# Jownship of Union



Police Department

2017 Annual Report

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## Union Police Mission



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

# Union Police Core Values



- 1. INTEGRITY A value which represents incorruptible adherence to the other core values. Integrity does not stand alone; it is supported by the other key values: Fairness, Respect, Honesty, Courage and Compassion. These basic values require constant self-discipline. They are the foundation for law enforcement in a democratic society, which holds accountable those who it entrusts to enforce its laws.
- 2. FAIRNESS A value characterized by freedom from self-interest, prejudice or favoritism. Fairness is the essential attribute of impartiality and a cornerstone of the relationship between the citizenry and those sworn to protect and to serve them. Law enforcement officers must treat all witnesses, victims and suspects fairly without reference to personal feelings, beliefs or interests. Fairness requires respect for cultural and ethnic diversity.
- 3. RESPECT A value that denotes pride and a high regard for all citizens, and the Constitution, power and authority of office. Law enforcement officers must show respect for others through temperance, fairness and courteous execution of their duties and conduct of their personal lives.
- 4. HONESTY A value that is the anchor of Integrity. Honesty means being trustworthy and sincere in accordance with experience and facts. Lying, cheating, stealing, or the appearance of impropriety is unacceptable to the profession of law enforcement.
- 5. COURAGE A value that law enforcement officers must possess to preserve life and property. Courage is control under adversity of fear and the ability to do what is right. Courage is the value that prompts law enforcement officers to take control, and if necessary, risk their lives to defend and protect human life.
- 6. COMPASSION A value that is inherent to understanding or sympathy for victims or another's suffering. Compassion is the ability to restore order to others' lives while controlling and understanding personal feelings which influence individual actions. Humility is a necessary attribute of compassion.

# Union Police Code Of Ethics



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

The Staff Services Bureau incorporates Educational Services (Training), Planning & Research, Community Policing, School Resource Officer, Field Training Officer Program, Crime Prevention, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), Alarm Enforcement, Compstat, Emergency Response Team, 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. By utilizing the Officer/Instructor concept, overtime is kept to a minimum, while also allowing for wide participation of many officers in the training function. The Officer/Instructor concept gives the officer an opportunity to function as part of a team.

Noteworthy training activities that were undertaken in 2017, include some of the following:

Officer Safety – weapons training
Active Shooter Training
Enhanced Emergency Response Team Training
Vehicle Pursuit /Block and Lock Training
Use of Force Training
Field Training Officer Program
9-1-1 and EMD Recertification training

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, three Union police officers are assigned to the *U.C.E.R.T.* regular training team; in addition three are assigned to specialty training in the Entry & Containment Team. The Union Police Department has formed its own emergency response team comprised of 15 members. These officers undergo regular training and have additional training on a variety of weapons and tactics.

Major mandated and voluntary training undertaken in 2017, included semi-annual firearms, use of force, vehicle pursuit Fair and Impartial Policing, Concealed Compartment, and Narcotics training.

As part of our firearm's maintenance and replacement program, a percentage of handguns were replaced in 2017 with a newer version of the same weapon. This program allows for replacement of some of our older fatigued weapons over a period of time at a manageable cost, which will be amortized over several years.



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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 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 along with instructors from various departments throughout Union County as well as other instructors from state and federal agencies. Together they work with instructional staff from the police academy in providing a variety of educational programs.

#### **ALARMS**

The Alarm Enforcement Unit managed the Township's business and residential alarm accounts for 2017. Funds in the amount of **\$ 6,650.00** 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. 2017 false alarm fees collected- \$2,550.00

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 2017**

Alarm fees collected for the year 2017- **\$ 6,650.00** False alarm fees collected for 2017- **\$ 2,550.00** 



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#### CRIME PREVENTION/COMMUNITY POLICING/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. officers support and play key roles in many of the community policing and crime prevention activities and events.

During the 2016-2017 School Year, the D.A.R.E. Unit had one full time D.A.R.E. Officer. The DARE Officer is also trained as a School Resource Officer and fills in at the High School during the regular SRO's scheduled day off. A second Officer is assigned to Union High School as a School Resource Officer, for the 2016-2017 School year. The Board of Education funds half of the salary of the School Resource Officer.

The Crime Prevention Unit continued to provide security surveys to both residential and commercial premises within township. These surveys include recommendations and suggestions that assist the premise owner(s) in target hardening his/her property.

Neighborhood Watch Groups and Block Associations continued to meet during 2017. These groups, along with many of the township's Civic Associations, business owners, and local public safety agencies worked with the Police Department to make this year's National Night Out Against Crime successful. With the Police Department's Crime Prevention/ Community Policing Unit acting as a catalyst, a plethora of groups participated in the annual event. National Night Out, held on the first Tuesday in August, is designed to bring neighborhoods and residents together and to send out a message that crime is not a welcome visitor in their neighborhoods. This was the third year that the event took place at Union Police Headquarters.

In conjunction with National Night Out, Investors' Savings bank provided sponsorship of the Child I.D. Program, conducted at 977 Stuyvesant Avenue. Over 100 children received photo identification cards.

During 2017, groups of students from Central Five, Burnet, Kawameeh and Union's Parochial schools took a field trip to the Union County Courthouse, where they were given the opportunity to dialogue with a member of the Prosecutor's staff. The D.A.R.E. Unit, in cooperation with the Union Board of Education, developed this program in 1998. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about the Criminal Justice System and the judicial process. Students also had a chance to speak with a judge and ask questions about court procedures. Finally, students were able to sit in on an actual court session where convicted offenders were being sentenced. This program underscores the basic D.A.R.E. curriculum, which stresses consequences of decisions and actions and deals heavily with developing alternatives to violent behavior as a means of conflict resolution.



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The D.A.R.E officer also handled numerous requests for tours of headquarters by school and scout groups.

In conjunction with the Municipal Alliance Against Drug and Alcohol Abuse, the D.A.R.E./Community Policing Unit helped to organize the annual "Unmischief Night." This event provides a dance and social event for all middle school students, complete with DJ and free refreshments. The purpose of this event is to provide a positive alternative to the traditional mischief night behavior.

Safety and prevention programs were presented at numerous school fairs, scout meetings, and at specialized living facilities.







#### **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 2017, the Union Police Law Enforcement Explorer Posts consist of 16 young members. The total number of advisors is ten. 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 2017, Union Law Enforcement Explorers supplied over 300 volunteer hours to the Township. Explorers also participated in over 575 hours of training and monthly meetings. 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 1 new officer in 2017, maintaining our manpower at 135 sworn officers. We hired 2 new Communications Officers and 2 new civilian employees. Our department had 3 retirements and 3 resignations. 2 officers were promoted from Patrolman to Sergeant.

#### **New Hires**

DiFabrizio, David	January 23	Parking Enforcement
Dias, Juliana	March 21	Building Maintenance
Curry, Owen	July 26	Police Officer
Cieri, Megan	September 5	Communications Officer
Villacis, Lacey	September 5	Communications Officer

#### **Promotions**

Mularz, Mathew	June 13	Sergeant
Mascidlo-Skiper, Dorothy	June 13	Sergeant

#### Retirements

Figueiredo, Maria	January 1	Building Maintenance
Brochu, Chantel	July 1	Sergeant
Johnson, Glenn	December 1	Police Officer

#### Resignations

Woodridge, Kevin	January 1	Parking Enforcement
Tevnan, Michael	April 2	Communications Officer
Figueiredo, Bruno	August 24	Communications Officer



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#### **Grants**

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

NJDOT Highway Safe Corridor Grant	\$ 56,248.97
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	\$ 14,955.69
Pedestrian Safety State Grant	\$ 11,000.00
Labor Day DWI Grant	\$ 5,500.00
Holiday Crackdown DWI Grant	\$ 5,500.00
Federal BVP Grant	\$ 11,136.70
NJ Criminal Justice Body Armor Fund	\$ 11,346.59

Total \$ 115,687.95

#### 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



Our agency aggressively applies for any grants available to assist in enforcement efforts. In 2017, Union was awarded **\$14,955.69** in its Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund. The funds are a direct link to our enforcement on a daily basis to combat drunk driving in the community. During this time period we participated in two state DWI campaigns and also ran department DWI details utilizing the state funds.



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Our Agency was awarded **\$56,248.97** from the Highway Safe Corridor Grant. This money is allocated to help improve safety on Route 22, a designated safe corridor zone. With this grant money our agency strictly enforced motor vehicle violations on this stretch of highway and created a great deterrence to criminal activity.

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#### National Night Out

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 and for 2017 we hosted the event in our parking lot and had well over 600 attendees. During this event we provided many services to the residents including, DWI goggle demonstrations, Alzheimer awareness and Child restraint programs. There was a dunk house where children could dunk Officers, face painting, building tours, musical entertainment and food for all guests.



#### **Halloween Safety**

Safety for the kids in town is a huge priority for our agency, and as Halloween approached we discussed the dangers with our fifth grade students. They were taught by our DARE 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 held a dance the night before Halloween in which all middle school students were invited to attend. The students were chaperoned for the evening by Police Officers and had a safe environment to dance and socialize with their friends.



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## 2017 POLICE DIVISION - STAFFING

POLICE DIRECTOR	1
DEPUTY CHIEF	1
CAPTAINS	4
LIEUTENANTS	9
SERGEANTS	17
DETECTIVES	15
POLICE OFFICERS	89
TOTAL SWORN PERSONNEL	135
CIVILIANS	30
DISPATCHERS	21

**TOTAL PERSONNEL** 

186

## RECORDS, TECHNICAL SERVICES, PROPERTY AND COURT SECTION

The Records section consists of three clerk typists, a property officer, 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 request 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 request 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 "*Police Reports .Com*" Where citizen can obtain a copy of their accident report on line.

The Property Officer maintains the storage and security on all evidence and property recovered by members of the Police and Fire Department. The Property Officer 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.

Project Medicine Drop is managed by the Property Officer and is an important component of its effort to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. It allows consumers to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, seven days a week, 365 days a year, at "prescription drug drop boxes" located within the police department.



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Each Project Medicine Drop box is installed indoors, affixed to the floor in a secure area within police department headquarters and within view of law enforcement officers, in an area to which members of the public may be admitted to dispose of their unused medications. The prominent "Project Medicine Drop" logos make the boxes highly visible and recognizable. Project Medicine Drop provides the opportunity to discard unused prescription medications every day throughout the year. The police department maintains custody of the deposited drugs, and dispose of them according to their normal procedures for the custody and destruction of controlled dangerous substances.

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 Fortis imaging system currently contains over 1,000,000 copies of records available on line 24 hours a day.

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### **GENERAL DIVISION ACTIVITIES**

ITEM	2017	2016
TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENT NUMBERS	100,469	101,951
ANIMAL CALLS	429	464
SUDDEN DEATH REPORTED	65	60
MISSING PERSONS REPORTED	123	144
TOTAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARMS	4783	5278
ESCORTS PROVIDED	208	277
TOTAL MEDICAL AID CALLS EXCEPT MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	5012	4977

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CATEGORY	2017	2016
VALUE OF PROPERTY STOLEN (EXCEPT VEHICLES)	\$ 904,623	\$ 658,301
VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES	\$ 1,104,508	\$ 1,112,368
TOTAL ALL STOLEN PROPERTY	\$ 2,009,131	\$ 1,770,669
VALUE OF STOLEN PROPERTY RECOVERED (EXCEPT VEHICLES)	\$ 198,173	\$ 108,354
VALUE OF STOLEN VEHICLES RECOVERED	\$ 938,836	\$ 818,803

TOTAL VALUE ALL STOLEN

PROPERTY RECOVERED

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\$ 1,137,009

\$ 927,157



OFFENSES	2016	2017	Percent
	Totals	Totals	Change
Murder	2	2	N/C
Rape	4	3	-25%
Robbery Armed	17	17	N/C
Robbery Strong arm	19	15	-21%
Aggravated Assault	21	14	-33%
Simple Assault	203	159	-19%
Burglary	98	97	-1%
Larceny Theft	702	778	11%
MV Theft	82	106	31%
Arson	2	1	-50%
Total	1150	1192	4%

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 or Union County Parks located in the Township of Union.

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



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ARRESTS	2017	2016	Percent
	Arrests	Arrests	Change
Murder	2	2	N/C
Rape	1	0	100%
Robbery	9	15	-40%
Aggravated Assault	15	15	N/C
Simple Assault	73	85	-14%
Burglary	8	12	-33%
MV Burglary	20	6	233%
Larceny Theft	259	241	7%
Arson	1	0	100%
MV Theft	0	1	-100%
Other	2002	2324	-14%
Total	2390	2701	-22%

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

Driving Under the Influence Motor Vehicle Violations Contempt of Court

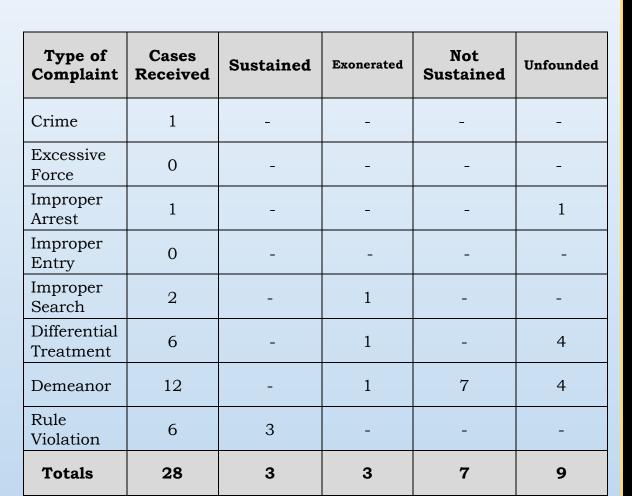
**Resisting Arrest** Juvenile Delinquency **Disorderly Offences** 

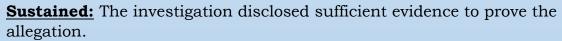
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# Internal Affairs Division Case Dispositions





**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.

<u>Unfounded:</u> The alleged incident did not occur or there is insufficient information to conduct a meaningful investigation.

- One Police Officer was given a 30 day suspension without pay following a sustained finding of Conduct Unbecoming an Employee.
- One Communications Operator was given a 10 day suspension without pay following a sustained finding of Neglect of Duty.

**Note:** There were 8 open cases at the year's end.



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## Internal Affairs Division Police Pursuit Summary

Number of pursuits initiated	17
Number of pursuits resulting in accidents	6
Number of pursuits resulting in injury (NO DEATHS)	3
Number of pursuits resulting in death	1
Number of pursuits resulting in arrest	6

Number of Vehicles in Accidents		
Pursued vehicles	6	
Police vehicles	0	
Third party vehicles	5	

Number of People Injured		
Pursued vehicles	3	
Police vehicles	0	
Third party vehicles	2	
Pedestrians	0	

Number of People Killed		
Pursued vehicles	1	
Police vehicles	0	
Third party vehicles	0	
Pedestrians	0	

Number of people arrested	11
Number of pursuits in which tire deflation device used	0



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# Internal Affairs Division Use of Force Statistics



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Total # of Use of Force Incidents	68
Total # of Suspects Involved	72
Total # of Suspects Under the Influence	17

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Type of Resistance (Incidents):		
Physical Resistance	68	
Physical Attack on Officer	11	
Attacked Officer with Weapon	1	

Type of Force Used by Officer (Incidents):		
Physical Force	68	
Mechanical Force	3	
Deadly Force	0	

Injuries Sustained During Incidents:		
Total # of Suspects Injured	6	
Total # of Officers Injured	4	



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.

For 2017 the Patrol Division was staffed by 1 Captain, 4 Lieutenants, 13 Sergeants and 71 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, except for one that had four 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 2017 patrol officers made over 17,000 motor vehicle stops and issued 22,822 summonses, 2,166 more summonses than in 2016. 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.



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This year the patrols yielded a total of 1260 motor vehicle stops, 1454 summonses, 1176 directed patrols and 6 arrests.

There were 10,947 deaths from alcohol-impaired-driving crashed nationwide in 2016. 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 two 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.

On June 12<sup>th</sup> 2018, two of ours Officers were be recognized by the New Jersey chapter of Mothers against Drunk Driving for outstanding and distinguished service to the community for DUI/DWI enforcement in the year 2017

Patrol officers also conduct pro-active directed patrols to deter and prevent criminal activity and to detect and apprehend offenders. Patrol Officers conducted over 36,400 directed patrols in 2017. 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.

Some notable incidents from 2017, many of which were self-initiated by officers, are highlighted below:

1/20 - Officers responded to an attempted armed robbery involving a handgun on Manor drive. Suspect vehicle was spotted in the area



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of Chancellor Ave occupied by (3) males. When the officer attempted to stop the vehicle, the suspect initiated a pursuit with speeds in excess of 110 mph. The suspect lost control, striking a guardrail, which disabled the vehicle. The (3) suspects were arrested and a loaded handgun was recovered.

4/22 - Officers responded to a reported dispute involving a handgun. Officer located the suspect vehicle in the US Gas station 1444 Stuyvesant Ave. They confronted and arrested the suspect. They seized a loaded handgun.

5/11 - Officer conducted a motor vehicle stop in the area of the Garden State Motel. During his investigation he discovered 229 folds of Heroin and arrested (2) individual for possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance. The vehicle was impounded and pending seizure.

6/25 - Officers responded to an armed Carjacking that occurred at 1451 Stuyvesant Ave. The suspects were armed with a silver handgun. Officers were able to track the victim's iPhone, which was taken during the Carjacking, to Newark. Officers blocked and locked the vehicle and arrested both men. A loaded handgun was recovered.

6/26 - Officers responded to a suspicious acts call on Spruce Ct. Caller reported seeing an individual walking around a neighbor's house. When Officers arrived on scene, they observed a male run out of the back of the house. Suspect ran into the woods. Officers setup a perimeter and called for the Union County K-9. Suspect attempted to slip past officers and run. Officers tackled him after a brief foot pursuit. He was charged with burglary and resisting.

7/4 - On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the Exxon gas station at 1601 Rt 22 was robbed at gun point. The suspects fled Rt. 22 in a Land Rover, which stolen earlier in Newark. A Officer spotted the vehicle and attempted to stop them. The suspects initiated a pursuit that culminated in a crash in Newark. Both suspects were arrested and charged with robbery and 2<sup>nd</sup> degree eluding. Officers recovered a loaded 9mm handgun and AK47 replica.

7/20 - Officers responded to a co-op with the UCSO. They were attempting to evict an individual that they anticipated would fight. Officers entered the home and discovered it was filled with natural gas coming from a partially disconnected gas line. They then discovered candles burning in the basement. They blew the candles out, averting what would most certainly have been a catastrophic explosion.



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11/10 - The Union Family Barber Shop was burglarized during the early morning hours. Patrol Officer recognized the suspect from a patrol alert put out by the Detective Bureau which ultimately led to the apprehension and prosecution of the suspect. This individual was ultimately charged with numerous burglaries in Union and surrounding towns.

11/25 - Union Police Officer was having dinner at Joes American Bar and Grill in Short Hills Mall when noticed a child chocking. This patrol office and member of the towns Emergency Response Team, performed the Heimlich maneuver and dislodged a piece of meat the child was choking on.

12/13 - On Friday, 12/08/2017 at 1410 hours, 21 cars of a 141 rail car, Freight Train derailed on the east bound rail in the area of the Union train station. Patrol coordinated with numerous other agencies in assessing and resolving the incident.





12/27 - Officers were dispatched to Winfield Terr. on a report of a 17 year old juvenile that had pointed a handgun at his ex-girlfriend's mother. When Officers arrived on scene, they observed the suspect trying to climb out a second story window. The suspect appeared to be holding a handgun. Officers setup a perimeter and were able to get everyone out of the house, arrest the suspect, and recover the handgun without incident.



## **Detective Bureau**

### Investigative Division

The Investigative Bureau is comprised of five (5) sub-units, all of which are commanded by one Captain. The five 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 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 in both New Jersey & New York.

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. Two Detectives were assigned to primarily investigate illegal narcotics within the town.

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. In addition 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 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



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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, but at times was down to 1-2 officers due to injuries or other assignments. 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 made 361 arrests during the year, which accounts for 14 % of the department's arrests. 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 Many of the Detective highlights had involvement and Supervisors. 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.

## Notable Detective Bureau Investigations and Street Crimes Unit Arrests

• In February, Detectives were investigating burglaries into gas stations on Stuyvesant Ave. and identified a suspect who was also wanted in Fairfield, New Jersey. The suspect in Fairfield was seen on video walking with a "dead arm." Detectives here checked our records on the suspect and discovered that our Street Crimes Unit officers had stopped the suspect when he was acting suspicious and included in their report that the man had lost use of an arm due to a motorcycle crash. This key information was shared with Fairfield Detectives and enabled them to charge the suspect. We then were able to charge him for our crimes. Street Crimes Unit officers searched and found him in Newark and arrested him.



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- In March, Detectives received a report of a rental fraud, in which a man was taking deposits to rent out property that he did not own. Detectives believed there were more than just 1 victim, so we publicized this and found 21 victims in town who had been deceived out of thousands of dollars. The accused man lives in Union and done this in other towns also.
- In March, Detectives investigated a report of a neighbor harassing other neighbors in a biased manner. Detectives began an investigation and gathered enough evidence to charge the offending person with bias related crimes. He later plead guilty and was sentenced to 3 years in prison.
- Over the last few years, Detectives had been investigating an interstate fraud ring that centered around Union. Detectives identified a main suspect and shared this information with the NJ State Commission of Investigation, the FBI and with Postal Investigators. We were able work with all the agencies and ultimately the FBI & Postal Inspectors gathered enough evidence to charge 2 men with the \$900,000 fraud.
- In the fall of 2016, Detectives realized there was a pattern in which thieves targeted work trucks and either stole the truck or burglarized it for the contents. We were the lead agency in a large multi-jurisdictional investigation involving the State Police, and police from 3 different counties. Our Detectives got search warrants for 2 houses, 5 cars, and a storage locker in Garfield. We also had arrest warrants for several people. A large amount of property was recovered and a lot of stolen property was returned to owners. Five people were arrested and others were subsequently charged. The main target admitted to his actions in a statement. This was a cooperative effort between Detectives and the Street Crimes Unit officers that ended in June. Van thefts and burglaries slowed down a lot after the arrests.
- In June Detectives investigated a residential burglary near the Elizabeth border. Detectives were in a pawn shop in Elizabeth when the suspect came into the store to try to pawn the stolen jewelry that the Detectives were looking for. Additional stolen property was recovered and returned to the owner. The man pawning the items was arrested and charged with the burglary.
- In June, Detectives investigated a burglary at Union High School in which a surprisingly large amount of money was stolen. Detectives spent a lot of time identifying the suspects and were able to sign criminal complaints for the burglary and theft.
- In July, Detectives investigated a house in which the gas was turned on and candles were lit in an attempt to blow the house up and hinder foreclosure and eviction efforts. The investigation revealed that the power worked in the house and the candles were not for combatting darkness, but were intended to ignite the gas and blow up the house. Detectives charged the man with numerous crimes.
- Detectives had been aware of possible prostitution within the town and in September sent an undercover officer into a business in town. He was propositioned and Detectives moved in and made the arrest. A male who appeared to be in charge was arrested for obstruction of the law when he



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refused to give us his full pedigree information. This curtailed the actions at the business.

- In November Detectives were investigating a series of late night burglaries and thefts from stores. A patrol officer viewed a video of a burglary and thought he recognized the suspect from a prior arrest. This information was shared with the Detective Bureau and Detectives worked on this lead immediately. They were able to gather enough evidence to come up with criminal charges. They also realized he was a suspect in other crimes in neighboring towns. The Street Crimes Unit was looking for his car and found it in Elizabeth near a low budget motel. Street Crimes Unit officers and Detectives did a surveillance of the car until they saw the suspect approach the car about 1:30 AM. He was arrested and charged with our burglary. He admitted his crimes in town to our Detectives. He later was charged with a burglary in Roselle Park and an armed robbery in Elizabeth.
- In November, Detectives & Street Crimes Unit officers investigated 2 suspicious cars at a restaurant in Union. They discovered that the men had exchanged a duffle bag and had lied about their actions. A driver was arrested for presenting a fake ID and \$20,000+ was seized. One driver was in a 2 day old \$200,000 Mercedes Benz that we towed from him.



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## **Yearly Totals**

Case Status	Main	FRY	ID
Assigned Cases	1304	297	78
Active (at year end)	313	75	62
Active Closed	306	41	36
Clear Arrest/ Closed	0	0	0
Unfounded	57	28	5
X/Clear Closed	31	119	8
X/Clear Court	0	14	0
Clear/Arrest Court	492	87	9
Court	0	0	0
Closed	799	4	5
Total Cleared	1998	368	125

**Total Juveniles Arrested = 101** 



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## Identification Division Activity Report

Out of Office Immediation	Criminal	179					
Out of Office Investigation:	Non-Criminal	50					
In-House Investigations	Criminal	164					
Latent Investigations:	Total Items Processed	698					
Photographs Taken:	Criminal (digital)	3,399					
Fliotographs Taken.	Non-Criminal (digital)	917					
Persons Fingerprinted:	Criminal	966					
reisons ringerprinted.	Non-Criminal	319					
Fingerprints:	Classifications	12,959					
ringerprints.	Comparisons	4,022					
DNA Swabs:		31					
Municipal Court:	Calendars Processed	296					
municipal Court.	CDR Forms	7					
	Mugs printed						
	DVA Photos Requested	117					
	CD's Burned	95					
Photographic / Darkroom Work	Lineups	36					
I notographie / Darkroom work	Digital Photos Downloaded	3,902					
	Digital Photos Printed	416					
	8 x 10 Enlargements	264					
Arrest Reports:	Reports Processed	2,915					
Closed Cases by ID Detectives:		13					
Arrests by ID Bureau:	Persons Arrested	10					
Fingerprints/AFIS	Matches/Hits	74/74					
DNA	Matches/Hits 0						



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## Traffic Bureau

The Traffic Bureau 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 crashes. In 2017, there were 2,726 State-reportable crashes (where property damage exceeded \$500 and/or someone was injured). There were 491 non-reportable crashes and 6 citizen's reports of crashes. A total of 653 people were reported injured, with two (2) fatalities. There were 226 crashes involving property other than vehicles.

In 2017, there were 561 crashes where one or more involved drivers left the accident scene. The Traffic Bureau reviewed 457 investigations of leaving the scene crashes, 150 investigations were solved or otherwise exceptionally cleared, and 307 investigations were closed/active, pending additional or sufficient information.

In 2011, the Department further enhanced their commitment to traffic safety by re-establishing the department's motorcycle squad. This squad, in addition to supplementing the basic patrol force, handles accident investigations and proactively responds to traffic safety concerns and other traffic related complaints throughout the township. Each motorcycle cycle is also equipped with Laser Radar Speed detection technology. Our motorcycle unit has been very active conducting multiple escorts for special events such as the Mayor's Day 5K, the Police Unity Tour and many funerals.



The Traffic Bureau also coordinates and supervises the Township's School Crossing Guard Program. Fifty-nine (59) School Crossing Guards are deployed to various locations throughout the town to cross school-aged children going to and from the Township's elementary, middle, and parochial schools.







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## Traffic Bureau

The Traffic Bureau employs two Parking Enforcement Officers whose responsibility is to enforce parking violations throughout the township. These officers collectively issued 2,736 parking tickets. The parking enforcement officers are also cross trained to perform school guard duties, when needed.

Also during the year, Union hosted a number of community events which were also traffic events in town. Among the most notable, were the Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade, The Memorial Day Parade, The Red Carpet Prom Promenade, the July 4th Soap Box Derby, the July 4th Fireworks and the Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration. The events required major event planning and manpower coordination.

The Traffic Bureau 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. Another advanced traffic and speed measurement device called the Stalker radar trailer, which enables police to measure a variety of traffic data including volume, time of day and speed thereby enabling police to zero-in on problem areas. We have deployed these trailer to multiple locations to conduct traffic studies to determine exactly what the problem is and when it is occurring.

The Traffic Bureau conducts all traffic related investigations ranging from traffic complaints to surveys to fatal accidents. Working closely with the Township Committee, Engineering Office, Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and Township attorney, the Bureau reviews safety, parking and traffic concerns, construction, site plans, variance applications and other projects within the township as well as requests for Ordinance revisions.



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### Traffic Bureau

#### Major projects reviewed in 2017:

1.	1565 Route 22, West
2.	1255 Magie Avenue
3.	1334 Morris Avenue
4.	2015 Morris Avenue
5.	373 Clermont Terrace
6.	1630 Vauxhall Road
7.	1945 Route 22, West
8.	60-64 Laurel Ave/330 Ohio St

9. 530 Chestnut Street
10. 410 Clermont Terrace
11. 2438 Route 22, East

12. Stuyvesant Ave/Bonnel Ct.13. 318 Ohio Street

14. 1871 Vauxhall Road15. 1630 Stuyvesant Avenue16. 1011 Morris Avenue17. 1080-84 Vauxhall Road

18. 1220 Barbara Avenue19. 1333 Glendale Place20. 2036 Morris Avenue

21. 1090 Spfd Rd/1075 Garden State Rd.

22. 1235 W. Chestnut Street23. 1010 Jeanette Avenue24. 520 Green Lane

25. 1477 Morris Avenue26. 1767 Route 22 West27. 750 Union Avenue28. 898 Madison Avenue

29. 2140 Springfield Avenue

30. 303 Perry Avenue31. 1201 Morris Avenue32. 697 Rahway Avenue33. 1835 Burnet Avenue34. 2170 Stanley Terrace35. 288 & 289 Hilton Avenue

36. 325 Chestnut Street37. 1012 Greeley Avenue38. 278 Oregon Street

Samuel Castermpvoa Fieldstone Properties Nancy Alcdeo

2009-2013 Inc.

Dushinksy Yeshiva School of Brooklyn

Joseph & Angela Pricipato

TNR Holdings, LLC.

Honey Real Estate XIV LLC

7-Eleven Inc. Pullman SST, Inc. RTSP Union, LLC.

American Landmark Develpers

Queenie Saunders More Than a Gift, Inc. Agape Foundation, Inc.

Vermella Union

Vastu Union 1084, LLC.

Americo Viera Jeffrey Miller

CYZ Properties, LLC.
Deep Foods, Inc.
Sun Union, LLC.
MZL Batsek, LLC.

Southern Company Gas

Joaquim Sousa

GND LLC

Giddy Inc. d/b/a Boxed Wholesale

Dotino Investments, LLC. 2140 Springfield Avenue, LLC

Elizabeth Martin

Muthusamy Holdings, LLC. Canary Closets & Cabinetry Kalustyan Corporation

PSE&G

First Baptist Church of Vauxhall

Galloping Hill Inn, LLC. Golden Phoenix Crossfit

Luis Goncalves



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## Traffic Bureau Crash Data - 2017



DATA	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD Totals
Reportable By Police	212	216	214	203	259	260	210	236	228	239	225	224	2,726
Non-State By Police	51	33	46	41	36	42	42	40	44	36	45	35	491
Citizens' Reports	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	6
TOTAL CRASHES	264	249	262	244	295	302	252	277	272	275	270	261	3,223
Total DWI Involved	1	2	4	1	1	1	3	4	0	1	5	0	23
DWI Under 21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
# Tickets Issued	57	53	37	26	51	39	62	55	44	55	42	39	560
Prop. Other than Veh	23	17	11	17	31	21	19	18	21	21	9	18	226
Lv/Scene By Police	17	27	23	23	29	17	24	20	21	26	28	31	286
Lv/Scene Citizen Rp	17	23	28	33	29	25	18	22	16	20	20	24	275
TOTAL L/SCENE	34	50	51	56	58	42	42	42	37	46	48	55	561
Pedestrian Injured	2	4	5	3	4	5	3	1	1	5	2	6	41
Motorists Injured	36	37	37	40	63	67	68	61	48	59	46	40	602
Bicyclists Injured	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	3	0	1	1	10
TOTAL INJURED	38	41	42	43	68	73	72	64	52	64	49	47	653
Crashes w/ Injuries	29	30	37	31	51	56	47	48	38	50	39	32	488
TOTAL KILLED	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

# Traffic Bureau Crash Data



CATEGORY	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Total Vehicular Crashes	3273	3141	3280	3258	3223
Leaving Scene Crashes	486	470	543	544	561
Pedestrian Injuries	42	39	44	32	41
Bicyclist Injuries	4	8	8	12	10
Total Crashes with Injuries	857	681	535	500	488
Vehicular/Pedestrian Fatalities	4	3	1	2	2
Total Arrests For DWI (Involved in Crashes)	43	62	44	43	25

FIVE YEAR TRAFFIC CRASH & STATISTICAL TOTALS 2013-2017  CRASH INFORMATION  5 YEAR TOTAL  Total Vehicular Crashes  16175  16175  3235  Leaving Scene Crashes  2604  521	(involved in Crasnes)						
2013-2017           CRASH INFORMATION         5 YEAR TOTAL         5 YEAR AVERAGE           Total Vehicular Crashes         16175         3235           Leaving Scene Crashes         2604         521							
Total Vehicular Crashes  Leaving Scene Crashes  Total Vehicular Crashes  2604  521							
Leaving Scene Crashes 2604 521	CRASH INFORMAT	TION	~	V			
	Total Vehicular Cra	ashes	16175	3235			
	Leaving Scene Cras	shes	2604	521			
Pedestrians Injured 198 40	Pedestrians Injur	red	198	40			
Bicyclists Injured 42 8	Bicyclists Injure	ed	42	8			
Vehicular Crashes with Injuries 3061 612	Vehicular Crashes with	Injuries	3061	612			
Vehicular/Pedestrian Fatalities 12 2	Vehicular/Pedestrian F	atalities	12	2			
Total Arrests For DWI (Involved in Crashes) 217 43	Total Arrests For DWI (Involv	ved in Crashes)	217	43			

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