



New Providence Police Department



Annual Report



2020

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Office of the Chief of Police

Chief Theresa Gazaway

In the year 2020 the New Providence Police Department, along with the rest of the country, experienced unprecedented challenges. Our first confirmed COVID-19 case in the Borough was March 19, 2020. During the early weeks of the pandemic, the police administration worked around the clock to better understand the threat that we were facing and how to best protect our employees and the public. Our agency was forced to re-imagine much of the way we perform our duties and added masks, UV lights and sanitizing backpacks to our already long list of equipment. As the year went on, self-screening and managing exposures became second nature to officers and we quickly learned how we can stop the spread.

The widespread civil unrest sparked by the killing of George Floyd introduced a broader set of challenges for us that we addressed, as we always have, by working alongside the community and Borough Officials to assure them that our commitment to fairness in policing has never wavered.

New Providence is an exceptional community and the efforts of our police officers, civilian support staff, Borough employees, volunteers and citizens coupled with the steadfast support from Mayor Morgan and the Borough Council have created a shared vision of inclusivity for our community.

Our 6th Police Chief, Chief Anthony Buccelli, retired on May 1st after dedicating over 40 years of service to our community. We wish him the very best in retirement!

Beginning in May 2020, agency personnel began the enormous task of conducting a full staff inspection. This inspection reviewed and evaluated all functions, positions, policies, procedures, and practices within the police department. The police administration considered critical feedback and suggestions from our members. As a result of this feedback the Detective Bureau was restructured, outdated policies were revised, and critical equipment was secured.

New Providence continues to maintain one of the lowest crime rates in Union County. This is accomplished through teamwork, creative policing strategies and most importantly the dedication of Police Department personnel.

In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to all our personnel for adapting and thriving despite this year's difficulties. I am extremely proud of all that we accomplished and our ability to maintain the highest standards of policing.

Theresa Gazaway
Police Chief
Emergency Management Coordinator

2018 / 2019 / 2020 UCR Statistical Reporting

| Year | HOMICIDE | RAPE | ROBBERY | ASSAULT | BURGLARY | LARCENY | MVTHEFT | ARSON |
|------|----------|------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|-------|
| 2018 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 7 | 91 | 5 | 0 |
| 2019 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 5 | 29 | 1 | 0 |
| 2020 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 0 | 65 | 10 | 0 |

NEW PROVIDENCE POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICAL REPORT 2020

ADULT CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <u>Criminal Charges</u> | <u>156</u> |
| <u>Warrant</u> | <u>27</u> |

JUVENILE ACTIVITY

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Criminal Charges | 2 |
| Protective Custody | 4 |
| Stationhouse Adjustments | 2 |

TRAFFIC SUMMONSES

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| DUI | 15 |
| Moving/Misc. Violations | 408 |
| Parking Violations | 331 |
| Borough Ordinance Violations | 4 |

2020 Naloxone Deployments - 4

2020 Patrol Division Report

The New Providence Police Patrol Division handled over 14,000 calls for service in 2020 in the midst of a global pandemic and stay at home orders. Most of these calls were types of calls that officers never had been on before or could ever imagine responding to. Donning and doffing PPE became second nature. We had to stay apart but we are closer now more than ever as an agency and continuing our duty and honor to serve the community.

Officers made 840 motor vehicle stops and issued 743 summonses. From those motor vehicle stops, 15 DWI arrests were made. Officers conducted 778 traffic details. Officers responded to 236 motor vehicle crashes.

New Providence Police officers spend most of their shifts performing tasks that are not normally recognized but these tasks are essential to serving the community. Officers responded to 618 medical calls, over 240 fire related calls, 52 lock outs, 335 animal related calls, over 3700 property / area checks and over almost 1000 school facility checks.

2020 Detective Bureau Report

The Detective Bureau saw some major changes in the year 2020. Personnel changes and the addition of a Detective Sergeant, a surge of firearms applications, increase in cyber-crime / harassment, increases in fraud and a massive amount of intel have been keeping Detectives active. Detectives closed 1262 calls for service and cases during 2020.

Over 289 firearms applications were processed during 2020 compared to 61 applications in 2019. Each application requires significant time and diligence during the background investigations.

Detectives fingerprinted 28 individuals for non-criminal matters and conducted almost 100 local background checks for other agencies. Detectives are also responsible for providing discovery and case preparations to the Union County Prosecutor's Office and the Municipal Court. On top of their normal duties, Detectives are quick to assist patrol when manpower is needed and fill in for School Resource Officers when needed.

2020 Traffic Bureau Report

In 2020, Traffic Bureau reviewed 236 motor vehicle accident reports, investigated 28 hit and run crashes and 1 fatal crash. The Bureau conducted 252 traffic enforcement details. The Child Seat Safety Inspection Team conducted 28 child seat checks. The variable message boards and speed signs were deployed to 37 locations to assist in data collection and speed reduction. Seven detailed traffic studies were completed. The Traffic Bureau also assisted the Patrol Division with calls for service and assisted the Detective Bureau with investigations. Traffic Officers also were assigned to the schools when School Resource Officers were absent.

The Traffic Bureau completed the purchase and upfit of three new patrol vehicles that included a new patrol vehicle design for 2020. Some projects included rapid flash pedestrian crossings for Springfield Avenue at Pittsford Way, South Street at Woodland Ave, South Street at OLP and South Street at Marion Avenue to assist with pedestrian safety. The Bureau assisted in the Mountain Avenue project which included speed limit reduction and updated an existing pedestrian crossing notification system. The pedestrian crossing at Springfield Avenue and Academy Street was also updated to increase pedestrian safety. The Bureau has numerous traffic safety projects including improvements to Fairview Avenue. The “Don’t Block the Box” ordinance was completed as well as signage and roadway markings.



2020 Administrative and Training

In 2020, officers completed over 1300 hours of mandatory training department wide.

Highlights of 2020 Training

COVID training related to Pandemic issues, disinfections, and PPE usage

Police and Public Interaction Training:

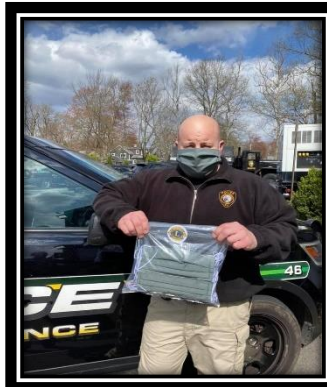
- Bias based Policing
- Bias Awareness in the Black Community
- Interactions with Transgender populations
- Interactions with members of the Jewish community
- AG Directives
- Use of Force revision
- Handle with care initiative
- Internal Affairs revision
- Juvenile Justice revision

2020 Union County Police Academy Instructor List New Providence Police

Lt. Sean Bubb
Lt. Stephen Drown
Sgt. Donald Sretenovic
Sgt. Steven Opalewski
Sgt. Jason Labaska
Sgt. Joseph Parlapiano
Cpl. Joseph DiParisi
Det. Nicholas Guerriero

2020 Covid-19 Pandemic Response

With the support of the Borough Administration, business, and citizen donations our offices became a personal protective equipment warehouse. The PPE we obtained helped keep us healthy and safe as we battled Covid-19 on the front line. We obtained UV lights, disinfectant blowers, gloves, masks, gowns, wipes and it became a job in itself obtaining some of these items. In 2020, NPPD appeared in its first country music video by Big & Rich titled, “Stay Home”.



2020 P.A.C.T. Program

In 2020, the New Providence Police began the Police and Communities Together program. This program was created to broaden the experience to all members in the community to bridge gaps and create an actual pact with our citizens. The program was modeled after the P.A.T.T. (Police and Teens Together) program originally created by the Union County Human Relations Commission. Some of the topics addressed in this program are:

- Ice breaker conversations
- Perspectives on Law Enforcement
- Race Relations nationally / locally
- Officers as people and as professions
- Community programs / activities
- Training
- Law Enforcement real life training videos
- Role playing
- Building bridges and mutual respect
- Community Policing initiative

Community Services Officer (Detective David Rodriguez)

The Community Services Officer role was designed to continue an interactive and collaborative relationship between the police and the community. The CSO, Det. David Rodriguez, acts as a personal contact for the Police Department, providing effective two-way communication. The CSO is responsible for promoting awareness regarding community events, safety initiatives, and prevention/scam alerts. Community members will in turn be able to contact the CSO with any questions and concerns or merely to find resources within the Borough. Detective Rodriguez will also work with local organizations, leaders, and citizens on an array of ventures or activities. Community Services Officers also work side by side with community groups to address specific problems and/or to work toward certain goals.

Since its implementation in September of 2020, Detective Rodriguez has become the Municipal Alliance Liaison and the Diversity Committee Liaison. He has developed the PACT (Police and Community Together) program, Blue Angel program, and Neighbors Public Safety Service (through Ring). Detective Rodriguez helps coordinate National Night Out and the Veteran's Banner program. He has also incorporated a monthly newsletter, communicating with several community members.



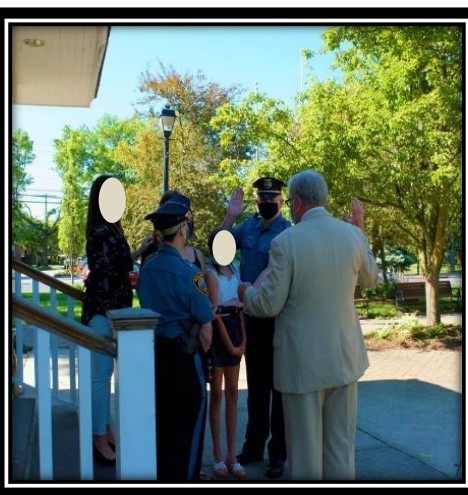
2020 Promotions



7th Police Chief to serve New Providence -Thersa Gazaway



Lt. Sean Bubb



Captain Daniel Henn



Sgt. Jason Labaska



Sgt. Chad Wilson

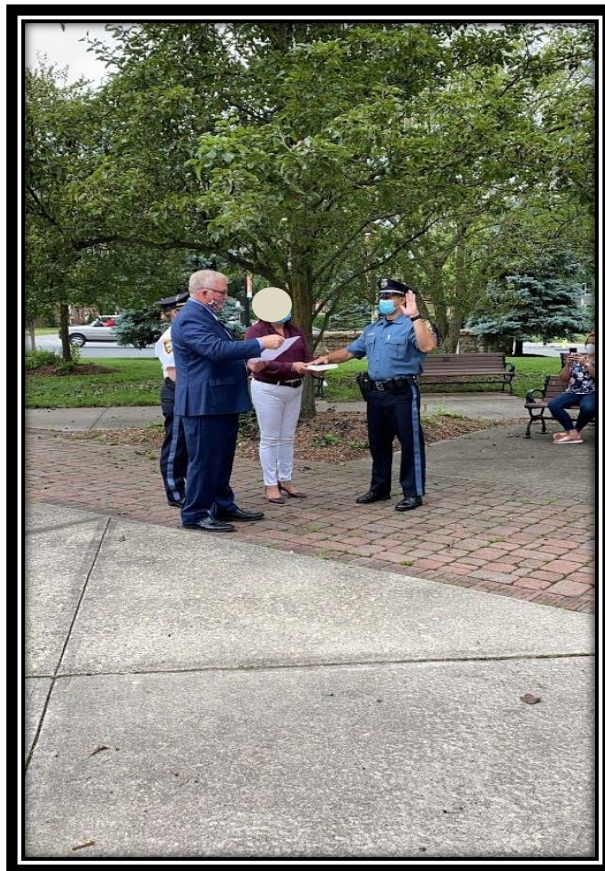


Sgt. Joseph Parlapiano

2020 New Police Officers



Patrolman Gregory Miller



Patrolman Kevin Gutierrez

New Class 2 (SLEO2) Officers

In 2020, the New Providence Police hired SLEO 2 Officer Robert Moran and SLEO 2 Christopher Aversa. These two highly decorated officers came to join us after their retirements from other agencies.

Retired Lieutenant Robert Moran (4th from left)- Robert Moran served with the Union County Police for 31 years. During his tenure with the County Police, he served as a Field Training Officer, Police Academy Instructor, Narcotics Strike Force, Patrol Sergeant, Marine Unit Supervisor, and Shift Commander. He also served the Union County Fire Investigation Team as a Fire Investigator.

Retired Police Officer Christopher Aversa (6th from left)- Christopher Aversa served with the Scotch Plains Police Department for 25 years. He has served as a School Resource Officer and a K-9 officer. Prior to his employment in Scotch Plains, Officer Aversa worked at the Union County Sheriff's Office.



2020 Police Retirements



Chief Anthony Buccelli Jr. retired in May of 2020 after serving 40 years with the New Providence Police Department. He served as Chief of Police for 14 years. Prior to his tenure as Chief, he served the department as a Patrolman, Detective, Sergeant, Captain and Deputy Chief.



Sergeant Dennis Carovillano retired in July of 2020 after serving 25 years with the New Providence Police Department. He previously served as a School Resource Officer, DARE Officer and was a Patrol Sergeant for 6 years.

2020 Department Awards

Ten NPPD officers received life saving awards in 2020. We are proud that these officers played a vital role in the saving of a human life. They are Sgt. Diamond, Ptln. Bruder, Cpl. Garrison, Ptln. Boccellari, Det. Rodriguez, Sgt. Sretenovic, Cpl. DiParisi, Sgt. Labaska, Ptln. Miller and Sgt. Opalewski.



2020 Department Awards (Continued)



Det. Nicholas Guerriero was honored for the 4th consecutive year as a M.A.D.D. Top Cop for his diligence in DUI detection and apprehension.



Mask Up New Providence

The New Providence Police initiated a Mask Up New Providence initiative with the assistance of resident, Kate Forbes, to promote health and safety during Covid-19. Youth that were seen by officers wearing their masks properly were rewarded with gift cards to Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Bagel Café and Chipotle.



Salute to Health Care

Officers with other Borough Emergency Services were humbled to honor and thank health care professionals during the Covid-19 pandemic.



2020 PBA Local 132 Community Events and Services

The New Providence Police Benevolent Association Local #132, did not let Covid-19 keep them from community service, they adapted. During 2020, the PBA continued programs such as donating candy to the Troops with the assistance of the schools, Coat Drive, Toys for Tots with assistance from the New Providence Lions Club, National Night Out, Torch Run / Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics. The PBA also has several new Executive Board members, President David Rodriguez, Vice President Nicholas Guerriero, Delegate Thomas Hoppe, Treasurer Mark Pawelek, Secretary Andrew Lynch and Sgt. of Arms Michael Carlino.

Candy Collection for the Troops



Toys for Tots



2020 PBA Local 132 Community Events and Services (Continued)

Torch Run / Polar Plunge for Special Olympics



National Night Out



