

Hopewell Township Police Department



Department Status, Accomplishments & Programs (Part I)

Director Robert A. "Bob" Karmazin
Township Committee Meeting
Date: January 11, 2021



Agenda (Part I)



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- Purpose
 - Department Status
 - Department Traffic Statistics
 - Department Use of Force Statistics
 - Accomplishments & Programs



Purpose

- This presentation (Part I) is the first in a two part series providing our community a transparent “snap-shot” of the departments status, accomplishments, and programs.
- The second presentation (Part II) will highlight “strategic goals” towards enhancing community policing, along with introducing future proposed engagements and programs.



Department Status

- **Status:** The Hopewell Twp. Police Department has always been an ethical, progressive, and professional organization, with an excellent reputation in Mercer County. The department will continue to be an ethical, progressive and professional organization serving the Hopewell Twp. community at the highest level of community policing.
- **Consultant Review:** The department has the highest standards in policing and will continue to hold to this high standard.
- **Accreditation:** Validated and recognized as an accredited police department by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police.
- The department acknowledges the importance of maintaining “best practices” and strives to maintain the highest national standards of policing.

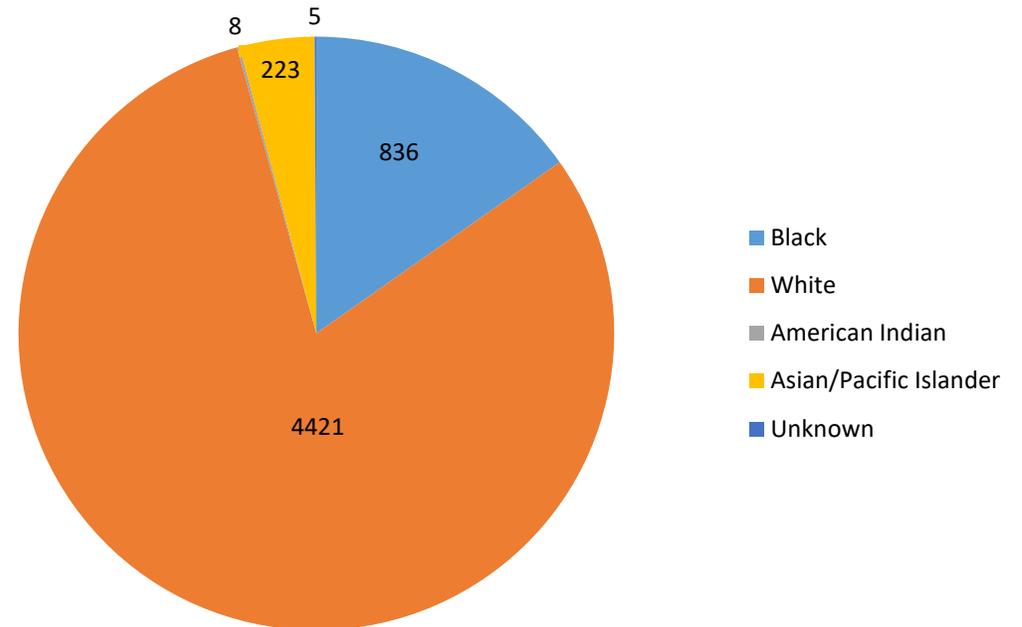


Department Traffic Statics

End of Year 2020 Data



<u>Total Traffic Stops</u>	<u>5493</u>	
Black	836	15%
White	4421	80%
American Indian	8	>1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	223	4%
Unknown	5	>1%





Use of Force End of Year 2020 Data



- **Incidents:** **10** (Total number of incidents for reporting year)
- **Subjects**
- Subjects Involved: **10 Total**
- Subjects Injured/Transported for medical attention: **2 Total**
- **Officers**
- Officers Involved: **19 Total**
- Officers Injured: **4 Total**

Force Level (One or more of the following per incident)

Weapons Involved: **0 Total**

Strike/Baton or other: **0 Total**

Chemical Agents Used: **0 Total**

Hands/Fists: **1 Total**

Compliance Hold: **17 Total**

Strike: **0 Total**

Canine: **0 Total**

Other: **1 Total**

The Hopewell Township Police Department recorded approximately **25,000** calls for service between the Hopewell Township and Hopewell Borough for 2020



Attorney General Directive 2020-13 Use of Force Policy



EXCELLENCE
IN POLICING INITIATIVE

Use of Force Policy Core Principles

Attorney General Directive 2020-13 revises New Jersey's Use of Force Policy for law enforcement and now requires all 38,000 New Jersey law enforcement officers to adhere to the following seven principles:

- 1. The Sanctity of Human Life:** Officers must make every effort to preserve and protect human life and the safety of all persons; respect and uphold the dignity of all persons at all times; and never deploy force in a discriminatory manner.
- 2. De-Escalation & Force as a Last Resort:** Officers must focus on de-escalation techniques including use of verbal commands. Force must only be used as a last resort and only when necessary to accomplish lawful objectives, when other steps cannot achieve such objectives. Force shall never be used as a retaliatory or punitive measure.
- 3. Reasonable, Necessary, and Proportional Force:** In situations where officers are authorized to use force, they shall use the least amount of force that is reasonable, necessary, and proportional to safely achieve a lawful law enforcement objective.
- 4. Deadly Force as a Last Resort:** Even where force is authorized, deadly force shall only be used as an absolute last resort and in compliance with the strict conditions set forth in the new policy.
- 5. Duty to Intervene:** Every officer has an affirmative duty to take steps to prevent illegal or excessive uses of force by other officers and to immediately report any such incidents.
- 6. Duty to Render Medical Assistance:** After any use of force, officers shall promptly provide medical assistance to any injured person, and request emergency medical assistance if needed or requested. Officers must also monitor individuals for potential medical intervention after any officer uses force.
- 7. Duty to Report and Review Uses of Force:** Every use of force must be reported using the statewide Use of Force Portal, and all uses of force must undergo a meaningful command level review, including review by the law enforcement chief executive.

The new policy will be implemented through a massive retraining effort, pursuant to which every officer in the state will receive multiple days of interactive training, including scenario-based training that requires them to address many of the circumstances that most often lead to improper or excessive uses of force. The impact of the new policy will be monitored using a first-in-the-nation, statewide Use of Force Portal, which will include detailed data on every police use of force in the state, and a version of which will be available to the public in 2021.

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Accomplishments & Programs



- **NJ State Association of Chiefs of Police Accreditation**

On April 4, 2017, the Hopewell Twp. Police Department was validated and recognized as an accredited police agency by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police through the NJ Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. To achieve this status the department met 105 standards set by the accreditation commission. Only 270 police departments out of approximately 550 police departments are accredited.

- **Introduction of Traffic Stop & Use of Force Data**

Beginning in June 2020, to increase transparency the Hopewell Twp. Police Department began posting on-line its monthly traffic stop race data along with use of force data. This also included 2014-2019 traffic stop race data.

- **Body Worn Camera's**

On March 16, 2017, the police department began utilizing body-worn camera's to record audio and visual interactions between police officers and citizens. This represents the leveraging of a new technology which significantly enhances policing. The presence of cameras often improve the performance of officers as well as the conduct of the community members who are recorded. This is an important advance in policing creating a public record that allows the entire community to see what happens. The cameras also preserve visual evidence and verbal statements and ensure quality control and assist in citizen complaints.

- **Partnering with the Citizens Equity Advisory Committee**

In December 2020, the Hopewell Twp. Police Director participated in the newly formed Citizens Equity Advisory Committee. This group comprised of 12 members from the community conducts a systematic review of existing proposed township regulations and practices of any potential discretionary effect and offers suggestions on how to remedy any such issues if they arise.



Accomplishments & Programs



- **Director led Needs Assessment**

With the arrival of a civilian Director of Police, the Hopewell Township Committee requested a Needs Assessment of the police department to gather insights and observations across the entire force, at all levels, to better understand the needs of the force (gaps), command structure and control of the force and strategies. This assessment is in concert with the needs of the Hopewell Township community buoyed by the goals as set by the Hopewell Twp. Committee.

- **Project Medicine Drop**

Project Medicine Drop was developed by the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs and implemented by the Hopewell Twp. Police Department as an effort to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs.

- **Youth Police Academy**

The Youth Police Academy program, established by the Police Department, is open to any Hopewell Valley resident who is presently attending the 7th or 8th grade and is free of charge.

- **Adoption of the Safeguards of 8 Can't Wait Initiative**

In June 2020, the Hopewell Twp. Police Department adopted and follows the safeguard of the 8 Can't Wait Initiative which includes the following:

- **Banning Chokeholds and Strangleholds**
- **Required De-Escalation**
- **Required Warning Before Shooting**
- **Required exhausting all Alternatives Before Shooting**
- **Duty to Intervene**
- **Banning shooting at Moving Vehicles**
- **Required Use of Force Continuum; and Required Comprehensive Reporting**

- **Home Alone Security Check**

Home alone Security Checks allow parents to notify the police depart when they must go out of town and leave teens or young adults home unsupervised.

- **Firearms Applications**

Processing initial firearms ID cards applications for community members – for 2020 reaching an unprecedented number of 286 applications, a **194% increase since 2019.**



Accomplishments & Programs



- **Womenspace - Sponsorship**

For the past 15 years the Hopewell Twp. Police Department has advocated for and participated in multiple events to facilitating donations supporting Womenspace Mercer County. Women's space provides safety, hope, and healing to survivors of intimate partner violence. Knowing violence is everywhere, the Hopewell Twp. Police department is steadfast in not discriminating on the basis of race, religion, politics, economic position, or gender.

- **Luminary Candles – Womenspace**

For the past 15 years the Hopewell Twp. Police Department has illuminated the police department along with the police drive with candle luminaries in support of combating domestic violence – Womenspace.

- **Capital Health Holiday Toy-Drive for Children**

Yearly, the Hopewell Twp. Police Department receives toys from the law enforcement, EMS, Fire, and community to donate to Capital Health for children during the holiday season.

- **Active-Shooter Response Presentations**

In response to horrific active-shooter events thought out the nation, Hopewell Twp. Police Department members conducted Active-Shooter presentations to Hopewell Valley Schools, religious institutions and businesses. These businesses include: UTC Aerospace, Watershed, Janssen Pharmaceutical, Bank of America.

- **Coffee with a Cop**

Members of the Hopewell Twp. Police Department have met with members of the community over coffee to share ideas, discuss concerns and build relationship in an effort to better sever the needs of the community.

- **Special Olympics**

The Hopewell Twp. Police Department yearly supports Special Olympics New Jersey. Officers attend and support athletic sporting events.



Accomplishments & Programs

- **Patrolmen Live Saving Award**

This past November, Hopewell Twp. Police Department Patrolmen responded to a call of an unconscious community member. Performing CPR, air management along with four defibrillator shocks, the community member life was saved. Due to their quick actions along with additional emergency personnel, these officers were able to provide lifesaving assistance. The community member was able to be placed under the direct care of more advance hospital care. For their actions, a life saving award has been recommended.

- **No Shave November**

In concert with PBA Local 342 and the Senior Officers Association, Hopewell Twp. Police Department members made individual monetary contributions in support of a young child stricken by cancer who resides in Mercer County. Officer donations along with PBA matched donations = **\$3400.00**.



1/7/2021



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Hopewell Township Police Department Bottom Line



**“We will be what the community of Hopewell
Township needs us to be”**