

NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
2021 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 Lawrence La Ronde, 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 Lawrence La Ronde
Date: February 9, 2022
Prepared By:
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Protecting with Pride... Serving with Honor
www.northplainfield.org/nppd

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I. MISSION STATEMENT:

My top priority is to build mutual respect, and to provide equal opportunity policing for everyone that lives, works, or passes through the Borough of North Plainfield. By this I mean, Law Enforcement Services that will be fair, honest, and without bias.

The police department's trustworthiness, comes from being a Welcoming and Inclusive Community. It is imperative that our residents and visitors feel safe, respected, and comfortable in being themselves, while also being able to express all aspects of their identities. We are a place where each person shares a mutual sense of belonging with our other members. Inclusion, as well as the appreciation of, and the valuing of human differences, creates an atmosphere that promotes a sense of belonging, so that everyone feels respected and valued for their uniqueness. It is home. A Proud Community.

The North Plainfield Police Department, wants to instill a belief in our community policing philosophy, and establish a confidence that "we as police officers, care more about your well-being than your immigration status, ethnicity, religion 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 protect life, property, and to solve crimes without bias. 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 the initial screening and training of all our employees, and a continuing in-service training program is designed to keep us current with modern law enforcement practices. Our goal is to combine high personal ethics, quality training, and perseverance, to provide the best possible policing to all citizens, as well as to the people of North Plainfield.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. Staffing: The Police Department is operating below its authorized strength of 48 sworn officers. Staffing and deficiencies:

1. Three (3) police officers

B. Injured Officers During the Calendar Year for 2021

1. A Patrol Officer was diagnosed with Covid-19 on 12/18/20. She has missed 55 days of patrol type work. She was cleared for light duty on Jan 8, and returned to full duty on April 8, 2021.
2. A Patrolman was diagnosed with Covid-19 on 01/18/21. He returned to full duty on February 27, 2021.
3. A Patrolman was diagnosed with Covid-19 on March 26, 2021. He returned to full duty on April 9, 2021.

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4. A Sergeant has missed 23 days of patrol type work due to an off-duty injury to his knee. He was cleared for full duty on March 23, 2021.
5. A SLEO III was diagnosed with Covid-19 on April 23, 2021, he returned to full duty on June 28, 2021, missing 59 days of work.
6. A civilian was diagnosed with Covid-19 on March 9, 2021 and returned to work on April 6, 2021.
7. A Sergeant was injured on July 17, 2021 during a call for service. He missed a total of 3 days of patrol work and has been cleared for full duty.
8. A Patrolman was injured on July 27, 2021 during an arrest. He missed a total of 2 days of patrol work.
9. A Patrolman injured his back on August 17, 2021 picking up an item. He missed 8 days of patrol type work and was cleared for full duty on September 7, 2021.
10. A Patrolman sustained a knee injury on October 7, 2021. He missed 5 days of patrol work and returned to full duty on October 21, 2021.
11. A Patrolman sustained a small laceration on his elbow while affecting an arrest on October 8, 2021; he did not miss any time from work.
12. A Detective tested positive for Covid-19 on November 17, 2021. He missed 6 days of work returning to full duty on November 24, 2021.
13. A Detective tested positive for Covid-19 on November 17, 2021. He missed 8 days of work returning to full duty on November 30, 2021.
14. A Sergeant tested positive for Covid-19 on November 17, 2021. He missed 8 days of work returning to full duty on November 30, 2021.
15. A Sergeant tested positive for Covid-19 on November 17, 2021. He missed 7 days of work returning to full duty on November 26, 2021.
16. A civilian tested positive for Covid-19 on November 20, 2021. She missed 6 days of work returning on November 30, 2021.
17. A Lieutenant tested positive for Covid-19 on November 21, 2021. He missed 10 days of work returning to full duty on December 6, 2021.
18. A Patrol Officer tested positive for Covid on December 17, 2021. She missed 9 days of patrol work returning to full duty on January 3, 2022.
19. A Patrolman tested positive for Covid on December 27, 2021. He has missed 7 days of patrol work thus far.
20. A Sergeant tested positive for Covid-19 on December 28, 2021. He has missed 4 days of patrol work thus far.
21. A Patrolman tested positive for Covid-19 on December 29, 2021. He has missed 3 days of patrol work thus far.
22. A Patrolman tested positive for Covid-19 on December 30, 2021. He has missed 2 days of patrol work thus far.

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C. Promotions, New Hires and Retirements

1. Sergeant Joseph Stopinski retired from the police department effective February 1, 2021.
2. Detective Ryan Mote retired from the police department effective February 1, 2021.
3. Patrolman Anthony Hoofatt retired from the police department effective February 1, 2021.
4. Effective March 5, 2021, Darrin Marasco started employment with NPPD as a SLEO III Officer.
5. Effective April 1, 2021, Hubert Henderson started employment with NPPD as a SLEO III Officer.
6. Effective April 1, 2021, Patrolman Branco was promoted to Sergeant.
7. Effective April 1, 2021, Detective Domizi was promoted to Sergeant.
8. Effective April 5, 2021, Sergeant Mazza was assigned to the Training Division.
9. Effective April 16 2021, Sergeant Speck was assigned to the Patrol Division.
10. Effective April 19, 2021, Officer Kropewnicki was assigned to the Traffic Safety Division.
11. Effective May 3, 2021, Raymond Zarsuela started employment with NPPD as a Police Officer.
12. Effective May 3, 2021, Anthony Hause started employment with NPPD as a Police Officer.
13. Effective May 10, 2021, Omnya Al-Ahwol started employment with NPPD as a Police Officer.
14. Effective May 10, 2021, Carlos Gonzales started employment with NPPD as a Police Officer.
15. Effective June 12, 2021, Luis Martinez-Balbuena resigned from NPPD as a Patrolman.
16. Effective July 19, 2021, Officer Shane Hosler resigned from NPPD as a Patrolman.
17. Effective July 29, 2021, SLEO III Santiago Melendez resigned from NPPD.
18. Effective August 9, 2021, William Kelly started employment with NPPD as a SLEO II Officer.
19. Effective September 1, 2021, Stalin Fernandez started employment with NPPD as a Police Officer.
20. Effective September 1, 2021, Kyle Lippincott started employment with NPPD as a Police Officer.
21. Effective September 7, 2021, Roger Terry Jr. started employment with NPPD as a SLEO III Officer.
22. Effective September 22, 2021, Jason Hamilton started employment with NPPD as a SLEO III Officer.

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23. Effective October 21, 2021, Patrolman Francis Steinhauser was terminated from NPPD.

III. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION:

A. Case Log Report:

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

	2019	2020	2021
Investigated	906	1055	1060
Active	16	43	25
Suspended	261	321	425
Unfounded	69	53	67
Closed	552	676	610
Forwarded to SCPO	87	112	63

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

	2018	2020	2021
Investigated	318	171	152
Active	2	0	3
Suspended	18	5	6
Unfounded	7	2	14
Closed	296	165	143
Forwarded: other agencies	137	107	57

IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- A. During 2021, community outreach programs remained in place and were restored after the COVID pandemic was brought more under control.
- B. The Youth Police Academy was held in July at the West End School and once again was a great success with 23 cadets graduating. The STEP program was also started again over the summer.
- C. National Night Out, which has been a growing success over many years resumed in 2021 after having to be cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The night was a great success with hundreds of borough residents in attendance.
- D. The Community Policing Unit oversees the Good Morning Program for the Borough's senior citizens. Every morning any senior citizen in the program receives a telephone call from a police officer to see if they are alright. If the senior citizen does not answer, a welfare check is conducted. The community policing

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unit also oversees the residential and business false alarms. Follow up investigations are conducted and warnings and summons are issued when appropriate.

- E. Detective Domizi remains a member of the Municipal Alliance committee and he is also the liaison to the Resource Center of Somerset County which provides assistance to victims of domestic violence. Meetings resumed in 2021.
- F. Operation Watchdog, which allows all home owners and business owners to register their surveillance systems with the department, remains in place. Residents continue to participate in the program.
- G. The Special Law Enforcement Officer III is in operation, providing specially trained retired police officers for security in our schools. At this time, four SLEO III officers are employed by the Borough and are under the supervision of Det/Sgt Albert Domizi.

V. SOMERSET COUNTY GUNS AND GANG TASK FORCE:

- A. In 2021, Officer Justin Pelissier was assigned to the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force (OCNTF) starting his second year of this assignment. He conducted numerous investigations with the Task Force including several in North Plainfield that culminated in arrests in the Borough.

VI. INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

- A. During 2021, the police department logged 12 Internal Affairs complaints. Lt. Ciempola investigation 7, Lt. Sinker investigated 4, and Lt. Perrone investigated 1.

Investigation #	Classification	Disposition	Corrective Action
21-01	Harassment	Not sustained	N/A
21-02	Rules Violation	Sustained	Pending
21-03	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
21-04	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
21-05	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
21-06	Excessive Force	Exonerated	N/A
21-06	Improper Arrest	Exonerated	N/A
21-07	Rules Violation	Pending	Sanction (R&R)
21-08	Rules Violation	Admin. Closed	N/A
21-09	Demeanor	Exonerated	N/A
21-10	Rules Violation	Exonerated	N/A
21-11	Demeanor	Exonerated	N/A
21-12	Demeanor	Admin. Closed	N/A

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VII. PATROL DIVISION:

A. The Patrol Division had 12 marked patrol cars in service and logged the following miles of patrol for the last three years.

	2019	2020	2021
Patrol Miles	192,482	186,673	179,771

Covid-19 caused a drop in total miles patrolled. We will work to improve this as 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	2019	2020	2021
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	54	26	35
Moving Hazardous Violation	714	471	578
Moving Non-Hazardous Violation	1,290	757	1,419
Borough Ordinance Violation	85	29	91
Parking Violation	2,110	1,019	2,603
Radar	286	232	470
Written Warnings	4,022	1,790	3,376
Totals	9,722	4,324	9,545
Refusal Breath Test Included in (DWI above)	15	3	6
Summons included in above totals	5,700	2,533	6,169

C. Radar: Officers spent 3,131 hours on those posts

Brook Avenue	Oneida Avenue
Clinton Avenue	Parkview Avenue
Columbia Avenue	Rock Avenue
Craig Place	Rockview Avenue
Duer Street	Route 22 East
Farragut Road	Route 22 West
Greenbrook Road	Sandford Avenue
Grove Street	Somerset Street
Harrington Avenue	Sycamore Avenue
Howard Street	Warfield Road
Leland Avenue	Washington Avenue
Maple Avenue	Watchung Avenue
Mountain Avenue	West End Avenue
Myrtle Avenue	Westervelt Avenue

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Netherwood Avenue	Willow Avenue
Norwood Avenue	Wilson Avenue

D. Parking Enforcement Report

Year end totals:

	2019	2020	2021
Total Summons Issued	5,139	3,868	4,591

Revenue:

	2019	2020	2021
Meters	126,610.95	92,664.27	105,636.01
Permits	18,310.00	11,330.00	16,930.00
Total	144,920.95	103,994.27	122,566.01

The meters were bagged from 12/14/21-1/1/22 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:

	2019	2020	2021
Fees Collected	5,233.03	5,907.55	5,470.05
Calls for Service/Responses	31,721	35,391	38,533
Discovery Requests	407	321	427
Report Requests	3,952	2,325	1,883
Pieces of Evidence/Property	590	559	465

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

	2019		2020		2021	
	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile
Murder	0	1	0	0	0	0
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	4	0	0	0	1	0
Robbery	3	4	4	5	0	0
Aggravated Assault	9	0	1	0	7	0
Burglary	1	6	4	0	2	0
Larceny/Theft	24	1	23	2	18	2
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1	0	0	2	0
Simple Assault	66	4	66	2	51	0
Arson	0	0	1	0	0	0
Forgery	3	1	0	0	0	0

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Fraud	3	0	2	0	2	0
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	1	0
Stolen Property	0	0	1	0	0	0
Criminal Mischief	4	3	4	0	6	0
Weapons	2	1	5	0	4	3
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	2	1	0	1	1	0
Violation of Drug Laws	83	6	51	8	13	2
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family & Children	1	2	0	0	2	0
Driving Under the Influence	46	0	24	0	34	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	35	3	16	1	6	1
Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	1	0
Curfew and Loitering Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other Offenses	111	8	81	1	25	3
Total UCR Arrests	366	41	283	20	173	11
COC other Arrests	334	0	98	5	61	3
Total Arrests	700	41	381	25	234	14

IX. UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

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

Year	Crime Index Total	Violent Crime	Non Violent Crime	Crime Rate Per 1,000	Violent Crime Per 1,000	Non violent Crime Rate Per 1,000	VIOLENT CRIME				NONVIOLENT CRIME				Domestic Violence	Bias Incidents
							Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson		
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
2019	329	48	281	15.0	2.3	12.8	1	11	26	10	36	234	11	0	233	0
2020	327	25	302	15.4	1.2	14.2	0	2	17	6	23	265	14	2	302	15
2021	361	68	293	15.8	3.0	12.8	2	4	43	19	22	236	35	2	264	9
Up/Dn	34	43	-9	0	2	-1	2	2	26	13	-1	-29	21	0	-38	-6
%	10.4	172.0	-3.0	3.0	153.9	-9.4	200.0	100.0	152.9	216.7	-4.3	-10.9	150.0	0.0	-12.6	-40.0

We saw a large increase in robberies and are working with a newly created County task force to combat this.

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Area in Square Miles	Density Per Square Mile	Character	Male Officers	Female Officers	Civilian	Total Police Employees
2.8	7,834.29	Urban/Sub	44	1	8	53
2.8	7,860.71	Urban/Sub	45	1	8	54
2.8	7,860.71	Urban/Sub	46	1	8	55
2.8	7,603.21	Urban/Sub	44	2	8	54
2.8	8,145.71	Urban/Sub	47	3	10	60
0	543	Urban/Sub	3	1	2	6
0.0	7.1	Urban/Sub	6.8	50.0	25.0	11.1

X. TRAFFIC SAFETY:

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

	2019	2020	2021
Total	921	809	869
Summons Issued for crash	527	525	500
Refuse Breath Test	3	2	4
Driving While Intoxicated	23	16	22
Hazardous	362	329	311
Non-Hazardous	139	178	162
Alcohol Related	0	0	1

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

	2019	2020	2021
Rt 22-Reportable	289	269	298
Rt 22 Non-Reportable	34	12	6
Boro Streets- Reportable	398	394	425
Boro St Non-Reportable	30	9	10
Private Property-Reportable	147	116	119
Private Prop Non-Reportable	23	9	11
Total Reportable	834	779	842
Total Non-Reportable	87	30	27

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C. Crash Injury Report for the last three years:

	2019	2020	2021
Reports W/Injuries	132	131	142
Persons Injured	281	173	189
Fatal	2	1	0

XI. 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 2021, the members of the Department were instructed in various 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, Eradicating Racial Profiling, Cell Block Use and Management, and Ethics, Firearms, Use of Force, Pursuit Driving, and Domestic Violence were two times during the training year.
- B. Mandatory In-Service Training Due to a Particular Assignment- ICAT/ABLE, Use of Force (Once), Use of Force (8 On-line Modules), Cybersecurity, Pursuit Driving (Once), Right to Know, CLEAR Training (LGBTQ/Sikh), Dealing with the Mentally Disturbed (New hires), CJIS (New hires), Narcan, Domestic Violence (Twice), Bloodborne Pathogens Training, Heroin Opiate Training, OC Spray, Racial Profiling, Jail Cell Management (New hires), Handgun Qualification, Bias Crimes (New hires), ASP (New hires), CPR Refresher, Active Shooter Training, PPE Fit Test (New hires), Ethics (New Hires), Developmental Disabilities, Workplace Sexual Harassment, Tourniquet Training, HazMat Training, Rifle Qualification, Rifle Familiarization Fire (Once), FTO Instructor Program, Supervisor Performance Evaluation Training
- C. Voluntary In-Service Training- F.A.S.T Training, Handle with Care (New hires), Ambushes, MVR (New hires), Lojack Training (New hires), Community Policing (New hires), Body Worn Camera Training, Department Confidentiality (New hires), Patrol Rifle Assessment (Twice)
- D. Department Off-Site Continuing Education Courses- Members of the Department, to enhance personal development and professionalism, were instructed in the following police related topics. These classes consisted of the following:
 - Alcotest
 - Ivory Tower Training

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- Active Shooter Webinar
 - LEAD Training
 - DWI Field Sobriety Training
 - School Resource Officer Training
 - Firearms Instructor Training
 - Basic Crash Training
 - Pedestrian Crash Training
 - LIDAR Training
 - Document Fraud Training
 - Drug Identification Training
 - FTO Training
 - Report Writing Training
 - Advanced Crash Training
 - NIBRS Training
 - OC Spray Instructor Training
 - SWAT School Training
 - Resiliency Instructor Training
 - Non-Fatal Strangulation Training
 - Surviving Law Enforcement Career Training
 - Active Shooter Exercise Development
 - Search Warrant Execution Training
 - Handling Pressure & Situational Awareness in Critical Incidents
 - SWAT Sniper School Training
 - Supervisor School
 - Bias Crime Training
 - Successful Use of Social Media for Criminal Investigation Training
- E. Accreditation- Hundreds of proofs were gathered and numerous standards filled. The three-year assessment was finished and the 2022 Assessment was scheduled with NJSACOP. The virtual assessment packet is in the process of being completed and the necessary requirements are being gathered for a successful re-accreditation.

Respectfully submitted,



William G. Parenti
Chief of Police