



# Abington Township Police Department

## ANNUAL REPORT 2016

### *A Message from the Chief*

Change creates both challenges and opportunities, and 2016 was certainly a year of change for the Abington Township Police Department. 2016 began a year of transition which continued into early 2017 when I was appointed Chief of Police to replace Chief Bill Kelly who had held this position since December 1985. During this same time, twelve Officers and/or supervisors retired or otherwise left and had to be replaced. These changes included three senior level Police Lieutenants. Approximately 225 years of total police experience departed the Department during this period. Thirteen percent of our total Force and 25% of our Patrol Officers are new Officers with less than one year of experience, so these changes certainly created unique challenges for supervision.

However, the Police Department was not caught off guard by these changes and had, in fact, been preparing for them for some time.

An orderly succession plan had been developed, and special training had been provided to prepare employees to step into new roles. All this planning and preparation has made the transition go as smoothly as possible.

The changes also provided us the opportunity to design, build, and prepare our Department for the future and challenges that lie ahead. The process of recruiting, testing, vetting, and training replacements is extremely time-consuming and expensive. We think it is an important investment in our future and ensures that our citizens are protected and served by the best trained, most highly qualified police force that mirrors our community.

As you can see from the accompanying graphs, although major or Part I Crime is up 15% from last year, it is down slightly from the five-year average. Much of the increase results from thefts being included in this category, which are largely driven by retail thefts. In 2016 we had 981 thefts, and in 2015 we had 829. Although this is an 18% increase, there was an actual increase in retail thefts from 317 in 2015 to 412 in 2016. This is a 30% increase during this period, which is responsible for much of the increase in thefts and in major or Part I Crimes.

Of particular interest to most of our citizens are burglaries which continue to decrease. This mirrors what is being experienced in other communities. Although we had one more burglary in 2016 than we had in 2015, the 84 burglaries we experienced in 2016 were a 34% reduction from the five-year average of 127. To review more statistics about crime in Abington Township, visit [www.AbingtonPD.org](http://www.AbingtonPD.org) and select "How Do I." Click on "View Helpful Links," then select "PA Crime Statistics Comparisons." A map of Pennsylvania will appear; select "Montgomery." This link will enable you to view a complete crime profile for Abington or any other jurisdiction and to compare Abington with any other jurisdiction within the same county. Please note that there may be slight differences in the numbers you view from those I have presented in this report or that you will find in other locations. These minor differences result from the way crimes are reported to the Uniform Crime Report (UCR).

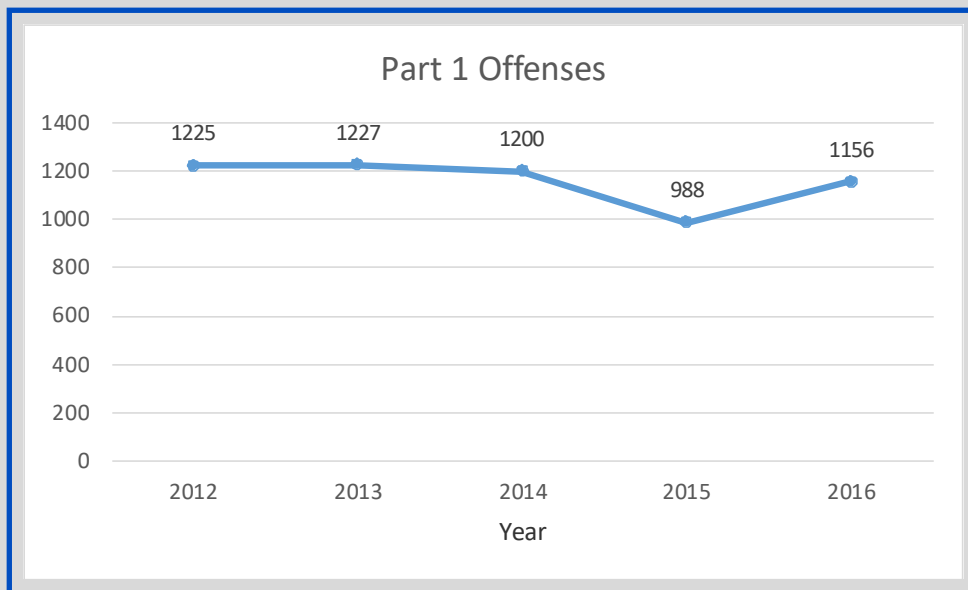
Although we can only infer so much from statistics, we do look for trends which help us efficiently deploy our police resources. Our goal for the Abington Police Department remains to provide our citizens with the best possible protection and police services and to treat everyone we encounter with dignity and respect.

John A. Livingood  
Abington Chief of Police



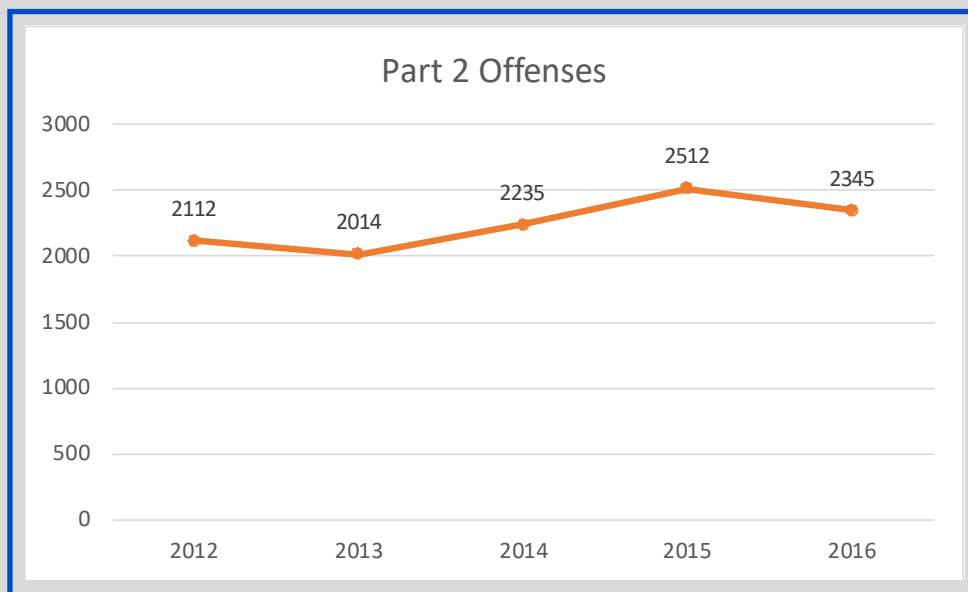
## Crime Statistics & Trends

### Five Years of Reported Part One Crimes



Part One crimes are considered by the federally mandated uniform crime reporting system as the most serious type crime. The type of Part One crimes are: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson.

### Five Years of Reported Part Two Crimes



Part Two crimes are considered by the federally mandated uniform crime reporting system as the less serious type crime. The type of Part Two crimes are: Simple Assault, Forgery, Fraud, Embezzlement, Receiving Stolen Property, Vandalism, Weapon Offenses, Prostitution, Sex Offenses, Drug Violations, Gambling, Child Abuse, DUI, Liquor Law Violations, Drunkenness, Disorderly Conduct, and all other crimes.

## Crime Statistics & Trends

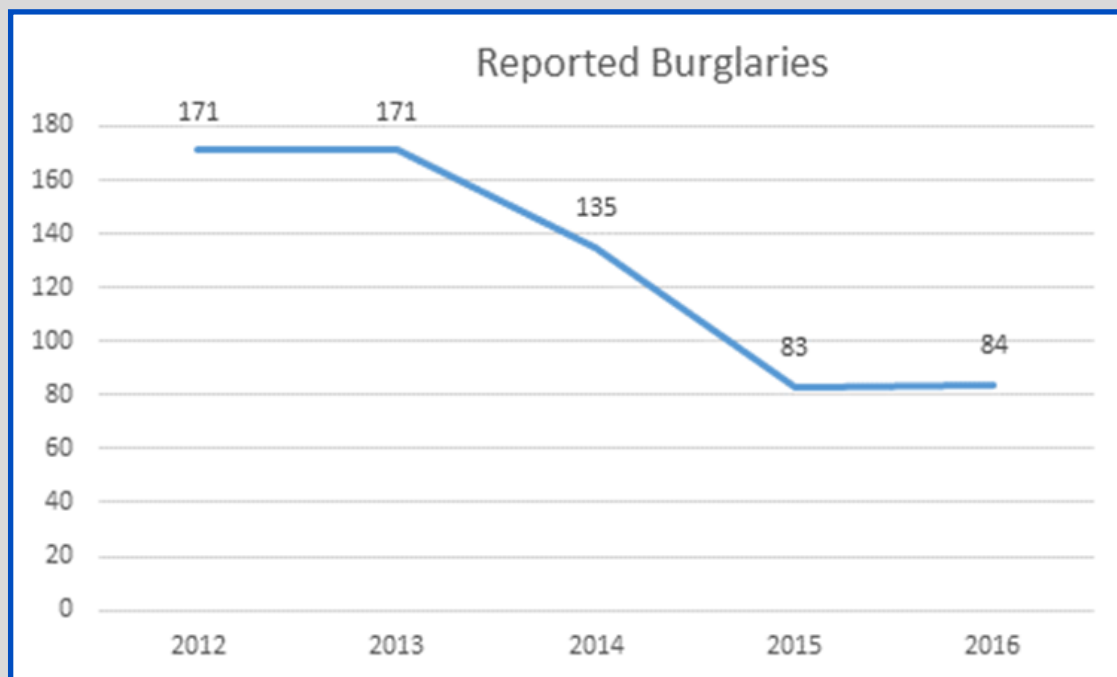
**Five-Year All Thefts**



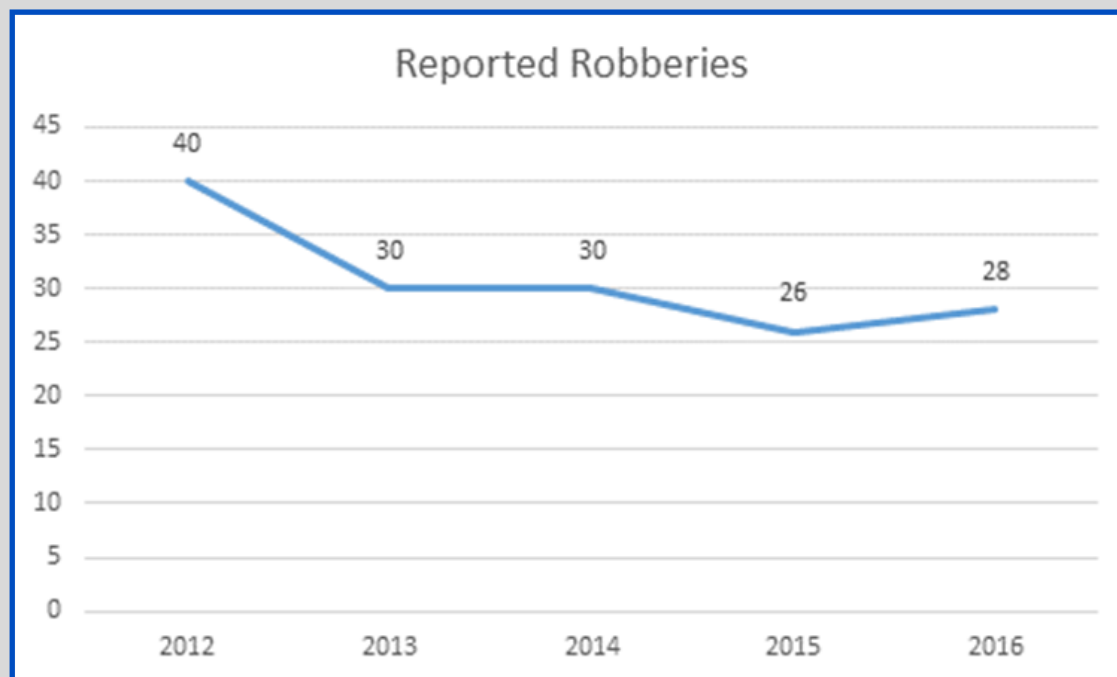
**Five-Year Retail Thefts**



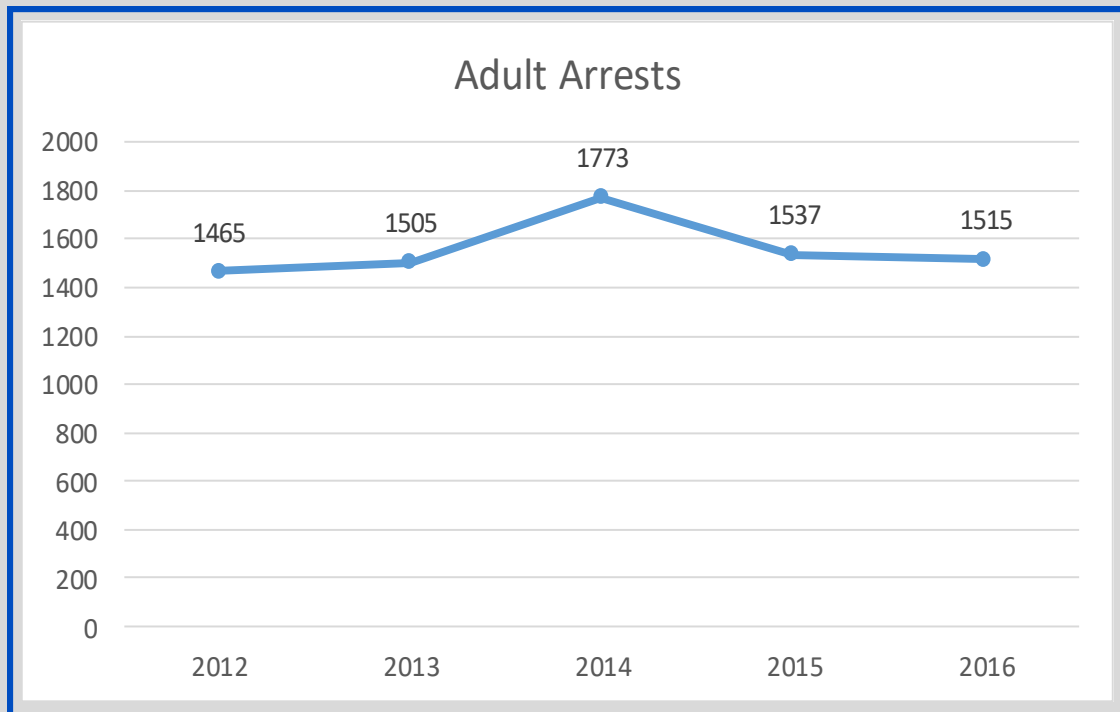
### Five-Year Reported Burglaries



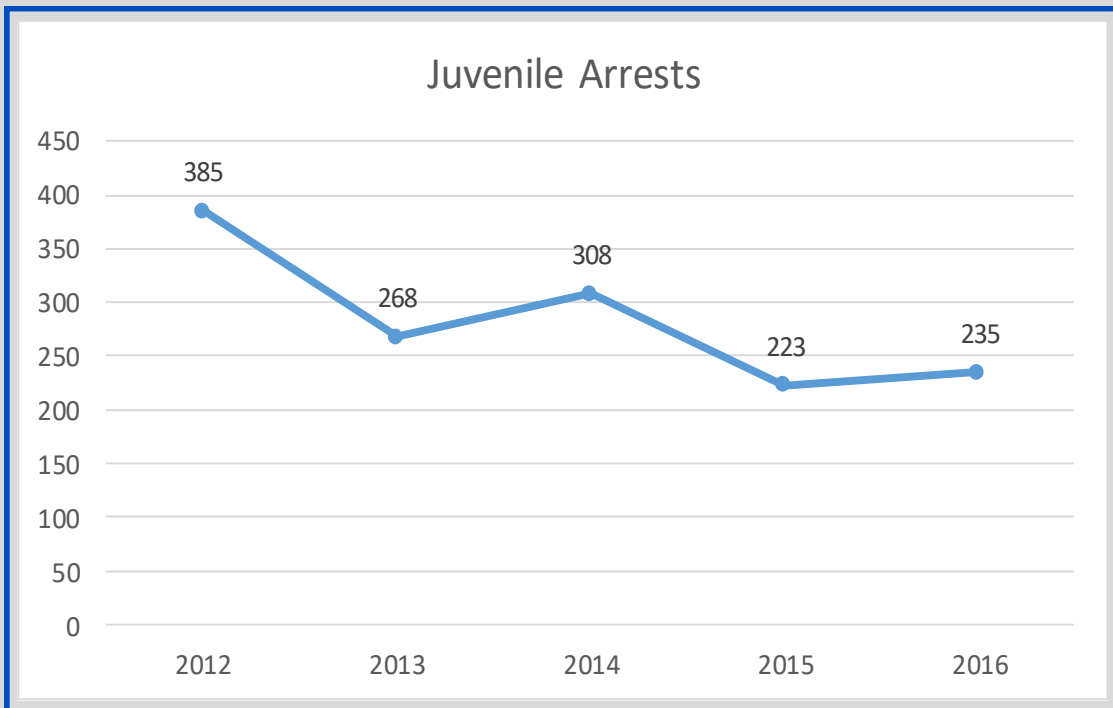
### Five-Year Reported Robberies



### Five-Year Adult Arrests

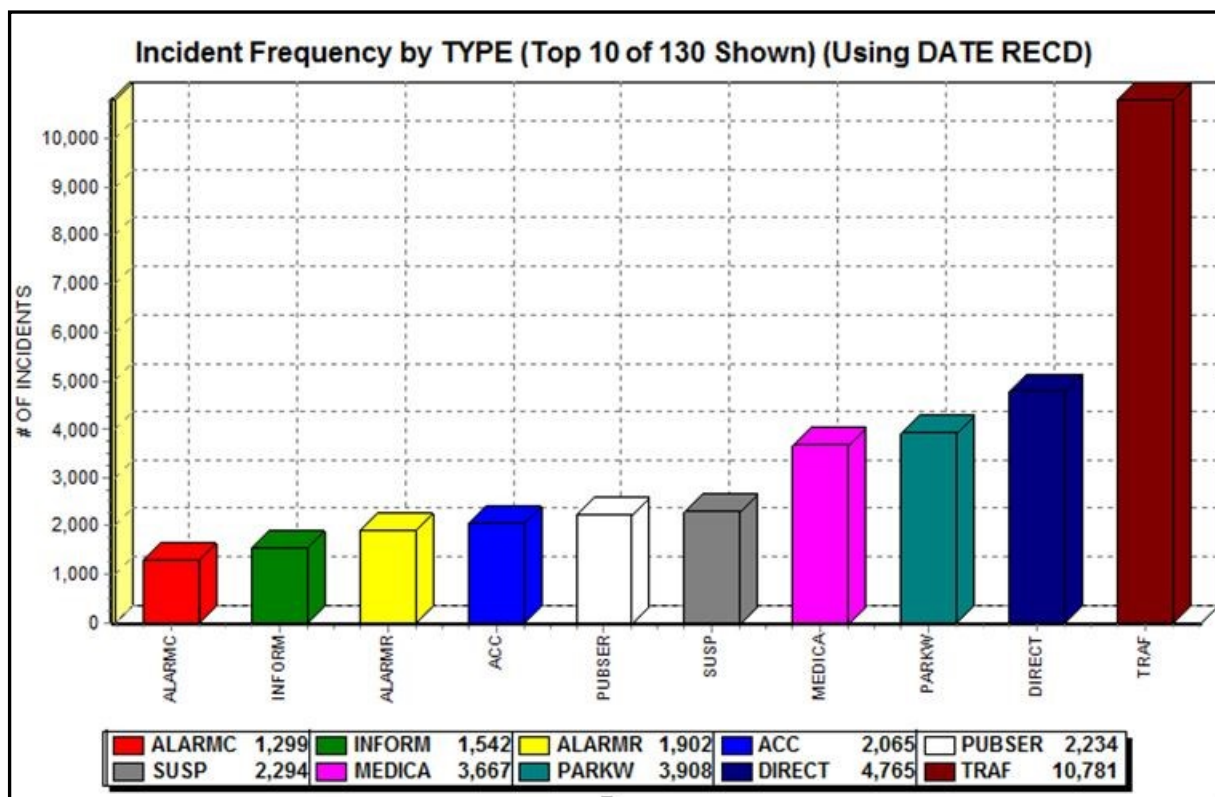


### Five-Year Juvenile Arrests



## Crime Statistics & Trends

### Top 10 Calls for Service in 2016



<b>Traf</b>	This stands for traffic stops. A traffic stop can result in a warning, traffic citation, or some type of arrest, such as DUI or drug possession.
<b>Direct</b>	This stands for directed patrol. Directed patrols are targeted patrols or officer checks which can be either proactive or in response to a known problem. An example might be officers checking a school playground at night because of reports of juveniles hanging out and drinking at the location.
<b>ParkW</b>	ParkW stands for park and walk. These are when officers park their vehicle and walk in businesses, schools, parks, etc. just to have contact with the public.
<b>Medica</b>	Medica stands for medical emergency calls. Officers respond to medical emergencies to provide first responder medical care and then to assist the ambulance crews once they arrive.
<b>SusP</b>	SusP stands for suspicious activity. This can be both reported suspicious activity and officer observed suspicious activity or persons.
<b>PubSer</b>	PubSer stands for public service. These are calls for service which are not criminal in nature but result in an officer helping a citizen in some way. Examples are lift assists when a person falls and is unable to get up, fixing a smoke alarm or minor plumbing problem, or a person gets locked out of his/her home.
<b>Acc</b>	Acc stands for accident. These are all motor vehicle crashes handled by the Department.
<b>AlarmR</b>	AlarmR stands for false residential alarms of any type. These could be perimeter, motion, or panic alarms.
<b>Inform</b>	Inform stands for Police information. This is somewhat of a catch all classification. These type calls are when our officers get information about crimes, discuss civil dispute issues with a complainant, get information about traffic problems, etc.
<b>AlarmC</b>	AlarmC stands for false commercial alarms of any type. These could be perimeter, motion, or panic alarms.

## Crime Statistics & Trends

### ABINGTON TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

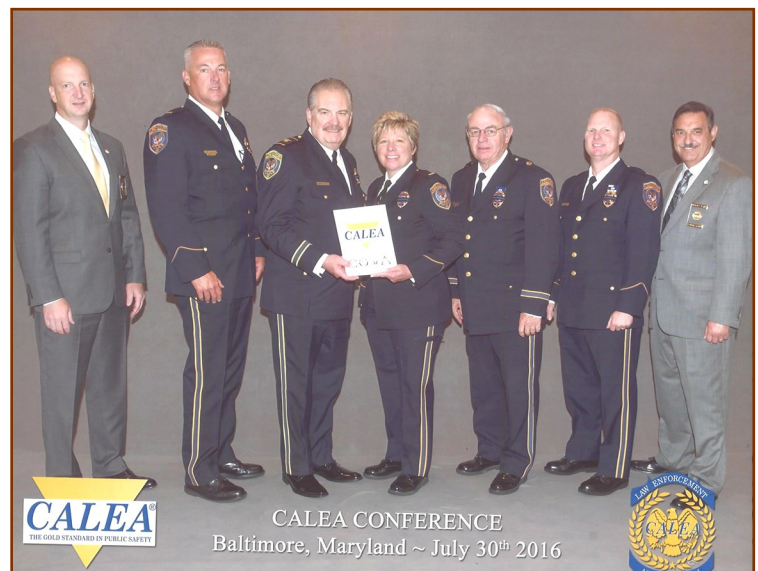
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>Violent Crimes</b>	49	42	60	63	110	84
<b>Violent Crimes Persons Charged</b>	48	32	80	63	109	91
<b>Part I Crimes</b>	1,141	975	1,193	1,213	1,215	1,274
<b>Part I Crimes Persons Charged</b>	420	339	440	438	512	602
<b>Part II Crimes</b>	2,323	2,490	2,223	1,999	2,098	2,033
<b>Part II Crimes Persons Charged</b>	1,265	1,342	1,546	1,284	1,255	1,055
<b>Total Persons Charged</b>	1,685	1,681	1,986	1,722	1,767	1,657
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	50,761	47,341	47,991	42,922	48,802	49,625

## Accreditation

In July 2016, the Abington Police Department was awarded the Gold Standard Assessment (GSA) by CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) at its annual conference in Baltimore. In view of four previous in-depth reviews, Abington was eligible for the Gold Standard level since CALEA trusts that a law enforcement agency's file proofs are both in order and in compliance with more than 450 standards. However, they do conduct some checks and noted that Abington's files were "spot on."

As part of the GSA, assessors and agency members engage in evaluations to determine how to enhance and improve specific areas of operation. Some of these areas included clarifying goals for employees to work toward opportunities for advancement and exploring new ways to expand recruitment to seek a broader range of candidates. Assessors commended the Department for outstanding controls on its Evidence Room, for its training of new officers who not only know what to do but also understand why they do it, and for the ways in which the philosophy of community policing has become ingrained in the Department.

Abington Accreditation Team members include Accreditation Manager Lt. Kelley Warner, Executive Assistant Liz Webb, and Accreditation Coordinator Kathleen Przybylowski, augmented by a cadre of additional Department members. The Department strongly believes in the values of accreditation, both at the state



**Chief Bill Kelly and Accreditation Manager Lt. Kelley Warner receive the Department's Gold Standard Assessment, along with Lt. Mike Gallagher (second from left), and Deputy Chiefs John Livingood and Patrick Molloy and CALEA representatives.**

and international levels. The Accreditation Team works year-round to maintain and update written directives, ensuring compliance with state and national standards.

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## ***Major Crimes/Events***

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Throughout 2016, Officers of the Abington Police Department excelled in their dedication to uncovering crimes and removing dangerous criminals and drug dealers from the streets of Abington Township. Here are some of the highlighted stories of their heroics and successes.

### **Home Invasion**

On February 14, Abington Police received a call for service regarding a home invasion in progress in the Glenside section of the Township. The suspect had kicked in the rear door of the residence and was looking for the male homeowner to "light him up." The victim and his family hid in the basement bathroom and attempted to prevent the suspect from gaining entry. Additional information was received that the suspect had a firearm. Ofc. Farley was the first officer to respond and observed a male walking east on the street, away from the victim's house. Ofc. Farley did not know if the male was armed but proceeded to stop him to determine if he was involved in the home invasion. Ultimately, Ofc. Farley identified and detained the individual who turned out to be the lone suspect in the home invasion. He admitted to being at the victim's residence and was arrested. A systematic search did not turn up a firearm.

### **Crisis Negotiation**

In mid-March, just after noon, officers responded to a residence for a reported weapons offense. A caller stated that a male had pointed a gun at him and threatened to "blow his head off." The resident is a known subject who has threatened the police in the past. Upon arrival, Abington Officers set up a perimeter around the home. The resident's son arrived and attempted to get into the house but was detoured to the command center. He stated that Ofc. Gargan was the only officer his father would talk to, so Ofc. Gargan was notified and arrived on scene minutes later.

Ofc. Gargan established a dialogue and managed to negotiate with the resident, despite his heightened anger. Ofc. Gargan indicated that he was willing to approach the house and talk with the resident, assuring command that this may be the only way to bring the situation to a peaceful end. Lt. Gallagher spoke with the arrest team, and Det. Sgt. Fink and Sgt. Porter designed a plan to both protect the officers and establish an immediate action plan if necessary.

Ofcs. Gargan and Junod approached the home, showing exceptional bravery. The resident stepped outside and began to talk with them; however, his actions and words became increasingly agitated. He tried to retreat inside his house, but the doorway was blocked. The man was taken into custody without injury to anyone and charged with aggravated assault, terroristic threats, and other related charges. A search warrant was prepared and executed at the residence where a shotgun was found, corroborating the reporting person's statement.

### **Responding to Citizens in Need**

On May 13, officers responded to a residence for a report of an unresponsive male. Ofc. Ficzkowski arrived first and found a 54-year-old male lying on the dining room floor. The victim was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Ofc. Ficzkowski immediately began CPR and was assisted by Ofcs. Ottenbreit and Walters. An AED was deployed and advised a shock. Abington Officers worked as a team to continue providing CPR and assist even after EMS arrival. After some time, the victim began breathing on his own, and a pulse was detected. While being loaded into the ambulance, the victim began to regain consciousness. He was taken to the hospital where he was treated with a pacemaker and internal defibrillator and released one week after this incident.

A week later, Abington Officers responded to a residence for a report of a cardiac arrest. Moments later, County Dispatch reported that a hysterical female had called and stated that the subject was unresponsive. Ofcs. Delaney and Walters arrived and located the victim, a 46-year-old male, unresponsive and lying in his bed. The victim was not breathing and did not have a pulse. Officers immediately began CPR. A Second Alarmers supervisor arrived to assist, and an AED was deployed. Abington Officers continued providing CPR, working as a team alongside paramedics.

The victim was transported to the hospital unresponsive, with no natural respirations or heartbeat. The cardiology team performed a catheterization and removed a massive blockage. The patient, a Temple University professor, was released within days, suffering only from temporary memory loss surrounding the incident. The on-scene paramedic supervisor and the hospital staff all commented on the quick response of the police officers and their ability to start life-saving procedures as reason for the successful outcome in saving the patient's life.

On June 1, Abington Officers were dispatched to a residence for a male experiencing a psychiatric episode. The male had barricaded himself in his basement bedroom with his young daughter and refused to communicate with his family. Ofcs. Blei, Brown, Farley, and Martinez arrived on scene and gathered critical information from the family regarding the patient's mental status. Sgt. Toledo also arrived and attempted to establish a dialogue with the male but was unsuccessful. Due to his concern for the safety of the young girl, Sgt. Toledo directed officers to force entry into the bedroom. They were able to kick in the reinforced bedroom door. Ofc. Brown engaged the suspect, who was holding his

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## ***Major Crimes/Events***

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daughter and without hesitation, he grabbed the young girl from the male's grasp and passed her to Ofc. Farley who removed her from the hostile situation. It took four officers to restrain the suspect until he was placed in handcuffs. Officers found scissors in the suspect's pants pocket. He was involuntarily committed and taken to the hospital where he could not harm himself or anyone else.

### **Horrific Crime Against Teen**

On July 11, a woman came to the Abington Police Department to report that her 14-year-old adopted daughter was missing. She indicated that her daughter had run away from home after an argument and that she had stolen money from the home. Det. Pettinato began a missing juvenile investigation and soon discovered that the mother was not being fully cooperative. She failed on several occasions to provide a recent photograph and other information that would have helped in the investigation. She attempted to paint a picture to Det. Pettinato, Abington School District administrators, and the girl's therapists and doctors, that her daughter was a very troubled young girl and suffered from severe behavioral and psychological disorders. Det. Pettinato's investigation would later reveal that this information on her mental condition was not true and that the girl had been suffering from some less serious conditions resulting from having been sexually abused by the mother's ex-husband.

Not getting cooperation from the mother, Det. Pettinato began contacting other family members who revealed that the mother had not even informed them of the girl's disappearance. Finding this situation highly suspicious, Det. Pettinato went out to the mother's last known address, only to find a vacant home. The woman had moved to Quakertown without notifying Abington Detectives. Further, the mother had enrolled her son in the Quakertown School District but not the daughter.

On October 11, Dets. Pettinato and Henze traveled to Quakertown to advise the mother that the girl's medical records would be entered into the NAMUS data base. While at the Quakertown home, Det. Pettinato noticed the absence of any of the girl's belongings, to which the mother explained that she and her daughter shared clothes. At the end of October, a dismembered human torso was discovered in Luzerne County. On November 8, the remains were identified through medical records as those of the missing girl. Thus, the missing person investigation became a homicide investigation.

Det. Pettinato worked relentlessly on the investigation and arrested the mother for endangering the welfare of a child. Along with Bucks and Montgomery County Detectives, she served a search warrant on the family's Quakertown home and found a receipt from a local hardware store indicating that the mother had recently purchased two bow saw blades. Detectives attempted to interview the ex-husband, but he requested an attorney and failed to cooperate fully in the investigation. Det. Pettinato continued investigating and on January 7, 2017, the ex-husband confessed to the rape, murder, and dismemberment of the girl. He told investigators that he and the mother had planned the "rape/murder fantasy" and that the mother assisted in every step of the killing. Along with Bucks County Detectives, Det. Pettinato arrested both the mother and ex-husband and charged them with the girl's murder.

This was one of Abington Police Department's most horrific crimes to impact Abington Township. Det. Pettinato's relentless pursuit of justice for this girl ended with the arrest of her killers, and a re-evaluation of fostering procedures to help ensure this evil event does not repeat itself.

### **Stealing from Parked Cars**

In the afternoon of July 28, Ofc. Welsh was patrolling the Willow Grove section of Abington Township when he observed a male standing on a corner. Upon seeing the police car, the male fled the area through backyards. Ofc. Welsh began checking the area for the subject when he came upon a GMC Envoy with the interior lights activated. He made contact with the car's owner who confirmed someone had entered the vehicle and removed coins. A K-9 track was started, and a perimeter was set up. Two suspects were located nearby. Ofc. Welsh was familiar with both suspects from an arrest just a week earlier. Both men admitted to entering cars but had no identifying property on them at that time. The suspects were separated and told vastly different stories on where they were and where they were coming from. Ofc. Welsh confronted them with their inconsistencies, and both admitted to going through cars in the Roslyn and Willow Grove area. One suspect was found to be in possession of \$110.

### **Teamwork Leads to Suspect Capture**

On the afternoon of August 20, Sgt. Nisbet observed a suspicious vehicle traveling northbound on Huntingdon Pike near Susquehanna Road. As he was checking the registration, the vehicle began to flee, striking three cars parked on Susquehanna Road. The operator then fled on foot, leaving behind two injured passengers. Sgt. Nisbet broadcast the suspect's description and direction of travel, called for a perimeter to be established, and asked for K-9 to respond and attempt to conduct a track. It was later learned that the vehicle had been recently stolen out of Lansdale.

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## Major Crimes/Events

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Sgt. Nisbet stayed with the stolen vehicle and the two injured occupants while directing K-9 and other patrol units to the area. A perimeter was started and the K-9 was actively tracking when the suspect was observed in the area of the A-Plus Market in Rockledge. Ofc. Space pulled into the parking lot and observed the male looking out through the front glass window. The male exited the store and was ordered to get on the ground. Rather than comply, he immediately began fleeing northbound on Huntingdon Pike and onto a side street. Upon reaching the middle of a block, the suspect ran through a driveway of a private residence, into the backyard, and over a fence. Ofc. Space fired both cartridges from his Taser while climbing over the fence. It was later determined that only one Taser probe made positive contact. The male continued running through backyards and jumping fences, then seemed to disappear. Ofc. Space believed he was hiding in bushes, and after a brief search and struggle, the suspect was taken into custody. While Sgt. Nisbet observed the suspicious behavior and Ofc. Space made the arrest, a supportive team effort by all Abington Officers involved enabled this arrest to occur.

### Heroic Police Work Prevents Tragedy

During an evening in late September, the Upper Dublin Police Department requested assistance in locating one of their residents, an emotionally distraught 30-year-old male who left his residence earlier that day after threatening to commit suicide. Just before midnight, Ofc. Martinez stopped to talk to a male fitting the description of the suicidal person. He attempted to verify the identification of this individual, who appeared to be very calm and cooperative. While Ofc. Martinez was counseling him, Sgt. Toledo arrived to provide backup and to assist with taking him into protective custody.

In preparing to transport the man, Ofc. Martinez advised that he needed to conduct a pat-down search. At this time, the suspect pulled a fully-loaded .38 caliber revolver from his left pocket. Ofc. Martinez immediately shouted, "Gun Gun," drew his weapon, and pointed it at the suspect. Sgt. Toledo grabbed the suspect's left hand in an effort to disarm him. Because the suspect was very strong and determined to take his own life, Sgt. Toledo was unable to remove the gun from him. As the struggle to gain control of the gun continued, Ofc. Martinez re-holstered his weapon and grabbed the suspect's left forearm, keeping the weapon pointed in a safe direction. The suspect repeated, "Shoot me! Just shoot me!" Sgt. Toledo announced he was going to fire the suspect's weapon into a nearby, unoccupied garage. Announcing his intentions was critical in preparing Ofc. Martinez for the firing of the weapon and prevented any potential tragedy from "sympathetic fire." Sgt. Toledo reached around the trigger guard while the gun remained in the suspect's tight grip and safely fired all five rounds. Ofc. Martinez and Sgt. Toledo were able to gain control of the man and the .38 caliber revolver.

The suicidal man was safely transported to the hospital. This exceedingly tense encounter exemplifies how officers must make split-second decisions either to use or not to use deadly force. Abington Officers worked together and put their own lives at risk to save this distraught man, exhibiting both courage and compassion.



Left: Rappelling are SWAT members Sgt. Porter and Det. Sgt. Fink at Ft Indiantown Gap at a high-angle familiarization course, under the supervision of trained rappel instructors.  
Right: Det. Sgt. Kondan and Ofc. Wiley with members of a swift-water rescue team as they are inserted onto Barbados Island for a training exercise.

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## Major Crimes/Events

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### Traffic Enforcement Yields Narcotics Violation

On October 8, Ofc. Howley initiated a vehicle stop on a gray Chrysler minivan for traveling at a high rate of speed. While speaking to the operator, Ofc. Howley detected an odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. The driver admitted to having a partially finished "marijuana cigarette." Observing the driver's behavior as overly nervous, Ofc. Howley believed there was more than just that small amount of marijuana in the car. He had the driver exit the vehicle and got consent to search it. Inside a storage compartment underneath the rear passenger seat, Ofc. Howley located a pile of clothes and a Milwaukee compact drill case containing a large amount of marijuana packaged for sale as well as a digital scale. The driver fled on foot into Pennypack Park, and a search for the suspect was unsuccessful. Ofc. Howley obtained an arrest warrant for the man who later turned himself in to face felony charges. In total, there were 145 grams of marijuana located in the vehicle.

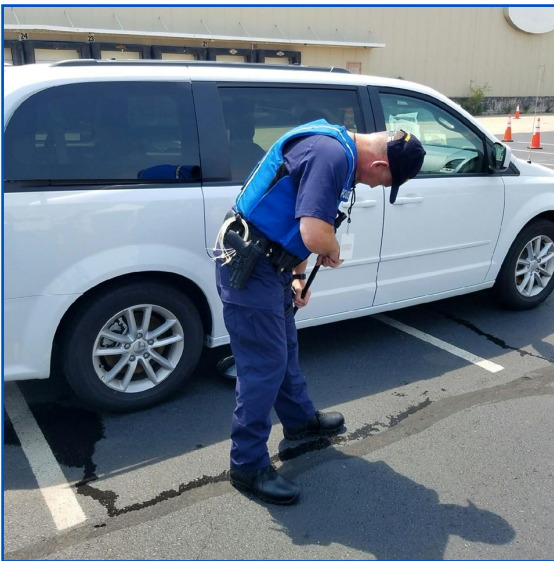
### Suspect of Multiple Sexual Assaults Charged

In October, the parents of a 12-year-old child came to Abington Police to report a sexual assault by a 17-year-old friend of the family. Initially, the parents were hesitant to have their child interviewed for fear that it would be a traumatic experience. Det. Duntzee was assigned to investigate and spent a considerable amount of time explaining the interview process to help the family feel more comfortable. The parents finally agreed to have their child interviewed. Det. Duntzee realized there were possibly more children who had been assaulted by the same suspect, so he contacted the suspect and convinced him to come voluntarily to the police station to be interviewed. Not only did the suspect admit to sexually assaulting the 12-year-old, but also to sexually assaulting his own sister, three of her young friends, and a 5-year-old cousin, all between 2009 and 2016. The suspect was charged with Rape of a Child and related offenses in juvenile court and was ordered to be detained.

### House Burglar Caught

On October 26, Abington Officers were dispatched to a residence for a report of a subject banging on the doors of the house. The female caller was home alone and observed a male knock on the front door, then go to the rear yard and forcefully bang on the back doors. After hearing a loud crash coming from the rear of the house, the resident fled out the front door to a neighbor and called 9-1-1. The male was described as wearing a gray hoodie, carrying a black backpack, and last seen heading towards Cedar Road. Ofc. Freed responded and observed a male matching the description in the area of Cedar Road. He located the subject in the rear yard of a Cedar Road home near the rear door of the residence. He gave verbal commands for the man to lie prone on the ground and then took him into custody without incident.

A check of the residence revealed damage to the rear door as well as a boot print where it appeared to have been kicked. The victim was transported to the area and positively identified the male as the person seen on her property. A search of the backpack revealed a laptop computer, while numerous pieces of jewelry were located in his pockets. The suspect was taken to the station where he gave a voluntary statement admitting to committing a burglary at one Montgomery Avenue address and attempting to enter a nearby residence on that same block of Montgomery Avenue.



### Pizza Delivery Driver Robbed

At the end of November, an hour before midnight, Abington Officers responded to Madison Manor Apartments for a report of a robbery of a pizza delivery driver. Upon arrival, units were met by the victim who had visible head and facial injuries. Investigation revealed that two male suspects had approached the driver with one suspect sticking a gun in the

Left: Ofc. Dwyer scans a car at the July Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Right: Ofcs. Dwyer and Blythe working security at the Convention.

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## Major Crimes/Events

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victim's side and demanding money. The victim grabbed the gun but was quickly beaten about the face and head by both suspects. The driver eventually gave the suspects \$150 in cash. The suspects also took the pizza and fled to the train tracks.

Flash descriptions were quickly put out of both suspects. Approximately an hour and a half later while travelling on Baeder Road, Ofc. McCullough observed two males walking towards the Wawa market and matching the physical description but not the clothing description of the suspects. Ofc. McCullough engaged the men in conversation and began asking them questions, one being their cell phone number. One suspect readily gave his cell phone number. This was quickly relayed to Det. Wilsbach who matched the suspect's cell phone number to the one used to make the original pizza order prior to the robbery. Both suspects were taken into custody and transported to headquarters where one confessed to the robbery and implicated the other suspect.

### Armed Robbers Captured

In late December, Abington Officers were dispatched in Abington for an armed robbery. County radio provided a suspect description of the two males involved and their last known location. A perimeter was set up to capture the suspects who were believed to be on foot. Ofc. Wittmer parked his vehicle nearby and got out on foot to gain a distinct advantage on anybody walking around the neighborhood. He observed two shadowy figures walking toward him. After identifying them as the suspects, he initiated a pedestrian stop. The two males were found to be in possession of the stolen items. The victim later positively identified the individuals as the two people who had robbed him at knife point.

### Special Investigations Unit

In 2016, Unit Detectives participated in numerous drug trafficking investigations in Abington and surrounding communities. Dealers were arrested for selling heroin, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines, and prescription pills. In one case, Abington detectives, working in conjunction with the Montgomery County Drug Task Force, arrested a local dealer who had been selling cocaine and prescription pills. Upon his arrest, detectives also seized four firearms from the dealer who was also a convicted felon.

The Special Investigations Unit participated in a tristate burglary investigation which resulted in arrests of four residential burglars and their fence who was buying the stolen goods at his multiple stores located on Jewelers' Row in Philadelphia. Detectives participated in more than 10 cases with the ICAC (International Crimes Against Children) Task Force, which resulted in arrests of persons accused of downloading and sharing child pornography.

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**Animal Control** In 2016, there were 1,500 calls for service related to animals, 62 over the previous year. Of that number, 144 were struck on the roadway. Further, 77 were deer-related accidents, down by six from 2015. There were six deer-related accidents reported on Valley Road, down by four from the previous year. In total, the Animal Control Officer removed 54 deer carcasses from Abington Township roadways last year. It can be concluded that the Deer Management Program at Carebrook continues to be productive in reducing deer-related incidents on area roadways.

There were 241 wildlife complaints in 2016, down by 11 from 2015. The Animal Control Officer received an additional 29 complaints about sick or injured wildlife, down by eight from the previous year. These animals were either relocated, removed for rehabilitation, or dispatched. There were 23 calls related to feral cats, up by five from 2015. Abington's active trap, neuter, and release program continues to keep the feral cat numbers manageable. There were 15 animal attacks (down by one from 2015) and 40 animal bites (up by nine from 2015). The Animal Control Officer continues to issue citations and literature to keep these numbers manageable. He issued 73 citations for violations ranging from Dangerous Dog to Running at Large, Howling, and Nuisance. This number was up by 26 from the previous year.

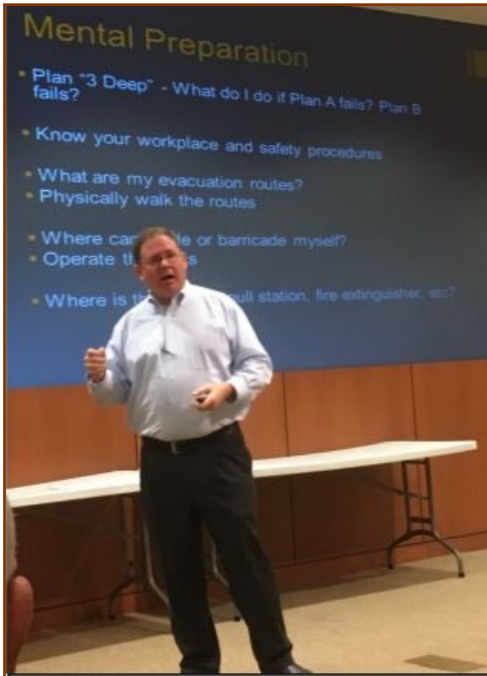


**Animal Control  
Ofc. Griffith**

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**Citizen Complaints** Abington Police Department's procedures for handling citizen complaints are consistent with national standards to assure prompt investigation and response to all allegations. This process ensures that these issues are brought to the proper level of Department management and appropriately addressed to maintain a high level of integrity and instill public confidence. In 2016, the Department processed nine complaints. Two of the complaints were Exonerated, two were Sustained, four were Unfounded after investigation, and one was changed to an inquiry.

## Emergency Management



**EMAP Administrator Tom McAneney taught Active Shooter Response at Holy Redeemer Hospital.**

cise asking teachers to respond to a simulated event. This allowed teachers to mentally walk themselves through a potential event involving a violent intruder in an environment where they could ask questions and voice concerns. Similar presentations were made to the faculty and staff at the Meadowbrook School and Regina Coeli Academy. EMAP staff went on to present this training to the 30+ preschool and daycare facilities throughout the Township.

During March, EMAP staff focused on updating the Critical Infrastructure/Key Resource database for Township preschools. Each received a questionnaire to gather critical data needed by first responders within the first 10-20 minutes of a facility emergency. EMAP also worked to ensure that by year-end, all Township schools and preschools had CLASS panic alarms installed in their facility to be used in the event of a violent intruder.

An ice storm in 2014 that resulted in Township-wide power loss, from a day to two weeks for some, brought forward the need for a sizeable warming center for any future such occurrences. A partnership formed between the Township and Abington School District, and in 2016, they worked together to make the necessary upgrades for the gymnasium at Abington Junior High School.

In the Fall, the Abington Police Department received 86 new portable radios, a major upgrade over the previous radios. Important improvements now enable Officers to have a "favorites" bank of channels in order to quickly change channels during tactical situations and other incidents as opposed to navigating a complicated list of steps. EMAP staff devoted two weeks to programming each radio and training Officer in their use.

In December, EMAP began working on improvements to the countywide Point Of Distribution (POD) system for mass distribution of medication in the event of a pandemic. Abington Senior High School is one of the county's designated POD sites.

**Abington Emergency Management and Police Command worked closely with Penn State University Abington administration on emergency management planning for the new residence hall to house 390 students.**



Abington's Emergency Management staff strive to be progressive, focusing not only on emergency responses but also on mitigation aspects. To that end, Emergency Management Administrator Tom McAneney graduated from FEMA's National Emergency Management Academy Program in August, following a total of four weeks of intense classroom training in various aspects of emergency management. In November, he was awarded Professional Certification by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), the highest level of certification offered and granted after completing 26 different training classes.

January brought winter storm Jonas, dropping two feet of snow. With high winds predicted, the Emergency Operations Center was activated but fortunately none needed. In March, President Obama declared a disaster for Pennsylvania, allowing municipalities to apply to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to recover a portion of the funds expended on the storm. As a result, Abington was able to apply for 75% of eligible costs—nearly \$204,000. This amount was possible due to the extensive documentation provided by Public Works, Parks and Recreation, and Police Administration.

Also in January, in an effort to have more residents register for the Ready Montco Emergency Notification System, the annual property tax bill mailings included a flyer encouraging residents to register. This system provides timely emergency notifications regarding weather, missing persons, and traffic issues.

In February, Tom McAneney and Sgt. Tom Scott presented training on Basic Emergency Procedures and Active Shooter Response to all Abington School District elementary teachers. The event included a tabletop exercise

## Commendations & Recognition

In 2016 the members of the Abington Township Police Department continued to provide high quality service to the citizens of Abington Township. Thirty-two officers received commendations for their outstanding police work. The Detective Division received commendations for the successful completion of several complex investigations for crimes ranging from fraud and sexual assault to homicide. Patrol Officers were also commended for their performance in arresting armed robbery suspects, drug dealers, and burglars. In addition, several commendations were awarded for lifesaving measures taken by the officers of the Abington Township Police Department. Some involved administering naloxone to opioid overdose victims, while others involved officers performing CPR to save the lives of citizens suffering from cardiac arrest. In addition, on several occasions, Abington Officers were able to successfully intervene with people in crisis who were focused on hurting themselves.

In July of 2016, the Abington Police Department began investigating the disappearance of a juvenile resident of the township, Grace Packer. The missing person investigation quickly turned into a homicide investigation. Abington Detectives worked this case jointly with Montgomery County and Bucks County Detectives. After an exhaustive investigation that spanned several months Grace's mother and her boyfriend were arrested for the rape and murder of Grace. Thanks to the tireless effort and expertise of the investigators in this case, two violent predators were brought to justice.

**Ofc. Joseph Blei**, Class IV, Suspect Experiencing Psychiatric Episode

**Ofc. Ryan Brown**, Class IV, Suspect Experiencing Psychiatric Episode

**Ofc. Elizabeth Cartwright**, Class IV, Suspect Experiencing Psychiatric Episode

**Ofc. Alison Delaney**, Class V, Lifesaving CPR

**Det. Ryan Duntzee**, Class IV, Sexual Assault Suspect

**Ofc. Michael Farley**, Class IV, Suspect Experiencing Psychiatric Episode; Class V, Home Invasion Suspect

**Ofc. James Ficzk**, Class V, Lifesaving CPR

**Det. Sgt. Steven Fink**, Class VI, Aggravated Assault/Terroristic Threats

**Ofc. Alan Freed**, Class V, Burglary Suspect Arrest

**Ofc. Sean Gargan**, Class IV, Crisis Negotiation

**Ofc. Edward Howley**, Class VI, Traffic Stop/Drug Dealer

**Ofc. Fran Junod**, Class V, Aggravated Assault/Terroristic Threats

**Ofc. Gary Martinez**, Class II, Armed Suicidal Suspect; Class IV, Suspect Experiencing Psychiatric Episode

**Ofc. Richard Ottenbreit**, Class V, Lifesaving CPR

**Det. Cindy Pettinato**, Class III, Rape/Murder Arrest

**Sgt. Shawn Nisbet**, Class V, Stolen Vehicle/Fleeing Operator

**Ofc. Michael McCullough**, Class IV, Robbery of Pizza Delivery Driver

**Sgt. Christopher Porter**, Class VI, Aggravated Assault/Terroristic Threats

**Ofc. Drew Saurman**, Class V, Knife-Wielding Driver

**Sgt. Oswaldo Toledo**, Class II, Armed Suicidal Suspect; Class IV, Suspect Experiencing Psychiatric Episode; Class V, Knife-Wielding Driver

**Ofc. Nathan Walters**, 2 Class V's, Lifesaving CPR

**Ofc. Paul Welsh**, Class V, Unlawful Entering of Cars; Class VI, Locating Missing Suicidal Adult

**Ofc. Dustin Wittmer**, Class V, Armed Robbery

**Unit Citation:** Ofcs. Baxter, Cartwright, Dinsmore, Ficzk, Jerome, McMenamin, Steck, Space, and Zeoli; Stolen Vehicle/Fleeing Operator



Sgt. Ozzy Toledo (2nd from left) and Ofc. Gary Martinez congratulated by Deputy Chiefs Pat Molloy (left) and John Livingood for their high-level Class II commendations for disarming a suicidal suspect without incident.



Deputy Chief John Livingood (left) congratulates Assistant District Attorney Lauren McNulty Ofc. Dan Bullock, Det. Sgt. Steve Fink, and Lower Moreland Det. Carl Molt who were commended by Abington's Board of Commissioners for their tireless work in solving eight burglaries and bringing in and obtaining the conviction of a career burglar.

## Staff Changes

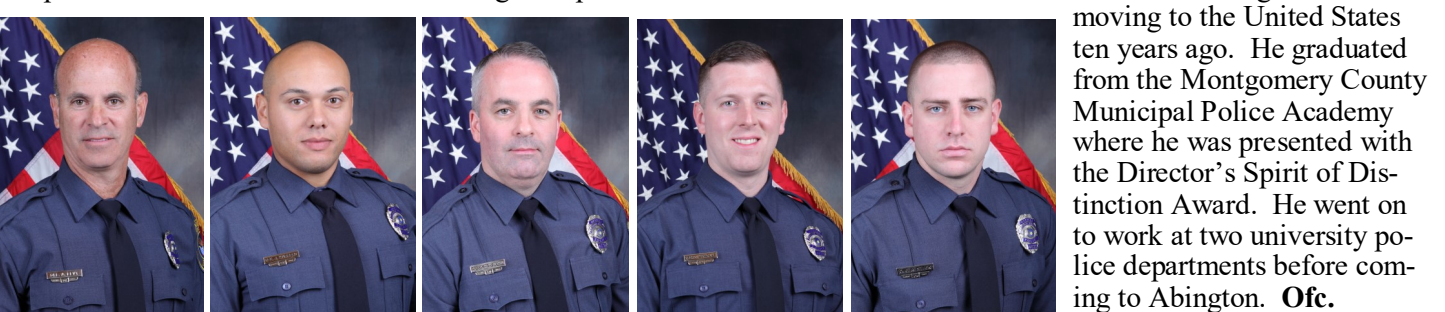
Abington promoted **Ofc. Joseph Blythe** to the rank of Sergeant in early 2016.. A 15-year veteran of the Department, Sgt. Blythe is a graduate of Penn State University where he earned his B.S. in Administration of Justice. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration from St. Joseph's University. He has ably served the Department as a DARE Officer, a member of the Honor Guard and the Recruitment Unit, and a Hostage Negotiator.

Abington Officers **Drew Saurman**, who joined the Department in 2013, and **Elizabeth Cartwright**, who came aboard in 2014, were selected to become DARE Officers. They graduated from training in February and received their first assignment



**New DARE Ofcs. Cartwright, Saurman.**

to begin teaching the DARE curriculum at Abington's Copper Beech Elementary School. A graduate of the University of South Carolina where he received his B.A. in Criminal Justice, Ofc. Saurman recalled being a DARE student of Deputy Chief Molloy's. Ofc. Cartwright graduated from Penn State University where she earned a B.S. in Crime, Law, and Justice. She also studied at Avans University in the Netherlands and Villanova University where she earned her paralegal certification.



**(left) Ofcs. Levy, Marrero, McMenamin, Nicholas, and Steck**

lead the North Wales Police Department as Chief for three years. He holds numerous degrees related to law enforcement and is a graduate of the FBI Academy. **Ofc. Joseph Marrero** graduated from the Philadelphia Police Academy and served the Philadelphia Police Department in the 17th District, South Division prior to joining the Abington Police Department. **Ofc. Adrian McMenamin** grew up in Northern Ireland where he studied at a technical college before moving to the United States ten years ago. He graduated from the Montgomery County Municipal Police Academy where he was presented with the Director's Spirit of Distinction Award. He went on to work at two university police departments before coming to Abington. **Ofc. Charles Nicholas** received a B.A. from Alvernia University and graduated from the Baltimore County Police Academy. He was employed as a Deputy Sheriff in Cecil County, Maryland before coming to Abington. **Ofc. Robert Steck** interned with the Abington Police Department and graduated from the Montgomery County Municipal Police Academy as well as from Gwynedd-Mercy University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice. Prior to joining the Abington force, Ofc. Steck was employed as a Police Office with the Philadelphia Housing Authority.

In 2016, Abington said good-bye to 104 years of experience. **Lt. Tom McNamara** retired in February with 42 years of service in a multi-faceted career Lt McNamara served as a Firearms Instructor and Field Training Officer. He advanced to Detective in 1983, Sergeant in 1987, and Lieutenant in 1994. He helped to create the Department's Emergency Management Project and was responsible for developing the Township's



**Abington's newest Sergeant Joe Blythe congratulated by Deputy Chief John Livingood.**



**Retirees Lts. Hochwind and McNamara and Ofc. Whitney**

## Staff Changes

emergency plans and a resource manual. He also started the Eastern Montgomery County Regional Emergency Management Group. **Lt. Steve Hochwind** retired in August with 33 years of service. He spent 14 years as a Patrol Officer, being promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 1997 and Lieutenant in 2005 after having been an acting Patrol Lieutenant for a platoon. For seven years, he headed the Administration Division where he worked on a project to make a significant percentage of operations paperless. He returned to a platoon command before retiring. In October, **Ofc. Anne Whitney** retired following 29 years of service to the community.



**Deputy Chiefs Molloy and (Chief Elect) Livingood**

**Ofc. Whitney** worked as a parole officer with Montgomery County's Adult Probation and Parole Department prior to joining Abington. During her career, she served in the Crime Prevention Unit, the Crisis Negotiation Unit, and the Bike Unit from its inception until her retirement.

In anticipation of Chief Bill Kelly's retirement in early 2017, the Board of Commissioners appointed **Deputy Chief John Livingood** as the next Abington Township Chief of Police, effective upon the retirement of Chief Kelly. Deputy Chief Livingood has served the Abington Police Department for 44 years. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1981 and assigned as a Detective Sergeant a year later. In 1985, he became Commander of the Detective Division and two years later, advanced to the rank of Lieutenant. In 1990, he was named Abington's Deputy Chief. Effective October 24, **Lt. Patrick Molloy**, Commander of the Patrol Division, was appointed Second Deputy Chief of Police. A 22-year veteran of the Abington Police Department,

Deputy Chief Molloy attained the rank of Sergeant in 2000 and Lieutenant in 2011. He has served as Commander of Community Policing, a member and team leader for the Tactical Team, and a DARE Officer.



Clockwise, upper left: Ofcs. Freed and Posey with Abington High School students who organized a mock crash before the senior prom to illustrate the dangers of drunk driving.

Sgt. Williams stops by a local diner on his beat and visits with a child who is delighted to be seated beside a police officer.

Ofc. Delaney welcomes young visitors to the Abington Police Department. The children express their appreciation.

Sgt. Toledo and ACO Griffith make friends at the Crestmont summer block party.

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## Special Units

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In addition to the Patrol and Detective Divisions, Abington Officers can serve in a variety of specialized positions. Each of these assignments requires additional time, training, and dedication. These assignments include:

- |                           |                             |                          |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Accident Investigations | • Firearms Range Officer    | Response Team)           |
| • Bike Patrol             | • Honor Guard               | • PAL Program            |
| • Crisis Negotiation Unit | • Internet Crime Task Force | • Patrol Rifle Program   |
| • DARE Program            | • K-9 Unit                  | School Resource Officers |
| • Drug Task Force         | • Mall Unit                 | • Tactical Unit          |
| • Field Training Officer  | • M.I.R.T. (Major Incident  | • Truck Enforcement      |

**K-9 Unit:** In late August, Ofc. Doyle and K-9 Bella were one of 23 canine teams who participated in the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 6 Police Dog 1 Trials. They earned their Patrol Certification as well as 2nd place overall canine team, 2nd place in agility, and the second-place team trophy with the Bensalem K-9 Unit. They again participated in the Brad Fox Challenge, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> place. They also earned their Explosives Detection Certification. Ofc. Dinsmore and K-9 Jasso and Ofc. Fisicaro and K-9 Mathews earned their USPCA Narcotics Certifications. Unit teams were called upon throughout the year to present demonstrations to community groups. Of course, their foremost assignments entail being deployed for explosives sweeps, article and building searches, and tracking missing persons. They were used more frequently in 2016 due to

numerous visits to the region by presidential candidates.



**Ofc. Doyle and K-9 Bella with trophies at PD1 competition.**



**Honor Guard:** The Abington Police Honor Guard participated in a variety of events throughout 2016. They included Abington's DARE graduations and both the Roslyn Valley Memorial Day Parade and the Greater Glenside Patriotic Association's 4th of July Parade. The Honor Guard has also served in several police line-of-duty funerals. There are nine active members.

**Abington's Honor Guard travelled to Harford County, Maryland in February to serve at the funeral of Deputy First Class Mark Logsdon who was killed in the line of duty.**

**Tactical Unit:** In 2016, Deputy Chief Molloy continued as Unit Commander, supported by former Unit Commander Lt. Saurman. The team trains monthly, while marksmen train an additional day each month. In both Spring and Fall, the entire team traveled to Ft. Indiantown Gap for specialized training, some sessions conducted jointly with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Bomb Squad. Abington's SWAT maintains a relationship with surrounding tactical teams and attends training together to remain ready to coordinate their efforts as needed.

The team participated in an intensive Joint FBI Task Force training with several other tactical units at Barbados Island in the Schuylkill River while working closely with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Bomb Squad. This training tested various facets of the team's capabilities and provided simulations that closely represented major incidents that have been experienced recently in the country. Under the team leadership of Det. Sgts. Fink and Kondan and Sgt. Porter, the tactical team served warrants for Abington and assisted other agencies in this procedure.

## Special Units

**DARE:** The Abington Police are pleased to be offer the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program to between 700 and 800 students in Abington Township's public, private, and parochial schools. Two DARE graduations are held each Spring, one for public school students and a another for private and parochial school students. Relationships that form between officers and their students can become quite significant as students become teens and young adults.



## Notable Moments



During Police Memorial Week in May 2016, Abington's finest were recognized at a community rally organized by citizens along Route 611.



Ofc. Roger Gillispie (left), Chief Bill Kelly, and Director of Youth Programs Melissa Gargan received the 2016 Community Policing Award presented by the International Association of

Chiefs of Police for the Department's CARES program,. Also known as the HUB, this program addresses individual risk scenarios with social service intervention. This award is only presented to up to five law enforcement organizations internationally each year. This is Abington's second Community Policing Award, which is rare.



ACO Griffith (center) was honored at the Township's annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service with a Special Recognition Award for his work in the community, especially for Abington PAL.

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## Training

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Professionals stay on the cutting edge of their field through continuing education. Police officers are no exception in the need to remain up-to-date in their skills and practices. To maintain a high level of professionalism for officers both within the Department and beyond, the Abington Police Department hosts a variety of seminars and training sessions, both mandatory and optional, to enhance on-the-job performance. Some training is Department-specific while other opportunities are offered to the wider law enforcement community. In 2016, the Department hosted 81 specialty training seminars that totaled 125 classroom days for 2,110 participants.

All Supervisors training was held in March and September. March training focused on ethics, value setting, and supervisory strengths and weaknesses. September training concentrated on succession planning.

Mandatory Department-wide training took place in April and October. Spring training entailed taser updates and MOAB (Class Management of Aggressive Behavior, which teaches the best ways for officers to de-escalate situations. In October, officers received all hazards training, First Aid, vehicle operation, and dealing with mental health issues.

For the third year, Abington enabled officers to meet mandatory MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission) certification requirements online instead of in-class time. Topics covered included legal updates, civil law, human trafficking, and domestic violence. SWAT training was conducted regularly throughout the year.

Some of the newest classes and training opportunities presented at the Training Center included Bomb Investigation, Crime Task Force, Field Training Officer, Crime Scene Investigation, Confined Space Safety, New Detective, Active Shooter, Kinesic Interviewing, Philadelphia Electric Safety, Supervisory Skills, Taser, Drug Investigations Introduction, Internet Crimes Investigation, Weapons Armorers, CADZONE (Laser Measurement for Accident Investigation), and MOAB.

In 2016, the Department's critical incident support service continued with 13 members, comprising police officers and civilians who are dedicated to helping fellow employees deal with a variety of sensitive life situations, both on the job and in their personal life. Either as a small group or individually, these employees provided care, support, and resources in close to a dozen situations last year.



**During Armorer Training, officers learn the cleaning techniques, servicing, and repair of their equipment.**

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## Technology

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The Abington Police Department received 86 new portable radios purchased under the group purchase contract with the Montgomery County Department of Public Safety. These radios bring a major upgrade in technology over the previous radios used by officers. While most of the improvements entail advanced electronics inside the radio, there are important improvements to be realized directly by Abington Officers. In the past, in order to change the channel to secure radio channels for a tactical situation or to talk to officers in a neighboring department, the officer had to perform a number of complicated steps that could prove challenging when operating at a fast-moving incident. The new radios come with a special "favorites" bank of channels, which allows the officer to change channels with a turn of a knob. This "speed-dial-like" feature greatly improves officer safety and efficiency at major incidents.

Also in 2016, the Department completed the installation of TraCS (Traffic and Criminal Software) in the other half of their patrol vehicles. TraCS is a data management and reporting system for public safety professionals. Among other features, it allows officers to issue e-citations, e-warnings, e-accident reports, and e-crash reports from their car.

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## Community Policing

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“Community First” is the motto of the Community Policing Division and is prominently hung in the office. Lt. Kelley Warner, Community Policing Division Commander, asks Division members to keep this motto in mind as they work with citizens, business owners, community stakeholders, and those who travel through Abington Township. The Community Policing Division is not only a resource for Township Commissioners and staff, but also for Patrol Officers and Detectives. In their work, officers encounter numerous problems that may require social services, and that is where Community Policing provides support and helpful resources.

### Crime Fighting and Communications

The continued use of **COPPStat (Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving through Statistics)** ensured the seamless flow of information both up, down, and across ranks so that all officers had data at their fingertips as they worked to serve and protect. Ofc. Roger Gillispie kept the COPPStat website current with information about crime trends, scams, and alerts. Ofc. Gillispie also spoke to senior citizen groups and service organizations regarding fraud trends, especially IRS and grandchild-in-distress scams. Division members kept on top of graffiti outbreaks in the community to make sure they were documented and removed or painted over.

Recognizing the significantly expanding role that social media plays, the Division continued to develop its social media presence, seeking the public’s assistance in solving crimes, alerting the public to weather and traffic issues, highlighting the Department’s intervention and prevention programs, and sharing good news about officers. Officers conducted a variety of **Facebook Chats** on timely subjects throughout the year, particularly crime prevention tips. Community Policing staff also held a series of **Coffee with A Cop** events on Saturday mornings at a variety of locations throughout the Township. Because the majority of police-citizen contacts happen during emergencies or other emotional situations, these coffee events prove far more conducive to relationship building by providing unique opportunities for community members to ask questions and learn more about the work of Abington Police Officers in their neighborhood.



**Community children rally around Ofc. Freed at a Coffee with A Cop event.**

### PAL

The Abington Police Athletic League (PAL), in its 16<sup>th</sup> year, provides a safe place for young people age 11 through their senior year in high school to gather for fun and enrichment. It has a committed group of volunteers, staff, and officers who stop by while on patrol to play games with the boys and girls and help them get to know their police. Highlights throughout the year include all cops vs. kids sports, arts and crafts, and game nights as well as off-site trips, such as Phillies games and snow tubing. Bowling, and summer golf camp continue to be hugely popular. In August, PAL members attended a week-long PAL Police Academy to learn more about police work. The fifth annual “Give Kids A Smile” Dental Day provided free quality dental care for children and youth ages 6-18, who lack access.

Abington PAL offers all of its services free so that no child is ever left out due to inability to pay. To raise



**PAL Food Festival Honorees Chief Kelly (center) and Retired Lt. Hochwind (left of Chief) with Festival Committee members who go to great effort to make this event a success.**

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## Community Policing

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needed funding, it held a spring benefit comedy night and its major annual October fundraiser, the International Food Festival. At that event, PAL honored retiring Chief Bill Kelly for his extraordinary leadership in making Abington PAL a reality and recently retired Lt. Steve Hochwind for his countless dedicated hours building Abington PAL.

### Other Youth and Children Programs

Abington's **Police Explorer Post #2900**, in its third full year, offers those ages 14-20 an opportunity to learn about a career in law enforcement. As part of their commitment, this group of more than a dozen Explorers also provides service at numerous community events. This included traffic control with Ofc. Freed at 5K runs throughout the Township, Honor Guard duty at the 24-Hour Relay and the Abington Community Task-force banquet, and security at the 24-Hour Relay. They held a pancake breakfast at the North Penn VFW to augment funding for their uniforms. In the Fall, the Explorers toured the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. They enjoyed getting a firsthand look at how the facility functions and the daily duties of a correctional officer.

The Division oversaw the efforts of 12 **DARE** (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Officers in 11 Abington public, private, and parochial schools, reaching almost 750 children. The DARE curriculum includes lessons on prescription drug abuses, bullying, and internet safety in recognition of pressing issues facing young people.

The **Youth Aid Panel** program continued to serve juvenile offenders through three panels of trained citizen volunteers and liaison officers. This alternative to court involvement has young people perform community service; research and write essays; and, in cases of under-age drinking, drug use, and retail theft, youth can attend prevention programs offered online or through Aldersgate Youth Service Bureau. In 2016, panels heard 63 cases, down from 77 in 2015 as juvenile arrests were down last year. Community Policing offered these young people weekend opportunities for community service, overseeing 1,487 service hours. Some of the services included cleaning and organizing at both the PAL site and the North Penn VFW, helping with cleanup at Township parks, delivering flyers to residents for community events, placing flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day, helping to assemble new equipment at PAL, and, ever popular, assisting with Toys for Tots.

With an eye to the safety and wellbeing of the community's youngest members, the Division's certified members and volunteer technicians conducted 75 child safety seat checks in its **Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)** program. For school-age children, the Division oversees a **Crossing Guard** program with 24 guards and two substitutes who provide safe crossing at or near Township schools. They serve every day of the year that school is open, morning and afternoon, and receive training/updates twice yearly.

### HUB

In its second year of operation, the Abington community HUB continued to serve citizens, meeting twice a month to connect those at risk to care and support from the appropriate community agencies. Key members of the community, from health care and social services to education and law enforcement, meet monthly to review cases confidentially and activate interventional services. The goal is to take a comprehensive approach to reducing each person's risk factors and work toward restoring a healthy way of life. Lt. Kelley Warner, Ofc. Roger Gillispie, Director of Youth Programs Melissa Gargan, and Victim Services Unit Coordinator Jan Harris participate from the Police Department.



**Abington Explorers help with Keep the Parade Running 5K event.**



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## Community Policing

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### Adult Programs

Ofc. Gillispie ran a spring **Citizens Police Academy** for 32 community participants who enjoyed in-depth presentations and demonstrations from Detectives, the Tactical Team, the K-9 Unit, and other areas of police work. Ofc. Gillispie also supervises the Department's **Internship Program** in which college students majoring in some area of law enforcement may apply for an internship. In 2016, 14 students benefited from the intern experience, coming from such educational institutions as Penn State Abington, Temple University, and West Chester University.

The Division runs a **Victim Services Unit** for which Community Service Officer Jan Harris trains and coordinates a group of volunteers who meet regularly to contact those who have been victims of crimes in Abington Township. The volunteers provide important follow-up to victims by making calls to offer a listening ear and support as well as information on how to avoid being a victim in the future. Victims of crime find these calls both comforting and helpful. In 2016, 798 victims were contacted through this program.

Another kind of victimization occurs when neighbors have unresolved disputes. Patrol Officers alert Community Policing to these recurring situations. As part of the **Neighborhood Conflict Resolution Program**, a specially trained Division member contacts the involved parties, sometimes bringing them together for mediation of their disputes. Last year, 32 neighborhood disputes were successfully mediated. Of that number, eight groups came into the Department for a face-to-face mediation, while other issues were handled either over the phone or by on-site visits.

**Volunteers in Policing** enables community members to give of their time and talents to their Police Department in a variety of ways. In 2016, the Community Policing Division oversaw 9,194 hours of volunteer work from 225 community members willing to give their time to one or more of 20 programs. This gift of time and talent from dedicated community members represents the work of four to five paid, full-time employees. In particular, 39 volunteers earned the President's Bronze Award for giving 100-249 hours each, two volunteers served between 250 and 499 hours for the Silver Award, and three volunteers distinguished themselves by giving more than 500 hours of service each. In total, all 44 Presidential volunteers accounted for 7,256 hours of the total service to the Department in 2016. Some of the programs that volunteers staffed included the Special Police, Police Athletic League, Youth Aid Panel, Victim Services, the 24-Hour Relay Challenge, DUI Checkpoints, Town Watch and Dog Walk & Watch, and Pre Night Out. Toward year-end, the Division hosted a thank-you dinner for all their volunteers and conferred special awards on those who have shown longtime dedication.



**B Platoon Officers help gather community contributions of non-perishable food for local cupboards during the event Fill An Emergency Responder vehicle.**

### Community Events

The Division oversees and/or supports a variety of key community events, especially those that provide drug-, alcohol-, and violence-free activities for youth. It is noteworthy that Division members and citizen volunteers held the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual **24-Hour Relay Challenge**, an event that has had a much shorter lifespan in other communities across the country. This major fundraiser enables CAPT, a unique citizen-police initiative since 1992, to provide mini grants up to \$500 to take a proactive approach to solving community problems and promoting positive activities. Under CAPT, the Division ran the 11<sup>th</sup> annual **CAPT Bike Day** for which motorcyclists enjoy an escorted ride throughout Montgomery County. CAPT provides significant funding for the Abington Police DARE program, a great accomplishment since many other departments have had to give up their program.

The Division provided volunteers and support for the Roslyn and McKinley Memorial Day parades, the Glenside July 4th parade and fireworks display, the Glenside and Roslyn Car Shows, the annual Halloween event in Kes-

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## Community Policing

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wick Village, and holiday celebrations in several areas of Abington Township.

Each May, Division members work with Abington Senior High School students to plan and carry out DUI-related safety events before the senior prom. A **Mock Crash** is staged so that students can see firsthand through student actors the horrific results of a drunk-driving accident. Students also have opportunities to “drive” in simulators to experience driving intoxicated.

In August, the Division coordinates the community block party **Pre Night Out** to raise community awareness of crime prevention. Hundreds of citizens from Abington and beyond came to view police and fire safety equipment displays and collect community resource information from a variety of organization booths while enjoying food and entertainment. For some, the experience results in discovering volunteer opportunities or making helpful connections with community and/or county agencies.

### Traffic

Abington’s Traffic Safety Unit is headed by Traffic Safety Manager Ofc. Freed and staffed by Red Light Camera Program Manager Ofc. Posey. In 2016, there were 3,612 red-light running violations recorded on 10 cameras at three Township intersections. Eighty percent of those violations were committed by non-residents. The industry-predicted increase in rear-end crashes has not only never occurred in Abington Township, but also continued to decline, with slightly fewer in 2016 compared with 2015. This program was implemented and is run at no cost to the Township. People who receive violation notices have an opportunity to come to a hearing and review their infraction. The Division conducts 15-18 hearings every other month. Those who can document emergency circumstances are considered for having their violation cancelled.

The Unit works to provide the Patrol Division with additional expertise to keep Abington streets safe. These officers handle traffic complaints, traffic surveys (97 in 2016), and traffic enforcement. Each June and September, Traffic Safety Officers oversee **SAFE-T** (Safety in Abington through Focused Education and Traffic Enforcement) blitzes to heighten driver awareness of speeding and running lights and stop signs during months when traffic patterns change due to school closing and reopening. They also send **Operation Stop** letters to parents when a driver under the age of 18 is ticketed for speeding or involved in an accident and receive feedback that parents appreciate this information. Further, Traffic Safety assisted with coordination and blocking of roads at numerous 5K runs held throughout the year to benefit various community groups and organizations.

The Unit participated in close to 30 **Motor Carrier Enforcement Inspection Details** last year, hosting three of them in Abington. These Details involve stopping and checking trucks for compliance with safety standards and taking appropriate action. In Abington, 10 trucks were taken out of service and nine truck drivers were taken off the road; 116 were issued citations, and five were specifically issued overweight citations. Truck fines amounted to \$24,812.50, and overweight fines tallied \$7,466.30.

In total in 2016, the Unit issued 981 traffic citations and 293 warnings and made 20 arrests. They handled 99 abandoned vehicles and conducted 99 crash investigations. Traffic Safety Unit Officers began their fifth year of teaching **Survival 101**, a State-prescribed course especially directed at young drivers to teach them the potential dire consequences of distracted driving, particularly due to texting. This course is a requirement for certain Youth Aid Panel young people.

The Division also provides a service to residents and business owners in monitoring parking meters and limited-time parking areas. **Parking Meter Violations** tallied 876 in 2016. The number of parking tickets that staff wrote in 2016 numbered 1,250. Citizens and businesses alike appreciate this attention to violations that create problems in their place of business or residence.

### Grants

In the area of Financial Management, the Community Policing Division secured a number of grants and maintained a flow of financial support under existing grants. More than \$73,700 was obtained through grants in 2016, up by \$10,700 from 2015. These dollars came from the following sources:

- PennDOT (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation) provided money to cover the costs associated with running sobriety checkpoints.
- North Central Highway Safety Network funded a program for police to enforce seatbelt use and the Aggressive Driver Program.
- Citizens and Police Together provided funds to offset costs associated with the DARE program.
- The Abington Police Athletic League provided funds that offset the costs of Township personnel working on PAL activities.



# Abington Police Department

***"To Protect and Serve With Pride"***

1166 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001 • 267-536-1100



Like us: "Abington Township Police Dept., PA"



Follow us: "AbingtonPD"

Chief of Police	John A. Livingood	267-536-1061
Deputy Chief	Patrick Molloy	267-536-1070
Patrol Division	D.C. Patrick Molloy	267-536-1070
Detective Division	Det. Sgt. Steven Fink	267-536-1113
Administrative Division	Lt. Michael Webb	267-536-1065
Community Policing Division	Lt. Kelley Warner	267-536-1094
Emergency Management	Thomas McAneney	267-536-1087

## Units:

Animal Control	ACO Ron Griffith	267-536-1100 ext. 1590
Bike Patrol	Sgt. Chris Porter	267-536-1100 ext. 1654
Community Service	CSO Mary Carminati	267-536-1073
Crime Prevention	Sgt. Roger Gillispie	267-536-1077
Crisis Negotiation	Sgt. Joseph Blythe	267-536-1100 ext. 1634
Firearms/Range	Lt. Earl Saurman	267-536-1099
Internal Communications	John Melair	267-536-1068
Juvenile Unit	Sgt. Shawn Nisbet	267-536-1100 ext. 1640
K-9 Unit	Sgt. Kevin Magee	267-536-1100 ext. 1601
Police Athletic League	Peggy Myers	267-536-1100 ext. 1509
Records & Information	Susan Dixon	267-536-1047
Special Investigations	Sgt. Shawn Nisbet	267-536-1100 ext. 1640
Special Police	Sgt. Roger Gillispie	267-536-1077
	Sgt. Shawn Williams	267-536-1100 ext. 1665
Tactical Unit	D. C. Pat Molloy	267-536-1070
Traffic Safety	Ofc. Alan Freed	267-536-1078
	Ofc. Chris Posey	267-536-1076
Training Administration	Bob Sands	267-446-0691
Victim Services	CSO Jan Harris	267-536-1079
Volunteer Coordinator	CSO David Rondinelli	267-536-1074

**CALL 9-1-1**  
**FOR**  
**POLICE, FIRE, and MEDICAL EMERGENCIES**