

NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
2018 ANNUAL REPORT



It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as Chief of Police for North Plainfield. Our Borough is unique with its diverse population and the police department comprises of some of the finest people in law enforcement. My goals and objectives are quite simple; I want to make North Plainfield the safest place to live, work, play and visit. We will engage the community as full partners to accomplish this task. Thank you Mayor Michael Giordano, Jr. for having the confidence and trust in me to do this job and I pledge to do my best in serving the residents of North Plainfield, its government, and the police department.

Prepared For:
Mayor Michael Giordano, Jr.
Date: February 4, 2019

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I. MISSION STATEMENT:

My top priority is to provide equal opportunity policing for everyone that lives, works or passes through North Plainfield. By this, I mean Law Enforcement Services will be fair, honest, and without bias. With the help of government and the members of the Police Department, I hope to build a mutual respect with all of our residents and business people. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani once said, "A town in which an increasing number of people respect and are willing to accommodate the rights of others is a community that is moving in a progressive direction." My goal is to move the Police Department in a progressive direction.

The North Plainfield Police are trying to instill our belief in community policing and establish a confidence that "we as police officers, care more about your well-being than your immigration status, ethnicity, or sexual orientation." In many communities across New Jersey, the relationship between members of the community and law enforcement is strained. Our mission as police officers is to prevent and solve crimes. That goal would be virtually impossible to do effectively if witnesses or victims had some reluctance to come forward. We have no concern about a person's immigration status and we do not ask that question of a victim or witness. It is imperative that law enforcement maintain the trust and support of the people they serve.

A high priority is placed on initial screening and training of our employees. A continuing in-service training program is designed to keep us current with modern law enforcement practices. We aim to combine high personal ethics, quality training, and perseverance to provide the best possible service to the people of North Plainfield.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. Staffing: The Police Department is operation below its authorized strength of 48 sworn officers, and 6 fulltime civilian personnel. Staffing and deficiencies:

1. 1 Police Officer
2. 1 Lieutenant's Position

B. Injured Officers During the Calendar Year for 2018

1. Officer Frank Steinhauser was placed out of work and on light duty several times from April 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 due to an on-duty injury. As of the writing of this report he is still out of work but his total time off of full duty during 2018 was 136 days.
2. Detective Gene Segeda was placed out of work on July 9, 2018 through August 17, 2018 for a total of 30 days due to an on-duty injury.
3. Officer Ryan Mote was placed out of work on August 3, 2018 until August 9, 2018 for a total of 4 days due to an on-duty injury.

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4. Officer David Dzibela was placed out of work on August 7, 2018 until August 20, 2018 for a total of 6 days due to an on-duty injury.
5. Officer Henry Branco was placed out of work on October 26, 2018 until October 28, 2018 for a total of 3 days due to an on-duty injury.
6. Officer William Parenti, Jr was placed out of work on November 10, 2018 until January 1, 2019 for a total of 27 days due to an on-duty injury.
7. Officer Jesus Medina was placed out of work on September 3, 2018 until December 16, 2018 for a total of 52 days due to an off-duty injury.
8. Officer Robert Kropewnicki was placed out of work on November 17, 2018 until December 31, 2018 for a total of 20 days due to an off-duty injury and as of the writing of this report is still out of work.

C. Promotions, New Hires and Retirements:

1. On January 12, 2018 Gregory Ternlund started as a probationary Patrol Officer.
2. On February 28, 2018 Captain Gerard Clyne retired.
3. On March 1, 2018 Detective Lieutenant Russell Flynn was promoted to probationary Captain, Detective Sergeant Alan McKay was promoted to probationary Detective Lieutenant, Detective Michael von Spreckelsen was promoted to probationary Detective Sergeant and Officer Joseph Mazza was assigned to the detective bureau.
4. On April 17, 2018 Dispatcher Daniel Smith resigned.
5. On May 29, 2018 Kimberly Vasquez started as a part time Parking Enforcement Officer.
6. On June 25, 2018 Kevin Lenart and James Kirchner started as probationary Patrol Officers.
7. On July 27, 2018 Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Police Yorleny Moreno resigned.
8. On August 8, 2018 Jennifer Bartholomew moved from the Records Division to Administrative Assistant to the Chief.
9. On August 16, 2018 Anmol Deol moved from part time Records Division Clerk to full time Records Management Systems Administrator.

III. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION:

A. Case Log Report:

1. A comparison of general adult investigations for the past three years:

	2016	2017	2018
Investigated	646	1,047	987
Active	104	107	19
Suspended	158	306	308
Unfounded	0	0	49
Closed	381	634	560
Forwarded to SCPO	51	76	93

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2. A comparison of juvenile investigations for the past three years:

	2016	2017	2018
Investigated	221	203	235
Active	14	0	1
Suspended	9	9	5
Unfounded	0	0	7
Closed	198	194	229
Forwarded: other agencies	91	134	149

IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- A. During 2018, the Community Policing Unit advanced the department’s community outreach mission through a variety of means and venues including participation with various other organizations in classes, public forums and special presentations. Maybe most importantly, the unit maintained a steady presence in the borough’s schools through DARE and GREAT curriculums being taught to all students in our district. DARE training is provided to all 5th grade students in the borough and GREAT training is provided to all 4th grade students. Additional supplemental GREAT training is provided to all 7th grade students.
- B. On June of 2018, 275 students from Somerset School graduated from the DARE program, Detective Fowler was the master of ceremonies for the event which was a well-attended event. Detective Fowler continues to teach GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training), graduating 330 4th graders and 280 7th graders in 2018. In July, the Community Policing Unit with assistance from multiple members of our department and outside law enforcement agencies hosted the Youth Police Academy for the fourth year in a row, which is held at the West End School. Those involved and their parents all felt it was a great and continuing success. This year the Youth Academy graduated 23 cadets. Funding to the STEP program has been cut back but it still went on as planned during the summer with the help of the Community Policing Unit and the Recreation Department. STEP, held from June to August is well attended with approximately 50-60 children attending each night. The STEP program was concluded with a year-end picnic for all attendees.
- C. The Community Policing Unit oversees the department’s Good Morning Program for our senior citizens. Every morning a member of the department calls all senior citizens registered with the program to see if they are alright and holds a brief conversation with the person. They also oversee the residential and business false alarm program and follows up with summonses and warnings to people in violation of the borough’s false alarm activation ordinance.
- D. Both Detective Fowler and Detective Domizi are members of the Municipal Alliance. Detective Domizi is also the department liaison for the Resource Center of Somerset County which provides assistance to victims of domestic violence.

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- E. National Night Out continues to be organized and overseen by the Community Policing Unit. Multiple police vehicles, SWAT, and various fire apparatus were on display. As usual it was a well-attended event that seems to grow bigger and bigger every year. The event includes music, food, and face painting for the children and continues to be a huge success.
- F. The department also launched Operation Watchdog in 2018 which is available to all residents and business owners. This initiative urges citizens to register home & business video surveillance systems with the department in order to expedite police resources and increase overall efficiency.

V. SOMERSET COUNTY GUNS AND GANG TASK FORCE:

A. In 2018, Officer Dow continued to be assigned from our agency with the County wide Task Force (OCANTF). The Task Force is made up of sworn police officers from around the County and the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office who both investigate and initiate narcotic and vice investigations throughout the county. The goal is to eliminate illegal drugs and guns from the streets of Somerset County. An investigation may begin with an arrest in another town but the investigation may lead throughout the county or the state of New Jersey. During 2018, members of this Strike Force spent a total of approximately 120 work hours trying to develop information on activity in the Boro and following up on complaints made by citizens of the Boro. The following is a partial list of the investigations that Officer Dow and the Task Force participated in that either took place in the Boro or were in some way connected to a complaint or investigation from the Boro;

1. Joint investigation with Union County with a search and arrest of a subject charged with the distribution of Heroin.
2. Search warrant in which 200 grams of cocaine was seized.
3. 3 grams of cocaine, 2 ounces of marijuana, molly pills, and synthetic marijuana seized.
4. Joint investigation with the United States Postal Police in which 2 grams of cocaine, \$1,600.00 in U.S. Currency and one handgun seized.
5. 50 “decks” of heroin and one ounce of marijuana seized.

VI. INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

A. During 2018, the police department logged 16 Internal Affairs complaints.

Investigation #	Classification	Disposition	Corrective Action
18-01	Differential Treatment	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
18-02	Rules Violation	Administratively Closed	Employee Resigned
18-03	Criminal Act	Administratively	Employee Resigned

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		Closed	
18-04	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
18-05	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
18-06	Rules Violation	Exonerated	N/A
18-07	Improper Entry	Exonerated	N/A
18-08	Rules Violation	Sustained	Pending
18-09	Harassment	Not Sustained	N/A
18-10	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
18-11	Rules Violation	Not Sustained	N/A
18-12	Rules Violation	Sustained	Pending
18-13	Rules Violation	Exonerated	N/A
18-14	Rules Violation	Exonerated	N/A
18-15	Criminal Act	Pending	Pending
18-16	Differential Treatment	Unfounded	N/A
17-03	Criminal Act	Pending	Pending

VII. PATROL DIVISION:

- A. The Patrol Division had 10 marked patrol cars in service and logged the following miles of patrol for the last three years.

	2016	2017	2018
Patrol Miles	157,902	167,833	189,389

We have worked hard motivating the officer to continually patrol each street in their district. Again, this year the number of miles driven has risen slightly. I firmly believe a conspicuous Patrol operation communicates a sense of protection to our citizens, and acts as a deterrent to criminal or mischievous activity.

- B. Traffic summonses issued: A comparison of the last three years:

Type of summonses	2016	2017	2018
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	30	39	39
Moving Hazardous Violation	1,114	889	518
Moving Non-Hazardous Violation	1,842	1,504	1,143
Borough Ordinance Violation	116	84	134
Parking Violation	2,570	1,902	1,816
Radar	292	226	166
Written Warnings	3,571	3,949	4,342
Totals	9,544	8,615	9,014
Refusal Breath Test Included in (DWI above)	9	17	16
Summons included in above totals	5,973	4,666	4,672

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C. Radar: officers spent 2,952 hours on those posts

Arnold Avenue	Norwood Avenue
Belmont Avenue	Oneida Avenue
Brook Avenue	Parkview Avenue (east of Clinton)
Clinton Avenue	Parkview Avenue (west of Clinton)
Corbett Place	Pearl Street
Craig Place	Rock Avenue
Duer Street	Rockview Avenue (between Harrington and Clinton)
Farragut Road	Rockview Avenue (between West End and Rockview Terrace)
Geraud Avenue	Route 22 both east and west
Greenbrook Road	Somerset Street (North of 22)
Grove Street	Somerset Street (South of 22)
Harrison Avenue	Sycamore Avenue
Harrington Avenue	Warfield Road
Howard Street	Washington Avenue
Interhaven Avenue	Watchung Avenue (North of 22)
Leland Avenue	Watchung Avenue (South of 22)
Manning Avenue	West End Avenue
Maple Avenue	Westervelt Avenue
Mountain Avenue	Willow Avenue
Myrtle Avenue	Wilson Avenue
Netherwood Avenue	

D. Parking Enforcement Report

Year end totals:

	2016	2017	2018
Total Summons Issued	5,640	5,640	5,465

Revenue:

	2016	2017	2018
Meters	105,182.54	113,675.28	122,312.38
Permits	6,187.00	8,995.00	13,270.00
Total	111,369.54	122,670.28	135,582.38

The meters were bagged from 12/13/18-1/2/19 for the holiday season (only Title 39 was enforced during this period).

VIII. RECORDS DIVISION:

A. Fees collected: A comparison of the last three years:

	2016	2017	2018
Fees Collected	5,674.61	4,858.71	5,164.97
Calls for Service/Responses	31,995	27,783	28,604

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Discovery Requests	232	254	222
Report Requests	6,103	3,869	3,193
Pieces of Evidence/Property	249	384	603

B. Yearly Arrest Analysis, a comparison of the last three years:

	2016		2017		2018	
	Adult /	Juvenile	Adult /	Juvenile	Adult /	Juvenile
Murder	0	0	0	0	1	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	3	0	0	0	3	0
Robbery	4	3	6	0	3	2
Aggravated Assault	8	0	9	0	10	0
Burglary	4	1	6	0	6	1
Larceny/Theft	35	3	34	4	26	5
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	1	0	0	0
Simple Assault	1	57	35	3	56	2
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forgery	1	0	1	0	3	0
Fraud	5	0	4	0	7	0
Embezzlement	1	0	0	0	2	0
Stolen Property	3	1	6	1	2	0
Criminal Mischief	8	5	8	3	6	0
Weapons	2	18	3	2	4	1
Prostitution	1	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	2	0	1	0	2	0
Violation of Drug Laws	58	10	83	9	96	2
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family & Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Driving Under the Influence	29	0	26	0	37	0
Liquor Law Violations	2	0	1	1	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	20	5	8	0	15	4
Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew and Loitering Violations	0	0	0	1	0	0
All Other Offenses	172	3	136	6	126	8
Total UCR Arrests	361	106	368	30	370	25
COC other Arrests	404	0	372	0	433	0
Total Arrests	765	106	740	37	803	25

IX. UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

A. The following is a comparison of the Uniform Crime Offenses, Part I, for the past four years:

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Year	Uniform Crime Reporting								Uniform Crime Reporting							
	Crime Index Total	Violent Crime	Non Violent Crime	Crime Rate Per 1,000	VIOLENT CRIME				NONVIOLENT CRIME				Domestic Violence	Bias Incidents		
					Violent Crime Per 1,000	Non violent Crime Rate Per 1,000	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny			Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2015	367	41	326	16.7	1.9	14.9	0	4	24	13	83	226	17	1	194	0
2016	440	55	385	20.1	2.6	17.6	0	6	29	20	90	272	23	0	166	0
2017	571	63	508	26.0	3.0	23.2	0	6	41	16	77	404	27	3	175	0
2018	377	39	338	17.2	1.8	15.4	1	7	18	13	54	272	12	0	222	0
Up/Dn	-194	-24	-170	-9	-1	-8	1	1	-23	-3	-23	-132	-15	-3	47	0
%	-51.5	-61.5	-50.3	-51.5	-61.5	-50.3	100.0	14.3	-127.8	-23.1	-42.6	-48.5	-125.0	-300.0	21.2	0.0

Small changes from year to year do not necessarily represent a trend. For example, if the murder rose by one and would indicate a 100 percent increase on its face value. We had a large increase of property crimes. We have taken steps and changed patrol strategies to combat this trend. The 2017 Bail Reform is a major reason for the increase. When a person is arrested for this type of crime, they are usually released on a complaint summons instead of our old system of a complaint warrant with a condition of monetary bail.

2010 Census Population	DEMOGRAPHIC DATA			POLICE EMPLOYEE DATA			
	Area in Square Miles	Density Per Square Mile	Character	Male Officers	Female Officers	Civilian	Total Police Employees
21,936	2.8	7,834.29	Urban/Sub	44	1	5	50
21,936	2.8	7,834.29	Urban/Sub	44	1	5	50
21,936	2.8	7,834.29	Urban/Sub	44	1	6	51
22,010	2.8	7,929.64	Urban/Sub	45	1	6	52
0	0	0		0	0	0	1
0.0	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	2.0

X. TRAFFIC SAFETY:

A. A comparison of vehicle crash information for the last three years:

	2016	2017	2018
Total	924	899	907
Summons Issued for crash	499	359	396
Driving While Intoxicated	14	22	19
Hazardous	372	233	258

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Non Hazardous	110	95	116
Alcohol Related	0	4	0

B. Breakdown of Reportable and Non-Reportable Crashes for the last three years:

	2016	2017	2018
Rt 22-Reportable	328	300	305
Rt 22 Non-Reportable	27	25	43
Boro Streets- Reportable	373	398	379
Boro St Non-Reportable	30	34	29
Private Property-Reportable	130	115	116
Private Prop Non-Reportable	36	27	35
Total Reportable	831	813	800
Total Non-Reportable	93	86	107

C. Crash Injury Report for the last three years:

	2016	2017	2018
Reports W/Injuries	119	143	131
Persons Injured	159	167	188
Fatal	0	0	1

IV. TRAINING DIVISION:

The Department Training Sergeant is responsible for providing all State mandated training for the department. Additional duties include vehicle maintenance, securing, maintaining and copying the in car video recordings, and updating the files needed to maintain our coveted Accreditation.

In 2018, the members of the Department were instructed in 31 police related topics which are divided into the following categories by the NJ Attorney General's Office:

- A. Mandatory Training- Firearms (General Order Review and Qualifications), Use of Force, Pursuit Driving, Domestic Violence and Eradicating Racial Profiling, Cell Block Management. All of these except Eradicating Racial Profiling and Cell Block Management were two times during the training year.
- B. Mandatory In-Service Training Due to a Particular Assignment- Blood borne Pathogens (On Line Training), Right to Know, HAZMAT Awareness (On Line Training) CJIS, IT Password Audit, Opiate Antidote Training, Developmental Disabilities (On Line Training), Cultural Diversity De-Escalation Training, Patrol Response to Active Shooter Policy Review, OC Spray, Fit Test and PPE training, Workplace Harassment, Ethics.
- C. Voluntary In-Service Training- CPR/AED/First Aid (Department Re-Fresher) Personal Protective Equipment, Ambushes, Tourniquet Application, Customer Service Sensitivity Training, Search and Seizure, The Beast, Police Suicide.

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D. Department Off-Site Continuing Education Courses- Members of the Department, to enhance personal development and professionalism, were instructed in 60 of the following police related topics. These classes consisted of the following:

- Excel Level 2 (2 members)
- DARE Opioid Abuse (1 member)
- Excel Level 1 (3 members)
- Not Even Once (1 member)
- FBI Intelligence Gang Awareness (1 member)
- Interpersonal Communications (1 member)
- Economic Crimes Seminar(1 member)
- NIBRS Update (3 members)
- Homegrown Violent Extremists (1 member)
- School Threat Security Assessment (1 member)
- Alcohol Beverage Control: Enforcement Techniques (1 member)
- Teen Dating Abuse (1 member)
- Leads Online (1 member)
- GXP Opsview Train the Trainer (2 members)
- Methods of Instruction (1 member)
- Complex Financial Crimes and Money Laundering (1 member)
- Successful Use of Social Media for Criminal Investigations (2 members)
- Forensic Evidence from Crash Fatalities (1 member)
- Firearms Application and Registration (1 member)
- Computer Competency: Word for Law enforcement. (1 member)
- HLEO Waiver Training (2 member)
- Patrol Rifle Instructor (4 members)
- Suicide Awareness and prevention (1 member)
- The Automobile, Stopping, Searching and Seizing (4 members)
- Money Laundering, Forfeiture and Financial Crimes. (1 member)
- Bomb Threat Management planning Course (3 members)
- American Heart Association BLS Instructor Course (1 member)
- Proactive Police Supervision (1 member)
- Arrest, Search and Seizure (1 member)
- Criminal law and Miranda Update (2 members)
- N95 Fit test Train the Trainer (1 member)
- Current Trends in Document Fraud and Facial Recognition (1 member)
- Tall Cop Seminar (2 members)
- National Child Passenger Safety (2 members)
- Peer Training (1 member)
- Active Shooter Workshop (2 members)
- ALERRT Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event, Train the Trainer. (1 member)
- Active Shooter Instructor (2 members)
- Introduction to Fingerprinting and Processing techniques (1 member)
- Case Law/ Search and Seizure Update (1 member)
- Off Duty Handgun Tactics (1 member)

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- OSHA Construction Outreach (1 member)
- Cultural Diversity Train the Trainer (6 member)
- JIF Leadership Seminar (2 members)
- DWI Detection and SFST Course (2 members)
- Alcotest Operator (3 members)
- Advanced Crash Investigation (1 member)
- Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference (1 member)
- OPRA (1 member)
- Active Threat Seminar (3 members)
- Basic Internal Affairs (1 member)
- Commercial Vehicle Crash Level 1 (1 member)
- New Animal Cruelty Laws (1 member)
- Ice Diving Search and Rescue (1 member)
- Public Information Officer Basic (1 member)
- Field Intelligence Officer (1 member)
- A Look at Addiction (1 member)
- Document Fraud for Law Enforcement (4 members)
- Social Media and Open Source Intelligence (1 member)
- NJCCIC Secure Cyber Summit (2 members)

E. Accreditation- 352 hours setting up files and finding proofs

Respectfully submitted,



William G. Parenti
Chief of Police