

Bridgewater Township Police Department

2020 Annual Report



Paul S. Payne

Chief of Police

Introduction

The year 2020 marked our 55th anniversary of providing professional police service to the residents of Bridgewater Township. Our responsibility is to protect and serve the members of our community and provide the highest level of commitment, integrity, and professionalism. We strive to be leaders in our community by providing police services that embody the spirit of community partnerships by being efficient, transparent, and proactive in resolving community issues and concerns.

This year's annual report contains many statistical graphs and charts for you to view. Equally important are the community programs and relationships that have been created with many community members this past year. As we move into 2021, we envision stronger community partnerships with old and new community members and a steadfast commitment to excellence.

The calendar year 2020 demonstrated its members' ability to adapt to the ever-changing environment within the police profession while still providing programs and services necessary for the operation of an efficient police department. The agency changed the personnel's scheduling to address the community's needs and provide a more efficient response to service calls. However, the agency did not get to feel the effect of the new schedule due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency was forced to limit the personnel working to reduce exposure, which was influential in the first half. The second half provides more difficult times since many officers were isolated due to exposure to COVID-19. The agency was able to move along and provide the service the community expects. We were able to start our Faith base meetings to provide transparency between the agency and the community. The agency has even begun a Chaplain Program, which should take better formation in 2021 with three volunteers as the agency's Chaplains. We hope to build more community-based programs to reach our community while providing additional training for our officers to deal with the changing times. Our focus will still be on preventing crime and building a safe culture for all that reside, work, and visit Bridgewater Township.

The Police Department promoted its seventh Chief of Police, Paul Payne. Sean O'Neill and John Mitzak were both promoted to Captain. The agency will continue to plan for more retirements in 2021 and hire additional officers to fill those vacancies.

In February of 2020, Ofc. Kyle Ball was hired by the agency and completed his training in August of 2020 from the Mercer County Police Academy. In August of 2020, Noah Allat, Joseph Duffy, and Adam Giurlando were sworn in as new Officers. They start the Mercer County Police Academy in September and are anticipated to graduate in February of 2021.

My staff and I look forward to the continued cooperation from the Township Administration and Town Council throughout the 2021 calendar year.

The Bridgewater Township Police Department will continue to maintain our established maxim "Dedicated to Service, Committed to Community." Our Mission Statement, along with our Core Values, serves as a standard of expectations that we demand and expect from each Officer.

Mission Statement

"The men and woman of the Bridgewater Township Police Department are committed to providing effective police service to all persons within our jurisdiction. We endeavor to reduce crime along with the fear of it, through cooperative interaction with the community. We strive to enhance the quality of life for all members of the community."

Core Values

Service: Providing service and resources that are responsive to the needs of every citizen in our community.

Integrity: We adhere to the honest, fair and ethical treatment of the people with whom we interact, while promoting justice and fulfilling our duty to uphold the law.

Compassion: We exercise empathy and provide aid to all persons who require our assistance.

Pride: We possess pride in our profession, holding ourselves to higher principles and standards in the performance of our duties and personal conduct.

Respect: We respect the rights and beliefs of others and have an appreciation for the diversity of our community.

2020 Goals Met

Establish a Pitman Schedule – The Administrative Staff of the Bridgewater Police Department has evaluated the current staffing levels and determined a need to increase our workforce. However, this was accomplished at the beginning of 2020, the agency had 79 sworn officers, and the agency is currently at 75 sworn officers. The agency has not been able to feel the full effect of this schedule; however, it helped cover and deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community Policing Unit – Due to retirements and the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully we will be able to accomplish this goal in the near future. We could not assign personnel to a Community Policing Unit.

Implement the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) - this system will replace the Uniform Crime Reporting System. (UCR) We are still in the planning phase with QED and the New Jersey State Police. We anticipate a mid-2021 implementation.

2021 Goals

Chaplain Program- The agency has started to meet with faith-based leaders within the township and will be working with this group to create a Chaplain Program. This program will build a better relationship with the staff in the agency and the community. Chaplains will interact with our officers and provide insight between the agency and the community we serve.

Use of Force Training- The agency is working with Street Smarts VR to provide hundreds of virtual reality training scenarios that will provide our officers with a real-life training program. The training session is recorded, which allows for a playback critique session with the officers from multiple angles and in-depth reference points. Street Smarts VR system will also allow us to provide our community to see into the world of law enforcement. By enabling community members to participate in the VR, training would put the public in the officer's situation. Hopefully, this would widen the dialectic between the community and the police in community relations, especially about the proper applying use of force intense situations.

Body Cameras- The agency is equipped with 80 BMS BX2 body cameras. The agency started testing these body cameras at the end of 2020. The testing phase uncovered some issues that we have been working with the manufacture to correct. Full implementation of all body cameras to uniform officers will start in February of 2021.

Evidence Custody System- The agency currently utilizes Queues Enforth Development or QED for evidence custody. The system has not worked to its expectations, so the agency will be moving to "The Beast" evidence system to track all evidence recovered or disposed of by the agency. The system is widely used in many law enforcement agencies within New Jersey and the New Jersey State Police. This program will be implemented by early to mid-2021.

BarCloud Asset Software- The agency will implement the BarCloud Asset Software to help the agency manage its equipment and provide management with up to date reports of the location of all equipment used by the personnel. It will give the agency more accountability to the township and the taxpayers. This program will be implemented by mid-2021.

Promotions- The agency will implement a new promotion process by incorporating the New Jersey Chiefs of Police Association written test and other factors for promotion to Sergeant and above.

Vision Statement

To maintain our position as recognized leaders in our community, both on and off duty, working together as a progressive, professional and interactive agency.

To be an organization that promotes the professional development of its members.

To be an organization that continues to anticipate and influence change.

To be recognized for excellence in service to our citizens.

To be the leading resource for community safety, education and information.

To provide our personnel with the necessary equipment for their safe and effective job performance. My goal and vision for the police department are to deliver unsurpassed police services to the township residents and maintain our status as one of the State's top law enforcement agencies.

Chief Paul Payne

Roster

Chief Paul Payne

Captain Sean O'Neill- Operations

Captain John Mitzak- Administration

Lieutenants

Lt. Kevin Tenant

Lt. Chris Fischer

Lt. Jeff Savare

Lt. Brian Blath

Lt. Kevin Lamey

Lt. Thomas Rice

Sergeants

Sgt. Al Mele Sgt. Joseph Dolinski Sgt. Todd Mele Sgt. James Edwards

Sgt. John Cooper Sgt. Dan Hennessey Sgt. Doug Thorsen Sgt. Kurt Bernhard

Sgt. Fred Brittain (TSB) Det. Sgt. Peter Ochs (CIB)

Officers:

M Sommers	R. Pelley	J. Doesburgh	J Bezak	J.M. Dailey
R. Cerro	S. Zeichner	B Schubert	T. Kochanski	P. Knapp
M. Ziarnowski	S. Black	M. Foster	A. Alosi	C. Rini
A. Digriziano	K. Florcza	A. Alosi	A. Mendoza	V. Stetsko
S. Woodruff	B. Eitner	P. Forgione	J. Conroy	R. Veneman
P. Kaczynski	T. Barnett	S. Rini	C. Taggart	D. Giraldo
A. Milito	F. Flores	C. Outerbridge	K. Grimm	T. Weiss
M. Hoelzel	K. Geisel	M. Thiel	C. Silverman	B. Hruska
J. McDonough	M. Maccia	N. Grasso	K. Ball	
A. Giurlando (Recruit)		J. Duffy (Recruit)	N. Allatt (Recruit)	

Detectives: C. Delaney M. Coletta B. Sujansky (IDO) R. Dunlop
R. Reilly C. Bowers M. Leight

Youth Services: J. Han G. VanDoren

Class III Officers: M. Christensen P. Ayala

Traffic Safety Bureau: J. Kennedy J. Greco

Confidential Assistant: Cathy Hamilton

Records Bureau: Stela Bogdan Janice Mathewson Victor Palumbo Sr.

Police Support Services: Danielle Tufaro Richard Larsen

Licensing Bureau: Robert Hanlon

Information Technology: William Nuse

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PART I

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUREAUS

Patrol

The Patrol Division (Operations) is the cornerstone of Police work and makes up the largest portion of the Police Department, which serves approximately 45,000 primary residents and approximately 250,000 daily citizens. The primary duties of the Patrol Division is to protect human life, maintain order, enforce criminal law as well as motor vehicle law, investigate motor vehicle collisions, provide emergency medical services and promote community relations. Patrol Officers impartially gather facts, prepare reports, and provide testimony in civil, municipal, and superior courts. Patrol Officers respond to and investigate a wide variety of calls for service, including, but are not limited to the following; domestic violence incidents, robbery, burglary, larceny, assaults, sexual assaults, homicide, missing persons (adult/juvenile). During the calendar year of 2020, the Patrol Division responded to 48,193 calls for service.

The Patrol Division is comprised of forty-seven Patrol Officers, which is the same level as 2020. However, six of these officers were not available for patrol function; three officers are not on full duty for medical and administrative reasons and another three are assigned to the Mercer County Police Academy. This leaves forty-one officers available for patrol, which is down seven from 2019. The Patrol Officers are assigned to six squads with eight Sergeants supervising these squads. Four Lieutenants act as Watch Commanders and oversee the Sergeants and Patrol Officers. There is one Captain who is the Operations Division Commander. The Captain oversees the day to day operations of Patrol. In 2021, the division will be condensed to four patrol squads to address the current staffing issues.

Each year, our Patrol Officers have received advanced training in Crash Investigations, Rifle Operations, and Emergency Medicine as EMT's. Several Patrol Officers are active members of the Somerset County Emergency Response Team (S.C.E.R.T.) responsible for SWAT, Hostage Recovery (HRT), and Dive Rescue Team. Also, several of our Officers have collateral duties with other Somerset County teams, such as Arson Investigation and the Collision Analysis Response Team (C.A.R.T.). The advanced training and experience that our Patrol Officers bring to their daily duties allow them to be in a state of readiness to take control of the most complex incidents to ensure a successful outcome for our residents.

Because of the COVID pandemic, some goals that were set for 2020 were not met. However, once the pandemic subsides we look to continue towards those 2020 goals in 2021 by expanding community policing into other neighborhoods, training more officer as DREs in light of the legalization of Marijuana, continue to send officers to in-service training, expand on social media, and continue to adjust the Pitman Schedule to meet the needs of the department. It should be noted that meeting these goals will hinge on the state of the current pandemic and available manpower. Besides, by year's end, the department will have a fully implemented Body Worn Camera program

Goals for 2021 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Continue our efforts to be more involved with the community using Community policing efforts in other neighborhoods within the township.
- Train additional Patrol Officers as Drug Recognition Experts (DREs).

- Continue to provide advanced training to all officers within the agency, so that they can excel in their profession.
- Continue to provide advanced leadership training to all supervisors within the agency, so that they can excel in their position.
- Increase our Social Media presence so that information is transmitted promptly to our community.
- Continue to adjust the Pitman Schedule to meet the agency's manpower needs.
- Fully implement the Body Worm Camera(BWC) program.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU

The Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) consists of a Lieutenant (Thomas Rice), Detective Sergeant (Peter Ochs), six detectives (Robert Reilly, Russell Dunlop, Louis Bowers, Michael Coletta, Michael Leight and Jon Han) and an identification officer (Brian Sujansky). In 2019 we had two identification officers, but due to manpower issues, Officer Melinda Foster was transferred back to the patrol division.

The identification officer is our primary evidence custodian, overseeing approximately twelve thousand nine hundred and thirty one (12,931) pieces of evidence. The identification officer's primary function is to identify, preserve, gather, and evaluate evidence collected at crime scenes. After the evidence has been collected and evaluated, the identification officer then catalogs the evidence into our evidence vault. The identification officer's secondary duties include transferring evidence to the NJ State Police Lab or the SCPO Forensic Lab for analysis. In 2020, approximately three thousand seven hundred and two (3,702) pieces of evidence were logged into and out of our evidence vault. There were fifty eight (58) motor vehicle burglaries and twenty six (26) burglaries to structures within the Township, with the vast majority requiring identification work.

Detectives within CIB have a number of responsibilities as well. CIB personnel investigate adult and juvenile related crimes, conduct surveillances as well as undercover operations, identify, locate and arrest criminals including fugitives, obtain and execute search / arrest warrants, conduct background investigations on potential Police Officers and screen criminal complaints with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, just to name a few. In addition, Detectives also process crime scenes, assist the identification officer and also assist patrol officers whenever needed.

Each detective has their own collateral responsibilities as well, to include, but are not limited to, Counter-Terrorism, Megan's Law, Bias Crimes, Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Investigations and Burglary Task Force.

Our counter-terrorism detective collects and shares information on suspicious activity related to bomb threats, threats to religious facilities, businesses, or schools, unattended parcels, storage facilities, and chemical facilities with our Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) liaison to the New Jersey Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), The New Jersey State Police Regional Operation Center (ROC) and the Office of Homeland Security. Our Megan's Law detective is charged with overseeing new and current sex offenders that reside or work within our township, as well as making periodic notifications when required depending on the tier classification. There are currently twenty-two (22) registered sex offenders (Megan's Law) living within the Township. Nineteen (19) of these offenders must re-register with the police department once a year, while three (3) must check in every three months. Our bias crimes detective is tasked with reviewing all reports of crimes committed based on the victim's creed, ethnicity, race, religion or

sexual orientation and then submitting those reports to our SCPO liaison. The ABC detective is responsible for determining whether our applicants for liquor licenses have disclosed the sources of all funds used to purchase the license, the financing associated with any corporate held licenses, background investigations on the establishment's employees, and compliance with our township ordinance(s). In 2020, none (0) of the Township's forty (40) liquor licenses were transferred, requiring full investigations on all parties involved. There are six (6) licenses in an inactive state, due to a business closing and zero (0) license are being held pending sale and transfer. The Burglary Task Force Detective is responsible with sharing information about burglaries to residences and businesses with several other jurisdictions. By sharing this information the Task Force can develop leads based on trends or evidence from other jurisdictions. The detective plans and attends meetings and has a large network of detectives sharing information to develop suspects and potential target areas.

Goals for 2021-

- Increase undercover operations (including weekends) for high crime areas, motels, hotels and shopping centers.
- Utilize CIB staff to train entire Department on the use of CIB equipment and logging evidence.
- Deploy more monitoring equipment in the field to assist with burglary investigations.
- Transfer all items of evidence from QED to the BEAST system.

The following are some of the high profile cases that CIB has investigated during 2020:

January- Detectives and Identification Officers responded to a series of three residential burglaries in the span of four days. Information gathered from those burglaries was used to develop a suspected crew. The crew is out of Bridgewater and all of Columbian decent. A task force was set up to share information with the NJ State Police, multiple Prosecutor's Offices and local police departments. Through the collective efforts by all involved, members from the crew were arrested in North New Jersey. We were unable to tie the crew to any of the burglaries in Bridgewater. The crew is still active and all investigations are ongoing.

February- On 02/01/20, Nigel Hill (DOB: 12/11/97), 138 West High Street Bound Brook, NJ started a crime wave of burglary and theft during the early morning hours. Hill burglarized 4 vehicles on 02/01/20 and stole one of those vehicles utilizing the key that the owner left in the car. On 02/01/20 between 1100 and 1715 hours, Hill burglarized 10 Shady Lane, proceeds were jewelry. On 02/02/20 a burglary was interrupted by one of the residents of 509 Mercer Street and Hill fled with proceeds. On 02/04/20 an attempted burglary was reported at 455 Washington Avenue, where the homeowner was sitting in her kitchen with her young daughter, when Hill appeared at her back sliding glass door. Hill asked "Is Kristen home?" The homeowner's name is Kristen, but she advised she did not know the suspect. Hill then walked away. Responding officers observed Hill driving away from the scene and attempted to stop him. Hill fled at a high

rate of speed ignoring the officer's attempt to stop him. On 02/05/20, Hill got into another pursuit with the Franklin Township Police Department. On 02/17/20 Bridgewater Detectives along with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Somerset County Sheriff's Department, Franklin Police, Green Brook Police, Bound Brook Police and the United States Marshall's went to 5 separate addresses in Green Brook and Bound Brook looking for Hill. He was not located. Hill was ultimately located by the US Marshalls in Pennsylvanian at his mother's house. Hill was charged with 2 counts of Burglary 3rd degree, two counts of Criminal Mischief 4th degree, Theft 3rd degree, and Eluding 2nd degree.

March- On 03/12/20 0544 hours, the Bridgewater Police Department was notified by the Summit Police Department that they recovered a vehicle that belonged to a Bridgewater resident (658 East Main Street), they believed to be stolen. Officers responded to the victim's residence and confirmed the theft. The victim also reported another one of her vehicles was entered and items were missing. In all, eight additional victims, 22 Riha Street, 29 Riha Street, 28 Field Street, 15 Ramsey Street, 17 Ramsey Street, 9 Field Street and 761 East Main Street reported that their unlocked vehicles were entered and had items taken. Detectives responded to Summit PD and interviewed two suspects, Shaquille Crawford DOB 01/07/96 146 Bedford Street East Orange NJ and Izaiah Robinson DOB 05/16/9941 MT Prospect Avenue Newark, NJ. Crawford confessed that he and Robinson traveled to Bridgewater to break into vehicles, but said they split up when they arrived in Bridgewater. Crawford admitted to going into unlocked vehicles and taking loose change and to taking a pickup truck from an unknown victim. He added Robinson took our victim's Toyota Highlander that was recovered in Summit after crashing.

Crawford was charged with, Theft 3rd degree, Burglary 3rd degree, and Theft DP. Robinson was not charged due to lack of evidence.

April- On 04/17/20 at 2334 hours, Detective's investigated a report of a stabbing at 204 West End Avenue. The victim and suspect live with each other. Both parties were heavily intoxicated and became involved in a dispute. During the dispute the suspect brandished a utility knife and cut the victim in the neck. The victim was transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital where he received 12 staples to close his wound. The defendant was charged with simple assault. The suspect's name cannot be given due to this case being expunged.

May- Detectives were able to identify suspects in the theft of wallets from several lockers in Life Time Fitness. The possible suspect is involved in a Romanian Transnational Organized Crime ring that has been hitting fitness locations throughout the entire east coast. No criminal charges were sought or authorized during this incident because there was not enough evidence to prove

their involvement in this case. However, information has been passed throughout several different police agencies regarding this identification and the organized crime group. Viorel Neamtu (DOB 6-21-80). Neamtu is wanted out of Pennsylvania, Iowa, Illinois, and Connecticut. He is a known member of a Romanian Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Group that is responsible for several thefts from gyms with the same method of operation. A woman in the security video from the Apple Store is Laleau Radu, who is also part of the Romanian Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) Group.

June-On 06/20/20 at 2353 hours, A 32 year old West Orange man was shot and killed on Foothill Road after being invited to a house party at 475 Bayberry Road. Hafeez Brown (33 years old) of Linden, NJ was arrested for 1st degree murder as a result of the investigation. George Bease of 475 Bayberry Road was also arrested as a result of this investigation. He was charged with being in possession of a firearm while in possession of CDS (Controlled Dangerous Substance).

July- On 07/13/20 at 2231 hours, Frank Bartholomew (34 year old male) from Philadelphia, PA was working on the roof of 5 Van Veghten Drive when he fell through the roof and struck the floor below. He succumbed to his injuries as a result of the fall. No suspicious or criminal activity contributed to the fall. OSHA was contacted and conducted their own investigation.

August- On 08/08/20 at 0818 hours, Claudio Vasquez-Torres of Somerset NJ was arrested after stabbing the victim (fellow coworker) in the head with a folding knife during an argument at work. The victim sustained several lacerations to his head and needed stitches for the wounds. Vasquez-Torres was charged with aggravated assault and was released.

September- On 09-18/20 at 0229 hours, two black males approached a gas station attendant at the Valero Gas Station located at 1068 Route 22 East. The suspects physically struggled with the attendant after demanding cash. The attendant's cell phone and approximately \$900 in cash were stolen. The actors left in two separate vehicles and fled east on Route 22. One of the vehicles crashed and was left abandoned further down Route 22. The other vehicle was pursued into Newark by Green Brook Police. The pursuit was terminated. The vehicle that was pursued was later found abandoned in Newark. Identification work of the vehicle revealed there was a spent 9 mm shell casing in the back seat. Both vehicles were stolen (Long Branch and Raritan) before the robbery and subsequently used by the actors during the robbery.

October- On 10/22/20 Thomas Moskal (55) of Middlesex, NJ was reported missing and suicidal by his wife. Moskal called 911 to leave a final message for his family. Somerset County

Dispatch pinged his phone to Washington Valley Reservoir. After a search of the area, officers located Moskal. He was located and aid was rendered to him, but he succumbed to a self-inflicted gunshot wound while at the Washington Valley Reservoir. Various agencies assisted in this investigation due to the location inside the reservoir and lifesaving efforts.

November- On 11/18/20 An Asian family had their residence burglarized sometime during a five day period. The actor/s removed approximately \$20,000 in cash and jewelry from the residence. This information was shared with a network of Detectives who primarily focus on burglaries. It is believed to be a known crew of Columbians who live in town. This case is ongoing and a task force will be set up in January 2021 to continue the investigation.

December- On 12/11/20 the UPS warehouse reported that they had several thefts during November and December. An investigation led to the arrest of Tyler Mixson (21) of North Plainfield, Amir McClinton (18) of Piscataway, and Kamilhard Muhammad-Callaway (23) of Bridgewater, NJ. All three worked on the sorting line and took items prior to loading the trucks for delivery. They were charged with theft and conspiracy. Several pieces of merchandise were also recovered.

Youth Services Bureau

The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) consists of two (2) officers; Jonathan Han and Garret Van Doren who report directly to the Detective Sergeant in charge of the Criminal Investigations Bureau. These officers are commonly referred to as School Resource Officers (SRO). The Youth Services' main objective is to ensure a safe learning environment for both students and teachers. Secondary responsibilities are to interact with students, school administrators, school staff, conduct investigations, educate through presentations and address problems as they occur. Youth Service Officers conduct criminal investigations involving juveniles, as well as investigating missing/runaway juveniles. They also conduct background investigations and assist members of the Criminal Investigations Bureau and the Patrol Division when school is not in session.

This has been a very unique and ever-changing school year for the Bridgewater-Raritan School District. During March of this year, the school district made the decision to close all of the schools and implemented a distance learning plan due to safety concerns regarding the Coronavirus. During that time, Officer Van Doren and Han conducted a complete inventory of the Criminal Investigations Bureau equipment. Officer Han also incorporated a new methodology in statistics logging for the CIB and YSB. Shortly after it was determined that schools would be closed for the remainder of the academic school year, Officer Van Doren was assigned to the Patrol Division. During that time, Officer Han remained in the Youth Services Bureau and facilitated the high school with their cumbersome adjustments. Officer Han was instrumental in the graduation procedures for the Senior Class of 2020. Officer Han in conjunction with the high school administration, coordinated bus routes to deliver a diploma to each graduating senior at their residence. In addition to diploma deliveries, the graduating seniors were also afforded the option to a graduation at TD Bank Ball Park. Officer Han in collaboration with the high school administration planned the graduation ceremony for seniors who wished to participate. The careful planning divided the graduation into two separate sessions and adhered to all of the CDC guidelines and restrictions.

In October of this year, the school district opened their schools back up for in person learning. At that time, Officer Van Doren was re-assigned to the Youth Services Bureau. Since the start of in person learning, Officer Han and Van Doren assisted with the high school administration in making sure that all students and faculty were safe and following new school protocols. As the new model of online learning progressed, officers were often requested to assist in welfare checks of students who acquired several absences.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) continues their emphasis on juvenile offenders being offered the opportunity to participate in the Station House Adjustment Program. This program enables Youth Services to assign juveniles to community services in lieu of filing a formal complaint for certain offenses and non-violent crimes. The community based agency,

Middle Earth, located on North Bridge Street in Bridgewater, oversees the community service program. This program is offered to juveniles who reside in Somerset County. There have been twenty-eight (28) juveniles enrolled in the Station House Adjustment Program during 2020.

The Youth Services Officers have additional responsibilities as liaisons to the Bridgewater-Raritan Youth Services Commission, The Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and the Somerset County Juvenile Officers Association.

Youth Services Goals for 2021:

- Provide online contact options for students who are strictly remote learners through department website and or email.
- Understand more about the Somerset County programs available for juveniles going through a crisis.
- Advance the existing curriculum on the internet and social media to inform students and staff on issues that are relevant to current times.
- Attend more training specifically on school safety, current drug trends, technology and the internet, driver's education and community outreach.
- Maintain a close working relationship with the school administration and staff.
- Establish new security protocols due to the recent decline in school security staff members.

Traffic Safety Bureau

During the year of 2020, the Bridgewater Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau provided traffic safety services to township residents, businesses and all who traveled the roads in Bridgewater Township. The primary function of the Traffic Safety Bureau was and continues to be the investigation of serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes, along with the enforcement of traffic laws within the township. The Traffic Safety Bureau is responsible for: traffic safety presentations, hazardous busing, school crossing guards, traffic surveys, crash data collection, tow wrecker management, junk titles and training.

The Traffic Safety Bureau was comprised of the following personnel during 2020:

Sergeant Frederick Brittain
Officer John Kennedy
Officer Joseph Greco
Vacant
Vacant

The Traffic Safety Bureau investigated 4 fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2020.

1. March 24th - Pedestrian was struck by a tractor trailer and a second vehicle, while crossing the street at the intersection of Route 28 (Union Ave) and County Road 633 (Finderne Ave). The driver of the truck was determined at fault for failure to yield/stop for a pedestrian in a crosswalk.
2. May 18th - A single vehicle crash into a tree with entrapment on Garretson Road. The vehicle subsequently burst into flames upon impact with the tree. Speed was the primary contributing factor of this crash.
3. August 18th - An occupant of a vehicle exited the vehicle (unknown reason) while the vehicle was moving backwards in the driveway 7 Glen Eagles Drive. The subject was subsequently struck by the vehicle and sustained fatal injuries. The primary contributing factor of this crash was determined to be operator error, specifically, failing to place the vehicle into park prior to turning off the engine.
4. September 8th - The owner parked the vehicle on a down grade in the parking lot of 9E Easy Street. Upon exiting the vehicle the owner was subsequently struck while standing behind the vehicle. The primary contributing factor in this crash was determined to be operator error, specifically, failing to properly place the vehicle into park.

The Traffic Safety Bureau investigated 212 motor vehicle crashes in 2020 and issued 336 motor vehicle summonses. The Traffic Safety Bureau made 5 arrests and served 5 warrants. Additionally, the Traffic Safety Bureau conducted 194 directed patrols targeting roadways with various traffic issues and citizen complaints.

During 2020, Sergeant Brittain, Officer Kennedy, and Officer Greco continued their education primarily through virtual training (COVID-19). They also served on the Somerset County Collision and Reconstruction Team where they assisted in the investigations of serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes throughout Somerset County. Officer Kennedy remained a certified Drug Recognition Expert and assisted investigations within Bridgewater and surrounding jurisdictions by conducting evaluations of suspected impaired drivers due to the use of narcotics.

Officer Kennedy is also a certified Child Seat Technician. Township residents and individuals who work in Bridgewater can contact the police department and schedule an appointment with him to have their child seat inspected to ensure the seat is properly installed. In 2020, Officer Kennedy inspected 26 car seats at our headquarters. Officer Greco was scheduled to receive the training necessary to become a Child Seat Technician; however, due to COVID-19 this training was canceled for the remainder of 2020.

During 2020, utility and roadway improvement projects occurred throughout Bridgewater Township. Bureau personnel regularly attended construction meetings and consulted with the Bridgewater Engineering Department to ensure safe work zones and properly installed detour routes.

2020 Goals for the Bridgewater Traffic Safety Bureau were as follows:

1. Continue to address speeding complaints utilizing our radar recorders, radar signs, targeted enforcement and directed patrol.
2. Continue to utilize social media to keep citizens apprised of road closures, detours and upcoming events that will affect traffic in Bridgewater.
3. Increase awareness and enforcement of vehicles passing stopped school buses.
4. Continue efforts to increase DWI enforcement.

The Traffic Safety Bureau met most of the goals set in the 2019 Annual Report. Speeding complaints will always be an issue in a town the size of Bridgewater. We continue to address these complaints by first conducting a speed survey utilizing one of our radar recorders or speed signs to determine whether the complaint is valid or simply a perception problem. If a speeding issue is determined to exist on a particular road, the Traffic Safety Bureau, as in years past, will conduct targeted enforcement of said road with periodic follow up.

The Traffic Safety Bureau has continued to keep our citizens informed of road closures and detours, through the use of Nixle, social media, and the department's two message boards. The message boards have been used to advise motorists of community events and construction projects. This will continue in 2021.

The department as a whole saw DWI enforcement in 2020 decrease 59 percent, compared to 2019. This is directly correlated to COVID-19. Bars and restaurants were closed for an extended period of time and when they did re-opened, alcohol service was terminated after 10:00 PM. Furthermore, for several months of 2020 vehicular traffic was greatly reduced due to New Jersey Executive Orders closing down all nonessential business. Lastly, due to a reduction of 50 percent in the Traffic Safety Bureau's workforce the remaining two (2) officer were placed on call at a far greater extent than in years past. Officer's Kennedy and Greco conducted the vast majority of the vacant crossing guard posts within the township due to the two (2) unfilled positions. The vacancies within the Traffic Safety Bureau and the Crossing Guard Staff had a tremendous impact on their time which impacts their ability to adequately address traffic safety issues within the Township of Bridgewater.

2021 Goals for the Bridgewater Traffic Safety Bureau are as follows:

1. Increase DWI enforcement through specific patrols that will be scheduled during times of high probability.
2. Continue to address speeding complaints utilizing our radar recorders, radar signs, targeted enforcement and directed patrol.
3. Increase the utilization social media even more, to keep citizens apprised of road closures, detours and upcoming events that will affect traffic in Bridgewater.
4. Continue our increased awareness and enforcement of vehicles passing stopped school buses.
5. Obtain Child Seat Technician training for Officer Greco and other officers interested in furthering their career within the Traffic Safety Bureau.
6. Fill the two (2) vacant positions and bring the total number of officers in the unit to four (4).
7. Hire two (2) additional crossing guards or sub-contract the work to an outside vendor.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT BUREAU

The Technical Support Bureau (TSB) is responsible for the planning, procurement, installation, and maintenance of the department's information technology (IT) resources. The department's IT infrastructure is currently composed of:

- Law Enforcement Records Management (LERMS) – Queues Enforth Development, Inc. (QED)
- QED Mobile Client – Queues Enforth Development, Inc. (QED)
- New Jersey State National Crime Information Center 2000 interface
- Windows Server 2016 – Microsoft
- Windows Exchange Server 2007 – Microsoft
- Worry-Free Business Security Antivirus – Trend Micro
- Watchguard Firewall – Watchguard
- Windows 7, 8.1 and 10 Professional – Microsoft
- Definity Telephone System and Voicemail - Avaya
- Digital Voice Logger – Eventide
- MobileVision L3 and Data911 in-car Mobile Video Recorders (MVRs)
- Five Servers (Linux and Microsoft operating systems).
- Over 55 desktop/laptop pc clients (MS Windows OS).
- Over 25 in-car Mobile Data Terminals (MS Windows OS, QED Mobile client)

The QED LERMS system is the repository of computerized data related to the daily functions of the department. LERMS contains digital records of all department enforcement and investigative activities and digital images of all original police reports. This information is supplied to clients as requested, used for crime analysis, development of monthly Uniform Crime Report (UCR) as required by State and Federal regulations, and Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests.

Implementation of generation 2 of the body-worn cameras is progressing. The BX2 cameras are on site. The finalization of software testing should be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

Our transition to a virtual server environment is complete. We are currently awaiting the completion of our email server upgrade. Migration to the newest version of Microsoft Exchange server is being completed by an outside consultant and is slated to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

A dedicated server was installed to redact Body-Worn Camera videos as required by the NJ Attorney General's guidelines. The software was purchased at the end of 2020 and is scheduled for installation in the first quarter of 2021.

Digital asset tracking and inventory control software and hardware was purchased. This system will allow for the streamlined check-in/checkout of agency property. It will also

eliminate the accumulation of paper sign-out logs as well as making data retrieval fast and easy.

2021 Goals

- Complete the implementation of generation 2 body-worn cameras
- Train personnel on the proper use and functions of these new items.
- Assess the technology equipment needs of the department moving forward.
- Implement digital asset tracking and inventory control
- Assess network infrastructure needs/upgrades
- Plan for the upgrade of site security/surveillance/access control

Records Bureau

The Records Bureau is responsible for processing and filing police reports, processing Firearms and Solicitors Permit Applications, distributing police reports to the appropriate requesting agencies and the public, and preparing case files. The Records Bureau is also responsible for maintaining archives and entering data into the computer system.

As of **December 31, 2020**, the Records Bureau processed the following:

Case Files	2537
Discovery Requests	1172
OPRA Requests	257
Background Checks	705
Insurance Requests	235
Firearms Applications	2708
Solicitors/Peddlers Permits	23
Total Fees Collected	\$30,068.65

During 2020, the Records Bureau experienced lower numbers in all areas, with the notable exception of Firearms Permits. These lower numbers can be attributed to the lower number of calls for service which can be directly related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Likewise the total fees collected is lower because people working from and staying home more often lowered the number of false alarm violations in the township.

Firearms Permits are being received and processed at unprecedently high numbers. Requests for Firearms Applications increase markedly 979 in 2019 to 2708 in 2020. The increase began in March to coincide with the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and continued to rise further with the national election and civil unrest experienced in the country. This nearly threefold increase has forced us to divert additional Records Bureau resources to assist the Licensing Coordinator with processing and distribution of permits. Solicitor/Peddlar Permits decreased from 86 in 2019 to 23 in 2020. This can also be attributed to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Open Public Records Act (OPRA) applications are received by the Township Clerk and forwarded to the Records Bureau. Requests can be extensive and require from one to hundreds of separate reports. OPRA requests increased eventhough calls for service and reports were significantly lower. We received 220 OPRA requests in 2019 and 257 in 2020. This is a trend we can expect to continue.

Background checks and Insurance requests were also down compared to 2019, again, due to lower calls for service and widespread hiring freezes. Background checks include Letters of Good Conduct, DCPP requests and requests from other law enforcement agencies about

employee applications. Insurance requests include insurance agency requests for accident reports and requests from law firms. These requests can be time consuming to prepare.

In 2020 the Records Bureau had a staff of seven civilian personnel. The staff was comprised of: one Senior Records Clerk, two full-time Records Clerks, one Criminal Investigative Clerk, one Account Clerk, a Licensing Coordinator, and an IT Coordinator. Additionally, the Account Clerk is responsible for the accreditation process for the Bridgewater Police Department.

The Records Bureau has handled court discovery duties since 2010. This responsibility includes processing all Bridgewater Police Department and NJ State Police discovery requests as well as assisting the Bridgewater Municipal Court Prosecutor with court duties on all scheduled court days. In 2020 there was a significant decrease in discovery requests processed. They decreased from 1,627 in 2019 to 1,172 in 2020. This is due to decreased calls for service as well as the court being closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

LICENSING BUREAU

State statute and local ordinance charge the police department with the responsibility of issuance of certain licenses and permits. That function is handled by the Licensing Bureau. Bureau personnel help a license applicant through the required pre-issuance process. The Bureau then performs an investigation and gathers necessary documentation. This is assembled into a report which is submitted to the Chief of Police who makes the final decision regarding the granting of the permit or license.

This year was the first full year of using the “FARS” Firearms Application & Registration System, which was implemented in early 2019. This removes paper application and advances the application process to a web based process.

The year of 2020 showed a large increase in applications, this was due to it being a Presidential Election year, the Covid outbreak and the civil unrest going on across the nation. With additional personnel assigned to assist in some of the processes, in data entry and records checks of application process the bureau was able to keep applications being processed in reasonable amount of time.

2020 showed 440 percent increase in firearms applications submitted to the department.

2020 showed 315 percent increase in firearms applications completed by the department.

2020 number:

1179 Applications Filed
735 Applications Approved
5 Applications Denied
439 Application carried over into 2021 to be processed.

2020 Showed a decrease in solicitor and peddler permits.

Total of 23 Permits issued for the year.

The New Year 2021 will bring the full changeover of Permits to Purchase a Handgun to an electronic based permit (no paper), which should reduce some processing time.

The continuing need for the additional personnel will be determined by the volume of applications being submitted to the department.

TRAINING

Lieutenants Tennant and Lamey are assigned to the Professional Development Bureau and serve as the Department's Training Coordinators. Their responsibilities include identifying training needs, coordinating training schedules, and ensuring annual mandatory training and certifications are completed in accordance with the guidelines of the NJ Attorney General's Office and the NJ Police Training Commission. Training a police officer is divided into four phases. Those phases are Basic Police Recruit Training, Performance Objective Standardized Training (POST), Field Training, and In-Service Training. A review of each phase in 2020 is listed below.

Basic Police Recruit Training

In 2020, our department conducted another entrance exam for the position of police officer. Our department contracted with PoliceApp.com to manage the initial application process. The application process had begun in December of 2019. The physical portion of the exam took place in February, and the written portion of the exam took place in March. The 2020 applicant testing process was completed with the assistance of the New Jersey Chiefs of Police and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office.

In 2020, one officer was hired in January who had been part of the 2018 applicant testing process. He attended the Mercer County Police Academy and graduated in August. In addition, the agency hired three additional police officers from the 2020 applicant testing process. These officers were hired in September and are currently attending the Mercer County Police Academy. These officers are scheduled to graduate from the academy in February of 2021, at which time they will begin the Field Training Program. Two additional applicants from the 2020 applicant testing process are currently in the background investigation stage, and one other is scheduled to be hired in January of 2021.

POST Training

Performance Objective Standardized Training (POST) is State mandated training given to each new police officer prior to his/her assignment to a Field Training Officer. POST training is commonly referred to as "agency training," wherein the new police officer learns about his/her agency and the agency's day-to-day operations, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures. This training must be completed within the department to satisfy the requirements set forth by the New Jersey Police Training Commission for certification as a police officer. In 2020, four officers completed POST with the Training unit.

Field Training Program

Upon graduation from an accredited Police Academy, each probationary police officer enters the Probationary Police Officer's Field Training Program. The program provides the officer with orientation and guidance from skilled, experienced, and trained police officers who are chosen and assigned as Field Training Officers (FTO). The probationary police officer will be evaluated daily by the FTO and weekly by the Squad Supervisor.

Reports are utilized to document, address, and correct specific deficiencies noted during the probationary period. Before completing his/her probationary period, the officer must pass a comprehensive written and practical test based on knowledge in areas of department rules and regulations, policy and procedure, New Jersey criminal and motor vehicle law, township ordinances, patrol areas, business locations, and overall patrol practices. Upon successfully completing the program, the officer will be recommended for permanent status with the police department, which is granted by the Chief of Police.

In-Service Training

In 2020, in-service training was much more different than in past years due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Most of the training was done virtually over platforms such as Zoom. Our Department personnel were still able to attend approximately 40 mandatory certification, re-certification, and in-service courses. Our department provides mandated annual training to all of its members as prescribed by the State Attorney General's Office. The police department continued its proactive approach by assigning training in incident command systems, terrorism awareness, safe schools, and school violence preparedness. Certifications were maintained/obtained in the following areas; Mandatory Agency Training (MATS), Community-Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations Training (CLEAR), Alcotest 7110 MK IIIC, C.P.R. / A.E.D. Instructor Re-certification, Field Force Operations, and Radar Operation. The training was offered by federal, state, county, and local agencies as well as given in-house by officers trained as instructors.

Goals

The training goals for 2020 were difficult to meet due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our department was able to complete all mandatory training as prescribed by State and County laws and guidelines. Two of our newly appointed supervisors began a Frontline Supervision Class, which was canceled. This training is in person only and will be completed once the training is able to be held. We were also able to identify Field Training Officers but unable to get our officers into the classes due to cancelations.

Goals for 2020

Complete all mandatory training as prescribed by State and County laws and guidelines.
Train additional supervisors in accordance with the department's training/internal affairs policy.

Maintain all of the training NJSCOP Accreditation Standards.

Train additional Field Training Officers to meet the agency's needs.

PART II

COLLATERAL DUTIES

Awards

During 2020, Lieutenant Christopher Fischer and Lieutenant Kevin Lamey oversaw award requests by assigning to an awards committee for approval.

Despite an unprecedeted period of time in our country, and in particular with law enforcement, the men and women of the Bridgewater Police Department did an outstanding job. We were fortunate enough to honor several officers and civilians for their performances with the following below listed awards carried out through 2020.

Medal of Valor

- Sgt. Kurt Bernhard
- Sgt. Frederick Brittain
- Off. Patrick Knapp
- Off. Anthony Digrazio
- Off. Piotr Kaczynski

CPR Save Award

- Off. Typan Barnett
- Off. Anthony Milito
- Off. Colin Outerbridge
- Off. Timothy Weiss
- Off. Scott Woodruff

Unit Citation

- Captain John Mitzak
- Lt. Kevin Lamey
- Lt. Thomas Rice
- Lt. Kevin Tennant
- Sgt. Kurt Bernhard (2 awards)
- Sgt. John Cooper
- Sgt. Joseph Dolinski
- Sgt. James Edwards
- Sgt. Douglas Thorsen
- Det./Sgt. Peter Ochs (2 awards)
- Det. Christopher Bowers
- Det. Michael Coletta
- Det. Clifford Delaney
- Det. Russell Dunlop (3 awards)

- Det. Michael Leight
- Det. Robert Reilly
- I.D.O. Melinda Foster
- I.D.O. Brian Sujansky (2 awards)
- S.R.O. Garret Van Doren
- Off. Typan Barnett
- Off. John Conroy
- Off. Brian Eitner
- Off. Kevin Geisel
- Off. David Giraldo
- Off. Kevin Grasso (2 awards)
- Off. Joseph Greco
- Off. Brittney Hruska
- Off. Piotr Kaczynski
- Off. Patrick Knapp
- Off. Michael Macchia
- Off. John McDonough
- Off. Anthony Mendoza
- Off. Christopher Rini
- Off. Steven Rini
- Off. Vincent Stetsko
- Off. Monica Thiel
- Off. Scott Woodruff
- Off. Michael Ziarnowski

Domestic Violence

Based on domestic violence response statistics derived from call history files, there were 523 domestic violence related calls for service in 2020, of which 168 were completed investigations. In 2019 there were 427 domestic violence calls for service, with 156 completed investigations, and in 2018, 302 domestic violence calls for service, with 142 completed investigations.

Domestic Violence Liaison Officers

During 2020, Lieutenant Christopher Fischer and Sergeant Todd Mele served as the department's domestic violence liaison officers. The liaison officers acted as the point of contact with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the Somerset County Family Court, Safe and Sound of Somerset (previously known as the Resource Center for Women and Their Families) and the Bridgewater Township Domestic Violence Response Team. The liaison officers attend Domestic Violence Response Team meetings; Somerset County Family Court Domestic Violence Working Group meetings and annual domestic violence law update training.

The liaison officers are also responsible for coordinating and instructing the annual state mandated training in domestic violence response to all sworn police officers. Additionally, the liaison officers frequently serve as the first contact for victims of domestic violence who call or respond to the police department for advice or assistance.

BURGLAR ALARMS

The Bridgewater Police Department responded to almost 1,900 calls involving burglar, panic, and hold up alarm activations in 2020. This number of responses is 600 fewer than in 2019 and possibly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Generally, these alarms require two officers to be dispatched to the alarm activation. These alarm activations are considered high priority, which requires an expedited response until the situation is evaluated by the initial responding officer(s).

In addition to burglar alarms, officers respond to medical alarms, vehicle alarms, and fire alarms, including water flow and carbon monoxide alarms. As per township ordinance, all burglar alarms in the township need to be registered and maintained, so retrieval of information is possible. While Somerset County Communications maintains the central QED software, all false alarm reporting and alarm registration data are inputted and maintained by the Police Department Alarms Manager. In 2020, 114 township residences and businesses were found to have not registered their burglar alarm systems. Alarm packets were sent out to all these Bridgewater properties asking for alarm registrations to be completed and returned. The rate of compliance has been 41% by the end of 2020. 143 alarm registrations were inputted into the county QED system during the year. Outdated alarm registrations continue to be found and deleted from the system, and hardcopy information is removed from the alarm registration books.

The QED software creates alarm violations during a calendar year period. Following township ordinance, at the fourth false alarm, the owner is assessed a \$50 fine. For false alarms five through nine, the owner is assessed a \$75 fine per occurrence, and for ten plus alarms, the violation fine is \$100 per occurrence. The Alarms Manager reviewed all alarm activations using the police officer and/or county dispatcher's incident notes to determine if the activated alarm fits the township ordinance definition of being a false alarm. Violation notices are sent out quarterly. Through the 3rd quarter billing cycle of 2020, paid fines amounted to \$23,825 by the end of 2020.

Alarm systems are for protecting homeowners and business owners. However, false alarms are a substantial drain on the police department and other township emergency services and need to be closely monitored.

FIREARMS TRAINING UNIT

The New Jersey Attorney General's Policy on firearms qualifications requires that all sworn law enforcement officers who are authorized to utilize firearms and Conductive energy Devices (Taser) must demonstrate their proficiency and qualify with each weapon they carry while on and off duty. These requirements pertain to handguns, shotguns, rifles and the Taser. At the end of each calendar year, the Supervising Firearms Instructor is responsible for the completion and submission of a year-end report through the Chief of Police to the Somerset County Prosecutor. The report contains information pertaining to the number of officers who were qualified, each weapon with which they qualified, a listing of how many officers did not qualify, and an explanation of the circumstances of the latter.

In 2020, the year of the global pandemic everything changed. In prior years the sworn officers of Bridgewater Township were required to qualify with their handgun and shotgun twice annually. We were also required to qualify with the assault rifle twice annually, with an additional two days designated as familiarization. On May 8th of 2020 the New Jersey Attorney General authored a directive for all law enforcement officers in the state. The directive authorized all law enforcement officers in the state to qualify once annually with the handgun and shotgun and twice annually with the assault rifle, with one of the days reserved as a familiarization day.

In 2020 the Bridgewater Township Police Department has complied with all requirements of the New Jersey Attorney General relating to handgun, shotgun, assault rifle and Taser.

In March of 2020 the Firearms Training Unit had a day scheduled for an Active Shooter exercise at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. The outline for the exercise was as realistic as possible and included building approach, building entry, formations and force on force training by utilizing Simunitions. We also had patrol level police supervisor elements built into the exercise. Unfortunately this exercise was first postponed and ultimately canceled because of the global pandemic. Depending on the status of the pandemic, the Firearms Training Unit would like to complete this exercise in 2021.

On February 23rd, 2020 several members of the Firearms Training Unit presented an Active Shooter seminar to members of the Sikh community. The seminar took place at the Garden State Sikh Association Gurudwara located at 977 Washington Valley Road. This presentation included the Department of Homeland Security's "Run, Hide, Fight" training.

Normally we would send members of the Firearms Training Unit for advanced in service classes like tactical handgun, tactical rifle, and forcible entry for patrol, but the majority of the in

service classes were canceled throughout the state this year. We were able to send one additional officer to Taser class. We now have a total of sixteen officers trained as Taser X2 users.

One of the members of the Firearms Training Unit was able to assist the Mercer County Police Academy with recruit firearms training. The Bridgewater Township Police Department currently has three recruits enrolled at the academy.

Maintenance on our patrol rifles included the replacement of three rifles. All of the rifles now include Aimpoint Micro optics and slings.

Firearms goals for 2021

- To train additional officers as users for the Taser X2
- To train additional officers as rifle operators
- To certify at least one more of our officers as a Rifle Instructor
- To conduct an Active Shooter drill
- To train additional officers as handgun instructors

The members of the Firearms Training Unit are:

Lieutenant Kevin Tennant Supervising Firearms Instructor

Lieutenant Jeff Savare

Lieutenant Brian Blath

Lieutenant Kevin Lamey

Sergeant Allen Mele

Sergeant Kurt Bernhard

Sergeant Joe Dolinski

Sergeant Fred Brittain

Sergeant John Cooper

Sergeant Doug Thorsen

Detective Michael Coletta

Officer Stephen Black

Officer Adam Alosi

Officer Vincent Stetsko

Bridgewater Police Honor Guard

The Bridgewater Police Honor Guard was officially created in 2002. The Honor Guard was established to represent the Bridgewater Police Department, its officers, and families at funerals, parades, and other ceremonial functions. The Bridgewater Police Honor Guard is designed to provide the department with a specially trained ceremonial unit, to render honor, preserve tradition, stimulate Esprit-de-corps and instill pride. It is our intention to assist all officers and their families during their time of emotional duress due to the loss or debilitating injury of their loved one. The Honor Guard accomplishes this by providing guidance and uniformity in the conduct of ceremonies and by establishing a specific sequence of events during those ceremonies. The Honor Guard consists of hard-working, dedicated officers that have given, and will continue to give, their greatest effort to ensure that the department and the township are represented with pride, dignity, and professionalism. Since the implementation of the Honor Guard Unit, it has taken part in many ceremonies and has established itself as an award winning unit.

In 2020, the Honor Guard participated in the following events (it should be noted that the number of events were down this year due to COVID-19):

- 01/29/20- Walkout Ceremony for Lt. Kelley, Lt. Packwood, and Lt. Stasiulatis
(Township Court Yard)
- 05/22/20- Memorial Day Ceremony (Township Court Yard)
- 08/08/20- Sgt. George Jones Memorial Service (Green Knoll Fire House)
- 08/28/20- Det. Delany's Walkout Ceremony (Township Court Yard)
- 09/20/20- Basilone Motorcade (Raritan Borough)
- 11/11/20- Veteran's Day Ceremony (Chimney Rock Park)
- 11/18/20- Blue Mass (St. Bernard's Church)
- 12/03/20- Sheriff's Officer Mackey's Memorial Service (Somerset County Court House)

This year's primary goal of training was not realized due to COVID-19. The Honor Guard was also unable to participate in many of the annual events and memorial services, which it has in the recent past, for the same reason. The goal of having ten (10) members was also not realized due to Officer McGarry's departure from the department; however, Officers Barnett and Milito were added as the newest members of the Honor Guard. This brings the total number of members to nine (9).

The 2020 Honor Guard consisted of the following members:

- Sergeant Frederick Brittain- Honor Guard Commander
- Detective Michael Coletta- Assistant Honor Guard Commander
- Sergeant Douglas Thorsen
- Officer Jack Kennedy
- Officer Brian Eitner
- Officer Patrick Knapp
- Officer Brian Sujansky
- Officer Typan Barnett (New Member)
- Officer Anthony Milito (New Member)

The primary goal for The Honor Guard Unit in 2021 will continue to be training. With the addition of the newest members, training will be required if they are to be active members in the unit. It is also the intent of the Honor Guard Commander to add one (1) officer to the unit bringing the total number of members to ten (10).

Internal Affairs Unit

The Bridgewater Police Department Internal Affairs Unit is responsible for the receipt, investigation, and resolution of allegations of misconduct by members of the department. The Bridgewater Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Our Officers are held to the highest standards of conduct in both their personal and professional lives. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity. An Officers' adherence to these standards is the ultimate objective of this agency.

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon public trust and acceptance of law enforcement authority. A police department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer's performance. A complaint may be made in any way (phone, written, oral, etc) and upon receipt of a complaint the incident is reviewed to determine if an investigation is warranted; if the complaint contains an allegation of misconduct, an internal investigation is initiated. An incident of misconduct or inappropriate behavior may fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Excessive Force
- Improper Arrest
- Improper Entry
- Improper Search
- Differential Treatment
- Demeanor
- Other Rule Violation
- Other Criminal Violation
- Domestic Violence

All Captains and Lieutenants who are assigned the responsibility of an internal affairs investigation act at the behest of, and are directly responsible to the Chief of Police. All internal affairs investigations are confidential. The investigator based upon his/her investigation, renders a conclusion of fact, or disposition, for each allegation. Possible dispositions include:

- Exonerated: The alleged incident did occur, but the actions of the officer were justified, legal, and proper.
- Sustained: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Not Sustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.
- Unfounded: The alleged incident did not occur.
- Administratively Closed: The complainant voluntarily withdraws the complaint, or the officer terminates employment prior to disposition of the complaint.

Upon completion of the investigation, all findings are forwarded to the Chief of Police for further action, as necessary. In 2020, a total of thirteen (13) allegations of misconduct or inappropriate behavior were reported. Of those complaints, four (4) were reported by members of the public.

During 2020, a full audit was conducted on all internal affairs files, due to the promotion of a new chief. All files were accounted for.

Also, The Somerset County Prosecutors Office established a new procedure that all Internal Affair reports starting in 2020 must be entered into their InfoShare system, which makes our files transparent to the Prosecutors Office and the Attorney Generals Office.

Municipal Court

The Bridgewater Municipal Court maintains the authority to govern violations within its statutory jurisdiction, including disorderly person's offenses, other non-indictable offenses not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Superior Court, violations of motor vehicle and traffic laws, fish and game and boating laws. The Court is granted by statute the authority to collect penalties for such violations of county and municipal ordinances and all other proceedings for which jurisdiction is granted.

The Bridgewater Municipal Court is under the direction of Presiding Judge William T. Kelleher Jr., while Katherine Howes serves as the Alternate Municipal Court Judge for Bridgewater Township Municipal Court. Judge Kelleher is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to address domestic violence issues. The Judge is also available to issue Temporary Restraining Orders in domestic violence matters whenever Superior Court is not in session. The Municipal Court Prosecutor for Bridgewater Township is John Lanza. It is the responsibility of the Prosecutor to review the State's position, determine if proper charges have been filed, all criteria has been met, and present the facts in a proper lawful manner. Britt Simon serves as the Public Defender. The Public Defender represents those who qualify for public assistance in defense of their position. Audrey Lipinski is the Court Administrator and Jacqueline Tamashiro is the Deputy Court Administrator. The remaining Municipal Court staff consists of Violations Clerks Wendy Wheatley and Susan Perry. The court uses the Language Line Telephonic Service for any language translations needed during court sessions.

The Violations Bureau is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM on business days. Court sessions are on Tuesday and Wednesday beginning at 8:30 AM and ends when all cases are completed. Video conferencing sessions are held twice a week enabling the court to arraign prisoners from the Somerset County Jail and other jails throughout the state as required. Due to COVID-19 the Bridgewater Municipal Court had its last in person court session on March 11th and resumed virtual court only on May 20th. For the remainder of 2020, the Bridgewater Municipal Court conducted a virtual only court session every Wednesday. The Violations Bureau was on a COVID-19 schedule from March 11th until May 26th during that time the Bridgewater Municipal building was closed to outside personnel. The Violations Bureau conducted operations by appointment only from May 26th until June 22nd, resuming normal operations after June 22nd.

The Bridgewater Police Department is responsible for courtroom security. The security detail requires a minimum of three officers during Tuesday sessions and four officers during Wednesday sessions. These officers monitor the metal detector, as well as the interior and exterior of the courtroom. The court officers are responsible for searching all persons entering the court, directing those attending the court to proper areas and providing security for the judge and court clerk presiding over the proceedings. Court officers also assist the Prosecutor by arranging the appearance of witness officers. The security detail is staffed by on duty personnel or overtime when duty personnel are unavailable. Our officers provided 203 hours of court room security in 2020 which was a decreased of 60 percent from the 502 hours provided in 2019.

Through a shared services agreement with Somerville Borough, their Municipal Court sessions are held twice a month, on Thursdays during the daytime. Three of our officers provide security for their courtroom sessions. This is an overtime position which is paid for by the Borough of Somerville. Our officers provided 96 hours of court room security in 2020 which was a decrease of 75 percent from the 348 hours provided in 2019. Much like the Bridgewater Municipal Court, Somerville Borough Court went to a virtual court session due to COVID-19. Somerville Borough Court started virtual court on June 11th and continued as virtual court every other Thursday for the remainder of 2020.

The decrease in court room security hours can be contributed to COVID-19 and the lack of in-person court for the majority of 2020.

A review of the Bridgewater Police Municipal Court overtime totals for the last five years are as follows:

Somerville Court	
2016	409.25Hours
2017	484.75 Hours
2018	382 Hours
2019	348Hours
2020	96 Hours

Bridgewater Court	
2016	302 Hours
2017	317.75 Hours
2018	317.5 Hours
2019	502 Hours
2020	203 Hours

PATROL FLEET

In 2020 the Bridgewater Police Department's marked patrol vehicle fleet consisted of thirty-five marked patrol vehicles, twenty-two assigned for patrol duties, three assigned for traffic safety, three assigned for the Class III school resource officers, and seven allotted for road jobs (only). The fleet consisted of four Chevrolet Sedans, four Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs, seven Ford Police Interceptor AWD Sedans, nineteen Ford Police Interceptor SUVs, and one marked (two-wheel drive) Ford Pickup Truck. The SUVs are extremely useful for patrolling in inclement weather, special details, events, and providing more room inside the vehicle for equipment. The larger Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs are utilized by supervisory personnel in an effort to limit the mileage, thereby extending the life of these vehicles. By the end of the calendar year, several vehicles were removed from service due to wear and/or other circumstances such as motor vehicle crashes. Two road job vehicles were permanently removed from the fleet due to wear, rendering the vehicles unsafe to drive. One patrol vehicle was permanently removed from the fleet as a result of a crash. The total number of patrol vehicles available for use at the end of the calendar year was twenty one which decreased the total fleet to thirty-two vehicles.

Between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2020, the entire marked fleet traveled approximately 470,879 total miles. Deducting the mileage accumulated by vehicles assigned to Operations Supervisors (2) and the Traffic Safety Supervisor (1), as well as the Pickup Truck (1), the remaining twenty-eight patrol vehicles, which include the vehicles assigned as road job vehicles, traveled approximately 444,363 miles. This is an average of approximately 15,870 miles per year for each.

In March of 2020, eight Ford Police Interceptor SUVs were purchased from the 2020 budget. Due to the Covid pandemic, there was a tremendous delay in receiving these vehicles. The eight vehicles were recently delivered and will be ready for patrol use after the emergency equipment is installed. The delay in receiving these cars has put additional strain on the current patrol fleet. The implementation of these vehicles to the fleet should assist officers on the road.

The department was able to save money by supplementing the purchase of emergency equipment through a third party vendor rather than the car dealership. This saved the town over \$50,000.

The police department is determined to conform to the strong interest of the Town Council and public in maximizing economic, energy (ecological "footprint", fuel consumption, etc.), and efficiency interests in the selection and utilization of its patrol vehicles. In furtherance of these interests the police department has conducted research and inquiries into available equipment that will enable the police department to meet a parallel interest of public and officer safety and still provide high quality service. An adequate vehicle replacement program is vital for the police department to meet its goals and maintain the highest quality of service to the citizens of Bridgewater.

2021 Goals

- 1) Replace our current pickup which is a light duty 1997 model.
- 2) Continue to replace older vehicles.
- 3) Research the cost effectiveness of leasing vehicles for using as road job vehicles.

2020 RETIREMENTS/PROMOTIONS/NEW HIRES

The following retired from Bridgewater Police Department in 2020:

- Captain Michael Maxwell
- Lieutenant Michael Packwood
- Lieutenant William Kelly
- Lieutenant Robert Stasiulaitis
- Detective Cliff Delaney

The following personnel were promoted in 2020

- Paul S. Payne - Chief of Police
- Sean O'Neill – Capitan
- John Mitzak – Capitan
- Christopher Fischer – Lieutenant
- Brian Blath – Lieutenant
- Thomas Rice – Lieutenant
- Jeff Savare – Lieutenant
- Kevin Lamey – Lieutenant
- Frederick Brittain – Sergeant
- Kurt Bernhard – Sergeant
- Daniel Hennessey – Sergeant
- John Cooper – Sergeant
- Douglas Thorsen – Sergeant

The following officers left Bridgewater Police Department in 2020 for employment with other agencies:

- Kenneth McGarry

The following were hired as Bridgewater Police Officers during 2020:

- Kyle Ball
- Noah Allat
- Joseph Duffy
- Adam Giurlando

Special Events **2020**

The Bridgewater Township Police Department normally hosts and participates in several special events during the year. Bridgewater's geographical and physical attributes continue to attract non-profit organizations that sponsor various fund raising events; specifically: walk-a-thons, road races, historical ceremonies and annual county sponsored events. The special events we take part in allow the Police Department to work in conjunction with county agencies, private sector businesses, local merchants and citizens fostering a renewed sense of community spirit to Bridgewater Township. 2020 was a unique year due to the COVID-19 pandemic and hindered almost all of the special events that would normally take place throughout the year. It is the hope of the department that 2021 will bring with it a sense of normalcy where we can continue to host and participate in special events with the community. Below are the special events we were able to participate in. Also, see The Bridgewater Honor Guard Report for other events the department participated in.

March

Officers were requested to provide assistance (at all schools in the township) with distributing meals to students during the pandemic. These meals were provided to families when schools were closed due to COVID-19.

June

Officers from the department assisted the Bridgewater Raritan High School staff with their Mobile Diploma Caravan. Due to COVID-19 graduating students received their diplomas while social distancing at home in their driveways.

October

Officers from the department attended the Halloween Event at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. At the event, officers handed out candy and Bridgewater Police souvenirs while interacting with the community.

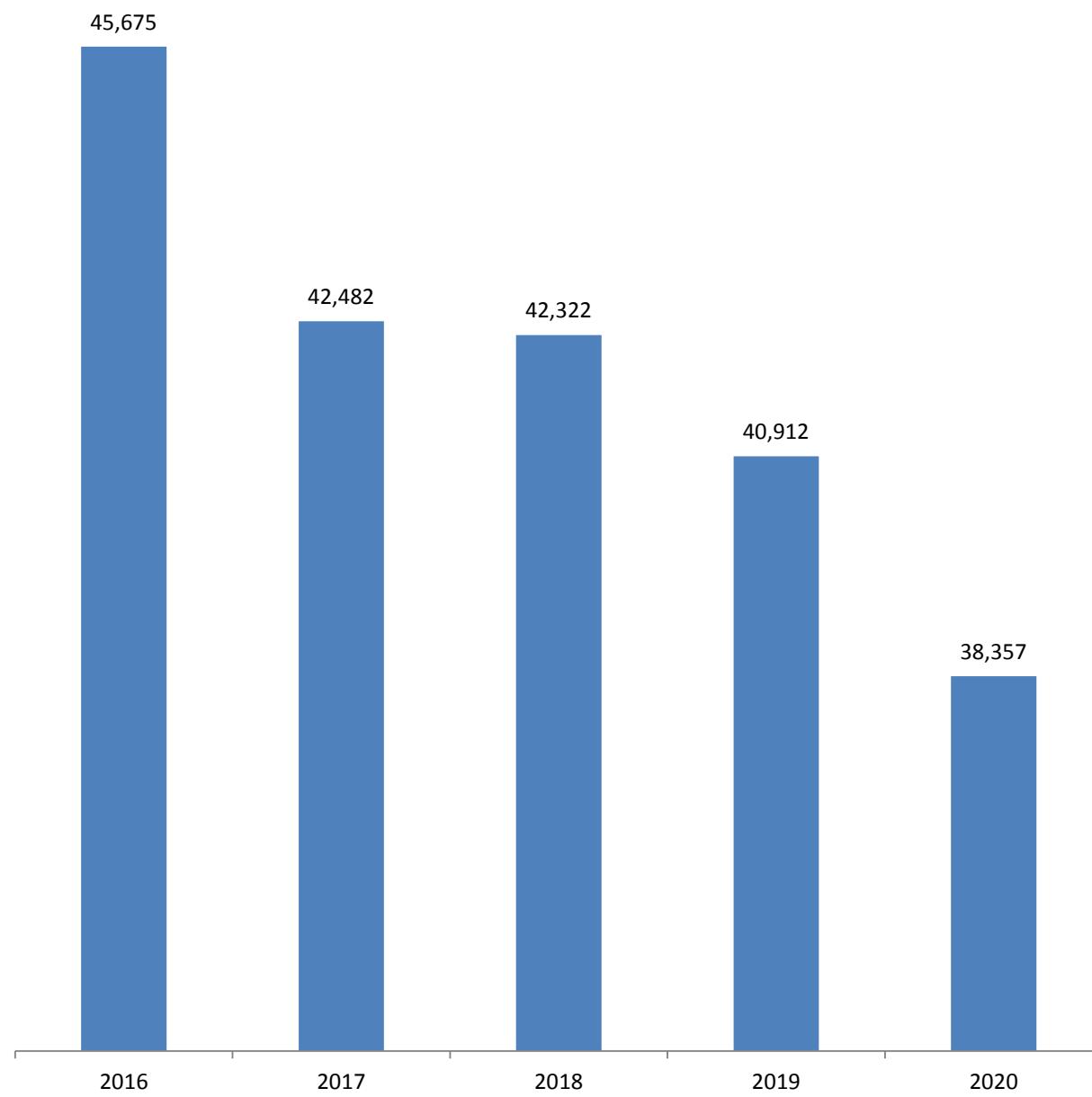
November

Officers and the Honor Guard attended the Blue Mass at St. Bernard's Church. The officers in attendance prayed for fallen officers and honored those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

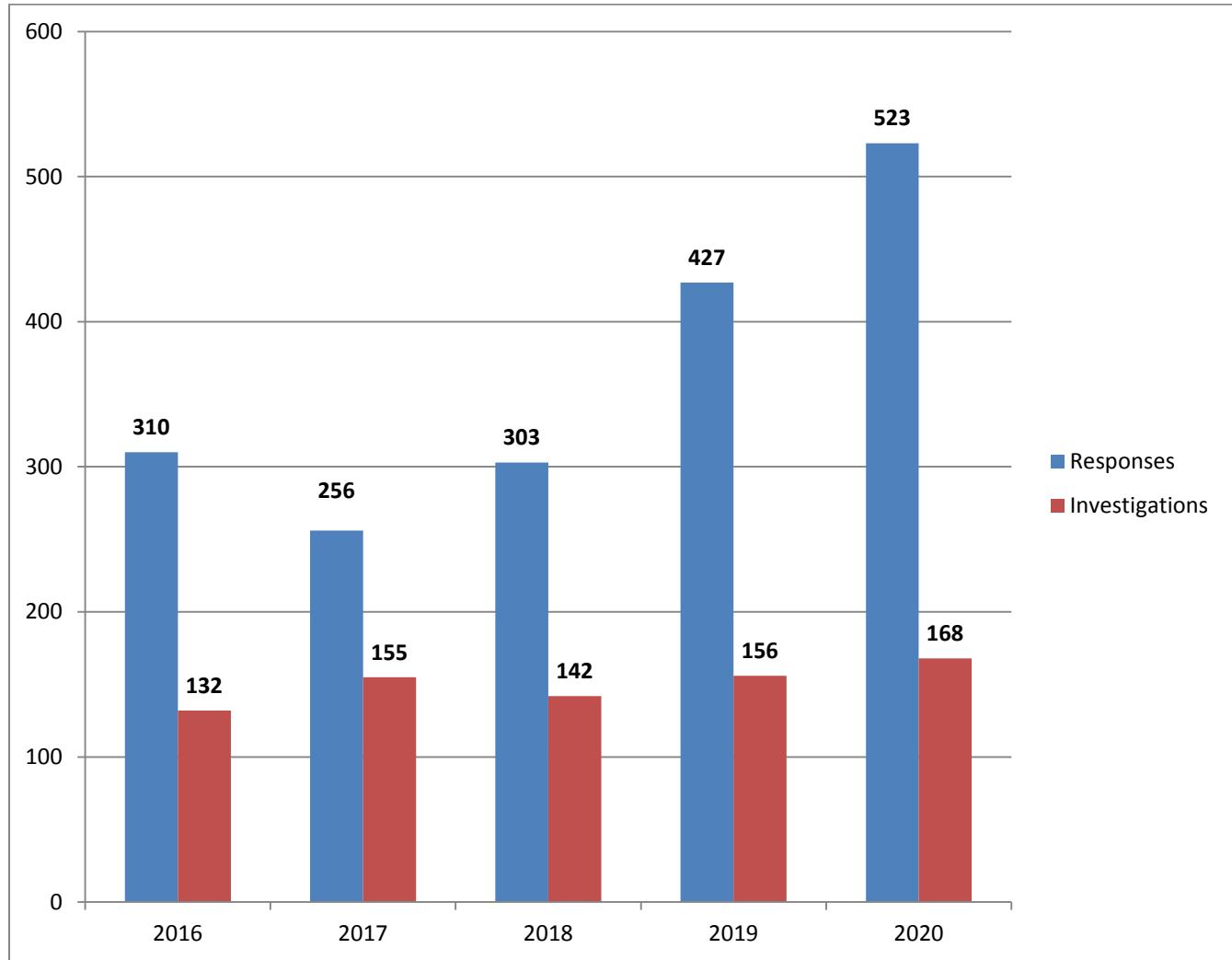
PART III

STATISTICS

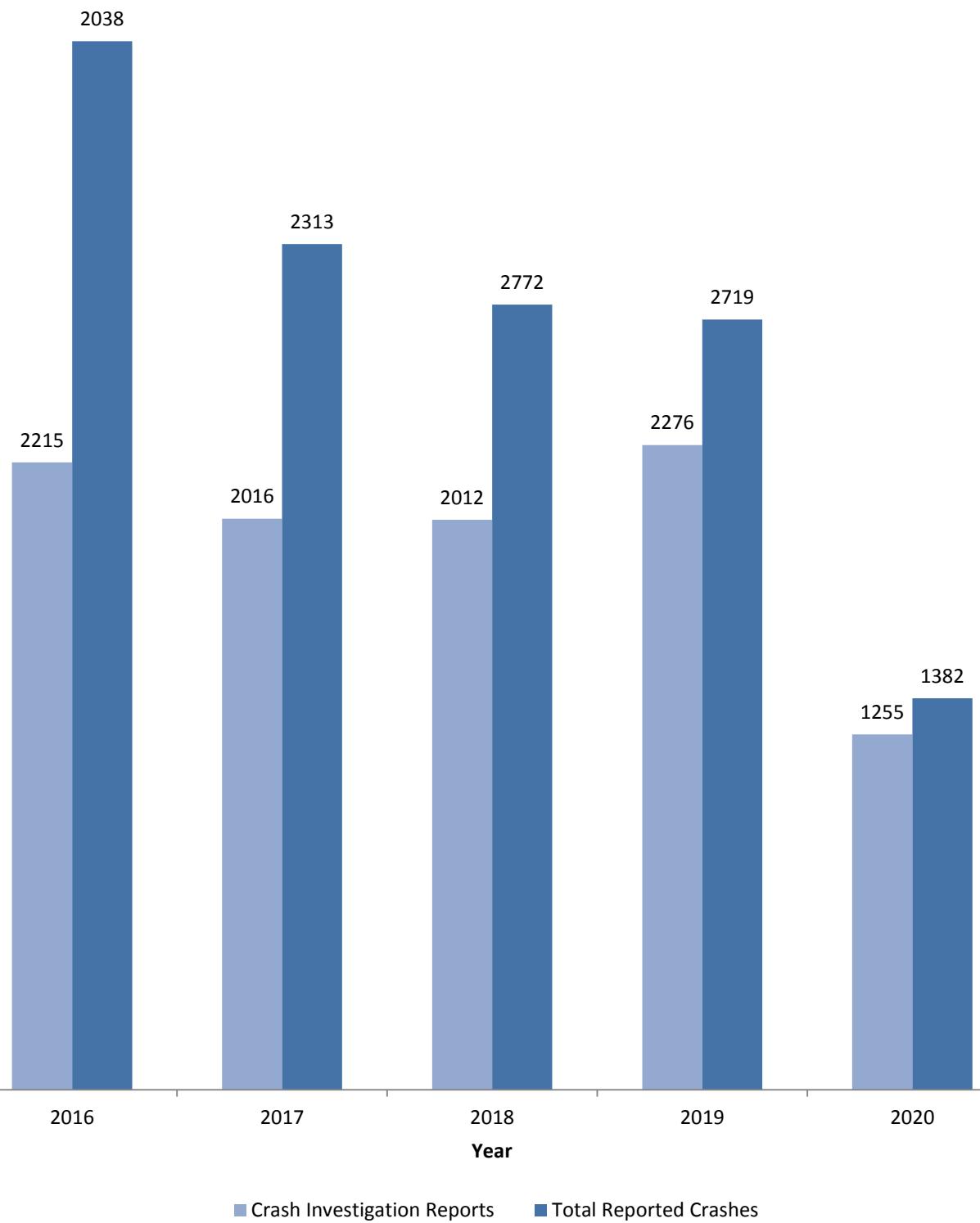
Bridgewater Township Police Department 2015-2019 Calls for Service



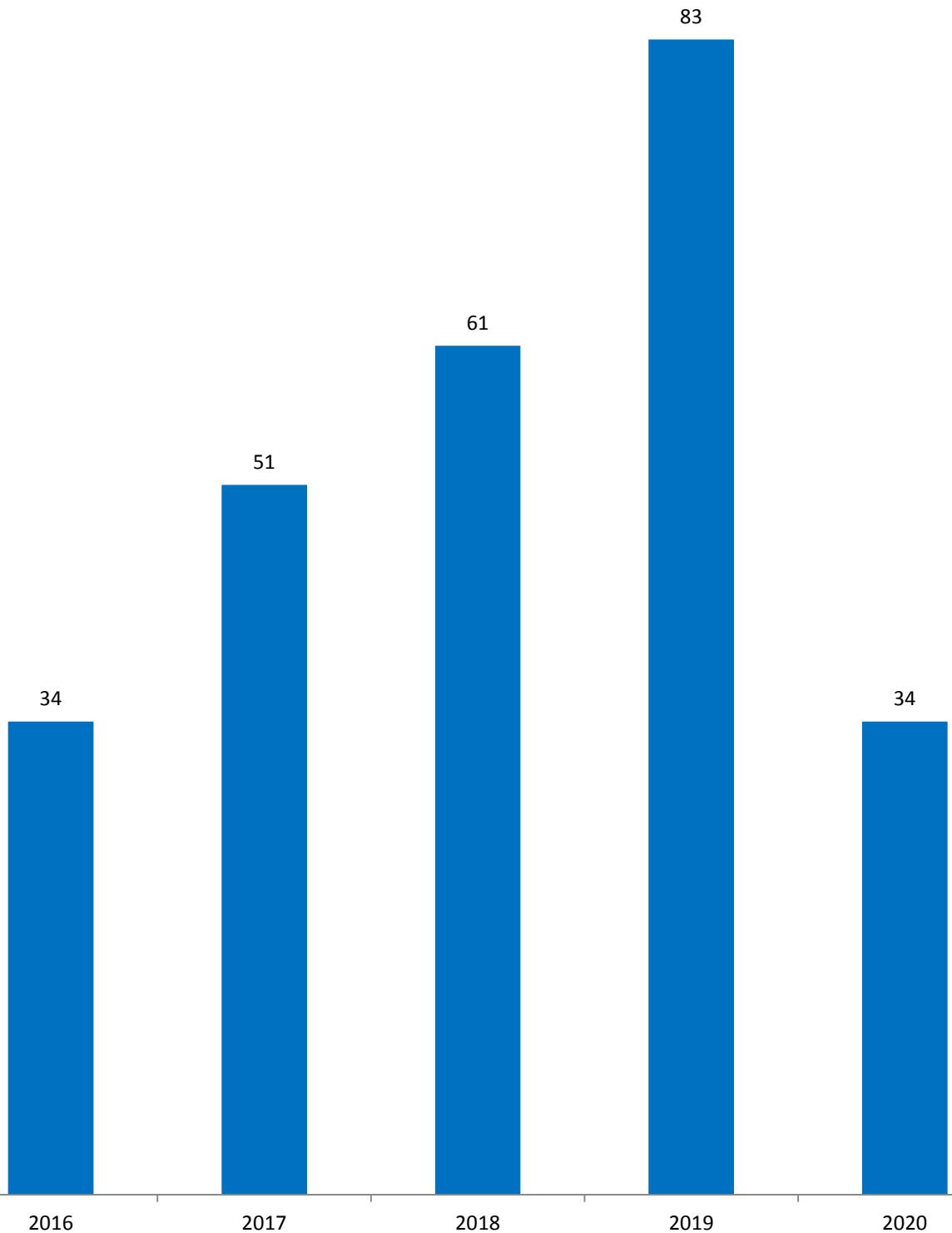
Bridgewater Township Police Department Domestic Violence – 5 Year Trend



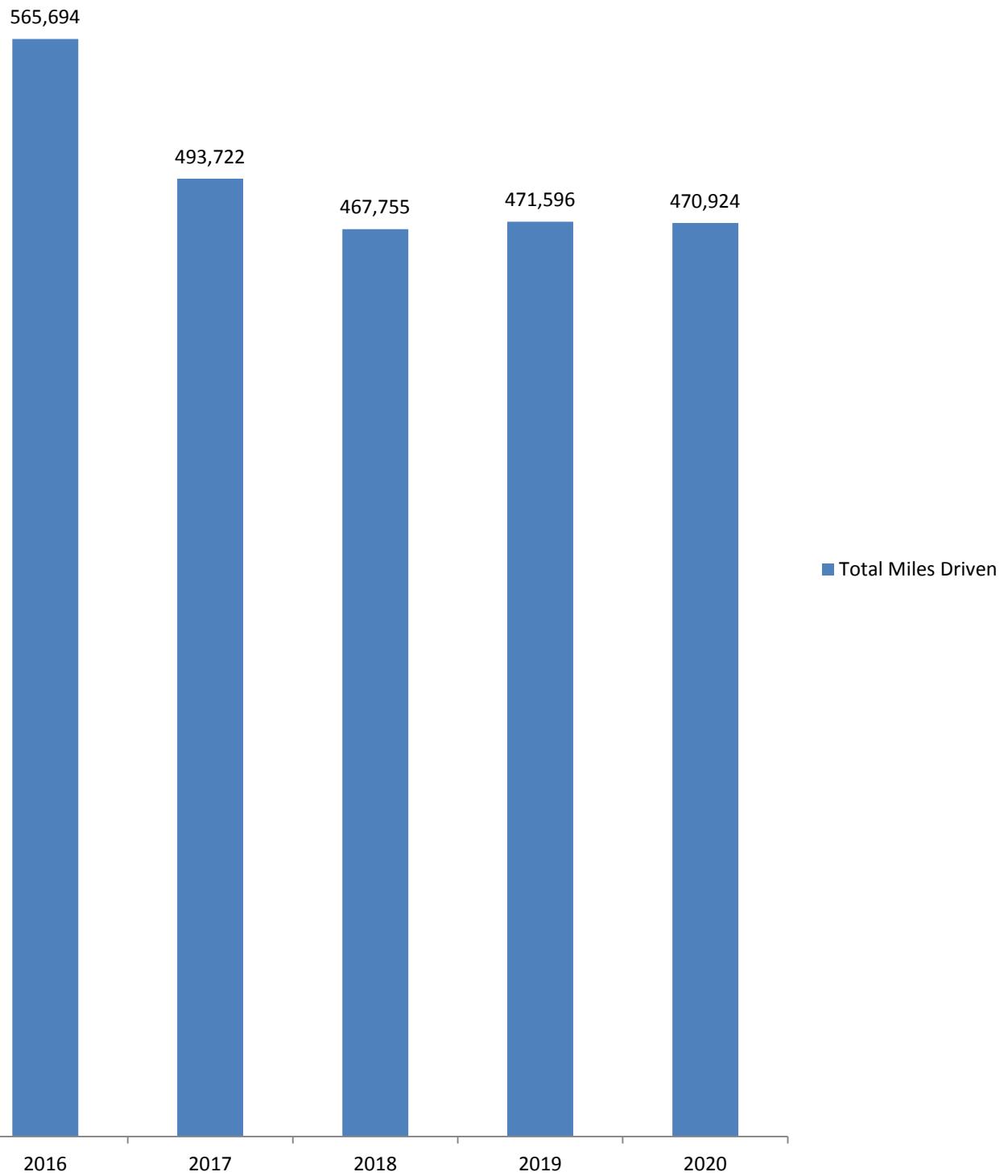
**Bridgewater Police Department
Motor Vehicle Crash Report
2016-2020**



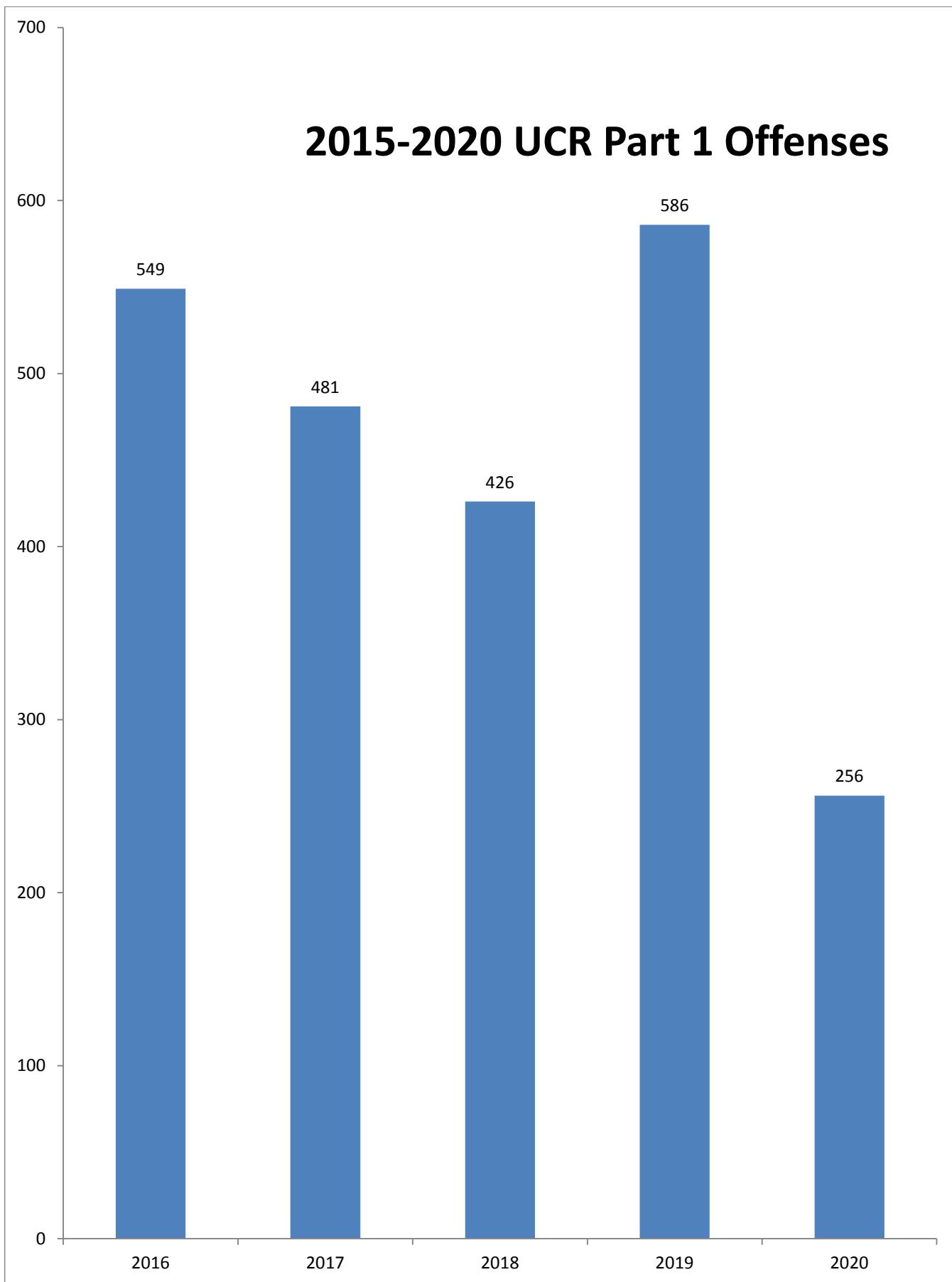
**Bridgewater Police Department
D.W.I. Arrests
2016-2020**



Bridgewater Township Police Department Annual Patrol Mileage



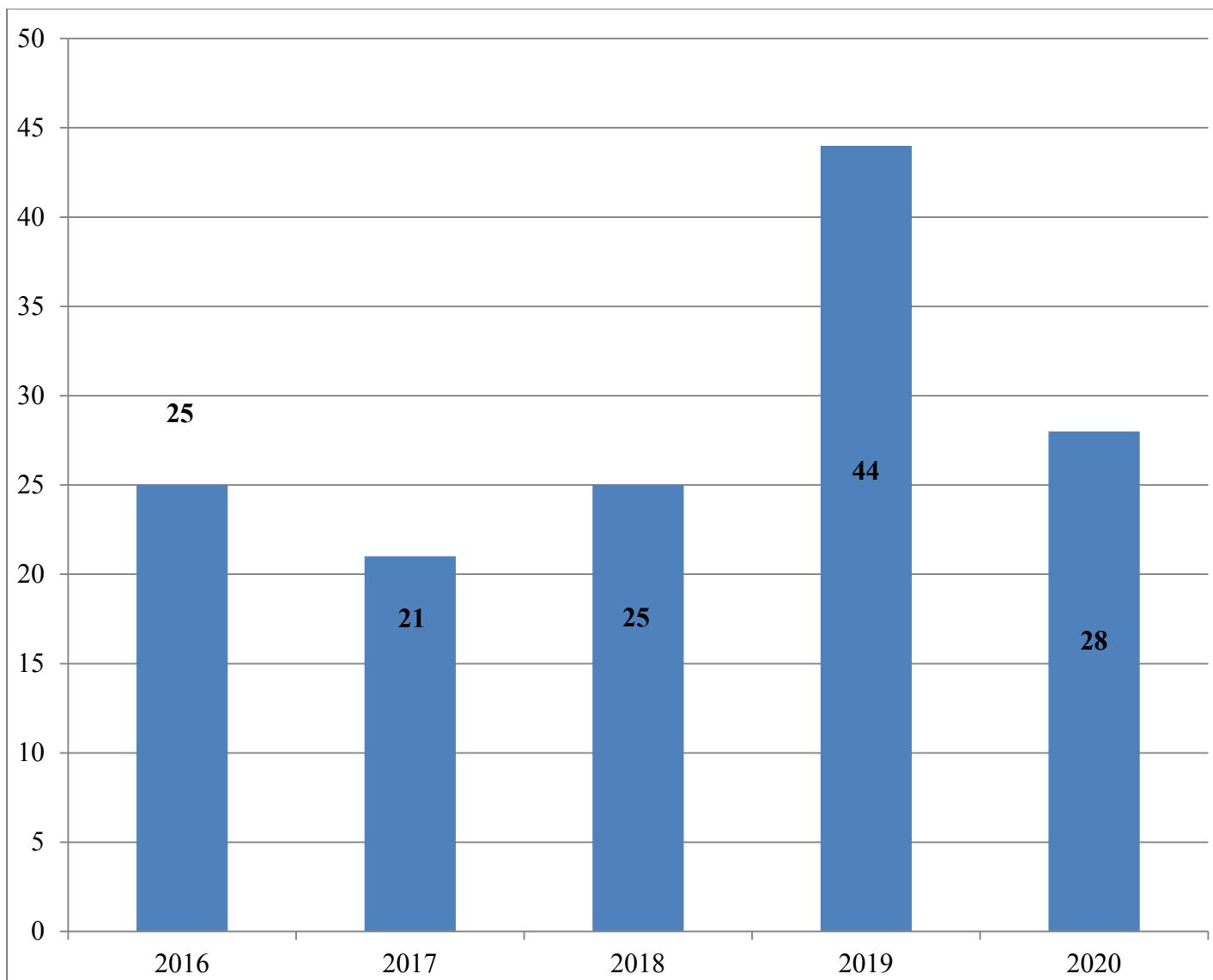
2015-2020 UCR Part 1 Offenses



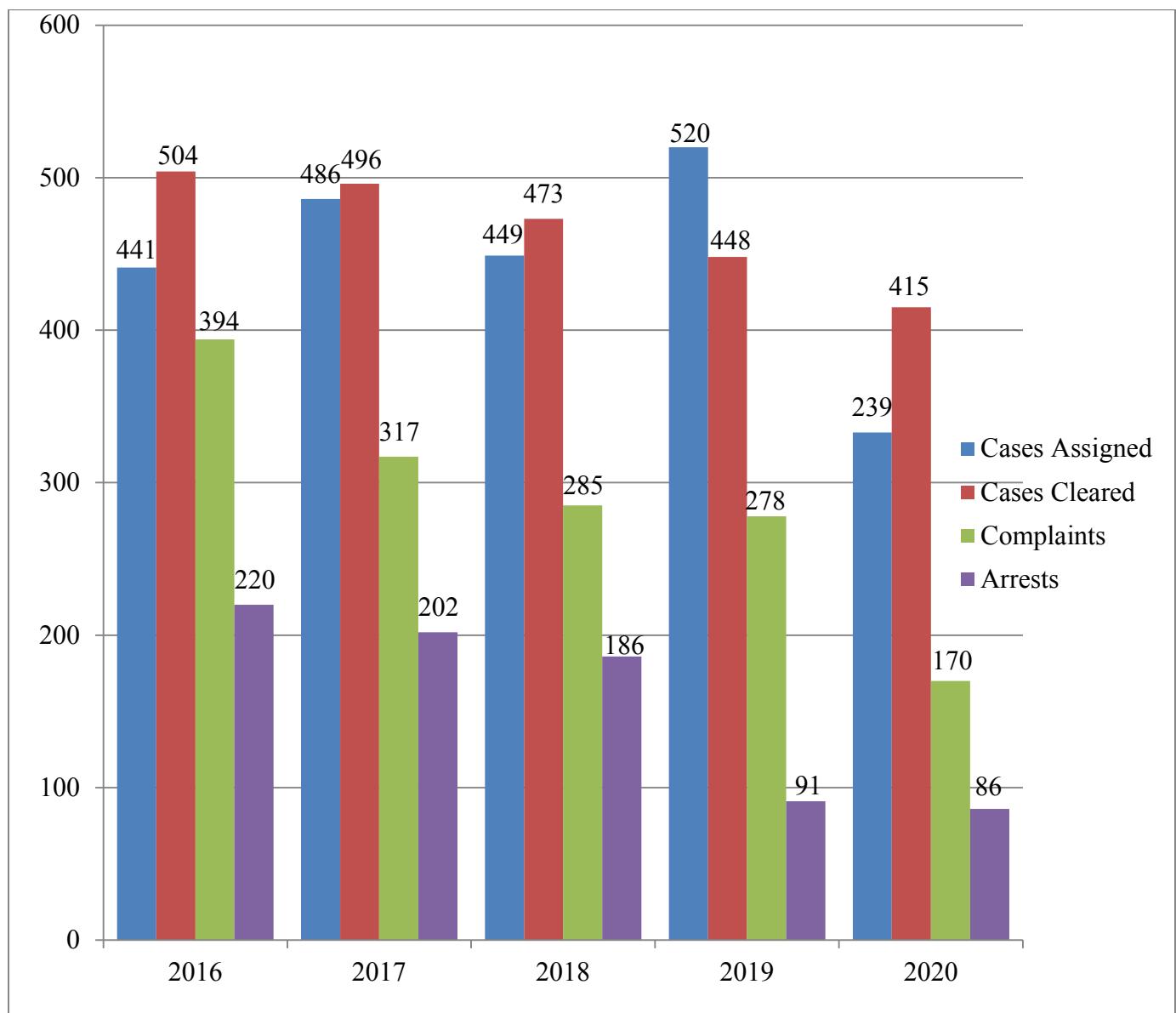
Bridgewater Township Police Department**Uniform Crime Report Part 1 Offenses**

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homicide	0	1	0	0	1
Rape	1	0	0	0	0
Robbery	6	4	9	3	3
Assault	100	87	62	128	2
Burglary	65	61	56	36	40
Larceny	365	315	287	400	190
MV Theft	11	13	12	18	20
Arson	1	0	0	1	0
Total	549	481	426	586	256

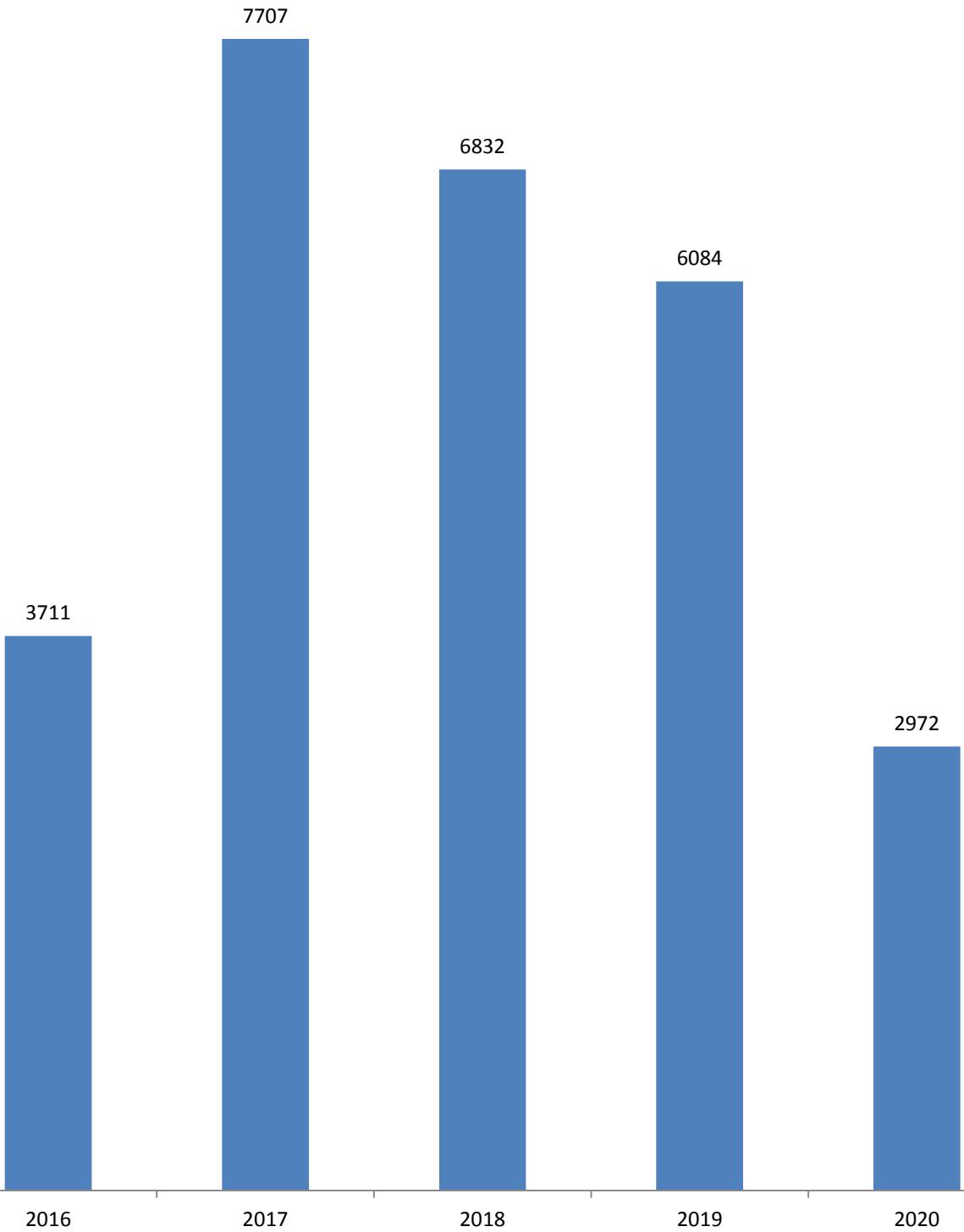
**Youth Services Bureau
Stationhouse Adjustment
2014-2019**



**Criminal Investigation Bureau
Youth Services Bureau
Yearly Comparison 2015 – 2019**

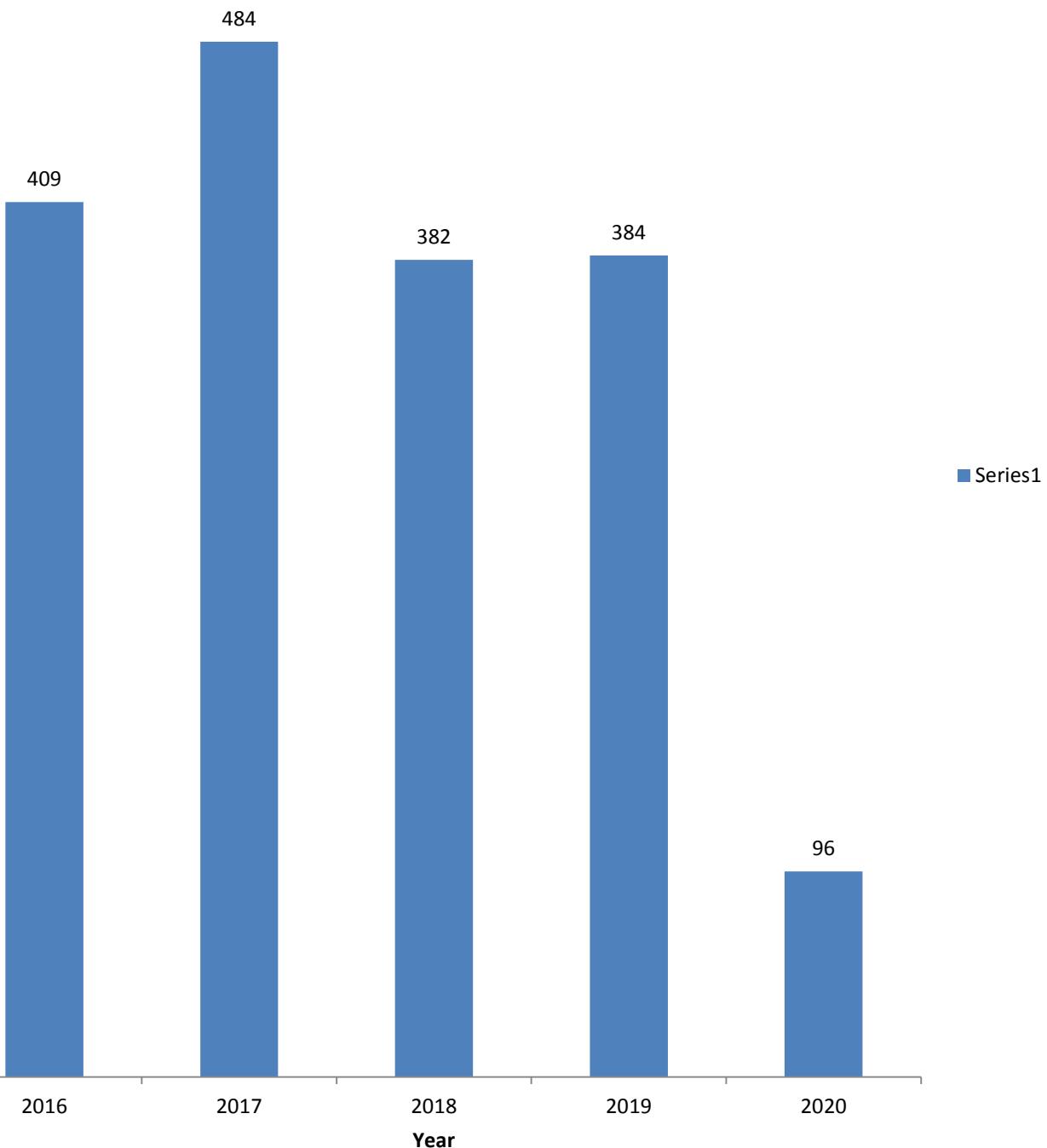


Bridgewater Township Police Department
2016-2020 Motor Vehicle Summons

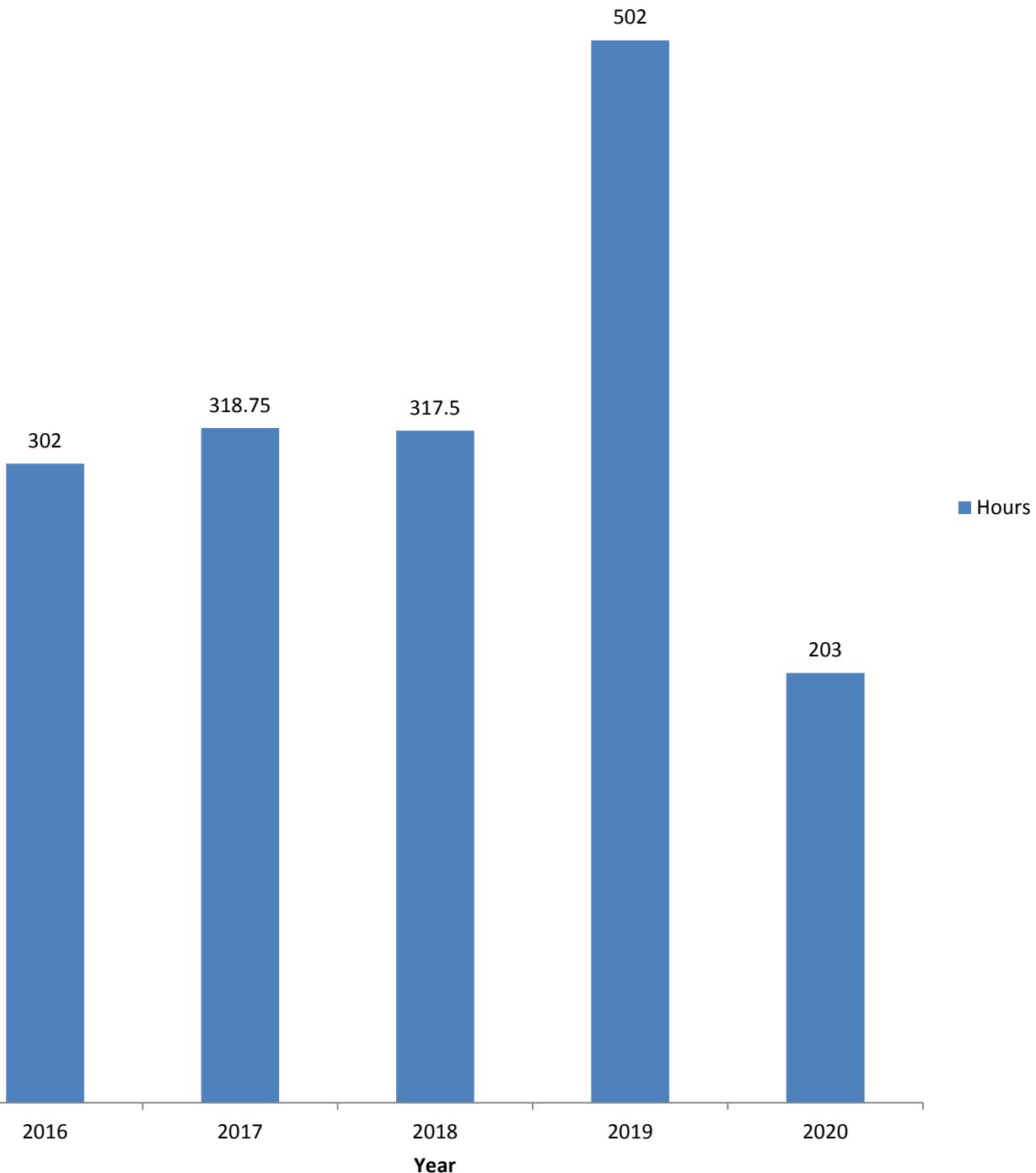


2020 Traffic Safety Bureau Year End Report

Somerville Municipal Court Overtime Yearly Comparison



Bridgewater Municipal Court Overtime Yearly Comparison



Bridgewater Township Police Department
2016-2020 Fire / EMS Calls for Service

