

SECAUCUS POLICE DEPARTMENT



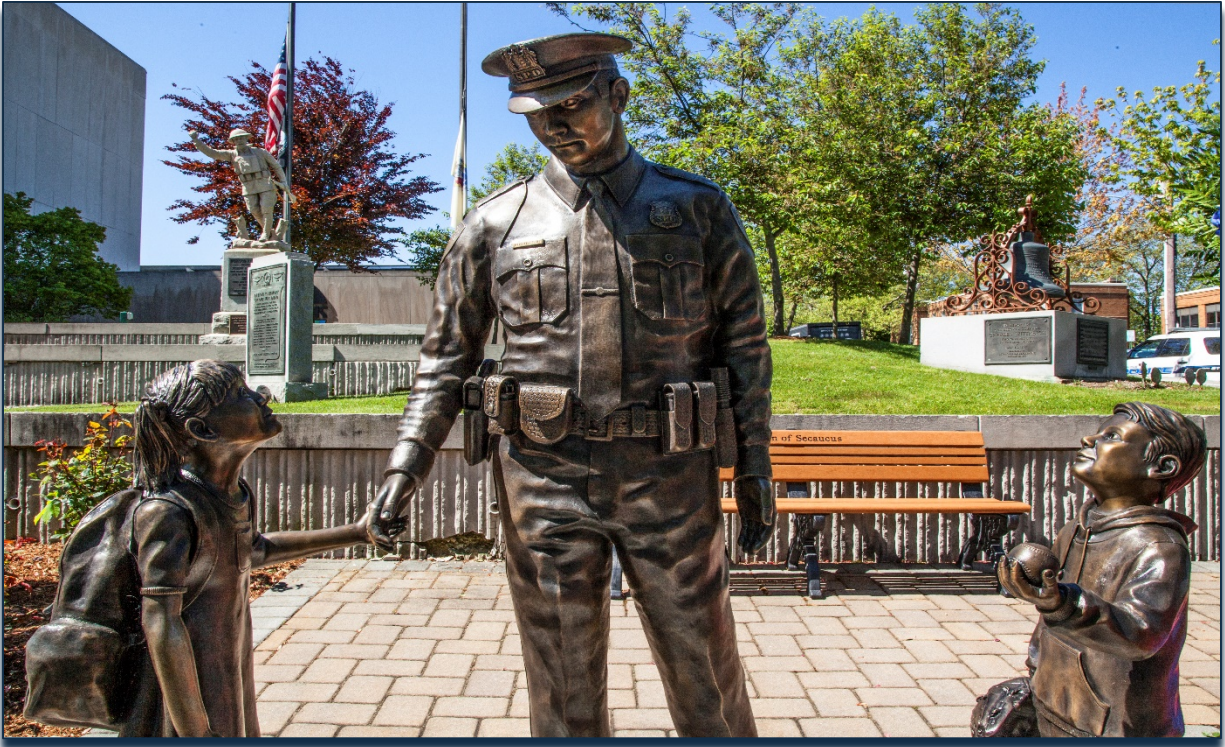
2021
Annual Report

DENNIS MILLER
CHIEF OF POLICE

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SECAUCUS POLICE DEPARTMENT



MISSION STATEMENT

The Secaucus Police Department is dedicated to become a union with our community of citizens by demonstrating respect, courtesy and compassion. An ever-present willingness to promote a trusting atmosphere between our police officers and individual citizens, community groups and business associations. These alliances are created through better communication, interacting, listening and responding to our citizens. We strive to build an environment built upon dignity and mutual respect for every individual in our community while remaining accessible to all whom choose to live, work or visit in the Town of Secaucus. At all times we will provide a high level of service consistent with public expectations. We will develop an enhanced quality-of-life through community partnerships involving both the juveniles and adults of this municipality. We choose to go the extra mile to provide special services with a personal touch.

Our core values in pursuit of our mission statement are: Respect, Courtesy and Compassion.

HIRES, PROMOTIONS, RETIREMENTS



On July 6, 2021 six (6) new police officers were hired.

Left to Right (*Eric Munive, Christopher Boyko Jr., Michael Marchitto, Matthew Murphy, Christopher Carpenter and Jay Valerio*).

On April 1, 2021, *Thomas Malanka Jr.* and *Michael Viggiani* were promoted to Lieutenant and *Matthew Ford* was promoted to Sergeant.



Retirements

Lieutenant Thomas O'Keeffe retired in 2021.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE



The Secaucus Police Department is a proactive and community-oriented police department that prides itself on transparency. The Secaucus Police Department's primary function is to prevent and investigate crime, but it performs many more functions. Some of these functions range from traffic safety, school security, counter terrorism, crime prevention and community outreach.

Total CAD entries made by the Secaucus Police Department increased in 2021 from 54,701 to 67,294. The population of the Town has and continues to grow significantly at a rate of approximately 5.47% annually. We also pride ourselves in having a police department that adequately reflects just about every category of the demographic makeup of the Town.

Although crime rates rise and fall for a myriad of reasons, I credit the proactive and aggressive police work of my officers in keeping these rates low. We also garner information from our State and Federal counterparts to ensure the Secaucus Police Department possesses the most up-to-date intelligence in our fight against crime. We also have partnered with our Federal Counterparts to prosecute the most violent and/or recidivist offenders, so the maximum penalties are sought.

Throughout 2021 the Secaucus Police Department seized 25 illegal firearms, which is a growing problem nationwide. The increase in illegal gun seizures is a testament of our officers' proactive policing efforts.

Even with the decriminalization of marijuana, our uniformed and plainclothes personnel continue to seize a considerable amount of illegal drugs. All uniformed Secaucus police officers carry the anti-opioid Narcan while on patrol and have saved numerous overdosed victims. In attempt to counteract drug addiction our police officers continue to provide Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) to children in the grammar schools.

In 2021 our police officers have endured extraordinary training mandates and substantial policy revisions thrust upon them from our legislature and other higher authorities, than I. Although being given unrealistic timeframes for completion and implementation, I am proud to say all of my officers completed all of the required tasks. All members of the Secaucus Police Department from all facets of the agency work tirelessly to make the Town safer for our residents.

Our community outreach efforts have soared in 2021 ranging from events including, but not limited to Community Meetings, Ice Cream with a Cop, Walk to School with a Cop, National Night Out, Blood Drives, Junior Police Academy, Drug Take Back Initiative, et. al.

Besides proactively policing and community engagement, the Secaucus Police Department actively addressed a multitude of quality of life issues in 2021, including but not limited to performing 355 welfare checks on residents, enforcing ordinance violations, addressing parking complaints and conducting pedestrian safety decoy operations. The Town of Secaucus has seen an increase in non-domicile people on the streets of Secaucus and police officers coordinate with area organizations in an attempt to find them shelter.

I am grateful to Mayor Michael Gonnelli and the Town Council for their continued support in increasing our staffing levels, replacing vacancies of ranking personnel and providing me with the funding needed to continue to provide my officers with the equipment needed to perform their job safely, effectively and efficiently.

The goal in 2022 is to keep crime low and reduce it further where possible. Although, things like bail reform, hinder our policing efforts, the Secaucus Police Department will continue to come up with proactive initiatives, strategies and approaches to combat crime and engage the community. Additionally, we will continue work in partnership with the community and demonstrate transparency.

Chief Dennis Miller

ACCREDITATION

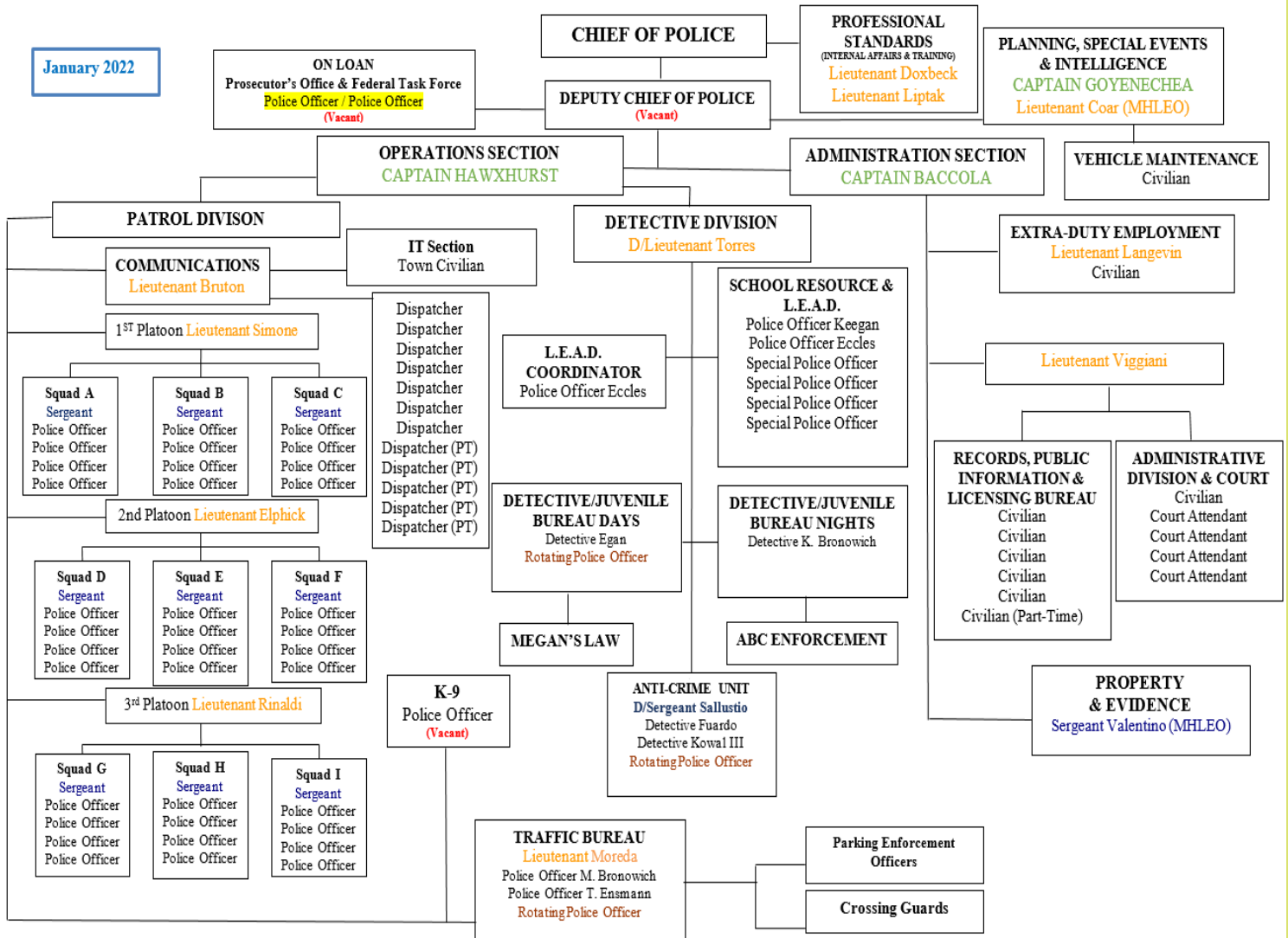


The Secaucus Police Department is an accredited agency by the NJSACOP since 2015. It has been re-accredited in 2018 and 2021 respectively. The Secaucus Police Department Communications Bureau is the first in the State of New Jersey to become an accredited public safety answering point (PSAP) and received that status in 2021.

The Accreditation Manager or Accreditation Team is assigned to the office of the Chief of Police and has staff and functional authority over all employees of this department in matters pertaining to accreditation, the accreditation process, and subsequent reaccreditation activities. Achieving accreditation involved various studies and surveys to assess a wide range of existing policies, practices, and procedures. Full cooperation with these surveys was mandatory and binding upon all employees of this agency.

The program promotes the best practices in law enforcement.

FUNCTIONAL CHART



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Professional Standards section ensures that the Secaucus Police Department operates in a fair, impartial and professional matter through both training and accountability. The Professional Standards section is commanded by *Lieutenant Christopher Doxbeck*, who reports directly to the Chief of Police.

The Professional Standards section incorporates the Internal Affairs function. Additionally, it is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department to accept and investigate all complaints of agency and employee's alleged misconduct or wrongdoing from any citizen, department employee or any other source, including anonymous sources. Following a thorough and impartial examination of the available factual information, a conclusion will be determined and the employee shall be either exonerated or held responsible for the alleged misconduct. Discipline shall be administered according to the degree of misconduct.

Officers and employees, regardless of rank, shall be subject to disciplinary action for violating their oath and trust. Committing an offense punishable under the laws of the United States, the State of New Jersey, or Municipality constitutes a violation of that oath and trust. Employees are also subject to disciplinary action for the willful or negligent failure to perform the duties of their rank or assignment. In addition, employees may be disciplined for violation of any rule or regulation of the department or for failure to obey any lawful instruction, order, or command of a superior officer or supervisor. Disciplinary action in all matters will be determined based upon the merits of each case.

Complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations

EXTERNAL	2020	2021
Citizen Complaint	30	18
Sustained	0	3
Not Sustained	1	1
Unfounded	10	3
Exonerated	14	7
Administratively Closed	4	4
INTERNAL		
Directed Complaint	6	7
Sustained	3	3
Not Sustained	0	1
Unfounded	0	0
Exonerated	3	2
Administratively Closed	0	1
Total	36	25

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The training of our personnel is one of the most important tasks of the Secaucus Police Department. Professional Standards ensures that members of the Secaucus Police Department receive the most up to date training including, but not limited to police tactics, weapons proficiency, constitutional law, etc. Training is administered by certified departmental instructors.

Additionally, Secaucus Police Officers have instructed various training blocks for the Basic Course for Police Officers at the Hudson County Police Academy, 595 County Avenue, Secaucus, NJ. *Police Officer Kiril Petrov instructed the OC certification course during a one-day block. Police Officer Taylor Ensmann instructed First Responder and CPR Courses over a five-day period in 2021.*

Due to the Attorney General's new Use of Force mandates, all sworn members were instructed in *Integrating Communication, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT)* and *Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE)* for a total of eighteen (18) training hours in person in addition to four (4) hours of training modules in the Attorney General's new Use of Force and Vehicular Pursuit Directives.

On a semi-annual basis, Secaucus Police Officers and Dispatchers (where applicable) must receive training in Use of Force, Vehicle Pursuit and the TDD/TTY feature of the 9-1-1 phone system. TDD/TTY provides access for persons with speech or hearing impairment to speak with our 9-1-1 call takers.

On an annual basis, police officers and dispatchers (where applicable) receive training in Domestic Violence, Blood-Borne Pathogens, Hazardous Materials Awareness, 9-1-1 Call Taking and Legal Updates. Additionally, on an annual basis, police officers receive training in the Community Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations Continuing Education Courses, pursuant to Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2016-5, as identified by the Community Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations Institute. Officers also complete training in Prison Rape Elimination Act (P.R.E.A.).

On a biennial basis, police officers and dispatchers receive training in the "Right to Know," Criminal Justice Information System Training and CPR. Biennially, police officers receive Less Lethal Weapons Training, which is a refresher based training in the use of OC Spray and Baton. In 2021, Secaucus Police Officers completed CPR, Narcan and OC Spray refresher training.

On a triennial basis, police officers and dispatchers receive training in Biased Based Policing, Missing Persons Training and Handling the Mentally Ill. Certified police officers are re-certified to operate the radar/laser every three (3) years. Police officers also receive training in Cell Block Management. Also, on a triennial basis, all Secaucus Police personnel, sworn and non-sworn receive training in Harassment in the Workplace and Ethics. In 2021, Secaucus Police Officers completed training in Ethics, Harassment in the Workplace and Handling a Missing Persons Calls.

Professional Standards also ensures that every member of the Secaucus Police Department completes all training mandated by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. Additionally, Secaucus Police Officers receive practical training in Active Shooter response several times throughout the year. In addition to in-service training conducted at the Secaucus Police Department, members of the agency are sent to various police academies or other in person training held by subject matter experts to receive specialized training. In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department sent its members to over 200 in service training courses.

The Secaucus Police Department in partnership with Special Operations Aid & Rescue (Law Enforcement Division) Charlotte, NC, conducted training during the first two weeks of November 2021 for patrol officers in order to provide the residents of Secaucus with an enhanced level of police service. The TPO program is meant to provide the agency and community with a patrol officer who possesses enhanced skills and training, beyond that of a regular officer, in order to bridge the gap between patrol and specially trained and equipped SWAT personnel. In addition to being useful for high-profile critical incidents such as active shooters; the program provides additional training in core patrol functions such as building searches, high-risk stops, tactical medicine, and mechanical breaching, aside from marksmanship. In all, over 20 police officers received this enhanced training, at no cost to the Town.



HONOR GUARD



MEMBERS:

Police Officer Kiril Petrov

Police Officer Tyler Pein

Police Officer Anthony Sherman

Police Officer Anthony Burgos

Police Officer Philip Caruso

Police Officer Peter Maraldo

Police Officer Michael Borrelli

Police Officer Thomas Hering Jr.

Police Officer Jesus Rodriguez-Ferreira

In April of 2021, Chief Dennis Miller established an Honor Guard, to promote the professional image of the Secaucus Police Department. The Honor Guard provides funeral honors and serves as the “color guard” by displaying our nation’s flag at various official functions and ceremonial occasions. All members of the Honor Guard are trained as casket guards, pall bearers and color guard.



SWAT TEAM



If there is a likelihood that the suspects will be armed or may violently resist arrest, a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is utilized for the operation. It is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department to supply personnel who participate in the Hudson County Regional SWAT Team.

Members of the Secaucus Police Department assigned to the Hudson County Regional SWAT Team fall under the command and control of SWAT Team's chain-of-command during operational periods. *Police Officer William Kosky, Detective Aniello Schaffer and Police Officer Anthony Burgos* are the Secaucus Police Department Personnel assigned to the Hudson County Regional SWAT Team.

Secaucus police officers assigned to the Hudson County Regional SWAT are not authorized to conduct SWAT operations on their own volition and are only authorized to participate in operations/training sessions governed by the Hudson County Regional SWAT team. SWAT team members are placed on standby duty on a rotating schedule.

Armed standoff at Secaucus hotel where suspects had grenade, 9 guns, ends peacefully

By John Heinis - March 15, 2021 2:40 pm



An armed standoff at a Secaucus hotel that caused a massive law enforcement response, given that the suspects had a grenade and nine guns at their disposal, ended peacefully after the duo surrendered, Police Chief Dennis Miller said.



Rahim Harris (left) and Haneefha White. Inset photos courtesy of the Secaucus Police Department, background

On March 14, 2021 the Secaucus Police Department requested the assistance of the Hudson County Regional SWAT team to assist with two heavily armed wanted persons from Newark at the Extended Stay at 1 Plaza Drive.

On July 5, 2021 the Secaucus Police Department received a report from a family member that her sister was being held "hostage" by her boyfriend who was armed and suffering from mental illness in the basement apartment of the 300 block of Clarendon Street. SWAT was called in to assist.

On July 15, 2021 the SWAT Team was used to execute a narcotics search warrant at the Exchange apartment complex.

Peaceful surrender negotiated for woman who threatened to harm Secaucus cops with a knife

By John Heinis - November 15, 2021 1:24 pm



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The peaceful surrender of a woman who threatened to harm Secaucus police officers with a knife after barricading herself inside a hotel was negotiated early Friday morning, authorities said.



The Extended America hotel in Secaucus. Photo via extendedstayamerica.com.

On November 12, 2021 the SWAT Team was used to negotiate and secure a barricaded subject at the Extended Stay at 1 Meadowlands Parkway.

On December 14, 2021 the SWAT was used to secure AJ's Go-Go club during the execution of a search warrant and numerous arrest warrants.

In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department requested the assistance of the Hudson County Regional SWAT team on 5 occasions. However, assigned Secaucus Police members of the Hudson County Regional SWAT team collectively participated in 20 SWAT operations throughout Hudson County, in 2021.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION RECORDS, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND LICENSING BUREAU

The Administration Section of the Secaucus Police Department incorporates the Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau, Property and Evidence function, Extra-Duty Employment and acts as the liaison to the Court. The Administration Section is commanded by *Captain Joseph Baccola*.

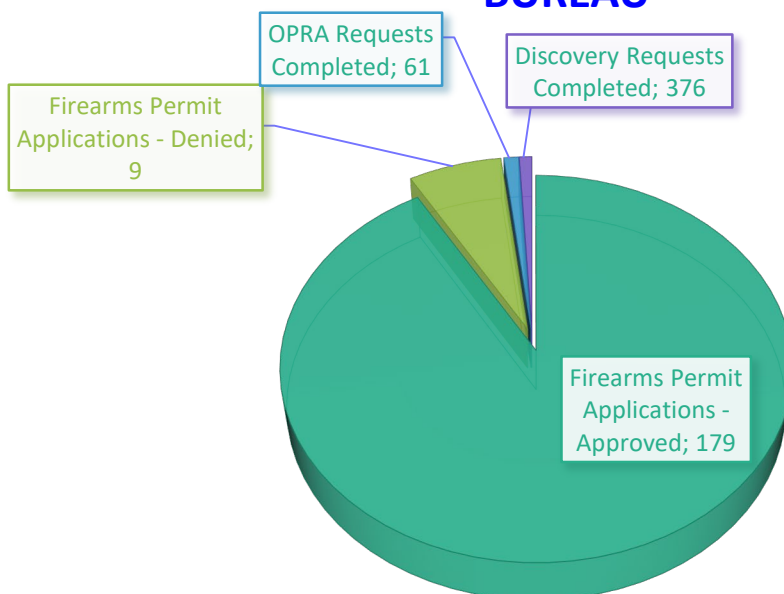
This Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau consists of five (5) full-time civilians, one (1) part-time civilian and is supervised by *Lieutenant Michael Viggiani*. It is the responsibility of the Records Bureau to classify reports, maintain an information database, submit reports to State and Federal Agencies, answer requests for discovery, process firearm and other applications as well as other administrative functions. This bureau is responsible to classify crime data and submit daily reports to the National Incident-Based Reporting System [N.I.B.R.S.], which is managed by the F.B.I.

Each year the Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau handles thousands of requests made by telephone, walk-in and email for incident and arrest reports and general information. This bureau also fulfills Open Public Records Act (O.P.R.A.) requests and expungement orders, relating to the Secaucus Police Department. The Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau prepares and distributes news releases from the department.

In 2021, the Records Bureau piloted an online reporting portal for Lost Property incidents, thereby relieving a police officer from responding to the call for service just to complete a report. Now citizens complete their own report online, in which 93 were filed in 2021.

This Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau generates thousands of dollars through accident report requests, firearm application fees and attorney discovery requests, which are deposited in the Town's Miscellaneous Revenue Account.

RECORDS, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND LICENSING BUREAU



CRIME DATA

	2020	2021
Homicide/Murder	0	0
Arson	0	0
Sexual Assault (All Types)	9	11
Robbery (All Types)	17	9
Aggravated Assault (All Types)	21	35
Burglary	70	114
Theft (Except Motor Vehicles)	217	251
Theft (Motor Vehicle)	25	26
Drug Arrests	261	100
Domestic Violence Investigations	199	236
Prostitution Arrests	6	17
DWI Arrests	34	67
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	679	699
Total CAD Numbers	54,701	67,294

COURT STATISTICS

	2020	2021
Criminal Complaints	632	538
Summonses	11,502	14,396

USE OF FORCE

	2020	2021
Firearm	0	0
Baton	0	2
OC	2	0
Canine Physical Contact	0	0
Weaponless Physical Force	27	14
Total Use of Force Arrests	26	10
Complaints	0	0
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	679	699

VEHICULAR PURSUITS

	2020	2021
Total Pursuits	6	6
Terminated by Agency	4	5
Policy Compliant	6	6
Policy Non-Compliant	0	0
Crashes	0	2
Injuries: Officer	0	1
: Suspects	0	0
: Third Party	0	0
Traffic Offense	1	0
Crime	5	6
Disorderly or Petty Disorderly Persons	0	0

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

The utilization of proper and accepted methods for the collection, packaging, storage and preservation of all evidence and seized property is of paramount importance in the successful investigation and prosecution of criminal cases. The lawful and appropriate disposition of such property at regular intervals is necessary for the efficient management of the property and evidence function.

The Property and Evidence function of the Secaucus Police Department is run by *Sergeant Mark Valentino*. *Sergeant Valentino* liaisons with laboratories of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey State Police to facilitate the examination of certain evidence. In 2021, 25 illegally possessed firearms were seized by members of the Secaucus Police Department.

The Property and Evidence function is responsible for the auctioning of abandoned vehicles that were lawfully impounded by the Secaucus Police Department. In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department auctioned a total of forty (40) cars that were prepared, listed and sold on *govdeals.com*. After paying the required storage fees incurred, \$22,685.88 was profited and delivered into the Town's Miscellaneous Revenue Account.

The Property and Evidence Custodian also oversees our “*Drug Take Back Initiative*” held several times a year in collaboration with the Drug Enforcement Administration along with the “*American Medicine Chest Challenge*.” Both of these programs give residents the ability to dispose of their unused and/or unwanted prescriptions safely and keep them out of the hands of others. The Secaucus Police Property Custodian collaborates with the Secaucus Drug Free Coalition to make these programs a success. In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department disposed of 595 pounds of prescription medicine on behalf of the Town's residents.



ADMINISTRATION SECTION

EXTRA-DUTY EMPLOYMENT

The Town of Secaucus allows officers to engage in extra-duty employment on a voluntary basis. In order to insure that extra-duty employment assignments are administrated and conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, ordinances, written directives and prevailing opinions (Attorney General, Division of Pensions, Department of Labor, etc.), the Chief of Police has designated *Lieutenant Scott Langevin* to act as the Extra Duty Employment Coordinator for extra-duty employment assignments. Additionally, there is a civilian employee assigned to handle all administrative billing in regards to these extra-duty details. In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department billed \$1,012,455.92 for officers, police car rental fees and administrative fees.



Lieutenant Scott Langevin is a certified motorcycle officer and coordinates our “Motor Officer,” program. All motorcycle certified officers received training based on the *Northwestern University* curriculum. Currently, *Lieutenant Doxbeck*, *Sergeant Daniel Dobosz* and *Police Officer Thomas Keegan* are all certified motorcycle officers.

Motorcycles are not utilized for regular patrol duties, but are used during community policing activities, parades and funeral escorts. At the request of Secaucus residents, 42 funeral escorts were performed by the Secaucus Police Department in 2021.



OPERATIONS SECTION

PATROL DIVISION

The Operations Section of the Secaucus Police Department incorporates the Patrol Division, Detective Division, Anti-Crime Unit, Communications, Canine Unit and Traffic Bureau. The Operations Section is commanded by *Captain Austin Hawxhurst*.

The Patrol Division is broken into three platoons and each platoon is commanded by a Lieutenant, *Lieutenant Michael Simone*, *Lieutenant Kimberly Elphick* and *Lieutenant Thomas Malanka Jr.* Each of the three platoons consist of three squads, while a squad consists of one sergeant and four police officers each. Two squads work a shift simultaneously. Six of the nine squads rotate between the day and evening tours tri-weekly, while three squads maintain their steady assignment to the night tour. Three police officers from the patrol division are each assigned to a rotating position within the Detective Division, Anti-Crime Unit and Traffic Bureau once each calendar quarter. This quarterly rotation provides our patrol officers with further training and gives them the opportunity to perform a different aspect of policing, while enhancing the overall performance of the Secaucus Police Department.

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible Division of the Secaucus Police Department. The Patrol Division is the first to respond to police, fire, and medical emergencies and non-emergencies within the 6.6 square mile town, twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week. Officers in this division also enforce motor vehicle laws, apprehend criminals and investigate suspicious incidents. Specially trained members of the Patrol Division utilize bicycles and a Segway to patrol special events and provide a more mobile and visible police presence.

Patrol Division officers conduct “park and walks,” whereby they park their vehicle and walk around local business areas such as the “Plaza” and Harmon Meadow Shopping Complex, senior citizen housing buildings along with local parks and hotels that are known for criminal activity. During these “park and walks” officers engage members of the public and business owners to promote a dialogue and/or listen to their concerns. In 2021, 2,043 “park and walks” were conducted at various times during each day and night.

After their initial hiring, Secaucus Police Officers are under the tutelage of the Field Training Coordinator. The Field Training Coordinator is responsible for the administration, management, and supervision of the Field Training & Evaluation Program. Three probationary police officers (*Thomas Hering Jr.*, *Jesus Rodriguez-Ferreira* and *Christopher Carpenter*) graduated from the Field Training & Evaluation Program in 2021.



SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OF THE PATROL DIVISION IN 2021

- ❖ The Secaucus Police Department administers Nasal Narcan to treat opioid overdoses and minimize overdoses caused by opioids. It is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department for trained officers to administer Nasal Narcan to persons suffering from opioid overdoses at the earliest possible time to minimize overdosing, in accordance with law. In 2021, officers responded to 3 Fatal Overdoses and 32 Non-Fatal Overdoses. Patrol Division officers administered Nasal Narcan on 17 occasions.
- ❖ On January 20, 2021 several juveniles from out of state, and an adult female plagued our residential streets and burglarized 21 vehicles. The suspect vehicle was located by *Police Officer Paul Miller*, which turned out to be stolen itself. It failed to stop and a vehicular pursuit was undertaken through North Bergen, Union City, Weehawken and Hoboken where it ultimately was stopped. Three of the four actors were arrested in Hoboken. Additionally, they possessed an imitation firearm in the vehicle. Officers recovered a majority of the property stolen from our residents' vehicles and returned it to the owners.
- ❖ On February 10, 2021 *Police Officer Michael Borrelli* stopped a vehicle on Route 3 East. During the stop, he smelled and observed marijuana within the vehicle. During his search, he located a loaded handgun in the female driver's purse. While he and *Police Officer Justin Pardo* arrested her and the other occupant, the passenger was also found to have a loaded stolen handgun in his pocket.
- ❖ On March 14, 2021, the Secaucus Police Department received a "tip" that a wanted fugitive and staying at the Extended Stay Hotel, 1 Plaza Drive. The fugitive had outstanding warrants for his arrest for weapons offenses, et. al. Hudson County Regional SWAT Team was called in. During the negotiations with the barricaded fugitive and a female fugitive, they alleged they were in possession of firearms and at least one hand grenade and expressed their desire for a violent confrontation with police. At approximately 1:56 A.M., the female fugitive surrendered, without police resorting to any force. Negotiations continued with the fugitive who surrendered to police at 2:29 A.M., also without police resorting any force. During a search of the room, police located one hand grenade, multiple assault firearms and handguns and armor piercing rounds along with \$36,910.00 in cash, which were all seized.
- ❖ On March 20, 2021, officers responded to the Red Roof Inn on report of a man with a gun. They detained a Paterson resident in the parking lot and *Sergeant Dominic Manderano* found him in possession of a loaded 9mm handgun.
- ❖ On May 5, 2021, a Secaucus resident reported that his vehicle was stolen from the Subway parking lot, 10 Meadowland Parkway. The Secaucus Police then notified surrounding jurisdictions of the stolen 2021 Toyota Corolla. At approximately 12:06 A.M., Clifton Police contacted the Secaucus Police Department and stated that the stolen Toyota was involved in a theft at the BP Gas Station on Route 3 East in Clifton. Clifton Police further advised that the vehicle fled on Route 3 East. Secaucus Police began probing the town and found the stolen Toyota Corolla abandoned in the Red Roof Inn parking lot, 15 Meadowland Parkway.

Responding Secaucus Police Officers secured the scene and summoned Secaucus Police Canine Unit, *Police Officer Vince DeFazio and K-9 Strobe*. K-9 Strobe tracked the suspect to the parking lot of the Extended Stay, 1 Meadowland Parkway where suspect was placed under arrest. At the time of his arrest, additional evidence was recovered, confirming he had stolen the vehicle.

- ❖ On May 8, 2021 at 1:35 A.M., Secaucus Police responded to Millridge Road on a report of a suspicious person in the area attempting to gain entry into parked vehicles. While probing the area, *Police Officer William Kosky* discovered a male, who was hiding in the bushes in a darkened area on the outskirts of Secaucus High School. While *Police Officer Kosky and Sergeant Matthew Ford* were interviewing the male, he was trying to conceal a noticeable bulge in his front pants pocket. He then removed a handgun magazine from his pocket, which was loaded with fabricated handgun ammunition. Additionally, in his other pants pocket he was found in possession of a .380 caliber handgun. The on-scene investigation revealed that he entered a resident's sport utility vehicle in an attempt to steal it, but was unsuccessful. He also unsuccessfully attempted to enter a second resident's vehicle, but only created damage to the door handle.
- ❖ On May 16, 2021 at 5:44 A.M., Secaucus Police responded to Central Lane and Luhmann Terrace on a report of three males attempting to gain entry into parked vehicles. The males were reported to be accompanied by a black Honda Civic. *Police Officer Alex Witrock* arrived in just under one minute and located the black Honda Civic on Laurel Court. *Police Officer Witrock* attempted to stop the vehicle, but the driver, a 17-year-old male, disregarded the signal to stop and reversed, crashing into a parked vehicle. In a further attempt to flee, the vehicle was driven across the front lawn of a residential home. *Police Officer Witrock and Police Officer Dwight Wise* ordered the occupants out of the vehicle, but the vehicle accelerated and narrowly missed striking *Police Officer Wise* who was forced to jump out of the way. The vehicle then struck a fence and came to a halt. One adult and three juveniles, all of Newark, were placed under arrest. At the time of their arrest, proceeds from a vehicle that was burglarized on Central Lane were recovered. Additionally, the Honda Civic was found to be stolen from Roselle Park earlier in the night.
- ❖ On May 20, 2021 *Sergeant Matthew Ford* saw a suspicious vehicle parked in the closed BP Gas Station. He failed to maintain a lane on Paterson Plank Rd. and was stopped. His vehicle was impounded. *Police Officer Christopher Miller* found the Virginia man in possession of a loaded 9mm handgun who was subsequently arrested.
- ❖ On June 3, 2021 at 2:41 P.M., a Secaucus resident reported that a male forced his way into her apartment, within Kroll Heights, stole an item and fled. While committing this burglary, the resident was pushed into a wall causing some minor injuries to her hand/arm. The burglar fled the apartment complex toward Windsor Drive. In an attempt to evade capture, the burglar forced entry into the 2nd Floor of the Windsor Drive warehouse. Responding Secaucus Police Units from the Patrol and Detective Divisions, Traffic Bureau and Anti-Crime Unit immediately established a perimeter around the warehouse and *Police Officer Vince DeFazio and K-9 Strobe* were called in. *K-9 Strobe* was able to locate the burglar hiding in a darkened office on the 2nd Floor where he surrendered without resistance and was placed under arrest. At the time of his arrest, evidence from the apartment burglary was recovered.

- ❖ On June 12, 2020, the Secaucus Police Department received a medical alarm at Long Shot Gun Range (375 County Avenue). Upon his arrival, *Police Officer Philip Caruso* found the victim not breathing and no pulse could be found. *Police Officer Caruso* began Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). At this time, *Police Officers Matthew Kirvin and Kristen Bronowich* arrived and assisted with CPR. While performing CPR, the officers utilized their Automated External Defibrillator (AED) and administered two “shocks” to the victim and a pulse was found shortly thereafter by Hudson Regional Hospital EMT’s, who also arrived on the scene.
- ❖ On July 4, 2021 at 11:16 A.M., *Police Officer David Delseni* conducted a motor vehicle stop in the parking lot of the Red Roof Inn, 15 Meadowlands Parkway, of a guest of the hotel. During the motor vehicle stop, *Police Officer Delseni* discovered that the driver was in possession of a handgun. The driver was arrested after a search of his vehicle uncovered a loaded Glock 27 .40 caliber handgun. The handgun was loaded with a sixteen round magazine and also had a round in the chamber. Additionally, some hollow point ammunition was also seized.
- ❖ On July 20, 2021 at 9:53 A.M., *Police Officers Anthony Burgos and Christopher Carpenter* conducted a motor vehicle stop on Meadowlands Parkway for an expired registration and a brake light being out. During the motor vehicle stop, the officers observed a handgun on the driver side floorboard. Timothy Williams was arrested and the Glock 43 9mm handgun was seized. The handgun was loaded with both hollow point and full metal jacket ammunition. It also had a round in the chamber. Additionally, suspected Psilocybin Mushrooms were seized from the vehicle.
- ❖ During the months of July and August over a dozen residents’ vehicles were burglarized in the south end of Secaucus. The Secaucus Police Department’s Patrol Division assembled a “task force” of uniformed midnight tour patrol officers, under the supervision of *Sergeant Reinaldo Cruzado*, to combat the increase in vehicle burglaries. On August 13, 2021 at approximately 2:21 A.M., officers observed a male, who fit the description of a suspect in recent vehicle burglaries, walking in the area recently victimized by vehicle burglaries hiding near Secaucus Animal Hospital behind a shed. He was subsequently arrested for trespassing and for having outstanding warrants. At the time of his arrest, he was found in possession of used hypodermic needles and other evidence that linked him to some of our vehicle burglaries. Furthermore, he was charged with committing two vehicle burglaries, which occurred on Lincoln Avenue on August 10, 2021.
- ❖ On September 1 and 2, 2021, Hurricane Ida impacted Secaucus. Secaucus Police Department dispatchers prioritized over 300 calls for service relating to the storm, which were routed to the appropriate entity under Incident Command Protocols. The Secaucus Police Department’s *Traffic Bureau* and *Patrol Division* set up emergency warning devices and blockades to ensure motorists were aware of impassable and dangerous road conditions as a result of flooding, in areas that water was approximately 3 to 4 feet deep. Officers from our *Patrol Division* and *Anti-Crime Unit* used a High Water Rescue Vehicle and waded in chest high water, whereby they rescued over 40 citizens. In the aftermath of the storm, *Secaucus Police Patrol Officers* removed over 120 vehicles that were abandoned and blocking the roadways. A make-shift shelter was opened at the Secaucus Public Library, whereby *Secaucus Police Officers* provided security. Additionally, the Secaucus Fire Department were unable to respond to certain locations during

emergency calls with their trucks, due to the depth of the standing water. Crews of volunteer fireman were transported by the Secaucus Police Department in a High Water Rescue Vehicle to answer these calls. Since we could not garner assistance from State agencies, our police department also had to tend to State Highway Route 3, which had standing water several feet deep in some sections with abandoned and occupied vehicles all over the roadway.

- ❖ On November 12, 2021, Patrol Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at the Extended Stay on Meadowlands Parkway. Upon their arrival, they approached the subject room and were met by a hostile female who was throwing objects at them in the doorway. Additionally, the female threatened to harm the officers with a knife. Officers took up tactical positions and called in SWAT. Negotiators managed to have her exit the room after being barricaded within for several hours. No injuries were reported and she was involuntarily taken for a mental health evaluation and subsequently charged with Terroristic Threats and Obstructing a Governmental Function.
- ❖ From November 3-13, 2021 there were several days of protests that occurred in the area of the Meadowlands Exposition Center. Groups of 20-50 at times were protesting Union rights. A small police presence was on scene during each protest and assistance was garnered from the Hudson County Sheriff's Office to ensure everyone's peaceful right to assembly.

OPERATIONS SECTION

CANINE UNIT

Canine Handler, *Police Officer Vince DeFazio* and *Strobe* have undergone twenty-nine weeks of vigorous training at the Bergen County Sheriff's Canine Academy, which culminated on May 10, 2021. This Secaucus Police Canine Patrol Team have been trained in agility, obedience, article/evidence searches, scent work, criminal apprehension and handler protection. Strobe has also been trained to detect various controlled dangerous substances, with the exception of marijuana.

The Canine Unit assists the Secaucus Police Department in furthering proactive policing. Strobe is also utilized for community demonstrations, in hopes of enhancing our community policing efforts.



The Secaucus Police Canine Unit has been deployed on 13 occasions in Secaucus for patrol related activities in 2021.

On March 7, 2021, Canine Strobe located a trespasser within 150 Meadowlands Parkway after he attempted to enter a vehicle unlawfully in the parking lot. On May 6, 2021, Canine Strobe located a suspect who fled in a stolen vehicle. On June 3, 2021, Canine Strobe located a burglar who was hiding in a warehouse after he fled the scene of an apartment burglary where the burglar used force upon the resident.

Canine Strobe conducted 25 "open air sniffs" for narcotics in 2021.

OPERATIONS SECTION

TRAFFIC BUREAU

The Secaucus Police Department's Traffic Bureau is commanded by *Lieutenant Martin Moreda*, an Accredited Traffic Accident Reconstructionist (ACTAR). Two police officers (*Michael Bronowich* and *Taylor Ensmann*) are assigned to the Traffic Bureau on a full-time basis, while a third police officer from the Patrol Division rotates into the Traffic Bureau on a quarterly basis. In 2021, *Police Officer Justin Restrepo*, *Michael Lyons* and *Jude Masullo* spent one calendar quarter assigned to the Traffic Bureau. All full-time Traffic Bureau police officers receive specialized training in crash investigation, et. al. and they all are assigned as "crash investigators" with the Hudson County Regional Fatal Crash Unit. Crash investigators rotate being "on-call" for both the Secaucus Police Department and the County Regional Crash Unit to ensure there are investigators to process crash scenes 24 hours per day/7 days per week.

The Secaucus Police Department's Traffic Bureau utilizes state of the art equipment such as speed laser/radar enforcement, electronic data mapping instruments and electronic speed and volume counters to continue improving the safe and effective flow of motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic on our public roadways. The Traffic Bureau is responsible for investigating motor vehicle crashes with the potential for serious bodily injury and/or death. Traffic crash analysis is conducted to identify the problem roadways and causes to help reduce the total number of crashes per year.

The Traffic Bureau oversees the administration of several traffic enforcement grants. In April of 2021, the Secaucus Police Department received a \$9,000.00 grant for 150 hours of Distracted Driving Enforcement. During that enforcement campaign [April 1-30], 276 motorists were stopped and 202 summonses were issued. In May of 2021, the Secaucus Police Department received a \$5,550.00 grant for 100 hours of seatbelt enforcement. During the "Click it or Ticket" enforcement campaign [May 24 –June 6], 134 motorists were stopped and 109 summonses were issued.

The Traffic Bureau handles complaints and performs traffic studies to identify roadway deficiencies and determine a possible solution to help increase the efficiency and safety of both public and private roadways. Street signs and lane markings are inspected to ensure compliance with the New Jersey State Department of Transportation regulations.

The Drug Recognition Expert course is a total of 16 days (80 hours) in-classroom instruction consisting of Phase I and Phase II with a comprehensive exam at the end of Phase II. Phase III consists of 3 days of field evaluations. Six field evaluations conducted and witnessing six other field evaluations with twelve total evaluations. In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department joined a grant with Hudson County. The grant reimburses Secaucus with payment of \$60.00 per hour for overtime that was incurred by the DRE. The grant also reimburses the Secaucus Police Department four (4) hours if the officer has to appear in court. *Police Officer Kiril Petrov* is currently the Secaucus Police Department's only DRE. He participates in Hudson County's on-call DRE program, which makes available a DRE to the Secaucus Police Department on a 24/7 basis. In 2021, *Police Officer Petrov* was called out once, while the Secaucus Police Department called for a DRE 5 times.

The Traffic Bureau is responsible for parking enforcement throughout the Town of Secaucus. Eleven (11) Parking Enforcement Officers (3-full time/8-part time) ensure that drivers are parking safely both on the roadway and on private property. In 2021, Parking Enforcement Officers issued 7,789 summonses.

OPERATIONS SECTION

TRAFFIC BUREAU

The Traffic Bureau regulates, trains and evaluate the thirty-two (32) crossing guards for the Town of Secaucus to provide a safe passage for our school children. School routes are routinely monitored to ensure that the crossing guard posts are safe and practical.

To promote child safety, certified child seat installation technicians from the Traffic Bureau, inspect and install child safety seats within residents' vehicles. In 2021, 43 child safety seats were installed by certified Secaucus Police Department Personnel. The Traffic Bureau's main goal is to keep the roadways and children safe and to reduce the number of serious crashes by providing education, engineering and enforcement within our community.

On November 13, 2021 the Traffic Bureau, under the direction of Lieutenant Martin Moreda, planned a DWI checkpoint on Route 3 West after entering from 495 West. Over hundred ten (110) vehicles were stopped at the checkpoint and two (2) arrests were made for DWI, one for alcohol and one for drugs. The checkpoint was funded mostly by monies received from the Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund (DDEF).

2021 TRAFFIC BUREAU STATISTICS

Crashes total.....1,308

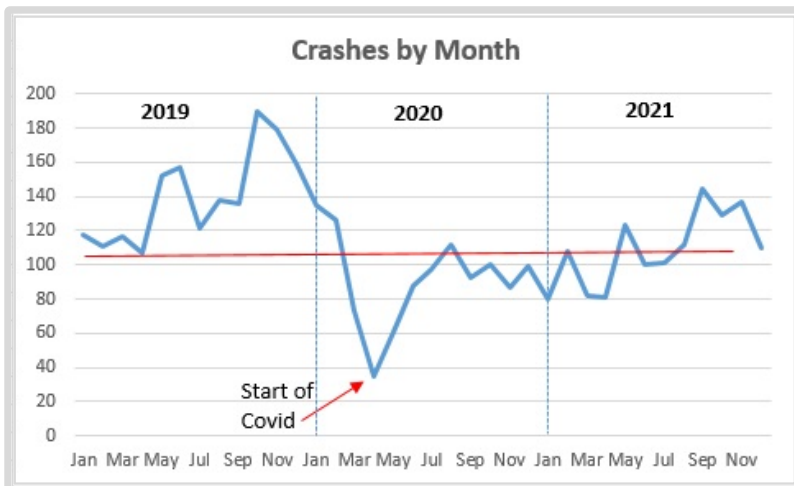
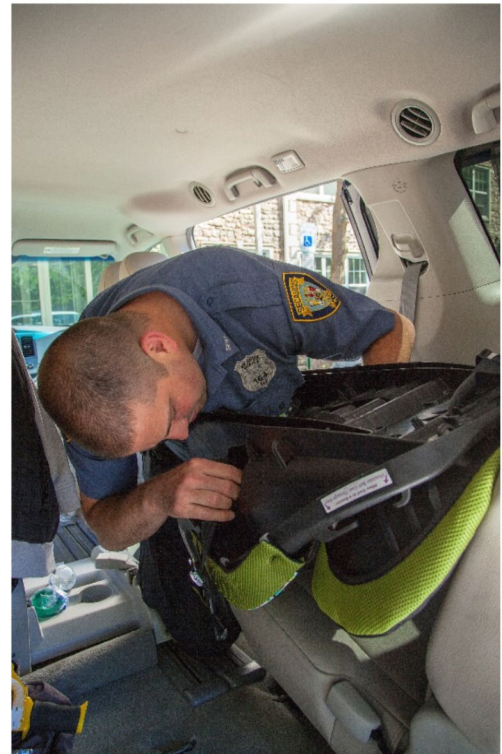
Fatal Crashes total.....0

Follow up crash investigations.....109

Traffic Studies.....17

Traffic Enforcement Details.....320

Message Trailer Deployments.....46



OPERATIONS SECTION COMMUNICATIONS

Communications is made up of 7 full-time and 5 part-time civilian dispatchers and is overseen by *Lieutenant Wayne Bruton*. The Secaucus Police Department Communications Center is one of only three public safety answering points (PSAP) in Hudson County.

Secaucus' communications center answers 9-1-1 calls from residents and visitors of the Town. These emergency calls can be for any type of incident, police, fire or medical. Each telecommunicator holds a certification as a 9-1-1 telecommunicator operator. Every telecommunicator operator is required to complete all requisite in-service training, as prescribed by the *New Jersey Office of Telecommunications Services (OETS)*.

In addition to receiving calls for service, Secaucus Police Department Communications is the primary radio dispatch for both the police and fire departments and other support agencies. Dispatchers participated in a large scale active shooter exercise with police, fire and EMS in the fall of 2021. As the vital link between headquarters and field personnel, officers radio into the Communications Center for computer checks on people and property to be run through CJIS, NCIC and ACS/ATS.

Secaucus Police Department Communications is the first in the State of New Jersey to become an accredited public safety answering point (PSAP) by the *New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP)*.

Total Calls Received in 2021

POLICE CALLS	FIRE CALLS	EMS CALLS
58,753	808	3,257



OPERATIONS SECTION

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Secaucus Police Department Detective Division is responsible for general and major crime investigations, under the command of *Detective Lieutenant Michael Torres*. There are five detective positions, but only three (*Detectives Aniello Schaffer, Sean Egan and Kristen Bronowich*) are currently filled, due to manpower constraints. Additionally, there is also a position, where a police officer from the Patrol Division rotates to the Detective Division on a quarterly basis. In 2021, *Police Officers Stephen Hurtuk, Kristen Bronowich, Gabriel Gallela, Paul Miller and Anthony Sherman* spent one calendar quarter assigned to the Detective Division. Detectives rotate being “on-call,” on a weekly basis, to have investigators/crime scene processing available 24 hours per/7 days per week.

The Detective Division provides timely follow-up investigations, solve crimes, assist victims, processes crime scenes and conducts interviews and/or interrogations of suspects, victims and witnesses. Each detective receives advanced specialized training and continuing education. Some of these specialized trainings include, but are not limited to major crimes investigations, financial crimes, interview and interrogation, crime scene processing, computer crimes, arson, sexual assault investigations and forensic interviewing of children. In addition to her normal duties, *Detective Kristen Bronowich* is also assigned to the New Jersey State Police’s *Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)* Task Force.

Detectives also conduct administrative background investigations for police and fire department applicants, along with applicants for local permits. Detectives receive specialized training in liquor license investigations and review all liquor license sales applications within Secaucus. Periodically, Detectives conduct inspections at licensed liquor establishments with the Town.

In 2021, Detectives followed up on 371 reported crimes, including, but not limited to sexual assaults, property crimes, burglaries, aggravated assaults, an attempted murder etc. Detectives cleared 51.29% of these cases by arrest and/or summons. Additionally, in 2021, Detectives worked jointly with the Secaucus Fire Prevention Bureau to investigate the origin and cause for 6 structure fires with Secaucus.

SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT 2021 CASES INVESTIGATED

- ❖ On July 6, 2020, 2 Harmon Plaza was burglarized and an ATM was stolen. After diligently following up on this, Detectives were able to identify the burglar. He was arrested and charged on February 18, 2021 with Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief and Possession of Burglary Tools.
- ❖ At approximately 1816 hrs on February 18, 2021, the Secaucus Fire Department responded to the Harper at 120 Park Plaza Drive on an activated fire alarm. The investigation determined the alarm to be false. The Detective Division followed up on that call and female from Yonkers, NY was found to have maliciously pulled the fire alarm. Detectives identified her and charged her with the crime of False Public Alarm during a State of Emergency.
- ❖ On March 18, 2021 a female carjacked a vehicle in the parking lot of the Embassy Suites Hotel. Patrol Officers observed the stolen vehicle and pursued it to the Lincoln Tunnel where it entered New York. It was recovered by our Detectives and brought back to New Jersey. On March 25, 2021, two females from New York were arrested for the carjacking and for possessing the stolen car that they came to Secaucus in.

- ❖ The Secaucus Police Department received information that a 24-year-old man engaged in a conversation with a girl who he believed was fourteen, via an internet based dating application. On April 5, 2021, he travelled to the Walmart, 400 Park Plaza Drive, to meet the fourteen-year-old child with the purpose to engage in sexual relations with the child, but he was unsuccessful in that attempt. On April 8, 2021 at approximately 8:55 A.M., members of the Secaucus Police Department Detective Division placed him under arrest without incident for Luring and Enticing a Child.
- ❖ In October of 2020, two burglaries were committed at 30 Enterprise Avenue and 20 Enterprise Avenue. After a diligent follow up investigation, including the analysis of geographical data from cellular telephone towers, Detectives charged two burglars for committing these crimes. One of the burglars was arrested on June 14, 2021.
- ❖ Numerous residents of 3rd Street, whose vehicles were left unlocked were burglarized, but the actor only took photos of credit cards and driver's licenses. The owners would have never known their vehicles were burglarized, but the actor used the credit cards to purchase various items online. Detectives identified the suspect who resides in Lodi as the burglar and arrested and charged him for one of the incidents on June 22, 2021.
- ❖ On June 29, 2021, members of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit were notified by the Secaucus Police Department Detective Division about an Aggravated Sexual Assault of a 12-year-old girl, which occurred on multiple dates approximately six to seven years ago. The defendant was known to the victim and the victim's family and he was employed by the Secaucus Department of Public Works. He was arrested on July 2, 2021 without incident on charges involving multiple sexual crimes against a juvenile female victim.
- ❖ On August 24, 2021, *Police Officer Maraldo* stopped a vehicle for disregarding traffic control devices and speeding. He discovered a male passenger suffering from serious head/face injuries sustained during a burglary/aggravated assault at his girlfriend's residence in the south end of Town. Detectives following up on the incident discovered that the woman's ex-boyfriend had burglarized her residence, entered with a metal bat and repeatedly struck the new boyfriend in the head/face causing severe injuries. Detectives conducted a thorough follow up investigation, developed a plethora of evidence and arrested the assailant in Bayonne later that day, which led to a full confession. He was charged with Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault, Armed Burglary and Weapons Offenses.
- ❖ On November 11, 2021, in furtherance of an investigation being conducted by *Detective Sean Egan* in relation to an incident that occurred at the Aloft Hotel on May 29, 2021, detectives arrested a 36 year old male out of Scranton, PA for Sexual Assault [2C:14-2C(1)].
- ❖ On October 4, 2021 a resident of 600 County Avenue (Imprevduto Towers) reported her ground level apartment was burglarized and her purse and cell phone were stolen from her apartment. After a thorough follow up investigation across New Jersey and New York, *Police Officer Kristen Bronowich* followed leads and identified a suspect from Elmhurst, NY as the burglar. Charges of burglary and theft have been filed and an arrest was made on November 19, 2021.

ANTI-CRIME UNIT

The Secaucus Police Department Anti-Crime Unit conducts proactive criminal investigations, including, but not limited to: narcotics, vice crimes, street crimes and fatal overdose investigations, under the supervision of *Detective/Sergeant Giacomo Sallustio*. There are three detective positions, but only two (*Detective Joseph Fuardo and Detective Frederick Kowal III*) are currently filled, due to manpower constraints. Additionally, there is also a position, where a police officer from the Patrol Division rotates to the Anti-Crime Unit on a quarterly basis. In 2021, *Police Officers Matthew Garzone, Nicholas Spangenberg, Michael Borrelli and David Delseni* spent one calendar quarter assigned to the Anti-Crime Unit.

Anti-Crime Unit Detectives also rotate being “on-call,” on a weekly basis, to assist the Detective Division. They also respond to resident complaints made to the Secaucus Police Department’s Tip Line SPDTIPS@Secaucus.net. This unit works closely with the Hudson County Prosecutor’s Office, Drug Enforcement Administration along with other municipal police departments throughout Hudson County. The Anti-Crime Unit has been instrumental in solving many major investigations within Secaucus and throughout the State of New Jersey.

The Anti-Crime Unit seized eight (8) guns, five (5) vehicles and \$59,788.50 in US currency along with a variety of quantities of controlled dangerous substances in 2021.

NOTEWORTHY CASES INVESTIGATED BY THE ANTI-CRIME UNIT IN 2021

Hudson

Secaucus police played key role in arrests of 10 in North Jersey prescription pill burglary spree

Updated Jan 27, 2021; Posted Jan 27, 2021



Marra's Drugs and Quik Drugs in Secaucus, two of the pharmacies across the northern part of the state that were targeted by a crew of Jersey City men. (Journal photos) EJA

f 285 shares

By Ron Zeitlinger | The Jersey Journal

❖ After a burglary into Quick Drugs Pharmacy, located on Meadowlands Parkway, the Anti-Crime Unit spearheaded a multi-jurisdictional investigation with local and federal law enforcement agencies. The investigation culminated in the arrest of ten individuals responsible for more than forty pharmacy burglaries throughout northern New Jersey. On January 22, 2021 the United States Attorney’s Office agreed to prosecute these individuals in Federal Court.

- ❖ Information regarding drug distribution was followed up on by the Anti-Crime Unit at the Embassy Suites Hotel. On February 20th into the 21st, 2021 seven arrests were made and a search was conducted in the room. Heroin, suboxone, MDMA, cocaine, crack/cocaine and evidence indicating the room was being used to produce crack/cocaine were seized, along with over \$2,000.00 in cash.
- ❖ On February 4, 2021 there was a non-fatal overdose in the parking lot of 10 Meadowlands Parkway. Detectives identified the source of the heroin as a resident of Secaucus. Forty bags of heroin were recovered at the scene. The Anti-Crime Unit initiated a follow up investigation and

arrested two people, one buying suboxone and another buying heroin from the local source. A Secaucus resident was arrested on March 16, 2021 with over 100 folds of heroin and over 70 films of suboxone.

- ❖ The Anti-Crime Unit along with officers from the Detective and Patrol Divisions, conducted an undercover prostitution sting during the evening of March 26, 2021. Four women were arrested for engaging in prostitution while one male was arrested for promoting prostitution.
- ❖ The Anti-Crime Unit posed as a 15-year-old child on a dating application. A 34-year-old man from Wallington engaged in a sexual conversation and sent sexually explicit photos. The 34-year-old from Wallington traveled to Secaucus with the purpose to engage in sexual relations with the child and was subsequently arrested.
- ❖ In May of 2021, the Secaucus Police Anti-Crime Unit developed information that a Secaucus resident, was supplying a variety of drugs to Hoboken residents. The Secaucus Police Anti-Crime Unit and the Hoboken Police Department's Street Crimes Unit collaboratively conducted a narcotics investigation. At the culmination of a two-month long investigation, the Secaucus resident was arrested by members of the Secaucus and Hoboken Police Departments on July 15, 2021 at his Riverside Station Boulevard Apartment. During a search of the apartment, \$9,423.00 in cash was seized, which is believed to be derived from criminal activity. Additionally, a search of an apartment he is associated with on the 300 block of Harrison Street in Hoboken was also conducted. Two Hoboken residents were found within the Harrison Street Apartment and were arrested after the search. During a search of the Harrison Street apartment, more than one and a half ounces of suspected cocaine and crack/cocaine, a quantity of suspected heroin, along with materials used to package narcotics for street sale were seized along with \$362 in cash.
- ❖ In August of 2021, a complaint of marijuana and TCH vaping cartridges being sold overtly from the Fuel 4 Gas Station (445 Route 3 East) was forwarded to the detectives of the Anti-Crime Unit. The Anti-Crime Unit conducted an undercover operation, whereby one of the detectives purchased several ounces of marijuana from an employee of the convenience store. On August 6, 2021 an arrest was made and a search of the location resulted in the seizure of over 14 pounds of marijuana in edible and bud formats along with THC vaping cartridges and over \$1,200.00 in cash.
- ❖ On August 14, 2021 at 3:11 P.M., the Secaucus Police Department's Anti-Crime Unit was in the area of the Meadowlands Plaza Hotel, 40 Wood Avenue. *Police Officer Michael Borrelli* observed a man fitting the description of a person that was wanted for gun possession at the same hotel earlier in the week, but evaded capture. While speaking to this man, a handgun was observed in the door pocket of the vehicle he was driving within his immediate reach. It was later determined he was not the wanted man, but this individual was arrested for possessing a loaded Taurus G3C 9mm handgun. The handgun was loaded with a sixteen round magazine, which contained hollow point and full metal jacket ammunition. Additional handgun ammunition was also seized from within the vehicle.

- ❖ On September 10, 2021 at 5:58 P.M., the *Anti-Crime Unit* was in the area of the Extended Stay Hotel, 1 Meadowlands Parkway. While in the area, Detectives observed a vehicle in the parking lot bearing fictitious license plates. While speaking to the driver, a handgun was observed in the driver's side door pocket of the vehicle, within his immediate reach. Master Jules Summerville, 27, of Missouri, was arrested for possessing a loaded Sig Sauer 9mm handgun. The handgun was loaded with one round in the chamber and a fourteen round magazine. A .40 caliber "high capacity" magazine for a different handgun, was also seized from within the vehicle, along with additional handgun ammunition.
- ❖ During the past two years police calls for service increased dramatically at AJ's Go-Go Bar located at 201 Secaucus Road, Secaucus, NJ. During that period, several aggravated and simple assaults were reported, firearms and other weapons related incidents were reported along with a report of "shots fired" and an overdose in the bathroom of the bar. It was also alleged that employees of the establishment were promoting prostitution and selling illicit drugs to patrons. The Secaucus Police Department's Anti-Crime Unit initiated an investigation into these allegations. During the investigation, undercover detectives purchased various quantities of cocaine from different employees of the establishment. Detectives were also offered sex for cash by numerous employees of the premises. The six-month long investigation culminated on December 14, 2021, when a search of the premises was conducted and nine (9) arrests were made on charges ranging from promoting prostitution to distribution of cocaine. During the search, more than two ounces of suspected cocaine, more than 400 Oxycontin pills, suspected ecstasy, 40 Suboxone strips, more than 25 Alprazolam pills and more than 80 Amphetamine pills were seized. Additionally, more than \$40,000.00 in cash was seized as monies believed to have been derived from nefarious activity.

JUVENILE BUREAU

Members of the Detective Division have the dual function of performing the duties of the Juvenile Bureau. Members of the Juvenile Bureau are trained on a wide variety of issues related to the Juvenile Justice System. Part of the Juvenile Bureau's protection role includes the tracking and registration of sex offenders under Megan's Law. Members of the Juvenile Bureau are also available to provide assistance to parents of missing children. The Juvenile Bureau has registered 26 Megan's Law registrants in 2021.

The Juvenile Bureau assigns specially trained School Resource Officers (SRO) to all Secaucus Schools for the protection and safety of the children. *Police Officer Thomas Keegan* is a full-time School Resource Officer, certified by the Police Training Commission, and is assigned to the Secaucus High School.

Retired police officers were hired as Special III Police Officers and are all certified as School Resource Officers by the Police Training Commission. These Special Police Officers possess full law enforcement powers and are assigned to the Early Learning Center, Clarendon, Huber Street and the Secaucus Middle Schools.



Police Officer William Eccles is a Law Enforcement Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.) instructor assigned to the Secaucus Schools. He is specially trained in areas such as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques, and communication skills. The L.E.A.D. curriculum is taught in grades 1, 3, 5, and 8 at all of the schools. All our L.E.A.D. programs are accredited, which apply evidence-based best practices and discuss their effectiveness, teach strategies for building resiliency, and teach life skills and prevention strategies. Each 'Too Good' program received a third-party researcher evaluation where researchers used randomized



treatment-control group designs (pre-test/post-test, 20-week post-test, or one year follow-up). These researchers examined pre-test, equivalence between treatment and control groups, potential bias of loss of student data over time; quality of program implementation; and estimates of reliability and validity of assessment tools. When school is not in session, School Resource Officers put together in a variety of community policing events and engage the youth at our local parks.



THERAPY CANINE PROGRAM

The ***Therapy Canine Program*** is used to enhance community relations and assist the general public, first responders and the staff of the Secaucus Police Department cope with the exposure to traumatic events. *Police Officer Taylor Ensmann* and his personally owned golden retriever, *Oakley*, serve as the Secaucus Police Department's Therapy Canine Team. Secaucus is the first New Jersey police department to implement the Therapy Canine Program. Additionally, therapy canines provide affection, comfort and support to those affected by trauma, mental health and crime. It is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department to use therapy canines for community outreach and engagement. The therapy canines enhance and assist in the response and treatment of trauma and mental health by providing well-trained dogs as a medium. Oakley is used at public events, such as street fairs, concerts, parks and also visits the local senior citizen housing facilities and VA Clinic.



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Secaucus therapy dog offers vaccine support

By Daniel Israel - February 10, 2021





Zahava Pianko, Huber Street School Psychologist, recognized that the staff and students of the Secaucus Public Schools are faced with many daily challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other controversial issues of 2021.

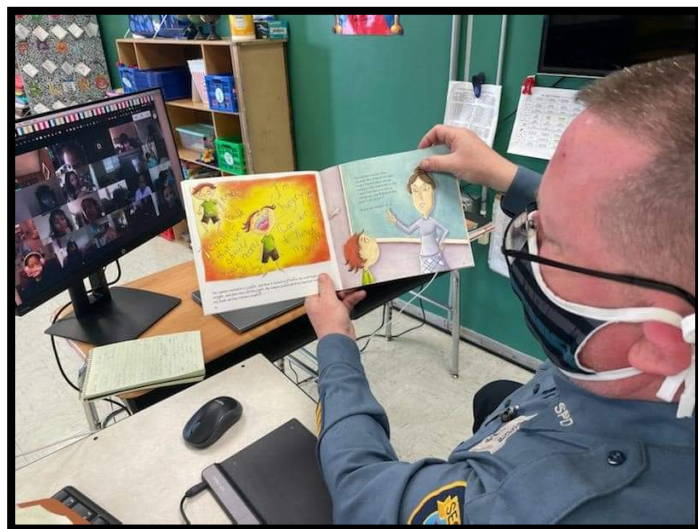
Since students struggle with anxiety and other emotional disorders, Mrs. Pianko found research to support her theory that dogs create comfort and confidence in children enabling them to develop positive socialization skills. Additionally, she theorizes that dogs create a safe working environment for students, thereby increasing their reading fluency skills.

Mrs. Pianko requested the assistance of the Secaucus Police Department's Therapy Dog "Oakley," to participate in her innovative program, which will be among the first of its kind. Two times per month Police Officer Ensmann and "Oakley" will be at Huber Street School and be present during focused group teaching sessions of approximately five students at a time during the trial period, however there will be room for further expansion as the program's effectiveness is evaluated. The goals for the students through the use of our Therapy Dog will include, but not limited to: relieve stress and anxiety, increase positive mood and self-confidence, improve socialization skills and executive functioning and assist with sensory regulation.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Police Officers Thomas Keegan and William Eccles actively engage Secaucus' youth during school days and when school is not in session. These two officers are at the forefront of our community policing activities. The Secaucus Police Department also utilizes social media, [www.facebook.com/Secaucus Police](https://www.facebook.com/SecaucusPolice) administered by *Lieutenant Kimberly Elphick*, to maintain transparency and keep the public informed, along with our webpage www.secaucuspolice.org,

During the COVID-19 Pandemic *Police Officer Eccles* read virtually to 2nd and 3rd grade students on March 5, 2021 during “*Read Across America*.”



April 17, 2021 and May 15, 2021, *Police Officers Thomas Keegan and William Eccles* put together a ***Bicycle Safety Course*** to teach children safety while riding their bicycles.

On May 21, 2021, *Sergeant Matthew Ford, Police Officers Mikhail Kowlessar, William Kosky, Kasey Kelly, Christopher Miller, Sean Egan, Gabriel Gallela, Matthew Garzone and Jonathan Padron* played in the “**Snow Bowl**” football game at Metlife Stadium to raise money for the Special Olympics.



Sergeant Christopher Rinaldi tirelessly works to fundraise for the **Special Olympics** throughout the year. He is indebted to programs such as the Law Enforcement Torch Run, Bowling Tournaments, Christmas Toy Drive and even a Blood Drive.



On June 11, 2021, officers ran in the *“Torch Run”* in support of the Special Olympics.



To keep the public informed and answer any questions that may arise, the Command Staff in conjunction with the Mayor and Council hold ***“Community Meetings.”*** On June 3, 2021 a meeting was held in Harmon Cove. On October 14, 2021 a meeting was held at Clarendon School.

On July 10, 2021 and August 4, 2021 the Secaucus Police Department had the New Jersey ***Motor Vehicle Commission*** mobile office come so residents could handle their matters expeditiously and conveniently.





On July 24, 2021 and November 6, 2021, *Sergeant Christopher Rinaldi* put together a **“blood drive”** in conjunction with Robert Wood Johnson hospital. The average drive brings in around 30 usable units and he brought in 41 units with another 15 referrals or reschedules. Over 60 people were seen and the donations provided were expected to benefit over 80 people.

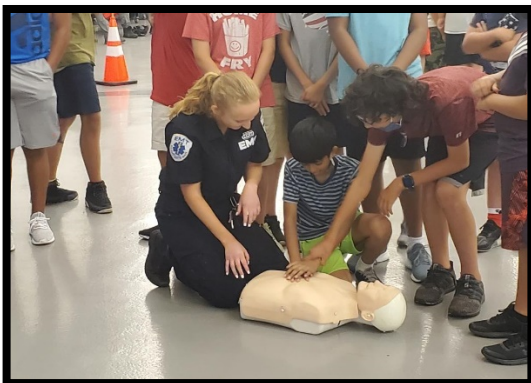




On August 3, 2021 we hosted ***National Night Out*** in Buchmuller Park where Secaucus Police Officers were able to engage and interact with members of the community. It was estimated over 800-1000 residents attended.



From August 16-19, 2021 the Secaucus Police Department hosted its ***Junior Policy Academy*** where approximately 35 kids attended. I credit the officers involved, *Police Officers Thomas Keegan, William Eccles, Jude Masullo, Joshua Sigmund and Kristen Bronowich.*





On August 26, 2021 *Police Officer William Eccles* read to Library School children at the Katherine Steffens Library Annex.

On October 15, 2021 we held *Walk to School with a Cop* for the police to interact with the youth. We walked several blocks with the school children to Clarendon School.





On October 22, 2021 we held *Walk to School with a Cop* for the police to interact with the youth. We walked several blocks with the school children to Huber Street School.

On October 20, 2021, Police Officers Matthew Garzone, Mikhail Kowlessor, Kasey Kelly and Detective Sean Egan went to Buchmuller Park and engaged the community in some pick-up basketball games.



On November 6, 2021 Captains Goyenechea and Hawxhurst accompanied Chief Miller to the Indian Temple where we addressed the congregation during their prayer service. This community policing effort allowed an interaction between the Indian community and the police in an attempt to bridge a gap in our recruitment efforts. Our presence was well received and thanked by members of the congregation.



On November 20, 2021 Police Officers Keegan and Eccles set up a presentation at the Elms. Detective Schaffer brought awareness to trending scams on the senior citizen community, which was well received.



Members of the Secaucus PBA conducted a toy drive and delivered toys to underprivileged children in the area along with families of Secaucus in need.



On December 17, 2021 members of the Secaucus PBA delivered presents with Santa to children throughout Secaucus.

PLANNING, SPECIAL EVENTS & INTELLIGENCE

The Planning, Special Events & Intelligence Section schedules and develops security/operational plans for all special events, impending weather emergencies, threats etc. and acts as the liaison to the Secaucus Office of Emergency Management. This section evaluates and disseminates intelligence received relating to criminal activity, terrorism and natural disasters, etc. to agency personnel on a weekly basis. The Planning, Special Events & Intelligence Section act as Secaucus Police Department's Municipal Counter-Terrorism Coordinator (MCTC) and liaisons with the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office and Federal Counterparts [JTTF]. The Planning, Special Events & Intelligence Section is responsible for the accountability of all departmental equipment and acts as the "Nasal Narcan" coordinator.

The Planning, Special Events & Intelligence Section is led by *Captain Carlos Goyenechea* and *Lieutenant Scott Coar*. Some of the **noteworthy activities** of this section are as follows:



❖ The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section designed, staffed and created a model COVID-19 Vaccination site at the Secaucus Recreation Center. They also tracked all police department personnel who became infected with COVID-19 and coordinated the administration of the COVID-19 vaccination for all departmental personnel.

❖ In January of 2021 this section actively investigated a Domestic Terrorism Threat at the Equinox Buildings on Secaucus Rd., whereby the unidentified actors (2) alleged they would try and disrupt the internet service provided by these buildings. The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section put in place, both overt and covert surveillance equipment, directed patrols, license plate readers, and a two-man rifle teams 24/7. On the morning of January 18, 2021 a suspicious vehicle with gas cans and propane tanks was discovered near a power source to the building. The vehicle was cleared by the JCPD Bomb Squad.

❖ Peruvian citizens who reside in other countries are still permitted to vote in the Peruvian Presidential Election. Peruvian voters across the globe were able to cast their votes on April 11, 2021 and June 6, 2021 at polling places through the world. That said, Sunday April 11, 2021 and June 6, 2021, voters from New Jersey and Pennsylvania casted their vote at the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus. A crowd of over approximately 10,000 people were in Secaucus each day. The Planning, Special Events, and Intelligence Section, met with the Peruvian Consul General and prepared security plans staffed each event with adequate police personnel.



The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section planned the Memorial Day Parade held on May 22, 2021.

- ❖ The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section planned three (3) separate Stevens Tech Graduation Commencement ceremonies that were held at the Meadowlands Exposition Center held on May 25, 26 and 27, 2021, respectively. They worked with Traffic Bureau to develop a Traffic Control Plan and staffed it with Secaucus Police personnel. The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section worked with the Stevens Campus Police Department in regards to a possible protest event to be held at the event.



- ❖ The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section worked with Critical Response Group, INC (CRG) and the Secaucus Board of Education to develop state of the art maps of every school in Secaucus to be able to facilitate a more informed and quicker response of First Responders during an emergency. The project was partially funded by a grant through Hudson County, while the remainder was paid for by the Secaucus Board of Education.
- ❖ The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section developed a plan to provide security and traffic control to include road closures during the annual three (3) day Street Fair.

- ❖ The Planning Special Events and Intelligence Section assembled a large scale Active Shooter Response drill at the Secaucus High/Middle School. The drill was held on November 5, 2021 and just about every member of the Secaucus Police Department participated in various scenarios throughout the day. Agencies such as the New Jersey State Police, Hudson Regional EMS, Secaucus Fire Department and the State, County and Secaucus Offices of Emergency Management all participated in the drill. Also, volunteers from the school faculty participated in the drill.



MUNICIPAL HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER (MHLEO)

Just prior to leaving the Governor's Office, Chris Christie signed into law a bill that moved the law enforcement powers related to animal cruelty cases to the County Prosecutors. Under the newly revised statute, the power of humane law enforcement was transferred from the New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (NJSPCA) to the individual municipalities, who work in conjunction with, and are ultimately overseen by, the County Prosecutors.

Each municipality and police department is required to designate a municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer. In order to hold the position of Humane Law Enforcement Officer, the designated police officer(s) must be certified by the Police Training Commission. The PTC certified municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officers for the Town of Secaucus, are *Lieutenant Scott Coar and Sergeant Mark Valentino*.

It is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department to enforce animal cruelty violations, animal welfare statutes, and related local ordinances in accordance with the New Jersey Attorney General and Hudson County Prosecutor's Office guidelines and directives. These officers work closely with Secaucus Animal Control and the Secaucus Animal Shelter.

In 2021 there were ten (10) Animal Cruelty Complaints handled by the Secaucus Police Department MHLEO. Charges were filed in one (1) of the incidents. In 2021, the Secaucus Police Department responded to one hundred sixty-seven (167) Animal Incidents that were not classified as "cruelty complaints."

BODY WORN CAMERAS



In March of 2021, the Secaucus Police Department purchased Body Worn Cameras from Axon Enterprise, Inc. of Scottsdale, Arizona. More specially, the “Axon Body 3” were purchased. The Secaucus Police Department has made an application for grant funding from the State of New Jersey for the purchase of the Body Worn Cameras, but the recurring cost for storing the data will be borne by the taxpayer, which is approximately \$100,000.00 per year.

Prior to making the purchase, a working group, which consisted of patrol officers, supervisors and union representatives, was assembled under the leadership of the Secaucus Police Administration Section Commander, *Captain Joseph Baccola*.

The working group visited several police departments within and outside of Hudson County, both large and small, and solicited feedback and ideas regarding the implementation of the Body Worn Cameras. A pilot program was then established, whereby several police officers and a supervisor from the Secaucus Police Department wore a Body Worn Camera for a several week period, while performing field duties. Based on the pilot program, further adjustments were made to the departmental policy.

After the working group provided their insight, and feedback from the pilot officers was elicited, the Secaucus Police Department Body Worn Camera policy was drafted to meet the existing New Jersey Attorney General Directive and the enacted law, which became effective June 1, 2021.

All officers, regardless of rank or assignment, from the Chief of Police to the lowest patrol officer, have been assigned a Body Worn Camera. All personnel equipped with a Body Worn Camera have received training in the Body Worn Camera policy and Body Worn Camera functionalities, under the tutelage of *Lieutenant Scott Coar*.

“Body Worn Cameras will promote accountability of both my officers and the public at large,” Chief Dennis Miller said. *“Additionally, I believe that a majority of these recordings will highlight the professionalism and the courageousness exhibited by my officers while responding to police, fire and medical emergencies,”* Miller said.

RESILIENCY PROGRAM

As Police Officers, we respond to a realm of high-pressure and traumatic events while putting our lives on the line every day. The emotional and mental toll of police work can build over time and contribute to a range of health issues, including increased blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, substance misuse, family and relationship stress, self-harm, and risk of suicide.

Resiliency is defined as the ability to overcome adversity. Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive No. 2019-1 requires all New Jersey Police Departments to be trained in Resiliency by December 2022. *Police Officer Tyler Pein and Police Officer Matthew Garzone* are the department's Resiliency Program Officers (RPO) and are available 24/7.

In addition, the RPOs will be available to assist and support the members of this department and any other law enforcement agency in the State of New Jersey. If anyone from the department is suffering from any of the listed health issues, feeling stressed out, or just wishes to talk to someone they are encouraged to reach out to the RPOs. All conversations with the RPOs are kept confidential. RPOs will only take action should the conversation reveal that an officer is a harm to himself/herself or others, or if they have committed a crime.

The *Resiliency Program* is not meant to replace existing support programs. Law enforcement officers are encouraged to continue to use these and other programs whenever needed.