



NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



4233 JOHN F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD,
NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047
201-392-2100





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A MESSAGE FROM CHIEF PETER FASILIS



We entered 2021 with high expectations to begin our recovery from the 2020 pandemic and return back to normalcy. The pandemic however continued to impact most aspects of our lives. While this year will be remembered for its many challenges, it will also be remembered for the outstanding actions of our officers and our community in the face of so much uncertainty. It also provided us with an opportunity to bring about change and innovation in order to adapt to a rapidly changing world and preserve the safety and quality of life of our community.

We are very fortunate to have a strong connection with our residents and business owners who share the responsibility of developing strategies to improve upon the quality of life within the Township of North Bergen. Our success as a law enforcement agency would not be possible without this partnership with our community. During a time where many parts of the country are struggling to create positive, long-lasting relationships with the communities they serve, the North Bergen Police Department continues to cultivate overwhelming support from its community by maintaining trust through continual engagement and communication on all levels.

Building positive relationships with the community is a critical aspect of policing, and these relationships can exist only if we earn the trust of the community we serve. Reducing use-of-force encounters is one of the many ways of establishing trust within the community. In an effort to reduce use-of-force encounters, we have placed an increased emphasis on providing officers with training on interacting with people with mental health disabilities and on crisis de-escalation. According to the N.J. Attorney General's Office, the North Bergen Police Department had one of the lowest use-of-force statistics in New Jersey. I strongly believe that we, as law enforcement, are most effective when the residents trust us and believe we are here to protect them. To further increase trust, transparency and accountability, the North Bergen Police Department also took the initiative to adopt a body-worn camera program ahead of the state mandates. Body-worn camera footage is regularly reviewed and audited to help ensure professional standards are maintained and to identify training deficiencies. Since enacting our body-worn camera program, we have had even fewer officer complaints.

As we take a moment to reflect on 2021, I want to recognize the tremendous efforts of the men and women of the North Bergen Police Department. Despite the challenges of a multi-year pandemic, the North Bergen Police Department served our community with courage, compassion, and integrity. I am truly thankful to serve as their Chief of Police. The continued success of the North Bergen Police Department would also not been possible without the unwavering support of Mayor Nicholas J. Sacco, Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual, and the North Bergen Board of Commissioners. They share our commitment to public safety and the quality of life of our community.

On behalf of the men and women of the North Bergen Police Department, I want to thank you for your trust, encouragement, and support. I look forward to another year of milestones and continued success.

Yours Truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Fasilis".

Peter Fasilis
Chief of Police

A MESSAGE FROM COMMISSIONER ALLEN PASCUAL



I am honored and proud to serve as Public Safety Commissioner alongside Chief Peter Fasilis and the North Bergen Police Department's leadership. I have witnessed first-hand the work done by the finest men and women our North Bergen community has to offer and I admire their dedication, selfless attitude and sense of duty. Our NBPD Officers embody the traits and characteristics needed for a police department to thrive and because of their relentless efforts the Township of North Bergen has made continued advances in public safety.

In 2021, the NBPD adopted a new scheduling system that nearly doubles police coverage at peak hours to improve response times and reduce overtime. In coordination with our Board of Education, we have also committed to providing police officers to all our schools in order to improve public safety and security for children. Our School Resource Officer program also fosters positive relationships between our youth and our police officers that further improves upon our bonds with the community.

Last year, in response to numerous burglaries and thefts of cough syrup and prescription painkillers from pharmacies throughout New Jersey, the North Bergen Police Department partners with other law enforcement agencies to create a task force to combat this crime spree. Thanks to information sharing between agencies, as well as covert surveillance operations, the perpetrators involved were apprehended, arrested, and charged for federal prosecution.

Our great detectives also investigated a rash of burglary sprees last fall. They investigated these cases thoroughly and through surveillance and witness evidence were able to identify a single perpetrator who was eventually linked to eight separate incidents. These cases are part of a larger trend that shows overall crime down over 30% in the last five years. The North Bergen Police Department has incredibly high clearance rates and solves the vast majority of all crimes. This would not have been possible without the leadership and dedication of our police officers.

I would like to thank Mayor Nicholas Sacco and my colleagues at the Board of Commissioners for their continued support of the North Bergen Police Department. Their thoughtful planning and administrative decision have empowered the police department. I would also like to personally thank the entire North Bergen Police Department, Chief Peter Fasilis, the administrative staff, and all of the brave men and women who serve and protect our community every day.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allen Pascual". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Allen Pascual
Commissioner of Public Safety

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR NICHOLAS SACCO



Our North Bergen Police Department has been recognized as one of the most effective law enforcement institutions in the country because of its efficiency, innovative approaches, and dedication to protecting our residents. This year we have recommitted to that pledge by increasing transparency and improving accountability and diversity within the department. This is a tremendous accomplishment thanks in large part to the leadership of Public Safety Commissioner Allen Pascual, Police Chief Peter Fasilis, as well as the incredible men and women who do an incredible job keeping North Bergen safe.

To provide the utmost transparency for residents and taxpayers, the North Bergen Police Department was among the first in Hudson County to adopt a comprehensive body-worn-camera program. Recording police-citizen encounters greatly promotes trust and accountability, enables improved training opportunities, enhances evidence collection, and ensures the integrity of both police personnel as well as the residents they serve.

Our comprehensive body worn camera program has already reduced the number and cost of citizen complaints and internal investigations, and through grants and funding opportunities available through the federal government and the State of New Jersey, the NBPD was able to offset more than half of the cost of the program. Thanks to the NBPD's efforts, taxpayers are saving money and seeing even more improved relationships between the department and the community they serve.

The North Bergen Police Department is also a shining example of our commitment to providing residents with representation that fairly and accurately reflects the demographics of the Township of North Bergen. Roughly 68% of our population is now Latino and so are our police officers (66%). This is a tremendous accomplishment as diversity, equity, and inclusion are all essential values of our community. This enables the NBPD to foster stronger relationships and build greater trust with the residents of North Bergen.

I would like to thank Commissioner Pascual as well as Chief Peter Fasilis, the command staff, and every single officer in the North Bergen Police Department for their commitment and distinguished service to the Township of North Bergen. These men and women are the reason why our community is a safe place now and long into the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicholas J. Sacco". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nicholas J. Sacco
Mayor, Township of North Bergen

MISSION, VISION, VALUES

MISSION STATEMENT

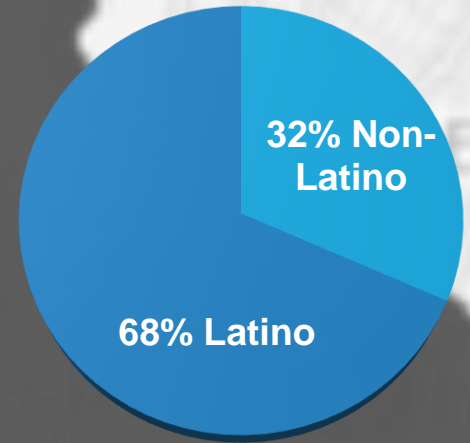
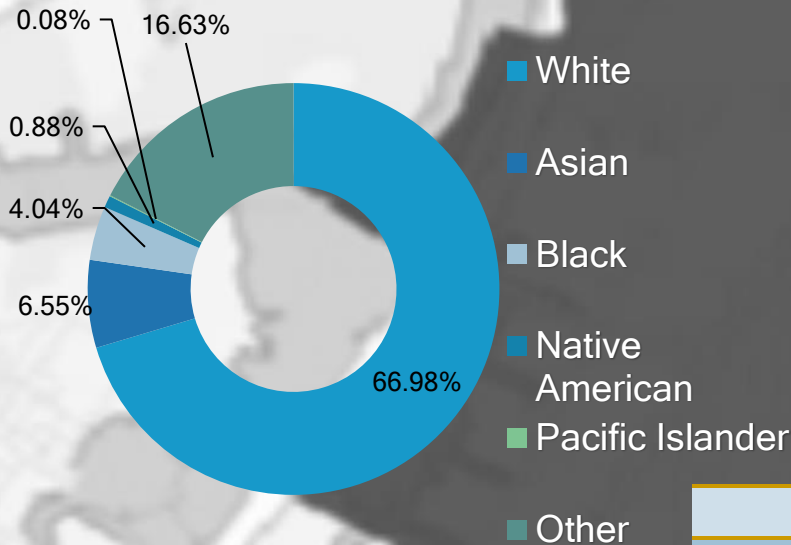
The primary mission of the North Bergen Police Department is to provide safe and stable neighborhoods for the residents and visitors of the Township of North Bergen through various department programs and community policing efforts. This goal can only be accomplished through a mutually cooperative relationship between the North Bergen Police Department and the resident and business communities 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

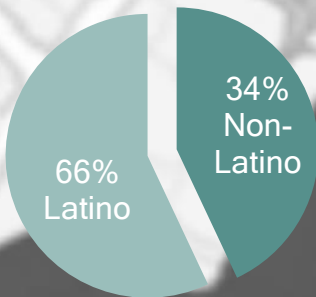


OUR DEMOGRAPHICS

**Township of North Bergen
Population Makeup**



**North Bergen Police
Department**



Township Statistics	
Population 2020 (U.S. Census)	63,361
Population 2010 (est.)	60,773
Area	5.575 sq. mi.
Population Density	11,838 / sq. mi.
Households	21,794
Median Age	38.5

Sworn Police Personnel	
Chief	1
Deputy Chiefs	2
Captains	4
Lieutenants	13
Sergeants	19
Detectives	12
Patrol Officers	68
Police Academy Recruits	5
Special Class II (P/T)	13
Total Sworn Personnel	137

Civilian Personnel	
Clerks	5
Dispatchers	11
CCTV Monitors	8
Interns	4
Other	4
Total	32

TOTAL POLICE EMPLOYEES

169

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



CHIEF OF POLICE
Peter Fasilis

Internal Affairs

Administrative Section
Deputy Chief Robert Farley, Jr.

Operations Section
Deputy Chief David Corbisiero

Special Services Division
Capt. James Gaughran

Community Affairs Division
Capt. Cynthia Montero

Patrol Division
Capt. Jorge Raposo

Investigative Division
Capt. David Dowd

BCI / Records

Courts

School Resources

Property & Evidence

Information Technology

SLEO II

Training

Traffic Division

Social Media

Community Policing

Field Operations

Squad 1

Squad 2

Squad 3

Squad 4

Squad 5

Squad 6

Detectives

JTTF

On-Loan

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY REPORT

Type of Complaint	Cases Pending from Prior Year	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	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	1	0	0	1
<i>Demeanor</i>	5	6	11	0	0	4	7	0	0	0
<i>Other Rule Violation</i>	8	24	32	0	12	3	9	0	5	3
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Other Criminal</i>	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
<i>Total</i>	13	35	48	0	12	7	17	7	5	7

DATA AND CRIME STATISTICS 2021



2021 BY THE NUMBERS



125,415
TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE



1,504
QUALITY OF LIFE PATROLS



2,385
POLICE INVESTIGATIONS



4,049
MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS

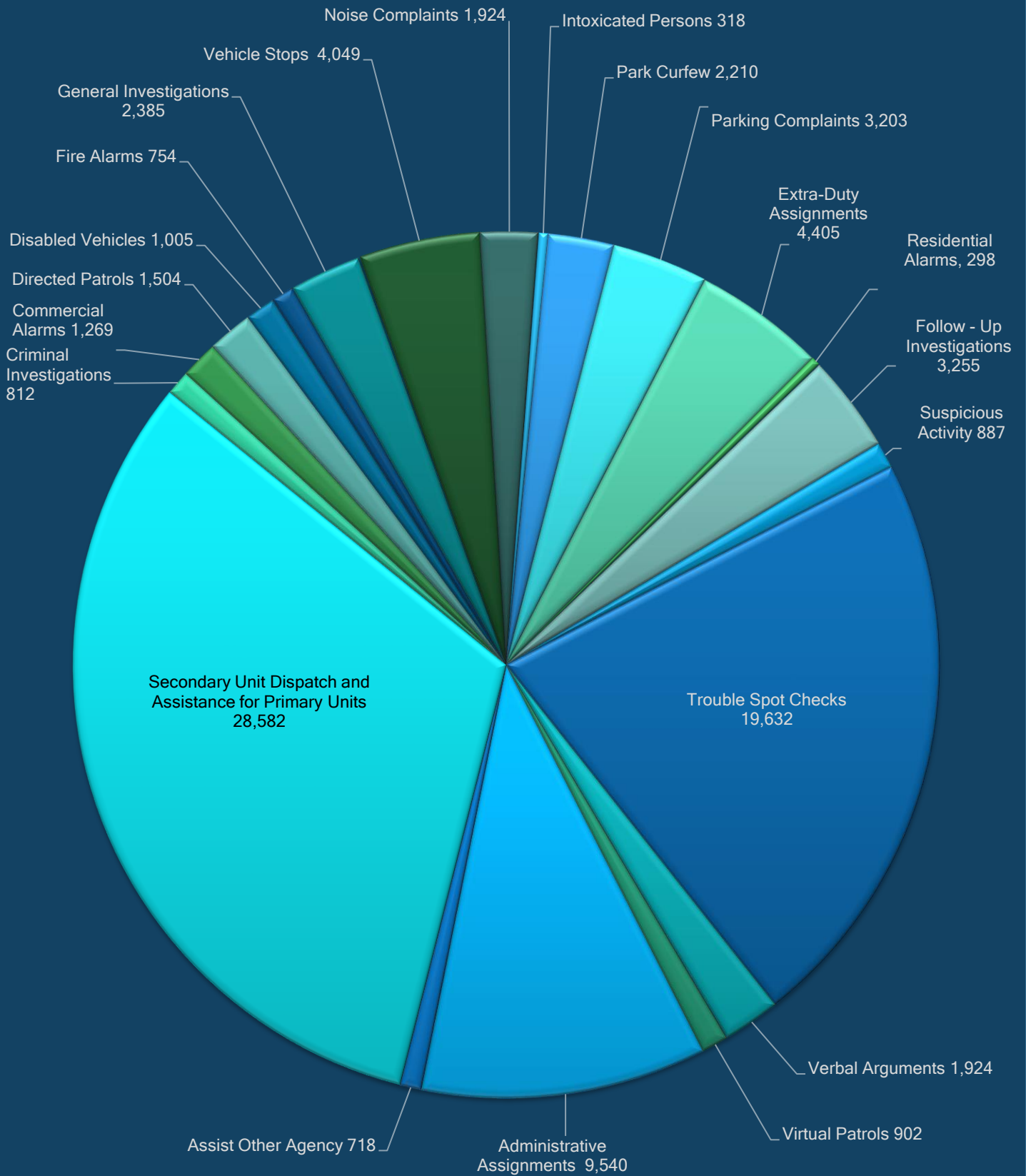


902
CCTV VIRTUAL PATROLS



607
TOTAL ARRESTS

CALLS FOR SERVICE BREAKDOWN



UNIFORM CRIME REPORT



<i>UCR Index Crimes</i>	2021		2020		% Change From 2020	5-Year (2016) Comparison		% Change From 2016
	Offense Count	Crime Rate*	Offense Count	Crime Rate*		Offense Count	Crime Rate*	
<i>Murder</i>	1	0.01	0	0	100%	1	0.02	0%
<i>Rape</i>	24	0.37	12	0.19	100%	17	0.27	41.2%
<i>Robbery</i>	22	0.35	11	0.17	100%	35	0.56	-37.1%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	32	0.50	30	0.48	6.7%	55	0.87	-41.8%
<i>Burglary</i>	33	0.52	20	0.32	65%	82	1.30	-59.8%
<i>Larceny (Theft)</i>	366	5.78	230	3.73	59.1%	445	7.06	-17.8%
<i>Automobile Theft</i>	46	0.73	58	0.94	-20.7%	78	1.24	-41%
<i>Arson**</i>	3	0.05	0	0	300%	3	0.05	0%
<i>Crime Index Total</i>	524	8.27	361	5.85	45.2%	713	11.33	-26.5%
<i>Crimes Against People</i>	79	1.25	53	0.86	49%	109	1.73	-27.5%
<i>Crimes Against Property</i>	445	7.02	308	4.99	44.5%	605	9.60	-26.5%
<i>Overall Crime (Part 1 & Part 2)</i>	1740	27.46	1582	25.67	9.9%	2537	40.27	-31.4%

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

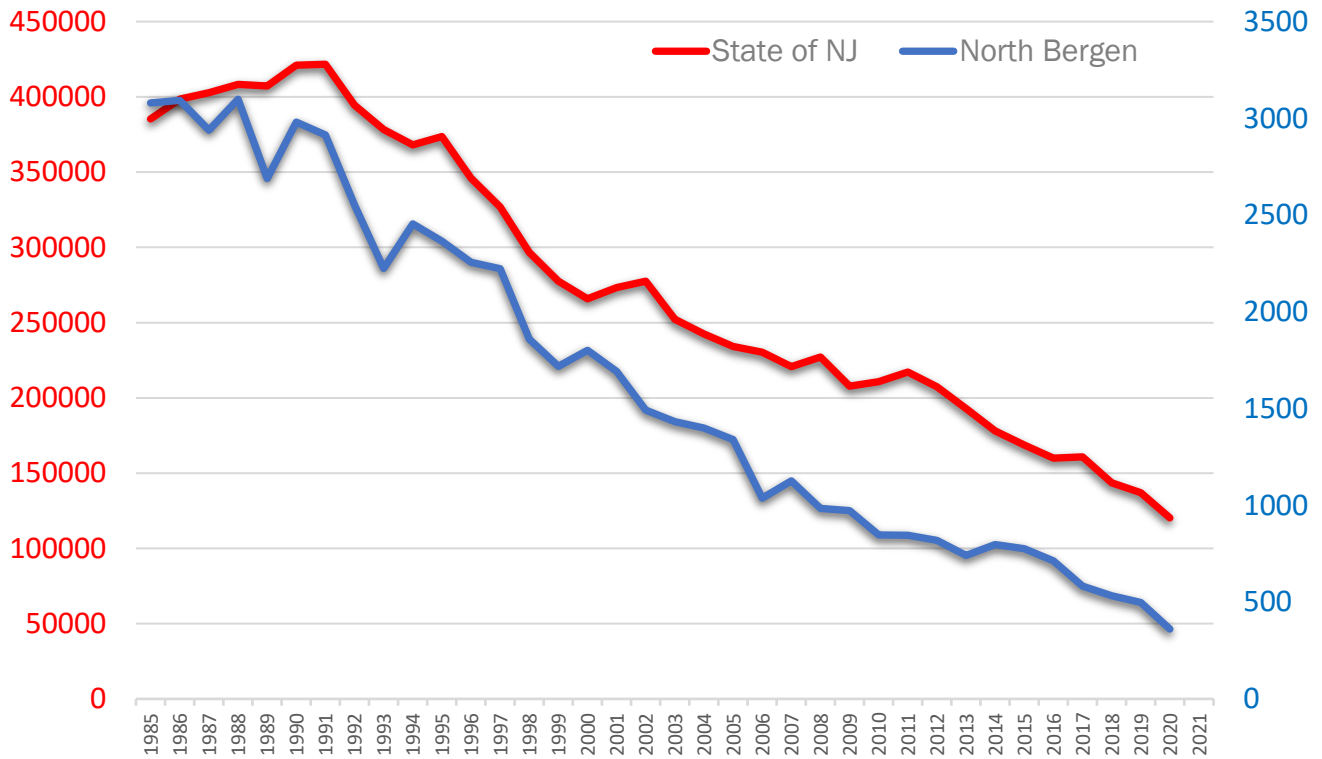
**The UCR Program does not include arson statistics when tabulating Index Crime totals.

*****Part I Offenses** are listed in this chart.

Part II Offenses include Forgery, Counterfeiting, Fraud, Embezzlement, Stolen Property, Vandalism, Weapons Offenses, Prostitution, Sex Offenses, Drug Offenses, DWI, Liquor Law Offenses, Disorderly Conduct, and any other offense not listed.

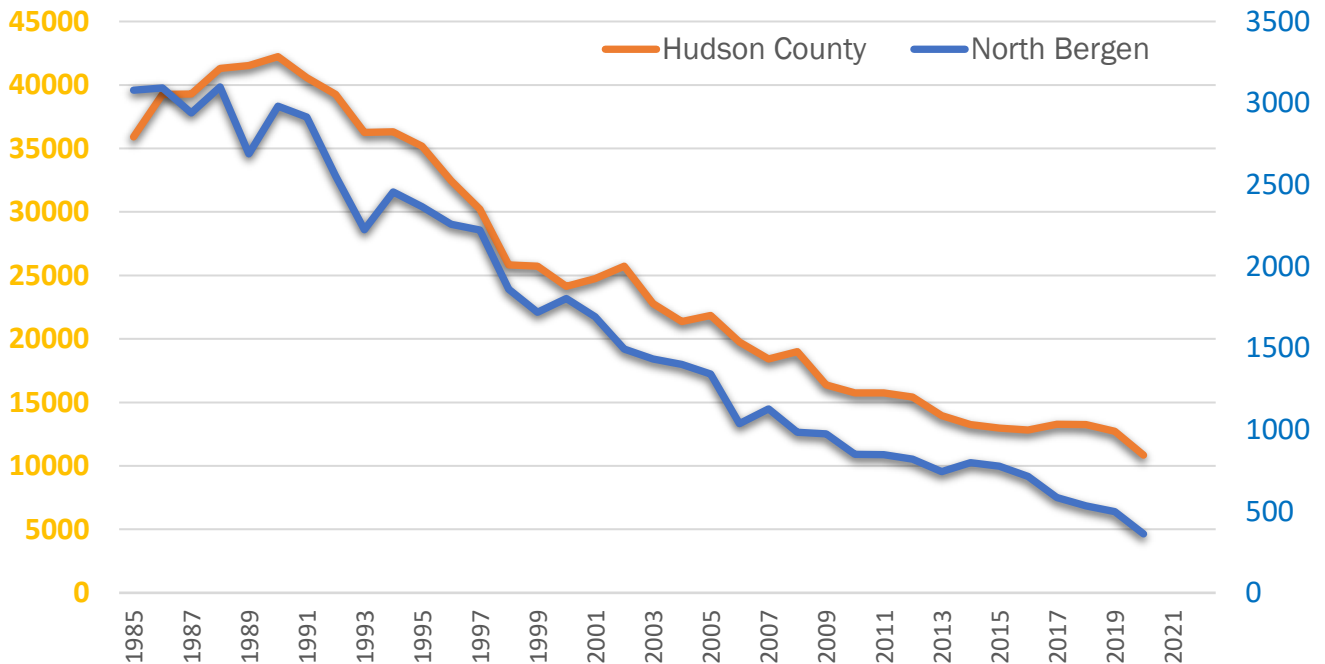
OVERALL CRIME TRENDS

North Bergen / State of NJ Index Comparison



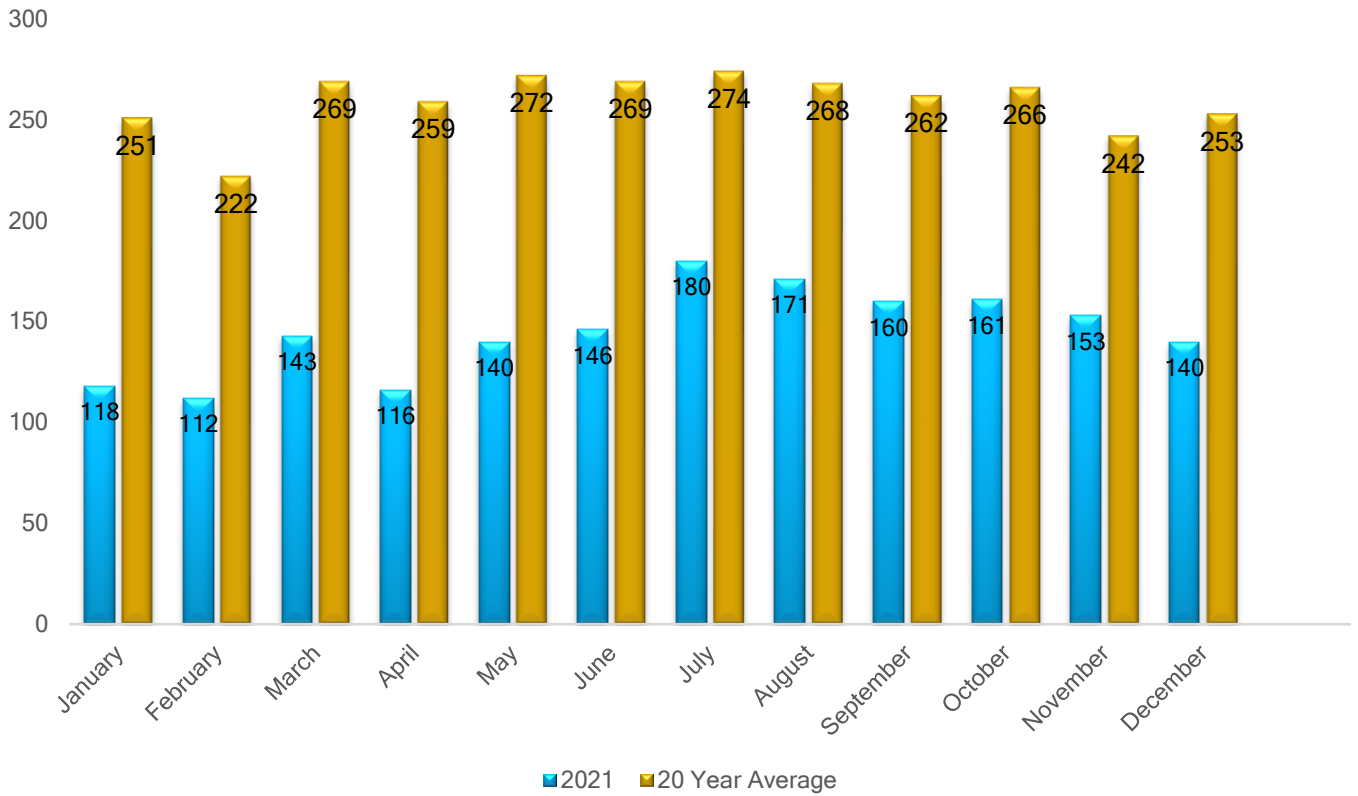
2021 Data currently being compiled by FBI / NJSP

North Bergen / Hudson County Index Comparison

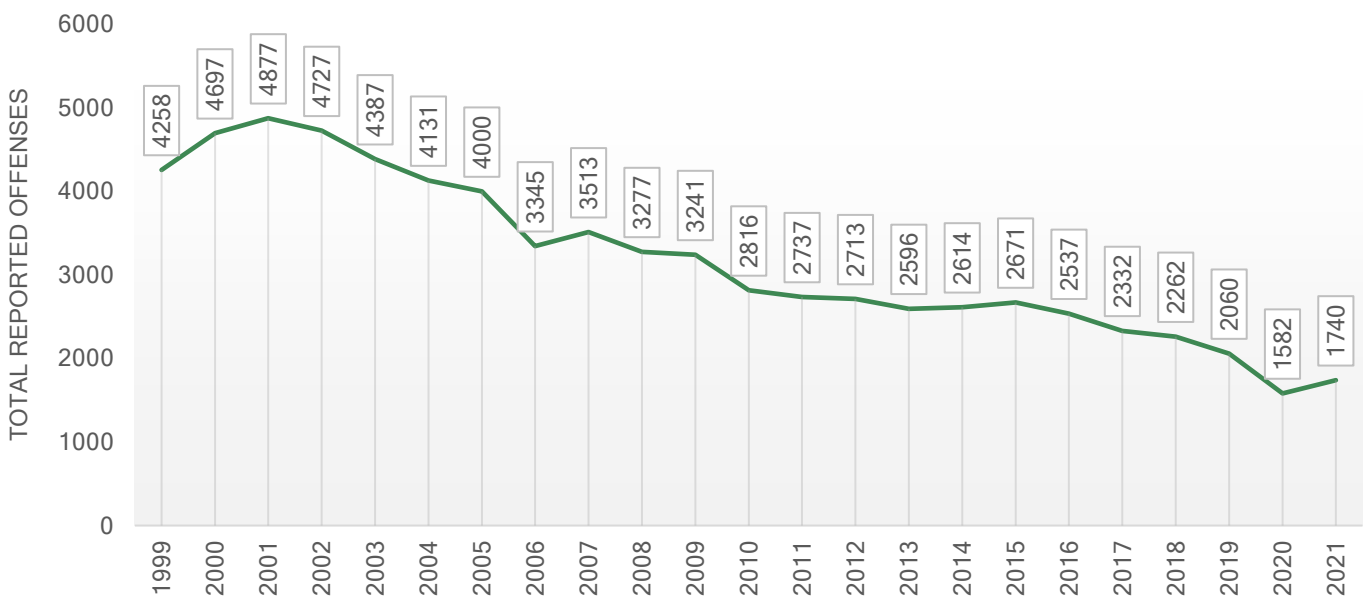


MONTHLY CRIME TRENDS

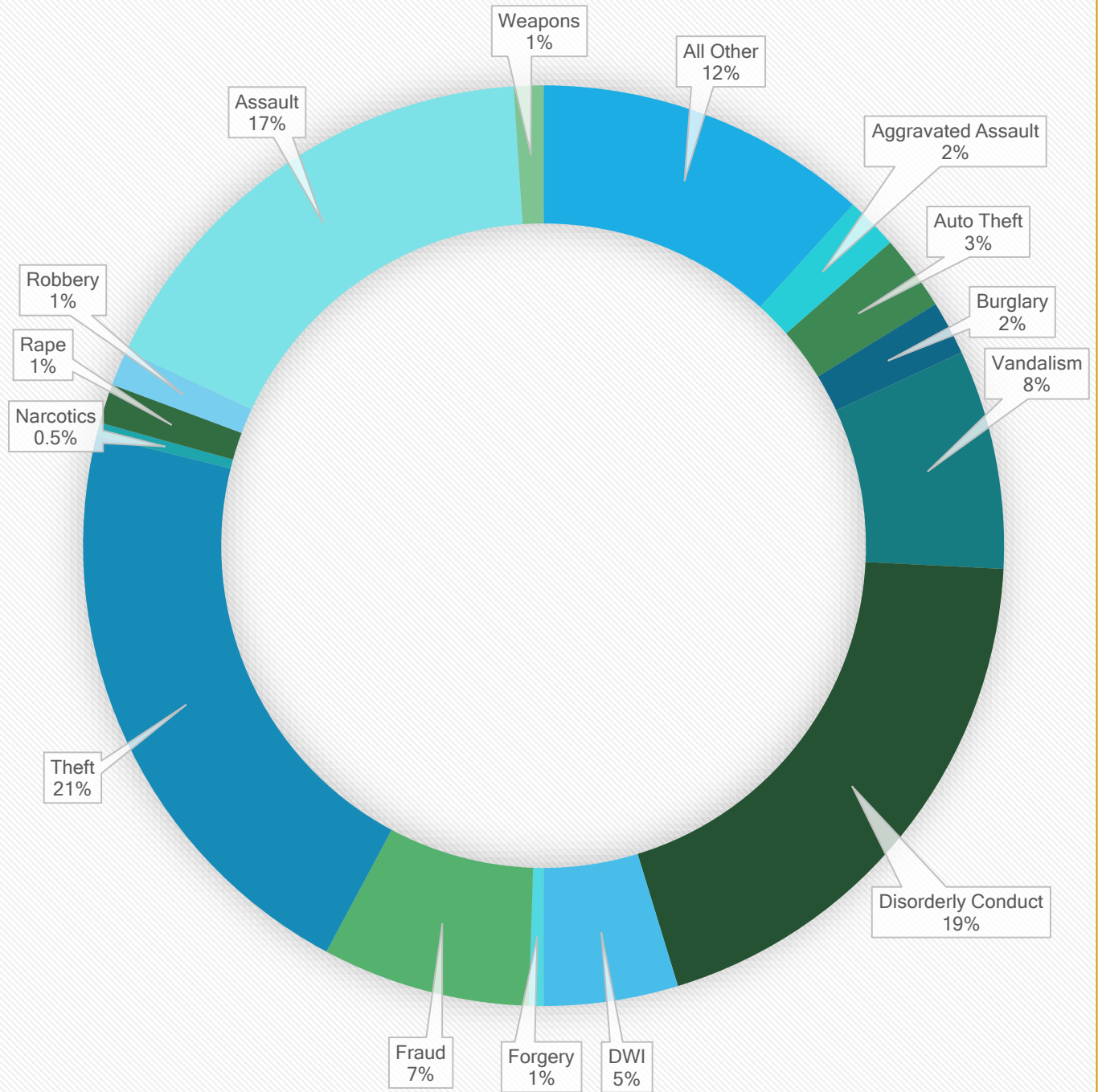
Monthly Reported Part 1 Crimes vs 20 Year Average



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



CRIME BREAKDOWN

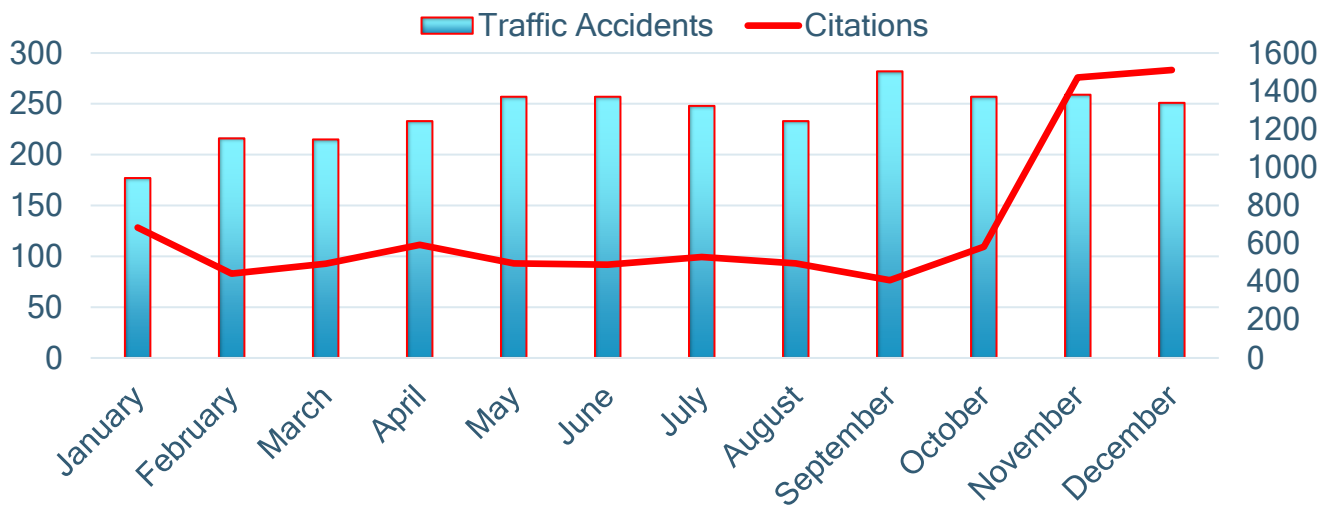


TRAFFIC STATISTICS



2021

	Crash Reports	Vehicles Towed	Citations Issued	DWI
January	177	83	684	5
February	216	102	443	10
March	215	84	494	7
April	233	94	594	4
May	257	104	497	7
June	257	95	489	6
July	248	116	530	6
August	233	45	497	9
September	282	36	408	5
October	257	38	584	5
November	259	73	1472	7
December	251	63	1511	11
Totals	2885	933	8203	82



NOTABLE CASES 2021



NOTABLE CASES

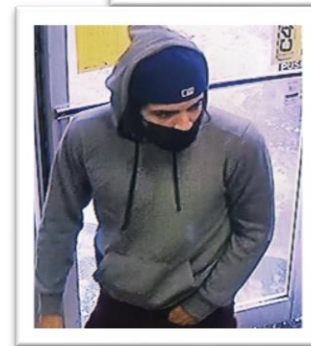
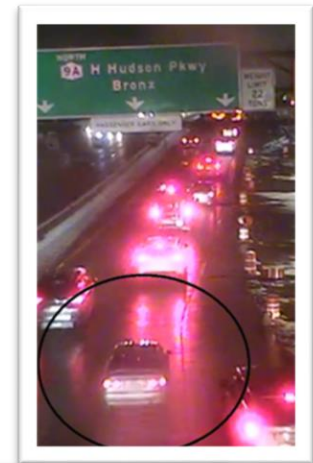
Burglaries and Thefts to Pharmacies Throughout the Region

During the month of January, there were numerous burglaries to pharmacies whereby the actors involved. Actors would smash the glass front door and steal cough syrup and oxycontin pills. These same actors were responsible for burglaries in multiple townships across Hudson, Bergen, and Essex Counties. A Task Force was created to combat this crime spree, and detectives from our agency participated in information sharing and covert surveillance operations resulting in the apprehension and arrest of the actors involved. Their charges were also elevated to include federal prosecution.



Robbery at Knifepoint

On February 19th, 2021, a female shopper in an uptown shopping center observed a suspicious vehicle circling the parking lot. As she loaded her vehicle, a male exited that vehicle, approached her, and struggled with her for her purse. During the struggle, she was knocked to the ground and stabbed. Detectives painstakingly tracked the vehicle from the scene into New York City, and worked with NYPD and the NY Intelligence Center to identify the vehicle license plate, which led to the identification of the male. He was wanted in connection with a random stabbing in Haverstraw, NY. Two days later, this male was arrested by NYPD for yet another similar stabbing. When apprehended, he was still in possession of the North Bergen victim's purchases. Detectives conducted a methodical and thorough investigation to systematically identify and connect an interstate criminal to the crime, thereby removing a violent offender from the streets.



NOTABLE CASES (CONTINUED)

Robbery at Gunpoint

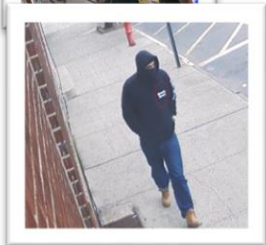
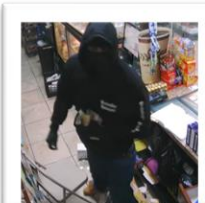
On March 10th, two North Bergen residents drove home from a party in southern NJ and were followed home. Once home, two males confronted the victims in their parking garage at gunpoint and took several thousand dollars' worth of jewelry. Detectives processed the crime scene to collect latent fingerprints, DNA and blood evidence, footprint impressions, surveillance, and victim statements. Over the next several months, detectives worked to track the path of the suspect vehicle and identified its license plate from tollbooth images. During the investigation, the latent fingerprints collected at the scene resulted in a match to a suspect, who was identified and charged in the crime. The vehicle was recovered by Newark Police while being used to commit additional crimes in their jurisdiction. Through extensive, professional efforts, NBPD detectives devoted hundreds of hours to identify and stop violent criminals.



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Convenience Store Robbery

On April 9th, 2021, a male actor entered a store at 7th Street and Grand Avenue, armed with a tire iron. He demanded money from the clerk, took \$1500, then fled in a vehicle. Over the next several days, detectives canvassed for witnesses and surveillance, and were



able to track the vehicle to a location in Jersey

City. The vehicle was determined to have been stolen from Bloomfield, NJ. Detectives were able to locate the vehicle, and found the actor sleeping in the car. The suspect informed the officers that he had a handgun, and a six-hour standoff ensued, which was eventually



resolved peacefully. The actor was charged with numerous crimes including first degree robbery and weapons offenses.

NOTABLE CASES (CONTINUED)

Jewelry Snatching

During one week in May, two different victims walking on Bergenline Avenue reported that their necklaces were ripped from their necks by two males riding by on bicycles. Detectives collected surveillance and statements and developed a description of possible suspects. Detectives patrolled the area in the days after, encountering two juvenile bicyclists that matched the description developed through recovered surveillance footage. The actors were positively identified and arrested.



Arsonist Captured

On June 5th, units responded to vehicles on fire. Once extinguished, the fire was deemed suspicious. Detectives canvassed for surveillance and found footage of a male intentionally lighting the fires. Detectives traced him to a local motel and were able to identify him and recognized he was a known arsonist previously convicted in other jurisdictions. The arsonist was arrested and charged.



Aggravated Assault

On July 3rd, patrol officers responded to an uptown nightclub for a call that a patron fell and was injured. The victim was found unconscious with severe head trauma, and the medical call became a police investigation. Initially, no witnesses could be located that could identify who assaulted the victim. Detectives investigated the incident over several months, eventually learning that an unidentified security employee intentionally struck the victim. A break in the case came when he was arrested for an unrelated kidnapping incident, during which detectives proved he was employed at the night club and was responsible for this assault. He was subsequently arrested.

NOTABLE CASES (CONTINUED)

Commercial Burglary Cargo Theft.

On August 23rd, 2021 officers responded to a commercial alarm and discovered that burglars stole 3000 cartons of cigarettes valued at \$273,000 plus \$5,000 in cash, and keys to the business's delivery vans.



Over the course of a six-month long investigation, detectives identified two suspects who were committing burglaries to businesses in over fourteen other municipalities. North



Bergen Police detectives partnered with five other police agencies and a task force was formed. As a result, of the investigation, four suspects were identified and arrested.

Serial Burglar Caught

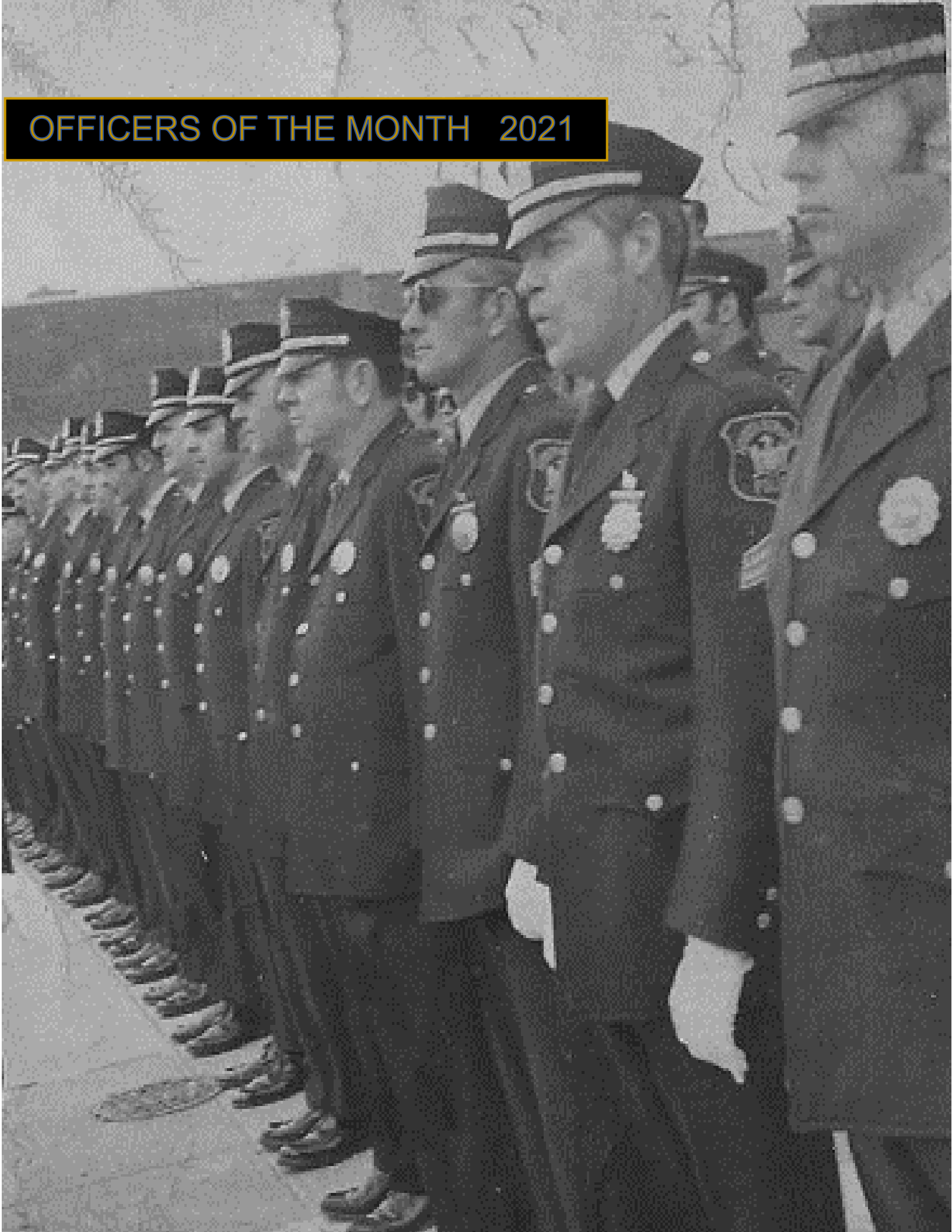
Between August 27th and September 7th, there was a rash of burglary and theft activity reported. Six separate burglaries were reported, with one residence broken into twice in one day. Detectives persistently investigated these seemingly individual events and gathered surveillance and witness evidence which led them to identify one sole individual as the repeat offender. Detectives were able to connect the activity of these seemingly random events to a known offender who was subsequently charged, solving all eight crimes.









Missing Alzheimer's Patient Recovered

On December 21st, 2021 family members reported that an elderly family member who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease had wandered from his home. In addition to traditional methods, our social media and public information sharing platforms were utilized in order to assist. As a result of our social media partnership pushing this information out to the community as well as a release to local news outlets, we received information that the victim was possibly seen in Jersey City. Soon thereafter, an anonymous person contacted our agency as they believed he was at a Jersey City Hospital. It was learned that a person driving by saw the victim shivering in the cold rain and transported him to the hospital. The victim was reunited with family members.

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH 2021



OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

JANUARY	<p>Officer Sammy Awadallah</p> <p>On January 18th, 2021, P.O. Sammy Awadallah responded to a business at 2220 91st Street on report of a male that collapsed. On arrival he found an unresponsive 67-year-old male in cardiac arrest. PO Awadallah instinctively took action and effectively reverted to his First Responder training by deploying his automated external defibrillator and administering CPR. While waiting for EMS, Sgt. Echeverria and P.O. Crafton assisted in lifesaving efforts. Shock was administered and victim regained a pulse. Medical units arrived and took over care. P.O. Awadallah's immediate and heroic actions ultimately saved the victim's life.</p>	
FEBRUARY	<p>Detective Jason Castillo</p> <p>On February 19th, 2021, a female shopper at 8101 Tonnelle Avenue was attacked in the lot by a male assailant, who attempted to take her purse. During the struggle, the male stabbed the victim and fled in a vehicle. Detectives investigated and identified a suspect vehicle. Extensive follow up was conducted, and Det. Castillo tracked that vehicle into New York City via the Lincoln Tunnel. Detective Castillo networked with NYPD and learned the suspect vehicle had been stopped in NYC one hour after the attack, on a traffic offense. The driver was identified, and was found to have committed a similar attack in the 50th Precinct on February 21st, where he was arrested. Det. Castillo determined him to be the same person involved in the North Bergen incident, and charged the offender with the Robbery, Aggravated Assault, and Weapons offenses to bring a dangerous offender off the street.</p>	
MARCH	<p>Officer Brendan Bowen</p> <p>On March 11th, 2021, P.O. Bowen responded to 8515 Bergenline Avenue on call of a resident's door being damaged where he encountered a female on the second floor who was armed with a hammer. She quickly retreated to her apartment. P.O. Bowen found extensive damage on the third-floor victim's door and learned the hammer-wielding female was responsible. He took a defensive position in the 2nd floor hallway and waited for assistance at which time the female exited her apartment and charged towards him brandishing the hammer. Exhibiting great restraint, P.O. Bowen rapidly assessed the situation and deployed pepper spray to de-escalate. The female retreated into her apartment, locking the door behind her. Multiple officers responded and were able to then take the female safely into custody. PO Bowen used his training and experience to recognize a mental health issue and was able to de-escalate a potentially deadly force incident. By maintaining his composure and professionalism he ensured no further injury or loss of life was sustained.</p>	
APRIL	<p>Detective Christopher Orellana</p> <p>On Friday, April 9th, 2021, a male walked into a downtown business, brandished a tire iron, and demanded money. He was able to flee with \$1500 in currency. Detectives investigated, and Det. Orellana reviewed video surveillance and CCTV from the area, determining that the suspect drove a 2011 Toyota Camry. He was able to identify the registration, which returned as a stolen car from Bloomfield, NJ. Det. Orellana discovered the vehicle had been issued a parking summons in Jersey City, and Detectives Botello and Orellana, Inv. Whalen, and Inv. Vargas conducted a follow up in that area of Jersey City. They located the male inside the stolen vehicle, and the actor barricaded himself inside the vehicle, claiming he had a gun. Jersey City Police ESU responded, and after a six-hour standoff, the actor was apprehended. Det. Orellana and Inv. Vargas were able to obtain a confession, successfully removing a dangerous criminal from the community.</p>	
MAY	<p>Officer Michael Rivetti</p> <p>On May 20th, 2021, a victim reported that his \$3000 gold chain was ripped from his neck by juveniles riding bicycles. On May 21st, a second victim reported a similar incident, losing a \$6500 necklace to juveniles ripping it from his neck as he walked on 7800 Bergenline Avenue. Inv. Rivetti reviewed CCTV and canvassed the area on foot, and spotted two juveniles matching descriptions and CCTV footage. He stopped and identified them, and released them to their parents. He developed the investigation and obtained additional footage, tracking those juveniles on the day of the incident as they returned to their homes. Those addresses were the same as the addresses given when he stopped them in person. Those juveniles were subsequently charged criminally and remanded to custody.</p>	
JUNE	<p>Detective Jason Castillo</p> <p>On June 5th, 2021, patrol units responded to parked vehicles on fire in the area of 1708 10th Street. After the fires were extinguished, Det. Castillo conducted a canvass and recovered footage showing a male intentionally igniting the parked vehicle. Through extensive follow up, Det. Castillo obtained additional footage and was able to track the actor back to the Howard Johnson Motel, where he was identified and discovered to be a known offender with a history of committing arson in other jurisdictions. He was charged and remanded to custody.</p>	

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH (CONTINUED)

JULY	<p>Detective Christopher Orellana</p> <p>On July 20th, 2021, a male victim fell asleep inside his parked vehicle, and awoke to an unidentified female perched over him, removing \$2400 in jewelry from his neck. She fled, and as he confronted her, the victim was fought off by a male associate of the female. Det. Orellana used the time frame of the incident, located surveillance, and was able to track the actors into a business on Bergenline Avenue. He reviewed interior footage from that business and was able to recognize the male involved from past experience. The male was subsequently arrested, and through further investigation, Det. Orellana identified the second actor. By thorough and methodical investigation, Det. Orellana was able to solve this incident.</p>	
AUGUST	<p>Officer Salvatore Giuca</p> <p>On August 11th, 2021, PO Giuca responded to the Days Hotel on report of a stabbing. He entered to find the manager down, unresponsive, and bleeding heavily from multiple stab wounds. He employed his Quick-Clot, pressure, and first aid techniques to slow the blood loss while calling for medical assistance. He remained with the victim, secured belongings, and established the start of an extensive investigation that resulted in the arrest of a male patron, who was later identified committing the brutal assault on hotel surveillance footage. PO Giuca's swift response and application of his training contributed to saving the life of an innocent victim. His actions are indicative of the caliber of personnel in the NBPD.</p>	
SEPTEMBER	<p>Officer Jennifer Fernandez</p> <p>On September 23rd, 2021 PO Fernandez responded to a residence on report of a newborn infant that was not breathing. She arrived to find the unresponsive infant turning blue. She maintained her composure and employed her training, conducting CPR until the infant began breathing again, effectively saving the baby's life. On September 30th, Officer Fernandez and Det. Ortiz were proactively patrolling in response to a rash of uptown burglary activity when they encountered three suspicious persons. They investigated, and suspects were found possessing stolen items. They subsequently admitted to the criminal activity and were arrested, solving numerous burglaries. PO Fernandez proudly leads our department as our first LGBTQ Law Enforcement Liaison. Her continued quality of her work and commitment to service is a valued asset to the police department and the community we serve.</p>	
OCTOBER	<p>Detective Frank Mena</p> <p>On October 12th, 2021, several units attempted to stop a reckless motorcycle rider, who was weaving through traffic, and improperly passing multiple vehicles. The motorcyclist refused to stop for police, and the pursuit was terminated to ensure safety. Later that morning, Det. Mena was on an assignment, and observed that same motorcyclist pass his location. He followed, then exited his vehicle and confronted the motorcyclist while stopped for a red light. As he began to place the rider under arrest, the rider attempted to drive away. Det. Mena effectively wrestled the actor off of the motorcycle, and when the rider attempted to run away, Det. Mena gained control and wrestled him to the ground, placing him in custody. Det. Mena's attentiveness, experience, and quick action removed a dangerous person from the streets without further risk to the public.</p>	
NOVEMBER	<p>Detective Daniel Brown</p> <p>On November 13, 2021, several officers were dispatched to the Howard Johnson Motel parking lot on a report of a male in possession of a handgun. Officers quickly located the suspect and detained him for investigation. They canvassed the area for the gun, eventually discovering it hidden in a trash can. During the investigation, the actor broke free and fled on foot towards Tonnelles Avenue, eventually running up 10th Street. Several officers ran after the actor; however, Detective Daniel Brown was able to outrun the suspect and apprehend him. Det. Brown's quick reaction allowed him to apprehend an offender and prevent further violent offenses. During the investigation it was learned that the suspect fired two rounds at a passing vehicle prior to police arrival, demonstrating the immediate danger of the situation.</p>	
DECEMBER	<p>Officer Jennifer Fernandez</p> <p>On December 30th, 2021, units responded to a stabbing in the uptown area. Descriptions were given, and P.O. Fernandez patrolled the area and identified two males matching the description, several blocks from the crime scene. An investigation was conducted, and one male was found to possess the knife that was used to stab the victim. Blood evidence was observed and the actor was arrested. On December 16th, P.O. Fernandez proactively investigated and arrested an offender with admitted fraudulent documents and identification. P.O. Fernandez consistently performs her duties well without fail.</p>	

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



The Command Staff has selected Officer Brendan Bowen as Officer of the Year for 2021.

On March 11th, P.O. Bowen responded to 8515 Bergenline Avenue on a report of a third-floor resident's door being damaged. P.O. Bowen arrived on scene and observed a female holding a hammer. The female was on the second floor and quickly retreated to her apartment. P.O. Bowen proceeded to the third floor to determine if there was anyone in need of assistance.



He immediately observed extensive damage to the victim's door. PO Bowen contacted the victim to ascertain if anyone was injured and learned that the hammer-wielding woman he observed was the person who damaged the door. He provided an update to Headquarters and took a tactical position in the 2nd floor hallway as he waited for back up units to arrive. While holding his position, the female exited her apartment and charged towards him with the deadly weapon. Exhibiting great restraint, P.O. Bowen rapidly assessed the situation and deployed OC spray in order to de-escalate the encounter. The female retreated into her apartment, locking the door behind her. Multiple officers responded and were able to then take the female safely into custody.

A full review of body camera footage from all officers on scene was conducted. That footage demonstrated that P.O. Bowen took swift, decisive action and potentially prevented a deadly force incident. While confronted with a combative and irate female, who appeared to be suffering from excited delirium, P.O. Bowen maintained his composure and professionalism to ensure not only that the female received the medical attention she needed, but no further injury or loss of life was sustained. P.O. Bowen used his training and experience to recognize that this was a mental health issue and he was able to de-escalate a potentially deadly force incident.



P.O. Bowen has been an Officer with the North Bergen Police Department since December 2017. He spent approximately one and a half years with the Hudson County Sheriff's Office before transferring to the North Bergen Police Department. Additionally, he was assigned as a Field Training Officer in October 2020 and has since trained several new officers.

Congratulations Officer Bowen!

APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS



APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS



April 2021 New Officers

*Officer Al-Abed Taha
Officer Paul Alvarado
Officer Alexander Sanchez*



June 2021 New Officers

*Officer Martin Antelo
Officer Catherine Cabrera
Officer Christian Arcos
Officer Freddy Au-Castillo
Officer Christopher Bowen*



August 2021 New SLEO Class II

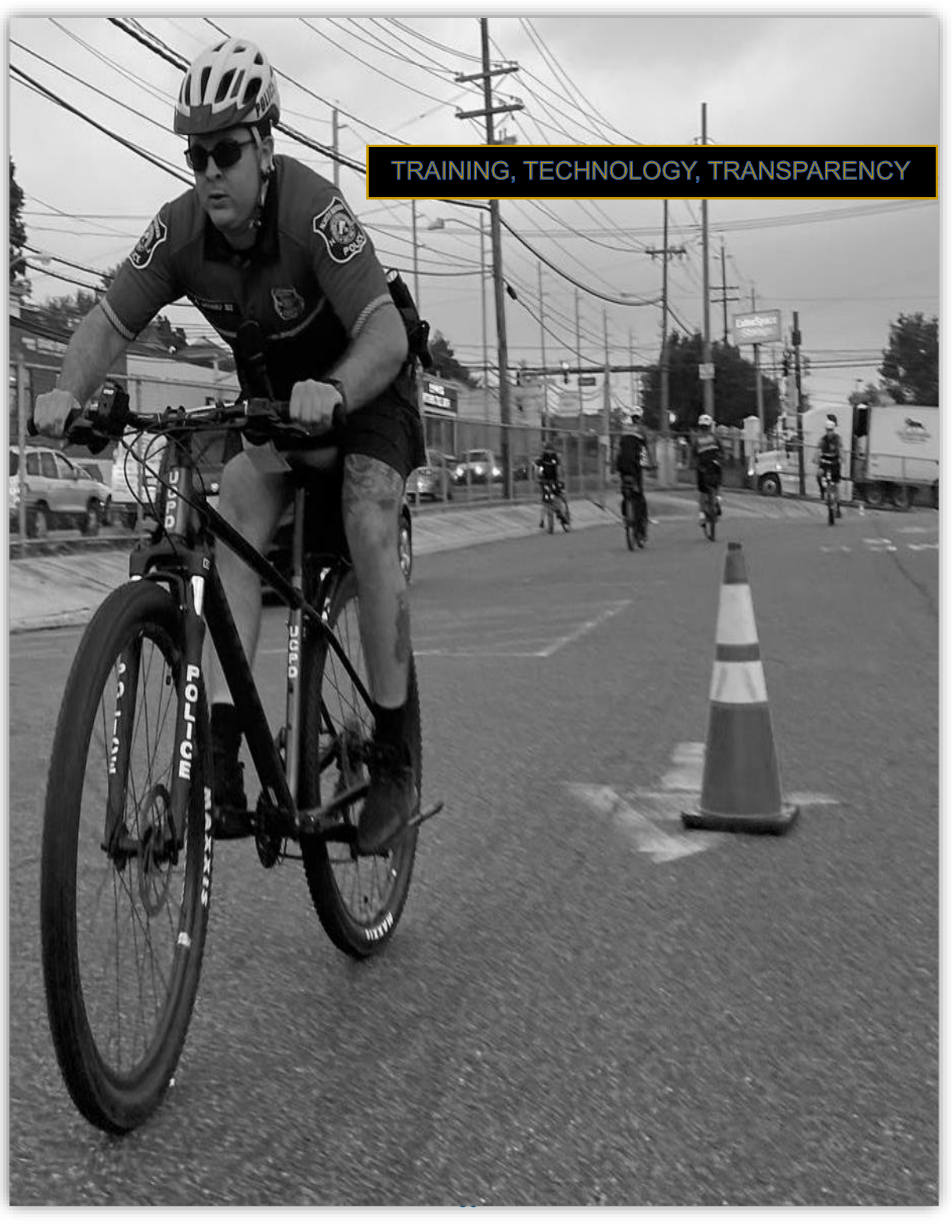
*SLEO Class II Rasheed Siyam
SLEO Class II Teodulo Perez*

October 2021 Promotions

Sgt. Ramon DeJesus Lt. Christian Argudo Sgt. Robert Garcia Sgt. Jason Solan



TRAINING, TECHNOLOGY, TRANSPARENCY



TRAINING

Consistent with years prior, our officers receive annual mandatory training in Domestic Violence, Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazardous Materials, Narcan, Autism Awareness and various medical/trauma control techniques.

CPR and the Patrol Officer - Our commitment to annual police officer recertifications resulted in the following:

- **September 9th, 2021** - Patrol officers called to an unconscious employee in a restaurant and used CPR to restore his pulse;
- **September 23rd, 2021** - Patrol officer conducted CPR to a 1-year-old child, reviving her;
- **December 27, 2021** - Patrol Officer administers CPR to an unresponsive infant, reviving the child.



These are three of many incidents where patrol officers were a lifeline due to their quick response and training.

Evolving the Use of Force

A result of the New Jersey Attorney General's Excellence in Policing Initiative was the comprehensive revision of the NJ Use of Force guidelines. Last revised in 2000, this evolution serves to guide officers in de-escalation, communication, critical decision making, and tactical redeployment. This redefinition of how use of police force is utilized is contained in the Core Principles. The North Bergen Police Department is thoroughly trained in the revised Core Principles, and is proud to have reported the lowest number of uses of force in Hudson County. Since the inception of the NJ Attorney General Use of Force Dashboard, North Bergen remains in the lower third of all agencies in New Jersey. An emphasis on de-escalation helps officers serve the community with greater empathy, accountability, and transparency.

A Commitment of Dignity and Respect for our LGBTQ+ Community

In an effort to foster stronger relationships with the LGBTQ community, the North Bergen Police Department is proud to have appointed Officer Jennifer Fernandez as our LGBTQ Liaison. She is committed to establishing relationships with organizations focused on LGBTQ+ issues and to maintaining a dialogue to ensure that interactions between law enforcement and our LGBTQ+ community are conducted with utmost dignity and respect.

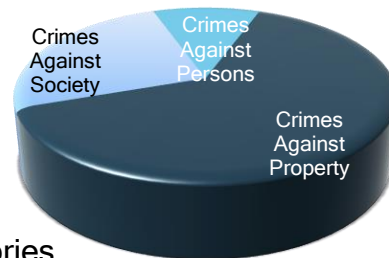


The National Incident-Based Reporting System is an evolved, detail-driven method of crime reporting that serves to replace Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR).

The North Bergen Police Department became a NIBRS-certified and compliant agency in May 2020, well ahead of the mandated 2021 deadline. Forward-thinking administrators and department leaders put in place the appropriate technology and records management system well in advance, and officers then formatted and submitted over six months' worth of prior reports for review by the New Jersey State Police. Once compliance was achieved, the North Bergen Police Department became a NIBRS certified agency. To date, over 2192 NIBRS incidents have been submitted to the FBI in compliance with crime reporting requirements.

Why Change?

Since the 1950's, all police departments throughout the United States were required to submit monthly crime data to the FBI using the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) format. Using only 26 categories, a criminal incident was summarized and reported in a hierarchy, where the single most serious offense defined the incident. While efficient, this process failed to collect data on the lesser offenses within an incident. As crime has evolved, the FBI recognized that valuable crime data was being lost due to an archaic reporting method and mandated all law enforcement agencies transition to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) starting in January 2021.



What does NIBRS do?

Implemented to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement, NIBRS uses fifty-two categories to capture details on each single crime incident – as well as on separate offenses within the same incident. It records *the nature and types of specific offenses committed, characteristics of the victim, and what their relationship is to the offender, and information about the offender.*

- Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses. We now report 52 offenses, in contrast to the 26 formerly reported in UCR
- Collects more detailed information, including incident date and time, whether offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, gang activity, and computer use.
- Helps give context to specific crime problems such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.
- Provides greater analytic flexibility. Data users can see relationships and connections among facets of crime.

What does this accomplish?

Local data about criminal incidents helps determine needs, deploy resources, fine-tune training programs, and gain a better understanding of specific types of victimization. We then determine disparities between victims known to law enforcement and those receiving victim services, and identify underserved groups of crime victims.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

Through the vision and leadership of Police Department and Township Administration, the North Bergen Police Department purchased Body Worn Cameras (BWC) in 2020 and developed an early 2021 rollout and implementation of BWC's for patrol officers, their supervisors, and other officers in positions where they are likely to come in contact with the public. We were proud to fully equip and train our entire department by March 2021, well in advance of the Attorney General Directive deadline of June 1, 2021.

Through grants and funding opportunities available from the State of New Jersey, the NBPD was able to offset 50% of the cost of the program. The first in Hudson County to implement such a comprehensive operational program, we delivered added value to the citizens of the Township. With regular supervisory review, BWC footage enables improved training opportunities and improved police-citizen contact.

Recording police encounters 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 in real-time, supporting officer reporting.

Body-worn cameras have proven to reduce the number and cost of citizen complaints and internal investigations. Other benefits have been increased public and officer safety, reduced liability, increased transparency, and an additional tool to assist in criminal prosecutions. Our policy balances the benefit of capturing and recording evidence, while appropriately safeguarding the privacy of the individual. When used according to policy, body-worn cameras continue to build on the transparency and trust the North Bergen Police Department has established with the community.



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

As the first department in Hudson County to be approved for a Beyond Visual Line of Sight (Tactical) operational capability, the North Bergen Police Department holds three separate authorizations for a diversity of Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) missions. Officer Sean Rahbari of the Training Unit is a certified Part 107 Remote Pilot with the FAA and maintains a fleet of three drones. NBPD's UAS (drone) program has introduced new innovating technology in the past year. We currently have a Mavic Mini that can clear interior dwellings, a Mavic 2 Enterprise Zoom that can be rapidly deployed for search and rescue, and a Matrice 300 for larger scale missions. We have assisted many agencies from Hudson County in mutual aid and are exploring options on how to begin a UAS program within the State of New Jersey. Using our infrared technology, we have assisted North Hudson Regional Fire and Rescue with active fire scenes for intelligence gathering and to

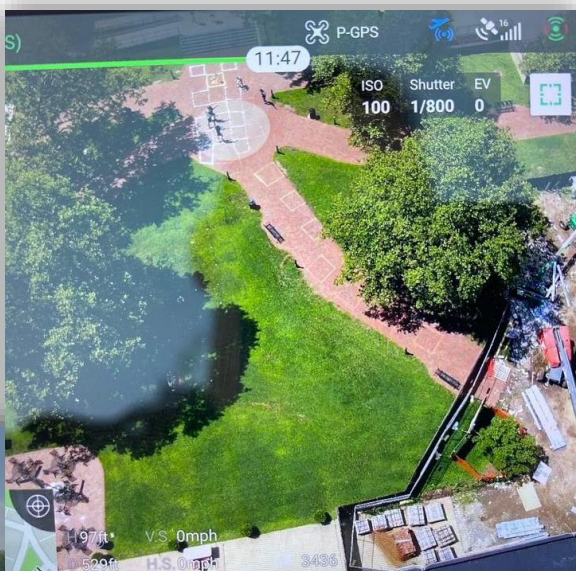


prevent injuries to firefighters. In 2021, P.O.

Rahbari was able to teach the first ever UAS and Aviation Safety Awareness class to police recruits at the Hudson County Public Safety Training Center. The Hudson County Regional SWAT team has integrated the use of our NBPD UAS unit to assist in call outs and de-escalation. We are the leading UAS program in Hudson County and have become a model agency for other municipalities in the County. In the coming year, we will be expanding the unit by adding more pilots and making the unit available on

a 24/7 basis. This program will and has saved

lives and prevented injuries to the public and police officers by being able to broadcast public safety announcements and promote social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. As this is a new tool available to the police department, we will continue to advance in technology with new innovative advancements to further benefit public safety.





COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OUTREACH



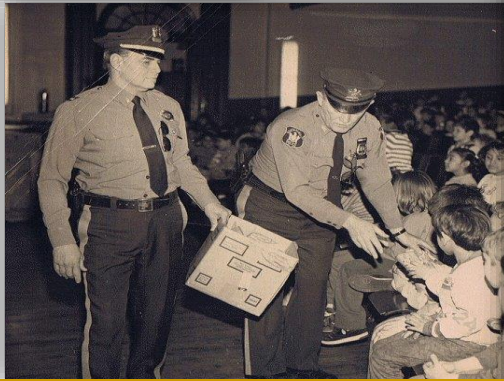
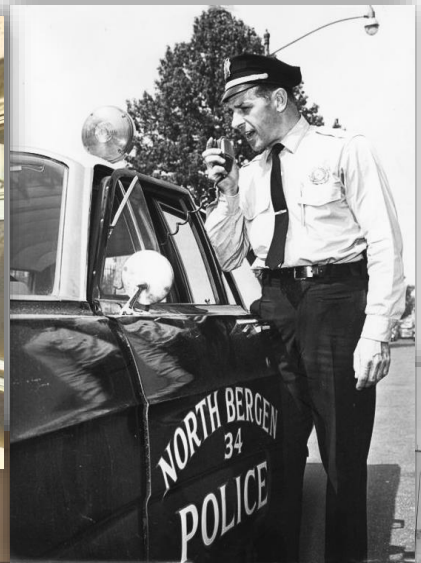
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH OUTREACH

The police department and the community both share the responsibility for identifying, reducing, eliminating, and preventing problems that impact public safety and the quality of life. To foster this Community Policing model, we continue to rely heavily on outreach programs such as our monthly North Bergen community meetings as well as other events that provide direct channels for the community to become involved in the problem-solving process. This serves to maintain a positive working relationship with our community to effectively employ intelligence-led strategies to prevent and reduce crime and disorder while ensuring the community's concerns are heard.



Officers are committed to the community. We are steadfast supporters and participants of a myriad of events, from our annual *North Bergen Winterfest* and *Trunk or Treat* to State-wide efforts in support of the Special Olympics, such as the *Torch Run*. Positive engagement between the NBPD and the community is crucial in developing trust and support. These events are perfect opportunities for police to interact with youth and adults alike to improve social outcomes and strengthen community relationships. We acknowledge that every interaction we have is an opportunity to partner with that community member to jointly increase public safety, reduce crime and recidivism, and to enhance our public service while supporting worthy causes.





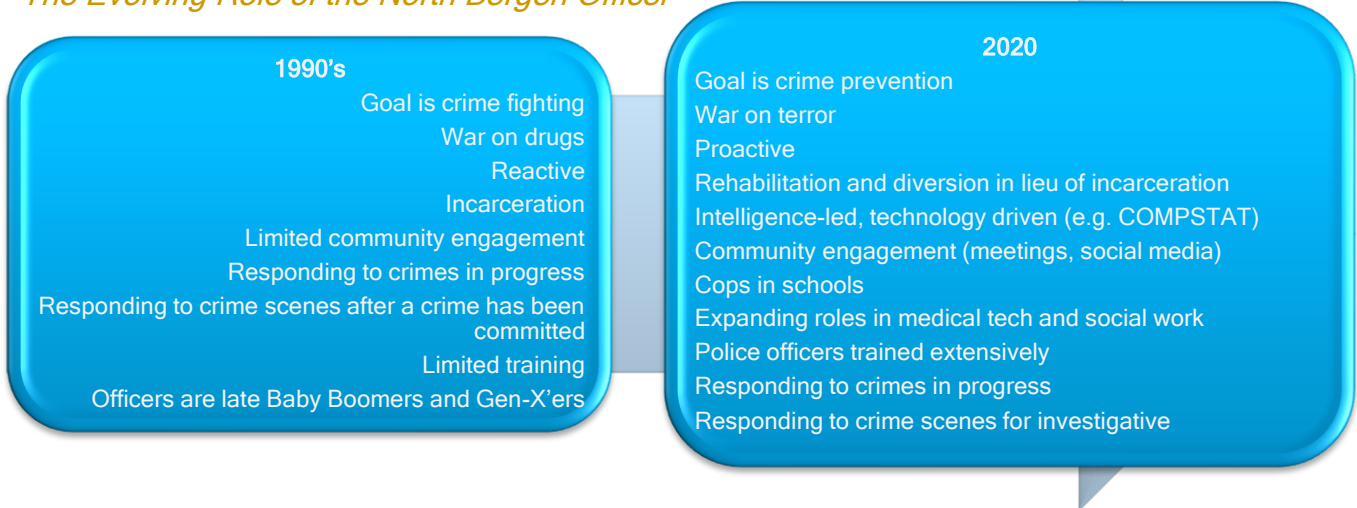
EVOLUTION AND GOALS 2022



EXPANDING ROLES IN MODERN POLICING

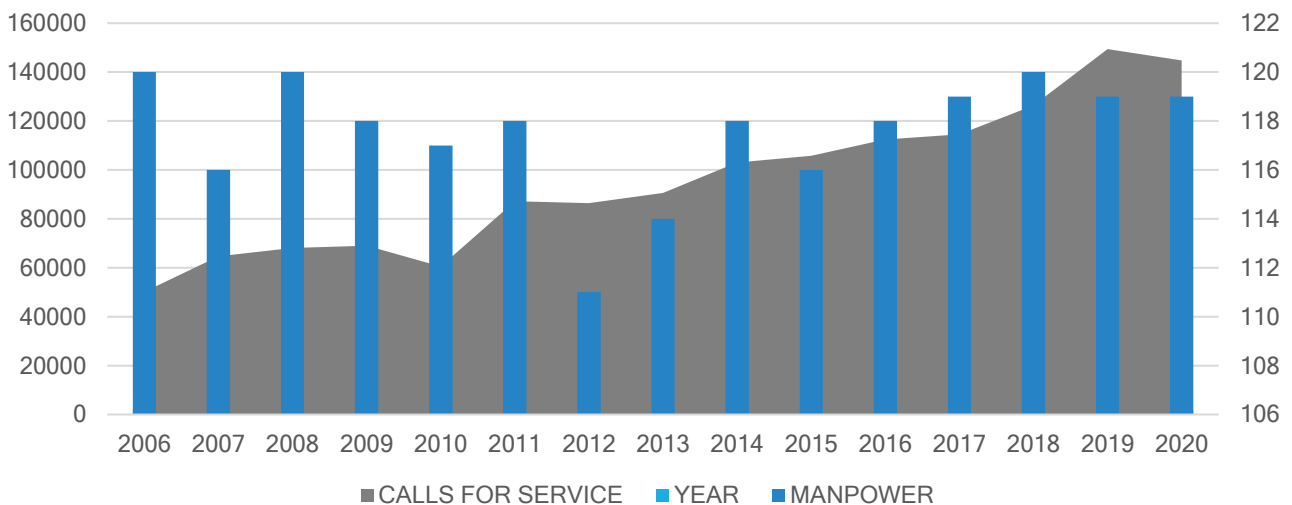
Politically charged Nation-wide events have resulted in a re-examination of contemporary policing. Forward-reaching initiatives in response to societal demands have required officers to evolve to meet those demands. In contrast to the 1990's, where only eight hours of mandatory training were required, officers now participate in fifty-seven (57) hours of mandatory annual training in areas such as Autism Awareness, Hazardous Materials, Community LE Affirmative Relations (CLEAR), and many others. Of particular importance has been Narcan (Naloxone), which has saved numerous lives that may have been lost to overdoses.

The Evolving Role of the North Bergen Officer



In addition to our commitment to our community, officers are also assigned to Hudson County-wide initiatives such as Hudson County Regional SWAT, Arson Investigations, the Prosecutor's Office Municipal Task Force, and the Fatal Crash Response Team. In consideration of external factors such as the impact of bail reform, reductions in Federal and State available funding in areas of drug rehabilitation and mental health, and community engagement, officers now are expected to have an applied knowledge base in pharmacology, mental health, and enhanced medical evaluation. Officers continue as mentors and legal authorities as well, with enhanced community relations and de-escalation abilities.

Consider the steady increase of service calls compared to our patrol personnel:



THE SUCCESS OF STEADY SHIFTS

An early priority of Chief Fasilis was to partner with the Township Administration to transition from a rotating schedule of eight-hour workdays to a steady assigned shift of ten-hour workdays. Key benefits are now realized:

- Increased manpower coverage during peak hours - Manpower essentially doubles for two hours over the start and end of each shift.
- Reduced overtime - When overlaps in coverage are not crucial, officers can be reassigned to fulfill mandatory training.
- Officer/Public Safety - Unique physiological demands of rotational shift work and night shift work have the potential to negatively impact decision-making ability; steady shifts improve officer wellness and overall positive health effects.
- Efficient way to increase total personnel - additional personnel make expansion possible.
- Officers work 90 additional hours at no additional cost to the Township while benefitting from 37 less work days.

The officers of the North Bergen Police Department are grateful to the Commissioners, Township Officials, and Administration who worked to facilitate this transition in order for officers to improve their health and well-being.



Mobile Police Station and Command Center

The U.S. Government Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) allows for the free transfer of surplus vehicles and property to agencies for lifesaving purposes and law enforcement activities. Through this program, we are working to acquire a Mobile Station and Command Center. This would enable the ability to host a wide variety of necessary police functions at a single location, all while being able to move throughout the Township as necessary to better serve the citizens without requiring the citizen to travel to Police Headquarters. It will be designed and equipped to duplicate an actual police station with technology to ensure mobile data and voice connectivity at all times. The Mobile Center will be staffed with the personnel necessary to fulfil basic daily tasks in a user-friendly environment. The Center will be capable of conducting operations under various conditions to ensure the presence and visibility of police officers for community caretaking or large events. The Mobile Center will also give the community an opportunity to meet their local officers, and receive crime prevention advice, and information specific to their area.

The North Bergen Citizens' Police Academy

In 2022, the North Bergen Police Department plans to roll out its first ever Citizens' Police Academy. With an emphasis on community engagement and transparency, the NBPD Citizens' Police Academy is a training program that provides community participants with a background and deeper understanding of the NBPD's structure, police activities, policies, and operations. The program will be meant to replicate an actual police academy training regimen, allowing participants to gain a deeper understanding of skills and abilities that our officers use to serve the community. Sessions will include interdisciplinary workshops led by police academy instructors, criminal justice system training, exploration of specialized units, ride-along time with police patrol, role playing events, simulations, and tactical exercises. The goal is for the citizen to grasp the complexity of the multi-faceted environment of a modern police agency.

Police Chaplain Program and Interfaith Council

The North Bergen Police Department plans to create a Police Interfaith Council, comprised of a diverse group of leaders across the faith community. Its mission is to create a collaborative partnership with the NBPD in order to use faith-based perspectives and practices to improve upon our existing community relationships and help solve problems. A second function of the Interfaith Council concept is the inception of the North Bergen Police Department's Police Chaplain Program. This Chaplain program is intended to create a partnership with various faith-based leaders to directly respond and assist our officers and civilians in their needs by providing the appropriate assistance, advice, comfort, counsel and referrals to those in need. Working in conjunction with the NBPD and its Chaplain Program, it is our goal that the Interfaith Council will improve trust and transparency to identify and bridge gaps to maximize awareness and transparency.



Township CCTV Upgrades and Expansion

Our Township-wide CCTV network has proven beneficial time and again, providing immediate visual tools in public safety emergencies, allowing Command personnel to view incidents and make more efficient, quicker decisions on manpower and resource deployment. Our goal for 2022 is to continually upgrade the fiber optic network for even higher quality and improved frame rates, in addition to minimizing service outages to ensure a long-functioning, reliable system despite weather or other concerns.

GOALS FOR 2022 (CONTINUED)

Continuing Accreditation

Accreditation provides objective evidence of an agency's commitment to excellence in leadership, resource management, and consistency in service delivery. Through our strongly established written directives, clear lines of authority and standardized methods and practices, the department has dramatically increased functional efficiency. Less than one percent of the approximately 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States are accredited. Continuing this distinction by completing our *third* accreditation cycle is a significant goal for 2022.



Water Rescue Training and Equipment

Superstorms Irene, Sandy and Tropical Storm Ida have shown how vulnerable we are to flooding within the Township of North Bergen. Last year's tropical storm left a disaster in its wake and stranded dozens of people within the township in flooded waters. Officers worked tirelessly to rescue trapped individuals and as a result of their actions not a single injury was reported. As a result of this storm, it has become a priority to train and equip our officers for water rescue in the case of any future weather disaster.

Expansion of the SLEO Program

With expanded needs to fill, from supplementing school and municipal building security, to specialized administrative assignments, the Special Law Enforcement Officer (SLEO) program has been extremely successful. While allowing patrol and administrative units to supplement personnel as needed, the SLEO program is invaluable for assessing the capabilities and suitability of potential candidates for full-time officer positions. SLEO Officers are routinely utilized in less critical, but necessary functions, so that resources are better utilized. Our goal remains the expansion of the program for maximum flexibility.



The CHP Grant Program

We are engaged in application for the Cops Hiring Program grant. CHP provides funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire additional career law enforcement officers and to increase their community policing capacity and crime-prevention efforts. The COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is designed to advance public safety through community policing by addressing the full-time sworn officer needs of law enforcement agencies nationwide. The North Bergen Police Department anticipates grant funding for five additional sworn officers. The hiring of additional officers will allow the NBPD to connect with community partners and build relationships through attentive policing in dedicated areas.

NORTH BERGEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

**LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING
4233 J.F. KENNEDY BOULEVARD
NORTH BERGEN, NJ 07047**



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COMMUNITY POLICING (201) 392-2136



www.northbergenpolice.com



[@nbpolice](https://twitter.com/nbpolice)



www.facebook.com/northbergenpolice



www.instagram.com/northbergenpolice



On behalf of the men and women of the North Bergen Police Department, I want to thank you for your trust, encouragement, and support. Thank you for reviewing our 2021 Annual Report. I look forward to another year of milestones and continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Chief Peter Fasilis

