



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



#STAND UP TO HATE



HATE HAS NO HOME IN OCEAN COUNTY

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OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to submit the 2022 Annual Narrative Report for the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, which supplements the statistical summary previously filed with the Office of the Attorney General.

Under New Jersey law, the county prosecutor functions as the chief law enforcement office for the county. As a constitutional officer, I am charged with the obligation to use all reasonable and lawful diligence in the detection, arrest, indictment and conviction of people who violate the criminal laws of our state.

My term began in October of 2018 when I was sworn into office. Since that time my administration has been working diligently to improve communications with the local police departments and focusing on community outreach. We strive to engage with our residents in their communities, to present a positive image for law enforcement and to remain transparent at all times with the public that we so proudly serve.

Under my leadership, we have made great strides in sharing data and intelligence with our Federal, State and local law enforcement partners. Cooperation amongst all levels of law enforcement best serves our citizens. Specifically, our Narcotics Strike Force and our Major Crime Unit have worked diligently to share intelligence in an effort to battle the heroin, opioid and fentanyl epidemic in Ocean County. Our Asset Forfeiture Squad within the Narcotics Strike Force has proven to be a force multiplier when it comes to aggressively investigating the financial dealings of those individuals arrested for distribution of illegal narcotics. I have made a conscious and deliberate effort to create space for our community partners in battling the opioid epidemic. We pay specific attention to their efforts and support them in all endeavors to positively impact our residents suffering from substance abuse disorder. We continue to nurture our relationships with our healthcare and community partners to work towards educating the members of our community about the dangers of substance abuse. I am hopeful that our combined efforts will bring our substance abuse related overdoses and deaths down in the near future.

We have expanded our Special Offenders Unit to include more dedicated staff to serve our Veteran's Diversion Program, Mental Health Diversions, Recovery Court, Resiliency Training and Operation Helping Hand. We have expanded our Operation Helping Hand outreach through targeted programming that provides natural intersection for law enforcement and those suffering from substance abuse disorder. We will continue to follow the data so that we can provide positive and timely interventions for those suffering from substance abuse disorder.

We have been very aggressive in our approach to bias related incidents and crimes. We have encouraged our residents to report all bias incidents to law enforcement. We have made it very clear that hate has no home in Ocean County.

2022 proved to be an impressive year thanks to the dedication of the Assistant Prosecutors, Detectives, Victim Witness Counselors and Support Staff. It is an honor to serve with all of these men and women. Together, we strive to serve and protect the citizens of Ocean County.

Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor

OCEAN COUNTY



Ocean County was created on Feb. 15, 1850. Originally made up of only six (6) municipalities and a population of 56,622, it grew to include thirty-three (33) by 1891 and a population of approximately 630,000 today.

OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

The Ocean County Prosecutor is the chief law enforcement officer for Ocean County and maintains the Office of the County Prosecutor, centrally located at 119 Hooper Avenue in Toms River, New Jersey. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO) is currently staffed by 184 people.



In addition to the Prosecutor, the staff currently consists of fifty-one (51) attorneys who act as Assistant Prosecutors; sixty-eight (68) sworn law enforcement officers who function as Detectives; as well as fifteen (15) Prosecutor Agents; nine (9) Victim Witness Counselors; six (6) System Analysts; one (1) SANE Nurse Coordinator; one (1) Press Officer; one (1) Secretary to the Prosecutor; one (1) Confidential Assistant to the Prosecutor; and thirty-one (31) Clerical Employees.

The County Prosecutor is a constitutional officer, and is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of all indictable offense(s) within the county. The Prosecutor is also responsible for ensuring that policies and procedures mandated by the New Jersey Attorney General are disseminated and enforced to all law enforcement agencies within the county. The County Prosecutor renders legal and investigative guidance to local police departments in the investigation, identification, apprehension and prosecution of people accused of committing crimes within the county. In addition, the County Prosecutor performs an important public function in educating the public about crimes, trends, disposition of criminal cases, preventive action to detect and prevent crimes, and policies and procedures to keep our families and vulnerable members of our community safe.

Ocean County is the second largest county in the state covering approximately 640 square miles and provides a permanent residence to about 655,000 people. More than 200,000 senior citizens, almost one-fourth of the county's population, call Ocean County home. Ocean County is bounded on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and is a popular seashore resort area, drawing not only visitors from New Jersey and neighboring states, but from international locations as well. There are thirty-two (32) municipalities in Ocean County, and with the exceptions of one, each maintains an independent police department.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is organized into various specialized units. The following pages provide a brief description of the functions and accomplishments of each Unit.

Administrative Unit

The Administrative Unit oversees various functions for the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, hereinafter referred to as the OCPO, and is responsible for but not limited to the following:

The Administrative Unit prepares work orders relative to requests for repairs/upgrades to HVAC, plumbing, electrical and general building issues. The Administrative Unit assists with coordinating the physical assignment of employees to their respective workspace. This includes providing the proper furnishings, computer requirements, cellular phone assignment and IT related access. The Unit is responsible for providing and up keeping of the electronic access door swipes and identification cards. Further the Administrative Unit supervises construction projects at 119 Hooper Avenue, Toms River and the following out buildings:

- 1 and 2 Mott Place, Toms River
- 7 Hadley Ave., Toms River
- 44 Hadley Ave., Toms River
- 138 Chestnut St., Toms River
- 16 Madison Ave., Toms River
- Recovery Rd, Resource Center Trailer, Manahawkin
- 9 Grand Ave., Toms River

Evidence

The Administrative Unit is responsible for the collection and cataloguing of physical evidence by evidence custodians as well as facilitating weapons destruction. As of the last Accreditation audit the Office had approximately 35,000 pieces of evidence in its possession.

Seized/Forfeited Vehicles

Evidence custodians keep inventory of OCPO seized/forfeited vehicles. As necessary, the evidence custodians coordinate vehicle destruction for vehicles that have been forfeited but no longer able to be auctioned.

Vehicle Fleet

The Administration Unit maintains approximately 150 vehicles. The Unit tracks vehicle maintenance, arranges spare vehicles, shuttles vehicles to repair, assists in evaluating road worthiness of forfeited vehicles, liaison to vehicle vendors for maintenance and upgrades, liaison to Motor Vehicle Center in Trenton where confidential registrations are processed, manages registrations and insurance cards including renewals and dissemination of same, vehicle ordering and purchasing, maintain spare keys, maintain a list of forfeited vehicles for auction, orchestrates the installation of emergency lights, radios and sirens, provides Risk Management with notification of employee involved motor vehicles and subsequently provides police and office reports.

Training

The Administrative Unit is responsible for overseeing training and to coordinate all training efforts through DMS for office personnel and acts as liaison to the Division of Criminal Justice Academy as well as any additional training that is deemed necessary to an employee's position or advance his/her expertise in their duties. The Unit also assists newly hired detectives with pre Academy medical screening, drug testing, Covid -19 testing and receiving their requisite equipment and vehicle for their academy training. The Unit also supervises and coordinates the new Detective Field Training program.

Internship Programs

Both law enforcement and legal interns are managed by the Administrative Unit. Upon completion of a background check, the Intern Coordinator facilitates all aspects of the intern assignment and exposure to the functions of the OCPO. Memorandums of Understanding are maintained with local colleges and Universities.

New Employee orientation

The Unit provides all new employees with a New Employee Orientation where they are provided the office policies and equipment.

Interviews

The Unit coordinates and processes the interviewing of prospective detective applicants. An evaluation report is prepared and provided to the Chief and Prosecutor for their determination.

Accreditation

The Administration Unit is responsible for the maintenance of all documentation pertaining to New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police accreditation to ensure OCPO compliance. The Accreditation Manager is responsible for maintaining state standards and gathering necessary proofs.

Purchasing and Accounts Payable

Clerical staff in the Administrative Unit maintain the Accounts Payable for the office needs and subsequently prepare purchase orders and assist with vendor coordination.

Equipment

Members of the Administrative Unit are responsible for office equipment management and dissemination. Said items consist of Covid-19 related orders including but not limited to masks, hand sanitizer, misting and fogging decontamination machines and industrial level surface cleaners, county handheld radios, clothing, etc.

Special Offender's Unit

A Sergeant and Agents assigned under the Administrative Unit assist with various programs pertaining to special offenders to include but not be limited to Veteran's Court matters, Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and various Prosecutor led Community Outreach programs designed to assist those suffering from addiction to include law enforcement.

Appellate Unit

The Appellate Unit practices before the state and federal appellate courts. The issues on appeal can be quite technical and span a broad spectrum of criminal law, from constitutional issues, evidential issues, jury instructions, and federal habeas corpus claims which examine the entire state criminal process for constitutional soundness, to a host of other issues. The Assistant Prosecutors also litigate certain civil issues such as Open Public Records Act (OPRA) issues from trial through the appeals process. They also appear in the trial courts on motions or hearings on select criminal and constitutional issues.

Because appellate courts often decide questions of law binding upon the entire legal community and citizenry within a jurisdiction, The Assistant Prosecutors are required to remain current on trends and important topics of the law. They maintain an efficient and current research database to this end, and often advise other sections of the office on developments in the law.

During 2022, the Appellate Unit filed 82 briefs with state and federal appellate tribunals, twelve of which were petitions for certification to the Supreme Court. The number of appeals resulting in the conviction being affirmed in 2022 is 34. Four (4) appeals resulted in a reversal of conviction and five (5) cases were resolved by an order affirming in part/reversing and remanded in part. This occurs usually to correct an issue in sentencing. Six (6) cases were either withdrawn by the defendant or dismissed by the court. The remainder await disposition.

Additionally, the Appellate Unit handles petitions for post-conviction relief before the trial and appellate courts. In 2022, thirteen new post-conviction relief petitions were filed, five (5) petitions had been denied relief, four (4) petitions dismissed or withdrawn and four (4) petitions remain pending.

The Appellate Unit also handles municipal appeals. In 2022, eleven appeals had been filed from trials *de novo* in the Law Division. This Unit filed nine (9) briefs related to municipal appeals, disposed of five (5) pending appeals resulting in two (2) convictions or orders affirmed and three (3) appeals withdrawn or dismissed. The remainder await disposition.

This Unit also handles motions to the trial courts, legal research projects, parole and clemency applications and – in 2022 - a large number of OPRA requests, totaling 1,331.

Bias Crime Unit

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Bias Crimes Unit consists of one (1) Senior Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Assistant Prosecutor, two (2) Sergeants, and one (1) Detective. The Unit is responsible for reviewing the daily bias incident reports that are emailed to the Unit directly, the vertical prosecution of all bias cases that come to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office from the county's municipalities, and community outreach.

Every afternoon the Unit receives the bias incident notifications. These notifications report the bias incidents that have occurred in various municipalities throughout the state. The Unit reviews these notifications for incidents that occurred in Ocean County.

The Detective inputs the Ocean County incidents within the OCPO internal case management system. Occasionally, the nature of the incident requires follow up with the local police department involved. A Sergeant or Detective reach out to the municipality's bias crimes liaison officer or reporting officer to gather additional information about the incident. Occasionally, this follow up results in the filing of charges.

The Unit is also responsible for the vertical prosecution of all bias crimes cases. Cases are first screened by the Grand Jury/Pre-Indictment Unit. Once a bias case is identified, that file is assigned directly to one of the bias prosecutors for prosecution. The Assistant Prosecutor will immediately reach out to the victim of the case for his or her input. The Assistant Prosecutor then will assess the case and extend a plea offer to defense counsel. The case remains with the Assistant Prosecutor through completion.

Community outreach is a large part of the Bias Crimes Unit. The Assistant Prosecutors often appear on panels to educate the public on bias incidents/crimes and advise the public of the various resources available through the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. The anti-hate campaign has established several billboards throughout Ocean County.

Recently a Sergeant conducted bias training with the recruits of the Ocean County Police Academy and Ocean County Security Department personnel. In the future, a Detective will be incorporated into the training schedule as an instructor.

Community Outreach Unit

The calendar year of 2022 was a welcomed return to in-person programming as the Covid-19 pandemic began to subside.

Prosecutor Billhimer views community outreach as a vital function of the office. The trust it builds between the Community and Law Enforcement is essential in today's world. The Community Outreach Unit keeps active and open lines of communication with our Faith-Based Leaders, Civic Organizations, schools, local law enforcement agencies, and the community at large.

The Community Outreach Unit's goal is to continuously improve and strengthen the relationships between citizens and Ocean County's Law Enforcement with the emphasis focused on trust. Many topics are addressed through the Community Outreach Unit such as: Bias/Discrimination, Human Trafficking, Cyber-Bullying and Harassment, Elder Abuse and Fraud, the ongoing Drug Crisis, and many more.

The Unit's programs include the youngest citizens through the senior population. Inclusion is the path to success. Building trust between the youngest and the oldest citizens will go a long way in helping to resolve some of the issues citizens are facing today. The Unit conducts many programs within schools and the numerous adult communities. These programs help to enable our residents to stay safe, well informed and out of harm's way.

The programs are developed based on need and/or a specific issue intending to educate and engage the community about the problem. The goal is to give the tools needed to resolve situations. The partnerships that the Community Outreach Unit has built with the county's residents and organizations have proven to be very valuable in these efforts.

The Community Outreach Unit continued its focus on bias and discrimination. The new program titled "*An Anti-Bias Vision for the Next Generation*" encouraged many students into conversations about the issues surrounding bias and discrimination. Prosecutor Billhimer felt that it was essential to give students a voice at the table and ensure that they were being heard. These students formed diversity clubs within their respective schools. Moreover, since those programs were implemented participating students were connected with various adult leaders throughout the county and continue to do excellent work in this area. The Prosecutor feels strongly about engaging our youth as they will become the future leaders in our communities.

Under the direction of Prosecutor Billhimer, the Community Outreach Unit has resumed its collaboration with the Attorney General's Office and the (NJ) Division on Civil Rights on a project attempting to establish municipal coalitions in Lakewood Township and Jackson Township that would resemble OCPO's County Human Relations Commission. These coalitions would be run on a municipal level and would focus on local issues within their respective jurisdictions. They would have access to the community leaders in their town in order to engage in conversations regarding issues needing to be addressed. Moving forward the intention is to expand to new municipalities, having a coalition in every town.

Prosecutor Billhimer continues to support the work of the Human Relations Commission as it is one of the most active commissions in the state. Numerous students who have participated in the Bias and Discrimination programs have expressed interest in joining the Human Relations Commission in order to continue work on resolving these issues.

As 2022 started, some of the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and slowly this Unit began to go back to in-person programs. As of the closing date of this report OCPO has now returned to full in-person programs in schools and all other venues. During this calendar year the Unit began to receive multiple requests from schools to do presentations for students and/or parents about Internet Safety/Dangers of Social Media. Schools reported numerous instances of students posting inappropriate photos of themselves along with inappropriate messages to their social media accounts. Prosecutor Billhimer met with the Community Outreach Unit along with the Juvenile Unit in order to develop a program for students that could be implemented county wide. Chief Pierro of the Juvenile Unit, along with the Community Outreach Unit presented a two-day train the trainer class for office staff that volunteered to deliver the PowerPoint presentation. Once the train the trainer had concluded, a large scale campaign to visit schools in every municipality was launched. As of the completion date of this report OCPO has presented the program over 100 times across every school district to students from elementary school to high school level. The completion date for this project was scheduled for May 12th, 2023 and a complete accounting for its results will be included in the 2023 annual report.

During 2022, the Prosecutor hosted a large educational forum in the Lakewood School District. That program was entitled "*It Matters*" and was presented on April 27th, 2022. The forum was the result of multiple community partners working with OCPO such as Jesse's Journey's and local police departments.

In October, November, December of 2022, OCPO joined forces with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey on their Knock-Out Opiate Abuse Day. The partnership collaborated with over 30 local Ocean County businesses to create awareness of the dangers of opiates in addition to resources available to those dealing with such Substance abuse disorder. Thousands of patrons anonymously received resource cards containing information regarding resources that are available to anyone that may be struggling with addiction.

The OCPO became the first Prosecutor's Office to participate alongside the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey with privately owned pharmacies in the distribution of prescription bags. These bags had similar information as the previous mention resource cards printed on the outside so individuals were made aware of potential dangers of opiate drugs.

The Community Outreach Unit presented a program to the public to educate about Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPOS). This training was presented on January 12th, 2022 live and virtually via zoom.

OCPO completed a 21/21 presentation on Juvenile Justice/Gang Awareness. Again, the presentation was live via zoom to an audience of school administrators, teachers, school police officers, and other school staff. The presentation covered The Memorandum of Agreement between schools and police. The presentation reached over 175 school staff and police.

OCPO and the Ocean County Cultural and Heritage Foundation collaborated on events throughout the year. The first was called “*The Courage to Remember Exhibition*” in remembrance of the Holocaust at the Ocean County Library on Washington Street in Toms River.

The second event was the Student Leadership Conference at Ocean County College. The Prosecutor spoke at this event and the Community Outreach Unit assisted with the program as well. It was a very successful event which several high school students attended. There were two extremely dynamic speakers present and the day was dedicated to Holocaust Remembrance and Education.

The Community Outreach Unit organized and participated in several in-person events over the summer of 2022 including, Pride Day, several National Nights Out, and a Youth Resource Fair. The Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office tent was visible at these events where staff members were able to interact and speak with the community members in attendance.

The Community Outreach Unit keeps open lines of communication with Faith-Based Leaders. The Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office aims to have strong, on-going relationships with Faith-Based Leaders rather than meet them around a table at a time of crisis.

OCPO collaborated with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey to continue providing sponsorship for Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for the County’s prescribing doctors through an on-line seminar. Prosecutor Billhimer became the first Prosecutor in New Jersey to offer these scholarships and is continuing to work with the Partnership for a Drug free New Jersey for a second year in an effort to educate even more doctors about the safe prescribing of opiate drugs. OCPO will be providing 500 doctors with these CLEs. We look forward to a continued partnership with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey.

Some of the Community Outreach Unit’s initiatives include:

- The Ocean County Human Relations Commission
- Partnership with the DART Coalition of Ocean County – DART being the state model for working on reducing every kind of substance misuse in Ocean County
- Membership in the Ocean County Human Advisory Council
- Completed presentations/programs addressing issues that raise concerns related to the safety and well-being of citizens
- Completed presentations/programs as prescribed by the Attorney General’s Office 21/21 Program.
- Participation in the Communities that Care Coalition (CTC)
- Partnerships with all county schools

Some strategies employed by the Community Outreach Unit during the 2022:

- School Forum and Presentations
- Training for sworn officers and civilian employees
- Use of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office media outlets
- Use of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Mobile Billboards
- Partnerships with key community leaders to aid the delivery of important information to the community
- Development of various flyers to promote programs, initiatives, events, and safe practices

The Community Outreach Unit continues to serve the County's citizens with pride and steadfast commitment. The Community Outreach Unit continues to develop new programs and seek new ways of connecting with the communities.

Prosecutor Billhimer, the Chief Law Enforcement Officer in Ocean County, continues to push forward in his mission to ensure that Ocean County is a safe place to live, work, raise a family, and be free to be the person who you are.

Domestic Violence & Weapons Forfeiture Unit

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence and Weapons Forfeiture Unit is committed to preventing and prosecuting acts of domestic violence, and ensuring the safety of victims and the community.

The Domestic Violence Squad has many functions, but in 2022 it was primarily responsible for:

- Screening and review of all domestic violence contempt matters;
- Prosecuting all non-indictable contempt cases that were docketed in the Superior Court Family Division; and
- Training local law enforcement agencies and police departments with regard to the handling of domestic violence investigations including legal updates.

The Weapons Forfeiture Squad has many functions, but is primarily responsible for:

- Conducting criminal background investigations of citizens whose weapons were seized pursuant to law, as well as conducting interviews of victims/complainants;
- Filing petitions to forfeit weapons that have been seized or surrendered by or to local law enforcement agencies and police departments due to one of the following: a Domestic Violence incident; PESS / Mental health safe keeping; Suicide/attempted suicide; Criminal investigation; Surrendered/Forfeited; and/or Death Investigation;
- Reviewing and processing all domestic violence weapons forfeiture matters in the Superior Court Family Division;
- Reviewing matters regarding the seizure of personal weapons from law enforcement personnel as a result of domestic violence investigations or mental health screening in order to make recommendations regarding the appropriate disposition of such weapons;
- Reviewing applications submitted to the Superior Court for Carry Permits, Retail Firearm Licenses, and Name Changes; and
- Assisting local law enforcement agencies with weapon and firearm related inquiries.

For most of 2022, the Domestic Violence and Weapons Forfeiture Unit was comprised of the Chief Juvenile/Domestic Violence Attorney, one (1) Supervising Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Sergeant, two (2) Detectives, one (1) Agent, two (2) Clerical, and a Supervising Victim Witness Advocate. The Chief Attorney is responsible for the overall supervision and administration of the Unit. The Assistant Prosecutors are responsible for all of the contempt matters, while the Supervising Assistant Prosecutor is assigned to handle all of the weapons matters, including personal weapons seized from police officers. The investigative staff prepares cases for the weapons and contempt calendars, and handles follow-up investigation as necessary.

The Domestic Violence Squad Supervising Victim Witness Advocate facilitates contact between the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office staff and victims of domestic violence, as well as witnesses. The Advocate also provides in-court support for victims and witnesses, along with information regarding services and case status. The clerical staff manage both the Domestic Violence and

Weapons Forfeiture court calendars; assists with the preparation of court filings, mailings, and discovery; and completes various other tasks.

Together with the local police, the Domestic Violence Squad strives to prosecute domestic violence offenders and provide support services to victims. The Squad's Assistant Prosecutor prosecuted hundreds of domestic violence contempt cases in family court in 2022. These prosecutions included an in-person bench trial of a repeat domestic violence offender which resulted in a conviction and jail sentence, as well as many additional convictions—multiple being the result of trial preparation leading to positive case resolutions—that resulted in jail and probation sentences, often with the batterers' intervention program where appropriate.

The personnel in the Squad also participate in various liaison roles, including state and local Domestic Violence Working groups, and collaborate with local shelters and victim advocacy groups. Throughout 2022, the Squad's Assistant Prosecutor participated in the Division of Criminal Justice NJ Learn Committee to create and edit updated domestic violence training materials for all New Jersey law enforcement. The Squad additionally co-chaired the Ocean County Domestic Violence Working Group, working closely with the group to address and resolve various local issues and obtain important speakers for the quarterly meetings. In October 2022, the Ocean County Prosecutor, Press Officer, and Domestic Violence Squad Assistant Prosecutor attended the 3rd Annual Ocean Partnership For Children Candlelight Vigil in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Ocean County Prosecutor spoke, as well as various community partners and Ed Parze of the Stephanie Nicole Parze Foundation. The Vigil honored those killed by domestic violence in New Jersey and showed support for those surviving it, noting the increase in domestic violence over the last few years. Squad representatives also provide lectures on domestic violence to the community, schools, and police departments. Members of the Squad seek specialized training regarding domestic violence and ensure to advise local police departments of available training. The Squad care deeply about victims and each of their individual circumstances. The Squad work with the police departments to ensure that all of Ocean County's law enforcement has a receptive attitude towards victims and their needs, and that victims are not turned away when applying for a restraining order outside of superior court hours. The Squad also works with the local police departments, largely based on feedback from the Division of Criminal Justice, to make sure the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) is completed correctly and properly submitted to all the appropriate agencies.

As noted in last year's narrative, in furtherance of its goals, the Squad had assisted with the creation and implementation of a local Domestic Violence Strangulation Response Team (DVSRT). The DVSRT provides for evaluation of domestic violence strangulation and smothering victims by forensic nurses at local hospitals, which is essential for both victim health and prosecution of potential second degree cases. In 2022, the Prosecutor's Office continued to operate and educate regarding the DVSRT. Notably, in addition to local education and operation, at the virtual Division of Criminal Justice Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Symposium on April 6, 2022, the Unit's Chief Attorney, Captain, and SART/FNE Coordinator presented about domestic violence strangulation and the Ocean County DVSRT.

Moreover, in 2022 the Squad ran its second annual internal Domestic Violence Awareness Month Food Drive. The Squad's Supervising Victim Advocate organized, collected, and delivered all

donations to our local domestic violence shelter and service provider, Providence House (of Catholic Charities). This resulted in a donation of \$675 in gift cards, as well as many supplies from Providence House's Thanksgiving wish list.

At the end of 2022, another Assistant Prosecutor, Detective, Victim Advocate, and Agent joined the Squad (some in addition to other obligations) so that in 2023 the Squad could begin screening all and prosecuting more domestic violence indictable cases. This Squad expansion is instrumental. Domestic violence accounts for more than 33% of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office cases, and unfortunately continues to increase annually. These cases include many of the most serious offences such as aggravated assault by strangulation, which indicate that the offender is 750% more likely to murder the victim in the future. This, of course, is in addition to domestic violence calls being the most dangerous for law enforcement. This Squad expansion and anticipated future expansion will enable the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to better serve and protect victims and police, while making our participation in statewide committees more meaningful and valuable both internally and externally.

Forfeiture Unit

The Forfeiture Unit is comprised of one (1) Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) clerical staff member and one (1) agent.

The Unit is responsible for carrying out the mandates set forth in the forfeiture statute, N.J.S.A. 2C:64-1, et seq. This includes filing a civil complaint against property that has been used to facilitate criminal activity, the proceeds of criminal activity, or an integral part of criminal activity. The Forfeiture Unit commenced 122 forfeiture actions for U.S. currency, and property seized in 2022; the property seized included \$615,991.13 in U.S. currency, 26 vehicles and \$ 245,895.00 in miscellaneous items including sunglasses, jewelry and computers.

The Forfeiture Unit is also responsible for handling all aspects of forfeiture litigation, including discovery and trial. The cases originate from investigations conducted by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO), municipal police departments, and the New Jersey State Police.

The Forfeiture Unit reviews requests submitted by OCPO and by local police departments for permission to use forfeiture funds for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

During 2022, the Prosecutor's Office authorized \$ 685,891.24 in distributions to law enforcement agencies within Ocean County.

2022 DISBURSEMENTS**TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES**

Barnegat Light Borough	\$ 0.00
Barnegat Township	\$ 16,360.22
Bay Head Borough	\$ 346.00
Beach Haven Borough	\$ 533.45
Beachwood Borough	\$ 0.00
Berkeley Township	\$ 1,624.80
Brick Township	\$ 75,170.43
Eagleswood Township	\$ 0.00
Harvey Cedars Borough	\$ 0.00
Island Heights Borough	\$ 402.00
Jackson Township	\$ 23,670.74
Lacey Township	\$ 2,139.50
Lakehurst Borough	\$ 2,462.00
Lakewood Township	\$ 59,988.90
Lavallette Borough	\$ 0.00
Little Egg Harbor Township	\$ 7,401.45
Long Beach Island Township	\$ 330.50
Manchester Township	\$ 38,657.00
Mantoloking Borough	\$ 0.00
Ocean Gate Borough	\$ 442.00
Ocean County Corrections Dept.	\$ 0.00
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office	\$ 305,631.06
Ocean County Sheriff's Dept.	\$ 7,372.77
Ocean Township	\$ 4,428.50
Pine Beach Borough	\$ 0.00

Plumsted Township	\$ 1,242.00
Pt. Pleasant Borough	\$ 8,586.50
Pt. Pleasant Beach Borough	\$ 0.00
Seaside Heights Borough	\$ 1,837.62
Seaside Park Borough	\$ 345.00
Ship Bottom Borough	\$ 1,379.50
South Toms River Borough	\$ 4,292.28
Stafford Township	\$ 11,621.00
Surf City Borough	\$ 0.00
Toms River Township	\$ 42,592.06
Tuckerton Borough	\$ 529.00
New Jersey State Police	\$ 29,105.37
New Jersey Unclaimed Funds	\$ 0.00
Other Police Department/Agency	\$ 37,399.59

GRAND JURY/INTAKE/CASE SCREENING/BAIL REFORM/PIC/EDC

The Grand Jury and Intake Unit overall is staffed by a team of Assistant Prosecutors and Investigative staff. This team is responsible for the prosecution of a case from its beginning, when the criminal complaint is created and signed, through the presentation of the charges to a Grand Jury. The responsibilities and duties of most of the personnel in the Unit overlap into the various sections of the Unit, and members of the team frequently work together and multi-task to make sure that the work in the Unit gets done as efficiently as possible. The legal staff consists of ten (10) Assistant Prosecutors, operating under the direction of a Chief Executive Prosecutor. The investigative staff consists of four (4) Agents, operating under the direction of a Sergeant.

Bail Reform

In the Bail Reform section of the Unit, the Assistant Prosecutors prepare, attend, and argue the Release Hearings and Detention Hearings, both during the regular work week and on a weekend rotation. These Assistant Prosecutors determine whether it is appropriate to seek pre-trial detention for defendants, and what conditions should be requested to be imposed if a defendant is released from jail, taking into consideration the details of the complaint and accompanying documentation; the Public Safety Assessment (PSA), the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) – if applicable; defendant's prior criminal history; and any other relevant information. The Agents who assist the Assistant Prosecutors also help with case preparation within the PIC/EDC/Grand Jury sections of the Unit.

Case Screening

In the Case Screening section of the Unit, the Assistant Prosecutors review all complaints, along with any available supporting information to determine if the matter should be docketed in the Office and assigned to a particular unit; where the case should be tracked, or whether it should be remanded to the municipal court or administratively dismissed. The assigned Agent obtains all information necessary to properly assess the matter in the earliest stages.

Pre-Indictment Conference (PIC)/Early Disposition Conference (EDC)

Prior to presentation of the Grand Jury, cases are tracked for either a Pre-Indictment Conference (PIC) or an Early Disposition Conference (EDC). The goal of these conferences is to reach a just and reasonable resolution to a case before indictment, when possible. Prior to PIC and EDC, investigative staff communicate with the local police department and other agencies to make sure that each case has all reports, witness statements, and any other items needed to enable the Assistant Prosecutors to determine what pre-indictment offer can be made, or if the case needs to move to Grand Jury presentment.

In the Grand Jury section of the Unit, Assistant Prosecutors have the responsibility of presenting cases to the Grand Jury for their determination as to whether an Indictment should be returned or not. Prior to presentation to the Grand Jury, the Assistant Prosecutor assigned to a case must review it and ensure that the file is complete and the matter is appropriate and ready for

presentation to the Grand Jury. The investigative staff continue to obtain any discovery not previously obtained and submitted for PIC/EDC.

Overall, staff members in the Unit all work together in the important early stages of each criminal case, to decide on the Office's position on incarceration, to review and decide the level of prosecution each case should take, to make just offers at pre-indictment Court, and to prepare and present for Indictment the cases that do not resolve by way of plea pre-indictment. During 2022, Court hearings discussed above as well as the Grand Jury proceedings went from virtual to in person, while Detention and Release Hearings are still conducted virtually.

High Tech Crimes Squad

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office High Tech Crime Squad (HTCS) consists of one (1) Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Sergeant John Dotto, four (4) Detectives and one (1) Clerical.

The detectives serve as both investigative staff and computer forensic examiners. Along with these duties each detective also serves an assigned accreditation role within the laboratory. The Ocean County Prosecutors Office, Digital Forensic Lab is the first and only accredited non-federal digital forensic laboratory in the State of New Jersey.

HTCS staff provides technical assistance and support throughout the year. We also provide investigative assistance to the various units and local departments both during and after business hours. HTCS staff is on call to respond for technical assistance and forensic examinations for all 32 municipal police departments, OCPO Units, along with State and Federal agencies.

Along with the investigatory duties the HTCS manages many administrative duties as well. These duties include, GXP, NCIC Terminal security and audits, Power DMS audits, special projects related to Information Technology, IT budgeting, trial preparation assistance.

The HTCS is a member agency to the NJ State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Cyber Terrorism Task Force.

Below is an outline of the cases statistics for the past year.

FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

369 New Forensic Cases

49 carries over from 2021

883 pieces of evidence were received by the lab this year.

Breakdown Of The Nature Of The 2022 Forensic Cases

1 – Administrative	14 – Burglary
10 – Aggravated Assault	6 – Child Abuse
4 – Animal Cruelty	14 – Child Sexual Abuse Material
9 – Arson	0 – Counterfeiting
0 – Auction Fraud	3 – Cyber Harassment
0 – Bank Robbery	42 – Death Investigation
3 – Bias Crime/Incident	2 – Distribution of Obscenity to a Minor
0 – Bomb Threat	42– Distribution of CDS

1 – Domestic Violence
6 – DVR/Surveillance
2 – Eluding
0 – Extortion
17 – Fatal Accident Support
9 – Fraud
0 – Gambling
9 – Homicide
0 – Identity Theft
0 – In Custody Death
5 – Invasion of Privacy
0 – Loansharking
2 – Luring or Enticing a Child
3 – Missing Person

40 – Narcotics
0 – Official Misconduct
9 – Other
1 – Police Involved Shootings
6 – Robbery
56 – Sexual Assault
1 – Shoplifting
2 – Stalking
2 – Suicide
4 – Terroristic Threats
20 – Theft
0 – Video Enhancement
7 – Weapons Offenses

Duty Referrals

266 Duty Referrals

INVESTIGATIONS

257 Investigations

5 Arrests

33 in OPEN status

Juvenile Justice Unit

The Juvenile Justice Unit of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is dedicated to the successful prosecution of juvenile offenders as well as the prevention of juvenile delinquency in the Ocean County community. Through the use of targeted prevention and education, effective interventions at the time of law enforcement contact, and system accountability for serious and violent crime committed in our community, Ocean County has become a model juvenile justice system.

Over the last decade, a renewed focus has been placed on the rehabilitation of juvenile offenders in New Jersey. In 2022, those efforts at rehabilitation, prevention, and intervention continued through an enhanced commitment to community and family engagement. This was evidenced by the continued creation of programs designed to divert certain youth from the formal court processes and instead focus on community safety through education, prevention, and early intervention. Most significantly was the continued enforcement of Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive 2020-12 and Ocean County Prosecutor's Directive 2020-036.

Those Directives brought significant changes to juvenile justice across the State and continued to require training to perfect implementation and compliance. Specifically the Juvenile Justice Unit maintained an on-call Juvenile Assistant Prosecutor rotation; and increased focus on reporting local Stationhouse adjustment and curbside warning data, included from County law enforcement agencies.

For ready reference, below is a brief description of the highlights and achievements of the Juvenile Justice Unit in 2022.

Attorney General Law Enforcement Directive Establishing Policies, Practices, and Procedures to Promote Juvenile Justice Reform

In 2020, the Attorney General's Office began the substantial process of creating a new juvenile justice directive encompassing many years of reform in the juvenile justice system. The Chief Juvenile Attorney participated as a member of the Attorney General's lead team in the production and development of this project. Throughout 2022 staff in the Juvenile Justice Unit continued the training and implementation of both the Attorney General Directive and the Ocean County Directive, which provided guidance to local law enforcement about Ocean County specific authority. Throughout this implementation, it is clear that more police officers are familiar with juvenile justice protocols and polices than previously. That is a positive step in juvenile policing. In addition to training law enforcement, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office also trained community serving organizations, such as the Youth Services Commission (YSC); the Children's Inter Agency Coordinating Council (CIACC); and the Ocean County Juvenile Justice System Improvement (CJJSI) committee. These trainings highlighted for our community partners the ever-changing role of law enforcement in the juvenile justice arena.

Administrative Office of the Courts eCDR system

In 2021, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) continued its transition from a mail-based complaint filing system to an electronic complaint filing system (eCDR). The Chief Juvenile Attorney continues to serve on a workgroup with the Attorney General's Office which meets regularly with the AOC discussing implementation of eCDR and the many challenges faced by law enforcement. The Chief Assistant Prosecutor is also a liaison to the Chief Juvenile Prosecutors Network. That role allows information to flow between the AOC and the county prosecutor's offices throughout the State. Additionally, local police departments continue to learn this eCDR process. That learning curve results in a number of trainings conducted by the Chief Assistant Prosecutor and Sergeant. In fact, triaging these calls at the time of data entry has become a large part of the Sergeants responsibility to ensure that complaints approved by the Assistant Prosecutors are being filed correctly. Any issues which occur that are technology based are forwarded back through the AOC team for discussion and possible system enhancement.

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee

Since 2014, the Chief Juvenile Attorney has been appointed to the New Jersey Governor's Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee. In 2022, the Chief Juvenile Attorney was elected as Vice Chair of the committee and continues to serve in that role. This select committee is made up of experts in the field of juvenile justice and is instrumental in the formation of programs and initiatives geared toward the improvement of the juvenile justice system in New Jersey. 2022 continued to be highlighted by a partnership with Rutgers University to create a major program of study in juvenile justice as well as a Professional Certificate Program for those professionals already working in the field. In 2022, an Assistant Prosecutor assigned to the Juvenile Justice Unit completed the certificate program, one of just two Assistant Prosecutor's statewide that received their professional certification.

Another such example through the JJDP is a law enforcement training specific to juvenile justice. Typically, police officers receive only basic instruction in the field of juvenile justice. This program, supported by JJDP, will increase the number of training hours law enforcement will receive specific to issues related directly to juvenile delinquency and prevention, including Trauma Informed Care and Adolescent Brain development. In 2020, this partnership continued and Ocean County was designated a pilot county for this critically important law enforcement training. In 2021, that pilot was launched and in December 2021, a two day training was held at the Ocean County Fire Academy in Waretown. Law enforcement from 6 different local police departments attended this statewide "kickoff" early adopter program.

Proudly, in 2022, Ocean County became the first County to implement the full train the trainer program on Policing the Teen Brain. That pilot program trained approximately 45 Ocean County law enforcement officers on the specific skillset necessary to police the teen brain. That project will continue throughout 2023 as additional officers are trained on this incredibly important topic.

Also in 2022, the JJDP partnership with Strategies for Youth saw the rollout of “Juvenile Justice Jeopardy” in Ocean County. Created by Massachusetts based Strategies for Youth, Juvenile Justice Jeopardy is an interactive game, based on the famous television game Jeopardy. The goal is to interact with young people and teach them the law in an interactive, fun and engaging style. Throughout 2022 trainings were held by Strategies for Youth for prospective game leaders. One such training was held at the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office where all Student Assistant Coordinators in Ocean County were trained to be game leaders. Additional trainings targeted educators, service providers and law enforcement officers.

National Advisory Panel on Juvenile Justice

The National District Attorneys Association created a national advisory panel on juvenile justice in 2019. Since 2019, the Chief Juvenile Attorney has been a member of this panel and has contributed to its work. In 2022 the group met in Arlington, Virginia to continue to discuss the many issues facing juvenile prosecutors across the country as well as strategies and solutions. Additionally, in 2022 planning began for a New Jersey specific training, hosted collaboratively between the Attorney General’s Office and the National District Attorney’s Association. That training is schedule to take place in 2023.

National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Office

Certified Master Trainer Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management

In 2022, the Chief Juvenile Attorney became certified as a Master Trainer in Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management through the United State Department of Homeland Security, NTER Office. That certification required the completion of an extensive training program offered by NTER. Specifically, the National Threat Evaluation and Reporting (NTER) Office’s Instructor Development Threat Evaluation and Reporting Course (ID-TERC), is a four-day in-person, or five-day virtual, training exclusively available for those accepted into the NTER Master Trainer Program (MTP). This course prepares Master Trainer candidates to utilize a four-step model - identify, investigate, assess, and manage - to teach Behavioral Threat Assessment and Management best practices to partners in their communities and organizations.

Ocean County Youth Services Commission

A long standing member of this Commission, the Chief Juvenile Attorney was re-elected Chairperson of the Youth Services Commission for 2022. The Commission is responsible for developing a local, county based, needs assessment for all areas of juvenile justice. This relationship allows the prosecutor’s office to be involved in the development of programming and services designed to reduce arrests and recidivism. Working together, the Commission has insight into the current delinquency needs facing the community including diversionary programs and required services such as sexting education and family interventions.

Council on Juvenile Justice Systems Improvement (CJJSI)

Throughout 2022, the Juvenile Justice Unit continues to be involved at both the State and local level in regard to the CJJSI, which is designed to improve collaboration and commitment to the juvenile justice system. The work of the CJJSI was conducted remotely almost exclusively in 2022 but nevertheless continued in earnest. The CJJSI is responsible for a significant amount of the reform and system improvements made to the system since its development in 2008.

Juvenile Prosecutor's Leadership Network (JPLN)

2022 continued to result in a commitment to the JPLN. Created by the Chief Juvenile Attorney and his colleagues in 2015, the JPLN is committed to advancing the profession of juvenile prosecution by advocating for career paths in juvenile justice. The JPLN, which created standards for juvenile prosecutors stands for lifting the profession of juvenile justice to the forefront so that youth and communities can thrive. The intention of JPLN is to carry forward the level of excellence currently established without regard to the passage of time or change in personnel. These meetings are attended by the juvenile Assistant Prosecutors at OCPO. This year, the JPLN appeared as *amicus curiae* before the New Jersey Supreme Court in a juvenile matter with statewide significance.

FCIU/SHA Program

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office became a pilot site in 2014 for the Family Crisis Intervention/ Stationhouse Adjustment combined referral program. This initiative was piloted through the New Jersey Council on Juvenile Justice System Improvement and is a combined effort of law enforcement and the Family Crisis Intervention Unit (FCIU) to develop a way to better handle behavior arising from family issues other than formal arrest and prosecution. The program utilizes the already existing services funded through the State to FCIU as well as the mandated Stationhouse Adjustment Program to allow a period of adjustment for a juvenile who is experiencing issues in their family dynamic. This allows FCIU to work with the entire family in an effort to resolve the real problems that exist. If the adjustment is successful, these services have been provided without the need of formal prosecution and a juvenile record. Since its inception, this program has proven very successful and is now an integral piece of the juvenile justice continuum. 2022 continued the expansion of that program for School Based Diversions. This program is designed to create better alternatives when Family Crisis is not the underlying issue. School based diversions are intended to provide Ocean County's School Resource Officers; School Administrators and members of school's Intervention Teams (I&RS) a Youth Advocate Program (YAP) provider to facilitate and manage evidenced-based intervention programming and gender-specific groups to address students' underlying behaviors triggering their delinquency, in lieu of suspending and/or filing a low-level offense with the juvenile court.

SBDP will provide trained facilitators of evidenced-based practices and curriculums, including gender responsive groups and anger management to process youth referrals from School Administrators, School Resource Officers (SROs) and I&RS Teams and to deliver programmatic sessions that address underlying behaviors contributing to youth's misconduct in school. In 2022

more schools continue to use this resource and provide much needed services to the young people in the community.

Prevention and Community Engagement

In 2022, the Juvenile Justice Unit returned to in person community engagement activities. Those activities included a commitment to in-person presentations to local schools- both students and teacher/parent organizations, in Ocean County to prevent cyberbullying, sexting, bias related incidents, and to protect children online from becoming victims of sexual abuse. Throughout the year the Sergeant of the Unit leads a team of instructors and speaks with thousands of students, parents and parent organization to make an impact on the lives of the young people we serve.

Partnerships with the Department of Education

The Sergeant of the Juvenile Justice Unit has partnered with the New Jersey Department of Education Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning to assist in school safety initiatives including conducting school safety inspections and assessments of virtually every school in Ocean County. These events require attendance and notification to the Chief of Police of the municipality where the school is located. Once on location the Department conducts a thorough assessment of the school safety and lockdown procedures which are shared with the local school and law enforcement partners.

Also, the Chief Juvenile Prosecutor has been an instructor for the School Safety Specialist Academy hosted by the New Jersey Department of Education, Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning. These partnerships are invaluable to schools and law enforcement.

Significant Prosecutions

While prevention is always a goal of the juvenile justice system, there are young people that continue to commit serious and violent crimes in our community. 2022 brought several high profile delinquency matters.

2022 brought an Arson committed on the Garden State Parkway that shut down the Northbound and Southbound lanes near milepost 91 in Brick Township for approximately 10 hours on January 19. At the time, New Jersey State Police Detectives determined that the fire was started within a drainage culvert that runs underneath the Garden State Parkway from the 91 north entrance ramp to the 91 south exit ramp. As a result of that investigation the New Jersey State Police charged two juveniles, both from Brick Township, with arson and various acts of delinquency related to that event. Late last year both juveniles pleaded guilty to Arson and Criminal Mischief and admitted that a Christmas tree inside the drainage culvert was purposely lit on fire which then resulted in the extensive damage to the area. Both juveniles were sentenced to 60 days in the Ocean County Juvenile Detention Center as a condition of three (3) years juvenile probation. Additionally the Court ordered 15,000 dollars in restitution, joint and several between the co-

juveniles. Both juveniles were additionally ordered to complete 50 hours of community service and are required to attend and complete a Fire Setter's Education Program.

2022 also brought the conclusion of Vehicular Homicide charges against a juvenile defendant from the previous summer. The State asked for the juvenile to be committed to the Juvenile Justice Commission for several years based upon the reckless nature of his operation.

Finally, each year brings other significant cases such as Aggravated Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Possession of Child Pornography, and Carjacking committed in our county. The exceptional work of the Juvenile Justice Unit Detectives, Agents and support staff ensure that these cases are handled professionally and appropriately. The Victim Advocate is an incredible asset to the Unit and throughout 2022 also made certain that the voice of victims was heard. We strive for victims to be involved in the process to the extent they desire. Through the hard work of each person in this Unit, we believe that we achieved that goal in 2022.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Juvenile Justice Unit is committed to the goals of the Code of Juvenile Justice. Through the efforts of staff, 2022 provided another outstanding opportunity for juvenile justice to be the impetus for changing the lives of the young people in this community that are served and handled in the juvenile justice system.

Major Crimes Unit

Homicide – Arson – Vehicular Homicide

The Major Crime Unit is comprised of Homicide, Cold Case Homicide/Missing Persons, Arson and Vehicular Homicide Investigation Squads. The command structure of the Major Crime Unit is one (1) Captain, one (1) Lieutenant, four (4) Sergeants, one (1) Detective 1, nine (9) Detectives, one (1) Agent and one (1) clerical. The investigating Detectives of the Major Crime Unit are responsible for investigating and reviewing some of the most crucial incidents which affect the everyday lives, health and welfare of the citizens of Ocean County, New Jersey and State of New Jersey. All staff of the Major Crime Unit work closely with various Municipal, County, State and Federal law enforcement agencies and resources to remain on the forefront of investigative knowledge and experience.

Homicide Squad

The Homicide Squad is currently staffed with three (3) Detectives and one (1) Sergeant who work in cooperation with municipal police departments, the Medical Examiner's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Department, New Jersey State Police, New Jersey State Parks Police and New Jersey Department of Fish and Game to investigate all homicides, suicides, suspicious or accidental deaths, parental abductions, murder for hire, strict liability, missing persons, aggravated assaults and shooting investigations where there is an identified target of the shooting. Additionally, the Homicide Squad is responsible for assisting the Division of Criminal Justice with all law enforcement involved shootings and in-custody death investigations. During 2022, the Squad conducted 65 investigations. Of the 65, five (5) were homicides, six (6) suicides, thirteen (13) natural deaths, five (5) accidental deaths, nine (9) drug related deaths, and twenty seven (27) cases classified as "other" investigations. These other investigations include assaults, shootings, attempted murders, missing persons, cold case investigations, undetermined investigations as well as investigations still pending autopsy results.

From the nine (9) drug related death investigations, one (1) case charged with first-degree drug induced strict liability cases.

Arson Squad

The Arson Squad is currently staffed with one (1) Sergeant, one (1) Detective 1, and two (2) detectives. The Arson Squad has the responsibility to investigate any suspicious fire, wildland fire, residential fire, commercial fire, vehicle fire, boat fire, bomb threats and explosions that involve an improvised explosive device (IED) and / or chemical reaction bomb (CRB) or any incendiary device. The Arson Squad also assists the local police departments in the investigation of major crimes or hazardous conditions against the environment to include hazardous Material releases (solid, liquid, or gas) or aggregate amounts of dumping. This includes the response to Clandestine/Methamphetamine Laboratories.

Fire investigations are conducted by processing the fire scenes to determine the origin and cause (O&C) of the fire. When the origin of the fire is located by using the Scientific Method, and a cause can be determined. The cause classifications are incendiary, accidental, undetermined, and natural. The Arson Squad is assisted throughout these investigations by the Ocean County Arson Task Force.

The Arson Task Force consists of the Ocean County Fire Marshal's Office, local Police and Fire Departments, the Ocean County Sheriff's Department Criminal Investigations Unit, Ocean County Sheriff's Department Ignitable Liquid Detection and Explosive K-9 Units, other County agencies (Road Department, Vehicle Services, Health Department, and Engineering Department), the New Jersey State Fire Marshal's Office K-9 Unit, the New Jersey Forest Fire Service, the New Jersey State Police Bomb Squad, the New Jersey State Police Hazardous Materials Response Unit, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, and the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

In 2022, the Arson Squad conducted 46 investigations, 23 arson investigations, 14 accidental fire investigations, two (2) undetermined fire investigations, three (3) explosive device/suspicious package investigations, three (3) hazardous materials/environmental investigations, and one (1) methamphetamine lab.

Additionally, the Arson Squad was responsible for assembling a task force of law enforcement investigators throughout Ocean and Monmouth County, tasked with investigating a serial-arsonist over the course of 10 months. As a result of the relentless investigative efforts on behalf of the task force, the suspect was ultimately arrested and charged with twenty-eight (28) counts of Arson for his role in multiple intentionally set fires throughout Ocean and Monmouth County.

2022- INVESTIGATIONS TOTAL: 46

1. Seaside Heights- Arson- Structure
2. Lakewood- Aggravated Arson/Burglary- Structure- (1 Charged)
3. Brick- Arson- Culvert/GSP- (2 JVs Charged)**Assist NJSP
4. Lakewood- Arson- Wildland- (1 JV Charged)
5. Lakewood- Aggravated Arson- Structure
6. Toms River- False Public Alarm- Outside/Device- (1 Charged)
7. Lakewood- Arson- Structure/School
8. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
9. Berkeley- Accidental- Campfire
10. Jackson- Accidental- Structure
11. Barnegat- Accidental- Wildland

12. Lakewood- Arson/Terroristic Threats- Tent/Structure- (1 Charged)
13. Manchester- Arson- Dumpster- (1 Charged**for #13,#14,#15)
14. Manchester- Arson- Dumpster- (1 Charged** for #13,#14,#15)
15. Manchester- Arson- Dumpster- (1 Charged** for #13,#14,#15)
16. Lakewood- Arson- Dumpster- (1 JV Charged)
17. Lakewood- Arson- Wildland
18. Lakewood- Arson- Dumpster- (1 JV Firesetter Program)
19. Lakewood- Accidental- Wildland
20. Manchester- Arson- Wildland
21. Ocean Gate- Animal Cruelty- HAZ-MAT
22. Lakewood- Arson- Wildland- (1 Charged)
23. Ocean Gate- Accidental- Structure
24. Manchester- Accidental- Structure
25. Beach Haven- Aggravated Arson/Explosives- (2 Charged)
26. Manchester- Arson- Wildland
27. Lacey- Arson- Vehicle- (1 Charged)
28. Jackson- Aggravated Arson- Structure- (1 Charged)(1 Fatality)*
29. Little Egg Harbor- Aggravated Arson- Wildland
30. Jackson- Accidental- Structure
31. Barnegat- Criminal Mischief- Wildland- (1 Charged)
32. Jackson- Aggravated Arson- Wildland
33. Berkeley- Accidental- Vehicle
34. Berkeley- Explosives- TOT-EOD
35. Lakewood- Accidental- Structure- (1 SBI)
36. Lakewood- Accidental- Structure
37. Jackson- Accidental- Vehicle
38. Ocean Gate- Methamphetamine Lab- (1 Fatality)*
39. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 SBI)
40. Lakewood- Undetermined- Structure

41. Jackson- Accidental- Structure- (1 SBI)
42. Lakewood- HAZ-MAT- Structure- (1 SBI)
43. Lakewood- Arson- Dumpster- (1 JV Firesetter Program)
44. Brick- Undetermined- Structure
45. Ocean- HAZ-MAT- Woods
46. Jackson- Explosive Materials

2022- TOTALS:

- | | |
|--|--|
| (23) Arson Investigations | (3) Explosive Device/Suspicious Package Investigations |
| (14) Accidental Investigations | |
| (2) Undetermined/Suspicious/Not Suspicious | (1) Methamphetamine Lab |
| (3) Hazardous Materials/Environmental Investigations | |

2022- INVESTIGATION RESULTS:

- (12) Arrests for Arson related crimes
- (2) Juveniles referred to the Juvenile Firesetter Program
- (4) Serious Bodily Injuries
- (2) Injury to Police Officer
- (3) Fatalities (1-Adult Male [smoke inhalation/thermal burns])-(1-Adult Male [suicide-Aggravated Arson])-(1-Adult Male [overdose-Methamphetamine Lab])

NOTIFICATIONS ONLY/ NO RESPONSE: (78) -Per OCPO Arson Policy

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| (9) Minor Injuries | (15) Dumpster/Garbage Can Fires |
| (20) Structure Fires | (5) Possible Suspicious Packages |
| (9) Brush Fires | (1) Fireworks/Pyrotechnics |
| (1) Vehicle Fires | (18) Hazardous Material Alerts |

INVESTIGATIONS IN 13 TOWNS:

Barnegat- 2

Beach Haven- 1

Berkeley- 3

Brick- 2

Jackson- 7

Lacey- 1

Lakewood- 15

Little Egg Harbor- 1

Manchester- 6

Ocean Gate- 3

Ocean (Waretown) - 1

Seaside Heights- 1

Toms River- 3

STATISTICS:

Thirteen (13) of the twenty-three (23) Arson Investigations conducted by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office- Arson Squad were closed with a total of fourteen (14) people charged, or referred to the Juvenile Firesetter Program. This is a fifty-six percent (56%) average for the Arson Squad for the 2022 year. The National Average for Arson convictions is nineteen percent 19%.

Cold Case Homicide/Missing Person Squad

The Cold Case Homicide/Missing Person Squad is currently staffed with one (1) Sergeant and one (1) Detective who work in conjunction with the local municipal police departments, the Medical Examiner's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Department and the New Jersey State Police Cold Case Task Force to investigate all Cold Case and Missing Persons. Additionally, the Cold Case Homicide/Missing Person Squad is responsible for investigating and identifying any and all unidentified human remains discovered in Ocean County.

During 2022, the Cold Case Squad compiled a list of twenty-eight (28) unsolved homicides dating back to 1969. The Cold Case Squad was able to close out one (1) Cold Case homicide (Bloomquist), through the re-testing of DNA evidence leading to the positive identification of a suspect. Currently Squad members are actively working several Cold Case Homicides with the assistance of cutting edge technology and methods of re-testing evidence through the New Jersey State Police Forensic Laboratory, several Certified and Accredited private forensic laboratories, follow up interviews, identifying new potential witnesses and conducting new assessments on the cases.

In addition, the Cold Case Squad members are assigned to the New Jersey State Police Cold Case Task Force on a part-time basis, where the Task Force utilizes their resources and experience to assist with investigating cold case homicides throughout the State of New Jersey.

As outlined prior, the Cold Case Homicide/Missing Person Squad is responsible for Missing Persons Investigations throughout Ocean County, along with being the primary investigating agency if the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) is activated. This past year, the Cold Case/Missing Persons Squad responded to assist with ten (10) missing persons investigations, during which all ten (10) individuals were located and returned home safely.

Vehicular Homicide Squad

The Vehicular Homicide Squad (VHS) is staffed with one (1) Sergeant, two (2) Detectives and a part-time Agent who are responsible for investigating any motor vehicle and/or marine vessel collisions that result in serious bodily injury or death. The Squad is also tasked with Title 39 summons review for cases where the issuing officer believes the crash resulted in serious bodily injury or death but it did not rise to a criminal level or require a response from VHS.

In addition to the foregoing duties, the VHS is called upon to investigate collisions involving on-duty law enforcement officers resulting in any injuries, including any collision where a conflict of interest exists for the involved agency. These investigations are conducted with the assistance of the Fatal Accident Support Team (F.A.S.T.), which is comprised of highly trained traffic officers from various municipalities throughout Ocean County, and overseen by members of the Vehicular Homicide Squad. The F.A.S.T Team is activated to assist with the production of scale diagrams from any motor vehicle crash that result in serious bodily injury or death.

The following are the investigatory statistics for the year of 2022:

Total Criminal Fatal Investigations for YTD 2022: 6

Total Non-Fatal Crashes with SBI Investigations for YTD 2022: 6

Total Fatal Accidents for Ocean County YTD 2022: 50

Total Title 39 Reviews YTD 2022: 32

Enforcement Grant Acquisition/Details

The Vehicular Homicide Squad is responsible for the acquisition and oversight of multiple federally funded Grants provided by the Division of Highway Traffic Safety, specifically, the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) Grant, Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) Enforcement Grant, and the Move-Over Law Enforcement Grant. Managing these enforcement grants requires the Squad to schedule and conduct Driving While Intoxicated and Move-Over Enforcement details throughout the year. Furthermore, the Squad was responsible for the research, approval and dissemination of the County-Wide DRE initiative, which established a Directive that outlined the criteria and policy for the use of a DRE and the protocols for DRE response, reporting and reimbursement of costs.

The Federal Fiscal Year of 2022 (October 2021 – September 2022) resulted in the following statistics:

Enforcement Patrols conducted during the Federal Fiscal Year of 2022: 28

Total DUI Arrests during current grant period: 29

Other Arrests during current grant period: 85

Total MV Summonses issued during current grant period: 406

2022 DRE Evaluations: 114

Personnel Training:

One of the focuses of the leadership of the Major Crime Unit has been, and will continue to be, education and advanced training for each member of the Unit. Throughout 2022, Unit members have attended and taught at various trainings throughout the state and country, focusing on their area of expertise to advance their skill set and utilize the various resources and technology to advance their investigative efforts. Below is a brief explanation of a few of the associations which have provided Unit members with training, along with a detailed list of all trainings attended by members of the Major Crime Unit.

Members of the Major Crime Unit have attended classes held by the International Homicide Investigators Association. The IHIA is represented in every state in the United States, along with nations on six continents. IHIA membership is comprised of highly respected death and homicide investigators, criminal behaviorists, forensic scientists, crime scene technicians, crime and intelligence analysts, prosecutors, and others. The IHIA's primary mission is to support law enforcement death investigation professionals through the provision of leadership, training, networking, resources and expertise necessary to solve cases. Successful death investigations frequently require inter-agency and inter-disciplinary cooperation and partnerships.

The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) has provided Unit members invaluable training allowing Unit members to remain on the cutting edge of investigative techniques, scene safety, evidence collection, consumer product safety, fire science and dynamics, expert courtroom testimony, and interview techniques to name a few. The International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) is the largest and most respected organization dedicated to fire and arson investigations in the public and private sectors.

Annually, the IAAI conducts a training conference which hosts lectures and training regularly delivered by men and women who are renowned worldwide as the leading experts in their respected disciplines. The National Association of Fire Investigators (NAFI) is the second largest globally recognized professional organization for investigators in the public and private sectors dedicated to the furtherance of fire and explosion investigations. NAFI offers an annual training conference, as well as regular trainings seminars offered throughout the country.

Additionally, Unit member have attended educational and training courses through FBI LEEDA, Magloclen, New Jersey State Police, National Center on Shaken Baby Syndrome and with mandatory annual/bi-annual in-service training.

The following is a detailed list of all training attended by members of the Major Crime Unit;

The Art of Interviewing

“Forensics” DNA Training

Project Elevar-Level 1

IHIA Twenty-Seventh Annual Advanced Homicide Investigation Conference

Eighteenth International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma

CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers

IHIA Advanced Homicide/Violent Crimes Investigations Course

International Association of Chiefs of Police Impaired Driving and Traffic Safety Conference

New Jersey State Police Homicide Conference

New Jersey State PBA Conference

Safariland Less Lethal/OC/Gas/Flashbang recertification

Magloclen MACCHIA Cold Case Investigations

FBI LEEDA Supervisor Leadership Institute

IHIA Cold Case/No Body Course

International Association of Arson Investigators- Site Safety Assessment

FI-210- Wildland Fire Origin and Cause Determination- Middlesex Fire Academy

Division of Criminal Justice- Basic Arson Investigators Course- Middlesex Fire Academy

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety entitled ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Complex Incident- Stafford Police Department

International Association of Arson Investigators- Arc Mapping Basics

International Association of Arson Investigators- Ethics and the Fire Investigator

International Association of Arson Investigators- Documenting the Event

International Association of Arson Investigators- Basic Electricity

International Association of Arson Investigators- Fire Investigator Scene Safety

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety entitled ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command Systems for Expanding Incidents

International Association of Arson Investigators- Marine Investigation

New Jersey International Association of Arson Investigators- Modern Day Case Studies, Your O&C Report and Lithium Batteries

International Association of Arson Investigators- Writing the Initial Origin and Cause Report

International Association of Arson Investigators- The Scientific Method for Fire and Explosion Investigations

International Association of Arson Investigators- Preparation for the Marine Fire Scene

International Association of Arson Investigators- The Practical Application of the Relationship between NFPA1033 and NFPA 921

Additional Duties/Details

Many of the members of the Major Crime Unit are tasked with additional outside duties to include the Rapid Deployment Force, Ocean County Regional SWAT, teach various law enforcement courses throughout the County and State and firearms instructor's/range master. Additionally, all members of the Major Crime Unit are assigned in various roles to the Child Abduction Response Team (C.A.R.T), who mobilize to investigate missing and abducted children. Those assignments are secondary duties, which members of the Major Crime Unit have been selected to participate in at which they continue to represent the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office in the upmost regard while maintaining a high level of professionalism.

Projected Goals

Throughout the upcoming year, one of the prioritized projected goals for the members of the Major Crime Unit is to attend more advanced training to hone their skills and advance their knowledge as subject matter experts in the area of Crash Reconstruction, Homicide/Death Investigations, Arson Investigations, and advancements in technology to assist with Cold Case Homicide investigations in the areas of Genealogy, Unidentified Human Remains, Missing Persons and the Child Abduction Response Team. Additionally, several Unit members will be training to become a UAV certified pilot where they can utilized a newly acquired agency drone to assist with Crash Reconstruction investigations, Arson investigations and Missing Persons Investigations.

Megan's Law Unit

The New Jersey Legislature has found and declared that “the danger of recidivism posed by sex offenders and offenders who commit other predatory acts against children, and the dangers posed by persons who prey on others as a result of mental illness, require a system of registration that will permit law enforcement officials to identify and alert the public when necessary for public safety.” New Jersey is a pioneer in this area of the law as a result of the brutal, aggravated sexual assault and murder of 7-year-old Megan Kanka by a twice convicted sex offender who was living across the street from her. Megan's Law came into effect on October 31, 1994.

As such, the Ocean County Megan's Law Unit falls under the structure of the Criminal Investigations Division of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. We are responsible for the county's population of approximately 655,000 people with respect to over 778 sex offenders. The Unit is comprised of one (1) Chief Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Sergeant, one (1) Detective and one (1) Clerical.

The Unit is responsible for an array of tasks, including “tiering” all sex offenders subject to Megan's Law that reside within the 33 municipalities of Ocean County. Tiering consists of designating an individual as Tier-1 (low risk), Tier 2 (moderate risk) and Tier 3 (high risk). The Assistant Prosecutor works in conjunction with the law enforcement of the Unit as well as the various law enforcement officers throughout the County to make sure those registrations are timely and uses same to score the offenders based on the New Jersey Attorney General's Registrant Risk Assessment Scale (RRAS). Once the registrants have a proposed tier they are served by the Detectives for their court date. In Ocean County, these matters are litigated by the Assistant Prosecutor before a Superior Court Judge, in closed hearing proceedings, given the sensitive nature of these types of cases. Once a court order is signed, notifications are sent to the approved community organizations, day care providers and public schools. In the event of a Tier 3 (high risk) offender, door-to-door notifications are to be executed by law enforcement to all residents and businesses within a ½-mile radius of the offender's home and work. If the Judge approves internet publication, the registrant's information is added for publication on the New Jersey State Police Sex Offender Registry.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office uses all resources available at its disposal to fairly and efficiently process and monitor these individuals. Through the New Jersey State Police, the Unit now utilizes Offender Watch, which is a nationwide database used to track and monitor convicted sex offenders. This program enables real time updates as to an offender's registered location as well as invaluable information-sharing between law enforcement agencies throughout the country. In 2022, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Megan's Law Unit processed 1,150 sex offender registrations, 450 community notifications were distributed, 275 address verifications were conducted and 30 failure to register complaints were signed throughout the county.

The Unit continues to collaborate with New Jersey State Parole and was the first known Prosecutor's Office in the State to have a parole station within the confines of the Megan's Law

Unit. The overwhelming success of our Unit has caused the New Jersey State Parole to attempt to implement this partnership statewide with all Prosecutor's Offices in the state. The Unit diligently works in conjunction with the following agencies, including, but not limited to the local police departments, adult and juvenile probation, New Jersey State Police, Ocean County Sheriff's Department, New Jersey State Parole, interagency law enforcement and the U.S. Marshals Service.

The Unit is proactive in searching for late registrants and enforcing compliance with Megan's Law. If a registrant is found to be in violation, the Assistant Prosecutor reviews the affidavit in support of an arrest warrant, approves criminal charges, and prosecutes Megan's Law violations per N.J.S.2C:7-1 et seq and Violations of Community Supervision for Life per N.J.S.2C:43-6.4. The Assistant Prosecutor also presents to the Grand Jury all Megan's Law and CSL/PSL crimes, appears on arraignment and status conferences, as well as plea or trial and sentencing.

Ocean County Narcotics Strike Force

During 2022, members of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force (hereinafter "OCNSF") Northern & Southern Enforcement Squads continued with proactive enforcement operations resulting in fifty-seven (57) investigations. The OCNSF continued to conduct and execute multiple investigations while protecting our personnel and all the parties we interacted with during the global pandemic. During the course of those investigations, large quantities of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, methamphetamine, prescription pain medications and firearms were seized along with sums of U.S. Currency, bank accounts, cryptocurrency and numerous motor vehicles utilized in furtherance of those associated crimes.

Cases of Note

State v. Ivan Contreras-Cruz; Alberto Vasquez-Ventura and Natalia Mihok

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas-Monmouth/Ocean Post of Duty (HIDTA/MOPOD) Group 5, Lakewood Township Police Department, Lakewood Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department Special Response Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Toms River Township Police Department, and Toms River Township Police Department Special Enforcement Unit, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of cocaine in the Ocean County area. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified three residences – two (2) in Lakewood and one (1) in Toms River – as being utilized by Ivan Contreras-Cruz, 41, of Toms River, Alberto Vasquez-Ventura, 27, of Lakewood, and Natalia Mihok, 49, of Toms River, to store and distribute illegal narcotics.

On September 22, 2022, Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies established stationary and mobile surveillance on the residence in Toms River as well as the two residences in Lakewood. Law enforcement maintained surveillance on Contreras-Cruz and Vasquez-Ventura as they left one of the Lakewood residences in separate vehicles. The Lakewood Township Police Department effectuated separate motor vehicle stops on both vehicles; Contreras-Cruz and Vasquez-Ventura were both detained and placed under arrest without incident.

Detectives subsequently executed court-authorized search warrants on the Toms River residence and both Lakewood residences. In furtherance of the investigation and execution of the search warrants, law enforcement seized approximately 100 grams of Cocaine and nearly \$18,000 in United States Currency. Mihok was taken into custody at the Toms River residence.

Contreras-Cruz was charged with Distribution of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Conspiracy to Distribute more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of

Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; and Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25a. Contreras-Cruz was transported to the Ocean County Jail and later released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

Vasquez-Ventura was charged with two counts of Conspiracy to Distribute more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); two counts of Distribution of less than One-Half Ounce of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3); two counts of Possession of less than One-Half Ounce of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3); Possession of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); and Conspiracy to Commit Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25a. Vasquez-Ventura is being detained in the Ocean County Jail pending trial.

Mihok was charged with Possession of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Conspiracy to Distribute more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; and Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25a. Mihok was transported to the Ocean County Jail and later released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

Prosecutor Billhimer commends the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement Administration – HIDTA/MOPOD Group 5, Lakewood Township Police Department, Lakewood Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department Special Response Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Toms River Township Police Department, Toms River Township Police Department Special Enforcement Unit, Toms River Township Police Department Emergency Services Unit, Toms River Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Jackson Township Police Department Detective Bureau, and Ocean County Sheriff's Office, for their combined and collective efforts in connection with this investigation.

The charges referenced above are merely accusations and the press and public are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

R.P.C. 3.6(b)(6).

State v. Sanine Brosseau and Shaun Crawford

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas-Monmouth/Ocean Post of Duty (HIDTA/MOPOD) Group 5, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Burlington County Prosecutor's Office Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics and Criminal Enterprise Investigative Section,

New Jersey State Police – Trafficking Central Unit, New Jersey State Police Hamilton Station, New Jersey State Police T.E.A.M.S. Unit, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET), Berkeley Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, and Bordentown City Police Department, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin/fentanyl in Burlington, Monmouth, and Ocean Counties. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a residence in Bordentown, as well as a residence in Cream Ridge occupied by Sanine Brosseau, 44, as being utilized by Shaun Crawford, 36, of Trenton, to store and distribute illegal narcotics.

On July 27, 2022, Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies established stationary and mobile surveillance on the residence in Bordentown as well as the residence in Cream Ridge. Law enforcement maintained surveillance on Crawford when he exited the Cream Ridge residence and left the area in a motor vehicle. Crawford was observed traveling to the Manchester Township area, where he was ultimately detained and taken into custody without incident.

Detectives subsequently executed court-authorized search warrants on both the Bordentown and Cream Ridge residences. As a result, law enforcement seized – in combination from both residences – approximately nine (9) ounces of methamphetamine, 6,550 wax folds of heroin, six (6) ounces of cocaine and crack cocaine, two (2) handguns, and \$3,000 in United States Currency. Brosseau was taken into custody at the Cream Ridge residence.

Crawford was charged with Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Facility in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-4; Distribution of more than Five Ounces of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(8); Possession of more than Five Ounces of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(8); two counts of Possession of more than Five Ounces of Heroin/Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(1); Possession of more than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(1); Possession of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Certain Person Not to Have a Weapon in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7b(1); two counts of Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a; Possession of Hollow Point Bullets in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3f(1); and Possession of a Prohibited Weapon or Device – specifically a High Capacity Magazine – in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3j. Crawford is presently lodged in the Ocean County Jail pending a detention hearing.

Brosseau was charged with Possession of less than One-Half Ounce of Heroin/Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(3); Possession of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(9)a; Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Ecstasy in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Methadone in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Dextroamphetamine-Amphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1);

Conspiracy to Possess Five Ounces or more of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(8); Conspiracy to Possess Five Ounces or more of Heroin/Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(1); and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a. Brosseau was transported to the Ocean County Jail and later released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

Prosecutor Billhimer commends the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement Administration – HIDTA/MOPOD Group 5, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, Burlington County Prosecutor's Office Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics and Criminal Enterprise Investigative Section, New Jersey State Police – Trafficking Central Unit, New Jersey State Police Hamilton Station, New Jersey State Police T.E.A.M.S. Unit, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET), Berkeley Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, and Bordentown City Police Department, for their combined and collective efforts in connection with this investigation.

The charges referenced above are merely accusations and the press and public are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

R.P.C. 3.6(b)(6).

State v. Douglas Ward and Thomas Prosser

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Lacey Township Police Department Patrol Division, Lacey Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, and Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of illegal narcotics in Ocean County. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a residence in Lacey Township as being used by Douglas Ward, 59, of Lacey, to store and distribute cocaine.

On July 28, 2022, Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies established stationary and mobile surveillance on the subject residence. Ward was observed by Detectives leaving the residence and meeting with an individual later identified as Thomas Prosser, 60, of Bayville. Detectives approached Ward and Prosser, and both individuals were taken into custody.

At the time of his arrest, Ward was found to be in possession of several small bags containing cocaine. Additionally, a court authorized search warrant was executed on Ward's Lacey Township residence, resulting in the seizure of approximately 70 additional grams of cocaine, and nearly \$20,300 in United States Currency.

Ward was charged with Possession of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of Cocaine in

violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); and Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25a. He was transported to the Ocean County Jail, and later released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

Prosser was charged with Possession of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1), and Wandering in a Public Place to Obtain or Distribute Controlled Dangerous Substances in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:33-2.1b. Prosser was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

Prosecutor Billhimer commends the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, Lacey Township Police Department Patrol Division, Lacey Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, and Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, for their combined and collective efforts in connection with this investigation.

The charges referenced above are merely accusations and the press and public are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

R.P.C. 3.6(b)(6).

State v. Khaadim Abdullah, Yaniah Harmon, and Falerria Smith

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas-Monmouth/Ocean Post of Duty (HIDTA/MOPOD) Group 5, United States Drug Enforcement Administration Aviation Unit, United States Department of Homeland Security, New Jersey State Police - Trafficking Central Unit, New Jersey State Police Hamilton Barracks, Stafford Township Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit, Toms River Township Police Department, Berkeley Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Lakewood Township Police Department, Point Pleasant Borough Police Department, Lacey Township Detective Bureau, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force, Atlantic County SWAT, Hamilton Township Police Department, Atlantic City Police Department, and Atlantic City SWAT, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of methamphetamine, cocaine, and heroin/fentanyl in the Atlantic and Ocean County areas. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified three residences – two in Mays Landing and one in Atlantic City - as being utilized by Khaadim Abdullah, 27, of Mays Landing, Yaniah Harmon, 21, also of Mays Landing, and Falerria Smith, 49, of Atlantic City, to store and distribute illegal narcotics.

On August 18, 2022, Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies established stationary and mobile surveillance on the residences in Mays Landing and the residence in Atlantic City. Law enforcement maintained surveillance on Abdullah as he traveled in the area of Little Egg Harbor Township. Visual surveillance of Abdullah traveling on the Garden State Parkway

was maintained by the New Jersey State Police - Trafficking Central Unit and New Jersey State Police Hamilton Barracks, with the assistance of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration Aviation Unit. Abdullah was observed exiting the Garden State Parkway onto a dirt road in Galloway Township; he then fled the vehicle on foot, discarding items into the wooded areas. Abdullah was ultimately apprehended and taken into custody without incident.

Detectives subsequently executed court-authorized search warrants on the residences in Mays Landing and the residence in Atlantic City. As a result, law enforcement seized – in combination from all three residences – approximately 14 ounces of methamphetamine, 3,550 wax folds of heroin, paraphernalia indicative of narcotics manufacturing and distribution, a stolen handgun, and \$14, 900 in United States Currency. Harmon was taken into custody at the residence in Mays Landing, and Smith was taken into custody at the residence in Atlantic City.

Abdullah was charged with Maintaining a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-4; Distribution of Five Ounces or more of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(8); Possession of more than Five Ounces of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(8); Distribution of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Heroin in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Heroin with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Conspiracy to Distribute more than Five Ounces Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(8); Conspiracy to Distribute more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Heroin in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Heroin in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; Certain Person Not to Possess a Firearm in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 39-7b(1); Possession of a Weapon During a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a; Receiving a Stolen Firearm in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-7a; Possession of a Prohibited Weapon or Device - specifically a High Capacity Magazine - in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3j; Eluding in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2b; and Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25a. Abdullah is presently lodged in the Ocean County Jail pending a detention hearing.

Harmon was charged with Conspiracy to Distribute more than Five Ounces of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b, as well as Conspiracy to Distribute more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Heroin in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2). Harmon was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

Smith was charged with Conspiracy to Possess more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Heroin with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2). Smith was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

Prosecutor Billhimer commends the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement

Administration – HIDTA/MOPOD Group 5, United States Drug Enforcement Administration Aviation Unit, United States Department of Homeland Security, New Jersey State Police - Trafficking Central Unit, New Jersey State Police Hamilton Barracks, Stafford Township Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit, Toms River Township Police Department, Berkeley Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Lakewood Township Police Department, Point Pleasant Borough Police Department, Lacey Township Detective Bureau, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office Gang, Gun and Narcotics Task Force, Atlantic County SWAT, Hamilton Township Police Department, Atlantic City Police Department, and Atlantic City SWAT, for their combined and collective efforts in connection with this investigation.

The charges referenced above are merely accusations and the press and public are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

R.P.C. 3.6(b)(6).

State v. Ronald Walker, Christopher MacLeod, Meghan Norton, Autumn Hearn and Dana Altieri

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement Administration – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Group 5, United States Department of Homeland Security - Homeland Security Investigations, United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation - Red Bank Field Office, Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force, Mercer County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team, Lakehurst Borough Police Department Patrol Division, Lakehurst Borough Police Department Detective Bureau, Ewing Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Ewing Township Police Department Patrol Division, Lakewood Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, Elizabeth Police Department Narcotics Bureau, and Elizabeth Police Department Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Division, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of cocaine, marijuana, and pain medication laced with fentanyl in the Ocean and Mercer County areas. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified three residences in Ewing, one residence in Lakehurst, and a motor vehicle located in Lakewood, as being utilized by Ronald Walker, 37, of Ewing, and Christopher MacLeod, 30, also of Ewing, to store and distribute cocaine, marijuana, and pain pills laced with fentanyl.

On April 14, 2022, Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies executed court-authorized search warrants on the three subject Ewing residences, as well as the subject Lakehurst residence and vehicle located in Lakewood. As a result, Detectives seized approximately three-and-one-half (3.5) ounces of cocaine, one (1) ounce of Percocet pills laced with fentanyl, one (1) gallon of Promethazine, 600 pounds of Marijuana, a loaded Performance Center M&P .380

Handgun, a loaded Keltec 9mm rifle with high capacity magazine, and approximately \$158,000 in United States Currency. Arrested were:

Ronald Walker, 37, of Ewing, charged with Conspiracy to Possess more than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of more than One Ounce but less than Five Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(11)b; Possession of more than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(2); Possession of Cocaine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Marijuana in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(3)(b); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; and Certain Person Not to Possess a Weapon in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7b. Walker is lodged in the Ocean County Jail pending a detention hearing.

Christopher MacLeod, 30, of Ewing, charged with Possession of more than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of more than Five Pounds of Hashish with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Conspiracy to Possess more than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violations of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of Percocet with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(5); Possession of Percocet in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Marijuana in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(3)(b); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; Certain Person Not to Possess a Weapon in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7b; Possession of a Firearm during a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a; and Financial Facilitation in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25c. MacLeod is lodged in the Ocean County Jail pending a detention hearing.

Meghan Norton 33, of Ewing, charged with Possession of More than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of more than Five Pounds of Hashish with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Conspiracy to Possess more than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violations of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of Percocet with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(5); Possession of Percocet in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Marijuana in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(3)(b); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; Possession of a Firearm during a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a; and Financial Facilitation in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25c. Norton was transported to the Ocean County Jail; she was subsequently released by the Court as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

Autumn Hearn, 40, of Ewing, charged with Conspiracy to Possess more than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of more than One Ounce but less than Five Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(11)b; Possession of Methamphetamine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(1); Possession of Marijuana in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(3)(b); and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a. Hearn was charged on a summons and released pending a future court appearance.

Dana Altieri, 52, of Lakehurst, charged with Conspiracy to Possess more than 25 Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-2a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(10)(a); Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:36-2a; Possession of a Firearm during a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a; Possession of a Large Capacity Firearms Magazine in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3j; and Financial Facilitation in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25c. Altieri was charged on a summons and released pending a future court appearance.

Prosecutor Billhimer commends the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement Administration - HIDTA Group 5, United States Department of Homeland Security - Homeland Security Investigations, United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, United States Federal Bureau of Investigation - Red Bank Field Office, Mercer County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Task Force, Mercer County Sheriff's Office Tactical Response Team, Lakehurst Borough Police Department Patrol Division, Lakehurst Borough Police Department Detective Bureau, Ewing Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Ewing Township Police Department Patrol Division, Lakewood Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, Elizabeth Police Department Narcotics Bureau, and Elizabeth Township Police Department CCTV Division, for their combined and collective efforts in connection with this investigation.

The charges referenced above are merely accusations and the press and public are reminded that all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

R.P.C. 3.6(b)(6).

Asset Forfeiture Squad

The Asset Forfeiture Squad continues to conduct financial investigations, including but not limited to developing financial and behavioral profiles of suspects, engaging in the distribution of narcotics and money laundering activity involving illegal proceeds obtained by organized criminal enterprises.

During the period of January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, the Asset Forfeiture Squad initiated one hundred twenty-two (122) forfeiture actions, assisted in numerous search warrants, assisted in signing charges of financial facilitation of criminal activity (money laundering) and directly and/or assisted in seizing approximately \$1,116,887.13 in cash, bank accounts, investment accounts, vehicles, jewelry and cryptocurrency for both the OCNSF and local police departments.

This report contains details regarding the activity of the OCNSF (Northern Squad and Southern Squad) and the Asset Forfeiture Squad for the year of 2022. It includes information regarding pending investigations, arrests, charges, search warrants, seizures and confidential funds.

Monthly Activity

The following is the activity for the Narcotics Strike Force/Asset Forfeiture for the period:

	<u>YTD</u>
New Investigations Total	57
North Unit	38
South Unit	19
Arrest Totals	89
North Unit	73
South Unit	16
<u>Details:</u>	
Male Total	57
North Unit	45
South Unit	12
Female Total	32
North Unit	28
South Unit	4
Over 18 Total	88
North Unit	72
South Unit	16
Under 18 Total	1
North Unit	1
South Unit	0
Caucasian Total	44
North Unit	28
South Unit	16
Black Total	36
North Unit	36

South Unit	0
Hispanic Total	9
North Unit	9
South Unit	0
Other	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0
<u>Charges:</u>	
Possession Total	104
North Unit	89
South Unit	15
Poss with Intent Total	76
North Unit	68
South Unit	8
Distribution Total	14
North Unit	13
South Unit	1
Manufacturer Total	17
North Unit	17
South Unit	0
Poss of Paraphernalia	38
North Unit	33
South Unit	5
Poss of a weapon	39
North Unit	38
South Unit	1
Certain Persons	9
North Unit	9
South Unit	0
Conspiracy Total	24
North Unit	21
South Unit	3

Financial Facilitation Of Criminal Activity	13
North Unit	12
South Unit	1
Other Total	42
North Unit	37
South Unit	5
Search Warrant Total	114
North Unit	94
South Unit	20
Search Warrant Residences	48
North Unit	40
South Unit	8
Search Warrant No-Knock	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0
Search Warrants Vehicles/Boats	34
North Unit	27
South Unit	7
Search Warrant Telephones	27
North Unit	25
South Unit	2
Search Warrant Other (box, bag, person etc)	20
North Unit	17
South Unit	3
CDW's	1
Title III's	0
Consent Search Total	28
North Unit	24
South Unit	4
Seizures:	
Currency Total	\$613,761.11

North Unit	\$578,594.25	
South Unit	\$35,166.86	
Vehicle Total	26	
North Unit	20	
South Unit	6	
Weapons:		
Handgun Total	20	
North Unit	19	
South Unit	1	
Rifle	9	
North Unit	5	
South Unit	4	
Stun Gun	1	
North Unit	1	
South Unit	0	
Assault Weapon	0	
North Unit	0	
South Unit	0	
Shot Gun	5	
North Unit	2	
South Unit	3	
Knives	6	
North Unit	2	
South Unit	4	
Other	2	
North Unit	1	
South Unit	1	
Drugs:		
Heroin Total	247805	folds
North Unit	246285	folds
South Unit	1520	folds
Heroin Total	7	grams

North Unit	7	grams
South Unit	0	grams
Cocaine Total	8268.3	grams
North Unit	8190.3	grams
South Unit	78	grams
Crack Total	166.19	grams
North Unit	164.19	grams
South Unit	2	grams
Marijuana Total	240782	grams
North Unit	228960	grams
South Unit	11822	grams
Marijuana Plants Total	0	Plants
North Unit	0	Plants
South Unit	0	Plants
Ecstasy Total	77	dosage units
North Unit	77	dosage units
South Unit	0	dosage units
MDMA Total	17	grams
North Unit	0	grams
South Unit	17	grams
Prescription Total	1606.5	dosage units
North Unit	1531.5	dosage units
South Unit	75	dosage units
THC Total	0	Carts/Items
North Unit	0	Carts/Items
South Unit	0	Carts/Items
THC Total	30.6	Ounces
North Unit	30.6	Ounces
South Unit	0	Ounces
Methamphetamine Total	836	Grams
North Unit	780	Grams
South Unit	56	Grams

LSD Total	0	Dosage Units
North Unit	0	Dosage Units
	0	Dosage Units(imitation)
South Unit	0	Dosage Units
LSD Total	.3	Grams
North Unit	0	Grams
South Unit	.3	Grams
Anabolic Steroids Total	0	Milligrams
North Unit	0	Milligrams
South Unit	0	Milligrams
Psilocybin Total	11549	Grams
North Unit	11549	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams
DMT Total	0	Grams
North Unit	0	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams
Fentanyl Total	72	Grams
North Unit	55	Grams
South Unit	17	Grams
Harmin Powder Total	3	Grams
North Unit	3	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams

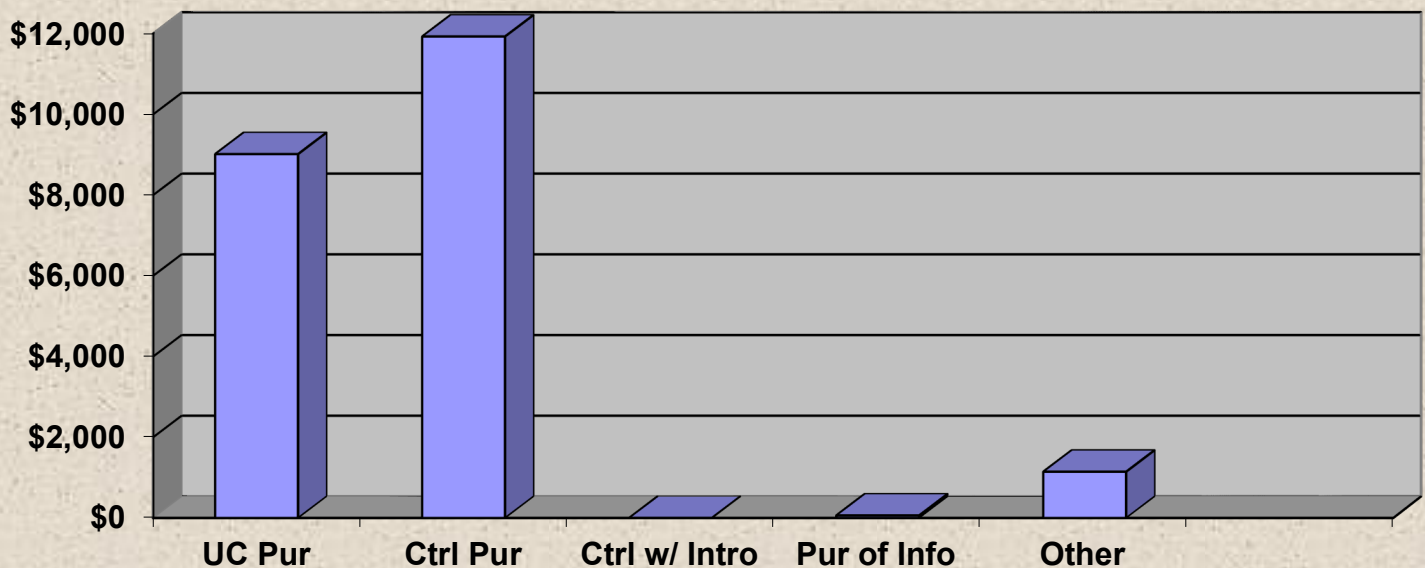
Confidential Funds

For the year of 2022, the Narcotics Strike Force (**Northern Squad**) spent approximately \$26,810.83.

of Confidential Funds. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Control purchase of CDS	\$11,820.00
Purchase of police information	\$1,830.00
Undercover purchase of CDS	\$11,375.95
Control with introduction of undercover	\$80.00
Other	\$1,704.88

The categories of year to date expenditures (**Northern Unit**) are graphically expressed below:

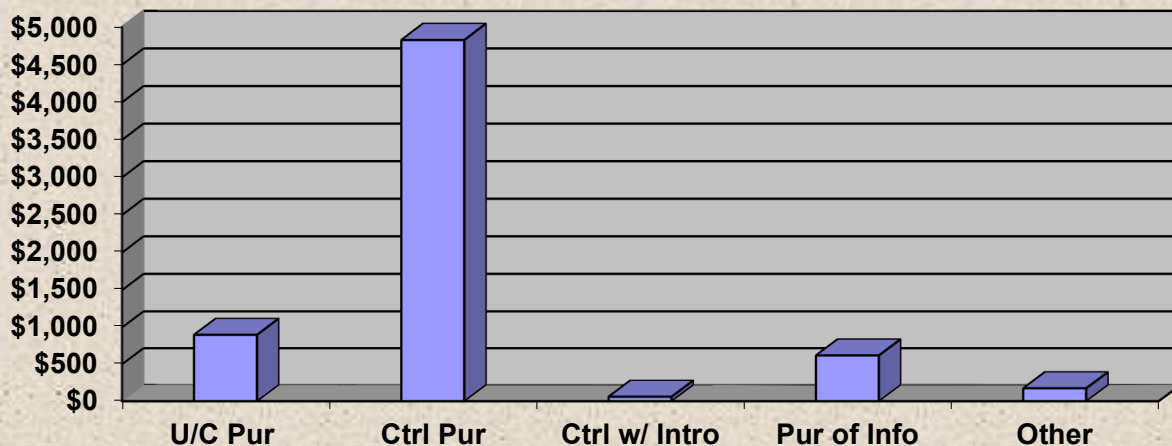


For the year of 2022, the Narcotics Strike Force (**Southern Squad**), spent approximately \$9,184.55 of Confidential Funds. The breakdown is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
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Control purchase of CDS	\$4,400.00
Purchase of police information	\$380.00
Undercover purchase of CDS	\$3,210.00
Control with introduction of undercover	\$0.00
Other	\$1,194.55

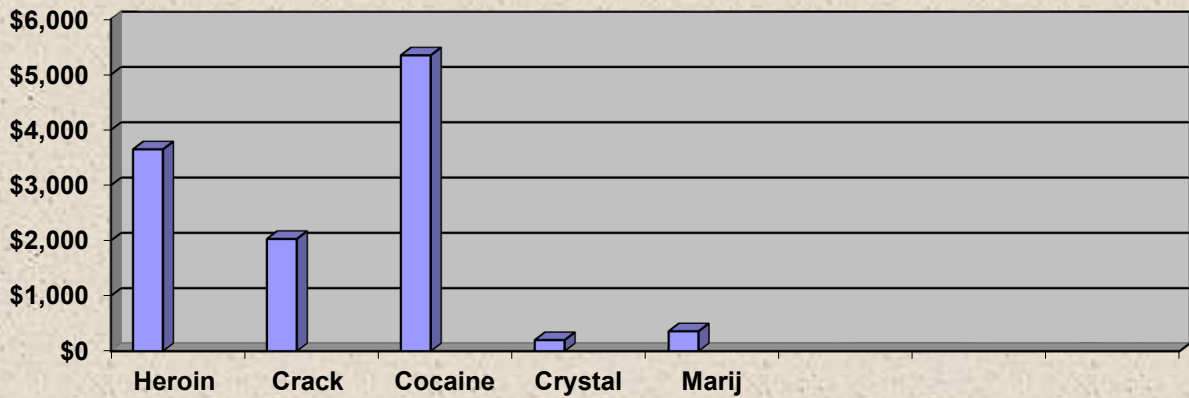
The categories of year to date expenditures (**Southern Squad**) are graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the controlled purchase of CDS/GUN (**Northern Squad**) is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Controlled purchase of Cocaine	\$4,840.00
Controlled purchase of Heroin	\$3,600.00
Controlled purchase of Marijuana	\$280.00
Controlled purchase of Crack	\$3,100.00
Controlled purchase of Crystal Meth	\$0.00

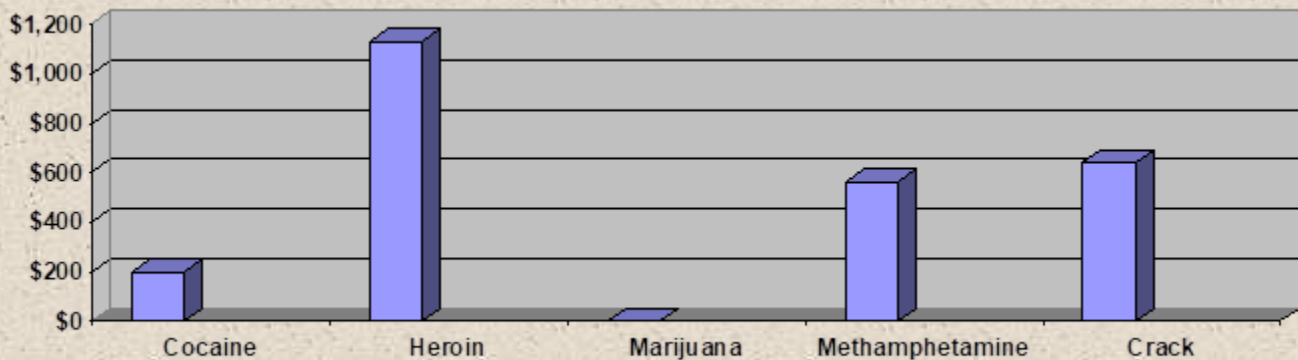
Detail regarding the year to date controlled purchase of CDS/Guns (**Northern Squad**) graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the controlled purchase of CDS/Guns (**Southern Squad**) is as follows:

YTD	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Controlled purchase of Cocaine	\$3,320.00
Controlled purchase of Heroin	\$380.00
Controlled purchase of Marijuana	\$0.00
Controlled purchase of Crack	\$400.00
Controlled purchase of Methamphetamine	\$300.00

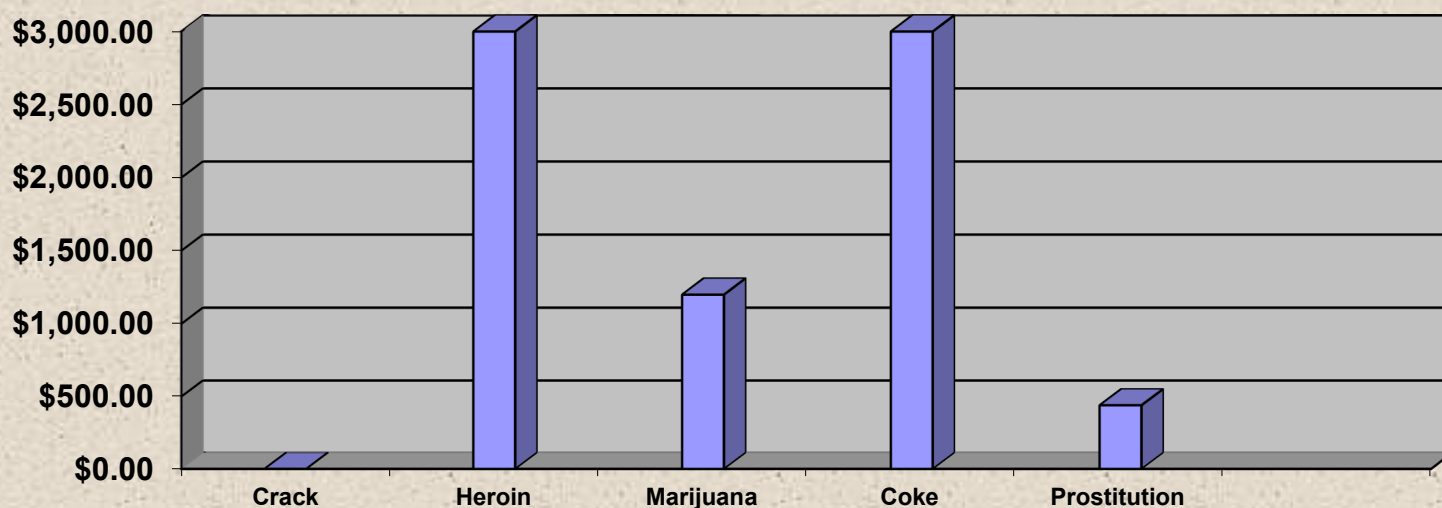
Detail regarding the year to date controlled purchase of CDS/Guns (**Southern Squad**) graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the undercover purchase of CDS/Guns/Prostitution (**Northern Squad**) is as follows:

YTD	
<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>

Undercover purchase of Heroin	\$1,250.00
Undercover purchase of Cocaine	\$3,170.00
Undercover purchase of Marijuana	\$800.00
Undercover purchase of Methamphetamine	\$4,850.00
Undercover purchase of Prostitution	\$160.00
Undercover purchase of Other Items	\$1,145.95



Detail regarding the year to date undercover purchase of CDS/Guns (**Northern Squad**) graphically expressed below:

Detail regarding the undercover purchase of CDS (**Southern Squad**) is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Undercover purchase of Cocaine	\$640.00
Undercover purchase of Crack	\$300.00
Undercover purchase of Heroin	\$0.00
Undercover purchase of Marijuana	\$1,890.00
Undercover purchase of Methamphetamine	\$240.00
Undercover purchase of Prostitution	\$140.00

*A portion of this total is from the NSF seizure total documented in this report; and the rest of the total is from joint investigations with local law enforcement agencies.

Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

As of 2022, the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy is comprised of the Victim Witness Director, one (1) Supervising Victim Advocate, three (3) Senior Victim Advocates, two (2) Victim Advocates, two (2) Victim Advocate Trainees and one (1) administrative assistant.

With the extraordinary efforts of the Victim Witness Staff, the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy provided approximately 77,251 different types of services to 19,217 victims and witnesses in 2022. That number includes sending over 31,138 letters, an increase of 5,741 from 2021. The number of new victims receiving services from the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy in 2022 was 4,946, an increase of 365 from 2021.

Our Victim Witness Advocates are committed to delivering criminal justice services to crime victims and witnesses. Their work and dedication is valued. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Victim Witness Advocates are always striving to improve their knowledge and skills through training. The Advocates were able to participate in the following community events, trainings and programs that were offered throughout the year:

NJ Victim Witness Assistance Academy – January – March 2022/October – November 2022

From January to March, and also from October to November, two (2) of our newer Victim Advocates participated in a training run by the New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy, based out of the Rutgers University School of Social Work. The New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy supports the professional development needs of victim service providers and allied professionals. The Foundation Series was designed for advocates new to victim services. It provided comprehensive and academically based education to better assist victims of crime. It was a 40-hour interactive training experience that provided a fundamental overview of crime victim services. The training consisted of 14 live webinars and six (6) asynchronous webinars. Some of the topics covered during the training included history and overview of victim rights in New Jersey, cultural competency, collaboration between victim-service organizations, and where victims come in throughout the criminal justice process. Additionally, several webinars focused on specific special populations of victims and how they may be affected by crime differently than others (i.e. child victims, elderly victims, victims with disabilities). Some of the webinars featured guest speakers from outside organizations like the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO), Coordinators from other county Victim Witness programs, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

It Matters: Jesse's Journey

On April 27, 2022, Victim Advocates attended an event sponsored by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office called, "It Matters", at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, NJ. "Jesse's Journey," presented by Maureen and Jesse Morella, illustrated and provided information on the

importance of making good decisions, having a positive self-image, and the perils of drug and alcohol abuse. This event was aimed to show high school students the importance of not doing drugs and the effect drugs can have on the body. During this event, Advocates manned a table and spoke to many members of the public regarding victim crimes and various resources in Spanish and English. Attendees were provided with pamphlets, brochures and giveaways.

ELEVAR – online training

From February through August, one of the Spanish speaking Advocates participated in this 6-month, 40-hour virtual program, sponsored by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Operation Helping Hand Program. Ocean County Helping Hand created a project that immersed select members of the law enforcement community and support staff into a Spanish training program. This was created to help ensure they are interacting with this underrepresented population of our community to the best of their abilities. ELEVAR aims to increase and improve the outreach/communication efforts with individuals and/or their families who speak primarily Spanish.

The training focused specifically on medical terms and substance use terminology that may be useful when assessing a Spanish-speaking individual in distress or crisis. By participating in this course, our advocate was able to refresh her Spanish speaking skills and gain knowledge in other areas of the Spanish language.

Navigating and Managing micro aggressions and Implicit Bias in Victim Advocacy

On May 27, 2022, Victim Advocates participated in a training run by the New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy, based out of the Rutgers University School of Social Work. The New Jersey Victim Assistance Academy supports the professional development needs of victim service providers and allied professionals. The training discussed how micro aggressions occur more often than we would like to acknowledge. When a person experiences a micro aggression in the context of a supportive relationship the impact can be devastating. The result can turn the person away from receiving help and seeking services.

During this workshop, the speaker focused on micro aggressions and implicit bias. Speakers discussed what micro aggressions are, the experience and impact of micro aggressions, and interrupting micro aggressions. Attendees learned about stereotypes and implicit bias and their connection to minimizing occurrences of micro aggressions and different ways to respond when you are the recipient or offender. By the end of the webinar, our advocates were able to understand and gain knowledge in culture, system of inequities, discrimination, implicit bias/unconscious bias, and micro aggressions.

National Night Out

On August 2, 2022, several communities in Ocean County, NJ celebrated the Annual National Night Out. Advocates attended a couple locations on behalf of the Ocean County Prosecutor's

Victim Witness Unit: Point Pleasant at Community Park, hosted by the Point Pleasant Township; Little Egg Harbor Township Sports Complex sponsored by Little Egg Harbor Sports Complex. This event aimed to familiarize the local community with various local law enforcement agencies. During this event the Advocates assisted in setting up and operating tables with pamphlets and resources for victims of crime. They engaged in speaking with the local community, educating them about the services provided by the Victim Witness Unit and crime victims' rights.

The 4th Annual Latino Health Fair

On September 22, Victim Advocates attended The 4th Annual Latino Health Fair located in Toms River, NJ, at Ocean County Health Department. This event aimed to familiarize the local community with resources and provide free health screenings. Advocates assisted in setting up and operating a table with pamphlets and resources for victims of crime. Advocates engaged in speaking with the local community, educating them about the services provided by the Victim Witness Unit for domestic violence victims, and crime victims' rights. Some of the advocates were able to communicate with the Spanish-speaking attendees and translate if needed.

New Jersey Multidisciplinary Team Annual Conference

Sex Offenders: Understanding and Responding to Sexual Crimes

On September 7th, Victim Advocates attended the New Jersey Multidisciplinary Team (NJMDT) Annual Conference. The presentation for this year's conference was titled Sex Offenders: Understanding and Responding to Sexual Crimes, and was presented by Cory Jewell Jensen. The NJMDT holds conferences annually for county-level Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) members around the state to learn about topics related to child abuse and sexual assault, for their own continuing education and professional use.

The lecture itself was a one-day event starting at 8:00am and ending at 5:00pm. Cory Jewell Jensen gave the presentation drawing on her knowledge working in the field of sex offender treatment, which provided a unique perspective. The information Jensen gave was from sex offenders themselves, and based on her interactions with them and studies she conducted on their behavior. Jensen discussed how sex offenders feel motivated to commit crimes against children, the tactics they use to groom children and build trust, how sex offenders manipulate those around them to avoid getting caught, and how they interact with police once they are accused of a sex crime. Jensen also took time to discuss how sex offenders will interact with the police, and how law enforcement officers can adjust their interviewing techniques to get better results when talking to sex offenders.

Jensen included many references in her presentation and provided members with several articles that she relied on for her information. One of the key components to Jensen's lecture was her use of video and audio clips of actual sex offenders from her treatment program, discussing their criminal acts and methods of manipulation, first hand. Overall, the conference provided valuable information from a perspective not typically used in this field. The Advocates found this lecture

interesting and will use the knowledge they gained when interacting with victims at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Victims Unit.

Forensic Nursing Conference - NJ Chapter of the International Association of Forensic Nurses

The Victim Witness Service dog "Jimmy" was invited to attend the 2022 NJ Forensic Nursing Conference. On November 29, the Victim Witness Director and a Senior Victim Advocate brought Jimmy to Seaview Resort and Golf Club in Galloway Twp., NJ. One of the topics at the conference was "Trauma-Informed Use of Emotional Support Animals for Victims of Violence". A therapist who works with the Monmouth County Child Advocacy Center did a presentation about the dog she uses with her practice as well as with the Monmouth County CAC "Surf". Both Surf and Jimmy were available to meet and interact with the attendees. Some of the participants asked the Advocates questions about Jimmy, and they were able to explain how Jimmy is utilized with victims in the Ocean County Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. Everyone was very impressed with Jimmy and Surf and agreed that having them available to work with victims that come into the Prosecutor's Offices is beneficial.

24th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference

From November 30th to December 2, Advocates attended the 24th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference. The conference is hosted by The New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association and the Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLN). The three-day conference took place in Galloway, NJ at the Seaview Hotel, where a variety of presenters and guest speakers discussed topics related to sex crimes. Those in attendance at the conference included Detectives and Officers, Assistant Prosecutors, Forensic Nurse Examiners. They were able to hear from a variety of presenters who came to the conference from around the country, to share their experience with investigating and prosecuting sex crimes. Presentations focused on case studies, tactics used for gathering evidence, interviewing techniques, resiliency for workers, and helping victims in the aftermath of an assault. Though many topics are geared towards law-enforcement, the Advocates still found these presentations to be valuable, as they help build and understanding of the investigative process. The Advocates can utilize this information when speaking to victims, preparing them for the course of a case and what to expect.

MEC Child Abuse: From Suspicion to Disclosure Training Program

On November 10th, Advocates were able to attend the online training program titled "MEC Child Abuse: From Suspicion to Disclosure." This one-day training course took place via Zoom, and was held by the National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC) of Fox Valley Technical College. There were three primary instructors of the course, each who worked on child abuse cases but in different roles, to offer knowledge from multiple areas. All topics focused on child abuse and working with victims to reduce secondary victimization, understand how victims may feel and act throughout the investigative process, and how to best build a case to get the most accurate

information. As a whole, the Advocates found this training to be an insightful experience. Discussing information amongst three child abuse professionals that hold different roles but work together cooperatively, is valuable for them to take back to the Ocean County Child Advocacy Center and apply in their daily interactions with other MDT members and child abuse victims.

Disaster Response Crisis Counseling (DRCC) Training

In March, several Victim Advocates at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy finished the last 3 hours instructed online training given by New Jersey's Disaster Response Crisis Counseling (DRCC) team, sponsored by the New Jersey Branch of Disaster and Terrorism. The training teaches participants about essential topics to becoming crisis response counselors, helping them work towards certification to render Psychological First Aid to victims of natural and man-made disasters. The goal of participating in the DRCC training for the Victim Witness staff is to reach certification status. Once certified, advocates will be called to help those in need in the time of natural and man-made disasters in and around Ocean County.

Victim Assistance Training (VAT) Online-Monthly 2022

VAT Online is a foundational web-based victim assistance training program that offers victim service providers and allied professionals the opportunity to acquire the essential skills and knowledge they need to more effectively assist victims of crime. VAT Online has four sections: Basics, Core Competencies and Skills, Crimes, and Specific Considerations for Providing Victim Services. Advocates are required to complete at least one module each month, and are free to pick any module not already completed. These modules provide a good review for some of the veteran Advocates and also provide good base knowledge to newer Advocates.

Police Academy Training

In addition to participating in the above training opportunities, the Director and Supervising Victim Advocate also trained recruits at the Ocean County Police Academy in Lakewood, New Jersey on multiple occasions throughout the year. The instruction included PowerPoint presentation with topics including the Crime Bill of Rights, victim services, the Victims of Crime Compensation Office, V.I.N.E, the Death Notification Process and referral services located both in Ocean County and Statewide.

Special Projects

Victim Witness Canine

On January 10, 2019, at the Point Pleasant Borough Police Department received a 911 call from Allison Rice in regards to discovering her daughter, Brittney Kearns, unresponsive in the bathroom as a result of a drug overdose. Point Pleasant Borough Police Department along with Medics were dispatched to attempt life saving measures. Once on scene, Kearns was transported to Ocean

Medical Center Hospital (Brick) for further medical treatment. Two days later, on January 12, 2019, Kearns was pronounced. As a result of an investigation by the Point Pleasant Borough Police Department and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Michael Tiedemann, Tiffany Cogar and Curtis Geathers were arrested for drug related offenses. Subsequently, on February 9, 2019, Geathers was also charged with Strict Liability Drug Induced Death for causing the death of Kearns.

As soon as the Victim Witness Director learned of this case, she contacted Ms. Rice. Brittany had previously been a victim in Ocean County that resulted in a trial in Ocean County. The Victim Witness Director was the assigned advocate and assisted Brittany throughout her trial and sentencing. As soon the Victim Witness Director heard of Brittany's passing, she wanted to handle the case because she already had a great rapport with Allison. Over the years while the strict liability case was pending, the VW Director and advocates attended court and meetings with Allison. Some of the discussions included how much Allison loved animals. At that time, the VW Director was in the process of trying to obtain a service dog for use with victims, and explained that to Allison. Allison was very excited about the idea of being able to have a dog with her to provide comfort when she came to court.

The case dragged on for a few years, until ultimately all defendants agreed to plead to a variety of charges. Sentencing was finally scheduled in July 2022. Allison planned to attend and read a victim impact statement. By this time, our Victim Witness Unit finally had their Victim Witness Canine –Jimmy. So on July 22, 2022, the Victim Witness Director met Allison in the courthouse with Jimmy. Jimmy sat with Allison in the hallway while they waited to enter court for the sentencing. Allison was so thrilled Jimmy was there with her, that she asked if he could come into the courtroom with her during the sentencing. The VW Director advised the Assistant Prosecutor of Allison's request. The AP presented the request to both the Judge and the defense attorney, neither had any objections. Jimmy stayed by Allison's side throughout the entire sentencing. After it was completed, Allison reiterated how much having Jimmy there with her helped her to get through such an emotionally difficult day. It was very gratifying to see Jimmy being utilized as intended, and seeing first hand, the positive impact he has on victims.

DVSRT Program

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office continued the first year of a pilot program utilizing Forensic Nurse Examiners to provide victim services to an expanded population of non-fatal strangulation victims. This is a new program that is an expansion of the services presently offered to the victims in Ocean County. In recent years, advocacy, medical and legal communities across the U.S. have begun to focus on the need to better recognize and respond to victims of strangulation. Several communities around the country have begun to utilize the expertise of Forensic Nurse Examiners (FNEs) as a part of a coordinated response to reported cases of non-fatal strangulation. Due to the existence of well-established and well-coordinated Sexual Assault Response Team/Forensic Nurse Examiner (SART/FNE) programs in New Jersey, it seemed both logical and highly feasible to incorporate care of this patient population into our existing county-based programs. Forensic nurses are already trained to identify and document findings associated

with strangulation and provide care to the sexual assault population. Throughout 2022, Ocean County has expanded victim services through its VOCA grant funded program, to include victims from non-sexual assault related strangulation cases, specifically victims of domestic violence, stalking and dating violence. Once a strangulation incident occurs, adults and children 11 years of age and over can consent to a hospital evaluation and receive needed services. The FNE provides the DV Victim with the information of victims who respond to the hospital to receive an examination. The Advocate will follow up with each victim, providing appropriate resources. If charges are signed, and the case is handled at OCPO, the DV Advocate will be assigned to the case, and will guide the victim as their case proceeds through the criminal justice system.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week – Walk/Run Event

On April 30th, 2022, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy hosted a community walk/run event in support of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW). NCVRW is organized by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), at the US Department of Justice. Starting in 1981, the OVC has called on others in the nation during NCVRW to reduce barriers to justice for victims and celebrate accomplishments for victims' rights over the years. Each year the OVC chooses a theme for NCVRW, the theme for 2022 was "Rights, access, equity, for all victims". The theme emphasizes helping crime survivors find justice by "enforcing victims' rights, expanding access to services, and ensuring equity and inclusion for all". The community walk/run event hosted by Ocean County Victim Witness was aiming to achieve just that, by gathering members of the community and spreading awareness about crime victim services in Ocean County.

The walk took place at Winding River Park in Toms River, NJ. During the walk, service providers across Ocean County sent representatives to talk to community members. Tables were set up that offered literature and other information on each of these providers help crime victims in the local community. These providers are agencies that regularly work with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office of Victim Witness Advocacy, to get help for crime victims in need. The agencies present included Providence House Domestic Violence Services, St. Francis Community Center Sexual Abuse & Assault Program, HOPE Sheds Light of Ocean and Monmouth Counties, plus several others.

At the event, Victim Witness Advocates had tables set up for registration and event information. There were also stations manned by the Advocates for distributing awareness items to victims who were in attendance. This included items such as t-shirts, bags, and wristbands, as well as literature regarding victimization, from the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy. A special table held different colored ribbons that attendees could write on to honor victims of crime, that were then attached to a tree-shaped display for all to see. Event attendees also had the opportunity to hear from the Victim Witness Director, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley Billhimer, and Ocean County Commissioners Gary Quinn and Virginia E. Haines, as they spoke on crime victim issues and emphasized the importance of victim rights and services.

The event was enjoyed by all attendees, and was a great way to gather members of the local community in order to raise awareness about crime victims' rights. The Victim Witness staff worked together during the event to make the day meaningful in a positive way.

The Victim Witness staff provided important services and support to both victims and witnesses through the year in connection with many cases. The following cases are an example of their work:

St. v. Dion Marsh

On April 8, 2022, Dion Marsh, 27, of Manchester Township, was charged with three (3) counts of Attempted Murder, Carjacking, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, and three counts of Bias Intimidation in violation, all in connection with a series of incidents that occurred in Lakewood Township and Jackson Township. On that same day, Detectives conducted an interview with Michelle Strachan and determined that Strachan provided conflicting information. Strachan was subsequently charged with Hindering Apprehension.

At approximately 1:15 p.m., Officers from the Lakewood Township Police Department were summoned to the area of Martin Luther King Drive and Pine Street for a report of carjacking. Responding Officers determined that a male suspect approached a 2016 Toyota Camry, assaulted the driver, and fled the area in the vehicle.

At approximately 6:00 p.m., Lakewood Township Police received a report of a pedestrian being struck by a motor vehicle in the area of Central Avenue and Carlton Avenue. Responding Officers discovered that a male victim had been struck by a dark colored vehicle. The victim was taken to Jersey Shore University Medical Center in Neptune where he is listed in stable condition.

At approximately 6:55 p.m., Lakewood Township Police Officers responded to a 911 call in reference to a stabbing in the vicinity of Pine Circle Drive and Lakewood New Egypt Road. The Officers discovered a male victim with a stab wound to his chest. The victim was taken to Jersey Shore University Medical Center where he is listed in critical but stable condition.

At approximately 8:20 p.m., Officers from the Jackson Township Police Department responded to a 911 call for a report of a pedestrian being struck by a motor vehicle in the area of Galassi Court. Responding Officers were able to determine that the male victim had been struck by the same vehicle that was taken in the carjacking incident in Lakewood earlier in the day. The victim was taken to Jersey Shore University Medical Center where he is listed in critical but stable condition.

Victim Advocates immediately contacted all victims and notified them of the arrest, upcoming detention hearing, press-release and referred all victims to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office (VCCO). Advocates communicated with the various Victims over the next few weeks to provide them with updates as they awaited Dion Marsh's detention hearing – which unfortunately kept being postponed.

After further investigation, it was found that Marsh committed additional acts. It was announced on April 13, 2022 that additional charges were issued to Marsh; Attempted Murder, Attempted Carjacking, Attempted Kidnapping, and three counts of Bias Intimidation. Additionally, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:38-2, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer sought approval from Acting New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin to charge Marsh with Terrorism. Accordingly, Marsh was charged on April 14, 2022 with Terrorism. Prior to the press release, Advocates contacted all victims and notified them of the additional charges. The Advocates listened to all of the victims, as they were grateful and saddened at the same time. Not only did the Advocates console the families, they were able to explain and answer some of their questions throughout the continued investigation process and criminal justice process.

On April 26, 2022, Advocates attended the detention hearing with several victims. Marsh was ultimately ordered detained by the judge. After court, advocates communicated with the victims who were unable to attend. Following the detention hearing, OCPO staff and the advocates met with the victims' families at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to discuss the detention hearing and answer any questions and concerns. The potential plea offer was relayed and the penalties for each charge were explained in detail. Victims were also informed at that time that the defendant faces federal hate crime charges. All of the victims expressed their gratitude to the detectives, Assistant Prosecutor and Advocates. At the end of the meeting, the Advocates spoke to each family to follow up and confirm that a VCCO application was submitted. Due to the emotional stress each family endured, no one had submitted an application at that point. The Advocates again explained VCCO in detail, emailed each victim a direct link to VCCO application.

In the weeks ahead, Advocates continued to answer questions that the victims had, continued to provide assistance with VCCO claims, refer therapists for the trauma their families sustained and assisted a few families locate their belongings. Advocates reached out to the lead Detective in attempt to locate one victim's glasses. They were able to coordinate a time with the Sheriff's Department for the victim to retrieve them. The victim expressed his gratitude.

On June 17, 2022, Advocates were asked to notify the victims that there will not be an offer placed on the record, and the case will move directly to Grand Jury. Advocates contacted the victims and explained the Grand Jury process during those conversations. Subsequently, the Grand Jury returned an indictment on June 29, 2022 and all families were advised by the Advocates.

The Advocates have keep an open line of communication and continue to maintain contact with all victims as the case progresses though the criminal justice system.

St. v. Mayra Gavilanez-Alectus

On May 17, 2020, the Brick Township Police Department received a 911 of an unresponsive female. Police along with Brick Twp. Medics responded to attempt life saving measures, however once on scene, they discovered the female was actually deceased. The decedent was identified as Rebeca Gavilanez-Alectus, she was found lying in bed with significant trauma to her head and a large quantity of blood on the bed and walls. A marble wine chiller was observed near the body, also covered in blood. Attempts were made to locate Rebecca's wife, Myra Gavilanez-Alectus, as

family members were concerned about her. After an extensive investigation it was discovered that Myra was responsible for Rebecca's death – she then fled NJ, and was eventually apprehended in Houston, TX on May 21, 2020.

During the investigation, it was discovered that Myra left Brick NJ and ended up in NYC where she abandoned her vehicle and purchased a bus ticket to Florida. The vehicle and video footage of Myra in NYC and Port Authority Bus terminal were easier to acquire as this occurred at the beginning of the COVID19 pandemic and various lockdowns were in place. While attempting to flee NJ on the bus, Myra befriended a woman named Jessenia who was heading to Houston TX. Myra told Jessenia that she was a victim of domestic violence and that she was running away from her husband. Jessenia offered to help and provided her a place to stay (with a family friend named Jenny) when they arrived in TX. After spending a couple of days with her “new friends” Myra ultimately confessed to Jenny, who then contacted local authorities.

Victim Advocates contacted Rebecca's, brother, Oday Alecutus, to offer assistance and answer preliminary questions. The Advocate contacted Oday frequently during the investigation to keep the family updated and ultimately inform them of Myra's arrest in TX. Advocates kept in communication with Oday and his family as various court dates were scheduled – they ensured that they were able to view the proceedings online via the NJ Court Livestream channel. Over the next two years, advocates arranged several phone meetings as well as virtual ZOOM meetings with the victim survivors and assigned Assistant Prosecutors. At these conferences, they discussed the initial and only plea offer OCPO would offer, 30 years in NJSP w/ 30 years' ineligibility for Parole and the likelihood that this matter would go to trial.

In July of 2022 a trial date was finally scheduled for September 13, 2022 - due to unforeseen circumstances, two new assistant prosecutors were assigned to handle the trial. The Advocates arranged a ZOOM conference to reassure Oday and his brother Samuel that the trial would be in good hands when they introduced them to the newly assigned assistant prosecutors.

During trial prep, Advocates were there to assist, as there would be several victim survivors in attendance as well as various civilian witnesses testifying (two of the witnesses being only Spanish speaking). The Advocates were instrumental during trial prep as they assisted by scheduling and translating during various meetings, ensuring that Creole interpreters would be requested for the victim's parents during trial, as well as making travel arraignments and hotel accommodations for the out of state witnesses. Making the travel arraignments proved to be difficult as witnesses Jessenia and Jenny had no ID and would not be able to board planes – ultimately Detectives from OCPO picked up the witnesses from Georgia and Tennessee.

Trial began on September 13, 2022, Advocates accompanied 18 victim survivors to court. The victims' two young children were also in attendance. Advocates advised the family that the opening statements as well as witness testimony would be very graphic, and offered to take the children to the VW waiting room where they would be able to watch TV, eat and/or draw. Advocates brought the children to OCPO and ensured they were comfortable – the children were also able to meet and play with Jimmy, the OCPO VW emotional support dog (which they stated was the highlight of their day!). Meanwhile, Advocates sat with the victims' family as they

listened to the emotional and graphic opening statements that described how the victim was killed in her own bed while sleeping. When the responding officer testified and several graphic and disturbing crime scene photos, the victim's mother began sobbing uncontrollably. Samuel had to carry his mother out of the courtroom and one of the advocates stayed with her and attempted to console her despite the language barrier.

As the trial continued over the next 2 ½ weeks, Advocates would update the family as to what type of testimony would be heard so that they could determine if they wanted to attend. The Advocates accompanied any family members that attended court and answered questions. They also checked in and assisted the APs on a daily basis to ensure that all the "behind the scene" stuff ran smoothly. The Advocates ensured that the out of state witnesses were comfortable while in NJ. They provided transportation to OCPO and court when needed as well as waited with the witnesses outside of the courtroom as they became nervous. Jessenia and Jenny were supposed to take Greyhound busses back to their home states after they testified, however canceled bus routes and a hurricane altered those plans, and the witnesses were stuck at the Philadelphia bus terminal. The Spanish speaking Advocate and two detectives went to Pennsylvania and provided them transportation to Tennessee, in hopes that they would be able to make the next connecting bus on the itinerary.

While the Advocate was on the road ensuring that the witnesses get home safely, other Advocates continued to accompany the victim survivors to the last few days of trial. They supported them as they listened to the closing statements on September 29, 2022 and as they prayed that the jury would find Myra guilty. While the jury deliberated, Advocates reserved space in the office for the family to wait. Just as everyone assumed that the jury would be dismissed for the day, Advocates were advised that the jury had a verdict. Advocates were with the family in court when the jury read the guilty verdict, many of Rebecca's family members became emotional and some cried as this was the closure they so desperately wanted. After the verdict, the family expressed their gratitude to the Advocates (especially the Spanish Speaking Advocate who was still on the road at the time), the Assistant Prosecutors, Detectives and everyone involved with the trial. Advocates informed the family that they would accompany them to the sentencing and assist them with their victim impact statements. The family was reminded that they could always call with any questions.

Recovery Court

Recovery Court allows certain individuals, who are charged with non-violent criminal offenses, to serve a sentence of intensive probation with rehabilitation, rather than a prison term.

The Recovery Court Program seeks to reduce drug and/or alcohol addictions that fuel crimes and recidivism. This is accomplished by providing intensive supervision, treatment and judicial oversight for substance abuse participants. The program gives each participant an opportunity to live a drug/alcohol-free, and hopefully, crime-free life. OCPO is an important component of the Recovery Court team, assigning one (1) full time assistant prosecutor and one (1) investigative staff member to this important endeavor.

During 2021-2022, Ocean County processed nearly 100 applications for admission to Recovery Court. Of that number, few were rejected on clinical grounds and many more were rejected on legal grounds. Less than a dozen persons withdrew their application prior to a determination. This resulted in a total of 21 applicants being sentenced to Drug Court in lieu of a custodial sentence, with some applicants still pending sentencing. In addition, we do occasionally receive transfers into our Drug Court from other counties, and we also transfer individuals out to other counties.

This year Ocean County commemorated the 19th year of the Recovery Court Program and the Ocean County Recovery Court had been chosen as one of three counties for the pilot program for Mandatory Recovery Court statewide. Over this course of time, we have seen hundreds of people graduate from Recovery Court, and this represents a very significant retention rate. However, over the past three (3) years alone, we have experienced a 73% retention rate, above the State average of 71.8%. This is indicative of the degree of increasing success of this important sentencing option.

Participation in the Ocean County Recovery Court is extremely worthwhile, yet significantly intense. Participants receive whatever assistance necessary in order to meet all program requirements. However, they are responsible for their successes, as well as their failures. Probation Supervision and treatment providers continue to strictly monitor their progress and the Recovery Court Judge serves in a leadership role in developing operational procedures and policies. It is the responsibility of the Recovery Court Assistant Prosecutor to ensure that candidates for Recovery Court meet the legal eligibility requirements and do not, by their participation, expose the community to issues of safety.

Simply put, "Recovery Court Works."

SART/FNE Unit

The Ocean County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) primary mission is to establish a collaborative multidisciplinary system providing state of the art physical and psychological support and treatment to victims of sexual assault, while improving the quality of forensic evidence and information collected during each case. SART utilizes a survivor-focused team approach to ensure consistent and timely coordinated services to prevent additional emotional trauma experienced by sexual assault survivors. The Ocean County Sexual Assault Response Team provides a victim centered approach to sexual assault, thus allowing the needs of the victim to take precedence. This victim centered approach is the systematic focus on the needs and concerns of a sexual assault victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in nonjudgmental manner. Following statewide protocols designed to improve services to victims including forensic physical examinations and evidence collection. Ocean County SART Team also provides victims with appropriate referrals while ensuring the rights of crime victims. SART services are provided 24 hour a day, 365 days a year. Our team also collaborates with other agencies and the public educating on the program as well as issues facing society i.e. human trafficking, strangulation, sexually transmitted infection.

The SART team consists of a Forensic Nurse Examiner, Law Enforcement Officers from local municipality and Detective from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Victim and a Confidential Victim Witness Advocate. The primary goals of the SART/FNE Program are to minimize the physical and psychological trauma to the victims of sex crimes, maximize the probability of collecting and preserving physical evidence for potential use in the legal system; and address important issues surrounding the collection of medical and legal information, and physical evidence.

During the year 2022, the Ocean County SART team responded to 116 victims. This encompassed 14 Pediatric victims (< 12 years old) and 102 Adult/Adolescent victims (>13 years old) activations. We have experienced an increase in activations and are returning to the typical volume, post COVID-19 pandemic.

Special Investigation Unit

Economic Crimes Squad & Homeland Security & Special Projects Squad

Economic Crimes Squad

The core function of the Economic Crime Squad remains the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes, often involving significant amounts of money. The Economic Crime Squad of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is comprised of two (2) Assistant Prosecutors, a Sergeant and three (3) Detectives. The Economics Crime Squad performs a wide variety of tasks for the benefit of the community, including the investigation and prosecution of serious financial crimes, assistance to local municipalities and other units within OCPO regarding financial aspects of investigations, and education of the vulnerable populations within the community on how to avoid being scammed.

In 2022, Martin D'Amato, a former employee of the Pine Belt Auto Group, was charged with first degree financial facilitation of criminal activity and second degree theft from his employer. An investigation revealed that D'Amato stole over \$1 million dollars from his employer by creating fictitious companies that he controlled and sent payments from his employer's bank accounts to his own for services that were not provided. Additionally, Shawn Yesko, the former owner and operator of Structural Solutions, was charged with two counts of second-degree theft for stealing funds over \$400,000 from local homeowner's in Ocean County who had hired him to perform significant home renovations related to storm damage or mitigation against future natural disasters. Finally, on September 23, 2022, John Hammond of Ortleigh Beach was convicted of second degree theft by deception in connection with a fraudulent investment scheme where he convinced the victim to give him \$230,000 to be placed into an investment account managed by Hammond. However, he did not invest the victim's money and instead kept it for his personal use.

In addition to prosecuting high dollar financial cases, the Economic Crime Squad also works in conjunction with other units of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office as well as other state and federal agencies to investigate and prosecute criminal activity. In May, Ocean Gate Mayor Paul Kennedy was charged with official misconduct as the result of an investigation conducted by the Ocean County Economic Crime Squad and the Ocean County Professional Standards Unit regarding the misuse of his public position to obtain benefits for his own personal use at the expense of his community. The Economic Crime Squad also worked with the U.S. Social Security Administration in an investigation that resulted in charges against Frances McGayhey, who improperly obtained social security benefits that he was not entitled to. The Economic Crime Squad also worked with U.S. Postal Service in an investigation that resulted in charges against Jeffrey Westervelt, who stole money during his employment with the Postal Service. Finally, the Economic Crimes Squad worked with the Department of Homeland Security in an investigation into a retail establishment selling counterfeit merchandise. At the conclusion of the investigation, Raheem Paige was charged with selling counterfeit goods as well as being a certain person not to possess weapons.

Finally, in addition to investigative and prosecutorial work, members of the Economic Crime Squad also spend considerable time educating the community about current scams and providing tools to prevent them. Specific effort is placed upon educating the senior population, as more than one of every five residents of Ocean County is over the age of sixty-five. The senior population is frequently the target of fraud, and each year new scams are developed in an effort to convince seniors to turn over their money. During 2022, Economic Crime Squad members educated senior citizens and their families through seven (7) senior scam presentations, as well as social media postings, and other literature.

Homeland Security & Special Projects Squad

The mission of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office – Gangs, Intelligence, Homeland Security and Special Projects Squad is to provide coordination and support to all Ocean County response agencies with the knowledge and necessary information to make informed judgments and take appropriate actions to effectively counter and control criminal activities, hazards, and community threats.

- Organized Criminal Groups
- Street Gangs
- Prison Gangs
- Outlaw Motorcycle Groups
- Terrorism (Foreign and Domestic)
- School Threats
- Major Event Coordination
- Overdose Mapping Program
- Rapid Deployment Force
- Subject of Interest Report
- Demonstrations, Protests, Target Hardening Details
- Plain Clothes Details

These and additional functions are performed through the Intelligence and Analysis Squad, Homeland Security Squad, and Counter-Terrorism Squad. The following programs are continually administered on a regular basis; OC Regional SWAT, Conductive Energy Device Program, NJ Suspicious Activity (NJ SARS) Program, ESF 13 of the OEM Plan, Critical Infrastructure Program (CCIC), County Counterterrorism Coordinator (CCTC), DHS County Grant Program, Overdose Mapping, and the Mobile Field Force/Rapid Deployment Force Program.

Additional Programs Initiated in 2022:

2022 Initiated Statewide County SWAT Organization

2022 – AG Initiated Gun Violence Reduction Task Force (OC Gun Violence Intelligence Team)

AG Directive 2021-12 Regulating “No Knock Warrants” Documentation; Established a shared email to be utilized by the four County SWAT Teams, Search Warrant Affiants and designated Prosecutorial Staff in the event of a required notification; **OCPOIntel@co.ocean.nj.us**

NOTE: The future goal of the unit is to continue building on previous accomplishments and liaisons with the FBI, ATF, HIS, OCSO, NJSP, DMV, ICE and NJOHSP through coordination of a mini fusion center that can enhance the overall intelligence mission and further support the goals of the New Jersey Regional Operational Intelligence Center (NJ ROIC).

The following statistics reflect approximate 2022 Unit responses:

Tripwires:	42
Major Details:	33
Target Hardening Details:	1
Taser:	7 Training Classes (80 Trained)
Taser Deployments	3
NJ SARS:	74
Situational Awareness Incidents	67
Site Assessments:	13
HSI & other OHSP Programs	8
Specialized Training	6
Background Checks	278
Overdose Mapping Program	849
Fatal	86
DMI Conference Calls	12
JTTF Board Meetings	8
Military Base Conference Calls	4

Critical Infrastructure Advisory	
Board Meetings	12
CoreState ROIC State Stat Briefings	90

RDF Responses (Protests, Demonstrations and large Gatherings)	
Civil Rights Protests/Demonstrations	6

Documented Gang Members	35
Documented Critical Incidents Criminal)	24
InfoShare Training Classes	20

SWAT

Barricaded Subjects	2
No Knock Warrants	6
Knock and Announce	17
Total	23

Static Displays/Demos	11
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Specialized Details:

UC Protection Details	1
Quality of life Patrols	3

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

Gangs, Intelligence, Homeland Security & Special Projects Squad

Mission

The mission of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office – Gangs, Intelligence, Homeland Security & Special Projects Unit is to provide coordination and support to all Ocean County response agencies with the knowledge and information necessary to make informed judgments and take appropriate actions to effectively counter and control criminal activities, hazards, and community threats related but not limited to the following.

- Organized Criminal Groups
- Street Gangs
- Prison Gangs
- Outlaw Motorcycle Groups
- Terrorism (Foreign and Domestic)
- School Threats
- Overdose Mapping
- Rapid Deployment Force
- Subjects of Interest
- Demonstrations/Protests/Patrol Related Details
- Plain Clothes Details

The Gangs, Intelligence, Homeland Security, & Special Projects Squad disseminate information regarding officer safety, crime trends, and threat assessments to law enforcement officers in the field. The unit also coordinates Homeland Security Grants to provide funding for terrorist and/or all-hazard preparedness efforts in the areas of: planning, training, exercises, and equipment. To this end, the Intelligence, Homeland Security, and Special Projects Squad will work in partnership with all Federal, State, County, and Local agencies, as well as the community, to efficiently and effectively enhance the safety and security of the citizens of Ocean County. This unit also coordinates major multi-task events attended by various agencies to ensure a cooperative effort in creating a safe environment.

A substantial part of our mission is to work in conjunction with the Ocean County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) on producing an accurate Law Enforcement

ESF 13 report and Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA) that identifies the security gaps in Ocean County.

Unit Structure

Gangs, Intelligence and Analysis Squad

The Intelligence Squad is responsible for gathering, analyzing and disseminating tactical and strategic information regarding criminal activity, both traditional and non-traditional organized crime and criminal street gangs in support of criminal investigations with local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. This includes information gathered from standard police channels, as well as information from confidential sources and surveillance. These criminal enterprises often are integrally involved in narcotics, gun trafficking, violent crimes, loan sharking, and illegal gambling, all of which adversely impact the financial and moral fabric of the community. The Squad performs its assigned tasks through many investigative means and engages in cooperative investigations with local, state, and federal agencies. This Squad is also responsible for developing intelligence to support investigations conducted by units within the Prosecutor's Office and local law enforcement. Members of the Squad identify crime patterns and criminals engaged in activities which cross municipal borders. The investigative staff works closely with other agencies to combine their resources to more quickly and economically apprehend these criminals. This is accomplished in many ways, including the sharing of information at monthly police information sharing meetings, various intelligence networks, and daily interaction with local, state and federal policing agencies.

Homeland Security Squad

The Homeland Security Squad works as a liaison with the NJOHSP Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit, The New Jersey State Police Infrastructure Support Unit (ISU) and the local police departments in conducting facility visits at Critical Infrastructure Sites, developing Buffer Zone Plans, and conducting assessments within Ocean County. The Homeland Security Squad is also responsible for providing assistance and coordinating with local police departments and school administrators during incidents involving school security, pursuant to the Attorney General's Directives. In addition, the Squad oversees the disbursement of Homeland Security funding to local police agencies, coordinates activities of the Regional SWAT Team and Marine Patrol Task Force and acts as a liaison to local, county and state agencies in coordinating emergency response activities in Ocean County. Coordinate Annual Update and Training meeting for all MCTC's, MCIC's, state and federal agencies.

Counter-Terrorism Squad

The Counter-Terrorism Squad is responsible for the coordinated investigation and follow-up of all terrorism related leads that occur in Ocean County. They liaise with the New

Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Investigators (NJOHSP), the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) and the local police departments. NJ SARS requests and school safety incidents are processed through this squad. Approximately forty (40) trip wires were conducted throughout the year in partnership with NJ OHSP and NJSP Target Hardening Unit.

Conducted Energy Device County Coordinator

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Conducted Energy Device (CED) Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the initial instruction and proficiency training for CED Operators within Ocean County law enforcement agencies. County CED Coordinator is responsible for providing assistance to the local police departments as well as making notification to the Attorney General's Office following a CED Deployment upon a subject. County CED Coordinator is responsible in updating Ocean County law enforcement agencies having a CED program with any changes to the CED policy.

Mobile Field Force/Rapid Deployment Force

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has established a Rapid Deployment Force/Mobile Field Force Squad consisting of a selected number of Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Detectives, Ocean County Corrections Officers and Ocean County Sheriff's Office personnel. Rapid Deployment Force Squad personnel provide a rapid, organized and disciplined response to civil disorder and public safety emergencies that may occur in Ocean County. Mobile Field Force are formally structured teams based on a platoon of law enforcement officers from multiple agencies. Mobile Field Forces will be capable of delivering the following basic, 24/7 law enforcement services within a designated geographic area:

- Control and disperse unruly crowds.
- Rescue victims or police officers under hazardous situations.
- Apprehend multiple offenders in crowd situations.
- Isolate areas of civil disorder or disaster by use of large, organized perimeters.
- Provide supplemental law enforcement service to stricken jurisdictions.
- Providing perimeter control/security of high value facilities.
- Promoting peace and civil order to protect people and property.

In recent years, law enforcement agencies in Ocean County have called upon Mutual Aid for large unruly crowds, large planned events that have drawn 10,000 plus individuals, along with the increase of individuals vacationing in Ocean County during the summer season. Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Detectives attended a three (3) day Mobile

Field Force course instructed by NJ OHSP and NJSP. OCPO Detectives that attended and successfully completed this course will participate on the OCPO Mobile Field Force Squad. Detectives assigned to the Mobile Field Force Squad will attend trainings throughout the calendar year. A standard for training and qualifications for the team will be set forth in the near future with the recommendations from NJSP and NJ OHSP. OCPO Detective assigned to the squad may be used in large scale events that the OCPO Homeland Security Unit organizes and / or assist in the organization of same.

Overdose Mapping

All law enforcement agencies operating in Ocean County were mandated to report all fatal and nonfatal overdoses, whether Narcan was deployed or not, into OD Map. OD Map is an online platform that is overlooked by the New Jersey State Police that tracks and monitors all overdoses in the state. Sergeant Heale and Detective Kaiser are county coordinators for the program and liaison directly with the State Police to conduct trainings and meeting on the OD Map system. The Intel Squad monitors and tracks the overdose numbers, as well as communicates regularly with our municipal coordinators in regard to OD Map problems/concerns and incomplete OD Map forms. When a spike in overdoses occurs in a short period of time, the Intel Unit is alerted and then researches involved stamps in said overdoses before communicating that information to all Ocean County Narcotics Officers utilizing a secure email group.

Staff

The following is a list of current staff positions in the Gangs, Intelligence, Homeland Security and Special Projects Unit:

(1) Sergeant/Commander	(1) Keyboarding Clerk II
(1) Detective	(1) Agent
(1) Systems Analyst	

Partner Agencies

New Jersey State Police
New Jersey State Parole
NJ Department of Health
US Probation
Ocean County Sheriff's Office

New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP)

FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force

Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE)

Ocean County Corrections

Ocean County Department of Health

Division of Motor Vehicles

State Department of Fish and Game

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF)

87th Security Force Squadron Joint Base

NCIS Lakehurst

Duties and Responsibilities of Staff

Supervisor

- Manage the overall operation of the unit
- Attend daily administrative meeting with OCPO staff to discuss tactical and strategic projects
- Coordinate and supervise operational projects with local, county, state and federal agencies
- Provide direction and support to the unit detectives working in the field
- Provide briefings to executive staff on critical incidents and trends
- Supervise and direct the daily operations of the unit
- Provide oversight of the Intelligence database
- Review and approve intelligence reports to be submitted for entry into the intelligence database
- Review and route daily duty referrals
- Review daily intelligence entries for compliance
- Assign and distribute daily projects
- Prepare weekly activity report
- Provide Threat Analysis for County/Local Events

- Coordinate intelligence database training for local law enforcement agencies
- Coordinate Rapid Deployment Force/Mobile Field Force for law enforcement agencies
- Coordinate County wide Taser Training and Review
- Complete personnel periodic evaluations

Detectives

- Liaison with municipal intelligence officers (Detectives/Patrol) to collect information about local crime events, provide assistance with gang identification, provide investigative assistance when requested, and promote information sharing among agencies
- Conduct activities that would provide opportunities for source development
- Conduct post arrest debriefings to illicit information about criminal activity and subjects
- Provide surveillance support to OCPO and other law enforcement agencies
- Locate and record incidents of gang graffiti
- Liaison and take advantage of resources available from federal law enforcement agencies
- Respond and provide assistance at critical incidents when needed
- Attend local and regional information sharing meetings to collect information about local and regional crime events that may have an impact to Ocean County and provide meeting participants with information about events occurring in Ocean County
- Follow-up and assist local, state and federal law enforcement with terrorism related leads
- Coordinate NJ OHSP Site Assessment visits
- Primary Liaison between Prosecutor and OC Regional SWAT, Toms River ERT, Brick Cert and Lakewood ERT.
- Forward and review all countywide NJ Suspicious Activity Reports (NJSARS).
- OC Prosecutor's Office representative on Ocean County Planning Committee
- DHS/OHSP Grant representative on the Law Enforcement Planning Committee
- OHSP Critical Infrastructure Coordinator

- OHSP County Counter Terrorism Coordinator

Agents

- Maintain Critical Incident Report for Gang Statistics
- Maintain Municipal Counter Terrorism, Critical Infrastructure and Gang Liaison Contact List
- Enter all incidents/activities into the Duty Referral database of Infoshare
- Request incident reports from LE agencies to complete intelligence record input and E-News entries
- Provides background and criminal history research assistance for internal staff and external agencies
- Provide Intelligence database training when requested
- Provide assistance and support to Unit Detectives
- Daily data-mining of Critical Reach/TRAK bulletins and open source reports (ie. – app.com, etc.)
- Coordinate NJ OHSP Hometown Initiatives
- Perform tasks as instructed
- Update and review Municipal Counter Terrorism Coordinator Roster and coordinate MCTC yearly meeting
- Act as liaison with religious leaders for safety training and on-site physical security assessments
- Assistant Critical Infrastructure Coordinator
- Assistant Counter Terrorism Coordinator
- Update available state and federal grants for schools and religious facilities.
- Attends Daily Virtual updates with the ROIC and Intelligence Community.

Systems Analyst

- Administrator of InfoShare and the InfoShare eDiscovery Portal.
- Perform daily maintenance functions throughout InfoShare that are required in order for the office run smoothly.
- Create and maintain all new and existing InfoShare accounts for OCPO, local police departments and all Defense Attorneys who register in the eDiscovery Portal. This includes resetting all passwords and troubleshooting any questions and problems

not only the OCPO but also the local departments and all defense attorneys registered in the eDiscovery Portal.

- Consult with CSI Technology Group to report and follow up on work orders for any problem issues with InfoShare.
- Liaison between OCPO and CSI for any new project of upgrades to the InfoShare System. Coordinate meetings participate in the building of the new upgrade/function and provide training when completed.
- Conduct training for any local police department who requests access to the Evidence and/or Intelligence Modules in InfoShare and provide said training on an on-requested basis.
- Provide yearly Attorney General Reports 7a – Investigative Workloads and Dispositions and 7b – Dispositions of Original Investigations Resulting in Criminal Charges to the administration.
- Administrator for TLO which is an investigative tool used throughout the office. This includes adding new accounts and resetting passwords as needed.
- Overdose Mapping Program Coordinator.
- Complete E-News Quarterly Intelligence Bulletins.
- Identify Gang Members, trends/associates in Ocean County.
- Attend monthly meetings with MOCIB.

Key Boarding Clerk II

- Answer telephones and route calls
- Manage the units filing system
- Prepare weekly/monthly critical incident reports as assigned
- Perform other duties as assigned
- Background checks
- Add subjects into internal system as directed
- Parole Notifications
- CCH and DMV Requests
- Create and Maintain calendar of unit's meetings, trainings and details
- Update subjects in internal system
- Conduct Periodic checks and maintain filing system of background checks

- Gang List maintenance
- Responsible for purging system as required by CFR 28
- Input critical Incidents/school threats into system

Criminal Intelligence Policy

Effective Date: September 2010

Subject: Criminal Intelligence Policy

I. Purpose

It is the purpose of this policy to provide law enforcement officers in general, and officers assigned to the intelligence function in particular, with guidelines and principles for the collection, analysis, and distribution of intelligence information.

II. Policy

Information gathering is a fundamental and essential element in the all-encompassing duties of any law enforcement agency. When acquired, information is used to prevent crime, pursue and apprehend offenders, and obtain evidence necessary for conviction. It is the policy of this agency to gather information directed toward specific individuals or organizations where there is reasonable suspicion (as defined in 28 C.F.R., Part 23, Section 23.3 c) that said individuals or organizations may be planning or engaging in criminal activity, to gather it with due respect for the rights of those involved, and to disseminate it only to authorized individuals as defined. While criminal intelligence may be assigned to specific personnel within the agency, all members of this agency are responsible for reporting information that may help identify criminal conspirators and perpetrators.

It is also the policy of this agency to adopt the standards of the Law Enforcement Intelligence Unit (LEIU) for intelligence gathering, specifically that: If an agency performs an intelligence function, procedures must be established to ensure the legality and integrity of its operations, to include:

- Procedures for ensuring information collected is limited to criminal conduct and relates to activities that prevent a threat to the community.
- Descriptions of the types or quality of information that may be included in the system.
- Methods for purging out-of-date or incorrect information.

■ Procedures for the utilization of intelligence personnel and techniques.

The policy contained herein is intended to remain at all times consistent with the current language of 28 C.F.R., Part 23.

Special Offenders Unit

Two main diversionary programs fall under the Special Offenders Unit (hereinafter referred to as SOU), which handles a variety of specialized cases and initiatives, including but not limited to involvement with defendants with developmental and/ or intellectual disabilities as well as age related neurocognitive impairments. It also navigates cases with a competency issue, a claim of not guilty by reason of insanity, KROL hearing status, and MSU status. The SOU is also responsible for Ocean County Police Academy training, bi-annual Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training, the OAG Police Response De-Escalation Techniques to Individuals with Special Needs/Mental Health Issues training, the OAG New Jersey Resiliency Program, the OAG 21/21 Outreach Initiative, the Ocean County Special Needs Registry and the Ocean County Police Chaplain Program. An additional responsibility of the SOU is tracking and consultation for Duty to Warn matters and consultation for Extreme Risk Protective Orders (ERPO) with regard to firearms. The unit acts as a liaison to the Ocean County Jail as well as the Ocean County Health Department and the Department of Human Services for various initiatives and task forces. The SOU utilizes a fulltime Supervising Assistant Prosecutor, two full-time Assistant Prosecutors (one dedicated for Recovery Court), a Sergeant, a full time Agent, and three T-120 staff members, seven volunteer veteran mentors and select undergraduate and graduate interns throughout the academic year. Additionally, two years ago the SOU became a training site for PGY-2 psychiatry residents affiliated with Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH) and this past year we also became a training site for the Forensic Fellowship program with HMH. This arrangement is the first of its kind in the State of New Jersey.

MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Ocean County Prosecutors Office Mental Health Diversion Program (hereinafter referred to as the MHDP) began September 11, 2014. This diversionary program for justice-involved individuals suffering from serious and persistent mental illness was originally funded through a grant from the Office of the Attorney General for the State of New Jersey. Utilizing the teamwork of skilled clinicians and case managers, the MHDP ensures that defendants are receiving the treatment that they need in order to lead productive lives outside of the criminal justice system. Clinical and case management services are obtained through Bright Harbor Healthcare and Preferred Behavioral Health. The Diversion Team, which consists of the members of our Unit and the providers, meets once a month to review all of our current and pending applicants. The Team is also in constant communication, receiving weekly updates on all applicants. The mission of the MHDP is to reduce recidivism and to ensure public safety when it comes to defendants with underlying mental health concerns. Defendants who successfully complete recommended treatment modules receive a downgrade or dismissal of their charges. After individuals complete the program they are followed for a year to monitor for recidivism.

VETERANS DIVERSION PROGRAM (PRE AND POST ARREST)

The Ocean County Prosecutors Office Veterans Diversion Program (hereinafter referred to as the VDP) accepted its first three candidates March 8, 2016. The VDP was created in response to the unmet needs of defendants with veteran status who were participants in the MHDP. It was

determined that these individuals needed specialized treatment and supervision tailored to their military backgrounds. Defendants that are identified and verified as having veteran status are legally cleared by the program director then clinically evaluated to participate in the program. Participants should be county residents and be willing and able to engage in drug and/ or mental health treatment. Bright Harbor Healthcare, as well as the VA provide evaluations, treatment and services for the VDP. Like the MHDP, we are in constant communication with Bright Harbor Healthcare regarding the current and pending participants in the program. Defendants who successfully complete recommended treatment modules will receive a downgrade or dismissal of their charges. Veterans in the VDP are also assigned at least one volunteer veteran mentor to monitor their progress and to provide peer support for the length of the program. Similar to the MHDP, the individuals who completed are tracked for one year to monitor for recidivism.

Our Unit also began a new Veteran Pre-Arrest Program in collaboration with Bright Harbor Healthcare (Phoenix Program). The goal is to engage veterans with treatment before they enter the criminal justice system, in an effort to prevent their involvement altogether. If officers encounter a veteran who they feel could benefit from services, they will refer the veteran to Bright Harbor Healthcare. If officers encounter the veteran for a criminal reason, they will contact the SOU and an Assistant Prosecutor will decide whether to charge the individual or not. If the individual is not charged, the veteran will have to engage in treatment and failure to comply will result in the veteran being charged. If the officers encounter a veteran and do charge, they will be referred for our Veteran Diversion Program (which is a post-arrest program).

OPERATION HELPING HAND

OCPO created Ocean County Helping Hand (hereinafter referred to as OCHH) utilizing grant funding from the Office of the Attorney General via Operation Helping Hand. One of the many goals of this initiative is to link individuals with substance abuse issues and their families to appropriate treatment plans utilizing a multifaceted approach. OCHH is tasked to provide eligible municipal court defendants with the opportunity to take part in immediate addiction treatment services rather than continue with traditional prosecution of pending municipal court charges. OCHH is currently operating programming out of Toms River Municipal Court, formally named the **Trident Program**.

Additionally, the **First Step Program (FSP)** matches individuals that have overdosed with immediate peer support, guidance and recovery opportunities. FSP acknowledges that the first step in engaging in or seeking treatment is often the most difficult. Utilizing a community based mental health agency, in coordination with Ocean County Prosecutor's Office staff and/or municipal police officers, the FSP responds to overdose victims identified by designated police departments. The FSP then provides them with an introduction to a certified recovery specialist, as well as access and/ or referrals to clinicians for evaluation and treatment of substance use concerns. The FSP also recognizes that many drug overdoses are fatal. To this end, the FSP provides linkage to immediate peer support, guidance and recovery opportunities for surviving family members of overdose victims as well.

The first step of seeking help for substance use disorder is often the most difficult and the First Step Program is here to take that step with individuals in our community. This year, in 2022, we

will be introducing the opportunity for individuals to review the body camera footage of their Narcan reversal and give them the option to meet the officer who helped resuscitate them.

Another component of OCHH is the **Community Outreach, Training and Education Program (COTE)** with the purpose to educate the public on substance use disorder and to perform local outreach to ensure that early intervention is available to individuals who have not been linked with services. COTE staff members attend community events in an attempt to identify those in need of addiction services and provide education on such services to these individuals and their family members and/ or loved ones. The COTE Program also has a mobile support vehicle that provides a discreet environment for individuals to be assessed and quickly linked with care. In addition to educating the public, COTE also provides continuing education opportunities for treatment providers in our community to promote the proper identification, assessment and treatment of individuals with substance use disorder. The COTE Program seeks to ensure that individuals in the throes of addiction who want help are aware of how, when and where they can receive it. With community outreach, training and education, we can battle addiction together.

An extension of our **COTE** program, will now include project **ELEVAR**. The new project which aims to increase and improve the outreach/communication to individuals suffering with substance use disorder or their family members who may speak Spanish as their primary language. **ELEVAR** will immerse select members of law enforcement into a Spanish as a second language (SSL) forum, to ensure they are interacting with this underrepresented portion of our community to the best of their abilities. Officers in **ELEVAR** will also be able to interact with the Spanish speaking community to further educate them on the existing OCHH programs available for substance use disorder and participate in community based outreach events targeting the Spanish speaking community. **ELEVAR** will ensure officers who attend the training are invested in the initiative to reach the Spanish speaking community. This project will help establish trust and create a working rapport which is desperately needed to facilitate linkage to treatment services.

Lastly, there is the **Integrated Care Management Blue Program (ICMB)**. For some law enforcement officers, cumulative exposure to trauma and work-related injuries may result in self-medication and sometimes the abuse/misuse of substances like opiates and alcohol. Moreover, due to substance related issues and trauma, officers may not be participating in any type of primary/mental health care or related services. Stigma and police culture may also contribute to an officer's inability or refusal to engage in self-care. It is critical to have a mechanism in place to screen and educate members of law enforcement regarding their risk for alcohol and opiate dependence. The Integrated Care Management Blue Program (ICMB) provides this mechanism. ICMB is a comprehensive and coordinated care program, which includes access to primary, mental health, and substance-use services to improve health outcomes for law enforcement officers. ICMB is facilitated by a community based mental health agency in coordination with Ocean County Prosecutor's Office staff and/or municipal police officers who serve as Resiliency Police Officers. ICMB makes a concerted effort to engage officers in a dialogue regarding their physical/mental health/use of substances. This effort is achieved through community outreach sessions, interviews and referrals. In addition to stigma, officers may be fearful and hesitant to receive treatment, as they believe that it will negatively affect their employment. ICMB assures

officers that pursuant to HIPPA, information provided and obtained will remain confidential and within the confines of this program.

Moreover, this year the SOU began arrangements for the creation of the virtual **Officer Wellness Library**. We met with our website architects who advised the SOU to create a working draft of the website pages for construction. Said mock framework was created using “Wix” and said access information was given to our website architects. The Officer Wellness Library will serve as a repository of information related to continuing education, resiliency resources, and substance use disorder. Furthermore, the SOU has worked with Pimsleur to have foreign language software assistance available to officers interested in learning an additional language as we have many underrepresented areas in the county whose inhabitants speak a primary language other than English. The Shalom Program will also use rabbis to outreach with police officers and attempt to perfect elementary language proficiency in Hebrew.

MICHAEL CAMILLUS PROGRAM

The SOU was also instrumental in the development of the Michael Camillus Program and tasked with ensuring it remains organized and runs smoothly. In 2019, New Jersey experienced 3,021 drug suspected deaths. As of September 30, 2020, there have been 2,320 drug suspected deaths reported. Moreover, in addition to all of the on-going challenges presented by Covid-19, the nation’s opioid epidemic has grown into a more complicated and deadly overdose epidemic. More than 40 states have reported increases in opioid-related mortality, as well as growing concerns for those with substance use disorder. The aftermath of this pandemic, as it specifically relates to substance use, will affect our community for years to come. This certificate program prepares law enforcement for such challenges that lie ahead.

The Michael Camillus Program, provides law enforcement officers with the ability to obtain their Certified Drug and Alcohol Certificate (CDAC). Currently, members of the first and second cohorts are meeting a clinical supervisor at 9 Grand Avenue to implement their clinical hours required to apply for a formal CADAC designation. This program further equips law enforcement members to do their job effectively, by instilling knowledge regarding substance use and abuse and appropriate treatment methods. It provides additional tools to manage their interactions with individuals who may be having a difficult time with substance use, enabling them to protect and serve our community in the most appropriate way possible. We started our third cohort of students in January 2023, projected to graduate in December 2023.

By supplying members of law enforcement this innovative opportunity, we are also able to take steps to combat the stigma surrounding substance use, as well as create an alliance with civilians who are struggling with substance use disorder. The stigma attached to substance use is extremely prevalent in our society today. Not only does this stigma impact the community at large, but even more specifically, it affects the law enforcement population.

In collaboration with Bright Harbor Healthcare, Ocean County College and the Prosecutor Office, we can fight the stigma together and protect our community as a whole, both civilians and law enforcement officers.

RESILIENCY TRAINING

In December of 2019 and March of 2020, the SOU held a Train the Trainer program at the Ocean County Prosecutors Office, which resulted in the creation of approximately 50 resiliency trainers that will be tasked with educating sworn law enforcement officers throughout the county. About 40 resiliency trainings were scheduled during 2021 to fulfill our training mandate and approximately another two dozen were scheduled in 2022. In 2023 we have a final mass training scheduled for March 27 and 28 at Ocean County College which will conclude our resiliency training obligation by the OAG with the training of over 1,200 officers in Ocean County.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM TRAINING

The SOU organizes and executes two annual 40 hour C.I.T. Trainings for law enforcement officers and mental health providers. C.I.T. Training is an innovative international model of police based crisis intervention training with community health care and advocacy partnerships. Police officers, mental health professionals and advocates receive intensive training to respond to individuals experiencing a behavioral crisis. The emphasis is on mental health knowledge, crisis resolution skills, and access to community based service.

In addition, members of the SOU instruct regularly at C.I.T. trainings in other counties, as well as assist in the development of such programs in other counties. We have two CIT trainings scheduled for 2023, in August and December.

PSYCHIATRIC PARTNERSHIP

The Special Offenders Unit has collaborated with the Department of Psychiatry at Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine to train Post Graduate Year Two (PGY2) Psychiatry Residents. This partnership is the first of its kind in New Jersey. Post Graduate Year Two Psychiatry Residents will participate in a forensic rotation at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Offenders Unit. The rotation will place two psychiatry residents within OCPO's Special Offenders Unit in one to two month rotations throughout the year. The psychiatric residents will be affiliated with Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune or Ocean Medical Center in Brick, NJ.

The goal is to immerse the psychiatry residents in an atmosphere where they have a panoramic view of criminal cases so they can see the potential roles they may play in forensic psychiatry. The partnership allows psychiatry residents to attend court appearances with our Assistant Prosecutors and observe seasoned forensic psychiatrists testify in Ocean County Superior Court. The psychiatric residents receive didactic training throughout their rotation with regard to Chapter 4 of the New Jersey 2C Criminal Code as well as instruction on courtroom etiquette and the nuances of the criminal justice system. The psychiatry residents review cases that include issues revolving around competency, not guilty by reason of insanity, KROL hearings and diversionary programming. These psychiatry residents also review medical records and interview defendants that may be pending entry into various OCPO-led programs such as Ocean County Helping Hand initiatives, Mental Health Diversion or the Veteran's Diversion Program. This program expanded in 2022 to also include a Fellowship for Psychiatric Residents and will further expand in 2023 to include PGY2 Residents from Hackensack University Medical Center.

PROJECT NOVA

NOVA is a retirement transition program for Assistant Prosecutors. NOVA is a 5 day program preparing Assistant Prosecutors for the next phase of their lives beyond retirement. The program includes sessions on retirement psychology, relationships, physical health, estate planning, financial planning, preparing a resume, reinventing new opportunities and finally an opportunity to speak with a panel of other professionals who have retired. Another weeklong NOVA class was held in December 2022.

REENGAGE

In 2022, SOU was able to create and promote REENGAGE. REENGAGE is a retirement transition program for Law Enforcement Officers (LEO). REENGAGE was a 40 hour, 5 day program preparing LEO for the next phase of their lives beyond retirement which was held for the first time in January 2023. It was the first of its kind in the State of NJ.

JUSTICE INVOLVED SERVICES

The SOU remains an active participant in the Justice Involved Services Task Force (JIS). This Task Force has members from various county agencies, community based mental health agencies and law enforcement meeting regularly to ensure that individuals in crisis or with disabilities are receiving the optimal community supports. JIS meeting quarterly at DHS headquarters in Toms River and afterwards, members of the Community High Risk Intervention Specialists Team often meet to discuss emergent cases.

CHRIS TEAM

The SOU participates in the CHRIS Team and its initiatives which began about 2 years ago. Any police officer can make a referral to CHRIS to get immediate assistance in the navigation of cases involving individuals with serious and persistent mental illness or profound cognitive disabilities that may present as a danger to themselves or others.

DUTY TO WARN

The SOU spearheads efforts to facilitate the NJ Duty to Warn initiative. The newer amendment, originating from bill A1181, signed by Governor Murphy in 2018, built upon the existing duty to warn law by requiring that a licensed provider notify the chief law enforcement officer in the municipality where the patient resides, or the Superintendent of State Police if the patient resides in a municipality that does not have a full time police department, that a duty to warn has been executed and shall provide to the chief law enforcement officer or superintendent, the subject's name and other nonclinical information. The SOU in concert with the police will then take action with the courts to determine whether to revoke any firearms permit and seek to collect any firearms owned by the patient or that they have access to. The SOU may then help facilitate an Extreme Risk Protection Order in coordination with municipal law enforcement.

FATALITY REVIEW

The SOU participates regularly in the Opioid fatality Review Committee. This Committee meets regularly to review cases of individuals that have overdosed and died throughout the county. Members of the SOU may have to gather police reports, run criminal case histories and liaison with members of major crimes, the Department of Human Services and the Ocean County Jail with regard to these case reviews. Members of the SOU are also on the Executive Committee for the Opioid Overdose fatality Review which also meets regularly throughout the year.

OPIOID ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The SOU is an active participant in the Ocean County Opioid Advisory Council. In February, 2023, SAP Renee T. White was designated by the Ocean County Prosecutor as the office's liaison to the Council. Regular meetings are held in the Administration building in Toms River NJ to establish binding terms for the distribution and spending of funds from any National Opioid Litigation Resolution that is a settlement agreement or bankruptcy plan.

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

The SOU started the Ocean County Special Needs Registry, which is a voluntary service open to all citizens with disabilities who reside, attend school or are employed in Ocean County. The registry was created to help police officers and other emergency service personnel to better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing those first responders with vital information regarding a registrant's disability, emergency contact information, a physical description and current photograph of the registrant. The SOU continues to be a consistent point of contact for justice involved individuals with intellectual/ developmental disabilities.

CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

The SOU also spearheads the Ocean County Police Chaplaincy Program. A class of approximately 25 were trained last year and have participated in many trainings and police related scenarios over the past year. Sgt. Melissa Rose of the SOU is the coordinator of said chaplain training and works with individual departments to ensure they have the spiritual support that they need.

HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION

Members of the SOU participate in the Hostage Negotiation Team or its initiatives/ training throughout the year. Sgt. Melissa Rose is on the Hostage Negotiation Team for Ocean County and two of our SOU T-120s, Robert Surtees and Agent Ruben Gomez contribute role playing expertise and the construction of factual scenarios to benefit the team's education and training experiences.

Special Victims Unit / Family Advocacy

The Special Victims Unit also known as “Tina’s House” specializes in the investigation and prosecution of cases involving sexual abuse, physical abuse, abandonment and neglect of children as well as sexual assault of adults. In order to minimize trauma to the victims and their families all cases in this Unit are prosecuted vertically from investigation through trial with the same prosecutor and detective assigned throughout the process

Located on site are the following personnel: one (1) Supervising Assistant Prosecutor; one (1) Senior Assistant Prosecutor; one (1) Assistant Prosecutor; 1 Captain; one (1) Lieutenant; one (1) Sergeant; six (6) Detectives one of which is bilingual; one (1) Victim/Witness/MDT Coordinator; one (1) CAC Manager; one (1) Forensic Nurse Examiner Coordinator (FNE); one (1) bilingual agent and one (1) bilingual clerical staff member. There are also 16 Forensic Nurses on call seven (7) days a week, 24 hours a day.

The members of the Special Victims Unit are specially trained to conduct investigations regarding sexual assault, as well as investigations into physical abuse, abandonment and neglect of children. Such investigations include, but are not limited to, the crimes of aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, aggravated criminal sexual contact, criminal sexual contact, endangering the welfare of children, aggravated assault and child neglect and abuse.

The Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office Domestic Violence Strangulation Response Team and its program continues to provide services to survivors of acts of Strangulation. This team is comprised of the FNE and a representative from Providence House, the organization which provides shelter and outreach to survivors of domestic violence. This program ensures that the medical and emotional needs of those who report acts of strangulation are met. The FNE properly documents any injury to include a voice recording of the survivor. Additionally, the Forensic Nurse Examiner Coordinator continues to actively train local law enforcement on this program.

The Special Victim’s Unit continues to be a high volume unit that handles over 300 cases annually. This Unit and the CAC continues to be utilized by law enforcement from throughout New Jersey and surrounding states. In addition to the over 300 Ocean County cases, countless children and their families has visited and been assisted by the Tina’s House staff. The Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office, Special Victim’s Unit will continue to thoroughly investigated allegations of sexual assault and child abuse, participate in community outreach and advocate for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Trial Unit

The goal of the Trial Unit is to promote justice through the effective and expedient resolution of criminal matters impacting both victims individually, as well as the public generally. At present, this section is staffed by three (3) trial teams of Assistant Prosecutors who are primarily responsible for the prosecution of cases from the point at which an indictment has been returned by an Ocean County Grand Jury until the matter is resolved, either by plea or trial. The trial teams do handle some pre-indictment matters, including early disposition conferences for incarcerated defendants and grand jury presentations on cases being vertically prosecuted. The court matters handled by the trial teams include: early disposition conferences on incarcerated defendants, PTI appeals, initial disposition conferences, discretionary case disposition conferences, final case disposition conferences, pretrial conferences, plea negotiations, motions, trials and sentencings. Each trial team is led by a trial team leader. Each member of the trial team has a personally assigned caseload. The Trial Unit contains the largest legal staff in the Prosecutor's Office, and operates under the direction of the chief trial attorney.

The Trial Unit is supported in its investigations and witness preparations by the trial detectives. The trial Detectives perform all of the post-indictment investigation which is required. This can take the form of obtaining documents, evidence, statements of witnesses, and any additional information about the case, all of which is acquired to enhance successful prosecution. The trial Detectives also take on the critical job of physically locating all witnesses for the Assistant Prosecutors and participating in the preparation of those witnesses for trial. Currently, there are two (2) trial detectives assigned to the Trial Section who are supervised by a sergeant.

Occasionally, certain cases involving crimes of the first and second degree, as well as crimes of violence, are assigned to an Assistant Prosecutor for vertical prosecution prior to indictment in order to foster stability and consistency of representation for the victims as close to the initiation of the criminal investigation as possible. In addition, all trial team Assistant Prosecutors have additional assignments such as acting as a trial team leader, acting as the legal advisor to an investigative unit such as the Homicide Squad, Arson and Environmental Crimes Squad, Vehicular Homicide Squad, Bias Crimes, Animal Cruelty, Computer Crimes, and Human Trafficking, all of which are crimes that are prosecuted vertically.

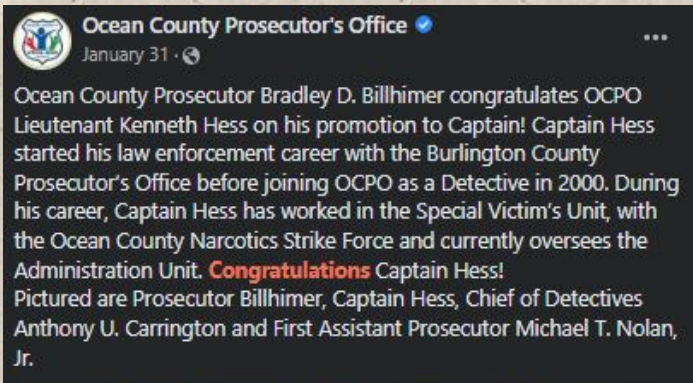
Significant cases during 2022 include: State v. Gavilanez-Alectus, murder and weapons charges (guilty on all counts), State v. Williams, multiple counts of possession of CDS and possession with intent to distribute CDS (guilty on all counts), State v. Kappen- aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, and endangering the welfare of a child (guilty on all counts), State v. Escalona-Flores- multiple counts of aggravated sexual assault, sexual assault, endangering the welfare of a child, and invasion of privacy (guilty on all counts), State v. Manzano- multiple counts of aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault (guilty on all counts).

2022 Snapshot

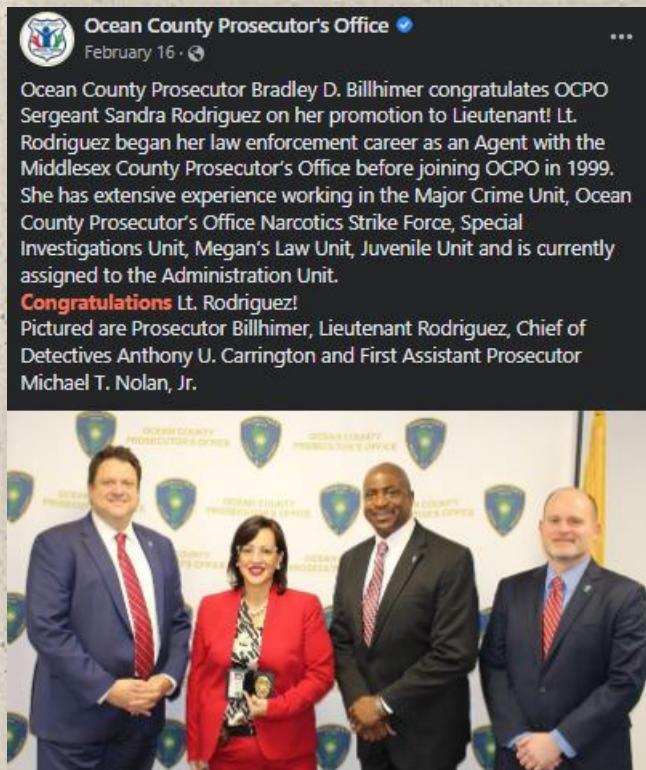
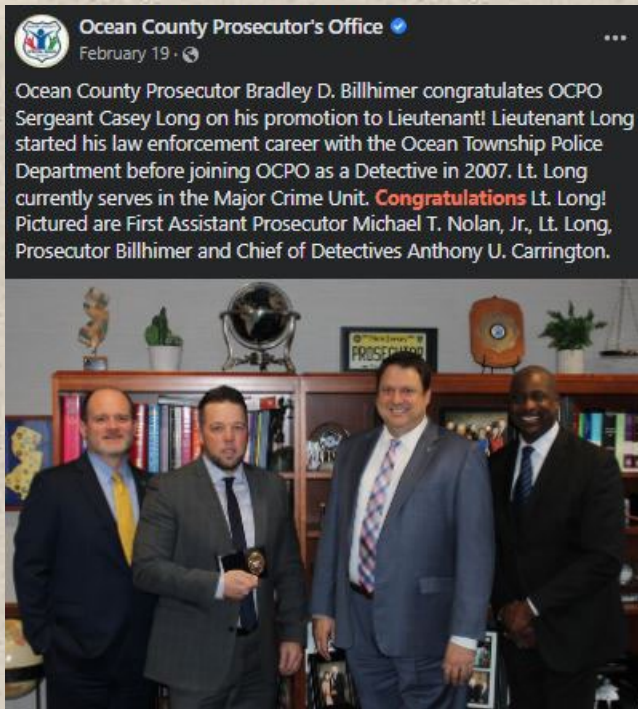


Promotions and Additions

Captain



Lieutenant



Sergeant





Detective



Special Recognition



Assistant Prosecutors

We are proud to welcome Rachel Tarver to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Ms. Tarver was sworn in as an Assistant Prosecutor in the by the Honorable Wendel E. Daniels, P.J.Cr.P. (retired), on Thursday, June 2, 2022. AP Tarver previously served as a Judicial Law Clerk for Judge Daniels before joining OCPO.

Pictured are: First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, AP Tarver and Judge Daniels



We are proud to welcome Assistant Prosecutor Emma Hurst to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! AP Hurst was sworn in by the Honorable Kimarie Rahill, J.S.C., on Thursday, September 15, 2022. AP Hurst previously served as a Law Clerk for Judge Rahill.

Pictured are- Judge Rahill, AP Hurst and First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan Jr.



We are proud to welcome Assistant Prosecutor Alec DeBari to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! AP DeBari was sworn in by the Honorable Guy P. Ryan, P.J.Cr.P., on Thursday, September 29, 2022. AP DeBari previously served as a Law Clerk for Judge Ryan.

Pictured are- First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., Judge Ryan, AP DeBari, Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington and Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer



Retirements

Congratulations to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Hillary Bryce on her retirement from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Chief Bryce served as an intern here while attending Rutgers Law School in 1996. After serving as a law clerk for the Honorable Peter Giovine, J.S.C. (Retired), she began her career here at OCPO as an Assistant Prosecutor in 1998. During her twenty-five year distinguished career, Chief Bryce served in almost every unit at OCPO. She spent the majority of her career in the Trial section and is a Certified Criminal Trial Attorney. Most recently, Chief Bryce supervised our Intake and Grand Jury Units while always helping with our community engagement efforts! Chief Bryce has been a mentor to many young Assistant Prosecutors and will certainly be missed. Congratulations Chief Bryce! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement and best of luck on the next chapter of your life!

Pictured are OCPO Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Robert Armstrong, Chief Bryce, Executive Assistant Prosecutor Michelle Armstrong and Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office May 10, 2022 · 🌐

Congratulations to Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Patrick Sheehan on his retirement from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Sheehan served two stints here at OCPO, first from 1981 until 1987 and then returning in 2012 until his retirement on May 1, 2022. During his career here at OCPO, Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Sheehan has worked on some of the most important cases in the history of the office as well as being a mentor to many young Assistant Prosecutors. Congratulations Pat! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement!

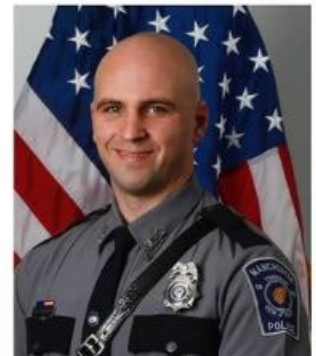
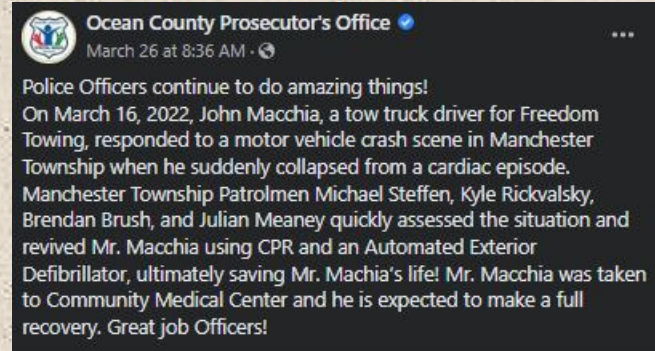
Pictured are Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Sheehan and Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer.



Everyone here at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office wishes Chief Clerk Donna Prestia a happy retirement after 32 years of service! Donna began her career at OCPO as a Clerk/Stenographer in 1991. She was promoted to Chief Clerk in 2013. Her experience with the inner workings of OCPO has been a trusted resource to the seven different prosecutors she has served under during her tenure. We will miss Donna's expertise as well as her friendly face in the hallways! Donna, thank you for your career of public service to the citizens of Ocean County. Enjoy your retirement!



Community Policing at its Best



Members of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office were on hand to congratulate and support John "Scotty" Stevens on his graduation from Lacey Township High School. Scotty's father, Detective John Scott Stevens, perished in a one-car motor vehicle accident while working for the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office on January 21, 2015. Congratulations Scotty, we are all very proud of you!



It was a great morning on Friday, June 10, 2022, as members of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in the 39th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics New Jersey! Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were proud to support their effort!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was joined by Sergeant Melissa Rose in addressing faith-based leaders from across Southern Ocean County during the, "Fellowship is an Anchor," event sponsored by the DART Prevention Coalition and the Southern Ocean County Interfaith & Advocacy Leadership (SOCIAL) Network. The event brought together faith leaders from across Southern Ocean County to connect and share ideas. Thank you to everyone who attended!



On August 9, 2022, the Lakewood Township Police Department held their Annual National Night Out Against Crime! National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to connect with law enforcement in an informal and festive atmosphere. Members of the Ocean County Prosecutors Office had the opportunity to meet with residents of Lakewood. Great job by Lakewood Township Police Chief Gregory Meyer and his staff for putting together a wonderful event!

Pictured are Supervising Victim Witness Advocate Patricia Miljenovic, Victim Witness Advocate Lisa Dolby, Agent Michael Colwell and Victim Witness Advocate Brooke Miranda



On August 3, 2022, the Berkeley Township Police Department held their Annual National Night Out Against Crime! National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to connect with law enforcement in an informal and festive atmosphere. Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to attend! Thank you to Chief Kevin Santucci and Berkeley PD and everyone who came out to say hello!

Pictured below are; Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Intern Jos... See more



Active Shooter Training is an unfortunate reality of the times we live in. The safety of every child in Ocean County is of paramount importance to law enforcement. On August 31, 2022, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Stafford Township Police Department, Ocean County Regional SWAT and the Ocean County Sheriff's Office conducted a joint active shooter response drill at McKinley Avenue Elementary School in Stafford Township. Joint exercises like this help test emergency response capabilities and build upon the strong working relationships needed during a real emergency. Thank you to Stafford Township Police Chief Thomas Dellane and to all of the agencies that participated. Special thanks to the New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.



On September 22, 2022, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in the 4th Annual Latino Health Fair sponsored by the Ocean County Health Department. The Health Fair gave members of the Latino community in Ocean County access to health screenings and important information regarding all aspects of healthcare. Bi-lingual representatives from OCPO were on hand to discuss and offer services and resources that are available through Operation Helping Hand - including linkage to substance abuse treatment and care. Thank you to everyone that stopped by!



The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office was honored to participate in the 83rd Annual Toms River Volunteer Fire Company No.1 Halloween Parade. The theme of this year's float was "Reach for the Stars....Not Drugs!" Thanks to Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Renee White, Sgt. Taryn Ritacco, Assistant Prosecutor Heidi Tannenbaum-Newman, Agent Mike Colwell and everyone at OCPO who helped make our Space Shuttle a reality! Special thanks to the Ocean County Buildings and Grounds Department and the Ocean County Road Departments! Truly a team effort!



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office December 23, 2022

Lieutenant Jim Hill, Lieutenant Casey Long and Detective Stephanie Moran of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in this year's statewide Shop With a Cop event at the Walmart in Little Egg Harbor. Coordinated by Ocean, Inc. and local law enforcement, Shop With a Cop pairs underprivileged and at-risk children ages 6-10 with a law enforcement officer for a shopping spree leading up to Christmas. Great job by all involved!



What a great turnout this past Saturday, November 19, 2022, for the Third Annual Survivor Day Purpose & Hope 5k Run & Walk in Island Heights! International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is observed every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington turned out to support colleagues, friends and families that have suffered the loss of a loved one. Great job by Chris Raimann and the Ocean County Sheriff's Office for sponsoring such a wonderful event! Pictured below are - Detective Joseph Engrassia, Seaside Heights Police Department (retired), Prosecutor Billhimer, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy and Chief Carrington.



Seaside Heights Police Department August 30, 2022

It was just another day at work for Officer Christopher Linnell, but for this beautiful little boy's family it was probably their worst nightmare. Little Ryan stopped breathing, thankfully Officer Linnell was able to respond within seconds, grabbed 21 month old Ryan and got him breathing again. As you can see Ryan and family are doing well and beyond grateful. Thank you again Officer Linnell.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 10

Congratulations to Detective Sergeant Mitch Cowit of the Jackson Township Police Department on his recent retirement! Detective Sergeant Cowit was hired by the Jackson Township PD in 1992 and during his celebrated career he supervised the newly formed Special Enforcement Unit and worked extensively with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force. **Congratulations** D/Sgt. Cowit on your well-deserved retirement! You will be missed! Pictured are D/Sgt. Cowit and Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer.



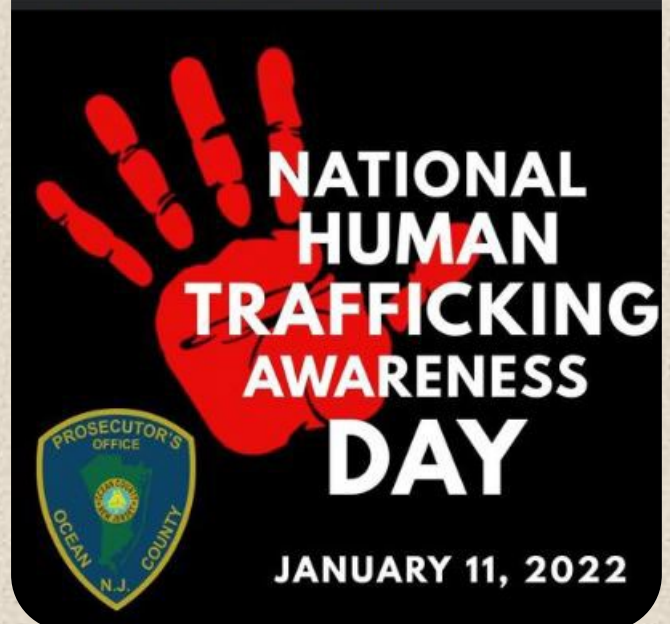
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 6

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Agent Ruben Gomez recently spoke to Barnegat Township High School students about his role as a Veteran Mentor Coordinator with OCPO's Veterans Diversion Program. Agent Gomez, a combat veteran and Purple Heart Award recipient, shared his experience with the students and explained how the OCPO Veterans Diversion Program assists veterans in Ocean County.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 11

Today is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. Every year millions of men, women and children are trafficked worldwide. Human Trafficking affects every community, race and gender. Traffickers rely on the public not asking questions, not recognizing the red flags, and simply looking the other way. Learn to know the warning signs by visiting <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>. If you or someone you know needs help, please call your local police station or the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text HELP or INFO to BeFree (233733).



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 19

Thank you to Blonde South Hair Company and Mickey's Port of Call Pub of Tuckerton for participating in the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey's Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day! These businesses partnered with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to get the word out about the link between prescribed pain medicine and subsequent opioid abuse. Great job by all involved!
[blondesouthhairco](#) [Mickey's Port of Call Pub](#)



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer Presents an Information Seminar on the

RED FLAG LAW

"ERPO"
 EXTREME RISK PROTECTIVE ORDER
 Provides a procedure to remove access to firearms for an individual who poses a danger of causing bodily injury to self or others.

A FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT!

Speakers:
 Robert J. Armstrong
 Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor
 Hillary Bryce
 Chief Assistant Prosecutor

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022
Time: 4:00pm - 5:00pm
www.facebook.com/OCPONJ

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 26

First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, welcomed our spring student interns to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. We are pleased to welcome these students from Stockton University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, and Ocean County College. Over the next twelve weeks, these interns will gain valuable experience working with our Detectives and Assistant Prosecutors. Welcome aboard!



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 7

Congratulations to new Point Pleasant Beach Police Chief Robert Kowalewski!

A lifelong resident of Point Pleasant Beach, Chief Kowalewski began his career with the Point Pleasant Beach PD in 2002 as a Special Officer. **Congratulations** Chief and stay safe!



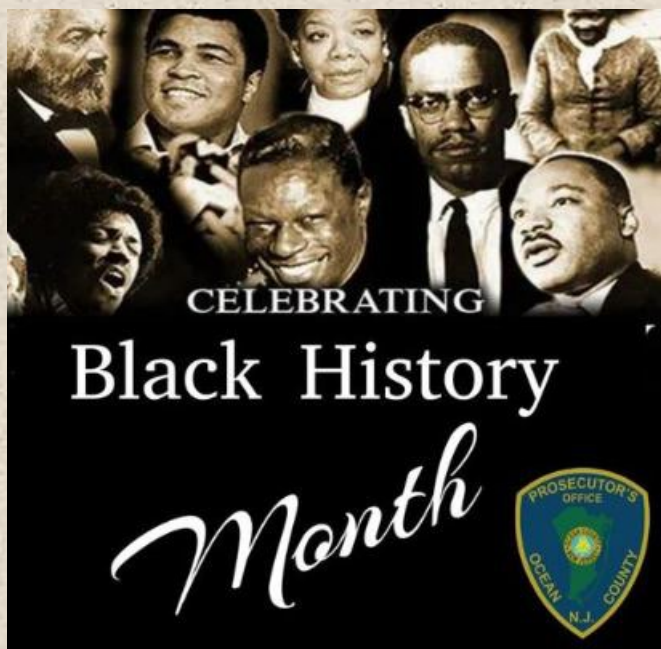
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office January 20

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to address the graduates of the first cohort of the Michael Camillus Project! The Project, named for St. Michael, the patron saint of police and St. Camillus, patron saint of the sick, educates members of the law enforcement community about substance abuse disorder. Through the Project, students/officers obtain a certificate of completion in addiction studies from Ocean County College. The 18 credit Certificate of Completion allows the student/officers to sit for a State Board Exam and perform clinical hours to obtain their Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) designation. The Michael Camillus Project has been made possible in partnership with Ocean County College and Bright Harbor Healthcare through Operation Helping Hand grant funding through the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General. Congratulations to the graduates!

Thank you to Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Renee White and Sergeant Melissa Rose of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Dr. Patricia Gianotti of Ocean County College and Kimberly Veith, Director of Adult Clinical Services at Bright Harbor Healthcare, for their tremendous efforts in making this project a success!

[Bright Harbor Healthcare](#) [Ocean County College](#)





Ocean County Prosecutor's Office February 4

As we celebrate Black History Month, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office honors Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, Jr.!

Chief Carrington graduated from Rutgers University School of Engineering in 1990 with a degree in electrical engineering. In 1994, he began his law enforcement career here at OCPO as an Investigator. In his nearly 27 years of service Chief Carrington has worked in the Grand Jury, Narcotics Strike Force, Homicide, Intelligence/Gangs, Arson Unit and Special Investigations Units. Chief Carrington is the first African-American Chief of Detectives in the history of Ocean County! Thank you for your service Chief, we are lucky to have you!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Know the past, shape the future.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office February 22

As we celebrate Black History Month, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office honors Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Captain Elliot Morgan! Captain Morgan began his law enforcement career with the Brielle Police Department before joining OCPO as a Detective in 1999. During his career here at OCPO, Capt. Morgan has served in the Grand Jury and Juvenile Units as well as with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force. He was promoted to Captain in 2021 and currently supervises the Major Crime Unit. Capt. Morgan is an outstanding law enforcement professional. He is distinguished amongst his peers and always represents the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office with pride. Thank you Capt. Morgan for your service!



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
Know the past, shape the future.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office February 8

Today is Safer Internet Day!
It is important to recognize that our children are growing up in a digital world where everything is available on the internet. Please take every precaution to ensure that your children are being S.M.A.R.T. on the internet. Stay engaged in their online activity and be aware of the online platforms they are using. Ask them to show you how they use them, and teach them to ALWAYS be S.M.A.R.T. on the internet!

INTERNET SAFETY

SAFE

S ALWAYS ENSURE THAT PERSONAL INFORMATION AND PASSWORDS ARE KEPT PRIVATE
Do not put any of your contact details online and always check your privacy settings on social networking sites. Ensure that passwords are difficult to guess and never use your real name as a username.

MEET

M NEVER MEET WITH AN ONLINE FRIEND IN PERSON, EVEN IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW THEM WELL
Meeting someone from a chat room or social networking website could be dangerous. Online friends are still strangers and may not be who they say they are.

ACCEPT

A DO NOT OPEN EMAILS FROM PEOPLE YOU DO NOT KNOW
Emails and attachments may contain viruses or unpleasant messages and images. Any suspicious emails should be deleted and marked as spam.

RELIABLE

R NOT ALL INFORMATION ONLINE IS RELIABLE, THERE IS A LOT OF FALSE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET
Always check that the information is correct, some dangerous people use false information in chat rooms and social media websites. Try to limit your "friends" to "real friends".

TELL

T TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF ANYTHING ONLINE MAKES YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE OR THREATENED
Many chat rooms and social networking websites have support email addresses or alert buttons that enable users to report bullying or harmful behavior.

BE S.M.A.R.T.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office February 11

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were honored for their service to the community at the Metro Classic Basketball Tournament at the RWJ Barnabas Health Arena in Toms River. The Metro Classic Basketball Tournament featured some of the best high school basketball teams from all over the United States!
Congratulations to you both!
Pictured are Chief Carrington, Prosecutor Billhimer and tournament founders Dr. Mukesh Roy and Pryia Roy.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office February 15

Happy 172nd Birthday Ocean County!
Ocean County was established on February 15, 1850. Ocean County originally consisted of six townships – Brick, Dover, Jackson, Plumsted, Stafford and Union (now Barnegat). Dover (now Toms River) was designated as the county seat and construction began on the Ocean County Court House in 1850!



Preventing Sextortion Among Youth

#StartTheConversation



Sextortion is an online exploitation crime directed towards children, in which coercion or blackmail is used

- to acquire sexual content
- to engage in sex
- to obtain money



WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Youth are Sharing Nude Content

1 in 6 youth surveyed (ages 9 - 17) have shared a nude image



50% of kids who shared didn't care if they knew the recipient in real life



41% of those youth who have shared, also sent images to people they believed to be ADULTS

Information from Thorn IG-CSAM Report, 2020

Child Sextortion Case Facts



60% knew the perpetrator



51% did not report incidents to family or friends



13% reported incidents to law enforcement



Information from Sextortion of Minors: Wink et al, 2017

WHAT CAN WE DO?



Talk to your children about sexting & sextortion

- Remind them: Don't create, request, or share images!
- Remember that 5 out of 6 children report that they haven't shared a nude image
- 1 in 4 victims of sextortion were 13 or younger when threatened
- The perpetrator is to blame!



Have regular conversations with your children about their online activity - be their trusted adult



If someone asks for help, HELP THEM

- Do you know anyone that may need help with this?
- There's no mistake too big. You can always ask for help.
- What would you do if someone pressured you for sexual images or "nudes"?



Access Helpful Resources

- National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Website (missingkids.org)
CyberTipline: Report sexual exploitation of minors at www.report.cybertip.org
Get Help Now: Learn how to remove explicit content from popular platforms at www.missingkids.org/gethelpnow/isyoudiditcontentoutthere
- Thorn Website (thorn.org)
Stop Sextortion: Help for victims, Tips for adults at www.stopsextortion.com



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

February 14 · 🌐

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Ocean County Sheriff's Officer Brian Stockhoff, who passed away suddenly early this morning. We mourn with our brothers and sisters in the Ocean County Sheriff's Office. **Godspeed Brian.**



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

February 26 · 🌐

In honor of Black History Month, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington and Toms River Intermediate School East Vice Principal James Cleveland were featured speakers at the monthly meeting of the Ocean County Human Relations Commission. The Human Relations Commission is comprised of dedicated volunteers that work closely with Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer to raise cultural awareness and reduce and eliminate bias crimes and incidents. Chief Carrington and Vice Principle Cleveland spoke to guests and members of the Commission about their career paths and the importance of being mentors and role models to young African American men and women. Great job by all involved!



PRESS RELEASE-OCEAN COUNTY LAUNCHES SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, Ocean County Sheriff Michael G. Mastronardy and Ocean County Police Chiefs Association President Michael DiBella are proud to announce the launch of the Ocean County Special Needs Registry. Effective March 1, 2022, the Ocean County Special Needs Registry will be available to all citizens with special needs who reside, attend school or are employed in Ocean County. The goal of the Special Needs Registry is to ensure all Ocean County residents who may be in need of special assistance are able to get the help and support they need in a time of emergency or during interaction with Law Enforcement, Fire or EMS personnel.



Through the website, which can be found at www.OCSNRNJ.com, Ocean County residents will be able to register themselves or any family members living in their home who may have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities due to a physical and/or intellectual disability. The registry will provide first responders with vital information regarding a registrant's special needs, emergency contact information, physical description, and current photograph. Information provided through registration is confidential and will only be shared with law enforcement and first responders during an emergency or for the purpose of planning an emergency response.

Each registrant will be provided with two window decals that can be placed on the front entrance of the registrant's residence as well as on the window of any vehicle in which they regularly travel. The presence of the OCSNR decal signifies to first responders that someone in the residence or vehicle has some degree of special need and that they should respond accordingly. The use of the decals is voluntary.

The Ocean County Special Needs Registry is a collaborative effort between the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, the Ocean County Sheriff's Office and the Ocean County Police Chiefs Association. Special thanks to the Ocean County Board of Commissioners and the Ocean County Office of Information and Technology for their collective assistance and support for this initiative.

"This collaborative effort is designed to assist our law enforcement officers and first responders with critical knowledge regarding impending interaction with citizens of the communities they serve. The more our officers and first responders know on their way to a call or on a motor vehicle stop the higher the likelihood is of a more positive interaction – for the officer and for the citizen," Prosecutor Billhimer stated.

"The Ocean County Sheriff's Office thanks the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for initiating this program to protect those who might be most vulnerable in our county. The Prosecutors Office, Sheriff's Office and Ocean County Police Chiefs will continue to work together and are committed to protecting all our residents," Sheriff Mastronardy added.

"On behalf of the Ocean County Police Chiefs Association, I would like to thank everyone, including, but not limited to, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy, and Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Detective Sergeant Melissa Rose for all their hard work and dedication in making this Special Needs Program come to fruition. As a representative for the Ocean County Police Chiefs Association, I can assure you this program will lead to more positive interactions for both our respective communities and staffs, allow us to increase public relations and community policing, and provide the best service possible to those individuals with special needs. As law enforcement officers in Ocean County, we have a passion to serve everyone with the utmost respect and professionalism and we certainly look forward to being a part of this new program," Chief DiBella concluded.

PRESS RELEASE-ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENT TEAM INVITES PUBLIC COMMENT

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that on Tuesday, March 29, 2022, and Wednesday, March 30, 2022, a team of assessors from the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) will examine all aspects of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. Verification by the NJSACOP team that the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office meets the Commission's "best practice" standards is part of a voluntary process to achieve accreditation - a highly prized recognition of law enforcement professional excellence.



"The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office was originally accredited in 2012, and re-accredited in 2015 and 2019. This will be the Prosecutor's Office's fourth voluntary accreditation process. It is a significant milestone to achieve and maintain accreditation and be recognized as an agency that continually follows "best practices" in law enforcement while serving the people of Ocean County," Prosecutor Billhimer stated.

As part of this final on-site assessment, employees and members of the general public are invited to provide comments to the assessment team. They may do so by telephone or email. The public may contact Accreditation Team at (609) 929-1386, on Wednesday, March 30, 2022, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Email comments may be sent to Accreditation Manager Gagliano at cgagliano@co.ocean.nj.us.

Telephone comments are limited to 5 minutes and must address the agency's ability to comply with the NJSACOP standards. A copy of the standards is available for inspection at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, 119 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ. Please contact Accreditation Manager Gagliano for more information in that regard.

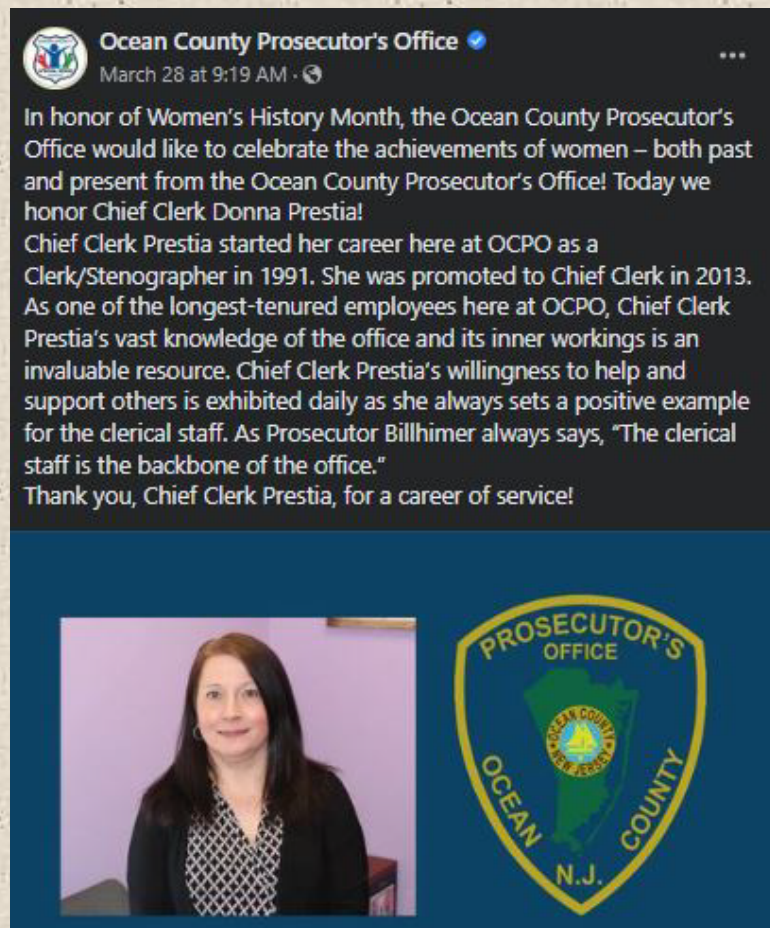
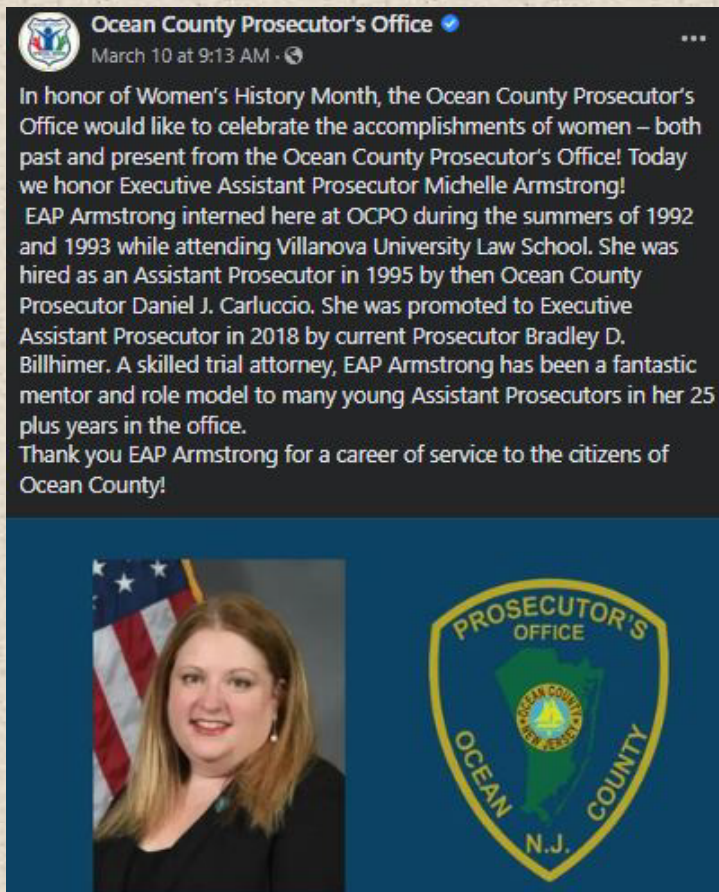
Anyone wishing to submit written comments about the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office ability to comply with the standards for accreditation may send them to Harry J Delgado, Accreditation Program Director, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, 751 Route 73 North, Suite 12, Marlton, NJ 08053, or email Mr. Delgado at hdelgado@njsacop.org.

"The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office must comply with 112 standards in order to achieve accredited status," Prosecutor Billhimer indicated. "The NJSACOP has created the standards that meet the "best practices" for law enforcement agencies. Abiding by those standards reduces the potential for civil liability for the County, while simultaneously increasing accountability within the Office. Maintaining adherence to these standards helps the office operate efficiently and provide the best service possible to the community," Prosecutor Billhimer concluded.

Accreditation Program Director Delgado likewise noted: "The assessment team is composed of law enforcement practitioners from similar New Jersey law enforcement agencies. The assessors will review written materials, interview agency members, and visit offices and other places where compliance with the standards may be observed. Once the Commission's assessors complete their review of the agency, they will report back to the full Commission, which will then decide if the agency is to be granted accredited status."

Accreditation is valid for a three-year period, during which time the agency must submit annual reports attesting to their continued compliance with those standards under which it was initially accredited.

The NJSACOP - through its Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission - is the legitimate authority and accreditation agency in the State of New Jersey. For more information regarding the Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, please direct inquiries to the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission, 751 Route 73 North, Suite 12, Marlton, NJ 08053.





 **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** 
March 16 at 9:18 AM · 🌐

In honor of Women's History Month, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to celebrate the achievements of women – both past and present from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Today we honor Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Renee White!

Supervising Assistant Prosecutor White has a schedule that would drive many to collapse! She began her career here at OCPO as an Assistant Prosecutor in 2006, and currently oversees the Special Offenders Unit. SAP White has been instrumental in establishing the Mental Health Diversion Program, Veterans Diversion Program and developing Crisis Intervention and Resiliency Training for Police Officers in Ocean County. SAP White is also an R.N., FN-CSA (forensic nurse, certified in sexual assault), a FNP-BC (family nurse practitioner) and frequent lecturer and adjunct professor.

Thank you SAP White for your tireless efforts on behalf of the residents in Ocean County!



 **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** 
March 30 at 9:04 AM · 🌐

In honor of Women's History Month, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to celebrate the achievements of women – both past and present from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Today we honor Lieutenant Sandra Rodriguez!

Lt. Rodriguez began her law enforcement career as an Agent with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office before joining OCPO in 1999. She has extensive experience working in the Major Crime Unit, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Special Investigations Unit, Megan's Law Unit, Juvenile Unit and currently supervises the Trial and Grand Jury Units. Sgt. Rodriguez has earned the respect of her peers through her tireless dedication to the pursuit of justice. We are lucky to have her!

Thank you Lt. Rodriguez for your continued service!



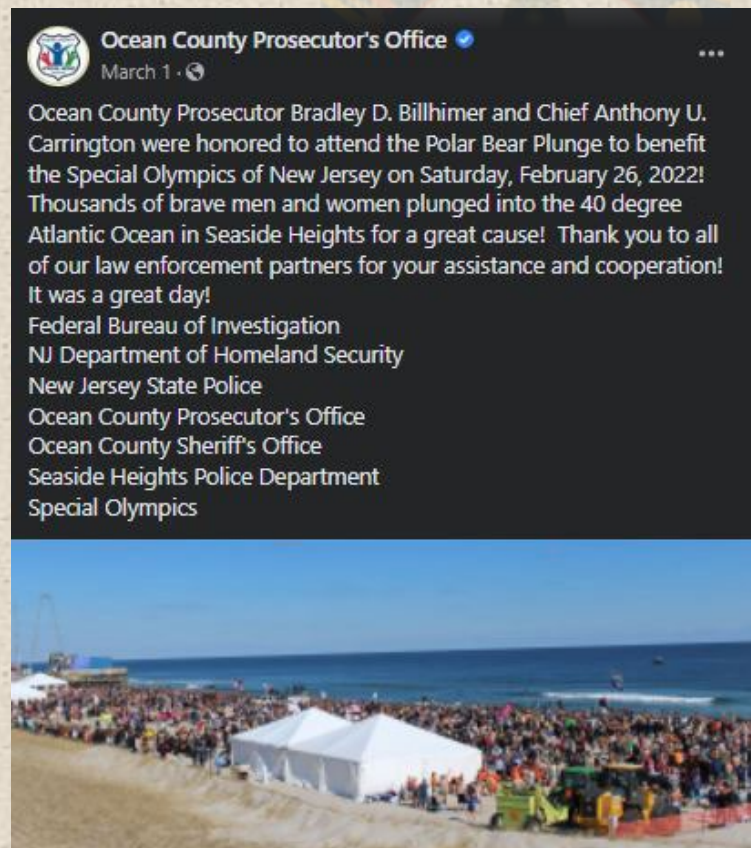
 **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** 
March 24 at 8:51 AM · 🌐

In honor of Women's History Month, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to celebrate the achievements of women – both past and present from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Today we honor Sergeant Taryn Ritacco-Schwartz!

Sgt. Ritacco-Schwartz began her law enforcement career here at OCPO as an Agent in 2000. She was promoted to the position of Sergeant in 2018. Sgt. Ritacco-Schwartz has worked in the Juvenile Unit, Special Investigations Unit, Grand Jury Unit, Ocean County Narcotics Strike Force, High Tech Crime Unit, Special Victims Unit and has served in the Trial Unit since 2015. Sgt. Ritacco-Schwartz is a passionate advocate for the G.R.E.A.T. Program and she has been dedicated to working with students in our local schools. Sgt. Ritacco-Schwartz is a valued resource and her depth of experience and extraordinary skill set make her an irreplaceable member of our office.

Thank you Sgt. Ritacco-Schwartz for your continued service!





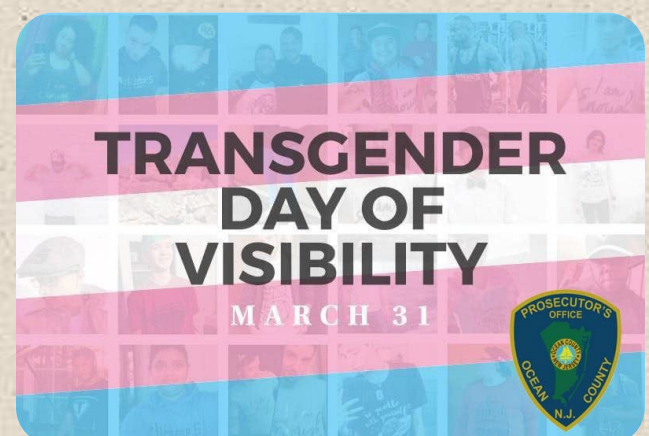
Today is International Women's Day and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to celebrate the achievements of women everywhere, especially here in Ocean County! Today we celebrate three women who have, and are still making a profound impact here in Ocean County.

Former Ocean County Freeholder Hazel Gluck was the first women in the history of Ocean County elected to what was then known as the Ocean County Board of Freeholders, in 1976. Ms. Gluck also served in the New Jersey General Assembly and as Commissioner of Insurance and Commissioner of Transportation for the State of New Jersey.

Ocean County Commissioner Virginia Haines previously served in the New Jersey General Assembly and has dedicated her life to public service. Commissioner Haines was the first woman to serve as Director of Ocean County Commissioners in the history of Ocean County.

Ocean County Commissioner Bobbi Jo Crea served as both a Committeewoman and Mayor of Little Egg Harbor before being elected as only the third female Ocean County Commissioner in 2021.

These three women have made a tremendous impact here in Ocean County and today we celebrate their achievements. Thank you to all women who have contributed to society with their talent, perseverance and wisdom.



 **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** ✓
April 2 at 1:49 PM · 🌐

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Partnership for a Drug-Free NJ Executive Director Angelo Valente will be appearing on Lisa Anderson's "She's Got Issues" radio show this Sunday morning! Prosecutor Billhimer and Executive Director Valente will discuss their partnership and strategies to address the opioid crisis in New Jersey. The show will air at on Sunday, April 3, 2022 at 6:30 a.m. on 100.1 WJRZ-FM and 7:00 a.m. on WRAT-FM, or please visit: <https://wrat.com/shows/shes-got-issues>



SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
WE ARE HERE

THE SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM OF OCEAN COUNTY WANTS TO LET YOU KNOW THAT WE ARE HERE FOR YOU PROVIDING:

- INVESTIGATIONS
- FORENSIC MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS
- CONFIDENTIAL ADVOCACY

THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES WE CAN HELP WHEN YOU NEED IT.
PLEASE CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENT IF YOU ARE REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

 **24 HOUR CONFIDENTIAL SEXUAL VIOLENCE HOTLINE**
609-494-1090 

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

PREVENTING ABUSE ISN'T A PROFESSION. IT'S A MORAL IMPERATIVE.

During these uncertain times of social distancing **MANY** children are at-risk.
#bridgethegap

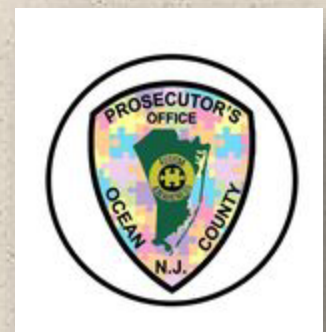


It IS your business.
Everyone in NJ is a mandated reporter.

Call 1-877-652-2873 to report suspected abuse or neglect. Be a hero to a child in need!

 **Ocean County Prosecutor's Office** ✓
April 1 at 1:21 PM · 🌐

On March 31, 2022, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer hosted the Peace Keepers and Prayer Leaders Luncheon at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena in Toms River. Prosecutor Billhimer brought together over 100 law enforcement executives and faith leaders from across Ocean County! Thank you to Acting New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin, Director of Criminal Justice Lyndsey Ruotolo, NJ State Senator Chris Connors, NJ Assemblyman John Catalano, Ocean County Commissioners Gary Quinn, Joseph Vicari and Bobbi Jo Crea, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy and everyone who attended this important event. **Congratulations** to Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chaplain, Rev. James Occhipinti, who was honored at the event for his lifelong commitment, dedication and service to faith and law enforcement! Faith leaders play an invaluable role in our collective effort to build trust and strengthen public safety.





DISTRACTED DRIVING PREVENTION TIPS

Put Away Your Phone: Silence your phone and store it in a location that is out of reach while driving to lower the temptation to check it.

Plan Your Trip Before You Leave: Program your navigation system before hitting the road to get familiar with your journey and feel confident in your route.

Do Not Fumble With Your Playlist: Select a radio station or plug in a predetermined playlist before driving to limit the need for music adjustments.

Secure Passengers: Ensure kids are properly situated in car seats (if needed) with seat belts fastened. Keep pets stationary in the back seat.

Avoid Multi-Tasking: Never complete additional tasks - such as eating or personal grooming - behind the wheel.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

1h · 🌐

It was a great honor to have Father Volodymyr Popyk of St. Stephen's Ukrainian Catholic Church of Toms River address those in attendance at the Peace Keepers and Prayer Leaders luncheon, hosted by Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer at the RWJ Barnabas Health Arena on March 31, 2022. Father Popyk spoke of his two brothers, who are on the front lines in Ukraine and how residents in Ocean County have been so generous in their donations to help the victims of the war. Thank you Father Popyk for your words of inspiration!



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

March 23 at 2:07 PM · 🌐

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were honored to collaborate with Resilient Minds on the Front Lines to donate 35 pieces of retired body armor vests on behalf of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. These vests will be shipped to non-profits in Ukraine. A special thank you to Resilient Minds on the Front Lines for collecting the body armor and shipping it to Ukraine.

Pictured are: Chief Carrington, Patrick Hughes, Alexa Kabelo-Hughes, Mike Pellegrino, Diana Pellegrino and Prosecutor Billhimer.





Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

April 1 at 9:21 AM ·

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month! Please join the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and St. Francis Counseling Service as we TURN THE TOWN TEAL! During the month of April, we will be lighting up our community with teal and blue lights in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Any business or organizations interested in participating in our community efforts can contact St. Francis Counseling Center at 609-494-1554 or at jpluard@stfrancisbi.org.



TURN THE TOWN TEAL

Join St. Francis Counseling Service and Ocean County Prosecutors Office in lighting up Ocean County!

During the month of April, join us by lighting our community with teal & blue lights and decorations as we recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month, National Crime Victims' Rights Week, and Child Abuse Prevention Month.

FOLLOW ALONG AND SHARE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS!

#OCNJSAAM2022

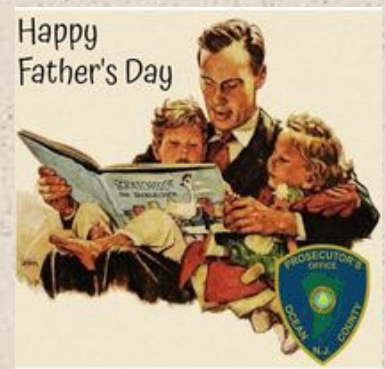
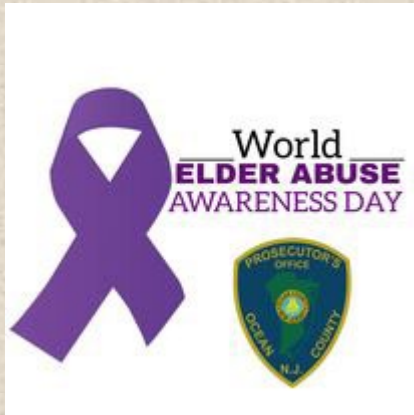
If you are a business or organization who would like to participate, please reach out to St. Francis Counseling Service to receive a gift bag with teal lights and pinwheels while supplies last. We ask that you decorate your windows or lawns with these for the month of April!



Contact us for more information:

St. Francis Counseling Service
(609) 494-1554 or
jpluard@stfrancisbi.org







APPY PRIDE MONTH 2022



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was joined by Sergeant Melissa Rose in addressing faith-based leaders from across Southern Ocean County during the, "Fellowship is an Anchor," event sponsored by the DART Prevention Coalition and the Southern Ocean County Interfaith & Advocacy Leadership (SOCIAL) Network. The event brought together faith leaders from across Southern Ocean County to connect and share ideas. Thank you to everyone who attended!



Let's hear it for our very own Sergeant Melissa Rose! Sgt. Rose sang the National Anthem at the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police 110th Annual Installation Banquet in Atlantic City! What a way to kick off a great night!





IDENTITY THEFT PROTECTION

SECURE PERSONAL INFORMATION

Never share your personal information with strangers. Use strong passwords and multifactor authentication.

SHRED DOCUMENTS

Shred documents containing personal information before trashing them.

MONITOR ACCOUNTS

Check your accounts regularly and always review statements for suspicious activity. Check your credit score every month.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Be cautious of scams requiring personal information. Never give your social security number or credit card information over the phone.

On Sunday, July 3, 2022, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer appeared on "Shore Time with Vin and Dave," on 94.3 The Point and 105.7 The Hawk radio. The Prosecutor discussed many issues including the opioid epidemic, drinking and driving and the rise in bias crimes in Ocean County. Thank you to hosts Vin Ebenau and Dave Crossan for the invitation!

To listen to the show please click the link below. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ISYL7I3MKNI>



Beginning July 16, 2022 - anyone in the United States can dial 988 and be directed to the National Suicide Hotline to receive mental health support and resources! 24 hours a day, 7 days a week these call centers will be staffed by mental health professionals and provide mobile response teams and crisis stabilization services that connect callers to care. 988 will save lives!



Coming July 16, 2022

988
SUICIDE HOTLINE

What is 988?

9-8-8 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Suicide Warning Signs:

- Intense Sadness
- Hopelessness
- Lethargy
- Loss of Appetite
- Disruption of Sleep
- Decreased Ability to Perform Usual Tasks
- Loss of Interest in Once Pleasurable Activities

Are you or someone you know having thoughts of suicide or experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis? 988 connects you to compassionate, confidential support for free. When you call or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org, you'll be connected to trained crisis counselors who will listen to your concerns, provide support and connect you to additional resources if needed.



There is hope.

You are not alone.
For 24/7 confidential support,
just call or text 988 or chat
988lifeline.org

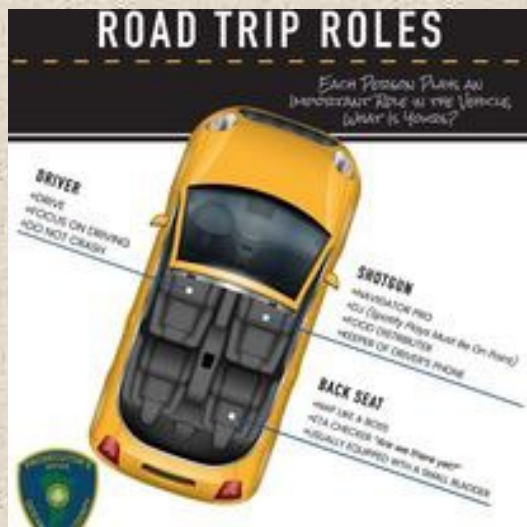
988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE



Hay esperanza.

No estás solo.
Para obtener apoyo confidencial
24/7, simplemente llama al 988
(servicio en español) o envía un
texto al 988 o chat vía
988lifeline.org (en inglés)

988 LÍNEA DE PREVENCIÓN DEL SUICIDIO Y CRISIS



VEHICLE THEFT IS ON THE RISE IN NEW JERSEY

What You Should Know

PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE

Never leave your key or key fob in your vehicle
Do not leave vehicle running while unattended
Park your car in well-lit areas
Ensure all windows are closed
Hide your valuables
Make sure all doors are locked

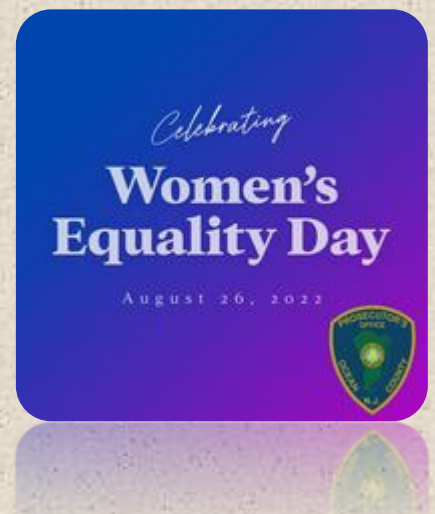
In 2021 there were a total of **14,320** vehicles reported stolen in New Jersey. A rise of 22%

In the U.S. a vehicle is stolen every **41 SECONDS**

Vehicles Most Likely to be STOLEN

- Honda Accord
- Audi Q5
- Honda CR-V
- BMW X5
- BMW 3-Series
- Hyundai Sonata
- Land Rover Range Rover Sport
- Land Rover Range Rover
- Mercedes-Benz GLE-Class
- Jeep Grand Cherokee
- BMW X3
- BMW X5

In honor of National Intern Day, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to acknowledge our summer interns! Our current group of interns represent 11 different colleges and universities and are gaining valuable experience working with our Detectives and Prosecutors. The greatest journey starts with the first step!



Happy National Dog Day to OCPO's very own Jimmy!
 Jimmy, who has been with OCPO since 2020, works with our Victim Witness Advocates in the effort to emotionally support victims of crime. Happy National Dog Day to Jimmy, all of our law enforcement K9's and to all the unemployed dogs everywhere!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer is proud to announce that the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has earned re-accreditation by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police through the New Jersey Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. This prestigious achievement was celebrated at the Ocean County Board of Commissioners meeting on August 17, 2022. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office excelled by complying with more than 100 standards. This process ensures that the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is operating at maximum efficiency while focusing on increased community advocacy, reduced risk and liability exposure and confidence in our ability to operate effectively and to respond to our community's needs.

Pictured are- Ocean County Commissioner Director Jack Kelly, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., Prosecutor Billhimer, Commissioner Deputy Director Virginia Haines, Commissioner Bobbi Jo Crea, Commissioner Gary Quinn, Harry Delgado, Accreditation Program Manager-New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police and Commissioner Joseph Vicari.



stop Senior Scams		
Common Scams	Scam Signs	What To Do?
GRANDPARENT SCAM Claims your grandchild is in trouble and needs money	INSISTENCE You must wire money immediately	USE CAUTION Only send money to people you know
LOTTERY SCAM You've won a prize that requires you to pay to collect winnings	SECRETS You are warned not to tell others	COMMUNICATE Reach out and talk about it with others
ROMANCE SCAM A fake online profile asks you for money	UNPROFESSIONAL You notice misspellings and poor grammar	BE VIGILANT When in doubt, HANG UP!

On August 9, 2022, the Lakewood Township Police Department held their Annual National Night Out Against Crime! National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to connect with law enforcement in an informal and festive atmosphere. Members of the Ocean County Prosecutors Office had the opportunity to meet with residents of Lakewood. Great job by Lakewood Township Police Chief Gregory Meyer and his staff for putting together a wonderful event!

Pictured are Supervising Victim Witness Advocate Patricia Miljenovic, Victim Witness Advocate Lisa Dolby, Agent Michael Colwell and Victim Witness Advocate Brooke Miranda



The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and Bright Harbor Healthcare Invite You To Join Us

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Wednesday, August 31st
9:00AM - 12:00PM
 In front of the
 Ocean County Library
 101 Washington St., Toms River, NJ

FREE GIVEAWAYS

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Toms River Police Department and Bright Harbor Healthcare's Treatment Team will be there to answer questions, offer linkage to substance use treatment and care, as well as provide Narcan. We will also be available for one-on-one discussions on available resources and services and learn how we as a community can do more!

Brody D. Billinger
 Ocean County Prosecutor



On August 2, 2022, police departments across Ocean County participated in the Annual National Night Out Against Crime! National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to connect with law enforcement in an informal and festive atmosphere. Members of the Ocean County Prosecutors Office - Assistant Prosecutor Nick Monaco, Victim Witness Advocate Kelsey Hoban, Victim Witness Coordinator Carol Froberg and Victim Witness Advocate Brooke Miranda had the opportunity to meet with residents of Little Egg Harbor. Thank you to all the police departments that participated and everyone who came out to say hello!



The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office remembers Letizia "Lisa" Zindell, who was taken away from us on this day 13 years ago - as a result of an act of Domestic Violence. Lisa was a compassionate and caring young woman, who dedicated her life to protecting children as a supervisor with the New Jersey Department of Child Protection and Permanency. If you, or someone you know, is living in fear of domestic partner violence, help is just a phone call away. You are not alone. Please call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-572-7233.



On August 2, 2022, police departments across Ocean County participated in the Annual National Night Out Against Crime! National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to connect with law enforcement in an informal and festive atmosphere. Members of the Ocean County Prosecutors Office as well as members of the Ocean County Human Relations Commission had the opportunity to meet with residents of Point Pleasant Borough. Thank you to all the police departments that participated and everyone who came out to say hello!

Pictured are: Reisa Sweet of the Ocean County Human Relations Commission, Victim Witness Advocate Megan Larkin, Agent Michael Colwell, Victim Witness Advocate Lisa Dolby and Judy Fuentes of the Ocean County Human Relations Commission



Thank you to Vin Ebenau of 92.7 FM WOBN and Townsquare Media for inviting Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Sergeant Melissa Rose and Meghan Corrigan, Director of Marketing and Development from Bright Harbor Healthcare to speak about events planned in Toms River and Manchester for Overdose Awareness Day on Wednesday, August 31, 2022! Please join us at both of these events and learn about valuable resources available to the community through Operation Helping Hand, including linkage to substance abuse treatment and care. The Toms River event will be held from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., in front of the Ocean County Library on Washington Street. The Manchester event will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m., in front of the Stop & Shop at 400 Lacey Road in Whiting. [Bright Harbor Healthcare 92.7 WOBN](#)



In honor of National Purple Heart Day, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to honor all the brave men and women that were wounded on the battlefield or that made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom. We also pay homage to our own Agent Ruben Gomez of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Offenders Unit. Ruben was awarded a Purple Heart after being wounded in Afghanistan in 2011. An eighteen-year United States Army Veteran, Ruben was a medic with 5 combat deployments before being medically discharged in 2015. As a part of the Special Offenders Unit here at OCPO, Ruben is a valuable member of our team and does amazing work with our Veterans Diversionary Program and also serves as a Veteran Mentor. Thank you Ruben for your service and your sacrifice. We are all honored to work with you.

Today our hearts are heavy as we remember Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Detective Tina Rambo. Detective Rambo perished, while on duty, in a motor vehicle accident on August 1, 2011. In her 10 years with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Detective Rambo was a tireless advocate for children. Our child advocacy center - "Tina's House," was dedicated in her honor in 2014 and continues to be a place where victims of abuse can feel safe and secure. Our thoughts and prayers are with Detective Rambo and her family today. You are missed.



Detective Tina Rambo
E.O.W. August 1, 2011

On August 3, 2022, Assistant Prosecutor Taylor Toscano, Sergeant Ray Gardner and Detective Lindsay Llauguet of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Economic Crime Unit joined Toms River Township Police Department Detective Robert O'Neill to speak to the residents of the Gardens of Pleasant Plains in Toms River, about economic and contractor fraud targeting senior citizens in Ocean County. The residents learned of the most recent scams and how to protect themselves from being targeted.

If your group or organization would like to set up a presentation, please contact Sergeant Ray Gardner of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office at 732-929-2027 extension 3908.

Pictured are Detective O'Neill, Sgt. Gardner, Det. Llauguet and AP Toscano



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington was honored to throw out the first pitch at the Jersey Shore BlueClaws - Salute to Heroes Night! The BlueClaws paid tribute to the men and women of law enforcement, first responders and active and retired military personnel! Thank you all for your service!

[Ocean County Sheriff 911 Monmouth County Sheriff's Office](#)

Pictured are- Undersheriff Nils R. Bergquist of the Ocean County Sheriff's Office, Chief Carrington, and Warden Victor Iannello of the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr. were honored to attend the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Brick Township Police Department during the 30th Annual National Night Out Against Crime, held at Windward Beach Park. Great job by our own Sergeant Melissa Rose who kicked off the festivities with a rousing rendition of the National Anthem! Thank you Brick Township Police Chief James Riccio and the men and women of the Brick Township Police Department, both past and present, for protecting and serving the citizens of Brick Township for 50 years!



On August 3, 2022, the Berkeley Township Police Department held their Annual National Night Out Against Crime! National Night Out is a wonderful opportunity for members of the community to connect with law enforcement in an informal and festive atmosphere. Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to attend! Thank you to Chief Kevin Santucci and Berkeley PD and everyone who came out to say hello!

Pictured below are: Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Intern Joseph Venere-Coyle, Sergeant Melissa Rose, Prosecutor Billhimer, Chief Santucci, Assistant Prosecutor Kate Pennypacker and Alyssa Maglio of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Offender's Unit.





As kids all over Ocean County head back to school, please drive carefully and watch for children and crossing guards! The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office wishes all of our students and teachers a happy, healthy and safe new school year!



Active Shooter Training is an unfortunate reality of the times we live in. The safety of every child in Ocean County is of paramount importance to law enforcement. On August 31, 2022, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Stafford Township Police Department, Ocean County Regional SWAT and the Ocean County Sheriff's Office conducted a joint active shooter response drill at McKinley Avenue Elementary School in Stafford Township. Joint exercises like this help test emergency response capabilities and build upon the strong working relationships needed during a real emergency. Thank you to Stafford Township Police Chief Thomas Dellane and to all of the agencies that participated. Special thanks to the New Jersey State Police and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.



Today our hearts are heavy as we remember Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Agent Gerard Eick who passed away on September 28, 2021. Gerry came to OCPO in 2011, after a distinguished 20 year career with the New York City Police Department. During his time here at OCPO, Gerry was a beloved and valued part of our office. Please keep his wife Michelle, his family, friends and many colleagues in your thoughts and prayers.



Ocean County First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., was honored to attend Ocean County's 9/11 Day of Remembrance Ceremony in the courtyard in front of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office. A wreath was laid to honor the 2,996 people killed in the 9/11 attacks, including 19 people from Ocean County.

Pictured are: Assistant Ocean County Administrator Tristin Collins, Ocean County Administrator Michael Fiore, Ocean County Clerk Scott Colabella, First Assistant Nolan, Ocean County Commissioner Director Jack Kelly, Commissioner Deputy Director Virginia Haines, Commissioner Bobbi Jo Crea and Commissioner Gary Quinn.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer would like to thank everyone who attended the Police Chaplain Basic Training Program on September 19th and 20th. The training, sponsored by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, provides Law Enforcement Chaplains specialized training when providing assistance to citizens and First Responders in times of crisis. Prosecutor Billhimer has established The Ocean County Chaplains Program with a goal of having a designated Chaplain and Chaplain Liaison for every Police Department in Ocean County. "The goal is to build trust between law enforcement and our faith leaders. If we can accomplish this goal and nurture these relationships, our communities will be safer and stronger," Prosecutor Billhimer stated. Pictured are- OCPO Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, Director of the Police Chaplain Program Rev. Gary Holden, Prosecutor Billhimer and OCPO Sgt. Melissa Rose.

[The Police Chaplain Program](#)





We'd like to welcome our Fall Interns! First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington and Executive Assistant Prosecutor Michelle Armstrong welcomed our Fall Interns to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office last week. We are pleased to welcome these students from Berkeley College, Georgian Court University, Montclair State University, Seton Hall University and Stockton University. Over the next twelve weeks, these interns will gain valuable experience working with our Detectives and Assistant Prosecutors. Welcome aboard!



The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and
Bright Harbor Healthcare Invite You To Join Us

COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT

Wednesday, September 14th

12:00PM - 2:00PM

WALMART

631 US-9 S.

Little Egg Harbor Township, NJ

FREE GIVEAWAYS



Bradley D. Billhimer
Ocean County Prosecutor

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Little Egg Harbor Police Department and Bright Harbor Healthcare's Treatment Team will be there to answer questions, offer linkage to substance use treatment and care, as well as provide Narcan. We will also be available for one-on-one discussions on available resources and services and learn how we as a community can do more!



Bright Harbor Healthcare
Building Better Communities One Life at a Time



Helping Individuals Suffering From Speed Addiction



Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

Invite You to Celebrate

NATIONAL Hispanic HERITAGE MONTH FAMILY EVENT

SAT. OCTOBER 8th!

10:00am to 2:00pm

FREE GIFTS

FOOD!

Holy Family Catholic Church
Parking Lot
1141 E. County Line Rd.
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Operation Helping Hand
Helping Individuals Suffering From Speed Addiction

For more information please contact 702-623-2027

Fiscal Bradley D. Billhimer y la Oficina del Fiscal del Condado de Ocean

Te Invita a Celebrar

Mes Nacional de la Herencia

Evento Familiar

Sábado 8 de Octubre

10:00a a 2:00p

Regalos Gratis

Comida

Holy Family Catholic Church
Parquedero
1141 E. County Line Rd.
Lakewood, NJ 08701

Operation Helping Hand
Helping Individuals Suffering From Speed Addiction

Para obtener más información llame al 702-623-2027

Saturday was a great day of Hope on the Seaside Heights boardwalk! Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and the OCPO Operation Helping Hand staff joined hundreds of walkers for the HOPE Sheds Light 9th Annual Celebration of Hope Walk to support those affected by substance abuse disorder. Great job by HOPE SHEDS LIGHT founders Steve Willis, Ron Rosetto, Arvo Prima and the entire HOPE SHEDS LIGHT team for putting together such a great event! Pictured are: Ron Rosetto, Pamela Capaci, CEO of HOPE Sheds Light, Assistant Prosecutor Lindsay Ashwal of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, Prosecutor Billhimer, Steve Willis, Arvo Prima and Pastor Sue Jones of Holy Cross Lutheran Church



On Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Offenders Unit staff joined together with Bright Harbor Healthcare and the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department to hold a community outreach event in Little Egg Harbor! It was a great day to offer services and resources that are available through Operation Helping Hand, including linkage to substance abuse treatment and care. Thank you to everyone that stopped by!



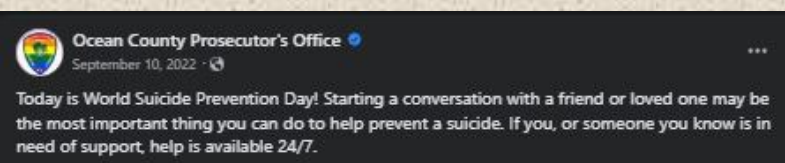
988 SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

No matter where you live in the U.S.,
you can easily access 24/7 emotional support.

Call or text 988 or visit 988lifeline.org/chat to
chat with a caring counselor.

We're here for you.





National Suicide Lifeline	988
NJ Mental Health Cares	1-866-202-4357
NJ Hopeline	1-855-654-6735
Vets4Warriors	1-855-838-8255
Cop2Cop	1-866-267-2267

On September 22, 2022, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in the 4th Annual Latino Health Fair sponsored by the Ocean County Health Department. The Health Fair gave members of the Latino community in Ocean County access to health screenings and important information regarding all aspects of healthcare. Bi-lingual representatives from OCPO were on hand to discuss and offer services and resources that are available through Operation Helping Hand - including linkage to substance abuse treatment and care. Thank you to everyone that stopped by!



Happy National Police Woman's Day! The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office would like to acknowledge all the dedicated women of law enforcement, especially some of the best that work here at OCPO! Thank you for your service!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to speak at the Third Annual Candlelight Vigil in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month presented by the [Ocean Partnership for Children](#) in Toms River. The vigil was a touching way to honor those who have lost their lives due to acts of domestic violence and to celebrate the courage of domestic violence survivors. Thank you to Edward Parze of Freehold, father of Stephanie Parze, for sharing the heartbreaking account of his daughter's experience with domestic violence. Stephanie went missing in late 2019 and was found deceased at the bottom of a ravine in Old Bridge. She had been missing for 87 days. Tragically, Stephanie had been strangled prior to being dumped in the ravine.

If you or someone you know is living in fear of domestic violence - help is just a phone call away. You can call Providence House 24-hours a day at 1-800-246-8910. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Victim-Witness Advocacy Unit can be reached at 732-929-2195.



OCTOBER IS
NATIONAL
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
AWARENESS
MONTH



Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
Invites You To Participate In The

**DEA NATIONAL ^{Rx}
TAKEBACK**



**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 29, 2022
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

In Front Of The:

**Ocean County Justice Complex
120 Hooper Avenue, Toms River, NJ 08754**

Keep them safe. Clean them out. Take them back.

On October 4, 2022, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer had the opportunity to sit down and have breakfast with the members of the Rotary Club of Great Bay at the Dynasty Diner in Tuckerton! The Rotary Club of Great Bay comprises local business leaders and professionals who come together to make a difference in their community. The Prosecutor enjoyed speaking with Rotary Club members and shared his insight regarding public safety, the prosecution of criminal offenses and the importance of law enforcement developing strong relationships with the communities we serve. Thanks for the invitation Reverend Occhipinti!





Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

October 14, 2022 ·

...

Statement from Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer:

Today there were several reports of an "active shooter" at schools in Ocean County and throughout the State. All of these reports were thoroughly investigated and appropriate security precautions were taken by school administrators and local law enforcement agencies. At this point in time, all reports of an "active shooter" are unfounded. These reports are being investigated as swatting incidents. Swatting occurs when someone makes a 911 call to authorities falsely reporting a serious situation or a crime to law enforcement. Swatting comes with serious consequences and criminal charges. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office, New Jersey State Police and local law enforcement agencies are actively investigating these incidents.

It was a great day on Sunday, October 16, 2022, as Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer attended the 7th Annual JBJ Soul Kitchen Chili Cook-off at the JBJ Soul Kitchen in Toms River! The event brought together groups of First Responders from across New Jersey to see who could cook-up the tastiest chili! Congratulations to this year's winner, the Union Beach Police Department!

JBJ Soul Kitchen Toms River is a non-profit community restaurant, run by the Jon Bon Jovi Soul Foundation that serves paying and in-need customers. There are no prices on the menu. Diners are asked to make a donation that covers their meal, and someone else's meal, too. And if you can't donate money, you can donate service – waiting tables or washing dishes, in exchange for your meal. The JBJ Soul Kitchen is located at 1769 Hooper Avenue in Toms River. For more information about the JBJ Soul Kitchen please reach out to: info@jbjsoulkitchen.org or check out their website at www.jbjsoulkitchen.org.





Twenty-four years ago today Kimberly Smith Ames lost her life when she was killed by a drunk driver in her hometown of Beachwood. Just 23 years-old, Kimberly was a newlywed, pregnant with her first child. Please keep Kimberly's family and many friends in your thoughts today. Don't drive drunk. The stakes are too high.

KILLED BY A DRUNK DRIVER

KIMBERLY SMITH AMES

(23 YEARS OLD)
AND UNBORN CHILD

This message is brought to you by the Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Bilhimer, the Smith Family and the Ocean County Traffic Safety Officer's Association

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office

October 29, 2022 · 🌐

Ten years ago today Super Storm Sandy descended upon us. Today we recognize and remember everyone affected by the storm. We honor all of the first responders and law enforcement officers that helped get us all through the storm. Your sacrifice is not forgotten.

Ocean County is a special place to live because of you.

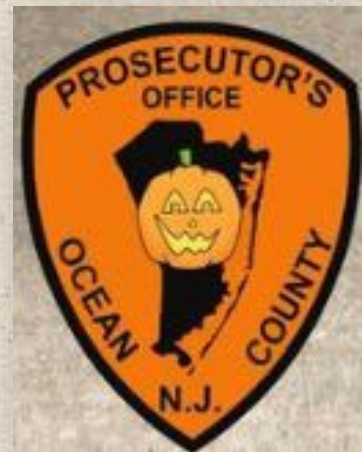
Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, Jr. had a great time speaking to students interested in law enforcement at Toms River High School East! Both the Prosecutor and Chief spoke to the students about their respective career paths and the nobility of choosing a career in law enforcement. The Prosecutor and Chief also warned students about their social media footprint and how what they post today could affect their ability to pursue a career in public service. Thank you to Mrs. Buckley for inviting us!



Congratulations to retired Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Vincent Petrecca on being inducted into the Inaugural Fairleigh Dickinson University Chief's Circle! The Chief's Circle recognizes alumni of the FDU School of Public and Global Affairs that have attained the rank of Chief of Police. Congratulations to Chief Petrecca and all of the Chiefs on this distinguished honor!



OCPO's very own Victim/Witness Service Dog Jimmy is all ready for Halloween! Happy Halloween from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office!



The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office was honored to participate in the 83rd Annual Toms River Volunteer Fire Company No.1 Halloween Parade. The theme of this year's float was "Reach for the Stars...Not Drugs!" Thanks to Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Renee White, Sgt. Taryn Ritacco, Assistant Prosecutor Heidi Tannenbaum-Newman, Agent Mike Colwell and everyone at OCPO who helped make our Space Shuttle a reality! Special thanks to the Ocean County Buildings and Grounds Department and the Ocean County Road Departments! Truly a team effort!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, were pleased to attend the Investiture Ceremony of Matthew Platkin as the 62nd Attorney General of New Jersey at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex in Trenton on Monday, November 14, 2022. Great job by OCPO's very own Sgt. Melissa Rose, who gave a stirring rendition of our National Anthem to kick-off the ceremony!





Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to address the students who attended the Ocean County Student Leadership Conference held at Ocean County College. The conference, titled "Heroes and Rescuers," featured Pastor Chris Emmons. Pastor Emmons shared his father's experiences as a prisoner of war during World War II. Students from all over Ocean County participated and learned about the Holocaust and the importance of standing up to hate in all of its insidious forms. Thank you to Tim Hart, Director of the Ocean County Heritage and Cultural Commission, Howard Dorman, President of the Center for Holocaust, Human Rights & Genocide Education (Chhange) at Brookdale Community College, Keith Krivitzky, Managing Director of the Jewish Federation of Ocean County and Dr. Henry Jackson, Director of Academic Success at Ocean County College, for partnering with us to bring this vital message to the students of Ocean County.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer joined OCPO Sgt. Raymond Gardner at Pine Beach Elementary School to speak with 4th and 5th grade students about the dangers of social media and how to stay safe online. Thank you to Principal Tutzauer for the invitation to speak with the students!

Pictured are: Pine Beach Ptl. Sarah Nelson, Prosecutor Billhimer, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington and Sgt. Gardner



What a great turnout this past Saturday, November 19, 2022, for the Third Annual Survivor Day Purpose & Hope 5k Run & Walk in Island Heights! International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day is observed every year on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington turned out to support colleagues, friends and families that have suffered the loss of a loved one. Great job by Chris Raimann and the Ocean County Sheriff's Office for sponsoring such a wonderful event! Pictured below are - Detective Joseph Engrassia, Seaside Heights Police Department (retired), Prosecutor Billhimer, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy and Chief Carrington.



Thank you to everyone that participated in the Annual National Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, October 29, 2022! Residents were encouraged to dispose of any unwanted or outdated prescription medications that they might have in their medicine cabinet and dispose of them safely. Thank you for making DEA Takeback Day such a great success! Disposing of outdated and unwanted prescription medications can be the first step to avoiding misuse and abuse. Many facilities have medication disposal containers available year-round. To find the closest one to you please visit: <https://bit.ly/dropofflocations2022>
Ocean County Sheriff 911



Happy Veterans Day from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Today and every day we honor all current and former members of the Armed Services, including the Veterans working right here at OCPO! Our country's greatness is built on the foundation of your courage and sacrifice. Thank you for your service!

Pictured are: Agent Ruben Gomez, United States Army; Agent Robert Surtees, United States Marine Corps; Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Terry Ann Linardakis, United States Marine Corps; Agent John Barcus, United States Marine Corps; Detective John Mount, United States Army; Detective Robert Kraft, United States Marine Corps. Not pictured- Agent Ron Jennings, United States Army; Detective John Dotto, United States Marine Corps.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr., and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were honored to attend the Annual Salute to Veterans Ceremony held at Ocean County College. Thank you to all that have served or are serving our great nation!



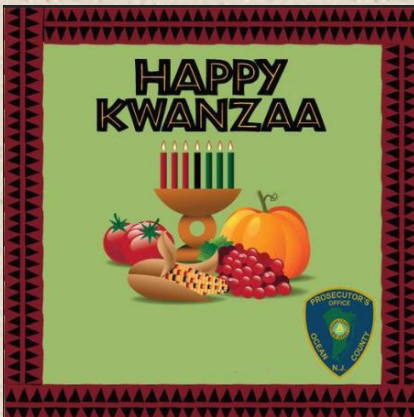
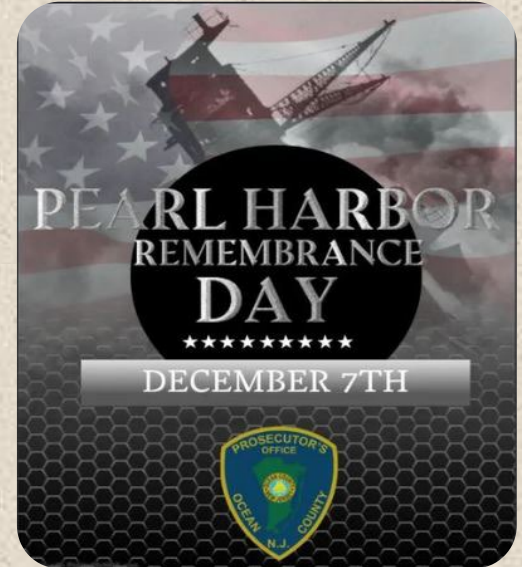
Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Angelo Valente, Executive Director of Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey joined Tracye Steel, owner of Butler's Pharmacy in Point Pleasant, in announcing that Butler's Pharmacy will be participating in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's - Knockout Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey! Butler's Pharmacy has been serving the community of Point Pleasant for 64 years and will be the first pharmacy in Ocean County to use prescription bags highlighting the link between prescribed pain medication and subsequent heroin abuse. Thank you for helping us spread this important message!

Pictured are-Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Agent Michael Colwell, Executive Director Valente, Ms. Steel, Prosecutor Billhimer and Point Pleasant Borough Chief of Police Adam Picca.

[Drug-Free NJ Butler Pharmacy Point Pleasant Police Department](#)



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Agent Ruben Gomez recently spoke to Mr. Hemenway's class at Barnegat Township High School about his role as a Veteran Mentor Coordinator with OCPO's Veterans Diversion Program. Agent Gomez, a combat veteran and Purple Heart Award recipient, shared his experience with the students and explained how the OCPO Veterans Diversion Program assists veterans in Ocean County.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were honored to attend the DART Prevention Coalition Year-End Celebration at the Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant Beach. Congratulations to Staff Sergeant Christopher Petrizzo of the New Jersey Army National Guard Counter Drug Task Force - this year's recipient of the Terrence P. Farley Recognition of Excellence Award! Named after former OCPO First Assistant Terrence P. Farley, the Excellence Award is presented each year to a Coalition member who exemplifies a passion for substance abuse prevention. Congratulations Staff Sergeant Petrizzo! Pictured are- Chief Carrington, Prosecutor Billhimer, Michael Capko, Senior Manager, DART Prevention Coalition of Ocean County, Connie Greene, Vice President, RWJ Barnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery, Staff Sergeant Petrizzo and Amy Piacente-Desch, Prevention Manager, DART Prevention Coalition of Ocean County.



Thank you to the Dynasty Diner in Tuckerton for participating in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's, Knockout Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey! The Dynasty Diner and other businesses throughout Ocean County joined with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to help get the word out about the link between prescribed pain medication and subsequent heroin abuse. Thank you for helping us spread this message!

Dynasty Diner_nj
Drug-Free NJ



The Ocean County Special Needs Registry is a collaborative effort between the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, the Ocean County Sheriff's Office and the Ocean County Police Chiefs Association, available to all citizens with special needs who reside, attend school or are employed in Ocean County. The goal of the Special Needs Registry is to ensure all Ocean County residents who may be in need of special assistance are able to get the help and support they need in a time of emergency or during interaction with Law Enforcement, Fire or EMS personnel. For more information or to register please visit: www.OCSNRNJ.com.



Thank you to Joe's Bake Shop in Tuckerton for participating in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's - Knockout Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey! Joe's Bake Shop and other businesses throughout Ocean County joined with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to help get the word out about the link between prescribed pain medication and subsequent heroin abuse. Thank you for helping us get this message out!

Joe's Bake Shop
Drug-Free NJ



Thank you to Pat's Pizza in Pt. Pleasant for participating in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's- Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey! Pat's Pizza and other businesses throughout Ocean County joined with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to help get the word out about the link between prescribed pain medication and subsequent heroin abuse. Thank you for helping us spread this message!
[Drug-Free NJ Pat's Pizza](#)



Thank you to Naples Pizza and restaurant in Tuckerton for participating in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's- Knockout Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey! Naples Pizza and Restaurant and other businesses throughout Ocean County joined with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to help get the word out about the link between prescribed pain medication and subsequent heroin abuse. Thank you for helping us spread this message!
[Naples Pizza and Restaurant Drug-Free NJ](#)



Thank you to Pizza Express in Pt. Pleasant for participating in the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's- Knock Out Opioid Abuse Day in New Jersey! Pizza Express and other businesses throughout Ocean County joined with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to help get the word out about the link between prescribed pain medication and subsequent heroin abuse. Thank you for helping us spread this message!
[Drug-Free NJ Pizza Express - Point Pleasant](#)



Using a ride share service to ensure sober driving this Holiday Season? Be sure to check that your driver is legitimate before you get in the car! Uber and Lyft drivers are required to display lighted signs and scannable QR codes under "Sami's Law" to identify themselves. "Sami's Law" is named after Samantha Josephson, a 21 year-old University of South Carolina senior from Robbinsville who was killed in March 2019 after getting into what she thought was the Uber car she requested. In February of 2020, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and the Ocean County Chiefs of Police Association launched the #WHATSMYNAME Ride Share Safety Program in Ocean County. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has distributed 300 SAMI signs through our local police departments. SAMI signs are displayed in areas frequented by ride-share passengers. The SAMI signs remind ride-share passengers to always, STOP - to review safety features; ASK - what's my name? MATCH - license plate & display and INFORM - share details of your ride with others! If you would like a SAMI sign to display at your business, please contact Bryan Huntentburg at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office at 732-929-2027, ext. 2911.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Assistant Prosecutor Taylor Toscano and Lieutenant Thomas Tiernan had the opportunity to speak to the 5th and 6th grade students at Berkeley Township Elementary School about the importance of making good life choices, the dangers of social media and internet safety. Thank you to Principal Prima for the invitation to speak with the students!





Lieutenant Jim Hill, Lieutenant Casey Long and Detective Stephanie Moran of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in this year's statewide Shop With a Cop event at the Walmart in Little Egg Harbor. Coordinated by Ocean, Inc. and local law enforcement, Shop With a Cop pairs underprivileged and at-risk children ages 6-10 with a law enforcement officer for a shopping spree leading up to Christmas. Great job by all involved!



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy and Officers from Ocean County Department of Corrections PBA 258 collected toys and gifts for their annual toy drive, at Steals & Deals in Toms River. Thank you to Dave Rothenberg and Nechemia Figa of Steals & Deals and the National Chaplains Association for your generous donation!



