

HAMILTON POLICE DIVISION

Annual Report

2024



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HAMILTON POLICE DIVISION

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 CALLS FOR SERVICE

2024	67,665
2023	67,432

1.2 ARRESTS

	Adult:	Juvenile:
2024	1,458	60
2023	1,566	61

1.3 SUMMONSES

2024	7,373
2023	6,224

1.4 CREW ENFORCEMENT

2024	907 hours
2023	1,249 hours

1.5 TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATIONS

2024	3267
2023	3306

1.6 HUMANE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INVESTIGATIONS (HELO)

2024	9
2023	12

1.7 PROJECT MEDICINE DROP

2024	937.4 pounds
2023	1039 pounds

1.8 NARCAN DEPLOYMENTS

2024	41
2023	38

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2. GRANTS SECURED IN 2024

2.1 General Grant Funding Awarded: \$46,648.85

Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)	\$23,185.00
Federal Bulletproof Vest Fund	\$12,016.88
State Bulletproof Vest Fund	\$11,446.97

2.2 Traffic Enforcement Grant Funding Awarded: \$45,578.38

Click it or Ticket	\$7,000.00
Distracted Driver	\$7,000.00
Drive Sober – Labor Day	\$7,000.00
Drive Sober – End of Year	\$10,500.00
Drunk Driver Enforcement Fund (DDEF)	\$14,078.38

2.3 Total Funding Awarded for 2024: \$92,227.23

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3. ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The following sections and units are assigned to the Administrative Services Bureau:

Administration Section

Firearms/Licensing Unit

Training Unit

Services Section

Community Policing Unit

Property/Evidence Unit

Records Unit

3.1 ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Administration Section is responsible for maintaining the policies and procedures of the Division. Administration also includes Accreditation. The Accreditation Manager shall be primarily responsible for accreditation maintenance.

3.2 Training Unit:

Maintain the Police Range

Spring and Fall Firearms Qualification

In-Service Training

Preventative maintenance inspection of Division firearms

Additional Training Courses throughout the year

3.3 Firearms/Licensing Unit:

	2024	2023
Firearms Applications Received	1,536	1,402
Firearms Applications Completed	1,440	1,307
Firearms Applications Denied	21	19
Permits to Carry Applications Received	262	164
Permits to Carry Applications Completed	199	106
Permits to Carry Applications Denied	1	3
Licensing/Backgrounds completed	87	67

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3.4 SERVICES SECTION

The Services Section is responsible for acquisitions, equipment repairs and problem resolutions. The coordination effort for daily maintenance requirements involves timely telephone and in person vendor contact each day to maintain operational efficiency. It also prepares work orders for maintenance within the overall police building and acts as liaison between various Township Departments that encompasses the coordination effort of capital projects for the entire fiscal year. The Services Section Lieutenant serves as the Hamilton Police Division Nasal Narcan Coordinator.

3.5 Operation Reassurance:

Currently seventeen members call daily to the Services Section to report for Operation Reassurance.

3.6 Cellblock/Detention Facility:

The Police Division adheres to the standards established by the New Jersey Department of Corrections regulations in order to receive and secure persons under arrest, providing clean housing, food, medical attention and other necessary services for proper care. The Services Section is responsible for the Annual Detention Facility Inspection, performed by the Department of Corrections and all associated documentation and ancillary inspections, i.e., Fire Department, Fire Alarm, Fire Suppression and Pest Control.

3.7 Police Vehicle Equipment:

The unit provides the coordination and maintenance scheduling for fifty-two marked police vehicles, forty-six unmarked vehicles, two police motorcycles, ten unmarked narcotics vehicles, one civilian township vehicle, four SMART Traffic Trailers, one special service vehicle and two Township fleet vehicles. This unit coordinates the equipment transfer, decals and stripping for new marked units each year. Annual state motor vehicle inspections are also assigned to this unit for all vehicles.

Emergency equipment is requested, purchased, and maintained by the Services Section, to include documenting damage to police vehicles and maintaining fleet/equipment inventory status.

3.8 Uniforms and Equipment:

The Services Section is responsible for issuing uniforms and equipment for all newly hired police officers and keeps a limited supply of equipment on hand to replace damaged police issued equipment as per contractual agreement. Reports are reviewed for damaged issue items, recommending repair or replacement as necessary. Additionally, all police equipment is maintained and inventoried through this section.

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3.9 Park Security Guards:

Thirty-one Park Guards (School Traffic Guards) were assigned to the Services Section for the summer months. These guards work in various parks throughout the Township. They work primarily in two (2) shifts, 0900 - 1200 and 1200 - 1500 hours. Park Guards also assist with traffic and crowd control at Township events.

3.10 Community Policing Unit:

This Unit is comprised of three Detectives and the Services Lieutenant. In 2024 the Unit participated in approximately 30 community events. These events consisted of coffee with a cop, crime watch meetings, job fairs, cone with a cop, festivals, school visits, local business meetings and informational seminars. Other new programs include residential home security surveys and emergency refrigerator cards for seniors.

The Community Policing Unit is also responsible for the start of the Blue Envelope Program. This program is designed to help people with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. In late 2024 we implemented our special needs registry program and offered a traffic stop simulation activity for those on the autism spectrum.

The unit also took an active role in police officer recruitment efforts by hosting events to attract potential candidates and offer assistance with signing up for the NJ Civil Service test.

A goal for 2025 is to build upon what we started in the special needs community and increase our recruitment efforts.

3.11 Property/Evidence Unit:

Property/Evidence Inventory

Digital Property/Evidence

Project Medicine Drop

Abandoned/Recovered bicycles

Bio Hazard Equipment

Office supplies and printed forms

Maintains, stores and logs all property and evidence recovered by Police division personnel. Completes all lab request forms for evidence requiring testing at the New Jersey State Police Laboratory. Repackages and labels evidence in accordance with procedural requirements.

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The unit is responsible for the administration of “Project Medicine Drop”. This includes the emptying and storing of unused and expired medications the citizens drop off in the mailbox in the Division’s lobby.

The Property/Evidence Unit is also responsible for the transportation of evidence to the Mercer County Prosecutors Office and the completion of paperwork for all Domestic Violence related cases involving weapons held for safekeeping. Additionally, transporting of property/evidence and paperwork to the New Jersey Division of Motor Vehicles for the disposal of all vehicle license plates. Coordinates the destruction of all drug related items and weapons with the Mercer County Prosecutors Office. Assists in providing copies of evidence as needed for discovery.

There is a Digital Property/Evidence Officer that’s assigned to this unit. Duties include maintaining, collecting and processing all digital evidence, including body worn camera footage and in car camera videos. Additional duties are video redaction for discovery requests and OPRA requests.

3.12 Records Unit:

The primary function of the Records Unit is processing and maintaining all incidents reported to the Police. The Division has a computerized system of record keeping where information is entered into the computer system and stored.

The Records Unit is responsible for processing requests for copies of police reports and other police information.

Criminal case histories (CCH) for the Municipal Prosecutor are the responsibility of the Records Unit. Additionally, the Records Unit is responsible for completing requests through the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).

Records Unit Statistics:	2024	2023
Police reports processed	19,406	19,636
Demand for Discovery	646	654
Insurance Requests	1307	1565
Record Checks	1087	796
Criminal Case History Requests	398	73
Expungements	1087	1274
OPRA Requests	708	508
Total Monies generated	\$8,182.70	\$13,083.13

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The Records Unit Supervisor is additionally responsible for Off Duty Assignments. Jobs4Blue has been contracted to schedule off duty assignments. The Records Unit Supervisor oversees the process and is the liaison with officers, vendors and Jobs4Blue.

3.13 Off Duty Assignments:

	2024	2023
Total Hours Paid Non-Traffic	3,666.75	5,534
Total Hours Paid Construction	5,015.25	18,135.40
Total Generated Income	\$1,919,607.50	\$2,546,649.10
Total Fees Generated	\$348,197.50	\$400,965.80

4. OPERATIONS BUREAU

The following sections and units are assigned to the Operations Bureau:

Criminal Investigations Section	Special Investigations Section	Field Operations Section	Traffic Section
Detective Unit	Special Victims Unit	Anti-Crime Unit	Traffic Unit
Economic Crimes Unit			Motorcycle Unit
Identification Unit			

4.1 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

4.2 Detective Unit:

The Detective Unit is responsible for continuing investigations of all major crimes. The use of basic and advanced investigative techniques, interviews and interrogation, case preparation, case review and evaluation, and courtroom testimony are the general duties of the Criminal Investigations Section.

The Detective Unit is divided into two squads. These squads handle major crimes and general assignments. Both squads maintain specially trained fire investigators. Investigations are assigned to detectives based on solvability factors such as time, place and type of crime, quality of witnesses, reports and physical evidence as determined by a supervisor.

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Year	Cases Assigned	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Investigation	Cleared Exceptionally	Currently under Investigation	Confirmed Shooting Incidents
2024	1697	231	218	3	256	7
2023	1887	371	370	16	245	16

***2023 numbers have Economic Crimes included. In 2024, economic crimes were handled by the Economic Crimes Unit.**

Additionally, the Detective Unit conducts backgrounds for Police applicants, Public Safety Telecommunicators and Civilian employees.

4.3 Domestic Violence Cases:

The Detective Unit is responsible for the Domestic Violence Coordination with the Police Division. Additionally, the Detective Unit conducts backgrounds for Police applicants, Public Safety Telecommunicators and Civilian employees.

The Detective Unit Sergeants are assigned the duties of Domestic Violence Coordinator for the Division.

Year	DV Incidents	Arrests	DVVRT Responded	DVVRT Refused	TRO's Granted
2024	946	361	38	581	139
2023	916	366	38	458	138

4.4 Economic Crimes Unit:

The Economic Crimes Unit is responsible for investigating a wide range of economic offenses, including fraud, embezzlement, identity theft, and bad check cases. Many incidents of economic crime are initially addressed by contacting the victims directly. This ensures that the necessary actions—such as notifying credit card companies, banks, and credit agencies—are taken promptly to mitigate further damage and prevent additional losses.

Year	Cases Assigned	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Investigation	Cleared Exceptionally	Currently under Investigation
2024	463	55	73	1	29

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4.5 SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

4.6 Special Victims Unit:

The Special Victims Unit (SVU) is tasked with investigating criminal cases involving sex-related offenses and juvenile matters. Their responsibilities include handling juvenile status offenses, cases of child physical abuse, sexual assaults, and incidents involving missing or runaway juveniles. Additionally, the unit addresses school-related incidents and situations requiring the placement of juveniles into the Middlesex County Youth Detention Center.

Recognizing the importance of a safe school environment, the unit serves as a liaison between all teachers and administrators within the Hamilton Township School District, including public, private, and parochial schools. The unit conducts routine visits to schools and coordinates investigations with the Hamilton Police School Resource Officers. Additionally, the Special Detective Sergeant is currently assigned to the Hamilton Township School District Safe Schools Committee.

The Special Investigations Unit staff also attends monthly training and informational/intelligence meetings with the Mercer County Juvenile Officers Association, and the New Jersey State Juvenile Officers Association for the purpose of training and intelligence sharing.

Special Investigations Unit Cases:

Year	Cases Assigned	Cleared by Arrest	Cleared by Investigation	Cleared Exceptionally	Currently under Investigation
2024	853	70	212	4	3
2023	746	92	185	2	28

Year	Counseling Referrals	Child Abuse Sexual Assault	Juvenile ECDR Complaints	Stationhouse Adjustments	Adult Criminal Complaints
2024	585	64	70	18	5
2023	472	64	87	13	15

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4.7 School Resource Unit:

The School Resource Unit is composed of six certified School Resource Officers (SROs). Of these, three officers are assigned to Hamilton Township’s public high schools, while the remaining three are stationed at the public middle schools. Each SRO is dedicated to fostering a safe and supportive learning environment, building positive relationships with students and staff, and providing security services tailored to the needs of their respective schools.

In addition to safeguarding schools and students, the middle school Resource Officers (SROs) play a pivotal role in educating sixth-grade students through the LEAD (Law Enforcement Against Drugs) program at their respective schools. During the summer, the high school SROs assist the divisions' Youth Police Academy, while the middle school SROs oversee Hamilton PAL's Pre-K Safety Town program, ensuring young children are introduced to basic safety principles.

All members of the School Resource Unit are available to support and actively participate in community events and outreach initiatives. Additionally, a representative from the unit serves on the Hamilton Township Municipal Alliance Against Substance Abuse, further strengthening the division’s commitment to community engagement and substance abuse prevention.

4.8 Identification Unit:

The Identification Unit is responsible for the preservation and photography of all crime scenes, locating and collecting various types of physical evidence. The ID Unit is also responsible for Megan’s Law Enforcement which includes registration and verification of sex offender addresses and unannounced visits by detectives.

Additionally, the Identification Detectives compare fingerprints and / or palm prints to establish the identity of persons incarcerated under fictitious names or the comparison of prints recovered at crime scenes against a possible suspect.

Additional responsibilities of the Criminal Investigations Section include:

4.9 Bias Incident Offenses:

The New Jersey Bias Incident Offense Reports are required of all law enforcement agencies in the State of New Jersey, to be submitted to the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office.

The Division of Criminal Justice and the New Jersey State Police have designated an electronic reporting system for this purpose, the Electronic Uniform Crime Reporting (eUCR) portal. When a bias incident report is submitted into the eUCR portal, the information is automatically forwarded to the Bias Crimes Units at the respective offices.

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4.10 Duty to Warn:

The New Jersey Duty To Warn Law requires mental health practitioners to notify the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, within the jurisdiction of where the patient resides, that the patient communicated imminent threats of serious harm to themselves or others. Upon investigation and when necessary, the Police will take action, in coordination with the Judicial system, to revoke all firearms permits and seek to collect any firearms owned by the patient, or that they may have access to.

2024	2023
9	11

4.11 Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO):

The New Jersey Extreme Risk Protective Order (ERPO) Law creates a process through which a family or household member, or a law enforcement officer, may apply for an order against a person who presents a significant danger of bodily injury to themselves or others by possessing or purchasing a firearm. Issuance of the ERPO, prohibits that individual from possessing or purchasing a firearm, or ammunition, and from holding any firearms identification cards or permits.

2024	2023
9	6

4.12 Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO):

The New Jersey Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO) Detectives investigate all verified Animal Cruelty Complaints. HLEO Detectives have received specialized training, presented by the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office, through the utilization of the Police Training Commission's (PTC) Animal Cruelty investigative procedures. HLEO Detectives are equipped with the knowledge to appropriately charge offenders who are responsible for animal cruelty.

2024	2023
9	12

4.13 U AND T VISA ASSIGNMENTS:

The United States U and T Visas are nonimmigrant visas that provide temporary legal status to victims of certain crimes and human trafficking, as well as certain family members. To be eligible, individuals must also be willing to assist law enforcement or government officials in the investigation or prosecution of the crime. These visas allow nonimmigrants to remain in the United States for the duration of the law enforcement investigation or prosecution.

2024	2023
1	3

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4.14 TRAFFIC SECTION

4.15 Traffic Unit:

The Traffic Unit is responsible for all fatal crashes or crashes involving a serious injury. The unit maintains certifications for alcoltest units along with maintenance and storage of video equipment, training of radar equipment and maintains certifications of radar equipment. Additionally, the Traffic Unit is responsible for the issuance of Temporary Handicapped Placards.

Statistics:	2024	2023
Traffic Unit Total summonses:	3438	3476
Traffic Unit Speeding summonses:	464	461
Traffic Unit Hazardous summonses:	711	610
Traffic Unit Non-Hazardous summonses:	1216	1265
Traffic Unit Parking summonses:	349	284
Traffic Unit Crash summonses:	698	856
Traffic Unit Arrests:	12	20
Traffic Unit DWI Arrests:	6	15
Traffic Unit Criminal Arrests:	3	1
Traffic Unit Warrant Arrests:	3	4
Traffic Unit Crash Investigations:	1910	2043
CREW Hours of enforcement:	907	1249.10
CREW Speeding summonses:	347	364
CREW Other summonses:	112	178
Temporary Handicapped Placards	187	179

4.16 School Traffic Guards:

School traffic guards are assigned under the Traffic Unit for the school year. There is a total of forty-eight permanent School Traffic Guards and five substitutes which cover 62 school traffic posts.

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4.17 FIELD OPERATIONS SECTION

4.18 Anti-Crime Unit:

The Anti-Crime Unit plays a crucial role in proactively addressing a range of criminal activities, including narcotics offenses, gang-related incidents, weapons violations, and overall crime suppression. By focusing resources on these high-priority areas, the unit aims to reduce crime and enhance community safety.

The recent reinstatement of the narcotics detection K-9 program is a significant step in enhancing the unit's capabilities. K-9 Harv, in particular, has proven to be an invaluable asset in the fight against drug-related crimes, contributing to multiple successful narcotic seizures. This initiative strengthens the unit's ability to effectively tackle drug trafficking and related offenses, showcasing the importance of specialized resources in crime prevention efforts.

Statistics:	2024	2023
Total Arrests:	177	251
Warrant Arrests:	15	72
Narcotics Arrests:	142	191
Probable Cause Arrests:	21	18
Traffic Summons:	115	347

5. PATROL BUREAU

The Patrol Bureau currently consists of approximately fifty percent of the Hamilton Police Division's sworn officers. These officers are responsible for maintaining order within the Township, enforcing local and state laws, and for being the front line of local government's duty to protect an individual's basic right to safety and security.

Directed patrol practices have helped residents enjoy a better quality of life. Patrol Officers are directed to specific areas for enforcement or attention that meet the needs of the community.

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6. CHIEF'S OFFICE

In addition to the three bureaus, the Chief's Office is responsible for the following:

Budget and Planning

Office of Professional Responsibility: Internal Affairs Unit

Technical Services Unit

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Team (UAV)

Honor Guard

The Deputy Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management is also assigned to the Chief's Office.

6.1 Budget and Planning:

Responsible for planning and maintaining the budget for the Division.

6.2 Office of Professional Responsibility: Internal Affairs Unit:

The Internal Affairs Unit is responsible for protecting the public trust and maintaining the integrity of the Division. The policy of the Internal Affairs Unit is to conduct thorough, fair and objective investigations.

6.3 Technical Services Unit:

The Technical Services Unit (TSU) is responsible for overseeing all information technology operations within the division. This includes supporting data analysis and planning functions, as well as handling the installation, servicing, and troubleshooting of PC workstations, mobile data systems, office equipment, servers, and network infrastructure. TSU manages user roles, permissions, data backup, and other related network services.

In addition, the unit maintains the Hamilton Police Division's intranet, which provides essential information to division personnel, and oversees the management of the division's social media accounts. TSU also delivers technical support, training, and guidance to enhance the technological capabilities of Police Division staff.

Focused on cybersecurity, the unit is trained to Department of Defense 8140 standards, ensuring a high level of proficiency and security in all operations.

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6.4 Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Team:

The Hamilton Police UAV Team plays a crucial role in enhancing situational awareness for law enforcement officers and command staff during active public safety incidents and emergencies. Comprising fully sworn officers, each with FAA Part 107 certifications, the team provides critical aerial support in various operations. As a member of the Mercer County Drone Strike Team, the Hamilton Police UAV Team also offers mutual aid to all communities within Mercer County.

In 2024, the UAV Team was involved in over 100 events, incidents, and requests. Key activities included providing aerial overwatch for community events, assisting with high-risk arrest warrant executions, supporting search operations for fleeing suspects and missing persons, documenting fatal and serious motor vehicle accidents, conducting thermal imaging at active fire scenes, and surveying for FEMA/OEM assessments. The team also participated in technology demonstrations at Hamilton Schools, showcasing the capabilities of UAVs in public safety.

6.5 Honor Guard:

The Honor Guard Commander is assigned to the Chiefs Office. There are twenty-five officers and six supervisors assigned to the Hamilton Police Honor Guard. The Honor Guard attends various events and parades in the Hamilton Township. They represent the Division at funerals for fallen officers in the Tri-State area as well as rendering services at Hamilton Police Division's retired officers' funerals. The Honor Guard attended 30 events over the course of the year.

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7. KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Implemented a partnership with Volunteers of America Delaware Valley to provide social services.
- Expanded the Drone Unit with additional personnel & drones.
- Expanded the Division's partnership with the Hamilton Police Athletic League's Youth Academy from one session to two sessions.
- Implemented the Special Investigations Section which shall include a Special Victim's Unit and the School Resource Unit.

8. POLICE DIVISION GOALS FOR 2025

- Continue to strive for the completion of the three (3) year Re-Accreditation process through the New Jersey State Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Accreditation program.
- Continue to provide the Township with a budget that meets the Division's goals and needs while keeping police services at the highest level for residents of Hamilton Township.
- Continue to develop crime prevention strategies and enhance public awareness.
- Continue to utilize social media as a resource for Police – Community relations.
- Equip the Police Division with the latest law enforcement technologies.
- Continue to provide effective and efficient Patrol coverage to the community.
- Replace the outdated telephone system to Carousel VOIP.
- Continue to upgrade the Divisions fleet.
- Expand the Division K9 Unit to two dogs.