



Abington Township Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

A Message from the Chief...

On behalf of the members of the Abington Township Police Department, I am proud to present our 2017 Annual Report. This report reflects the dedication and commitment of our officers, civilian personnel, and volunteers while highlighting those achievements that contributed to another outstanding year of service.

As a Department, we are committed to putting the needs of our community first, and we are guided by our core values of P.R.I.D.E. (page 2). It is an honor to protect and serve this great community with P.R.I.D.E.

In 2017, our nation and our community continued to witness the devastating impact of the opioid crisis. Overdose deaths have now become the leading cause of death for males under the age of 50. While we know this is a healthcare crisis, and we cannot arrest our way out of it, we have committed a number of resources to fighting this epidemic. In 2017 Abington Officers worked with regional task forces at the county and federal levels, targeting doctors and others who fraudulently prescribed opioids. We also successfully arrested and prosecuted major suppliers and removed deadly fentanyl-laced heroin and other illegal opioids from our streets. In addition, we have partnered with drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers, Abington Jefferson Hospital, and other social service agencies to help provide treatment to those suffering from addiction.

While this report illustrates a spike in some more serious Part I crimes in 2017, our Detective Division coordinated a burglary task force which resulted in the arrest of two major burglary rings operating in and around the Township. These arrests stopped a serious crime trend and resulted in clearing numerous burglaries in Abington and surrounding communities.

During this last winter, our Emergency Management Team responded to an unprecedented number of power outages in our Township during multiple winter storms. Also, our Emergency Management coordinator and members of the Department's Command Staff coordinated vital training to promote preparedness in responding to potential "active shooter" situations, especially at our schools and Willow Grove Park Mall.

The hard work of adhering to stringent standards was recognized in July when, for the fifth time, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission conferred reaccreditation on this Department. Abington was the first Department ever to achieve Pennsylvania State Accreditation.

During the past year, we said good-bye to Chief Bill Kelly, who served for nearly 32 years, and we welcomed Chief John Livingood who, prior to leading us throughout 2017, served as Deputy Chief for more than 20 years.

Now, please enjoy reading about the many fine accomplishments of the Abington Township Police Department in 2017.



Patrick Molloy
Chief of Police



Citizens and Their Police Department

Chain of Command

Chief Patrick Molloy leads the Abington Township Police Department with 92 dedicated sworn police officers under his command. Chief Molloy is also responsible for the 69 devoted civilian employees, both full- and part-time, who perform various police support functions throughout the community and within the Department. Deputy Chief Kelley Warner is the Patrol Division Commander managing the daily functions and activities that are associated with everything patrol related. Lt. Chris Porter is the Administrative Division and Community Policing Division Commander as well as the Department's Tactical Team Commander. Some of Lt. Porter's responsibilities include the Police Department budget and overseeing many activities that involve the Community Policing Division. Lt. Steve Fink is the Detective Division Commander. Lt. Fink has the overall responsibility of all the Police Department investigations. He also coordinates all investigations with other agencies which include local, state, and federal law enforcement organizations.

Chief Molloy is committed to providing the absolute best police services to the citizens of Abington Township. His teamwork strategy enables the entire Command Staff to work together as a cohesive team, addressing and solving a variety of issues that arise on a daily basis. Chief Molloy instills the core values of P.R.I.D.E. into the daily lives of all officers.

Mission Statement

The members of the Abington Township Police Department will be guided by the values of our community and will faithfully perform their duties in accordance with the United States Constitution, the International Code of Police Ethics, and all federal, state, and local laws.

Core Values

Professionalism
Respect
Integrity
Dedication
Esprit De Corps

Accreditation

In July, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission unanimously voted to re-accredit the Abington Township Police Department. This is the Department's fifth re-accreditation, which is extremely notable. According to Richard Hammon, Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Accreditation Coordinator, "Only a small percentage of law enforcement agencies in Pennsylvania are able to say that they have completed this rigorous program."

As part of the re-accreditation, 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 recruit-

ment to seek a broader range of candidates.

Abington Accreditation Team members for 2017 included Accreditation Manager Lt. Chris Porter, Executive Assistant Liz Webb, Accreditation Coordinator Kathleen Przybylowski, and Melissa Gargan. Their efforts were assisted by members of every Division in the Department. The Department strongly believes in the values of accreditation, both at the state and the international levels. The Accreditation Team works year-round to maintain and update written directives, ensuring compliance with state and national standards.

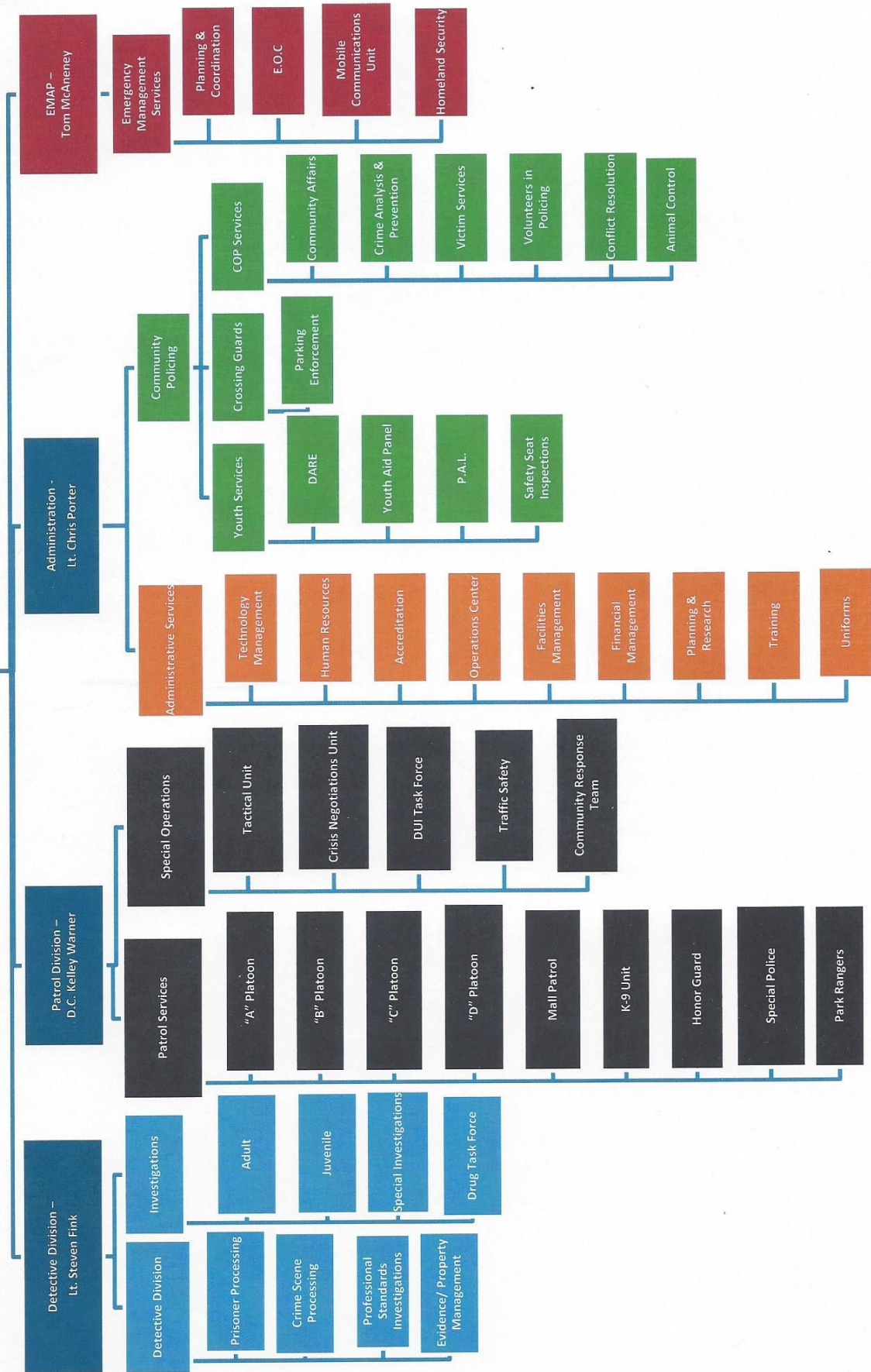




Abington Township Police Department

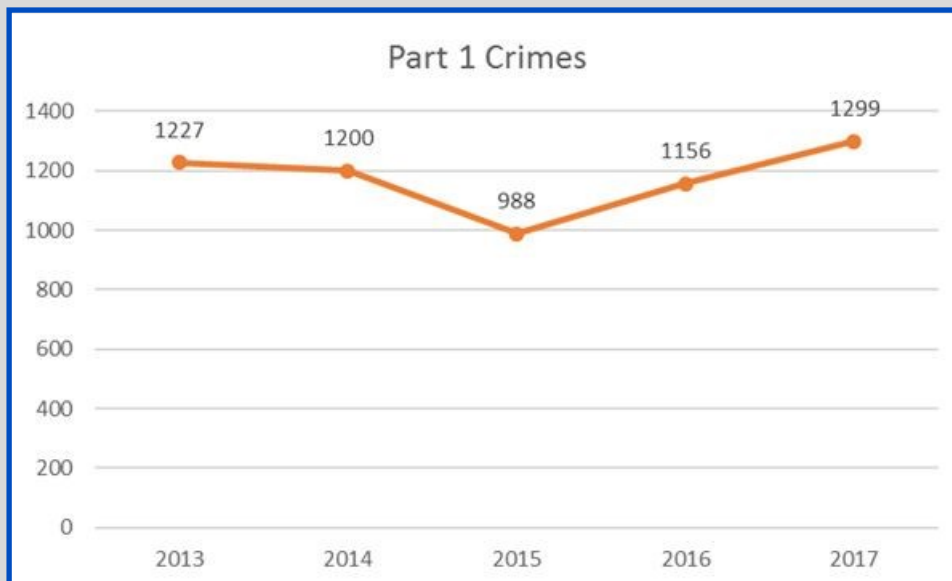


Chief of Police
Patrick Molloy



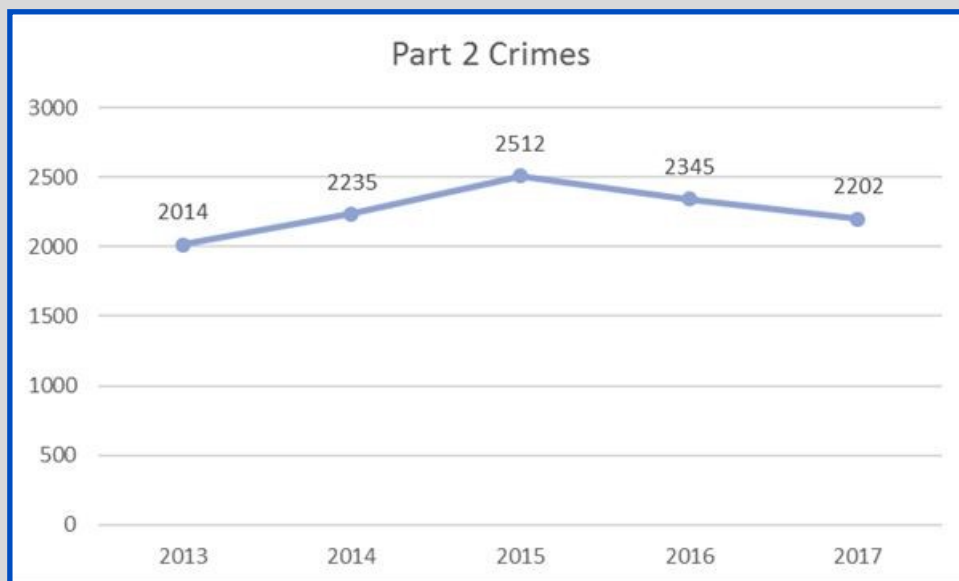
Crime Statistics & Trends

Five Years of Reported Part One Crimes



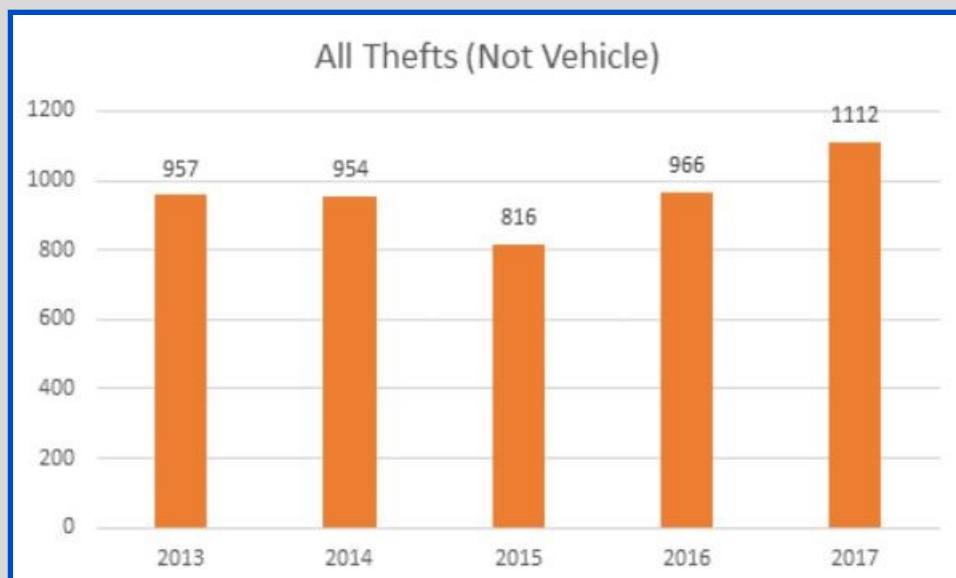
Part One crimes are considered by the federally mandated uniform crime reporting system as the most serious type crime. The types of Part One crimes are: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson.

Five Years of Reported Part Two Crimes

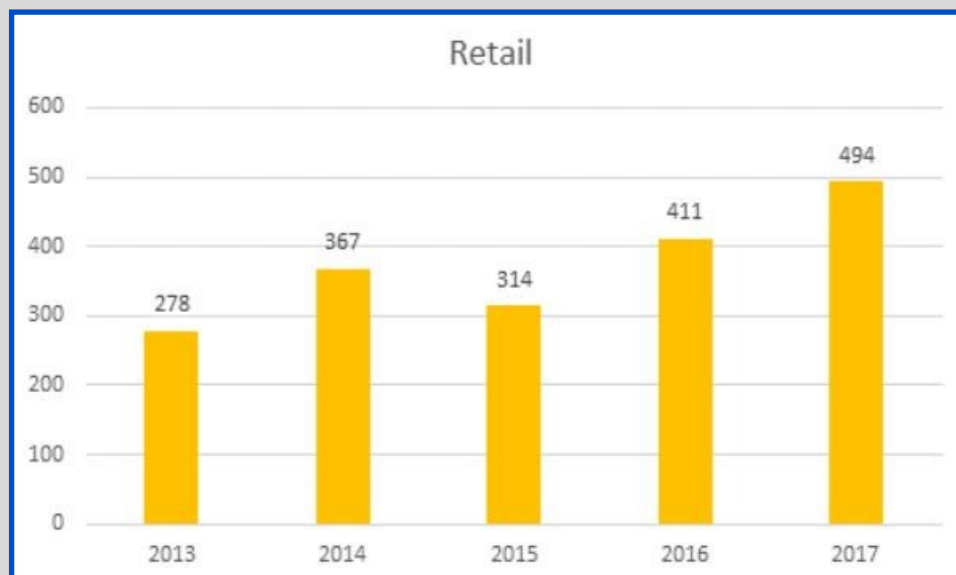


Part Two crimes are considered by the federally mandated uniform crime reporting system as the less serious type crime. The types of Part Two crimes are: Simple Assault, Forgery, Fraud, Embezzlement, Receiving Stolen Property, Vandalism, Weapon Offenses, Prostitution, Sex Offenses, Drug Violations, Gambling,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

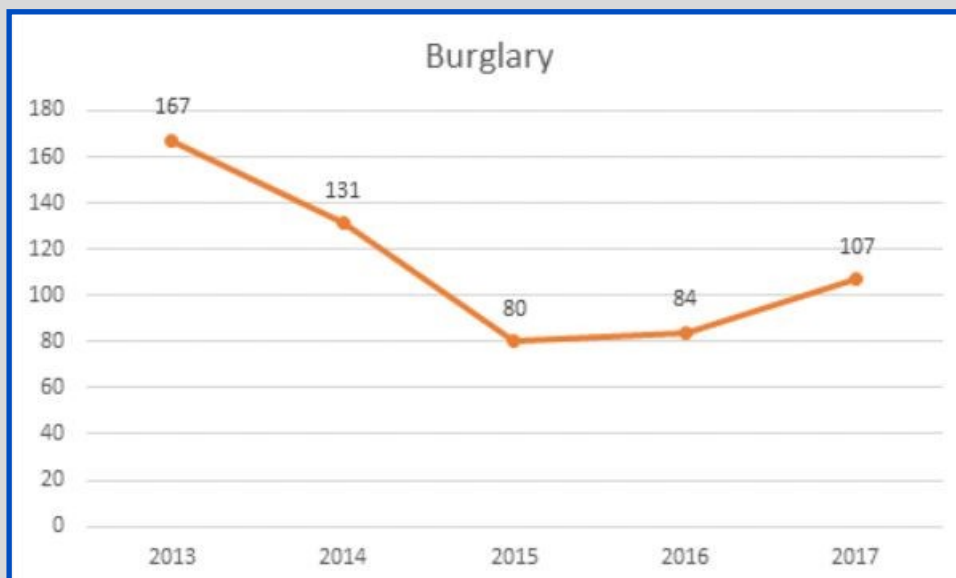
Five-Year All Thefts



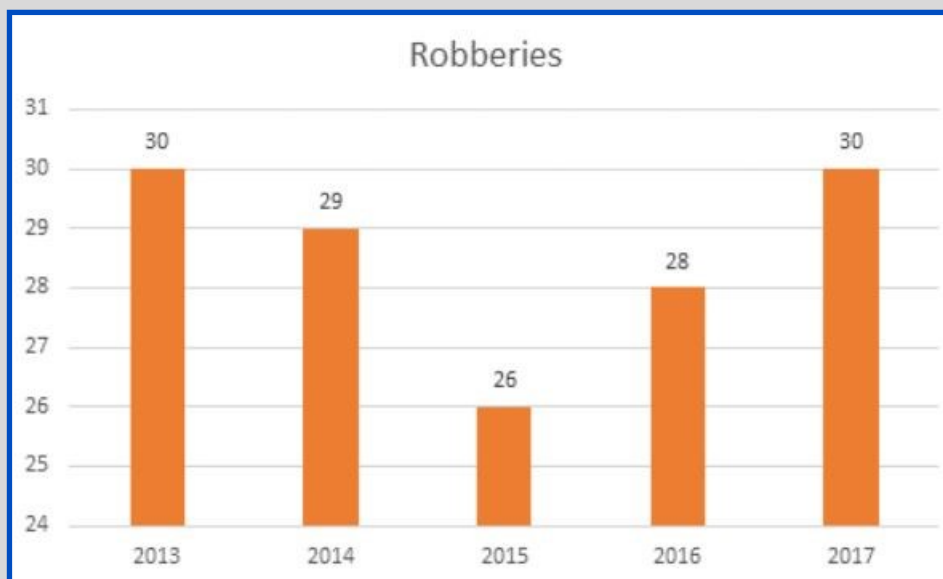
Five-Year Retail Thefts



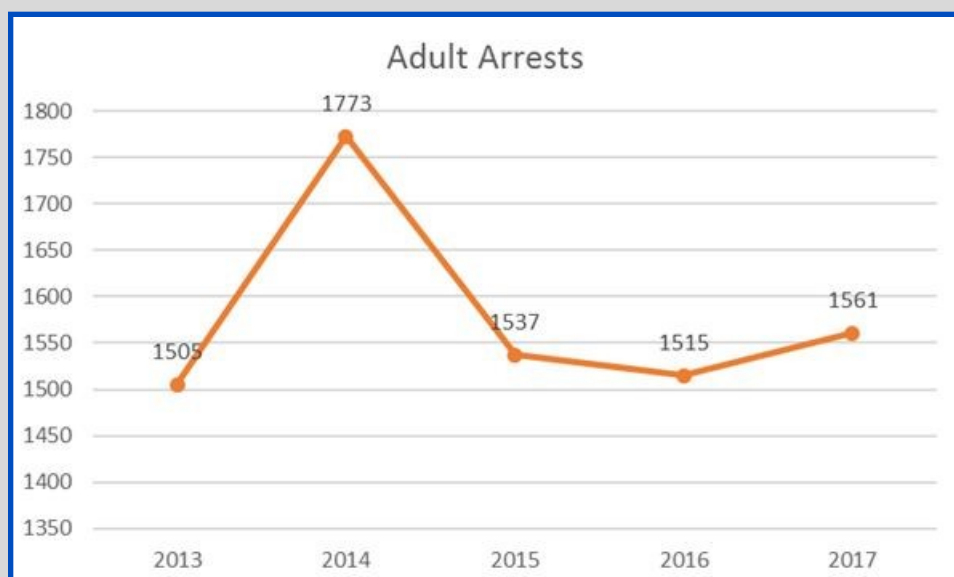
Five-Year Reported Burglaries



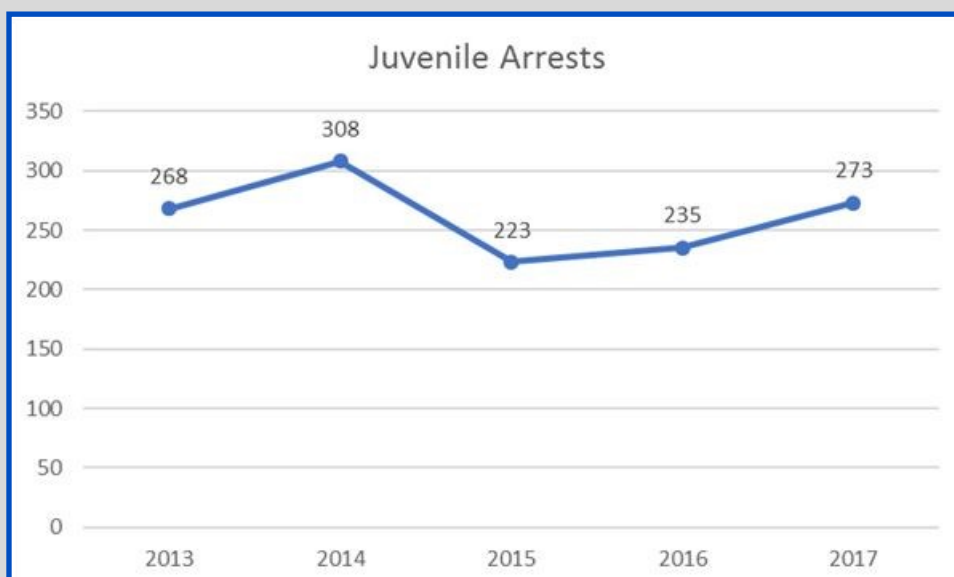
Five-Year Reported Robberies



Five-Year Adult Arrests

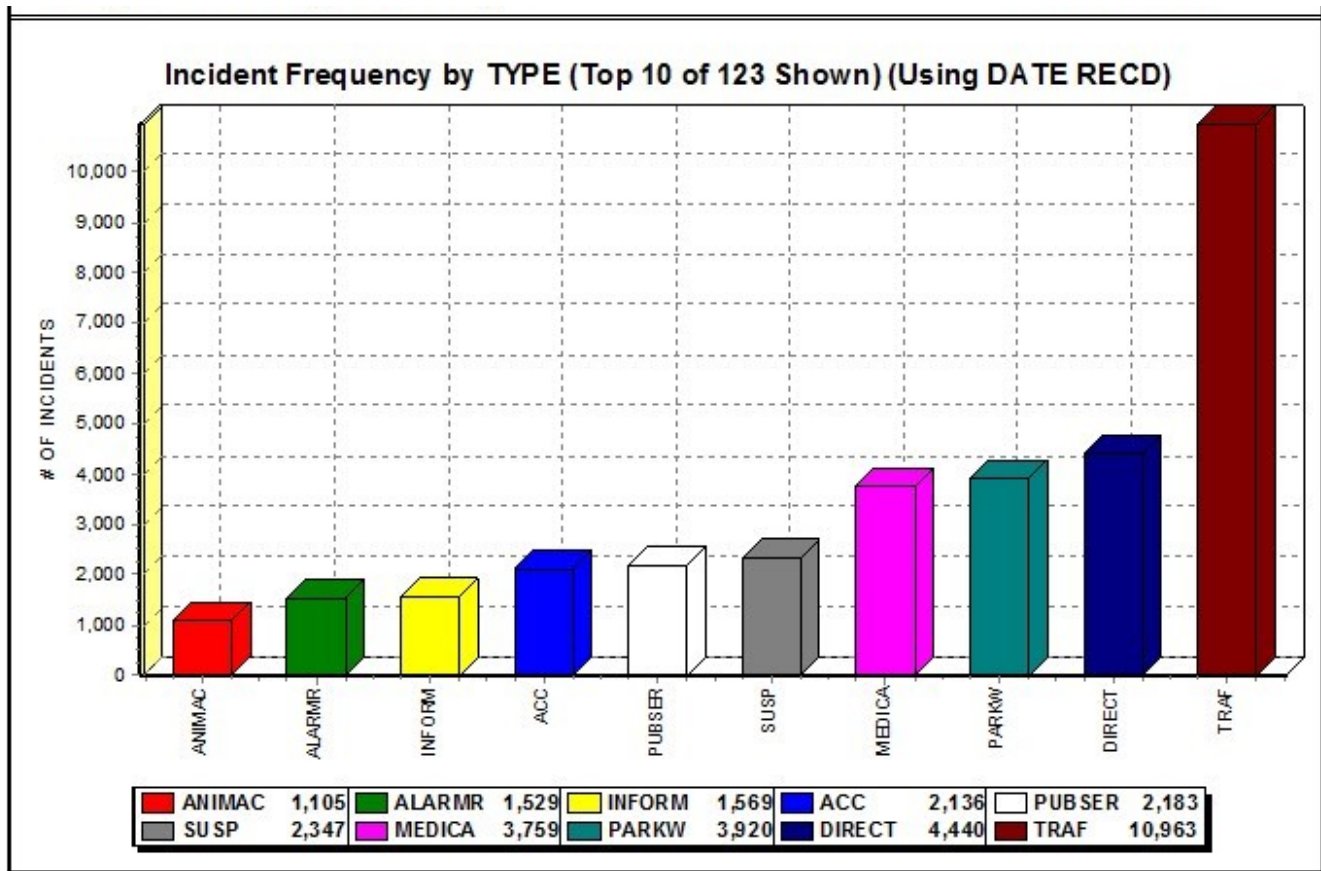


Five-Year Juvenile Arrests



Crime Statistics & Trends

Top 10 Calls for Service in 2017



- Traf** 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.
- Direct** 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.
- ParkW** 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.
- Medica** 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.
- SusP** SusP stands for suspicious activity. This can be both reported suspicious activity and officer observed suspicious activity or persons.
- PubSer** 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.
- Acc** Acc stands for accident. These are all motor vehicle crashes handled by the Department.
- AlarmR** AlarmR stands for false residential alarms of any type. These could be perimeter, motion, or panic alarms.
- Inform** 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.
- AlarmC** AlarmC stands for false commercial alarms of any type. These could be perimeter, motion, or panic alarms.

Abington Township Police Department Statistics

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Violent Crimes (Includes Simple Assault)	272	337	266	264	275	294
Violent Crimes Persons Charged	152	236	153	168	151	176
Part I Crimes	1,299	1,141	975	1,193	1,213	1,215
Part I Crimes Persons Charged	534	420	339	440	438	512
Part II Crimes	2,202	2,323	2,490	2,223	1,999	2,095
Part II Crimes Persons Charged	1,299	1,265	1,342	1,546	1,284	1,255
Total Persons Charged	1,833	1,685	1,651	1,986	1,722	1,767
Total Calls For Service	50,275	50,761	47,341	47,991	42,922	45,802

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 2017, the Department processed seven complaints. One was Exonerated, two were Unfounded, three were Sustained, and one was Referred to an outside agency.

Animal Control



**Animal Control
Ofc. Griffith**

Abington's Animal Control Officer (ACO) Ron Griffith oversees incidents involving both domestic and wild animals. When he receives calls for sick or injured animals, he either relocates them, removes them for rehabilitation, or dispatches them according to the situation. He

continues to advocate the Township's deer management program at Karebrook to help reduce deer-related motor vehicle accidents on roadways, especially on Valley Road. Abington has an active trap, neuter, and release program which continues to keep the feral cat numbers manageable.

The Animal Control Officer issues citations and literature to reduce animal attacks and bites. He also issues citations for violations ranging from Dangerous Dog to Running at Large, Howling, and Nuisance.

Kinds of Calls for Service	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Total Calls for Service	1,388	1,500	1,438	1,378	1,348
Animals Struck on Roadway	158	144	89	138	163
Deer-Related Incidents	95	77	83	35	81
Valley Road Deer-Related Incidents	10	6	10	10	18
Carcasses Removed by Animal Control Officer	58	54	62	45	48
Wildlife Complaints	198	241	252	202	170
Calls for Sick/Injured Animals	37	29	37	44	58
Calls for Feral Cats	17	23	18	17	24
Calls for Red Fox	66	Not Measured			
Animal Attacks	12	15	16	14	19
Animal Bites	36	40	31	19	20
Citations for Local Ordinance Violations	41	73	47	34	39

Abington Police Department Command Staff



Major Crimes/Events

The Abington Police respond to thousands of calls for service each year. They also encounter people breaking the law as they patrol. And, they are called upon to help save lives and render aid. Here are some highlights of Abington Officers' excellent police work in 2017.

TD Bank Robber Caught

On an early evening in mid-January, officers responded to a robbery in progress at the TD Bank on Old York Road. A teller reported that the suspect had handed her a note which read, "ARMED ROBBERY \$50s & \$100s NO DYE PACKS, NO TRICKS." The teller handed the suspect about \$1,000, which he placed into a bag before fleeing the bank on foot. Det. Wilsbach responded to process the crime scene and retrieve video that produced a high-quality image of the suspect that was released to the news media. The next day, a tip was received from someone who identified the bank robber. Det. Wilsbach interviewed the caller, who reported the suspect was originally from California but currently residing somewhere in Warminster. Det. Wilsbach was able to obtain a California driver's license photo and confirmed the suspect's identity. On January 25, Det. Sgt. Kondan and Det. Lindenmuth traveled to Warminster to check possible addresses for the suspect. They determined a possible address and conducted surveillance. A short time later, a male exited the home and walked down the street, wearing a black backpack and carrying a dark colored trash bag. Detectives stopped the male after he was observed carrying his bags to a dumpster. The suspect was identified, and it was readily apparent that he was the subject captured in the bank robbery surveillance photos. He was arrested and transported to the Abington Police Department where Det. Wilsbach interviewed him. The suspect confessed to the TD Bank robbery and was processed and arraigned, with bail set at \$500,000.

Local Pizza Shop Burglaries Lead to Multi-County Cases Solved

In February, Det. Geliebter was investigating the second of two burglaries at a local pizza shop. He had access to a video from the burglary and a description of the two suspects and the tool used to pry open the doors. Other townships were experiencing similar burglaries, so he began to gather intelligence on the suspects. In coordination with Upper Merion Police, Det. Geliebter assisted in interviewing the suspect of an in-progress burglary in their township. During the interview, the suspect admitted to several burglaries, including the two Abington pizza shop burglaries, and provided the name of the other suspect.

Although Abington's cases had been solved, Det. Geliebter initiated further investigation. He contacted other police departments with videos of similar burglaries, reviewing them for similarities. He also asked for the recordings of the suspect's prison phone calls. After listening to hours of recordings, he was able to put together a lengthy probable cause statement that was reviewed and approved by the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office. This investigation of burglaries involved 11 police jurisdictions spanning four counties and solving 16 commercial burglaries.

Robbery Arrests

Also in February, Abington Police received a call from a male stating he was an employee of the GNC store at the Willow Grove Park Mall and had just been robbed by three males who had picked him up from the mall. The males drove the victim around, pointed a gun at him, and took both the GNC deposit and his personal belongings. Det. Space was able to link one suspect to the victim through a search of the victim's phone and develop the other suspects from there. He coordinated with Philadelphia Major Crimes and SWAT for the arrest of one of the suspects who then gave a statement naming the others. Having a description of the suspect's vehicle, Det. Space searched an area in Philadelphia where the suspects might be living, located the vehicle, and contacted the suspect who owned the vehicle. He denied being involved in the robbery but said he would come in for an interview. The suspect never showed up, so Det. Space applied for a search warrant for the phone tower location on the night of the robbery. The warrant placed the suspect at the mall at the time of the robbery. Further, the records connected the third suspect to the robbery. Both suspects were eventually arrested.

Major Crimes/Events

Drug Dealer Arrested

In late February, Ofc. Wittmer was patrolling the area of Woodland and Thomson Roads when he observed a vehicle parked on Thomson Road, occupied by two males. When the men spotted Ofc. Wittmer, the driver pulled away from in front of a residence and turned onto a nearby street. Ofc. Wittmer followed the vehicle and eventually conducted a vehicle stop for a turn signal violation. He made contact with both occupants and observed that they were nervous and hesitant to answer questions. Further investigation revealed contradictory reports on what they were doing and where they were going. While speaking to the men, Ofc. Wittmer detected an odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle and obtained consent to search. He located marijuana, drug ledgers, and close to \$10,000 in cash. The currency was seized, and the driver was arrested for possession with the intent to deliver marijuana. This vehicle stop removed a drug dealer from Abington Township streets.

De-escalation of Potentially Deadly Situation

In mid-April, officers responded to the Abington Jefferson Hospital emergency room for an armed subject. Upon arrival, Ofc. Brown learned that not only was the subject armed with a knife, but also he was suffering from mental illness and was under the influence of alcohol and medications. The subject was suicidal and stated during the incident that “suicide by cop” was an honorable way to die. Complicating the situation was a friend who refused to leave the suspect’s side and continued to restrain him physically, placing himself in danger. Assessing the situation, Sgt. Scott quickly developed a plan to evacuate civilians from the area and assigned responding officers to try to de-escalate the situation. Ofc. Brown was able to negotiate with the man, based on a belief that the suspect was a veteran and that Ofc. Brown’s experience in that area might be helpful. Through his patience and empathetic manner, Ofc. Brown was able to convince him to hand the knife to his friend. He was taken into custody and admitted to the hospital. As a result, a tense and possibly deadly situation was ended without injury to anyone involved.

Attempted Life-Saving Measures

In early May, officers were dispatched for a report of someone lying on the train tracks in the 2200 block of Mt. Carmel Avenue. Upon arrival, Ofc. Brown and Sgt. Scott discovered a 35-year-old female lying on the tracks with serious injuries. They observed that the victim’s left leg had been traumatically amputated below the knee. The officers applied tourniquets to the victim’s leg and rendered medical assistance until the ambulance crew arrived and then worked with Detectives to identify the victim and undertake the difficult task of notifying the family. Ofc. Brown displayed extraordinary care and compassion in helping the family cope with this sudden tragedy, both at that time and throughout their ordeal. While sadly the victim passed away several days later, the life-saving efforts of Ofc. Brown and Sgt. Scott kept the victim alive until more formal medical attention could be attempted.

Burglary Suspect Captured

In mid-May, Cheltenham Police requested assistance from Abington in arresting a burglary suspect in their township. The suspect was initially stopped by Cheltenham Police near Jenkintown train station but fled on foot. He ran into a creek and then entered a storm sewer pipe. An extensive perimeter was established and a search plan developed. Sgt. Scott assisted in coordinating the effort and deploying personnel. Numerous reports of sightings occurred while the perimeter was maintained by Abington, Cheltenham, and Jenkintown Officers. A Jenkintown resident observed the suspect exit the sewer on Greenwood Avenue, then move on to Florence Street in Jenkintown. Several officers and K-9 units responded. Ofc. Martinez observed the suspect hiding under a porch on Florence Avenue. Ofcs. Blei and Senne retrieved the suspect from under the porch and took him into custody. During a search of the suspect, several items of jewelry were recovered. Without the seamless coordination and cooperation of all three departments, this suspect could have eluded capture.

Pitbull Attack

At the end of May, Abington Police responded to a call of a woman being attacked by a Pitbull in Roslyn. A neighbor had been walking his dogs when two Pitbulls escaped from a fenced yard and attacked his

Major Crimes/Events

dogs. One of the Pitbulls' owners attempted to gain control of her dogs when one of them attacked her, latching its jaws onto her arm. When officers arrived, a citizen was trying to pry the dog from the girl's arm using a 2x4 piece of wood. During the incident, the other Pitbull charged at the people attempting to help the victim. An officer discharged his firearm at the attacking dog, striking it twice. The victim was freed from the dog's grasp, and police were able to capture both dogs. With permission from the dogs' owner, both animals were euthanized. The victim was treated at Abington Jefferson Hospital for serious but non-life-threatening injuries. The Abington Police Department, in coordination with the Montgomery County Department of Health, conducted follow-up on this incident.

Drug Dealer Removed from Streets

On June 1, Abington Police responded to a Willow Grove apartment where a woman was performing CPR on her unresponsive 58-year-old mother. The victim was transported to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Evidence at the scene suggested that the victim died from a heroin overdose. Det. Geliebter processed the scene, gathering important evidence, which included a plate containing a white powdery substance and several bags of powder that appeared to be what the victim had been ingesting at the time of her death. Det. Beaghley interviewed the daughter and quickly learned that she and her mother bought the heroin from a Philadelphia drug dealer. Det. Beaghley was able to identify the dealer, make contact with him, and arrange for the dealer to deliver more heroin to Abington. The following day, the dealer came to sell heroin to the victim's daughter and was arrested and charged with possession with intent to deliver a controlled substance.

Det. Beaghley continued to work closely with the District Attorney's Office to investigate the drug delivery resulting in death. The drugs recovered at the scene of the overdose and those recovered from the suspect were lab tested and found to be pure fentanyl. An analysis of the suspect's cell phone showed additional evidence that he had delivered the drugs that killed the victim. The coroner's report corroborated the fact that the victim died from a fentanyl overdose. Det. Beaghley then filed charges against the suspect for drug delivery resulting in death.

After the arrest, the supervisor for the Montgomery County Narcotics Detectives was so impressed with this outstanding initiative, that he wrote to express his appreciation, commending Det. Beaghley and stating that he would be using this case as a model for how to properly investigate a "Drug Delivery Resulting in Death case."

Bank Robbers Caught

In late August, officers responded to a TD Bank robbery in Abington. Using technology, Ofcs. Fisicaro, Nicholas, and Coughlin were guided by County Dispatch to Cheltenham Township where, together with Cheltenham officers, they were able to locate the bank robbery suspect who was seated in a vehicle while it was stopped in a line of traffic. The suspect and his accomplice were removed from the vehicle, identified, and taken into custody without incident. The suspect would eventually confess to committing a total of three separate bank robberies in the area.

This incident exemplified great teamwork not only within the Abington Department, but also with another department and County Dispatch. Other officers involved in this event included Lt. Porter; Det. Sgts. Urban and Nisbet; Sgt. Doyle; Ofcs. Blei, Ficzko, Pfau, Dwyer, Scholl, and Prior; and Dets. Henze, Burton, and Geliebter. They secured the bank or deployed elsewhere in an attempt to locate and stop the fleeing suspect. Ofc. Fisicaro made a key decision to hold all traffic at the traffic signal at Old York and Church Roads, allowing responding officers to methodically check the occupants and vehicles for the suspect. A few moments later, the suspect was identified and arrested, along with his accomplice.

Life-Saving Measures Taken

In mid-September, Sgt. Magee and Ofc. Scholl responded to a medical emergency involving an unconscious person. Upon arrival, officers were advised by the patient's husband that she had no pulse, was

Major Crimes/Events

not breathing, and exhibited no signs of life. Ofc. Scholl confirmed this assessment and immediately started performing CPR on the elderly person. He attached an AED and was advised to administer two shocks. A shock was delivered twice and, as a result, the patient's heart started beating again. The patient was transported to Abington Jefferson Hospital.

Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

In 2017, Special Investigation Unit Detectives participated in numerous drug trafficking investigations in Abington and surrounding communities. Drug dealers were arrested for selling heroin, cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines, and prescription pills. In one case, Abington Detectives arrested a heroin dealer who had delivered heroin that resulted in the death of a Township resident. The investigation led to the arrest of the trafficker as he attempted another delivery of the fatal heroin in the Township. In cooperation with the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office, this person was charged with drug delivery resulting in death (DDRD) and related drug offenses for being responsible in the fatal overdose of the resident. This investigation was the first successfully prosecuted case for DDRD in Montgomery County.

The Unit also participated in a joint burglary investigation with Cheltenham and Philadelphia Police Departments. This joint investigation led to the arrest of a nighttime burglar who was entering occupied homes in Abington, Cheltenham, and Philadelphia. This suspect was charged with numerous burglaries and prosecuted in Montgomery County.

SIU Detectives participated in more than 20 cases with the ICAC (Internet Crimes Against Children) Task Force, which resulted in the arrests of suspects for the distribution and possession of child pornography.

Det. Beaghley was one of only 24 law enforcement officers from around the country who was selected to attend a one-month training program at the National Computer Forensics Institute. Upon his completion of this free training, the Abington Police Department received in excess of \$40,000 in equipment and software, at no cost to the Township.



Top: Det. Sgt. Fink (center) recognized for helping to solve multi-state burglary ring.

Far Left: Chief Molloy with Sgt. Toledo and Ofc. Martinez being honored with ASIS award for restraint and courage in disarming a suicidal man.

Left: Det. Hill (left) helped identify and arrest armed suspect in burglaries.

Commendations & Recognition

The Abington Police Department is proud to present the 2017 list of commended officers for excellent police work. Thirty-three officers accounted for 30 commendations and two Unit Citations. Lt. Ed Quinn points out, “We could not be more proud of the great work done by Abington Police Officers. They follow good police instincts, show their training in quick responses to saving lives, take initiative beyond the issue at hand, and put themselves in harm’s way to resolve situations that can involve chasing down and confronting armed suspects. We also appreciate the tireless investigative work of our Detectives in tracking down suspects and helping to bring them to justice.”



Det. Cindy Pettinato (left) received a standing ovation at the Board of Commissioners July meeting as Commissioner Lori Schreiber presented her with a Township plaque honoring her outstanding detective work in a horrific case.

Ofc. Joseph Blei, Class IV, Restraint of Psychotic Suspect

Ofc. Ryan Brown, Class IV, Freeing of Child Hostage from Psychotic Suspect

Ofc. Elizabeth Cartwright Fisicaro, Class V, Arrest of Drug Dealer Leading to Other Drug Arrests

Ofc. Alison Delaney, Class V, Lifesaving CPR

Det. Ryan Duntzee, Class IV, Suspect Confession in Sexual Assaults

Ofc. Michael Farley, Class IV, Restraint of Psychotic Suspect and Freeing of Child Hostage; Class V, Arrest of Home Invasion Suspect

Terroristic Threats

Ofc. Gary Martinez, Class II, Disarming Suicidal Suspect; Class IV, Restraint of Psychotic Suspect with Child Hostage

Ofc. Michael McCollough, Class IV, Arrest of Suspects Robbing and Assaulting Pizza Delivery Man

Sgt. Shawn Nisbet, Class V, Arrest of Fleeing Suspect in Car Accident

Ofc. Richard Ottenbreit, Class V, Lifesaving CPR

Det. Cindy Pettinato, Class III, Extensive Investigation Leading to Arrest of Suspects in Rape/Murder of Minor

Ofc. James Ficzk, Class IV, Lifesaving CPR

Det. Sgt. Steven Fink, Class VI, Arrest for Aggravated Assault and Terroristic Threats

Ofc. Alan Freed, Class V, Arrest of Suspect in Forced Entry of Home

Ofc. Sean Gargan, Class IV, Crisis Negotiation

Ofc. Edward Howley, Class VI, Drug Dealer Arrest

Ofc. Fran Junod, Class V, Arrest for Aggravated Assault and

Sgt. Chris Porter, Class VI, Arrest for Aggravated Assault and Terroristic Threats

Ofc. Drew Saurman, Class V, DUI Arrest with Threat of Suicide

Sgt. Oswaldo Toledo, Class II, Disarming Suicidal Suspect; Class IV, Rescuing Psychotic Male with Child Hostage; Class V, DUI Arrest with Threat of Suicide

Ofc. Nathan Walters, 2 Class Vs, Both Lifesaving CPR

Ofc. Paul Welsh, Class V, Thefts from Cars; Class VI, Locating Suicidal Suspect

Det. Robert Wilsbach, Class V, Location and Confession of Bank Robbery

Ofc. Dustin Wittmer, 2 Class Vs, Arrest of Armed Robbers, Drug Dealer Arrest

Unit Citation: Ofcs. LeVar Baxter, Elizabeth Cartwright Fisicaro, Scott Dinsmore, Dan Ficzk, Barry Jerome, Adrian McMenamin, Anthony Space, Robert Steck, and Zach Zeoli; Teamwork in Capture and Arrest of Fleeing Suspect in Car Accident

Unit Citation: Det. Sgt. Rick Kondan and Det. Donald Lindenmuth, Location and Arrest of Bank Robber

Staff Changes

The Chief News

Chief Bill Kelly retired after 32 years of leading the Department. Chief Kelly arrived in Abington in 1985 during a difficult period in the Department's history and was able to create order and pride. With his visionary style, he was always looking to the next model in policing and the next program to implement in Abington in order to continually improve both the organization's and the individual officers' performance in serving and protecting this community. Never satisfied with the status quo, Chief Kelly helped found the state accreditation program and stepped forward with Abington as the first state law enforcement agency to apply for and become state accredited. He then led Abington in its first international accreditation. Under Chief Kelly, the APD formed a Community Policing Division from which many beneficial programs, especially for youth, were launched. His leadership was also instrumental in a number of community and police collaborations (Citizens and Police Together, Abington Community Taskforce). Immediately following his retirement, Chief Kelly was sworn in as the Senior Supervisory Agent in the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General.



John A. Livingood was sworn in as Abington's newest Chief of Police on February 1, crowning a 44-year career with the Department. Chief Livingood rose through the ranks from Patrol Officer to Sergeant, Detective Sergeant, and Lieutenant before becoming the Department's first Deputy Chief. He was nationally recognized for his work on crimes against the elderly and intelligence sharing as well as for his leadership in MAGLOCLIN, a regional information-sharing organization that assists federal, state, and local agencies in their efforts to stop crime. In swearing him in as Chief, The Honorable Risa Furman lauded him as a man of integrity, humility, intelligence, and impeccable judgment.

Deputy Chief Kelley Warner was officially appointed Deputy Chief in November.

A 28-year veteran of the Department, she is a graduate of West Chester University with a B.S. and M.S. in Criminal Justice. D.C. Warner came up through the ranks from Patrol Officer to Juvenile Detective, Sergeant, and then Lieutenant. She has served as Commander of the Community Policing Division and is now Commander of the Patrol Division. D.C. Warner was a member of the Tactical Team, a DARE Instructor, and a Leader of the Crisis Negotiation Unit and the Field Training Officer program. She helped establish the Department's Youth Aid Panel program and became one of its first Liaison Officers. She has also served as the Department's Accreditation Manager. From 2012-2016, she served as President of the Mid Atlantic Association of Women in Law Enforcement.



Three Sergeants Promoted to Lieutenants

Lt. Steve Fink graduated from Abington High School and began his Abington Police career in 1991. In 2000, he was promoted to Sergeant and in 2010, he was made a Detective Sergeant in charge of the Special Investigations Unit in the Detective Division. He has served as Department Coordinator for the Montgomery County Drug Task Force, a DARE Officer, and a Field Training Officer as well as a member of the Department's Anti-Crime Team. He was a member of the Tactical Team for 23 years, finishing as a Team Leader. In 2017, he was made Commander of the Detective Division.



Staff Changes

Lt. Chris Porter graduated from Clearfield Area High School and has served with the Department for 26 years. He served his first 18 years as a Patrol Officer and was promoted to Sergeant in 2010. He was a member of the Tactical Team for 21 years and is the Team Commander. He was a DARE Officer for 20 years and served as a Field Training Officer for 14 years. Lt. Porter is a member of the Montgomery County Drug Task Force, a Range Instructor, and a certified Police Cyclist Instructor.



Lt. Ed Quinn attended St. Joseph's University and began his career with the Abington Police Department in 1995 as a Patrol Officer. In 2010, he began serving in the Detective Division, and in 2014, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Lt Quinn served as a Field Training Officer for eight years and was a member of the Tactical Team for 15 years. He has also served on the Montgomery County Drug Task Force.



Four Officers Advance to Rank of Sergeant

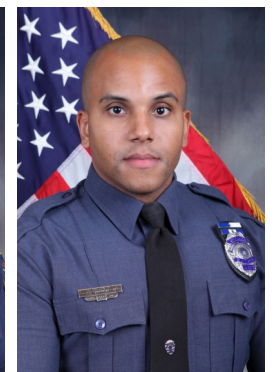
Sgt. Joseph Blei, an eight-year veteran of the Department, graduated cum laude from the University of Pennsylvania with a B.A. in Political Science. He has been a member of the Tactical Unit, a DARE Instructor, a Field Training Officer, and a Firearms Instructor as well as President of the Abington Township Police Association. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps Infantry from 2006-2010, having had two deployments to Iraq. He was decorated with the Purple Heart for wounds received from an IED, the Iraq Campaign Medal with the Bronze Service Star, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

Sgt. Jennifer Doyle, a 12-year veteran of the Department, graduated with honors from Delaware County Community College with an A.A. in Administration of Justice. She went on to serve for three years as Deputy Sheriff with the Centre County Sheriff's Office and was awarded the best overall student in the Pennsylvania Deputy Sheriff's Education and Training Academy. Sgt. Doyle is one of Abington's K-9 Officers, serving with her partner Bella. She is a DARE Officer, a Field Training Officer, and has served as Liaison Officer to the Youth Aid Panel. She has also been a member of both the Bike Unit and Honor Guard.



Sgt. Roger Gillispie is a 23-year veteran of the Department. During his career, he has served as a Field Training Officer, member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, and Hostage Negotiator. In 2005, he received the Montgomery County District Attorney's Medal of Valor for a confrontation with an armed suspect. Sgt. Gillispie currently serves in the Community Policing Division where his responsibilities include Crime Prevention, educating the public about crime trends.

Sgt. Drew Kent came to Abington in 2009, having worked in the Philadelphia Police Department's 23rd District for a year prior. Since then, Sgt. Kent has served in the Honor Guard as well as on the Oral Interview Board, Police Recruiting Team, and Commendation Review Board. He is a Range Instructor as well as a Field Training Officer who has successfully trained nine officers. Sgt. Kent is a proud member of Abington's SWAT.



Sgt. Roger Gillispie Sgt. Drew Kent

Staff Changes

Two New DARE Officers Trained

Ofc. Alison Delaney joined the Department in 2014 and applied for this opportunity as soon as she was eligible. She had personally experienced DARE in school and was anxious to interact with young people. She appreciates the newer DARE focus on teaching students how to handle peer pressure and team up with parents. She enjoys teaching her students about confident communication, such as maintaining good eye contact, the most effective ways to word their thoughts, and how they can present themselves in a way that others will take seriously.

Ofc. Dan Prior also joined the Department in 2014 and wanted to reach out to young people based on his school DARE experience. He believes DARE offers a good way to get in touch with the community he serves and feels strongly that connecting with children is an excellent way to give them a positive experience with a police officer when they are young in order to build on this relationship for the future.



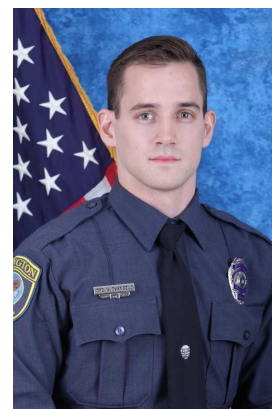
DARE Ofcs. Dan Prior and Alison Delaney

Five New Officers Ceremonially Sworn In During 2017

Ofc. Nico Belardo graduated from Northern Burlington High School in New Jersey and earned a B.S. in Criminal Justice with a minor in Business from Gwynedd Mercy University. During college, Ofc. Belardo was a member of the National Criminal Justice Honor Society and a four-year student athlete on the men's lacrosse team. He graduated from the Philadelphia Police Academy where he was the highest ranking cadet in his class.



Ofc. Nico Belardo



Ofc. Adrian DeAngelo

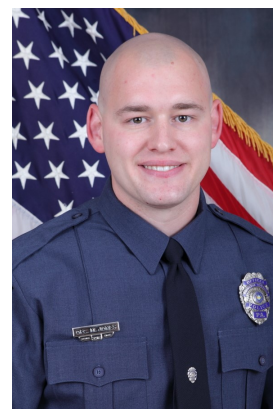


Ofc. Jordan Jones

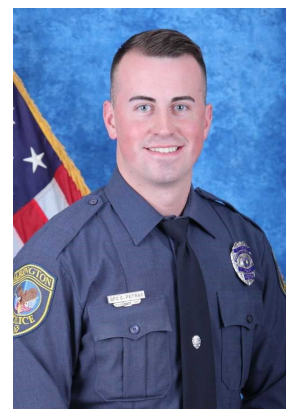
Ofc. Adrian DeAngelo graduated from Abington High School and earned a B.A. in Criminal Justice/Sociology from Bloomsburg University. During the summer of 2014, he completed an internship with the Department.

Ofc. Jordan Jones graduated from North East High School, attended East Stroudsburg University, and played football for the Temple Owls, graduating from Temple University with a B.S. in Criminal Justice.

Ofc. Michael Jones, Jr. graduated from Abington High School and has been with the Abington Fire Company for more than 10 years; he currently holds the rank of Lieutenant.



Ofc. Michael Jones



Ofc. Christopher Petras

Ofc. Christopher Petras graduated from Upper Dublin High School and earned an A.A. in Liberal Studies from Montgomery County Community College and a B.A. in Criminal Justice from Temple University.

Staff Changes

Retirements

Lt. Mike Gallagher retired in January following 25 years of dedicated service to the Department and was appointed Chief of Buckingham Police Department in Bucks County. While at Abington, Lt. Gallagher served as a Patrol Officer and a Detective. He advanced to the rank of Sergeant, Detective Sergeant in the Special Investigations Unit, and ultimately Lieutenant, commanding a Patrol Platoon.

Ofc. Gerry Costello retired from a 30-year policing career, of which 29 years were with Abington. During Ofc. Costello's three decades of serving, he was a Field Training Officer and an Evidence Technician and served as the Assistant Fire Marshall for a time. Further, Ofc. Costello was a Firearms Instructor and the Department's lead armorer. In addition, Ofc. Costello served as Financial Secretary of Abington Township Police Association.



Lt. Mike Gallagher



Ofc. Gerry Costello

Notable Moment



Abington's Retiring Chief Bill Kelly (center) takes his oath of office from Pennsylvania State Attorney General Josh Shapiro as he is sworn in to his new position of Senior Supervisory Agent in the Office of the Pennsylvania Attorney General. Abington Officers, Commissioners, and community partners attended the event at the state capitol in Harrisburg.

Special Units

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

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

SWAT This tactical unit maintains a high level of training throughout the year to remain ready to meet any situation. In 2017, team members' on-going training included movement exercises and weapons qualifications. On several occasions, they worked with the Montgomery County Sheriff Department's Bomb Squad Unit as part of a growing partnership to expand the capabilities of both units and, in particular, enhance the service Abington Officers provide to the citizens of Abington Township.



Det. Lt. Fink (right) gives instructions to SWAT Team candidates prior to their daylong tryout.



Corporal Steve Morrissey, Pottstown Police Department, gives instruction on how to conduct hostage rescue operations in vehicles, working with a decommissioned school bus.



July exercise: Swat Team members Ofcs. Gary Martinez and Troy Senne; Emergency Management Coordinator Tom McAneney, and Deputy Noto of the Bomb Squad.

In May and October, Abington SWAT trained at Fort Indiantown Gap, making use of training facilities that are not available locally. In July, the team conducted a comprehensive critical incident scenario that required the deployment of the full SWAT team, the Bomb Squad, Abington's Crisis Negotiation Unit and Emergency Management group, and several other supporting elements. The event took place over an entire day and was an exercise in working across Department units and outside agencies.

In October, Abington SWAT hosted the second phase of a Basic SWAT Operator's Course for its newest members as well as for members of the Montgomery County Sheriff Department's Bomb Squad and Warrant Service Unit.

Abington SWAT leadership changed in 2017 as then Deputy Chief Molloy, Det. Lt. Fink, and Det. Sgt. Kondan stepped down to fulfill other responsibilities. They each had more than two decades on the team. Lt. Porter became the SWAT Team Commander, and Sgts. Blei, Kent, and Scott became SWAT Team Leaders. The team, in turn, held tryouts for vacancies that were filled by Sgt. LaRosa and Ofcs. Delaney, Prior, Saurman, and Welsh.

Special Units

K-9 Unit: This Unit experienced many successful deployments as well as changes in 2017.

Ofc. Dinsmore and K-9 Jaso were responsible for indicating the odor of narcotics on several vehicles, adding to the probable cause for a search warrant where narcotics were found. Jaso was also responsible for locating items during tracks of criminal activity.

Ofc. Fisicaro welcomed new K-9 Ralph and completed both Patrol and Narcotics Detection training. Ralph received tracking certification through the United States Police Canine Association. He tracked right to two different suspects on different jobs while on patrol duties

Sgt. Doyle and K-9 Bella were involved in two explosive sweeps as well as tracking that located a missing child from an Abington elementary school. Bella also flushed out a suspect who was apprehended and located key evidence from a bank robbery. Committed to community policing, Bella and her handler provided 26 canine demonstrations in 2017.

Last year, Sgt. Doyle and Bella distinguished themselves by not only earning patrol canine certification, but also taking first place as the #1 overall K-9 team in the Region 6 PD1 competition among more than 20 teams. Their results and recognition included:

- # 1 Overall Canine Team for PD1 - Open Division
- # 1 Canine Team - Criminal Apprehension Phase - Open Division
- # 1 Canine Team - Obedience Phase - Open Division
- # 3 Canine Team - Agility Phase - Open Division
- # 1 Team Trophy – Shared by Sgt. Doyle and K-9 Bella and three Bensalem Canine Unit teams



Sgt. Jennifer Doyle and K-9 Bella proudly display their awards as they took first place in the Region 6 Police Dog 1 competition among more than 20 K-9 teams.

The K-9 team of Ofc. Bryan Rickards and Ivan retired in 2017 after Ofc. Rickards was diagnosed with ALS. Together they had faithfully patrolled since 2010 with many successful trackings and narcotics indications. The entire Department has rallied around their hero in his battle against this disease. (see p 31)



Sgt. Doyle and K-9 partner Bella work on scent certification for explosives detection.

Special Units

DARE: Abington's 11 DARE Officers provide the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program to children in Abington Township public, private, and parochial schools. Each DARE Officer devotes 30-40 classroom hours per year, which does not include additional recess, cafeteria, and other times with his or her DARE students. In recent years, the revised

DARE curriculum has placed a great deal of emphasis on young people's critical thinking skills, helping them to consider how to handle themselves in various situations where they are being tempted to engage in negative behavior. Abington DARE Officers all agree that this program has a positive influence on young lives.



DARE Graduations 2017



Honor Guard:

The Abington Police Honor Guard participated in a variety of events throughout 2017. 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 Township Police Honor Guard serve at the funeral of Ofc. Ballard. They are a staple of the annual Greater Glenside July 4 Parade.

Emergency Management

EOP: Each January and February, EMAP staff re-examine the Township’s Emergency Operations Plan to make necessary revisions. Most challenging is updating contact information for all critical personnel at Township facilities—schools, hospitals, nursing homes, group homes—in order to reach those people readily in the event of a major incident.

Training: Throughout the year, Emergency Management staff complete **security assessments** at schools, houses of worship, and daycare centers, and in 2017 the YMCA. EMAP staff conduct a walkthrough of the entire facility and make suggestions on how to improve safety and security. Staff also held “**Emergency Procedures & Protecting Against Violent Intruder**” programs, adapted from a school perspective, for businesses and facilities, including the Abington Library.

Missing Persons: Police are receiving more calls for missing persons suffering dementia, so Emergency Management and Abington Police developed a standardized **Incident Command Checklist**. This plan was used for the first time in March when a woman afflicted with dementia went missing and was successfully located.

Water Main Break: In June Emergency Management coordinated the response of police and other Abington Township department personnel as well as Aqua for a water main break at Edge Hill and Bradfield Roads. Massive amounts of water rushed downhill to Tyson Avenue. These roads were closed for more than 24 hours as the old main was dug up and replaced.

July 4 Parade: To help improve safety and security, EMAP, police, and fire coordinated the addition of several large tri-axle trucks staffed by members of the Public Works Department to act as heavy-duty road blocks along the parade route. Abington Fire Department engine and ladder trucks were used as well.

Mass Casualty Drill: In late August, EMAP personnel, Abington Police, and Second Alarmers staged a mass casualty drill for the staff at Abington Jefferson Hospital’s Emergency Trauma Center. The scenario involved a box truck driving through a crowd and exploding. Volunteer actors wore fake wounds and followed a script. The hospital successfully tracks mass casualty patients by number. However, Emergency Management learned that they must devise a secondary system to track patients by name to enable police to direct families to the right facility in disaster events.

Penn State University Abington: With expansion to a full-service campus, PSU now qualifies for a security upgrade to a full police department. As a result, Abington Police, Emergency Management, and other responders have been coordinating on likely emergencies that could occur on campus. University and Abington Officers will now operate on the same radio frequency, and Abington Officers will be “dual dispatched” on calls to Penn State properties to ensure adequate backup.



Abington Police, Emergency Management, and Second Alarmers stage mass casualty drill for staff of Abington-Jefferson Hospital Emergency Trauma Center.

Training

Continuing education and training are key to officers successfully serving their community, using best practices and up-to-date skills. The Abington Police Department emphasizes mandatory and optional training to keep officers at



their sharpest level of performance. The Department hosts seminars and training sessions for both Abington Officers and those in other law enforcement agencies. In 2017, the Department hosted 105 specialty training seminars that totaled 161 classroom days for 2,789 participants.

The Department held All Supervisors training in April, focusing on legal issues, succession planning, accident reports, and traffic safety. Mandatory Department-wide training also took place in April and covered a variety of topics: crash forensics, human resources, ethics, biased-based training, all-hazards (both planning and awareness), CPR & AED, accident response, and re-certifications

Crash Ferensics Class

for handcuffing, baton, Taser, and pepper spray. For the fourth year, Abington enabled officers to meet mandatory MPOETC (Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission) certification requirements online instead of in-class time.

In 2017, 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 provide care, support, and resources to fellow employees when needed.

Course	Participants
APD 3-Day Basic SWAT	10
APD Accutrak Training	10
APD Bicycle Officer School	15
APD CODY (in-house reporting system)	25
APD Department-Wide Training - 8 classes	120
APD Officer Safety - 4 classes	62
2-Day Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (Active Shooter)	72
Active Shooter	25
All Supervisors Trainng	28
AR15 Armorer	16
Armed Robbery Conference	30
Barricaded Hostage Investigations	22
Basic Detective Skills	35
Burglary Task Force Training	40
CODY/COBRA (internal & external reporting systems) - 4 classes	50
Command Leadership	25
Crimes Conferences - multiple offerings	175
Critical Incident Stress Management (national certification)	52
Crossing Guard Safety - 3 trainings	80
DA Training in Criminal Complaints	10
Durg Investigations	31

Training

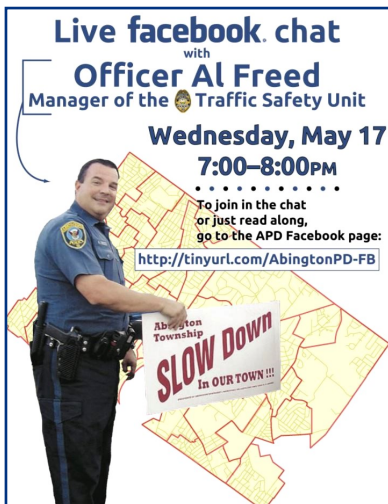
Course	Participants
DUI Checkpoint Certification - 3 courses	60
DUI Checkpoint Refresher	15
Dynamic Handgun - 3 classes	26
Evidentiary Processing	26
Emergency Management Hazardous Materials	25
Emergency Medical Supervisory Training	40
Field Training Officer Leadership	16
Fire Ventilation	15
First Aid & CPR - 2 courses	30
Hiring & Recruitment	30
Homicide Investigations	23
Kinetics	23
Management of Aggressive Behavior	10
Mine Resistance Ambush Protected Vehicle	50
MPOETC	30
Officers in Crisis	35
Personal Protection Consultants International	
Baton	18
Handcuffing	21
Pepper Spray	23
Police Officer Survival Training	20
Profiling and Data Policing	23
Retired Law Enforcement Identification ACT (for retirees) 5 offerings	70
Sergeant Field Training Officer Training	2
Sig Sauer Armorer	16
Skills Competition U.S.A. (Fire, EMS, Police Students)	40
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing - 2 Offerings	38 Ofcs./20 Citizen Volunteers
Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Refresher	20
Strike Force Team	60
Tactical Combat and Casualty Care	35
Tactical Recertification: Less Lethal, Pepperball, Taser	20
Tactical Team Scenario	25 Ofcs./50 Citizen Volunteers
Vehicle Fires	41

Community Policing

Members of the Community Policing Division are dedicated to supporting Abington Police Officers in their efforts to create positive community connections and to providing programs for youth and adults to promote the highest quality of life for the citizens of Abington Township. Division members are guided by the motto “Community First” as they work with citizens, business owners, community stakeholders, and those who travel through Abington Township. In addition to the support they give to officers and detectives, the Community Policing Division serves as a resource for Abington Township commissioners and staff

Crime Fighting and Communications

The number one goal of the Abington Police Department is to prevent its citizens from becoming victims of crime. To that end, it continues to operate using **COPPStat (Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving through Statistics)**. This model helps to ensure the seamless flow of information both up, down, and across ranks so that all officers have data at their fingertips as they work to serve and protect. Throughout 2017, Sgt. Gillispie kept the COPPStat website current with information about crime trends, scams, and alerts. He 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.



Ofc. Freed holds Live Facebook Traffic Safety Chat with citizens.

phere for community members to ask questions and learn more about the work of Abington Police Officers in their neighborhood.

PAL

The Abington Police Athletic League (PAL), in its 17th year, provides a safe place for young people age 11 through their senior year in high school to gather for fun and enrichment. It is made possible by officers who stop by while on patrol to play games with the boys and girls and help them get to know their police, volunteers who provide mentorship and supervision, and staff who help to run this organization in all its details. Highlights throughout the year include Cops vs. Kids sports competitions, arts and crafts, and game nights as well as off-site trips to sporting events and snow tubing. Summer golf camp teaches the sport and its etiquette. In August, PAL members can attend a week-long Police Academy to learn more about police work, such as SWAT, CSI, K-9, and other facets.

Abington PAL offers all of its services free so that no child is ever left out due

Operating in a community where newspaper services have dwindled and social media has expanded, the Division has significantly grown the Police Department’s social media presence as a major way to communicate with the people. They use **Facebook, Twitter, and the Department’s website (AbingtonPD.org)** to disseminate information, such as 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. They conduct periodic **Live Facebook Chats** on timely subjects throughout the year to keep the community apprised of crime prevention tips and helpful programs.

Another important way that Abington Officers connect with their community is **Coffee with A Cop**, held Saturday morning at local cafes and restaurants throughout the Township. Recognizing that the majority of police-citizen contacts happen during emergencies or other emotional situations, these coffee events enable officers and community members to connect face-to-face. In this way, they provide a conducive atmosphere for community members to ask questions and learn more about the work of Abington Police Officers in their neighborhood.



Ofc. Delaney with admirer at a Coffee with A Cop event.



Det. Duntzee teaches PAL Youth Academy attendees how to lift fingerprints.

Community Policing

to inability to pay. To raise needed funding, PAL held a spring benefit concert and its major annual October fundraiser, the International Food Festival. At that event, PAL honored Founding Abington PAL President Lew Klein as he stepped down in May after providing 16 years of guidance and leadership to make Abington PAL a reality. PAL also honored Retired Lt. Tom McNamara for his many years of service to the Food Festival as “Logistics Chief.”

Young Adult, Youth & Children Programs

The Department’s **Internship Program**, supervised by Sgt. Gillispie, is open to applications from college students majoring in some area of law enforcement. In 2017, 16 students benefited from the intern experience, coming from such educational institutions as Penn State Abington, Temple University, Campbell University, and Florida University.

Abington’s **Police Explorer Post #2900**, in its fourth 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 supports the Department by providing community service at numerous events. This included traffic control with Ofc. Freed at 5K runs throughout the Township, Honor Guard duty and security at the 24-Hour Relay, Unity Day, and the DARE Bike Run. In 2017 the Explorers assisted Horsham Police in starting their own Explorers Post and have plans to partner with them on events and trips in the future. They also visited an escape room as a team building exercise. They continue to assist the Abington Police Department with events in the community and learn about policing from officers who run the program.

The **Youth Aid Panel** program serves 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 underage drinking, drug use, retail theft, or anger management, youth can attend prevention programs offered online or through Aldersgate Youth Service Bureau. In 2017, panels heard 70 cases, up from 63 in 2016. Community Policing offered these young people weekend opportunities for community service, with three civilian part-time employees overseeing 1,323 service hours last year. 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, and helping to assemble equipment at PAL, and 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 78 child safety seat checks in its **Kids In Safety Seats (KISS)** program. For school-age children, the Division oversees a **Crossing Guard** program with 28 guards covering 26 intersections twice a day during the school year. They receive annual training/updates from Ofc. Freed and more recently also partnered in AAA training.

HUB

In its third year of operation, the Abington community HUB meets twice a month to connect those at risk to care and support from the appropriate community agencies. Key members of the community, from healthcare and social services to education and law enforcement, 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. The majority of issues addressed involve persons suffering from mental illness, domestic violence, substance abuse, runaways, families in financial need, and child abuse.



PAL Food Festival Honoree Founding President Lew Klein (left) and Retired Lt. Tom McNamara (second from right) with Chief John Livingood and Lt. Kelley Warner.



Abington Police Explorers help staff Pre Night Out booth for Department.

Community Policing

Adult Programs

Sgt. Gillispie ran a spring **Citizens Police Academy** for 26 community participants who enjoyed in-depth presentations and demonstrations from Detectives, the Tactical Team, the K-9 Unit, Traffic and DUI Enforcement, Crisis Negotiation, and other areas of police work. After meeting weekly for eight weeks, many graduates go on to become Volunteers in Policing (see below).



Twenty-six citizens graduated from the 2017 Citizens Police Academy.

The Division runs a **Victim Services Unit** for which Community Service Officer Harris trains and coordinates a group of volunteers. These people 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 2017, 776 victims were contacted through this program.

Another kind of victimization occurs when neighbors have unresolved disputes. Patrol officers or commissioners work on solutions but when they need additional assistance, they alert Community Policing to recurring situations. The **Conflict Resolution Team**, comprising a sworn officer, a civilian, and the Animal Control Officer, all of whom have received specialized training, respond appropriately. They contact the involved parties, initially trying to resolve issues by phone or an on-site visit. Sometimes they find it necessary to bring them together for mediation of their disputes. Last year, 29 neighborhood disputes were successfully mediated. Of that number, six 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 2017, the Community Policing Division oversaw 6,623 hours of volunteer work from 202 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, one volunteer served between 250 and 499 hours for the Silver Award, and two volunteers distinguished themselves by giving more than 500 hours of service each. 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 and/or outstanding dedication.



Jan Harris, Director of Youth Programs and head of the Victim Services Unit (holding plaque), was honored in Harrisburg for her outstanding commitment and dedication to the youth of Abington Township by the Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance who recognized individuals across the state for exceptional contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

Community Policing

Community Events

The Division oversees 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 23rd 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 (Citizens and Police Together), a unique citizen-police initiative since 1992, to provide mini grants up to \$500 to those who take a proactive approach to solving community problems and promoting positive activities. With support from the Division, CAPT ran the 12th annual **CAPT Bike Day** during which motorcycle-yclists enjoyed an escorted ride throughout Montgomery County. CAPT also provides significant funding for the Abington Police DARE program, a program many other departments have had to give up due to lack of funding.

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 Keswick 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 come 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.

Parking Violations

The Division provides a service to residents and business owners in monitoring parking meters and limited-time parking areas. **Parking Meter Violations** tallied 793 in 2017. The number of parking tickets that staff wrote in 2017 numbered 1,222. 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 \$129,300 was obtained through grants in 2017, up by \$55,600 from 2016. 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.



Start of 23rd annual 24-Hour Relay Challenge



Abington's all-volunteer Special Police meet citizens at Pre Night Out.

Community Policing

Traffic Safety

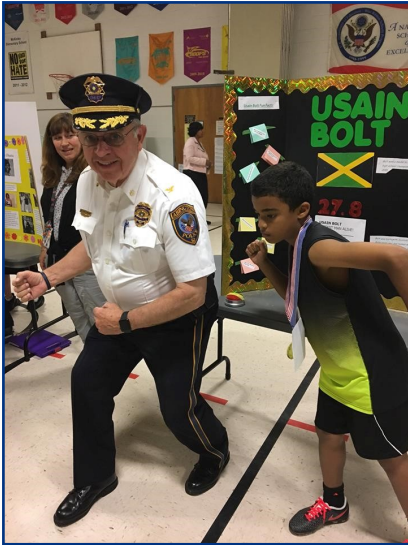
Abington's Traffic Safety Unit is headed by Traffic Safety Manager Ofc. Freed and staffed by Red Light Camera Program Manager Ofc. Posey. The Unit provides fellow patrol officers with additional expertise to ensure safe streets. These officers handle traffic complaints, surveys, and enforcement. Each June and September, they oversee the safety program **SAFE-T** (Safety in Abington through Focused Education and Traffic Enforcement) 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. Throughout the year and as needed, the Traffic Safety Officers run **Survival 101**, a course provided by the state to bring awareness to young drivers of distracted driving. Traffic Safety also assists with blocking roads at numerous 5K runs held throughout the year to benefit various community groups and organizations.



Left: Ofcs. Freed and Posey run a bike rodeo for students at Willow Hill Elementary School. Right, Chief (now retired) John Livingood meets a family who is pleased to take home a Kids at Play sign for their property.

Traffic Item	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Citations	1,025	981	12,567	1,257	1,447
Warnings	267	293	233	274	276
Arrests	21	20	11	33	33
Abandoned Vehicles	77	99	101	95	71
Crash Investigations	77	99	100	97	92
Truck Citations	107	116	126	139	150
Truck Fines	\$21,229.00	\$24,812.50	\$34,553.50	\$31,406.00	\$41,799.00
Overweight Truck Citations	2	5	2	7	4
Overweight Truck Fines	\$1,604.00	\$7,466.30	\$642.00	\$7,984.40	\$2,555.00
Trucks Placed Out of Service	8T, 4 D	10 T, 4 D	8 T, 4 D	15 T, 6 D	19 T, 13 D
Surveys	98	97	102	89	84

Community Policing Moments



Our Chiefs! Above: Chief (now retired) John Livingood at local elementary school "wax museum" character event. Below: Deputy Chief (now Chief) Pat Molloy visits with children at July 4th parade.



Community Policing Motto Community First

Ofcs. Posey and Freed at annual "Fill A First Responders' Vehicle" to collect food for two local community food pantries.



Connecting with our Community

Below, left: Abington Officers become part of "Patrick's Patriots" when they visited with a young community member who is battling leukemia.

Below, right: The Abington Township Police Association (ATPA) entered a team in the annual ALS Run in honor of Ofc. Bryan Rickards (front, center). The ATPA designed a t-shirt for their participation.



Ofc. Welsh (top) patrolling on Halloween gave out candy, some with lucky gold tickets. One lucky young man claimed his ride to school in a cop car with Ofc. Anderson.





Abington Police Department

"To Protect and Serve With Pride"

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



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Chief of Police	Patrick Molloy	267-536-1061
Deputy Chief	Kelley Warner	267-536-1067
Patrol Division	D.C. Kelley Warner	267-536-1067
Detective Division	Det. Sgt. Steven Fink	267-536-1113
Administrative Division	Lt. Chris Porter	267-536-1062
Community Policing Division	Sgt. Roger Gillispie	267-536-1077
Emergency Management	Thomas McAneney	267-536-1059

Units:

Animal Control	ACO Ron Griffith	267-536-1100 ext. 1236
Bike Patrol	Lt. Chris Porter	267-536-1062
Community Service	CSO Mary Carminati	267-536-1073
Crime Prevention	Sgt. Roger Gillispie	267-536-1077
Crisis Negotiation	Sgt. Joseph Blythe	267-536-1240
Firearms/Range	Lt. Earl Saurman	267-536-1070
Internal Communications	John Melair	267-536-1066
Juvenile Unit	Det. Sgt. Shawn Nisbet	267-536-1111
K-9 Unit	Lt. Kevin Magee	267-536-1069
Police Athletic League	Peggy Myers	267-536-1100 ext. 1235
Records & Information	Susan West	267-536-1085
Special Investigations	Det. Sgt. Shawn Nisbet	267-536-1111
Special Police	Sgt. Roger Gillispie	267-536-1077
	Sgt. Shawn Williams	267-536-1237
Tactical Unit	Lt. Chris Porter	267-536-1062
Traffic Safety	Ofc. Alan Freed	267-536-1078
	Ofc. Chris Posey	267-536-1076
Training Administration	Bob Sands	215-887-3514
Victim Services	CSO Jan Harris	267-536-1083
Volunteer Coordinator	CSO David Rondinelli	267-536-1082

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