

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



JOHN MITZAK
CHIEF OF POLICE

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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Introduction

The year 2022 marked our 57th anniversary of providing professional police service to the residents of Bridgewater Township. Our responsibility is to protect and serve the members of our community and provide the highest level of commitment, integrity, and professionalism. We strive to be leaders in our community by providing police services that embody the spirit of community partnerships by being efficient, transparent, and proactive in resolving community issues and concerns.

This year's annual report contains many statistical graphs and charts for you to view. Equally important are the community programs and relationships that have been created with many community members this past year. As we move into 2023, we envision stronger community partnerships with old and new community members and a steadfast commitment to excellence.

Early in 2022, there was a police incident at the Bridgewater Commons Mall that obtained national and local media attention. The department had to deal with protests on a weekly basis for approximately a month. Major civil rights activist and their followers descended on the township building. The police department assisted in all protests to ensure everyone's rights to a peaceful protest were protected. During this time the police department felt the continued support from our community as others from the outside tried to destroy our positive reputation within the Bridgewater Community.

Calendar year 2022 continued to demonstrate how the men and women of this organization continued to adapt to the ever-changing environment within the police profession while still providing programs and services necessary for the operation of an efficient police department. In June 2022, the department was **reaccredited** by the NJ State Chiefs of Police Association. The reaccreditation process certifies that all of the department's practices and policies are being applied and are current.

Calendar year 2022 was a transition year for the police department. Both Captain O'Neill and Chief Payne retired mid-year, thus many supervisors were put into acting positions until the promotion of Chief Mitzak in October and finally a Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain in early November. The agency was able to bond together and keep our mission uninterrupted during the uncertain times during the year. We are looking to continue to build on our community-based programs to reach our community while providing additional training for our officers to deal with the changing times. Our focus will still be on preventing crime and building a safe culture for all that reside, work, and visit Bridgewater Township.

An extensive hiring process was conducted during the year and the following new officers were hired: Officer Justice Dickerson, Officer Chris Conti, and Officer Tyler Ossenfort. The following recruits were hired and are expected to graduate the police academy in January 2023: Arthur Akins Jr, Justin Anno, Hanif McClinton, Noel Rosado Jr. and Mason Sanchez. All these officers replaced personnel that retired or left the agency.

The following Class 3 officers were hired to increase our Class 3 officers from 3 to 7: Officer Edward Avallon, Officer Kurt Bernhard, Officer Gregory Brooks and Officer Christopher Fischer.

Finally, we hired two Body Worn Camera Clerks, Izabella DaSilva and Joslyn Mendoza. These two positions were needed to keep up with the latest mandates placed upon all police agencies by the NJ Attorney General regarding BWC redactions.

My staff and I look forward to the continued cooperation from the Township Administration and Town Council throughout the 2023 calendar year.

The Bridgewater Township Police Department will continue to maintain our established maxim "Dedicated to Service, Committed to Community." Our Mission Statement, along with our Core Values, serves as a standard of expectations that we demand and expect from each Officer.

Mission Statement

“The men and woman of the Bridgewater Township Police Department are committed to providing effective police service to all persons within our jurisdiction. We endeavor to reduce crime along with the fear of it, through cooperative interaction with the community. We strive to enhance the quality of life for all members of the community.”

Core Values

Service: Providing service and resources that are responsive to the needs of every citizen in our community.

Integrity: We adhere to the honest, fair, and ethical treatment of the people with whom we interact while promoting justice and fulfilling our duty to uphold the law.

Compassion: We exercise empathy and provide aid to all persons who require our assistance.

Pride: We possess pride in our profession, holding ourselves to higher principles and standards in the performance of our duties and personal conduct.

Respect: We respect the rights and beliefs of others and have an appreciation for the diversity of our community.

2022 Goals Met

Body Worn Cameras – The agency purchased newly updated body cameras utilizing a grant from the New Jersey Attorney Generals’ Office. The agency switched our entire BWC operating system to WatchGuard/Motorola. Every officer and vehicle in the fleet was updated with the new system and was fully operational by May 2022.

BarCloud Asset Software- The agency installed the BarCloud Asset Software to assist the agency with managing all of its equipment. This system was fully operational as of November 2022. Officers’ scan out any piece of equipment such as vehicles, radios, weapons and the software keeps track of who signed the equipment out and when it was returned.

Promotions- The agency implemented a new promotion process, which involved changing the township’s ordinance. The new process was used to promote 12 supervisors to Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and Chief,

Community Police Alliance Coordinator- This position became fully functional for the entire 2022 calendar year. The coordinator worked in conjunction with police personnel to assist Bridgewater Residents and coordinate community events throughout the year.

2023 Goals

Bridgewater Township Police Department Citizens’ Police Academy- Department Personnel will instruct community volunteers thru a 10 week (1 night a week) citizen’s police academy introducing various topics for discussion and interaction. The academy will be used as a community policing tool for our residents to better understand what a police officer does or might have to do during a work day.

Interagency Training- While reviewing police encounters that have occurred throughout the country, we have learned that a lot of officers receive no further hands on use of force and self-defense training after the police academy. The department has highly trained self-defense experts within our ranks who are training every officer on the proper NJ Attorney General approved techniques on self-defense and use of force. Bridgewater PD will be one of the foremost departments in the State of NJ in this type of training.

Bridgewater Commons Mall Bridgewater PD Community Policing Sub-Station. - The command staff will be working with the Bridgewater Commons Mall Management Team to establish a police substation within the mall. Officers will have a post at the mall to interact with mall patrons and establish a police presence at a large scale venue.

Community Policing Unit- The police department in conjunction with the township administration will start a community policing unit entitled “Bridgewater Shield”. This unit will consist of a Sergeant and 3 officers that will interact with the Bridgewater Police Community Police Alliance Coordinator and the Bridgewater community to work on quality of life issues, neighborhood watch programs, community events, community presentations and other community policing functions.

Vision Statement

To maintain our position as recognized leaders in our community, both on and off duty, working together as a progressive, professional and interactive agency.

To be an organization that promotes the professional development of its members.

To be an organization that continues to anticipate and influence change.

To be recognized for excellence in service to our citizens.

To be the leading resource for community safety, education, and information.

To provide our personnel with the necessary equipment for their safe and effective job performance. My goal and vision for the police department are to deliver unsurpassed police services to the township residents and maintain our status as one of the State's top law enforcement agencies.

Chief John Mitzak

Roster-2022

Chief John Mitzak

Captain Jeff Savare- Operations
Captain Kevin Tennant- Administration

Lieutenants

Lt. Joe Dolinski
Lt. Brain Blath

Lt. Fred Brittain
Lt. Kevin Lamey

Lt. Peter Ochs
Lt. Doug Thorsen

Sergeants

Sgt. Robert Reilly Sgt. Ryan Cerro Sgt. Todd Mele Sgt. James Edwards
Sgt. John Cooper Sgt. Patrick Knapp Sgt. Mike Ziarnowski Sgt. Chris Bowers
Sgt. Dan Hennessey (TSB) Det. Sgt. Steve Zeichner (CIB)

Officers:

N. Allatt	J. Doesburgh	J. Bezak	J.M. Dailey	T. Ossenfort
J. Dickerson	R. Dunlop	B. Schubert	T. Kochanski	C. Rini
M. Coletta	C. Conti	A. Casale	B. Forke	R. Veneman
A. Digraziano	K. Florczak	A. Alosi	A. Mendoza	D. Giraldo
S. Woodruff	B. Eitner	P. Forgione	J. Conroy	T. Weiss
P. Kaczynski	P. Blaydes	S. Rini	C. Taggert	A. Akins Jr. ®
A. Milito	F. Flores	K. Grimm	J. Anno ®	M. Hoelzel
K. Geisel	M. Thiel	B. MacDonald	N. Rosado ®	
J. McDonough	M. Macchia	N. Grasso	J. Newnom	M. Sanchez ®
A. Giurlando	J. Duffy	R. Pelley	A. Zaferellis	H. McClinton ®

Detectives:

V. Stesko G. VanDoren B. Sujansky (IDO)
C. Outerbridge M. Leight J. Han

Youth Services:

T. Barnett A. Milito B. Eitner

Class III Officers:

M. Christensen P. Ayala C. Fischer K. Bernhard E. Avallon

Traffic Safety Bureau:

J. Kennedy J. Greco S. Black K. Florczak

Confidential Assistant:

Cathy Hamilton

Records Bureau:

Stela Bogdan Janice Mathewson Victor Palumbo Sr.
Isabella DaSilva Joslyn Mendoza

Police Support Services:

Danielle Tufaro Richard Larsen

Licensing Bureau:

Robert Hanlon

Information Technology:

William Nuse

Community Police Alliance

In September of 2021, Somerset County and Bridgewater Township implemented a pilot innovation referred to as the Community Police Alliance project to provide aid and support to at-risk residents before their situation escalated to one involving police intervention. The County Human Services Department hired Dameon Stackhouse, a Licensed Social Worker, to coordinate and refine the pilot project.

The Mission of the Community Police Alliance states, “The Community Police Alliance (CPA) mission is to bridge the gap between the community and law enforcement.”

In total the CPA has received 135 referrals from both the Police Department and the community. These referrals are listed in the various categories in the table below, Mental Health, Youth, Domestic Violence and more. The day-to-day activity of the CPA varies because of the nature of the calls and referrals. The CPA will meet with “Officer Liaison” to receive reports from CAD entries and then contact Referrals. Most days of the week begin at the Somerset County Services Commission (Alt School). The CPA has helped reduce the number of calls to the Police Department down significantly over the past year. The goal of the CPA is to be available and to help reduce multiple calls from the community to the department for issues that can be better addressed with access and connections to the proper resources.

There has been great success over the past 12 months with community involvement and support of the Department. The following are projects that the CPA and members of the police department worked in conjunction:

- Helping Homeless Population find shelter
- Assisting victims who suffered tremendous loss
- Food support for families
- Voluntary Transports to PESS
- Presentation with Chief Mitzak
- Bike Helmet Drive
- Bike Rodeo
- Code Blue Activations
- YSC Grant support for Youth Mentor Program
- Support with Bridgewater Mall incident protest

2023 Goals

Community Events- The goal is to have community policing events in which the police department and Mr. Stackhouse will attend to provide insight, support and guidance.

Accreditation

On June 16th, 2022, the Bridgewater Township Police Department achieved “Police Agency Accreditation” through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. The achievement culminates three years of preparation by Accreditation Manager Lieutenant Brian Blath and Assistant Accreditation Manager Danielle Tufaro. Accreditation requires compliance with the one hundred and twelve professional standards mandated by the Accreditation Board of Review.

The accreditation commission with the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police conducted an assessment of the agency’s officers and supervisors, an inspection of the facility, and a review of numerous policies to verify that the applicable standards have been successfully implemented. Accreditation provides the agency with the training and standards to maintain its professional standard with policing and personnel. The next accreditation cycle is in progress and will cover 2022, 2023 & 2024. Our next assessment will take place in the Spring of 2025.

PART I

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUREAUS

PATROL

The Patrol Division (Operations) is the cornerstone of Police work and makes up the largest portion of the Police Department, which serves approximately 46,000 primary residents and approximately 250,000 daily citizens. The primary duties of the Patrol Division is to protect human life, maintain order, enforce criminal law as well as motor vehicle law, investigate motor vehicle collisions, provide emergency medical services and promote community relations. Patrol Officers impartially gather facts, prepare reports and provide testimony in civil, municipal and superior courts. Patrol Officers respond to and investigate a wide variety of calls for service, to include, but are not limited to the following; domestic violence incidents, robbery, burglary, larceny, assaults, sexual assaults, homicide, missing persons (adult/juvenile). During the calendar year of 2022 the Patrol Division responded to 47,216 calls for service.

The Patrol Division is comprised of forty three Patrol Officers. The Patrol Officers are assigned to four squads with eight Sergeants supervising these squads. There are four Lieutenants who act as Watch Commanders and oversee the Sergeants and Patrol Officers. There is one Captain who is the Operations Division Commander. This Captain oversees the day to day operations of Patrol.

Each year, our Patrol Officers receive advanced training in Crash Investigations, Rifle Operations, and Emergency Medicine as EMT's. Several Patrol Officers are active members of the Somerset County Emergency Response Team (S.C.E.R.T.) responsible for SWAT, Hostage Recovery (HRT) and Dive Rescue Team. In addition, several of our Officers have collateral duties with other Somerset County teams, such as Fire Investigation and the Collision Analysis Response Team (C.A.R.T.). The advanced training and experience that our Patrol Officers bring to their daily duties allows them to be in a state of readiness to take control of the most complex incidents to ensure a successful outcome for our residents.

Goals for 2023 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Continue our efforts to be more involved with the community using Community policing efforts to other neighborhoods within the township.
- Increase our Social Media presence so that information is transmitted in a timely manner to our community.
- Continue to provide advanced training to all officers within the agency, so that they can excel in their profession.
- Certify additional Patrol Officers this year to carry the patrol rifle.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU

The Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB) in 2022 consisted of a Lieutenant (Kevin Lamey), Detective Sergeant (Peter Ochs) from 1/2022 to 11/2022, Detective Sergeant (Stephen Zeichner) 10/2022-present, five detectives (Michael Leight, Jon Han, Vincent Stetsko, Collin Outerbridge, and Garret Van Doren) and an identification officer (Brian Sujansky).

The identification officer is our primary evidence custodian, overseeing approximately eleven thousand two hundred and four (11,204) pieces of evidence. The identification officer's primary function is to identify, preserve, gather, and evaluate evidence collected at crime scenes. After the evidence has been collected and evaluated, the identification officer then catalogs the evidence into our evidence vault. The identification officer's secondary duties include processing the collected items of evidence that may have fingerprints, data or DNA evidence. The identification officer's other duties include transferring evidence to the NJ State Police Lab or the SCPO Forensic Lab for analysis. In 2022, approximately four thousand six hundred and forty nine (4,649) pieces of evidence were logged into and out of our evidence vault. Three hundred and twenty eight (328) items of evidence were destroyed, twelve (12) items were auctioned, sixty seven (67) items were returned to the owner, thirty three (33) items were transferred to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, and five (5) items were transferred to another police agency. There were eighty one (81) burglaries reported within the Township, with the vast majority requiring identification work.

Detectives within CIB have a number of responsibilities as well. CIB personnel investigate adult and juvenile related crimes, conduct interviews of suspects and witnesses, conduct surveillances as well as undercover operations. Additionally, detectives identify, locate and arrest criminals including fugitives, obtain and execute search / arrest warrants, conduct background investigations on potential Police Officers and civilian employees. Detectives then screen criminal complaints with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. In addition, Detectives also process crime scenes, assist the identification officer and also assist patrol officers whenever needed.

Each detective has their own collateral responsibilities as well, to include, but are not limited to, Counter-Terrorism, Megan's Law, Bias Crimes, Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Investigations, Burglary Task Force, Sex Assault Task Force and Gangs/ Drugs and Guns.

Our counter-terrorism detective collects and shares information on suspicious activity related to bomb threats, threats to religious facilities, businesses, schools, unattended parcels, storage facilities, and chemical facilities with our Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) liaison to the New Jersey Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), The New Jersey State Police Regional Operation Center (ROC) and the Office of Homeland Security.

Our Megan's Law detectives are tasked with overseeing new and current sex offenders that reside or work within our township, as well as making periodic notifications when required

depending on the tier classification. There are currently eighteen (18) registered sex offenders (Megan's Law) living within the Township. Fifteen (15) of these offenders must re-register with the police department once a year, while three (3) must check in every three months.

Our bias crimes detective is tasked with reviewing all reports of crimes committed based on the victim's creed, ethnicity, race, religion or sexual orientation and then submitting those reports to our SCPO liaison. There were nine (9) Bias incidents reported and investigated in 2022.

The ABC detective is responsible for determining whether our applicants for liquor licenses have disclosed the sources of all funds used to purchase the license, the financing associated with any corporate held licenses, background investigations on the establishment's employees, and compliance with our township ordinance(s). In 2022, two (2) of the Township's forty (40) liquor licenses were transferred, requiring full investigations on all parties involved. There are six (6) licenses in an inactive status and zero (0) licenses are being held pending sale and transfer.

The Burglary Task Force Detective is responsible with sharing information about burglaries to residences and businesses with several other jurisdictions. By sharing this information the Task Force can develop leads based on trends or evidence from other jurisdictions. The detective plans and attends meetings and has a large network of detectives sharing information to develop suspects and potential target areas.

Goals for 2023-

- To increase undercover operations for the purpose of suppressing criminal activities
- To ensure every detective is trained in Interview & Interrogation, Crime Scene Processing, and Photography
- To deploy Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) in the town to assist in criminal investigations

The following are some high profile cases the CIB has investigated during 2022:

January- A fourteen year old student brought a compact stun gun to school with her. The stun gun accidentally fell out of the student's back pack on the school bus while she was on her way home. Other students saw the stun gun and inquired as to what it was. The fourteen year old then showed the other students the stun gun and demonstrated how it works (by displaying a spark). During an interview with Detectives, the juvenile's mother informed us that she gave the stun gun to her daughter because she (daughter) walks to the bus stop by herself in the morning when it is dark out. The student did not have any intention on using the weapon on anyone. The case was screened through the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. They authorized a juvenile complaint against the student for being in possession of an unlawful weapon on school property.

March- A 21 year old resident was visiting a friend on Sunny Slope Road when suspects exited a wooded area and shot several bullets into her vehicle. A passenger seated in the front seat was unharmed. A suspect was developed and charged with first degree Attempted Murder.

April- A 31 year old Metuchen resident was found to be unconscious while sitting in the driver seat of her vehicle in the parking lot of Target with two children in the car. An investigation revealed the driver was overdosing on narcotics. Rescue Squad personnel administered naran to the driver and eventually transported to the hospital for treatment. The children were turned over to their other parent. DCPD was contacted and an investigation was opened.

May- A 11 year district old student was overheard telling another student that they were going to take their father's handgun and shoot themselves with it. They were transported for psychiatric evaluation.

June- A Woodside Lane resident was the victim of a residential burglary. Unknown actors were seen on home surveillance video entering the home and immediately targeting and removing a large safe. This investigation is still ongoing.

July- An unknown male entered the Speedy Mart convenient store wearing a mask and a hooded sweatshirt and demanded money from the store employee after brandishing a knife. After a brief verbal dispute the suspect fled the store. He did not leave with any proceeds. The suspect in this incident has not been identified and this case is still being investigated.

August- A Foothill Road residence was burglarized. After being out of the residence for several hours. When they returned home, they noticed a rear bathroom window was ajar. The suspects ransacked the master bedroom. Currency and jewelry was stolen. No suspect/s have been identified at this time.

September- Two (2) suspects gained access to the PSE&G power station located on Polhemus Lane. The actors used a saw to cut through the fencing and remove several feet of copper wiring. The suspects left the wire on the ground prior to fleeing the area upon the arrival of the police. A possible suspect may have been identified in this case and the investigation is ongoing.

October- A Heath Drive residence was burglarized. When the resident returned home they noticed her house was burglarized and the interior was ransacked. No suspects have been identified at this time.

November- Police responded to a subject who reported that his 90 year old father was missing. His father left the house four hours earlier to get items from a local store and was expected to have returned several hours earlier. Detectives and Officers worked with NJSP and utilized a variety of investigative resources that led to the safe return of the missing individual.

December- Three adult females were ultimately arrested for shoplifting from Ulta Beauty. A vehicle was later located in the parking lot. Detectives towed the vehicle and a search warrant was obtained. Approximately \$50,000 in stolen proceeds were recovered from the vehicle. \$11,370 in cash was seized from the defendants. All three defendants were charged with 3rd degree shoplifting and lodged in jail.

Youth Services Bureau

The Youth Services Bureau (YSB) consisted of three (3) officers; Tyran Barnett, Anthony Milito and Brian Eitner who report directly to the Detective Sergeant in charge of the Criminal Investigations Bureau. These officers are commonly referred to as School Resource Officers (SRO). The Youth Services Bureau's main objective is to ensure a safe learning environment for both students and teachers. Secondary responsibilities are to interact with students, school administrators, school staff, conduct investigations, educate students through presentations and address problems as they occur. Youth Service Officers conduct criminal investigations involving juveniles, as well as investigating missing/runaway juveniles. They also conduct background investigations and assist members of the Criminal Investigations Bureau and the Patrol Division when school is not in session.

The Youth Services Officers have additional responsibilities as liaisons to the Bridgewater-Raritan Youth Services Commission, the Municipal Alliance, and the Somerset County Juvenile Officer's Association. The Youth Services Commission provides assistance for "at-risk" youth as well as supporting various events and groups for juveniles. The Municipal Alliance focuses on helping to reduce the use of drugs and alcohol in youth through presentations and various informational platforms. The Somerset County Juvenile Officer's Association hosts meetings throughout the year in an effort for all juvenile officers throughout the county to collaborate and share information. Officer Barnett also became the police department's liaison for the Gun Unit and Gang Unit.

In January, Bridgewater Raritan Superintendent Robert Beers developed a new position and appointed Michael Voorhees as the District Director of Security. The school resource officers and Mr. Voorhees collaborated on multiple school security, student, and traffic safety issues. Such as student drop off/pick up traffic plans, panic button tests, and school investigations. Mr. Voorhees assumed the role as the liaison between the Bridgewater Raritan High School administration and the school resource officers; effecting a better communication and information sharing process.

During the school year Officer Barnett and Milito continued to work with the high school administration and students to ensure a safe and secure learning environment. For the months of May and June, Officer Milito was assigned to the Bridgewater Raritan Middle School and performed the same duties.

In September of this year, Officer Eitner joined the Youth Services Bureau and was assigned to the High School along with Officer Barnett and Milito. The 2022-2023 school year began with a new head principal, Dan Hemberger, and an altered class schedule. The class schedule was proposed to allow students more time in the classroom, which subsequently involved a Unit Lunch. The unit lunch was a 49-minute block in which every student attends. During this time,

all students are allowed access to all common areas of the high school buildings, however, they are not allowed to leave the property. This changed the dynamic of the security of the high school and is an ongoing adjustment for the school resource officers. Mr. Voorhees also hired 5 armed security personnel to patrol the school district buildings. The schedules of said individuals are determined by the district, however, the school resource officers work in conjunction with the security team in order to establish a safe environment.

Throughout the rest of the school year, the school resource officers have conducted several presentations within the classrooms regarding drugs, driving safety, and criminal law. Officers were present at the township's Halloween event at the Bridgewater Commons Mall to interact and engage with members of the community. Officers also performed tours of the police department to Boy Scout troops. Officer Barnett spoke with students at the Middle School regarding school violence and bullying. Officer Barnett spoke at the Brahma House to mentor the youth who are residing in the program. On National Law Enforcement Day, Officer Milito responded to Crim Elementary school and read books to multiple classrooms throughout the day.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (SCPO) continues their emphasis on juvenile offenders being offered the opportunity to participate in the Station House Adjustment Program. This program enables Youth Services to assign juveniles to community services in lieu of filing a formal complaint for certain offenses and non-violent crimes. The community based agency, Middle Earth, located on North Bridge Street in Bridgewater, oversees the community service program. This program is offered to juveniles who reside in Somerset County. There have been thirteen juveniles enrolled in the Station House Adjustment Program during 2022.

The New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice also made changes to the reporting system. In addition to Station House Adjustments, the state now requires police departments to record all Curbside Warnings. Both officers formulated a method through Q.E.D. (Computer Automated Dispatch) software which facilitated the tracking of each warning. There have been thirteen (13) juveniles who received a warning in lieu of a Stationhouse Adjustment or a criminal consequence.

At the beginning of 2022 the school resource officers established a unit goal to create a healthy relationship between the school resource officers and the students of the Bridgewater-Raritan High School, as well as, establish an effective relationship with the newly appointed director of security.

Throughout the course of the year we focused on that goal and were able to obtain results from our efforts. Together we engaged with the students of Bridgewater-Raritan High school by participating in an advisory period. We conducted social interviews with students throughout the school, with the focus on learning how they exhibited self-respect. We actively participated in spirit week and events operated by the students to show our support. We were present in the hallways and walkways daily to converse with the students and assist when needed. Through those engagements we created a relationship with the student body that is conducive of maintaining a safe environment.

With the increasing presence and responding societal awareness of school violence throughout the country, the Youth Services Bureau has put a significant emphasis on school security and student relations in 2022. Establishing a trusting relationship with the students has led to multiple investigations in which the reports and much of the evidence originated from students who felt comfortable approaching police regarding a security issue. Specifically, there were two incidents in 2022 in which students reporting to school resource officers have led to juvenile detentions and adjudications. Without these trusting relationships built throughout the year it is possible that these threats may have gone unreported.

As these past achievements reflect a positive trend on the Youth Service's Bureaus effectiveness within the district and community, it is important we continue to focus on resetting our ambitions moving forward. As we begin a new year, this unit will establish new standards that will not only improve our capabilities but influence the administration that we work so closely with.

Youth Services Goals for 2023:

- Attend more training specifically on school safety, current drug trends, technology and the internet, driver's education and community outreach.
- Maintain a close working relationship with the school administration, staff, and student.
- Establish new security protocols due to the recent decline in school security staff members.
- Maintain an effective and professional relationship with the district security team.

Traffic Safety Bureau

During the year of 2022, the Bridgewater Township Police Department's Traffic Safety Bureau provided traffic safety services to township residents, businesses and all who traveled the roads in Bridgewater Township. The primary function of the Traffic Safety Bureau was and continues to be the investigation of serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes, along with the enforcement of traffic laws within the township. The Traffic Safety Bureau is responsible for: traffic safety presentations, hazardous busing, school crossing guards, traffic surveys, crash data collection, tow wrecker management, junk titles and traffic enforcement related training.

The Traffic Safety Bureau was comprised of the following personnel during 2022:

Sergeant Dan Hennessey
Officer John Kennedy
Officer Joseph Greco
Officer Steven Black
Officer Kevin Florczak

The Traffic Safety Bureau investigated 4 fatal motor vehicle crashes in 2022.

1. **February 2nd** - At approximately 1828 hours, a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian crash occurred on Finderne Avenue near the intersection of 4th Street. The crash involved a 2019 Honda CRV traveling south in the right lane of Finderne Avenue; and a pedestrian who was crossing Finderne Avenue, traveling west, on foot. Investigation revealed that the actions of the pedestrian contributed to the crash. The pedestrian crossed the roadway during heavy traffic volume, in a low lit area, while wearing dark clothing. Furthermore, the pedestrian did not cross the roadway in a marked or unmarked crosswalk.
2. **April 2nd** - Officers responded to a serious motor vehicle crash involving a pedalcyclist at the intersection of Fulton St. and 3rd St. Officers on scene located an unresponsive juvenile female suffering from life threatening injuries. The juvenile was transported Robert Wood Johnson Somerset Hospital where she was pronounced dead.
Investigation revealed that a 22 y/o female of Bridgewater, NJ, was operating a 2021 GMC Sierra pickup truck and was traveling north on Fulton St. The juvenile pedalcyclist was riding her bike west on 3rd St. when she rode into the intersection of Fulton St. without stopping at the stop sign. She was then struck by the GMC pickup. Investigation determined that the actions of the pedalcyclist not stopping at the stop sign was the cause of the crash, the driver was not charged with any traffic offenses.
3. **April 8th**- At approximately 2112 hours, Officers investigated a motor vehicle crash that occurred at 671 Country Club Road. The crash involved a 2009 Lincoln MKZ,

operated by a 96 y/o man from Bridgewater. The driver was traveling west on Talamini Road and failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection of Talamini Road and Country Club Road. He drove through the intersection, onto the property of 671 Country Club Road, and struck a large tree. The driver was transported to RWJ Somerset to be treated for his injuries.

While at RWJ Somerset, the driver's medical condition declined and he was subsequently transferred to RWJ New Brunswick where he died, 2 days later, as a result of his injuries.

Off. Greco conducted a follow-up investigation several days after the crash that revealed the following: At the time of the crash, the driver appeared to be alert and conscious, according to Officers and witnesses on the scene. I spoke to Officer Calimano who informed me the driver did not appear to have life threatening injuries at the scene. Due to that fact, a comprehensive investigation by the Traffic Safety Unit was not completed. I was informed by RWJ staff the driver's previous medical condition (prior to the crash) and age was a contributing factor for his death.

I was unable to determine the cause of the crash, or if the driver suffered from a medical emergency prior to the crash.

Investigation did not reveal any criminal act by any involved party.

4. **June 5th**-At approximately 0046 hours, Officers investigated a motor vehicle vs. pedestrian crash that occurred on State Highway 28 near the intersection of Vanderveer Road. The crash involved a 2008 Lexus ES 350, operated by a 60 y/o Bridgewater man and a 29 y/o female pedestrian. The driver was traveling west on State Highway 28 and the pedestrian was walking eastbound on the westbound shoulder of State Highway 28. As the driver approached the pedestrian, she entered the westbound lane of travel and was subsequently struck by the vehicle. The pedestrian suffered fatal injuries as a result of the crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene. Prior to the crash the victim attended a wedding reception where she consumed alcoholic beverages. After the wedding reception she returned to her hotel room with her husband. They had an argument and the victim left the room. After leaving, she sent her husband several text messages which eluded to self-harm. We were unable to determine if Benson deliberately walked into traffic, acting on the self-threatening text messages, or her level of intoxication impeded her ability to walk in a straight path.

The Traffic Safety Bureau investigated numerous serious motor-vehicle crashes. Below are some of the noteworthy investigations conducted in 2022.

1. **March 29**, TSU investigated multiple MVCs which occurred during a pursuit with a vehicle being pursued by Marked Warren Twp. Police Vehicles. The pursuit began on Washington Valley Road near Mount Horeb Road and ended on Interstate 287 North near exit 13. During the pursuit, MVCs occurred in the parking lot of 1918 Washington Valley Road (Dunkin Donuts), Bittle Ct, and on the ramp from Union Avenue to I287 North.
2. **May 5**, TSU investigated a crash on the third level of the Bridgewater Commons Mall parking deck. A 17-year-old male was struck by his own vehicle while looking under the vehicle to check for a fluid leak. His friend, a 19-year-old male, was assisting him and turned the vehicle on and inadvertently allowed the vehicle to accelerate by not knowing how to operate a manual transmission and the vehicle's emergency brake malfunctioning. The 17-year-old was dragged approximately 80 feet and was then pinned under his vehicle. Finderne Fire assisted with lifting and extracting the pedestrian.
3. **September 13**, TSU investigated a crash with a struck bicyclist on US 22 east near Milltown Road. The cyclist was riding along the shoulder and was struck by vehicle making a right turn onto Milltown Road, causing the cyclist to be thrown from his bicycle and strike his head. He was transported to RWJ for treatment.
4. **September 24**, TSU investigated a hit and run crash with a pedestrian. The crash occurred on US 22 west near Vosseller Avenue. The Pedestrian entered the roadway and was struck by a vehicle which fled the scene after impact. The pedestrian then entered their vehicle which was parked on the shoulder and drive forward for approximately 1/3 of a mile before stopping and speaking with Bridgewater officers. She was then transported to JFK Hospital for treatment. It was later determined that the vehicle operated by the pedestrian was stolen out of Berkeley Heights.
5. **October 16**, TSU investigated a crash which occurred on US Highway 22 west, just west of Vosseller Avenue. The crash involved a 2008 Kawasaki motorcycle, operated by a 21 years old male. The vehicle struck was a 2016 Nissan Maxima, operated by 38 years old male. The motorcyclist was traveling west, on US Highway 22, when he struck the rear of the aforementioned Nissan Maxima, throwing him from the motorcycle. Members of Robert Wood Johnson Hospital ALS and BLS arrived on scene and transported Horsburgh to Robert Wood Johnson New Brunswick, with serious but non-life threatening injuries.

The Traffic Safety Bureau obtained a LTI 20/20 SXB TruSpeed Laser which is primarily used for speed enforcement; however, the laser has a secondary capability that allows for precise

measurements to be taken. This capability was further developed by the officers within the unit to take precise measurements (triangulation method) of four fatal motor vehicle crash scenes and several serious motor vehicle crash scenes. The implantation of this capability enhanced the unit's overall effectiveness in the field by reducing the time needed to close a roadway for crash scene processing. We also obtained two Radar Recorders which we utilize to conduct traffic studies on roads to determine if there is a speeding issue.

In 2022 The Traffic Safety Bureau conducted four hundred seventy-nine (479) motor-vehicle traffic stops, and investigated five hundred forty-four (544) motor vehicle crashes compared to 188 crashes investigated in 2021. Four hundred thirty-eight (438) directed patrols were conducted targeting roadways with various traffic issues and citizen complaints up from 377 in 2021.

During 2022, Sergeant Hennessey, and Officers Greco, Kennedy, Black and Florczak continued their education primarily through virtual training (COVID-19). They also served on the Somerset County Collision and Reconstruction Team where they assisted in the investigations of serious and fatal motor vehicle crashes throughout Somerset County. Officer Kennedy remains a certified Drug Recognition Expert and assisted investigations within Bridgewater Township and surrounding jurisdictions by conducting evaluations of suspected impaired drivers due to the use of narcotics.

Officer Kennedy and Officer Greco are certified Child Seat Technicians. Officers Black and Florczak became certified in August 2022. Township residents and individuals who work in Bridgewater can contact the police department and schedule an appointment with these officers to have their child seat(s) inspected to ensure proper installation. In 2022, TSU inspected 16 car seats at police headquarters.

During 2022, utility and roadway improvement projects occurred throughout Bridgewater Township. Bureau personnel regularly attended construction meetings and consulted with the Bridgewater Engineering Department to ensure safe work zones and properly installed detour routes.

2022 Goals for the Bridgewater Traffic Safety Bureau were as follows:

1. Conduct traffic details designed to curb aggressive and dangerous driving.
2. Continue to address speeding complaints utilizing our radar recorders, radar signs, targeted enforcement and directed patrol.
3. Increase the utilization social media even more, to keep citizens apprised of road closures, detours and upcoming events that will effect traffic in Bridgewater.
4. Continue our increased awareness and enforcement of vehicles passing stopped school buses.
5. Obtain Child Seat Technician training for newly assigned Traffic Safety Bureau officers and other officers interested in furthering their career within TSB.
6. Obtain specialty training related to traffic crash reconstruction for newly assigned officers to TSB.
7. Hire two (2) additional crossing guards or sub-contract the work to an outside vendor.

The Traffic Safety Bureau met most of the goals set for 2022. Speeding complaints will always be an issue in a town the size of Bridgewater. We continue to address speeding complaints by first conducting a speed survey utilizing one of our radar recorders or speed signs to determine whether the complaint is valid or simply a perception problem. If a speeding issue is determined to exist on a particular road, the Traffic Safety Bureau, as in years past, will conduct targeted enforcement of said road with periodic follow up.

The Traffic Safety Bureau has continued to keep our citizens informed of road closures and detours, through the use of Nixle, social media, and the department's two message boards. The message boards have been used to advise motorists of community events and construction projects. This will continue in 2023.

The Traffic Safety Bureau received several complaints of vehicles passing stopped school busses throughout the year and addressed those complaints by conducting targeted enforcement.

Officer's Florczak and Black received and successfully completed Child Seat Technician training in August.

Two crossing guards resigned in 2022; however, TSU officers conducted the vast majority of the vacant crossing guard posts within the township due to crossing guard shortage. This issue was compounded due to a remaining vacancy of a reserve crossing guard which could be used to fill in when other crossing guards call out. The Crossing Guard Staff shortage had a tremendous impact on their time which impacts their ability to adequately address traffic safety issues within the Township of Bridgewater.

2023 Goals for the Bridgewater Traffic Safety Bureau are as follows:

1. Increase DWI enforcement through specific patrols that will be scheduled during times of high probability.
2. Continue to address speeding complaints utilizing our radar recorders, radar signs, targeted enforcement and directed patrol.
3. Increase the utilization of social media even more, to keep citizens apprised of road closures, detours and upcoming events that will effect traffic in Bridgewater.
4. Continue our increased awareness and enforcement of vehicles passing stopped school buses.
5. Continue to update and conduct speed surveys on problem streets.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT BUREAU

The Technical Support Bureau (TSB) is responsible for the planning, procurement, installation, and maintenance of the department's information technology (IT) resources. The department's IT infrastructure is currently composed of:

- Law Enforcement Records Management (LERMS) – Queues Enforth Development, Inc. (QED)
- QED Mobile Client – Queues Enforth Development, Inc. (QED)
- New Jersey State National Crime Information Center 2000 interface
- Windows Server 2016 – Microsoft
- Windows Exchange Server 2007 – Microsoft
- Worry-Free Business Security Antivirus – Trend Micro
- WatchGuard Firewall – WatchGuard
- Windows 7, 8.1, and 10 Professional – Microsoft
- Definity Telephone System and Voicemail - Avaya
- Digital Voice Logger – Eventide
- Motorola Mobile Video Recorders (MVRs) and Body Worn Cameras (BWC)
- Five Servers – Physical and Virtual (Linux and Microsoft operating systems).
- Over 55 desktop/laptop pc clients (MS Windows OS).
- 30 in-car Mobile Data Terminals (MS Windows OS, QED Mobile client)
- 85 Body-Worn Cameras

One full-time civilian IT Coordinator and one sworn officer staff the Technical Support Bureau. In 2022 the Bureau's primary focus was implementing and supporting the new BWC and MVR system. With the full-time sworn officer, the TSB was able to operate more efficiently. Equipment uptime was much higher due to the increased oversight provided by additional staffing. The officer was able to liaise effectively with many outside agencies, vendors, and DPW to ensure the police department had the tools to function effectively.

In 2022, the Motorola body-worn cameras and MVR procurement and implementation was completed. The department-wide BWC deployment allowed us to be compliant with the requirements of the Office of the Attorney General. With over \$180,000 in grant funding, the department purchased new BWCs and MVRs. The BWC and MVRs were successfully deployed by March, 2022.

The QED LERMS system continues to be the repository of computerized data related to the department's daily functions. LERMS contains digital records of all department enforcement and investigative activities and digital images of all original police reports. This information is supplied to clients as requested, used for crime analysis, and preparation of monthly Uniform Crime Report (UCR) as required by State and Federal regulations and Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests.

We have been awaiting the completion of our email server upgrade for approximately three years. Migration to the newest version of Microsoft Exchange server was to be completed by a consultant and was supposed to be completed in the first quarter of 2021. The migration has not happened, and the consultant has no clear path to completion. In 2023 we are open to pursuing a solution that will provide disaster recovery, business continuity, and mandated archival.

2023 Goals

- Address the outdated email issue.
- Assess the technology equipment needs of the department moving forward
- Assess network infrastructure needs/upgrades
- Plan for the upgrade of site security/surveillance/access control
- Plan for the upgrade of the telephone system
- Purchase and implement the automatic tagging of BWC/MVR videos via and QED interface
- When available through QED start reporting NIBRS data to the NJSP.

Records Bureau

The Records Bureau is responsible for processing and filing police reports, processing Firearms and Solicitors Permit Applications, distributing police reports to the appropriate requesting agencies and the public, and preparing case files. The Records Bureau is also responsible for maintaining archives and entering data into the computer system.

As of **December 31, 2022**, the Records Bureau processed the following:

Case Files	2851
Discovery Requests	708
OPRA Requests	491
Background Checks	768
Insurance Requests	572
Total Fees Collected	\$27,273

In 2022, the Records Bureau experienced higher numbers in most areas. Total fees collected increased as people began to return to work.

Open Public Records Act (OPRA) applications are received by the Township Clerk and forwarded to the Records Bureau. Requests can be extensive and require from one to hundreds of separate reports. OPRA requests continued to increase at a higher percentage than the increase in the number of reports taken. We received 257 OPRA requests in 2020, 411 in 2021, and 491 in 2022. The trend of increased OPRA requests is continuing.

Background checks and Insurance requests remained similar to the numbers in 2021. Background checks include Letters of Good Conduct, DCPD requests, and requests from other law enforcement agencies about employee applications. Background checks decreased from 846 in 2021 to 768 in 2022. They are still higher than the 705 in 2020. Insurance requests include insurance agencies and law firm requests for accident reports. These requests can be time-consuming to prepare. Requests increased from 235 in 2020, to 411 in 2021, to 491 in 2022.

In 2022 the Records Bureau had a staff of nine civilian personnel. The team was comprised of one Senior Records Clerk, two full-time Records Clerks, one Criminal Investigative Clerk, one Account Clerk, a Licensing Coordinator, two BWC redaction clerks, and an IT Coordinator. Additionally, the Account Clerk is responsible for the accreditation process for the Bridgewater Police Department.

The Records Bureau has handled court discovery duties since 2010. This responsibility includes processing all Bridgewater Police Department and NJ State Police discovery requests and assisting the Bridgewater Municipal Court Prosecutor with court duties on all scheduled court

days. In 2022 the decrease in discovery requests processed continued. They decreased from 938 in 2021 to 708 in 2022. While the number of discovery requests has decreased, the complexity of discovery, and thus the time it takes to complete, continue to increase

The decriminalization of marijuana and the continued widespread use of expedited expungements have led to an unprecedented increase in expungements. The New Jersey Supreme Court ordered over 500 Bridgewater marijuana arrests expunged. From 2011 to 2019, we averaged 49 expungements per year. In 2022 we processed approximately 81 expungements and have approximately 680 still pending. At the end of 2022, four officers were added to expungement processing as collateral duties.

2022 Goals

Continue to Cross-Train all personnel

Add BWC civilian position

Utilized the additional officers to eliminate the expungement backlog

LICENSING BUREAU

State statutes and local ordinances make the police department responsible for issuing certain licenses and permits. The Licensing Bureau handles that function. Licensing personnel help an applicant through the required pre-issuance process. The Licensing Bureau then performs an investigation and gathers necessary documentation. A report is generated and submitted to the Chief of Police to grant or deny the permit or license.

2022 was the third full year using the New Jersey State Polices “FARS” Firearms Application & Registration System, or “FARS” as it is known. The fully online, paperless system has streamlined the firearms licensing process. It has also eliminated the burden of storing physical documents, which are now stored electronically in FARS. During 2022 we processed permits with little to no backlog generated by the Licencing Bureau.

In 2022 the Licensing Bureau saw a steady increase in permit applications compared to 2021. The Bureau completed 1525 permits in 2022 as opposed to 797 in 2021. In the second half of 2022, the State began to issue handgun carry permits. These permits required much more investigative work and, thus, time to complete. Part of the increased workload is that the State was not ready for the carry permits, and all applications are done on paper outside of the FARS system. The State expects the carry permits to be in the FARS system by the third quarter of 2023. Utilizing the FARS system will streamline the process.

2022 numbers:

1525 Applications Filed
11 Applications Denied
46 Carry Permits Issued

2022 Solicitor and peddler permits:

64 Permits were issued for the year.

In January 2022, the Licensing Bureau instituted an online payment system for firearms applications and peddlers’ permits. Except for carry permits, applicants could complete the entire firearms application process without physically coming to the police department. Online payments led to considerably fewer applications being held up for payment.

2022 Goals

Add an additional licensing clerk to keep up with the increased demand for permits

TRAINING

Lieutenants Brittain and Thorsen are assigned to the Professional Development Bureau and serve as the Department's Training Coordinators. Their responsibilities include identifying training needs, coordinating training schedules, and ensuring annual mandatory training and certifications are completed in accordance with the guidelines of the NJ Attorney General's Office and the NJ Police Training Commission. Training a police officer is divided into four phases. Those phases are Basic Police Recruit Training, Performance Objective Standardized Training (POST), Field Training, and In-Service Training. A review of each phase in 2022 is listed below.

Basic Police Recruit Training

In May of 2022, our department began the application process for entry level police officer positions utilizing PoliceApp.com. Our department contacted the following organizations who assisted in advertising for the opening: The New Jersey Asian American Law Enforcement Officers Association, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement and National Latino Peace Officers Association. The application information was also forwarded to contacts at the local Sikh and Hindu Temples. In addition, the police officer openings were posted on the department's website and Facebook page as well as the New Jersey Chiefs of Police website.

As a result of the above listed efforts, one hundred and fifty-two applicants applied for the entry level police officer position in 2022. On June 25, 2022 the Bridgewater Police Department hosted a physical qualification test. Sixty-eight applicants passed the PQT to qualify for the written examination on July 9, 2022. Thirty-three applicants passed the written examination. After passing two rounds of interviews, the final candidates were moved onto a background investigation. Five applicants were selected and sworn-in as police recruits on 9/2/2022. The five recruits are currently attending the Mercer County Police Academy for Basic Police Training and scheduled to graduate in 2023.

POST Training

Performance Objective Standardized Training (POST) is State mandated training given to each new police officer prior to his/her assignment to a Field Training Officer. POST training is commonly referred to as "agency training," wherein the new police officer learns about his/her agency and the agency's day-to-day operations, rules and regulations, and policies and procedures. This training must be completed within the department to satisfy the requirements set forth by the New Jersey Police Training Commission for certification as a police officer. In 2022, three officers completed POST with the Training unit.

Field Training Program

Upon graduation from an accredited Police Academy, each probationary police officer enters the Probationary Police Officer's Field Training Program. The program provides the officer with orientation and guidance from skilled, experienced, and trained police officers who are chosen and assigned as Field Training Officers (FTO). The probationary

police officer will be evaluated daily by the FTO and weekly by the Squad Supervisor. Reports are utilized to document, address, and correct specific deficiencies noted during the probationary period. Before completing his/her probationary period, the officer must pass a comprehensive written and practical test based on knowledge in areas of department rules and regulations, policy and procedure, New Jersey criminal and motor vehicle law, township ordinances, patrol areas, business locations, and overall patrol practices. Upon successfully completing the program, the officer will be recommended for permanent status with the police department, which is granted by the Chief of Police. In 2022, five officers successfully completed the Field Training Program.

In-Service Training

Department personnel attended approximately 95 mandatory certification, re-certification, and in-service courses. Our department provides mandated annual training to all members as prescribed by the State Attorney General's Office. The Rodgers Group was hired to implement training programs for the department that are designed to reduce risk and liability. The police department continued its proactive approach by assigning training in incident command systems, active shooter response, unarmed defense, and numerous other specialized investigative classes. Certifications were maintained/obtained in the following areas; Mandatory Agency Training (MATs), Community-Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations Training (CLEAR), Alcotest 7110 MK IIC, C.P.R. / A.E.D. Instructor Re-certification, Taser, and Radar/Lidar Operation. The training was offered by federal, state, county, and local agencies as well as given in-house by officers trained as instructors.

Goals

The training goals for 2022 were all accomplished. Our department was able to complete all mandatory training as prescribed by State/County guidelines. The department also trained our officers to the accreditation standards established by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police. Three officers attended either the firearms instructor course or the rifle instructor course.

Goals for 2023

- 1) Complete all mandatory training as prescribed by State and County laws and guidelines.
- 2) Successfully implement numerous department-wide training sessions regarding: active shooter response, defensive tactics and pain compliance techniques.
- 3) Maintain all of the training to NJSACOP Accreditation Standards.

PART II

COLLATERAL DUTIES

Awards

During 2022, Lieutenant Frederick Brittain and Lieutenant Kevin Lamey oversaw award requests by assigning an awards committee for review and approval.

Despite an unprecedented period of time in our country, and in particular with law enforcement, the men and women of the Bridgewater Police Department did an outstanding job. We were fortunate enough to honor several officers and civilians for their performances with the following awards carried out through 2022.

Exceptional Service Award

- Ofc. Jonathan Newnom
- Ofc. Scott Woodruff
- Trooper Patrick Pimental

CPR Save Award

- Ofc. Noah Allatt
- Det. Jonathan Han
- Ofc. Michael Macchia

Unit Citation

- Lt. Joseph Dolinski
- Lt. Douglas Thorsen
- Sgt. Daniel Hennessey
- Sgt. Louis Bowers
- Off. Noah Allatt
- Ofc. Patrick Blaydes
- Ofc. John Doesburgh
- Ofc. Joseph Greco
- Ofc. John Kennedy
- Ofc. Michael Macchia
- Ofc. Jonathan Newnom
- Det. Collin Outerbridge
- Ofc. Steve Rini

Civilian CPR Award

- Marlain Myktok

Domestic Violence Annual Report 2022

Based on domestic violence response statistics derived from call history files, in 2022, there were 289 domestic violence related calls for service, of which 149 were completed investigations.

In 2021, there were 458 domestic violence related calls for service, of which 196 were completed investigations.

In 2020, there were 523 domestic violence related calls for service, of which 168 were completed investigations.

Domestic Violence Liaison Officers:

During 2022, Sergeant Todd Mele and Officer Anne Alosi served as the department's Domestic Violence Liaison Officers. The liaison officers acted at the point of contact with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, the office of Victim-Witness Advocacy, the Somerset County Family Court, Safe and Sound of Somerset, and the Bridgewater Township Domestic Violence Response Team. The liaison officers attend Domestic Violence Response Team meetings, Somerset County Family Court Domestic Violence Working Group meetings, and annual domestic violence law update training.

The liaison officers are also responsible for coordinating and instructing the annual state mandated training in domestic violence response to all sworn police personnel. Additionally, the liaison officers frequently serve as the first point of contact for victims of domestic violence who call or respond to the police department for advice or assistance.

BURGLAR ALARMS

The Bridgewater Police Department responded to 1,604 calls involving burglar, panic, and hold-up alarm activations in 2022. This number of responses is almost 250 less than last year's number. Generally, these alarms require two officers to be dispatched to the alarm activation. These alarm activations are considered high priority, which requires an expedited response until the situation is evaluated by the initial responding officer(s).

In addition to burglar alarms, officers respond to medical, vehicle, and fire alarms, including water flow and carbon monoxide alarms. As per township ordinance, all burglar alarms need to be registered and maintained so information retrieval is possible. While Somerset County Communications maintains the central QED computer system and software, all false alarm reporting and registration data is maintained by the Police Department Alarm Manager. In 2022, 106 township residences and businesses were found to have not registered their burglar alarm systems. Alarm packets were sent out to all these Bridgewater properties asking for alarm registrations to be completed and returned. The rate of return was 48% by the end of 2022. During the year, one hundred nineteen alarm registrations were added to the county QED system. Outdated alarm registrations continue to be found and are deleted from the system, and hardcopy information is removed from the alarm registration books.

The QED software creates alarm violations during a calendar year period. Following township ordinance, the owner is assessed a \$50 fine for the fourth false alarm. For false alarms five through nine, the owner is assessed a \$75 fine per occurrence; for ten plus alarms, the violation fine is \$100 per occurrence. The Alarm Manager reviewed all alarm activations using the incident notes by the police officers and county dispatchers to determine if the activated alarm fits the township ordinance definition of being a false alarm. Violation notices were sent out each quarter of the year. Paid penalties amounted to \$20,800 during the 2022 calendar year.

Alarm systems are for the protection of homeowners and business owners. However, false alarms are a substantial drain on the police department and other township emergency services and need to be closely monitored.

FIREARMS TRAINING UNIT

The New Jersey Attorney General's Policy on firearms qualifications requires that all sworn law enforcement officers who are authorized to utilize firearms and Conductive Energy Devices (Taser) must demonstrate their proficiency and qualify with each weapon they carry while on and off duty. These requirements pertain to handguns, shotguns, rifles, and the Taser. At the end of each calendar year, the Supervising Firearms Instructor is responsible for the completion and submission of a year-end report through the Chief of Police to the Somerset County Prosecutor. The report contains information pertaining to the number of officers who were qualified, each weapon with which they qualified, a listing of how many officers did not qualify, and an explanation of the circumstances of the latter.

In 2022 the Bridgewater Township Police Department complied with all requirements of the New Jersey Attorney General relating to handgun, shotgun, assault rifle, and Taser.

During 2022, multiple officers were sent to advanced firearms schools in Middlesex County, Somerset County and the Tactical Training Center. Three additional Taser operators were trained while a number were removed from the program because of position reassignments (to be replaced with new patrol operators in 2023). A number of new operators were trained on the Taser 7 as that will be the dominant unit in service by the end of 2023.

In the beginning of the year, the Firearms Training Unit conducted active shooter response training for the entire agency over a number of days, satisfying the NJ Attorney General's requirement of bi-annual training in active shooter response training. This include training on tactics to approach and move through buildings to confront an active shooter and also had numerous force-on-force scenarios involved using Simmunitions.

The Firearms Training Unit conducted a re-organization meeting to set ambitious goals for 2023. This training included advanced handgun mechanics coaching on the range to better prepare our officers.

One additional officer was sent to firearms instructor school.

One of the members of the Firearms Training Unit was able to assist the Mercer County Police Academy with recruit firearms training.

Maintenance on our patrol rifles included the replacement of three rifles. All of the rifles now include Aimpoint Micro optics, Surefire lights and slings. A number of the newer rifles are equipped with suppressors. 10 EoTech G33 3x magnifiers were purchased and will be installed prior to 2023 rifle qualifications. This will further increase the department's ability to deliver precise rifle fire if needed. Four new rifle operators were trained on the patrol rifle and are now carrying them. Finally, an additional member of the Firearms Training Unit completed patrol rifle instructor school.

Firearms goals for 2023

- To train additional officers as users for the Taser 7
- To train a large number of additional officers as rifle operators (10 or more)
- To install Eotech 3x magnifiers on 10 patrol rifles
- To certify at least one more of our officers as a rifle instructor
- To train additional officers as handgun/shotgun instructors
- To certify/recertify a large number of firearms unit members as armorers for the duty pistol and a number as armorers for the Colt patrol rifle
- Implement a less lethal program including Pepperball launchers and 40mm Deftech sponge rounds (contingent on Somerset County Prosecutor's Office developing initial instructor program)
- Conduct regular dry fire training with all officers to improve safe weapons handling, efficiency and accuracy
- Conduct increased live fire range time
- Conduct multiple force-on-force sessions for all officers in the agency emphasizing complex decision making under stress
- Send Firearms Training Unit to advanced firearms training with elite instructors, or host it locally to improve skills throughout agency
- Transition over from Benelli M2 shotguns to a pump action replacement for any officers still not carrying a patrol rifle
- Train at least one additional Taser instructor, if not more, to recertify in-house with the Taser 7

The members of the Firearms Training Unit were:

Lieutenant Joseph Dolinski - Supervising Firearms Instructor
Lieutenant Brian Blath
Lieutenant Kevin Lamey
Lieutenant Fred Brittain
Lieutenant Doug Thorsen
Sergeant John Cooper
Lieutenant Doug Thorsen
Officer Michael Coletta
Officer Stephen Black
Officer Adam Alosi
Detective Vincent Stetsko
Officer John Conroy

Bridgewater Police Honor Guard

The Bridgewater Police Honor Guard was officially created in 2002. The Honor Guard was established to represent the Bridgewater Police Department, its officers, and families at funerals, parades, and other ceremonial functions. The Bridgewater Police Honor Guard is designed to provide the department with a specially trained ceremonial unit, to render honor, preserve tradition, stimulate Esprit-de-corps and instill pride. It is our intention to assist all officers and their families during their time of emotional duress due to the loss or debilitating injury of their loved one. The Honor Guard accomplishes this by providing guidance and uniformity in the conduct of ceremonies and by establishing a specific sequence of events during those ceremonies. The Honor Guard consists of hard-working, dedicated officers that have given, and will continue to give, their greatest effort to ensure that the department and the township are represented with pride, dignity, and professionalism. Since the implementation of the Honor Guard Unit, it has taken part in many ceremonies and has established itself as an award winning unit.

In 2022, the Honor Guard participated in the following events:

01/27/22- Lt. Fischer's and Sgt. Bernhard's Walkout Ceremony
03/31/22- Lt. Rice's Walkout Ceremony
04/28/22- Captain O'Neill's Walkout Ceremony
09/11/22- Bridgewater Township 9/11 Memorial
10/20/22- Swearing In Ceremony for Chief Mitzak

This year's primary goal was to outfit the new members of the Honor Guard. Due to supply issues and price of the new uniforms from the vendor Unisync, it was decided that we change the existing uniforms. Going forward the new vendor will be Atlantic Tactical and the new uniforms will be similar to the department's Class A Uniform with a few distinct differences to separate the Honor Guard from other officers. The goal is to have the Honor Guard outfitted by April.

The 2022 Honor Guard consisted of the following members:

Officer Michael Coletta- Honor Guard Commander
Sergeant Patrick Knapp- Assistant Honor Guard Commander
Officer Jack Kennedy
Officer Brian Eitner
Officer Brian Sujansky
Officer Typan Barnett
Officer Anthony Milito
Officer Anthony Mendoza

The primary goal for The Honor Guard Unit in 2023 will continue to be training along with outfitting the unit with new uniforms.

Internal Affairs Unit

The Bridgewater Police Department Internal Affairs Unit is responsible for the receipt, investigation, and resolution of allegations of misconduct by members of the department. Captain Tennant is in charge of the Internal Affairs Unit. The Bridgewater Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Our Officers are held to the highest standards of conduct in both their personal and professional lives. All citizens will be treated equally with courtesy, consideration and dignity. An Officers' adherence to these standards is the ultimate objective of this agency.

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon public trust and acceptance of law enforcement authority. A police department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer's performance. A complaint may be made in any way (phone, written, oral, etc) and upon receipt of a complaint the incident is reviewed to determine if an investigation is warranted; if the complaint contains an allegation of misconduct, an internal investigation is initiated. An incident of misconduct or inappropriate behavior may fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Excessive Force
- Improper Arrest
- Improper Entry
- Improper Search
- Differential Treatment
- Demeanor
- Other Rule Violation
- Other Criminal Violation
- Domestic Violence

All Captains and Lieutenants who are assigned the responsibility of an internal affairs investigation act at the behest of, and are directly responsible to the Chief of Police. All internal affairs investigations are confidential. The investigator based upon his/her investigation, renders a conclusion of fact, or disposition, for each allegation. Possible dispositions include:

- Exonerated: The alleged incident did occur, but the actions of the officer were justified, legal, and proper.
- Sustained: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation by a preponderance of the evidence.
- Not Sustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.
- Unfounded: The alleged incident did not occur.
- Administratively Closed: The complainant voluntarily withdraws the complaint, or the officer terminates employment prior to disposition of the complaint.

Upon completion of the investigation, all findings are forwarded to the Chief of Police for further action, as necessary. In 2022, a total of seven (7) allegations of misconduct or inappropriate behavior were reported. Of those complaints, two (2) were reported by members of the public.

Municipal Court

The Bridgewater Municipal Court maintains the authority to govern violations within its statutory jurisdiction, including disorderly person's offenses, other non-indictable offenses not within the exclusive jurisdiction of the Superior Court, violations of motor vehicle and traffic laws, fish and game and boating laws. The Court is granted by statute the authority to collect penalties for such violations of county and municipal ordinances and all other proceedings for which jurisdiction are granted.

The Bridgewater Municipal Court is under the direction of Judge Katherine Howes. Judge Howes is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to address domestic violence issues. The Judge is also available to issue Temporary Restraining Orders in domestic violence matters whenever Superior Court is not in session. The Municipal Court Prosecutor for Bridgewater Township is John Lanza. It is the responsibility of the Prosecutor to review the State's position, determine if proper charges have been filed, all criteria has been met, and present the facts in a proper lawful manner. Britt Simon serves as the Public Defender. The Public Defender represents those who qualify for public assistance in defense of their position. Jenni Peterson is the Court Administrator. The remaining Municipal Court staff consists of Violations Clerks Wendy Wheatley and Susan Perry. The court uses the Language Line Telephonic Service for any language translations needed during court sessions. The Violations Bureau is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM on business days.

The Bridgewater Police Department is responsible for courtroom security when court is held in person. These officers monitor the metal detector, as well as the interior and exterior of the courtroom. The court officers are responsible for searching all persons entering the court, directing those attending the court to proper areas and providing security for the judge and court clerk presiding over the proceedings. Court officers also assist the Prosecutor by arranging the appearance of witness officers. The security detail is staffed by on duty personnel or overtime when duty personnel are unavailable. Our officers provided 34.5 hours of court room security in 2022 which was a 60 percent increase from the 21.5 hours provided in 2021.

Through a shared services agreement with Somerville Borough, their Municipal Court sessions are held in the Bridgewater Municipal Court Room. Somerville Borough Court was almost entirely held as virtual court, due to COVID-19. Our officers provided 22 hours of court room security in 2022. This court room security is an overtime position which is paid for by the Borough of Somerville.

A review of the Bridgewater Police Municipal Court overtime totals for the last five years are as follows:

Somerville Court	
2018	382 Hours
2019	348 Hours
2020	96 Hours
2021	20 Hours
2022	22 Hours

Bridgewater Court	
2018	317.5 Hours
2019	502 Hours
2020	203Hours
2021	21.5 Hours
2022	34.5 Hours

Patrol Fleet

In 2022 the Bridgewater Police Department's marked patrol vehicle fleet consisted of thirty nine marked patrol vehicles (two less than last year), twenty-seven assigned for patrol duties, three assigned for traffic safety, three assigned for the Class III school resource officers, and six allotted for road jobs (only). Patrol sedans are being aged out of the fleet and will no longer be purchased by this agency. The SUVs are better suited for patrolling in inclement weather, special details and provide more room for equipment. The larger Chevrolet Tahoe SUVs are utilized by supervisory personnel in an effort to limit the mileage, thereby extending the life of these vehicles.

The Bridgewater Township Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining our fleet. After consulting with them, it was recommended that we remove and replace the below-listed police vehicles due to their age, overall condition, and/or mileage.

Removed from service:

Vehicle	Division
Car # 39 (2016 Ford SUV)	Patrol
Car # 40 (2014 Ford SUV)	Patrol
Car # 21 (2017 Ford Sedan)	Patrol
Car # 31 (2017 Ford SUV)	Patrol
Car # 44 (2013 Chevrolet Tahoe)	Patrol
2008 Chevy Impala	Administration
2013 Ford Fusion	Administration

This year we received six new vehicles which were ordered in 2021. The vehicles included two marked Ford Police Interceptor SUVs, one marked Chevrolet Tahoe, one marked Ford F250 pickup, and two admin Ford Police Interceptor SUVs.

The supply chain crisis has complicated purchasing and it will apparently continue to limit the availability of new vehicle purchases until at least 2026. Gentilini Ford and Koch33 again offer police vehicles as part of the Cranford Police Cooperative Pricing System. Several attempts were made to get approval for new vehicle purchases earlier in the year. Due to supply chain issues the vehicles were not ordered until December 2022.

Eight vehicles were ordered and they are scheduled to arrive in July of 2023. They will be used by the Patrol and Administration Divisions. The Patrol Division will receive six marked Ford Interceptor SUVs. The Administration Division will receive two unmarked Ford Explorer SUVs. For the first time we will be purchasing these vehicle through a lease program at the request of CFO Joe Sarno.

2023 Goals

- Continue to replace older vehicles.
- Continue to furnish our personnel with high-quality, well-maintained vehicles and equipment.

2022 RETIREMENTS/PROMOTIONS/NEW HIRES

The following retired from Bridgewater Police Department in 2022:

- Chief Paul Payne
- Captain Sean O'Neill
- Lieutenant Chris Fischer
- Lieutenant Tom Rice
- Sergeant Kurt Bernhard

The following personnel were promoted in 2022.

- Chris Bowers – Sergeant
- Ryan Cerro- Sergeant
- Mike Ziarnowski- Sergeant
- Steve Zeichner- Sergeant
- Patrick Knapp- Sergeant
- Fred Brittain- Lieutenant
- Joseph Dolinski- Lieutenant
- Doug Thorsen- Lieutenant
- Peter Ochs- Lieutenant
- Kevin Tennant- Captain
- Jeff Savare- Captain
- John Mitzak- Chief

The following officers left Bridgewater Police Department in 2022 for employment with other agencies:

- Jared Calimano
- Matthew Lynch- Class 3

The following were hired as Bridgewater Police Officers during 2022:

- Justice Dickerson
- Christopher Conti
- Tyler Ossenfort
- Arthur Akins Jr. ®
- Justin Anno ®
- Hanif McClinton ®
- Noel Rosado Jr. ®
- Mason Sanchez ®
- Edward Avallon- Class 3
- Kurt Bernhard- Class 3
- Gregory Brook- Class 3
- Chris Fischer- Class 3

The following civilian personnel were hired in 2022:

- Izabela DaSilva
- Joslyn Mendoza

Special Events **2022**

The Bridgewater Township Police Department hosts and participates in several special events during the year. Bridgewater's geographical and physical attributes continue to attract non-profit organizations that sponsor various fund raising events; specifically: walk-a-thons, road races, historical ceremonies and annual county sponsored events. The special events we take part in allow the Police Department to work in conjunction with county agencies, private sector businesses, local merchants and citizens fostering a renewed sense of community spirit to Bridgewater Township. Below are the special events we were able to participate in. Also, see The Bridgewater Honor Guard Report for other events the department participated in.

January

On January 5th and 6th, SRO Barnett was a guest speaker in the Business Law class at Bridgewater-Raritan High School. SRO Barnett discussed numerous topics that included Community Policing, drugs, probationary driving, and the role of a School Resource Officer.

May

During the Month of May, Bridgewater PD participated in a month long helmet donation drive for youth bicycle helmets.

On May 21st, our officers conducted a security detail for the Hell's Angles Motorcycle Club event held at the American Legion on Old York Road. This event brings in numerous members of Outlaw Motorcycle Clubs. As a precaution, officers are assigned to the area to provide general security to the public and attendees.

June

The annual Special Olympics Torch Run took place on June 10th. Our officers escorted the run through our township, providing traffic control and security. Additionally, many of our officers volunteered their time to run in or assist with the event, in an effort to raise money for this worthwhile cause.

August

On August 2nd, the department hosted National Night Out. National Night Out is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make the neighborhoods safer. Officers participated in giveaways, kid's games and activities, and they handed out food to our local residents.

September

On September 12th, our officers attended the Bridgewater Community Day at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. Officers interacted with the public by providing access to our police vehicles and conducting demonstrations.

October

On October 14th, officers gave a Senior Citizen Scam Awareness presentation at the Bridgewater Senior Center.

On October 30th, Officers from the department attended the Halloween Event at the Bridgewater Commons Mall. At the event, officers handed out candy, Bridgewater Police souvenirs and provided access to our police vehicles while interacting with the community.

November

With the authorization of the chief the grooming standards were relaxed in the months of November and December which allowed the officers to participate in "Movember." Officer grew facial hair and donated money (totaling \$3,000.00). The money was divided equally distributed to two charities which were the Movember organization and the Special Olympics.

On November 29th, officers attended the Den 5 Cub Scouts meeting and helped them achieve their forensic patch.

On November 19th, officers participated in helping residents with their fall cleanup.

December

On December 2nd, offices attended the third annual Bridgewater Township Christmas tree lighting at the municipal building.

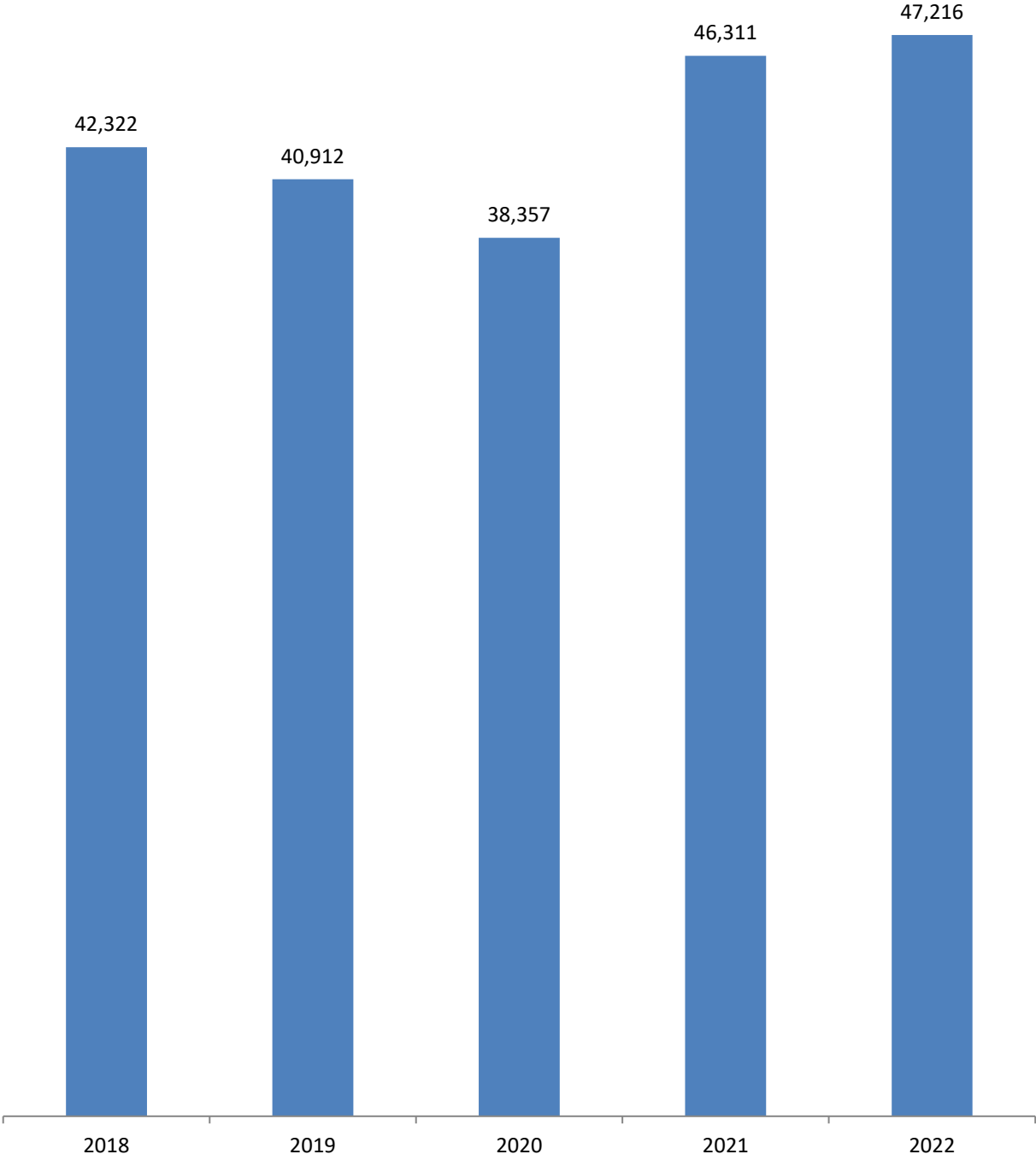
On December 6th, our Officers participated in the Heroes & Helpers Program at Target. Target supplied our Officers with \$2,000 in gift cards, which were then distributed to children from Bridgewater as well as neighboring towns. The children were then given the opportunity to shop with an officer, who helped them pick something nice for the holiday season.

On December 18th, our Officers delivered toys to the children of St. Peters Hospital and the Children's Specialized Hospital of New Brunswick.

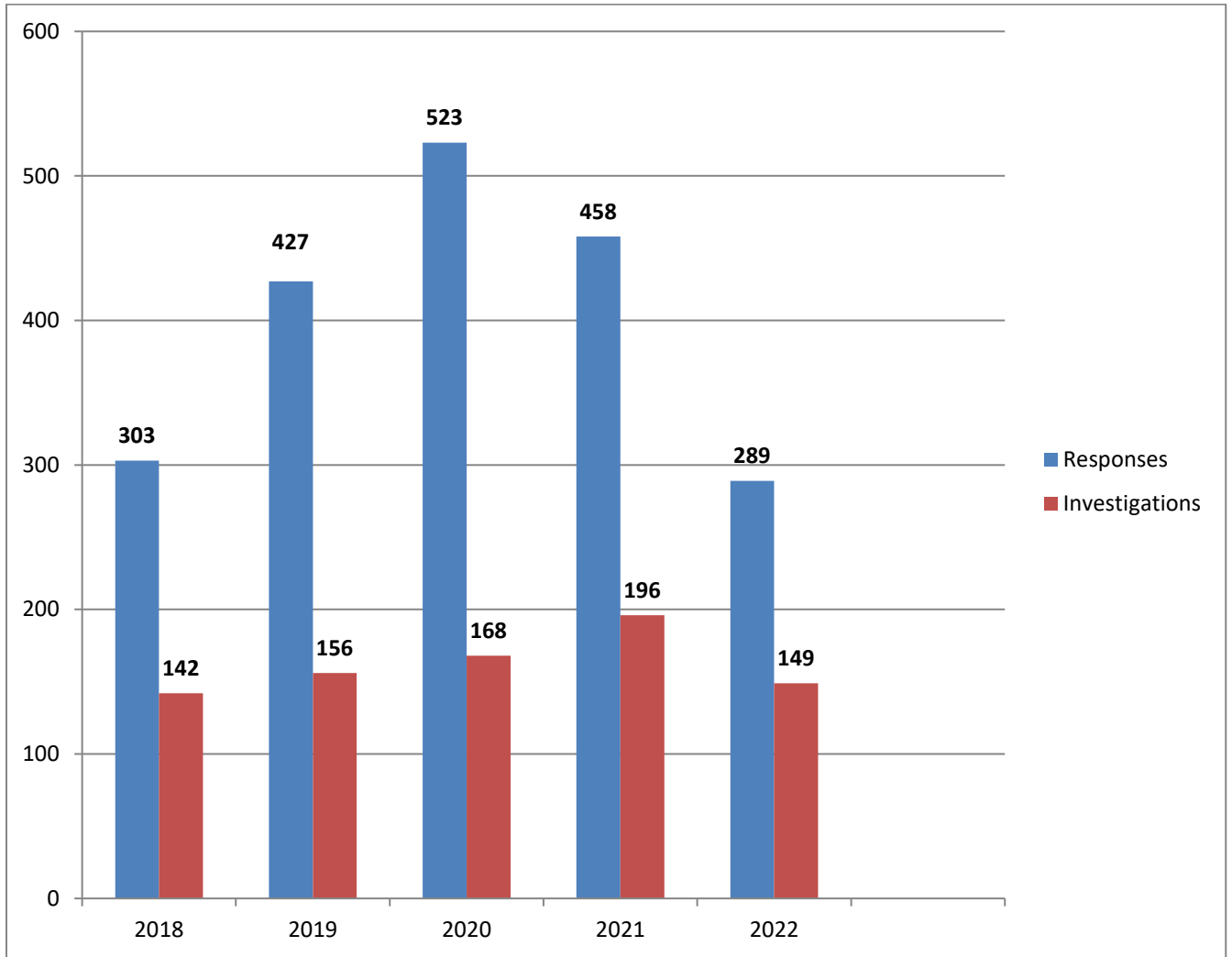
PART III

STATISTICS

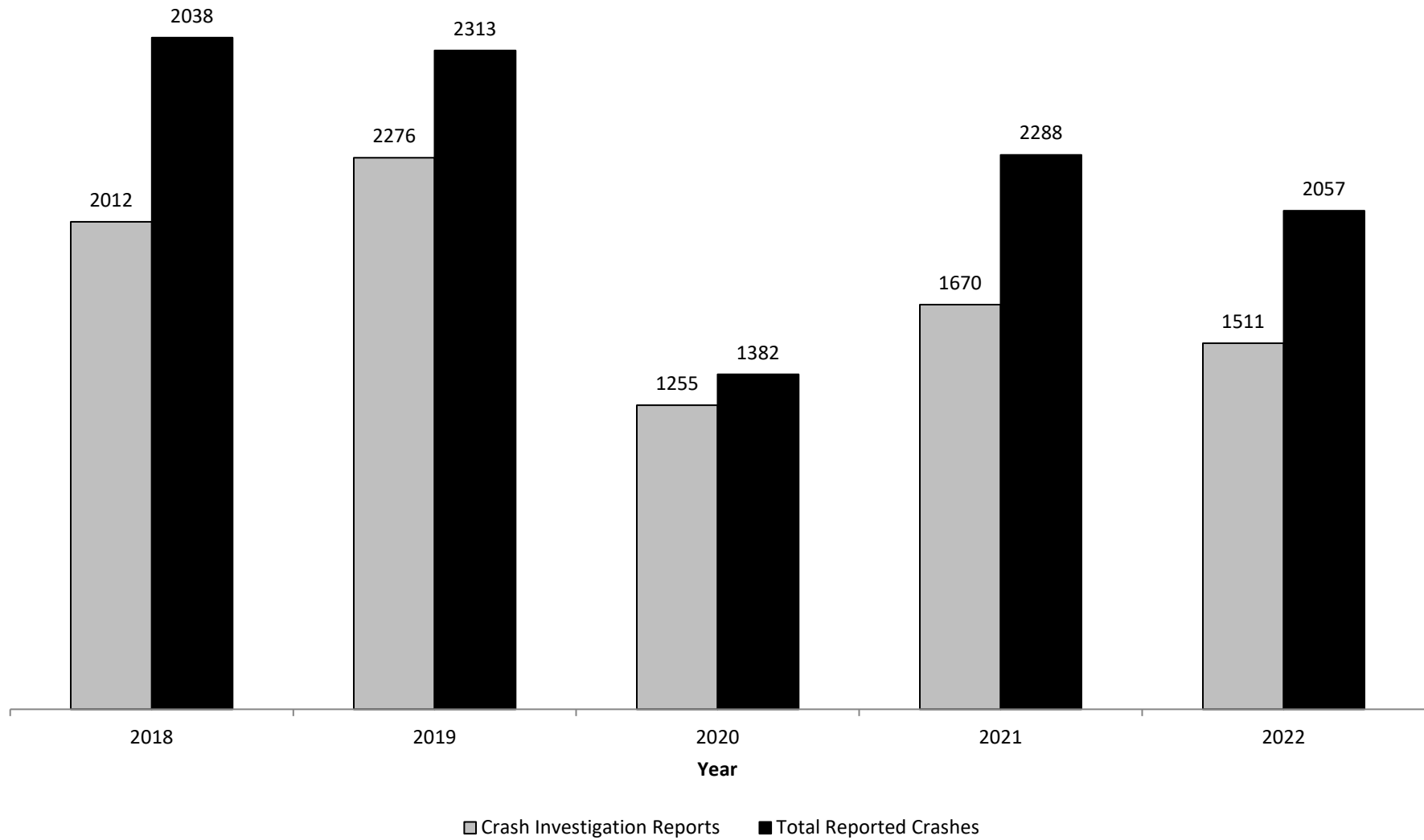
Bridgewater Township Police Department 2018-2022 Calls for Service



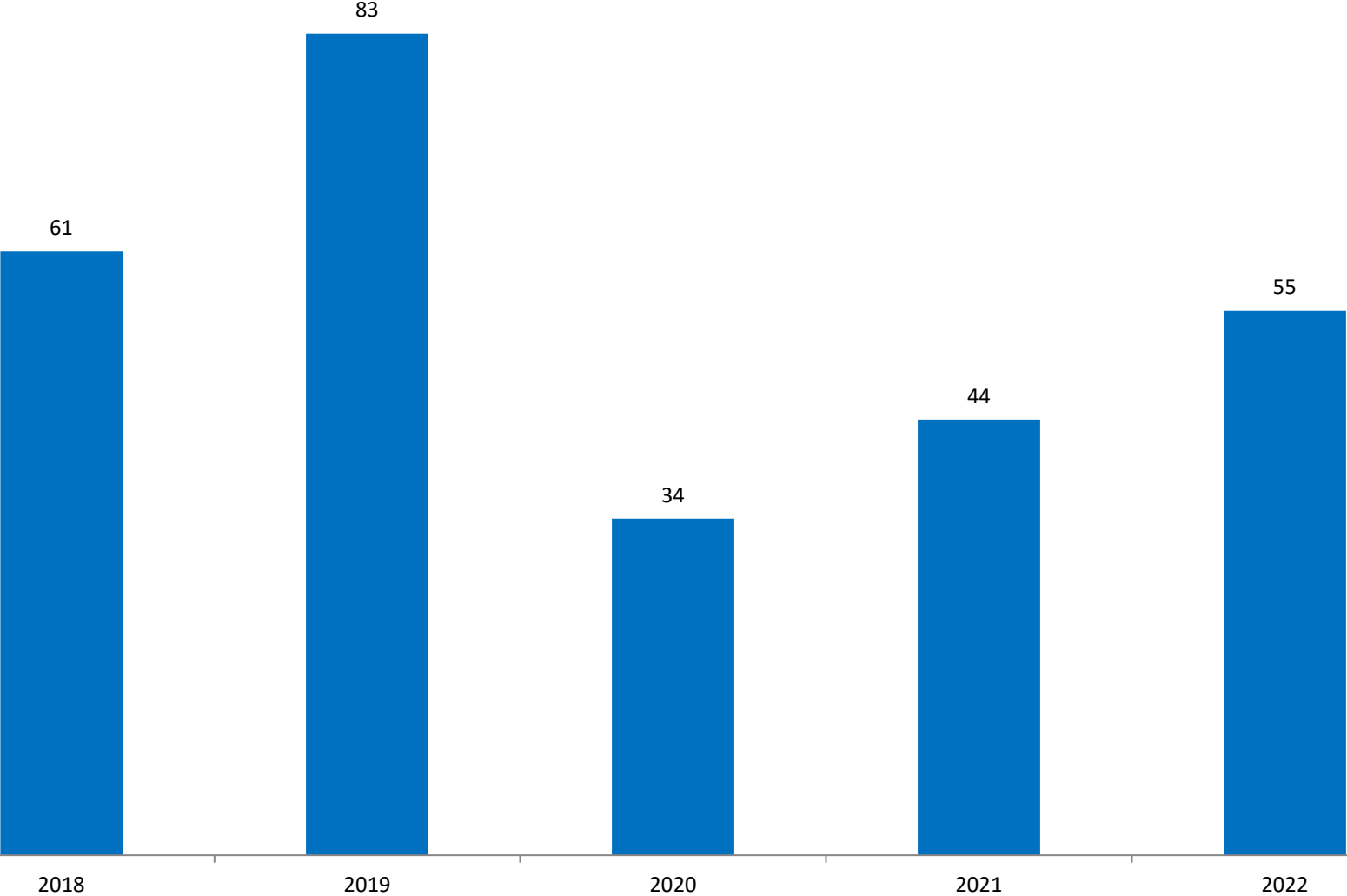
Bridgewater Township Police Department Domestic Violence – 5 Year Trend



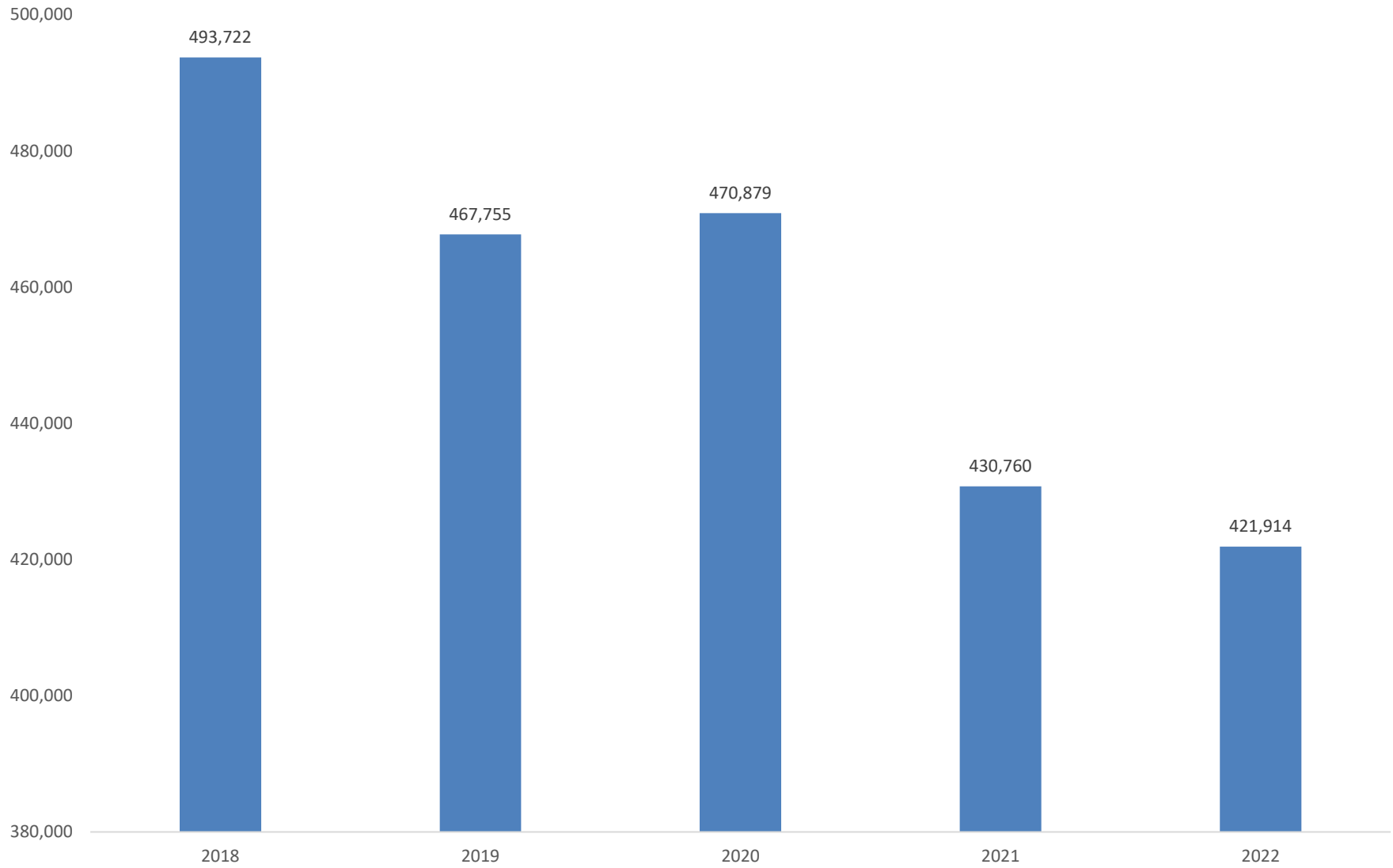
Bridgewater Police Department Motor Vehicle Crash Report 2018-2022



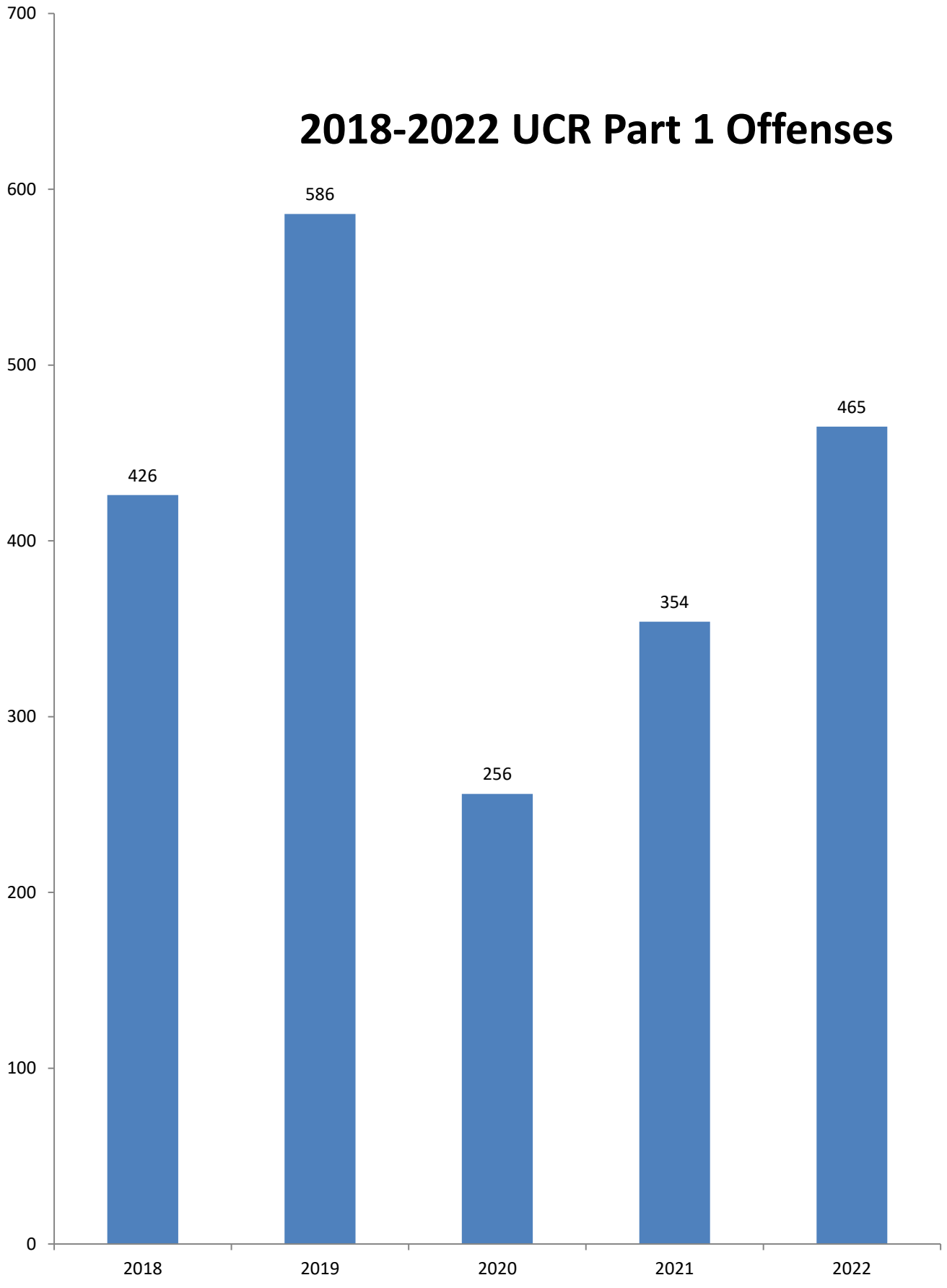
**Bridgewater Police Department
D.W.I. Arrests
2018-2022**



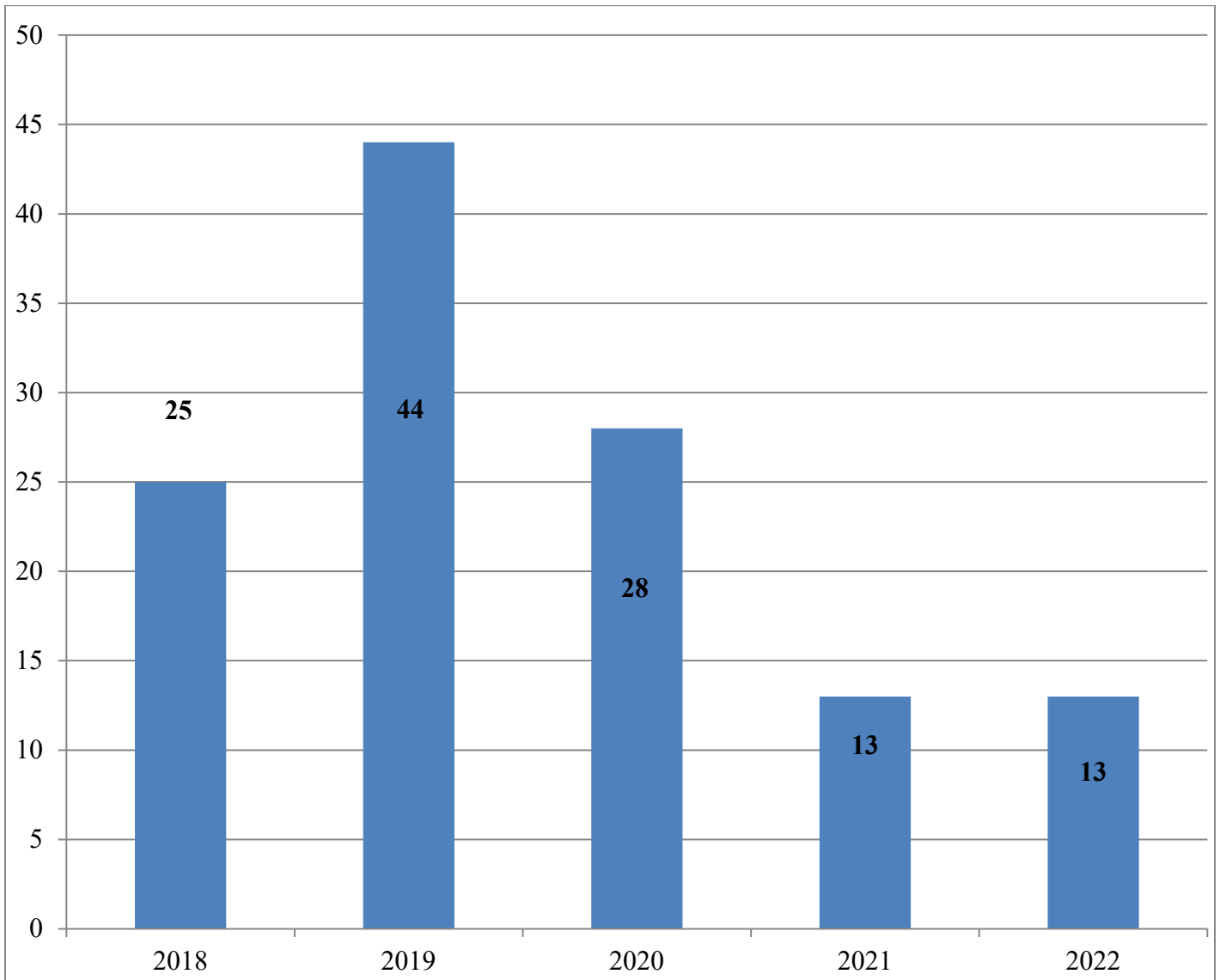
Bridgewater Township Police Department Annual Patrol Mileage 2018 - 2022



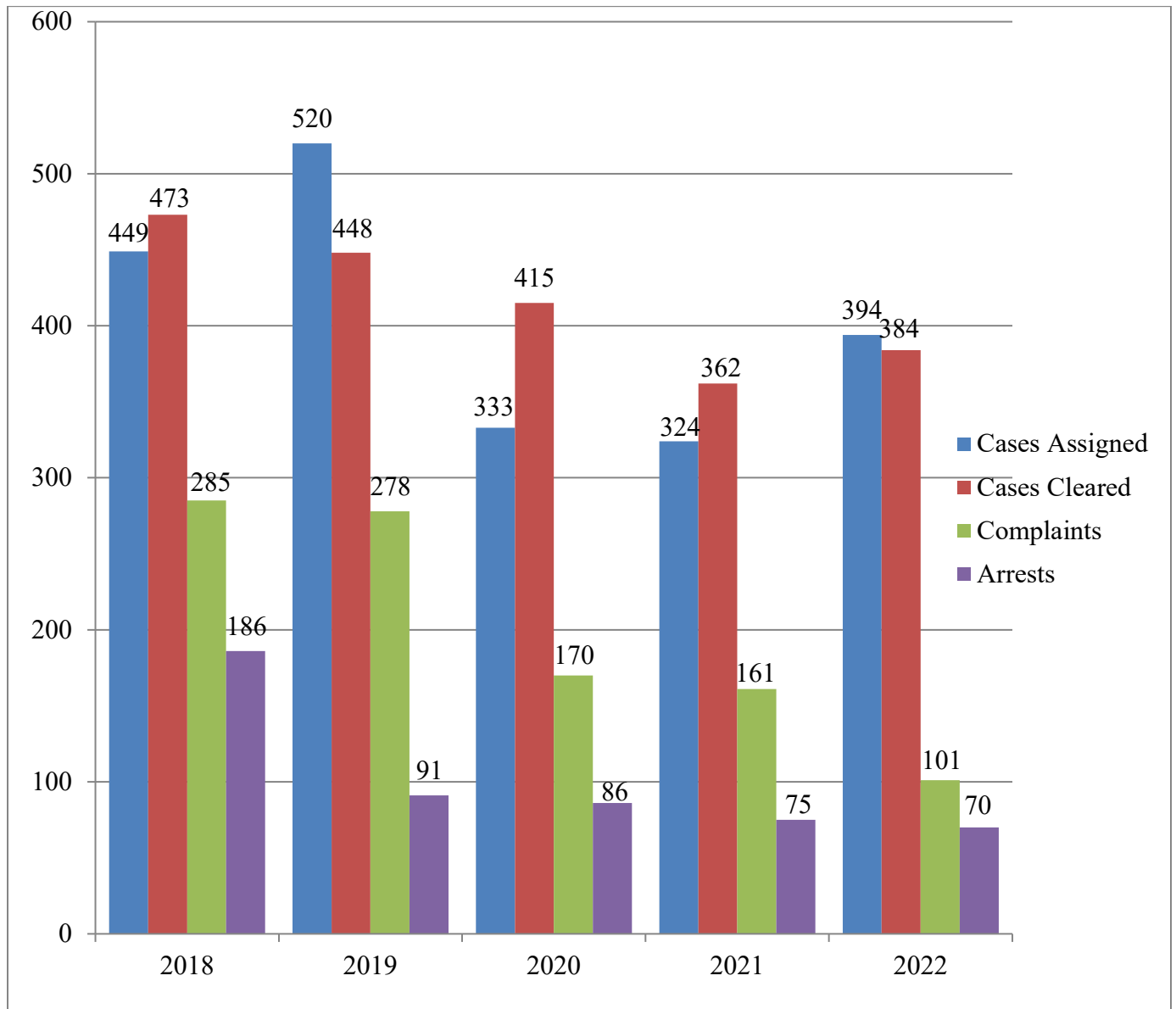
2018-2022 UCR Part 1 Offenses



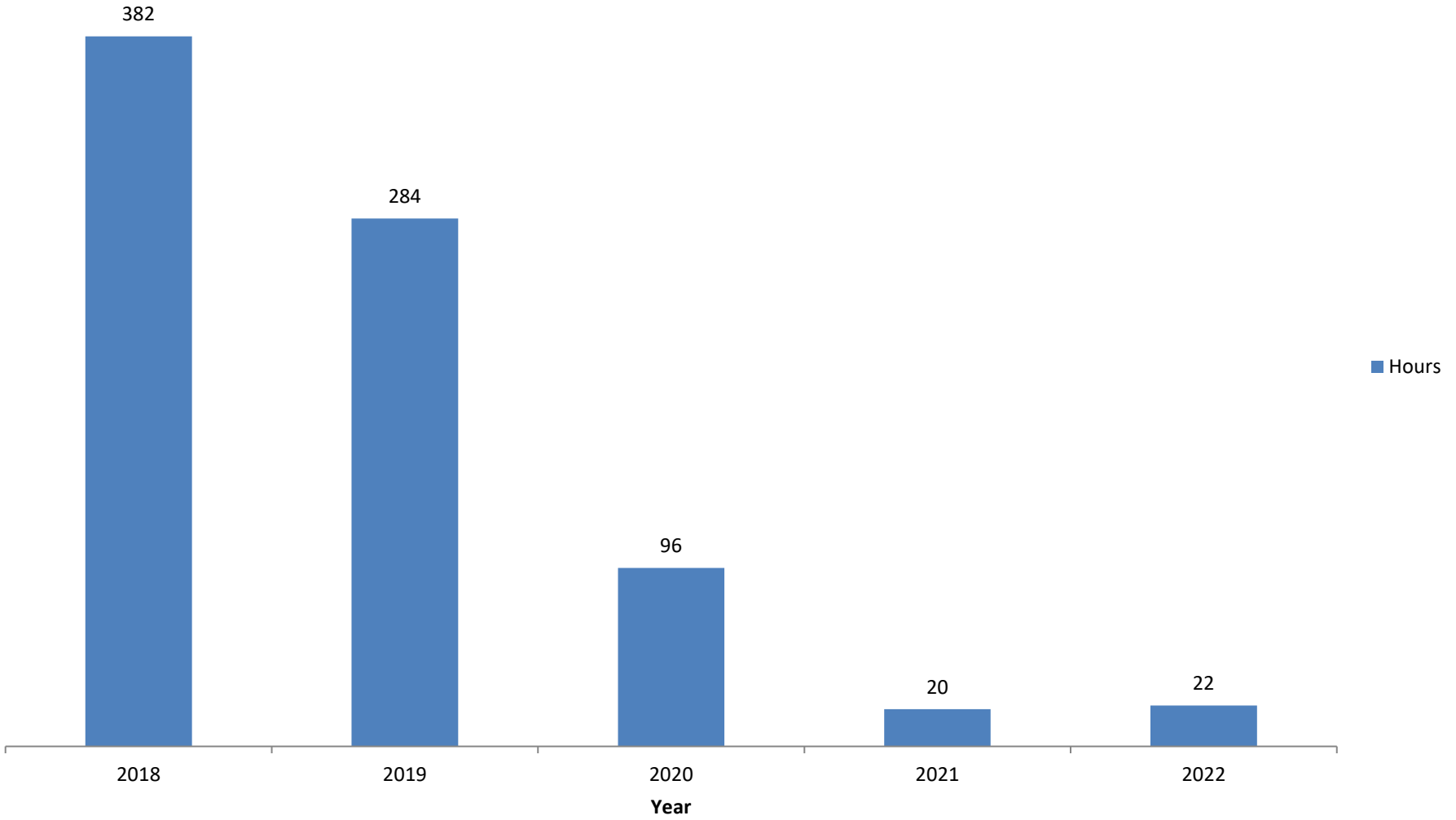
**Youth Services Bureau
Stationhouse Adjustment
2018-2022**



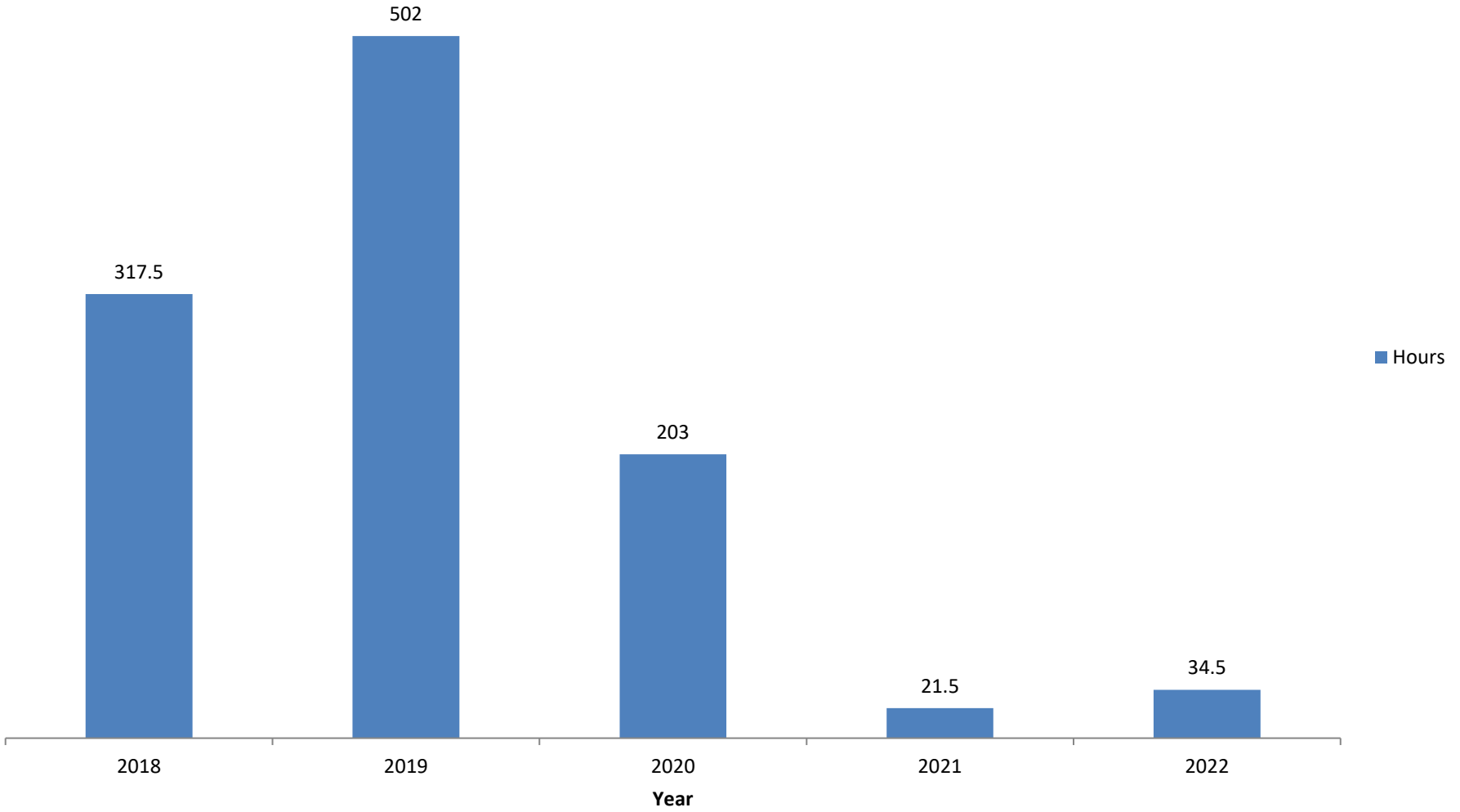
**Criminal Investigation Bureau
Youth Services Bureau
Yearly Comparison 2018 – 2022**



Somerville Municipal Court Overtime Yearly Comparison



Bridgewater Municipal Court Overtime Yearly Comparison



**Monthly Operations Division Activity Statistics Comparison
2021 - 2022**

Month	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests	DWI	Warrants Served
January 2021	17	1	4	13
January 2022	16	0	3	33
February 2021	17	1	2	14
February 2022	21	0	4	23
March 2021	15	1	6	14
March 2022	9	1	2	21
April 2021	14	0	5	16
April 2022	18	2	8	29
May 2021	9	0	5	8
May 2022	18	0	1	23
June 2021	16	0	5	10
June 2022	20	1	5	26
July 2021	14	1	3	10
July 2022	19	0	5	28
August 2021	5	0	4	5
August 2022	24	0	4	39
September 2021	14	5	2	1
September 2022	30	0	6	41
October 2021	19	1	3	20
October 2022	25	0	5	30
November 2021	13	6	2	14
November 2022	18	0	6	22
December 2021	17	0	2	5
December 2022	28	0	4	30
YTD TOTAL 2021	170	16	43	130
YTD TOTAL 2022	246	4	53	345

Bridgewater Township Police Department 2018-2022 Fire / EMS Calls for Service

