

# NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## TRUST ~ INTEGRITY ~ TRADITION



Everyday Newton Police Officers carry out their duties each day mindful of their mission to serve, to safeguard the public trust and to always perform competently and professionally. The Department is continually moving forward and adapting with the changes of modern policing standards which is essential for the department to continue to be effective in a world of ever-changing culture which embraces change but also aligns with community expectations. As an organization we are committed to continue our partnership with the community in providing a friendly and professional department exercising integrity, compassion, fairness and respect. We are constantly evaluating our efficiency and effectiveness and are always looking for ways to improve our department through policy and training standards. As a department, we continue to emphasize the importance of trust and transparency between our agency and the people we serve.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Police Chief is accountable for the general direction, control, planning and budgeting for the Department. He develops and ensures adherence to the Department's established Rules & Regulations as well as all applicable case law and policies, procedures or directives from agencies like the New Jersey Attorney General and the Sussex County Prosecutor. Under Chief VanNieuwlands' direction, the department will continue to maintain high standards of accountability and service. Through continual policy review and development and training of personnel combined with continual transparency, public engagement and communication, we will always strive to exceed expectations.

Chief VanNieuwlands' administration consists of two Lieutenants who command the two divisions of the department; the **Operations Division** led by Lt. Thomas Muller. and the **Support Services Division** led by Lt. Scott King. Detective Sergeant Danial Finkle manages the day-to-day direction of the **Detective Bureau**.

Chief VanNieuwland can be reached by e-mail at [Swannieuwland@NewtonPolice.org](mailto:Swannieuwland@NewtonPolice.org) or telephone (973)383-2525.

### OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is under the leadership and management of Lt. Thomas Muller. He oversees the main patrol operations function of the Department. Two Patrol Sergeants; Sgt. Thomas Tosti and Sgt. Michael Wolanski report directly to him. The Patrol Sergeants each supervise and work with a squad consisting of 3 Patrolmen. Patrol squads work 12-hour shifts to give constant police coverage every day of the year.

On average, Police Officers handle over 60 calls for service per day; ranging from domestic violence incidents, theft investigations and burglaries to aiding someone with a medical emergency, helping to locate a missing child or an elderly person or investigating the cause of a car crash. They also regularly conduct traffic enforcement to help keep our roads safer for travel and to help ensure that all pedestrians, particularly the many children who walk to and from schools, can do so safely. Officers have often prevented criminal activity through proactive patrolling, checking on suspicious vehicles, interrupting acts of disorderly conduct and locating people who were wanted for outstanding warrants. Officers regularly conduct premises checks on businesses after they close for the day and routinely check homes when residents are away on vacation.

Lieutenant Muller serves as our Public Information Officer as well as our Internal Affairs Officer. He is also responsible for departmental training, administering the performance evaluation system and he handles officer scheduling and planning for special details like parades and similar events. Lt. Muller also reviews all accident reports, OPRA requests and Court discovery for the Police Department.

The Internal Affairs function of the Police Department plays an integral role in building and maintaining public trust. Our ability to deliver effective public safety services depends on our credibility and reputation and thus must be safeguarded through a proactive internal affairs process consisting of regular personnel inspections and training, investigations of complaints, and discipline when appropriate.

To be transparent about the process, we've prepared the following statistical report summarizing complaints received about Officers and their dispositions for 2021. Matters investigated and documented within our internal affairs process may have originated from a citizen complaint, anonymously or from within the department, such as through inspection or supervision of personnel. If no complaints were received, then that category of complaint has not been listed, such as domestic violence, complaints of improper search and other criminal violations. Cases that do not have outcomes at this time are listed as pending.

Type of Internal Affairs Complaint	#	Outcomes
Demeanor	13	8 exonerated, 1 unfounded, 3 sustained, 1 pending
Excessive Force	3	3 pending
Other Criminal Violation	1	1 sustained
Other Rule Violation	4	4 sustained
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>No disciplinary action was taken that resulted in a fine or suspension of 10 days or more</b>

The Newton Police Department approaches professional standards and citizen complaints very seriously. It is reasonable to expect Officers to consistently perform professionally, lawfully, safely and consistent with policy. Each complaint receives priority attention from department supervisors. Each time an employee uses force, is involved in a motor vehicle accident or is accused of misconduct, a complete and thorough internal affairs process is strictly adhered to and followed to its logical conclusion, consistent with the guidelines issued by the NJ Attorney General's Office. The internal affairs process also seeks to identify any needs for training or policy revision. Any disciplinary action imposed is progressive and corrective. We hope that providing this information will prove to be both helpful to understand our process and reassuring to the public we serve.

Patrol Sergeants and members of their patrol squads assist with several administrative functions as well. Sgt. Michael Wolanski is our liaison for the Domestic Violence Response Team, a program in collaboration with Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services.

Lt. Muller also supervises and schedules the Department's Class II Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO). The Special Officers work a foot patrol or bike patrol assignment in the business district most days and evenings. We currently have one full-time and two part-time Special Officers.

Lt. Thomas Muller can be reached by e-mail at [Tmuller@NewtonPolice.org](mailto:Tmuller@NewtonPolice.org) or telephone (973)383-2525.

The Department maintains a computerized record system documenting the activity of its Police Officers. Listed below is statistical information about some of the calls that Newton Police Officers have responded to and the amount of certain types of investigations that were conducted.

While it is evident that that members of the Police Department were certainly quite busy; it should also be pointed out that our effectiveness is often quite dependent on the support we receive. This support comes in the form of continued administrative and investigative emphases in our staffing, adequate resources being made available to the department as well as timely reporting of criminal or suspicious activity from members of the public.

Type of Call/Police Activity	2018	2019	2020	2021
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	2	1	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0
Burglary/Attempted Burglary	52	15	24	22
Sexual Assault/Contact	18	20	15	7
Assault	29	27	31	22
Theft	76	87	55	55
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	0	2	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	440	468	313	323
Medical Emergencies	848	1,001	1,313	1,365
DWI Arrests	15	18	16	15
Black Bear	34	62	70	46
Criminal Mischief	71	46	39	40
Domestic Dispute/TRO Request	145	181	217	189
Fight/Verbal Dispute/Disturbance	385	364	491	456
Missing Person Adult/Juvenile	16	22	19	18
Vehicle Lock-Out Assist	210	213	125	164
Motor Vehicle Stops	12,081	10,656	7,093	10,124
Weapons Offense/Guns	2	1	3	3
Burglar Alarms	274	298	298	257
Total Arrests Made	250	264	233	193
Total Summonses Issued	2,853	2,030	2,194	3,188
Total Ordinance Violation Summonses	92	92	168	99
Narcans Administration	38	26	42	39
Anonymous Tips Received	28	25	31	20

#### SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Lieutenant Scott King is the Department's Support Services Division Commander. He supervises the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center, schedules dispatch staffing, assists with the internal affairs function and manages the department's technology resources, records management systems, E-Ticket devices, Police, Fire and EMS radios and is responsible for managing the repair and maintenance of all our police vehicles and other departmental equipment. Lt. King oversees the alarm ordinance, registering alarms and conducting enforcement as needed. He is also responsible for supervising, scheduling and training our school crossing guards. The Department currently has 14 regular crossing guards and 3 substitute crossing guards. Two Patrol Sergeants report directly to Lt. King; Sgt. Joseph D'Annibale and Sgt. Kenneth Teets. The Patrol Sergeants each supervise and work with a squad consisting of 3 Patrolmen.

Patrol Sergeants and members of their patrol squads assist with several administrative functions as well. Sgt. Thomas Tosti assists with juvenile matters and handles the functions of the Crime Prevention Bureau. Due to Covid restrictions, Sgt. Tosti was only able to schedule one "Coffee With a Cop" in 2021. We look forward to 2022 and hope we can schedule more informal community meetings throughout the year. Ptl. John Flanagan conducts applicant investigations related to Town ordinances and is also a firearms instructor.

Ptl. Russell Post performs the function of Juvenile Officer. He assists with juvenile/family crisis incidents, maintains State required records related to juvenile delinquency cases and administers the stationhouse adjustment program for eligible juvenile offenders. Eight juveniles were provided with a station house adjustment to resolve their minor offense. A stationhouse adjustment is an alternative method that law enforcement agencies may use to handle first-time juvenile offenders who have committed minor juvenile delinquency offenses within their jurisdiction. Ptl. Post also instructs the L.E.A.D. program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) to 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Halsted Street School. He also assists Sgt. Tosti

in our crime prevention program and is often seen at various community events. Since being reassigned to patrol in January 2022, Ptl. Post will be assisting Detective Judy Torres, who was recently assigned to the Detective Bureau in transitioning into the Juvenile Officer assignment.

Overseen by Lt. King and the Patrol Sergeants' squad that they're assigned, 4 full-time and 7 part-time Public Safety Telecommunicators (PST) staff the Newton Police Department's 9-1-1 Communications Center 24/7, receiving 9-1-1 calls, performing radio dispatching for Newton Police, Fire and First Aid Squad. Our PST's provide pre-arrival instructions to callers while simultaneously sending emergency personnel to the scene. Our PST's are highly skilled, trained and experienced and our equipment has the latest technological capabilities making us ready for Next Generation 9-1-1. The dispatchers often manage several stressful public safety emergencies at the same time, while also communicating regularly with Officers conducting patrol duties and fielding administrative telephone calls from the public with requests for information. Our dispatch center continues to provide the highest quality public safety call-taking and dispatching service available to the Town of Newton.

Lt. Scott King can be reached by e-mail at [Skings@NewtonPolice.org](mailto:Skings@NewtonPolice.org) or telephone (973)383-2525.

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

The day-to-day direction of the Detective Bureau is managed by Detective Sergeant Danial Finkle. DSG. Finkle oversees all criminal investigations conducted in the Town of Newton and reviews all investigation reports. With this responsibility, he supervises two Detectives: Det. Jared Zappa and Det. Judy Torres. Each year, the Police Department faces challenges in the form of major crimes that occur and it is generally left to the members of the Detective Bureau to follow through on these difficult investigations until they are successfully prosecuted, a process that usually takes several years.

Detectives are involved in numerous criminal investigations. They collect and analyze intelligence, develop informants and work cooperatively with Detectives from neighboring jurisdictions, the State Police, State Parole and other law enforcement agencies; County, State and Federal. Detectives monitor and track registered sex offenders. They collect, store, inventory and arrange for appropriate disposition of all property and evidence that is found or seized by members of the Police Department. Detectives also have the responsibility for investigating liquor license transfers and for conducting ABC enforcement and inspections of the 12 licensed premises in the Town of Newton.

The department's Domestic Preparedness function is also handled by the Detective Bureau; planning and exercising of drills at each of the schools for lockdowns and evacuations in the event of an emergency and coordinating regular meetings with school officials and substance abuse counselors from schools across the County to exchange information about trends and observations in an effort to prevent delinquent behavior, drug activity and to help provide for the safest schools possible. Domestic preparedness also involves training for response to an Active Shooter Incident, meeting regularly and public safety planning with facilities such as the Newton Medical Center and the Sussex County Community College.

Detectives are also responsible for Project Medicine Drop, a program designed to help halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. Residents can anonymously and safely dispose of their unwanted or expired medications. Successfully implemented as the first participating Police Department in Sussex County, we collected, secured and arranged for the destruction of 635 pounds of medications in 2021. Detective Jared Zappa handles all firearms applicant investigations and 110 permits to purchase firearms were issued in 2021.

Working cooperatively, the three Detectives remain available for duty call-out at any time, every day of the year whenever crimes occur. Detectives receive and coordinate responses or necessary follow-up to anonymous tips through our Text-A-Tip service. They process crime scenes for latent evidence, take photographs and are specialists in conducting interviews and interrogations, preparing search warrants and criminal complaints. The investigative strength, diligence, determination and inter-agency cooperation of the Detectives at the Newton Police Department continually yields successful outcomes for investigations into the most serious criminal activity.

### TRANSITION OF PERSONNEL

During 2021, Chief Robert Osborn Jr. retired after 33 years of service. Initially being hired as a dispatcher, Chief Osborn was hired as a fulltime officer in 1990 and advanced through his career being promoted to the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant and Chief. Lieutenant Michael Monaco also retired in 2021 after 27 years of service with the Town of Newton Lt. Monaco began his career as a special officer and a dispatcher eventually being hired as a fulltime officer in 1994. He held the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant during his tenure. These retirements resulted in several promotions, in June Lt. Steven

VanNieuwland was promoted to Chief, Sergeant King was promoted to Lieutenant and Patrolman Finkle was promoted to Sergeant and was subsequently assigned to the Detective Bureau. In September, Sergeant Thomas Muller was promoted to Lieutenant and Patrolman Teets was promoted to Sergeant. We also hired 2 new officers, Justin Sibbles and Jordan Harvey who both look forward to serving the residents of Newton with integrity, compassion, fairness and respect.

Our success is tied to the support that we receive from the community we serve. With this in mind, we'll continue to engage the public and communicate information about our activities in an effort to enhance our public safety partnership. Please visit our website [www.newtonpolice.org](http://www.newtonpolice.org) and visit us on social media to see the many other services provided by the Police Department and view information about our activity which is updated on a daily basis and published via a service called Crime Reports to a page on our website. As we strive to constantly improve the quality of law enforcement services provided, we look forward to ongoing public support and cooperation as we do our part to help make Newton continue to be a great place to raise a family and to conduct business.