

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRUST ~ INTEGRITY ~ TRADITION



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

www.NewtonPolice.org

Everyday Newton Police Officers carry out their duties mindful of their mission to serve, to safeguard public trust, and to always perform competently and professionally. The Department is continually moving forward and adapting with the changes of modern policing standards. This 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, Steven VanNieuwland 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 Office of the New Jersey Attorney General and the Sussex County Prosecutor's Office. Under Chief VanNieuwland's 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 VanNieuwland's 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. Joseph D'Annibale. Detective Sergeant Danial Finkle manages the day-to-day direction of the **Detective Bureau**.

Chief VanNieuwland can be reached by e-mail at Svannieuwland@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. Michael Wolanski and Sgt. John Flanagan 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 2022. 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	12	2 exonerated, 8 unfounded, 2 not sustained
Excessive Force	3	3 pending (From 2020)
Other Criminal Violation	0	
Other Rule Violation	19	16 sustained, 2 unfounded, 1 not sustained
Total	31	No disciplinary action was taken that resulted in a fine or suspension of 10 days or more

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 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 number 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	2019	2020	2021	2022
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Robbery	2	1	0	2
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0
Burglary/Attempted Burglary	15	24	22	17
Sexual Assault/Contact	20	15	7	13
Assault	27	31	22	37
Theft	87	55	55	75
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	2	2	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	468	313	323	401
Medical Emergencies	1,001	1,313	1,365	1,438
DWI Arrests	18	16	15	17
Black Bear	62	70	46	70
Criminal Mischief	46	39	40	24
Domestic Dispute/TRO Request	181	217	189	207
Fight/Verbal Dispute/Disturbance	364	491	456	428
Missing Person Adult/Juvenile	22	19	18	27
Vehicle Lock-Out Assist	213	125	164	208
Motor Vehicle Stops	10,656	7,093	10,124	11,570
Weapons Offense/Guns	1	3	3	2
Burglar Alarms	298	298	257	205
Total Arrests Made	264	233	193	164
Total Summonses Issued	2,030	2,194	3,188	3,464

Total Ordinance Violation Summonses	92	168	99	113
Narcans Administration	26	42	39	38
Anonymous Tips Received	25	31	20	20

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

Lieutenant Joseph D'Annibale 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. D'Annibale 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. D'Annibale; Sgt. Kenneth Teets and Sgt. Jared Zappa. The Patrol Sergeants each supervise and work with a squad consisting of 3 Patrolmen.

Overseen by Lt. D'Annibale 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. Joseph D'Annibale can be reached by e-mail at jdannibale@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 who oversees all criminal investigations conducted in the Town of Newton and reviews all investigation reports. With this responsibility, he supervises two Detectives: Det. Judy Torres and Det. Peter Vex. 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 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 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 607 pounds of medications in 2022. Detective Peter Vex handles all firearms applicant investigations and 174 permits to purchase firearms were issued in 2022.

Detective Judy Torres performs the function of Juvenile Officer. She 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. Twenty-six 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. Det. Torres also instructs the L.E.A.D. program (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) to 5th grade students at Halsted Street School. Det. Torres in our Crime Prevention Bureau and organizes various community events.

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 website, www.newtonpolice.org. 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 2022, Lieutenant Scott King retired after 25 years of service in Law Enforcement. Lt. King was hired by the Sussex County Sheriff's Department in December of 1998 and in July 2001, Lt. King was hired by the Newton Police Department and was assigned to the Patrol Division. He advanced through his career being promoted to the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant. Sergeant Thomas Tosti also retired in 2022 after 25 years of service. Sgt. Tosti began his law enforcement at the Stillwater Police Department in 1997 and was hired by the Newton Police Department in 2003. He held the assignment of detective from 2005 through 2016. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2018.

These retirements resulted in several promotions and the hiring of new officers. In June Sergeant Joseph D'Annibale was promoted to Lieutenant. In November Officers John Flanagan and Jared Zappa were promoted to the position of Sergeant. We also hired 3 new officers, Justin Bellis, Peter Vex and Niko Grello who all 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 will continue to engage the public and communicate information about our activities to enhance our public

safety partnership. Please visit our website 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 daily and published to the Crime Map 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.