responsible for uploading nearly 3,500 motor vehicle accident reports to the web services "*policereports.com*" 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 5000 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.

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.



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 scan all reports and blotters into a document imaging system. Personnel in the Police and Fire Departments assign cases, research information and retrieve the public records through this document imaging system. The Docuware imaging system currently contains over 1,000,000 copies of records available on line 24 hours a day.

The police department deployed body worn cameras in March of 2019 and continued its use throughout 2020. All patrol officers were outfitted with body cameras. The potential benefits include creating objective records of stop encounters, encouraging lawful and respectful policecitizen 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.



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GENERAL DIVISION ACTIVITIES

ITEM	2020	2019	R E
TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENT NUMBERS	83,232	99,963	C O R
ANIMAL CALLS	275	441	D S
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTED	101	55	P R O
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	54	125	P E R
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARMS	2,572	3,145	T Y
ESCORTS PROVIDED	515	254	C O U P
TOTAL MEDICAL AID CALLS EXCEPT MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	4,323	5,281	R T



COST IN DOLLARS OF PROPERTY STOLEN AND RECOVERED

CATEGORY	2020	2019
VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN (EXCEPT VEHICLES)	\$ 763,357	\$ 925,423
VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES	\$ 1,357,749	\$ 1,117,554
TOTAL ALL STOLEN PROPERTY	\$ 2,121,106	\$ 2,042,977
VALUE OF STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED (EXCEPT VEHICLES)	\$ 132,174	\$ 127,731
VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED	\$ 997,864	\$ 939,806
TOTAL VALUE ALL STOLEN	\$ 1 130 038	\$ 1 067 537

PROPERTY RECOVERED	\$ 1,130,038	\$ 1,067,537	•



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OFFENSES	2020	2019	Percent	
OFF ENGLS	Totals	Totals	Change	
Murder	0	0	N/C	
Rape	4	7	-43 %	
Robbery Armed	9	19	-53%	
Robbery Strong arm	14	6	133 %	
Aggravated Assault	32	14	128%	
Simple Assault	201	177	13%	
Burglary	36	42	-14%	
Larceny Theft	571	783	-27%	
MV Theft	60	74	-19%	
Arson	3	2	50%	
Total	930	1123	-17%	

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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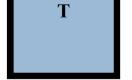
ADDESTS	2020	2019	Percent
ARRESTS	Arrests	Arrests	Change
Murder	0	0	N/C
Rape	1	0	100%
Robbery	3	6	-50%
Aggravated Assault	20	12	66 %
Simple Assault	74	62	19 %
Burglary	8	7	14%
MV Burglary	17	7	142%
Larceny Theft	156	249	37%
Arson	0	1	-100 %
MV Theft	1	4	-75 %
Other	731	1442	-49%
Total	1011	2391	-54%

Below are listed examples of offences which are included in the **other** category.

Driving Under the Influence Drug Offenses Resisting Arrest Juvenile Delinquency

Contempt of Court

Disorderly Offenses



Internal Affairs Division Case Dispositions

Type of Complaint	Cases Received	Sustained	Sustained		Unfounded
Crime	0	0	0	0	0
Excessive Force	1	1	0	0	0
Improper Arrest	er 0 0 0		0	0	0
Improper Entry	1	0 1 0			0
Improper Search	0	0 0 0		0	
Differential Treatment	12	0	4	3	5
Demeanor	7	0	4	2	2
Rule Violation	5	3	0	1	0
Totals	26	4	9	6	7

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.

- A sworn police officer received a 60 day suspension without pay following a sustained finding of Excessive Force.

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



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Internal Affairs Division Police Pursuit Summary

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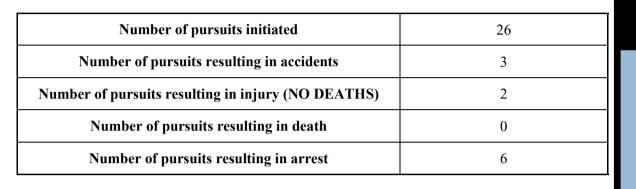
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Number of Vehicles in Accidents					
Pursued vehicles	3				
Police vehicles	1				
Third party vehicles	4				

Number of People Injured	1
Pursued vehicles	0
Police vehicles	0
Third party vehicles	3
Pedestrians	0

Number of People Kille	ed	
Pursued vehicles	0	A
Police vehicles	0	I
Third party vehicles	0	R
Pedestrians	0	S
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Number of people arrested	8	
Number of pursuits in which tire deflation device used	0	

Internal Affairs Division Use of Force Statistics



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Number of Use of Force Incidents	65
Number of Suspects Involved	66
Number of Suspects Under the Influence	13
Type of Suspect Resistance (Incidents):	
Physical Resistance	63
Threat / Physical Attack on Officer	6
Threat / Attacked Officer with Weapon	0
Type of Force Used by Officer (Incidents):
Type of Force Used by Officer (Incidents Physical Force	
	65
Physical Force	

Injuries Sustained During Incidents:	Ι
Number of Suspects Injured 4	R
Number of Officers Injured 6	S
Total Number of Arrests during this Period 1010	
Percentage (%) of Arrests where Force was Used6.4 %	

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, 365 days a year. In 2020 the Patrol Division was staffed by 1 Captain, 5 Lieutenants, 12 Sergeants and 68 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. Eighteen or nineteen officers were assigned to each of the platoons and almost half of the officers assigned to patrol had less than eleven 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 in 2014.

Patrol officers are responsible for enforcing motor vehicle traffic laws. In 2020 Patrol Officers made over 7700 motor vehicle stops and issued 2,064 summonses. The Department also participated in the "Click-it or Ticket" seatbelt campaign, and conducted distracted driving enforcement details, which were funded by grant money. From the day after Thanksgiving until the day after Christmas the department conducted its annual holiday season overtime patrols. The patrols were primarily on Rt. 22, Springfield Ave., 5 Points and Union Center.

There were 10, 947 deaths from alcohol-impaired-driving crashed nationwide in 2018. 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 for additional officers to be certified as DRE's in the near future.

Patrol officers also conduct pro-active directed patrols to deter and prevent criminal activity and to detect and apprehend offenders. Patrol Officers conducted over 36,699 directed patrols in 2020. 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. In 2020, they conducted 1426 "park and Walks", to keep our children safe.



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Patrol Bureau

Highlights:

6/23 Officers O'Grady and Killimett observed a vehicle with dark tinted windows exit the Exxon gas station on Springfield Avenue. The Officers conducted a motor vehicle stop for the equipment violation and upon making contact with the driver he was observed reaching towards a black plastic bag in the backseat. The Officers conducted a search due to the odor of Marijuana and found in that plastic bag was a loaded 9mm handgun, 119 folds of Heroin and a bag of Marijuana.

8/20 Officer Rocha and Dawidczyk were assisting a disabled motorist on Route 22 when the vehicles occupants gave conflicting statements on their travel itinerary raising the Officers suspicions. Officers later located in plain view a large quantity of Cocaine and Ecstasy pills. The driver admitted to the Officers that the narcotics were his.

9/23 Officer Devlin was conducting radar enforcement along Route 22 East when he observed a vehicle traveling in excess of the posted speed limit. Officer Devlin conducted a motor vehicle stop for the violation and subsequently determined the driver was driving while intoxicated and was placed under arrest. Found on the driver's seat of the arrestee's vehicle was a fully loaded 9mm handgun and 66 folds of Heroin. Further investigation found the handgun was stolen and the arrestee had a lengthy criminal history.

9/23 Detectives Lensi and Kiselow located a vehicle that was just taken during an armed carjacking on High Street. The suspects initiated a pursuit in which Patrol Officers Mahon, Beaty Sullivan and Faustino joined to assist. The suspects struck a civilian vehicle so Detectives Lensi and Kiselow stopped to render aid as the Patrol Officers continued the pursuit. The pursuit continued into Hillside where the suspects crashed into a house. The Patrol Officers blocked the suspect vehicle in eliminating any avenue of escape and arrested all three suspects who were trying to flee on foot. Recovered in the carjacked vehicle was a fully loaded 9mm handgun with a high capacity magazine.

12/16 Officers responded to the TD Bank 995 Morris Avenue regarding a bank robbery which had just occurred. The suspect passed a noting stating that he was armed and demanded money. After receiving the money he fled on foot onto North Avenue where he was confronted by Officer Valentino. The suspect led Officer Valentino on a foot chase through a wooded area and evaded capture after crossing a flowing river. A perimeter was establish and with the assistance of surrounding Agencies the suspect was appended along with all of the proceeds.

Officer Christopher Connors, Officer Michael Salerno, Officer Michael Cocca, and Officer Teon Freeman received Awards from MADD / Mothers against Drunk Drivers for their outstanding effort in deterring impaired driving.

These are but a few of the outstanding jobs that our officers were involved in throughout 2020. Our Officers are on the job 24x7 and give their all to serve and protect the public with a deep sense of compassion and a high level of professionalism.



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INVESTIGATION 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, Identification Section, Special Operations/Narcotics, and the Street Crimes Unit. 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. This assignment enabled the department to utilize resources that would not have been available and returned additional benefits. This Detective has been involved in long-term investigations across the country.

Two Supervisors, six Detectives, and two civilians 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 especially busy this year. In 2020 he granted 625 permits to purchase firearms. This was a sharp increase from 296 the prior year. This trend was not unique to Union, as citizens across the state applied to buy guns at an unprecedented rate. Other Detectives and civilian workers 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 Officer assigned to Union High School. Investigations of child abuse, bias offenses, missing persons, criminal mischief, (graffiti) and Domestic Violence are also the responsibility of the unit.

Two detectives are assigned to the Identification Unit along with a civilian technician. 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.

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 Street Crimes Unit and share information.



Street Crimes Unit

This unit is divided into two squads. Each squad has a Sergeant and has 3 or 4 officers depending upon manpower. The officers assigned to this unit are called upon to be very flexible in their work assignments, hours, and dress. They 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. The unit works closely with the Special Operation/ Narcotics detectives in attacking street level narcotics activity and related crimes. Quality of life details and special event details are also assigned to these officers. Officers from this unit made 174 arrests during the year, most of them of the self-initiated kind. The officers assigned encounter many in progress crimes and also share intelligence with Detective Bureau personnel. Personnel in street crimes also are under the supervision of Detective Bureau Supervisors. Many of the Detective highlights had involvement and assistance from the Street Crimes Unit. When manpower allows it, patrol has rotated newer officers through the unit for additional training and experiences when working together with more seasoned officers.

Together, the detectives, supervisors and civilian personnel of the Investigative Bureau work as a team, all operating toward the common goals of providing quality service and support to the citizens of the community, other officers in the police department and the successful investigation of crimes and effective prosecution of the people responsible for committing crimes within the township. The supervisors in the investigative bureau also utilize statistical, demographic and geographic analysis of crime data to help direct officer deployment activities with the goals of crime prevention and effective enforcement.

Notable Detective Bureau Investigations

Street Crimes Unit Arrests 2020

In February Street Crimes Unit officers observed a car travelling on Stuyvesant Ave. that was owned by a local resident. They recognized the owner as a suspect in prior drug investigations. They stopped the car and found an overwhelming odor of raw marijuana. Their investigation led to a seizure of a large amount of marijuana and marijuana vape cartridges. The man also possessed \$19,000 in cash and \$15,000 in bank money orders. The officers seized the money and money orders as likely profits of illegal drug sales and arrested the man.

In February Street Crimes Unit officers assisted patrol officers on a car stop in which a passenger ran away. The SCU officer later figured out that one of the other occupants was a wanted person from the New Jersey Department of Corrections. He was able to track the man down in an Uber ride at Shop Rite and took him into custody. Further investigation revealed that the arrested man and his passengers were part of a large scale burglary ring that was operating state wide. This information was shared with numerous other police departments and aided their investigations.



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After several months of investigations, Detectives executed a search warrant at an apartment in Irvington in March. A Union resident was selling heroin around Union and on Mill Rd., Irvington. The target of the investigation is a gang member and he has been arrested for selling illegal drugs previously by our Detectives. He tried to flee from officers and Detectives when they moved in to make the arrest. He was in possession of heroin at that time. A search of the apartment with Irvington Detectives was completed and additional illegal drugs were found.

In March, Detectives observed a video of a burglary to a business on Rt. 22. They alertly recognized the burglar as a prior burglar who had been released from jail prior to sentencing due to bail reform laws. He was also using a car stolen from Hillside. Street Crimes Unit officers used license plate recognition technology to find a likely spot the car was parking at night. The officers went to the Dayton St. projects and found the car with the burglar in it. He was arrested and was wearing the same clothing as seen in the video. Other Police Departments also charged him for burglaries too. He was again sent to state prison for his crimes.

In March Detectives concluded an investigation into illegal drug sales when they executed a search warrant at a home near Union High School. A female was arrested for marijuana possession and she indicated where it was bought. Detectives used our newer, younger female officers to buy marijuana from the suspect. On the day of search warrant, the seller had just received a shipment of heroin for re-sale. Heroin and marijuana were found and the man was arrested.

In April Detectives determined a pattern of criminal mischief at the Millburn Mall. An unknown person was breaking large display windows at various businesses in the mall. The Street Crimes Unit officers conducted surveillance on a specific date and time that it seemed likely that the suspect would return--and he did. An officer on surveillance saw the suspect throw a large rock and break a large window and then run away. The officer was able to chase and arrest him. The man was not from the area and seemed to have mental health issues. The broken windows stopped and the business owners in the mall were happy.

In August Street Crimes Unit officers saw a car that was driving around the side streets of Vauxhall. When the occupants of this car saw our officers they decided to leave the area, but were stopped for motor vehicle violations. The officers' investigation revealed the occupants of the car had a large variety of marijuana, including vape cartridges, edibles, and traditional baggies of marijuana. They had scales and other drug paraphernalia and over \$500 cash, which was seized. Two adults and 1 juvenile from Summit were arrested. It appeared they were in town to buy more illegal drugs to take back to Summit for re-sale.

In August Street Crimes Unit officers stopped a car and their investigation led to a variety of drugs being found. They found 200 Ecstasy pills, marijuana, and marijuana vapes. The passenger was arrested for the drug possession and later found to be a wanted felon by the US Marshalls.



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In September Detectives were out on an investigation and heard a report of an armed carjacking. They headed to the likely area where they would encounter the fleeing car and located the car in traffic ahead of them. They followed along until a marked car pulled up and the carjacked car drove away and struck another motorist. Other Street Crimes Unit officers and Detectives joined in and followed along until the car crashed into a home in Hillside. Everyone worked together and took 3 juveniles into custody and recovered the handgun. We charged all 3 juveniles with the carjacking.

In October patrol officers took a report of a burglary and assault at a home. Detectives investigated and determined that 2 residents of the home were beaten due to a dispute over the sale of illegal drugs and the victims knew some of the suspects. Detectives were able to come up with enough evidence to charge 3 of the men who entered the home. One of the men was located in Avenel and arrested within a week. This man was later shot and killed in Oregon in relation to our investigation—the other suspects feared he was cooperating with the police. Our Detectives are in contact with the Salem, OR Detectives and sharing information. They also arrested 1 of our wanted men from this crime. He waived extradition and was returned to New Jersey and discussed this case with Detectives leading to additional criminal charges filed by our Detective.

In October patrol officers took a report of an arson at a business on Rt. 22. Detectives investigated and found a video of the suspect's car. The Detective was able to identify the suspect and charged him with setting small fires around a building. Luckily the fires self-extinguished before the building burned down. Working with officers from the Street Crimes Unit, the man was located at his home in a neighboring town and arrested. His car was towed and the Detective got a search warrant for the car. A later search of the car revealed matches and other evidence of the crime. The suspect later admitted to starting multiple fires and attributed his actions to drug usage and depression.





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Cash, money orders and marijuana products seized on a motor vehicle stop by the Street Crimes Unit Officers.





A motor vehicle stop lead to officers from the Street Crimes Unit finding Ecstasy, Marijuan, & a seizure of money





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Yearly Totals

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Case Status	Main	FRY	ID
Assigned Cases	1434	278	49
Active (at year end)	150	94	14
Active Closed	335	65	23
Clear Arrest/Closed	0	0	0
Unfounded	127	3	2
X/Clear Closed	64	67	0
X/Clear Court	0	0	0
Clear/Arrest Court	240	44	6
Court	0	0	0
Closed	740	68	3
Total Cleared	1506	247	97

Juveniles Arrested = 74

Juveniles taken into short-term custody = 22

Identification Division Activity Report

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	Criminal	54
Out of Office Investigation:	Non-Criminal	8
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In-House Investigations	Criminal	21
Latent Investigations:	Total Items Processed	131
Photographs Taken:	Criminal (digital)	7,309
r notographs Taken.	Non-Criminal (digital)	817
Persons Fingerprinted:	Criminal	653
r er sons r niger printeu.	Non-Criminal	16
Fingerprints:	Classifications	476
ringer prints.	Comparisons	4,959
DNA Swabs:		23
Municipal Court:	Calendars Processed	63
istunicipai court.	CDR Forms	3
	Mugs printed	
-	DVA Photos Requested	97
	CD's Burned	9
Photographic / Darkroom Work	Lineups	32
	Digital Photos Downloaded	7,309
	Digital Photos Printed	822
	8 x 10 Enlargements	367
	Other Enlargements	0
Arrest Reports:	Reports Processed	1,117
Arrests by ID Bureau:	Persons Arrested	10
Fingerprints/AFIS	Matches/Hits	28

DNA Matches/Hits	0
Closed Cases by ID Detectives	90

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 consist of the following personnel: the traffic sergeant, 4 motor officers, 2 traffic officers, 2 parking enforcement officers, 60 school crossing guards, and a civilian clerk.

In 2020, there were 2,064 State-reportable crashes (where property damage exceeded \$500 and/or someone was injured), and 297 non-reportable crashes. A total of 508 people were involved in crashes in which they reported an injury, and one (1) crash resulted in a fatality. There were 185 crashes involving property other than vehicles. 419 summonses were issued for violations occurring during motor vehicle crashes.

In 2020, there were 396 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 their commitment to traffic safety by re-establishing the department's motorcycle unit. The unit consist of 4 full time motor officers and 4 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 are equipped with Laser Radar Speed detection technology, portable Toughpad computers, and printers with E-ticket technology. The motorcycle unit has been very active conducting multiple escorts for numerous township sponsored special events such as the Mayor's Day 5K run, the Police Unity Tour, 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 employs 2 Parking Enforcement Officers whose responsibility is to enforce parking laws and ordinances throughout the township. These officers collectively issued 3,129 parking summonses this year. Parking enforcement officers are also trained to perform school crossing guard duties as needed.



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Traffic Bureau

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 and Laser Radar Equipment, which enables Officers to detect speeders with pin point accuracy. The Traffic division has 3 Stalker radar trailer at its disposal which is an advanced traffic and speed measurement device. 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 exactly 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 4 message board trailers which are deployed through the township to provide the residents with safety information, notice of upcoming events, upcoming road closures, and provide a roadway with a temporary traffic control device as needed.

In 2019, the Traffic Division certified an officer to become the department's first NJ Department of Transportion certified weighmaster. The weighmaster program was implemented to enforce the overwhelming amount of overweight trucks that travel through the Township of Union. The weighmaster and 4 Haenni scales are certified by the State of New Jersey Office of Weights and Measures. The Traffic Division's weighmaster has been very proactive since the program's inception. The weighmaster has stopped and removed numerous overweight and unsafe trucks from Township of Union's roadways.

The Traffic Division conducts all traffic related investigations ranging from 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.

UNION POLICE T R A F F I C B U R E A U



Traffic Bureau

Major projects reviewed in 2019

1.	2853-2901 Vauxhall Road	K&R Vauxhall, LLC	POLICE
2.	2500 Morris Avenue	2500 Morris Avenue, LLC	
3.	340 New Jersey Avenue	Falcon Realty Group	
4.	1000 Floral Avenue	Peerless Beverage	
5.	1010 Hudson Street	F. Talarico Used Cars, Inc	Т
6.	2515 Linn Avenue	CV Carpentry, LLC.	-
7.	2375 Route 22 West	LIDL US OPS LLC	R
8.	2151-2180 Route 22	Sticky's NJ III LLC	
9.	2570 Route 22 East	P & J Fuel, Inc.	Α
10.	402 Chestnut Street	GuangRong Li	F
11.	2260 Rt. 22 E.	Hertz Corp.	F
12.	1334 Morris Avenue	1334 Morris Ave, LLC.	F
13.	923 Rahway Avenue	EVLV LLC	
14.	1721 Morris Avenue	Trademark Signs, LLC.	Ι
15.	1101-1109 Morris Avenue	CVS Pharmacy	
16.	373 Clermont Terr	Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Inc.	C
17.	2401 Vauxhall Road	PSI Atlantic Union NJ, LLC.	
18.	1625 Vauxhall Road	PSE&G	
19.	1235 W. Chestnut Street	Sun Union, LLC.	В
20.	2401 Route 22 West	The Robbins Agency	D
21.	1088 Dawes Avenue	Pierre Saint-Dic	U
22.	2421 Iorio St.	Antonio Rendeiro	Ŭ
23.	1351 Morris Avenue	SLS Properties LLC	R
24.	2700 Route 22, East	Volta Charging, LLC.	
25.	2840 Morris Avenue	Children's Specialized Hospital	E
26.	1201 Springfield Road	Spring, Inc.	
27.	1323 Burnet Avenue	Holy Ghost Christian Center Ministries Int'l.	A
28.	8 Mary Avenue	UTCAO	T
29.	1200 Springfield Rd/650 Liberty Av	Bed Bath Beyond	



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Traffic Bureau Crash Data - 2020



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	YTD Totals	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan	DATA
Τ	2065	181	186	186	198	186	187	172	121	72	156	198	225	Reportable By Police
R	297	26	30	28	23	25	26	19	16	8	24	39	33	Non-State By Police
A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Citizens' Reports
	2362	207	216	214	218	211	213	191	137	80	180	237	258	TOTAL CRASHES
F	43	4	2	8	6	4	1	5	3	0	5	4	1	Total DWI Involved
F	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	DWI Under 21
Ι	420	45	29	53	47	38	31	27	22	17	33	42	36	# Tickets Issued
С	186	21	16	19	20	16	16	19	14	9	8	14	14	Prop. Other than Veh
	214	21	22	24	18	25	14	21	13	3	16	21	16	Lv/Scene By Police
B	182	17	14	16	13	19	22	22	15	0	14	9	21	Lv/Scene Citizen Rp
U	396	38	36	40	31	44	36	43	28	3	30	30	37	TOTAL L/SCENE
R	40	4	3	7	3	1	2	0	2	0	4	6	8	Pedestrian Injured
	464	52	36	54	45	48	34	38	26	18	43	36	34	Motorists Injured
E	8	0	1	1	0	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	Bicyclists Injured
Α	511	56	39	62	48	51	38	40	28	18	47	42	42	TOTAL INJURED
U	403	43	34	45	39	34	30	31	24	14	35	35	39	Crashes w/ Injuries
	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	TOTAL KILLED

Traffic Bureau Crash Data



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CATEGORY	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Vehicular Crashes	3258	3223	3394	3354	2361
Leaving Scene Crashes	544	561	547	528	396
Pedestrian Injuries	32	41	42	47	40
Bicyclist Injuries	12	10	6	14	8
Total Crashes with Injuries	500	488	515	569	508
Vehicular/Pedestrian Fatalities	2	2	1	3	1
Total Arrests For DWI (Involved in Crashes)	43	25	41	58	44

FIVE YEAR TRAFFIC CRASH & STATISTICAL TOTALS 2016 - 2020					
CRASH INFORMATION	5 YEAR TOTAL	5 YEAR AVERAGE			
Total Vehicular Crashes	15,590	3,118			
Leaving Scene Crashes	2,576	515			
Pedestrians Injured	202	40			
Bicyclists Injured	50	10			
Vehicular Crashes with Injuries	2,580	516			
Vehicular/Pedestrian Fatalities	9	2			
Total Arrests For DWI (Involved in Crashes)	211	42			

CC	TALS	
	5 YEAR AVERAGE	
	3,118	
	515	
	40	
	10	
	516	
	2	

