SECAUCUS POLICE DEPARTMENT





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 January 5, 2022 *Christopher Rinaldi* and *Christina Liptak* were promoted to Lieutenant. Also on that date *Aniello Schaffer*, *Stephen Hurtuk* and *Vince DeFazio* were promoted to Sergeant.

On March 16, 2022, *Joseph Baccola* was promoted to Deputy Chief and *Scott Coar* was promoted to Captain.



Retirement

On May 1, 2022 *Lieutenant Christopher Doxbeck* retired after 26 years of service. He served as the commander of the Professional Standards Section.

New Hire





On July 11, 2022 *Ysand Santana was sworn in as a Probationary Police Officer.*

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 calls for service received by the Secaucus Police Department in 2022 were 62,877. 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 2022 the Secaucus Police Department charged numerous criminals with illegally possessing 20 illegal firearms, respectively, which is a growing problem nationwide. The increase in illegal gun seizures is a testament of our officers' proactive policing efforts.

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.

Our community outreach efforts have continued in 2022 ranging from events including, but not limited to Community Meetings, Ice Cream with a Cop, Walk to School with a Cop, Skate with a Cop, Chief for a Day, Coffee with a Cop, National Night Out, Blood Drives, Junior Police Academy, Drug Take Back Initiative, et. al. In 2022 the Secaucus Police Department conducted educational outreach programs and engaged our community members that have autism. The Secaucus Police Department also worked with members of the community to create an "Autism Registry."

Besides proactively policing and community engagement, the Secaucus Police Department actively addressed a multitude of quality of life issues 2022, including but not limited to

performing 423 welfare checks on residents, enforcing ordinance violations, addressing parking complaints and conducting pedestrian safety decoy operations. The Town of Secaucus has seen an increase 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 2023 is to keep crime low and reduce it further where possible. 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

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE



I am honored to help lead the Secaucus Police Department as second in command, instilling that our agency continue its fine law enforcement prestige. The mission of every man and woman that bears the Secaucus Police Department shield is to enforce our laws and serve our community with nothing less than the utmost professionalism and integrity while doing so.

With this administration, the emphasis on community policing has been paramount and each member's commitment to this partnership is second to none. These officers work tirelessly to lower and prevent crime to create a safer environment for our residents, business owners and visitors alike. I look forward to serving our

community alongside the officers of the Secaucus Police Department for projected continued success in 2023 and beyond.

Deputy Chief Joseph Baccola

ACCREDITATION

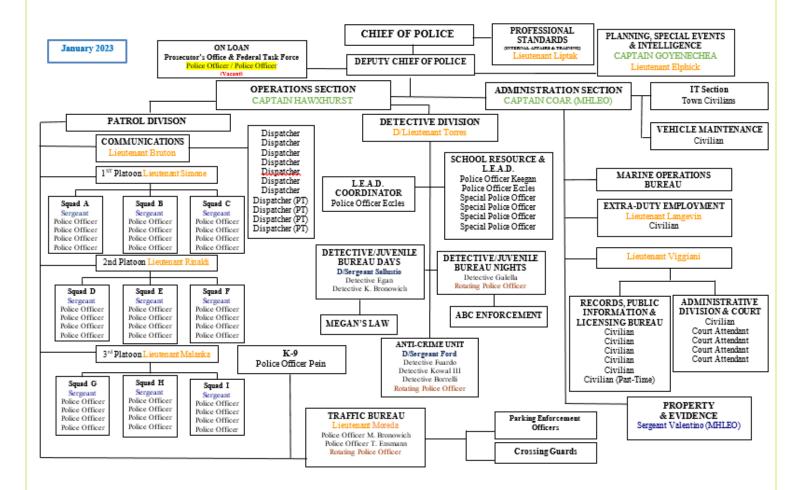


The Secaucus Police Department is an accredited agency by the <u>NJSACOP</u> since 2015. It has been re-accredited in 2018 and 2021, respectively. The Secaucus Police Department Communications Bureau is the first in the State of New Jersey to become an accredited public safety answering point (PSAP) 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 <u>training and accountability</u>. The Professional Standards section is commanded by *Lieutenant Christina Liptak*, who reports directly to the Chief of Police.

The Professional Standards section incorporates the Internal Affairs function. It is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department to accept and investigate all complaints of agency 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 will be administered according to the degree of misconduct.

Officers and employees, regardless of rank, are 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.

EXTERNAL	2021	2022
Citizen Complaint	18	24
Sustained	3	3
Not Sustained	1	1
Unfounded	3	7
Exonerated	7	10
Administratively Closed	4	3
INTERNAL		
Directed Complaint	7	10
Sustained	3	5
Not Sustained	1	1
Unfounded	0	0
Exonerated	2	1
Administratively Closed	1	3
Total	25	34

Complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations

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 Taylor Ensmann instructed First Responder and CPR Courses over a five-day period in 2022.*

All sworn members are instructed in *Integrating Communication, Assessment and Tactics (ICAT)* and *Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE)*.

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 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 2022, Secaucus Police Officers completed Baton Refresher Training, "Right to Know" and Criminal Justice Information System 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 2022, Secaucus Police Officers completed training in Cell Block Management.

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, including training using our Virtual Firearms Training Simulator. 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 2022, the Secaucus Police Department sent its members to over 200 in service training courses.

After their initial hiring, Secaucus Police Officers are under the tutelage of *Lieutenant Liptak*, the Field Training Coordinator. The Field Training Coordinator is responsible for the administration, management, and supervision of the Field Training & Evaluation Program. Four probationary police officers (*Michael Marchitto, Jay Valerio, Christopher Boyko and Eric Munive*) graduated from the Field Training & Evaluation Program in 2022.









HONOR GUARD

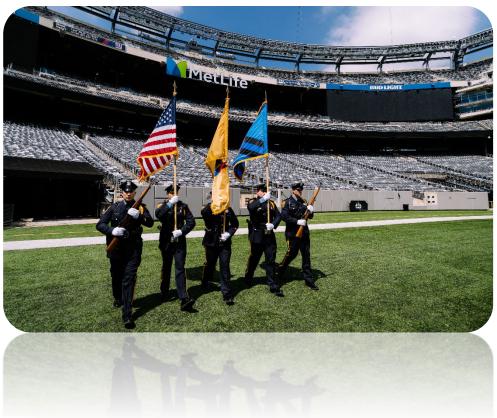


MEMBERS:

Police Officer Kiril Petrov Police Officer Tyler Pein Police Officer Anthony Sherman Police Officer Jonathan Padron 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 Police Officer Christopher Carpenter

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 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.

In 2022, the Secaucus Police Department requested the assistance of the Hudson County Regional SWAT team on 3 occasions. However, assigned Secaucus Police members of the Hudson County Regional SWAT team collectively participated in 16 SWAT operations throughout Hudson County, in 2022.

- On April 11, 2022 the Secaucus Police Department received a report from a domestic violence victim that the assailant would "shoot up the place" if she called police. After identifying two hotel rooms that suspect had registered to him, one in the Aloft and Courtyard Marriot, SWAT was called in to assist with making entry.
- In November and December 2022, the SWAT served as a Quick Reactionary Force [QRF] for the Hatzalah EMS Expo and Kosherfest that was held in the Meadowlands Expo Center with thousands attendees expected.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION RECORDS, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND LICENSING BUREAU

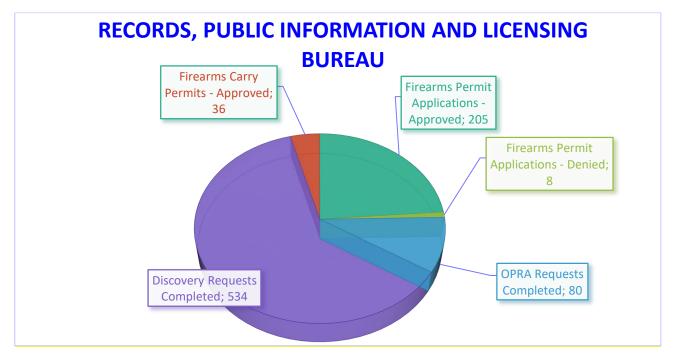
The Administration Section of the Secaucus Police Department incorporates the Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau, Property and Evidence function, Extra-Duty Employment and acts as the liaison to the Court. The Administration Section is commanded by *Captain Scott Coar*.

This Records, Public Information and Licensing Bureau consists of five (5) full-time civilians, one (1) parttime 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 and digital evidence 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 2022, the Records Bureau added the Motor Vehicle Crash Amendment form to our online reporting. This will alleviate citizens from having to come to headquarters to change a crash report and free up Records Bureau personnel from taking these reports. The form to complete a NJ Self Reporting form (SR-1) has also been added to our website.

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



CRIME DATA

	2021	2022
Homicide/Murder	0	0
Arson	0	0
Sexual Assault (All Types)	11	10
Robbery (All Types)	9	21
Aggravated Assault (All Types)	35	25
Burglary	114	121
Theft (Except Motor Vehicles)	251	311
Theft (Motor Vehicle)	26	26
Drug Arrests	100	61
Domestic Violence Investigations	236	201
Prostitution Arrests	17	26
DWI Arrests	67	44
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	699	638
Total CAD Numbers	67,294	62,877

COURT STATISTICS

	2021	2022
Criminal Complaints	538	493
Summonses	14,396	14,618

USE OF FORCE

	2021	2022
Firearm	0	0
Baton	2	2
OC	0	1
Canine Physical Contact	0	0
Weaponless Physical Force	14	20
Total Use of Force Arrests	10	16
Complaints	0	2
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	699	638

VEHICLE PURSUITS

	2021	2022
Total Pursuits	6	5
Terminated by Agency	5	3
Policy Compliant	6	4
Policy Non-Compliant	0	1
Crashes	2	1
Injuries: Officer	1	0
: Suspects	0	1
: Third Party	0	0
Traffic Offense	0	2
Crime	6	3
Disorderly or Petty Disorderly Persons	0	0

ADMINISTATION 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 2022, we took possession of 86 guns, but most notably 20 of them were illegally possessed firearms that 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 2022, the Secaucus Police Department auctioned a total of ninety-six (96) cars were prepared, listed and sold on *govdeals.com*. After paying the required storage fees incurred, \$121,233.42 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 2022, the Secaucus Police Department disposed of 631 pounds of prescription medicine on behalf of the Town's residents.



ADMINISTATION SECTION EXTRA-DUTY EMPLOYMENT

The Town of Secaucus allows officers to engage in extra-duty employment on a voluntary basis. In order to ensure that extra-duty employment assignments are administered and conducted in accordance with all applicable laws, ordinances, written directives and prevailing opinions (Attorney General, Selection 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 2022, the Secaucus Police Department billed \$909,413.28 for officers, police car



rental fees and administrative fees.

Lieutenant Scott Langevin is a certified motorcycle instructor and coordinates our "Motor Officer," program. All motorcycle certified officers received 80 hours of training based on the Northwestern or TEEX University curriculum. Currently, Captain Scott Coar, Sergeant Daniel Dobosz, Sergeant Chester Dobosz, Police Officer Thomas Keegan and Detective Joseph Fuardo 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, 41 funeral escorts were performed by the Secaucus Police Department in 2022.

The Secaucus Police Department hosted a Basic Motorcycle Operator Course from November 7-18, 2022, instructed which was by Lieutenant Scott Langevin and Sergeant Daniel Dobosz. Officers from the Secaucus, Weehawken and West New York Police Departments and Hudson County Sheriff's Office graduated from the course.



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 Thomas Malanka Jr.* and *Lieutenant Christopher Rinaldi*. 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. A police officer from the patrol division is 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 2022, 2,799 "park and walks" were conducted at various times during each day and night.





SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OF THE PATROL DIVISION IN 2022

- 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 2022, officers responded to 2 Fatal Overdoses and 44 Non-Fatal Overdoses. Patrol Division officers administered Nasal Narcan on 15 occasions in 2022.
- On January 10, 2022 at 3:26 P.M., *Police Officer Michael Borrelli* stopped a Nissan Altima for speeding on Meadowlands Parkway. While speaking with the occupants, *Police Officer Borrelli* developed information that there was a handgun within the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle a Glock 19 9mm handgun loaded with a fifteen (15) round magazine and a round in the chamber, was seized. Additionally, a loaded seventeen (17) round magazine and thirty-one (31) round magazine were also seized. Both magazines were loaded with both hollow point and full metal jacket ammunition. The driver was arrested without any resistance.
- On February 4, 2022 at 12:34 P.M., the Secaucus Police Department responded to the BP Gas Station, 1320 Paterson Plank Rd., on report of an armed robbery. The gas station attendant reported that two black males each pointed a handgun at him and robbed him of cash. The duo then fled in a gray Honda Accord onto Paterson Plank Rd. toward Route 3 West. The license plate affixed to the gray Honda Accord was reported to be stolen out of Jersey City, NJ. Secaucus Police immediately broadcasted a description of the suspects and the suspect vehicle to surrounding jurisdictions. Within minutes, the Clifton Police Department observed the suspect vehicle on Route 21 and pursued the vehicle into Newark, NJ where it crashed and two suspects fled on foot. While fleeing police and attempting to commit another crime, the Newark Police Department arrested on the suspect. At the time of his arrest Wendell Bradley was in possession of a Ruger LCR .38 Special revolver. Proceeds from the armed robbery of the BP Gas Station attendant were recovered in the suspect vehicle, during a search.
- Police Officer Jonathan Padron was on patrol and observed a Dodge Charger on Meadowlands Parkway with heavily tinted windows in October 2021. Upon stopping the vehicle, it became known that the vehicle was alleged to have been involved in several gun point robberies in Nassau County, NY. The vehicle was subsequently impounded for further investigation. The investigation led to a search of the vehicle where detectives recovered a loaded Taurus G2C, 9mm semi-automatic handgun along with two (2) .40 caliber fifteen (15) round magazines. On February 7, 2022 the occupants of the vehicle, both of Brooklyn, NY were arrested by members of the Secaucus Police Detective Division.

- ♦ On February 12, 2022, at 6:05 P.M., Secaucus Police responded to the Shell Gas Station, 300 Route 3 East on report of a carjacking. The victim left his 2022 Nissan Altima running in the parking lot with his girlfriend and their baby inside as he entered the Shell Gas Station's Conveinence Store. Upon exiting the store, the victim observed a male enter his vehicle and drive away with his girlfriend and their baby still inside. The victim held onto the driver's side door, but fell off and suffered minor injuries as the suspect sped away toward the area of Clarendon and Seventh Streets. At that time the suspect abandoned the stolen vehicle and fled on foot toward the catwalk that goes over Route 3. K9 Units from the Hudson County Sheriff's Office assisted in a track of the suspect, however it proved fruitless. Detectives and patrol division personnel worked collabortively and were able to ascertain a photo of the suspect, albeit his identity was still not known at that time. Members of the Secaucus Police department were provided with a photo of the suspect. On February 13, 2022, at 9:15 A.M., Secaucus Police responded to Mallard Place where a resident reported that their house was just burglarized while the residents were home. During the burglary, credit and identification cards et. al. were stolen from the resident's purse. A witness to the burglary provided a description to responding police officers who said that the burglar fled toward the Extended Stay Hotel, 1 Meadowlands Parkway. Police Officers attempted to handcuff and detain the suspect, however he resisted the police officers' control. Once handcuffed the suspect made an attempt to runaway and escape custody by fleeing toward the stairway. The suspect was identified as the person who committed the carjacking the night before after additional evidence was recovered subsequent to his arrest.
- On June 23, 2022 at 2:34 A.M., a resident of Luhmann Terrace called the Secaucus Police and reported that he observed several individuals attempting to burglarize vehicles. Upon the arrival of *Sergeant Stephen Hurtuk*, he observed three individuals flee the area on foot. *Sergeant Hurtuk* pursued the trio on foot and was able to place one suspect under arrest. At the time of his arrest, he possessed property that was stolen from a resident's vehicle on Grace Avenue that was burglarized. Additional evidence linked him to the attempted burglary of three additional vehicles parked on Luhmann Terrace. Evidence was also obtained that he burglarized another vehicle parked on 1st Avenue. Later in the morning, patrol officers responded to the area of Lucht Place. Police located a Nissan Pathfinder, Honda CRV and a Toyota Rav4. The Nissan Pathfinder was discovered to be stolen from Born Street in Secaucus and the Toyota Rav4 was discovered to be stolen from 2nd Avenue in Secaucus. Both the Honda CRV and the Toyota Rav4 were stolen on the night of June 23, 2022. Also at the time of his arrest, he was found in possession of the key to the stolen Toyota Rav4.
- On August 21, 2022, at 12:02 A.M., *Police Officer Salvatore Manente Jr.* was on patrol on Blondel Drive when he noticed a parked Penske moving truck with two males sitting in it. The truck did not have any license plates affixed to it. *Police Officer Manente* approached the truck to further investigate and the driver handed *Police Officer Manente* a Virginia license plate. A check of the registration revealed that the truck was reported stolen out of Cobb County, GA. The driver from New York and the passenger from Koelle Blvd. in Secaucus, were arrested. *Police Officer Justin Machno* searched the cab of the stolen truck and found a loaded 9mm handgun along with a single .357 caliber hollow point round of ammunition. Upon inspecting the

handgun, it was discovered that it was not a firearm manufactured by any one company and was classified as a "Ghost Gun," since the gun parts are assembled into a functioning firearm assembled from gun parts without serial numbers.

- On August 25, 2022 at 2:14 A.M., a Born Street resident called the Secaucus Police Department and reported that an individual burglarized his parked vehicle and attempted to burglarize five other vehicles, also on Born Street. It was reported that nothing was taken from the vehicle that was entered, but it should be noted that it was left unlocked. Patrol Division officers worked collaboratively with the Detective Division and arrested a resident of Secaucus, at the Rodeway Inn Motel on Route 3 East at 3:23 A.M.
- On August 31, 2022 Police Officer Philip Caruso stopped a motor vehicle on Meadowlands Parkway for driving carelessly. During the motor vehicle stop, the driver was found to be in possession of a .32 caliber revolver style handgun within his glove compartment. He was subsequently arrested for the Unlawful Possession of a Handgun.
- On September 25, 2022 at 3:49 PM, the Secaucus Police responded to the Secaucus Animal Shelter located at 525 Meadowlands Parkway on a report of a dispute. It was reported that a male from College Point, New York was arguing with the Animal Shelter volunteers over the procedure relating to turning over an injured dog to them. It was alleged that he threatened to punch one of the volunteers and threatened another volunteer by stating he had a gun. Police Officers stopped him on Meadowlands Parkway in the vicinity of the Animal Shelter and he informed the police that he was in possession of a gun. He was arrested and found in possession of a Keltec "Sub 2000" .40 caliber semi-automatic carbine and Panther Arms DPMS BB rifle. A search of his vehicle uncovered a loaded .40 caliber Glock handgun magazine along with a separate "high capacity" handgun magazine.
- On November 2, 2022 at 3:10 A.M., a resident called the Secaucus Police and reported that he observed a suspicious Jeep Compass on 6th Street in the area of Flanagan Way with four people inside. Upon the arrival of *Police Officer Dwight Wise*, the Jeep Compass sped off with its lights off. The Jeep Compass was reported to be stolen out of New York City on October 29, 2022. Other responding police units searched the immediate area and *Police Officer Orlando Gonzalez* located the vehicle on Pandolfi Avenue. While attempting to elude police, the stolen Jeep Compass crashed into two marked police vehicles on Golden Avenue where it became immobilized. The driver, a 16-year-old male from Brooklyn, NY, attempted to flee, but was taken into custody by *Police Officers Wise and Gonzalez*. At the time of his arrest he was found in possession of a folding knife.
- On November 15, 2022 at 5:25 P.M., *Police Officers David Delseni* and *Eric Munive* responded to the Harmony Suites Hotel located at 455 Plaza Drive on a welfare check of a patron. A male patron was found to be in possession of a pipe, commonly used to smoke methamphetamine and was arrested. It was also discovered that he had an outstanding warrant from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office. Members of the Secaucus Police Patrol and Detective Divisions along with the Anti-Crime Unit executed a search warrant of the man's hotel room. During the search, over fifty (50) grams of suspected methamphetamine, over thirty (30) pills of suspected ecstasy, suspected heroin and suspected gamma hydroxybutrate (GHB) were seized.

Additionally, several hundred dollars in suspected drug proceeds and a .177 caliber Tanfoglio Witness 1911 semi-automatic CO2 handgun were seized along with additional drug paraphernalia.

On December 9, 2022 at 2:07 A.M., a resident of the 600 block of Second Street reported that her surveillance camera alerted her that there was a man on the side of her residence/backyard. Patrol officers probed the area and *Police Officer Joshua Sigmund* located the man on Chestnut Street near Raydol Avenue. The man from Brooklyn, NY, was found to have an outstanding warrant from Plainsboro with a bail amount of \$764.00. While searching the man incidental to his arrest, *Sergeant Aniello Schaffer* found a loaded Bryco Jennings 9mm handgun in his waistband. The handgun had a round chambered, was loaded with twelve rounds in the magazine and had an obliterated serial number. A further search of the man revealed a folding knife, suspected crack/cocaine, suspected ecstasy, suspected PCP and drug paraphernalia.

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 2022, Police Officers Justin Pardo, Mary O'Keefe, Leonardo Minervini and William Smith spent one calendar quarter assigned to the Traffic Bureau. All full-time 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 2022, the Secaucus Police Department received a \$10,500.00 grant for 150 hours of Distracted Driving Enforcement. During that enforcement campaign [April 1-21, 2022], 226 motorists were stopped and 190 summonses were issued. In May of 2022, the Secaucus Police Department received a \$7,000.00 grant for 100 hours of seatbelt enforcement. During the "Click it or Ticket" enforcement campaign [May 23 –June 5, 2022], 194 motorists were stopped and 101 summonses were issued. On September 2, 2022 from 1200-0400 hrs the Traffic Bureau and uniformed police officers established a DWI checkpoint on the Route 3 West Service Road. A \$7,000.00 grant was received for the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign [December 2, 2022 – January 1, 2023], whereby 100 motorists were stopped, 3 arrests were made for DWI and 98 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 2022, 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

OPERATIONS SECTION TRAFFIC BUREAU

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 2022, *Police Officer Petrov* was called out 3 times. The Traffic Bureau is responsible for parking enforcement throughout The Town of Secaucus. Nine (9) Parking Enforcement Officers (3-full time/6-part time) ensure that drivers are parking safely both on the roadway and on private property. In 2022, Parking Enforcement Officers issued 9,867 summonses.

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 2022, 32 child safety seats were installed by certified Secaucus Police Department Personnel. On September 10, 2022 the Traffic Bureau hosted a child car seat inspection event at the Secaucus Public Library Parking Lot.

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 September 2, 2022 the Traffic Bureau, under the direction of Lieutenant Martin Moreda, planned a DWI checkpoint on Route 3 West after entering from 495 West. The Checkpoint was funded with \$7,000.00 from the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over grant. The checkpoint yielded ninety-nine (99) motor vehicle stops which resulted with ten (10) summonses issued to six (6) drivers, one (1) SFST conducted and one (1) driver arrested for eluding/resisting arrest.

2022 TRAFFIC BUREAU STATISTICS

Crashes total.....1,257

Fatal Crashes total......0Follow up crash investigations.....86Traffic Studies.....1Traffic Enforcement Details.....168Message Trailer Deployments.....47



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS

The Secaucus Police Department now has the ability to use Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) to assist in police operations and general public safety missions. *Police Officer Michael Bronowich* has been named "Chief Pilot" of the Unmanned Aerial Systems program, which is overseen by the Traffic Bureau Commander. The policy allows for the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems for legitimate law enforcement purposes including, but not limited to search and rescue, situational awareness, hostage or barricaded subject incidents, hazardous material incidents that require a stand-off distance, et. al.



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. 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 Center 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 2022

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 and supervision of Detective/ Sergeant Giacomo Sallustio.* There are five detective positions, but only three (*Detective Gabriel Galella, Detective Sean Egan and Detective 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 2022, *Police Officers Justin Restrepo, Matthew Cutola, Dwight Wise and Matthew Kirvin* 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. The mission of the *Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)* Task Force is to investigate, apprehend and prosecute internet sexual predators who exploit children through the use of computers or other technologies.

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 2022, Detectives followed up on 561 reported crimes, including, but not limited to sexual assaults, property crimes, burglaries, aggravated assaults, an attempted murder etc. Detectives cleared 78.01% of these cases. Additionally, in 2022, Detectives worked jointly with the Secaucus Fire Prevention Bureau to investigate the origin and cause for 13 structure fires with Secaucus.

SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT 2022 CASES INVESTIGATED

On February 4, 2022 at 12:34 P.M., the Secaucus Police Department responded to the BP Gas Station, 1320 Paterson Plank Rd., on report of an armed robbery. The gas station attendant reported that two black males each pointed a handgun at him and robbed him of cash. While fleeing police and attempting to commit another crime, the Newark Police Department arrested on suspect. At the time of his arrest the suspect was in possession of Ruger LCR .38 Special revolver. The second suspect fled and evaded capture. After a diligent follow up investigation, *Detective Sean Egan* identified the other suspect, of Jersey City as the accomplice who committed this armed robbery. On March 10, 2022 Secaucus Police Department Detectives arrested the second suspect near his residence in Jersey City. Based on the investigation conducted by the Secaucus Police Department Detective Division it is believed that these suspects have committed numerous armed robberies of gas stations across three separate counties.

- During the night of April 22, 2022 a couple of businesses at 700 Plaza Drive, to include Cumin N Eat and Poke Brothers were burglarized. During the burglaries cash was taken. As a result of a follow up investigation conducted by *Detective Gabriel Galella* and *Police Officer Matthew Cutola*, an arrest was made on June 7, 2022. The suspect was charged with burglary, theft, et. al. During an interview with suspect at the time of his arrest an admission of guilt was obtained.
- On April 30, 2022 the convenience store of the Shell Gas Station on Route 3 East was robbed at gunpoint. After that robbery, the suspect pointed his handgun at the gas station attendant and robbed him of his personal property and cash. Detectives responded to the scene and immediately began to collect evidence. It turned out that the suspect had committed additional armed robberies in Jersey City, Hoboken and Union City. Our detectives coordinated a multijurisdictional investigation with our law enforcement counterparts from the aforementioned cities. As a result of this collaborative effort, a resident of Hackensack has been charged by our detectives with two counts of armed robbery, weapons offenses and aggravated assault, in less than a week after committing these crimes. At the time of his arrest in Jersey City, the loaded handgun was recovered along with the vehicle used in the armed robberies in Secaucus. Our detectives conducted a search of his residence in Hackensack and recovered additional evidence linking him to these crimes.
- On June 12, 2022 at 7:02 P.M., a resident of the 800 block of 3rd Street called the Secaucus Police Department and reported that an individual burglarized his parked vehicle and attempted to burglarize another one of his vehicles. A short time later, another resident of the 800 block of 3rd Street reported that her vehicle was also burglarized and the individual also attempted to burglarize two other vehicles of hers. Additionally, a resident of the 700 block of 3rd Street reported that someone attempted to burglarize his vehicle. It was reported that nothing was taken from any of vehicles that were entered, but it should be noted that both entered were left unlocked. Based on the evidence gathered from the victims, it is believed that the same person is responsible for burglarizing two vehicles and attempting to burglarize four others. All of these crimes occurred earlier that morning at approximately 2:00 A.M. Patrol Division officers worked collaboratively with the Detective Division and arrested the suspect at the Rodeway Inn Motel on Route 3 East at 11:56 P.M. on June 12.
- On June 22, 2022 a vehicle burglary on Huber Street was interrupted by a resident, whereby the suspects fled. *Detective Sean Egan* conducted a follow up investigation an arrest was made of a 16-year-old Secaucus male. On July 7, 2022 the juvenile male was charged with Burglary and Conspiracy to Commit Burglary.
- On Sunday, August 7, 2022, Secaucus Police Department *Detective Sergeant Giacomo Sallustio* and Detectives Sean Egan and Kristen Bronowich arrested the Marketing Director of Hudson Regional Hospital following an investigation that led to the seizure of multiple firearms and ammunition. On July 18, 2022 at 3:10 P.M., Hudson Regional Hospital, located at 55 Meadowlands Parkway, received a phone call that a bomb was in the hospital. Secaucus Police responded to the hospital along with bomb detection canines from the Hudson County Sheriff's Office and Bayonne Police Department. During a safety sweep of the hospital, the bomb detection canine gave a positive indication on an unlocked closet within an office. Upon entering the closet, police discovered a large cache of rifles, shotguns and handguns, along with assorted

ammunition for the firearms. A total of eleven (11) handguns of various calibers, and twentyseven (27) rifles/shotguns were discovered. A Kriss Vector .45 caliber semi-automatic rifle with a high-capacity magazine was also recovered and determined to be an assault rifle. Additionally, a fourteen (14) round high-capacity handgun magazine was also seized. The bomb threat was later determined to be a hoax.

- On Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 9:42 A.M., the Secaucus Police responded to Riverside Pediatrics, 714 10th Street on a report that a 2020 Lexus RX stolen from the valet lot. While fleeing the lot, the stolen vehicle nearly struck one of the valet attendants and while on 10th Street it nearly struck a pedestrian. Following information that the stolen 2020 Lexus RX was in the area of Bloomfield Avenue in Newark and traveling toward Bloomfield, Secaucus Police *Detective Sergeant Giacomo Sallustio* and *Detective Sean Egan* located the vehicle. An attempt was made to stop the stolen 2020 Lexus RX, but the operator drove at high rates of speed through parking lots and with total disregard of the safety of the motoring public. A vehicle pursuit was undertaken by Secaucus Police Detectives within the confines of Bloomfield into East Orange, but they lost sight of the vehicle. Immediately thereafter, *Detective Sergeant Sallustio* and *Detective Egan* placed the operator under arrest after they discovered he crashed the stolen 2020 Lexus RX into a concrete bridge pillar on Ampere Parkway in East Orange. During a search incident to arrest he was found in possession of Buprenorphine and Nalaxone Sublingual Films.
- On September 22, 2022 at 6:01 P.M., a Secaucus resident called the Secaucus Police Department and reported that an individual attempted to burglarize his BMW X5 that was parked on Humboldt Street and Centre Avenue. The individual did not make entry into the vehicle, but he did flea the area in a BMW 750 that was waiting in the area with several other suspects inside. During the on scene investigation, the BMW 750 was discovered to have been stolen from Clark, NJ, earlier in the day after a home was burglarized and the vehicle's keys were stolen. This stolen vehicle was involved in other auto-related crimes that spanned across several counties and eluded police throughout the day, even after being pursued by at least one police agency. On September 23, 2022 Secaucus Police *Detective Sergeant Giacomo Sallustio* and *Police Officer Dwight Wise* went to Halstead Street in Newark and located the stolen BMW 750 that was used in the attempted theft of the BMW X5 in Secaucus. While recovering the stolen vehicle, *Detective Sergeant Sallustio* identified two males, both of Newark, as being involved in the attempted theft of the BMW X5, and both were then placed under arrest.
- In 2022, Detectives from the Secaucus Police Department joined the ranks of Internet Crimes Against Children [I.C.A.C.] Task Force - New Jersey, which is spearheaded the New Jersey State Police. On December 2, 2022, members of the Secaucus Police Detective Division and Hudson County Prosecutor's Office arrested a Hagan Place resident. After a month long investigation, led by Secaucus Police *Detective Kristen Bronowich*, it was confirmed that he both viewed and disseminated a video that depicted children engaging in sexual acts.

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 Matthew Ford*. There are three detective positions that are filled by *Detective Joseph Fuardo, Detective Frederick Kowal III and Detective Michael Borrelli*. 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 2022, *Police Officers Kasey Kelly, Christopher Miller, Jason Mitchell and Peter Maraldo* 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 <u>SPDTIPS@Secaucusnipolice.gov</u> 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 6 guns and \$28,833.00 in contraband cash in 2022.

NOTEWORTHY CASES INVESTIGATED BY THE ANTI-CRIME UNIT IN 2022

- On January 5, 2022 the Anti-Crime Unit observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of the Sunoco. During the motor vehicle stop the occupant was found in possession of ecstasy and approximately 17 grams of suspected "Tuci," (2CB), which is similar to pink cocaine.
- This agency received information from the owner of 2 Day Transportation that his warehouse (901 Castle Road) was burglarized by 2 unknown actors on December 19, 2021, December 24th, December 25th and January 10th 2022, where over \$200,000.00 worth of perfumes and electronics (laptops) were unlawfully taken. During this investigation the suspects were identified and evidence was obtained leading to the development of probable cause for their arrest. As a result, an operational plan was developed to apprehend both actors. On January 12, 2022, while surveillance was being conducted by the Anti-Crime Unit, one suspect was observed attempting to burglarize 2 Day Transportation and he was later arrested as he fled from the scene and charged with multiple counts of burglary and theft, et. al. A co-conspirator was later arrested in Jersey City near his residence when he arrived operating the suspect vehicle utilized to commit the burglaries and subsequent thefts. He was charged with several counts of burglary and theft, et. al.
- On January 22, 2021 Police Officer Justin Machno stopped a vehicle on Route 3 West and arrested the driver for possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance. A search of the vehicle uncovered a Glock 42 .380 cal. handgun and a Glock 43 9mm handgun. Although the guns were possessed lawfully, it was believed the suspect involved was trafficking firearms illegally into New Jersey. A follow-up investigation was conducted by Detective Joseph Fuardo of the Anti-Crime Unit and Police Officer Matthew Cutola. A significant amount of evidence was developed confirming the suspect trafficked at least thirteen (13) firearms illegally into New Jersey. The case was presented to the ATF where the suspect and a straw purchaser from Georgia were both charged with violating Federal firearms laws. On March 15, 2022, Detective Fuardo travelled with the ATF to Georgia and made two (2) arrests in this case.

- In March of 2022, the Secaucus Police Department's Anti-Crime Unit received information that heroin was being sold from a residence on the 200 block of Lincoln Avenue. The investigation culminated on April 9, 2022 when a search of the residence resulted in the seizure of more than 80 folds of suspected heroin, other items indicative of illicit drug distribution, and money believed to be the proceeds of criminal activity. Subsequent to the search of the residence, two Secaucus residents were charged with possession of heroin with the intent to distribute. Another Secaucus resident was arrested for possessing a small quantity of heroin along with drug paraphernalia. A fourth Secaucus resident was arrested after he was found in possession of five (5) fraudulent identifications.
- The Anti-Crime Unit received information that a North Bergen resident and his female friend were actively distributing methamphetamine and GHB from our local hotels (Courtyard Marriot, Red Roof Inn and Royal Motel). After a one-month long investigation, the suspect and his female friend were arrested. During the investigation approximately seven ounces of suspected methamphetamine and a quantity of GHB were seized. The male was charged with first degree possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance, et. al.
- On May 5, 2022, Secaucus Police Department Anti-Crime Unit Detectives along with Detectives from the Union City, Hoboken and North Bergen Police Departments conducted a search of a residence on Davis Avenue in Hackensack, NJ in pursuit of evidence from an Armed Robbery of the Shell Gas Station. During the search, Detectives recovered a stolen Smith & Wesson 5.56mm assault rifle, a loaded a thirty (30) round "high capacity" magazine, a stolen .36 caliber Euroarms, Model 1250, revolver, along with some 9mm and .40 caliber handgun ammunition and several pounds of marijuana. The assault rifle was stolen during a home burglary in 2018 in Pennsylvania and the revolver was stolen from a store in Seattle, WA in 1988. Two Hackensack residents were arrested.
- On June 1, 2022, Detectives from the Secaucus Police Department's Anti-Crime Unit and North Bergen Police Department conducted a search of a residence located on the 1100 block of 53rd Street in North Bergen. The suspect is alleged to have been selling methamphetamine at our local hotels. During the search, Detectives seized over eight ounces of suspected methamphetamine, over twenty ounces of suspected Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB) along with quantities of suspected cocaine, Xanax, Adderall, Percocet, Viagra, Clonazapm, Ecstasy, Psilocybin Mushrooms, Oxycodone, and approximately three pounds of Marijuana. Several hundred dollars in cash believed to derived from nefarious acts was also seized. A stun gun along with other items indicative of the production of methamphetamine were also seized. The male was charged with first degree possession with the intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance, et. al.

- On Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 10:49 A.M., a 66-year-old woman reported to Secaucus Police that she was robbed and carjacked at knifepoint by two males in the Walmart parking lot at 400 Park Plaza Drive. The victim was uninjured, but the suspects stole cash and her 2016 BMW M23 convertible. Upon the arrival of police, the *Secaucus Police Anti-Crime Unit* conducted an on-scene investigation. The on-scene investigation determined that the suspects came to Secaucus in a 2022 Nissan Altima, which was later confirmed to have been carjacked from New York City on Tuesday, July 19, 2022. *Secaucus Police Anti-Crime Unit* Detectives developed information that the BMW M23 was in the area of Brenner Street in Newark and responded to the area. *Secaucus Police Anti-Crime Unit* Detectives, with the assistance of members of the Newark Police Department, located the stolen 2022 Nissan Altima occupied by Xavier Cenpin and Caliente Gaillard, both 19, of Newark. Xavier Cenpin was found in possession of the knife used in the crimes at the time of his arrest. Also while in the area of Brenner Street, Newark Police observed the victim's 2016 BMW M23. The Essex County Sheriff's Office recovered the unoccupied 2016 BMW M23 a short time later within the confines of Newark.
- On September 5, 2022 Police Officer David Delseni stopped a vehicle near the Aloft Hotel for having heavily tinted windows. He was backed up by Police Officer Michael Borrelli and other members of the Anti-Crime Unit. Police Officer Borrelli noticed a handgun lodged between the driver seat and center console. The handgun was discovered to be loaded 9mm "ghost gun." Additionally, over one pound of marijuana was seized from the vehicle along with over \$1,000.00 in cash. The driver, a high ranking member of the Trinitarios gang, and his female passenger were arrested. The Anti-Crime Unit executed a search warrant on the driver's motorcycle where a loaded Glock 21 .45 caliber handgun and a loaded Bryco 59 9mm handgun were seized. The Glock 21 was determined to be stolen from North Carolina. A search of the arrestee's hotel room uncovered a loaded thirty one round "high capacity" magazine and over \$1,000.00 in cash.
- On July 10, 2022 at 6:35 P.M., the Exxon located at 209 Route 3 East was robbed at gunpoint. Three males arrived at the gas station in a stolen Infiniti and two of the three males entered the gas station convenience store wearing ski masks. They brandished a handgun and robbed the clerk of several hundred dollars. The Anti-Crime Unit followed up on the case and worked with a multitude of police agencies. On September 13, 2022 the Anti-Crime Unit arrested a male from Newark and another male from Elizabeth on charges of ranging from Armed Robbery to Weapons Possession, et.al.
- On August 22, 2022 information was received from a concerned citizen via e-mail in regards to the sale of THC products. The concerned citizen reported that a company called "Weed 4 Us" located at 20 Meadowlands Parkway is illegally selling THC. The Anti-Crime Unit conducted an investigation and a detective made several undercover purchases of marijuana. A search warrant was executed on September 30, 2022 and two arrests were made for the Distribution of Marijuana. A good amount of marijuana products were seized along with \$2,589.00 in drug proceeds.

- In response to a recent armed robbery of prostitutes at the La Quinta Hotel the Anti-Crime Unit conducted a proactive prostitution detail on October 25, 2022, which resulted in seven (7) arrests at various hotels, the seizure of \$7,506.00 in contraband cash and approximately seventeen (17) grams of 2C-B(TUCI).
- In November of 2022 a concerned citizen reported that prostitution and the distribution of cocaine is ongoing at AJ's Go-Go Bar, located at 201 Secaucus Road. During the week of November 14, 2022, undercover police officers from the Secaucus Police Department, under the direction of the Anti-Crime Unit were inside AJ's Go-Go Bar investigating these complaints. Three (3) arrests were made after the undercover police officers were offered sexual favors in exchange for money. During a search incident to arrest, one the females was found in possession of a quantity of suspected cocaine.
- A Hackensack man was taken into custody on December 23, 2022 at 9:17 A.M. in Hackensack by members of the Secaucus Police Department Anti-Crime Unit and Hackensack Police Department Narcotics Unit. The arrest culminated after a two and half month long narcotics investigation conducted by the Secaucus Police Department Anti-Crime Unit. During a search of the man's Hackensack residence, Detectives seized over one half ounce of suspected cocaine, a quantity of suspected heroin, over fifty pills of suspected oxycodone, a Taurus Model 856 UL .38 caliber handgun with an obliterated serial number, hollow point handgun ammunition, along with \$11,584.00 in US Currency, believed to be proceeds from his illicit drug distribution scheme. Additionally, evidence and paraphernalia was seized that was indicative that the man was using his Hackensack residence to process powder cocaine into crack/cocaine.

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 <u>Megan's Law</u>. Members of the Juvenile Bureau are also available to provide assistance to parents of missing children. The Juvenile Bureau has registered 27 Megan's Law registrants in 2022.

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, and 5 at all of the schools. All our L.E.A.D. programs are accredited, which apply evidence-based best



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.

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





On March 28, 2022 the Juvenile Bureau hosted presentation reagarding cybercrimes and cyber bullying that was presented to the Middle School students. The presentation was given by Detective Rocco of the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office.

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 canine 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. Zahava Pianko. Huber Street School Psychologist, requested the assistance of *Oakley* to participate in her



innovative program, which was among the first of its kind. Two times per month *Police Officer Ensmann* and *Oakley* are at Huber Street School and are present during focused group teaching sessions. 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.

On April 22, 2022 Oakley visited a two year old who is affected by autism.

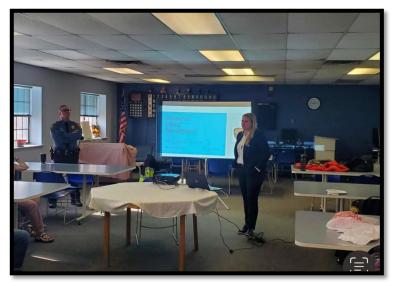




On October 23, 2022 Police Officer Ensmann, Oakley and I attended the Diwali and New Year's Community Open House at the temple.

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 and @secaucuspolice on Instagram, administered by *Lieutenant Kimberly Elphick*, to maintain transparency and keep the public informed, along with our webpage <u>www.secaucuspolice.org</u>. The social media platforms have approximately 9,000 followers.



On February 26, 2022 Detective Kristen Bronowich gave a presentation relating to "elderly scams" to the residents of Kroll Heights.

On March 19, 2022 we held a "skate with a cop" event at the Ice Rink.





On April 2, 2022, July 23, 2022 and November 5, 2022 *Lieutenant Christopher Rinaldi* organized a "blood drive" through Robert Wood Johnson hospital at the Secaucus Recreation Center.

On April 5, 2022 *Police Officers Thomas Keegan* and *William Eccles* met with members of the Exceptional People of Secaucus to discuss the 9-1-1 emergency call procedure.





Secaucus Police Department Autism Registry



In April of 2022, the Secaucus Police Department made it easier to help our citizens who may be lost, scared or have difficulty communicating with police officers and first responders. The idea originated from *Police Officers Mary O'Keefe* and *Salvatore Manente Jr.* and implemented by the Administration Section Commander *Captain Scott Coar*. Our Autism registry is designed for residents who may be challenged with the developmental disabilities associated with Autism, regardless of where they fall on the spectrum. We have created this program to assist your loved ones who may be at a higher risk for wandering, getting lost, or who have difficulty communicating with others.

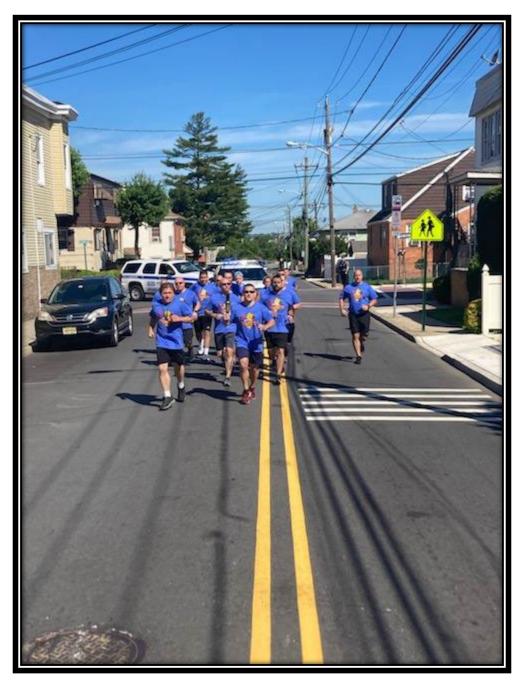
Interested family members and caregivers were asked to complete the online registration form regarding their loved one. This form provides useful information to responding police officers and first responders. To ensure a completed registration form, we are also asked for a current digital photograph of the affected family member. This information is stored in a database intended solely for this purpose, accessible only by law enforcement personnel, and will not be disseminated. The completed files are accessible to our police officers during times of emergency (elopement, lost, wandering, etc...). This program is **voluntary**, however the information provided is **extremely** helpful to our officers whose purpose is to keep **all** members of our community safe. [We have also equipped our police officers with special equipment (communication boards, etc...) to aid in this mission].



As part of our ongoing efforts to engage the community, Brianna Hawxhurst, a high school senior, acted as the "Chief for the Day" on May 10, 2022. She won the title after submitting a 300-word essay on how to improve the Secaucus Police Department. During her time spent with the police department she was given an overview and practical demonstration of each division, bureau and unit within the police department.

On July 22, 2022 *Police Officers Thomas Keegan and William Eccles* spoke about the use of the 9-1-1 system for emergency assistance at Spectrum Works, a non-profit that creates job opportunities for individuals with autism.





On June 10, 2022, officers ran in the "Torch Run" in support of the Special Olympics.



On Saturday June 11, 2022 Police Officer Thomas Keegan along with Police Officer William Eccles and other bicycle patrol officers, hosted a bicycle safety course at Buchmuller Park.





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 March 2, 2022 a meeting was held at the Exchange.

On October 21, 2022 the Secaucus Police Department had the New Jersey *Motor Vehicle Commission* mobile office come so residents could handle their matters expeditiously and conveniently.





Reaching out to members of the Indian community, Secaucus Police Officers escorted Acharya Shree Jitendriyapriyadasji Swamiji Maharaj from Newark Liberty International Airport to the Temple in Secaucus on June 21, 2022.











On August 2, 2022 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.



On August 7, 2022 *Chief Dennis Miller, Deputy Chief Joseph Baccola and Captain Austin Hawxhurst* attended an anniversary ceremony at the Secaucus Temple located on Penhorn Avenue and addressed the congregation about our recruiting efforts, in hopes of gaining members of the Indian Community in our ranks.

From August 15-18, 2022 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 Mary O'Keefe.*



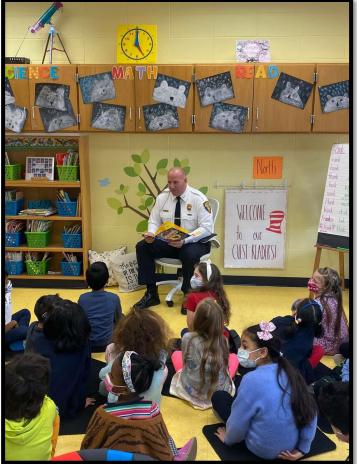








During the week of March 2, 2022 Chief Miller and all School Resource Officers and Special III Police Officers particiated in Read Across America.





On May 26, 2022 *Chief Miller* read to Library School children at the Katherine Steffens Library Annex.

On September 29, 2022 Amazon Loss Prevention sponsored our "Coffee with a Cop" at our local Dunkin Donuts.



On October 7, 2022 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 11, 2022 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 23, 2022 the Traffic Bureau participated in Hudson Regional Hospital's Fall Festival and installed and inspected child safety car seats.





On October 23, 2022 Deputy Chief Baccola, Captain Hawxhurst, Police officer Ensmann, Oakley and I attended the Diwali and New Year's Community Open House at the temple





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 21, 2022 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 Commander oversees the Secaucus Police Departments Automated License Plate Reader (A.L.P.R.) program.

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

On May 20, 2022 Lieutenant Kimberly Elphick has been certified by Texas A & M University to conduct threat assessments and risk analysis for stakeholders of infrastructure.



The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section planned the Memorial Day Parade held on May 21, 2022.

✤ The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section planned two (2) separate Stevens Tech Graduation Commencement ceremonies that were held at the Meadowlands Exposition Center held on May 25 and 26, 2022. The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section also planned the

Manhattan College Graduation Commencement ceremony that was held on May 18, 2022 at the Meadowlands Exposition Center. They worked with Traffic Bureau to develop a Traffic Control Plan and staffed it with Secaucus Police personnel.

In November 2022, the Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section developed a strategic plan to provide security for the Hatzalah EMS Expo and Kosherfest that was held in the Meadowlands Expo Center with thousands attendees expected. Two weeks prior to these events, national news was made by celebrities making anti-Jewish remarks, causing concern of violence by devoted fans. Then just one week prior to the event, FBI Newark put out a statement regarding a credible threat to the Jewish community. Our agency has monitored different anti-Semitic groups and persons since approximately June in preparation for this event that was a soft target for terrorism and could be considered attractive to those who wished to cause a mass casualty bias attack.



✤ 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.

• In 2022, in conjunction with the Hudson County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), we developed an Incident Command Board which was ultimately purchased by the County OEM for thirteen (13) municipalities in the Hudson County at no cost to the Town. Currently the boards are stored within the supervisor vehicles and were utilized during various incidents. Furthermore, we are able to obtain additional blood stopping kits which are also stored within the supervisor vehicles to be utilized during a mass casualty event.

• During the months of July, August, September and October, The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section planned, coordinated, and executed the new hiring testing process, including a written, physical fitness, and oral.

In November 2022, The Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section obtained through the federal government, at no cost to the Town, a HMMWV, for usage during extreme weather events and natural disasters to evacuate civilians as needed.

In 2022, open source intelligence analysis by the Planning, Special Events and Intelligence Section had provided positive results for law enforcement action, which was shared with surrounding agencies. It was discovered that an event was scheduled in the "Meadowlands Area" that was previously scheduled for locations in Pennsylvania and New York. The event was to be held by known members of a labeled white supremacy group/identified terrorist organization in Canada. These events did not occur and resulted in a protest in another state. Through constant

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monitoring and searches, the information was located by the Secaucus Police Department for the ticket sales. It should be noted the location was to be kept confidential until one hour prior. Ultimately, this event was found to be scheduled in a bordering jurisdiction and further inquiries showed that another well-known group that had conflicting views of the hate organization began to recruit individuals to go to the facility in the bordering agency to protest with a likely probability of large scale civil unrest. Ultimately the timeliness and discovery of this information by our agency resulted in the canceling of the event by the governing officials in the bordering town.

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 <u>Police Training Commission</u>. The PTC certified municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officers for the Town of Secaucus, are *Captain Scott Coar and Sergeant Mark Valentino*.

It is the policy of the Secaucus Police Department to enforce <u>animal cruelty violations</u>, 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 2022 there were 10 Animal Cruelty Complaints handled by the Secaucus Police Department MHLEO. Charges were filed in 3 of the incidents. During that year no animal were seized and one animal was surrendered by the owner. In 2022, the Secaucus Police Department responded to 184 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 received 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. In 2022 we received grant funding in the amount of

\$183,420.00 for our Body Worn Cameras.

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.

In 2022 Body Worn Cameras were issued to all the Parking Enforcement Officers, which are activated each time the officer engages a member of the public.

"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 Matthew Garzone and Police Officer Justin Pardo* 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.