

# LONG BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT



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# MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Long Branch Police Department is committed to providing a safe community and improving the quality of life for all people. We accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equality and impartiality. In partnership with the community, we reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, we demand of ourselves the highest professional standards and dedication to our core values.

## CORE VALUES

### Professionalism

In our actions, conduct, and job performance. Committed to training, education, individual self-discipline, service orientation and other attributes of a true professional.

### Respect

For all citizens, each other, and for differing points of view, regardless of age, race, gender, appearance, individual beliefs, or lifestyles.

### Integrity

Truthful & honest in word and deed. Ethical, being guided by the concept of fundamental fairness in everything we do, doing what is right.

### Dedication

To the organization, each other, our families, and the citizens we serve. Empower department members and citizens to work together to solve community problems.

### Excellence

In everything we do. Seeking to improve and excel, always.

# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



Greetings Community Members & Friends,

Welcome to the Long Branch Police Department's fifth annual edition of the Public Safety Report.

I am very pleased to announce that in 2019 we continued our trend of falling crime rates in all major categories while continuing to advance in areas such as training, community policing and operations.

A few highlights for this year include our partnering with the Coming Full Circle (CFC) Loud N Clear Foundation to adopt a Crisis Intervention Program which provides substance abuse recovery as well as receiving a grant for a body worn camera project which will be implemented in 2020.

The members of the Long Branch Police Department are committed to heightened community engagement activities, proactive problem solving and collaborating with public and private groups for the betterment of the City. I am confident that you will see many examples of this in the coming pages as well as with any in-person interactions with our officers.

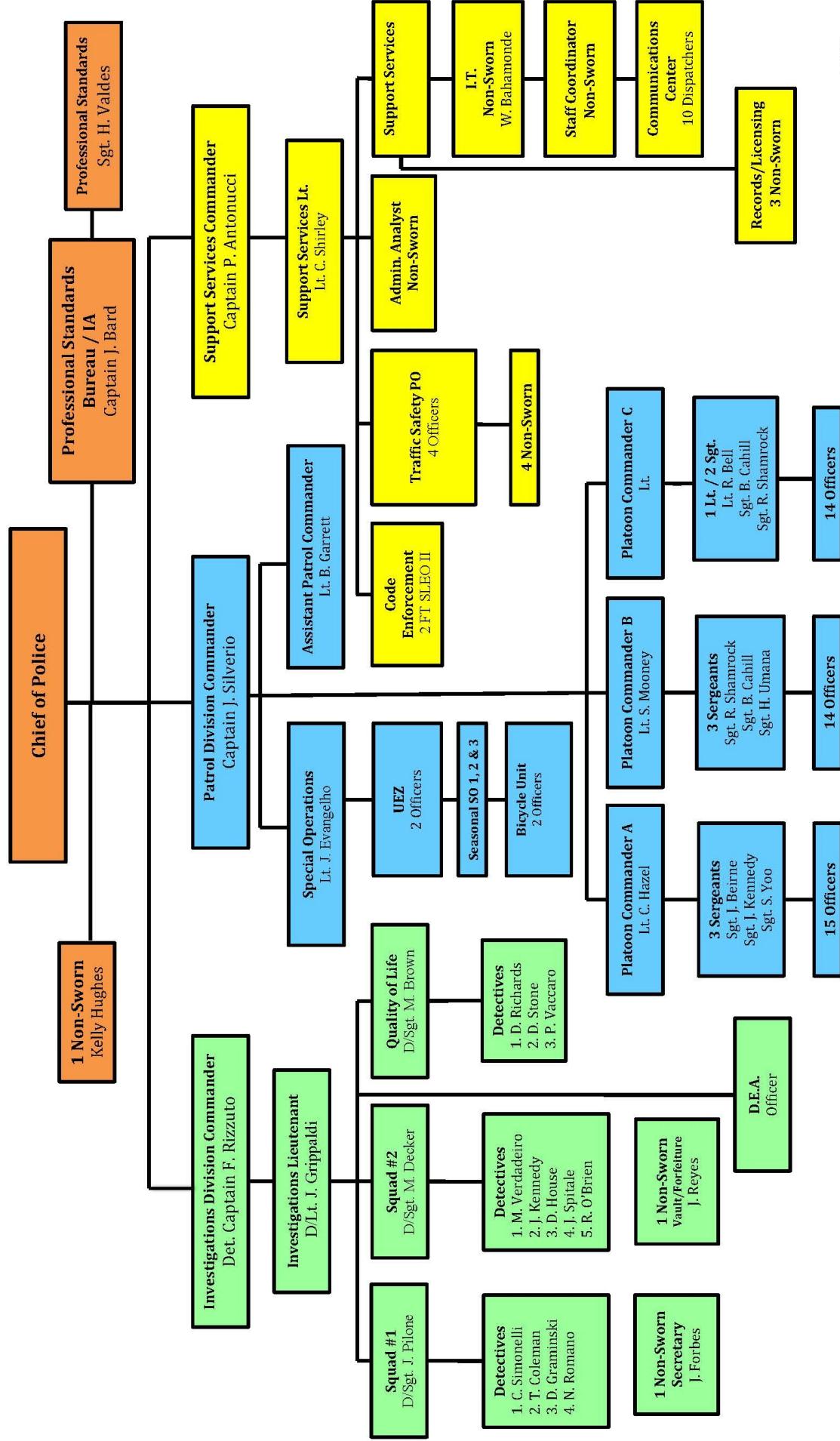
I am proud to serve the residents of this City alongside the highly dedicated officers of the Long Branch Police Department. I commend them for the hard work, dedication and professionalism they display on a daily basis.

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual review. I hope everyone that does can take away a better understanding about our department, its members and our ongoing commitment to the community.

It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your Chief of Police.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Roselli".

# TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



# CHIEF

Jason Roebuck #261

## CAPTAINS

- Peter Antonucci #265
- Frank Rizzuto #266
- Joshua Bard #300
- Jorge Silverio #295

## LIEUTENANTS

- Jeffrey Grippaldi #292
- Christopher Hazel #291
- Charles Shirley, Jr. #284
- Juan H. Vasquez #282
- Stanley Mooney #263
- Robert Bell #329
- Brian Garrett #306

## DETECTIVES

- Cpl. Charles Simonelli #286
- Cpl. Michael Verda deiro #309
- Cpl. Todd Coleman #289
- David House #296
- Joseph Spitale #339
- Richard O'Brien #345
- Nick Romano #342
- Daniel Richards #347
- David Stone #349
- Patrick Vaccaro #353
- Robert Poss #356

## SERGEANTS

- Jeffrey Pilone #255
- Robert Shamrock #245
- Brendan Cahill #318
- Antonia Gonzalez #270
- Marshall Brown #319
- Heather Valdes #290
- Juan H. Vasquez #282
- Sam Jung Yoo #317
- James Beirne #354
- Michael Decker #312
- Hector Umana #328
- Joseph Kennedy #324
- David Graminski #302
- Thomas Hueston #294

## PATROL OFFICERS

- Bienvenido Cruz #320
- George Samol #330
- George Olski #336
- Jesus Otero #340
- Gary Vecchione #343
- Brian Oliveira # 344
- Brian Boryszewski #346
- Vincent Roselli #350
- Omar Akel #351
- Sergio Chaparro #352
- Dana Page #355
- Kevin Morris #357
- Steven Grant-White #358
- Daniel Gould #359
- Joseph Corcoran #360
- Mark Yutko #361
- Connor Mullan #362
- Shane Carroll #363
- William Davies IV #365
- Charles Conover #366
- Francis Sheldrick #367
- Kevin Romano #368
- Kenneth Ross #369
- Christopher Remedios #370
- Julian Morgan #371
- Evan Morrell #372
- Daniel Cunha #373
- Daniel DiLeonardo #374
- Robert Presley #376
- Christopher Fish #377
- Paul Garcia #378
- Christopher LoBello #379

## CORPORALS (15+ Years)

- Joseph Graziano #257
- Robert Korn #267
- Edwin Gomez #276
- Julio Delacruz #278
- Cesare Simonelli #298
- Lance Fanning #299
- Christopher Gant #301
- Jennifer Gant #304
- Kimberly Leavy #308
- Tracey Widdis #310
- Robert Rush Bataille #311
- Stanley Eskridge #313
- Christopher Walls #314
- Erik Wettermark #316
- Marco Rodriguez #322
- Josh Wagner #323
- Matthew Widdis #325
- Kijung Kim #327

# OFFICERS & RANKS

# SPECIALIZED UNITS

## INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Long Branch Police Department Investigations Division gathers facts for criminal investigations and prosecutions. They compile evidence by observing suspects, interviewing witnesses, and examining physical evidence. The Detectives investigate criminal acts including homicides, sexual assaults, armed robberies, home invasions, and property crimes such as burglaries and arson as well as any unattended deaths. Detectives collect and use forensic evidence to solve crimes, and interview informants, suspects, and witnesses to ascertain alibis, motives, clues, and establish time frames. Detectives spend most of their time gathering facts and evidence for criminal cases they have been assigned. They gather evidence through informants, by interviewing witnesses, and by observing, monitoring, and recording the activities of known or suspected criminals. In performing their duties, it is absolutely necessary that they gain knowledge of suspects and the circumstances surrounding a crime before singling out a perpetrator. Once motives, alibis, past relationships, and the evidence has been determined and analyzed, a detective will interrogate a suspect with the aim of determining their guilt or innocence.

**In 2019, a total of 723 cases were investigated by our Detectives.**

The Investigations Bureau maintains Units specializing in Major Crimes, Street Crimes, Forensics and Juvenile Matters. Detectives are dedicated to the following areas:

- Homeland Security Function
- Coordinator for Sex Offender Registry
- Long Branch Police Chaplains Program
- Bias Crime Investigations
- Public Information Officers
- Certified Negotiators
- Certified Arson Investigators
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)



The Detectives in our Investigations Bureau are also assigned to the following roles:

- Evidence/Property Management
- Background investigations for police & fire departments
- School Programs
- Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) enforcement, background investigations, and inspections
- DEA Drug Take Back Program
- Liaisons to Monmouth University Quality of Life Task Force
- Liaisons to the Long Branch Housing Authority
- Liaisons to FBI/DHS/DEA/NJSP/MCPO/MCSO/ & NJ Auto Theft Task Force
- Instructors LBPD Citizens Police Academy
- Instruct/Administer School Active Shooter Program
- Instructors LBPD In-Service Training Program
- Members of the Monmouth/ Ocean Counties Criminal Intelligence Bureau
- Members of NJ Homicide Investigators Assoc.
- Members of NJ Gang Investigators Association
- Members of NJ Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association
- Members Certified/Incident Response Terrorist Bombings (IRTB)

In addition, Members of the Bureau maintain/participate in:

- Juvenile Conference Committee
- E-Trace
- National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network
- National Crime Information Center
- Unidentified Persons File
- NJ Law Enforcement Teletype System
- Violent Crime Apprehension Program
- Child Abduction Response Team
- Sex Assault Response Team
- Regional Pawn Data Sharing System
- Counter Terrorism Coordination
- Criminal & Gang Intelligence Function

## **Office Management:**

- Tracking pawn-slips from local pawn brokers
- Compile reports for juvenile complaints to be sent to MCPO
- Compile and maintain information for major crimes case jackets; this includes purging & archiving files according to AG guidelines
- Create case files for juveniles
- Maintenance of the juvenile case file/database; this includes archiving files as juveniles turn 18
- Maintain the fingerprint files
- Scan & upload paperwork to the Spillman database
- Maintain NJ ODMAP database
- Assist with typing/transposing victim statements
- Assist with minor software, computer, and office equipment issues
- Create video files for discovery
- Assist MCPO with trial prep by locating all paperwork associated with cases
- Create new forms on as needed basis
- Create flyers and promotional materials
- Maintain the on-call schedule and create the printable schedule
- Assist with tracking down information from cold cases ie, accessing defunct databases, old card files, and accessing archives
- Various general secretarial duties including but not limited to: answering the phone, taking messages, checking voice-mail & e-mail, sorting and delivering the mail, track and order office supplies
- Create and maintain new databases as necessary
- Various other duties as needed, including but not limited to – software help, typing letters/memos, assisting with creating line-ups, editing photos, mailings, etc.

## **NOTABLE CONVICTION:**

Bryan Cordero Castro, 21 plead guilty to stabbing 16 year-old Madison Wells after a breakup. As part of a plea agreement, he was sentenced to 35 years for the murder.

This Investigation will be featured on the ID Channel's Series "The Murder Tapes" in 2020.

## NOTABLE CASES:

### *Armed Robbery (Handgun)*

Victim: Lucy's Deli

Arrested: Christopher Vassal

### *Terroristic Threats/False Public Alarm*

Location: Christ The King Church

Arrested: Ian Bourne

### *Attempted Aggravated Arson*

Location: 117 Third Avenue

Arrested: Cathy Gilliard (2nd consecutive year)

### *Strong Arm Robbery/Stolen Motor Vehicle*

Victim: Harvey Kaplin Jr.

Arrested: Juvenile Johnie Torres

### *Aggravated Sexual Assault with Minor*

Juvenile Victim

Arrested: Juan Alberto Acevedo

### *Aggravated Assault w/ Weapon (Handgun)*

Victim: Residents of 309 Cedar Avenue

Arrested: Christopher Holmes

### *Endangering/Invasion of Privacy/Child Pornography*

Location: 200 Broadway "Karate Fitness and Zumba"

Arrested: Jose Hernandez

### *Attempted Murder/Stabbing*

Victim: Hugo Pereira-Silva

Arrested: Luis Sousa-Silva

## STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Street Crimes Unit is comprised of one Commanding Officer and three Detectives. Their primary focus is to eliminate drug manufacturing and distribution within the City and reduce the availability of narcotics and other illegal substances to our citizens. In addition, they serve as an intelligence bureau for criminals involved with weapons, gangs and other illegal activity.

In 2019, the Street Crimes Unit made 214 arrests, 130 of which were narcotics related offenses. They executed 6 residential search warrants for narcotics and assisted County, State and Federal agencies on 7 search warrants.

Through their investigations and arrests, they seized 2 vehicles for forfeiture, \$9,544 cash and were able to remove 5.15 ounces of cocaine, 618 doses of heroin, 5.44 pounds of marijuana and 89 prescription pills from the streets.

## CODE AND FIRE PREVENTION UNIT

Class 2 Special Officers Brian Dinero and Davi Cunha and part-time Class 2 Officers, Christian DeFazio and Robert Piantanida are assigned to the City Code & Fire Prevention Bureau.

Along with responding to calls for service as an auxiliary to police patrol units, their primary duty with code enforcement is to ensure property owners comply with the safety and quality of life ordinances. These including property maintenance, fire code compliance, zoning and building permit compliance, and environmental concerns such as recycling and proper waste disposal.

They inspect for hazards to pedestrian and vehicular traffic such as low wires, dangerous trees, dangerous sidewalks, derelict or vacant homes, abandoned swimming pools and standing water issues for mosquito control. They also investigate illegal rooming houses, unregistered rental properties, conduct inspections for certificate of occupancy compliance, and perform annual "meet and greet" inspections of all off campus housing for Monmouth University to welcome students and insure they comply with local ordinances.

In addition, they set up and maintain the "hot zone" for fireworks displays, respond to any general emergency in the city, cover during states of emergencies and special events, as well as coordinate with other agencies such as the EPA/DEP and utility providers for any issues falling outside the scope of routine enforcement.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

Detective David House is the Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO) for the Long Branch Police Department and Officer Francis Sheldrick is the Assistant HLEO. They are tasked with investigating any severe animal cruelty cases within the city.

All our officers assist the City's Animal Control Bureau on a regular basis responding to calls that involve animals in distress or in need of rescuing. Animal Control calls in the City range from typical dog and cat related issues to seals, squirrels, bats, geese, raccoons, deer and even occasional farm or exotic animals. Our officers have seen it all!



## FIREARMS UNIT

Members of the Firearms Unit include Supervising Firearms Instructor Lt. John Evangelho, Instructors Sgt. Sam Yoo, Sgt. Hector Umana, Cpl. Ben Cruz, Cpl. Chris Gant, Det. Rich O'Brien and Cpl. Lance Fanning, who is also the Armorer.

This unit is tasked with the annual firearms training and qualifications of all LBPD Officers as well as maintaining the weapons and ammunition for the department.



## MOTORCYCLE UNIT

Our Motorcycle Unit rides year-round, weather permitting. Aside from being a tremendous asset in traffic control, especially during high-congestion events, they frequently assist in motor escorts such as dignitary transports and funeral processions.

In 2018, Capt. Jorge Silverio was assigned as the Motor Unit Supervisor and the following officers were assigned as members of the unit:

- Lt. Charles Shirley
- DLt. Jeffrey Grippaldi
- DSgt. Jeffrey Pilone
- Lt. John Evangelho
- DSgt. Marshall Brown
- Cpl. Julio Delacruz
- Cpl. Thomas Hueston
- Cpl. Cesare Simonelli
- Cpl. Christopher Gant
- Cpl. Christopher Walls
- Cpl. Kijung Kim



## URBAN ENTERPRISE UNIT (UEZ)

The Urban Enterprise Zone (U.E.Z.) focuses on our community in an effort to keep the lines of communication flowing between the police department and the public. Corporals Kimberly Leavy and Lance Fanning work closely with local business owners, students and residents and provide a multitude of events and services throughout the year. A few examples of their programs include school presentations, senior program involvement, City Hall tours for scouts and students, and perhaps the two most popular, National Night Out and the Citizens Police Academy (CPA).



## TRAFFIC BUREAU

Our Traffic Bureau consists of four full-time officers, one Special Class 2 and three civilians. Members include Cpl. Cesare Simonelli, Cpl. Benny Cruz, PO Brian Boryszewski, PO Gary Vecchione, SO Kevin Cuje, George Medina, Andrew Clay and Ryan Scanlon. Lt. Charles Shirley, Jr. is the Unit's Supervisor.

While the Unit was originally formed with the goal of maintaining and repairing traffic signals, the responsibilities of its members have grown to include street signage, special events, road crew and new construction traffic plans, vehicle upgrades and the installation and maintenance of equipment within our vehicles. With ever changing technology, these members are constantly being trained to work on new equipment.

Scanlon, our newest member brings an extensive skill set to the unit as he is certified in areas such as programming and installation of police radios, emergency lights, surveillance cameras, body worn cameras and digital mobile video recorders (DMVR).

# HONOR GUARD

Our Honor Guard serves a number of official functions such as swearing-ins, promotions, parades and funerals and its members participate on a voluntary basis.

2019 members consisted of Sgt. Hector Umana, Cpl. Lance Fanning, Cpl. KiJung Kim, Det. Daniel Richards, Det. Brian Oliveira, PO Jesus Otero, PO Gary Vecchione and PO Brian Boryszewski.

In addition to in-house functions, they proudly presented the colors at several sporting events in 2019 including:

- January 14th-NJ Devils Game at Prudential Center
- September 29-NY Red Bulls game at Red Bull Arena
- December 3rd-NJ Devils game at Prudential Center

A large group of supporters made up of friends and family of the Long Branch Police

Department accompanied the Honor Guard to the January 14th NJ Devils Game. All attendees enjoyed a game of Broom Ball on the ice after the game.



## K9 UNIT

The City of Long Branch Police Canine (K9) Unit is made up of two teams, Sgt. Robert Shamrock and K9 Hagan and P.O. Omar Akel and K9 Hades. These teams respond when patrol requests help in cases that involve expertise in areas such as tracking a suspect and locating narcotics.

In addition to responding to official service calls, our K9 Unit plays a vital role in our community outreach efforts, participating in numerous demonstrations for our public schools, Citizens Police Academies, National Night Out, and many other events.



## MOCERT

K9 Team Officer Omar Akel and Hades have been members of the Monmouth County Emergency Response Team (MOCERT) since September of 2018.

MOCERT is operated by the County Prosecutor's Office and integrates tactically trained officers from numerous municipal police departments to form one team. All members have received advanced training in various fields which include but are not limited to Special Weapons And Tactics, high-risk warrant service, hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, active shooters and dignitary protection. Recent team training has included preparation for weapons of mass destruction and terrorism incidents. The team has trained with FBI SWAT and LAPD SWAT as well as instructors from various military and private organizations.

Members train as a team bi-monthly as well as for several full weeks throughout the year. Officers are on call 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Semi-annually members undergo rigorous physical tests to remain on the team. In addition, members of the team must maintain the rank of firearms expert through firearms qualification scores."



# MONMOUTH COUNTY SERIOUS COLLISION ANALYSIS RESPONSE TEAM (SCART)



Officer Brian Boryszewski, a member of our Traffic Bureau continues to serve as a member of the Monmouth County Serious Collision Analysis Response Team (SCART) since the fall of 2018.

He is on call one week a month and responds to any fatal or serious bodily injury motor vehicle accident in Monmouth County during that timeframe.

## DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA)

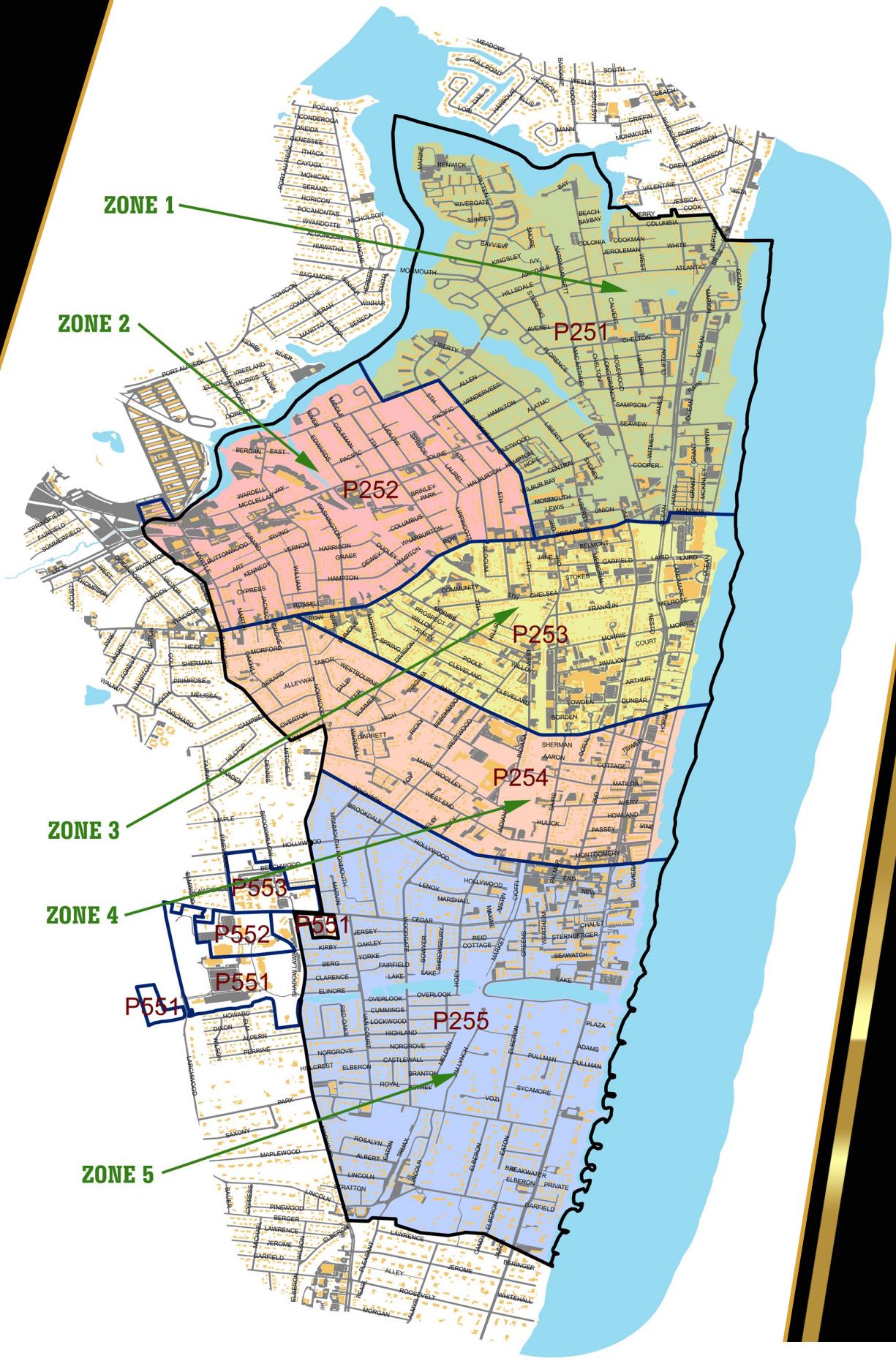
Beginning, September 2019, Officer Kevin Morris has been assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), New Jersey Division, Monmouth/Ocean County Post of Duty, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) in the capacity of Task Force Officer.



During his time so far, as a Deputized Task Force Officer, he conducted and assisted in numerous narcotics investigations throughout the state of New Jersey, which have led to the arrests of multiple subjects involved in the illegal trafficking of controlled dangerous substances. He participated in numerous search warrant executions, in which large sums of narcotics, money, and weapons were seized, including multi-kilo seizures of Fentanyl.

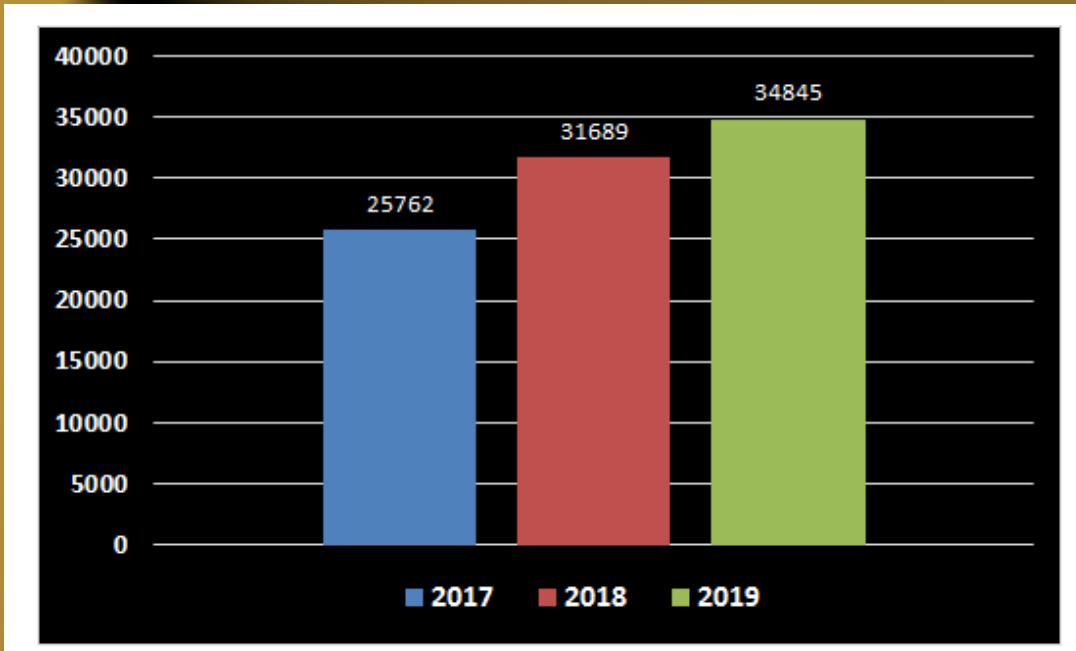


# PATROL ZONES

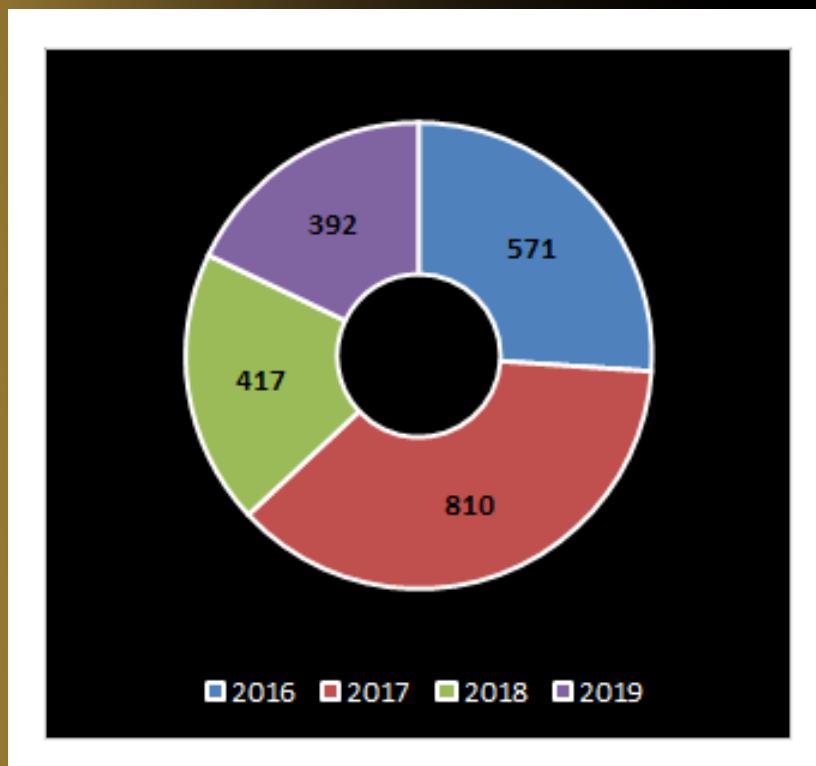


# STATISTICS

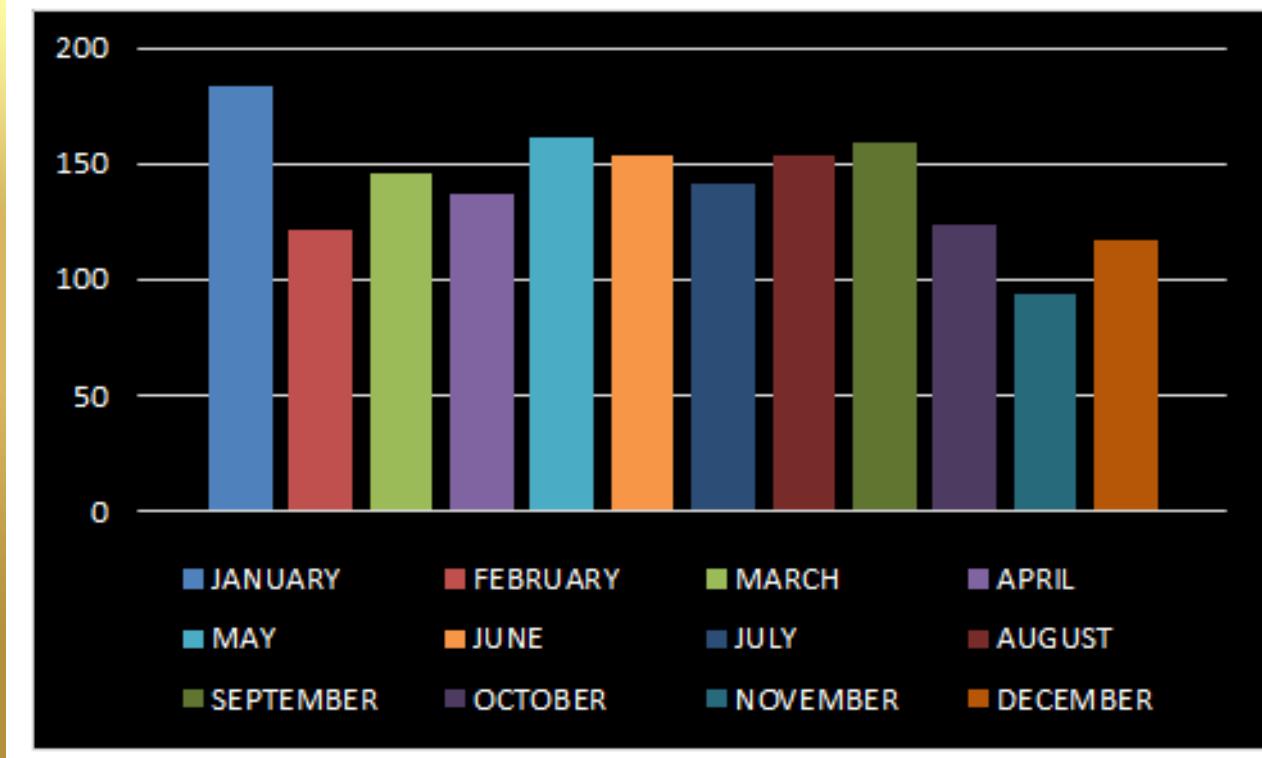
## CALLS FOR SERVICE



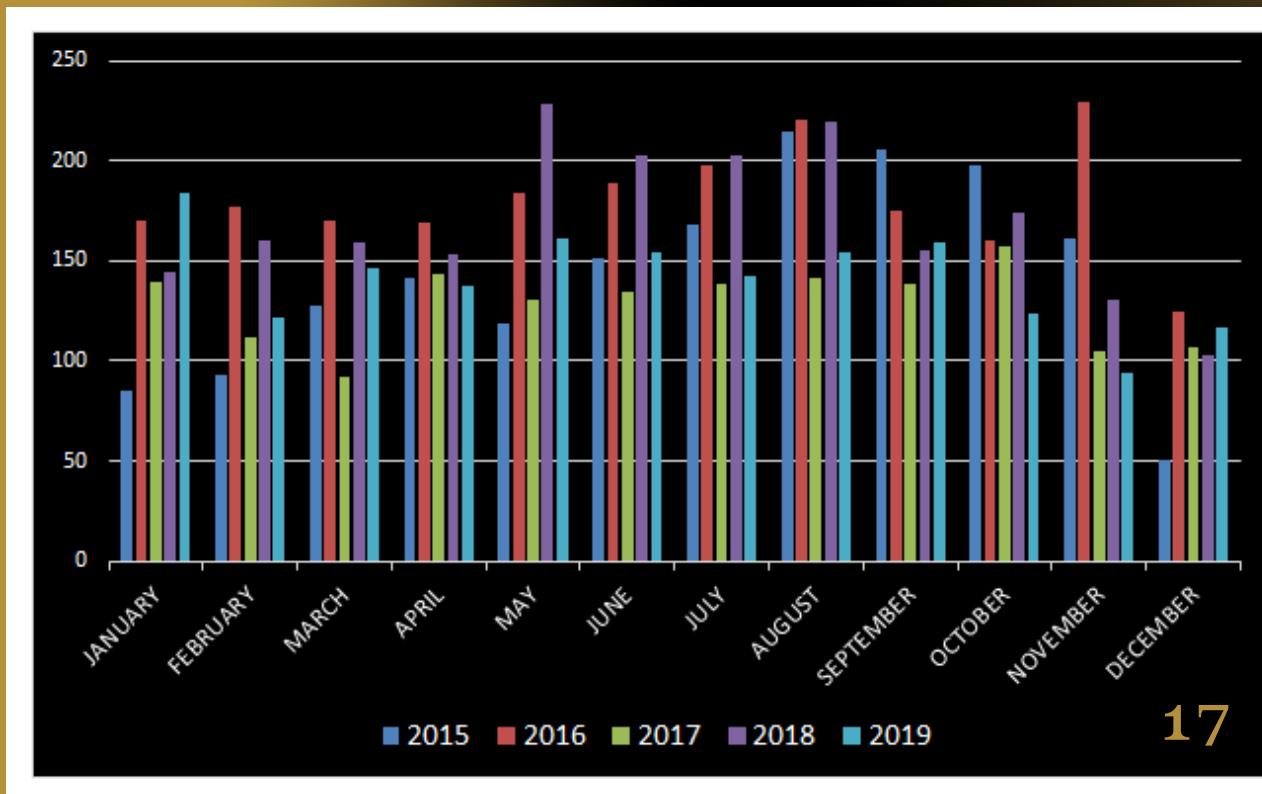
## 9-1-1 CALLS



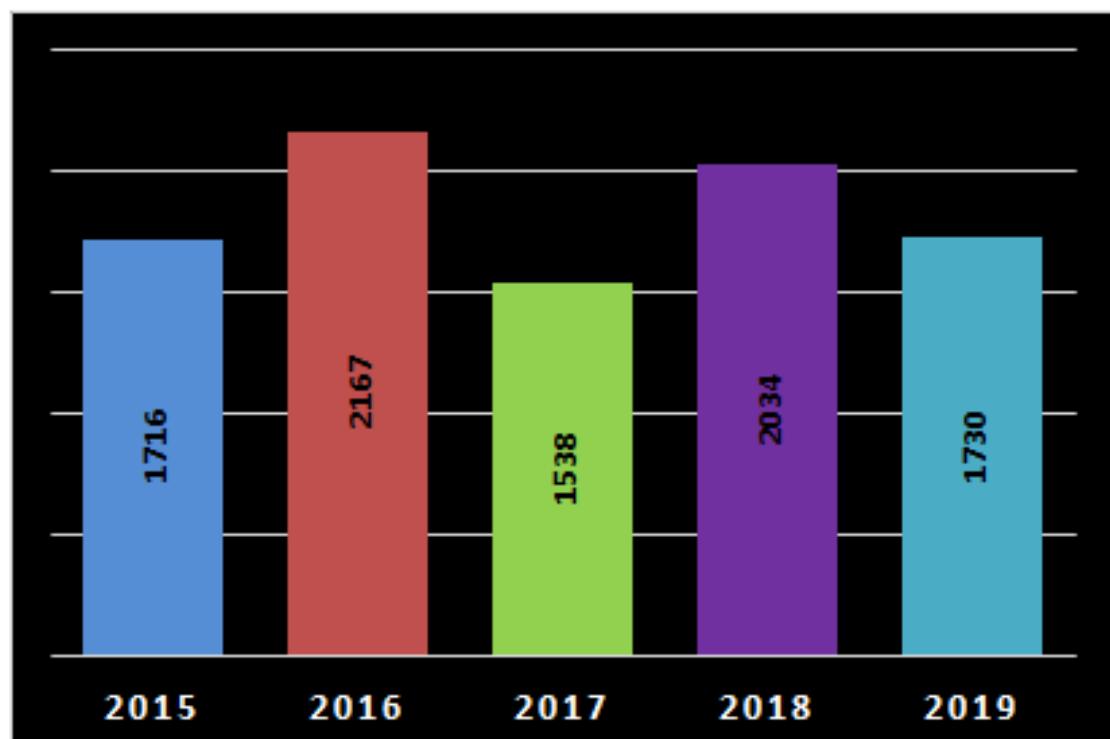
## 2019 ARRESTS BY MONTH



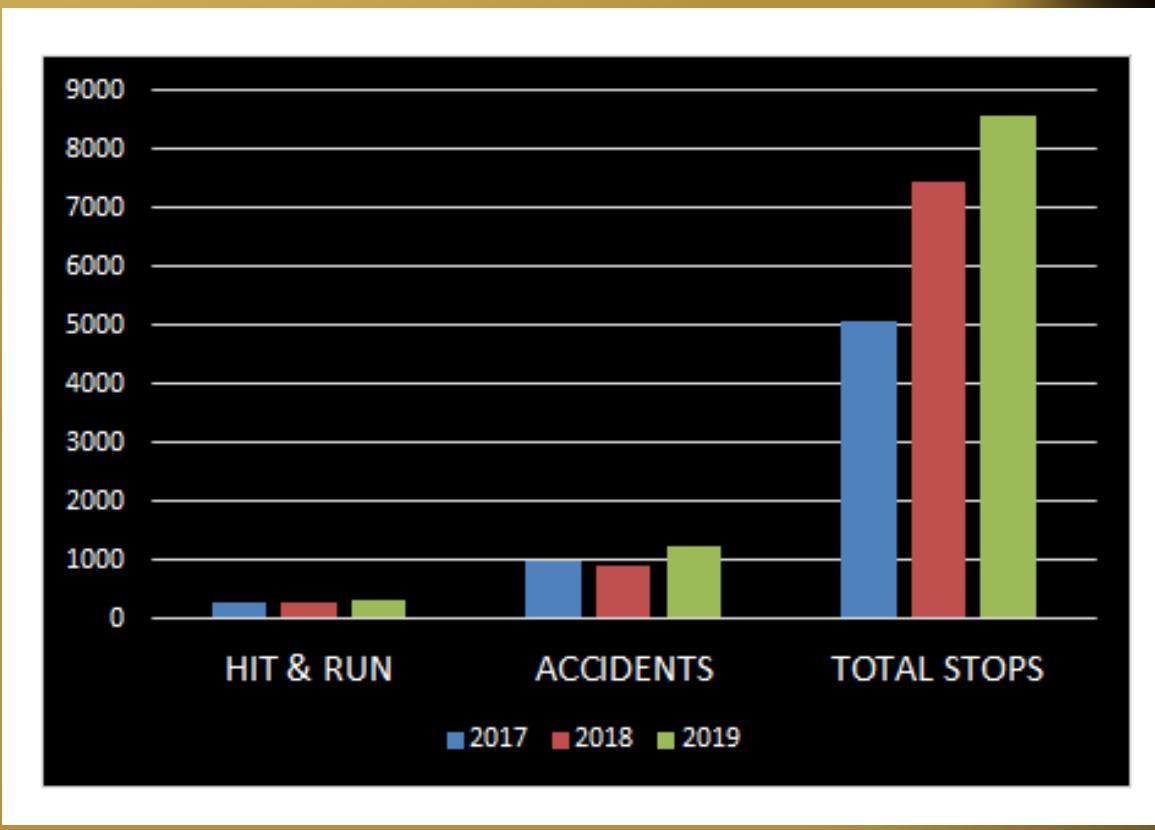
## ARRESTS BY MONTH 2015-2019



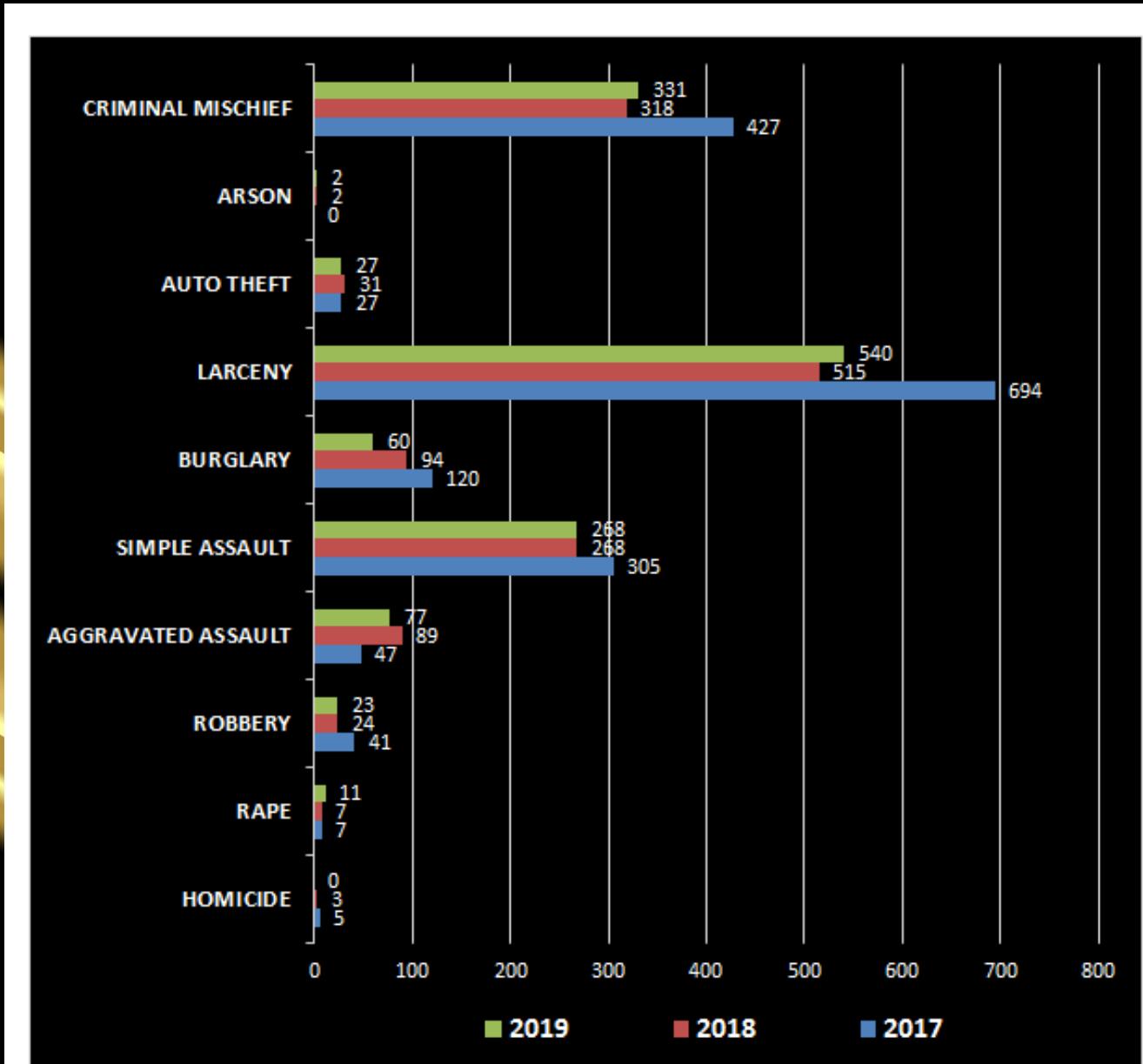
## TOTAL ARRESTS BY YEAR



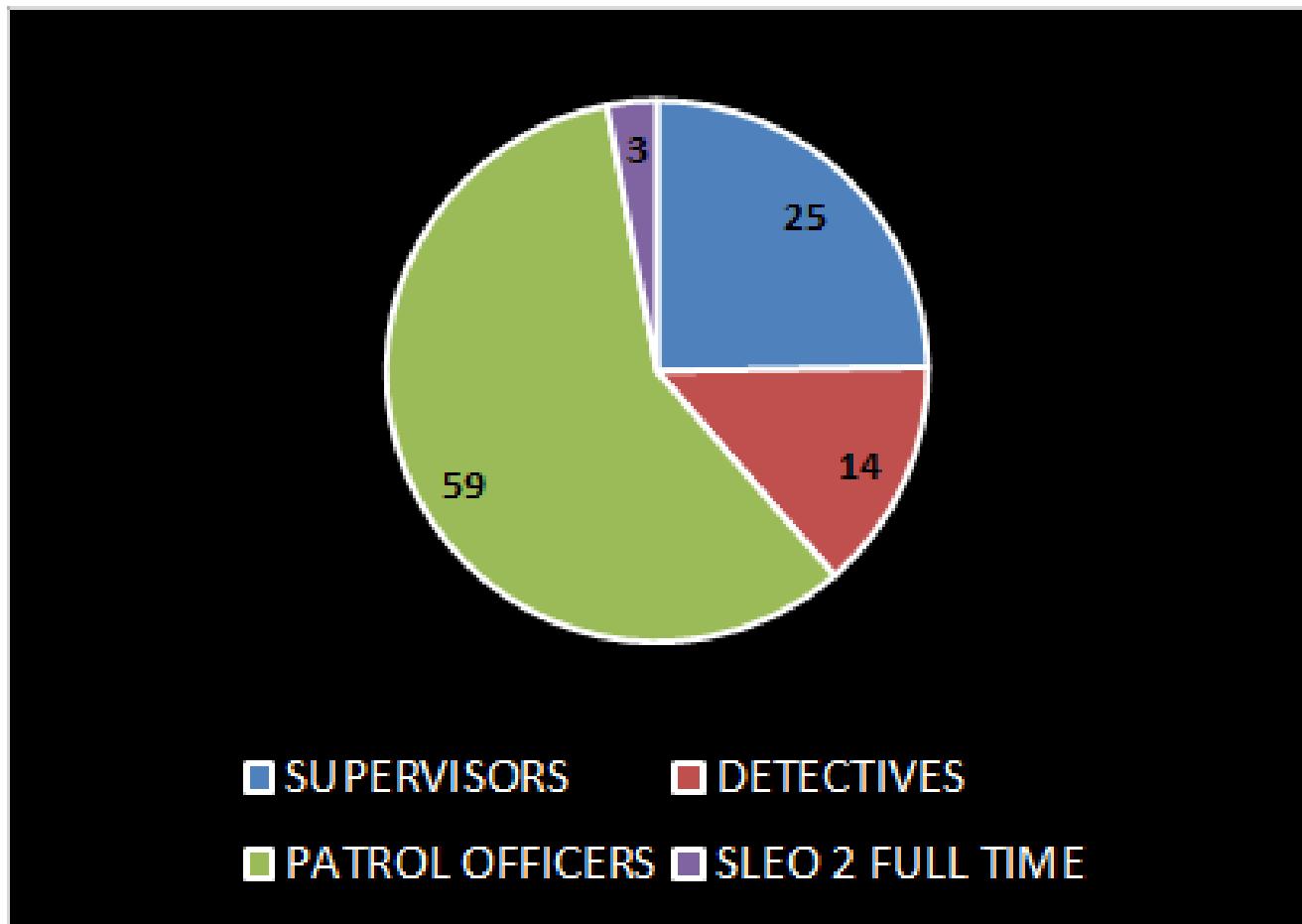
## MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS



# INDEX CRIMES (VIOLENT & PROPERTY CRIMES) PER YEAR



## ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

ORIGIN	COMPLAINT TYPE	RESULT
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Criminal Sexual Contact	Terminated *
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Minor rule infraction	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Harassment	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Harassment	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Harassment	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	False report	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Sustained
Citizen Complaint	Harassment	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Sustained
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Unfounded
Citizen Complaint	Harassment	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	excessive force	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Demeanor	Exonerated
Citizen Complaint	Minor rule infraction	Exonerated
Agency	Insubordination	Sustained
Agency	Sick time abuse	Sustained
Agency	Sick time abuse	Sustained
Agency	Motor vehicle accident	Counseling
Agency	Lost property	Administratively closed
Agency	Vehicle pursuit	Administratively closed
Agency	Insubordination	Sustained
Agency	AWOL	Sustained
Agency	Minor rule infraction	Sustained
Agency	Sexual assault	Exonerated
Agency	Excessive force	Exonerated
Agency	Minor rule infraction	Exonerated
Agency	Insubordination	Sustained

\* A LBPD Officer was terminated in 2019 after a joint investigation between the Monmouth County Prosecutors Office and Long Branch Police Department. As per the New Jersey Attorney General's Internal Affairs Policy and Procedures, an immediate suspension of the officer was effected pending the investigation. This allegation of criminal sexual contact was sustained.

# USE OF FORCE REPORTING

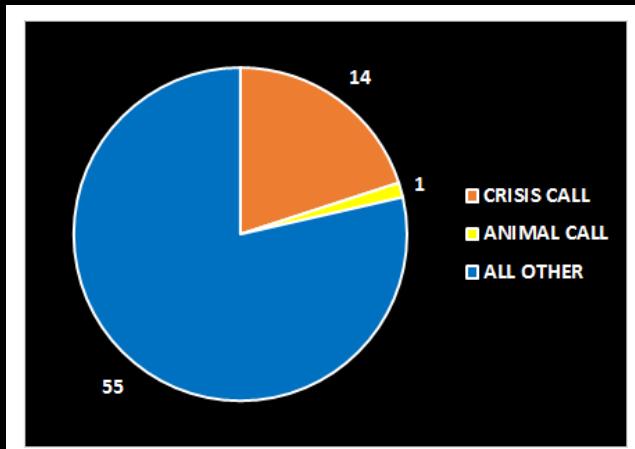
Attorney General (AG) Guidelines require that all law enforcement officers who have responded to a call where physical force is utilized must complete a Use of Force report.

The AG's office defines physical force as follows:

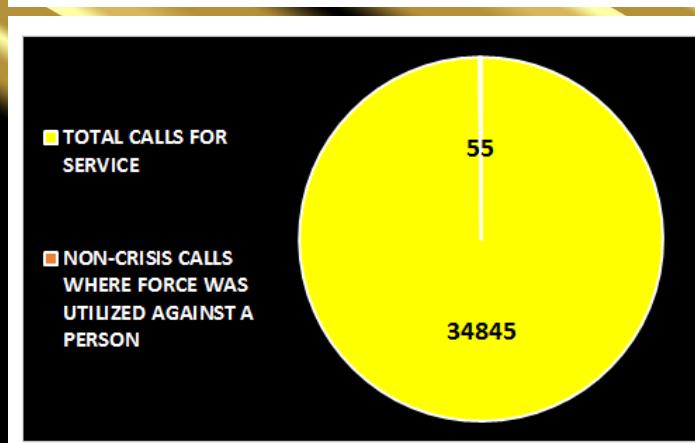
"Physical force involves contact with a subject beyond which is generally utilized to effect an arrest or other law enforcement objective. Physical force is employed when necessary to overcome a subject's physical resistance to the exertion of the law enforcement officer's authority , or to protect persons or property.

Examples include wrestling a resisting subject to the ground, using wrist locks or arm locks, striking with the hands or feet, or other similar methods of hand-to-hand confrontation."

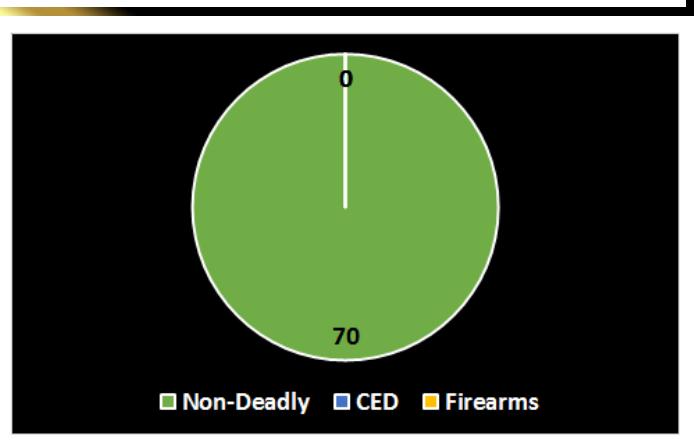
<b>TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>34845</b>
<b>TOTAL USE OF FORCE REPORTS * </b>	<b>128</b>
<b>TOTAL CALLS WHERE FORCE WAS UTILIZED</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>CRISIS CALL</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>ANIMAL CALL</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>ALL OTHER</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>TYPE OF FORCE USED</b>	
<b>NON-DEADLY</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>CED (Conducted energy device)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>FIREARM</b>	<b>0</b>



\* More than one report is often written for each call involving force as all responding officers are required to file an individual report.



.0015% of non-crisis calls involved use of force.  
.0020% of total calls involved use of force.



100% of calls reporting use of force involved non-deadly force. 0% involved CED or firearms.

# OPERATIONAL ADVANCES

Long Branch Police Department proudly partnered with the Coming Full Circle (CFC) Loud N Clear Foundation to adopt a Crisis Intervention Program. The program aims to provide substance abuse Recovery, Intervention, Support & Education (R.I.S.E.) which fills the gap of the Overdose Prevention Act of 2013. CFC founded this program with Chief Andrew Kudrick of Howell Police Department in 2015 to help put an end to the opioid epidemic.

**CFC LOUD N CLEAR FOUNDATION**  
**CCAR Recovery Coach & Ethics Training**  
Approved Provider - New Jersey Certification Board  
Training Recovery Coaches since 2012

#### **CCAR Recovery Coach Training**

March 30th - April 5th, 2019  
Sat. & Sun | 8am to 5pm  
Monday - Friday | 6pm to 9pm  
\$350 Registration Fee - Must attend all hours to receive certification.

#### **CCAR Ethics Training**

April 27th & 28th, 2019  
Sat. & Sun | 8am to 5pm  
\$200 Registration Fee - Must attend all hours to receive certification.

Take both trainings for \$500 and save \$50!  
Both trainings are required to qualify to be a Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist in the State of New Jersey (CPRSS)  
Both trainings will be held at Freehold Raceway Mall.



#### **Attn: Long Branch Residents**

Long Branch Police Department is offering 10 scholarships to residents of Long Branch to attend both trainings. Must provide proof of residency and have a desire to be on call with the Crisis Intervention Team. Complete the form online for scholarship: [healingus.org/rca](http://healingus.org/rca)

The CFC R.I.S.E. program partners with law enforcement to provide Certified Recovery Coaches to community members in need.

"CFC Relapse Prevention Program fills the gap after clinical treatment. We provide an all encompassing accountability program that helps keep you on track, fills your life with positive, passion inducing activities, and introduces you to a strong sober community. All of our programs are designed to change every aspect of your new life in recovery and keep you focused on the future. "



# TRAINING

All Officers are required to attend in-service training sessions to stay up-to-date on current laws, professional guidelines, operations and procedures. Some of the training is department specific, while much of it is mandated by the county prosecutor, Attorney General and by state or federal statutes. Most mandated training is required every six months to one year. A few topics covered in the training are firearms requalification, domestic violence, blood-borne pathogens, hazardous materials and breathalyzer recertification.

Specialized units conduct job-specific training and qualification sessions and officers are assigned to attend other agency training courses as needed. The list on the following page shows just a fraction of the training courses that our officers attended in 2019. On average, nearly 400 training orders are issued to individual Officers per year.

In addition to classroom training, hands-on training exercises are conducted by members of our department including firearms, active shooter drills and other response scenarios. The photos on the following pages show a few of the training courses our officers attended in 2019.



Seasonal Class I Special Law Enforcement Officers at orientation.



Cpl. Tracey Widdis reviews basic EMT life-saving procedures.



As part of orientation training, each Class I is sprayed with OC (pepper spray) to understand its effects first-hand.

## Long Branch Police Department



## Training Drill

The LBPD conducted multiple training drills throughout the year to test response & procedures in the event of an emergency situation such as an active shooter scenario. We are very grateful to the school system for allowing us use of their buildings for the drills.

- Warrantless searches and seizures
- Methods of Instruction
- FBI Crisis Negotiations
- Search Warrant Execution and Entry
- Basic Internal Affairs Investigation School
- Active Shooter Training
- FBI Economic Crimes Seminar
- NJ Transit Rail Safety
- Alcotest Recertification
- EMT refresher
- Warrant Squad Training Entry
- Humane Law Enforcement Officer
- Medical Management
- Crisis Incident management
- NJSP Supervision and Leadership Course
- De-escalation simulator instructor
- TOP Gun Narcotics Interdiction training
- Social Media for criminal investigations
- Taser Instructor Certification
- Gang Intelligence Training
- Report Writing
- License Plate Recognition Training
- Opiate Awareness Program
- Safe School Resource officer and school liaison training
- Bias Crime Training
- Hate – Causes, Crimes and Consequences
- Missing children command staff training
- Breaching door device
- Incident response to terrorist bombings
- Interview and interrogation
- Crime scene investigation
- Special victims investigation course

- Antiterrorism symposium
- E-Trace
- Case Law Update for Search & Seizure
- FBI Command Leadership Institute
- Rapid Response to active shooter
- Pre-employment background investigations
- School security seminar
- Below 100 Program
- Cell phone boot camp
- Introduction to Narco-terrorism
- Standard Field Sobriety Testing
- Sexual Assault Response Team Training
- Motor Vehicle Commission Document Fraud
- Effects of Domestic Violence on children
- Proactive patrol tactics
- Managing Narcotics Informants
- ABC Enforcement Techniques
- East Coast Gang Symposium
- Methamphetamine Clandestine Laboratory Safety
- Open source and dark web searching
- Drill and ceremony familiarization course
- Special Events Seminar
- Conducted Energy Devices and Less lethal devices training
- Hidden compartment training
- DWI detection
- OC Aerosol instructor course
- Fundamentals of criminal intelligence
- Child seat safety inspection



On Friday, April 5th, the LBPD held its annual departmental meeting. We would like to thank Rev. Lyddale Akins for being our Guest Speaker & and teaching the entire department about Unconscious/Implicit Bias. In addition, we thank the Township of Ocean Police Department for covering our calls & keeping our City safe, allowing all of our Officers to attend!

LBPD Officers recently attended a discussion about the Monmouth County Special Needs Registry at the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.

Cpl. Leavy, Cpl. Fanning and Sgt. Evangelho can be seen in the photo (L to R)



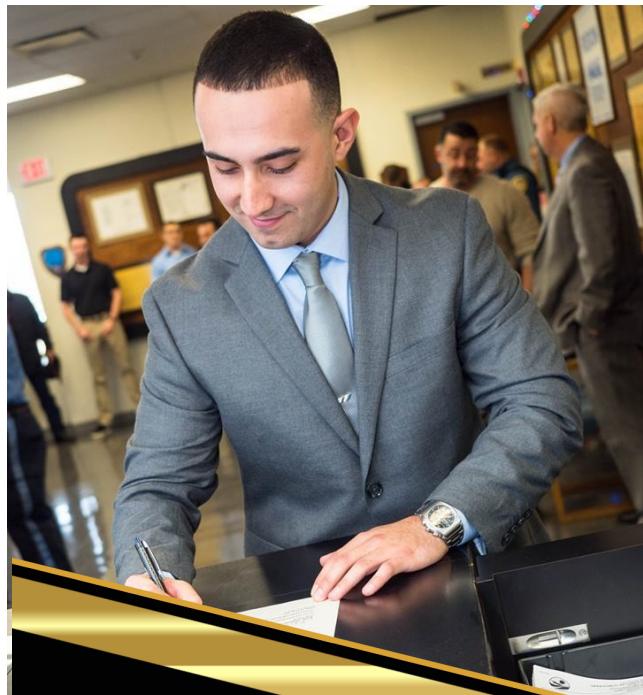
Members of the Long Branch Police Department and City Administration attended a very insightful meeting, "The Immigrant Experience"



Officers from the LBPD Traffic Bureau attended the "AAA Mid Atlantic Saves Lives" pedestrian safety program in March. News12 NJ and Chasing Jersey were there to share the story.

# DEPARTMENTAL MILESTONES

Officer Paul Garcia was officially sworn in as a full-time officer on Wednesday, January 2nd at our City Clerk's office. Prior to his appointment, PO Garcia served our department as a SLEO 1 and a SLEO 2 officer.



Officer Christopher Lo Bello, formerly of Hazlet PD, joined us as part of the Intergovernmental Transfer Program on June 3rd. Prior to Law enforcement he was in the Army and served in Afghanistan from 2012- 2013. He served in Hazlet for 5 years where he was a Firearms Instructor, Active Shooter Instructor and was tasked to the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Strike Force for a year.

## NEW OFFICERS



21 new Special Law Enforcement, Class I (SLEO I) Officers joined us for the 2019 summer season! and 14 SLEO I Officers returned to duty from last season. SLEO I Officers must complete a lengthy application process which includes NJ State mandated police

academy training. They do not carry a firearm but are trained in the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC or pepper spray) as well as other defensive tactics for emergency situations. Their focus is the enforcement of ordinances, primarily pertaining to the beachfront, boardwalk, and summer events such as concerts and car shows. They are there to assist whenever needed by Lifeguards, Beach Personnel, full-time Officers and, of course, the public. SLEO I's are a key proponent in our on-going efforts to provide community policing and public safety for the thousands of residents and visitors we serve throughout the city during the summer months. Many SLEO I Officers join our department with hopes of using their on-the-job training to advance to full-time Officers. In fact, the majority of our current Police Officers started out as a SLEO I.



Class 2 Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO 2) Officers Michael Morse, James Laco, Joseph Buciero, Joseph Benner, Frank Minnisch, Cesar Lopez, Davi Cunha, Christian DeFazio, Michael Pede, Bryan Rodriguez and Trevor VanNess are pictured here with Sgt. John Evangelho and Chief Jason Roebuck at their Monmouth County Police Academy Graduation on May 22, 2019. A special congratulations goes out to SLEO Michael Morse for being honored with the Traffic Officers Association Award for his achievement of 99.5%!

# PROMOTIONS

Congratulations goes out to 8 of our officers who were promoted and officially sworn in with their new ranks on Tuesday, January 8th! Lieutenants Bard and Silverio were promoted to Captain, Sergeants Garrett and Bell were promoted to Lieutenant, Detectives Decker and Beirne along with Officers Yoo and Umana were promoted to Sergeant.



Capt. Joshua Bard, Capt. Jorge Silverio, Lt. Robert Bell, Lt. Brian Garrett, Sgt. Sam Yoo, Sgt. James Beirne, Sgt. Michael Decker, Sgt. Hector Umana, PO Daniel DiLeonardo, PO Robert Presley, PO Christopher Fish and PO Paul Garcia celebrated their new titles at a ceremony on February 1st, 2019, at the Long Branch Middle School.

On June 17th, the following officers were officially promoted:

Sergeant John Evangelho to Lieutenant, Detective Joseph Kennedy to Sergeant, Detective Corporal David Graminski to Sergeant and Corporal Thomas Hueston to Sergeant. Their promotional ceremony was held on July 19th during which, we also celebrated our newest officer, Christopher LoBello.



# CONGRATULATIONS



# CORPORALS

40 years ago, March 28th, Officer Drew Winans, Sr. took an oath to serve and protect the City of Long Branch. Winans also served as Police Chief to Monmouth Beach for several years before retiring. (His Chief photo is on the wall behind him.) He returned from retirement when the SLEO 3 position opened up to help protect our schools. We are so glad he returned to LBPD and wish him a Happy Anniversary on his original hire date!



40 Years Ago  
Sworn in as a  
FT Officer



Today  
SLEO 3  
Officer

Officer Drew Winans, Sr.

## ANNIVERSARY MILESTONES

Congratulations goes out to the following officers on completing 15 years of service within the Long Branch Police Department and achieving the rank of Corporal!

January:

Corporal Marco Rodrigues

Corporal Josh Wagner

July:

Corporal Matthew Widdis

Corporal Kijung Kim

# RETIRED OFFICERS

Corporal Michael McGowan began his law enforcement career with the Long Branch Police Department in March of 1994 and officially started his retirement on March 1, 2019.

Throughout his tenure, Cpl. McGowan has served as a Patrol Officer, Detective in the Street Crimes Division and a Field Training Officer for new officers. In addition to his departmental duties, Cpl. McGowan was also assigned for a period to the New Jersey State Police as a member of their Narcotics Task Force Team. He is a graduate of Top Gun School and was a member of the New Jersey Narcotics Association.

He has been honored numerous times during his career with commendations and awards for his performance. A few of his awards included his performance during a six-alarm, multi-structure fire, the apprehension of a dangerous convicted felon who had escaped state prison and the disarming of a subject who was posing a threat to herself and others. He was also honored by the Monmouth County Women's Association for his work with victims of domestic violence.

Corporal McGowan always reported for duty with a smile on his face and is well-known to try to make those around him smile too. His positive attitude and kind nature will be missed by members of the department and the community.

We thank him for his many years of dedicated service and wish him all the best in this new and exciting chapter of his life! Happy Retirement!

*Thank You for your Service!  
Congratulations on your Retirement!*



Corporal  
Michael McGowan  
#248



Detective Sergeant Juan H. Vasquez, a life-long resident of the City of Long Branch, was a member of the 1988 LBHS graduating class. He then attended Kean University, where he earned a Bachelors degree in Political Science in 1993.

Hired on October 7, 1997, DSgt. Vasquez was first assigned to the Patrol Division upon his graduation from the New Jersey State Police Academy in Sea Girt.

## Sergeant Juan H. Vasquez #282

In February of 2000, he was assigned to the Investigations Bureau as a Detective where he served until April of 2011 when he returned to Patrol. He was promoted to Sergeant in October of 2017 and, in January 2019, was assigned to the Investigations Bureau where he served until retirement. His last day on the LBPD schedule is March 29, 2019 and his retirement officially starts on April 1, 2019.

In addition to his police duties, he also served as a Lead Negotiator for the Monmouth and Ocean County Emergency Response Team (MOCERT) Hostage Negotiations Team, a member of the Monmouth County Bias Crime Investigators Association and as both a liaison to and a member of the Violent Gang Task Force for Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE). He was also trained in Eurasian Organized Crime by the FBI Academy at Quantico, VA and attended Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) in Phoenix, AZ.

During his career, Sgt. Vasquez has been honored with many awards and commendations, including Officer of the Year for both Rotary Club and the V.F.W., Monmouth County 200 Club Medal of Honor, two Honorable Service Awards and seven Unit Citations. He was also the recipient of the Monmouth County Latino-American Association's Man of the Year Award.

He will be missed by many both professionally and personally at PD headquarters! Especially, his sense of humor and his smile! But, we wish him much happiness and success as he begins this new chapter of his life!

He can now enjoy more time with his wife, who was also his high school sweetheart, and their two children and focus on his new career goals.

Thanks for your many years of service to the City of Long Branch! Enjoy Retirement!

Lieutenant Fernando Sanders is a lifelong resident of Long Branch and a 1985 Graduate of Long Branch High School. He attended Monmouth University on a full athletic scholarship, graduating in 1989 with a B.A. in speech Communication. Upon graduation, he played professional basketball in several countries.

Lt. Sanders joined the Police Department in April of 1994 and attended the Newark Police Academy. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the Patrol division as a uniformed officer. In April of 1999, Lt. Sanders was assigned to the Investigations Division as a Detective where he served until being promoted to Sergeant in August of 2002. Lt. Sanders has spent the majority of his career in the Investigations Division, most recently as a Detective Sergeant supervising the investigation and management of criminal cases.

He is an experienced investigator in all categories of major crimes and, in 2006, he supervised the Detective Bureau in the investigation of several homicides that occurred within the City. His management skills led to the successful prosecution of those and many other high profile criminal cases. Throughout his tenure, he has been presented with many different awards and citations, including Meritorious Service, several Unit Citations, and was honored as Policeman of the Year.

In addition to his regular duties, Lt. Sanders has served as a training officer for the police department, a hostage negotiator for M.O.C.E.R.T. and a member of the oral review board for new hires since 1998. He has attended numerous schools and training courses and was a certified instructor for the Monmouth County Police Academy. Lieutenant Sanders has proven to be a great police officer and a role model for both his peers and the young people within the City of Long Branch and is the proud father of three beautiful daughters: Brianna, Gabrielle, and Ananda.

Lt. Sanders officially began his retirement on May 1, 2019. We wish him all the best in this new chapter!



# Lieutenant Fernando Sanders #250



## Lieutenant Frank Morey #254

Lieutenant Frank Morey was born in 1969 and was raised in Stonington/North Stonington, CT. He enlisted in the U.S. Army where he did a tour in the Military Police Corps and was deployed several times to varying overseas locations participating in Operation Just Cause Panama 1989/1990.

He was ultimately stationed at Fort Monmouth, NJ and in September of 1993, he began his career with Long Branch Police Department as a Class 2 Officer working in the Dispatch and Traffic Departments. He graduated the police academy and was hired as a full-time Police Officer on March 31st, 1995. He was promoted to Sergeant on March 31st, 2004 and to Lieutenant on August 12th, 2010. Lt. Morey has served in the Patrol Division as a Patrol Officer and Supervisor as well as in the Community Response Unit (Street Crimes).

He served as President to both the P.B.A. Local #10 and S.O.A. Local #10A and has received numerous awards and commendations throughout his career with the City of Long Branch Police. Lt. Morey was a key member of the LBPD 150th Ball Committee, spending countless hours researching the history of the department and its officers.

He has two daughters, Hope, who attends college in NY and Faith who is a local High School student.

His retirement officially began on May 1, 2019. We wish him much happiness and success in this new chapter of his life! Happy Retirement & Thanks for your service!

Corporal Jennifer Gant began her career with the LBPD on August 1, 2001 and began her retirement on November 1, 2019.

Throughout her career, she has been honored with several awards and commendations including Unit Citations, Officer of the Year, 200 Club Valor Award, multiple Honorable Service awards, and was LBPD's Officer Of the Month for September 2017.

In addition to her role as a police woman, she also held certifications in Dispatch as well as EMT-B. There were countless incidents over the years where she utilized her combined skills to make a huge difference & saved lives. Two of her most memorable cases in this regard are described below:

- Cpl. Gant was first on scene for a fatal motor vehicle accident involving a 21 year old girl. Upon arrival, no pulse or breathing was detected. Officer Gant tirelessly administered CPR from the scene all the way to the hospital. When they arrived at the hospital, the victim had a pulse but was not breathing on her own. Officer Gant's actions allowed the family time to be with their loved one and say their goodbyes. Furthermore, it allowed them time to decide and arrange to donate her organs which helped 8 other people, including 2 babies. She is still in contact with the girl's parents to this day.
- During a first aid call, Cpl. Gant performed CPR on a mother of four who was 8 months pregnant at the time. Not only did her actions save the life of both the mother and unborn child, but Cpl. Gant visited with the family & children on a regular basis while the mother underwent an extensive hospital stay. As a sign of gratitude, they named their daughter Piper Jennifer and continue their relationship to this day.

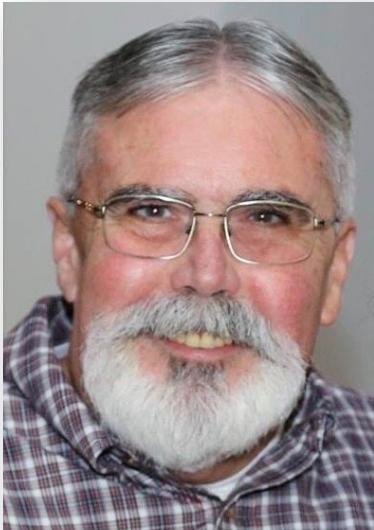
On a more personal note, Cpl. Gant has been married to fellow officer, Chris Gant for 11 years and they have two children Alison & Matthew. While she's not sure professionally what comes next yet, she plans to do more crafting, cooking and volunteering at her children's schools. She's excited to have the time to do things with her kids that her schedule would previously not allow.

We thank her for her many years of dedicated service and wish her all the best in this new and exciting chapter of her life!  
Happy Retirement Jenn!



**Corporal Jennifer Gant #304**

# REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN



## **James A. Mazza, Sr. #197 · 1953 - 2019**

Retired Detective Sergeant James A. Mazza, Sr., passed away at his home in Maple Hills, North Carolina on Tuesday, June 18th.

Det. Sgt. Mazza began his law enforcement career with Long Branch on March 1, 1979. He was assigned as a Detective to the Investigations Unit on November 23, 1995. He was promoted to Sergeant on January 22, 1999 and assigned as the Supervisor to the Juvenile Investigations Bureau until he retired on April 1, 2002. He was awarded numerous commendations during his tenure, including Juvenile Officer of the Year.



## **Retired Captain Peter V. Johns #139 · 1946 - 2019**

Retired Captain Peter V. Johns joined the LBPD in 1971, was promoted to Sergeant in 1978, Lieutenant in 1983 and Captain in 1986. He also served as a Detective for several years of his career before his retirement in 1999. He also served his Country honorably in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam Conflict.

He passed away on June 29th, 2019.



**Detective Sergeant  
Patrick A. King  
End of Watch 11-20-1997**



To honor the memory of Detective Sergeant Patrick A. King #167, the Long Branch Policeman's Benevolent Association (LBPBA), Local #10 once again organized a moment of silence held at the Memorial Wall of Police Headquarters on November 20th, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Det. Sgt. King was killed in the line of duty, when he was shot twice from behind while waiting for his order during a meal break. He served the LBPD for 22 years.



# PRESS RELEASES

## **2/6/19 (MCPO): Man Arrested for Long Branch Stabbing**

A man has been arrested in connection with a stabbing Tuesday morning in Long Branch, announced Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni.

Michael Smith, 43, of Brick, is charged with first degree Attempted Murder, two counts of second degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, and two counts of second degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, in connection with the stabbing of a 34-year old Brick Township woman.

A joint investigation by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Long Branch Police Department revealed that on February 5, 2019, at approximately 9:39 a.m., Long Branch Police Officer Robert Korn responded to a stabbing incident. When Officer Korn arrived, he observed the suspect, Michael Smith, swinging and grabbing at the victim, who was lying on the ground. Korn was able to pull Smith off of the victim and place him under arrest. Smith was armed with two knives during the assault and had stabbed the victim multiple times in the chest and head. The victim was taken to the hospital where she is listed in stable condition.

If convicted of Attempted Murder, Smith faces 20 years in a New Jersey state prison without parole. Both the Murder and Attempted Murder charges are subject to the provisions of the "No Early Release Act" (NERA) requiring him to serve 85 percent of the sentence imposed before becoming eligible for release on parole. He would also be under parole supervision for five years following his release from state prison.

If convicted of the second degree weapons offenses, Smith faces a sentence up to ten years in prison on each charge.

Smith is scheduled to have his First Appearance on February 11, 2019 in Superior Court with a Detention Hearing to immediately follow.

The case is assigned to Monmouth County Assistant Prosecutor Stephanie Dugan.

Despite these charges, every defendant is presumed innocent, unless and until found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt, following a trial at which the defendant has all of the trial rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution and State law.

## **2/25/19 (LBPD): Three Officers Injured in Vehicle Pursuit**

Three Long Branch Police Officers were injured earlier this evening following a motor vehicle accident during a vehicle pursuit. Two Detectives were treated and released from Monmouth Medical Center, and the other officer is being held for observation overnight at Jersey Shore Medical Center.

The pursuit started as a result of a drug investigation, further details will be released when the investigation is completed. The suspect's vehicle was located, the three suspects in the car fled the scene after the accident. We have no reason to believe there is any danger to the public, or that the suspects are still in the area. A complete search of the surrounding area was conducted.

Please keep the officers in your thoughts as they recover from their injuries. Thank you.

2/28/19 (LBPD):

### Long Branch Police Department Launches Addiction Intervention Team

Chief Jason Roebuck and the Long Branch Police Department (LBPD) have taken a tremendous step in the war on substance abuse. The LBPD has recently partnered with Coming Full Circle (CFC) Loud N Clear Foundation and will adopt the R.I.S.E. (Recovery, Intervention, Support, and Education) Crisis Intervention Team. The R.I.S.E. program was created by CFC Loud N Clear Foundation in collaboration with Chief Andrew Kudrick of the Howell Police Department in 2016. The R.I.S.E. Crisis Intervention Team has provided a dedicated CFC emergency hotline number to the LBPD and will provide 24 hour on-call services to for the purpose of responding to substance abuse related calls. CFC members will provide peer support and multiple resources to individuals involved in such cases as well as engage with their family members for optimum positive outcomes. In addition, CFC will assist in finding and encouraging treatment resources, follow up on progress for a six month period, document outcomes and provide LBPD with updated status information.

Drug overdoses kill more than 64,000 people per year, and the nation's life expectancy has fallen for two years in a row. Mental Health issues such as depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder are on the rise. Children of addicts are 8x more likely to develop an addiction. Siblings of addicts are 4x more likely. Families with addicted spouses are 80% more likely to end up divorced. Ultimately, our community suffers when substance abuse is prevalent.

Since 2012, CFC Loud N Clear Foundation has been committed to helping people and their families struggling with addiction find a positive, progressive life in recovery - making them assets to their community. CFC is not only driving awareness to the disease of addiction but helping many people in crisis. By seamlessly integrating all aspects of a township municipality, CFC is expanding recovery support services through mentorship, peer support, community education and outreach programs (including naloxone training) that reduce stigma or discrimination against individuals with substance use disorders.

CFC Loud N Clear Foundation is committed to helping people and their families struggling with addiction find a positive, progressive life in recovery - making them assets to their community. We are excited to work with Long Branch Police Department and the City of Long Branch to combat this disease and help as many people as possible. - 10 scholarships available to Long Branch residents!

Register now for our upcoming CCAR Recovery Coach & Ethics Training Courses. This training is open to the general public, limited seating available. There are 10 scholarships available to residents of Long Branch thanks to support of Long Branch Police Department and Chief Roebuck. Please join our mission and help us save lives!

Chief Roebuck and the members of the LBPD are confident that their new alliance with CFC will benefit not only the individuals who directly utilize their services, but also their families, friends and the community as whole.



### **3/25/19 (LBPD): Arrest made in vehicle pursuit**

An arrest has been made in a vehicle pursuit that left three Long Branch Police Officers injured during a serious motor vehicle accident. The pursuit and subsequent accident occurred February 25th, 2019 at approximately 6:35 pm. Michael A. Priester was arrested on March 7th, 2019 for his role in the incident.

The vehicle pursuit which began on Morris Avenue, Long Branch, stemmed from a narcotics distribution investigation. The pursuit was terminated after an officer involved accident occurred at the intersection of Ocean Avenue and South Lake Drive. A marked patrol unit and an unmarked detective vehicle collided, causing extensive damage to both vehicles. Officer Joshua Wagner was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center, where he was treated and hospitalized for several days. He is still recuperating from his injuries and not yet able to return to duty. Detectives Patrick Vaccaro and Daniel Richards were treated and released at Monmouth Medical Center and returned to duty that evening.

The accused vehicle was also damaged in the pursuit and found abandoned a few blocks from the accident. A search was conducted in the area, but the occupants had fled the scene. Detectives continued with the investigation in the ensuing weeks and were able to issue warrants for Priester, 24 years old, whose last known address is Neptune, NJ. He was arrested for:

Resisting Arrest, Eluding in a Motor Vehicle-2nd degree crime.

Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) within 500 feet of a park – 2nd degree crime

Conspiracy to Distribute Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) within 1000 feet of a school- 3rd degree crime

Chief Roebuck stated, “Remember, it’s the accused that decides to initiate the pursuit by failing to stop for the police. The Long Branch Police Department was not going to rest until the person responsible for placing our residents and officers in danger was identified and apprehended. Vehicle pursuits are inherently dangerous, but as in this case sometimes our officers have no choice but to pursue a dangerous criminal. The Long Branch Police will continue to vigilantly enforce the law while remembering that the safety of the public and our officers are of utmost importance.”

Vehicle Pursuits are governed by the Attorney General’s Guidelines, and specifically state when officers can initiate and continue pursuits. These guidelines were followed. The pursuit is being reviewed by the Monmouth County Prosecutor’s Office.

### **3/29/19 (MCPO): Fatal fire in Long Branch on Friday, March 29, 2019.**

At approximately 2:07 a.m., Long Branch Police Department received multiple calls of a structure fire at 135 Charles St. Heavy fire activity was noted at the time of arrival. One resident was located inside, the victim, Thomas Booth III, 67, who was removed from the residence by Long Branch PD. CPR was initiated by on scene and Booth was transported to Jersey Shore University Medical Center. The victim was pronounced at 3:15 a.m. A post-mortem exam is scheduled for later today. Fire suppression efforts were conducted by the Long Branch Fire Department with assistance from Neptune Fire Department. The fire was deemed under control at 2:34 a.m. Long Branch, Elberon and Monmouth Beach First Aid Squads all responded to assist. No further injuries were reported.

Condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Thomas Booth III

#### 4/15/19 (MCPO): Man Sentenced to Life in Prison Without Parole for 2013 Double Murder

Carlos I. Menjivar, 26, of 45 North Fifth Ave. in Long Branch, was sentenced on Friday to life in prison without the possibility of parole for the 2013 double murder of a couple found dead inside a Sairs Avenue apartment, announced Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni.

Monmouth County Presiding Criminal Judge David F. Bauman sentenced Menjivar to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole for the murder of Maria Yolanda Catejo-Munoz, 35, and a consecutive term of life imprisonment for the murder of Fredis Orlando Ventura, 33, both of Long Branch.

During the sentencing, Judge Bauman highlighted the brutal nature of these killings, stating that "the defendant did not simply murder the victims, he butchered them."

Menjivar was previously found guilty of two counts of first-degree murder, and one count of third-degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, and one count of fourth-degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon on December 18, 2018 following a two-month jury trial presided over by Judge Bauman.

Menjivar was arrested following a joint investigation by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Bureau, Long Branch Police Department and Monmouth County Sheriff's Office. The investigation began after Catejo-Munoz was reported missing around noon on Sunday, March 24, prompting a search for her whereabouts. The search led Long Branch Police to the Sairs Avenue apartment of Ventura, who had been romantically involved with Catejo-Munoz. At around 4 p.m. on March 25, 2013, both victims were discovered dead inside the apartment with multiple stab wounds.

Evidence presented at the trial revealed that Ventura invited Menjivar, a third man and Catejo-Munoz to his residence in the early morning hours of Mar. 24, 2013. After the third man had left the apartment, Menjivar fatally stabbed the two victims.

During the investigation, police learned Menjivar had been in possession of a knife while inside Ventura's apartment and had asked the other man there not to tell the police about the knife. Approximately 21 months later, on Dec. 16, 2014, Menjivar admitted to detectives that he stabbed Ventura in the neck with a knife, but claimed he had been forced to do so by others who had also killed Catejo-Munoz. DNA, forensic evidence located at the crime scene and his own phone records disproved Menjivar's version of events.

The case was prosecuted by Monmouth County Assistant Prosecutors Paul Alexander and Ian D. Brater.

Menjivar is represented by Allison Friedman, Esq., and Lisa Maglone, Esq., both of Freehold.

Great work by lead Detective Todd Coleman, the entire detective bureau and all LBPD officers involved in this investigation.



Photo: Monmouth County  
Corrections

### **5/1/19 (LBPD): Check Well Being Incident**

There was an incident on 6th Avenue this morning. A "check well being" call turned into a situation where the person, who was in crisis, didn't want to come out of the house. Several factors led us to believe he may be armed. Crisis negotiations commenced and he decided to come out and was transported to the hospital to receive the help he needs.

Great job by the officers on the scene, they used their training to keep themselves and the subject safe from harm.

### **6/10/19 (LBPD): Two Arrests Made in Attempted Burglary After Foot Pursuit**

On June 10, 2019, at approximately 0100, PO Garcia was in the area of 164 Broadway monitoring vehicle and pedestrian traffic from his patrol vehicle. He observed two male juveniles attempt to enter several vehicles parked on Second Avenue. Upon observing the attempted burglary, he attempted to stop the accused parties. Both juveniles ignored PO Garcia's commands to stop and fled on foot through nearby residential backyards. PO Garcia chased both on foot and provided detailed information to dispatch on the descriptions of the suspects. Dispatch, along with the supervisors, relayed the information quickly and accurately and helped coordinate a great effort. The majority of units on shift assisted by immediately setting up a perimeter. One suspect was taken into custody quickly. The second suspect was hiding in brush close by. A K9 was requested through the county radio room and Sgt. McGrogan (Middletown PD) and his K9 partner, Jax responded to the scene to assist.

The officers on scene, with the assistance of the Sgt. McGrogan and K9 Jax were able to take the second suspect into custody approximately one hour after the initial foot pursuit started. The officers on scene had all received minor injuries during the incident as they had checked locations with briars and thorns yet remained on scene until the second suspect could be located in the thick brush. Their dedication to duty is second to none and should be recognized for their tenacity in seeing the second suspect was brought to justice.

Excellent job by all involved.

(LBPD Officers/Dispatchers included in this incident- Sgt. Gonzalez, Sgt. Umana, Ptl. Garcia #378, Ptl. Gould #359, Ptl. Kim #327, Ptl. K. Morris #357, Ptl. F. Sheldrick #367, SLEOII Guzman, SLEOII Minnick, SLEOII Bucciero, SLEOII Lopez, SLEOII Rodriguez #891, Disp. Robbins, Disp. White)

Middletown Township Police Department - NJ

## 7/2/19 (MCPO): Long Branch Man Gets 30-Year Prison Term for 2017 Shooting

A Long Branch man was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the 2017 shooting death of another city man, announced Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni.

Jeffrey Williams, 31, was convicted by a jury on October 4, 2018, of a range of charges including first degree Felony Murder, second degree Reckless Manslaughter, second degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose and second degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon following a four-week trial before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Vincent N. Falcketano.

At trial, testimony revealed that on Sunday night, July 16, 2017, Williams and several others were hanging out near the corner of Central Avenue and Liberty Street in Long Branch when they realized that there was an older Hispanic male asleep on the front porch of 111-2 Liberty Street. Armed with this information, defendant and at least 2 others approached the man. While one of the men was attempting to take property from the victim, the man awoke and reacted to their presence. In response, Jeffrey Williams pulled out a handgun and shot the man. Approximately 20 minutes later, the victim's estranged wife came home to find her husband dead on the porch and called 911. She told police Hector Mejia had come over in order to drop off money for her and their kids.

Williams was arrested on July 20, 2017, and charged in connection with the death of 47-year-old Hector C. Mejia, who was found bleeding with a gunshot wound near the front door of his Liberty Street home. Long Branch Police Department responded to an 11:41 p.m. 911 call on July 16, 2017, reporting the shooting. Police and medical personnel responded to the location and the victim was pronounced deceased at 11:56 p.m. A joint investigation by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and Long Branch Police Department led to the arrest of Williams four days later.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant Prosecutor Christopher J. Decker, Director of the Office's Major Crimes Bureau and Assistant Prosecutor Nicole Wallace.

Williams was represented by Carlos Diaz-Cobo, Esq. of New Brunswick and James Greenberg, Esq. of Freehold.



Photo: rlsmmedia

## 7/15/19 (LBPD): Police Vehicle Struck by Train

This morning at approximately 10:53 am one of our officers was backing up another officer on a motor vehicle stop on Brighton Avenue. When he exited the vehicle to assist the primary officer, his vehicle began to roll forward, unnoticed. The officer reported after the fact that he remembered having trouble getting it into park, but felt that he did before he exited the vehicle.

It rolled down a small grass embankment and came to stop with the front end extended slightly onto the railroad tracks. As luck would have it, a train was coming and struck the police car. Fortunately, no one was injured, except for some feelings. NJ Transit Police are in charge of the investigation.

### **7/20/19 (LBPD): Scammers Posing as Members of the Long Branch Police Department**

On Monday, July 15th, a report was taken from a local female regarding a fraudulent call that showed up on caller ID as Long Branch Police Department (732-222-1000). The male caller claimed to be a member of the LBPD and told her he was conducting an investigation with the Social Security Administration because someone had used her social security number and racked up \$1.6 billion dollars in debt in her name. The caller began demanding her personal information including her social security number, and information for all of her checking, saving, credit and gift card accounts. When the victim was reluctant to give out her information, he threatened her with an arrest. Thankfully, the victim of this fraudulent call was smart, did not provide personal/account information and immediately responded to headquarters to make a report.

Our Investigation Bureau has confirmed that the caller utilized technology to make the call appear as if it was coming from the Long Branch Police Department. BE AWARE OF THIS SCAM AND DO NOT PROVIDE ANY PERSONAL INFORMATION OVER THE PHONE! You WILL NOT be asked for any personal account information from any Long Branch Police officer or Social Security Administration representative via phone...EVER! Personal information such as that should only be shared face-to-face or via postal mail from an official agency.

### **7/22/19 (LBPD): Vandalism in West End Park**

On July 20th 2019, around 7:30pm, an officer was dispatched to the West End Park for a report of vandalism. The officer then received information that a concerned citizen notified the police department regarding swastikas that had been drawn in several locations throughout the park.

An investigation revealed that six swastikas were drawn, three on a vinyl fence, and three on park equipment. They were approximately two to three inches tall and written in what appeared to be permanent marker.

A Forensic Detective was called to the scene to conduct further investigation. The scene was processed, and the Long Branch Department of Public Works responded, removing all traces of the vandalism.

Mayor Pallone stated, "I am very upset to find out about the recent vandalism at the West End Park. When first hearing about this incident, I immediately went to the scene and was deeply disturbed by the hateful markings displayed in our park. This anti-Semitism and racial prejudice have no place in our society or in the City of Long Branch. We will not stand for this."

The Monmouth County Prosecutors Office has been notified, and the investigation is being conducted following bias incident protocols. Patrol Checks have been increased in the area. At this point in the investigation there is nothing to indicate that this is anything more than a random act of vandalism, but we encourage the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity immediately.

### **9/10/19 (LBPD): Swift Arrest Made in House Burglary**

On September 5, 2019 at approximately 12:02 AM, Corporal Stan Eskridge was dispatched to Brighton Avenue for a Burglary which just occurred to the residence. Corporal Eskridge met with resident upon arrival. Sergeant Hector Umana arrived on scene and translated Portuguese to English for him. The victim said a male possibly Brazilian or Portuguese, wearing a blue Barcelona soccer jersey with "Neymar" written on the back of the jersey, broke into his residence. He further described the accused as approximately 5 foot 9 inches tall, light skinned, short black hair with unshaven facial hair, and stated the accused left on a bicycle east on Brighton Avenue. Corporal Eskridge remained on scene to obtain additional information.

Corporal Kijung Kim responded to the area and began to canvas the area for anyone matching the description of the possible accused. Corporal Kim observed a subject riding a bicycle eastbound on Brighton Avenue wearing a "Neymar Jr" soccer jersey. The subject turned to Corporal Kim at which time, Corporal Kim was able to see it was a male with short dark hair, unshaven wearing a blue jersey. Corporal Kim conducted an interview with the subject later identified as Marcos Cota-Caetano. At this time a Show Up Identification Procedure was completed, and the victim identified Marcos Cota-Caetano as the person who entered his house.

The Long Branch Detective Bureau was contacted, and Forensic Detective Robert Poss arrived at the residence to process the scene. Detective Poss photographed the scene which depicted the accused entered the residence through the east side of the first-floor window. The accused used a 5-gallon bucket to stand up to the elevated window to the bathroom. The accused left a partial boot print in the dirt next to the bucket which was photographed. The accused then entered the master bedroom and took change from an empty water jug and aluminum can of coins.

Marco Cota-Caetano was placed under arrest and transported to Police Headquarters for booking and processing. Marco Cota-Caetano was charged with Burglary to Structure and Theft of Property. Cota-Caetano was interviewed by Detective Michael Verdadeiro and Detective Joseph Spitale. Cota-Caetano gave a confession to Detective Verdadeiro in Portuguese that he had entered the residence.

Great job by all the officers and Detectives involved!

# AWARDS



On the afternoon of August 21st, 2018, Officer George Samol was flagged down on Broadway by an individual who had just witnessed a murder inside a restaurant. Officer Samol called for backup, drew his service weapon and entered the building to assist with an on-going struggle between the suspect and a Good Samaritan over possession of a firearm. Once inside, the suspect, who had just been disarmed by the other individual, attempted to take possession of Samol's weapon and a violent struggle ensued. Corporal Tracey Widdis was the first backup officer on scene and arriving at a pivotal moment in the struggle. Utilizing her asp, she was able to help Samol fend the suspect off and maintain control of his weapon until additional officers arrived to assist in subduing him. The swift actions of these officers prevented any further injury or loss of life to the additional civilians in the restaurant at the time, including a few who were also being targeted by the suspect.

For their bravery and heroic actions in this case, these officers were recognized throughout the year with following prestigious honors:

- Officer George Samol was named Police Officer of the year on April 13, 2019 by the Long Branch Elks Lodge # 742
- Officer George Samol & Corporal Tracey Widdis were presented Meritorious Service Awards at the April 17th Monmouth and Ocean County Intelligence Bureau (M.O.C.I.B.) Valor Awards Luncheon!
- Officer George Samol was one of only six Monmouth County Officers to be awarded the Valor Award on June 7th, the highest award given, by the 200 Club of Monmouth County.
- Officer George Samol and Corporal Tracey Widdis, received the Valor Award at the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police annual installation dinner on June 26th. The Valor Award is the NJSACP's highest award, given to those Police Officers who have demonstrated exceptional heroism and dedication to their agency and the public. They were the only two officers in the State of NJ to receive this prestigious award this year.
- Officer George Samol and Corporal Tracey Widdis were honored with a Meritorious Service Valor Award at the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association's annual Valor Awards Banquet in Atlantic City on November 23, 2019.





On the afternoon of February 5, 2019 Officer Robert Korn responded to a domestic incident involving a subject actively attempting to murder his wife. Without hesitation or regard for his own safety, he pulled the subject away from the victim, ensured he was disarmed and placed him under arrest. His swift response allowed other officers to administer first aid to the victim and undoubtedly helped to save her life.

For his bravery and heroic actions in this case, he was presented by the LBPD with the Meritorious Service Award at the November 13th Council Meeting. Corporal Korn was again honored at the New Jersey State Policemen's Benevolent Association's annual Valor Awards Banquet in Atlantic City on November 23, 2019 with the Meritorious Service Valor Award .

Sergeant James Beirne was selected by the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association (NJNEOA) as this year's recipient of an Individual Guns, Gangs & Narcotics Law Enforcement Award. Sgt. Beirne was recognized for his role in the investigation, led by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics and Criminal Enterprise Investigation Section, dubbed "Operation Undertow". The Awards Ceremony took place during their Annual Luncheon, which was held in Atlantic City on June 13th.



This beautiful award was presented to the police department by Army Sergeant & LBPD Officer Jesus Otero upon his return from active duty.

The award reads:

Presented to the Long Branch Police Department

Thank you for your outstanding support to the Soldiers of the 840th Transportation Battalion

"Speed of War"

"Operation Inherent Resolve"



The U.S. Air Force held their quarterly training conference at the Ocean Place in Long Branch on September 18th & 19th. Approximately 60 Air Force Officers from NJ, NY, PA & several other surrounding states attended. In addition to lectures and training sessions, activities included a PT session on the beach, a run on the promenade and a beautiful presentation honoring LBPD Lieutenant Stanley Mooney and DPW employee, Derrick Turner for their support of the U.S. Air Force. Afterwards, the officers enjoyed a BBQ dinner on the beach followed by a bonfire. We'd like to thank the U.S. Air Force for choosing Long Branch for their convention and for recognizing Lt. Mooney & Mr. Turner. A special thanks to Master Sergeant Olen E. Gillespie III for coordinating the event!

September 18th also marked the 72nd birthday of the U.S. Air Force. Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to Corporal Kimberly Leavy for being honored as an outstanding member of the community by the Latino American Association of Monmouth County! She is seen here with Mayor John Pallone and Police Chief Jason Roebuck at the 26th Annual Awards Banquet on October 25th. All funds raised at the ceremony benefit student scholarships.



## Letters of Commendation

Presented for exceptional performance in response to the following incidents:

### **Corporal Christopher Gant:**

For “the exceptional manner in which you performed on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in connection with a case involving a criminal mischief to an automobile on Breakwater Lane. Your keen observation of an out of place vehicle and your initiative to investigate resulted in the arrest of an individual who had slashed the vehicle’s tires. In addition, you likely prevented more harm coming to that vehicle or others as the individual was armed with a knife and a bat.”

### **Officer Gary Vecchione:**

For “the exceptional manner in which you performed on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019 in connection with a first aid call involving a victim injured by a chainsaw. Your quick thinking and swift actions in the application of a tourniquet stopped the bleeding and undoubtedly assisted in saving the life of the victim.”

## Letters of Recognition

Presented for outstanding performance in response to the following incidents:

### **Detective Corporal Michael Verdadeiro:**

In reference to a stabbing incident at Dudley Arms Apartments, where Detective Verdadeiro utilized his bilingual skills to translate and keep the lines of communication flowing. “The teamwork displayed throughout this entire case was exemplary and encompassed every division of our department including patrol on-scene, K9, forensics, investigations and supervisors. Thanks to your communication, skill and performance the entire process flowed seamlessly and resulted in the arrest of a suspect accused of attempted murder, CDS charges and weapons offenses.”

### **Corporal Joshua Wagner and Dispatcher Kelsey Robbins:**

“The call, which originally came in as a theft, was ascertained to actually involve an out-of-state child in distress. Upon arrival on-scene, it was learned that a minor from Arkansas had threatened suicide while playing an online game with other local juveniles.

Your diligence in obtaining the necessary information and coordinating with out-of-state agencies to ensure the safety of this child was commendable and the teamwork displayed throughout this case was exemplary.”

# UNIONS



## SOA BOARD

Christopher Hazel, President  
Stanley Mooney, Vice President  
Jorge Silverio, Recording Secretary  
Brian Garrett, Treasurer  
Marshall Brown, Trustee  
Juan E. Vasquez, Trustee  
Robert Bell, Trustee  
Antonia Gonzalez, Sergeant at Arms



## PBA BOARD

Charles Simonelli, President  
Christopher Gant, Vice President  
Kimberly Leavy, Recording Secretary  
Cesare Simonelli, Treasurer  
Joshua Wagner, Financial Secretary  
Todd Coleman, State Delegate  
Joseph Spitale, Trustee  
Brian Oliveira, Trustee  
Julio Delacruz, Sergeant at Arms

The Long Branch Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local #10 and the Superior Officers Association (SOA) Local #10a share in their mission to provide mutual protection and benefits for their members in all aspects of job welfare and security. They are committed to the prevention of crime, protection of life and property, enforcement of laws and ordinances, the safeguarding of constitutional rights and guarantees and to providing safety to officers and the public. They strive to develop and grow their partnerships with the community and to improve the community as a whole through their support of local charities and events as well as through their development of social and cultural assemblies.

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS



Left & Center: Corporal Kim Leavy and a few of our Class I Officers visit the Long Branch Library's Elberon Branch for a story and a safety presentation.

Right: A few of our Class I SLEO's are seen here at the Long Branch Senior Center handing out water bottles at their "Happy Summer Day" event.



Corporal Leavy & SLEO Buccine took the Girl Scouts for a guided tour of headquarters and City Hall. They were introduced to several other SLEO Officers who posed for a photo with them in front of the PD Memorial.



Cpl. Lance Fanning was the guest chef at the Senior Center for "Cooking With A Cop" in October.



The Long Branch Citizen Police Academy Alumni, along with the generous support of many local organizations, sponsored the 3rd Annual City of Long Branch Police Week

Throughout the week of September 16th – 22nd, 2019, a variety of events took place to honor First Responders and celebrate Community!

Events included a Community Forum, Law Enforcement & Seniors Social, Wellness Fair with Zumba, Motorcycle Run, Art Exhibit by local students and a Blue Mass.



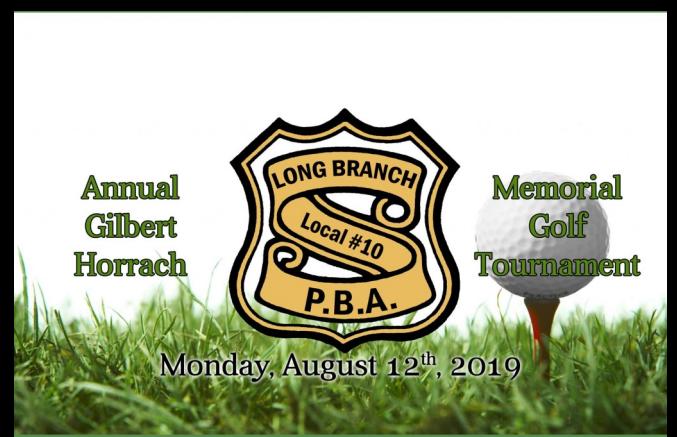
Thanks to Mr. Shah and his crew at each of the three Long Branch Dunkin' Donuts locations, LBPD took part in National Coffee with a Cop Day for the second consecutive year.



Ret. Det. Capt. McGlennon (Currently Emergency Management Deputy Coordinator for the Sheriff's Office) and Det. Cpt. Rizzuto at Oceanfest .



Columbus Day Parade: (L to R) Chief Roebuck, PO Otero, Cpl. Fanning, PO Oliveira, PO Chaparro, PO Vecchione, Lt. Evangelho, Cpl. Leavy, SO Reyes, Sgt. Shamrock and K9 Hagan.



Several Community Forums, hosted by Long Branch Citizen Police Academy Alumni , were held where Long Branch police officers joined with community leaders and members to discuss strengthening relationships with the communities we serve. Pictured is the May 5th Conversation on "Bridging the Gap" held at the Star of the Sea Church.

The Long Branch PBA, Local 10 hosted their Annual Captain Gilbert Horrach Memorial Golf Tournament on Monday, August 12, 2019. The benefits of this years golf outing went to the Long Branch PBA Scholarship fund which is awarded to students from Long Branch High School to help defray some of the costs of college.



No Tricks! Just Treats! Our Officers had goodies in their patrol cars again this Halloween compliments of LBDP PBA Local #10 and LBDP SOA Local #10a. Light up rings and bracelets were handed out to trick-or-treaters who waved down our officers and many stopped to take a photo with the kids.



In October, Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto attended the presentation on Law Enforcement and the Jewish Community in Howell. Thanks to Chief Kudrick of Howell Township Police Department and Chaplain Bursztny for such an informative program.



Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto proudly attended the Monmouth County Faith Leadership Summit presented by Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office.



Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto at the Greater Long Branch Ministerium "Uplift" meeting, planning the roll out of the new LBPD Community Action Team.

Left: Summer Campers at the First Reformed Church were visited by several Officers who gave a variety of safety presentations.

Top: Animal Control Supervisor, Deb Nagel and her K9 partner, Tucker talked to the campers about being responsible pet owners and treated each to a goody bag with important notices from the Health Department as well as crayons and coloring books.

Middle: Corporal Kim Leavy posed for a photo with the campers after stopping in for a visit.

Bottom: Det. Capt. Frank Rizzuto, Det. Cpl. Charles Simonelli, Det. Robert Poss and Officer Jesus Otero talked to the campers about various safety topics.



Corporals Kimberly Leavy and Lance Fanning did a tremendous job again in 2019 with our Citizens Police Academy (CPA). Started in 2015, the CPA's eight week class runs biannually and provides hands-on activities and presentations designed to teach the community some of the less-known facts regarding police work.



National Night Out took place on Tuesday, August 6th, 2019 from 6-9 PM. This was our largest event yet and spanned both sides of Broadway to include all of Slocum Park and the lot across the street! It was packed with fun & games and had a tremendous turnout! Great job by our UEZ Officers, Corporals Leavy and Fanning, in coordinating this event! A very special thanks to all the organizations and businesses that partnered with us to make National Night Out such a huge success!

# SCHOOL EVENTS

"Not Even Once!" Detectives Coleman, Oliveira & Simonelli (L to R) and Officer Vecchione made multiple presentations at the Long Branch High School educating the students on the dangers of Opiates.



Chief Roebuck was proud to be the keynote speaker at the graduation for the Monmouth County Law and Public Safety Academy!



Cpl. Kim Leavy and Det. David House represented the LBPD and hosted a table at Long Branch High School's Career Day.



Ms. Dziuba's class from the Lenna Conrow School took a tour of City Hall and the police department and had a chance to meet some of our officers, Animal Control Supervisor, Deb Nagel, her K9 partner, Tucker & Mayor Pallone!





Sgt. Valdes, Capt. Silverio, Lt. Garrett, Lt. Evangelho, Cpl. Leavy and Chief Roebuck (L to R) attended the First Responder breakfast given by the Long Branch Public Schools on September 11th at the High School. A 9-11 ceremony was held followed by a breakfast served by the students.

Sergeant Robert Shamrock, Officer Omar Akel & K9 Hades along with the LBFD enjoyed spending some time with the students at Fun Day!



SLEO III Officers enjoy taking our Police Elf, Fivo to visit the students during the holiday season.



Corporal Leavy and Lisa from EZRide visited students at Morris Avenue School to teach about car seat, seatbelt & bicycle safety.



Morris Avenue School Safety Meeting



The Long Branch High School hosted their annual Project Prom - How To Save A Life program again this year to raise awareness of the very serious and very real consequences that can stem from teen drinking. This program is an extremely powerful, large-scale presentation that is made possible through the partnering of the Long Branch Public Schools with many local and state agencies. LBPD was proud to be a part of it!



The 36th Annual NJ Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics. entered our City on the morning of Friday, June 7th 2019 at the old Sunoco Gas Station on Norwood Avenue, and ran past Monmouth University onto Monmouth Road to the West Long Branch Shoprite. Officers from the LBPD participated in the run, carrying the "Flame of Hope".

# SOCIAL MEDIA



2019 marked one year on Nextdoor



On April 4th, LBPD celebrated its 6th year on Facebook and we were very excited to reach 10K likes on our page as of July 8th! Thanks for your likes, comments & shares!



The brand new City Website was launched on July 8th. The PD page has plans for some exciting new features. Check us out at: [www.longbranch.org/departments/](http://www.longbranch.org/departments/)



Everybody's favorite Police Elf was back this holiday season with a huge surprise! Fivo married his new wife, Bobbi in a ceremony at the North Pole on October 25th, 2019! When Fivo asked Mayor Pallone to perform the ceremony & Police Chief Roebuck to be his Best Man/Ring Bearer, they were honored and excited to head to the North Pole to be there! Fivo and Bobbi both brought smiles to countless little faces this holiday season as they visited children all over the City with the help of our officers, and a little magic!



## Long Branch Police Department has joined Neighbors by Ring!



Neighbors by Ring

Neighbors by Ring is the new Neighborhood Watch that sends real-time crime and safety notifications directly to your phone.

Join the **Long Branch Police Department** on the Neighbors App by visiting [download.ring.com/longbranch](http://download.ring.com/longbranch) or text **longbranchpd** to 555888 to download the **FREE** app today!

Download on the  
App Store

GET IT ON  
Google Play



The Long Branch Police Department has joined Neighbors by Ring! The 'Neighbors' app is a digital neighborhood watch right on your phone where you can get real-time crime and safety alerts from your neighbors and law enforcement.

LBPD will be using 'Neighbors' to monitor crime in our area and send updates on key crime incidents. In addition, we will be sharing public safety information via posts to the public and, on occasion, we will send out requests to camera owners to share video with us that could assist in an investigation. Our detectives are excited to utilize this new tool as a means to partner with and receive assistance from our community members in solving their cases.

We ran several contests and gave away dozens of new Ring Video Doorbell Systems to the winners! At the close of 2019, we started the "Ring in the New Year Contest" so more winners are on the way!



# AND DID WE MENTION...



On May 3, 2019 the Long Branch PBA Local #10 held their 20th Spring Gala at the Channel Club Marina to honor the recent Retirees from LBPD. Honored were: Det. Captain Michael McGlennan, Captain Robert Wiesner Jr. & Officer Michael Monahan. Also honored but not present: Lieutenant Craig Spencer & Corporal Kevin King. Congratulations to the Retirees!



Our 2nd Annual Bring Your Kid to Work Day Program was a huge success! Partnering with City Officials from multiple offices, kids were treated to a very informative tour led by Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto, presentations from our Forensics Detectives, K9 Hades and his partner Officer Akel and more. The PD Traffic Department along with members of the Fire Department, even brought a few vehicles for the kids to check out.

The program was open to children of all Police, Fire and City employees and sent each one home with a certificate of participation after a pizza party, compliments of the LBPD PBA Local #10



These photos are of our two police department teams that played in the First Long Branch Beach Cup Edition Soccer Tournament on Sunday, 8/11/19 at Cottage Place Beach.

The team with the blue shirts are our full time officers and the team with the black shirts are our Special Law Enforcement (SLEO) Officers. This was an event run by the City's Recreation Department and had a total of 10 teams compete. Special thanks to Officer Daniel Cunha for all his hard work in coordinating this event!



The LBPD is proud to partner with our local 7-11 stores to introduce a brand new ticket - good for one free Slurpee! The new program aims to reward kids who are wearing their bike helmet, but may also be used as a reward for using safe behaviors such as crossing at crosswalks & kids acting as good Samaritans. The tickets are redeemable for one medium size Slurpee at one of two participating 7-11 locations, 554 Ocean Boulevard in Long Branch and 187 Wall Street in West Long Branch.



A huge thanks goes out to the EZRide Bike & Pedestrian Program for their donation of 20 helmets for our Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO's)! Our SLEO's are seen here wearing the new helmets along with Capt. Rizzuto, Chief Roebuck, Lt. Evangelho (center) and Capt Silverio (rt on segway).



LBPD was proud to partner with Long Branch Public Schools, BR Help Center & The City of Long Branch, NJ to create a video on car seat safety. At the end of the video, Corporals Leavy & Fanning demonstrate the proper installation of car seats. Both Portuguese & English are spoken in video.

Guga Brincando makes fun & educational YouTube videos for Portuguese speaking little ones. "With Guga, kids will learn about cars, healthy food, colors, numbers and more. Guga Brincando shows fun and interesting places for the kids"

They visited headquarters to film a segment about police cars with Corporal Marco Rodriguez.

Rumor has it they have plans to visit the fire department and public schools to make videos about fire trucks and school buses!



An article by ABC7NY made its way to Captain Jorge Silverio's desk and he did not hesitate to act! The article stated. "A World War II veteran is turning 93 on April 17, and his family wanted to get cards sent to him for his birthday to surprise him." Captain Silverio (pictured center holding card) thought it would be great if the LBPD could send him a card and Chief Roebuck agreed. LBPD sent a birthday card with the 2018 department photo on the front. Officers, along with Chief Roebuck and Mayor John Pallone signed well-wishes and we mailed it out. We hope that he was as excited to receive the card as we were to send it to him!



We had an exceptionally talented and very exuberant group of Seasonal Class I Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO's) in 2019. Their true talents really came out during the Summer Concert Series and City events! Some were captured on film and even made the news!

Just a few of them include:

SLEO Stumpf who showed us his awesome dance moves

SLEO Wright who jumped on the drums and did a mean solo

SLEO Buccine who is quite possibly the best hula-hooper we've ever seen



All photographs were used with permission wherever photographers were known. Some photos used were taken directly from City social media sites and the photographers are unknown.

Thanks to all photographers who allowed us to use their work!

WILLIAM BAHAMONDE

DANNA KAWUT

BENNY CRUZ

JOSEPH KENNEDY

LANCE FANNING

KIMBERLY LEAVY

DAVID GRAMINSKI

BRIAN OLIVEIRA

KELLY HUGHES

JASON ROEBUCK

PHOTOS FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEB PAGES:

LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MONMOUTH COUNTY CORRECTIONS

MONMOUTH COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

MONMOUTH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

NEWS 12 NEW JERSEY

RLS MEDIA

**The 2019 Annual Report was compiled and produced in 2020**

**by Kelly Hughes under the direction of Police Chief Jason Roebuck.**