

Franklin Township Police Department



2023 Year End Report



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A message from Chief DeCesari

To Our Residents,

Policing in today's world has become extremely difficult. Our officers today face many challenges that police officers did not face 20 years ago when I started this career. Our officers are held to a higher standard, however with proper motivation, oversight, training, and community partnerships these hurdles that we face become smaller and lead to tremendous advances by not only our police department but our community as a whole.

As defined in our mission statement our goal is to maintain positive relationships within our community in order to properly serve our residents. The Franklin Township Police Department is committed to bettering our relationship within the community by putting our residents first. By providing programs like Holiday with a Hero, Youth Police Week, National Night Out, Cone with a Cop and several other community policing efforts; we build powerful and lasting relationships. Relationships that create a lasting bond within the community is really the foundation towards gaining community trust and overcoming the challenges that have led to negative outlooks towards our law enforcement officers and departments across the country.

Under my administration, we focus on several key factors that help guide our response to keeping our residents safe. First and foremost, we have dug deep roots within our school system. Not many police departments can say they have the relationship that we have with our school staffs and administrators. This allows us to focus on our number one priority....Keeping your children safe. We have added a fifth school resource officer this year which enhances our ability to effectively patrol the nine schools within our jurisdiction. With a dedicated liaison between our school districts and the police department, we are able to effectively communicate on an immediate basis with school administrators to address any issues that arise. We participate in drills, table top exercises, and walk throughs to ensure safety protocols are embedded into our officers in case of an actual emergency.

The second factor that we focus on is high visibility enforcement of our highways and roads to curb careless drivers and arrest those that decide to drive intoxicated. Franklin Township is a vast community that often serves as a race track for unruly motorists. Our Patrol Division works diligently to address quality of life issues such as speeding in our community and especially on our municipal roadways. Our efforts have reduced serious motor vehicle crashes and fatalities significantly since 2020. We have also significantly increased DWI

arrests in 2023 and each arrest potentially saves someone's life. Our officers take pride in protecting our streets and the first step towards achieving that goal is to remain visible in the community through proactive patrol and enforcement.

Our third driving motivator towards achieving our goals is providing up to date and quality training to our officers. This past year we have been able to train our officers on a monthly basis on a wide variety of topics. Our officers have received training in high risk situations, Stop the Bleed, unarmed defense, active shooter and many other key areas that enhance our ability to provide quality police services. Our residents should feel comfort in knowing that when an officer shows up to their house they are highly trained and prepared to deal with any situation that arises.

As you can see, setting realistic goals and working extremely hard to achieve those goals is a main focal point for us as an organization. I want to thank the hard working men and women of this police department who go above and beyond to keep you safe. This group of 42 officers is highly motivated and dedicated to our community and I am proud to lead them into 2024.

I would also like to thank Mayor Bruno and our Township Committee for their continued support of our department. Their support allows us to provide the best police services possible to our community in ways that we have not been able to in the past. Cooperation and support like this from our governing body has made Franklin Township a safer place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.

We also have tremendous support from the Communities of Buena Borough and Newfield Borough. We are extremely proud to serve the residents of these communities and we want you to know that you can count on us to continue to provide excellent police services well into the future.

As we enter a new year it is important to reflect on important issues that affect our community. I can ensure you that the Franklin Township Police Department is committed to our residents. Thank you for your support and we look forward to enhancing the bond we have with this community and the place that many of us call home!!!

Sincerely,

Chief Matthew P. DeCesari #1144



Mission Statement & Core Values

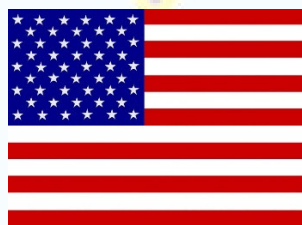
Mission Statement

The Franklin Township Police Department is committed to maintaining positive relationships with residents in order to provide superior police service and improve the quality of life in Franklin Township, Newfield Borough, and Buena Borough.

Core Values

We believe that law enforcement has its foundation in values. To fulfill our mission, we are committed to:

- Acknowledging our responsibility to the citizens of the Township of Franklin, our source of authority;
- Performing our duties within the spirit and the letter of our laws and constitution;
- Remaining sensitive to human needs and treating each person with respect, compassion and dignity;
- Approaching each situation as unique and responding creatively with empathy and prudent use of discretion;
- Promoting mutual trust between the Department and the citizens and institutions of Franklin Township;
- Enhancing safety and a feeling of security for our residents; • Fostering a quality work environment that encourages open communications and affords trust, respect and support for each member.





Command Staff



Chief Matthew DeCesari #1144

Chief DeCesari enters his 20th year of Law Enforcement, all with Franklin Township. Chief DeCesari was born and raised in Franklin Township and is a 1998 graduate of Delsea Regional High School. After high school he went on to attend York College of Pennsylvania where he obtained a degree in Marketing and Management.

Chief DeCesari was hired by the Franklin Township Police Department in May of 2004 as a Class II Special Officer and was later hired full time on October 1, 2004. Chief DeCesari was selected to serve as a detective for the Franklin Township Police Department in 2011 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2013. Chief DeCesari was promoted to Lieutenant in 2016 and was tasked with heading the department's investigative division. He was promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief of Police in 2022 and later promoted to his current position in July of 2023. He also serves as the township's Coordinator of Emergency Management.

Chief DeCesari resides in Franklin Township with his family and in his spare time coaches his son's baseball teams. He is also the President of the Franklin Township Little League Board and was recently selected to serve on the Gloucester County Chief's of Police Association.



Captain Gordon Muller #1135

Captain Muller has been with the Franklin Township Police Department since being hired full time in 1999. Prior to that he served as a Class II Special Officer and Police Dispatcher.

Captain Muller has risen through the ranks being promoted to Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and has been in his current position of Captain since 2016. Captain Muller oversees operations of the entire department as well as payroll, purchasing, equipment, and scheduling. He also serves as a training instructor for the police department in firearms, unarmed defense, and handcuffing. Throughout his career he has also served on the department's Tactical Patrol Unit.

Captain Muller resides in Washington Township with his family. In his spare time he enjoys hunting and fishing. Captain Muller will complete his 25th year of service in 2024 and will enjoy a well-deserved retirement.



Command Staff



Lieutenant Jeffrey McGuigan #1143

Lieutenant McGuigan was hired by the Franklin Township Police Department in April of 2004. Lieutenant McGuigan is a 1998 graduate of Washington Township High School and a 2002 graduate of York College of Pennsylvania.

Lieutenant McGuigan oversees the Franklin Township Police Department's Professional Standards Unit, which investigates all reports of officer misconduct. Lieutenant McGuigan is also in charge of our clerical division. Prior to his current role, Lieutenant McGuigan served as a patrol officer in the Patrol Division, Detective, and Sergeant within our Patrol Division. Lieutenant McGuigan is a 20-year veteran of the Franklin Township Police Department and graduated as an alternate route recruit from the Camden County Police Academy.

Lieutenant McGuigan resides in Washington Township with his family. In his spare time he enjoys Philly sports and spending time with his family.



Sergeant Anthony Rojas #1152

Sergeant Anthony Rojas enters his 13th year of Law Enforcement. He was hired by the Deptford Township Police Department as a Class II Special Officer in 2010 and later hired full time by Franklin Township in September of 2012. He is a 2006 graduate of Washington Township High School and a 2010 graduate of Rowan University.

Sergeant Rojas oversees the daily operations of the Patrol Division, Firearms Unit, and Training Unit. Prior to his current role he was assigned to the Patrol Division as a patrol officer and later a Patrol Sergeant.

Sergeant Rojas resides in Washington Township with his family. In his spare time he enjoys hunting and fishing.



Patrol Division

Patrol Division Supervisors:



Sgt. Andrew Myers #1153



Sgt. Joseph Murray #1154



Sgt. Steve Casamassima #1153

The Patrol Division of the Franklin Township Police Department is our most visible unit and is comprised of uniformed officers that are assigned to one of four patrol squads. Our Patrol Squads are supervised by a Sergeant and Corporal and have (7) officers assigned to each squad. The Patrol Division is also comprised of a Tactical Patrol Unit, which targets high density areas with a focus on increased visibility, traffic enforcement, and crime reduction.

Squad Supervision:

Squad A:

Sergeant Anthony Rojas #1152
Corporal Louis Davey #1162

Squad B:

Sergeant Steve Casamassima #1153
Corporal Joshua Fennimore #1160

Squad C:

Sergeant Joseph Murray #1154
Corporal Joshua Fennimore #1160

Squad D:

Sergeant Andrew Myers #1151
Corporal Michael Guzman #1156



Patrol Division

Calls for Service:

In 2023 our Patrol Division answered 53,412 calls for service. Calls for service consist of all 9-1-1 calls, non-emergency calls to police dispatch, and self-generated calls such as motor vehicle stops and property checks.

The Patrol Division is split into two patrol zones. Zone 1 begins at the Clayton and Elk Township border and extends South to Main Road and Harding Hwy. Zone 2 begins at Main Road and Harding Highway and extends Southeast to cover most of the Forest Grove section of the township as well as Newfield and Buena Borough.

Calls for service are a priority to the Patrol Division and we respond to any type of call on a 24-hour, 365 day a year basis. The majority of our calls for service include motor vehicle crash investigations, domestic violence incidents, burglar/fire alarms, medical assists, and incidents occurring at one of the nine schools that we patrol. Although we do not see the violent crime that bigger and more populated cities experience, we do handle several armed robberies throughout the year and average 1-2 homicides per year. The following chart lists some of the most common calls that we respond to on a daily basis:

Type of Call	2022	2023	Percentage Change
Motor Vehicle Crash Investigations	817	806	-1%
Fatal Motor Vehicle Crash	4	5	+20%
Domestic Violence Incidents	347	356	+2%
Burglar/Fire Alarms	1347	1391	+3%
Medical Assists	3692	3343	-9%
Missing Person Investigations	89	104	+14%
Psychiatric Emergencies	168	203	+17%
Robbery	3	6	+50%
Burglary	84	73	-14%
Sex Offenses	15	20	+25%
Shoplifting	32	47	+32%
Theft	317	348	+9%
Disputes	677	615	-9%
Motor Vehicle Complaints	529	550	+4%
Animal Complaints	538	623	+14%



Patrol Division

UCR Data:

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) provides a reliable set of criminal justice statistics to law enforcement administration and operations in order to gauge the types of crimes that are occurring across America in every jurisdiction.

The 2023 Uniform Crime Report indicates that there were 678 offenses reported which is a reduction of 7% from 2022. Of those offenses, 447 resulted in an arrest. The following chart depicts the percentage change in crimes reported to the UCR from 2022 to 2023:

	2022	2023	Percentage (+/-)
Crimes Against Property	380	374	-1.58%
Crimes Against Person	195	157	-20.97%
Crimes Against Society	157	146	-7.01%

Motor Vehicle Enforcement:

The philosophy of our Patrol Division is to provide high visibility enforcement. Our officers are highly motivated and proactive which has led to a reduction in motor vehicle crashes from a year ago and a significant increase in arrests especially for drunk driving.

In 2023 the Franklin Township Police Department conducted 21,078 motor vehicle stops and issued 16,726 motor vehicle tickets. The department made 76 DWI arrests and made 1,016 criminal and warrant arrests. Nearly 200 of those arrests were for narcotics related offenses. The following chart depicts the change in motor vehicle enforcement from 2022 to 2023:

	2022	2023	Percentage (+/-)
Motor Vehicle Stops	13,952	21,078	+34%
Motor Vehicle Tickets	8,573	16,726	+49%
DWI Arrests	52	76	+32%
Criminal/Warrant Arrests	722	1,016	+29%
Investigation Reports	1606	1929	+31%



Patrol Division

K9 Unit:



Cpl. Michael Guzman #1156



Cpl. Nicholas Locilento #1158



Cpl. Joshua Fennimore #1160



Ofc. David Gallo #1167

The Franklin Township Police Department is comprised of four handlers and their partners. Corporal Michael Guzman is teamed up with K9 Rozo who is a six-year-old Belgian Malinois, Corporal Nicholas Locilento is teamed up with K9 Teli who is a five-year old Dutch Shepard, Corporal Joshua Fennimore is teamed up with K9 Lee who is a six-year-old German Shepard and Officer Gallo is teamed up with K9 Zeus who is a three-year-old German Shepard.

In 2023 the K9 Unit began in-service training at the Philadelphia Police Department K9 Academy. Our officers attend training on a monthly basis to ensure compliance in areas such as narcotics detection, obedience, tracking, and scent work.

The K9 Unit was responsible for 142 deployments throughout the year for a wide variety of incidents. Our K9's assist with motor vehicle sniffs for the presence of narcotics, tracking wanted subjects, tracking missing persons, article searches, search warrants, and community policing events.

Some of the highlights from 2023 were:

Corporal Guzman & K9 Rozo

- Confiscation of an illegal ghost gun with high-capacity magazine located during a motor vehicle stop.
- Confiscation of a large amount of US currency and distribution amounts of cocaine and methamphetamine during a residential search warrant in Newfield Borough.



Patrol Division

- Confiscation of over an ounce of cocaine, LSD, prescription pills and over \$1000 in US currency following a vehicle sniff.
- Confiscation of distribution amounts of cocaine and crack cocaine during an article search where a motorist fled from a motor vehicle stop in a neighboring jurisdiction.
- Over two dozen arrests resulting in K9 sniffs conducted by Rozo.
- Participated in numerous community policing events.



Corporal Nicholas Locilento & K9 Teli

- Confiscation of three illegal firearms located during motor vehicle stops.
- Over 20 individual arrests that resulted three individuals being charged with distribution of CDS and the seizure of over \$1000 in US currency.
- A successful track that led to the recovery of a missing and endangered person in a wooded area.
- Participated in numerous community policing events.



Corporal Joshua Fennimore & K9 Lee

- Confiscation of distribution amounts of narcotics as well as over \$1000 in US currency.
- Confiscation of one illegal firearm with a high-capacity magazine.
- Confiscation of 39 bags of crack cocaine from a registered sex offender operating a fire truck in a residential neighborhood illegally.
- Nine tracks of missing or wanted persons.



Patrol Division

- Two search warrant executions for the DEA & ATF resulting in the arrest of multiple subjects.
- Participated in numerous community policing events.



Officer David Gallo & K9 Zeus

- Confiscation of 1.2 pounds of methamphetamine, seven ounces of heroin, and three ounces of crack during a K9 sniff.
- Confiscation of three illegal weapons to include two handguns and a rifle with high-capacity magazine.
- Assisted in three residential search warrants for the Franklin Township Police Department, Clayton Police Department, and FBI.
- Conducted eight tracks for missing or wanted persons
- Performed three article searches and 32 narcotics sniffs in 2023
- Participated in numerous community policing events.





Detective Division



DSG. Nicholas Pasculli #1150



D/Cpl. Joseph Biener #1159



Det. Allison Schnapp #1166

The Franklin Township Police Department Detective Division is comprised of three officers assigned to the unit with a fourth being added in 2024. This unit is responsible for the investigation of all major crimes occurring in Franklin Township, Buena Borough, and Newfield Borough. These crimes include: Homicide, Aggravated Assault, Arson, Fatal Motor Vehicle Crashes, Shooting investigations, Sexual Assaults, and crimes against children. Our detectives also investigate indictable property crimes such as burglary, theft, and fraud cases. The detective division is also responsible for conducting firearms background investigations, property and evidence, discovery and OPRA requests, police licensing background, and new applicant backgrounds.

Under the supervision of Detective Sergeant Nicholas Pasculli, the Detective Division is also responsible for school security and our five school resource officers. Our detectives act as a liaison between the police department and our school districts. These officers plan and coordinate drills and walk throughs at all of our schools to ensure officers are familiar with the layout of each school.

In 2023 the Detective Division handled 270 investigations resulting in 23 arrests. They also processed over 1,250 firearms background investigations. Our detectives work closely with the Gloucester and Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office's on major crime cases where indictable prosecution is evident. Our detectives applied for 17 search warrants and 15 communication data warrants in 2023. The Detective Division also participates in all community policy events and led the efforts to organize our "Cone with a Cop" events in Newfield and Buena Borough.



Detective Division

2023 Significant Arrests

- Arrest of an armed robbery suspect who was targeting liquor stores in Newfield Borough and Vineland City
- Arrest of a child predator that was meeting a juvenile from social media in his vehicle in Franklin Township.
- Arrest of a subject that committed aggravated assault at the Franklin Township Little League Complex in front of players and fans.
- Robbery arrest at Malaga Wawa.
- Robbery arrest of an individual who brandished a handgun at the Family Dollar in Newfield Borough.
- Arrest of an individual responsible for a shooting in the parking lot of L's Central Jersey Bar in Buena Borough.
- Arrest of an individual responsible for the theft of over \$10,000 of construction equipment from Cades Court in Newfield Borough.
- Arrest of a porch pirate stealing packages from homeowners during Christmas
- Arrest of a suspect for attempted homicide after striking a woman with a brick in the head in Buena Borough.
- Arrest of an individual responsible for placing "skimming" devices on ATM's at the Malaga Wawa and using those devices to obtain credit card information of victims.
- Arrest of a suspect who was responsible for over \$200,000 in damages to a victim during an online fraud incident.



Professional Standards Division

The Professional Standards Division of the Franklin Township Police Department investigates all complaints of officer misconduct that arises from citizen complaints, anonymous complaints, or agency complaints. The Professional Standards Division is led by Lieutenant Jeffrey McGuigan and is also responsible for body worn camera reviews, random drug testing, and early warning system compliance. The Professional Standards Unit works closely with the Gloucester and Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office to ensure compliance with all guidelines of the New Jersey Attorney General's guidelines for Internal Affairs.

In 2023 the Professional Standards Unit investigated 13 complaints of officer misconduct in the following categories: **Differential Treatment, Other Rule Violation, Excessive Force, & Demeanor**. After thorough investigation those complaints have been categorized as the following dispositions: **Sustained, Not-sustained, Exonerated, Administratively closed, or Pending**.

2023 Internal Affairs Investigations & Dispositions

Type of Complaint	Disposition	County
Differential Treatment	Not Sustained	Gloucester
Other Rule Violation	Sustained	Gloucester
Other Rule Violation	Sustained	Gloucester
Other Rule Violation	Sustained	Gloucester
Excessive Force	Exonerated	Gloucester
Excessive Force	Exonerated	Gloucester
Demeanor	Exonerated	Gloucester
Demeanor	Exonerated	Gloucester
Demeanor	Exonerated	Gloucester
Differential Treatment	Pending	Gloucester
Differential Treatment	Pending	Gloucester
Differential Treatment	Not Sustained	Atlantic
Demeanor	Administratively Closed	Atlantic

The Professional Standards Unit will publish all Internal Affairs Appendix information on the township website in early 2024. There were no investigations that resulted in major discipline in 2023.

The Franklin Township Police Department is proud of the constant professionalism that guides the way we operate and we are committed to being transparent in all internal investigations.



Officers of the Month

Officers of the Month:

Each month the Sergeants of the Franklin Township Police Department give a recommendation to the command staff on who should be Officer of the Month. Criteria is based on productivity, significant arrests, community policing activities, positive attitude, and teamwork. Chief DeCesari awards the Officer of the Month with a certificate and challenge coin:



January 2023
Ofc. Chuck Heimerl



February 2023
Ofc. Austin Theuret



March 2023
Ofc. Anthony Colofranson



April 2023
Cpl. Mike Guzman



May 2023
Ofc. Tom Rambone



June 2023
Cpl. Nick Locilento



June 2023
Det. Allison Schnapp



July 2023
Ofc. Greg Halikman



Officers of the Month



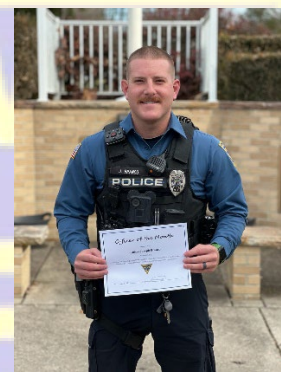
August 2023
Ofc. Garret Moretti



September 2023
Ofc. Larry Holdcraft



October 2023
Ofc. Blake Reibel



November 2023
Ofc. Joseph Branco



December 2023
Ofc. Matthew Flynn



A Picture Year in Review



Police Youth Week 2023



Cone with a Cop-Buena Borough



National Night Out 2023



A Picture Year in Review



National Night Out 2023



Holiday with a Hero 2023



Holiday with a Hero 2023



A Picture Year in Review



2023 Valor Awards in Atlantic City



2023 Police Unity Tour Team



2023 Cone with a Cop-Newfield Borough



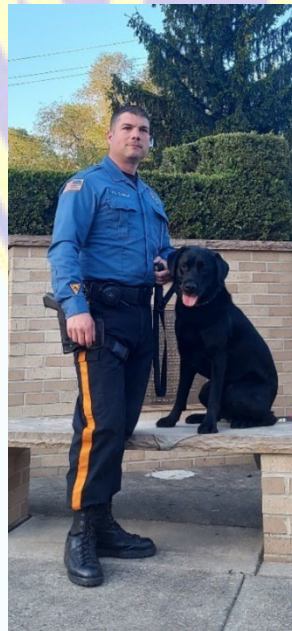
A Picture Year in Review



Fist Bump Fridays



2023 National Night Out



Retirement of K9 Titan



A Picture Year in Review



Promotions to Sergeant and Corporal



Ofc. Krauss is awarded the Compassion Award



Officer of the Year

2023 Franklin Township Police Officer of the Year

FRANKLIN TWP.

Officer Charles Heimerl #11102



The recipient of the Officer of the Year Award goes to Officer Charles Heimerl of the Patrol Division. Officer Heimerl has worked for the Franklin Township Police Department since July of 2022 and previously served with the Gibbsboro Police Department in Camden County as a Sergeant. Officer Heimerl is also a decorated Marine Corps Veteran who served his country prior to his law enforcement career. In 2023, Officer Heimerl served as a Field Training Officer who trained new officers and acted as a role model due to his work ethic, dedication and professionalism. Officer Heimerl made 47 criminal/warrant arrests, 22 DWI arrests, wrote 678 motor vehicle summonses, and completed 102 investigation reports in 2023.



Supervisor of the Year

2023 Franklin Township Police Supervisor of the Year

FRANKLIN TWP.



Corporal Louis Davey #1162

The recipient of the Supervisor of the Year Award goes to Corporal Louis Davey of the Patrol Division. Corporal Davey has served with the Franklin Township Police Department since 2015. In 2023 he went through a very competitive promotion process and was promoted to the rank of Corporal earlier this year. Corporal Davey is a leader by example and always remains pro-active while being a positive role model for younger officers. In October, Corporal Davey was thrown into a role where he was responsible for leading his own patrol squad due to retirements within the department. Corporal Davey stepped into this role and his squad did not skip a beat. His dedication, determination, and leadership are huge reasons for his success. In 2023, Corporal Davey made 30 criminal/warrant arrests, 3 DWI arrests, issued 402 motor vehicle summonses, and completed 46 investigation reports all while supervising a patrol shift.



In Memory of Sgt. Gonzalez #1107



Sgt. Gonzalez #1107



Sgt. Gonzalez 5K Run



Sgt. Gonzalez Memorial Cleanup



FRANKLIN TWP.

POLICE

NJ