



Peters Township Police Department
Washington County, Pennsylvania
200 Municipal Drive
McMurray, PA 15317-3496
724-942-5030 Fax 724-942-5004



January 31, 2022

Paul Lauer,
Peters Township Manager
610 East McMurray Road
McMurray, Pennsylvania 15317

Mr. Lauer,

It is my pleasure to present the Peters Township Police Department (PTPD) 2021 Annual Report. This report contains an overview and analysis of the various functions and responsibilities of the men and women of this Department during 2021.

The year presented significant challenges for law enforcement across the country, and we were no exception. Once again COVID presented challenges to our day-to-day operations and impacted officers and their families in many ways. However, unlike 2020 we did not see the extensive lockdowns and shuttering of businesses, churches, and travel to the same extent. Perhaps the greatest impact of the virus was to our police training opportunities. Not unlike 2020, through it all, we responded to every call for service, met every accreditation requirement and exceeded our Mandatory Inservice Training requirements. In addition, we continued to collect proofs of compliance, conduct policy reviews, and perform routine inspections on the property room and various equipment in accordance with best practices and accreditation standards. Maintaining our status as an accredited agency is a notable accomplishment that requires the continued buy-in of every officer of the Department.

In 2021, we saw the departure of Officer William Woods, Sergeant Matthew Collins, and for a brief time Corporal Lou Reda. Reda took a leave of absence in April 2021 forfeiting his full-time status and his rank in pursuit of an unsuccessful bid to become the Washington County Sheriff. Following the election results Reda was re-hired, albeit as a part-time officer. In our efforts to fill our vacancies we hired Officer Austin Kline and Nicole Merrick. In addition, we hired Mathew Malloy; however, due to our inability to train three new officers at one time, Malloy's start date was delayed until January 2022.

An essential element of the professional development of our officers includes training and education. Despite the impact of COVID-19 we were able to maintain a high level of training for our officers in 2021. Each year we strive to provide 80 hours of professional development/training for each officer. This is well above the 12 hours of mandatory training required by Act 120 for municipal police officers. This goal is significant and ensures our officers are well trained and we consistently exceed the minimum training requirements. In 2021 we enlisted four officers into the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (LEEDA) Trilogy of Leadership courses. The first of which began in November. These training accomplishments highlight the importance placed on leadership development and next level thinking in our training approach. Looking forward into 2022 we plan to continue the development of our officers as we seek higher levels of training and professional development in support of our overall mission to provide professional police services to our community.

The administrative structure of the Department continues to enable strong direction and accountability of all Department members as we strive to achieve our goals and objectives. From a training and preparedness perspective, we continue to refine the Department goals and objectives. Based on our structure as a learning and development agency we are better prepared to respond to the needs of this Community. This approach includes our Tactical training, Community Policing efforts, an aggressive officer training and development program and hiring initiatives that stress experience and training. While we continue to strive for high levels of tactical training, we also realize that our role is more heavily focused on strong public service and community relations. Striking the proper balance



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between public service and tactical awareness is a complex undertaking; however, it is absolutely necessary in today's policing.

Throughout 2021, we relied heavily on the versatility of the Police Officer Scheduling System (POSS) for the day-to-day scheduling, analysis of manpower needs, and officer leave issues. In 2021, we struggled to maintain our staffing goals partly due to COVID and partly due to the new Collective Bargaining Agreement agreed upon in 2020.

Looking forward to 2022, we will continue to institute changes to the day-to-day business processes and infrastructure of the Department that support the development of personnel, policies, and procedures. To better manage supervisory interactions and documentation we purchased the Guardian tracking system in 2021. This system better collates supervisory interaction between officers and their supervisors and provide an early warning notice should an officer display frequent conduct deemed detrimental to their wellbeing or the public. Moreover, we will continue to use Power DMS to manage training and policy review, PoliceOne Training Academy courses for education, PAVTN and Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) Mandatory In-Service Training (MIST) courses, as well as our own in-house training courses for officer development. As a matter of practice, we will continue to review our policies and procedures to ensure we apply the best practices and professional services for this Community.

Every can take solace in the commitment of this agencies commitment to treating our citizens with courtesy, professionalism, and respect, while impartially enforcing the ordinances of Peters Township and the laws of this Commonwealth. We remain steadfast in this commitment through the deterrence of criminal activity and the relentless pursuit of justice.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents and businesspeople of this community. While 2021 was certainly another taxing year in many ways, it was particularly strenuous for law enforcement. In 2021 a record number of police officers died in the line of duty. Throughout the pandemic and periods of unrest in our Nation, our officers continued to come to work every day and answer every call for service. Each officer did this because of a sense of duty and a commitment to protect and serve this community. The residents and business members of this Community continue to greet our officers with encouragement and various expressions of appreciation for their efforts. The instances of heartfelt encouragement and acts of kindness demonstrated by so many of you is greatly appreciated by every officer of this Department. Thank you!

Douglas E. Grimes
Chief of Police



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PETERS TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Peters Township Police Department is to enhance the quality of life in Peters Township by working in partnership with our community to enforce the law, preserve peace, reduce fear, and maintain order. The Department is committed to accomplishing this mission through the protection of life and property, for all citizens, by treating every citizen with courtesy, professionalism, and respect while enforcing the laws impartially, fighting crime through deterrence, and the relentless pursuit of criminals.





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ACCREDITATION

In 2021, the PTPD maintained our accreditation from the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC). This process required us to continue to demonstrate compliance with all PLEAC standards. This process involved the review and assessment of all policies to ensure compliance and the recording of proofs of compliance where applicable. This is only possible with the total “buy-in” and assistance of essentially every employee of the Department. This accomplishment places the Department among 1 of 134 out of approximately 1,100 police departments in Pennsylvania as having met this standard of professionalism and performance.

The continued accreditation status will require on-site inspections every three years performed by PLEAC assigned assessors to observe compliance proofs for each of the standards outlined in the accreditation standards manual. In 2022 we will undergo the first of the re-accreditation cycles that will require proofs of compliance with each of the standards. Moreover, our policies and procedures will be analyzed by neutral assessors to ensure we have maintained consistent application with National best practices and PLEAC standards.

This continuous process of developing proofs and reviewing policy will be performed on a regular basis by the men and women of the Peters Township Police Department each year. Every employee of the Department plays a major role in this achievement and should take great pride in maintaining this distinction.

GENERAL ANALYSIS

Analysis of Part I and Part II Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data for Peters Township reveals 111 Part I offenses and 549 Part II offenses in 2021. An analysis of our Records Management System (In-Synch) reveals there were a total of 782 investigations in 2021 (**Appendage E**). This number would include all criminal investigations conducted by the PTPD plus hit-and-run traffic crashes, ordinance violations and other investigations not meeting the FBI UCR criteria for measurement. Overall, this results in an average of almost 65 investigations being conducted each month. Of those investigations, 178 were cleared by the arrest of one (1) or more persons. There were additional investigations cleared by “Exceptional” means. Exceptional clearances is a category defined by the FBI UCR rules that allows for the clearance of an investigation when; the identity of the offender is known, there is enough information to support an arrest, and the location of the offender is known, but no criminal charges are filed in the case. One common example of this type of case occurs when the victim no longer wants to cooperate in the prosecution of the offender. In 2021, there were 60 such cases closed under the “Exceptional” clearance category even though the persons responsible were identified and could have been charged. Additionally, there were 66 cases closed as “Unfounded,” meaning the reported offense was false or baseless and there was no proof a crime occurred as initially reported. Each of these variables determine the clearance rate of the Department’s criminal investigations. Based upon available UCR data, clearance rates for the PTPD decreased from 47% in 2020 to 27% in 2021. This is a huge decrease. The decrease can be largely attributed to the dramatic increase in fraud cases in 2021. The Department investigated 282 fraud cases in 2021 compared to 83 in 2020. This is a 240% increase in this category alone. By nature of what these crimes are, they are very difficult to solve since the vast majority of them are initiated in another country. Even though a significant level of investigative effort and proactive police work is committed to these cases, very little can be done to clear the case.



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Below is a table showing the Department’s clearance rates for comparison over the past three (3) years:

YEAR	PART I	PART II	COMBINED
2019	29%	43%	40%
2020	47%	47%	47%
2021	22%	29%	28%

Part I Offenses (**Appendage B**) for 2021 reveals 63 of the offenses reported were classified as property crimes (burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson) and within that number, 47 incidents were identified as Larceny Thefts.

Further analysis of the UCR submissions reveals 590 Part II Offenses (**Appendage C**) recorded for 2021. This is a significant increase in reported offenses in this category from 2020. The 590 Part II Offenses in 2021 is a 46% increase from the 404 Part II Offenses in 2020. This can be attributed to a significant increase in fraud cases from 83 in 2020 to 281 in 2021. Analysis of Sex Offenses within the Part II category reveals the same number of offenses, 21 for 2021 and 21 for 2020.

Given the continued impact of COVID-19 in 2021, most of the overall numbers of crimes in these categories are within expected norms from previous years. The sole exception is clearly the 70% increase in fraud cases. It is important to note that the increase in Fraud type case (identity theft, fraudulent scams, etc.) has been an ongoing National trend. That said, perspective is important when attempting to analyze the overall number and corresponding statistics. In many instances, the percentage increase/decrease can appear to be much more significant than the actual numbers appear. For example, the increase in Fraud cases dramatically reduced the clearance rate from 47% to 28%. Therefore, the dramatic change in reported fraud cases can be identified as the lone culprit of this change. In virtually every fraud case the victim was refunded any monetary loss they experienced, and the suspect is from out of the country and therefore no further investigation or prosecution is possible. These types of cases are extremely frustrating in that they could be avoided IF the public used precautions when dealing with unknown entities promising something that seems too good to be true.

STAFFING

In 2021, the Department met or exceeded the requirement to maintain three (3) or more patrols on duty 80% of the time. In 2021 there were 730 shifts to staff. Of the 730 shifts, 633 were staffed with three (3) or more officers (**Appendage G**). The overall average of having three (3) or more officers on a shift for 2021 was 85.5%. This was possible, in large part, due to the use of part-time police officers and the efficient application of the POSS Scheduling System. Use of the POSS automated scheduling system allowed us to maintain staffing levels while scheduling 281 training days in 202. Further analysis of the staffing reveals a total of 54.5 sick days were used in 2021, which is down from 93.5 when compared to 2020.



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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

Significant Cases for 2021:

On January 21, 2021, the Peters Township Police Department (PTPD) was notified of a sexual assault involving a juvenile female and an adult male. Numerous interviews were conducted and as a result, several locations and sexual acts were identified. The investigation was he said/she said until the adult male was interrogated. During the interrogation, the male actor admitted to the sexual assaults against the juvenile female. The adult male was arrested.

On February 1, 2021, the PTPD received a report of a local resident being a victim of an identity theft. The identity theft was perpetrated through Pennsylvania's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program. The PTPD enlisted the assistance of the Pennsylvania Office of Inspector General – Department of Labor. The PTPD authored several search warrants to identify the actor. As a result, the actor was identified as the victim's mother. The actor had stolen over \$12,000.00 worth of benefits attributed to her daughter. The actor was arrested.

On February 26, 2021, the PTPD became aware that one its officers and a civilian Peters Township employee were victims of an illegal wiretap committed by two Washington County residents. It was discovered that these two individuals operate a YouTube channel wherein they film themselves driving recklessly throughout the Washington and Allegheny County areas. These individuals also actively were seeking out law enforcement officers by goading them into being traffic stopped and subsequently record the interactions. The individuals would upload the police interactions onto their YouTube channel. The illegal recordings involving the PTPD officer and PT civilian were also uploaded to the YouTube channel and viewed by over 4,000 individuals. The PTPD executed a search warrant on the individual's residence to seize their electronic devices. Search warrants were executed on the seized electronic devices and arrest warrants were issued.

On October 21, 2021, an off duty PTPD officer received a telephone call from Peters Township School District Administration about several individuals acting suspiciously at the baseball field behind the old middle school. The PTPD responded and two of the three individuals fled on foot. PTPD established a perimeter and was able to track down the fleeing actors and take them into custody. All three actors, 2 adults and 1 juvenile, were arrested. The juvenile actor was a suspect in numerous vehicle break ins. The juvenile was interviewed and admitted to breaking into numerous vehicles and stealing various items.

On October 24, 2021, the PTPD became aware of a 13-year-old juvenile female sexually assaulting her 6-year-old stepsister. It was discovered the juvenile actor was not only sexually assaulting her stepsister, but she was also filming the acts. The juvenile actor was arrested, and her electronic media devices were seized. Homeland Security Investigations Child Exploitation Unit was contacted and began working simultaneously with the PTPD. Numerous interviews were conducted, and the seized electronic devices were forensically downloaded. It was discovered that the juvenile actor was sending the recorded pornographic images to several adult individuals. At least one of these adults was actively instructing the juvenile actor on what to do with her stepsister. As a result of this investigation, three adult males have been identified. The PTPD and Homeland Security Investigations have been executing search warrants on the social media accounts associated with the three identified actors. Once all the requested information is obtained, this case will be forwarded for both state and federal prosecution.



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On October 28, 2021, the PTPD received a report of a theft from motor vehicle. The actor had removed several credit/debit cards along with the victim's identification. The actor then used the stolen credit cards to purchase hundreds of dollars' worth of goods from a gas station in Allegheny County. The PTPD obtained video of the illegal transactions and employed the license plate readers in both Washington and Allegheny Counties to identify a suspect vehicle. It was learned that the suspect vehicle was used by an acquaintance of the owner. The PTPD travelled to Finleyville, PA where the suspect vehicle and suspects were located. After consent searches were obtained, several items were located and linked to the stolen credit card purchases. The actor, and his accomplice were both arrested.

PROPERTY

An analysis of the UCR Report of Stolen and recovered property (**Appendage D**) reveals a total stolen property during 2021 of \$173,545 and a recovery of \$14,000 for a net loss of stolen property of \$159,545.

The Property Room (Evidence Room) was inspected on two (2) occasions during 2021. The first inspection was completed in April 2021. This inspection was a full inspection designed to ensure all property was accounted for and stored in proper condition. Discrepancies discovered during inspections are corrected and a reinspection is completed as necessary to ensure compliance with all PLEAC standards and National best practices.

The second inspection was completed in November and was a semi-annual inspection designed to ensure officers were up to date on property destruction/returns related to ongoing and completed investigations. This inspection resulted in a significant effort to return found property, destroy valueless property related to completed cases or when court ordered, and prepare property lists for escheats via the Pennsylvania Treasury Unclaimed Property system in 2022.

Ultimately, in both cases, the Property Room was found to be in good order and the Property Room log was properly maintained consistent with standard best practices and Department policy.

INVESTIGATIVE TECHNOLOGY

In 2021, we continued to seek improved methods of utilizing technology. Technology is the fastest growing area of law enforcement. As we strive to improve our footprint in the area of technology, the focus remains centered around providing the public with technology tools to help better understand crime and safety in Peters Township while keeping our officers safe.

The Body Worn Camera (BWC) project was initiated in 2018 and has now been in use for almost four (4) years. Since the introduction of the BWC it has become a mainstay of our technological initiatives. Each officer is assigned a BWC, and policy was implemented to govern the use and application of the technology. During 2021, there were numerous instances of utilizing the BWC to investigate both criminal incidents and citizen complaints.

In July 2018, we installed two (2) Intersection Cameras with License Plate Readers (LPR) at two (2) major intersections in the Township. Each intersection captures all traffic flowing through the intersection and reads the license plate of the vehicles. The license plate (Vehicle Registration) information is automatically checked against the PennDOT database and information is stored for review



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as needed. The information is only reviewed or analyzed in relation to a specific investigative need. Multiple cases during 2021, benefitted from the Intersection Cameras. In each case, the data captured by the cameras led to the identification of a suspect and ultimately an arrest and clearance of the case.

The PTPD website continues to enable the public to find information related to Police notifications and public safety. Such notices include current Scam/Identity Theft incidents as well as information on how to avoid becoming a victim. In addition, we will include current information and photographs of approved solicitors in the Township that may be going door-to-door. Moving forward in 2022 we intend to initiate a “No Knock List” which will allow the public to sign up and be placed on a list precluding solicitors from knocking on their door. Lastly, we continue to utilize the “Exchange Zone” which is under constant video surveillance and is intended to provide a monitored location for completing exchanges of property bought and sold during online purchases. In addition, the Exchange Zone is frequently used for the transfer of children in contested custody situations.

In addition, in 2017 the website was leveraged to launch a **Community Crime Mapping** application that enables the public to view the locations and types of crimes reported to the Department. This application is linked with our Records Management System (RMS) and displays information in real time. The Community Crime Mapping application can be found at the following link <https://communitycrimemap.com/?address=peterstownship%2Cpa>. This application has two additional functions that have proven valuable. The first allows for the user to submit tips directly to the Department. The user may choose to provide their name or leave the tip anonymously. Secondly, the application allows users to set up an alert notice based upon a defined radius from a specified location/address (e.g. their home). The alert then notifies the user by email when a new crime is committed within the defined radius.

Next, the Department **Facebook** page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/PetersTownshipPolice>, and is being used to provide more immediate notifications and information in instances of shorter term, immediate need-to-know situations. This includes on-going crimes, fraud schemes, traffic safety issues, and vehicle break-in type crimes. Moreover, in 2021 we worked harder at leveraging the power of social media to help us solve crimes. The Facebook page offers the public an opportunity to make inquiries of the Department they might not have otherwise made. Using the Facebook page and social media platform has given the public a “direct-messaging” ability that did not previously exist. Managed correctly we can use this platform to make the Department more efficient and the Township a safer place to live and work. This is also an excellent place to leverage the skillset and knowledge of some of our younger officers who have a better understanding of the benefits of social media.

Finally, 2021 was the second full year our department was equipped with the technology to extract and process cell phone data. With cooperation and funding assistance from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program of the DEA) and the Washington County District Attorney’s Office, PTPD is now the only municipal agency with a Graykey device used in this process. With the acquisition of the Graykey device and other investigative tools combined with a defined skillset of Detective Caruso, the PTPD Investigative unit has clearly established themselves as a leader among Washington County law enforcement agencies. In 2021, 229 cell phones and similar devices were processed by the PTPD Investigative unit for investigative purposes. This is almost double the number of devices processed in 2020. As a result, this new tool has benefitted Peters Township as well as all other Washington County law enforcement agencies. The expansive use and success of this tool has also prompted additional



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funding from HIDTA. A dedicated desktop computer and additional Graykey devices were purchased with these funds at no cost to the Township.

POLICE PATROL

The PTPD Patrol Section consists of 22 officers, four (4) sergeants, four Corporals, and 14 patrolmen. They responded to 6,059 calls for service (**Appendage A**) in 2021. This equates to an average of 505 calls for service each month. In addition to the calls for service, patrols are tasked with a sundry of other duties to include vacation checks, park checks, targeted traffic enforcement, business checks, church walk throughs and school checks. The Patrol Section issued 1,011 citations, and 3,198 written warnings for a total of 4,209 traffic contacts for 2021 (**Appendage H**). Analysis of the reportable crashes reveals a slight increase from 2020, (**Appendage F**). In 2021 we continued to see COVID restrictions and business process changes which ultimately impacted the patrol officers contacts with the public. Overall, between Patrol Officers and Detectives, the Department made 223 misdemeanor/felony arrests to include 42 DUI arrests (**Appendage C**) in 2021. There was one (1) fatal crash in 2021 and 127 reportable crashes including nine (9) that were DUI related (**Appendage F**). The statistical change over 2020 in this category is insignificant.

In 2021, our use of the bikes for patrol on the trail was somewhat limited again due to COVID restrictions and business process changes. Community Day was cancelled as was several other events that would normally lend themselves to the use of the E-Bikes on patrol. We continued to use the E-bikes for patrol during concerts in the park and during various sporting events in the park. Additionally, we used the E-Bikes in various developments for investigative purposes as well as in our business district. The Bicycle Patrol Unit (BPU) has proven to be a very effective enforcement tool and deterrent to criminal activity while providing our residents with an approachable, visible representative of the Peters Township Police Department. Moreover, the BPU continues to help bolster the Community Policing efforts of the Department. The continued goal of the BPU is to reduce crime and increase contact with the public. Currently, the BPU has six (6) trained officers all of whom received their training through the International Police Mountain Bike Association.

The use of our 2017 Suzuki V-Strom 650 motorcycle for patrol was also limited in 2021. The motorcycle is generally used for traffic enforcement initiatives and patrol of our parks and neighborhoods during the summer months. The motorcycle has created a unique opportunity for our Motors Officer to connect with kids of all ages and help bolster the Community Policing efforts of the Department.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program was initiated at the beginning of the 2013 school year as a cooperative effort between the Township and School District to enhance policing primarily at the high school level. The positive effects of this program have now extended to all schools within the district. Officer James Stevick is currently assigned to the position of High School SRO and Officer Patrick Mazzotta is assigned to the Middle School. In our efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment for our schools, we continue to work closely with the District to build upon safety initiatives and develop progressive plans to assess and improve school safety.

An analysis of police records in most areas indicate an increase in the number of police-related incidents in public schools. This, combined with a review of the buildings, grounds and number of students, generally supports the need for additional SROs to adequately provide security for our schools.



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Further analysis suggests the structure and assignment of the personnel should include full-time SRO's in our schools. In this structure, full-time SRO positions provide:

- Law enforcement and investigative services
- Development of crime prevention programs
- Train school personnel
- Mentor students
- Conflict resolution
- Positive role model

In addition, SRO duties include facilitating Drug and Alcohol Awareness programs, Drivers Education, Social Media responsibility, DARE, and teacher support for Law and Justice classes. Each of these programs and responsibilities are critically important to the growth, development, safety and well-being of our students and faculty.

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

This is the 16th year of the Peters Township Deer Management Program. The program was initially developed to utilize managed archery hunting to reduce deer-related vehicle accidents while also limiting conflicts between deer and the community. The managed archery program requires prospective archers to complete background checks as well as educational classes and skill proficiency testing. There are currently 28 archers in the program. The Peters Township Police Department is tasked with creating, inspecting, and enforcing program criteria including selection, training, and approval of the archers.

Since the program's inception there have been no reported injuries or damage to property. Additionally, there have been no complaints related to the conduct or safety of program archers during the 2021-2022 program.

An analysis of the 2021-2022 season of the Peters Township Deer Management Program reveals the following:

- 18 of 28 program hunters were successful in harvesting deer
- 45 deer were harvested within the designated hunting areas (Note: Hunting season not yet over at the time of this report)
- Over 400 pounds of venison was donated to local families in need through the Hunters Sharing the Harvest program.
- 94 deer-related vehicle accidents were reported in 2021 which is a slight increase from the previous year (91)
- 17 deer reported injured on roadways not located by officers
- 3 deer reported dead or injured by coyotes
- 3 deer reported to police as a contributing factor to a crash, but no evidence found at the scene
- 2 deer released from fenced yards
- 2 deer were reported caught on residential fences resulting in 1 being dispatched by officers
- 35 + deer were taken by a local farmer. Confirmed by WCO Sitler.



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In response to increasing deer-related vehicle accidents, the Peters Township Council and the Pennsylvania Game Commission authorized the expansion of the Peters Township Deer Management Program to include sharpshooting. The Sharpshooting program will begin February 1, 2022 and occur thru September of 2022. Sharpshooting will be conducted by two members of the Peters Township Police Department who are certified through the Pennsylvania Game Commission to perform such duties.

The Peters Township Deer Management Program was developed as an effort to cull the deer population at minimal expense to the community. As such, the program has shown continued success in removing deer from hunted areas. Additionally, the program has provided volunteer archers with an opportunity to spend time afield with friends and family. Municipal staff and the Peters Township Police Department continue their dedication and hard work to ensure safety, promote environmental stewardship, and provide a fiscally sustainable deer management program for the residents of Peters Township

D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

Launched in 1983, **D.A.R.E.** is a comprehensive K-12 education program taught in thousands of schools in America and 52 other countries. D.A.R.E. curricula address drugs, violence, bullying, internet safety, and other high-risk circumstances that today are too often a part of students' lives. [D.A.R.E. America, (2017, January 24). Retrieved from <http://www.dare.com>.] The D.A.R.E program has been taught in the Peters Township School District since 1989.

Visitation lessons are used with grades 1, 2, and 3. These lessons include information on being safe at home, in schools, and in the community. The lessons help students develop confidence to make the right choices by providing them with information and skills they can use to face challenging situations. Some lessons start the talk about dealing with peer pressure and how to handle it. In one lesson, we discuss how drugs can help or harm them. There is also a lesson regarding how to deal with anger in appropriate ways, which in today's environment, is needed more than ever.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the total number of students taking part in the program were as follows:

Pleasant Valley School Bower Hill School

1 st grade	140	1 st grade	169
2 nd grade	105	2 nd grade	163
3 rd grade	133	3 rd grade	191

McMurray Elementary School

5th grade 302 students



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The fifth-grade lessons presented to each classroom are designed to prevent drug use. This is done by developing basic or core skills needed for safe and responsible choices. These skills extend beyond drugs to health and mature choices in life.

The curriculum is based on the Socio-Emotional Learning Theory and identifies fundamental, basic skills and developmental processes needed for healthy development. These include, self-awareness and management, responsible decision making, understanding others, relationship and communication skills and handling responsibilities and challenges. There are ten (10) lessons including the graduations.

In the fifth-grade program, all students must write an essay about what they have learned during the program. The best essay is chosen from each class and that student who wrote the essay is awarded a D.A.R.E Lion. A second student is chosen as the Good Citizen winner in each class. This goes to the student who best participates in the lessons and are helpful to others in the school. They do what is asked the first time and follow the rules of the school.

Peters Township Middle School

Two (2) lessons were presented to 55 seventh grade students at the Peters Township Middle School during health classes:

The lesson is about alcohol and the way it effects the brain, body, and central nervous system. An example shows how reaction time changes with alcohol present in the body. The rest of the class time is spent having the students' doing activities with the Fatal Vision Goggles. They get the opportunity to experience impairment, while the brain is fully functioning.

Peters Township High School

Survival 101: "A Student's Guide to Staying Alive: is a police-driven curriculum designed to encourage appropriate decision making among high school students. Developed by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Buckle Up PA Project. This class is presented to the Driver's Theory class twice throughout the school year. The Driver's Theory class is made up of mostly sophomores and juniors. The two lessons were presented to 240 students.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

In addition to the routine daily, positive interactions with the community, the PTPD conducted or participated in the following events:

- Police Station Tours (3)
- Township Events (10)
- School District Events (2)
- Parades (3)
- Meet and Greet sessions (show police car, meet with children, etc.) (6)
- Survival 101 sessions - approximately 240 high school students received lessons regarding alcohol prevention and highway safety (2)



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- Church Liaison Program

In 2018, the PTPD began a new initiative called the **Church Liaison Program**. Each church was assigned a dedicated liaison officer as a single point of contact. Due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2021, there were no additional steps added to the program.

January – December 2021- Church Walk Through District 1 – 50 incident reports were generated for the weekly walk through (multiple churches are being checked on each incident number).

January – December 2021 – Church Walk Through District 2 – 49 incident reports were generated for the weekly walk through (multiple churches are being checked on each incident number).

September-December 2021- 26 incident reports were generated involving church liaison activity ranging from meeting with church elders, church safety, and public relations type activity. This particular statistic titled; “Church Liaison Program” has been documented by patrol since September of 2021. The monthly contact for each church can be completed in person, by phone, or by email.

December 2021- In house departmental training on police response to critical incidents and active shooter. Officers practiced maneuvering through buildings and addressed active threats when presented.

Throughout 2021, it appeared that the majority of churches continued to scale back on programs and activities due to COVID-19. Officers reminded each church during their monthly contact about the programs we offer (Child Identikit, safety checks, Youth Group Presentations, etc.)

Chief Grimes made presentations to community organizations and participated in various meetings and events. The following is a partial list of those events/meetings:

- Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) (Commissioner)
- MPOETC - Legislative Review Committee for Police Legislation (Committee member)
- MPOETC Rules and Regs Committee (Chairperson)
- Western PA Chiefs’ Executive Board and General Meetings (2nd Vice President 2021)
- Washington County Chiefs’ meetings (Member)
- FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force meetings (Member)
- First Responder/Public Safety Communication Committee meetings (Washington County)
- South Hills Areas Council of Governments (SHACOG) Meetings
- Chiefs’ training for Use of Force and Administrative Responsibilities in Use of Force Incidents
- Presented to the Rotary Club
- Aggressive Driving Coordination meeting
- Mock Crash Meeting with Peters Township High School Officials
- Citizens Police Academy – Taught Class re: Megan’s Law
- Sun Chevrolet Cancer Awareness Challenge
- Youth Commission Meetings
- Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission – Member
- Pennsylvania Police Accreditation Coalition – Member



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CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY

In the Fall of 2021, the PTPD continued the Citizen's Police Academy started in March of 2020 (forced to postpone due to COVID-19 restrictions). The program is designed to expand the citizen's knowledge and understanding of the law and explore police procedures. Participants are also taught the basics of criminal law with emphasis on the crimes code and vehicle code. The program includes patrol tactics, the processing of crime scenes, interview and interrogation and many other subjects. There were 14 participants in the Fall session.

COMMUNITY TRAFFIC SAFETY AWARD

During the month of November each year, the American Automobile Association (AAA) holds its annual luncheon. The purpose of this event is to honor participating communities for their efforts to improve local traffic safety.

Communities voluntarily participate in this program by submitting Traffic Safety Worksheets that address specific issues. There are 18 general categories of traffic safety issues. For example, aggressive driving is a general category. Specific issues addressed in this problem are speeding, tailgating, and road rage.

The program also takes into consideration the traffic safety and education programs sponsored by the Police Department and the Township. These programs include Buckle Up PA (seat belt safety), Halloween safety, Washington County DUI Task Force, Stranger Danger, school crossing guard, and speed awareness.

The awards given are based on the Department's enforcement efforts, a five-year analysis of Department statistics, and the various programs offered. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, there was no luncheon scheduled and there were no awards given in 2021.

DRUG TAKE BACK INITIATIVE

The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the public about the potential for abuse of medications. Since the inception of this program, the PTPD has collected approximately 18,179 pounds of unwanted drugs. This is an important program that removes prescription drugs from the cabinets of citizens, thereby preventing the possibility of someone misusing the drugs.

In 2021, two (2) days were Nationally promoted for the Drug Take Back Initiative. In April and October, multiple sites were designated across the Township to collect unneeded or unwanted medication. The PTPD once again lead this initiative by coordinating as the active drop-off site for all area police departments who wished to participate in this program. In 2021, 18 police departments participated in the program. To make this program even more effective, the PTPD maintains a drug drop box in the lobby of the Department for drop offs available Monday – Friday between 8:00AM – 4:00PM.

The collection efforts resulted in the following totals for 2021:

April 2021	31 boxes collected weighing in at 556 lbs.
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October 2021

14 boxes collected weighing in at 291 lbs.

The National Prescription Drug Take Back program has proven to be a valuable initiative within our community. Although the success of this program cannot be measured in lives saved, it can be identified as a success based upon the sheer volume of unwanted drugs removed from the medicine cabinets of our citizens. For several years now, the total combined weight of the drugs collected has exceeded 1,000 lbs. until 2020. Due to a re-insurgence of the COVID variant in the Fall of 2021 the totals were much less than in previous years. Under any circumstances the results of this program can be viewed as a success.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Training is more important today than perhaps ever before in the history of law enforcement. The Act of June 18, 1974, P.L. 359, No.120, as amended, created the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission (MPOETC) and the requirement that all Municipal Police Officers attend a minimum of 12 hours of in-service/continuing education training each year. To that end, MPOETC develops a three (3) hour course on Legal Updates, which is considered mandatory; however, the remaining nine (9) credit hours may be obtained via various approved MPOETC courses. In 2021, those courses were available via the Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network (on-line), PoliceOne Academy (on-line), or via an accredited course of instruction as listed on the MPOETC website. This training is necessary to obtain the biannual certification of officers. All Peters Township Police Officers completed their mandatory training in 2021 and were eligible for recertification by MPOETC.

In 2021, we were able to make great strides in training and education. Training and education is critical to the continued success and development of the Peters Township Police Department. In 2021, we utilized five (5) types of training to include: **(1) Leadership Development, (2) Instructor Development, (3) Career Development, (4) In-House, and (5) On-line training.** Utilizing various training methods and sources enabled us to develop a well-trained and qualified police department in the most expeditious and efficient way. The courses attended by our officers varied by training provider, host, and subject matter. In every case, our officers completed each course of instructions as required and obtained the subsequent attendance certificate, full certification, or Instructor certification upon completion. It is significant to note the instructor certification enables our trained officer to instruct and certify other officers during our own in-house training making us even more efficient and effective.

Below is a comprehensive list of the courses attended by our officers and the number of officers who attended each course:

Leadership Training

FBI-LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute-3
FBI-LEEDA Executive Leadership Institute-2

Supervisor Training

Supervising Patrol Critical Incidents-2

Instructor Development Training

Defensive Tactics Instructor Course-2



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Firearms Instructor Course-1
Optics Enhanced Pistol Instructor Course-1
Physical Fitness Coordinator Recertification-1
Pistol/Shotgun Instructor Course-1
Rescue Task Force Instructor Certification-1
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST) Instructor Course-1
Taser Instructor Course-3

Career Development

Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement-2
Advanced SWAT Operator-1
Basic Narcotics Investigations Course-1
Basic SWAT Operator-1
Cell Phone/Digital Evidence Search Warrants& Forensics-1
Collision Reconstruction Training-1
Crime Scene Investigations Training-1
Criminal Investigations Training-1
Driver's Training-2
GLOCK Armorer's Course-1
North American Standard Driver/Vehicle Inspection Training (2 Levels and In-service)-1
Mid-Level Narcotics Investigations Course-1
PA CLEAN Local Limited Access-1
PA CLEAN Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC)-1
Patrol Rifle (AR15) Armorer's Course-1
Police Mountain Bike Annual In-service Training-6
Remington 870 Shotgun Armorer's Course-1
School Resource Officer Training-2
SHACOG Ceremonial Unit Training-1
SHACOG Critical Incident Response Team-1
SHACOG Crash Team Training-1
SHACOG Support Team-4
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing-2
Township Website Design Training-1

In-house Training (All officers attended the below mandatory in-house training in 2021.)

1st Quarter Training

CPR/First Aid Recertification
AED
Narcan
Use of Fire Extinguisher Review

2nd Quarter Training

Annual Firearms Qualification
Use of Force/Deadly Force Policy Review

3rd Quarter Training



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Arrest Tactics
Baton/OC Spray/Taser Recertification
De-escalation Policy
Defensive Tactics
Duty to Intervene Policy
Empty Hand Control
Less Lethal Shotgun Certification
Off-Duty Qualifications
Practical Application Drills
Riot Gear Fittings
Taser Policy
Use of Force/Deadly Force Policy

4th Quarter Training

Active Assailant Response
Decision Making
De-escalation Review
Isolation Drills
Movement Drills
Rescue Task Force Review
Room-Clearing Drills
Scenarios
Traffic Stop Tactics

On-line training

Peters Township Police Officers completed a total of 320 hours of training using PoliceOne Academy. These courses include material developed from National best practices to procedural application, to legal issues. Many of the over 200 courses offered by PoliceOne are approved by MPOETC and count towards the mandatory in-service training requirements.

INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

The PTPD recognizes the need to thoroughly investigate all Citizen Complaints regarding officer performance and to conduct internal reviews of performance issues such as police pursuits, Department vehicle accidents, and Use of Force incidents. During 2021, the PTPD conducted twenty (20) such investigations. The investigations from 2021 can be broken down into two (2) basic categories as follows:

- Citizen Complaints - 9
- Internal Reviews - 11

Further analysis of the Internal Investigations in 2021 reveals that of the nine (9) citizen complaints, One (1) was considered sustained with corrective measures taken, two (2) were considered not sustained, Three (3) were considered unfounded, and three (3) resulted in the officers being exonerated. Of the eleven (11) Internal Reviews, seven (7) were considered sustained with corrective measures taken, three (3) were considered not sustained, one (1) resulted in the officer being exonerated.



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YOUTH COMMISSION

2021 Case Review

In 2021, the Youth Commission was presented with eleven (11) cases and accepted all eleven (11) of them. **Appendage H** contains a further breakdown of the cases overseen by the Peters Township Youth Commission for 2021.

Organization used for Community Service

Peters Township Public Library, Peters Township Police Department, Peters Township Fire Department, and Horses for Hope (a non-profit organization).

2021 Youth Commission Officers:

Chairman – Cathy Skidmore
Vice Chairman – Kellie Bootman-Rogers
Corresponding Secretary – Lee Tornabene
Recording Secretary – Chrissy Grasso

2022 Youth Commission Officers:

Chairman – Cathy Skidmore
Vice Chairman – Kellie Bootman-Rogers
Corresponding Secretary – Lee Tornabene
Recording Secretary – Chrissy Grasso