

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT
4233 Kennedy Boulevard North Bergen, NJ 07047
201-392-2100



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CHIEF'S MESSAGE



On behalf of the men and women of the North Bergen Police Department, I take great pride in presenting our 2020 Annual Report. This report chronicles the events of 2020 and highlights many of our key initiatives such as community engagement, transparency, crime prevention, quality of life, and transportation safety. On May 1, 2020, I became the 10th police chief in this Department's 113-year history. This past year was unprecedented and challenged our community and our country like nothing else before.

Today, our roles as police officers are almost unrecognizable from when I became a police officer in 1998. In 2020, our police officers became centrally positioned in the pandemic response effort, carefully balancing the needs of public safety and the public health crisis. As the pandemic brought the world to standstill, our officers worked tirelessly around the clock in order to ensure that our community remained safe.

As we look back to the historic events of 2020, it is more important than ever that police officers build trust within the communities they serve in order to encourage participation and lasting partnerships. Our resident-only hiring policy plays an important role in ensuring that the North Bergen Police Department is truly representative of our community. Our police officers are your neighbors, students, patrons, coworkers, friends, and family. The outpouring of support from our residents and businesses over the past year has been truly humbling and has brought us even closer together as a community.

I would like to thank Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco, Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual, and the entire Board of Commissioners for the Township of North Bergen, for their unwavering support of this agency. It is with their support that the North Bergen Police Department is properly staffed, trained, equipped, and educated to provide the highest quality of police services to the Township.

I am extremely proud of the brave men and women of this department. As we move forward into a new year, I want them to know that they will be remembered for the outstanding work they performed last year in the face of adversity. They were selfless in their dedication to their duties and I am truly fortunate to have the opportunity to lead such an incredible group of individuals.

Peter Fasilis
Chief of Police

COMMISSIONER'S MESSAGE



It is the honor of a lifetime to serve the Town of North Bergen as its Public Safety Commissioner. By working hand-in-hand with Chief Peter Fasilis and his command staff, I have had the opportunity to witness first-hand the work done by the finest men and women in our North Bergen community. Since taking office as Chief of Police last year, Chief Fasilis has instituted numerous policy changes designed to build on the work done by his predecessors in the department and further improve the relationship between residents and officers. Chief Fasilis has placed an increased emphasis on de-escalation training, which encourages officers to handle tense encounters by talking rather than immediately threatening force or resorting to force. Thanks to these innovative policies the North Bergen Police Department posted some of the lowest use of force numbers in the entire state, highlighted in the report made by the New Jersey Office of Attorney General.

Under the leadership of Mayor Nick Sacco, my coworkers at the Board of Commissioners and the entire NBPD command staff, we work daily with one goal in mind, the safety and quality of life of our residents first and foremost, it is for that reason that we strive to be one of the best departments in the entire state and we seek to connect with our residents on a daily basis. We also try to reflect the community we serve and that is evident in the diversity up and down the ranks of the NBPD.

In an effort to connect on a more personal and direct level with the community we serve, we have expanded our community outreach with grass root events such as Coffee with a Cop, walking patrols and other methods of community policing. This has enabled the North Bergen Police Department to build trust and connections with the people that call North Bergen home. In addition, our courageous officers volunteer their time at Township events such as Winterfest and National Night Out Against Crime, by participating willingly in these events the officers give back to the community they so proudly call home.

We have maintained our commitment to provide the NBPD with state-of-the-art installations and technology and adequate personnel. The renovation of the police department to include a dedicated Emergency Operation Center, the creation of our Crime Prevention and Intelligence Center (CPIC) which serves as the core of our North Bergen Township Alternative Policing Strategy (NBTAPS) and numerous hiring and promotion ceremonies, have all been instrumental in making North Bergen the safest city in Hudson County.

I would like to publicly thank Mayor Nicholas Sacco and my colleagues at the Board of Commissioners for their continued support toward the North Bergen Police Department, thanks to their responsible financial planning and administrative decision making the police department is at its full Table of Organization of officers. Lastly, I would like to thank the entire North Bergen Police Department from Chief Peter Fasilis, to his administrative staff, to all of the brave men and women who everyday serve and valiantly protect our community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Pascual". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allen Pascual

Commissioner of Public Safety

MAYOR'S MESSAGE



The North Bergen Police Department has always been regarded as an excellent organization with strong leadership and officers that day-in and day-out put the residents of the Township ahead of their own wellbeing. This was evident more than ever last year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Officers handled a never-before-seen situation and did a stellar job protecting our residents during such turbulent times. In addition, thanks to new de-escalation training and other initiatives put into place by Chief Peter Fasilis, building healthy relationships with township

residents and our resident-only hiring policy, the North Bergen Police Department posted the lowest use of force rate in Hudson County, placing the department among the best in the State of New Jersey. This is without a doubt a great feat and it could not have been accomplished without the leadership of the department under Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual, Chief Fasilis, and their senior staff, and of course our brave men and women who have done an outstanding job to help North Bergen receive such high praise.

Throughout the years NBPD has remained committed to public safety and to engage our community with innovative policing initiatives such as the North Bergen Township Alternative Policing Strategy (N.B. TAPS). We are constantly looking to enhance police-community relations by bringing the police department into the community with informal meetings, where North Bergen residents can voice their concerns and issues in person in a comfortable and open setting.

In addition, our officers make it a point to engage with the community by participating in public programs like National Night Out Against Crime, Coffee with a Cop and our annual Winterfest Celebration. These initiatives give officers the opportunity to engage with the community in a fun, informal setting and to build strong relationships with residents that lead to effective policing based on trust and mutual respect.

I would like to thank Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual, Chief Peter Fasilis, his command staff and all the officers in the North Bergen Police Department for their bravery and remarkable service to the Township of North Bergen. Our community will remain a safe, vibrant and blooming place to live, work and shop in large part due to the selfless service of its police department.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas J. Sacco".

Nicholas J. Sacco

Mayor, Township of North Bergen

MISSION STATEMENT



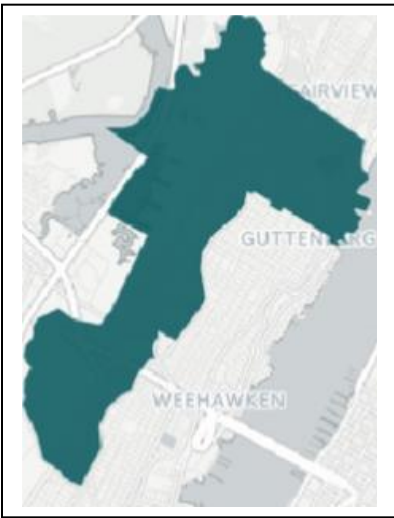
The primary mission of the North Bergen Police Department is to provide safe and stable neighborhoods for the residents and visitors of the Township of North Bergen through various department programs and community policing efforts. This goal can only be accomplished through a mutually cooperative relationship between the North Bergen Police Department and the resident and business community which it serves. By working together, we can maintain peace, provide safety and security for our citizens, and reduce crime. We are part of a team dedicated to the safety and protection of our community.



Duty, Honor, Courage



TOWNSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



Population in 2010	60,773
Population in 2020	61,619
Geographical Area	5.57 square miles
Population Density	11,997 per sq.mi.
Households	21,794
Median Age	38

Place of birth

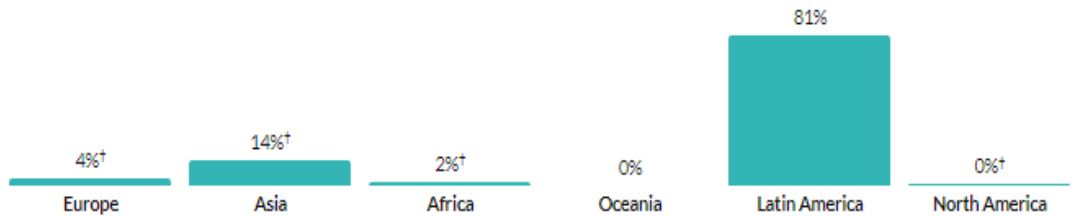
49.7%

Foreign-born population

about 20 percent higher than the rate in Hudson County: 43.2%

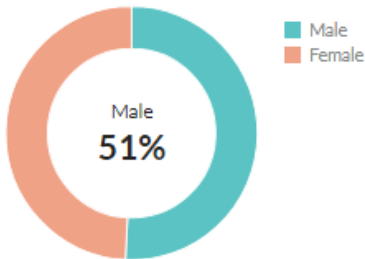
more than double the rate in New Jersey: 22.4%

Place of birth for foreign-born population

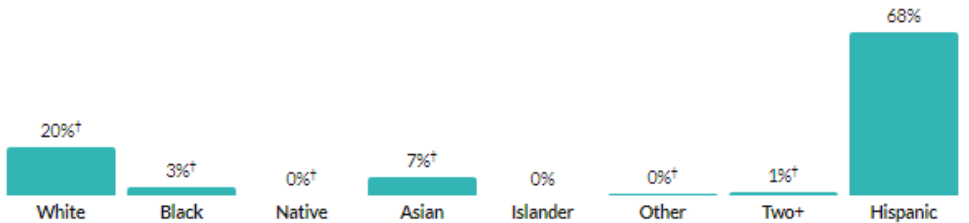


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Sex



Race & Ethnicity



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* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.

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Age

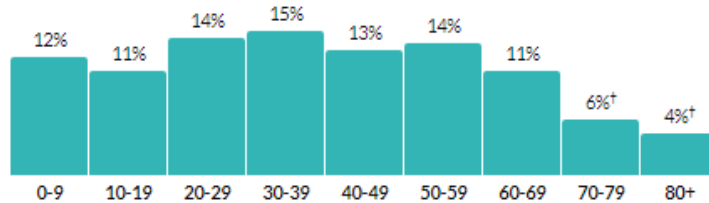
38.5

Median age

about 10 percent higher than the figure in Hudson County: 35.3

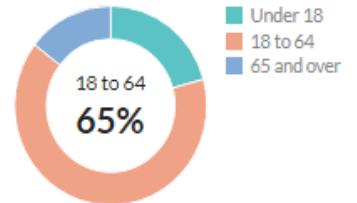
a little less than the figure in New Jersey: 39.9

Population by age range



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Population by age category

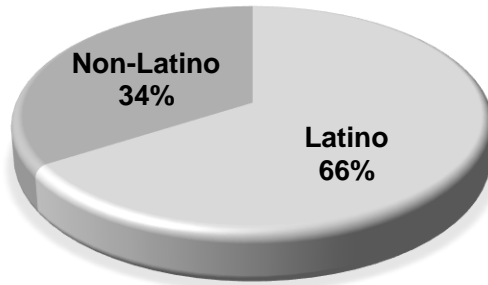


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DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

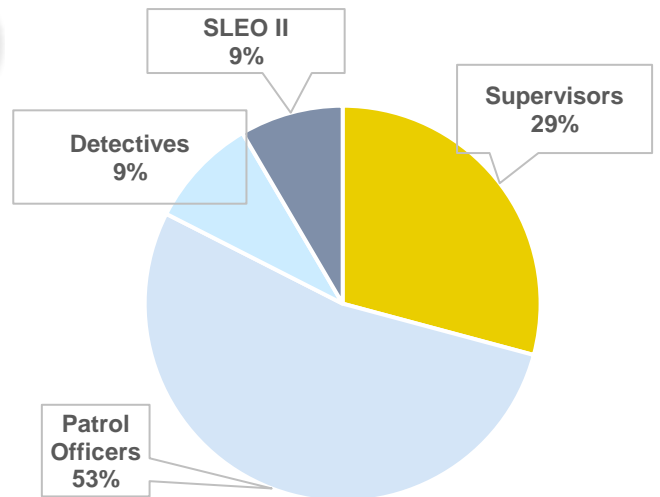


OUR OFFICERS ARE



Sworn Police Officers: 131

Chief	1
Deputy Chiefs	2
Captains	4
Lieutenants	13
Sergeants	18
Detectives	12
Patrol Officers	70
Special Class II (P/T)	11



Organizational Breakdown

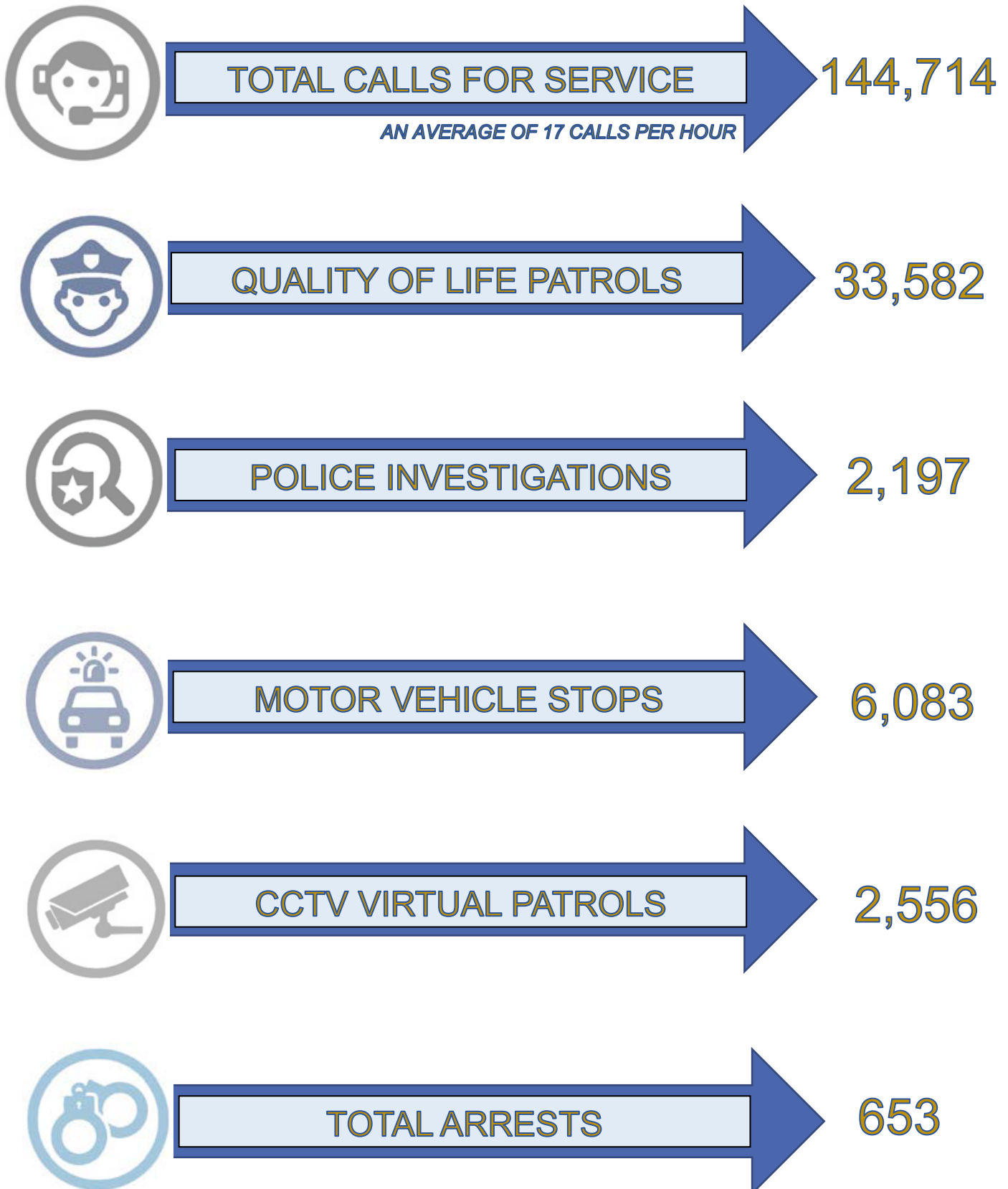
INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Type of Complaint	Cases Pending from Prior Years	New Cases Received	Total Cases	Number of Dispositions					Administratively Cleared	Cases Pending End of Year
				Sustained		Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded		
				Criminal Charge	Internal Discipline Action					
<i>Excessive Force</i>	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Improper Arrest</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Improper Entry</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Improper Search</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Differential Treatment</i>	0	2	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
<i>Demeanor</i>	1	13	14	0	2	0	7	0	0	5
<i>Other Rule Violation</i>	3	25	28	0	14	1	4	0	1	8
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Criminal</i>	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Total</i>	4	43	48	0	16	1	14	0	3	13

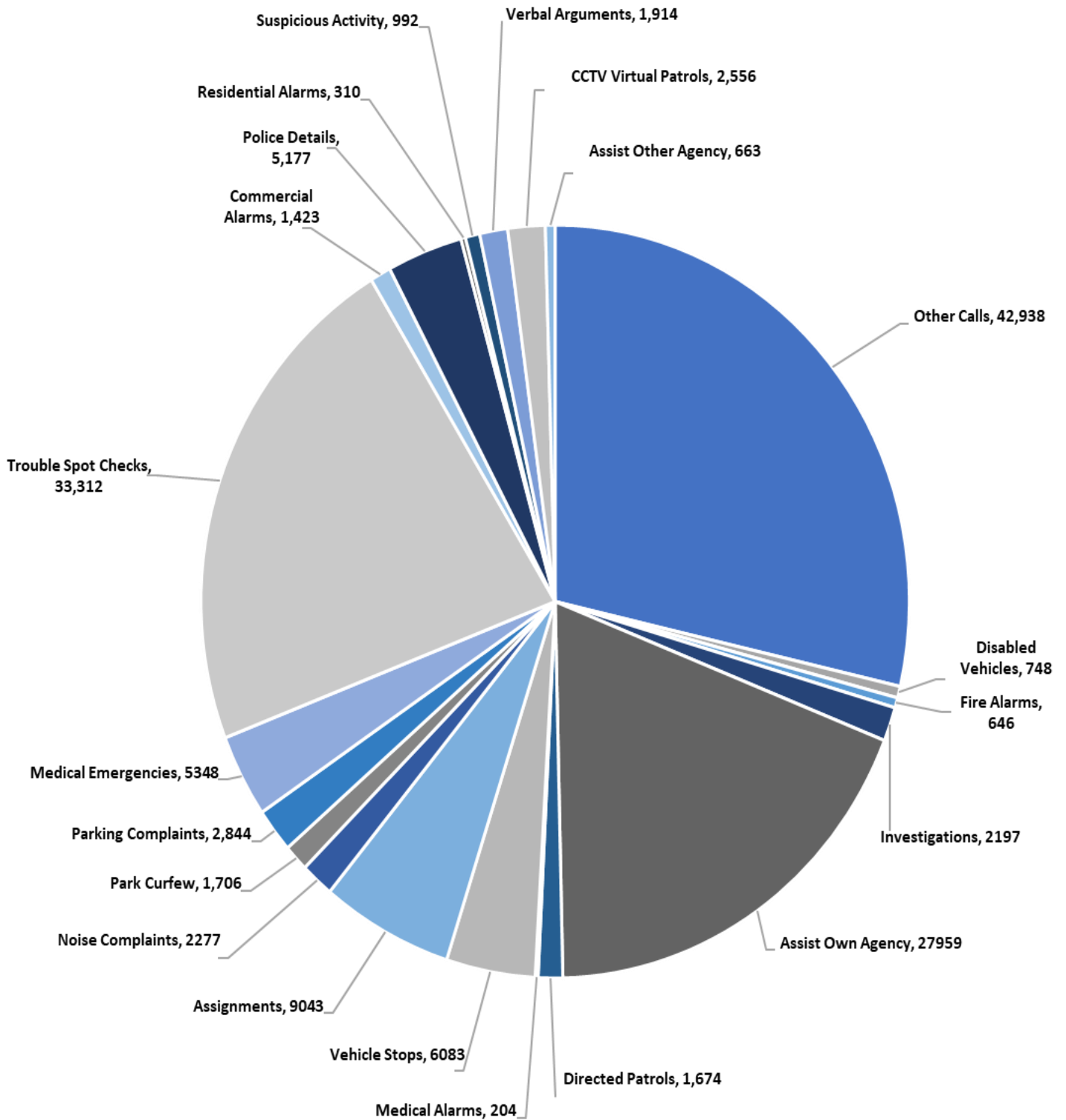


2020 DATA AND CRIME STATISTICS

2020 BY THE NUMBERS



CALLS FOR SERVICE BREAKDOWN



UNIFORM CRIME REPORT (UCR)

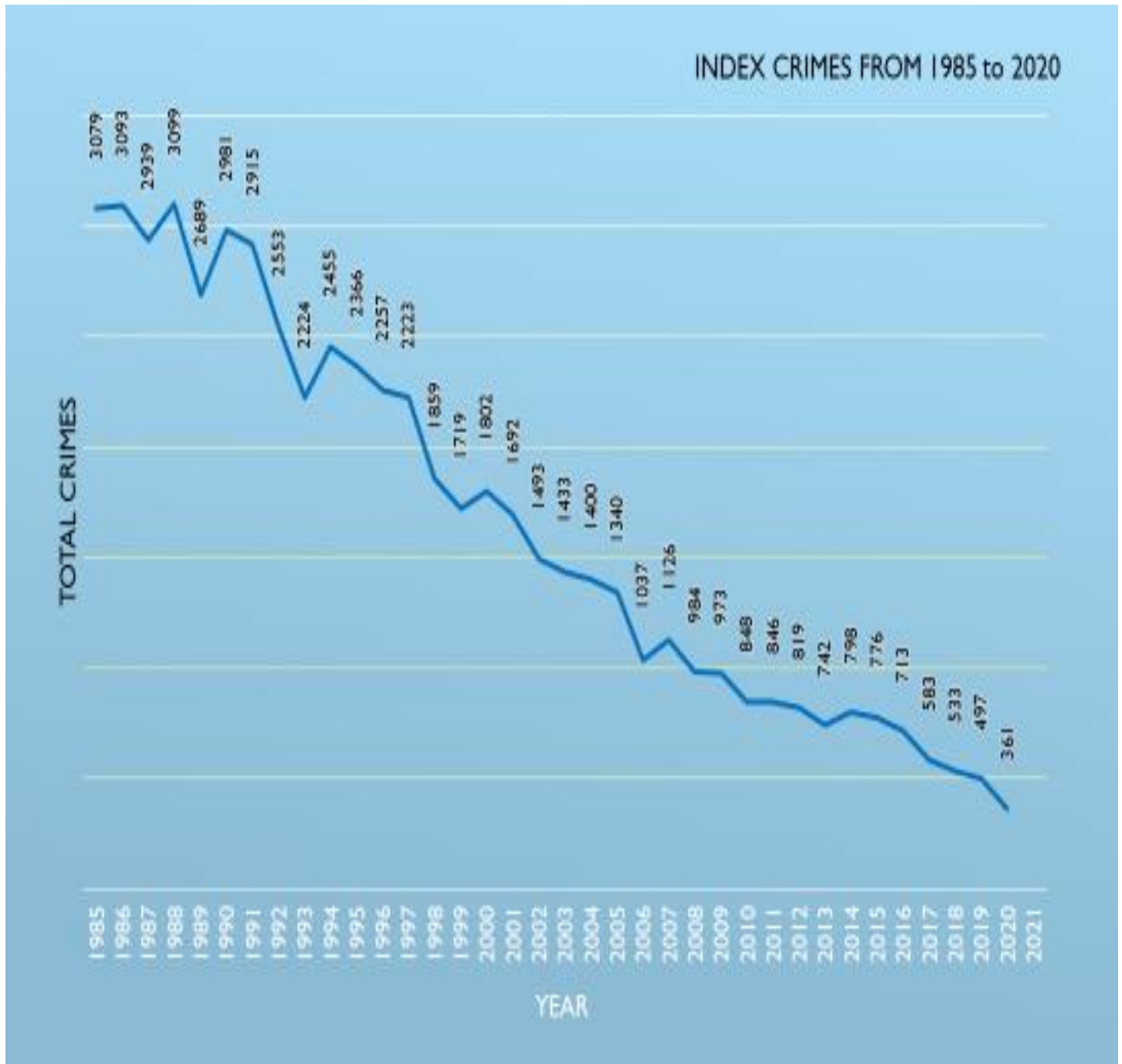


OFFENSE TYPE <i>UCR Index Crimes</i>	2020		2019		% Change From 2019	5-Year (2015) Comparison		% Change From 2015
	Offense Count	Crime Rate*	Offense Count	Crime Rate*		Offense Count	Crime Rate*	
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	1	0.02	-100%	1	0.02	-100%
<i>Rape</i>	12	0.19	16	0.26	-25%	17	0.27	-29.4%
<i>Robbery</i>	11	0.17	18	0.29	-38.9%	24	0.38	-54.2%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	30	0.48	57	0.92	-47.4%	74	1.18	-59.5%
<i>Burglary</i>	20	0.32	55	0.89	-63.6%	106	1.68	-81.1%
<i>Larceny (Theft)</i>	230	3.73	306	4.96	-24.8%	485	7.75	-52.6%
<i>Automobile Theft</i>	58	0.94	44	0.72	31.8%	70	1.12	-17.1%
<i>Arson**</i>	0	0	1	0.02	-100%	1	0.02	-100%
CRIME INDEX TOTAL	361	5.85	498	8.06	-27.5%	777	12.41	-53.5%
<i>Crimes Against People</i>	53	0.86	92	1.49	-42.4%	116	1.85	-54.3%
<i>Crimes Against Property</i>	308	4.99	405	6.57	-24%	661	10.56	-53.4%
<i>Overall Crime (Part 1 & Part 2)</i>	1582	25.67	2060	33.43	-23%	2671	42.67	-40.8%

*Crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants based on est. population for each respective calendar year.

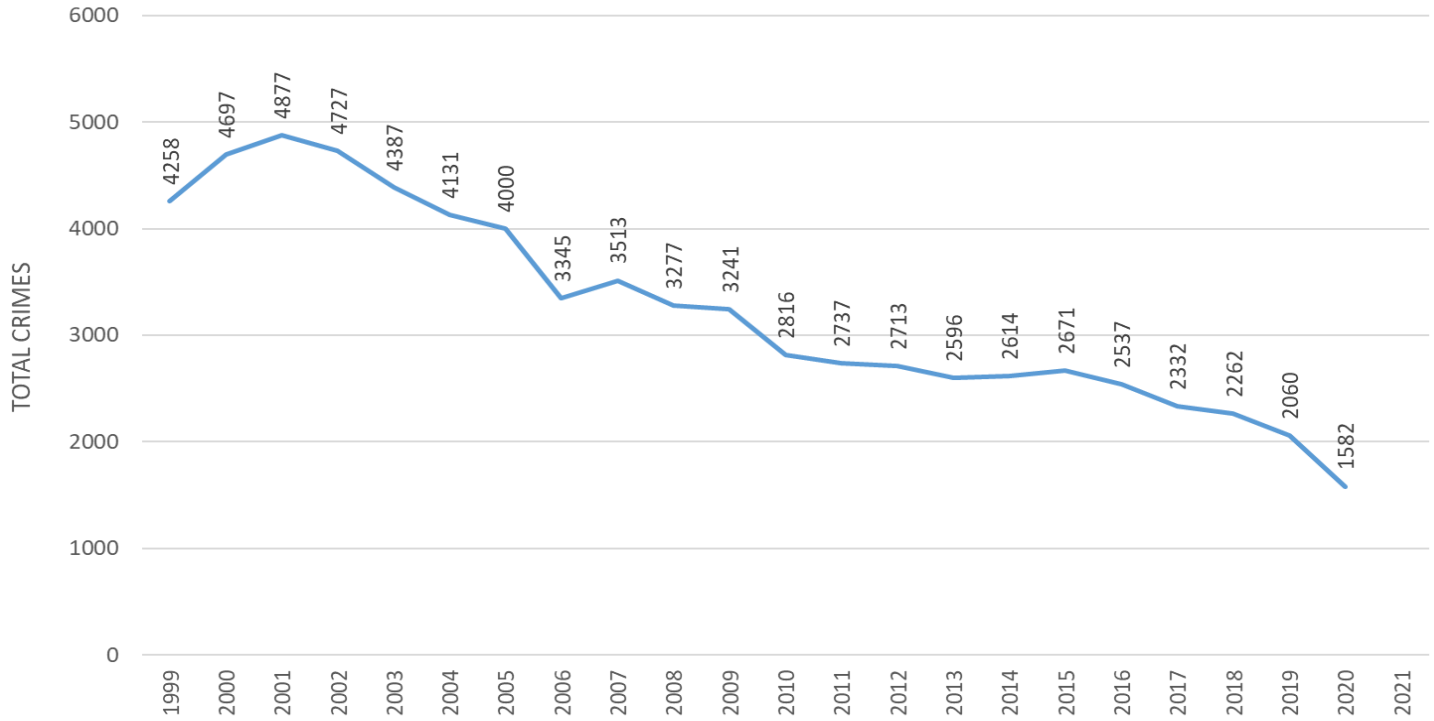
**The UCR Program does not include arson statistics when tabulating Index Crime totals.

OVERALL CRIME TREND

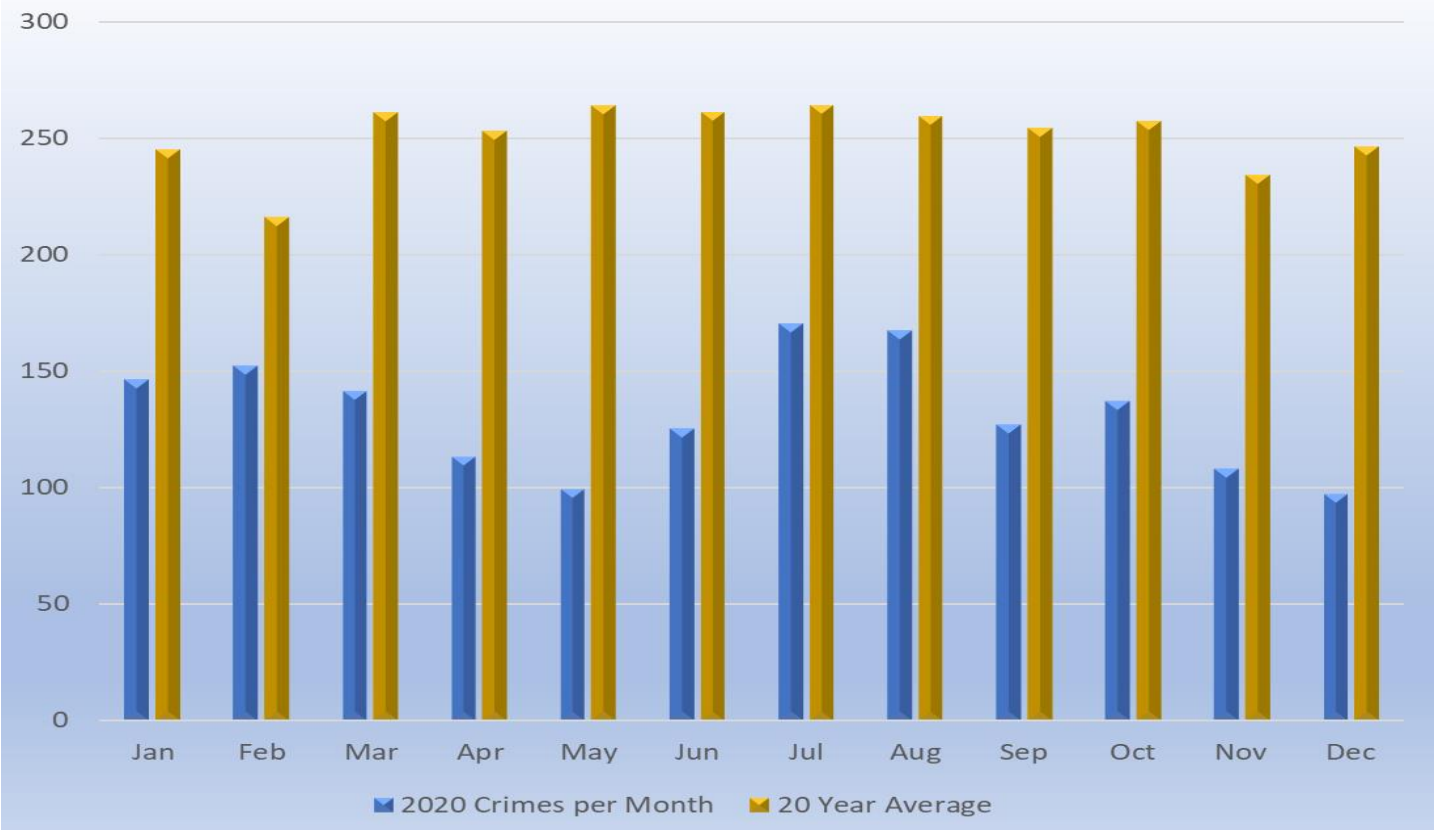


CRIME TREND ANALYSIS

CRIME TREND ANALYSIS
Totals of Reported Part 1 and Part 2 Offenses by Year

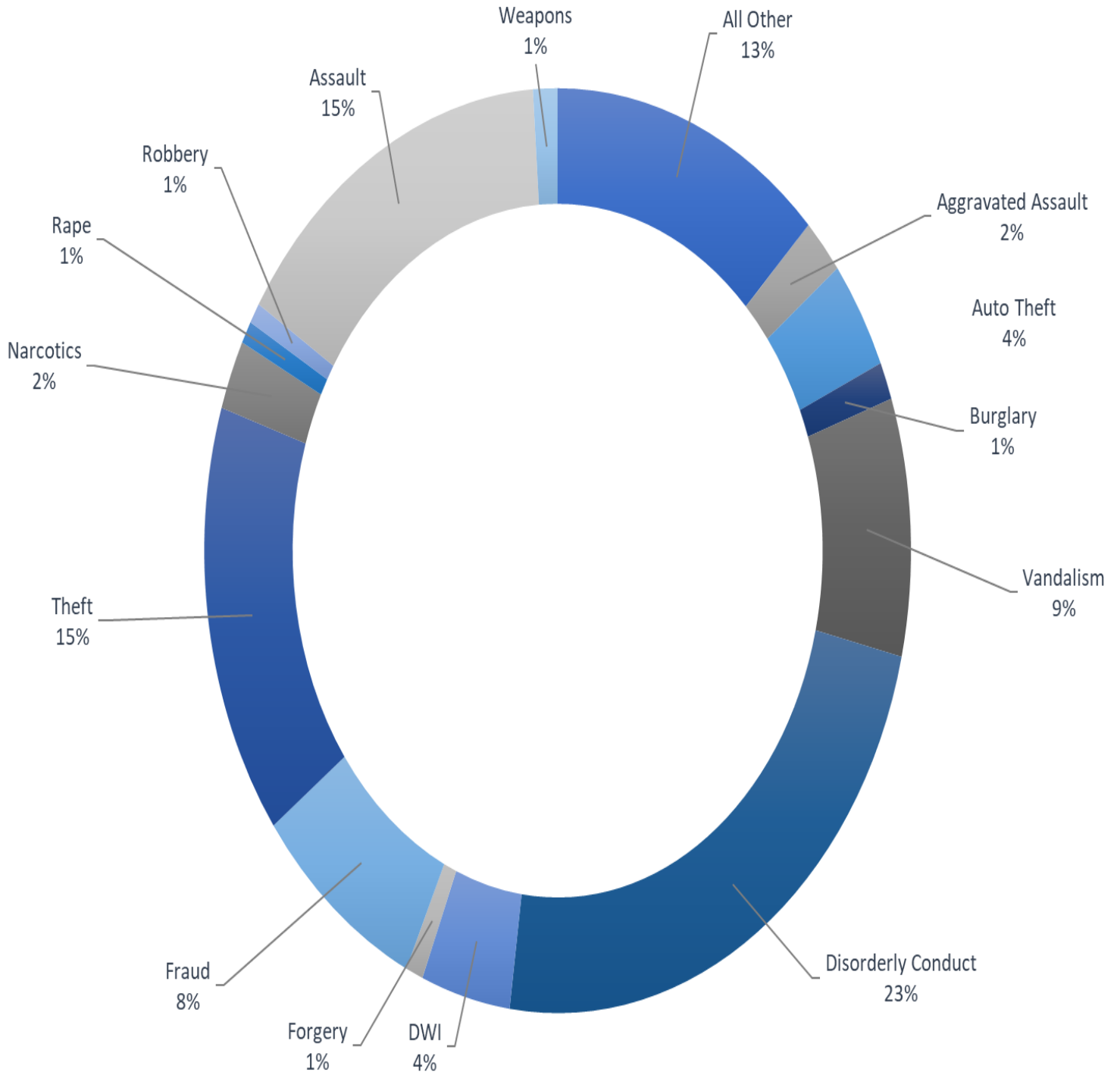


Monthly Total Reported Crime Trend



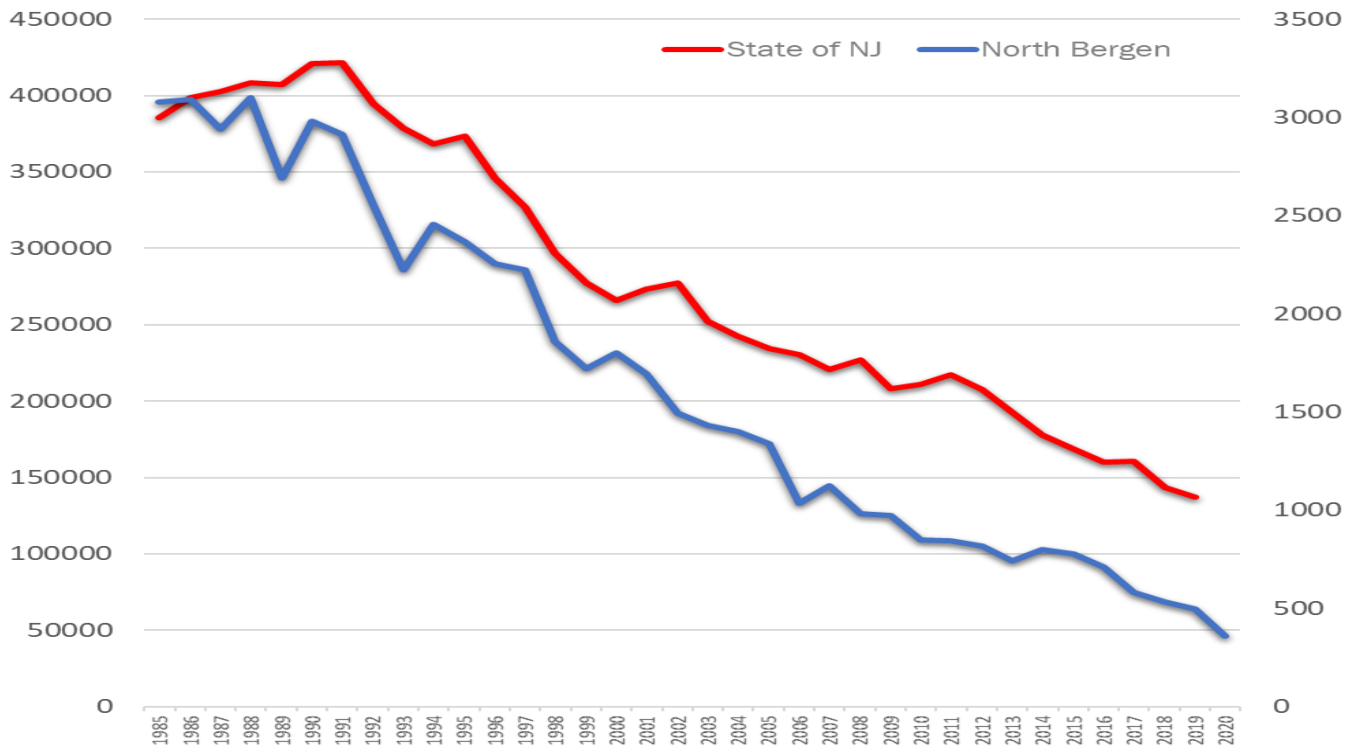
CRIME BREAKDOWN

Offenses by Type

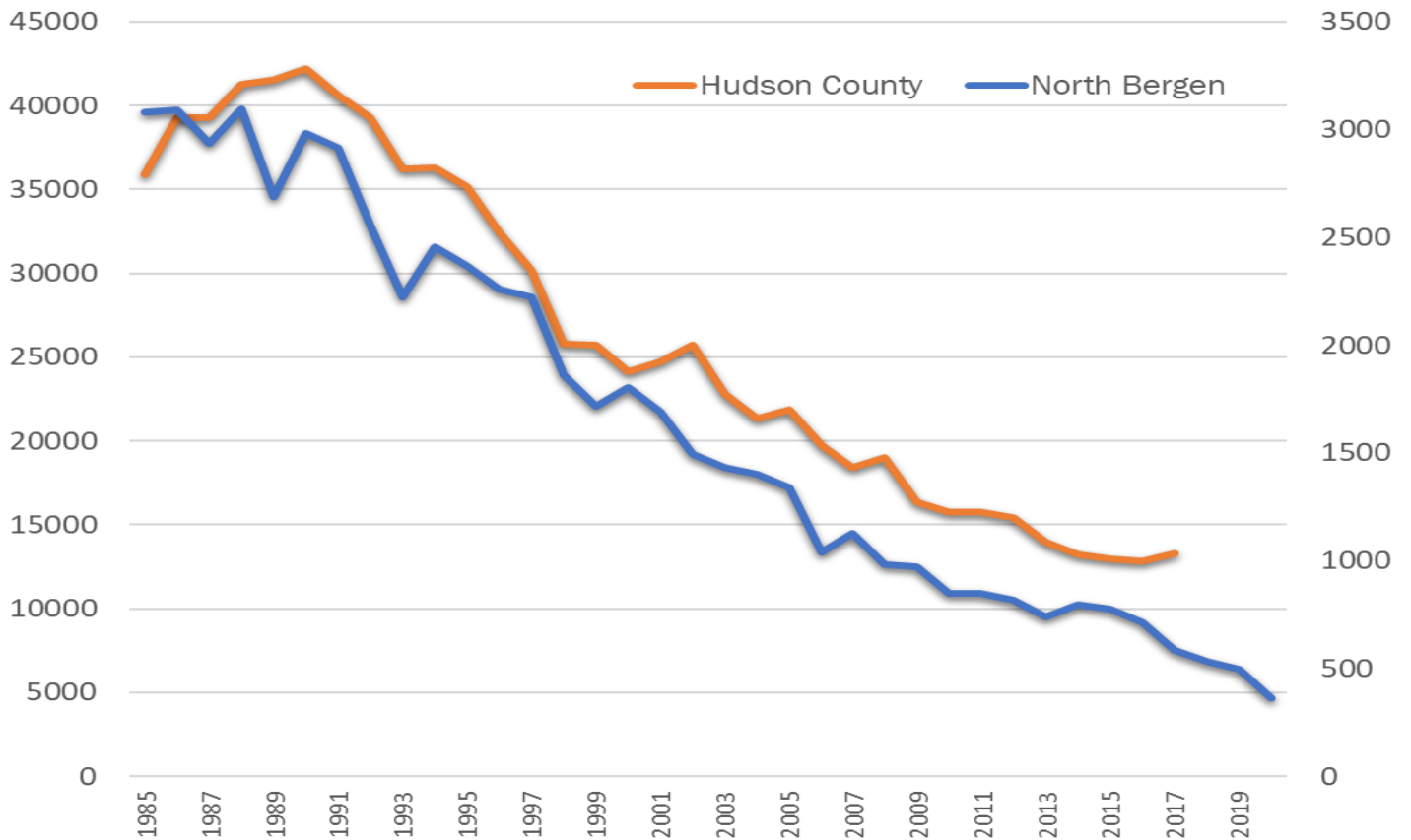


CRIME INDEX COMPARISONS

North Bergen / State of NJ Index Comparison



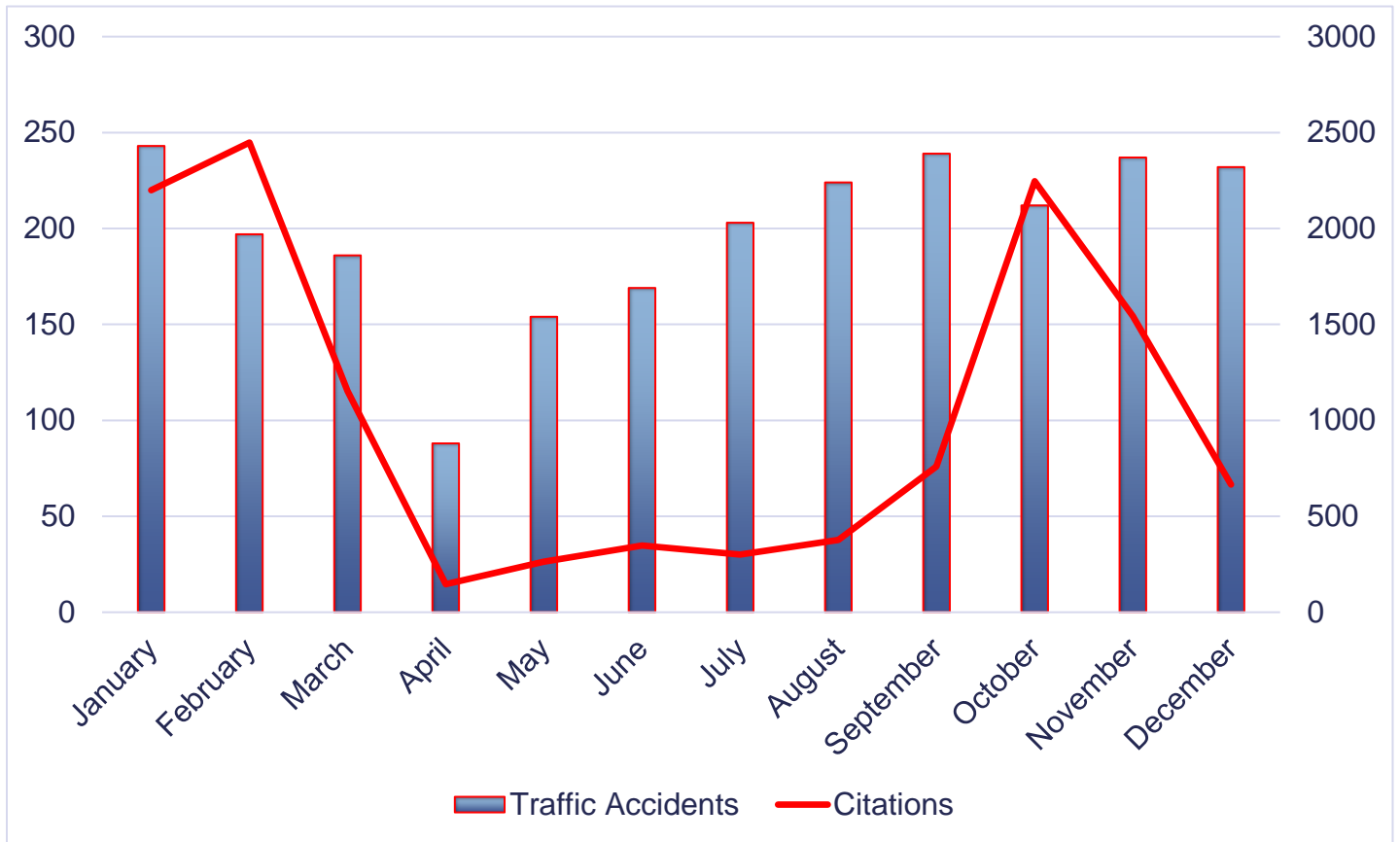
North Bergen / Hudson County Index Comparison



ARREST DATA

PART I ARRESTS	2020	2019
Juveniles	16	16
Adults	238	376
Part I Arrest Totals	254	392
PART II ARRESTS		
Juveniles	33	122
Adults	329	644
Part II Totals	362	766
TOTAL ARRESTS		
Juveniles	49	138
Adults	567	1,020
Arrest Totals	616	1,158







TRAFFIC STATISTICS



2020 Totals	Traffic Crashes	Tows	Citations	D.W.I.
January	243	119	2,199	5
February	197	132	2,448	8
March	186	115	1,154	7
April	88	33	146	2
May	154	64	263	6
June	169	65	348	5
July	203	68	301	2
August	224	75	377	6
September	239	109	760	3
October	212	100	2,246	7
November	237	130	1,544	4
December	232	92	666	7
Total	2,384	1,102	12,452	62







OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

January – June 2020

<p>JANUARY</p>	<p>Officer Richard Rodriguez Officers received an officer safety TRAK Alert regarding a suicidal male, possibly in possession of a firearm. The male was also wanted by the Hudson County Sheriff's Office and Fort Lee Police Department. Officer R. Rodriguez located the male's vehicle in a hotel parking lot. After confirming the male party was a registered guest, Hudson County SWAT was activated and the male was taken into custody.</p>	
<p>FEBRUARY</p>	<p>Officer Eric Weyand PO E. Weyand had a total of eight self-initiated arrests, including four (4) for CDS and two (2) for DWI. A traffic stop investigation ultimately uncovered stolen credit cards and narcotics, resulting in three arrests. A disorderly person was subdued for causing a disturbance. Also, within a two-day time period, PO Weyand made two arrests for DWI. PO Weyand's proactive policing ensures residents and visitors of North Bergen are safe.</p>	
<p>MARCH</p>	<p>Officer Christopher Nunez PO C. Nunez responded to a residence for a male in cardiac arrest. He began emergency aid and performed chest compressions. Upon learning that the male's daughter was an EMT, he asked her to assist with chest compressions while he began utilizing the AED. ALS arrived a short time later and the male regained a light pulse and was transported to the hospital. In a time of panic and chaos, PO Nunez employed his training to save a victim as well as his compassion to comfort the family.</p>	
<p>APRIL</p>	<p>Officer Katrina Guillen During the month of April, PO K. Guillen's proactive policing prevented several crimes from occurring. In early April, PO Guillen observed three males split up when they noticed her. One party began to hide in-between vehicles. She conducted an inquiry and the individual had a warrant. An arrest was made and potentially prevented a crime. During patrols later that month, she conducted several additional inquiries of suspicious parties, resulting in additional arrests. Her diligence in effective patrols has helped to deter crime.</p>	
<p>MAY</p>	<p>Officer Richard Rodriguez PO R. Rodriguez responded to a hit and run accident. The occupants fled on foot and one party was observed with a firearm. He ultimately located the fleeing persons in Fairview and used investigative interview techniques to acquire further information. The male admitted to having a CO2 air gun and directed officers to the location of the weapon where it was safely recovered.</p>	
<p>JUNE</p>	<p>Det. Christopher Orellana A local restaurant was burglarized during the month of June and currency was stolen from the cash register. The Detective Bureau processed the crime scene and retrieved video surveillance. Det. C. Orellana was able to identify and apprehend the suspect, who is a repeat offender.</p>	

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

July - December 2020

<p style="text-align: center;">JULY</p>	<p>Officer Feliz Vargas During July, A bakery truck was stolen from the business. The Detective Bureau processed the scene and conducted a thorough investigation. Investigator F. Vargas identified the suspect and located the stolen vehicle. Officer Vargas applied his training and experience to ensure the safety and security of residents and businesses within the Township.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">AUGUST</p>	<p>Officer Sean Moultrie Officer S. Moultrie observed a juvenile park a vehicle and meet up with three others parties. As Officer Moultrie approached the vehicle, the parties fled on foot. The registration was checked and returned as a stolen vehicle. Officer Moultrie later located one of the involved parties who identified the suspect juvenile as his brother. PO Moultrie later apprehended the juvenile suspect and he was charged with Receiving Stolen Property.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">SEPTEMBER</p>	<p>Officer Julio Noriega Patrol received a report of a burglary and theft to a vehicle. The responding officer determined that a television was stolen from the victim's vehicle. Several hour later, Officer J. Noriega observed a party matching the suspect's description, carrying a box. Officer Noriega interviewed the suspect and obtained a confession. The television was recovered and the suspect was charged with Burglary and Theft.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">OCTOBER</p>	<p>Detective Christopher Orellana Det. Orellana received information concerning cocaine distribution from a mid-town address. He developed the investigation, identified the actor, and obtained probable cause for a Search Warrant. Hudson County SWAT and the Det. Bureau executed the search warrant, which yielded a large amount of narcotics worth \$60,000 and \$12,000 in currency believed to be proceeds from drug transactions. His thorough investigation resulted in the removal of a drug dealer from the streets of our Township.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">NOVEMBER</p>	<p>Officer Michael Carriel Officer Carriel observed a male attempting to enter his vehicle outside of Headquarters. The suspect then gained entry into a police vehicle and Officer Carriel ordered him out of the vehicle. While attempting to apprehend the suspect, the suspect fled from the scene. Officer R. Pobutkiewicz and Officer Carriel located the suspect a short distance away and placed him into custody.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">DECEMBER</p>	<p>Officer Samantha Sexton Officer Samantha Sexton was assigned to investigate a stolen vehicle. During the investigation, she was able to track the suspect via CCTV and thorough canvassing. Investigator Sexton ultimately identified and apprehended the suspect.</p>	

2020 OFFICER OF THE YEAR



The Command Staff has selected Police Officer Richard Rodriguez as Officer of the Year for 2020. He has been a member of the North Bergen Police Department for two and a half years. He has spent those years assigned to the Patrol Division in Squad 3. Officer R. Rodriguez has been selected for Officer of the Month for the months of January and May during 2020. Officer Richard Rodriguez had a total of 17 arrests in 2020, two of which were for Driving While Intoxicated.

On January 19th, Officer R. Rodriguez was patrolling the area of the Seville Motel, 1415 Tonnelle Avenue, and noticed a parked vehicle fitting the description from an officer safety alert. He ran the license plate of the vehicle and confirmed it belonged to a person who was believed to be suicidal and possibly in possession of a firearm. That person was also wanted by the Hudson County Sheriff Department and Fort Lee Police Department. Officer Rodriguez investigated and confirmed that this party had checked into the motel and was in fact inside the room. Hudson County S.W.A.T was activated and ultimately was able to take the actor into custody without incident. Officer R. Rodriguez exhibited vigilance and removed a potentially dangerous party off the streets.



On May 17th, Officer Rodriguez responded to the area of 90th Street and Woodcliff Avenue to search for two males who fled the scene of an accident. A description was provided and one of the males was said to be in possession of a handgun. Officer R. Rodriguez canvassed the area of Dottino Lane in Fairview and observed two males matching the description walking west on Desoto Place. He was able to close the gap between them as the males separated from each other. Officer R. Rodriguez then stopped one of the males. The second male was apprehended by other units involved. Due to video footage depicting one of the males being in possession of a firearm, a search for weapons was conducted but no gun was found. Officer R. Rodriguez used police investigative techniques and was able to obtain further information from the suspect, who then admitted to having a handgun, but stated it was a toy gun. He was transported to the area of Woodcliff Avenue and Palisades Avenue and pointed out where he had discarded the handgun. The K9 Unit confirmed the handgun was in that location. The handgun was located, made safe, and collected for evidence. The handgun was determined to be a realistic looking CO2 air gun.

Officer R. Rodriguez is eager and motivated, and has earned a position as a Field Training Officer (FTO). As an FTO, he is charged with making sure newly hired officers are well trained during the first few months in the field. Officer R. Rodriguez continuously and consistently proves to be a huge asset and model officer for this department. His passion and skills have led to the removal of dangerous and violent offenders from the streets, making the Township of North Bergen a safer place for all residents and visitors.



NOTABLE CASES

Internet Sale Armed Robbery

In May, 2020, a victim was attempting to sell his cell phone on the internet. As he met with the would-be buyers in the area of Smith Avenue, he was set up and robbed by several suspects, one of which had a handgun. Detectives were able to track the suspects utilizing surveillance video and automated license plate reader data. Through investigation over a period of several months, a total of five suspects were identified and arrested.

Fraudulent Use of Credit Cards



In May of 2020, a 68-year-old male became ill and was transported to a hospital in North Bergen. Tragically, he passed away due to his illness. The victim's daughter contacted this agency to report fraudulent activity on her father's credit card after he passed away. Through investigation, detectives were able to identify the suspect who had worked for a company that cleans hospital sheets. It is believed that the victim's wallet

was stolen from his hospital bed which was hidden in the sheets. The suspect was apprehended despite a global pandemic which greatly hampered detectives' efforts to obtain vital evidence, including surveillance video. *The North Bergen Police Department is charged with providing a voice for the voiceless and to come to the defense of those who cannot defend themselves.*

Armed Robbery at Motel

In June, 2020, this agency received a call from a female who stated that she was robbed at gunpoint by an unknown male at a local motel. Detectives were able to track the suspect utilizing surveillance video and automated license plate reader data. Through investigation, it was learned that the suspect was employed at a business in Elizabeth, N.J. The suspect was believed to be armed and also may have committed a series of similar robberies. Surveillance was conducted on the suspect to identify a point in time where the arrest could be made to minimize the potential danger to the community, the police and the suspect. A motor vehicle stop was conducted and a search of the suspect's vehicle revealed narcotics and the handgun believed to have been used during the robbery. The suspect was safely taken into custody.



Narcotics Distribution



In early October of 2020, Detectives received information regarding a male distributing crack-cocaine and cocaine from a residence on Liberty Avenue. Based on the information obtained, detectives were able to identify the suspect. Through an extensive narcotics investigation, probable cause was granted for a court authorized search warrant for the suspect's residence. Approximately 1,200 knotted bags of crack-cocaine and 200 knotted bags of cocaine were seized with an approximate street value of \$60,000. Over \$12,000 in U.S. Currency, consistent with drug distribution, was also seized. The

suspect was charged with numerous CDS offenses, including a 1st degree crime due to the large amount of narcotics seized from the residence.

NOTABLE CASES (CONTINUED)

Burglary to Residence with a Handgun

During evening hours on October, 2019 suspects climbed into a bedroom window of a residence in the uptown area of North Bergen. When confronted by the home owner, one of the suspects brandished a handgun. The suspects exited the residence through the same bedroom window and fled the scene. Detectives processed the crime scene for evidence and were able to retrieve several latent fingerprints. While the fingerprints were sent out to the New Jersey State Police AFIS Unit for identification, detectives continued to track the suspects via surveillance video. Detectives painstakingly tracked the suspects for almost 40 blocks. Through investigation detectives identified three male suspects, who were apprehended. The fingerprints obtained from the crime scene positively matched the suspects' fingerprints.



Criminal Attempt Murder and Criminal Attempt Aggravated Sexual Assault



In November, 2020, at approximately 1:00 am, a suspect entered the victim's bedroom of her residence in the uptown area of North Bergen. While the victim was sleeping, he touched her inappropriately. The victim thought the man in her bedroom was her boyfriend, however quickly realized otherwise, as the suspect had long hair. As she struggled with the suspect, she was stabbed multiple times and temporally lost consciousness. She was able to flee her residence and received help from a person walking on Bergenline Avenue. The suspect fled the scene prior to police arrival. Through witness interviews and analysis of surveillance video, detectives were able to identify the suspect, who was the cousin of the victim's boyfriend. After canvassing multiple locations to apprehend the suspect, detectives received a tip from a family member that the suspect fled to Maryland. With the assistance of the U.S. Marshal's and the Office of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the suspect was apprehended at a relative's home in Maryland. He is currently awaiting extradition for multiple charges including Criminal Attempt Murder, Criminal Attempt Aggravated Sexual Assault, Terrorist Threats, Aggravated Assault and weapons offenses.

NOTABLE CASES (CONTINUED)

Anonymous Narcotics Tip

On December 16th, 2020, detectives received an anonymous tip regarding narcotics activity at a motel room in the downtown area of North Bergen. Upon corroborating this information, the tip appeared to be credible. As the investigation unfolded, it was believed that one of the suspects was armed with a handgun. A motor vehicle stop was conducted of the suspect's vehicle and a large amount of money consistent with drug distribution was discovered. With the assistance of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Narcotic's Unit and Hudson County Regional SWAT Team, entry was made into the suspect's motel room. Detectives were able to recover a firearm and a large amount of narcotics, specifically prescription pills which appeared to be made in the motel room, commonly known as a "pill mill".

"If You See Something, Say Something". This important public safety message is not just a catch phrase. Without the help of the community, the North Bergen Police Department could not do its job effectively. This anonymous tip undoubtedly made this community safer. Not only were a handgun and dangerous felons removed off of the streets, a "pill mill" which can profoundly affect an entire community, was dismantled.

Wanted for Murder

On December 12th, 2020, the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Homicide Unit requested assistance in locating a 27-year-old North Bergen resident who was wanted for Murder. Approximately three years ago during a domestic violence incident, the suspect dropped his child which resulted in the child's death. At the time detectives were unable to locate the suspect. Later that evening, detectives received additional information from the Homicide Unit that the suspect may be at a friend's residence in North Bergen. Detectives headed to the residence and set up covert surveillance. They noticed the suspect quickly enter a vehicle. Detectives conducted a motor vehicle stop and arrested the suspect, who was then turned over to the Homicide Unit to face murder charges.

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

MAY 2020

Chief Peter Fasilis is sworn in as the 10th Chief of Police



10TH CHIEF OF POLICE PETER FASILIS

SEPTEMBER 2020

Promotions to Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief David Corbisiero

Deputy Chief Robert Farley, Jr.



SEPTEMBER 2020

Promotions to Lieutenant

Lieutenant Edward Moyano

Lieutenant Anthony Caramucci



SEPTEMBER 2020

Promotions to Sergeant

Sergeant Yusuf Yousef

Sergeant Kaylan Dowd

Sergeant C. Apostolakos



PO Nicholas Garcia

PO Alexander Sanchez

PO Jon Nunez

PO Paul Alvarado

PO Al-Abad Taha

PO Michael A. Derin

PO Anthony DeOrio

OCTOBER 2020

New Officers

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The success of our Community Policing strategy relies on three critical elements. Residents, Township agencies, and the police department must work together to prevent crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. A positive working relationship must be maintained between the officers and the community that which they serve. Finally, the department must develop intelligence led strategies to reduce and ideally, prevent crime and disorder.

Our policy is to consider the community as a partner in identification and prioritization of crime issues, essentially sharing responsibility for the development and implementation of proactive strategies. These problem-solving measures are successful because they are the result of a concerted effort between the community, the police department, and the Township government.

The North Bergen Police Department relies on community outreach programs such as the Township Alternative Policing Strategy (T.A.P.S.) meetings, as well as any other interaction we have through Community Policing efforts such as Coffee with a Cop, response to the North Bergen Help Desk, or any other communication outlet. Most notable for the year is the growth of our social media presence, as noted in our followers' numbers. Through these channels, we continue our efforts to grow our partnership with the community, where we share the responsibility for identifying, reducing, preventing, and eliminating problems that impact public safety and the quality of life for residents and visitors of North Bergen.



8,309 Likes, 9118 Followers



10,200 Followers



3,971 Followers

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OUTREACH

Lunch with a Cop

Before COVID caused students to transition to virtual learning, our Community Affairs and School Resource Officers continued to host Lunch with a Cop events at different schools. Thanks to the relationship with local sponsors such as Domino's, Target, and Walmart, our officers use this time to become a positive influence in our students' day.



North Bergen T.A.P.S.

The North Bergen Police Department hosted informal community meetings throughout the township in February. The T.A.P.S. program encourages residents to come voice their concerns and discuss issues in person with members of the police department. In this photo, Sgt. Yfantis welcomes a new family who moved from Queens, NY to North Bergen for better quality of life. They attended to familiarize themselves with the community, and Sgt. Yfantis was happy to oblige them.



Coffee with a Cop

Prior to social distancing measures enacted during the COVID pandemic, the North Bergen Police Department hosted Coffee with a Cop events. These are community meetings throughout the township where residents can have a cup of coffee and discuss their concerns while getting to know their officers. The program has been an excellent way to maintain a dialogue with seniors within the community that may not otherwise have an opportunity to interact with officers.



Community Policing



Despite COVID, officers took every opportunity to support residents' efforts for normalcy, including small gestures like patronizing the local lemonade stand! Below left, Officer Ramirez assisted the Woodcliff Reformed Church during their bi-weekly food drive.



Officers took every opportunity to conduct birthday stops to wish our quarantined students a happy birthday. Below, Officer Crafton, on military deployment to the COVID vaccination center, is supported by drink donations from the PBA and local business owner Mahmoud Abbasi.

Trunk-Or-Treat remains a favorite annual effort by officers to keep a positive relationship with children and their parents.



Fundraising with Purpose

The Law Enforcement community has always strongly supported the Special Olympics of New Jersey. In February, Mayor Sacco, Commissioner Cabrera and Commissioner Marengo helped Detective Frank “Mr. North Bergen” Mena and Officer “Big George” Somarriba celebrate their win. Det. Mena and PO Somarriba enlisted the East Coast Professional Wrestling organization to host an entertaining event, with proceeds going to Special Olympics of NJ. Below, members participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, and officers (right) form their team for playing in the Snow Bowl for Special Olympics.



No-Shave November

Since 2016, the North Bergen Police Department has participated in No-Shave-November, where officers are required to donate in order to grow facial hair for the entire month. At the end of the month, the funds are donated to a charity. For the past four years, officers have elected to support local business owner Robert Ceragno at the Eye-Contact Vision Center in support of Fight Colorectal Cancer (FIGHT CRC). This year, officers were able to donate approximately \$5000 to the cause. In this photo Chief Fasilis, Deputy Chief Farley, and PBA President James Vangelakos look on while Sgt. Apostolakos issues our donation.



TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Body-Worn Camera Technology

A stated goal of the department in 2020 was to successfully implement Body-Worn Cameras (BWC) in advance of the anticipated 2021 New Jersey Attorney General Directive. North



Bergen served as a pilot program for Hudson County, where we were the first in Hudson County to successfully



implement, train on, and deploy the technology. We were proud to be in full compliance with Attorney General Directive 2021-5 well in advance of the June 1 requirement, with our frontline officers and supervisors utilizing a uniquely identifiable camera issued to them. Cost saving efforts through the use of grants resulted in taxpayer savings, while the deployment of the technology greatly promotes accountability and integrity of both police personnel and the citizens they serve. Evidence collection is also enhanced, as the scene to which we respond is recorded as it is, supporting officer reporting.

Body-worn cameras have been proven to reduce the number and cost of citizen complaints and internal investigations. Body-worn cameras also increase public and officer safety, reduce liability, increase transparency, and assist in criminal prosecutions. Our policy balances the benefit of capturing and recording evidence with the privacy of the individual also appropriately safeguarded. When used according to policy, body-worn cameras can only build on the transparency and trust the North Bergen Police Department has established with the community.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

In June of 2020, the North Bergen Police Department was successful in acquiring FAA authorization to pilot Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), commonly known as drones. Police Officer Sean Rahbari of the Training Unit is a certified Part 107 Remote Pilot with FAA. He was able to apply for three separate authorizations for a diversity of UAS missions. The NBPD currently has a Blanket, Jurisdictional, and Tactical Authorization to fly public safety drones. We were the first department in Hudson County to be approved for a Beyond Visual Line of Sight (Tactical) operational capability. We currently have three drones that serve different functions. Our DJI Matrice 300 has thermal imaging, long range zoom, over watch lighting, and drop capabilities. The DJI Mavic 2 Enterprise Zoom is a quick deployable remote aircraft that has 20x zoom ability. Lastly, our smaller DJI Mavic Mini is used for interior flight which is used inside buildings to increase officer safety and reduce unknown factors. The continual adoption and evolution of leading-edge technology by the police department provides yet another method to ensure the safety and security of the residents of North Bergen.



TRAINING

The foundation of the success of the police department is the quality of the training it receives. Continual evolution and investment in training ensures the quality of service the residents have come to expect.

Fundamental Crisis Intervention training (CIT), with additional emphasis on de-escalation methods and practices, help our officers serve the community professionally.

In January, 2020, the North Bergen Training Unit conducted an unannounced active shooter drill in the Municipal Court to help ensure officers are prepared for any eventuality. While we hope to never need such a response, our preparedness prioritizes the safety of the residents. Additionally, in January, selected officers were immersed in a three-day course on

Conducted Energy Devices (CED), known as tasers. This important, less than lethal option, is an additional tool officers have at their disposal. Extensive classroom instruction ensures proper understanding of the operation of the CED and the associated effects to ensure deployment only when absolutely necessary. The Department was fortunate to capitalize on the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant in order to outfit officers with new equipment.



In 2020, each and every Officer of the North Bergen Police Department participated in an in-service training to update their knowledge, skills, and abilities. Mandatory training for 2020 included Domestic Violence, Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazardous Materials, Narcan, Autism Awareness and various medical/trauma control techniques. Members also trained in Oleoresin Capsicum (pepper spray) and Use of Force training. The department also conducted the annual Community Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations (CLEAR) training as mandated by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office.



The Training Unit also conducted critical recertifications for CPR for patrol officers. In addition, the Training Unit is charged with maintaining and overseeing compliance with accreditation standards since the department's accreditation status was reviewed and renewed in 2019 by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP).

CONTACT



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