



# CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NJ DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



**2023  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY

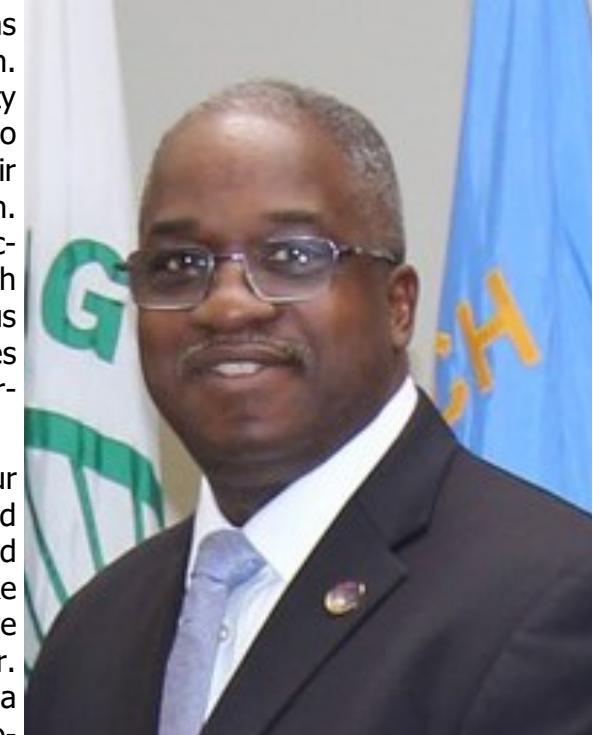
Reflecting on the past year, I am proud to present the 2023 annual report for the Department of Public Safety. The report highlights our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of our community, as well as the many accomplishments, dedication and hard work of our team members.

In October of 2022, I had the privilege of being appointed as the new Director of Public Safety for the City of Long Branch. It's been a great honor to lead and to serve the community with the dedicated professionals working here. I would like to thank the members of the Public Safety Department for their warm welcome and support during my period of acclimation. Over the past year I have had the opportunity to get acquainted with many members of our community. I met with representatives of various organizations, including religious and social advocacy leaders. Learning of the many cultures here in Long Branch has provided me with a greater understanding and appreciation of their collective needs.

In 2023, the Police Department answered over thirty-four thousand calls for service and the Fire Department responded to over sixteen-hundred incidents. These responses included direct calls from the public and self-initiated calls. We take great pride in responding expeditiously and look to resolve citizen requests in the most efficient and effective manner. Furthermore, in 2023, the administration began conducting a broad review of the Police and Fire department's hiring processes, tables of organization, staffing, policies, procedures, rules and regulations. This review will likely extend into 2024. However, the review and required adjustments will establish appropriate reporting relationships, lines of authority, accountability, and will enhance the delivery of public safety services to the community.

In 2023, the Police and Fire Departments received significant grant funding. The state grant for the Police Department helped to offset costs associated with Popup Parties. Fortunately, as a result of legal action and the hard work of our police officers, such parties were held to a minimum. Additionally, through the efforts of Chief Miguel Guarda, the Fire Department received an equipment grant to cover the costs of purchasing personal protective gear.

In 2024, the Public Safety Department will focus on achieving greater community collaboration and engagement through participation and implementation of various programs. We believe that partnering with the community will lead to an improved quality of life for all who live, work or visit Long Branch.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Groughton".

# LONG BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT



# MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Detective Captain Jorge Silverio graduated from the Long Branch High School in 1997 and was hired as a Class I Officer that same year. Soon after, he was hired as a Class II part-time Officer before becoming a full time Class II/Dispatcher in 1998. He joined the Long Branch Police Department as a full-time Patrolman in August of 1999. During his tenure, D/Capt. Silverio has been assigned to the Traffic Bureau, Patrol Commander, Support Services Commander and the Detective Bureau Commander.

Throughout his career, Capt. Silverio has attended several Undercover Schools, been certified as a Hostage Negotiator, and has earned numerous awards and commendations, including two separate Honorable Service Awards in 2005 and 2013, an Exceptional Duty award in 2021 for pulling a child out of a River as well as multiple Unit Citations.

D/Capt. Silverio was promoted to Sergeant in 2004, where he served as a Supervisor for the Patrol Division and then the Traffic Division. In 2015, he was promoted to Lieutenant where he served in the Patrol Unit before being transferred to Administration as Assistant Patrol Commander. In 2019, he was promoted to Captain and became the Patrol Commander. In 2023, he was transferred to the Detective Bureau as the Detective Captain Commander. In September 2023, he was appointed as the Officer in Charge for the Long Branch Police Department.

During the past year, the Long Branch Police Department (LBPD) continued to make significant strides in enhancing public safety and community engagement. Through these initiatives we are seeing a reduction in several crime categories. Targeted efforts, particularly in high-crime areas, contributed to this reduction.

Our department emphasized building stronger relationships with the community. This included expanded outreach programs within our Community Policing Unit, participation in local events, along with a continued focus on transparency through our open data initiatives.

Our Technology and Innovation improvements continue through enhancing our online reporting system and implementing advanced tools for crime analysis. We also continue to promote the "Alert Long Branch" system, which provides residents with timely notifications on emergencies and community news.

Training and Development also continues with the department's commitment. We have continued to invest in training programs that ensure that our officers are well-equipped to handle diverse situations. These include mental health crises along with de-escalation techniques. We also initiated the Arrive Together program this year.

The Long Branch Police Department is also committed to enhancing Traffic Safety. Our efforts to improve road safety were also prioritized, with initiatives aimed at reducing traffic violations and improving pedestrian safety throughout the city.

This year's accomplishments reflect the LBPD's ongoing commitment to maintaining public safety and fostering a positive relationship with the Long Branch community.

DET. CAPT. Jorge Silverio OIC



# MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Long Branch Police Department is committed to providing a safe community and improving the quality of life for all people.

We accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equality and impartiality. In partnership with the community, we reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, we demand of ourselves the highest professional standards and dedication to our core values.

# CORE VALUES

## Professionalism

In our actions, conduct, and job performance. Committed to training, education, individual self-discipline, service orientation and other attributes of a true professional.

## Respect

For all citizens, each other, and for differing points of view, regardless of age, race, gender, appearance, individual beliefs, or lifestyles.

## Integrity

Truthful & honest in word and deed. Ethical, being guided by the concept of fundamental fairness in everything we do, doing what is right.

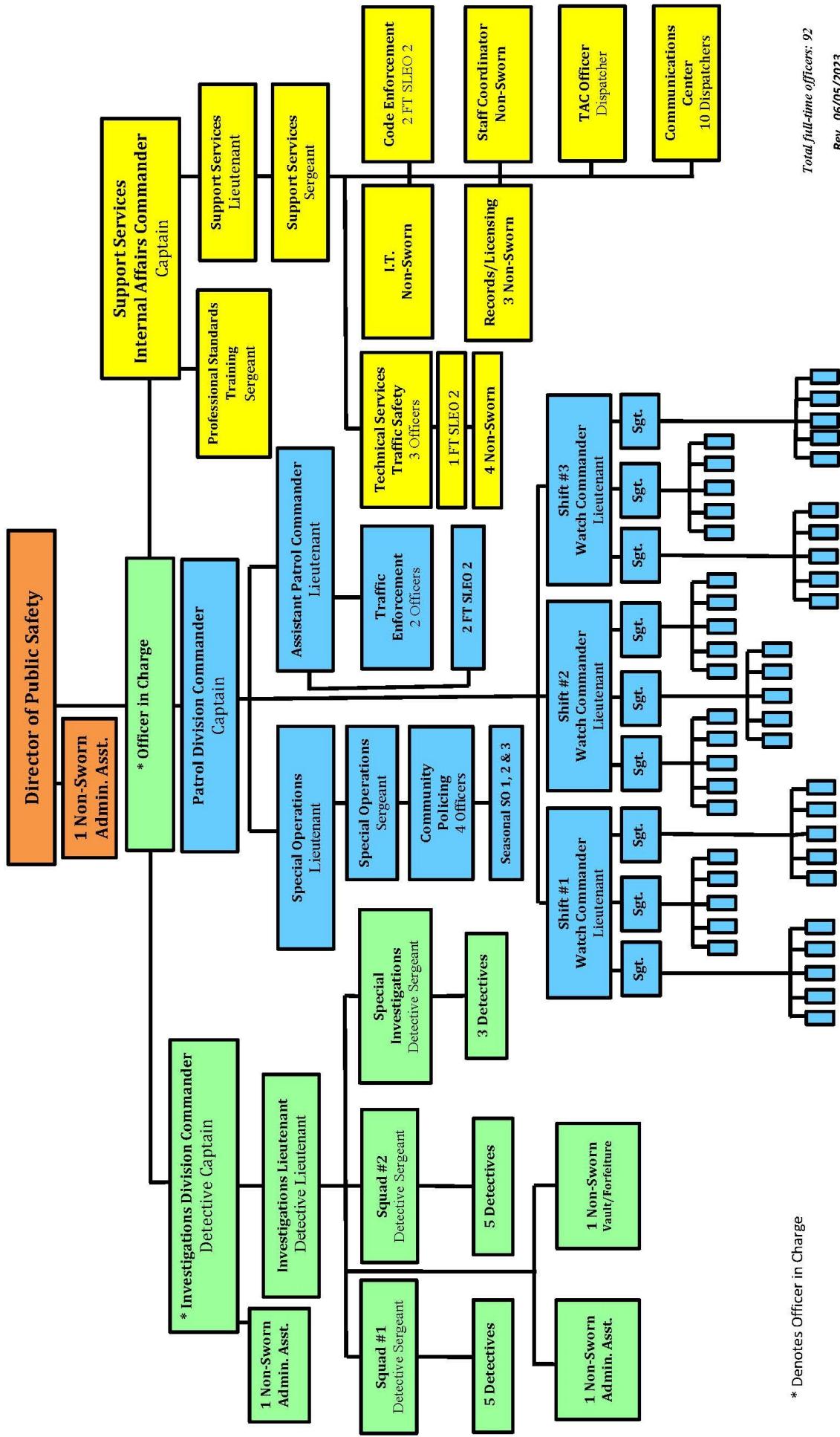
## Dedication

To the organization, each other, our families, and the citizens we serve. Empower department members and citizens to work together to solve community problems.

## Excellence

In everything we do. Seeking to improve and excel, always.

## TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



\* Denotes Officer in Charge

*Total full-time officers:* 92

Rev. 06/05/2023

# OFFICERS & RANKS

## PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

William Broughton

## SERGEANTS

Antonia Gonzalez #270  
Sam Jung Yoo #317  
Michael Decker #312  
Hector Umana #328  
Joseph Kennedy #324  
David Graminski #302  
Matthew Widdis #325  
Stanley Eskridge #313  
Tracey Widdis #310  
Kijung Kim #327

Cpl. David House #296  
Joseph Spitale #339  
Nick Romano #342  
Daniel Richards #347  
David Stone #349  
Robert Poss #356  
Brian Oliveira #344

## DETECTIVES

Conor Mullan #362  
Jesus Otero #340  
Sergio Chaparro #352  
Daniel Cunha #373  
Christopher Gant #301  
Joseph Pannullo #380  
Steven-Grant White #358

## CAPTAINS

Richard O'Brien #345  
Kimberly Leavy #308  
Francis Sheldrick #367  
Kevin Romano #368

Joshua Bard #300  
Jorge Silverio #295

## LIEUTENANTS

Christopher Hazel #291  
Stanley Mooney #263  
Robert Bell #329  
Brian Garrett #306  
Brendan Cahill #318  
Marshall Brown #319  
James Beirne #354  
Julio Delacruz #278  
Cesare Simonelli #298  
Lance Fanning #299  
Kimberly Leavy #308  
Robert Rush Bataille #311  
Erik Wettermark #316  
Bienvenido Cruz #320  
Marco Rodriguez #322  
George Samol #330  
George Thomas Olski #336  
Christopher Remedios #370  
Julian Morgan #371  
Daniel Dileonardo #374  
Robert Presley #376  
Christopher Fish #377  
Paul Garcia #378  
Kevin Cuje #381  
Joseph Bucciero #382  
Trevor Van Ness #383  
Robert Mendez #384  
Kevin Kuhne #385  
Michael Morse #386  
Robert Graziano #387  
Devin Wright #388

## PATROL OFFICERS

Ivan Guzman #389  
Lucas Brito #391  
Thomas Wright #392  
Ryan Howe #393  
Matthew Sanchez #394  
Victor Vargas-Cruz #395  
Shane O'Brien #396  
Melanie Mecha #398  
Jordan Pellet #399  
Giovanni Rodriguez #400  
Sergio Llerandez #400  
Charles Conover #366  
Julian Morgan #371  
Daniel Dileonardo #374  
Robert Presley #376  
Christopher Fish #377  
Paul Garcia #378  
Kevin Cuje #381  
Joseph Bucciero #382  
Trevor Van Ness #383  
Robert Mendez #384  
Kevin Kuhne #385  
Michael Morse #386  
Robert Graziano #387  
Devin Wright #388

Gary Vecchione #343  
Patrick Vaccaro #353  
Dana Page #355  
Kevin Morris #357  
Daniel Gould #359  
Joseph Corcoran #360  
Mark Yutko #361  
William Davies IV #365  
Charles Conover #366  
Christopher Remedios #370  
Julian Morgan #371  
Daniel Dileonardo #374  
Robert Presley #376  
Christopher Fish #377  
Paul Garcia #378  
Kevin Cuje #381  
Joseph Bucciero #382  
Trevor Van Ness #383  
Robert Mendez #384  
Kevin Kuhne #385  
Michael Morse #386  
Robert Graziano #387  
Devin Wright #388

## CORPORALS

Julio Delacruz #278  
Cesare Simonelli #298  
Lance Fanning #299  
Kimberly Leavy #308  
Robert Rush Bataille #311  
Erik Wettermark #316  
Bienvenido Cruz #320  
Marco Rodriguez #322  
George Samol #330  
George Thomas Olski #336

## SPECIALIZED UNITS

## INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Long Branch Police Department Investigations Division gathers facts for criminal investigations and prosecutions. The detectives investigate criminal acts including homicides, sexual assaults, armed robberies, home invasions and property crimes such as burglaries and arson as well as any unattended deaths. Detectives collect and use forensic evidence to solve crimes, and interview informants, suspects, and witnesses to ascertain alibis, motives, clues, and establish time frames. Detectives spend most of their time gathering facts and evidence for criminal cases they have been assigned. They gather evidence through informants, by interviewing witnesses, and by observing, monitoring, and recording the activities of known or suspected criminals. In performing their duties, it is absolutely necessary that they gain knowledge of suspects and the circumstances surrounding a crime before singling out a perpetrator. Once motives, alibis, past relationships, and the evidence has been determined and analyzed, a detective will interrogate a suspect with the aim of determining their guilt or innocence.

The Investigations Bureau maintains squads specializing in Major Crimes, Special Investigations, Forensics and Juvenile Matters. Detectives have specialized training in the following areas:

- Homeland Security Functions
- Sex Offenses & Offender Registry
- Bias Crime Investigations
- Negotiating
- Arson Investigations
- Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA)
- Forensic Interviews & Investigations

**TOTAL  
INVESTIGATIONS  
FOR 2023:  
1043**

**The Detectives in our Investigations Bureau are also assigned to the following units, programs and areas as specialized investigators, liaisons, instructors and other active roles:**

- Active Shooter Unit
- ALCO Test
- ATTF
- Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Auto Theft Task Force
- Automated License Plate Recognition
- Background investigations
- Bicycle Safety
- Casecracker
- Civil Service
- Cold Case Files
- Communications Data Warrant
- Computer Crimes
- DEA Drug Take Back Program
- De-confliction
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Evidence/Property Management
- FBI/DHS/DEA/NJSP/MCPO/MCSO
- FBI Safe Streets
- Financial Crimes
- Forfeiture
- Homicide Investigators Assoc.
- How to Save a Life
- Human Trafficking
- Impound Yard
- Incident Based Reporting
- Incident Response
- Intelligence
- Internet Crimes Against Children
- Internet SCAMMER Awareness
- LB HEARS (Addiction Recovery)
- LBPD In-Service Training
- Lexis Nexus
- Live Scan Administrator
- Long Branch Alliance
- Long Branch Housing Authority
- Maglocen/RISS
- Megan's Law
- Missing Persons
- Monmouth Medical Center
- Monmouth University Quality of Life Task Force
- Monmouth/Ocean Counties Criminal Intel Bureau
- Motor Pool
- NJ ROIC (Intelligence)
- Narcan Coordinator
- Narcotics Enforcement Officers Association
- Ocean House Program (Addiction Recovery)
- Pop-up Party Investigations
- Postal Service
- Range Master
- Resiliency Officer
- Rifle Instructor
- SANE Audit
- School Programs
- Search Warrants
- Second Hand Dealer Licenses
- Social Media Monitoring
- Solicitation Permits
- Specialized Software Tools
- Tactical Response Team
- Taxi Licenses
- Taser Unit
- Trespass List

## **In addition, Members of the Bureau maintain/participate in:**

- Juvenile Conference Committee
- E-Trace
- National Integrated Ballistics ID Network
- National Crime Information Center
- Unidentified Persons File
- NJ Law Enforcement Teletype System
- Violent Crime Apprehension Program
- Child Abduction Response Team
- Sex Assault Response Team
- Counter Terrorism Coordination
- Criminal & Gang Intelligence Function
- Overdose Detection Mapping

### **Office Management:**

Tracking pawn-slips from local pawn brokers

Compile reports for juvenile complaints to be sent to MCPO

Maintain major crimes case jackets; including purging & archiving files according to AG guidelines

Maintenance of juvenile case files/database and archiving of files as juveniles turn 18

Maintain fingerprint files

Scan & upload paperwork to the Spillman database

Maintain NJ ODMAP database

Assist with typing/transposing victim statements

Assist with minor software, computer, and office equipment issues

Create video files for discovery

Assist MCPO with trial prep by locating all paperwork associated with cases

Maintain the on-call schedule and create the printable schedule

Assist with tracking down information from cold cases i.e. accessing defunct databases, old card files, and accessing archives

Various general secretarial duties including but not limited to: answering the phone, taking messages, checking voice-mail & e-mail, sorting and delivering the mail, track and order office supplies

Create and maintain new databases as necessary

Various other duties as needed, including but not limited to software help, typing letters and memos, promotional ads, assisting with creating line-ups, editing photos, mailings, etc.

# SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Special Investigations Unit is comprised of a Detective Sergeant and three Detectives. Their primary focus is to eliminate drug manufacturing and distribution within the City and reduce the amount of available narcotics. They target gang activity and violent crimes associated with their organizations and serve as an intelligence bureau for criminals involved with weapons, gangs and other illegal activity. Additionally, they are responsible for all Alcohol Beverage Commission (ABC) liquor license renewal inspections. They also assist in conducting background checks for new applicants. The Detective Sergeant of this unit also supervises the Department's Tactical Response Team.

The majority of arrests made by the Special Investigations Unit involve narcotics related offenses. The team also executes search warrants for local residences and assists County, State and Federal agencies with search warrants when needed.

In 2023, this Unit conducted 115 motor vehicle stops and 40 field interviews. They executed 16 residential search warrants and made over 113 arrests that resulted in the seizure of 11 handguns, approximately 1 kilo of cocaine, 750 wax envelopes of heroin, 12 pounds of illegal marijuana and over \$35,000 in U.S. Currency.

In addition, this Unit investigated, charged apprehended arrested two individuals for attempted murder.

## NOTABLE CASES

### **23LB01194: Detective Conor Mullan**

- Tyshon Shakey Norman arrested for Armed Robbery of Investor's Bank (Handgun).

### **23LB03429: Detectives Nicholas Romano & Daniel Cunha**

- Kwesi Wint arrested for Aggravated Sexual Assault and Child Endangering.

### **23LB06528: Detectives Daniel Cunha & Brian Oliveira**

- Alexander Huesca arrested for Aggravated Assault with a motor vehicle.

### **23LB14706: Detectives Jesus Otero & Sergio Chaparro**

- Juan Freddy Peres-Reyes arrested for Aggravated Assault (Stabbing).

### **23LB15300: Detectives Conor Mullan & Sergio Chaparro**

- Michael O'Rourke and Brianna Graziano arrested for Attempted Murder and Weapons Offenses (Handgun)

### **23LB17459: Detective Joseph Pannullo**

- Maciel Luis Cardoso Cantanhede arrested for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Juvenile.

### **23LB26849: Detectives Joseph Spitale & Brian Oliveira**

- Pablo Morales arrested for Terroristic Threats (Mass Shooting Threat), Weapons Possession (Rifle).

### **23LB27185: Detective Kevin Morris**

- Eleazar Merino-Hernandez arrested for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Juvenile.

### **23LB27649, 23LB27653, 23LB27650, 23LB27651 & 23LB27654: Detective Brian Oliveira**

- Juveniles arrested in connection with organized "Smash and Grab" Burglary operation.

### **23LB28866: Detectives Christopher Gant, Sergio Chaparro & Jesus Otero**

- Two juveniles charged with Armed Robbery (Handgun).

### **23LB31826: Detectives Jesus Otero & Daniel Cunha**

- Victor Flores-Urias arrested for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Juvenile.

# COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

The CPU focuses on our community in an effort to keep the lines of communication flowing between the police department and the public. The unit is run by Lieutenant Brendan Cahill and Sergeant Kimberly Leavy. In 2023, members included Corporals Lance Fanning, Marco Rodrigues and Julio Delacruz. Officer Patrick Vaccaro served in the CPU until his promotion in September when Corporal George Samol joined. The unit was also comprised of two SLEO II Officers, Dillon Smart and Tyler Brewer. The unit works closely with local business owners, students and residents and provides a multitude of services such as safety programs and car seat installations throughout the year. They are instrumental in providing school presentations, senior seminars, City Hall tours for scouts and students and perhaps the most popular, National Night Out. You can always find a CPU member at the car shows, concerts and other City events or checking in with local businesses while on their foot patrol posts.



# ANIMAL CONTROL



Detective David House was the Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO) for the LBPD until his retirement in September. Sergeant Francis Sheldrick is the Assistant HLEO. Det. Steven-Grant White and Det. Kevin Morris are in training to take over these roles. HLEO's are tasked with investigating any severe animal cruelty cases within the city.

All our officers, and often our Firemen, assist the City's Animal Control Bureau Supervisor, Deb Nagel, on a regular basis responding to calls that involve animals in distress or in need of rescuing. Animal Control calls in the City range from typical dog and cat related issues to seals, squirrels, bats, geese, raccoons, deer and even occasional farm or exotic animals.

Animal Control runs two free rabies vaccination clinics per year. In October, 151 dogs and 59 cats got their shots. Dr. Petrone of Long Branch Animal Hospital administered the vaccines.

Pictured with ACS Nagel is her K9 partner, Tucker, who patrols our waterways to give chase to geese and loves to take part in any community events involving local kids where he helps teach responsible pet ownership.



# CODE & FIRE PREVENTION

Class 2 Special Officers Keila Braga, Madison Bou and Jacob Jones, Jr. were assigned to the City Code & Fire Prevention Bureau. Along with responding to calls for service as an auxiliary to police patrol units, their primary duty with code enforcement is to ensure property owners comply with the safety and quality of life ordinances. These include property maintenance, fire code compliance, zoning and building permit compliance, and environmental concerns such as recycling and proper waste disposal. They inspect for hazards to pedestrian and vehicular traffic such as low wires, dangerous trees, dangerous sidewalks, derelict or vacant homes, abandoned swimming pools and standing water issues for mosquito control. They also investigate illegal rooming houses, unregistered rental properties, conduct inspections for certificate of occupancy compliance, and perform annual "meet and greet" inspections of all off-campus housing for Monmouth University to welcome students and ensure they comply with local ordinances. In addition, they respond to any general emergency in the city, cover during state of emergencies and special events, as well as coordinate with other agencies such as the EPA/DEP and utility providers for any issues falling outside the scope of routine enforcement.

## FIREARMS UNIT

The Firearms Unit is tasked with the annual firearms training and qualifications of all LBPD Officers as well as maintaining the weapons and ammunition for the Department. They provide realistic training utilizing moving targets, low or no-lighting and responding to active shooter drills. Additionally, Officers often train under elevated heart rate and in a chaotic environment to help enforce proper decision making in real life scenarios.

Members of this unit include Supervising Firearms Instructor, Det. Sgt. Richard O'Brien along with Instructors, Sgt. Sam Yoo, Sgt. Pat Vaccaro, Cpl. Ben Cruz, Det. Chris Gant, Det. Kevin Morris and Cpl. Lance Fanning.



## TRAFFIC BUREAU

Our Traffic Bureau consists of three full-time officers, one Special Class 2 and three civilians. Members include Cpl. Cesare Simonelli, PO Kevin Cuje, PO Robert Presley, SO Vincent Ottaviano, George Medina, Karahn Morris, Ryan Scanlon and Nick Bucciero. Lt. Brian Garrett was the Unit's Supervisor until his promotion in August. Lt. James Beirne took over the unit upon his promotion in September of 2023.

While the Unit was originally formed with the goal of maintaining and repairing traffic signals, the responsibilities of its members have grown to include street signage, special events, road crew and new construction traffic plans, parking enforcement, vehicle upgrades and the installation and maintenance of equipment within our vehicles. With ever changing technology, these members are constantly being trained to work on new equipment. Scanlon brings an extensive skill set to the unit as he is certified in areas such as programming and installation of police radios, emergency lights, surveillance cameras, body worn cameras and digital mobile video recorders (DMVR).

# HONOR GUARD



Our Honor Guard serves at a number of official functions such as swearing-ins, promotions and funerals.

Members participate on a voluntary basis. In 2023, members consisted of Sgt. Hector Umana, Sgt. KiJung Kim, Cpl. Lance Fanning, Det. Brian Oliveira, Det. Jesus Otero, Det. Sergio Chaparro, PO Gary Vecchione, PO Robert Mendez and PO Sergio Llerandez.

In addition to in-house functions, they proudly present the colors at several professional sporting events and participate in City events such as the Veterans' Memorial Day services, the Columbus Day Parade and the First Responder Mass at St. Michael's Church.

They proudly displayed the colors at the NJ Devils game on February 23, 2023. The Los Angeles Kings vs. New Jersey Devils game took place at Prudential Center, and adding to the excitement of the day, the Devils won the game! Pictured are (L to R): Officer Gary Vecchione, Detective Jesus Otero, Detective Brian Oliveira and Detective Sergio Chaparro. On August 31st they participated in the opening ceremonies at the Jersey Shore Blue Claws Game at First Energy Park.

Prior events the Honor Guard participated in include:

NY Red Bulls games at Red Bull Arena

Mets v. Yankees games at Citi Field in NY

Annual Law Enforcement Memorial Services in Ocean Grove



# K9 UNIT

The City of Long Branch Police Canine (K9) Unit team, includes Officer Christopher Remedios and partner, Ozzy. The team responds when patrol requests help in cases that involve expertise in areas such as tracking a suspect and locating narcotics. In addition to responding to official service calls, our K9 Unit plays a vital role in our community outreach efforts, participating in numerous demonstrations for our public schools, National Night Out, and many other events.

K9 Ozzy was 1 1/2 years old when he joined the LBPD in 2021, and is a Belgian Malinois. The team successfully completed a 3 month training course from Passaic county and are certified in narcotic detection. The team graduated from the Ocean County Sheriff's Office K9 Patrol School June, 2022.



# CLASS III OFFICERS

The City of Long Branch Police Department, in conjunction with Long Branch Public Schools, employ four Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers. These officers focus on providing safety and security for the students and staff while in class and attending after-school activities. According to New Jersey state law, all Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers must be a retired law enforcement officer who is less than 65 years of age. Pictured (L to R) are our 2023 Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers Felix Torres, Drew Winans Sr., Robert Dikun and Jeffrey Diakunczak



## MOTORCYCLE UNIT

Our Motorcycle Unit rides year-round, weather permitting. Aside from being a tremendous asset in traffic control, especially during high-congestion events, they frequently assist in motor escorts such as dignitary transports and funeral processions. Additionally, they are always a favorite at special events.

In 2023, Capt. Jorge Silverio was assigned as the Motor Unit Supervisor and the following officers were assigned as members of the unit:

- Lt. Marshall Brown
- Sgt. Kijung Kim
- Cpl. Julio Delacruz
- Cpl. Cesare Simonelli
- Cpl. Christopher Gant



# MONMOUTH COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM

MOCERT is operated by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and integrates tactically trained officers from numerous municipal police departments to form one team. All members have received advanced training in various fields which include but are not limited to Special Weapons And Tactics, high-risk warrant service, hostage rescue, barricaded suspects, active shooters and dignitary protection. Recent team training has included preparation for weapons of mass destruction and terrorism incidents. The team has trained with FBI SWAT and LAPD SWAT as well as instructors from various military and private organizations.

Members train as a team bi-monthly as well as for several full weeks throughout the year. Officers are on call 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Semi-annually members undergo rigorous physical tests to remain on the team. In addition, members of the team must maintain the rank of firearms expert through firearms qualification scores.

In 2023, LBPD was proud to have multiple officers as part of the MOCERT team including Sgt. Charles Conover, Det. Conor Mullan, PO Daniel DiLeonardo and K9 Team PO Christopher Remedios & Ozzy.



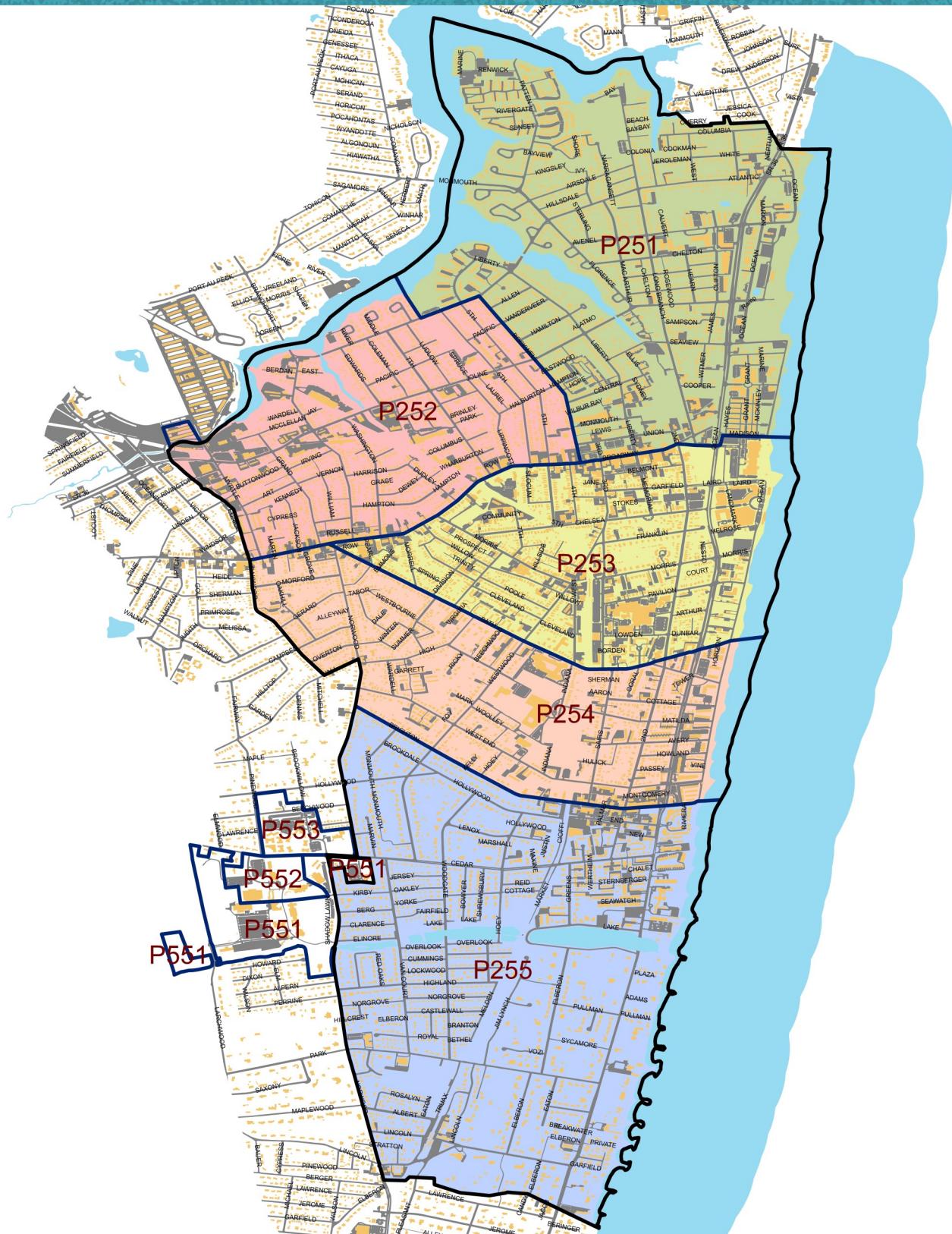
## MONMOUTH COUNTY RAPID DEPLOYMENT FORCE



The RDF is a county team which provides mutual aid, responding to MOCERT activations, natural/man-made disasters, school/workplace violence, crowd control, demonstrations, incidents of civil disobedience, missing person and open area suspect searches. Members must go through a rigorous try-out to ensure their physical condition.

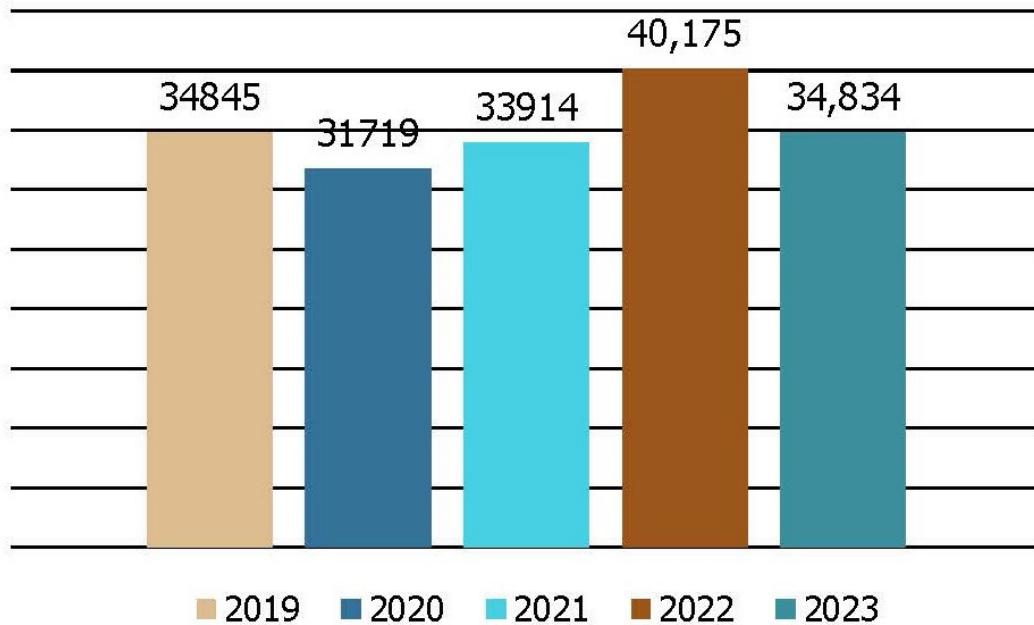
The LBPD was proud to have Sgt. Heather Valdes, Sgt. Matthew Widdis, Sgt. Ki Jung Kim and P.O. Dana Page as part of the RDF team in 2023.

# PATROL ZONES

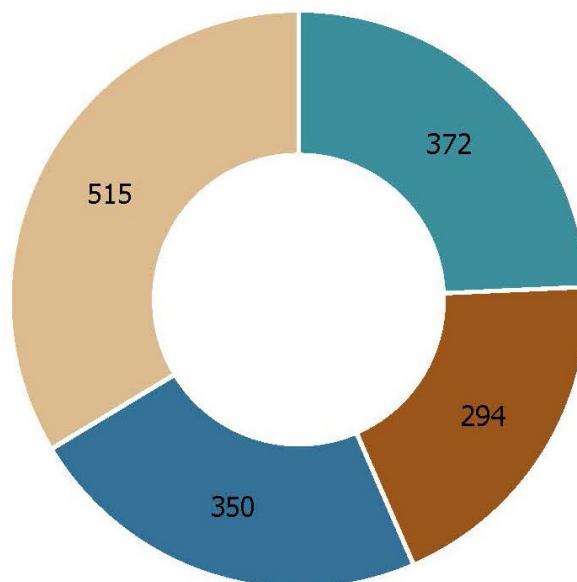


# STATISTICS

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

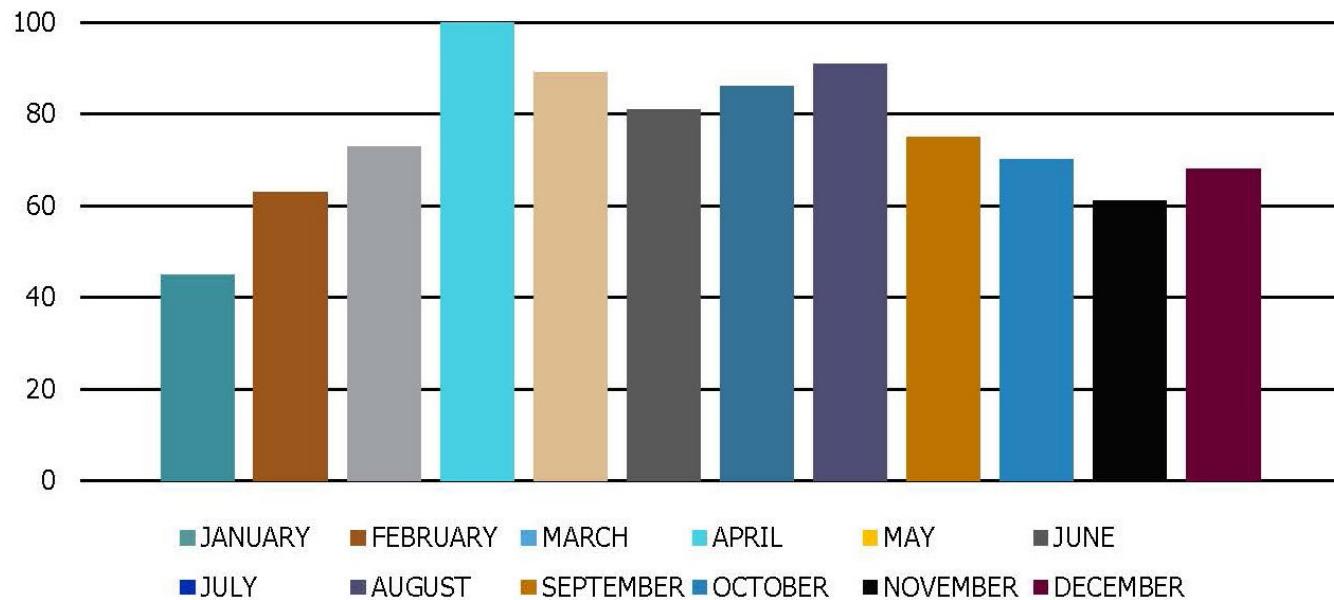


## 911 CALLS

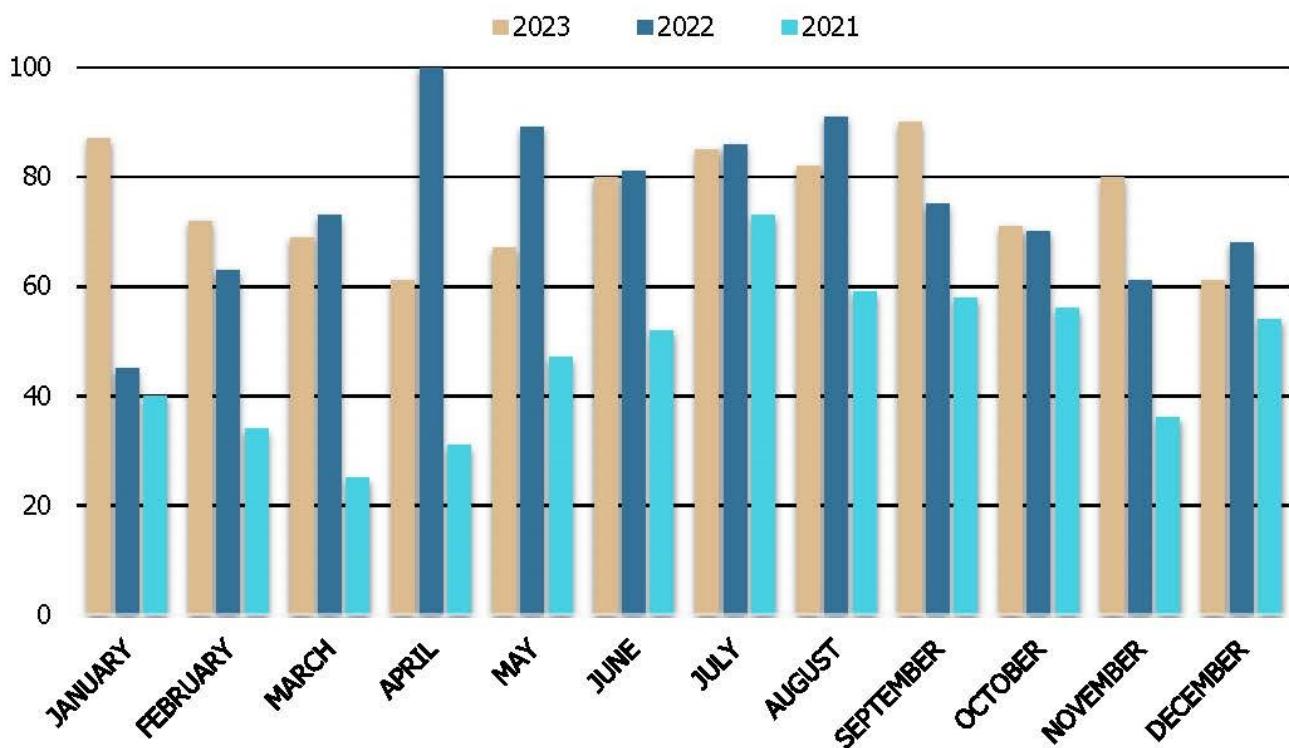


■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023

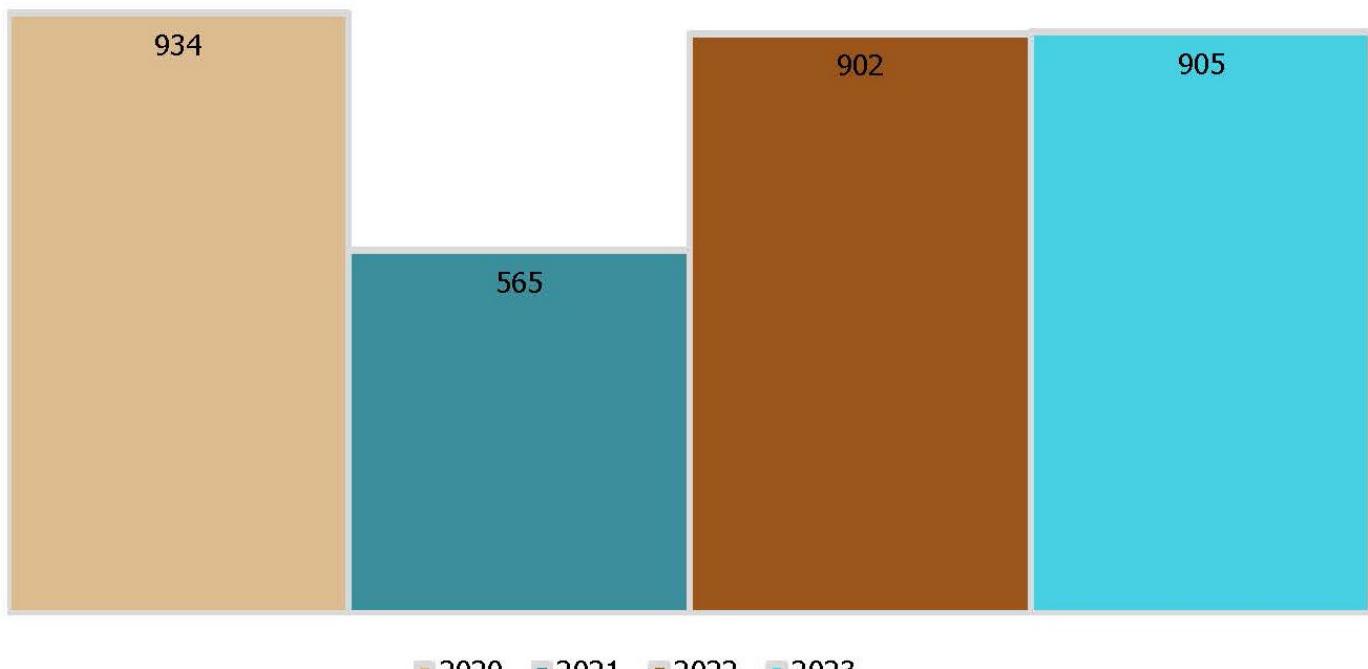
## 2023 ARRESTS BY MONTH



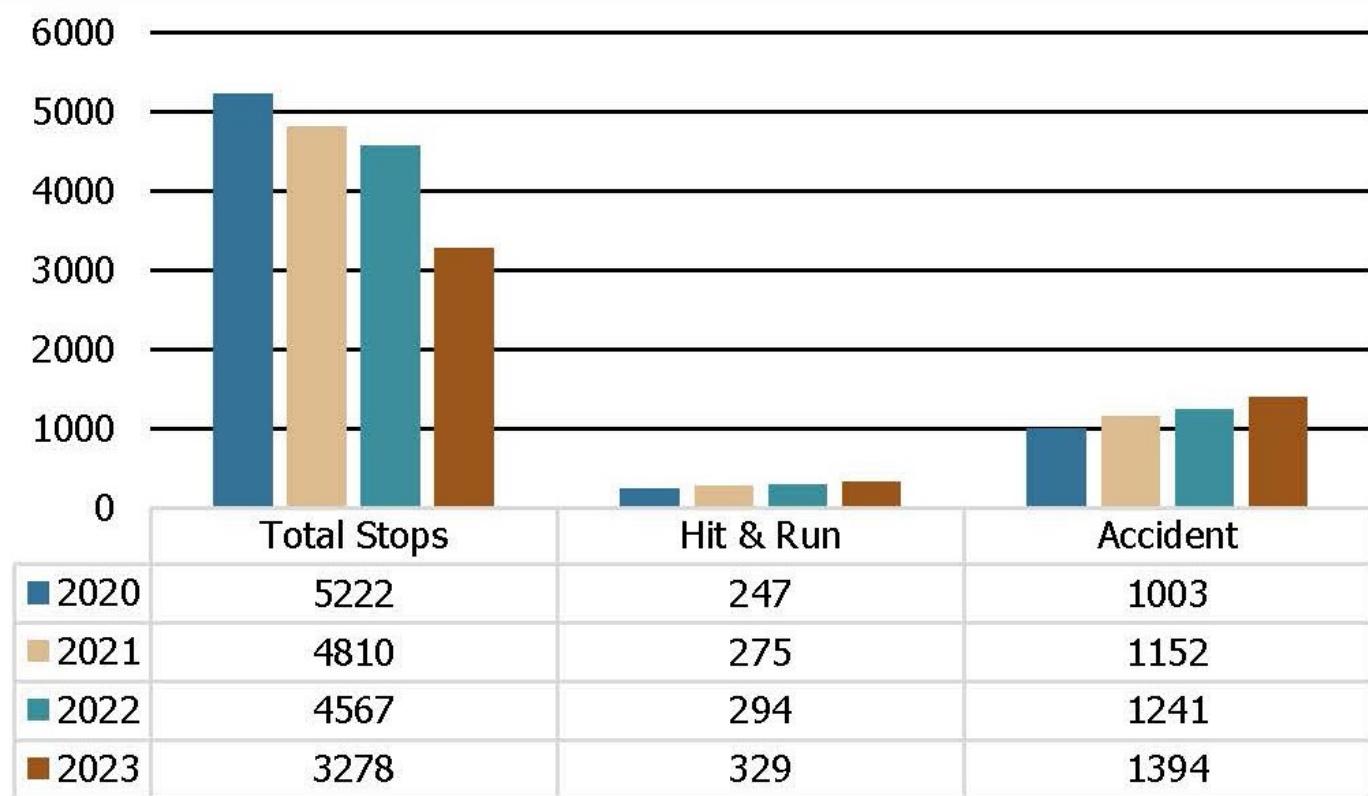
## ARRESTS BY MONTH 2021-2023



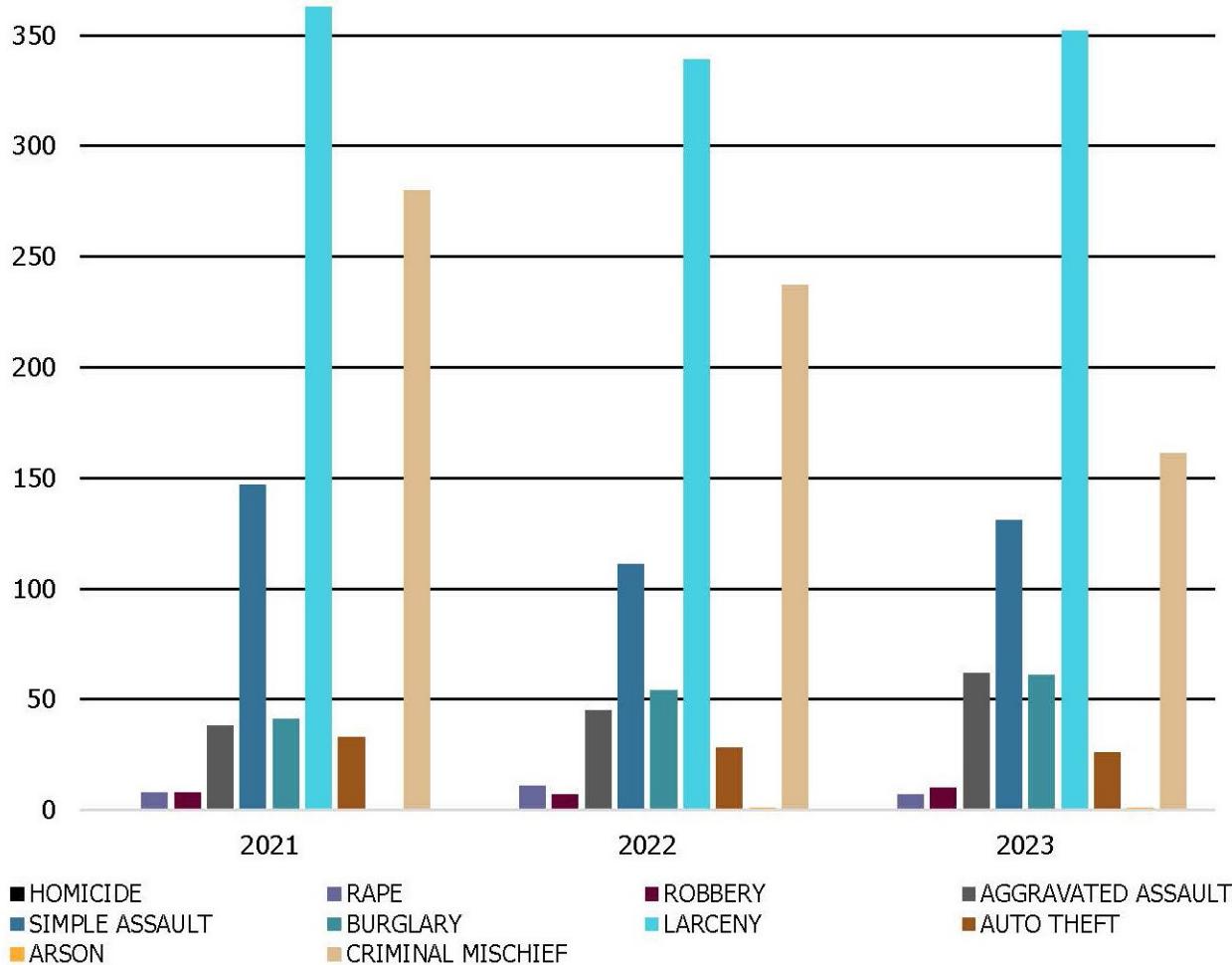
## TOTAL ARRESTS PER YEAR



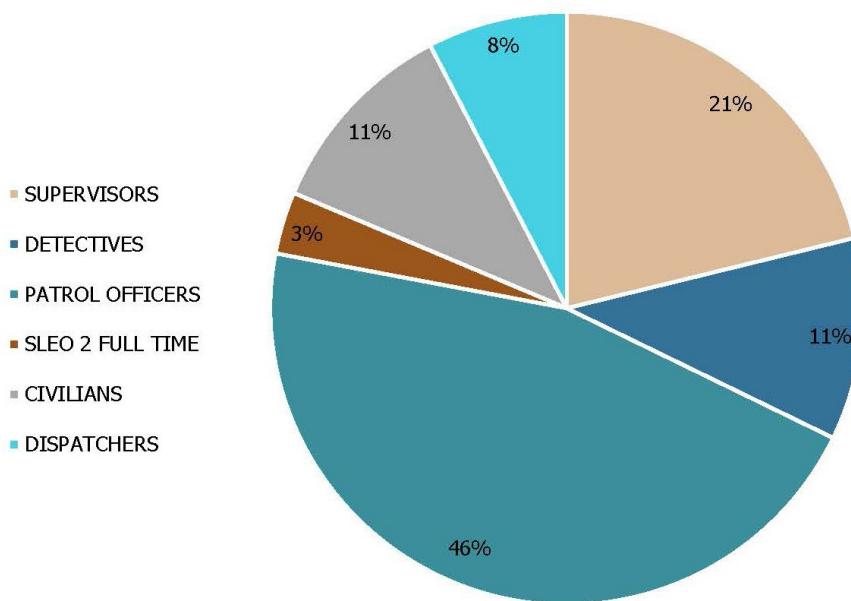
## MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS & ACCIDENTS



# INDEX CRIMES PER YEAR 2021-2023



# ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN



# INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

Quarter	2023
Quarter start date	1/1/2023
Quarter end date	12/31/2023

## 2023 Internal Affairs Summary

### 2023

#### 2023 Snapshot

This sheet contains some top-line facts and figures for Internal Affairs cases closed in 2023.

Detailed breakdowns can be found in the subsequent pages.

	# allegations	# initial allegation sustained	# other allegation sustained	# not sustained
Criminal violation	4	0	0	4
Differential treatment	2	0	0	2
Excessive force	3	0	0	3
Improper arrest	0	0	0	0
Improper entry	0	0	0	0
Improper search	2	0	0	2
Domestic violence incident (non-criminal)	0	0	0	0
Demeanor	5	0	0	4
Other rule violation	17	1	0	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29</b>

#### Distribution of sources for complaints closed in 2023

Anonymous	Agency	Civilian
#	%	
1	8	22
3%	26%	71%

#### Frequency of discipline by type for complaints closed in 2023

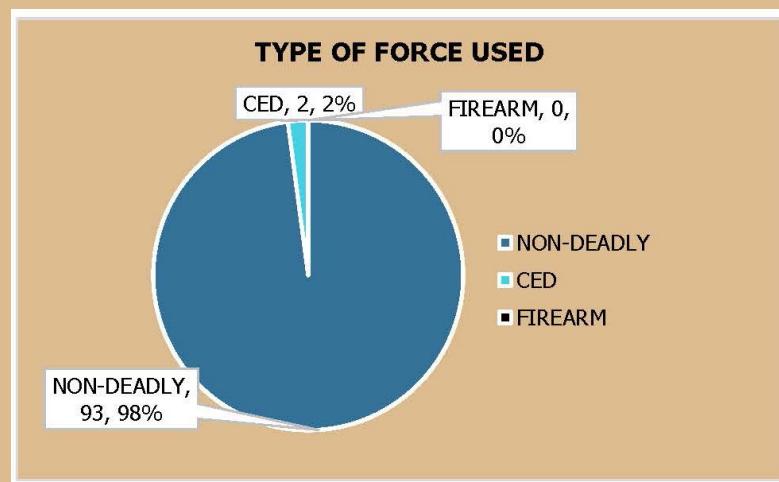
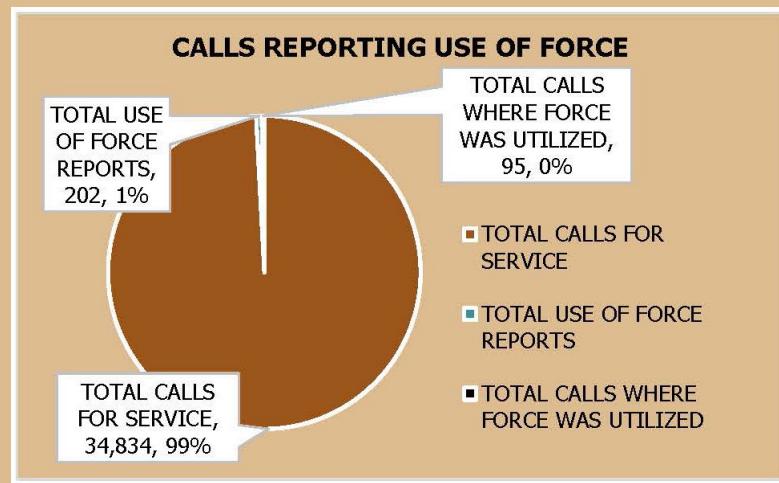
Oral reprimand or performance notice	2	Total Pending from Prior Years	1
Written reprimand or written warning	1	Total Opened	33
Monetary fine or loss of pay	0	Total Closed	33
Suspension without pay	1	Total Sustained	4
Separated while IA pending	0	Total Not Sustained	29
Demotion or loss of promotion opportunity	0	Total >180 Days	1
Discharge from employment	0	Total Pending at end of 2023	1
Training, coaching, or counseling	0		
Loss of time	0		
None	0		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>		

**NOTE:** This sheet provides a snapshot of IA cases at a single point in time. As a case progresses, classifications and categorizations may change.

A single Internal Affairs case may involve one or more officers. This Summary refers to the count of OFFICERS who were named in an Internal Affairs Complaint.

# USE OF FORCE REPORTING

In serving the community, law enforcement officers shall make every effort to preserve and protect human life and the safety of all persons. Officers shall respect and uphold the dignity of all persons at all times in a non-discriminatory manner. Force will only be used as a last resort when necessary to accomplish lawful objectives that cannot reasonably be achieved through verbal commands, critical decision making, tactical deployment or de-escalation techniques. Force will never be used as a retaliatory or punitive measure. Every use of force must be reported and receive a meaningful command level review.



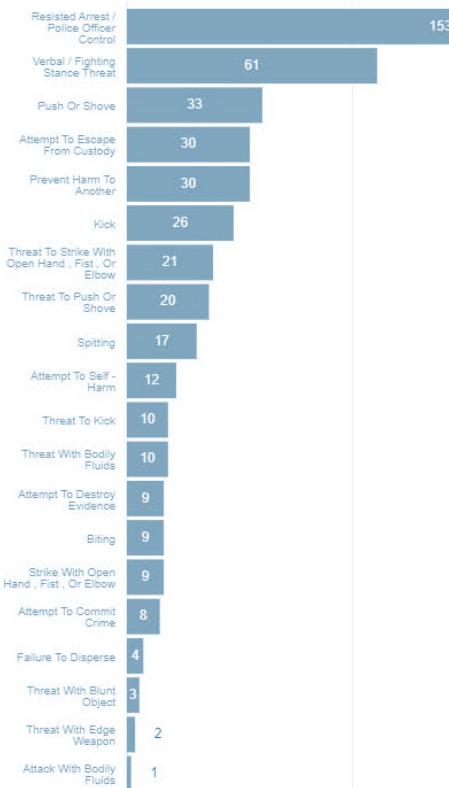
### USE OF FORCE BREAKDOWN BY CALLS

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE	34,834
TOTAL USE OF FORCE REPORTS*	202
TOTAL CALLS WHERE FORCE WAS USED	95

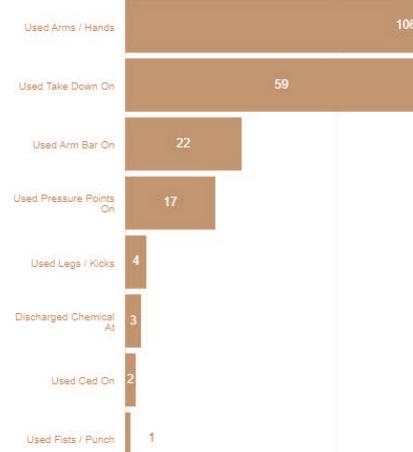
\* More than one report is often written for each call involving force as all responding officers are required to file a report.

### TYPE OF FORCE USED

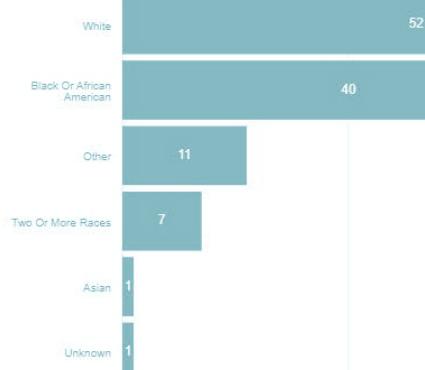
NON-DEADLY	93
CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE (CED)	2
FIREARM	0



## SUBJECT'S ACTION THAT LED TO FORCE



## OFFICER'S ACTION



## SUBJECT'S RACE

## OPERATIONAL ADVANCES

The LBPD provides a warm, safe place for those who are in need of heat during periods the county issues a Code Blue Alert, signifying the temperatures will drop to 32°F or below. A Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert is issued by the Monmouth County Office of Emergency Management when temperatures are expected to drop to 32°F or below. The alert is a multi-agency effort to protect the unsheltered population from hypothermia during the winter. In 2023, the City secured a heated trailer offering warmth, privacy and comfort where those in need could spend the night.



Along with many shore towns, we saw an increase in the promotion of unpermitted events, commonly referred to as "Pop-Up Parties" and/or "Linkups". These events are in violation of City Ordinance 247-4 and encourage attendees to bring their own alcohol and cannabis, promote other unpermitted activities on the public beaches as per City Ordinance 116-5, creating increased potential for public safety and health hazards.

Long Branch continues to pave the way in combatting these events, taking immediate action to prevent and deter them from occurring whenever credible information is received regarding the possibility of one. In addition to a large police response to a potential event, the City of Long Branch may also take the following actions:

- Strictly enforcing all Beach Ordinances
- Preventing any bags/coolers on the beach and/or boardwalk
- Closing beaches early
- Implementing a curfew
- Restricting parking

Long Branch takes all necessary steps to hold those responsible for organizing and/or promoting such unpermitted events accountable, both legally and financially, and continues with legal victories which include ordering the removal and cancellation of any promotional posts.

**WHOEVER POSTED A FLYER ABOUT THE LONG BRANCH LINK UP TELL THAT PERSON DON'T DO IT NOT ONLY HE/SHE GETTING IN TROUBLE BUT EVERYONE WHO POSTING IT WILL GET IN TROUBLE TOO THIS COMING FROM ME ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO GOT A LETTER LAST YEAR FROM THE TOWN THREATENING ME TO TAKE ME TO COURT TO SUE ME IF I DIDN'T TAKE DOWN THAT PERSON'S FLYER I'M TELLING YOU THAT TOWN IS GONNA SEE THAT FLYER AND GET THE NATIONAL GUARD WAITING FOR YA AT THE BEACH I AIN'T TRYING TO RUIN THE FUN BUT THAT PARTICULAR BEACH ISN'T THE PLACE TO DO LINK UPS**

NJ is the first state in the country to have a statewide law enforcement and mental health alternative response program. Long Branch Police Department is proud to be a part of Link-2-Care and Arrive Together Programs which were implemented in December.



Police officers frequently encounter individuals that appear to have untreated mental health issues or could benefit from mental health resources. To avoid regular and ongoing police contact, the commission of crime and any further decompensation, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office ("MCPO"), under the leadership of Prosecutor Raymond Santiago, created a countywide pilot program called the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Link 2 Care Referral and Follow-Up Program ("Link 2 Care"). Through Link to Care, Monmouth County police officers can refer individuals before a crisis to a team of mental health specialists from CPC Integrated Health ("CPC") and the Mental Health Association of Monmouth County ("MHA") for case review, treatment and management.



The ARRIVE program pairs an officer with a certified mental health screener and crisis specialist, to respond to calls involving behavioral health incidents. The screener is able to meet directly with individuals who may benefit from mental health resources and other support services, assess their needs and put them in immediate contact with the proper services.

**ARRIVE is achieving at least 4 important goals:**

1. Creating fewer arrests, fewer uses of force, fewer injuries, and eliminating racial disparities.
2. Increasing the utilization of mental health resources, saving the officer wait time, bringing medical assistance faster and preventing escalation.
3. Keeping residents in the community by determining on-site when someone should be evaluated for hospitalization.
4. Improving trust between police and community by connecting individuals to care and resources rather than the criminal justice system.

# TRAINING

New officers, are required to complete the police academy training course which includes all the fundamentals of law enforcement training. All Officers are required to attend in-service training sessions to stay up-to-date on current laws, professional guidelines, operations and procedures. Some training is department specific, while much of it is mandated by the County Prosecutor, Attorney General and by state or federal statutes. Most mandated training is required every six months to one year. A few topics covered in the training are firearms requalification, domestic violence, blood-borne pathogens, hazardous materials and breathalyzer recertification. In addition to classroom training, hands-on training exercises are conducted by members of our department including firearms, active shooter drills and other response scenarios.

Captain Joshua Bard heads the department's training unit responsible for scheduling all required certifications and offering additional helpful courses while keeping within budgetary guidelines. He was assisted by Sergeant Heather Valdes until her retirement this year. Sergeant Hector Umana joined the unit in April.

Specialized units conduct job-specific training and qualification sessions and officers are assigned to attend other agency training courses as needed. The following list shows just a fraction of the training courses that our officers attended in 2023.

Active Shooter Incident Management	Domestic Violence Update	Methods Of Instruction
Advanced Crash Investigation	DWI Detection and SFT Course	N.J. Concealed Carry Law Training
Adv. Identifying Fraudulent Documents	Emergency Vehicle Operations	N.J. Firearms Licensing Laws Training
Adv. Impaired Driving Enforcement	Excel 1 for LE Basic	National L.E. Roadway Safety Program
Advanced Tactical Narcotics Training	Field Training Officer Course	NJSP Crime Scene Investigator Course
Agency Mental Health Network	Financial Crimes Investigations	OPRA & Records Management Training
Alcotest 7110 Re-Certification Course	Firearms Application and Registration	Overdose Detection Mapping Application
Alcotest 9510 Conversion	Firearms Instructor Course	Patrol Interview Tactics
Anatomy of a Mass Murder	Follow, Seize and Secure the Money	Patrol Sergeant Essentials The First Line Supervisor
Basic Course for Internal Affairs Invest.	Gang Training for Law Enforcement	Police Licensing Regulations Training
Basic Tactical Narcotics Training	Human Trafficking Symposium	Police Traffic Radar Operations
Bias Crime/Incident Training	Implicit Bias Dispatcher Training	Policing The Teen Brain
Case Study-M.S.D. School Shooting	Incident Command for All Hazards	Pre-employment Background Investi.
CED Instructor Training on Use of Force	Infoshare Underage Alcohol/Marijuana	PTC Humane Law Enforcement Officer
Cellebrite Re-Certification	Insight to Batter Behavior	Radar Instructor Course
Child First/Finding Words N.J. Training	Interview and Interrogation	Red Dot Sight Pistol Instructor
Common Law Right of Access Training	Intro to Sealing & Expunging N.J Records	Report Writing
Computer Competency: Excel 2 for L.E.	Jurisdictional Crisis Incident Management	Roadway Safety Patrol Officer
Computer Crimes	Juvenile Officers Meeting	Safe School Resource/School Liaison
Cops and Kids "Do's and Don't" Training	K-9 Scent In-Service Training	Search Seizure and Miranda Training
Crisis Intervention Training	Less Lethal Instructor Course	Sex Crimes Information Sharing
Critical Incident Response Training	Liquor License Investigations	Social Media for Criminal Investigations
Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessment	Low Profile Carry Course	Terminal Agency Coordinator Seminar
Developing First Line Supervisors	Mental Wellness Visits	

# DEPARTMENT MILESTONES

## NEW OFFICERS

Sworn in March 3, 2024:

(Pictured L to R)

Police Officer Casey Breese #408

Police Officer Devon Slavin #409

Police Officer Giuseppe Alioto #410

Police Officer Justin Falke #413



Sworn in March 24, 2024:

Police Officer Madison Bou #411





Sworn in May 26, 2023: Police Officer Jordan Rodriguez #407



Sworn in September 19, 2023: Police Officer Travis Kegley #418



Sworn in September 29, 2023: Police Officer Marc Franzblau #419



Sworn in October 5, 2023: Police Officer Frank Astudillo #414



Sworn in December 14, 2023: Police Officer Ryan Scanlon #412



Sworn in December 29, 2023: Police Officer Tyler Mendez #415

## CLASS II OFFICERS



Graduated Academy 5/10/23:

Alan Cuenca #2041



Graduated Academy 5/25/23:

Vincent Rubino #2040

Christian Pittari #2042

Chandler Hasting #2043

Nathaniel Orsag #2044

Jacob Jones #2047



Graduated Academy 6/29/23:

Ayden Miles #2050



Graduated Academy 12/13/2023:

Flor Ortega #2051

# CLASS I OFFICERS

In 2023, 9 Special Law Enforcement Class I (SLEO I) Officers returned for the season and we welcomed 21 new officers. SLEO I Officers must complete a lengthy application process which includes NJ State mandated police academy training. They do not carry a firearm but are trained in the use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC or pepper spray) as well as other defensive tactics for emergency situations. Their focus is the enforcement of ordinances, primarily pertaining to the beachfront, boardwalk, and summer events such as concerts and car shows. They are there to assist whenever needed by Lifeguards, Beach Personnel, full-time Officers and, of course, the public. SLEO I's are a key proponent in our on-going efforts to provide community policing and public safety for the thousands of residents and visitors we serve throughout the city during the summer months. Many SLEO I Officers join our department with hopes of using their on-the-job training to advance to full-time Officers. In fact, the majority of our current Police Officers started out as SLEO I Officers. Our SLEO I Officers are easily identified by their bright yellow uniforms (often said to resemble bumblebees) and friendly attitudes. Next time you visit Long Branch and see one of our SLEO I Officers, please stop, say hello and join us in welcoming them! We hope they will be a part of our team for many years to come!

We'd also like to welcome back our returning Class I Officers and thank Lt. Brendan Cahill for all his efforts in making the SLEO I program a successful one. He starts the process for hiring by conducting an open house in the fall which draws hundreds of interested applicants. Lt. Cahill, along with assistance from others, including Sergeant Kimberly Leavy, see the hiring process through, including providing many hours of training.



# PROMOTIONS

Officer Kevin Romano #368 was promoted and officially sworn in as Police Sergeant on March 3, 2023. A ceremony to honor his promotion was held at the April 12, 2023 Council Meeting.



Officer Charles Conover #366 was promoted and officially sworn in as Police Sergeant on June 2, 2023. A ceremony to honor his promotion was held on September 8, 2023.

On September 1, 2023, the following officers were promoted and officially sworn in. They were each honored at a ceremony held on September 8, 2023.

Lieutenant Brian Garrett #306 promoted to Police Captain  
Sergeant Joseph Kennedy #324 promoted to Police Lieutenant  
Officer Patrick Vaccaro #353 promoted to Police Sergeant



# RETIREMENTS

## Detective Corporal Todd Coleman # 289

Retired 2/1/23

Detective Corporal Todd Coleman graduated High School in 1988 and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps, serving courageously both at home and abroad, including deployment for the Gulf War from 1990-1991 to serve in both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.



In 1998, he was hired as a full-time Patrolman for the LBPD. By 2000, he was already given the specialized assignment of serving as a Detective for the Monmouth County Narcotics Strike Force and Tactical Narcotics Team until 2001. He returned to LBPD and joined the Bicycle Patrol Unit from 2004-2005, when he was assigned as a Detective in the Street Crimes Unit. He served there until 2011 when he returned to Patrol briefly. In 2012, he was assigned to the Investigations Bureau in the capacity of Detective and served there until retirement in 2023. During his time in the Investigations Bureau, Detective Corporal Coleman was instrumental in solving multiple major criminal investigations including the 1994-1995 cold case homicides of Ana Mejia and Nicholas Connors and the 2009 cold case homicide of Norberto Nieves.

## Detective Corporal Todd Coleman #289

In addition to his regular duties, he participated in numerous undercover assignments, performed in the roles of Raid Team Leader and Active Shooter Instructor and played an integral part in several special assignments for the Monmouth County Gang Task Force. Each of the operations yielding significant arrests and combined, seized copious amounts of money, weapons and illegal drugs from our streets. Detective Corporal Coleman also held several positions within the P.B.A. Local #10 over the years including Vice-President and retiring as State Delegate.

During his tenure, he earned numerous commendations including a Unit Citation for a 1999 case involving the arrest of an armed suspect and the recovery of a 9mm semi-automatic weapon, a 2004 Unit citation for the arrest of a known violent fugitive while seizing CDS and a loaded handgun, a 2005 honorable service award for apprehending an individual sought in connection with a strong arm robbery and a unit citation for solving 100% of all major crimes, nearly 70 cases, including 7 counts of homicide during 2017 and 2018.

## Detective Sergeant Robert Shamrock #245

Retired 4/1/23

Detective Sergeant Robert Shamrock was born and raised in Buffalo, NY in 1964. He enlisted in the U.S. Army right out of High School, where he did a tour in the Infantry and deployed to several locations overseas. Detective Sergeant Shamrock then re-enlisted for an additional tour as an E.O.D. Tech in the U.S. Army Bomb Squad, where he was ultimately stationed at Ft. Monmouth in Oceanport, New Jersey.

In August of 1993, Detective Sergeant Shamrock was hired by the Long Branch Police Department and attended the Monmouth County Police Academy. In September of 1998, he was assigned to the K-9, Unit and attended the Philadelphia Police K-9 Academy with his partner, Zeus. They then attended the New Jersey State Police K-9 Academy for scent training, at the completion of which, they were assigned to the Patrol Division. In 2005, Detective Sergeant Shamrock attended the Atlantic City Police K-9 Academy with K-9 Danyo, where he also achieved his Trainer's Certificate, and trained his new partner. He and Danyo then attended the Port Authority Police K-9 Academy for scent training. After graduation, they were assigned to Patrol.



## Detective Sergeant Robert Shamrock #245

He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2010, where he was assigned to the Patrol Division on the midnight shift until 2014. In 2014, Detective Sergeant Shamrock was the lead instructor for a K-9 Patrol and Scent School hosted by the City of Long Branch, where his third K-9 partner, Hagan, was certified. In 2020, Detective Sergeant Shamrock was assigned to the Investigations Division as the supervisor of the Street Crimes Unit. He and Hagan continued to serve as a K-9 Team until Hagan's retirement in 2022.

During the course of his career, Detective Sergeant Shamrock was the recipient of numerous awards and commendations. Among these were Meritorious Service in 2004, Exceptional Duty in 2004, Distinguished Service in 2016 and several Unit Citations. He was also honored by the 200 Club of Monmouth County in 2016 and again in 2023.

Detective Sergeant Shamrock has one son, who followed his father's footsteps into the military by enlisting into the New Jersey National Guard in 2022.

## Sergeant Heather Valdes #290

Retired 6/1/23



Sergeant Heather Valdes was born in Long Branch and grew up in a household of Scottish immigrants. After graduating from Long Branch High School, she became a police officer at the age of 19, making history as the youngest member of the Long Branch Police Department. She graduated from the New Jersey State Police Academy Municipal Class in 1998.

Throughout her career, she worked alongside many dedicated officers and supervisors who have shaped her professional journey. During her time in Patrol, she received several awards, including two life-saving awards, as well as multiple honorable service and unit citations. Notably, she was honored with two Valor awards from the 200 Club of Monmouth County in 2005 and 2017.

# Sergeant Heather Valdes #290

Sgt. Valdes played a role in the State of New Jersey's Disaster Relief Efforts in Puerto Rico following Hurricane Maria, serving for over two weeks on deployment. She has also contributed to the training of seven new hires, participated in the Monmouth County Rapid Deployment Force, and been involved with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. She concluded her law enforcement career in administration, specifically as the Professional Standards Training Officer in Internal Affairs.

In addition to her achievements in law enforcement, she has seamlessly transitioned to a successful career in Real Estate, where she has already received several awards for her performance going above and beyond to help her clients.

## Detective Daniel Richards #347

Retired 6/1/23



Detective Daniel Richards joined the Long Branch Police Department in May of 2012, as a Special Law Enforcement Officer, Class II. In 2013, he began serving as a Communications Operator/Dispatcher in addition to his seasonal Class II duties.

Detective Richards was sworn in as a Police Officer in August of 2014, and was assigned to the Patrol Division where he also served as a Training Officer. His hard work and dedication led to his transfer to the

Investigations Bureau, where he was assigned to the Street Crimes Unit and tackled some of the most challenging and impactful cases. In his role as a detective, he distinguished himself with exceptional investigative skills and keen intuition, specializing in drug enforcement, gang activity, and community policing. His efforts in the Street Crimes Unit were instrumental in reducing crime and enhancing community safety.

His contributions to the department have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Monmouth County 200 Club Valor Award, the NJ State PBA Valor Award, and the Long Branch Police Distinguished Service Award. He has also received multiple Unit Citations for his collaborative efforts and exemplary performance. Throughout his career, he has worked tirelessly to build strong relationships within the community, always prioritizing the well-being of the citizens he served. He has mentored numerous young officers, instilling in them the values of integrity, respect, and service.

In February of 2019, Detective Richards was involved in a motor vehicle accident while on duty that put a setback in his career. He retired from the Long Branch Police Department, closing a chapter marked by dedication and commitment to the community. His investigative accomplishments and commitment have left a lasting impact, and he will be remembered not only for his professional achievements but also for his kindness and dedication.

Detective Richards was a student at Jersey City University, where he pursued a bachelor's degree in National Security and currently has successfully transitioned to a career in Real Estate.

## Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto #266

Retired 9/1/23

Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto is a graduate of Monmouth University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History. He was sworn in as a Long Branch Police Officer in 1996 after graduating the NJ State Police Academy where he received the Seaton Hall Father Grady Award for highest Academic Average in his class.

During his tenure, he served as Patrolman, UEZ Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Detective Lieutenant, Assistant Patrol Commander, Platoon Commander and most recently, Detective Captain and Officer in Charge.

Throughout his career, he represented the department as a liaison to many local and state organizations including Monmouth University, Long Branch Business Owners Association, Housing Authority and Ministerium. He served as the Assistant Director of the Police Athletic League, the Coordinator for the Police Chaplains Program and was one of the first Resiliency Officers. Additionally, he served as a member of the Long Branch Police Honor Guard, Executive Board Member of PBA Local #10 and President of the Superior Officers Association Local #10.



## Detective Captain Frank Rizzuto #266

Detective Captain Rizzuto holds several certifications such as Incident Command, Weapons of Mass Destruction & Terrorism Awareness, NYPD Homicide Investigation, Interview & Interrogation and Methods of Instruction. He has been recognized twice by the Rotary Club as Policeman of the Year and awarded by the 200 Club of Monmouth County. He has also been presented with numerous Commendations including Unit Citations, Honorable Service, Lifesaving Citation and the Thomas H. McGlennon Jr. Service Award.

## Detective Corporal David House #296

Retired 9/1/23

Detective Corporal David House grew up in Little Silver and graduated from Red Bank Regional High School in 1994. He attended the 199th New Jersey State Police Academy and was hired by the Long Branch Police Department as a Police Officer in April of 1999. Prior to joining the Long Branch Police Department, Detective Corporal House attended the New Jersey Corrections Academy and served as a Correctional Officer at the New Jersey Training School for Boys in Jamesburg.

He began his career with the Long Branch Police Department as a Patrolman, serving several years for the division in multiple squads. In addition, he was assigned to the Bicycle Patrol Unit for a period of time. In June of 2012, he was assigned to the Investigations Bureau as a Detective. His duties for the unit over the years included Forensics Detective, Financial Crimes Investigator, Background Investigator and Humane Law Enforcement Officer (HLEO) as of March, 2018.



Throughout his career, his professionalism and performance earned him several Unit Citations and Commendations. Included in his awards are a commendation for an investigation involving a barricaded individual who threatened to detonate an explosive device, Honorable Service for successfully identifying and locating a juvenile female in crisis, threatening to initiate a "Columbine" incident

and commit suicide. He was also the recipient of multiple Unit Citations, including one for solving 100% of all major crimes, including 7 counts of homicide during 2017 and 2018.

Detective Corporal House is currently attending Post University and majoring in Equine Science. He is also a proud father of three children.

# AWARDS



The Long Branch ELKS Annual Charity Ball Honored "Heroes of the Year" for 2022 on May 11, 2023.

Ret. Sgt. Robert Shamrock was chosen as the Long Branch Police Department Hero of the Year for his nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the LBPD, but also for his investigation in 2022 of a narcotics distribution network centered within Long Branch. After working closely with the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office on a diligent investigation, search warrants were conducted on residences within Long Branch which resulted in the seizure of over a kilogram of cocaine, a .40 caliber handgun and over one hundred thousand dollars.

Officers Lucas Brito, Victor Vargas- Cruz, Thomas Wright, Detective Conor Mullan and Detective Sergio Chaparro were honored by Monmouth County Crime Stoppers. They were recognized for their dedicated performance during an incident involving a victim who had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. The officers were able to quickly locate the victim and provide emergency medical care and are credited with saving the victim's life.



The detectives embarked on a two-month investigation, spending countless hours tracking leads, watching video surveillance, scrolling through social media, talking to witnesses and ultimately, identifying the accused. During the investigation, a Crime Stoppers tip was received. Through the evidence they gathered, and the caller's corroboration, the accused shooter was located and arrested in Ohio.



Detective Joseph Spitale and Detective Dawn Correia of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, Special Victim's Bureau were honored at the 25th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference for their outstanding performance in the investigation of a very emotional case that began in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit with a 16-week-old infant in critical condition, suffering from signs of "shaken baby syndrome." The detectives worked tirelessly to create a meticulous timeline for this investigation, interviewing over 16 witnesses and 3 possible suspects and discovered that the baby was present during a violent domestic assault between the mother and biological father. It was determined that the child was violently grabbed from the mother and carelessly held by the father while he physically punched and kicked the child's mother. The detectives located the father who had fled the state and with the help of the United States Marshals, Fugitive Task Force, located the suspect and placed him into custody within a few days. He was charged for the gruesome and life debilitating injuries he caused his daughter that she will never be able to recover from.

LBPD was chosen as this year's June winner for the USDOJ Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) "Community Policing in Action" photo contest! The photo was taken during the kickoff of the Safe Place initiative aimed at providing refuge for anyone affected by hate or bias crimes.

Special thanks to Chris Swendeman for taking the amazing photo, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office for allowing us to use the photo, LBPD Officer Page (pictured) and Michael (pictured) from the Mix Lounge Food Bar where the photo was taken.

Details about the winning photo are featured in the June 2023 edition of the Community Policing Dispatch e-newsletter.

<https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/index.html>



# POLICE UNIONS

The Long Branch Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local #10 and the Superior Officers Association (SOA) Local #10a share in their mission to provide mutual protection and benefits for their members in all aspects of job welfare and security. They are committed to the prevention of crime, protection of life and property, enforcement of laws and ordinances, the safeguarding of constitutional rights and guarantees and to providing safety to officers and the public. They strive to develop and grow their partnerships with the community and to improve the community as a whole through their support of local charities and events as well as through their development of social and cultural assemblies.



## SOA BOARD

Christopher Hazel, President  
Robert Bell, Vice President  
Antonia Gonzalez, Recording Secretary  
Brian Garrett, Treasurer  
James Beirne, Trustee  
Sam Yoo, Trustee



## PBA BOARD

Christopher Gant, President  
Cesare Simonelli, Vice President  
Sergio Chaparro, Recording Secretary  
Robert Poss, Treasurer  
Daniel DiLeonardo, Financial Secretary  
Todd Coleman, State Delegate  
Joseph Spitale, State Delegate  
Brian Oliveira, Trustee  
Steven Grant-White, Trustee  
Daniel Gould, Sergeant at Arms

LBPD SOA Local #10a and PBA Local #10 participate in many community-related programs and support numerous local organizations, charities and community members. A few of their contributions in 2023 included the following.

- Donated LED light-up rings, necklaces and bracelets, flashlights & other “goodies” for officers to hand out to Trick-or-Treaters on Halloween. The treat theme was “Be Safe, Be Seen! Have a Happy Halloween!”
- Donated food, money and toys to multiple local charities
- Participated in and donated to the NJ Special Olympics Torch Run
- Honored recent LBPD Retirees, Lt. Charles Shirley #284, D/Cpl. Charles Simonelli #286, D/Cpl. Todd Coleman #289 and Disp. Hope White #603 for their service at the 23rd Annual PBA Gala.



Funding for the SOA & PBA is provided by donation and fundraising events and sales of items such as coffee mugs and clothing. One of the largest fund raisers is the Annual PBA Golf Outing.

Proceeds from these events are used for charitable causes such as cancer research, Parkinson's Disease research, the Ronald McDonald house, holiday food and toy drives, assisting local families and athletic programs, and the PBA Scholarship fund which



LBPD PBA Local #10 supports numerous local organizations and their events. In 2023, they presented checks to Jacob's Ladder of Monmouth County, Inc. who hosted a Youth Football Tell-A-Vision Combine in town to give young athletes (2nd-8th Grade) the chance to compete in the same drills as professional athletes and to teams "We're Not MSing Around" and "Pacing For the Cure" for Walk MS Asbury Park.



The Wright Brothers of the LBPD PBA Local #10 participated in the 30th annual Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics in Seaside Heights. They were part of the 7,571 brave souls who took a plunge into the 43.5-degree waters of the ocean to raise over a record-breaking \$2.6 million for the Special Olympics New Jersey. Officer D. Wright organized the Local 10 Team and with donations from members, friends and the PBA, \$2,500 was donated to the Special Olympics. Members of the PBA also participated in the 40th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS



It's all-hands-on-deck for Oceanfest at Long Branch! It's our biggest seasonal event and the largest Independence Day celebration anywhere in NJ. Every July 4th, since 1990, crowds numbering in the hundreds of thousands come to our oceanfront for the all-day, family-friendly festival that ends in a magnificent fireworks display.

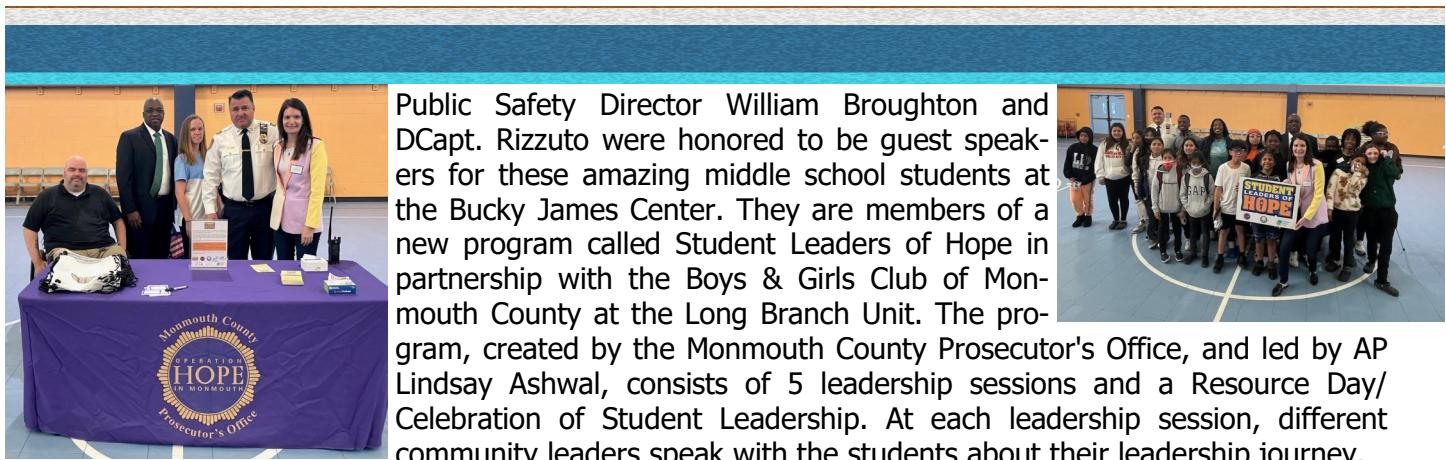


The annual "National Night Out" event was held in Slocum Park on Tuesday, August 1st. This event just keeps growing and getting better each year! It spanned both sides of Broadway to include the entire park and the lot across the street! It was packed with fun & games and had a tremendous turnout! This free event included food, refreshments, DJ, Gaga Pit, Dunk Tank, K9 Demo, Child ID's, Games, Prizes, Giveaways, Inflatables, Touch-A-Truck, Entertainers & More! Special thanks to our many sponsors & our Community Policing Unit who spends countless hours preparing for this event!

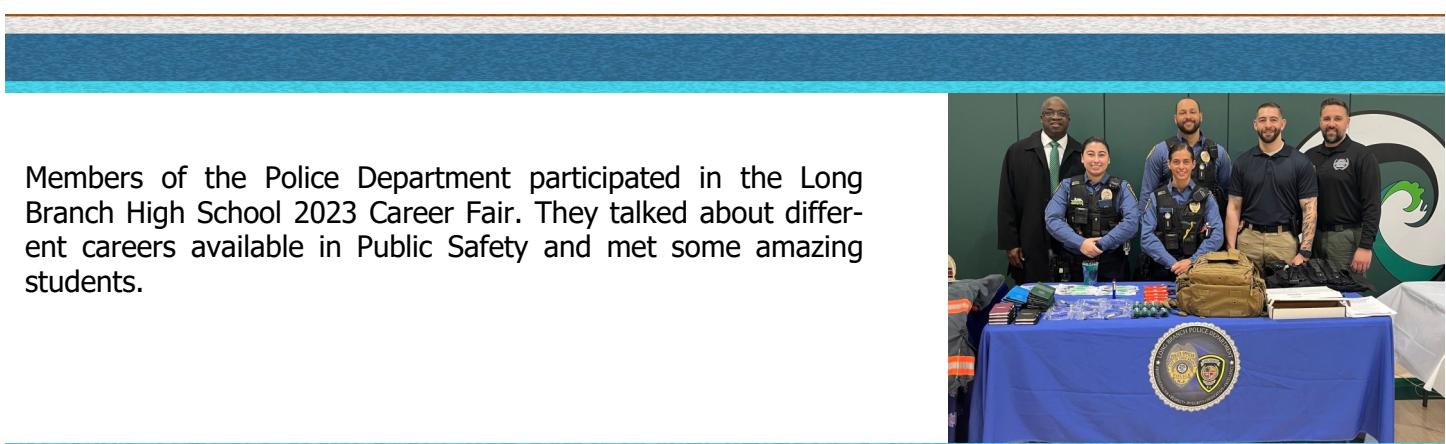


Director of Public Safety William Broughton welcomed Monmouth University & Long Branch Public Schools students and members at the start of their annual Culture Walk. "The event is an end-of-program recognition and celebration for the Monmouth Mentors / Buddy and Me Service Learning Teacher preparation program. Over the last seven years, the program has trained over 1000 teacher candidates. The program has reached nearly 2000 students in grades K-6 this year alone!"

The students met at the Long Branch Free Public Library before beginning their walk. The walk was escorted by members of the LBPD and traveled to the Portuguese Club of Long Branch where the students got "an immersive experience in the cultural artifacts proudly cared for and curated by the Portuguese Club for decades". Students were treated to a "brunch prepared with love by Long Branch's own Michelle DeLaia, owner of Bom DMais" and were presented with "recognition pins and program completion certificates from the Long Branch Public Schools Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion".



Public Safety Director William Broughton and DCapt. Rizzuto were honored to be guest speakers for these amazing middle school students at the Bucky James Center. They are members of a new program called Student Leaders of Hope in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of Monmouth County at the Long Branch Unit. The program, created by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, and led by AP Lindsay Ashwal, consists of 5 leadership sessions and a Resource Day/Celebration of Student Leadership. At each leadership session, different community leaders speak with the students about their leadership journey.



Members of the Police Department participated in the Long Branch High School 2023 Career Fair. They talked about different careers available in Public Safety and met some amazing students.



Director of Public Safety, William Broughton, was honored to accept an invitation from the Rotary Club of Long Branch, NJ to speak about Black History Month at their February meeting.

Presented by:  
Long Branch  
Police Department

Hosted by:  
**LONG BRANCH  
COVENANT CHURCH**

**FREE TO PUBLIC**



## Fraud, Scams & How to Protect Your Identity in 2023

**Monday • March 6 • 7pm**

Long Branch Covenant Church  
355 Joline Avenue, Long Branch, NJ

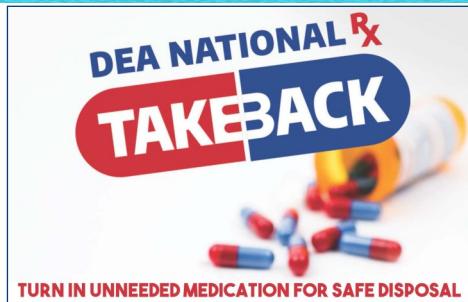
LBPD hosted a free presentation at Long Branch Covenant Church on how to protect yourself from fraud, scams and ID theft.



LBPD proudly hosted a community safety & security program focused on houses of worship on January 11 which was presented by the Jewish Federation in the Heart of New Jersey. The program, "Active Threat Response Training for Clergy", was well-received by attendees and we were glad to see several of our PD Chaplains in attendance. A very big thanks to the Jewish Federation and its representatives: Director of Security Initiatives Amy Keller, Director of Community Security Training Thomas Michaels and Chief Security Officer Robert Wilson.



LBPD Officers got a chance to have their photo taken with the Easter Bunny and do some fun crafts with local kids at the Long Branch Arts & Cultural Center. Plus, they met Santa at the City 's Holiday Tree Lighting Celebration and even saw the Grinch at a photo event at Doggie Sweets.



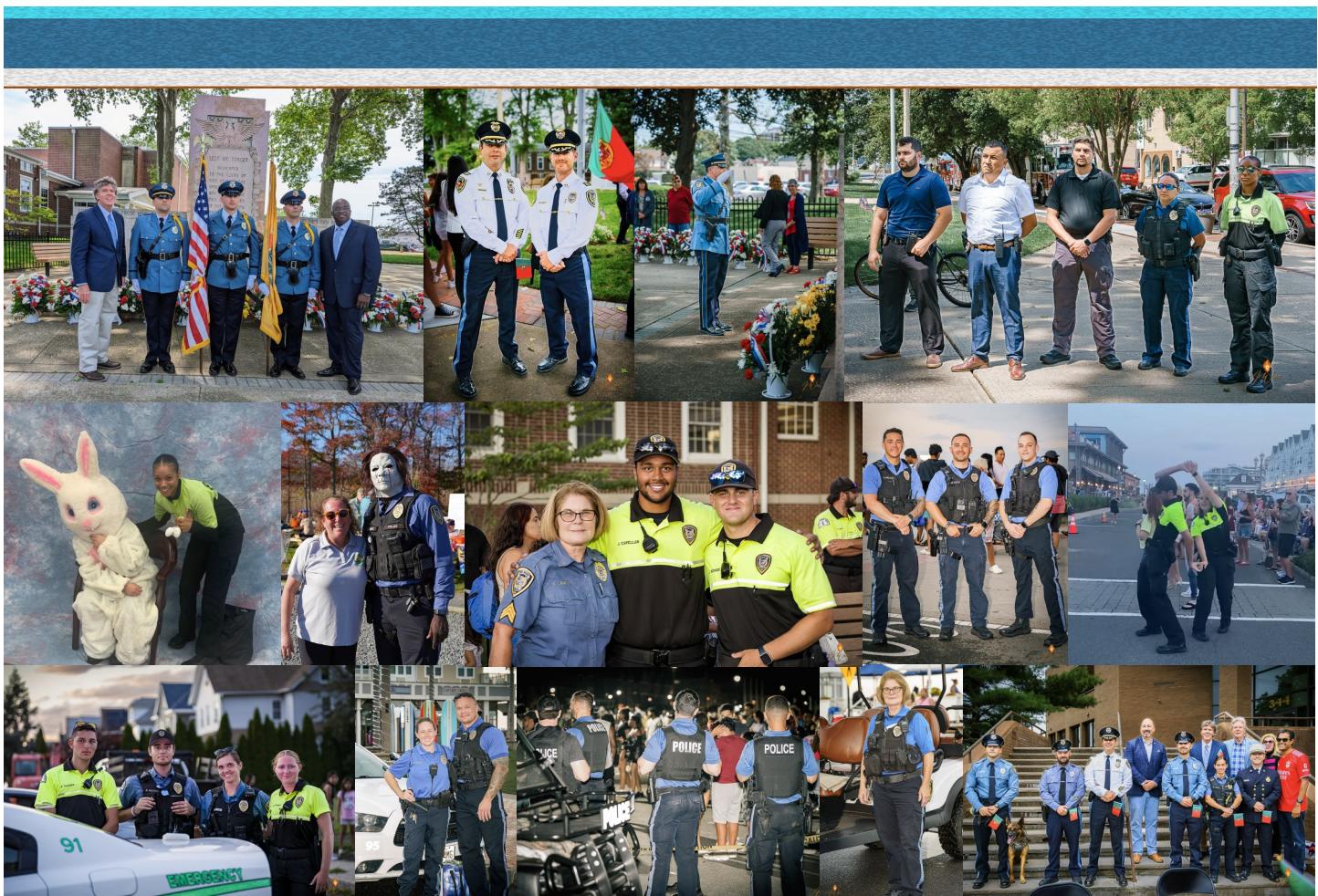
LBPD participated in both National Prescription Drug Takeback Days hosted by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. The event aims at proper disposal of expired, unwanted & unneeded prescriptions in an effort to prevent misuse & addiction.



The Long Branch High School hosted their annual Project Prom "How to Save a Life" program to raise awareness of the very serious consequences that can stem from teen drinking. This program is an extremely powerful, large-scale presentation that is made possible through the partnering of the Long Branch Public Schools with many local and state agencies. LBPD was proud to be a part of it!



Members of the LBPD proudly participated in the annual NJ Law Enforcement Torch Run in June, helping to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey.



LBPD members participate in many holiday celebrations and commemorative services and community events such as parades, festivals, memorial services and countless others.

# SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media allows us to communicate with our community 24/7, keeping them informed of any emergency notifications, events and important news. Additionally, it provides a terrific venue to highlight some of the unique programs, contests and current events we participate in as well as some of the accomplishments of our officers. While our Facebook page is our most visited site, ending the year with over 16.5K followers, we also maintain several other platforms in addition to our website.



**WEBSITE:**  
[longbranch.org/Police](http://longbranch.org/Police)



**NEXTDOOR:**  
[bit.ly/LBPDNextdoor](http://bit.ly/LBPDNextdoor)  
**4,238 Followers**



**FACEBOOK:**  
[facebook.com/LongBranchPolice](http://facebook.com/LongBranchPolice)  
**16,540 Followers**



**NEIGHBORS:**  
[ring.com/neighbors](http://ring.com/neighbors)



**X:**  
[x.com/LongBranchPD](http://x.com/LongBranchPD)  
**3,982 Followers**



**ALERT LONG BRANCH**  
(SMART911):  
[longbranch.org/alerts](http://longbranch.org/alerts)

## FUN FACEBOOK FACTS:

Highest Reach:

1. 23,348 (December 7th Burglary Suspect ID Request)
2. 18,019 (December 12th Anastasia Carolers & Tour)
3. 10,279 (September 25th Officer Kegley's Swearing In)

Most Reactions (Likes, Comments, Shares):

1. 470 (December 1st LBPD Officers' Crime Stoppers Award)
2. 433 (November 20th Sgt. Pat King EOW Memorial)
3. 366 (September 25th Officer Kegley's Swearing In)

Find photos of all the great events & happenings involving #LongBranchPD on our Facebook page!



## AND DID WE MENTION?



(Left) The "Mass for the First Responders of the City of Long Branch" was hosted by Saint Michael's Church, presided over by Father John Butler. Many members of the community joined to pray for and honor members of the police fire and emergency medical departments and express their gratitude for their service and sacrifices.

(Right) Members of the LBPD attended the 21st Annual Blue Mass in Freehold, hosted by the Diocese of Trenton. Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., served as principal celebrant and homilist and was joined at the altar with priests from across Burlington, Mercer, Monmouth and Ocean Counties.



On May 2, the LBPD responded to Branchport Park to assist in a rescue call involving a vehicle driven into the Shrewsbury River. Upon arrival on scene firefighters along with arriving police officers observed a submerged vehicle. Members of the LBFD trained in water rescue were able to enter the water and assist the individual to safety.



On September 12th we welcomed Alex W. Mann to the LBPD for a tour. Alex is a 23 y/o from Chester County PA, fully diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. He is a huge supporter of law enforcement and has spent the past 4.5 years traveling to police departments across 5 states: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and California to show his support and spread some awareness.

He came for a tour of the facility and to get some pictures with our officers, but also shared a little of his amazing journey with us. Alex visited his 400th department on 8/8 and LBPD was his 417th! Director Broughton, along with several LBPD Detectives, Officers and department members gathered in our briefing room to meet him.



In August, the Long Branch Ocean Rescue members outran, outswam and out paddled teams from Delaware and Los Angeles County to win the prestigious Howard Lee national lifeguarding championship trophy in Virginia Beach.

They beat dozens of teams from around the U.S., including 46-time national champion, Los Angeles County. This marks Monmouth County's third national lifeguarding title.



"National Bring Your Child to Work Day" was on Thursday, April 27, 2023, and the Department of Public Safety was excited to host their annual event for City employees and their families. This year's event was the largest one yet with 38 kids signed up!

Those who attended were treated to some fun activities including: a tour of City Hall & PD, mock council meeting, K9 Demo, meet & greet with Animal Control Supervisor, Deb Nagel & her K9 partner, Tucker, fingerprinting demo and exploring Police and Fire vehicles. The event concluded with a group photo of kids & parents, pizza & drinks for lunch compliments of the FMBA, goody bags & certificates of participation signed by Director Broughton compliments of the LBPD PBA Local #10 and Community Development.

All attendees, ages 1-15, learned something about what their parents do as employees of the City and, from the looks of the pictures, they seemed to have a good time!

Thanks so much to all who participated, including Business Administrator, Charles F. Shirley, Jr., Director of Public Safety William Broughton, OIC Det. Capt. Frank Rizzuto and Corporal Kim Leavy who lead the tour, Captain Silverio for arranging the police vehicles, FD Captain Carl Griffin for bringing the fire vehicles, Captain Guido Monteleone and members of the Elberon First Aid Squad for bringing the ambulance and teaching kids about first aid, Nick Bucciero for the traffic cart, Detectives House & Oliveira for the Fingerprint Demo, P.O. Remedios, PO Slavin & K9 Ozzy, AC Supervisor Deb Nagel & K9 partner Tucker, Al William for taking the photos, along with all others who helped!



# LONG BRANCH FIRE DEPARTMENT



## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

I was elected as 2nd Assistant Chief in 2021 and served alongside Chief DeLisa and Chief Bentley in both years 2021 and 2022 as the 1st Assistant Chief. These were very crucial years as we were called upon and tasked to rebuild a nearly extinct volunteer fire department that had declined in the several years leading up to 2020. This was not an easy task. However, the rejuvenated energy, dedication, and commitment of our volunteer members was quite evident. All they needed were the tools, training, and appreciation, and we assured they received this.

Although I often joked about Chief DeLisa “dragging” me into Office 3 years ago, I have to say that I am grateful he did. I want to thank Chief DeLisa for giving me this experience and the opportunity to serve as the “The Big City Chief”. It’s a true honor to now be amongst the many great Chiefs that have served before me. I also want to thank him for taking charge of the very important mission of rebuilding the department and keeping the tradition alive. He did an outstanding job, faced many challenges, and built a solid foundation for all to expand from. I would like to thank my Assistant Chiefs, Buster Bentley, and Brian Budd, for all their hard work throughout the years. I couldn’t have done it without them. I remember sitting down with both of them in December, 2022 for a several hours and going over our 1-year strategic plan for 2023. By the end of the night, the long list of items quickly appeared overwhelming and more like a several year plan. I’m proud to say that we not only accomplished the plan, but we accomplished more than was planned. As the old saying goes, “A plan without action isn’t a plan”. The “action” in this case was all of our members. The cooperation, dedication, and hard work by our active volunteer members and UFD members made this year a success. I would like to thank all the Officers and members that continually responded to calls, held routine duty crews, participated in trainings, attended City events, led committees, and were there in a blink of an eye when something was needed. There wasn’t one City event that the Fire Department didn’t come out to and represent.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Director William Broughton who was an instrumental part of the department’s success. His presence in the City was a breath of fresh air. It was reassuring to have someone in the position that is understanding, reasonable, that you can communicate with, and supports the department. He was always available if something was needed whether it was day, night, or a weekend, and always trusted my decisions. The same can be echoed for Mayor Pallone, the City Council, and B.A. Shirley, who were there from day 1 to support the department. They have all been there to answer my call at any time and want nothing more than the volunteers to continue to grow and expand in the City.

In 2023 I was elected as the Department Chief. It was a great honor to lead the great firefighters of the City of Long Branch, both Uniformed Fire Division and the Volunteer firefighters. Our firefighters worked hard this

year as a team, made huge progress, and were able to make some big achievements. Weekly duty crews were often organized, members continually trained, and apparatus was consistently on the road. More importantly, calls were answered, fires were aggressively and efficiently extinguished, member response to scenes was organized and orderly, and everyone worked together to get the job done without complaining. As an incident commander and Department Chief I could not ask for more. The system clearly works when members are empowered, provided with the tools they need, and treated with respect.



During the year of 2023 we continued the focus on rebuilding the department, recruitment of new members, and training jointly as a whole department, both volunteer and career. This year also set a milestone in which the Fire Department budget responsibility was assigned back to the Department Chief for the first time since over 10 years ago. I took great pride in this and thank the Mayor and Business Administrator for putting their trust in my leadership. Countless hours were spent in periodically auditing, organizing, modifying, and modernizing the budget, which ultimately led to thousands of dollars in savings. The failing apparatus maintenance plan that had been in place for years was revisited. Numerous new quotes were acquired and vendors outsourced resulting in more competitive purchases, repairs, and new partnerships. A new preventative maintenance plan was set in place and overseen by Assistant Chief Bentley and Lt. Butch Guzzi. This maintenance plan not only saved the Fire Department and City thousands of dollars, but assured that every single apparatus was maintained yearly as opposed to prior years, and ultimately resulted in functioning apparatus on the road. Due to the diligent budget oversight, we were also finally able to purchase much needed equipment for all of our Companies by the end of the year.

During the year of 2023 we were able to make huge progress and accomplish many goals. To highlight just a few of the accomplishments this year, WE:

- Applied for the American Rescue Plan Grant Award and were awarded \$73,000. This award will be used for the purchase of 16 sets of gear, hoods, boots, and structural firefighting gloves in 2024.
- Applied for the Joey DiBernardo Memorial Grant and were awarded \$25,000. This award was used to purchase 33 bailout kits, 33 Gemtor harnesses, and secured funding for training for all of our firefighters. This is the first time in the department's history that every single firefighter will be outfitted with kits and trained.
- Applied for the American Water Company Grant and were awarded \$2,500. This award was used to purchase 43 extrication gloves. We outfitted every active firefighter with extrication gloves for the first time in the department's history.
- Formulated and submitted a 15-year apparatus and command vehicle replacement plan.
- Formulated and submitted a Capital request for several larger important items, ultimately receiving a SCBA recharging station and new Knox vaults for all apparatus, as well as approval for the purchase of a new ladder truck.
- Established and implemented a brand new standardized yearly apparatus driver requalification program in accordance with NFPA and held 3 live fire trainings.
- Reviewed, updated, and made important changes to the City Fire Ordinance and began SOP updates.
- The Mutual Aid Response Plan was revised and updated to better suite the Department's operational needs.
- Recruited 6 new members that were pending acceptance into the fire academy.
- Performed preventative maintenance on every single apparatus this year (first time in many years).
- Performed all major and numerous minor repairs including pump defects on every single apparatus.

- Equipped every apparatus with new state of the art Knox Box vaults via requested Capital funds.
- Retrofitted Engines 2572, 2577, 2585, and Ladder 2590 with LED headlights and in addition added 2 LED scene lights and a LED brow light to Engine 2577.
- Purchased 12 new Elkhart low pressure 7/8" nozzles, equipping each engine with two for the primary attack lines.
- Every active company was able to submit a wish list of needed items. These wish lists were all mostly honored. Numerous tools were purchased including several thermal imaging cameras and multi gas meters.
- Purchased turnout gear for our 10 members (separate from the additional pending 16 sets from the grant).
- Purchased and ordered a brand new SCBA Recharging Station installed at Fire Headquarters via requested capital funds.
- Purchased additional dry suits for the UFD to be properly equipped for water rescues.
- Fire Police received numerous equipment and a floor drawer system for the new van.
- Purchased high quality cancer prevention Nomex hoods for every active firefighter.
- Received the approval for the purchase of a new Ladder truck for 2024 and committee formed.

I can say completing my term in December was a bitter-sweet moment for me. However, I am proud of all that WE accomplished as team not only in the year of 2023, but during the last three years of this Department's rebuilding. As I always said, if you do what's right, do it with character, treat all with respect, and don't ever allow complacency to prevail, success will follow. And do not forget: "Leave the place better than how you found it". I can truly say we did that.

Thank you,



Miguel Guarda  
Department Chief 2023



## FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS



L to R: Brian Budd, 1st Assistant Chief, Middle: Harold Bentley, 2nd Assistant Chief, Miguel Guarda, Fire Chief



## MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CAPTAIN

On behalf of the Uniformed Fire Division, City of Long Branch Fire Department, it is my pleasure to present the 2023 year in review. This report gives an overview of the service which the Uniformed Fire Division provides to the city around the clock. When fire is a threat, or there is an imminent hazard or threat to life, you may rest assured that your firefighters are highly motivated, well trained, professionally lead, responding with the proper tools, and equipment to do the job safely and efficiently. Beyond our call volume and statistics, I'm proud of the impact our division makes each day. Whether it's taking the time to participate in a community event, providing fire safety education classes to the schools or other organizations within and outside the city. We thrive on this interaction and we will always have an open-door for a resident to ask a question, or a child to see a fire truck, we are here at your service.

In 2023, through the efforts of the career and volunteers of the city, we responded to 1,616 calls for service ranging from alarms, fires, vehicle crashes, hazardous conditions, and rescues. We also provided more than 30 educational visits with an outreach of over 2,000 kids and adults. Members of the Division were recognized 8 times for exceptional operations on a multitude of call types for those answered. In addition to calls for service, we also focus on training for the ever-changing fire service. We do this by attending numerous classes on the local, state and national platforms. This past year, the division amassed over 2700 man hours of training. We have multiple NJ State Level 2 instructors on staff, all of our Officers and acting Officers are NJ State Fire Officer Level 1 trained at a minimum with some at Level 3 and we have firefighters teaching on the County and State level training platforms. With new issues arising in the fire service from alternate fuel vehicles, building materials, health and mental wellness, our firefighters must continuously learn, and with the ongoing development, and the number of visitors increasing, our division will need to continue to adjust to the needs of the city. In 2023, 4 firefighters were trained in "Shoring" for structural collapse with the Asbury Park Fire Department, and multiple Firefighters Certified in "Train the Trainer" classes to deliver content at all levels on the Fire and EMS platforms.

In closing, it is an absolute honor and privilege to serve as Captain, Uniformed Fire Division for the City of Long Branch and lead such a dedicated group of firefighters each and every day. Together our professional staff remains ever vigilant and committed to promoting the health, safety, and well-being of our community by providing the highest level of services possible. Our Firefighters will continue to step up when called upon to help our community in any way when they need it most and are very proud to do so.

I would be remiss if I did not continue to convey my sincere thanks to the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator and the Public Safety Director for their continued support and commitment to our division, staff, and overall mission of protecting life and property of the City residents and its visitors.

Sincerely,



Captain Carl E Griffin Sr.  
Uniformed Fire Division Commander  
City of Long Branch Fire Department



## MISSION STATEMENT

### Responding with Integrity, Serving with Compassion

The City of Long Branch Uniformed Fire Department is dedicated to protecting and serving our entire community of residents and visitors with the utmost commitment to professionalism and performance. We will accomplish this mission through fire suppression, rescue, professional development, training and public education.

## CORE VALUES

Our core values of **Service**, **Integrity**, **Bravery** and **Dedication** drive our mission forward every day.



# VOLUNTEER COMPANIES

The City of Long Branch has the proud distinction of being the birth place of the first organized fire company in Monmouth County. Prior to this, all communities employed the citizen "bucket brigade."

Organized in 1866, the Neptune Hook-Ladder & Hose Company became the 1st organized effort to battle the ravages of fire with a dedicated group of men and a fire apparatus. Their station on Branchport Avenue, now designated as Station 5 is also the home of the Oliver Byron Fire Eng. Co. No. 5 organized in 1890 and the Atlantic Fire Eng. & Hook and Ladder Co. No. 2 organized in 1874. The three consolidated companies operate a 2016 Pierce fire Engine 2575.

The City's first Municipal Building built c. 1873 on Norwood Ave is the current home of the Oceanic Fire Eng. Co. No. 1 organized in 1872, the Phil Daly Hose Co. No. 2 organized 1889 and the Independent Eng. & Truck Co. No. 2 organized in 1910. Out of this station the three consolidated companies operate Rescue 2585 and a Smeal fire Engine 2573. It now carries the designation as Station 6.

The Branchport Hose Company No. 3 located on Branchport Ave also now designated as Station 2 was organized in 1905 when the hamlet of Branchport was annexed into the City. They currently operate an E-Onefire Engine 2572.

The Elberon Engine Co. No. 4 located on Lincoln Ave is now designated as Station 3. Organized in 1890, the Engine has been relocated to Station 6 where it can serve the community better but the station is still the home of the Elberon EMS which is very active. Firefighters of the Elberon Eng. Company still have access to the fire engine which has been relocated.

The West End Engine Co. No. 3 Located on 2nd Ave was organized in 1884 and is now designated as Station 9. They currently house Reserve Engine 2576 a Pierce Engine and Engine 2577 is an E-One Fire Engine.



Neptune Hook-Ladder & Hose Co. No. 1



West End Engine Co. No. 3



Atlantic Fire Engine & Hook-Ladder Co. No. 2



Elberon Engine Co. No. 4



Branchport Hose Company No. 3



Oceanic Fire Eng. Co. No. 1

Phil Daly Hose Co. No. 2

Independent Eng. & Truck Co.. No. 2



Oliver Byron Fire Engine Co. No. 5



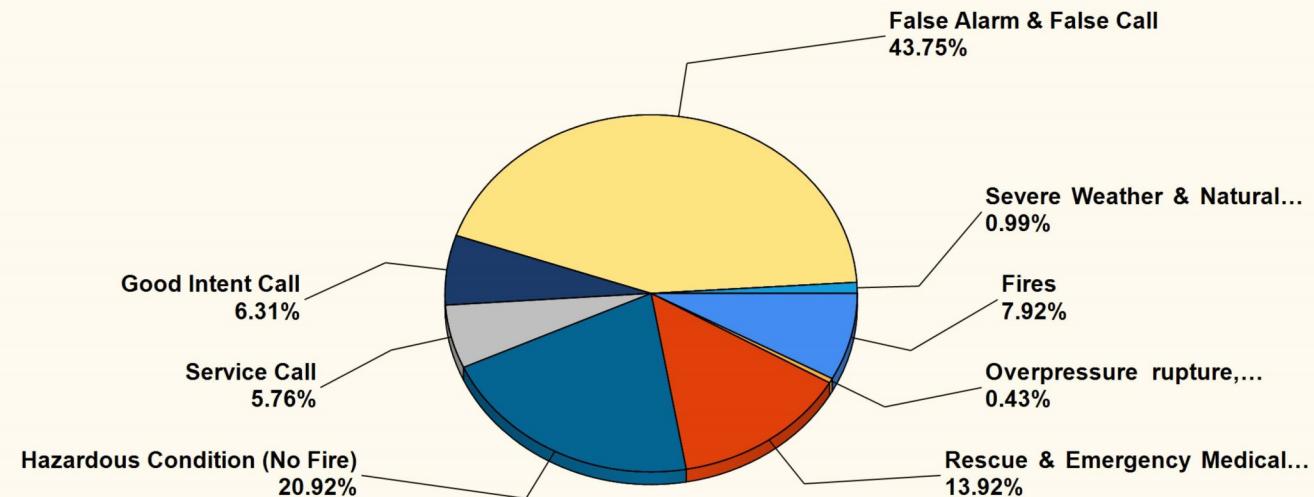
As of 2023, our Volunteer Fire Division has approximately 40 active volunteers on the roster including the Chief, 1st Assistant Chief and 2nd Assistant Chief, who work alongside our Uniformed Fire Division. Additionally, we have a Fire Police Unit which has nine members and three vehicles.

The Fire Police respond to calls mutually with the fire department and assist with traffic control, keeping the scene free from obstructing vehicles and vehicles that are not authorized to enter the area. Fire Police serve a crucial and intricate part in ensuring our firefighters' safety by controlling traffic matters at the fire scene. Their work prevents vehicles from injuring our firefighters by striking them or running over water supply hose which could damage the hose and trap firefighters within a dangerous structure with minimal water pressure. In addition to responding to fire calls, they are specifically requested to assist the Police Department with traffic control in emergencies and for community events. They are also part of a Monmouth County Fire Police Mutual Aid Agreement and often assist other jurisdictions with traffic control.





# FIRE DEPARTMENT STATS



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	128	7.92%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheat - no fire	7	0.43%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	225	13.92%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	338	20.92%
Service Call	93	5.76%
Good Intent Call	102	6.31%
False Alarm & False Call	707	43.75%
Severe Weather & Natural Disaster	16	0.99%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1616</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
100 - Fire, other	1	0.06%
111 - Building fire	31	1.92%
113 - Cooking fire, confined to container	44	2.72%
114 - Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney or flue	1	0.06%
116 - Fuel burner/boiler malfunction, fire confined	1	0.06%
118 - Trash or rubbish fire, contained	5	0.31%
131 - Passenger vehicle fire	5	0.31%
142 - Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire	11	0.68%
142M - Mulch fire	10	0.62%
143 - Grass fire	1	0.06%
151 - Outside rubbish, trash or waste fire	16	0.99%
154 - Dumpster or other outside trash receptacle fire	1	0.06%
162 - Outside equipment fire	1	0.06%
251 - Excessive heat, scorch burns with no ignition	7	0.43%
311 - Medical assist, assist EMS crew	19	1.18%
321 - EMS call, excluding vehicle accident with injury	5	0.31%
322 - Motor vehicle accident with injuries	88	5.45%
323 - Motor vehicle/pedestrian accident (MV Ped)	1	0.06%
324 - Motor vehicle accident with no injuries.	16	0.99%
331 - Lock-in (if lock out , use 511 )	3	0.19%
351 - Extrication of victim(s) from building/structure	1	0.06%
352 - Extrication of victim(s) from vehicle	7	0.43%
353 - Removal of victim(s) from stalled elevator	48	2.97%
361 - Swimming/recreational water areas rescue	1	0.06%
363 - Swift water rescue	23	1.42%
364 - Surf rescue	12	0.74%
365 - Watercraft rescue	1	0.06%
400 - Hazardous condition, other	6	0.37%
410 - Combustible/flammable gas/liquid condition, other	2	0.12%
411 - Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill	6	0.37%
412 - Gas leak (natural gas or LPG)	61	3.77%
413 - Oil or other combustible liquid spill	8	0.5%
420 - Toxic condition, other	2	0.12%
421 - Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)	2	0.12%
422 - Chemical spill or leak	1	0.06%
424 - Carbon monoxide incident	22	1.36%
440 - Electrical wiring/equipment problem, other	5	0.31%
441 - Heat from short circuit (wiring), defective/worn	4	0.25%
442 - Overheated motor	11	0.68%
443 - Breakdown of light ballast	1	0.06%
444 - Power line down	118	7.3%
445 - Arcing, shorted electrical equipment	9	0.56%
460 - Accident, potential accident, other	2	0.12%
461 - Building or structure weakened or collapsed	1	0.06%
462 - Aircraft standby	28	1.73%
463 - Vehicle accident, general cleanup	49	3.03%
500 - Service Call, other	1	0.06%
511 - Lock-out	4	0.25%
520 - Water problem, other	4	0.25%
522 - Water or steam leak	38	2.35%
531 - Smoke or odor removal	3	0.19%
542 - Animal rescue	4	0.25%
550 - Public service assistance, other	2	0.12%
551 - Assist police or other governmental agency	12	0.74%
552 - Police matter	2	0.12%

INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
553 - Public service	6	0.37%
554 - Assist invalid	1	0.06%
555 - Defective elevator, no occupants	1	0.06%
561 - Unauthorized burning	3	0.19%
571 - Cover assignment, standby, moveup	12	0.74%
600 - Good intent call, other	11	0.68%
611 - Dispatched & cancelled en route	7	0.43%
622 - No incident found on arrival at dispatch address	14	0.87%
631 - Authorized controlled burning	17	1.05%
641 - Vicinity alarm (incident in other location)	2	0.12%
650 - Steam, other gas mistaken for smoke, other	1	0.06%
651 - Smoke scare, odor of smoke	34	2.1%
652 - Steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke	7	0.43%
653 - Smoke from barbecue, tar kettle	5	0.31%
671 - HazMat release investigation w/no HazMat	4	0.25%
700 - False alarm or false call, other	1	0.06%
710 - Malicious, mischievous false call, other	3	0.19%
713 - Telephone, malicious false alarm	6	0.37%
714 - Central station, malicious false alarm	6	0.37%
721 - Bomb scare - no bomb	1	0.06%
731 - Sprinkler activation due to malfunction	13	0.8%
732 - Extinguishing system activation due to malfunction	1	0.06%
733 - Smoke detector activation due to malfunction	49	3.03%
735 - Alarm system sounded due to malfunction	7	0.43%
736 - CO detector activation due to malfunction	20	1.24%
740 - Unintentional transmission of alarm, other	4	0.25%
741 - Sprinkler activation, no fire - unintentional	4	0.25%
743 - Smoke detector activation, no fire - unintentional	560	34.65%
744 - Detector activation, no fire - unintentional	2	0.12%
745 - Alarm system activation, no fire - unintentional	8	0.5%
746 - Carbon monoxide detector activation, no CO	22	1.36%
812 - Flood assessment	16	0.99%
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS:</b>	<b>1616</b>	<b>100%</b>

# TRAINING

In addition to the rigorous training that our members complete in the Fire Academy, they are responsible for additional training courses and frequent recertification. Both career and volunteer firefighters attend countless hours of training throughout the year both in-house, with mutual aid, and at various fire academies. Many firefighters attend additional training for the use of equipment and specialized teams. A few examples include cold water/ice rescue operations, master stream operators, firefighter escape systems and confined space training. Training consists of classroom and practical exercises.

As highlighted in the Chief's letter, LBFD had a tremendous increase in training in 2023, including courses in the following categories.

Live fire training	Pak Tracker scenarios	Driver/engine operator qualification
Search and rescue	Firefighter down scenarios	Pump operator qualification
Hose line deployment	Packaging and removal techniques	Firefighter Escape Systems
Fire extinguishment	Handline stretching/deployment	High rise pack folding/deployment
Communications	Smokehouse/live burn training	Ladder pipe/drafting operations
CPR	Mask utilization	Roof operations/saws and tools
Through the wall techniques	Driver training	Basement fires





# FIRE DEPARTMENT MILESTONES

Lieutenant Alfred 'Butch' Guzzi retired on 12/1/23 after over 28 years of service.

Lt. Guzzi, assigned to Tour 1, is a third generation member of the LBFD and comes from a family that is a strong part of our department. Butch Guzzi Sr., his father, served as Chief in 1980 and is still honored as a valued member and advisor to the department Chiefs even today.

Lt. Guzzi started as a Mascot at the Atlantic Engine and Truck Company and was a volunteer member rising to the rank of Captain and serving as Head Driver. He was hired in 1995 as a member of the UFD where he has served proudly and with distinction. He has been decorated many times for his service and bravery.

Butch will be most remembered for his large presence in our department, his humor, knowledge of trucks, his colorful attire, and his love of Cigars. He was the impetus behind the annual FMBA cigar dinner which is a very popular event statewide that raises money for local charity.

We wish him all the best in retirement and his future endeavors.



On December 29, 2023, long-time Uniformed Fire Division firefighter, Henry "Skip" Cioffi was promoted to the rank of Fire Lieutenant.

Congratulations to newly elected 2nd Assistant Chief Aaron Biernacki! He was elected December 2023 and will begin his one-year term of service on January 1, 2024.



# AWARDS



The Long Branch ELKS #742 held their Annual Charity Ball honoring the 2022 "Heroes of the Year".

Left image: Members of the Uniformed Fire Tour # 4 were honored for their efforts in removing a bariatric subject from a building with extreme hoarding conditions. (Pictured L-R: Lt Griffin, Capt Griffin, FF Banach, FF Brand, FF D. Saffioti, and FF Fazio.)

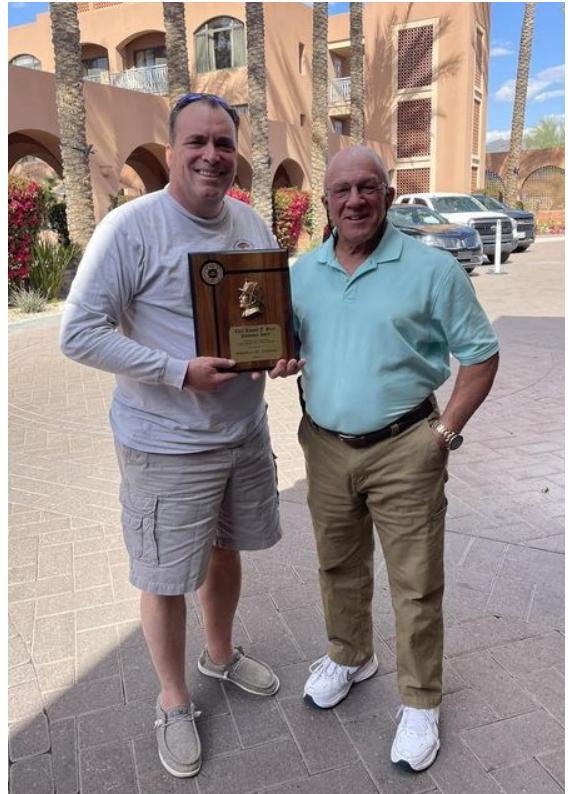
Right image: Volunteer Fire Captain Bryan Wartel (pictured third from right) was honored for his integral part in the rescue of a resident who was electrocuted while cutting tree branches from an elevated lift. Captain Wartel, who is also an EMT, provided life-saving care on-scene and supported the patient all the way to the hospital which ultimately resulted in a positive outcome for that patient. Additionally, Captain Wartel was the top responder for 2022, assisting with 225 fire calls.



Thanks to the Lt. Joseph P. DiBernardo Memorial Foundation! The LBFD was one of 14 departments in the nation to be chosen as 2023 grant recipients. The \$25,000 award was used to purchase 33 bailout kits, 33 Gemtor harnesses, and secured funding for training for all of our firefighters.



Ex-Chief Joe Sirianni received the Louis Napolitano Award at the Amerigo Vespucci Society Man of the Year Dinner.



Ex-Chief Peter DeLisa presented Ex-Chief Sam Tomaine with his Armand Guzzi Jr. Award for his lifetime of excellent service to the City of Long Branch Fire Dept.



On April 6, members of the LBFD, Director of Public Safety Broughton, Mayor Pallone, and Councilman Vieira joined together to congratulate Lt. Larry Smith for attaining 50 years of active service as a volunteer firefighter in the Long Branch Fire Department. Lt. Smith continues to be an integral member of this department and a top responder no matter what time of day or night.



Thanks to New Jersey American Water for awarding the LBFD with a grant for \$2,500! This award was used to purchase 43 extrication gloves, outfitting every active firefighter.



Thanks to the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) for choosing LBFD as a recipient of the 2023 American Rescue Plan Grant Award! LBFD was awarded \$73,000 which will be used for the purchase of 16 sets of full turnout gear, structural firefighting boots, gloves, and nomex hoods.



LBFD members won the annual cook off vs the LBPD at the National Night Out event.

# FIRE UNION



## FMBA LOCAL #68

Larry Fornicola—President

Chris Fazio—Vice President

Joe Gray—Secretary

Joe Paulson—Treasurer

Tim Griffin—Delegate

The Long Branch Fire Department is a combination department consisting of both paid and volunteer components. The career staff is made up of 25 members who are divided into four shift tours and work 24 hours on, 72 off. The Uniform Division Captain runs day to day operations and works a Monday to Friday schedule. The career staff is known as the Uniform Firefighters Division and is represented by the New Jersey Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) and are designated as Local #68. The department responds to an average 1600 calls for assistance each year. The career staff members all started as volunteer firefighters and chose to pursue firefighting as a vocation. The career and volunteer members work side by side to provide fire protection to Monmouth County's largest city.

FMBA Local 68 established a Charitable Trust Fund 20 years ago to provide assistance to city-based organizations or individuals in need. Over the years, the Trust has provided 3 yearly scholarships for the Long Branch High School, assisted numerous local sports programs, provided assistance to families after a fire loss, prepared and served Holiday Dinners to local charity groups, held an annual "Food Drive" for the local food banks, raised money for the Breast Center at Monmouth Medical Center, sponsored a block party/BBQ for the neighborhood, and hosts an annual "Cigar Dinner" at Rooney's Oceanfront Restaurant. This one night event and a yearly mailer provides us the means to give back to the community and do all of this. Most recently we donated 15k to the beach front with the first all handicap accessible beach area in the county. These are just a few of the many beneficiaries of the FMBA Local 68. Aside from providing 24 hour a day seven day a week emergency service coverage to the citizens of Long Branch, FMBA Local 68 is dedicated to helping better the community for the citizens of the City of Long Branch.





**LONG BRANCH PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS  
15th Annual  
CIGAR DINNER FUNDRAISER**



September 7, 2023  
Rooney's Oceanfront Restaurant  
Long Branch, NJ  
6pm-10pm  
\$155 Per Ticket

4 Hour Open Bar  
Gourmet Buffet Dinner  
6+ Cigars, Cutters & Gift Bag  
Door Prizes & Auction Gifts  
Hand Rolled Cigar Demo  
Table Reservations Available  
Casual Relaxed Attire

Contact 732-895-9204 for questions



# COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS

Firefighters organize and participate in a wide variety of community events throughout the year. Below is a list of just a few of the events that they participated in during 2023.

MLK Ceremonies

Easter Bunny runs around town

Egg Hunts and Easter events in the City

Memorial Day Ceremonies within the City

Community Movie & BBQ

National Night Out

Oceanfest and other firework displays

Columbus Day Parade

Santa runs around town

Christmas events such as the annual Tree Lighting

Menorah Lightings

Annual Fire Department Awards Ceremony

Project Prom

Various touch a truck events

Community Fun Days

School Safety Presentations with "Sparky"

Annual Open House for Fire Prevention Week

Local School and Community Career Fairs







# FIRE DEPARTMENT IN ACTION





## AND DID WE MENTION?



Fire Chief Miguel Guarda and members of the LBFD had a lot of fun hosting the crew from FOX Weather on July 20th!

Fox Weather's Nick Kosir - The Dancing Weatherman visited Fire Headquarters to speak to Chief Guarda and get a lesson in firefighting in the summer heat along with some fire safety tips for an upcoming segment.

The City of Long Branch, NJ Tour 1 Fire Fighters helped Nick into full gear and weighed him before & after to see how many pounds of equipment firefighters typically carry. Nick's equipment weighed in at 100 pounds! They also let him have a try at operating the fire hose and gave him a ride along on the truck. <https://www.foxweather.com/>

Check out the video at: <https://www.foxweather.com/extreme-weather/firefighters-adapt-during-extreme-heat-new-jersey>



LBFD & LBPD members assisted with a Kevin Smith movie shoot in The City of Long Branch, NJ in September! Broadway was shut down temporarily to transform it into an 80's downtown scene for "The 4:30 Movie".

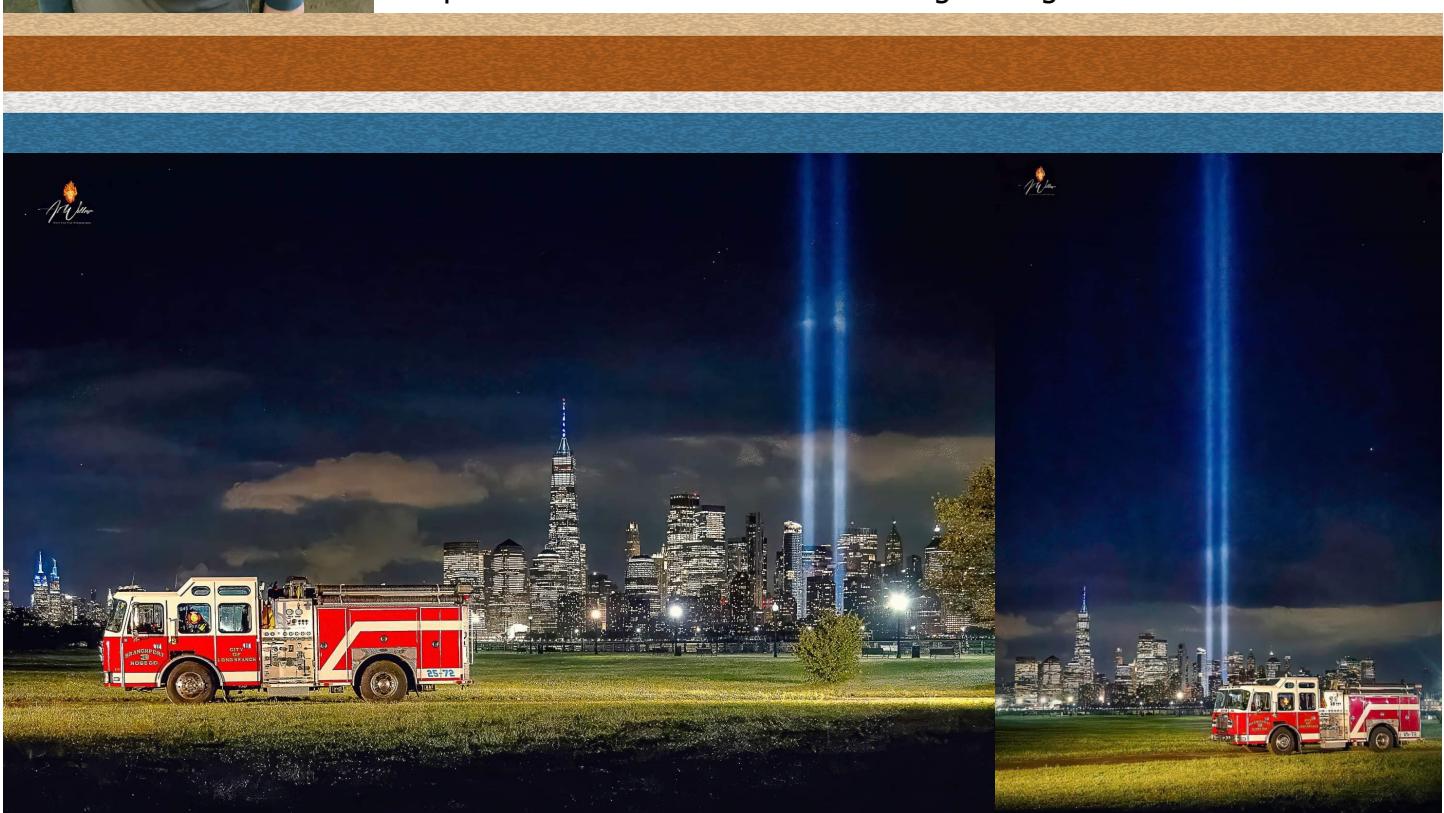


Congratulations to Joseph Valentino for being awarded the rank of Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America.

Joey assisted the Long Branch Fire Department with their recruitment and community outreach programs and used that as the basis of his Eagle project. His project was very effective and was a critical piece in reconnecting our department with the community we serve.

This prestigious award is earned by only 4% of Boy Scouts.

We are very lucky to have Joey as a member of our department and are appreciative of his effort. And we are certainly extremely proud of all of his work in becoming an Eagle Scout!



Members of the LBFD brought Engine 2572 to Jersey City on September 11, Patriot Day.



Congratulations to LB Fire Chief Miguel Guarda who was honored by the 200 Club of Middlesex County for his role as NJSP DSFC. Guarda, pictured with Director of Public Safety William Broughton, received the prestigious Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Awards Ceremony on May 23, 2023. He played a key role in an investigation of a fatal hit and run on the Garden State Parkway in May of 2022.

The annual State Firemen's Convention was held in September in Wildwood. It was a great time with family, friends, and fellow firefighters. We also celebrated and congratulated our 2nd Assistant Chief nominee Aaron Biernacki of the Branchport Hose Co.



### Volunteer Firefighters Are Always Wanted!

Can you fill these boots?!? Training, Gear & Background Check are free! Candidates must be able to pass a physical exam. For questions and more information, email: [Joinlbfd@longbranch.org](mailto:Joinlbfd@longbranch.org)

## SPECIAL THANKS



A huge thanks to Al Williams (left) for all he has done for the City of Long Branch! Al works tirelessly, on a volunteer basis, to photograph most City, Fire Department and Police Department events. He has been instrumental in documenting the history of our City, including fire calls, parades, National Night Out, Bring Your Child to Work Day, Oceanfest, Tree Lightings, Santa Runs, Easter Bunny Runs, holiday events, LBFD's BBQ & Movie Night and so many other events. Additionally, he has preserved City history through his amazing photography for the City Firehouses, Engines, and other City property. We always know we can count on Al to photograph an event and we are extremely grateful for his help and talent! His work was instrumental in the creation of this report.

All photographs were used with permission wherever photographers were known. Some photos were taken directly from city social media sites and the photographers are unknown.

Thanks to all photographers who allowed us to use their work!

William Bahamonde

Sergio Chaparro

Lance Fanning

Jack Flaherty Photography

Brian Garrett

Carl Griffin

Miguel Guarda

Kelly Hughes

Danna Kawut

Kimberly Leavy

Enrique Mano

The Link News

Monmouth Co. Prosecutor's Office

Monmouth Co. Sheriff's Office

Brian Oliveira

Robert Poss

Christopher Remedios

Chris Swendeman

Richard Thompson

U.S. Dept. of Justice COPS Office

Al William

The 2023 Annual Report was compiled and produced in 2024 by Kelly Hughes under the direction of Director of Public Safety William Broughton



*JW Miller*