

NEWTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRUST ~ INTEGRITY ~ TRADITION

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Every day, the dedicated officers of the Newton Police Department carry out their duties with an unwavering commitment to our mission – to serve, uphold public trust, and consistently exemplify competence and professionalism. As a dynamic organization, we evolve in harmony with modern policing standards, ensuring our effectiveness in a world where cultural shifts demand adaptability while meeting the expectations of our community.

As an integral part of this community, we wholeheartedly pledge to sustain and fortify our partnership. Our goal is to provide a police department that is not only proficient but also personable and professional. Our approach is firmly grounded in principles of integrity, compassion, fairness, and respect. We are steadfast in our dedication to evaluating and enhancing efficiency and effectiveness through continuous assessment of our policies and training standards.

At the heart of our values lies the understanding that trust and transparency are paramount in fostering a strong bond between our agency and the people we serve. As a department, we consistently emphasize these principles, recognizing that they are the bedrock of a successful and harmonious relationship with our community.

Our dedication to community engagement is evident through various initiatives, including Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, the C.L.E.A.R. Program, Think Act Grow Program, Positive Ticketing, and Project Self-Sufficiency Season of Hope. We deeply appreciate the invaluable support we receive from the community, which enhances our overall effectiveness.

TRANSITION OF PERSONNEL

In May of 2023, Sergeant Kenneth Teets retired after 25 years of service in Law Enforcement. Sgt. Teets was hired in 1997 by the Newton Police Department as a Public Safety Telecommunicator and in January of 2000 he began his career as a police officer, attending the 201st Municipal Class at the New Jersey State Police Training Academy in Sea Girt. Upon graduating he was assigned to the Patrol Division and in 2021 was promoted to Sergeant.

Sgt. Teets' retirement led to the promotion of Officer Donald Meisinger to Sergeant. Additionally, we welcomed three new officers, Robert Martin, Donald Wagner, and Mark Fleming, to fill vacancies in the ranks. All are eager and committed to serving the residents of Newton with integrity, compassion, fairness, and respect.

In 2023, after an absence of nearly 13 years, the School Resource Officer (SRO) position was reinstated through collaborative efforts with Newton Public School Superintendent Dr. Joseph Picirillo, the Newton Board of Education, Newton Town Manager Thomas Russo Jr., and the Newton Town Council. Officer Justin Bellis has been appointed to this role and has been making a positive impact every day at all three (3) schools, engaging with students and parents, and fostering a partnership with school faculty.

The Newton Police Department places a strong emphasis on internal affairs processes and professional standards. Our officers are held to the highest standards of conduct, and any citizen complaints are thoroughly investigated to ensure accountability. The disciplinary actions taken are progressive and corrective, contributing to our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement.

To maintain transparency in our Internal Affairs process, we have compiled the following statistical report summarizing complaints received about officers and their dispositions for the year 2023. The matters investigated and documented within our internal affairs process may have originated from various sources, including citizen complaints, anonymous reports, or internal observations and supervision of personnel

If no complaints were received in a specific category, such as domestic violence or complaints of improper search, it is not listed in the report. Cases without conclusive outcomes at this time are categorized as pending. This report aims to provide a comprehensive overview of our commitment to accountability and transparency in handling internal affairs matters.

TYPE OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS COMPLAINT	#	OUTCOMES
Demeanor	4	1 exonerated, 2 unfounded, 1 not sustained
Excessive Force	3	3 Unfounded (From 2021)
Other Criminal Violation	1	1 Unfounded
Other Rule Violation	10	6 sustained, 1 Exonerated, 3 Pending
Total	18	No disciplinary action was taken that resulted in a fine or suspension of 10 days or more

The department maintains a computerized record system meticulously documenting the activities of its police officers. Below, you will find statistical information detailing some of the calls to which Newton Police Officers have responded and the number of investigations conducted for specific types of incidents.





Type of Call/Police Activity	2020	2021	2022	2023
Homicide	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	2	1
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0
Burglary/Attempted Burglary	24	22	17	6
Sexual Assault/Contact	15	7	13	25
Assault	31	22	37	41
Theft	55	55	75	79
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	2	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	313	323	401	421
Medical Emergencies	1,313	1,365	1,438	1,423
DWI Arrests	16	15	17	29
Black Bear	70	46	70	68
Criminal Mischief	39	40	24	19
Domestic Dispute/TRO Request	217	189	207	215
Fight/Verbal Dispute/Disturbance	491	456	428	457
Missing Person Adult/Juvenile	19	18	27	16
Vehicle Lock-Out Assist	125	164	208	160
Motor Vehicle Stops	7,093	10,124	11,570	12,663
Weapons Offense/Guns	3	3	2	1
Burglar Alarms	298	257	205	181
Total Arrests Made	233	193	164	202
Total Summonses Issued	2,194	3,188	3,464	3,613
Total Ordinance Violation Summonses	168	99	113	107
Narcan Administration	42	39	38	28
Anonymous Tips Received	31	20	20	5
Total of All Calls Received in 2023	20,503	24,175	27,755	30,659

Explore the wealth of services and information provided by the Police Department on our website newtonpolice.org and connect with us on social media. Our online platforms showcase daily updates and detailed information on our activities, accessible through the Crime Map page on our website.

Our connection with the community is integral to our success, and we deeply value the support we receive. With this in mind, we are committed to fostering an open dialogue with the public and sharing information about our activities to strengthen our partnership in ensuring public safety. In our relentless pursuit of enhancing the quality of law enforcement services, we anticipate and appreciate continued public support and cooperation. Together, we play a vital role in maintaining Newton as an outstanding place to raise a family, visit, and conduct business. Your ongoing engagement is key to our collective efforts in creating a safe and thriving community.