



**New Providence Police Department**



# **Annual Report**



# **2021**

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## **Office of the Chief of Police**

### **Chief Theresa Gazaway**

I think that most of us looked forward to 2021 as a year of recovery and a chance to rebound into normalcy from the pandemic. Unfortunately, COVID-19 continued to have a significant impact on police operations in 2021. Police conferences were cancelled, training events were moved online, even the recruit classes were severely impacted. Tragically, COVID-19 continues to be the number one killer of law enforcement officers. Through it all, I am grateful to the members of this organization who have remained steadfast and resilient in their commitment to providing the best police services for the Borough of New Providence.

On September 1st, Tropical Storm Ida came in fast and hit the Borough hard. New Providence received approximately 8 inches of rain in a very short amount of time, overwhelming the river and brooks. First responders worked under incredibly difficult conditions to save the lives of multiple people who found themselves trapped in the flood waters. The storm moved through quickly and left a lot of damage behind.

On the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, we paused to remember the victims with a ceremony held at the Borough's 9/11 Memorial. The names of the New Providence residents that were lost that day were read and moments of silence were observed at the time when each tower fell. We must never forget.

After careful evaluation by the Police Department Administration, the decision was made to move away from police batons and implement tasers, also known as electronic control devices. Tasers have proven to be an effective law enforcement tool and are designed to reduce civilian and officer injuries during use of force incidents. Although the policy is restrictive in terms of when the taser can be deployed, it provides officers with an additional, less-lethal, option in certain situations.

Traffic issues were a big area of concern amongst Borough residents in 2021. The New Providence Police Department's Traffic Bureau held several town hall meetings to listen to resident's issues and suggestions. All the information and input from each session was used to develop a Master Plan for improving traffic safety throughout New Providence.

I hope that the rest of the Police Department is as proud as I am of what we have accomplished in 2021 and I look forward to a wonderful year ahead.

Theresa Gazaway  
Chief of Police  
Emergency Management Coordinator

## **2021 Patrol Division Report**

### **Lieutenant Sean Bubb**

The New Providence Police Department handled 16,694 calls for service in 2021 in the midst of an ongoing, global pandemic.

Officers made 1789 motor vehicle stops and issued 788 summonses. From those motor vehicle stops, 13 DWI arrests were made. Officers conducted 1271 traffic details. Officers responded to 274 motor vehicle crashes which included 217 with no injuries, 16 with injuries, 36 hit and run crashes and 5 pedestrian related crashes. Officers issued over 600 parking summonses in 2021.

New Providence Police officers spend most of their shifts performing tasks that are not normally recognized but these tasks are essential to serving the community. Officers responded to 708 medical calls, over 220 fire related calls, 71 lock outs, 148 animal related calls, over 4620 property / area checks, and 1178 school facility checks.

Patrols responded to 10 overdose calls that consisted of two fatal overdoses and deployed 4 doses of Naloxone.

## **2021 Detective Bureau Report**

### **Lieutenant Stephen Drown**

The Detective Bureau closed 927 calls for service and cases during 2021. Many of these investigations included theft, fraud, financial crimes, harassment, suspicious incidents, overdoses, suicides, criminal mischief, and domestic violence incidents. There has also been a significant increase in crimes stemming from social media, such as threats and scams.

Detectives processed 121 firearms applications which significantly decreased from a surge in 2020. Each application requires significant time and diligence during the background investigations.

Detectives fingerprinted 36 individuals for non-criminal matters and conducted 98 local background / records checks for other agencies, permitting purposes or for emergency volunteer service membership applications. Detectives were also responsible for providing discovery for 113 requests in 2021 and multiple case preparations to the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Municipal Court. Detectives also completed 18 expungements ordered by the court. On top of their normal duties, Detectives are quick to assist patrol on calls for service when manpower is needed and fill in for School Resource Officers and school crossing posts when needed.

## **2021 Juvenile Report**

### **Sergeant Donald Sretenovic**

Detective Sergeant Donald Sretenovic serves as the Department's Juvenile Officer. In 2021, 3 juveniles were charged with criminal offenses. Seventeen juveniles were taken into protective custody and eleven stationhouse adjustments were completed in lieu of formal charges.

## **2021 Traffic Bureau Report**

### **Sergeant Andrew Diamond**

- Reviewed/Investigated 258 motor vehicle crashes.
- Investigated 36 hit and run motor vehicle crashes.
- Conducted 270 traffic enforcement details.
- 1785 Motor Vehicle Stops were made by the agency.
- 1423 Motor Vehicle Summonses Issued by the agency.
- 1288 Motor Vehicle Warnings Issued by the agency.
- Lt. Drown, Sgt. Sretenovic and Cpl. Pawelek Installed or Inspected 26 child safety seats.
- Rapid Flash Pedestrian Crossings installed at four intersections in the Borough: Springfield/Pittsford, South/Woodland, South/OLP, and South/Marion.
- Rapid Flash Pedestrian Crossing planned and purchased for Central Avenue/Balcom Rd/Spring St. and Central Avenue/Valentine Rd. slated for 2022 Installation.
- Traffic deployed the VMB/Speed Sign at 49 locations.
- Conducted seven traffic studies on local roadways and four in conjunction with the County of Union Traffic Division
- Procurement/Upfit of three new patrol vehicles.
- Union Avenue improvement project. Updated speed limit ordinance, signage, and continued on-going study of additional improvements.
- Installation of new vehicle detection system for Springfield Ave/ South St/Passaic St.
- Fairview Avenue improvement project completed which includes Borough's first speed table.
- Completed Borough-wide Traffic Safety and Circulation improvement plan.
- Began "Traffic Tip Tuesday" social media campaign.
- Purchased new Speed study device from Jamar.
- Robert's School Traffic flow plan finalized and will be implemented in 2022.
- Completed a new towing ordinance and prepared a 3-year towing rotation.
- Safe Routes to School grant submitted.
- Conducted right of way tree/shrub enforcement throughout the Borough.
- Purchased two Driver Speed Feedback signs for installation on Pearl St.
- Began traffic complaint submission form and tracking program.



## **2021 Training Division Report**

### **Captain Daniel Henn**

In 2021, New Providence Police personnel attended and participated in over 3000 hours of mandated and elective training. In-Person training began to rebound to pre-pandemic hours as Police Academies throughout the State of New Jersey opened their doors back to organizations looking to train their personnel. Officers voluntarily attended classes related to emergency management, school-based incidents, crimes scene processing, digital evidence recovery, DWI enforcement, Leadership, LEAD certifications and traffic management.

As a department, our agency held mandated firearms, rifle, and CPR recertifications. We also hosted Attorney General mandated training in such areas as Use of Force and Pursuit Driving, interactions with the LGBTQ community and domestic violence. Additionally, we began to schedule all agency personnel in cutting edge training called ICAT and ABLE. In an effort to expand our training assignments, we also introduced training in social media exposure, taser training, ethics, handling emotionally disturbed persons and the deployment of Narcan. We also trained our agency in de-escalation, intervention, and force mitigation.

In addition to the training our Officers undertake to further their own development, we also have Officers continuing to dedicate time to training new police recruits at the John H. Stamler Police Academy. New Providence Police Officers are the lead or assistant instructors for functional policing areas such as Title 39, radar certification, crash investigations, emergency vehicle operations, firearms, domestic violence, report writing, defensive tactics and missing persons.

In 2021, the following Officers either instructed on their expertise at the Union County Police Academy or within our own agency.

Lt. Sean Bubb  
Lt. Stephen Drown  
Sgt. Donald Sretenovic  
Sgt. Steven Opalewski  
Sgt. Jason Labaska  
Sgt. Joseph Parlapiano  
Cpl. Joseph DiParisi  
Det. Nicholas Guerriero  
Det. TJ Hoppe  
Ptlm. Christian Cely-Gomez

## **Community Services Officer (Detective David Rodriguez) 2021 P.A.C.T. Report**

The Community Services Officer role was designed to continue an interactive and collaborative relationship between the police and the community. The CSO, Det. David Rodriguez, acts as a personal contact for the Police Department, providing effective, two-way communication. The CSO is responsible for promoting awareness regarding community events, safety initiatives, and prevention/scam alerts. Community members will in turn be able to contact the CSO with any questions and concerns or merely to find resources within the Borough. Detective Rodriguez will also work with local organizations, leaders, and citizens on an array of ventures or activities. Community Services Officers also work side by side with community groups to address specific problems and/or to work toward certain goals.

Since its implementation in September of 2020, Detective Rodriguez has become the Municipal Alliance Liaison and the Diversity Committee Liaison. He has developed the PACT (Police and Community Together) program, Blue Angel program, and Neighbors Public Safety Service (through Ring). Detective Rodriguez helps coordinate National Night Out and the Veteran's Banner program. He also has participated with the Coat drive, Toys for tots, monthly P.A.C.T. newsletter, Various Blood drive, Pumpkin Carving/Trunk or Treat/Scarecrow Contest/Halloween Candy Giveback, National Night Out, Veteran Banners, Tunnels To Towers Stair climb, Blue Angel Installs, Blue Guardian Program Launched (no installs yet), Coffee With A Cop, Women's Self Defense Classes, Senior Visits: Scams/Self Defense Presentation, Baseball Card Program, Anything Boy/Girl Scout Related (Tours, Mock Crime Scenes), Forensics Classes at the High School (guest speaker).

In 2020, the New Providence Police began the Police and Communities Together program. This program was created to broaden the experience to all members in the community to bridge gaps and create an actual pact with our citizens. The program was modeled after the P.A.T.T. (Police and Teens Together) program originally created by the Union County Human Relations Commission.





## PATT Program

For over a decade, the New Providence Police have participated in Police and Teens together at the New Providence High School. The program consists of Juniors and Seniors from Byron Tracy's Criminology class and with the assistance of School Resource Officer, Dennis Carovillano. The purpose of this program is for students to interact with police officers to learn about their professional and personal lives. It also gives students the opportunity to learn about police practices, laws, and interactions. After these classroom discussions, the students get to participate in mock, motor vehicle stops. This allows students to be in simulated situations that officers deal with on a regular basis.





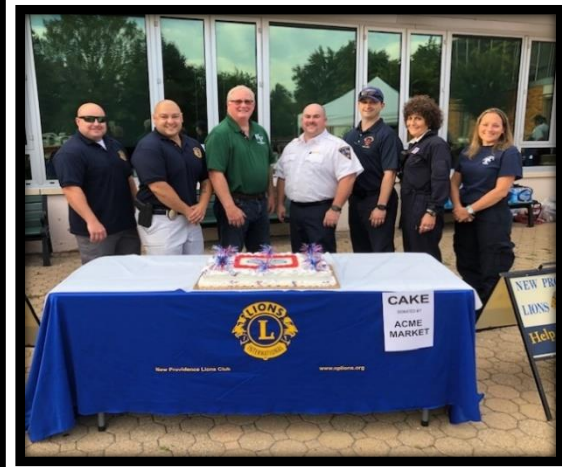
## **New Providence Police Honor Guard**

The New Providence Police Honor Guard was reestablished in 2021 by Chief Gazaway. The Honor Guard consist of Sgt. Wilson, Sgt. Parlapiano, Det. Guerriero, Corporal Scuorzo, Officer Gutierrez, Officer Miller and Officer Bruder. The Honor Guard represents the agency at Law Enforcement events, celebrations, funerals, parades and sporting events.



## 2021 National Night Out

The 2021 National Night Out that was held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. This was by far, the largest turnout for this event. There were games, giveaways, music and was capped off by a fireworks display sponsored by NP Fuel. Numerous sponsors helped make this a successful event especially the New Providence Lions Club, New Providence Fire Department, New Providence Rescue Squad, Elefante Music, AT&T Store and A&P.



## **2021 PBA LOCAL 132 Events**

- Fishing Derby**
- National Night Out**
- 9/11 Stair Climb**
- Torch Run for Special Olympics**
- Operation Candy Take Back (for troops)**
- Trunk or Treat and Pumpkin Carving**
- Toys for Tots drive**
- Coat Drive**