

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



**Christopher M. Leusner**  
**Chief of Police**

**February 8, 2010**

Prepared by:  
Chief C. Leusner  
Captain P. Fritsch  
Lt. J. Edwards  
Lt. C. Murphy

Updated: February 15, 2010

# MIDDLE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

### Personnel

#### Retirements

Chief Joseph M. Evangelista retired on September 30, 2009.

Patrolman Mike Harron retired September 01, 2009.

Captain Richard Smedberg retired December 31, 2009.

SFC Mark Devico and Sgt Richard McHale are expected to retire December 31, 2010.

#### Current Sworn Employees

The list below reflects the Department sworn personnel as of December 31, 2009

#### Chief of Police

Christopher Leusner

#### Captain

Paul Fritsch

#### Lieutenant

John Edwards

#### Detectives

D/Sgt Christopher Murphy

Allan McClure

Clint Stocker

Doug Osmundsen

Ken Martin

Robert Shepherd

#### School Liaison Officers

Corporal Jeff Devico

Officer Sharon Price

#### Patrol Sergeants

Mark Devico

Pat Conte

Bill Adams

Richard McHale

#### Corporals

Mike Elias

Jim Dougherty

Fred Crawley

Fran Fiore

#### Senior Patrol Officers

Richard Sittineri

#### Patrolman

Robert McHale

Jennifer DeLanzo

Gino Castellano

Jason Sill

James Loftus

Phillip Johnson

James Dalonzo

Jason Sweitzer

David Hagan

#### Patrolman

Julio Ruiz

Steven Novsak

Michelle Greenwaldt

Joshua Bryan

Ron Miller

Tracey Super

Dan Martin

Matthew Martino

Leonard Larkin

Giacomo Trombetta

Kurt Saettler

Armondo Jones

Martin Lindholm

Dan Geiger

#### Street Crimes

Sergeant D. Nelson

Mark Higginbottom

John Norton

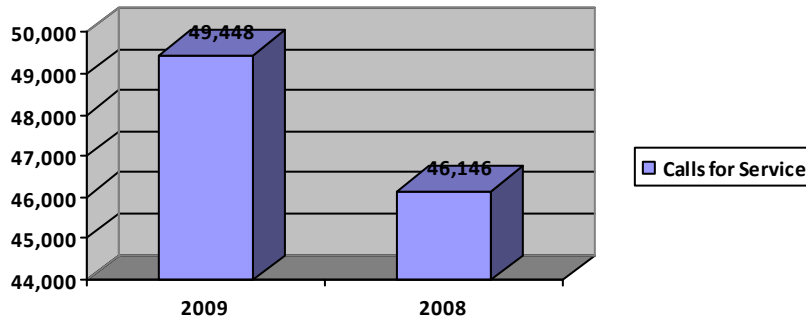
#### Training

PFC Marcus Phillips

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## CALLS FOR SERVICE & CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

**Calls for Service for the year of 2009: 49,448**  
Calls for service for the year of 2008: 46,146



### Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of individuals arrested for the year of 2009 and previous year 2008. It should be noted that multiple charges are sometimes filed against a single individual. The numbers below do not reflect a tabulation of multiple charges filed against an individual.

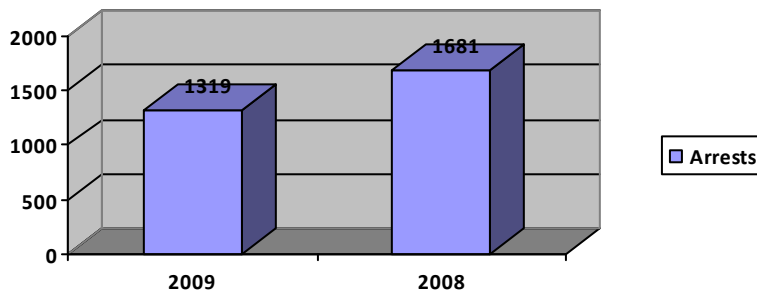
When comparing 2009 to 2008 there was a significant decrease in arrests. This is partly due to our goal of reducing juvenile arrests, and increasing the use of Station House Adjustments. In 2009 there were (146) juveniles arrested, compared to (262) juveniles arrested in 2008. This represents a 44% decrease in juvenile arrests.

**2009**

**2008**

**Total Arrests: 1319**

**Total Arrests: 1681**



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## Indictable Complaints Sent to Cape May County Prosecutors Office

The Middle Township Police Department sent (479) indictable complaints to the Cape May County Prosecutors Office compared to (528) in 2008. Middle Township and Wildwood (547) each year send a considerable amount of complaints to the Prosecutors Office. The remaining departments are significantly less, with Lower Township Police Department the next closest with (309) complaints in 2009.

## Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

The Uniform Crime Reporting is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are eight (8) main offense classifications known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Below is a list highlighting the eight (8) identified crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Middle Township for the past two (2) years.

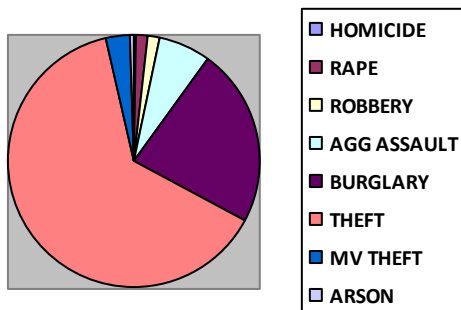
### Offense: 2009

Homicide	1
Rape	10
Robbery	11
Aggravated Assault	45
Burglary	155
Theft	431
Motor Vehicle Theft	21
Arson	<u>3</u>
Total UCR:	792
Violent Crime:	70
Non Violent Crime:	722

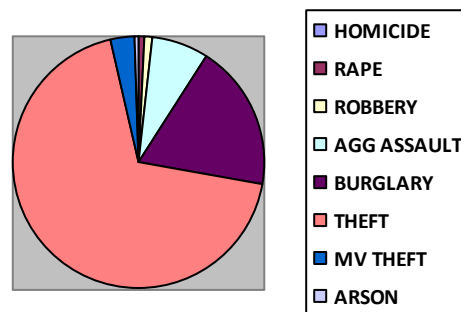
### Offense: 2008

Homicide	1
Rape	5
Robbery	8
Aggravated Assault	60
Burglary	152
Theft	559
Motor vehicle Theft	24
Arson	<u>5</u>
Total UCR:	808
Violent Crime:	73
Non Violent Crime:	735

UCR 2009



UCR 2008



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The following list shows the classification of the other type of calls for service both criminal and non-criminal in nature handled by the members of the Police Department in 2009.

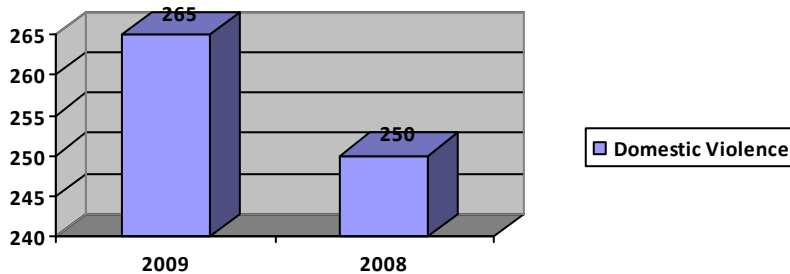
	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Sex Offenses, other than Rape	(37)	(38)
Simple Assaults	(115)	(106)
Medical Calls	(3249)	(3182)
Fire Calls	(612)	(662)
Animal Complaints	(1,518)	(1,751)
Burglar, Fire, or Medical Alarms	(1,277)	(1,376)
Death Investigations	(27)	(29)
Disorderly Conduct incidents	(1,407)	(1,653)
Fraud, Forgery, Bad Checks	(168)	(213)
Malicious Damage incidents	(236)	(272)
Missing Persons and Runaways	(145)	(132)
Assisting other agency incidents	(552)	(510)
Property and Building Checks	(21,747)	(17,199)
Bias Incidents Investigated	(6)	(5)

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Investigation Reports generated by officers totaled:	(1,771)	(1,879)
Supplemental Investigations or follow up reports generated:	(2,091)	(2,049)

## Domestic Violence:

Domestic Violence is a serious crime against society and both law enforcement and the courts must aggressively address it. New Jersey has strong laws and protective measures for victims of Domestic Violence.

Middle Township is not immune from the problems and concerns of Domestic Violence. During the year of 2009, Middle Township Police responded to **(265)** Domestic Violence incidents. In 2008 Middle Township police responded to **(250)** Domestic Violence incidents.



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## Property Stolen and Recovered:

Property offenses include Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief, and Shoplifting. The exact amount of value in the theft related offenses are hard to determine as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. Below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered for the year of 2009.

*Note: In 2008, the Middle Twp. Police received a report of a coin theft estimated by the owner at \$1,000,000.*

### 2009

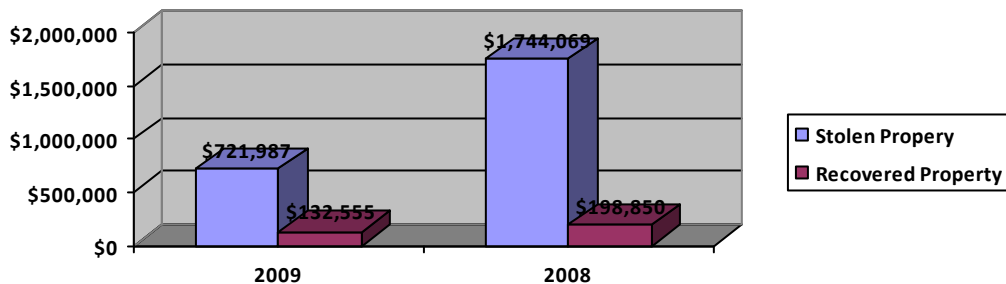
Stolen: (\$721,987.00)

Recovered: (\$132,555.00)

### 2008

(1,744,069.00)

(198,850.00)



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## Officer Line of Duty Injuries and or accidents

During 2009, a total of (5) officers suffered injuries while in the performance of their duties. These injuries caused the officers to miss a total of (11) workdays. Most of the injuries were from suspects resisting arrest, one injury was from weather related conditions.

- Patrolman Castellano was out four days due to weather related conditions.
- Sgt. Adams was out two days due to a training incident.
- Patrolman Jen Delanzo was out two days due to a suspect resisting arrest and assaulting her. Due to this injury Patrolman Delanzo continues to be out into 2010.
- PFC Richard Sittineri was out two days due to a suspect resisting arrest by fleeing.
- Patrolman Leonard Larkin was out three days due to a suspect resisting arrest by using physical force.

Officers were involved in (4) motor vehicle crashes while on duty. Two crashes were reportable, and the other two were non reportable. The two reportable crashes resulted in one injury and the other involved an Intoxicated driver that struck a patrol car.

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## Use of Force Incidents and Reporting

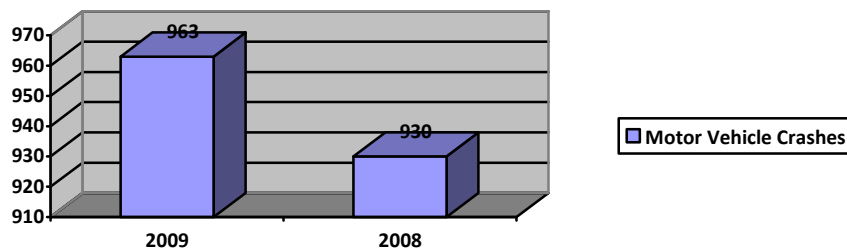
As required by law each officer who must use force, above the normal, in arresting or handling an individual must complete a state Use of Force reporting form. This report is supplied each year to the Cape May County Prosecutors Office.

In 2009, Middle Township Police reported total a of **(10)** Use of Force incidents. Of those incidents, **(10)** subjects were arrested, **(3)** subjects received injuries during the use of force (all minor in nature), and **(6)** Middle Township Police Officers were injured during the arrests. No weapons were discharged in any of the incidents.

## TRAFFIC

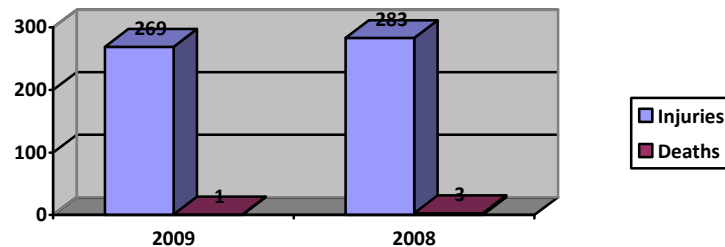
### Motor Vehicle Accidents:

A total of **(963)** motor vehicle crashes were investigated by the Middle Township Police Department in the year of **2009** compared with **(930)** in 2008.



### Injuries/Deaths:

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Injuries:	269	283
Deaths:	1	3

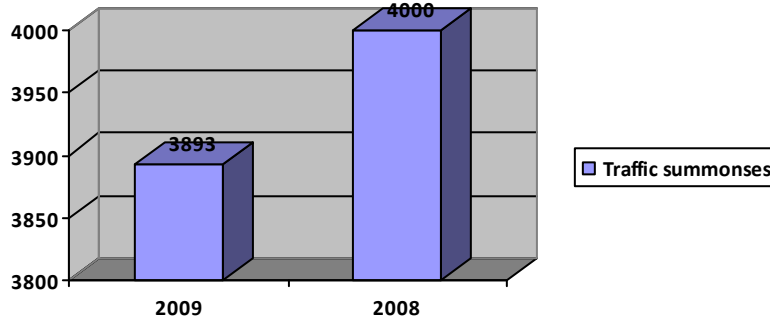


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## Motor Vehicle Summonses issued:

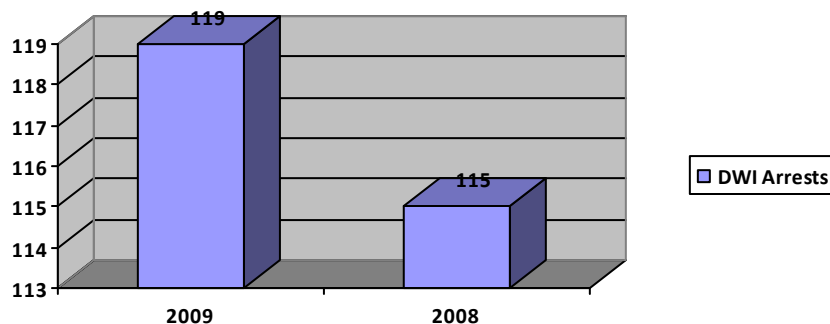
(3893) Motor vehicle summonses were issued by officers of the Middle Township Police Department in **2009** compared with (4000) motor vehicle summonses in **2008**.



The Police Department received a \$4000.00 grant in May 2009, from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. This campaign, for “Click it or Ticket”, enforced the usage of seat belts by all operators and passengers of motor vehicles.

## Driving While Intoxicated by Alcohol or Drugs (DWI):

(119) arrests were made for DWI offenses in 2009, this compared to (115) arrests made in 2008.



The Middle Township Police Department received a \$6000.00 grant in August 2009, from the New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety. The campaign called “Over the Limit, Under Arrest”, utilized \$5700.76 of the funds for DWI enforcement patrols.

In addition, the Middle Township Police Department had not received its grant money from the State for the “Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund” for the past two years. On December 16, 2009, the department did receive the grant, including all back surcharges in

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the amount of \$37,356.99. This will help greatly in 2010 to pay for overtime patrols to enforce and combat DWI offenses.

## **Police Pursuits:**

Middle Township Police Officers were involved in (6) incidents involving motor vehicle pursuits. (1) Ended in a motor vehicle crash involving the pursued vehicle and a parked car, with no one being injured and (4) ended in arrests.

## **PATROL DIVISION**

Patrol is the largest Division of the Police Department. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents and traffic accidents, to burglaries in progress and death investigations.

As the First Responder to criminal complaints, patrol officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has been committed, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers of the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, conducting business and property checks, and initiating contacts with community members to further the department's commitment to Community and Problem Oriented Policing.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into four (4) squads. These squads are responsible for 24-hour street coverage, seven days a week. Each squad is supervised by a Sergeant and has seven patrol officers.

## **Field Training Officers: (FTO's)**

All police officers hired by the Middle Township Police Department must attend and successfully complete a New Jersey State Certified Police Academy. This department predominantly uses the Cape May County Police Academy. Upon graduation, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program. The FTO program is an additional 3 months of intensive training and evaluation where the probationary officer is paired up with an experienced officer. The FTO officer has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO program to prepare and develop probationary officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity.

The following Officers are designated as FTO:

Corporal James Dougherty

Patrolman James Loftus

Patrolman Dave Hagan

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## DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division, otherwise known as the Major Crime Unit (MCU), is charged with the responsibility of reviewing all incident reports and activities in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. Detectives work cases that are either assigned to them or come to them while on duty or on-call. They also initiate case investigations.

During 2009, Detective Allan McClure was promoted to Detective First Class.

During 2009, the Detective Division generated (162) investigations, conducted (1730) supplemental or follow-up investigations, and made (184) arrests.

The Detective Division also conducts any and all police recruit, police employee employment background investigations. The Division also assists the Middle Township Business Administrator and his staff in conducting any and all needed internal Township wide investigations.

Some notable cases handled by the Major Crimes Unit in 2009 include:

- Arrest of a step-father for Aggravated Sexual Assault upon his step-daughter who was age 6-12 at times of occurrence.
- Arrest of male for Aggravated Arson/Threats for igniting neighbor's shed on fire causing damage to the main home during an on-going feud.
- Investigation of suspicious death of 32 year old female at a motel whose boyfriend had just been arrested by our agency for the rape of a Wildwood woman.
- Investigation of Aggravated Sexual Assault/Kidnapping of woman at motel by her boyfriend. Victim was sexually assaulted, strangled and had a razor held to her throat. Accused is believed to have fled our state, and warrants are active for his arrest.
- Arrest of an uncle for Aggravated Sexual Assault upon his 14 year old niece.

The unit handled numerous Aggravated Assaults, Sexual Offenses and Missing Person cases. It also conducts all background checks for those seeking Firearm ID cards and/or handgun permits.

The division works on a number of open cases, such as the Mark Himebaugh and Craig White investigations, with various agencies including the FBI, New Jersey State Police and Cape May County Prosecutors Office.

Members of the unit include:

Detective Sergeant Chris Murphy	Detective First Class Allan McClure
Detective Clint Stocker	Detective Doug Osmundsen
Detective Ken Martin	Detective Robert Shepherd
Part Time Evidence Clerk Bob Bongiovanni	

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### MEGAN'S LAW UNIT

Although not “officially” a unit, the task of handling Megan’s Law registrants within the township rests with the Major Crimes Unit. Detective Clint Stocker primarily oversees the registrants with the assistance of other detectives. Registrants are required to re-register anytime they move to a new address within the township, even as minimal as a change to a different apartment or motel room. Registrant’s must also register upon moving into Middle Township from another area as well as notify our agency when they are moving to another jurisdiction.

New registrants and/or moves during 2009: (36)

Average monthly registrant count for 2009: approx. (58)

Low count for 2009: (53)

High count for 2009: (64)

### STREET CRIMES UNIT

In 2002 the Middle Township Police Department formed a Street Crimes Unit. That unit was established to combat crimes against persons and property and to investigate drug dealing and use within Middle Township. Almost instantly the unit was a success, solving crimes and arresting drug dealers and users. But, due to manpower problems, the unit had to be disbanded and the officers had to go back onto patrol.

Realizing the value of the Street Crimes Unit, it was brought back into service in November of 2007. The unit is made up of (3) officers: Sergeant Don Nelson (Unit Leader), Patrolman Mark Higginbottom, and Patrolman John Norton. The Cape May County Prosecutors has had a change in mission as a result of the Governor’s initiative last year. Street level drug investigations handled by and investigated by the Prosecutors Office in the past are now the responsibility of the local police departments.

The members of the unit work in plain-clothes capacity and utilize unmarked/undercover style vehicles. They work closely with the Patrol and Detective Divisions as well as with the Cape May County Prosecutors Gangs, Guns, and Drug Unit. The unit combats narcotics crimes, crimes against persons, and crimes against property throughout Middle Township. The unit also serves as the intelligence-clearing house for any and all organized gang related involvement within the township. The unit executes search warrants and seizes contraband. As a result of many of the seizures, monies seized and or property seized is often forfeited through the court system and a percentage is returned to the police department to be placed in a forfeiture fund, with this money to be used by the department for law enforcement purchases or training.

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During the year of 2009 the Unit members prepared and executed (29) search warrants for narcotics offenses, conducted (39) investigations, prepared (236) supplemental or follow up investigations and arrested (110) subjects. Members also gathered intelligence information and prepared (07) intelligence reports and seized a total of (\$1,181.00).

In 2009, the Street Crimes Unit participated in a multi-jurisdictional narcotics investigation with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office Gangs, Guns and Drug Unit and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). This investigation led to a Title III Wiretap case that lasted several months. At the end of the investigation, (9) individuals were arrested, (09) Search Warrants were executed simultaneously, over (14) ounces of cocaine, a quantity of marijuana and over (\$80,000.00) in cash was seized.

The Street Crimes Unit aggressively pursues and registers confidential informants. This pool of information has led to the arrest of individuals and the clearing of crimes such as: Theft of Motor Vehicles, Possession of Weapons, Drug Distribution and Criminal Mischief. The intelligence gathered by the unit has also resulted in locating Missing/Endangered children reported missing to the police department.

Notable 2009 cases include the finding of (02) marijuana growing facilities and the seizure of (52) marijuana plants. Two (02) guns were also seized in connection with CDS investigations.

### **Forfeiture Fund:**

Began year 2009 with a balance:	(\$3,756.22)
Forfeited monies received in 2009:	(\$5850.73)
Forfeited monies expended in 2009:	(\$4990.19)
Balance transferred over to 2010:	(\$4616.76)
Assets received in 2009:	(1) 1997 Lincoln automobile

### **Equipment purchased with the use of Forfeited Funds in 2009:**

Arson investigation school	(\$500.00)
Dell computer	(\$1515.99)
Video enhancement school	(\$574.00)
NCIC Blue software	(\$2400.00)

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## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a collaborative effort with both the Middle Township School District and by a contract with the Cape May County Technical High School. Presently two (2) officers are assigned as School Resource Officers. Corporal Jeff Devico is primarily assigned to the Middle Township High School. Officer Sharon Price is assigned to the Cape May County Technical High School. Both officers report to Sgt. D. Nelson with the Street Crimes Unit.

The School Resource Officer Program has two main components. The first is designed to enhance the relationship between the school district, its students, teachers/administrators and the police department. The daily communication between police and school officials prevents many problems and mitigates existing problems for both the school and the police. The second component is to provide a law enforcement presence in all district schools. This is accomplished through the use of patrol officers who, as part of their duties, conduct walk through visits to the facilities. The second component is to provide training and informal counseling to students, staff and parents.

In 2008, in accordance with an Attorney General mandate and under the supervision of Sergeant Don Nelson, a comprehensive School Security Plan involving over **(6)** different agencies was prepared and reduced to paper after a number of work-sessions. This plan defined the roles and responsibilities of each agency in the event of a critical incident at any of the Middle Township Schools.

The plan for the Cape May County Technical High School was completed in 2009. School security/action plans were completed for Cape Christian Academy, and the State Department of Human Services School. All previous plans were reviewed/updated in 2009.

The School Resource Officers conducted **(122)** Investigations during the school year, initiated **(59)** Arrests, conducted **(63)** Supplemental or follow up reports.

## DARE PROGRAM

The Middle Township Police Department has conducted the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance and Education) Program in the Middle Township Schools since 1990. To date over 4,000 Middle Township students have gone through the DARE Program which is now taught at Elementary #2's fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade. This program is 14 weeks long and trained officers visit their assigned class once a week and teach a prescribed curriculum.

In 2009 approximately **(275)** students were taught the DARE Program.

Officers who teach the DARE Program include:

Corporal Fran Fiore (Program Coordinator)

Officer Jennifer DeLanzo

Corporal Jeff Devico

Officer Mark Higginbottom

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## RECORDS DIVISION

The Records division of the Police Department supports the operational efforts of the Patrol and Investigative functions as well as performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to:

- Data entry
- Report maintenance/ Filing/Retrieval
- Issuing Licenses
- Copy reports for Civilians / Attorneys / Law Enforcement Agencies / Insurance Companies
- Expungement Orders
- Division of Youth and Family Backgrounds
- Issue Handicap Placards
- Process Firearms Applications
- Process Fingerprint Cards
- Process Juvenile Complaints
- Conduct monthly statistics
- Handle petty cash
- Conduct Uniform Crime Reports

The records Section staff consists of the Following employees:

- Debra Dunbracco
- Muriel Anderson
- Barbara Eisminger
- Virginia Sweitzer
- Kendra Karstens

The work they do is invaluable and a great asset to this department.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Middle Township Police Department Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by full time Public Safety Telecommunication Operators. They are the initial point of contact for a majority of the public requiring police services. They are an extremely vital component in delivering effective police services to the community and their dedication and importance should not be overlooked. Often times they are required to maintain a reassuring and calming demeanor in the face of extraordinary circumstances in order to assist the caller and the police officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication Operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:

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- Receive and respond to telephone requests for emergency services
- In response to medical emergencies, provide First Aid or CPR instructions to stabilize the medical condition of persons until the arrival of medical assistance.
- Relay all vital information to responding police officers
- Utilize radio, telephone, or other electronic equipment to dispatch specific law enforcement, fire department or medical units to the scene of an emergency.
- Refer non-emergency situations to the appropriate public or private agencies
- Make data entries into the police department's computer system as well as various systems databases such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the State Crime Information Center (SCIC).

The Middle Township Police Department employs eight (9) full time Telecommunication Operators, (2) assigned to each of the four patrol squads. The department employs an additional four (4) part time communications operators. It is mandatory that at all times there are two (2) operators present in the dispatch center.

\*Communications Operator Eagan has been out on disability since August due to an off duty motor vehicle crash. Operator Ted Farina was hired full time to fill Eagan's position. The following qualified and dedicated employees fill this highly important and stressful position:

Senior Operator Diane Shinn  
Senior Operator Jennifer Graham  
Operator Bob Eagan  
Operator Dustin Gaskill  
P/T Operator Maureen Leitenberger  
P/T Operator Lauren Anzelone

Senior Operator Madonna Sill  
Senior Operator Keith Woodrow  
Operator Bill Mulligan  
Operator Ted Farina  
P/T Operator Lauren Long  
P/T Operator Brenda Camp

During 2009 Middle Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators processed some **(49,448)** calls for service into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

Operators answered a total of **(10,654)** emergency 911 calls for service; the average time to answer 911 calls was **3 seconds.**

The Communications Operators also monitor and answer calls coming into headquarters on the department's main operating phone number, (609) 465-8700. A review of the Audio Log Server reveals that the Communications Operators handled the below number:

**(56,429) Telephone calls and (10,654) 911 calls for a total of (67,083) calls per year or (183) calls per day.**

Senior Operator Jennifer Graham is a certified 911 Instructor. Communications Operator Bill Mulligan is a Certified EMD – Emergency Medical Dispatch Instructor and 911 Instructor. In 2009, both Graham and Mulligan attended Method of Instruction training, and now are state certified to instruct.

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## CITIZEN COMPLAINTS INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Middle Township Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officer adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency.

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Departments Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. The confidence engenders community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between police and the citizens they serve facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor officer's compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of officers.

In 2009 there were a total of **(23)** Internal Affairs Investigations conducted compared with **(19)** in 2008. Of the (23) Investigations handled this year, **(6)** resulted in disciplinary action taken against the officer.

Below is a list of the type of cases and their dispositions received in 2009.

### **2009 Disposition**

Excessive Force: (1) Sustained - Internal Discipline Action, (2) Exonerated,  
(1) Pending.

Improper Entry: (1) Unfounded

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Demeanor: (1) Exonerated, (1) Not Sustained, (1) Unfounded,  
(1) Pending

Other Rule Violation: (5) Sustained - Internal Discipline, (4) Exonerated,  
(1) Not Sustained, (2) Unfounded, (1) Pending

Other Criminal Violation: (1) Unfounded

The Middle Township Police Department works closely with the Cape May County Prosecutors Office and many of the internal affairs investigations are worked jointly between both departments. This is to ensure that the highest quality of investigation is conducted.

The Internal Affairs Division is commanded by Captain Paul Fritsch and Lieutenant Christopher Murphy.

## TRAINING AND EDUCATION

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all its personnel. The Police Department has in place a comprehensive policy that addresses the organization and administration of the entire training process, including recruit training, in service training, roll call training and specialized training.

Late in 2008, Ptl Marcus Phillips was reassigned and a training unit was formed. There was a need to make the training officer a full time position. Ptl Phillips keeps track of all the mandatory training records. Ptl Phillips recognizes problems/trends and then formulates strategies for training to deal with the issue. Along with his training duties he is the Court Security Officer and handles the walk in fingerprint requests. This alleviates the squad working from having an officer come into the station from Patrol. This may sound trivial; but on fingerprint days there is a burden put onto patrol. Ptl Phillips also fills in as a School Resource Officer when the assigned officers use a vacation or sick day.

The men and women of the Middle Township Police Department attended a wide variety of in service training courses throughout 2009 including but not limited to:

- Blood borne Pathogens
- Property and Evidence
- Firearms Qualifications
- SWAT Training

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- Hostage Negotiation Training
- Dive Team Training
- ATV Operation Training
- Assault Rifle Qualifications
- Active Shooter Response
- Report Writing
- CPR recertification
- Use of Force
- Domestic Violence
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview and Interrogation
- Incident Command
- Hazmat
- Radar Instructor and Operator
- High Risk Motor Vehicle Stops
- Accident Investigations I and II
- Certified Public Manager Training
- Alcotest Operator Training
- Cell Block Management
- Arrest Search and Seizure retraining
- Field Training Officer School
- HGN-DWI refresher
- Accident Reconstruction School
- Infant Car Seat Training
- Weapons Armor School
- DRE – Drug Recognition Expert School
- Fraudulent Document School
- Police Supervision School

### **Police Department members who hold the rank of Instructor:**

In addition to their normal work duties several Middle Township Police Officers have attained the position of being an instructor in a specific field or multiple fields. These officers conduct interdepartmental in-service training to department members. Many of them are also instructors at the Cape May County Police Academy. Officers who are instructors are as follows:

Detective Robert Shepherd	2C Law Instruction Police Academy
Sergeant Rich McHale	2C Law Instruction Police Academy
Corporal Jim Dougherty	ATV/Firearms/ Defensive Driving/Radar PD-Academy
Sergeant Pat Conte	Radar Departmental
Corporal Fred Crawley	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Patrolman Jason Sweitzer	Physical Training Instructor Police Academy
Patrolman Marcus Phillips	Firearms Instruction Departmental and Police Academy
Detective Doug Osmundsen	Firearms Instruction Departmental

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### **COMMUNITY ORIENTED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS CONDUCTED BY MTPD IN 2009**

- Officers maintained an informational show booth at the annual 4H Fair in July and the Harvest Festival in October.
- Coordinated the annual and very successful America's Night Out Against Crime Event in August. Retired Patrolman Butch Hamer volunteers his time to coordinate this event.
- The Middle Township Police Department supports the Special Olympics by supplying an Honor Guard at the opening ceremonies of the New Jersey State Special Olympics and supplying the Dive Team and boat for the Polar Plunge in Wildwood.
- Detectives assisted the recreation department with the CSI summer camp program.
- In 2010, the Middle Township Police Department will partner with the Kiwanis club of Cape May Court House to offer a safety event for parents.

### **SPECIAL UNITS**

#### **SWAT Team (Special Weapons and Tactics)**

The Middle Township Police maintained and operated its own SWAT Team for approximately 20 years. In 2007 the Cape May County Prosecutors Office with the cooperation of the Cape May County Chiefs of Police Association formed a Regional Countywide SWAT Team. In 2008 Wildwood Police Department came on board. The County Team was then divided into three geographical regions; North, which encompass Middle Township, South, and Island divisions. Every Police Department in the county has representation on the team.

Team members undergo a very rigorous training schedule, tactically, mentally, and physically. These members work with their respective agencies as officers doing normal duties, but when necessary are called upon to conduct SWAT operations. They are on call 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The position of a SWAT member is voluntary. Selection to become a member of the team is very competitive. Their own department must select officers. These officers are selected based upon their past performance and attitude. Then they must attend a rigorous two-week SWAT course.

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Team members must train at least twelve (12) hours per month and training sessions are held two times per month.

The North division was called out on **(16)** assignments in 2009.

Middle Township Police Officers assigned to the Regional Swat Team include:

Sgt William Adams (Team Leader)

Patrolman Phil Johnson

Sergeant Pat Conte

Corporal Jim Dougherty

Patrolman James D'Alonzo

Patrolman Marcus Phillips

In 2009 the following members retired from the Team:

**Chief Christopher Leusner:** He was a member of SWAT for ten (10) years, the last (3) years he was a Commander and (3) prior to Commander was a Team Leader. He stepped down from the team when he was promoted to Chief of Police.

**Lieutenant John Edwards:** He was a member of SWAT for 14 years. Three of those years he was Team Leader. He stepped down from the team when he was promoted to lieutenant in September of 2008.

**Corporal Fred Crawley:** He was a member of SWAT for 10 years. He had specialized training with the shield and entries.

## DIVE TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a fully operational and Certified Marine Search and Recovery Dive Team. The department maintains 2 vessels, one being a Carolina Skiff, outboard, center console boat, and the other being an aluminum johnboat vessel, also with an outboard motor.

The department has seven (7) certified divers with a full compliment of dive equipment. The team had (15) training sessions in 2009. Training takes place in local gravel pits, lakes, and in the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean. The team also attended/assisted with the Wildwood Polar Plunge, National Night Out, the county 4-H Fair as well as Lower and Middle Township DARE days. The team has been utilized many times to assist the US Coast Guard and other agencies in rescue and recovery operations.

Members of the Dive Team are:

Detective Clint Stocker (Team Leader)

Corporal Jeff Devico

Patrolman John Norton

Patrolman James Loftus

Detective First Class Allan McClure

Patrolman Steven Novsak

Detective Robert Shepherd

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## HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

The Middle Township Police Department employs officers that are certified and highly trained in Police Hostage Negotiations. This team regionalized in 2009 with Middle Township's existing team acting as a foundation for the North end of the county. The team is made up of six (6) officers who are available to respond to any incident within Middle Township or anywhere within the County to assist in negotiations. The team trains on a regular basis and is often called out in conjunction with the SWAT team.

The team is made up of the following officers:

Captain Richard Smedberg (Team Leader-now retired)	
Sergeant Don Nelson	Corporal Fran Fiore
Senior Patrol Officer Sharon Price	Patrol Officer Jennifer DeLanzo
Patrolman James Loftus	Patrolman Julio Ruiz

In December 2009 Capt. Richard Smedberg retired. Sergeant Don Nelson has taken over the Team Leader position.

## HONOR GUARD

The Middle Township Police Department maintains a formal Police Honor Guard. The purpose of the Honor Guard is to formally represent the Middle Township Police Department at official functions. The Honor Guard performs its task with a military regime; the members wear a formal uniform blouse and utilize ceremonial rifles and flags. The Honor Guard is used at official government functions. These include graduations at the Police Academy, DARE Graduations, and parades. They also represent the department at funerals. The Honor Guard has presented the colors at a Philadelphia Phillies home game for the past two (3) years.

Members of the Honor Guard include:

Patrolman James Loftus (Unit Leader)	
Patrolman Marcus Phillips	Corporal Fred Crawley
Patrolman Mark Higginbottom	Patrolman Jason Sweitzer
Patrolman Joshua Bryan	Patrolman David Hagan
Patrolman Robert McHale	

## CHALLENGES/PROPOSALS 2010

### **Manpower Related Issues:**

- Middle Township has experienced considerable growth within the last five years. This growth has increased the demand for our services and has stretched the Police Department thin. The Middle Township Police Department has lost four officers through attrition in the last few years and now stands at 48 officers. Any further reductions would cause significant modifications to the existing structure of the Police Department and require changes to the delivery of police services. Our hope is to stop attrition and eventually gain some of the positions lost when the economy recovers and state/local budgets stabilize.

### **Equipment:**

- Complete the upgrade of our Server Room and Communications center.
- Purchase E-Ticket software.
- Complete purchase of ballistic helmets for officers.
- Purchase mountable/portable radar display signs
- Purchase Radio Relays.
- Purchase Portable Radios.
- Purchase Motorcycle Helmets with radio attachment.

### **IT Position:**

- The Middle Township Police Department has over **(70)** computers, **(3)** servers, and now **(23)** Digital Video Recorders in Patrol vehicles. In addition, numerous software applications are utilized by the Police Department. This increase in technology has led to more efficient and productive officers, dispatchers, and records personnel. The maintenance and upkeep for this technology has become significant. We are utilizing sworn personnel, specifically Det. Sgt. D. Nelson to handle these duties. We strongly recommend the Township hire a full time IT Person, at a fraction of a sworn officer's salary to handle these responsibilities.

### **Accreditation:**

- The Middle Township Police Department is up for reaccreditation this upcoming June. Sgt. W. Adams has been assigned as the Accreditation Manager and retired Captain S. Webster has been brought back on a part-time basis to assist Sgt. Adams. Our goal is to achieve reaccreditation for another three year term this year.

## Achievement of 2009 Goals

### **Patrol Division: 2009 Goal Results**

In 2009 the Patrol Division had set three Goals. We were successful on two of the goals and fell short on one. The first goal was to increase the safety of motorists on State Highway 47. This safety initiative was very successful. There were no fatal crashes on State Highway 47. Serious injuries were reduced by 14%. Crashes involving impaired drivers dropped by 50%. This was accomplished through increased traffic enforcement, a public awareness campaign, and a driving while intoxicated awareness seminar at Middle Township High School.

Patrol units increased Police presence on State Highway 47. The amount of traffic stops increased 275% compared to the previous year, and summons issued were increased by 305%. Sergeant Richard McHale hosted an impaired driving seminar at the Middle Township High School. The seminar targeted young drivers in the school. The purpose was to raise awareness of the tragedies of impaired driving. Prior to the start of the busy summer season, the Police Department hosted a press conference on State Highway 47. Philadelphia news agencies were present to target the Philadelphia metropolitan population. Throughout the summer season an unoccupied patrol car was parked in different locations along State Highway 47. All of these tactics led to a successful campaign.

The second goal was to reduce the number of drunk drivers on the roads of Middle Township and to increase driving while intoxicated arrests by 10%. Arrests increased by 4%. Although our goal was not met, it was not a complete failure. We saw a slight increase in arrests and a significant decrease in driving while intoxicated crashes along State Highway 47. This is an effort that will be renewed in 2010.

The third goal was to reduce the number of Juvenile offenders introduced into the Juvenile Justice system and to increase the use of Station House Adjustments. In 2009 juvenile arrests decreased significantly to (146) compared to (262) in 2008. This is a 44% decrease. In 2007 the Attorney General renewed an initiative to compel police agencies to divert juveniles away from the Justice System and to increase the use of Station House Adjustments. In 2009 Middle Township Police and the Cape May County Prosecutors office came together and were able to streamline the reporting form. This made the process easier for the officer.

## **Major Crimes Unit: 2009 Goal Results**

In 2009 the Major Crimes Unit set two goals. One goal was attained, and the second was partially attained (due to financial constraints). Goal #1 was to more efficiently and effectively handle the reception, storage and disposition of evidence/property collected by the police department. During 2009 officers were given refreshers, primarily at their roll calls on the proper methods of collection and documentation of evidence and property. When errors occurred they were immediately addressed. Evidence/property management systems were evaluated, however purchasing an electronic system was cost prohibitive during this year. A complete audit was planned in conjunction with the implementation of a new evidence system. Since the system was unobtainable, and a complete audit would be labor/time intensive, it was determined that an audit will not be done until a new system is purchased. Throughout 2009 a large quantity of evidence/property was purged; either returned to its owner/finder and/or disposed of. It is anticipated that a complete audit will take place when finances allow the purchase of an evidence/property management system.

The second goal of the Major Crimes Unit was to improve how criminal activity was assessed and then communicated to the public. This goal was attained in the following ways: News media releases were no longer faxed out; they were constructed as e-mails, approved and sent to the various media outlets. The speed at which information is now released has increased due to this and the use of Blackberry phones by heads of the agency. An internet site has been set up on Facebook where information as to recent crimes/arrests/events/etc.. is posted for the public. The site has over 2200 fans as of January 2010. The Middle Township website has also been updated to include CrimeReports.com which shows a map with locations of crimes. A weekly police blotter is composed and e-mailed to the media. It is also posted on the township website. All these have proved to be an asset to the police department as tips from the public have increased. The public has a greater knowledge of what is going on and now has greater avenues to contact our agency.

## **Street Crimes Unit: 2009 Goal Results**

The Street Crimes Unit set two goals for 2009. The first goal was to handle the receiving/storage/dissemination of intelligence in a more efficient and effective manner. During 2009, all Middle Township intelligence was packaged and transported to the Cape May County Prosecutor's Office. Their office initiated a new electronic web-based intelligence sharing system to be utilized by Cape May County law enforcement agencies. Paper forms are no longer utilized. All submissions are done electronically. The intelligence was evaluated and purged (if necessary). Sergeants and senior staff were trained in-house on using the system, and all other personnel shall be trained in the upcoming year.

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The second goal was to increase the number of informants registered in 2009 by 10% as compared to 2008 and to expand the Street Crimes tip-line. There were eleven (11) new informants developed in 2009. This did not meet the 10% goal set (which would have been 16), however it should be noted that the unit was not operating at full strength for a quarter of the year due to Sgt. Nelson being on light duty. The unit's tip line was expanded through a link on the township's website. It has also been advertised on the Police Department Facebook page.

### **School Resource Officers: 2009 Goal Results**

The 2009 goal for the School Resource Officers was to improve and establish security plans for all schools within Middle Township. This goal was met. A security/action plan was developed for the Cape Christian Academy as well as the New Jersey State Department of Human Services School. The Cape May County Technical High School plan was reviewed and finalized. All plans were reviewed and updated as needed to include personnel changes, structure changes and other miscellaneous items. Work sessions were also held with school administrators and police/fire/medical personnel.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES 2010**

### **Patrol Division**

#### **Goal#1:**

Increase the level of safety of motorists traveling on State Highway 47.

#### **Objective:**

Maintain the level of enforcement from 2009 and reduce accidents on State Highway 47 that result in serious bodily injury by 5% in 2010 compared with 2009.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Maintain traffic enforcement by assigning at least one officer per shift to conduct radar details in 2010.
2. Strategically position our Traffic Message Display Sign on State Highway 47, warning motorists they are entering a High Enforcement Area.
3. Position an older patrol car on State Highway 47 in strategic areas of the roadway during high-risk weekends or holidays.

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4. Conduct a Public Awareness Campaign to alert the public of the roadway and our enforcement efforts.
5. Target new drivers at the high school level with a DWI Awareness Seminar.

### **Goal#2**

Reduce the number of Drunk Drivers on the roadways of Middle Township.

### **Objective:**

Increase the amount of Drunk Driving arrests, and reduce the amount of crashes caused by impaired drivers.

### **Strategies:**

1. Increase the number of Driving While Intoxicated details in 2010.
2. Have all patrol officers trained in the Alcotest machine by the end of 2010.
3. Have all patrol officers attend the New Jersey State Police DWI Detection Course by the end of 2010.
4. Target new drivers at the high school level with a DWI Awareness Seminar.

### **Goal#3**

Increase the level of safety for motorists by reducing the number of distracted drivers on roadways within Middle Township.

### **Objective:**

Increase enforcement by targeting drivers using cell phones and texting while driving by issuing an average of at least 10 summons/warnings a month and distributing safety pamphlets during a minimum of two community events in 2010.

### **Strategies:**

1. Conduct roll call training for patrol officers on the increased risk to the traveling public by distracted drivers.
2. Promote a public campaign to increase awareness of the law and hazards of distracted driving.
3. Conduct enforcement details with the working patrol squad and the Special Services Unit.
4. A presentation by School Resource Officers to promote awareness in the Middle Township High School and Cape May County Technical High School to target the most at risk population of young inexperienced drivers.
5. Distribute safety pamphlets on the dangers of driving while distracted at the 4-H Fair, National Night Out, and the Harvest Festival.

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## Major Crimes Unit

### Goal#1

Increase activities related to address verification of Megan's law offenders living within Middle Township.

### Objective:

Conduct at least four random spot checks of Level II and Level III offenders registered within Middle Township.

### Strategies:

1. Search the Countywide Information sharing network, CAPESIS, for contacts with registered Middle Township sex offenders.
2. Randomly verify information provided by the registrants through New Jersey DMV and database Accurant.
3. Conduct spot checks of registrants that any Detective has reason to believe may not be living at the address provided.

### Goal#2

Enhance efforts in reference to investigations related to technology.

### Objective:

Increase the use of Identify Theft File in NCIC for Identity Theft victims and expand training initiatives for all Detectives and Patrol Officers.

### Strategies:

1. Det. D. Osmundsen will educate Detectives and Patrol on the Identify Theft File in the National Crime Information Computer (NCIC).
2. Roll call training for Patrol on the availability of information through subpoenas and Communication Data Warrants.
3. Invest in training for Detectives in the Major Crimes Unit.
4. Review Identify Theft cases in other Police Departments through CAPESIS.

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## Street Crimes Unit

### Goal#1

Improve and increase the intelligence gathered in reference to gang activity and members within Middle Township.

### Objective:

Prepare and enter into the County Intelligence database at least one report per month related to gang activity in Middle Township.

### Strategies:

1. Utilize officers/informants to obtain information regarding gang affiliations and street names being used.
2. Utilize information gathered from arrestees at the Cape May County Correctional Center.
3. Obtain information from Internet sites such as Facebook, MySpace, etc....
4. Increase interactions with neighboring Police Departments to share information.

### Goal#2

Improve the quality of life along SH#47 in Rio Grande, specifically from the area of Payless Shoes north to Railroad Avenue, as well as in the shopping areas.

### Objective:

Increase patrols and arrests for “quality of life” issues such as: open alcohol, public drunkenness, harassment, sleeping on benches and disorderly conduct in the targeted area.

### Strategies:

1. Spot check bus waiting areas for above behaviors.
2. Increase unmarked and marked patrol throughout shopping areas.
3. Conduct plain clothes operations on foot in the targeted area.
4. News release(s) advising of this increased enforcement.

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## School Resource Officer Unit

### Goal:

Reduce thefts occurring within the township high schools.

### Objective:

Reduce the total amount of thefts occurring within the two high schools by 10% as compared to those in 2009.

### Strategies:

1. Present seminar to staff on safeguarding property and being alert to suspicious activities.
2. Present similar seminar(s) to students also advising as to possible repercussions if they are arrested for theft.
3. Identify and evaluate “hotbed” areas where theft has been occurring. Make suggestions to better secure and/or limit access to these areas.