

NORTH PLAINFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as Chief of Police for North Plainfield. Our Borough is unique with its diverse population and the police department comprises of some of the finest people in law enforcement. My goals and objectives are quite simple; I want to make North Plainfield the safest place to live, work, play and visit. We will engage the community as full partners to accomplish this task. Thank you Mayor Michael Giordano, Jr. for having the confidence and trust in me to do this job and I pledge to do my best in serving the residents of North Plainfield, its government, and the police department.

Prepared For:
Mayor Michael Giordano, Jr.
Date: February 4, 2019

Prepared By:
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Protecting with Pride... Serving with Honor
www.northplainfield.org/nppd

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2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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I. MISSION STATEMENT:

My top priority is to provide equal opportunity policing for everyone that lives, works or passes through North Plainfield. By this, I mean Law Enforcement Services will be fair, honest, and without bias. With the help of government and the members of the Police Department, I hope to build a mutual respect with all of our residents and business people. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani once said, "A town in which an increasing number of people respect and are willing to accommodate the rights of others is a community that is moving in a progressive direction." My goal is to move the Police Department in a progressive direction.

The North Plainfield Police are trying to instill our belief in community policing and establish a confidence that "we as police officers, care more about your well-being than your immigration status, ethnicity, or sexual orientation." In many communities across New Jersey, the relationship between members of the community and law enforcement is strained. Our mission as police officers is to prevent and solve crimes. That goal would be virtually impossible to do effectively if witnesses or victims had some reluctance to come forward. We have no concern about a person's immigration status and we do not ask that question of a victim or witness. It is imperative that law enforcement maintain the trust and support of the people they serve.

A high priority is placed on initial screening and training of our employees. A continuing in-service training program is designed to keep us current with modern law enforcement practices. We aim to combine high personal ethics, quality training, and perseverance to provide the best possible service to the people of North Plainfield.

II. ADMINISTRATION:

A. Staffing: The Police Department is operating below its authorized strength of 48 sworn officers. Staffing and deficiencies:

1. 1 Lieutenant's Position

B. Injured Officers During the Calendar Year for 2019

1. Officer Francis Steinhauser was placed out of work and on light duty several times from April 1, 2018 through June 2019 due to an on-duty injury. He was out a total of 289 work days.
2. Sergeant Christopher Bond was injured off duty on February 3, 2019 and missed a total of 82 days.
3. Officer Robert Kropewnicki was injured off duty and missed a total of 116 days.
4. On April 17, 2019, Officer Charles Halsted was injured during an on-duty arrest and missed 2 days of work.

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5. Lieutenant Edward Ciempola was injured off duty on May 6, 2019 and missed a total of 44 days.
6. Officer Timothy Boykoff was injured off duty on June 17, 2019 and missed a total of 29 days.
7. Officer Sabrina Romasz was injured on duty on June 23, 2019 and missed a total of 7 days.
8. Officer Francis Steinhauser was injured on duty on July 30, 2019 and missed a total of 3 days.
9. Officer Roberto DeJesus was injured on duty on August 2, 2019 and as of this writing is still out injured.
10. Officer Anthon Hoofatt was injured on duty on August 7, 2019 and missed a total of 3 days.

C. Promotions, New Hires and Retirements:

1. On January 31, 2019, Sergeant Michael Innella retired.
2. On February 11, 2019, Katrina Guevara was rehired as a civilian dispatcher.
3. On February 18, 2019, Dalton Lott was hired as a civilian dispatcher.
4. On February 28, 2019, civilian Parking Enforcement Officer Jessica Guevara resigned.
5. On March 15, 2019, Alexis Castillo and Luis Martinez–Balbuena were hired as probationary Patrol Officers.
6. On March 15, 2019, Officer James Garafalo was promoted to probationary Sergeant.
7. On April 19, 2019, Tyler Rayner was hired as a part time civilian Parking Enforcement Officer.
8. On October 15, 2019, Officer Bryan Lewis resigned.

III. CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION:

A. Case Log Report:

1. A comparison of general adult investigations for the past three years:

	2017	2018	2019
Investigated	1,047	987	906
Active	107	19	16
Suspended	306	308	261
Unfounded	0	49	69
Closed	634	560	552
Forwarded to SCPO	76	93	87

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2. A comparison of juvenile investigations for the past three years:

	2017	2018	2019
Investigated	203	235	318
Active	0	1	2
Suspended	9	5	18
Unfounded	0	7	7
Closed	194	229	296
Forwarded: other agencies	134	149	137

IV. COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

- A. During 2019, the Community Policing Unit advanced the department’s community outreach mission through a variety of means and venues including participation with various other organizations in classes, public forums, and special presentations. Maybe most importantly, the unit maintained a steady presence in the borough’s schools through DARE and GREAT curriculums being taught to all students in our district. DARE training is provided to all 5th grade students in the borough and GREAT training is provided to all 4th grade students. Additional supplemental GREAT training is provided to all 7th grade students. NPPD continues to have a full time SRO uniformed police officer present in our schools daily.
- B. On June 16, 2019, 255 students from Somerset School graduated from the DARE program. Detective Fowler was the master of ceremonies for the event which was attended by Mayor Giordano, Chief Parenti, & Captain Flynn. Detective Fowler continued to teach GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training), graduating 244 4th graders and 275 7th graders in 2019. In July, the Community Policing Unit, with assistance from multiple other members of our department and outside law enforcement agencies, hosted the Youth Police Academy for the 5th year in a row at West End School. Those involved and their parents all felt it was a great success. This year the Youth Academy graduated 22 cadets with a speech delivered by Lt. McKay. Funding has been cut back to the STEP program but it still went on as planned during the summer with the help of the Community Policing Unit and the Recreation Department. STEP, held from June to August is well attended with approximately 50-60 children attending each night. The STEP program was concluded with a year-end picnic for all attendees.
- C. The Community Policing Unit oversees the department’s Good Morning Program for our senior citizens. Every morning a member of the department calls all senior citizens registered with the program to see if they are alright and holds a brief conversation with the person. They also oversee the residential and business false alarm program and follow up with summonses and warnings to people in violation of the borough’s false alarm activation ordinance.

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- D. Both Detective Fowler and Detective Domizi are members of the Municipal Alliance. Detective Domizi is also the department liaison for the Resource Center of Somerset County which provides assistance to victims of domestic violence.
- E. National Night Out continues annually on the first Tuesday of every August and is organized and overseen by the Community Policing Unit. Multiple police vehicles, SWAT, and various fire apparatus were on display this year. As usual it was a well-attended event that grows bigger and bigger every year. The event includes music, food, and face painting for the children and continues to be a huge success.
- F. Operation Watchdog continued to grow in 2019 with home surveillance systems being registered weekly. The program continues to be available to all residents and business owners in the borough. This initiative has allowed the department to respond and expedite police resources during a crime or emergency and increases overall patrol response and investigative efficiency.

V. **SOMERSET COUNTY GUNS AND GANG TASK FORCE:**

- A. In 2019, Officer Parenti Jr. was the latest officer assigned to the County wide Task Force (OCANTF). The Task Force is made up of sworn police officers from around the County and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office who both investigate and initiate narcotic and vice investigations throughout the county. The goal is to eliminate illegal drugs and guns from the streets of Somerset County. An investigation may begin with an arrest in another town but the investigation may lead throughout the county or the state of New Jersey. During 2019, members of this Strike Force spent a total of approximately 165 man hours trying to develop information on activity in the borough and following up on complaints made by citizens of the borough. The following is a partial list of the investigations that Officer Parenti Jr. and the Task Force participated in that either took place in the borough or were in some way connected to a complaint or investigation from the borough;
 - 1. Raid conducted at a Somerset Street bar which netted 20 grams of cocaine and \$300.00 in currency.
 - 2. Search warrant and subsequent raid was conducted at a North Plainfield massage parlor after a lengthy investigation. Three subjects were each charged with various offenses.
 - 3. 5 grams of cocaine, 4 ounces of marijuana, and synthetic marijuana was seized after a search warrant on a Watchung Avenue residence.
 - 4. 20 "decks" of heroin and an 1/8th of marijuana were seized after a search warrant at a North Plainfield apartment complex.

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VI. INTERNAL AFFAIRS:

A. During 2019, the police department logged 25 Internal Affairs complaints.

Investigation #	Classification	Disposition	Corrective Action
19-01	Demeanor	Not Sustained	N/A
19-02	Demeanor	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-03	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-04	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-05	Demeanor	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-06	Differential Treatment	Not Sustained	N/A
19-07	Harassment	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-08	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-09	Rules Violation	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-10	Demeanor	Exonerated	N/A
19-11	Rules Violation	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-12	Demeanor	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-13	Demeanor	Exonerated	N/A
19-14	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-15	Harassment	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-16	Harassment	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-17	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-18	Rules Violation	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-19	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-20	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-21	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-22	Harassment	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
19-23	Demeanor	Not Sustained	N/A
19-24	Demeanor	Administratively Closed	N/A
19-25	Rules Violation	Sustained	Sanction (R&R)
17-03	Rules Violation	Pending	Pending

VII. PATROL DIVISION:

A. The Patrol Division had 12 marked patrol cars in service and logged the following

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miles of patrol for the last three years.

	2017	2018	2019
Patrol Miles	167,833	189,389	192,482

We have worked hard motivating the officers to continually patrol each street in their district. Again, this year the number of miles driven has risen slightly. I firmly believe a conspicuous Patrol operation communicates a sense of protection to our citizens, and acts as a deterrent to criminal or mischievous activity.

B. Traffic summonses issued: A comparison of the last three years:

Type of summonses	2017	2018	2019
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	39	39	54
Moving Hazardous Violation	889	518	714
Moving Non-Hazardous Violation	1,504	1,143	1,290
Borough Ordinance Violation	84	134	85
Parking Violation	1,902	1,816	2,110
Radar	226	166	286
Written Warnings	3,949	4,342	4,022
Totals	8,615	9,014	9,722
Refusal Breath Test Included in (DWI above)	17	16	15
Summons included in above totals	4,666	4,672	5,700

C. Radar: officers spent 2,878 hours on those posts

Brook Avenue	Oneida Avenue
Clinton Avenue	Parkview Avenue (east of Clinton)
Craig Place	Parkview Avenue (west of Clinton)
Duer Street	Rock Avenue
Farragut Road	Rockview Avenue (between Harrington and Clinton)
Greenbrook Road	Rockview Avenue (between West End and Rockview Terrace)
Grove Street	Route 22 both east and west
Harrington Avenue	Somerset Street (North of 22)
Harrison Avenue	Somerset Street (South of 22)
Howard Street	Sycamore Avenue
Interhaven Avenue	Warfield Road
Leland Avenue	Washington Avenue
Manning Avenue	Watchung Avenue (North of 22)
Mountain Avenue	Watchung Avenue (South of 22)
Myrtle Avenue	West End Avenue
Netherwood Avenue	Westervelt Avenue

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Norwood Avenue	Willow Avenue
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D. Parking Enforcement Report

Year end totals:

	2017	2018	2019
Total Summons Issued	5,640	5,465	5,139

Revenue:

	2017	2018	2019
Meters	113,675.28	122,312.38	126,610.95
Permits	8,995.00	13,270.00	18,310.00
Total	122,670.28	135,582.38	144,920.95

The meters were bagged from 12/11/19-1/2/20 for the holiday season (only Title 39 was enforced during this period).

VIII. RECORDS DIVISION:

A. Fees collected: A comparison of the last three years:

	2017	2018	2019
Fees Collected	4,858.71	5,164.97	5,233.03
Calls for Service/Responses	27,783	28,604	31,721
Discovery Requests	254	222	407
Report Requests	3,869	3,193	3,952
Pieces of Evidence/Property	384	603	590

B. Yearly Arrest Analysis, a comparison of the last three years:

	2017		2018		2019	
	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile	Adult	Juvenile
Murder	0	0	1	0	0	1
Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	3	0	4	0
Robbery	6	0	3	2	3	4
Aggravated Assault	9	0	10	0	9	0
Burglary	6	0	6	1	1	6
Larceny/Theft	34	4	26	5	24	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	0	0	0	1
Simple Assault	35	3	56	2	66	4
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forgery	1	0	3	0	3	1
Fraud	4	0	7	0	3	0

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Embezzlement	0	0	2	0	0	0
Stolen Property	6	1	2	0	0	0
Criminal Mischief	8	3	6	0	4	3
Weapons	3	2	4	1	2	1
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sex Offenses	1	0	2	0	2	1
Violation of Drug Laws	83	9	96	2	83	6
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0
Offenses Against Family & Children	0	0	0	0	1	2
Driving Under the Influence	26	0	37	0	46	0
Liquor Law Violations	1	1	0	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	8	0	15	4	35	3
Vagrancy	0	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew and Loitering Violations	0	1	0	0	0	0
All Other Offenses	136	6	126	8	111	8
Total UCR Arrests	368	30	370	25	366	41
COC other Arrests	372	0	433	0	334	0
Total Arrests	740	37	803	25	700	41

IX. UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

A. The following is a comparison of the Uniform Crime Offenses, Part I, for the past five years:

Year	Crime Index Total	VIOLENT CRIME						NONVIOLENT CRIME								
		Violent Crime	Non Violent Crime	Crime Rate Per 1,000	Violent Crime Per 1,000	Non violent Crime Rate Per 1,000	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson	Domestic Violence	Bias Incidents
2015	367	41	326	16.7	1.9	14.9	0	4	24	13	83	226	17	1	194	0
2016	440	55	385	20.1	2.6	17.6	0	6	29	20	90	272	23	0	166	0
2017	571	63	508	26.0	3.0	23.2	0	6	41	16	77	404	27	3	175	0
2018	377	39	338	17.2	1.8	15.4	1	7	18	13	54	272	12	0	222	0
2019	329	48	281	15.0	2.3	12.8	1	11	26	10	36	234	11	0	233	0
Up/Dn	-48	9	-57	-2	0	-3	0	4	8	-3	-18	-38	-1	0	11	0
%	-14.6	18.8	-20.3	-14.6	18.8	-20.3	0.0	36.4	30.8	-30.0	-50.0	-16.2	-9.1	0.0	4.7	0.0

Small changes from year to year do not necessarily represent a trend. For example, if the murder rose by one and would indicate a 100 percent increase on its face value.

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DEMOGRAPHIC DATA				POLICE EMPLOYEE DATA			
2010 Census Population	Area in Square Miles	Density Per Square Mile	Character	Male Officers	Female Officers	Civilian	Total Police Employees
22,010	2.8	7,929.64	Urban/Sub	45	1	6	52
22,010	2.8	7,929.64	Urban/Sub	46	1	6	53
0	0	0	Urban/Sub	1	0	0	1
0.0	0.0	0.0	Urban/Sub	2.2	0.0	0.0	1.9

X. TRAFFIC SAFETY:

A. A comparison of vehicle crash information for the last three years:

	2017	2018	2019
Total	899	907	921
Summons Issued for crash	359	396	527
Refuse Breath Test	5	3	3
Driving While Intoxicated	22	19	23
Hazardous	233	258	362
Non-Hazardous	95	116	139
Alcohol Related	4	0	0

B. Breakdown of Reportable and Non-Reportable Crashes for the last three years:

	2017	2018	2019
Rt 22-Reportable	300	305	289
Rt 22 Non-Reportable	25	43	34
Boro Streets- Reportable	398	379	398
Boro St Non-Reportable	34	29	30
Private Property-Reportable	115	116	147
Private Prop Non-Reportable	27	35	23
Total Reportable	813	800	834
Total Non-Reportable	86	107	87

C. Crash Injury Report for the last three years:

	2017	2018	2019
Reports W/Injuries	143	131	132
Persons Injured	167	188	281
Fatal	0	1	2

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IV. TRAINING DIVISION:

The Department Training Sergeant is responsible for providing all State mandated training for the department. Additional duties include vehicle maintenance, securing, maintaining and copying the in-car video recordings, and updating the files needed to maintain our coveted Accreditation.

In 2019, the members of the Department were instructed in various police related topics which are divided into the following categories by the NJ Attorney General's Office:

- A. Mandatory Training- Firearms (General Order Review and Qualifications), Use of Force, Pursuit Driving, Domestic Violence and Eradicating Racial Profiling. All of these except Eradicating Racial Profiling were two times during the training year.
- B. Mandatory In-Service Training Due to a Particular Assignment- Blood borne Pathogens (On Line Training), Right to Know, HAZMAT Awareness (On Line Training), CJIS, IT Password Audit, Opiate Antidote training, Developmental Disabilities (On Line Training), Sexual Assault Response (CLEAR) training, Patrol Response to Active Shooter, CODIS, RADAR, OC Spray, Fit Test and PPE training, ERPO training.
- C. Voluntary In-Service Training- CPR/AED/First Aid (Department Refresher), Personal Protective Equipment, Tourniquet Application, Standard Response Protocol, Narcan Refresher, BEAST.
- D. Department Off-Site Continuing Education Courses- Members of the Department, to enhance personal development and professionalism, were instructed in 49 of the following police related topics. These classes consisted of the following:
 - Active Threat Integrated Response (1 member)
 - Interview and Interrogation (1 member)
 - Interpersonal Communications (1 member)
 - RADAR Instructor (1 member)
 - DARE Officer Training (1 member)
 - Annual CODIS Conference (1 member)
 - Investigating Elder Fraud (2 members)
 - Alcotest Re-cert (28 members)
 - UCR Reporter Training (2 members)
 - Traffic Incident Management Seminar (2 members)
 - RIA Successful Use of Social Media (1 member)
 - DWI, SFST (3 members)
 - Annual Firearms Instructors Meeting (3 members)
 - Resiliency Summit (1 member)
 - MV Laws Update (1 member)

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- CJIS Modernization Project (2 members)
- ERPO (4 members)
- Firearms Instructor Certification (2 members)
- SFST (2 members)
- When Words Fail (2 members)
- Class II Waiver (1 member)
- ARIDE (2 members)
- Preventing Hostile Work Environment (2 members)
- Gang Recognition and Documentation for Intel Gathering (2 members)
- Autism Shield (1 member)
- Current Trends in Document Fraud (1 member)
- FARS Training (1 member)
- OPRA for Practitioners (1 member)
- Leadership and Supervision (1 member)
- Overcoming Complexities in Sexual Assault Investigations (1 member)
- Domestic Violence and the Use of Technology (1 member)
- Document Fraud for L.E. (1 member)
- Alcotest (2 members)
- Human Trafficking (1 member)
- NJ Learn Supervisor Training (1 member)
- Best Practices Managing Use of Force Events (2 members)
- Detecting Misleading Behaviors in Narcotics Investigations (1 member)
- Child Passenger Seat Safety Technician (1 member)
- Patrol Rifle Instructor (2 members)
- Gang Awareness (5 members)
- NJ Gang Awareness and Identification (1 member)
- Synthetic Drug and Fentanyl Awareness and Safety Conference (1 member)
- Excel 2 for Law Enforcement (2 members)
- Interview and Interrogation with Russell Strand (4 members)
- Gracie Survival (1 member)
- L.E. Response Sexual Assault Investigations (2 members)
- NJTR Crash Form Refresher Course (1 member)
- Anxiety and Trauma in Autism (1 member)
- DARE Opioid Abuse (1 member)

E. Accreditation- 306 hours setting up files and finding proofs

Respectfully submitted,



William G. Parenti
Chief of Police