

Middletown Township Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT

To Safeguard, Protect and Serve



2024



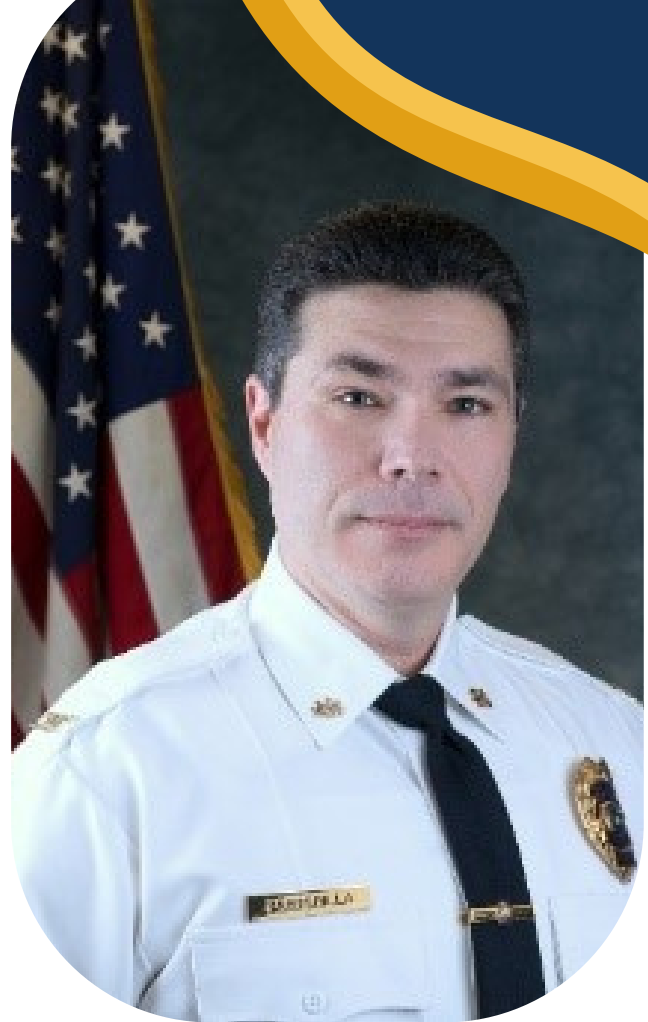
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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF BARTORILLA



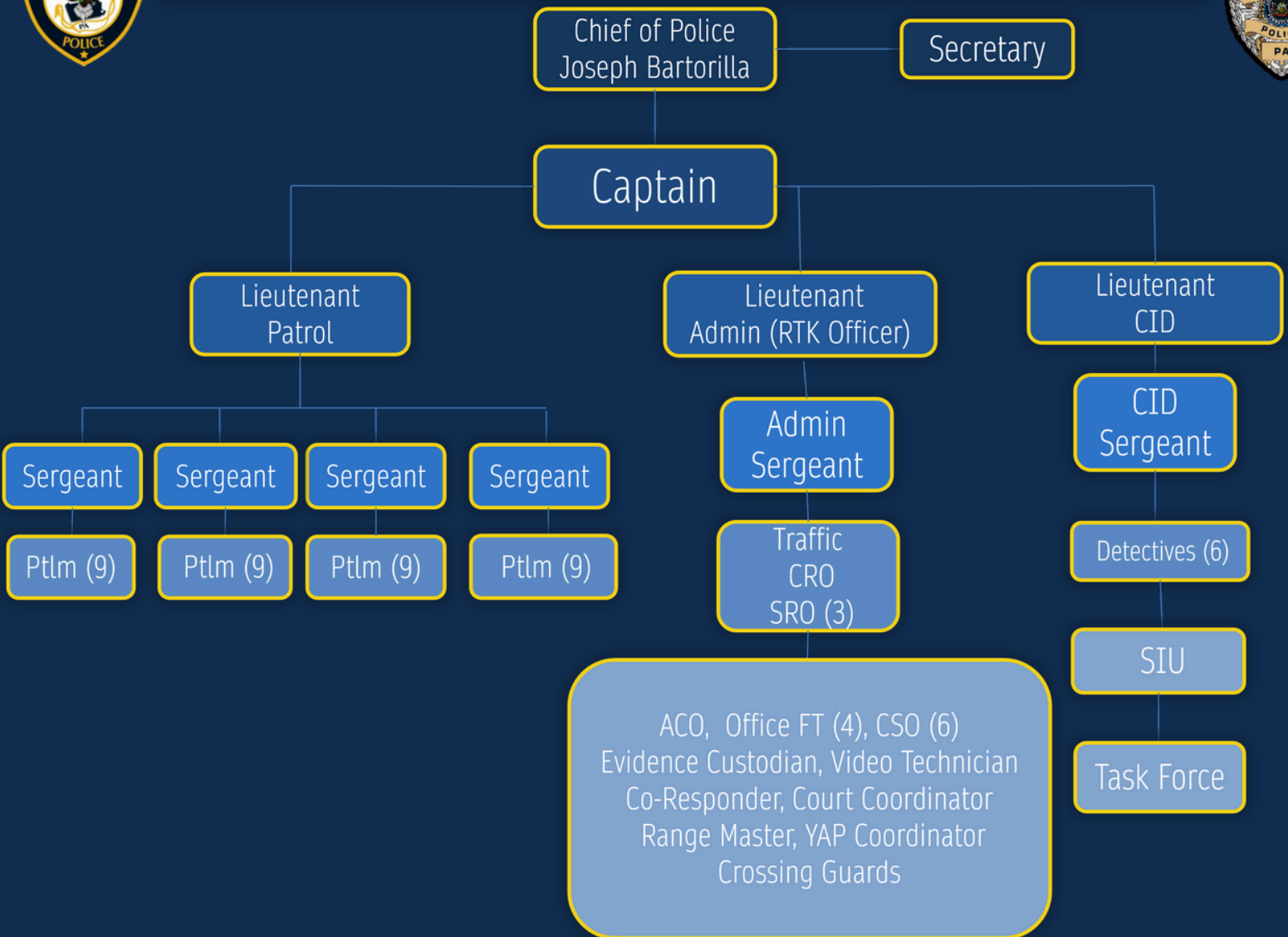
On behalf of the men and women of the Middletown Township Police Department, welcome to our 2024 annual report, and thank you for taking the time to learn about our organization. I'm honored to have the privilege of serving the Middletown Township community as police chief. The dedicated officers and support staff of the Middletown Township Police Department serve a population of over 45,000 citizens, along with a large and diverse business community, and a significant portion of the Neshaminy School District. I invite you to read through our annual report, and familiarize yourself with the various activities, events, and achievements of our police department. My hope is that these pages will provide useful and interesting information about the police department and the services we provide to our great Middletown Township community.



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Middletown Township Police Department Organizational Chart – 2024



COMMAND STAFF



JOSEPH BARTORILLA



Chief of Police



PETE FEENEY



Captain



JOHN MICHNIEWICZ



Administrative
Lieutenant



STEVE FORMAN



Detective Lieutenant



AILEEN PARKER



Patrol Lieutenant



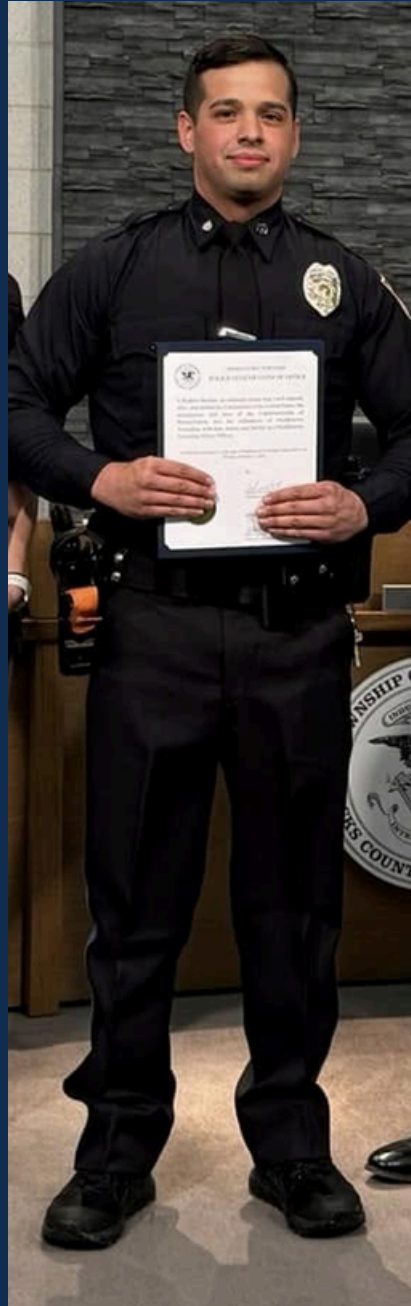
Meet the ROOKIES



Ofc. Trevor
McDonald



Ofc. Gabriel
Fisher



Ofc. Roderic
Rocher



Ofc. Cristian
Fernandez

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Middletown Township Police Department employs several Community Service Officers, who are a huge asset to the police force. A CSO will assist officers with prisoner lodging, processing, and monitoring. They are trained on various computer systems to do everything from fingerprinting to report writing. Their role is vital to assisting officers in getting people processed and released in a timely fashion and allow the officer to get back on the street.

Retirements



In 2024 we had three retirements in the police department and one within our civilian staff. Officers Runner and Web retired after 24 and 28 years, respectively.

Lieutenant Mellus retired after 40 years of service. Annie Welz retired after 26 years as the department clerk. The police department had 61 officers assigned and 12 civilian staff.

Employee Commendations



Officer Alexa Moors

Officer Alexa Moors received a Life Saving Award for bravely jumping into Lake Luxembourg to save an elderly woman and her dog.



Officer Derek Leonhauser

Officer Derek Leonhauser was recognized for 20 years of service in the police department. He also received a PA Senate Citation for saving a life.



Officer Brian Agostino

Officer Agostino assisted with the tracking down and apprehension of multiple suspects involved in a gun store burglary. His quick actions helped in the recovery of all the stolen firearms.



Officer Jeff Wagner

Officer Wagner located a stolen vehicle and its driver at a local business. Upon approach, the suspect led officers on a lengthy foot pursuit, but was taken into custody. Both drugs and a firearm were later located in that stolen vehicle.



Officer Kaylee Plisinski

Officer Plisinski assisted another officer in a foot pursuit where the suspect had possession of a stolen vehicle. Their cautious approach was key in keeping the suspect away from the vehicle, which had both a firearm and drugs within reach.



Detective Ryan Morrison

Detective Morrison spearheaded a months long investigation into a suspected fentanyl dealer. He meticulously gathered evidence to eventually secure a warrant for Brian Franklin. He formed a county-wide task force to get the subject in custody, where he remains today.



Officer Dave Berry

Officer Berry expertly handled an armed, suicidal subject call. Through dialogue, he showed compassion and empathy for the man. His successful de-escalation resulted in the man getting the necessary mental health treatment.



Sergeant Mark McLeod

Sergeant McLeod responded to a suicidal subject who was threatening to jump off an overpass. Sgt. McLeod's quick response, and ability to de-escalate and effectively communicate with the man, saved him from a tragic end.



Officer Melissa Robison

Officer Robison was recognized for her Meritorious Community Service by the National Liberty Museum and was a "Subaru Promise Maker" at a home game for the Philadelphia Union.

Employee Commendations



Captain Pete Feeney

Captain Feeney was recognized for his 30 years of service with the police department.



Lieutenant Steve Forman

Lieutenant Forman was recognized for his 30 years of service with the police department.



Sergeant Mike Russo

Sgt. Russo's squad was awarded two citations for their collaborative work in apprehending a burglary suspect at Lowes, and the HomeGoods store.



Sergeant Matt Kroiss

Sergeant Kroiss was recognized for his 25 years of service with the police department.



Officer Mary Alice Felt

Officer Felt was recognized for her 25 years of service with the police department. She was also recognized in two Squad Citations.

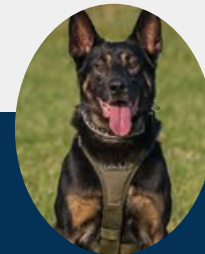


Officer Kevin Eckenrode

Officer Eckenrode was recognized for his 20 years of service with the police department.



Sergeant Steve Andrews



K9 Jester

In February of 2024 Sgt. Andrews and K9 Jester responded to assist another department who was pursuing a stolen vehicle into our jurisdiction. The vehicle crashed in Middletown, and the subjects fled on foot. Sgt. Andrews and K9 Jester quickly arrived on scene, set up a perimeter and successfully tracked and arrested one subject while the other subject was arrested by other officers on scene.



DETECTIVE CHRISTOPHER JONES

This year marked the 15th anniversary of Detective Christopher Jones' death.

On this anniversary our department gathered with family, friends and co-workers of Det. Jones to honor his lasting memory.



Our department also gathered on Christmas Eve to lay a wreath on Det. Jones grave.

During police memorial week in May, the community, family and friends gather once more to honor his sacrifice.



CRIME STATISTICS

	2023 OFFENSES	2023 ARRESTS	2024 OFFENSES	2024 ARRESTS
PART I	343	174	212	131
PART II	605	404	681	416
TOTAL	948	578	893	547

Crime statistics are broken up into Part I and Part II crimes. The chart above provides numbers from 2023 as a point of comparison. Part I crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, arson, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft.

POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS - POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS - POLICE LINE - DO NOT CROSS

	2023	2024
DISPATCHED CALLS	29,211	28,468*
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2,775	2,576
PARKING TICKETS	11**	235

*Dispatched calls for 2024 will have a slight discrepancy from the actual number due to the hacking of the 9-1-1 system in January.

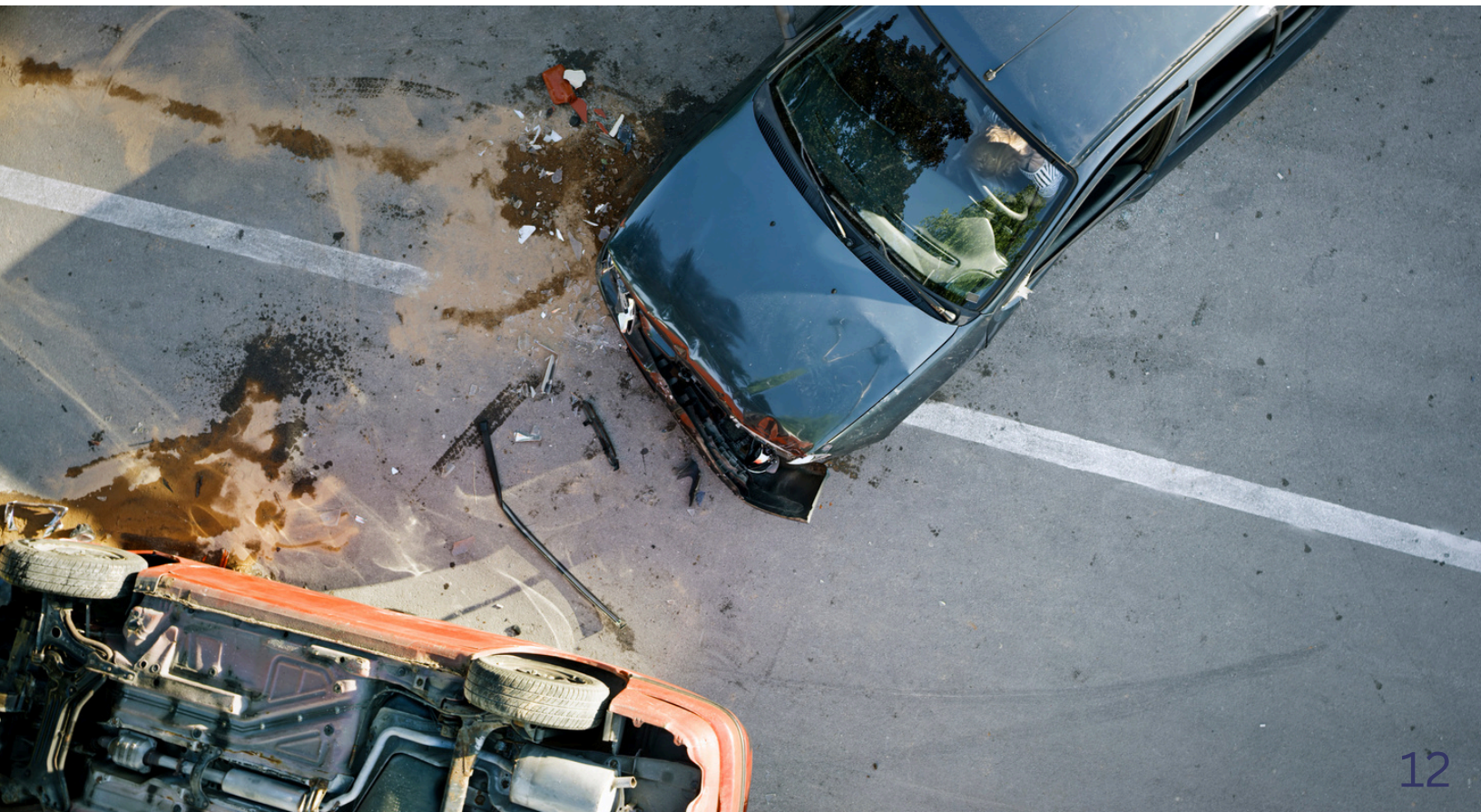
**There is an enormous increase in parking tickets from 2023 to 2024 mostly due to tickets issued during declared snow emergencies.



CRASH STATISTICS

	2023	2024
TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	1,388	1,466
WITH INJURIES	257	269
FATALITIES	2	3

Over the course of 2024 there were six traffic studies conducted. The locations of these are the following: Hope Rd. at Highland Park Rd., Madison Ave. at Longview Ave., Old Mill Dr. at Flour Ln., Fulling Mill Rd., Summit Trace Rd., and Gilliam Rd..





OVERDOSE STATISTICS

	2023	2024
OVERDOSE CALLS	26	28
OVERDOSE DEATH	1	4
NARCAN USES	4	7

In 2024 there were 28 overdoses, with four of them being fatal. Two of the fatalities occurred in private homes, one in a treatment facility and one at a commercial retail store. Toxicology reports were extremely delayed in 2024 and so deaths that were caused by an overdose or contributed to the fatality are not included in the above numbers.



PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol division of the Middletown Township Police Department is the backbone of the department, and is the largest and most visible division. Patrol responded to approximately 29,000 calls for service in 2024. They range from relatively basic calls to very serious crimes. Officers in the patrol division not only respond to calls, they are actively engaged in proactive crime prevention. The majority of arrests and traffic citations are made by members of the patrol division. They are additionally involved in community engagement where many take part in National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, Public Safety day and much more. Several specialty units originate from or directly supplement patrol, such as the ATV unit, Bike Patrol, and our K9 unit.


The Middletown Township Police Department is dedicated to providing the highest level of job essential training to ensure we constantly seek out best practices, latest resources and advancements. Total training hours for our officers came out to 8,638 hours in 2024. Notably, 97% of the officers in patrol have completed a 40 hour course on Crisis Intervention Training to ensure our interactions with those in a mental health crisis get the very best response and resource information.




CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) follows up on incidents referred for investigation by Patrol. Detectives also open new cases stemming from other investigations and cases. The majority of cases are labor and time intensive. CID routinely assists and works cases jointly with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. In 2024, 422 incidents were referred for further investigation. The bulk of these cases were Special Victims investigations and Children and Youth referrals.


NOTABLE CASES




In a March 2024 jury trial, Curtis Smith Jr. was sentenced to 28 to 56 years for firearms violations, felon possessing body armor, and false reports to Law Enforcement. Smith is a "Sovereign Citizen" who accumulated 19 incidents at his Langhorne residence that created fear and unease in the community.



In December of 2024 Brian Franklin was sentenced to 7 to 14 years for supplying Fentanyl to Bucks County since 2001. He was bringing in at least 1,000 Fentanyl pills each month. Other agencies were not successful in developing a prosecutable case, but MTPD was able to do so after some excellent investigations and tip development.



In 2024 a case was re-opened into child predator, Gerald Spoto. The investigation revealed a 20+ year history of child sexual abuse. He was sentenced to 38 to 88 years in prison. During this time, Spoto was attempting to adopt two young children, which failed due to this investigation and its findings.



John Gulich, a large scale methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl and pill dealer in Bucks County was arrested by MTPD in May of 2024. After using multiple methods to gather intelligence, a car stop was done and resulted in the recovery of narcotics and a firearm. His trial is scheduled for March of 2025.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement continues to be a priority in Middletown Township. We take every opportunity to host events, training sessions, fundraisers, and much more. In 2024 we held several Coffee with a Cop events, did a school supply drive, taught D.A.R.E., gave out socks for "Rock you Socks" day, donated bicycles to the homeless shelter and needy families, had food drives and distributions, and ended the year with our 9th annual Shop with a Cop event!



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

In 2024 we hosted our largest National Night Out yet! We had over 70 vendors, food trucks, local organizations and charities that participated. The community came out to see all the township has to offer, especially from all of our first responders!



SHOP



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WITH A COP

The ninth Shop with a Cop took place in December of 2024. This program is an incredible collaboration among many local departments and businesses. We were able to raise approximately \$200,000 for the children of our community. We were able to shop with and shop for 416 children from the Lower Bucks County area. This is an enormous labor of love for many officers and volunteers who contribute so much to the success of this program.





K9 UNIT

In 2024 the K9 Unit responded to 119 calls for service. They participated in 19 K9 demos, including National Night Out. This unit performed four dignitary sweeps, 40 building searches and apprehended 15 subjects. Notably, the K9's helped officers to recover \$8,000 worth of cocaine, \$1,800 worth of Fentanyl, and numerous bags and vials of methamphetamine. Also in 2024 MTPD added a new K9 to the unit, K9 Blue. He and his handler, Officer Hardy, completed months worth of training to get him prepared to hit the streets.





COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INSPECTIONS

Commercial motor vehicle inspections fall into categories of Level I, II or III. Level I inspections are the most in depth and Level III being the least.

In 2024 our MCSAP (Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program) officers completed 185 inspections. They breakdown as the following:

Level I: 98

Level II: 3

Level III: 84

As a result of the 185 inspections, 378 violations were discovered. Forty-three of the violations resulted in either the vehicle put out of service, the driver being put out of service, or both. There was 104 citations issued and one arrest for possession of controlled substances.



MOTOR UNIT



The Motor Unit had another busy year and participated in 27 separate events. They helped with numerous funerals, memorial events, parades and charitable activities. Officer Balint was added to the unit in 2024 to fill a previous vacancy.



HONOR GUARD



SERT

Department members assigned to the South Central Emergency Response Team responded to seven SERT activations throughout 2024.

Four of the activations were due to Presidential Election Campaign details and three for reported armed subjects.



In 2024, Ofc. Leinhesier and Ofc. N. Platnecky were added on as School Resource Officers. SRO's help to provide a safe learning environment, provide valuable resources to staff and students and foster positive relationships in the school community.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFC



ANIMAL CONTROL



ACO Cheyenne Keen took 263 animal complaints in 2024. Many animals were re-homed, reunited, and rehabilitated because of our ACO.

ACO Keen also ran several micro-chip events that helped to get hundreds of local dogs chipped.



POLICE

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

The Middletown Township Police Department has an outstanding administrative staff which contributes greatly to the daily activities of the police department. Our dedicated administrative staff handles all of the computerized data that needs to be sent to the various state and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as taking care of the communication between the police department and PennDOT. They are the first ones to greet the public as they walk into our lobby at headquarters, and then assist the public with the various police services that are requested. All requests for traffic accident documentation goes through them and they process all payments for the paperwork provided. The supportive role that they play is integral to all operations going on at the police department. Their job responsibilities are too many to adequately describe, but their dedication and hard work is fundamental to the day to day operational effectiveness of our PD.









LOOKING AHEAD

1. In 2025 the department would like to add five police vehicles to the fleet.
2. The department will review, revise, and reissue an updated police department policy manual.
3. The department will need to hire several new officers to keep pace with retirements.
4. The department will need to hire a new records administrator.
5. In 2025 the MTPD will begin implementation of a new police records management program.

