

Annual
Report
2021



Lower Providence Police 2021 Annual Report

MICHAEL JACKSON – CHIEF OF POLICE
WILLIAM HOPKINS – LIEUTENANT

Message from the Chief of Police:



On behalf of the officers and employees of the Lower Providence Township Police Department, it is my pleasure to present our 2021 Annual Report. This report serves as a summary of the community events that took place throughout the year, statistics, commendations, retirements, new-hires, trainings, and much more.

I am incredibly proud of what our police department has accomplished this last year. While we all faced many unprecedented challenges still stemming from COVID-19, we consistently addressed them professionally and maintained our continued high level of service to the public.

We look forward to continuing our service to the residents of Lower Providence Township and as always, we are committed to putting the needs of our community first. As I have stated in the past, our goal each year is to provide a safe environment for the residents, business owners and visitors alike to live, work, and play within the township. Community-Based Policing is of utmost importance to us, and we strive to consistently build upon those relationships and rapports.

This report is intended to keep the citizens of Lower Providence Township informed about their police department. It is my hope that this annual report provides the residents of Lower Providence with not only a summary of our activities and achievements over the past year, but also a better understanding of the many services our police department provides to our community.

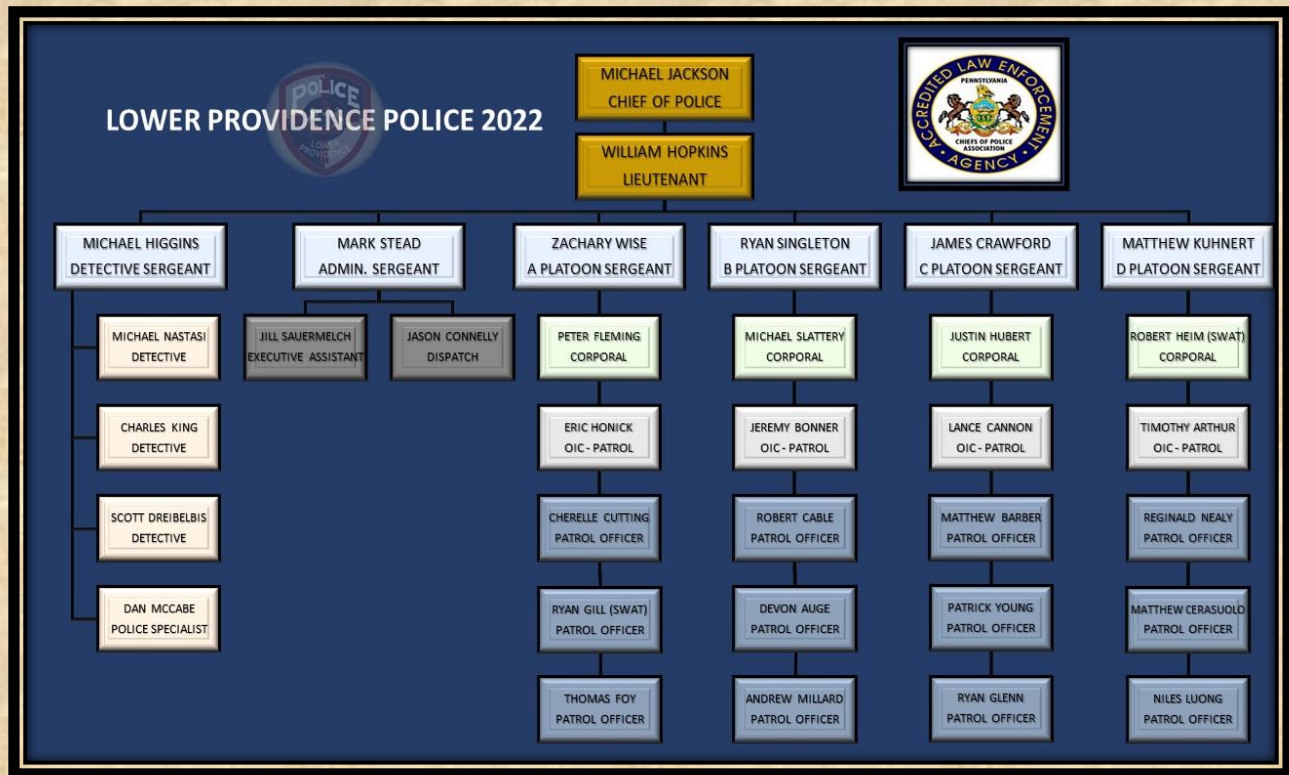
Thank you for trusting our department to serve and protect you.

Sincerely,

Michael Jackson

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police

2022 Organizational Chart



Police Mission

The Lower Providence Township Police Department is a professional, progressive, community-oriented law enforcement organization committed to making the Township a great place to live, work and play. The department consists of thirty-one police officers, an executive assistant to the Chief of Police, a civilian police dispatcher, and a part-time evidence custodian.

- INTEGRITY
- HONOR
- RESPECT
- COURAGE



Department Structure

Patrol Division - is the largest division and is responsible for the primary police services provided to the Township. The Patrol Division is composed of four platoons that are each supervised by a Sergeant. Patrol cars are equipped with Mobile Data Computers (MDC) which are computer terminals that provide officers with instantaneous information on driver's license information, vehicle registration information, stolen vehicle information, wanted person information and confidential messaging between vehicles and the Police Dispatch Center. Officers can prepare accident reports and incident reports in their vehicles and transmit them electronically to the records management system server in the police station. All the patrol cars are equipped with Mobile Video and Audio Recorders (MVAR) that are utilized to digitally record vehicle stops, DUI enforcement, suspicious activity, and crime scenes. Within the Patrol Division, specialized units include officers assigned to the Traffic Safety Unit, with responsibility for coordinating traffic enforcement/safety, and the Bicycle Patrol Unit.



Detective Division - is responsible for the investigation of all criminal offenses that occur within the Township. Detective Sergeant Michael Higgins is responsible for this division and supervises Detective Scott Dreibelbis, Detective Michael Nastasi, and Detective Charles King who are all trained and experienced investigators.



LPPD detectives attended a seminar at the Lincoln Financial Field where they studied new trends in law enforcement partnerships during a multi-jurisdictional training with federal, state, and local agencies.



In 2021, the Lower Providence Detectives investigated 577 criminal cases. These cases fluctuated in gravity from misdemeanor-level crimes to major felony crimes. Some of the more serious crimes that were investigated this year consisted of an Aggravated Assault at Warrior Field, Several Thefts from Motor Vehicles at B&M Auto Repair and Towing, Armed Suspect/Explosions on Cardin Place, and a Homicide on the Betzwood Trailhead.



Administrative Sergeant / Traffic Safety Coordinator

– is assigned to Sergeant Mark Stead. Sergeant Stead is responsible for traffic studies and traffic details, community policing and special events, Youth Aid Panel, roll call training, and several other administrative duties. Sergeant Stead is well known throughout our community and schools and always puts the community's well-being at the very top of his priority list.



Civilian Employees – are responsible for monitoring the police radio, accepting incoming emergency and non-emergency phone calls, case folder preparation, evidence maintenance, fingerprinting, accreditation, grant-writing, social media accounts, and numerous other administrative duties. Civilian Staff from left to right are: Daniel McCabe, Jason Connelly, and Jill Sauermelch.



Montgomery County SWAT Central Region Team (MSWAT-CR) – The Lower Providence Township Police Department is an active member of the Montgomery County SWAT Central Region Team. The MSWAT-CR team is a multi-jurisdictional, highly trained and equipped group of officers that respond to high-risk situations involving armed individuals, barricaded individuals and hostage situations. The team is available for response 24/7, 365 days a year and train rigorously on a monthly basis to keep their skill level sharp. Lower Providence Police have two officers assigned to the team, Corporal Robert Heim (Team Leader) and Officer Ryan Gill (Entry Element Team Member).



The Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics Central Region Team (MSWAT-CR) participated in a helicopter operation training along with the Philadelphia Police Department in King of Prussia during the month of October.

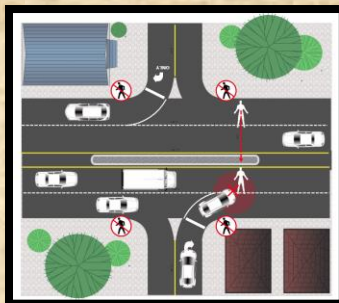
Bicycle Patrol - Eight members of the Lower Providence Township Police Department have been certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) for police bicycle patrol. The department currently utilizes police patrol bicycles at special events, shopping centers, apartment complexes and neighborhood patrols. Officers complete specialized training regularly but are required to complete training at least once every three years.

LPPD officers assigned to Bike Patrol

- Lieutenant William Hopkins
- Corporal Justin Hubert
- Officer Eric Honick
- Officer Matthew Barber
- Officer Devon Auge



Accident Reconstruction – Two members of the Lower Providence Township Police Department, Sergeant Ryan Singleton and Officer Timothy Arthur, are certified accident reconstructionist. Officer Arthur is certified as an Expert Reconstructionist. The reconstructionist is in charge of determining the causation of all serious and fatal automobile accidents. The Lower Providence Township Police Department investigated one fatal accident in 2021 where both Sergeant Singleton and Officer Arthur assisted in the reconstruction.



Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) Certified Officer - Throughout Pennsylvania, more than 700 specially trained state and local officers inspect commercial vehicles and their drivers for compliance with state and federal motor carrier safety regulations. Inspections are conducted along all roadways within the township. The goal of MCSAP is to reduce commercial motor-vehicle involved crashes, fatalities, and injuries through consistent, uniform, and effective commercial motor-vehicle programs. The department has one MCSAP certified police officer, Sergeant Ryan Singleton, who is required to complete 70 commercial vehicle stops a year to maintain his certification.



MCSAP



DUI Enforcement - The Lower Providence Township Police Department is a member of the Valley Forge Area DUI Task Force which is comprised of several area police departments that combine their efforts and resources in addressing the issue of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol and Controlled Substances. The Task Force conducts sobriety checkpoints and specific patrol details for DUI offenders.



Montgomery County Drug Task Force - The Lower Providence Township Police Department participates in the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office Local Drug Task Force to investigate drug offenses within our own jurisdiction and throughout Montgomery County. We have several police officers who are assigned to the drug task force and have been sworn in as Special County Detectives for the purpose of investigating drug offenses throughout the County.



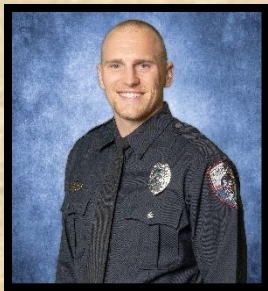
BusPatrol

We are pleased to announce that LPPD will be working with BusPatrol and Methacton School District to reduce school bus violations from occurring and increase safety in our community. In November 2021, a press conference was held at Arcola Middle School to discuss how all Methacton School District buses will be equipped with cameras inside and outside the school bus beginning in January 2022. These cameras will be capable of capturing the illegal passing of school buses, along with other violations, and decrease bullying that may occur while students are on the bus.

According to statistics, 98% of drivers that receive a citation for their violation do not receive a second citation, which reassures us that awareness increases through this program. The fine for illegally passing a school bus is \$300.00 and that money is what helps pay for the services BusPatrol cameras provide.



Field Training Officers 2021



Certified Instructors 2021



Defensive Tactics



**CPR/First Aid &
Firearms**



Firearms



Defensive Tactics



Taser & BolaWrap



Taser & BolaWrap



**Firearms &
Bicycle Patrol
(IPMBA)**



Firearms

Professional Standards



The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association introduced the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Program to the Commonwealth in July 2001. Since then, 375 agencies have enrolled and 117 agencies currently have maintained accredited status.

Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals are assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.

The Lower Providence Township Police Department was accredited by the PA Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission in 2006 and has received reaccreditation every three years since that time. Accredited status

The Lower Providence Township Police Department successfully passed their 5th reaccreditation assessment in October. Our department has been an accredited agency since 2006 and we are proud our department has achieved this prestigious status once again.

has been awarded to less than 10% of the 1200 law enforcement agencies in the commonwealth.

The Benefits

- Establishes a credible framework for evaluating agency practices and procedures.
- Reduces agency risk and exposure to lawsuits.
- Decreases some liability insurance expenditures.
- Improves law enforcement – community relations.
- Increases employee input, interaction, and confidence in the agency.
- Enlarges the outlook and viewpoints of managers, officers, and employees.
- Identifies and highlights the capabilities and competence of the agency.
- Furnishes a solid foundation for the agency to build upon for further progress.
- Provides reliable methods to improve essential management procedures.
- Extends agency accountability to the public and elected officials.
- Enhances planning and innovative activities by all agency personnel.
- Develops improved methods for providing services to the community.
- Encourages problem-solving activities within the agency.

Excellence in Policing

Citizen Complaints - The Lower Providence Township Police Departments procedures for handling citizen complaints are consistent with national standards to assure a prompt and thorough investigation and response to all allegations. This process ensures that these issues are brought to the proper level of departmental management, and appropriately addressed to maintain a high level of integrity and instill public trust. In 2021, the department received **ZERO** formal citizen complaints against any member of the department.

Commendations - The Police Department received numerous letters of commendation from the public about exemplary police services. Chief Jackson awarded the department with an additional 16 letters of commendation, 12 Unit Citations, 7 Commendations of Bravery, 2 Life Saving Commendations, and 1 Commendation of Merit.

The following Officers Received Letters of Commendation for their use of Naloxone and CPR to save the lives of those overdosing on opiates:

- Officer Arthur – 2
- Officer Auge – 2
- Officer Barber – 1
- Officer Cerasuolo – 2
- Officer Cutting – 1
- Officer Gill – 2
- Officer Glenn – 1
- Sergeant Kuhnert – 1
- Officer Nealy – 1
- Sergeant Singleton – 1
- Corporal Slattery – 1
- Sergeant Wise – 1

The Following Officers Received Distinguished Unit Citations:



Cardin Place Armed Suspect

- Lieutenant William Hopkins
- Detective Charles King
- Detective-Sergeant Michael Higgins
- Sergeant Ryan Singleton
- Detective Scott Dreibelbis
- Detective Michael Nastasi

The Following Officers Received Distinguished Unit Citations:



Residential Burglaries Suspect

- Detective Sergeant Michael Higgins
- Detective Michael Nastasi
- Detective Charles King
- Detective Scott Dreibelbis
- Officer Eric Honick (not pictured)
- Officer Niles Luong

The Following Officers Received Bravery Commendations:



Cardin Place Armed Suspect

- Sergeant Matthew Kuhnert
- Corporal Brian Bishop
- Officer Reginald Nealy
- Corporal Robert Heim
- Officer John Barnshaw
- Detective William Murphy
- Officer Matthew Barber

The Following Officer Received a Commendation of Merit:

On January 21, 2021, **Detective Michael Nastasi** was presented with a Commendation of Merit after being the lead investigator on a Drug Delivery Resulting in Death Investigation. Over the course of five months, Detective Nastasi meticulously and tirelessly investigated the case, which included interviews, multiple search warrants, surveillance, and an interview with the suspect. Detective Nastasi was able to obtain a confession from the suspect and he was arrested and charged with Drug Delivery Resulting in Death, Possession With Intent to Deliver a Controlled Substance, and related offenses.

The Following Officers Received Life Saving Commendations:

On February 18, 2021, **Officer Ryan Gill** was recognized and received a Life Saving Commendation for his actions involving a suicidal individual. He responded to the Arcola Bridge for a report of an intoxicated male sitting on the ledge. Upon arrival, Officer Gill immediately engaged the male in conversation and started to develop a rapport with him. After several minutes, Officer Gill was able to talk the male down from the ledge of the bridge and safely transported him to Montgomery County Emergency Services. Throughout the entire call, Officer Gill used his training and calm demeanor to save this individuals life.

On March 4, 2021, **Officer Eric Honick** was recognized and received a Life Saving Commendation for his actions involving an individual who was choking. He responded to the 300 block of South Park Avenue and when he arrived, the patient's husband was already performing the Heimlich Maneuver but was unsuccessful. Without delay, Officer Honick took over and performed the Heimlich Maneuver and was successfully able to expel the food that was lodged in the patient's throat, preventing an untimely death.





On March 2, 2021 police dispatcher, Jason Connelly, was recognized for his dedicated service to the LPPD. We sincerely appreciate all that he has done for our department and his perseverance speaks volumes. Jason was diagnosed with oral cancer in 2019 and underwent several surgeries. In the early months of 2021, he was informed that he was officially cancer free. Unfortunately, that good news lasted only a few months before it returned, and Jason continues to fight his battle with cancer. The Lower Providence Township Police Department, Lower Providence Board of Supervisors and Township Staff, Lower Providence Emergency Medical Services, and Lower Providence Fire Department showed their support for Jason by raising money to gift him a new Play Station 5 to keep his mind busy and remind him that he has a large support system rooting

for him. Additionally, the Montgomery County Hero Fund, which is an amazing corporation that provides immediate and ongoing relief to first responders as a result of a tragedy, provided Jason with a very generous donation.



For more information on the Montgomery County Hero Fund, visit:

<https://montgomerycountyherofund.org/>

2021 Officer of the Year

Detective Michael Nastasi

Four officers were nominated for this year's Officer of the Year award. Those officers were Matt Kuhnert, Mike Nastasi, Charlie King and Eric Honick. While each of these officers excel in their duties and responsibilities, one officer has gone above and beyond, surpassing all expectations, and proving they are Officer of the Year commendable. After careful consideration and in accordance with our policy, Detective Mike Nastasi has been selected as this year's Officer of the Year.



Detective Nastasi started his career with us at the Lower Providence Township Police Department in 2008 after serving several years with Bensalem Township Police Department, Hilltown Township Police Department, Marcus Hook Borough Police Department, and Upland Borough Police Department. He has a plethora of knowledge and experience from working the Patrol Division, being a former Canine Officer, School Resource Officer, and now part of the Detective Division. While assigned to detectives, he has proven himself to be a skilled investigator and team player. He is diligent and thoroughly investigates all cases that are assigned to him. Detective Nastasi is accessible and always willing to help the other officers in the department. Over the past year, Detective Nastasi has pro-actively worked to upgrade our digital forensics laboratory and he has become the "go to" investigator for anything related to cell phone examinations. In addition to his current assignment, Detective Nastasi has recently become a sworn member of the United States Homeland Security Law Enforcement Agency, where he has built relationships and gained additional experience that can assist our agency, officers, and the residents of Lower Providence Township.

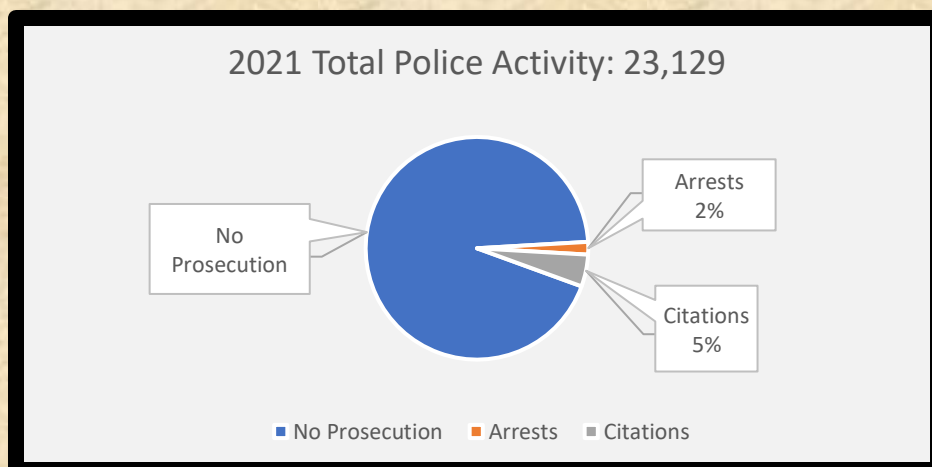
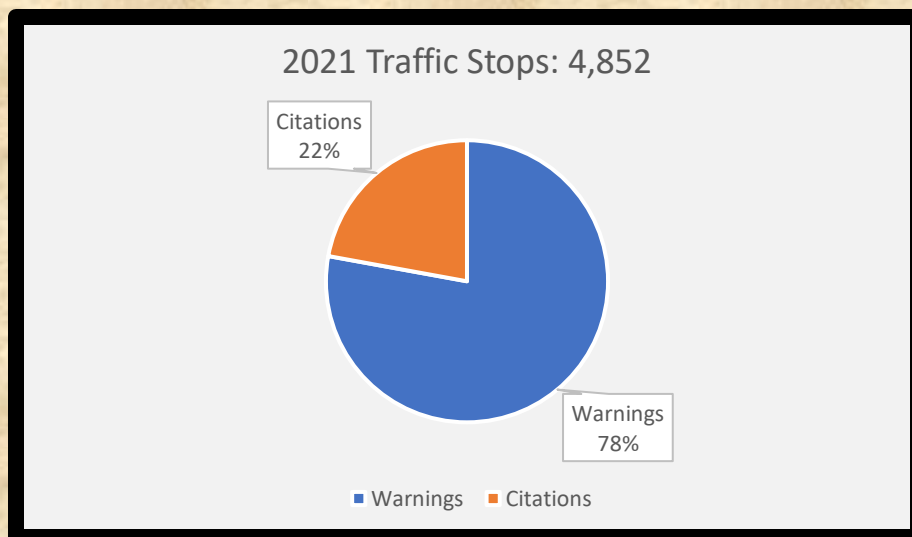
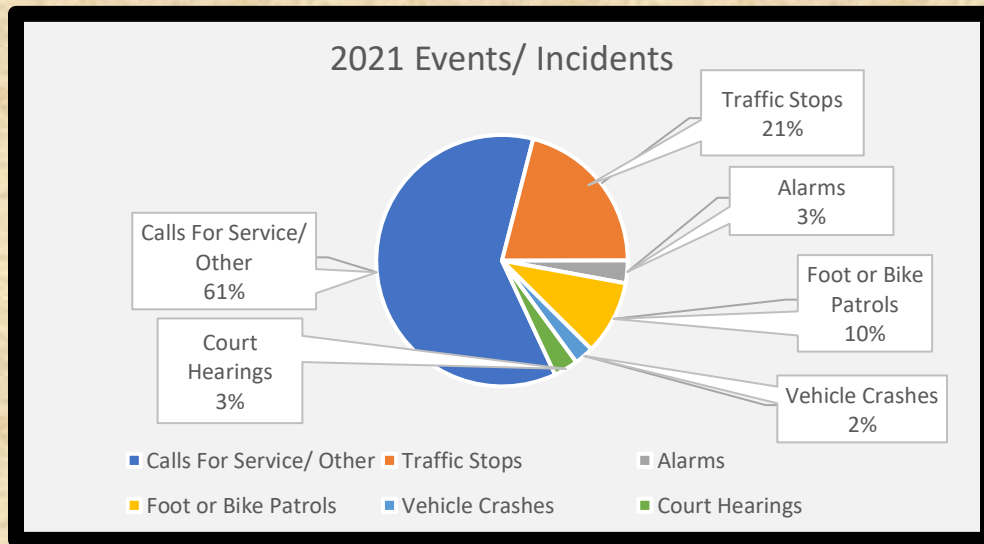
A common theme used to describe Detective Nastasi that was expressed among several of his colleagues in the department was "thriving as a detective" and he is always willing to go that extra mile to assist his counterparts and department. Detective Nastasi has been awarded several commendations throughout the years and a Distinguished Unit Citation, where he was the lead investigator in a string of residential burglaries. His commitment to the Lower Providence community and his department does not go unnoticed and is praiseworthy.

Detective Nastasi's positive energy and work ethic is something to be proud of and we are pleased to name him this year's Officer of the Year! Congratulations Mike!

By Order Of,

Michael Jackson
Chief of Police

2021 Statistics



Uniform Crime Reporting

The Federal Bureau of Investigation created the Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) in the 1920's to generate a reliable set of criminal statistics for use in law enforcement operation, administration, and management. The program is used around the nation and has become one of the country's leading social indicators as to the growth or decline in crime.

Lower Providence Police	2020	2021
Part 1 Reported	218	158
Part 2 Reported	791	887
Total Part 1 & Part 2 Reported	1009	1045
Total Part 1 & Part 2 % Cleared	60%	74%



Part I Offenses

Classification of Offenses	Offenses Reported	2021 % of Clearances	2020 % of Clearances
Murder/NonNegligent Homicide(Total)	1	100%	100%
Manslaughter by Negligence(Total)	0	0%	0%
Rape(Total)	1	0%	0%
Rape	1	0%	0%
Attempted Rape	0	0%	0%
Robbery(Total)	1	100%	67%
Robbery - Firearm	0	0%	0%
Robbery - Knife or Cutting Instrument	0	0%	0%
Robbery - Other Dangerous Weapon	0	0%	0%
Robbery - StrongArm(Hands,Fists,Feet,etc)	1	100%	100%
Assault(Total)	9	89%	94%
Assault - Firearm	2	100%	0%
Assault - Knife or Cutting Instrument	2	100%	100%
Assault - Other Dangerous Weapon	1	100%	100%
Assault - StrongArm(Hands,Fists,Feet,etc)	4	75%	75%
Burglary(Total)	4	100%	71%
Burglary - Forcible Entry	3	133%	71%
Burglary - Unlawful Entry(No Force)	1	0%	0%
Burglary - Attempted Forcible Entry	0	0%	0%
Larceny(Total) - Theft(Excluding Motor Vehicles)	139	48%	48%
Motor Vehicle Theft(Total)	4	75%	58%
Motor Vehicle Theft - Autos	4	100%	58%
Motor Vehicle Theft - Trucks and Buses	0	0%	0%
Motor Vehicle Theft - Other Vehicles	0	0%	0%
Human Trafficking	0	0%	0%
Arson	0	0%	0%
Total Part I Offenses	158	53%	58%

Part II Offenses

Classification of Offenses	Offenses Reported	2021 % of Clearances	2020 % of Clearances
Assault - Other(Simple, Not Aggravated)	29	93%	96%
Forgery and Counterfeiting	6	67%	7%
Fraud	213	76%	58%
Embezzlement	0	0%	0%
Stolen Property; Buying, Receiving, Possessing	7	71%	25%
Vandalism	68	44%	44%
Weapons; Carrying, Possessing, etc.	0	0%	0%
Prostitution and Commercialized Vice	0	0%	0%
Sex Offenses (Except Line 2 and 16)	5	60%	60%
Drug Abuse Violations(Total)	122	85%	92%
Sale/Manufacturing SubTotal	12	67%	100%
Opium - Cocaine	4	50%	100%
Marijuana	4	75%	100%
Synthetic	3	67%	0%
Other	1	100%	100%
Possession SubTotal	110	87%	90%
Opium - Cocaine	11	100%	100%
Marijuana	52	98%	100%
Synthetic	9	67%	100%
Other	38	74%	85%
Gambling(Total)	0	0%	0%
Book Making	0	0%	0%
Numbers, Etc	0	0%	0%
Other	0	0%	0%
Offenses Against The Family and Children	2	100%	0%
Driving Under The Influence	50	98%	91%
Liquor Laws	2	100%	50%
Drunkenness	15	93%	45%
Disorderly Conduct	20	85%	32%
Vagrancy	0	0%	0%
All Other Offenses (Except Traffic)	360	78%	52%
Total Part II	899	78%	60%

Youth Aid Panel Program

The Lower Providence Township Police Department participates in Montgomery County's Youth Aid Panel and referred 24 juveniles to the program in 2021.

The Youth Aid Panel (YAP) Program has been giving juveniles a second chance to have a clean criminal record since 2000. In its 20+ year history, the program has helped more than 10,000 juveniles, ages 10 to 17 (or age 18 if a current high school senior), avoid a criminal record by going before a panel of local, trained volunteers and taking responsibility for their actions. Through the involvement and support of local community volunteers and assigned interventions, the community Youth Aid Panel Program holds juveniles accountable for their actions with conditions that focus on community responsibility while facilitating positive outcomes.

The YAP Program is an alternative to having a juvenile charged with their criminal infraction and having the matter handled in Juvenile Court. Successfully completing YAP means the juvenile will not have a criminal record that can be found through background checks routinely done by colleges and employers. The program is also designed to help juvenile offenders avoid future contact with the juvenile justice system through the involvement and support of local community volunteers, who serve on the more than 40 active Youth Aid Panels across Montgomery County.



2021 New Personnel

Ryan Glenn was born and raised in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. He attended Pottstown Senior High School and Montgomery County Community College. In December 2019, Ryan graduated from the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy. Upon graduation, he was hired by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff assigned to the Transportation Division. Ryan is the proud father of two boys that he shares with his longtime girlfriend, Ebony Gibbs. Ryan completed the field training program and was trained by his field training officer, corporal Justin Hubert.



Andrew Millard was born and raised in Boyertown, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Boyertown Area High School and attended Neuman University, where he graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. While attending Neuman University, he co-attended the Cape May County Police Academy. He also attended the Montgomery County Community College Municipal Police Academy, where he graduated in 2015. He previously worked for Stone Harbor Police Department as a Summer Law Enforcement Officer II, Valley Forge Casino as a security officer, and most recently for Upper Pottsgrove Township Police Department as a full-time Patrol Officer, School Resource Officer and Criminal Investigator. Andrew is engaged to his fiancé, Jordan Atkins. Andrew completed the field training program and was trained by his field training officer, Officer Devon Auge.



Thomas Foy was born and raised in the Conshohocken section of Upper Merion Township. He graduated from Upper Merion High School and attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 2014 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography. After college, Tom worked as a Process Control Engineer with Johnson Matthey Catalyst until being accepted into the Philadelphia Police Academy. In December 2017, he graduated from the police academy and was assigned as a patrol officer in the 25th District. Tom is married to his wife, Brenna, and they have a one-year-old daughter. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, spending time with his family, and working out. Tom is currently participating in the field training program and his field training officer is Officer Eric Honick. Upon completing his field training, he will be assigned to the A squad, supervised by Sergeant Zach Wise.



Jill Sauermelch was born and raised in Millerton, Pennsylvania. She graduated from Mansfield Junior/Senior High School and attended Lock Haven University, where she graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree. After college she moved to Montgomery County and worked as a 9-1-1 telecommunicator for Montgomery County Department of Public Safety. In January 2021, she was hired as the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police. Jill is married to her husband, Eric, and they have two daughters together.



2021 Retirements

After 35 years of service, Officer Daniel McGuffin retired from the Lower Providence Township Police Department on April 30, 2021. Officer McGuffin is a 1978 graduate of Archbishop Carroll High School in Radnor, Pennsylvania. He attended Ursinus College and received his Associates Degree in Police Science in December of 1983 from Montgomery County Community College. He attended the Montgomery County Police Academy and graduated in April of 1984. He was hired as a police dispatcher with the Lower Providence Township Police on July 1, 1985 and was sworn in as a full-time police officer on September 21, 1987.

Officer McGuffin served in the Patrol Division and was assigned to the Traffic Safety Unit for many years. While in the Traffic Safety Unit he implemented several initiatives that significantly improved conditions for township residents and the motoring public within our community. He was responsible for coordinating the police departments responses to all traffic complaint forms and providing feedback to residents, analyzing enforcement activities to ensure that police resources are directed to those areas that are most warranted, reviewing and analyzing accident data for enforcement efforts and to develop recommendations to decrease accident rates.

Officer McGuffin has also been awarded several Distinguished Unit Citations for his actions during his tenure as a police officer with Lower Providence Township Police, as well as numerous letters of commendation. In 2010, Officer McGuffin was honored and awarded with the Respect For Law Award from the Lower Providence Optimist Club.

Congratulations Dan, we wish you all the best! Enjoy retirement life, you deserve it and served your community and department well. Thank you for your service.



Anniversary Dates

- ❖ *Chief Michael Jackson – 20 years*
- ❖ *Detective Sergeant Michael Higgins – 15 years*
- ❖ *Corporal Robert Heim – 20 years*
- ❖ *Corporal Justin Hubert – 5 years*
- ❖ *Officer Reginald Nealy – 30 years*
- ❖ *Officer Cherelle Cutting – 20 years*
- ❖ *Officer Matthew Barber – 10 years*
- ❖ *Officer Eric Honick – 5 years*

STUDENT INTERNSHIP

Chris Douglass spent several weeks with our department learning and observing different aspects of the profession. He shadowed officers, worked with our Coroner's Office, Montgomery Safety, District Attorney's Pennsylvania State Police Investigations Marine Unit. Methacton High School and is

University where he will be He enjoys playing baseball and played for Methacton School District and currently plays for Shippensburg University. Chris was an excellent intern and had a willingness to learn and observe. We wish him the very best and look forward to seeing him grow in the law enforcement field.



Sergeant Stead on a regular a-longs with other patrol detectives, went to the County Department of Public Office and enjoyed touring Bureau of Criminal Chris graduated from attending Shippensburg majoring in Criminal Justice.



Thank You for Your Service



Lower Providence Township Police Department has had many past and current police officers who have also served in the Military. This service does not go un-noticed in our department and we are grateful for the sacrifices they have made every day. As a way of saying thank you for your service and we appreciate everything you have given up and done for our country, we created a display wall to display the sacrifices they made. This year, we were able to add two additional officers to our Veterans wall, bringing our total number to fourteen.



Current list of past/present police officers on our wall who have served:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ➤ Richard Groff | ➤ Michael Jackson |
| ➤ Charles DeFrancesco | ➤ Ken Duelley |
| ➤ Ed McDade | ➤ Justin Hubert |
| ➤ Robert Heim | ➤ Walt Trimbur |
| ➤ Bill Childress | ➤ Matthew Cerasuolo |
| ➤ Matthew Kuhnert | ➤ Steve Rowe |
| ➤ Daniel McCabe | ➤ Devon Auge |



NEW EQUIPMENT

- We have implemented several new pieces of equipment into our department this year. First, **BolaWrap**, which is a restraint tool developed to provide safe distance between the subject and the officer. It does not rely on pain compliance and is specifically designed to be deployed early in an engagement. The device discharges a Kevlar rope that wraps around the subject's legs or arms, preventing them from harming themselves, police, or other individuals.
- Next, we purchased a **Decatur Electronics Speed Display Trailer**. The display trailer shows a vehicles speed, displays various messages, and has flashing red and blue lights on it. We can move this piece of equipment around to different streets where we want to deter speeding and reckless driving.
- We also purchased six **PopShield Ballistic Armor Shields**. The shields can be deployed in less than a second by pressing the instant release trigger and then held to protect the officers head, face, arms, and torso. The shields weigh 5 pounds, they are discrete and highly maneuverable, providing three times more protection.
- Lastly, we purchased a **Stationary Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR)**. The device is installed at Egypt Road and South Trooper Road and collects data from thousands of vehicles in just a few minutes. Any wanted, known suspect, or individual driving a stolen vehicle, who drives by a stationary LPR, will send an alert to nearby police officers with the vehicle description and registration. The LPR also detects suspended/expired registration status.



PRESS RELEASE – CARDIN PLACE

On June 10, 2021, Lower Providence Township Police Officers received a 911 call from a witness advising a Lower Providence Township Code Enforcement Officer was being chased by a male with a gun. Moments later, another call came in from the Code Enforcement Officer who reported being chased by a male with a gun. The incident was initiated when the Code Enforcement Officer arrived on location to perform a follow-up inspection at the home for known hoarding conditions. After the Code Enforcement Officer entered the home, the homeowner, Thomas Razzi, displayed a firearm. The Code Enforcement Officer acted quickly and was able to exit the home and alert neighbors requesting that they contact the police.

Police Officers arrived on scene and confronted Razzi in front of his home and ordered him to stop. Razzi, who was unarmed at the time, retreated into his home, and slammed the door behind him. As additional police officers arrived on scene, a perimeter around the suspect's residence was established.

A short time later, a series of loud explosions and gunfire was heard coming from the suspect's residence. Police believed that the suspect was the source of the explosions and gunfire and that he had intentionally started the fire. At no time did police and the suspect exchange gunfire; police did not discharge their weapons. Immediately, flames and smoke became visible, and officers began evacuating nearby neighbors to a safe location. Once the scene was safe, the Lower Providence Township Fire Department responded and began fire suppression. The fire destroyed three townhomes and caused damage to three others.

The next morning, a male body found in the rubble of the suspect's home was positively identified as homeowner Thomas Razzi., 65, during an autopsy performed by the Montgomery County Coroner's Office.



HURRICANE IDA – FLOODING

Historic flooding occurred in Lower Providence Township on September 1st into September 2, 2021 due to the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Several properties were damaged and major roadways closed indefinitely due to unsafe conditions.



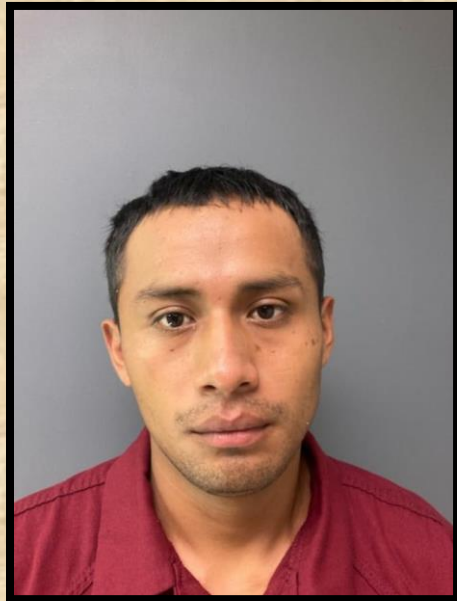
PRESS RELEASE – HOMICIDE

The investigation began on September 16, 2021, when Freddy Remigio Mendieta Pando walked into the Upper Darby Police headquarters and told two detectives that “I killed my partner.” Mendieta Pando showed the detectives on a map, where the body could be found, which was adjacent to the Schuylkill River Trail in Lower Providence Township, near the Betzwood Trailhead. Lower Providence Police found the body of a deceased female lying face down in a wooded area approximately 15 feet off the Schuylkill River Trail. The woman was identified as Karina Torres.

The joint investigation by the Montgomery County Detectives and Lower Providence Township Police found that Torres had obtained a Protection From Abuse Order against Mendieta Pando that was in effect at the time of her murder.

On Sept. 17, 2021, Forensic Pathologist Marianne Hamel of the Montgomery County Coroner’s Office performed an autopsy on the body of Karina Torres and determined that Torres died of multiple stab wounds and the manner of death was homicide.

Mendieta Pando was arrested and charged with First-Degree Murder, Third-Degree Murder and Possessing an Instrument of Crime.



LPPD is participating in a new program where our on-call detectives assist Montgomery County Detectives in their Homicide Unit. This program allows our detectives to observe and gain valuable experience, while also building relationships. Thus far, LPPD has assisted the Homicide Unit in several investigations throughout Montgomery County in 2021.

COMMUNITY POLICING



March 21, 2021 was World Down Syndrome Day and in celebration of that we “Rocked Our Socks” along with Olivia Young. Olivia is the daughter of Officer Pat Young from our very own department. The significance of wearing bright, silly socks is to celebrate the things that make us each unique and raise awareness about Down Syndrome.

Olivia got to be a police officer for the day and took her role very seriously. She put a smile on everyone’s face in the department and provided us with excellent leadership.

Sergeant Stead and Officer Luong were greeted by several excited children and the Easter Bunny during Lower Providence Township’s annual Easter Egg Hunt.



On May 26, 2021 some of our officers from the D platoon helped retired Police Chief Ed McDade with some landscaping projects around his home. The officers pictured above are Sergeant Matthew Kuhnert, Corporal Peter Fleming, Officer Reggie Nealy, Officer Matthew Barber, and Officer Jeremy Bonner.



Officer Luong made an appearance at the Cars and Stars Car Show on July 12, 2021.



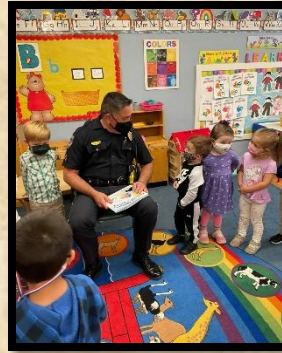
In July, Lieutenant Hopkins and Sergeant Stead visited with campers from the Variety Club in Worcester during their Community Day event.

In July, Starbucks in Trooper hosted Coffee with a Cop, which turned out to be a very successful event. Pictured below are Sergeant Wise, Sergeant Stead, Officer Honick, and Officer Luong.



On August 29, 2021, Sergeant Kuhnert, Corporal Heim, Officer Nealy, Officer Barber, Officer Bonner, and Jill Sauermelch (admin) rode their bicycles 65 miles in The Ben to the Shore charity bike ride. The bike ride raises money to provide necessary financial relief for the families of fallen or critically injured first responders and promotes positive relationships and interactions between police officers and the children in the communities they serve.

Sergeant Stead could be found several times throughout the year reading books to children at their daycares and nursery schools. We love being invited to the schools and interacting with the kids.



Officer Barber is pictured giving a group of Scouts a tour of our police department. We provide several tours throughout the year and encourage anyone who would like a tour to call and schedule an appointment.



Lower Providence Police Participated in Trunk or Treat and Passed out candy to kids on Halloween night. Along with candy, Officers passed out a "Golden Ticket" to one lucky kid which won them an escort to school in a police car.



The Lower Providence Township Police Department partnered with Red Corner Benefit, West Pottsgrove Township Police Department, and seven other local police departments to raise money for the Makarevitz family during this years **No Shave November** event.

The Makarevitz family has a two-year old little girl, Ellie, who was born with a tumor on her tailbone (Sacrococcygeal Teratoma) and the doctors told her family they are generally benign. Unfortunately, Ellies tumor turned malignant, metastasized, grew to 5 cm and a CT scan at CHOP showed 10 spots on her lungs. The doctors at CHOP performed a biopsy to confirm the diagnosis and stage of her cancer, then put a port into her small body for chemo treatments.

Lower Providence Police Officers raised several hundreds of dollars to donate toward this charitable cause to help ease the stressors of life for this family.



In December, Lower Providence Police participated in the 26th Annual LT. Patty Simons Law Enforcement Food Drive. Food Pantries throughout Montgomery County were replenished with several pounds of food raised during this amazing event.



Officer Bonner and Officer Cannon stopped by the Community Tree Lighting and Winter Wonderland event to say hello to our township residents and youth.



LPPD partnered up with Methacton School District to award students who display good behavior, go above and beyond in their academics, and display exemplary citizenship by escorting them to school in a police car. Each child is also presented with a Certificate of Achievement awarded by Chief Jackson and Sergeant Stead.



LPPD was part of Operation Safe Stop, a program which helps raise awareness about potential consequences of illegally passing a school bus. Everyone's goal that participates in Operation Safe Stop is to educate the public that passing a stopped school bus, when children are loading or unloading, is both dangerous and illegal.



Our department was invited to Methacton High School where the Black Student Union honored Martin Luther King Jr. by dedicating a tree in his name. “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.” - Martin Luther King Jr.

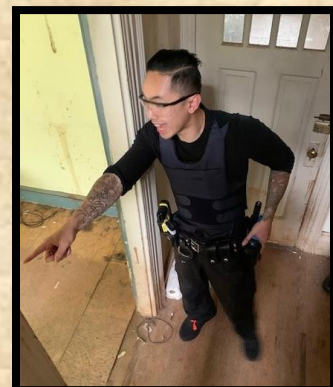


2021 Training Opportunities

Officer Cherelle Cutting attended the 2021 Mid-Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement Conference (MAAWLE). The mission of MAAWLE is to encourage professional and personal relationships among women and provide up-to-date training that promotes law enforcement as a profession. They have proven to be an integral part of promotion, education, and overall personal and professional advancement of women in law enforcement.



Lower Providence Township Police Officers completed their annual de-escalation training with Michelle Monzo from Montgomery County Emergency Services. Michelle trains police officers in mental health crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques. This year's training was ten hours long and consisted of classroom and practical exercises.



Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI)

The LPPD, along with the Montgomery County District Attorney's office has partnered with the Office of Attorney General's Law Enforcement Treatment Initiative (LETI). LETI seeks to reduce criminal behavior and improve public safety by connecting those with substance use disorders to treatment and other community resources. The main goal of this program is to reduce deaths, overdoses, and crime associated with substance use disorders by getting people into appropriate programs. Individuals may present themselves to police or if the person facing arrest is eligible, police will facilitate immediate entry into treatment through referral to the Montgomery County Office of Drug & Alcohol. Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more drug overdose deaths every year and we encourage those suffering from addiction to reach out to police for help.



The Bridge Program

Early in the year, the Lower Providence Township Police Department partnered with Montgomery County Mobile Crisis to proactively support individuals with a mental health illness or someone that may be experiencing a crisis. The Bridge Program is designed to increase connection to mental



health services for Lower Providence area residents through a quick referral mechanism. We meet on a weekly basis with a liaison from Mobile Crisis and discuss short- and long-term goals for individuals we have had contact with. Our officers are educated and trained in responding to calls involving individuals who are in crisis and this program is a wonderful resource to help aid in de-escalation and offer support.



**Certified in
De-Escalation**



**Certified in
De-Escalation**

Police Trading Cards

Our department received donation's from several sponsors who supported us in creating police trading cards.

We are able hand out these cards to youth and interested individuals. Each officer received 500 cards to pass out.

The very generous donations came from the sponsors listed below.



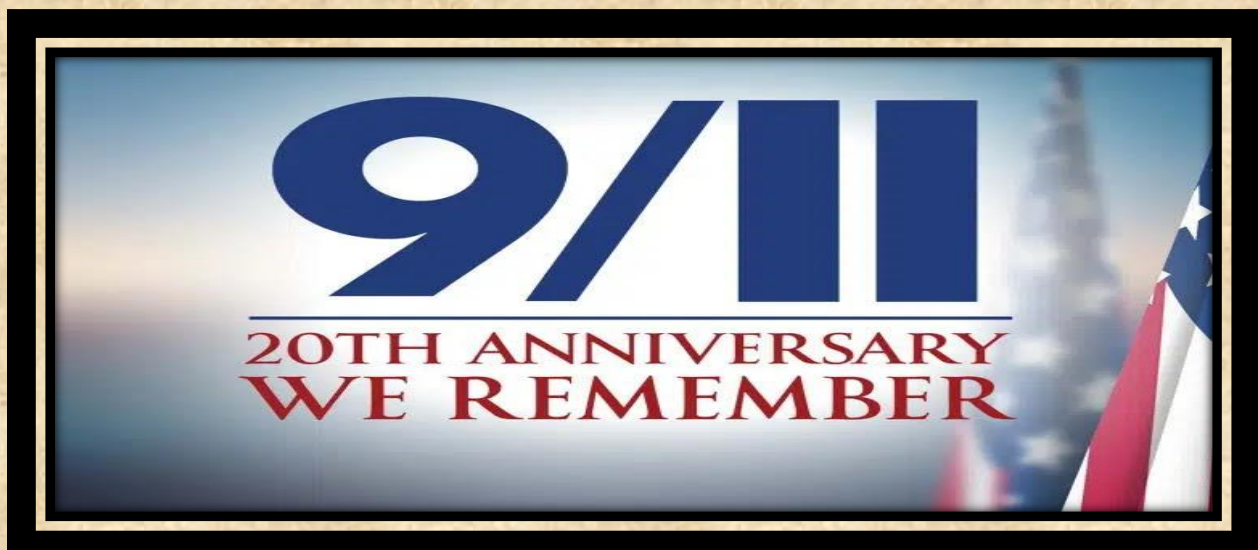
- *Rebar Kelly, Attorneys at Law*
- *Baldassari Landscaping*
- *Streamlight Inc.*
- *Police & Fire Federal Credit Union*
- *Cornerstone Fellowship*
- *Furey & Baldassari, P.C*



SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL

September 11, 2001 is a day that forever changed America. Thousands of people lost their lives that day, including hundreds of brave first responders who instead of running away, ran toward the terrorist attack to help others. This year marked the 20th anniversary of that ever-tragic day and even after twenty years, we have not forgotten...

"Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children". -President George W. Bush



Goals for 2022

The Lower Providence Township Police Department will continue to strive to provide the citizens and visitors of Lower providence Township with the most community focused, efficient, and effective police services available.

The Lower Providence Township Department will attain its goal by completing the following objectives:

- We will have innovative, honest, responsive leadership. The staff should never be satisfied with the status quo, but always seek ways to improve all the department's operations. The staff will set the tone of professionalism, integrity, and hard work.
- Provide realistic departmental guidelines and policies.
- Recruit and retain the best possible police officers.
- Provide quality training and / or seek training opportunities for every level of the organization.
- Promote police conduct that is responsive and sensitive to the needs of the community.
- Require aggressive crime fighting to improve the utilization of patrol and investigative resources in the identification, arrest, and conviction of individuals committing criminal activity within our jurisdiction.
- Require a work ethic that promotes officers to engage in routine patrol duties, follow-up investigations, and leads to a professional work product.
- Recognize exceptional work by police employees.
- Stress to all employees that they need to be responsible and will be held accountable for their actions and how they represent Lower Providence Township Police Department and their community.

