

PALMYRA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



PREPARED BY
SCOTT PEARLMAN
CHIEF OF POLICE

PALMYRA POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

The Palmyra Police Department's mission is to provide professional and ethical public safety services in partnership with citizens to identify, prevent and solve the problems of crime, fear of crime, social disorder and neighborhood decay, thereby improving the quality of life in our community.

CORE VALUES

Ethical Behavior

We maintain the trust of the community through honesty, compassion and fairness.

We adhere to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct.

We respect the rights of all citizens and employees.

Protecting the Community

We recognize our primary responsibility is the protection of life and property.

We are responsive to the behavior and conditions that lead to crime and the fear of crime.

We understand that training and technology are critical elements of effective crime prevention strategies.

Diversity

We appreciate our differences and recognize that unique skills, knowledge and backgrounds bring strength to the community.

We aspire to create a police department that reflects our community.

We embrace and include our community by seeking their input and responding to their concerns.

Problem Solving

We work in partnership with the community to identify and resolve problems.

We encourage innovation, creativity and positive thinking.

We are open, receptive and willing to adapt to our dynamic community.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As another year goes by 2016 was no different than 2015 as we worked at a deficit of officers due to work and non-work related illnesses. As I said last year, it would appear to be a common theme over the last couple of years. With the appointment of two (2) new officers in 2015 and a new officer in 2016 I do believe we someday will have everyone healthy and have a full complement of officers. Through these shortages our officers maintained the highest quality of service to our residents and worked to provide as safe of a town as possible.

Throughout 2016 our officers remained proactive and as the year ended we continued to maintain a reduction in burglaries from 2011, 2012 and 2013. Continuing our efforts from the last couple of years we saw our number of burglaries in 2016 drop to a low of twenty-two (22). We also saw a decrease in robberies, reporting only two (2) robberies in 2016.

The department continued our efforts to provide information to the public through the use of the department's Facebook page. The page was developed by Det. Shawn Benedict and launched to the public in July of 2012. At the end of 2014 a decision was made to adjust the page so that the page was comment free. This change was made in an effort to provide information to the public and maintain a page that was friendly to all that visit it. The Palmyra Police Department Facebook page can be found on the web at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Palmyra-Police-Department-NJ/2955239603884007>. Don't forget to like us on Facebook when visiting the page.

The department also maintains the NIXLE and Swift 911 Notification Systems . We encourage all of our residents to visit the Borough Website, sign up for NIXLE and Swift 911 Notification Systems.

Three years ago the department started to allow for the distribution of Accident Reports through Carfax. All of the department's accident reports are placed on CrashDocs.Org. This allows those involved in an accident to receive a copy of the report without coming into the police station. Reports may be retrieved from anywhere that someone has computer access. In 2016 we continued to see a significant drop in requests from the public for accident reports thanks to our partnership with Carfax. It is important to note that reports retrieved through the Carfax system are free to those involved in a collision.

Our community outreach continued to expand in 2016 as we worked to provide members of community with the most access to the police department as possible. In April the department worked with the Burlington County Sheriff's Department on our first Youth Summit. The Summit was held on Saturday April 16th at Palmyra High School. The Summit was open to all Palmyra High School students and featured numerous speakers and a question and answer panel. The panel was made up of Palmyra Officers Omar Kendall and Destinee Quintero and Sheriffs Officer John Williamson.

For a fourth year the department worked with the Becker Family of Bucks County Pennsylvania in taking Palmyra youth to a Phillies game. In 2013 Ricky Becker and his parents approached the department seeking help for Ricky; who was completing a community project. Ricky, a major Phillies fan, was looking to take twenty-five under privileged children and a parent to a Phillies game. In 2016 the Police Department again worked with Mayor and Borough Council and the Palmyra Board of Education to bring this trip together. On May 20, 2016, two (2) Palmyra School Buses left the Palmyra Community Center for Citizens Bank Park. It was an excellent night by all who attended. We also need to thank the Palmyra Seniors Program who volunteered to help prepare the hot dogs for the game.

In 2014 we held our first Junior Police Academy. First Sgt. Osinski along with the assistance of Ptlm. Snow and Ptlm. Jankowski ran a mini police academy for Palmyra students in the 7th or 8th grade. Youth recruits attended training in police, fire and emergency medical operations. In 2016 they were also treated to a trip to Burlington County Central Communications and Virtua Hospital in Voorhees. Our 2016 Junior Police Academy was even more successful than the previous years with another increase in our junior recruits participating in the Academy.

In 2015, First Sgt. Osinski put together the department's first Senior Police Academy. The Police Department worked with the Palmyra Seniors Program and one (1) day a week over six (6) weeks groups of local seniors were introduced to different areas of public safety. During this time, they also made a trip to Burlington County Central Communications. This program continues and is a favorite among the Palmyra Seniors Program.

In 2016, we held our first Citizens Police Academy that was open to adult residents of Palmyra. Attendees met at police Hq's one night a week for nine (9) weeks. During this time, they were instructed in police operations, criminal investigations and court procedure. They took a field trip to the County Public Safety Center for a tour of Central Communications and indoor firing range. The highlight of their experience were the availability for two (2) ride a-longs with our officers on patrol. The academy was well received by those who attended and will be continued.

In 2016, we continued our community policing efforts. As in the past, we participated in Palmyra Day with displays of police equipment and juvenile fingerprinting. We also worked with the Borough Council and held our second annual National Night Out. The Palmyra Police and Fire Departments, Palmyra, Riverton, Cinnaminson EMS and New Jersey Transit Police treated the public to displays. Those that attended were treated to musical entertainment by the local band "Friends" and a moon bounce for the kids. Food was provided by Simonetti's Pizza, Manny's Pizza, the Barista and Franco's.

As we attempted to spread our community outreach, the department held a Barbeque Meet and Great at Ethel B. Hardy Park on September 21, 2016. As officers barbequed hot dogs we had a great opportunity to meet residents answering questions they may have and have general conversation.

In September at the start of the school year we were fortunate to have completed a shared service agreement with the Palmyra Board of Education. As the school year started, Ptlm. Omar Kendall started his new position as School Resource Officer. Ptlm. Kendall has been providing education in numerous areas to students at both Charles Street School and Palmyra High School. Ptlm. Kendall's presence has been a great asset to both the students and school staff but also the police department.

In October, our department took advantage of an Attorney General grant of \$8,500.00 for the implementation of Body Worn Cameras. With these funds along with capital funding from the borough we purchased body worn cameras for all of our officers, in-house server and backend library software. We have implemented a policy in line with the Attorney General's Directive and all of our officers are wearing body worn cameras.

The end of the year saw appointment of three (3) local members of the clergy who had volunteered to be Police Chaplains for the department. This program has been two (2) years in the making and one that we hope expands to other houses of worship within the borough.

We look forward to serving the community and providing services with the highest level of integrity. Should you have questions or need to inform us of a problem or issue feel free to e-mail us at police@boroughofpalmyra.com. The police department administration can be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at 856-829-0198.

Scott Pearlman
Chief of Police

COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Over the past couple of years, law enforcement throughout the country has come under fire for numerous situations that have occurred. We have done our best to help improve our interactions with our residents and those we serve. Attempting to provide the highest level of service with honor and integrity.

Over the past year numerous residents have come to the police department to personally thank us. We would like to take this time to thank those that have dropped off goodies of all types to our officers. The additional cookies, cakes, hoagies, candy and ice cream was very much appreciated and enjoyed by all of the members of the department.

PERSONNEL

Although we started 2016 with our full strength of seventeen (17) officers, we remained with a shortage in patrol due to a long-term work related injury. This shortage did not slow our officers down as they continued to be extremely proactive throughout the year.

In the spring of 2016 the Borough Council and Board of Education entered into a three (3) year shared service agreement for the police department to supply a school resource officer (SRO) to the school district. Ptlm. Kendall a fifteen-year veteran of the department was chosen as our SRO. Ptlm. Kendall completed SRO training prior to the start of the school year.

In order to remain at a full staffing level in our patrol division a new officer was hired. In July of 2016 Aaron Martinez was hired by the Borough of Palmyra as a patrol officer. Aaron had been a Special Law Enforcement Officer II in Burlington City prior to coming to our department.

CURRENT DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Chief Scott Pearlman
Lieutenant Meghan Campbell

First Sergeant Joseph Osinski
Sergeant Josiah Murphy
Sergeant Timothy Leusner
Sergeant Stephen Coveleski

Detective Shawn Benedict
Detective Arek Arargil

Patrolman Omar Kendall – School Resource Officer

Secretary Gerry Bright

Patrolman Alex Alven
Patrolman Brian Johnson
Patrolman Scott Snow
Patrolman Jeremy Jankowski
Patrolman Tyler Main
Patrolman Alexander Hubel
Patrolman Destinee Quintero
Patrolman Aaron Martinez
Patrolman – to be filled

SLEOII John Quigg Jr (Court Security)
Records Clerk Renay Montgomery

CROSSING GUARDS

Every school day, twelve (12) crossing guards man traffic posts throughout the Borough to provide for the safe crossing of our students. The guards are at work during some of the harshest weather conditions and deal with the worst of drivers as they perform their assigned tasks. The guards come under the direct supervision and authority of the police department. As such the department provides each guard with yearly training and maintains their equipment. In 2015, as an added safety measure we installed flashing red lights on all of our guards' stop signs. We also distributed to all crossing guards Yaktrax shoe cleats for use during snow and ice conditions.

CURRENT CROSSING GUARD POSTS

Cinnaminson Ave and Temple Boulevard
Cinnaminson Ave and Broad Street
Cinnaminson Ave and Charles Street
Broad Street and Weart Boulevard / Chestnut Street
Broad Street and Park Ave
Market Street and West Fifth Street
Park Ave and Spring Garden Street
Charles Street and Walnut Street
900 Block Walnut Street at Kindergarten Door
Charles Street and Filbert Street

CURRENT GUARDS

Geraldine Bright – Guard Captain
Clarence Belton
Sara Ercolono
Michele Gentile
Michael Gilbert
Anne Golden
Winifred Koch
Cindy Palmer
Jennifer O'Connell
Barbara Zeyher

Substitute Guards
Kathaleen DeLuca
Donna Duaima-Ward
Joseph Dulisse
Joanne Logue

INJURIES AND ACCIDENTS

In 2016 the police department reported three (3) work place injuries. Of those reported injuries two (2) involved police officers and one (1) involved a crossing guard. The department makes every effort to provide for a safe work environment, however most injuries to police officers are the result of struggles with combative arrestees. In 2016 injury to a police officer resulted in 159 days of work either missed or on light duty. A large majority of the time missed or on light duty was actually a carryover from an injury that resulted towards the end of 2015.

In 2016 the department logged 81,956 miles of patrol. This number shows the large amount of time our officers spend in their patrol cars. With this amount of time, mileage and the need for emergency responses, the percentage of officer involved motor vehicle crashes are high. In 2016 with all of the miles of patrol we reported one (1) motor vehicle crash involving our officers.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

CRIMINAL CASES ASSIGNED

The figures below represent the number of criminal cases completed through the year. Criminal cases for 2016 were only slightly higher from the previous year. Criminal cases are investigative reports initiated by our officers which range from criminal mischief, assault and burglary to sexual assaults.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
TOTAL CRIMINAL CASES	1165	1150	1029	1071

ADULT ARRESTS

The figures below represent the total number of adults arrested by the police department in the last four (4) years. These numbers reflect the number of adults placed under arrest by Palmyra Police Officers and processed at our headquarters.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
ADULT ARRESTS	618	725	584	627

JUVENILE ARRESTS

The figures below represent the total number of juveniles arrested by the police department in the last four (4) years. These numbers reflect the number of juveniles taken into custody by Palmyra Police Officers and processed at our headquarters.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
JUVENILE ARRESTS	37	35	33	24

CRIMINAL FILINGS

When the police department makes an arrest criminal complaints are completed and filed with the court. These charges are known as Disorderly Persons offenses and Indictable offenses. The New Jersey code refers to violations of law in terms of “crime” or “offense”. Whenever the code uses the term offense, it is referring to a disorderly person or petty disorderly person charge. By contrast, a crime is an offense that is customarily defined as a felony in other states and involves exposure to six (6) months or more in possible incarceration in jail. An individual is entitled to have allegations of a crime presented to a grand jury, hence NJ’s reference to these offenses as Indictable. An individual arrested for a Disorderly Persons offense has no right to a grand jury as these are non-indictable charges punishable by a maximum period of imprisonment of six (6) months.

In 2016 our department saw a substantial increase in the amount of criminal complaints completed. Along with this increase was an increase in the number of Indictable Offenses forwarded to the Prosecutor’s Office for prosecution.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Criminal Complaints Filed	352	325	301	388
Disorderly Persons Offense	284	311	271	364
Indictable Offenses	182	136	113	210

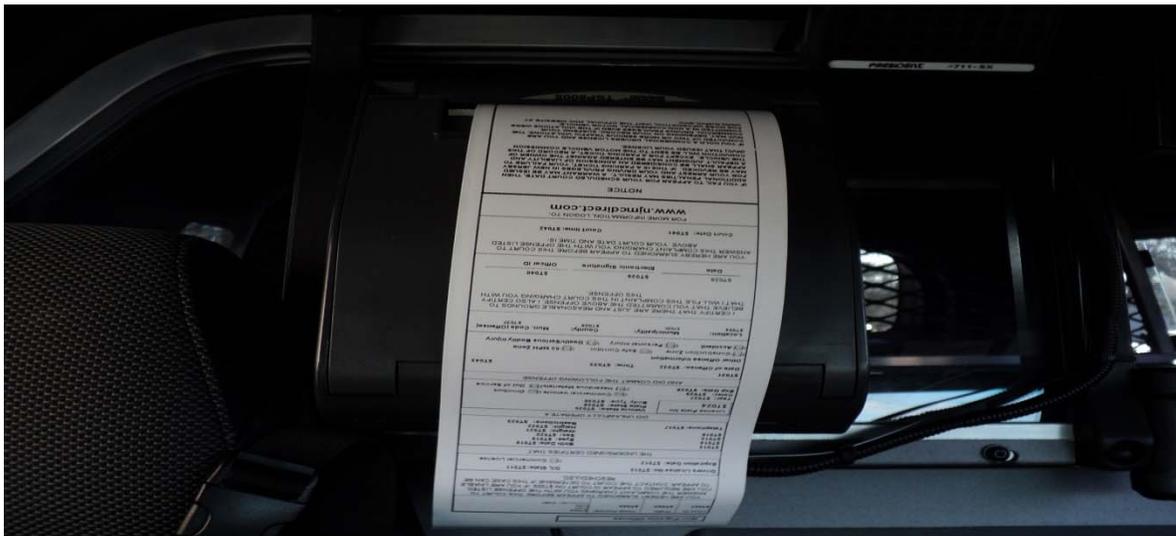
MOTOR VEHICLE AND BOROUGH ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS

In addition to criminal filings officers are consistently enforcing motor vehicle laws and local Borough ordinances. Shown below are the last four (4) years totals of motor vehicle summonses our officers issued, the borough ordinance violations issued and the number of car stops conducted by our officers.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Motor Vehicle Summonses	2715	2630	2412	2600
Borough Ordinances	174	108	101	45
Motor Vehicle Stops	3293	3458	2814	3094

Electronic Ticketing

In June of 2012 the Borough entered into a five (5) year contract with GTBM of East Rutherford to provide E-Ticketing for the police department. In moving to E-Ticketing, Palmyra joined a number of other Burlington County Departments which have signed agreements with GTBM. The move to E-Ticketing allows for officers to prepare tickets with fewer errors, but helps to reduce the time it takes an officer to complete a motor vehicle summons. The system also automatically docketes the summons with the court, cutting down on court personnel man hours for entering every summons issued in the Administration of Courts computer system. Printers are mounted in all of our patrol cars.



DWI AND TRAFFIC ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Enforcement of State and Local traffic laws along with the investigation of motor vehicle collisions are the direct responsibility of the department's patrol division. When officers are not tied up with criminal investigations, they are required to perform radar and problem specific details. Among these details is the proactive patrol for intoxicated drivers.

Patrol officers are also responsible for the investigation of all motor vehicle accidents within the Borough.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
DWI Arrest	19	27	37	26
Motor Vehicle Accidents	191	155	189	181

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the largest unit within the Police Department and provides for the core function of the Police Department. The primary function of officers assigned to the patrol division is to respond to calls for service from borough residents. These calls range from neighbor disputes, domestic violence incidents and burglaries in progress to motor vehicle accidents and medical assistance calls.

As the first officers arrive at calls they are responsible to provide medical attention, protect and recover evidence, interview witnesses and ascertain if criminal activity has occurred. If a crime has occurred they are tasked with identifying those involved and ultimately arresting those responsible. These calls can require a large amount of time allocated to report writing and case preparation.

When patrol officers are not handling calls for service they are tasked with multiple responsibilities. Officers are required to provide proactive patrol so as to suppress crime, enforce traffic laws, conduct residential and commercial property checks and interact with borough residents.

In 2015 the appropriate strength of the patrol division returned to thirteen (13) officers. On August 15, 2016 Borough Council appointed Aaron Martinez as a Patrol Officer. Ptlm. Martinez was appointed to fill the vacancy left when Ptlm. Kendall was moved from patrol to work as the Department's School Resource Officer. Patrol officers work twelve hour shifts, rotating from day work to night work. Current staffing allows for an officer to work a mid day power shift to help supplement patrols. Unfortunately this officer is frequently moved to cover shift shortages for training, vacations and illnesses.

An addition to the Patrol Division was the reappearance of bike patrol. After a four (4) to Five (5) year break due to staffing levels we have once again begun patrolling the streets on bikes. The unit works on a part-time basis when our staffing allows. Ptlm. Alex Alven has been assigned as the supervisor and is overseen by Sgt. Stephen Coveleski. The officers for the bike unit were trained with the assistance of the Mount Holly Police Department. Officers assigned to bike patrol are Sergeant Stephen Coveleski, Patrolman Scott Snow, Arek Arargil and Jeremy Jankowski and will spend part of their patrol time riding bikes. The bikes will help officers to see things they may not have seen from their cars and also bring them closer to our residents.



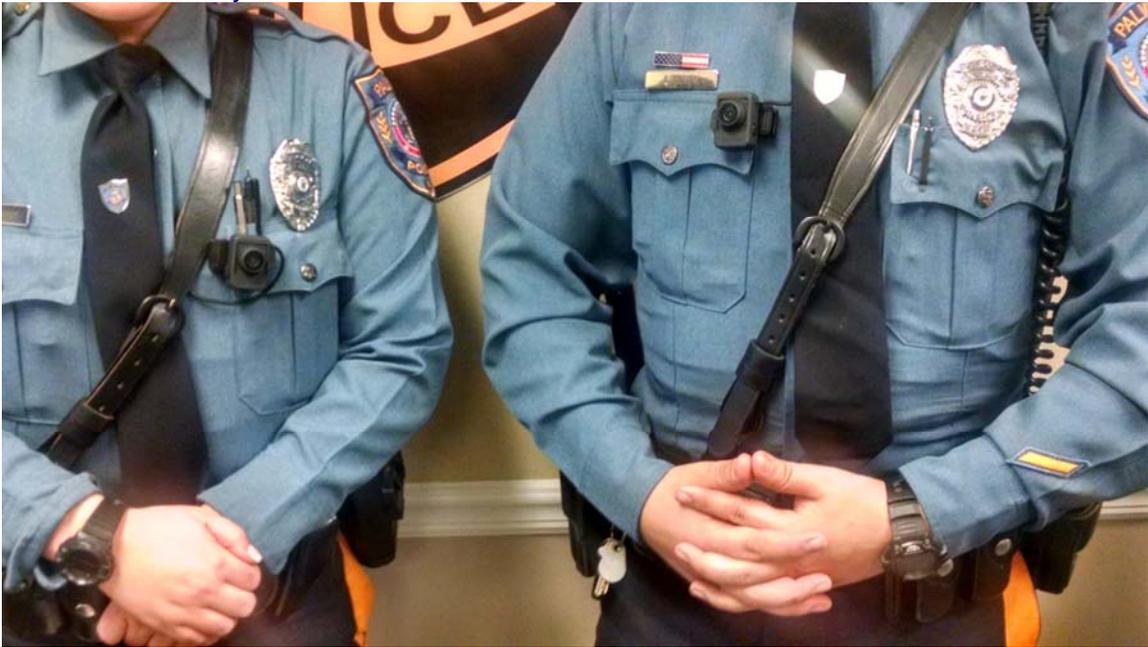
NARCAN DEPLOYED BY OUR PATROL DIVISION

In early 2014 Burlington County joined Ocean County in training patrol officers in the deployment of Narcan (Naloxone Hydrochloride). Our patrol officers were trained in the administering of the drug which is given to a victim of an opiate overdose nasally. During 2016 our officers had administered Narcan ten (10) times, saving the lives of all ten (10) people. Our patrol officers carry Narcan along with another one of our life saving tools, our Automated External Defibrillator (AED).



BODY WORN CAMERAS

In October of 2016 the Palmyra Police Department with the financial assistance of an \$8500.00 grant from the NJ Office of the Attorney General purchased body worn cameras. The department entered into an agreement with Digital Alley of Lenexa, Kansas and purchased body worn cameras and backend library management software. The police department has been utilizing in-car video since the mid-1990's and currently uses the Panasonic Arbitrator HD system in all of our patrol cars. Through proprietary software and equipment Digital Alley's body worn cameras will activate when the patrol cars emergency lighting is activated. The use of different manufacturers for in-car video and body worn cameras provides our officers with some redundancy should one system fail to capture an event. Currently our officers are activating their body worn cameras and in-car video systems on most citizen contacts and calls for service.



CALLS FOR SERVICE

Over the last four (4) years the department has seen a consistent number in our calls for service and self-generated work. Our calls for service and self-generated work averages 19,939 for the four-year period.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Calls for service	20,318	19,365	19,777	20,297

MOST FREQUENT CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE

There are numerous calls for police service that are time consuming, of these calls are domestic dispute incidents. Domestic Violence calls consist of numerous crimes committed by family members, subjects in dating relationships and two (2) subjects that currently or previously resided together. Domestic Violence calls have led to the death or serious injury to numerous officers across the country. For this reason Domestic Violence calls require the response of two (2) officers.

TYPE OF CALL	NUMBER OF CALLS			
	2013	2014	2015	2016
911 Misdeal	107	73	84	93
Alarm – Burglary/Holdup/Fire	416	366	368	364
Emergency Medical Assist	682	663	670	661
Fire Company Assist	153	132	154	160
Domestic Disputes	197	118	123	119
Robbery	12	0	7	2
Burglary	47	26	26	22
Property Checks	4676	3610	4373	5320
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	468	338	423	367
Motor Vehicle Stops	3293	3458	2814	3094

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

After years of discussion in the spring of 2016 the Palmyra Board of Education and the Mayor and Council agreed on and signed a Shared Service Agreement for a School Resource Officer. The three (3) year agreement provides for the Palmyra Police Department to provide an officer to the school district full time from September through June. The officer is responsible for providing school security, security recommendations, providing educational classes to students and work on building an improved connection with our youth.

PtIm. Omar Kendall a fifteen (15) year veteran of our department, Palmyra High School graduate and member of the PHS Sports Hall of Fame was chosen as the School Resource Officer. PtIm. Kendall has been working diligently with the principals and counselors to add to the schools educational process. Some of these programs and lessons involved stranger danger, social media use and a parent's program with Drug Free NJ on alcohol and drug use by teens.



DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Palmyra Police Department is responsible for the continued investigation of numerous crimes which are reported within the borough. These crimes range from residential and commercial burglaries, robberies, unattended deaths, sexual assaults and the sale and distribution of controlled dangerous substances. Detectives complete all crime scene processing and maintain the department's evidence inventory. Detectives are also required to maintain contact with county, state and federal agencies to keep criminal intelligence current.

In 2009, in a need to better track cases assigned to the detectives, a central log was created. This log denotes the assigned case, when supplemental reports are completed and the case status. In addition to criminal investigations members of the detective bureau are responsible for the investigation and paperwork for firearms applications and permits and all applications for the transfer of all Alcohol Beverage Control permits issued within the borough. One detective is also responsible for the registration and investigation of Megan's Law registrants residing in the borough.

The detective bureau is staffed by two (2) detectives and supervised by the Lieutenant of Police.

Detective Shawn Benedict has been a police officer for eighteen (18) years and with the Palmyra Police Department since 2000. Detective Benedict has been assigned to the detective bureau since 2001.

Detective Arek Arargil has been a police officer since 2011 and with the Palmyra Police Department since 2013. Detective Arargil was assigned to the detective bureau in January 2016.

A total of one hundred and five (105) cases were assigned to the detective bureau in 2016.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cases Assigned	154	141	128	105
Submissions to County Forensics Sciences Lab	61	87	72	86

MEGAN'S LAW

The detective bureau also maintains the local Megan's Law Registration. Detective Benedict is responsible for maintaining an up to date registration on every person living within the borough who is classified by the state as an offender and required to register.

Once an offender is classified they are placed in one of the three (3) tiers.

Tier 1 offenders are those offenders, who once classified, are considered to be at low risk for re-offending.

Tier II offenders are considered to be at a moderate risk for re-offending.

Tier III offenders are those offenders considered to be at a high risk of re-offending.

Currently there are sixteen (16) individuals residing in Palmyra who are required to register under Megan's Law.

Nine (9) registrants are tier I
Seven (7) registrants are tier II

Seven (7) individuals are required to register every ninety (90) days and nine (9) must register annually.

FIREARMS PERMITS

Detective Arargil is responsible for the investigation and issuance of all applications from residents to purchase a handgun or for a firearms identification card. In 2016 the detective bureau processed sixty-one (61) firearms applications, issued ninety-four (94) permits to purchase handguns and issued forty-two (42) firearms identification cards. This is an increase over last year and an increase over our four year average.

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Firearms Applications	65	45	53	61
Permits to Purchase	74	43	82	94
Identification Cards	38	18	30	42

RECORDS DIVISION

In 2012 the department was able to re-establish the position of records clerk with the appointment of a part-time records clerk. This had been a full time position until fiscal issues in 2011 required the position be eliminated. This cut the staffing in half and left one secretary to perform the clerical work of the entire department. Renay Montgomery, a Palmyra resident, was appointed in 2012 as the department's part-time records clerk. The records division is staffed by Secretary Gerry Bright and Records Clerk Renay Montgomery. The following is a brief list of responsibilities that are completed by the department's records division.

- ❖ Report maintenance / New World Systems
- ❖ Case preparation for the County Prosecutor's Office
- ❖ Data entry and filing
- ❖ Copies of reports for private citizens
- ❖ Completion of discovery request for Attorneys
- ❖ Isolate reports/cases approved for expungement
- ❖ Issuance of handicap placards
- ❖ Process juvenile complaints
- ❖ Assist in compiling monthly statistics
- ❖ Prepare monthly Uniform Crime Report

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Palmyra Police Department is committed to providing ethical police services with the highest degree of integrity. Our officers are held to the highest of standards in the performance of their duties as police officers and in their personal lives; expected to observe the rights of all citizens. It is the ultimate responsibility of the Palmyra Police Department that our officers adhere to these standards.

The purpose of the Internal Affairs Policy governing the Palmyra Police Department is to improve the quality of police services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. This confidence builds community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between the police and the citizens they serve facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor compliance with department policy and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assist officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits supervisors to identify problem areas requiring increased training or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of police officers.

In 2016 there were a total of twenty-four (24) Internal Affairs Investigations. The investigations were related to complaints of policy violations, differential treatment, and demeanor and damaged property. Nine (9) complaints were sustained, three (3) were exonerated, three (3) were unfounded, two (2) were not sustained and seven (7) were administratively closed. No investigations were carried into 2017. Of those complaints that were sustained penalties ranged from written reprimands to the loss of time.

JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

In March of 2014 our department worked with the Riverton Police Department and the Burlington County Sheriff's Department on presenting a Youth Police Academy. The Academy was open to children ages 7 to 12 years old. Classes were held on three (3) consecutive Saturdays at the Palmyra Community Center. Academy participants received classes on gun safety, cultural diversity, Police Canine (K9) and safety with strangers to name a few of the lessons taught.

This academy led to our department conducting a five (5) day Junior Police Academy for students entering the 7th and 8th grades. First Sgt. Joseph Osinski prepared the lesson plan for the week and worked with Ptlm. Jeremy Jankowski and Destinee Quintero to run the program this year. The program ran from July 25th thru July 29th 2016 to meet the following goals:

1. To familiarize youth with the role of a police officer.
2. Provide hands-on experience of a wide variety of law enforcement functions as well as the various types of emergency services and required training.
3. The opportunity to gain a deeper respect for our laws. Hopefully experiencing positive interactions with different facets of our justice system.

Academy recruits received instruction from members of the Palmyra Police Department, the Burlington County Prosecutor's Office Crime Scene Unit, NJ Transit Police K9 Unit, Palmyra / Riverton / Cinnaminson EMS, Virtua Paramedics, and Palmyra Fire Department. Recruits participated in daily physical fitness training.

Academy recruits also went on two (2) field trips. Recruits were taken to Burlington County Central Communications where they toured the County 911 Center and the County's in-door gun range. The second trip was to the Virtua Hospital with tours of Emergency Medicine, morgue, lab and training lab.

Recruits were kept busy throughout the week learning many facets of police work. From how car stops are conducted to how to recover finger prints from a crime scene. Although they appeared to enjoy everything involved in the training the highlight may have been the two (2) field trips. The week of training ended with a graduation held in the Council Chambers.



SENIOR POLICE ACADEMY

In 2015 the Police Department started our first Senior Police Academy. Members of the department worked with the Palmyra Seniors Program in effort to provide public safety based education to our seniors. Those attending the program met one day a week for approximately ten (10) weeks for two (2) hours. Seniors were provided information on police operations, medical and fire services along with home safety provided by the Burlington County Sheriff's Department. They also took a field trip to Burlington County Central Communications for a tour of the county communications center and police indoor firing range.



CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

This year the department embarked on our first Citizens Police Academy open to adults of Palmyra. This program also focused on education into law enforcement services. Classes included police operations, investigative services, and municipal court operations. Members of Citizen Police Academy Class One also made a field trip to the county communications center, police firing range and were able to use the county's use of force simulator. However the highlight were the ride a-longs with Palmyra Police Officers on patrol. Each attendee was given the opportunity to partake in two (2) ride a-longs with officers. We believe our first academy class was awesome and plan on continuing the program.

YOUTH SUMMIT

On Saturday, April 16th the Burlington County Sheriff's Department, the Palmyra Police Department, Palmyra Borough Council with the assistance of the Palmyra Board of Education held a Youth Summit at Palmyra H.S. Approximately 40 Palmyra H.S. students spent the day hearing from numerous speakers to help them to make the right choices to hopefully help them to be successful in their future and to help create a better bond with local law enforcement.

Those attending listened to County Freeholder and Navy Reserve Lt. Commander Ryan Peters. Lt. Commander Peters enthralled everyone with his life experiences as a kid from Mount Laurel who went on to become a Navy Seal, a Lawyer and now County Freeholder.

Local Palmyra Grads Dana Dreby and Jimmy C. Lindsay shared their life successes and showed that there can be success once you leave Palmyra H.S.

Michael Hilton, an extraordinary individual who turned his life around from a street gang member to a NJ State Boxing Champion. Michael has recently moved into professional boxing, winning his first professional fight. Michael spoke about his life.

Trace B. Simms is the founder and facilitator of the "Save Our Youth Program" at the Federal Correctional Institute at Fort Dix.

After the students enjoyed lunch they participated in a police panel question and answer forum. The panel was comprised of three (3) officers, Sheriffs Officer John Williamson spent 19 years with the Camden City Police Department and now works for the Burlington County Sheriff's Department. Palmyra Patrolman Omar Kendall is a Palmyra HS Alumnus and Palmyra HS sports hall of fame honoree. Patrolman Kendall has been with the Palmyra PD for 15 years. The third officer on the panel was Palmyra Patrol Officer Destinee Quintero. Destinee is one of the youngest and newest members of the Palmyra PD. Destinee was hired in 2015 and comes to us from Ocean County.

During the forum the officers on the panel, along with some input from Chief Pearlman and Council President Norcross, answered questions posed by the students. This provided answers to how and why the police operate on a daily basis. It also provided information that helped show that the police officers were no different than everyone else, having families and activities outside of police work.

The event was a huge success which we look forward to repeating in 2017.



BECKER FAMILY PHILLIES TRIP

On Friday May 20th with the help of the Becker Family of Bucks County, PA and the Palmyra Board of Education, Palmyra Police Officers escorted Charles Street School Students and a parent to Citizens Bank Park to watch the Phillies play the Braves. In 2013 Ricky Becker worked with our department to put together the trip as part of a community project. The Becker's enjoyed the trip so much that they asked that the trip continues into future years. In 2016 the Becker's supplied the tickets for the game, the Board of Education provided two (2) buses for transportation and the Police Department supplied food and escorts. The Becker Family along with Chief Scott Pearlman, Sgt. Joe Murphy, Sgt. Tim Leusner, Patrolman Brian Johnson, Tyler Main, and Det. Arek Arargil accompanied everyone to Citizens Bank Park.

A special thanks to the Palmyra Seniors for making our hot dogs.



2016 TORCH RUN

For the fourth year Palmyra Officers have participated in the NJ Torch Run for Special Olympics. Sgt. Tim Leusner has spear headed our department's efforts in working to put the event together. On Friday June 10th Sgt. Murphy, Sgt. Coveleski, Det. Arek Arargil, Ptlm. Alven along with officers from surrounding towns participated in the Run.

The annual event is run by members of the law enforcement community in support of Special Olympics. For the last four (4) years Palmyra Officers have worked to support the run. This year they donated over \$2000.00 from donations from local supporters. One of 2016's largest local contributing donator was F.C. Kerbecks.

PALMYRA DAY

The Police Department worked with Mayor and Council for Palmyra Day. Over the years the department has worked with the different organizations that have taken on the task of putting together Palmyra Day. The Police Department put on our first Public Safety Day in 1996 under the direction of Chief Robert Fow. In 1998 the event was combined with Palmyra Day in cooperation of the Palmyra Business Alliance.

Palmyra Day has become a festival event with demonstrations by all of our local emergency services partners, numerous food and craft vendors, a children's play area and this year an enlarged car show.



ETHEL B. HARDY MEET & GREET BAR-B-QUE

Every year we work to increase our community outreach and this year was no different. On September 21st we held a meet and greet barbeque at Ethel B. Hardy Park. This was a great event for members of our department to meet residents in an informal setting. Residents met our newer officers, reconnected with our older officers and were able to ask questions they may have had. The night was a success and an event we will repeat in 2017.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Our second National Night Out was a huge success!! We want to thank everyone that helped to make it a great night! Once again we had a great turnout which far exceeded what our expectations were and we couldn't be happier! Lt. Campbell and Sgt. Leusner worked to make our second Annual National Night Out great. Those that attended were able to meet and greet members of the Police and Fire Departments, Palmyra EMS, NJ Transit Police Officers and our CERT members.

Officers provided tours of Police Headquarters and numerous pieces of equipment were on display. Music was provided by local band Friends, food was provided by Simonetti's Pizza, Manny's Pizza, Franco's and the Barista. The Corvair Cruisers had a cruise night and a moon bounce was on hand for the younger people. It was a great night and we are already planning for 2017.



2016 NOTEABLE CASES

February 2016 Palmyra Detectives received a hit confirmation from a DNA swab taken from evidence left at the scene of the June 2010 armed robbery of Palmyra Liquors. The DNA matched 39-year-old Charles Webb. Det. Shawn Benedict charged Mr. Webb with the 2010 robbery. Mr. Webb was served his complaints at Mercer County Jail where he was being held on other unrelated charges.

On 2/20/2016 at approximately 1pm, Ptlm. Jankowski stopped a subject on the Riverline Train platform for violation of a borough ordinance. The subject, Matthew Bitzer, provided a false name and as officers attempted to detain him, he pushed officers away and jumped over the train platform railing fleeing from officers. Ptlm. Jankowski chased after Matthew Bitzer. Matthew continued to struggle with officers causing Ptlm. Jankowski to slightly injured his knee. Matthew was charged with assault on a police officer, resisting arrest, possession of a hypodermic needle. Matthew also had an outstanding warrant.

On 2/25/2016, George Bell of Riverside and Mason Nogera of Palmyra were stopped in the area of Cinnaminson Ave and Spring Garden Street for jaywalking. Officers found that Mason Nogera was wanted on an outstanding warrant and he was taken into custody. Further investigation found that Bell had been meeting Nogera in order to sell him narcotics. Bell was found to be in possession of numerous folds containing a substance believed to be heroin. Bell was charged with possession of heroin and possession with the intent to distribute. Nogera was charged with loitering to obtain a controlled dangerous substance.

On 3/4/2016 Palmyra officers were dispatched to Santander Bank for a subject attempting to commit a fraud. Arriving officers made contact with the bank manager who pointed out a gentleman that was attempting to withdraw \$18,700.00 from one account, deposit a portion of the funds in his personal account, and take the balance in cash. As officers spoke with the male he attempted to leave the bank but was stopped by officers.

Further investigation revealed that the suspect identified as William Diaz had possibly been involved in additional bank frauds. The subject was charged with numerous offenses and lodged in the Burlington County Jail.

On 3/21/2016 officers responded to a residence on the 500 block of Race Street for an assault that had just occurred and a subject that was unconscious. On arrival, officers found the victim in the residence on the floor bleeding from his head. It was learned that a resident of the house, Lloyd Howard, had assaulted the victim. Lloyd was not on location and the victim was transported to the hospital. Criminal complaints for aggravated assault were signed against Lloyd Howard. Mr. Howard was taken into custody on a later date and lodged in Burlington County Jail.

On 3/31/2016 Palmyra officers opened an investigation for the property owner and resident at 514 Race Street for maintaining a nuisance. Police had responded to the residence for multiple issues and problems over the past year. The disorderly issues at the residence were also the basis for complaints made to the police by numerous residents from the area. The resident, Margaret Howard, was served a complaint for maintaining a nuisance in April of 2016.

On 4/15/2016 officers responded to the Roger Wilco Liquor store on Rt. 73 and West Broad Street for a burglary and theft from the building. Additional reports were taken on 4/16 and 4/25/2016 for criminal trespass to a secured fenced area adjacent to the building. Investigating officers identified the subject as William Bond of Palmyra. Mr. Bond was arrested on 5/12 and charged with burglary, theft and two (2) counts of criminal trespass.

On 6/24/2016 an officer observed a vehicle parked facing the wrong way on the wrong side of the street. The officer drove past the vehicle two (2) times and when the vehicle did not move, he stopped to speak with the driver about the parking violation. While speaking with the driver the officer detected a strong odor of raw marijuana emanating from the vehicle. The driver stated he had smoked marijuana earlier and when informed that the vehicle was going to be searched the driver admitted that there was indeed marijuana in the car. After removing the driver and occupant from the vehicle officers searched the vehicle and recovered a clear plastic bag containing marijuana and a second bag containing 40 oxycodone pills. The driver, Karl Jones of Philadelphia was charged with numerous drug offenses and lodged in Burlington County Jail.

On 8/16/2016 Russell Wadsworth of Palmyra was arrested for the 2012 theft of tires and rims from a vehicle in Palmyra. Detectives had received a hit confirmation on fingerprints that had been lifted in 2012 at the time of the theft. Russell Wadsworth was charged with theft and criminal mischief. At the time of arrest, Russell was lodged in Burlington County Jail.

On 8/14/2016 officers investigated a burglary and theft to an apartment on East Broad Street. On 8/23/2016 officers investigated a second burglary and theft from the Country Fresh store on East Broad Street. From video surveillance, detectives were able to develop information on a possible suspect, Michael Harrison of Palmyra. After an interview with detectives, Michael was charged with both burglaries and thefts.

On 10/02/2016 an officer was in the area of the Palmyra Flea Market and believed he had heard a gunshot. After hearing the possible gunshot, the officer observed a black Hyundai leaving the market. The officer stopped the vehicle as it exited and spoke with the driver Victor Tirado. Mr. Tirado stated that he accidentally discharged an imitation firearm inside his vehicle.

The officer recovered the gun from the car and found that it was an imitation firearm. The gun was painted to appear real with no safety features to indicate it was not an actual firearm. It also contained a magazine loaded with blank ammunition rounds.

After being placed under arrest officers found Mr. Tirado was in possession of two (2) balloons containing "K2" bath salts and additional blank ammunition. Mr. Tirado was also found to be wanted out of the State of Pennsylvania. Mr. Tirado was charged with being a fugitive from justice, possession of an imitation firearm for an unlawful purpose and possession of bath salts. Mr. Tirado was lodged in Burlington County Jail.

On 10/25/2016 Lloyd Howard of Palmyra was arrested for the 2012 robbery and aggravated assault of a subject leaving the Park Tavern. This arrest was made based on DNA evidence that had been recovered from the crime scene in 2012. Mr. Howard was served in Burlington County Jail where he had been lodged on earlier charges.

On 12/08/2016 a woman asked to be escorted to the Light Rail platform by flagging down officers on patrol. She advised officers that a black male had been in Manny's Pizza and was causing a disturbance. She said that the man had walked into the Wawa as she was walking to the Light Rail. Another subject stopped officers and advised that the subject in Wawa was causing a disturbance and that she felt the Wawa workers were in fear for the safety.

Officers entered the store and spoke with the subject who appeared to be loud and disorderly in his actions. The subject continued to reach for waistband as officers spoke with him. As officers searched the subject for weapons, they found that he had a steak knife concealed in his waistband. The subject, Juawan Peterson of Cinnaminson was charged with disorderly conduct and weapons offenses and lodged in Burlington County Jail.

2016 GRANTS AWARDED

In 2016 the Palmyra Police Department received the following grants:

Click It or Ticket	\$ 5,000.00
Drive Sober Get Pulled Over – End of Year DWI Grant	\$ 5,000.00
Federal Vest Replacement Fund	\$ 1,327.50
NJ State Vest Replacement Fund	\$ 1,943.57
Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	\$ 1,826.07
Attorney General Body Worn Camera	\$ 8,500.00
Safe and Secure Grant	\$39,485.00
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Total Grant Money Provided in 2016	\$63,082.14

2016 CAPITAL EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Capital improvement funded in 2016 was the addition of a 2016 Ford Police Interceptor All Wheel Drive to our fleet. This vehicle replaced a 2003 Expedition with over 100,000 miles which had served our department well. This replacement was part of our ongoing up keep of vehicle fleet.

We purchased a second Message/Speed Sign. The signs are being deployed to alert drivers of their speeds on borough roads, notification to upcoming events and traffic notifications.

In helping to maintain electronic equipment three (3) in-car computers were replaced in our patrol fleet.

A Jamar Electronic Traffic Counter Recorder was purchased. We are currently using this piece of equipment and accompanying software to track traffic and speed on borough streets.

2016 YEARLY ACTIVITY REPORT

MILES OF PATROL	74,788.7
CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE	20,297
CRIMINAL CASES ASSIGNED	1071
CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS ISSUED	388
DISORDERLY PERSON OFFENSES	364
INDICTABLE OFFENSES	210
ADULT ARRESTS	627
JUVENILE ARRESTS	24
DRUNK DRIVING ARRESTS	26
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES	167
WARRANT SERVICES	692
MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS	3094
TRAFFIC SUMMONSES	2600
TRAFFIC WARNINGS	1402
BOROUGH ORDINANCES	45
BURGLARIES	22
ROBBERIES	2
THEFTS	174
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFTS	3
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF REPORTS	78
TOTAL VALUE STOLEN PROPERTY	\$111,378.00
TOTAL VALUE RECOVERED PROPERTY	\$26,470.00

2017 INITIATIVES

As we move into 2017 we have increased our sworn staff to eighteen officers with the addition of a School Resources Officer. As I complete our annual report we are in the hiring process to fill a vacated patrol position that will bring us to our authorized strength of officers.

Over the last three (3) years we have worked to add our footprint into the community and we will be working to not only stay at this level but hopefully increase it. We started with our Senior and then Junior Police Academies, lastly we added a Citizens Police Academy and we plan to continue with all of three in 2017. Dates have been set for the Senior and Junior Academies and we are looking at our dates for the Citizen Academy.

Through our newly appointed School Resource Officer we are hoping to increase our outreach with the youth of Palmyra. We are looking at various programs to help us in this direction from an after school club to an Explorer Program.

Community Policing will continue to be our mantra in 2017 as we take a guardian approach to policing as opposed to that of a warrior. With this in mind we will continue to participate with the community with Palmyra Day and work to improve National Night Out. Our Meet and Greet at Ethel B. Hardy Park was a success, so we will work to enlarge this event by possibly moving to Legion Field. We will also attempt to host other events such as coffee with a cop continuing to grow our interaction with those we serve.

Once again we will be working with the Becker Family of Philadelphia on a trip for Palmyra students to attend a Phillies Game. This has turned into a great night enjoyed by all that attend.

We will also continue our “Drive Slowly We ❤️ Our Children” Campaign. The Police Department is still offering yard signs to residents at a nominal fee. We are hoping to increase driver awareness and have signs placed throughout the town.

Last year we worked with the Sheriff’s Department on a Youth Summit which was held at the High School. This proved to be a knowledgeable event for those that attended and helped us in getting to know our high school students. We will hope to repeat this event in 2017.

As always we continue to strive to work with our neighboring police departments and other police departments throughout the county to help keep Palmyra as safe as possible.

On behalf of the men and women of the Palmyra Police Department I would like to thank Mayor and Council along with the residents of Palmyra for their continued support. It is impossible for the department to function as well as we do without the help of everyone in our community.

Scott Pearlman
Chief of Police

