

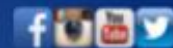


ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
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OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

119 HOOPER AVENUE | TOMS RIVER





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PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE



I am pleased to submit the 2023 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 officer 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.

2023 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 (50) 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; seven (7) System Analyst; 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 exception 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.



**Ocean County Prosecutor
Bradley D. Billhimer**

**First Assistant Prosecutor
Michael T. Nolan, Jr.**

**Chief of Detectives
Anthony U. Carrington**

**Deputy First Assistant
Prosecutor**

**Office of Victim Witness
Advocacy**

Executive Assistant Prosecutor

Trial Unit

**Grand Jury
Unit**

Appellate Unit

**Special
Offenders
Unit**

**Juvenile
Justice**

**Special Victims
Unit**

Administration Unit

**Ocean County
Narcotics Strike
Force**

**Major Crimes
Unit**

**Special
Investigations
Unit**

**Prosecution of
Major Crime
Cases**

**Prosecution of:
Special Victims
Cases**

**Megan's Law
Cases**

**Animal Cruelty
Cases**

Bias Cases

Human

Intake Section

EDC Section

Grand Jury Section

**Bail Reform
Section**

Forfeiture

Expungements

OPRA

Mental Health Court

Revocery Court

Veteran's Program

**Domestic
Violence/Weapons**

Megan's Law Squad

**Sex/Crimes/Child
Abuse Squad**

**Forensic Nurse
Examiner Program**

Evidence

Physical Plant

Communications

Vehicle Fleet

Training Officer

Academy Liaison

**Interview/New
Employee/Interns**

Accreditation

**Investigative Side
Special Offenders
Squad**

Bias Crimes Squad

Trial Team Squad

Grand Jury Squad

North Squad

South Squad

Asset/Forfeiture

Arson Squad

Cold Case Squad

Homicide Squad

**Vehicle
Homicide Squad**

**Economic Crimes
Squad**

**High Tech Crimes
Squad**

**Gang's Intelligence,
Homelans Security &
Special Projects Squad**

Administrative Unit

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

Physical Plant: 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

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.

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 Infoshare audit, the office had approximately 46,750 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.

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.

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

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 PT assessment information, medical screening, psychological 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 through 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.

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 certain 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, identification cards and wallets. etc.

Special Offender's Unit: A Sergeant and Detective 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, Recovery Court, and various Prosecutor led Community Outreach programs designed to assist those suffering from addiction and/or mental health disorder.

APPELLATE UNIT

Our Appellate Unit practices before the state and federal appellate courts and on select matters, before the state trial courts. The issues before the appellate courts can be quite technical and span a broad spectrum of criminal law, from constitutional issues, evidential issues, jury instructions, and federal habeas corpus claims. These, and a variety of other issues with which we are involved, implicate the entire state criminal process and at times parts of the federal criminal process. We 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 as well as the citizenry, the Unit's practitioners 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 2023, the Appellate Unit filed 116 briefs with state and federal appellate tribunals. Three (3) petitions for certification to the Supreme Court were filed. The number of appeals resulting in the conviction being affirmed in 2023 is 27. Four (4) appeals resulted in a reversal of conviction and one (1) case was resolved by an order affirming in part/reversing in part. Nine (9) 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. Five (5) new post-conviction relief petitions were filed, six (6) petitions had been denied relief, one (1) petition dismissed or withdrawn and four (4) petitions remain pending.

Moreover, this Unit handles municipal appeals. Fourteen appeals had been filed from trials de novo in the Law Division. This Unit filed seventeen briefs related to municipal appeals, disposed

of nine (9) pending appeals resulting in five (5) convictions or orders affirmed and four (4) appeals withdrawn or dismissed. The remainder await disposition.

The Appellate Unit handles motions to the trial courts, legal research projects, parole and clemency applications.

BIAS CRIME UNIT

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO) Bias Crimes Unit consists of two (2) assistant prosecutors and three (3) detectives. Every afternoon the Unit is responsible for reviewing the daily bias incident reports that are emailed directly to the Unit which contain the bias incidents that have occurred in various municipalities throughout the state. The Unit extracts notifications for incidents that occurred in Ocean County.

A 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. The Sergeant and/or Detective will reach out to the municipalities' bias crimes liaison officer or reporting officer to gather additional information with regard to the incident. Occasionally, this results in the filing of charges.

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

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

bias trainings for law enforcement officers. The Unit continues to conduct bias training with the recruits of the Ocean County Police Academy and Ocean County Security Department personnel.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was recently honored by the New Jersey Bias Crimes Officers Association with their most prestigious award - the Thomas E. Culp, Sr. Exceptional Leadership Award! The NJ Bias Crimes Officers Association cited Prosecutor Billhimer's leadership in standing up to hate in all of its insidious forms throughout Ocean County and his ongoing efforts to build relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Prosecutor Billhimer's work in this area was recognized by the men and women in law enforcement – a tremendous honor. Thank you to NJ Bias Crime Officers Association President Dave D'Amico for your tireless work in making New Jersey a safer and more inclusive place to live.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH UNIT

Community outreach is a vital function of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, due its affectedness in educating the large population of Ocean County. To that end, the Community Outreach Unit offers presentations, hosts events and provides printed educational materials in an effort to connect with the county's various communities. As members of the Community Outreach Unit foster and maintain relationships with the population, it ensures open lines of communication are a priority. The Unit has become a familiar participant of civic organizations, faith based groups, multiple school districts and several law enforcement agencies. The Unit delivers the message that the law enforcement can be trusted and work with the communities they serve for positives purposes, instead of only having contact during a moment of crisis.

In 2023, the Community Outreach Unit participated in presentations and community events related to topics such as bias and discrimination, human trafficking, cyber bullying and harassment, dangers of social media and internet safety, elder abuse, fraud, safe driving and the ongoing drug crisis. The Unit's presentations are designed to educate and provide the necessary tools based on need and the specific issues that are affecting our various communities. Ocean County Prosecutor Billhimer has constant input on all programming thereby generating the most impact and positive outcomes for the presentations' audiences. Presentations are scheduled throughout the year, based on requests received from groups such as schools and adult communities.

It is this office's belief that engaging the younger population on the many topics and issues Ocean County faces. Said group will become the future leaders therefore a lot is at stake and so much to gain by including them in order to construct a better future for them and those that follow.

The Unit has been the main partner of Ocean County College for the bi-annual Student Leadership Conference, where participating students are given an opportunity to have their perspective heard with regard to bias and discrimination incidents they may have experienced, seen, or aim to prevent. The students who participated have reported the creation of Diversity Clubs within their respective schools. These same students have been connected with various adult leaders throughout the county and state, who assist and advise them in order to achieve goals. Several of these young outstanding individuals have also received awards of recognition for their dedication and work.

As in 2022, the Unit received requests from county school superintendents for presentations focused on Internet Safety/Dangers of Social Media. The schools reported ongoing problems with students creating unsuitable postings via multiple social media platforms, including but not limited to posts of inappropriate photos of themselves and/or others. The Community Outreach Unit collaborated with the Juvenile Justice Unit to develop a program and began a large scale campaign visiting schools in every district within Ocean County. “Internet Safety/Dangers of Social Media” was completed in the middle of May 2023. (Total schools visited – 145, total of students attended: 20,705)

Moreover, the concern of bullying and cyber bullying resulted in some very tragic outcomes in 2023. After multiple brainstorming sessions and research, the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office with the assistance of the Ocean County Youth Services Commission brought the Challenge Day program to a selected few high schools as a pilot for a potential larger idea. Challenge Day is a day-long program that connects students across lines of difference and helps to create a school culture that is friendly and welcoming to all students. The Challenge Day Facilitators were flown in from various locations around the country, while numerous OCPO employees volunteered to

participate with additional assistance from various community partners. After its completion, there was an outpour of positive feedback from the participating schools. Due to its success and the multiple requests from additional schools, OCPO took the initiative and applied for Federal Funding to bring Challenge Day to every high school and



middle school in Ocean County, for the three (3) years. OCPO will learn at the end of 2024 if it will be awarded the requested funds.

The Unit attended several school Career Days where staff members were able to speak with students one on one with regard to careers in Law Enforcement. Staff members were able to address interests in both the legal/prosecution and the investigative aspects of such a career.

The Unit's newest endeavor with regards school presentations, is developing a program for students about Resiliency, similar to the Resiliency training all law enforcement in New Jersey is required to take as mandated by the Attorney General. This Resiliency program would be geared towards the challenges students face from day to day.

Overall, the Community Outreach Unit continues to be an ever-present ally to schools by providing presentations as previously mentioned and on additional topics such as drug use/abuse prevention, dangers of alcohol, vaping and more.

Simultaneously, this Unit fosters and enhances its relationships with senior organizations as, Ocean County is home to largest senior population in the state. Ensuring their safety and wellbeing

is a priority. Therefore, the Community Outreach Unit has focused heavily on the ever evolving scams that are thrust upon our most senior residents. Presentations and programs focused on these, are provided year-round upon request within the several adult/senior communities. Seniors who have attended fraud presentation/program have expressed sincere gratitude for educating them on this topic.

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office takes pride in the community partnerships that have been built throughout the county and state. These partnerships have been effective in helping address issues that adversely affect the residents. OCPO has fostered community partnerships with, but not limited to: The Partnership for a Drug free New Jersey, The DART Coalition of Ocean County (DART being the state model for reducing multiple kinds of substance misuse), Hope Sheds Light, Communities that Care (CTC), The Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide, and more. Below please find some of the projects that have been implemented through these multiple partnerships:

- The Community Outreach Unit collaborated with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey on their Knock Out Opiate Abuse Day Project by engaging over 30 Ocean County businesses to create awareness of the dangers of opiates along with resources available to families and individuals who are seeking assistance with regard to substance abuse. Customers of these businesses received said information on cards included with their respective orders.
- The Unit worked with the Partnership for a Drug Free New Jersey again, on another project which offered scholarships to prescribing doctors who earned valuable CEU's for taking recommended courses. Approximately 500 prescribing doctors completed said courses. The program was deemed a tremendous success and the partnership is now working with other County Prosecutor's Offices expand.



- The Community Outreach Unit has an ongoing commitment to faith based leaders and organizations. The Unit assisted in the organization of The Ocean County Prosecutor's second annual Prayer Leaders and Peace Keepers event that was held at the RWJ Barnabas Health Arena and attended by approximately 150 people.

- The mobile billboard program was enhanced in 2023 by the addition of solar lights to the five (5) boards, enabling motorists and others, to see them at night as they pass by. The main message displayed in 2023 was, "Hate Has No Home In Ocean County", and the billboards were placed at numerous locations throughout the county in efforts of spreading the message that law enforcement will not tolerate Hate Crime(s) in Ocean County and any such crime will be prosecuted to the absolute fullest extent of the law. The Jewish Federation of Ocean County awarded Prosecutor Billhimer their "Hero Against Hate" Award in December of 2023 in part to the campaign.
- The Community Outreach Unit continues support to the Ocean County Human Relations Commission. Staff members attend meetings and have been invited to be guest speakers



at same. The Ocean County Human Relations Commission is considered one of the most active commissions in the New Jersey.

- The Community Outreach Unit attended several public events in 2023, manning tables to speak with and provide attendees with information on a variety of topics and resources available to assist and benefit them. The Unit attended all National Night Out event(s) which took place during the summer season. During outdoor events, the Community Outreach and Education Van is used as a home base and focal point. Employees from the office happily spoke face to face with the residents of the community they serve.

The Community Outreach Unit serves all of the citizens of Ocean County with pride and steadfast resolve as it strives to be ahead of the curve with regard to issues that affect our residents by continuing to look for and develop new initiatives and strategies. The Unit finds inspiration from Ocean County Prosecutor Billhimer's dedication to ensure Ocean County, New Jersey remains a safe place to live, work, raise a family, and be free to be the person you are. As we transition in 2024 we will continue to develop outreach programs with this philosophy in mind.



FORFEITURE UNIT

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO) Forfeiture Unit is comprised of one (1) Senior 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 105 forfeiture actions for U.S. currency, bank accounts and property seized in 2023; the property seized included 20 vehicles and \$1,254,088.19 in U.S. currency.

The Forfeiture Unit is responsible for handling all aspects of forfeiture litigation, including discovery and trial. The cases originate from investigations conducted by OCPO, municipal police departments, and the New Jersey State Police.

The Unit reviews requests submitted by other OCPO Units as well as by local police departments for permission to use forfeiture funds for legitimate law enforcement purposes.

During 2023, OCPO's Forfeiture Unit authorized \$ 1,746,272.87 in distributions to law enforcement agencies.

2023 DISBURSEMENTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES	
Barnegat Light Borough	\$ 0.00
Barnegat Township	\$ 26,489.06
Bay Head Borough	\$ 0.00
Beach Haven Borough	\$ 0.00
Beachwood Borough	\$ 1,568.22
Berkeley Township	\$ 9,268.37
Brick Township	\$ 10,836.59
Eagleswood Township	\$ 0.00
Harvey Cedars Borough	\$ 1,712.00
Island Heights Borough	\$ 0.00
Jackson Township	\$ 24,396.47
Lacey Township	\$ 4,285.56
Lakehurst Borough	\$ 862.88
Lakewood Township	\$ 45,121.42
Lavallette Borough	\$ 0.00
Little Egg Harbor Township	\$ 4,578.15
Long Beach Island Township	\$ 0.00
Manchester Township	\$ 12,342.73
Mantoloking Borough	\$ 0.00
New Jersey State Police	1,568.46
Ocean Gate Borough	\$ 0.00
Ocean County Corrections Dept.	\$ 4,360.15
Ocean County Prosecutor's Office	\$ 1,381,272.91
Ocean County Sheriff's Dept.	\$ 22,833.84
Ocean Township	\$ 1,886.97
Pine Beach Borough	\$ 0.00
Plumsted Township	\$ 0.00
Pt. Pleasant Borough	\$ 3,086.22
Pt. Pleasant Beach Borough	\$ 0.00
Seaside Heights Borough	\$ 4,869.15
Seaside Park Borough	\$ 0.00
Ship Bottom Borough	\$ 318.75
South Toms River Borough	\$ 8,710.73
Stafford Township	\$ 8,562.19
Surf City Borough	\$ 0.00
Toms River Township	\$ 118,727.23
Tuckerton Borough	\$ 0.00
Other Police Department/Agency	\$ 48,614.82

GRAND JURY UNIT

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office's (OCPO) Grand Jury Unit is staffed by a team of Assistant Prosecutors and Investigative staff. This team is responsible for the prosecution of a case from its inception, when the criminal complaint is created and signed, through the presentation of the charges to a Grand Jury. The responsibilities and duties of the Unit's personnel overlap into the various sections of the Unit, and members work together and multi-task to make sure that the work gets done as efficiently as possible. The legal staff consists of ten (10) Assistant Prosecutors, operating under the direction of a Chief Assistant Prosecutor. The investigative staff consists of four (4) Agents, operating under the direction of one (1) Sergeant.

INTAKE SECTION

The Intake Section Assistant Prosecutors review all summons and warrant complaints and any available supporting information to determine if the case should be docketed. The Chief and/or Assistant Prosecutor determines whether a case is assigned to a particular unit within OCPO, if a complaint should be remanded to the municipal court, or administratively dismissed. The assigned Agent obtains all information necessary to properly assess a case in the earliest stages.

Assistant Prosecutors in the Intake Section also review citizen complaints. In this review process, the Assistant Prosecutor determines whether an indictable draft citizen complaint should be declined or accepted. Should the draft complaint is accepted, the complaint will be returned to the Municipal Court Judge for probable cause determination. If the draft complaint is declined, a letter is sent to the complainant and defendant stating a denial was deemed appropriate.

BAIL REFORM SECTION

The Bail Reform Section Assistant Prosecutors prepare, attend, and argue the Release and Detention Hearings, both during the regular work week and on a weekend rotation. The Assistant Prosecutor assigned to the hearings determine whether it is appropriate to seek pre-trial detention for defendants, or what conditions should be requested to be imposed if a defendant is released from jail. They take 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. Violations of Pre-trial Monitoring (VOM), Motions to Reopen Detention and Motions to Modify Condition of Pre-trial Release are also handled by the Assistant Prosecutors in this section. The Agents assist the Assistant Prosecutors with obtaining discovery necessary for the hearings.

EARLY DISPOSITION CONFERENCE

Before presentation to a Grand Jury, cases are tracked for 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 an EDC date, investigative staff communicate with the local police department and other agencies to make sure that each case has all reports, witness statements, victim contact information, and any other items needed to enable the Assistant Prosecutors to determine what pre-indictment plea offer can be made, or if the case needs to move to Grand Jury presentment. EDC is handled on Tuesdays and Wednesdays before two Superior Court Judges.

GRAND JURY

In the Grand Jury Section, Assistant Prosecutors have the responsibility of presenting cases to a Grand Jury for determination as to whether an Indictment should be returned. Prior to presentation to a 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 a Grand Jury. The investigative staff continue to obtain any discovery not previously obtained and submitted for EDC.

Overall, staff members in the Unit work together in the important early stages of each criminal case. They work to decide on the level of prosecution each case should take, to make fair and just offers at EDC, and to prepare and present for Indictment the cases that do not resolve by way of pre-indictment plea. During 2023, said conferences and plea resolutions as well as the Grand Jury proceedings were in-person, while Release and Detention hearings were conducted virtually.

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 as a corresponding component to accountability and community safety. 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.

In 2023 these concepts expanded to include educating young people about their constitutional rights and training law enforcement on effective interactions with young people. The goal of such trainings, as they complemented each other, was to ensure safe interactions between young people and law enforcement when those interactions were necessary.

Additionally, 2023 brought great success in educating young people about the dangers of social media and the internet.

Finally, in an effort to build strength and awareness amongst young people, 2023 was highlighted by the implementation of Challenge Day in almost every Ocean County High School. Spearheaded by Senior Assistant Prosecutor Ashley Angelo and Assistant Prosecutor Julie Peterson, and supported by Sergeant Taryn Ritacco and Agent Michael Colwell, Challenge Day demonstrated the strength of unity in Ocean County.

For ready reference, below is a brief description of the highlights and achievements of the Juvenile Justice Unit in 2023:

- *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 2023 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); the Ocean County Juvenile Justice System Improvement

(CJJSI) committee, and the Association of Juvenile Detention Officers. These trainings highlighted for our community partners the ever-changing role of law enforcement in the juvenile justice arena.

2023 also brought significant changes to the juvenile Miranda form. In order to ensure that juveniles are aware of their constitutional rights and to make sure that any waiver is consistent with law, the Juvenile Justice Unit created a developmentally appropriate form for every county juvenile investigation. That also required training every Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Detective on the current state of juvenile Miranda law, as well as a developmental approach to juvenile waiver.

- *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. In 2023, the juvenile unit Sergeant became an expert in the eCDR system from a law enforcement perspective. This has been a tremendous asset to the Unit and the law enforcement community in Ocean County. In fact, triaging these calls at the time of data entry has become a large part of the Sergeant's 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 2023, the Chief Juvenile Attorney continued his role as Vice Chair of the committee. 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. One such example through the JJDP continues to be 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 continued throughout 2023 and at the end of the year discussions were in progress on the next step for county-wide implementation. That remains a goal for 2024.

A significant step forward was the utilization of the “Juvenile Justice Jeopardy” game created by Strategies for Youth. That program was implemented throughout Ocean County schools during the calendar year 2023. This game is designed to make young people aware of the many intricacies of the juvenile justice system.

- *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 2023 the group met virtually on a number of occasions and continues to discuss the many issues facing juvenile prosecutors across the country as well as strategies and solutions. Additionally, in 2023 a national training took place, hosted collaboratively between the Attorney General’s Office and the National District Attorney’s Association. That training was an absolute success and the goal is to continue hosting these trainings yearly. This collaboration brought both State and National experts to New Jersey for juvenile assistant prosecutors throughout the State.

- *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 2023. 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 2023, 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 2023 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)*

2023 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 Appellate Division in a juvenile matter with statewide significance regarding the availability of the Probation Response Grid. The JPLN in 2023 also commented publicly on several pieces of legislation effecting juvenile justice.

- *Family Crisis Intervention/ Stationhouse Adjustment Program*

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office became a pilot site in 2014 for the Family Crisis Intervention/ Stationhouse Adjustment combined referral program (FCIU/SHA). 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. 2023 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.

- *Prevention and Community Engagement*

In 2023, the Juvenile Justice Unit continued our 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. Also in 2023 the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office hosted the system partner's youth roundtable which was a collaboration of community partners focused on bullying prevention.

In addition to these yearly activities, 2023 was highlighted by Challenge Day. These events were an incredible success and we look forward to continued implementation throughout 2024.

- *Partnerships with the Department of Education*

The Sergeant of the juvenile justice 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.

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. As always, each year brings significant cases such as Homicide, Attempted Homicide, Aggravated Sexual Assault, Aggravated Assault, Robbery, Possession of Sexual Abuse Materials, 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 2023 also made certain that the voice of victims was heard. This Unit strives for victims to be involved in the process to the extent they desire. Through the hard work of each person in this Unit, that goal was achieved that goal in 2023.

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, 2023 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 CRIME UNIT

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) Lieutenant, four (4) Sergeants, one (1) Detective 1, eight (8) 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.

The members of the Major Crime Unit remain steadfast in their commitment to seeking justice, working tirelessly to bring closure to grieving victims. Each and every member of the Major Crime Unit are dedicated to upholding the mission of the agency to seek justice at all times, and to meet the needs of crime victims effectively, efficiently, transparently, and uniformly across Ocean County, reflecting their unwavering pursuit of a safer community for all residents.

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, 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.

2023- INVESTIGATIONS TOTAL: 43

1. Lakewood- Arson- Trash Cans- (1 JV-Firesetter Program)
2. Jackson- Accidental- Vehicle
3. Manchester- Accidental- Structure
4. Berkeley- Arson- Rubbish- (1 Charged)

5. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
6. Berkeley- Arson- Wildland-
7. Little Egg Harbor- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
8. Little Egg Harbor- Arson- Wildland
9. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male SBI)
10. Lakewood- Arson, Robbery, Possession of Weapon- Rubbish- (1 Charged)
11. Little Egg Harbor- Arson- Wildland
12. Manchester- Accidental- Structure- (1 Female Fatality)
13. Barnegat- Arson- Structure- (1 Charged)
14. Little Egg Harbor- Arson- Wildland
15. Berkeley- Arson- Wildland
16. Lakewood- Arson- Wildland- (1 Charged)
17. Little Egg Harbor- Arson- Wildland
18. Manchester- Arson- Wildland
19. Barnegat- Accidental- Structure
20. Lakewood- Arson- Rubbish/Trash- (1 Charged)
21. Berkeley- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
22. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male, 1 Female SBI)
23. Lakewood- Arson- Wildland
24. Manchester- Accidental- Vehicle
25. **Bass River- Arson- Wildland- Burlington/Ocean County Investigation
26. Jackson- Accidental- Wildland
27. Manchester- Arson, Bias Intimidation- Structure- (1 Charged)
28. Plumsted- Accidental- Structure
29. Jackson- Methamphetamine Lab- Unfounded
30. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 Firefighter, 1 EMT, 1 Female Injuries)
31. Berkeley- Accidental- Structure- (1 Female Fatality)
32. Lakewood- Accidental- Structure- (1 Firefighter Injury)

- 33. Manchester- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
- 34. Lacey- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male JV, 1 Female JV, 2 Female (4)Fatalities)
- 35. Toms River- Arson, Burglary, Theft- Structure- (1 Charged)
- 36. Seaside Heights- Bomb Threat- Boardwalk- Swatting
- 37. Lakewood- Accidental- Structure- (1 Male SBI)
- 38. Toms River- Accidental- Structure- (1 Female SBI)
- 39. Toms River- Arson- Wildland- (1 JV Male SBI)
- 40. Stafford- Arson- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
- 41. Plumsted- Accidental- Structure- (1 Female Fatality)
- 42. Lakewood- Arson- Structure- (1 Male Fatality)
- 43. Stafford- Accidental- Explosive Ordnance

2023- TOTALS:

- (20) Arson Investigations
- (21) Accidental Investigations
- (1) Explosive Device/ Suspicious Package Investigations
- (1) Methamphetamine Lab

2023- INVESTIGATION RESULTS:

- (7) Arrests for Arson related crimes
- (1) Juveniles referred to the Juvenile Firesetter Program
- (10) Serious Bodily Injuries
- (13) Fatalities (4-Adult Males, 5-Adult Females, 1 Male JV, 1 Female JV[smoke inhalation/thermal burns])-(2-Adult Males[Suicide-Arson])

NOTIFICATIONS ONLY/ NO RESPONSE: (83) -Per OCPO Arson Policy

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| (12) Minor Injuries | (1) Vehicle Fires |
| (27) Structure Fires | (1) Boat |
| (5) Wildland Fires | (6) Dumpster/Garbage Can Fires |

(8) Possible Suspicious Packages
(4) Explosive Device

(1) Lithium Battery
(18) Hazardous Material Alerts

INVESTIGATIONS IN 12 TOWNS:

Barnegat- 2

Berkeley- 5

Jackson- 3

Lacey- 1

Lakewood- 8

Little Egg Harbor- 5

Manchester- 6

Plumsted- 2

Seaside Heights- 1

Stafford- 2

Toms River- 7

**Bass River- 1

STATISTICS:

Ten **(10)** of the Twenty **(20)** Arson Investigations conducted by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office- Arson Squad were closed by eight **(8)** people charged, or referred to the Juvenile Firesetter Program, while two **(2)** people committed suicide by Arson. This is a fifty percent **(50%)** average for the Arson Squad for the 2023 year. The National Average for Arson convictions is seventeen percent **17%**.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to be in attendance as the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Major Crime-Arson Squad was named Fire Investigation Unit of the Year by the New Jersey Chapter of the International Association of Arson Investigators! Congratulations to all involved on receiving this prestigious honor!

Cold Case Homicide/Missing Person Squad

The Cold Case Homicide/Missing Person Squad works in conjunction with the local municipal police departments, 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 2023, the Cold Case Squad compiled a list of thirty-one (31) unsolved homicides dating back to 1969. 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 seven (7) missing persons investigations, during which all seven (7) of the individuals were located safely. From the seven (7) cases, two (2) cases were formally charged. Specifically, one (1) case was charged with a second-degree, interference with custody and the second case was charged with first-degree kidnapping and second-degree endangering the welfare of a child.

In addition, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office has been awarded \$500,000.00 in a grant funding to assist with the investigation, prosecution and testing of evidence to assist with cold case homicide investigation.

Homicide Squad

The Homicide Squad is staffed with three (3) Detectives and two (2) Sergeants who work in cooperation with municipal police departments, 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, 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 2023, the Squad conducted 67 investigations. Of the 67, five (5) were homicides, six (6) suicides, eight (8) natural deaths, seven (7) accidental deaths, sixteen (16) drug related deaths, and twenty five (25) other cases classified as "other" investigations such as assaults, shootings, attempted murders, missing persons, cold case investigations, undetermined investigations as well as investigations still pending autopsy results.

From the sixteen (16) drug related death investigations, one (1) case charged with first-degree drug induced strict liability and two (2) are pending toxicology results for potential first-degree charges.

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 2023 (October 2022 – September 2023) resulted in the following statistics:

Enforcement Patrols conducted during the Federal Fiscal Year of 2023: **21**

Total DUI Arrests during current grant period: **23**

Other Arrests during current grant period: **45**

Total MV Summonses issued during current grant period: **329**

2023 DRE Evaluations: **48**

Personnel Training:

One of the Major Crimes Unit's leadership's focus has been, and will continue to be, education and advanced training for each member of the Unit. Throughout 2023, 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 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 members have attended educational and training courses through FBI LEEDA, Maglocen, New Jersey State Police, Force Science Institute and the mandatory annual/bi-annual in-service training.

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

GeoTime Enterprise and Digital Communication Analysis

Harvard Associates in Police Science Seminar in Homicide

Child and Infant Death Investigations Course

Symposium on Traffic Safety taught by IPTM

FBI LEED Supervisor Leadership Institute

CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers

Use of Force Summit

New Jersey State Police Homicide Conference

New Jersey State PBA Conference

Magloclen MACCHIA Cold Case Investigations

International Association of Arson Investigators New Jersey Chapter Midyear Conference- Middlesex County Fire Academy- November 8, 2023.

Texas A&M Engineering and the National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center in cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)- Wide Area Search- October 31 to November 2, 2023.

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety entitled Hazard Identification and Prevention– Toms River Fire Academy- October 27, 2023.

New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, Division of Fire Safety entitled Building on Fire; Podium, CLT, Mass Timber, Hybrid – Monmouth County Fire Academy- October 3, 2023.

Glock Firearms- Glock Armorer's Course- Ocean County Office of Emergency Management- September 26, 2023.

International Association of Arson Investigators- Fire Chemistry- September 19, 2023.

State of New Jersey Department of Transportation- New Jersey Traffic Incident Management Responder Course- Ocean County Fire Academy- July 12, 2023.

Institute of Police Technology and Management, University of North Florida- Symposium on Traffic Safety- Orlando, Florida- June 26-29, 2023.

New Jersey International Association of Arson Investigators- Electric Vehicle- Terminology & Basic Systems- Sayreville- June 20, 2023.

International Association of Arson Investigators- Fire Fatality Investigation- Toms River- May 25, 2023.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention in Partnership with Center for Domestic Preparedness – Vehicle-Borne Improvised Explosive Device Detection- New Brunswick- May 18, 2023.

International Association of Arson Investigators- Electric & Hybrid Vehicle Fires- April 20, 2023.

GeoTime Enterprise and PenLink- Beginner Digital Communications Analysis- April 19, 2023.

Stockton University, Center for Public Safety & Security- NJSACOP Front Line Supervision Program- Galloway- April 17-20, 2023.

State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice- Firearms Instructor Course- Fort Dix Military Base- April 10- 14, 2023.

Ocean County Vocational Technical School, Adult Education Division- Outboard Engine Maintenance- Toms River- February 6-April 6, 2023.

New Jersey International Association of Arson Investigators- Emerging and Enduring Issues, OSINT in Tactical Investigations, Hypothesis- Atlantic City- March 1-3, 2023.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office for Bombing Prevention in Partnership with Center for Domestic Preparedness – Bombing Prevention Awareness Course- Morristown- January 23, 2023

Additional Duties/Details

Many 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 and continue to represent the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office in the upmost regard while maintaining a high level of professionalism.

Projected Goals

As the Major Crime Unit enters the upcoming year, one of the projected goals for its members 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, Force 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. This strategic vision is driven by the continuous pursuit to remain on the forefront of evolving criminal trends. The Major Crime Unit remains committed to upholding the highest standard of professionalism and ensuring that all investigations are conducting thoroughly while maintaining a relentless pursuit of justice.

The addition of a bilingual Detective to the Major Crime Unit would be an invaluable addition. With the additional Detective, and bilingual abilities, it would not only offset the caseload of the Unit but prove to be an invaluable asset throughout all four components of Major Crime.

Additionally, the addition of an Agent/System Analyst with a high level of investigative experience would be a key asset to the Major Crime Unit. Said individual's career network would greatly assist current Major Crime Unit detectives in various aspects of their investigations. Their investigative intuitiveness would assist detectives with intelligence gathering, administrative assistance with the newly acquired SAKI grant, and help to provide assistance with multiple kinds of investigations.

OCEAN COUNTY NARCOTICS STRIKE FORCE

During the year, 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-three (53) investigations. During the course of those investigations, large quantities of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine, were seized along with sums of U.S. Currency, bank accounts, cryptocurrency and numerous motor vehicles utilized in furtherance of those associated crimes.

"OPERATION CHECKMATE" DEFENDANT PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION OF COCAINE WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE

January 26, 2023, Mark Kelber, 45, of Manalapan, pled guilty before the Honorable Lisa A. Puglisi, J.S.C., to Possession of Cocaine in an Amount Greater than Five Ounces with Intent to Distribute. At the time of his sentencing on March 24, 2023, the State sought a term of ten years New Jersey State Prison.

"Operation Checkmate" was a four-month-long cooperative, multi-jurisdictional investigation conducted by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, United States Drug Enforcement Administration – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Group 5, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, and New Jersey State Police - Trafficking Central Unit, in concert with many other state, county, and local law enforcement agencies. The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force managed and directed three simultaneous multi-agency investigations into high level cocaine distribution in Ocean, Monmouth, and Middlesex Counties, as well as New York City. During the course of these investigations, approximately 50 additional law enforcement personnel were assigned to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force on a full-time basis. Multiple agencies – both within and outside of Ocean County - assisted in every aspect of all three investigations. The

investigations, identified as “Operation Checkmate,” began in July 2021 and concluded in October of 2021.

The three cocaine networks were responsible for the import of more than three kilograms of cocaine per week into the Ocean, Monmouth, and Middlesex County areas. Through sophisticated surveillance methods and undercover operatives, “Operation Checkmate” was successful in disrupting and dismantling illicit controlled dangerous substance (CDS) distribution activities in these three counties, as well as New York City. On October 26, 2021, “Operation Checkmate” closed with the apprehension of 24 individuals for various offenses involving the distribution of controlled dangerous substances. Additionally, 24 search warrants were executed resulting in the seizure of more than four kilograms of cocaine, over 15 pounds of marijuana, in excess of \$650,000 in United States currency, seven firearms (three handguns, three “ghost guns,” and one pistol grip shotgun), ten vehicles, and additional illegal narcotics.

On October 26, 2021, Detectives executed a court-authorized search warrant at Kelber’s residence in Manalapan. As a result, Detectives seized approximately 265 grams of cocaine and \$24,325 in United States Currency. Kelber was transported to the Ocean County Jail, and later released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

THREE OCEAN COUNTY RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION AND WEAPONS OFFENSES

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement Administration – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Group 5, New Jersey State Police-Trafficking Central Unit, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, Berkeley Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Toms River Township Police

Department Detective Bureau, Toms River Township Police Department Emergency Services Unit, Toms River Township Police Department Patrol Division, and Ocean County Sheriff's Office, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of cocaine in Ocean County. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified four residences in Toms River as being utilized by Christian Bultron-Rios, 37, Christian Bultron-Carmona, 18, and Anfernee Guzman-Romero, 26, all of Toms River, to store and distribute cocaine. The investigation determined that this organization was importing large quantities of cocaine into the Ocean County area, concealed in children's toy boxes. Over the course of the six month-long investigation, all three defendants were observed distributing large amounts of cocaine throughout Ocean County.

Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies initiated surveillance on the subject residences in Toms River. On March 8, 2023, Detectives observed Bultron-Rios exit one of the residences carrying two children's toy boxes. Bultron-Rios was subsequently detained and found to be in possession of approximately one pound of cocaine in each toy box. Bultron-Rios was thereafter placed under arrest.

Multiple court-authorized search warrants were then executed on all of the subject residences. As a result, law enforcement seized – in combination from all four residences – additional quantities of cocaine and suboxone, a polymer assault rifle with high capacity magazine, a semi-automatic handgun, hollow point ammunition, and drug paraphernalia indicative of narcotics manufacturing and distribution. Guzman-Romero and Bultron-Carmona were subsequently placed under arrest at one of the subject residences.

Christian Bultron-Rios was charged with Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Suboxone, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Bultron-Rios was transported to the Ocean County Jail, where he is currently lodged pending a detention hearing.

Anfernee Guzman-Romero was charged with Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense, Possession of an Assault Weapon, Possession of a High Capacity Magazine, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Guzman-Romero was transported to the Ocean County Jail, where he is currently lodged pending a detention hearing.

Christian Bultron-Carmona was charged with Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute. Bultron-Carmona was served with the charge via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

THREE CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS OFFENSES

On the evening of February 24, 2023, Investigating Detectives of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office - Narcotics Strike Force, with the assistance of the Ocean County Regional SWAT Team, Toms River Township Police Department Patrol Division, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, Manchester Township Police Department Patrol Division, Berkeley Township Police Department Detective Bureau, Berkeley Township Police Department Patrol Division, Beachwood Township Police Department Detective Bureau, and the Beachwood Township Police Department Patrol Division concluded a one (1) month investigation into Stoner Klub, LLC / Todd Moeller, for the distribution of marijuana in the Ocean County area.

As a result of the investigation, Investigating Detectives applied for and were granted multiple court-authorized Search Warrants for various locations.

At the time of the Search Warrant execution, Todd Moeller, Shari Leviathan, and Philip Galletta were located and approached by the OCNSF and TRPD Patrol Units at 1889 Route 9, Building 17, Unit 63, Toms River, removing the marijuana/THC products located within the building and placing them into the rear of a rented UHAUL Truck. All three were taken into custody without incident and transported to the Toms River Police Department for processing.

Search Warrant - 1889 Route 9, Building 17, Unit 63, Toms River, New Jersey

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by the OCNSF, approximately twenty-five (25) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product was located and seized, as well as approximately \$44,000 in U.S. currency, and a quantity of cellular telephones, CDS ledgers, and drug paraphernalia/packaging material.

Search Warrant - 816 Berkeley Avenue, Beachwood, New Jersey

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by O.C. SWAT, the OCNSF, and Beachwood/Berkeley PD Detective Bureaus, more than one hundred (100+) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product was located and seized, as well as approximately \$30,000 in U.S. currency, and a quantity of cellular telephones, CDS ledgers, and drug paraphernalia/packaging material.

Search Warrant - 3134 Quarry Road, Manchester, New Jersey

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by O.C. SWAT, the OCNSF, and MPD NET, approximately \$3,700 in U.S. currency, approximately five (5) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product, and a quantity of cellular telephones, CDS ledgers, and drug paraphernalia/packaging material was located and seized.

Search Warrant - Lexus IS350 (NJ/A20NRJ)

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by the OCNSF, approximately ten (10) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product was located and seized.

Search Warrant - UHAUL Truck (AZ/AE18453)

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by the OCNSF, more than one hundred (100+) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product, as well as one (1) Apple MacBook computer, and one (1) CDS ledger, was located and seized.

Charges - Todd Moeller:

Possession of more than Twenty Five Pounds of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Conspiracy to Possess more than Twenty Five Pounds of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of more than Five Pounds of Hashish with the Intent to Distribute, Money Laundering, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Moeller was charged on a complaint-warrant (1507-W-2023-000259) and lodged in the Ocean County Justice Facility pending first appearance.

Charges - Shari Leviathan:

Possession of more than Twenty Five Pounds of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Conspiracy to Possess more than Twenty Five Pounds of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of more than Five Pounds of Hashish with the Intent to Distribute, Money Laundering, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Leviathan was charged on a complaint-warrant (1507-W-2023-000260) and lodged in the Ocean County Justice Facility pending first appearance.

Charges - Philip Galletta:

Possession of more than Twenty Five Pounds of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Conspiracy to Possess more than Twenty Five Pounds of Marijuana with the Intent to Distribute, Possession of more than Five Pounds of Hashish with the Intent to Distribute, Money Laundering, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Galletta was charged on a complaint-warrant (1507-W-2023-000257) and lodged in the Ocean County Justice Facility pending first appearance.

Search Warrant - 820 Route 9, Unit G77, Bayville, New Jersey

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by the OCNSF, approximately ten (10) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product, as well as drug paraphernalia/packaging material, was located and seized.

Search Warrant - 220 East 84th Street, Apartment 3B, New York

Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by the NYC OSNP, approximately \$300,000 in U.S. currency was located and seized, as well as approximately fifty (50) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product, and drug paraphernalia/packaging material. OSNP Detectives also located a rental agreement and keys for a secondary apartment located at 332 East 86th Street, 2nd Floor, New York.

Search Warrant - 332 East 86th Street, 2nd Floor, New York Subsequent to the execution of the court-authorized Search Warrant by the NYC OSNP, approximately fifty (50) pounds of suspect marijuana/THC product were located and seized, as well as drug paraphernalia/packaging material.

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP MAN CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Manchester Township Police Department, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics

Enforcement Team, and Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of cocaine in Ocean County. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a residence in Manchester Township as being utilized by Ricardo Cruickshank, 29, of Manchester Township, to store and distribute cocaine.

Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies initiated surveillance on the subject residence in Manchester. On March 30, 2023, Detectives observed Cruickshank exit the residence and walk towards a BMW sedan. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that the BMW was being utilized by Cruickshank to store quantities of cocaine. Cruickshank was detained while Detectives executed a court-authorized search warrant on the vehicle. As a result, Detectives seized approximately 90 grams of cocaine. Cruickshank was thereafter placed under arrest.

Ocean County Regional SWAT thereafter executed a court-authorized search warrant on the subject residence. As a result, Detectives seized a large quantity of marijuana and approximately \$1,290 in United States currency.

Ricardo Cruickshank was charged with Possession of More than One-Half Ounce but Less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of More than One Ounce of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cocaine, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Cruickshank was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP MAN CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Toms River Township Police Department, Toms River Township Police Department Special Enforcement Unit, Toms River Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Manchester Township Police Department, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, and

Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, to conduct an investigation into the distribution of cocaine in Ocean County. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a business in Toms River, known as "Leroy's Tow Service," as well as a residence in Manchester Township owned by Leroy Hairston, 43, as being utilized to store and distribute cocaine.

Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies initiated surveillance on the subject business in Toms River as well as the residence in Manchester. On April 26, 2023, Detectives observed Hairston leaving his business in Toms River, and continued to maintain surveillance on Hairston as he left the area. Hairston parked his vehicle in a nearby parking lot, at which time he was approached and detained by Ocean County Sheriff's Officers without incident. Hairston was subsequently placed under arrest and transported to Toms River Township Police Headquarters for processing.

Toms River Township Police Department Emergency Services Unit executed a court-authorized search warrant on the subject business in Toms River. As a result, Detectives seized approximately 100 grams of cocaine and \$7,000 in United States currency.

Ocean County Regional SWAT thereafter executed a court-authorized search warrant on Hairston's residence in Manchester. As a result, Raekwon Strand, 26, of Lakewood - who was present at the residence at the time of the search warrant execution - was found to be in possession of approximately 100 wax folds of heroin/fentanyl. In addition, \$4,000 in United States currency was seized from the residence. Strand was subsequently placed under arrest at the residence.

Leroy Hairston was charged with Possession of More than One-Half Ounce but Less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cocaine, Financial Facilitation, and

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. He was transported to the Ocean County Jail and subsequently released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

Raekwon Strand was charged with Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Strand was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

OCEAN COUNTY RESIDENT AND FOUR MONMOUTH COUNTY RESIDENTS CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Asset Forfeiture Unit, United States Drug Enforcement Administration – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) Group 5, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Lakewood Township Police Department, Lakewood Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department K-9 Unit, South Toms River Police Department, South Toms River Police Department K-9 Unit, Brick Township Police Department Drug Enforcement Unit, Eatontown Borough Police Department, Howell Township Police Department K-9 Unit, City of Long Branch Police Department Street Crimes Unit and Ocean County Sheriff's Office to conduct an investigation into the distribution of cocaine in the Ocean County and Monmouth County areas. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a residence in South Toms River and a residence in Brick Township, as being utilized by Octavaeous Jenkins, 49, to store and distribute cocaine. Additionally, the investigation identified a residence in Long Branch, as being utilized by Ralph Durand, 56, Krystal Villano, 36, Emily Durand, 53 and Jaiden Durand, 18, to store and distribute cocaine.

Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies initiated surveillance on the subject residences in South Toms River, Brick Township and Long Branch. On May 9, 2023, Detectives

observed Jenkins meeting with Durand in Monmouth County. Jenkins and Durand were detained and found to be in possession of approximately one kilogram of cocaine. Jenkins and Durand were thereafter placed under arrest.

Multiple court-authorized search warrants were then executed on all of the subject residences. As a result, law enforcement seized – in combination from all three residences – approximately 1.25 kilograms of cocaine, \$56,000 in United States currency, twenty grams of crack cocaine and fifty dosage units of heroin. Emily Durand, Jaiden Durand and Krystal Villano were placed under arrest at the residence in Long Branch. Additionally, Detectives seized approximately \$488,522 in personal banking accounts belonging to Ralph Durand and Krystal Villano, believed to be related to their narcotics distribution network.

Octavious Jenkins was charged with Distribution of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine, Possession of More than One-Half Ounce but Less than Five Ounces of Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Less than One-Half Ounce of Heroin with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Heroin, Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute and Financial Facilitation. Jenkins was transported to the Ocean County Jail.

Ralph Durand was charged with Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within 500 feet of a Public Library, Possession of Cocaine, Conspiracy to Possess More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Financial Facilitation. Durand was transported to the Monmouth County Jail.

Krystal Villano was charged with Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within 500 feet of a Public Library, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Financial Facilitation. Villano was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

Jaiden Durand was charged with Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within 500 feet of a Public Library, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Financial Facilitation. Durand was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

Emily Durand was charged with Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of More than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute within 500 feet of a Public Library, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia and Financial Facilitation. Durand was served with the charges via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

LAKEWOOD MAN CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS AND WEAPONS OFFENSES

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Brick Township Police Department Patrol Division, Brick Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, and Point Pleasant Borough Police Department Detective Bureau, in an effort to conduct an investigation into the distribution of Cocaine and Heroin/Fentanyl in Ocean County. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a residence in Brick Township as being utilized by Raheem Montgomery, 30, of Lakewood, to store and distribute Cocaine and Heroin/Fentanyl in the Ocean County area.

Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies initiated surveillance on the subject residence in Brick Township. On August 3, 2023, Detectives observed Montgomery exit the residence and travel to Point Pleasant; he stopped at a local gas station, where Detectives approached and detained him without incident.

The Brick Township Police Department Special Emergency Response Team then executed a court-authorized search warrant on the subject residence. As a result, law enforcement seized approximately 10 grams of Cocaine, 350 wax folds of Heroin/Fentanyl, one pound of Marijuana, drug paraphernalia indicative of narcotics distribution, a stolen handgun with a high-capacity magazine, hollow point ammunition, and approximately \$7,300 in United States currency.

Montgomery was subsequently charged with Possession of Less than One-Half Ounce of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute; Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute; Possession of One Ounce or More but Less than Five Pounds of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute; Possession of Cocaine; Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl; Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; being a Certain Person Not to Possess a Firearm; Possession of a Weapon During a Controlled Dangerous Substance Offense; Possession of a Stolen Firearm; Possession of a Prohibited Weapon or Device - specifically a High Capacity Magazine; Possession of a Prohibited Weapon or Device – specifically Hollow Point Ammunition; and Financial Facilitation. Montgomery was taken into custody.

TOMS RIVER MAN CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION AND FINANCIAL FACILITATION

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, Toms River Township Police Department Special Enforcement Unit, Brick Township Police Department

Street Crimes Unit, and New Jersey State Police Drug Trafficking Unit, to conduct an investigation into the illegal distribution of Marijuana and THC-related products in the Ocean County area. This cooperative, multi-agency investigation identified a business in Toms River called “EarthE CBD,” as well as two residences - one in Toms River and one in Brick Township - as being utilized by Scott Carlino, 52, of Toms River, and his mother, Ellen Carlino, 74, of Brick Township, to store and distribute large quantities of marijuana and THC-related products.

Between the months of May and September 2023, Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies conducted surveillance on the business in Toms River and the residences in Toms River and Brick Township. On September 28, 2023, Detectives observed Scott Carlino leaving the residence in Toms River and enter his vehicle. Carlino was thereafter observed traveling north on the Garden State Parkway; a motor vehicle stop was effectuated on Carlino’s vehicle by the New Jersey State Police, and he was taken into custody without incident.

Multiple court-authorized search warrants were then executed upon the business in Toms River and the two subject residences. As a result, law enforcement seized – in combination from the business and the two residences – approximately 70 pounds of marijuana, 1,500 pounds of THC-related products, a 9 mm handgun, and approximately \$390,000 in United States currency. Additionally, Detectives seized approximately \$217,000 from personal bank accounts belonging to Scott Carlino.

Scott Carlino was charged with Possession of Marijuana in a Quantity Greater than 25 Pounds with Intent to Distribute, Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Facility, Possession of a Weapon during the course of Controlled Dangerous Substance Offenses, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Financial Facilitation. He was transported to the Ocean County Jail.

Ellen Carlino was charged with Conspiracy to Commit Financial Facilitation, and taken into custody at the Brick Township residence. Ellen Carlino was served with the charge via summons pending an upcoming first appearance in Ocean County Superior Court.

BAYVILLE MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION OF AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON AND NARCOTICS OFFENSES; THREE OTHERS CHARGED WITH NARCOTICS OFFENSES

Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force collaborated with the Berkeley Township Police Department in an effort to conduct an investigation into the distribution of narcotics in the Ocean County area. This investigation identified a residence in Berkeley Township as being utilized by Anthony Isola, 49, of Bayville, to store and distribute narcotics.

Based upon reliable information received, Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force and Berkeley Township Police Department initiated surveillance on the subject residence in Bayville on October 24, 2023. On that date, Detectives observed a silver Chrysler 300 - operated by Wali Hobbs, 36, of Toms River, with front seat passenger Tykequan Hollis, 34, of Newark - make several brief visits to the residence in question. At some point in time, a female, later identified as Janet Jackson, 36, of Newark, left the residence and entered the vehicle. As the vehicle was leaving the area, Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force and Officers from the Berkeley Township Police Department effectuated a motor vehicle stop. After a brief roadside investigation, all three individuals were placed under arrest without incident.

A court-authorized search warrant was then executed by the Ocean County Regional SWAT upon the subject residence in Bayville. As a result, law enforcement seized a hypodermic needle filled with heroin/fentanyl, drug paraphernalia associated with narcotics distribution, an UZI 9mm

assault weapon, and a high capacity ammunition magazine. Isola was taken into custody at the residence without incident.

Anthony Isola was charged with Possession of Heroin/Fentanyl, Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Xanax Without a Valid Prescription, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Possession of an Assault Weapon, and Possession of a High Capacity Ammunition Magazine. He was transported to the Ocean County Jail.

Wali Hobbs was charged with Possession of Less than One-Half Ounce of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Wandering to Obtain or Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance. Hobbs was transported to the Ocean County Jail.

Tykequan Hollis was charged with Possession of Less than One-Half Ounce of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Methamphetamine, and Wandering to Obtain or Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance. Hollis was transported to the Ocean County Jail.

Janet Jackson was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine, Possession of Crack Cocaine, Wandering to Obtain or Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. Jackson was transported to the Ocean County Jail.

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP MAN SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR NARCOTICS DISTRIBUTION

On October 31, 2023, Leroy Hairston, 44, of Manchester, was sentenced by the Honorable Kimarie Rahill, J.S.C., to ten years New Jersey State Prison (NJSP) as a result of his previously entered guilty plea to Possession of More than One-Half Ounce but Less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, in connection with an investigation that occurred in Toms River and Manchester Townships between January and April 2023. Hairston pled guilty to the charge before Judge Rahill on July 31, 2023. Additionally, Judge Rahill sentenced Hairston to five years NJSP

as a result of his previously entered guilty plea to Possession of More than One-Half Ounce but Less than Five Ounces of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, in connection with an earlier unrelated investigation that occurred in Manchester between November and December 2020. Hairston pled guilty to this charge before the Honorable Lisa A. Puglisi, J.S.C., on March 20, 2023. The sentences will run concurrently.

An investigation conducted between the months of January and April 2023 by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Toms River Township Police Department, Toms River Township Police Department Special Enforcement Unit, Toms River Township Police Department K-9 Unit, Manchester Township Police Department, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, and Ocean County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, identified a business in Toms River - known as "Leroy's Tow Service" - along with a residence in Manchester owned by Leroy Hairston, 43, as being utilized to store and distribute cocaine.

Detectives from the aforementioned law enforcement agencies initiated surveillance on the subject business in Toms River as well as the residence in Manchester. On April 26, 2023, Detectives observed Hairston leaving his business in Toms River, and continued to maintain surveillance on Hairston as he left the area. Hairston parked his vehicle in a nearby parking lot, at which time he was approached and detained by Ocean County Sheriff's Officers without incident.

Toms River Township Police Department Emergency Services Unit thereafter executed a court-authorized search warrant on the subject business in Toms River. As a result, Detectives seized approximately 100 grams of cocaine and \$7,000 in United States currency. Hairston was transported to the Ocean County Jail, and subsequently released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

An earlier unrelated investigation by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force and Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team – between the months of November and December 2020 - identified a residence in Manchester Township as being utilized by Hairston to store and distribute Cocaine. On December 10, 2020, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Manchester Township Police Department Narcotics Enforcement Team, and Ocean County Regional SWAT Team, executed a court-authorized search warrant on the subject residence. As a result, law enforcement seized approximately 75 grams of Cocaine as well as 26 pills that later tested positive for Fentanyl. Hairston was taken into custody at the residence, transported to the Ocean County Jail, and subsequently released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

MAYS LANDING MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DISTRIBUTION OF METHAMPHETAMINE

On December 4, 2023, Khaadim Abdullah, 28, of Mays Landing, pled guilty to the charge of Distribution of Methamphetamine in an Amount Greater than Five Ounces before the Honorable Kenneth T. Palmer, J.S.C. The State will be seeking a term of 13 years New Jersey State Prison. During the months of July and August 2022, 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 Police Department 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 Abdullah and his associates 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 and other illegal narcotics, as well as paraphernalia indicative of narcotics manufacturing and distribution, a stolen handgun, and \$14,900 in United States Currency. Abdullah was transported to the Ocean County Jail, and subsequently released as a consequence of New Jersey Bail Reform.

LAKEWOOD MAN SENTENCED TO STATE PRISON FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer announced that on December 15, 2023, the Honorable Kimarie Rahill, J.S.C., sentenced Dayewon Crockam, 23, of Lakewood, to seven years New Jersey State Prison (NJSP) as a result of his previously entered guilty plea to Possession of greater than One-Half Ounce but less than Five Ounces of Heroin with Intent to Distribute – in connection with an investigation that occurred in Lakewood Township between January and September 2022. Additionally, Judge Rahill sentenced Crockam to three years NJSP as a result of his previously entered guilty plea to Possession of Crack Cocaine in connection with an unrelated investigation that likewise occurred in Lakewood in October 2020, and three years NJSP as a result of a previously entered guilty plea to Conspiracy to Possess Oxycodone Without a Valid Prescription with respect to an investigation that also occurred in Lakewood in December 2020. The sentences will run concurrently. Crockam pled guilty to all charges before the Honorable Guy P. Ryan, P.J.Cr.P., on October 16, 2023.

An investigation into the distribution of heroin/fentanyl and cocaine in the Ocean County area between the months of January and September 2022 was conducted by Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Narcotics Strike Force, Lakewood Township Police Department Patrol Division, Lakewood Township Police Department Street Crimes Unit, Lakewood Township Police Department Special Response Unit, and Lakewood Township Police Department K-9 Unit. This cooperative investigation identified a residence in Lakewood as being utilized by Crockam to store and distribute illegal narcotics.

On September 16, 2022, Detectives executed a court-authorized search warrant on Crockam's residence. During the course of the investigation, Detectives observed that Crockam would frequent a neighboring residence; as such, Detectives secured the consent of the neighbor to search

that residence. Searches of both residences resulted in Detectives seizing approximately 2,750 wax folds of heroin/fentanyl, 18 grams of cocaine, a loaded 45 caliber handgun with a laser sight and drum-style extended magazine, drug paraphernalia, and approximately \$8,100 in United States currency. Crockam was taken into custody without incident at his residence, and has been lodged in the Ocean County Jail since his apprehension.

This report contains details regarding the activity of the Narcotics Strike Force (Northern Unit and Southern Unit) for the year of 2023. 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 for the period:

	YTD
New Investigations Total	53
North Unit	39
South Unit	14
Arrest Totals	87
North Unit	62
South Unit	25
Details:	
Male Total	63
North Unit	48
South Unit	15
Female Total	24
North Unit	14
South Unit	10
Over 18 Total	87
North Unit	62
South Unit	25
Under 18 Total	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0

Caucasian Total	46
North Unit	27
South Unit	19
Black Total	22
North Unit	17
South Unit	5
Hispanic Total	17
North Unit	16
South Unit	1
Other	2
North Unit	2
South Unit	0
Charges:	
Possession Total	90
North Unit	56
South Unit	34
Manu/Dist/PWID Total	81
North Unit	59
South Unit	22
Poss of Paraphernalia	49
North Unit	37
South Unit	12

Poss of a weapon	18
North Unit	18
South Unit	0
Certain Persons	2
North Unit	2
South Unit	0
Conspiracy Total	39
North Unit	39
South Unit	0
Financial Facilitation Of Criminal Activity	12
North Unit	12
South Unit	0
Other Total	30
North Unit	23
South Unit	7
Search Warrant Total	96
North Unit	79
South Unit	17
Search Warrant Residences	46
North Unit	40
South Unit	6

Search Warrant No-Knock	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0
Search Warrants Vehicles/Boats	37
North Unit	31
South Unit	6
Search Warrant Telephones	4
North Unit	2
South Unit	2
Search Warrant Person	9
North Unit	6
South Unit	3
Search Warrant Other (box, bag, person etc)	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0
CDW's	6
Title III's	0
Consent Search Total	15
North Unit	10
South Unit	5

Seizures:

Currency Total	\$1650630.50
North Unit	\$1647016.50
South Unit	\$3614
Vehicle Total	13
North Unit	12
South Unit	1

Weapons:

Handgun Total	16
North Unit	16
South Unit	0
Rifle	5
North Unit	5
South Unit	0
Stun Gun	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0
Assault Weapon	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0

Shot Gun	0
North Unit	0
South Unit	0
Knives	4
North Unit	4
South Unit	0
Other	2
North Unit	2
South Unit	0

Drugs:

Heroin Total	3111	folds
North Unit	3025	folds
South Unit	86	folds
Cocaine Total	4504	grams
North Unit	4316	grams
South Unit	188	grams
Crack Total	22.1	grams
North Unit	20	grams
South Unit	1.1	grams
Marijuana Total	149365	grams
North Unit	1452843	grams
South Unit	4082	grams

Marijuana Plants Total	0	Plants
North Unit	0	Plants
South Unit	0	Plants
Ecstasy Total	0	dosage units
North Unit	0	dosage units
South Unit	0	dosage units
MDMA Total	0	grams
North Unit	0	grams
South Unit	0	grams
Prescription Total	153	dosage units
North Unit	65	dosage units
South Unit	88	dosage units
THC Total	277	Carts/Items
North Unit	177	Carts/Items
South Unit	100	Carts/Items
THC Total	28810	Ounces
North Unit	28800	Ounces
South Unit	10	Ounces
Methamphetamine Total	113.6	Grams
North Unit	92	Grams
South Unit	21.6	Grams

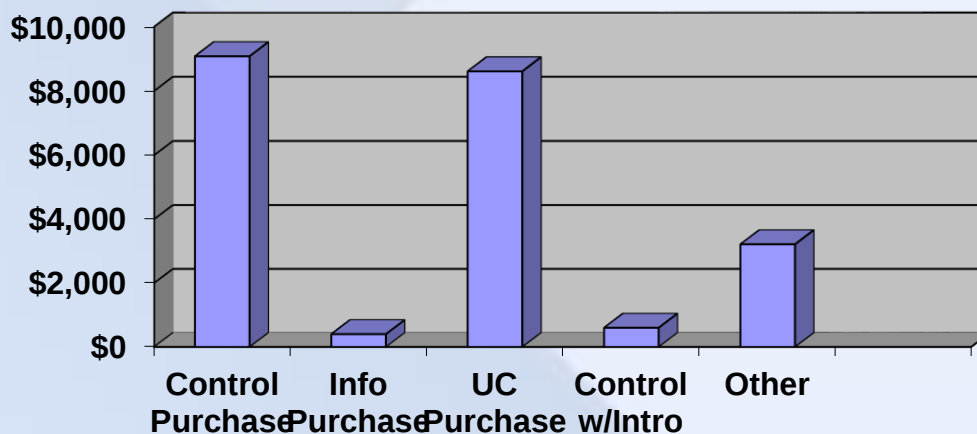
LSD Total	0.6	Grams
North Unit	0.6	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams
Anabolic Steroids Total	0	Milligrams
North Unit	0	Milligrams
South Unit	0	Milligrams
Psilocybin Total	413	Grams
North Unit	130	Grams
South Unit	283	Grams
DMT Total	0	Grams
North Unit	0	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams
Fentanyl Total	0	Grams
North Unit	0	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams
Harmin Powder Total	0	Grams
North Unit	0	Grams
South Unit	0	Grams

Confidential Funds

For the period the Narcotics Strike Force (Northern Unit) spent approximately \$21,906.12 of Confidential Funds. The breakdown is as follows:

Category	YTD Amount
Control purchase of CDS	\$9,080
Purchase of police information	\$400
Undercover purchase of CDS	\$8,611.27
Control with introduction of undercover	\$600
Other	\$3,214.85

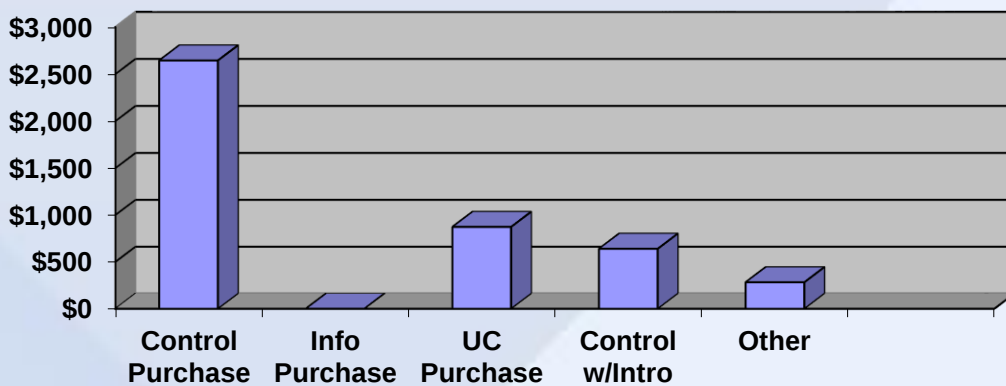
The categories of year to date expenditures (Northern Unit) are graphically expressed below:



For the period the Narcotics Strike Force (Southern Unit) spent approximately \$4,440.52 of Confidential Funds. The breakdown is as follows:

Category	YTD Amount
Control purchase of CDS	\$2,645
Purchase of police information	\$0
Undercover purchase of CDS	\$873.24
Control with introduction of undercover	\$640
Other	\$282.28

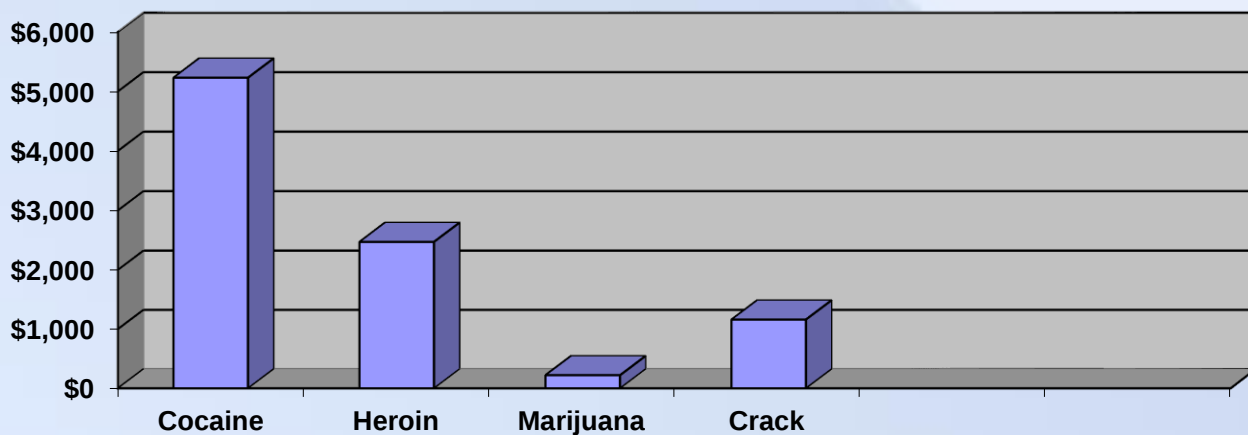
The categories of year to date expenditures (Southern Unit) are graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the controlled purchase of CDS (**Northern Unit**) is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Controlled purchase of cocaine	\$5230
Controlled purchase of heroin	\$2470
Controlled purchase of marijuana	\$220
Controlled purchase of crack	\$1160
Controlled Purchase of Crystal Meth	\$0
Controlled Purchase of Ecstasy	\$0
Controlled Purchase of Oxycodone	\$0

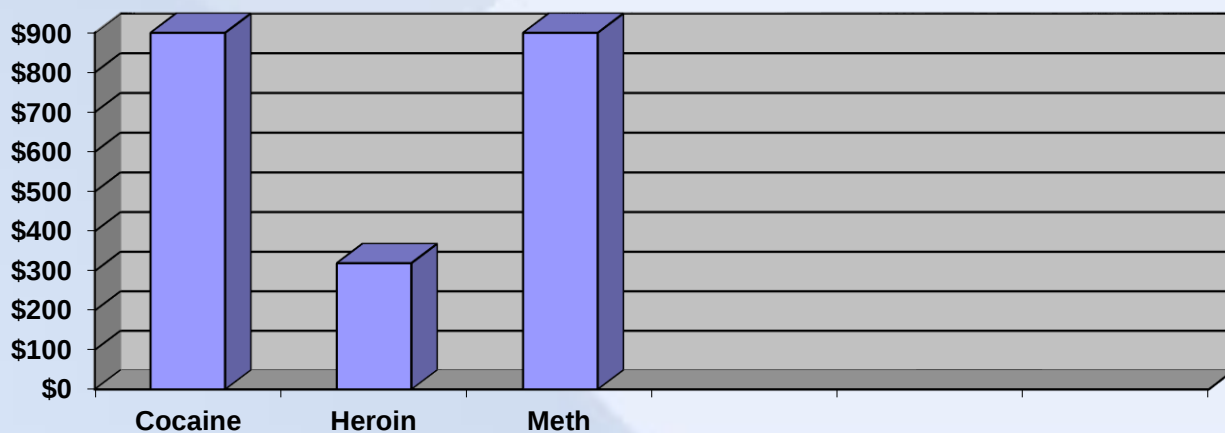
Detail regarding the year to date controlled purchase of CDS/Guns (**Northern Unit**) graphically expressed below:



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

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Controlled purchase of cocaine	\$900
Controlled purchase of heroin	\$320
Controlled purchase of marijuana	\$0
Controlled purchase of crack	\$0
Controlled Purchase of Methamphetamine	\$900

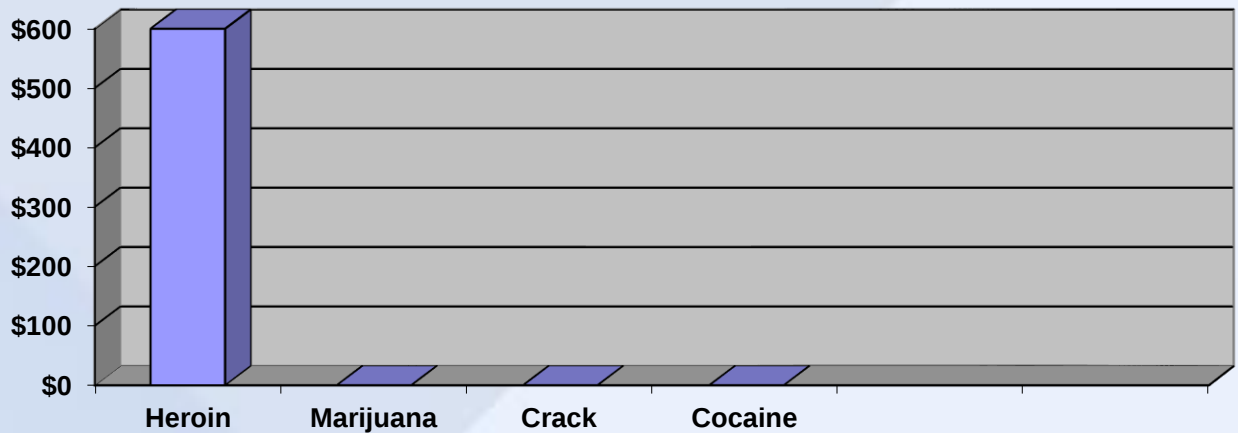
Detail regarding the year to date controlled purchase of CDS/Guns (**Southern Unit**) graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the controlled purchase of CDS (**Northern Unit**) with the introduction of an undercover officer is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Heroin	\$600
Marijuana	\$0
Crack	\$0
Cocaine	\$0

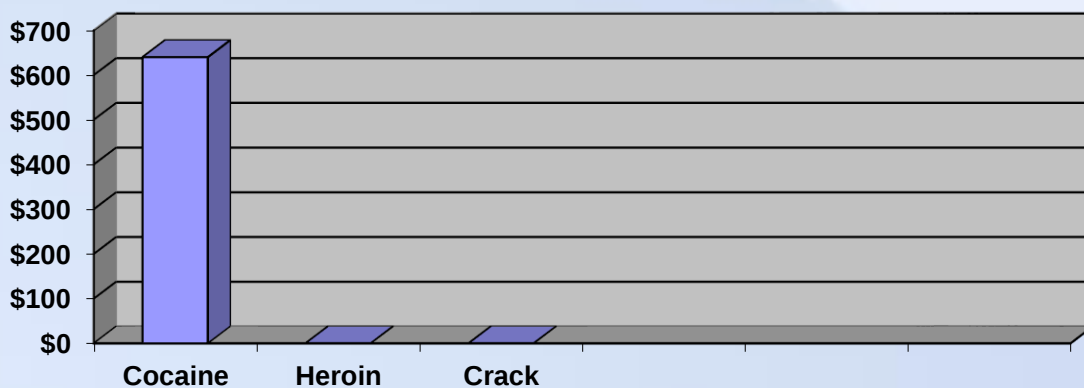
Detail regarding the year to date the controlled purchase of CDS (**Northern Unit**) with the introduction of an undercover officer graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the controlled purchase of CDS (Southern Unit) with the introduction of an undercover officer is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Cocaine	\$640
Heroin	\$0
Crack	\$0

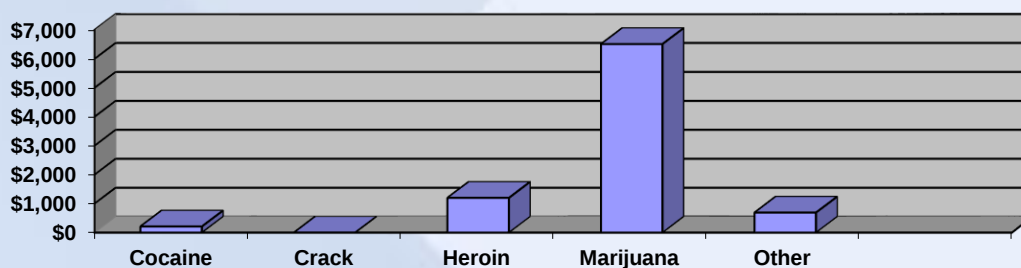
Detail regarding the year to date the controlled purchase of CDS (Southern Unit) with the introduction of an undercover officer graphically expressed below:



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

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Cocaine	\$210
Crack	\$0
Heroin	\$1,200
Marijuana	\$6,511
Other	\$690

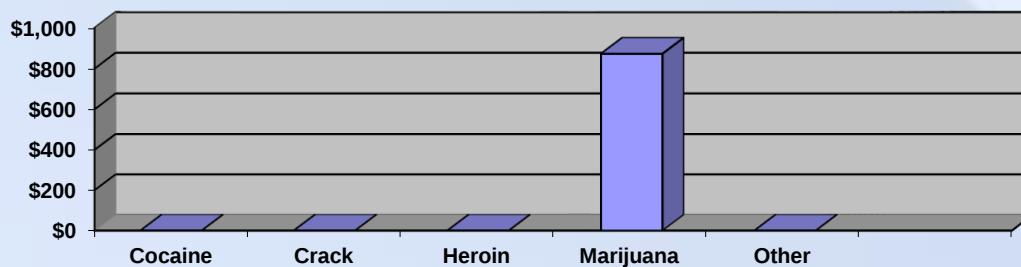
Detail regarding the year to date undercover purchase of CDS/Guns (Northern Unit) graphically expressed below:



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

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Cocaine	\$0
Crack	\$0
Heroin	\$0
Marijuana	\$873.24

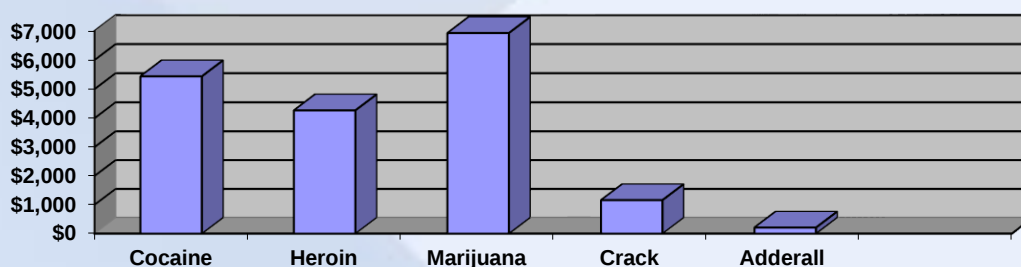
Detail regarding the year to date undercover purchase of CDS (Southern Unit) graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the amount spent on each drug (Northern Unit) is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Cocaine	\$5,440
Heroin	\$4,270
Marijuana	\$6,931
Crack	\$1,160
Adderall	\$210

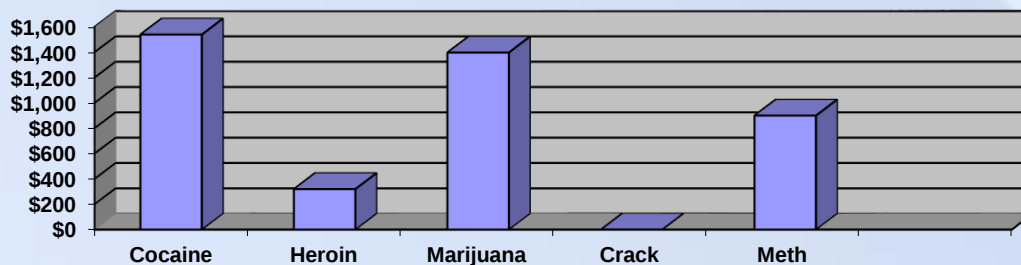
Detail regarding the amount spent on each drug (Northern Unit) year to date is graphically expressed below:



Detail regarding the amount spent on each drug/gun (Southern Unit) is as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>YTD Amount</u>
Cocaine	\$1,540
Heroin	\$320
Marijuana	\$1,398
Crack	\$0
Methamphetamine	\$900

Detail regarding the amount spent on each drug (Southern Unit) year to date is graphically expressed below:



Office of Victim Witness Advocacy

As of 2023, 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 22,809 victims and witnesses in 2023. That number includes sending over 37,482 letters, an increase of 6,344 from 2022. The number of new victims receiving services from the Office of Victim Witness Advocacy in 2023 was 6,583, an increase of 1,637 from 2022.

Our Victim Witness Advocates are committed to delivering criminal justice services to crime victims and witnesses. Their work and dedication are valued as they continue striving to improve their knowledge and skills through training. The Advocates were able to participate in the following community events, trainings and programs in 2023:

Ocean County Schools: Presentation on Cyber Safety

Throughout 2023, several Victim Advocates gave presentations to students at public schools throughout Ocean County focused on cyber safety. The Advocates worked with staff from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office to discuss the presentation's topics and coordinate with the school staff. The presentation was geared towards students, discussing social media, cyberbullying, and sexting. Topics were presented in the same manner to each of the schools, as part of a larger effort from the Ocean County Prosecutor to raise awareness to safety.

The Advocates went to several Ocean County schools and presented to students from Fourth through Twelfth grades. Advocates provided students with case study examples of minors that

were victimized by others online further explaining that online predators could be classmates or strangers. The Advocates gave examples of victims that suffered great emotional damage at the hands of their fellow students, leading to self-harm and/or commit suicide. All situations discussed are to emphasize the importance of students standing up for themselves and others when they recognize victimizing behavior online.

St. Francis Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA) Training

On March 14th, 2023, Victim Advocates presented to volunteers participating in the Confidential Sexual Violence Advocate (CSVA) training held at St. Francis Counseling Service of Long Beach Island. As part of their Sexual Abuse and Assault Prevention program, St. Francis trains volunteer CSVA's to respond to hospitals in Ocean County and assist victims at the time an incident of sexual assault is reported. During the training, the Advocates gave a presentation to educate the CVSA's on their role as Victim Witness Advocates with the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and offer advice on how to best assist victims of these types of crimes.

National Night Out

In August 2023, several communities in Ocean County, NJ celebrated the Annual National Night Out. Advocates attended a multiple locations on behalf of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Victim Witness Unit: Point Pleasant at Community Park, hosted by the Point Pleasant Township; Pine Park, hosted by Lakewood Township; Little Egg Harbor Township Sports Complex sponsored by Little Egg Harbor Township. The events aim to familiarize the local community with various local law enforcement agencies. Advocates assisted in setting up and operating tables with pamphlets and resources for victims of crime as well as engaged in speaking with community members to educate about services provided by the Victim Witness Unit and crime victims' rights.

The 6th Annual Latino Health Fair

On October 12, 2023, Victim Advocates attended The 4th Annual Latino Health Fair located in Toms River, at the Ocean County Health Department. The 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 members to educate about services provided by the Victim Witness Unit for domestic violence victims, and crime victims' rights. Bi-lingual Advocates communicated and translated for Spanish-speaking attendees.

24th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference

From November 30th, 2023 to December 2, 2023, advocates the 24th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference, 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 at the Seaview Hotel located in Galloway, New Jersey, where a variety of presenters and guest speakers discussed topics related to sex crimes. Those in attendance included Detectives and Officers, Assistant Prosecutors, Forensic Nurse Examiners. Presentations focused on case studies, tactics used for gathering evidence, interviewing techniques, resiliency for workers, and helping victims in the aftermath of an assault. The Advocates found these presentations to be valuable, as they help build an understanding of the investigative process.

Police Academy Training

The Victim Witness Director, Senior Victim Advocate and Advocates trained recruits at the Ocean County Police Academy in Lakewood on multiple occasions throughout 2023. The instruction included PowerPoint presentations with regard to 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

Victim Witness Canine “Jimmy” is known for comforting victims and witnesses of all ages, as they take part in meetings, interviews, etc. Jimmy visits the courthouse to assist victims/witnesses waiting to testify. Jimmy is a constant presence at public/community outreach events, in hopes to bring awareness of the services provided to victims as well as rights for crime victims. The response to Jimmy as a service and resource has been overwhelmingly positive.

DVSRT Program

The Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office continued the second year of utilizing Forensic Nurse Examiners program to provide victim services to an expanded population of non-fatal strangulation victims. This newer program is an expansion of the services presently offered to victims in Ocean County. In recent years, advocacy, medical and legal communities across the U.S. have begun focusing 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 2023, 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 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 2023

- Magnet Campaign-

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is organized by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), at the Department of Justice. Starting in 1981, the OVC has called on others in the nation during NCVRW to reduce barriers for victims and celebrate accomplishments for victims' rights over the



years. Each year OVC selects a new theme, with 2023 being “Survivors Voices- Elevate. Engage. Effect Change.” In 2023, the Victim Witness Office purchased 1,000 car magnets to be placed on patrol vehicles in law enforcement agencies across Ocean County. Starting in April of 2023, the magnets displayed the official artwork for NCVRW 2023 distributed by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC). Municipal police departments participated in displaying the magnets along with the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office, the Ocean County Sheriff’s

Department, and Ocean County Department of Corrections. Each department then posted photos on social media to show off the magnets and spread awareness about NCVRW.

- Blue Light Campaign –

Each year, OCPO sets up a display of blue lights to represent all victims, in front of the building during National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Additionally, banners are displayed at the street acknowledging NCVRW.

Additional Events/Presentations/Participation

Self-Generated Content and Sextortion Awareness and Prevention –February 7, 2023

Teen Dating Violence – February 10, 2023

New Jersey Multidisciplinary Team Annual Conference - May 11, 2023

18th Annual Conference on Crimes Against Women – Dallas, Texas May 22, 2023 – May 25, 2023

Child Advocacy Development Grant Webinar – June 16, 2023

Introduction: Understanding and Serving Adolescents with Problematic Sexual Behavior – July 13, 2023

Cultivating Wellness in Your Organization: Trauma Informed Leadership and Other Helpful Ideas – September 21, 2023

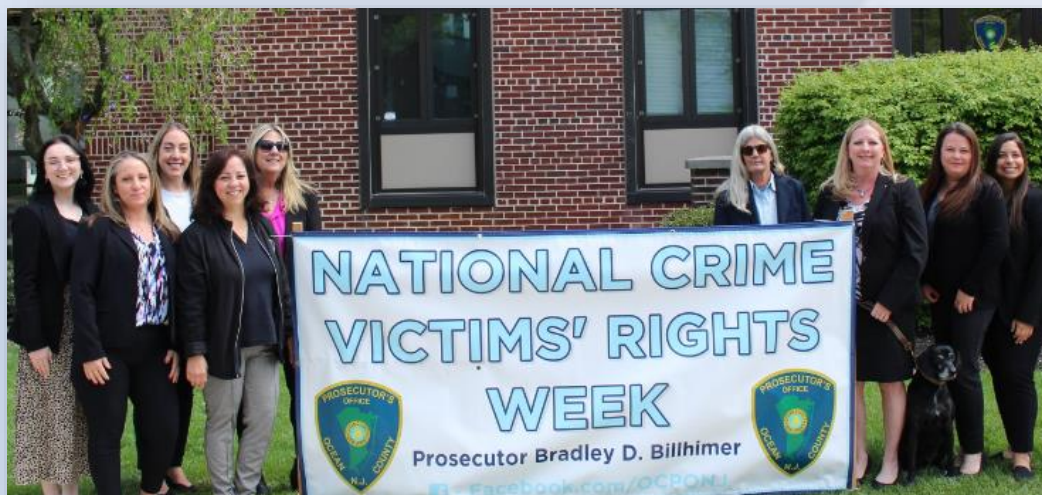
CAC/MDT Data: Understanding Who We Serve – September 26, 2023

Methods of Instruction – October 24, 2023 – October 31, 2023

25th Annual Sex Crimes Information Sharing Conference – November 28, 2023 – December 1, 2023

Challenge Day – Jackson Liberty High School – December 14, 2023

The following cases are an example of the important services and support provided by the Victim Witness Unit staff:



State v Shadrach Correa, Leyron Jones, Daivon Sullivan

On October 11, 2020 Toms River Police and Detectives from the Ocean County Prosecutors Office received notice of a victim who suffered critical injuries due to a shooting. Three victims entered a vehicle when they were fired upon by an unknown individual, one victim sustained a gunshot wound to the head and subsequently passed due to his injury. Through investigation, it was discovered that three suspects, Shadrach Correa, Leyron Jones, and Davion Sullivan were subsequently charged with one count of Murder, two counts of Attempted Murder, and one count of Conspiracy to Commit Murder in connection to this shooting.

Victim Witness Advocate Kelsey Hoban (KH) was assigned to assist the victims in this case in January of 2022. Since then, KH kept regular contact with the deceased victim's family. His mother called KH frequently, and they discussed pending motions and preparations for trial with the Assistant Prosecutors handling the case. One defendant, Shadrach Correa, had agreed to plead guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Murder and would provide truthful testimony at a trial against his co-defendants. The trial was expected to last a long time, as there were two defendants, one of

which was granted permission to represent himself, pro se. On July 14th, 2023, KH arranged for the victim's family to meet with the Assistant Prosecutors and discuss the trial process, ensuring the family knew what to expect, and their questions could be answered before proceedings began. Jury selection for the trial began on July 27th, 2023 and opening statements were held August 1st, 2023.

The trial lasted from July 27th to August 17th. KH attended court each day with the victim's family to watch testimony, statements, and the reading of the verdict. During breaks, KH kept communicated with the family advising of any and all updates. KH kept the family connected with the Assistant Prosecutors, allowing their questions to be addressed quickly. Multiple Victim Witness Advocates attended the trial to provide extra support for the family. In total, ten to twelve family members attended court each day. Court sessions were long, and the family was growing tired as the trial neared conclusion. KH helped the family by providing employee absence letters for their jobs, offering drinks of water and tissues, and providing a place to rest during breaks at the Prosecutors Office.

On August 17th, 2023, the jury returned a verdict, convicting the two defendants of Murder of one victim, Attempted Murder of the second victim, Conspiracy to Commit Murder, and Possession of a Weapon for Unlawful Purpose. One defendant identified, as the shooter, Daivon Sullivan, was convicted of an additional count of Attempted Murder of the third victim, who was driving the vehicle that was fired upon. After the reading of the verdict, the family expressed their gratitude to KH and the Assistant Prosecutors for the amount of work and effort given to this case and the support throughout. KH continues to keep in contact with the victim's family as the sentencing date approached. KH is currently assisting the family with victim impact statements, and prepare them for the final proceeding.

4 Fatality House Fire – Lacey Twp. NJ

On Tuesday, August 1, 2023 a two story residential home structure fire in Lacey Township was reported with entrapment. Emergency personnel from multiple jurisdictions responded to the scene to assist. Residing at the house were owners James and Brenda Wright. Along with their three (3) daughters and two (2) grandchildren. Brenda Wright was able to jump out of the house from a second story window and was later transported to a local hospital to be treated for smoke inhalation, as well as physical injuries she sustained. Emergency personnel learned there were four (4) additional residents inside the home, one being a 4 month old infant. Said infant was located and removed from the home then taken to the hospital but did not survive. Attempts to rescue the remaining three (3) victims were prevented due to the roof of the structure collapsing.

James Wright, his daughter Melanie and juvenile granddaughter, were not present at the time the fire started. When they arrived on scene, the Lacey Twp. Police escorted them to the Lacey Recreational Building (located next to the Police Dept.), to await for updates about family and home. The Victim Witness Unit was contacted by the OCPO Major Crime Lieutenant who requested that at least two (2) advocates respond to the Recreational Building to assist and provide support to Melanie, James and additional family members. Victim Witness Director Carol Froberg (CF) and Victim Witness Advocate Monica Schuler (MS) responded.

CF and MS were assisted by the Lacey Twp. Officers and kept open communication with the OCPO Arson Unit Detectives on scene. As time passed, the family became anxious for any information. CF communicated with the Sgt. from the OCPO Arson Unit, and was able to provide updates as they became available. CF and MS along with Lacey PD Officers notified the family of the death of the infant and the baby's mother, Alaina. A short time later, Lacey PD Officers and the OCPO Arson Unit Sgt. arrived to the recreation center at which time CF and MS made

the final notification, that unfortunately, the remaining two (2) family members trapped in the home, had also passed.

The family was distraught due to the loss of four (4) family members and home. CF contacted the American Red Cross seeking assistance with shelter, clothes and food. Moreover, the family was provided with emotional support throughout the day. Clergy who were associated with the Lacey PD, offered support to the family as they waited for word of their loved ones, as well as after receiving the horrific news. The clergy went one step further and offered services to both CF and MS, acknowledging the difficulty of what they had experienced.

On August 2, 2023, CF, MS and the Arson Unit Sargent called the family to advise the investigation found that the origin of the fire was on the front porch and the cause was accidental due to improperly discarding of smoking materials. They were provided contact information for the Victim Witness Unit if they needed any further assistance.

State v. Pillarella, 21000305

On January 31, 2001, the defendant was driving under the influence of multiple narcotics and alcohol. The defendant crossed into incoming traffic on a two-lane surface road, at a speed of 80 mph in a 45 zone. He struck the car driven by 17-year-old KE and occupied by 16-year-old GP. All were taken to trauma centers. The offender was seen and released. GP expired from her injuries 10 days later, just shy of her 17th birthday while KE was hospitalized for weeks and continues to need medical interventions for her various injuries.

Advocate Patricia Miljenovic (PM) contacted both families immediately upon notification of the crash. PM provided empathetic crisis intervention, as well as beginning their introduction to the CJ system. She offered guidance to the various victims' services available, including counseling,

financial assistance, and civil remedies. Ultimately, PM fostered relationships with all involved family members.

Due to the case being in the middle of the pandemic. PM, along with the assistant prosecutor, had numerous telephone conferences with the families. PM developed deep rapport with all, keeping all apprised and taking their calls as they mourned the loss of GP and the devastating and ongoing needs of KE. Patricia advised them of the various steps in the CJ process, including assisting with the virtual court appearances, explanation of charges, especially that of homicide. PM continuously communicated with the assistant prosecutor, to keep updated on the status of the investigation and prosecution. An experienced advocate, PM knew how to convey information given by the assistant prosecutors to the survivors in a sensitive manner which they could best tolerate. In autumn 2022, PM brought in a second advocate, Brooke Miranda (BM), due to the large number of family members expected to attend court. PM used the opportunity to help BM gain experience and knowledge in the various legal maneuverings as well as practice with the interpersonal dynamics of many personalities, with two victimized families.

Family members of both women (sometimes including KE herself), attended each of the in-person hearings. Defense rejected a plea offer, and preparation for trial began. Multiple trial dates had been postponed due illness and the passing of the Defendant's attorney resulting in the start of trial being in February of 2023. The advocates participated in preparing witnesses and keeping the families advised of the status of jury selection and accompanying them to the courtroom. In addition to providing information, advocates supplied emotional support to the large attending group, as well as those who were unable to attend through the entire trial and verdict. Simultaneously, the VW Clerk was instrumental in handling the voluminous amount of calls and letters from the community preparing for the sentencing.

Sentencing took place on May 5, 2023. Prior to sentencing, the core group of family members arrived early to the office and the Advocates reviewed what they should expect. The courtroom filled to capacity for the hearing creating the need for available VW staff to attend and support family members as they address the court. Advocates continue to stay in communication after the conclusion of the trial in order to further address questions and needs.

State v Donna Jung and Helicia Morris-Jung

On January 8, 2016, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency received a referral from guidance counselor Denise Wirth, from the Emma Havens Young Elementary School in Brick Township, with regard to concerns for the welfare of an 8-year-old male, child H.L. According to the referral, the victim's 5-year-old sister, A.A, reported that she witnessed the victim's mother's paramour, Donna Jung strike H.L. on his lip causing bleeding. Furthermore, Ms. Wirth reported that H.L. was absent from school (January 5, 2016 to January 08, 2016). The victim's biological mother, Helecia Morris, stated that she took H.L. to the hospital for "behavior concerns" as per DCP&P. However, Ms. Wirth stated that when she contacted DCP&P she was informed that they did not have an open case with the family.

On January 9, 2016, Caseworker Daniel Transue from DCP&P along with officers from the Brick Township Police Department, arrived at the Morris/Jung residence, where Transue observed that H.L. was locked in his bedroom with no bed nor lighting. Moreover, duct tape was covering the baseboard heaters, the room smelled of urine, and only a pillow and blanket in the room. There were no toys or any furniture. Victim H.L. reported to Caseworker Transue that he eats all of his meals in his bedroom and that he is not allowed to play with his toys or sisters. In addition, H.L. reported that he spends all day and all night inside of his locked bedroom. On January 11, 2016,

Donna A. Jung and Helecia L. Morris-Jung were both arrested and each were charged with a 2nd degree Endangering the Welfare of a Minor.

Unfortunately, the defendants were shortly released on bail, and the victim was placed in foster care until it was discovered that the victim had grandparents, leading DCP&P to make arrangements for them to assume custody. When Victim Advocate Debra Giordano (DG) was contacted by the Grandparents, she immediately arranged for an initial contact meeting with the Assistant Prosecutor and remained in close contact throughout the duration of the case starting in 2016 and ending in a trial in 2023. She kept the family informed of all court hearing and outcomes, and was instrumental in assisting the family with specialized counselors that assist severely abused children. Throughout the several years, the case was often scheduled for trial, only to be adjourned due to cases that took precedence. DG dedicated many hours to H.L's case, explaining to his guardians the changes in the criminal justice system (Bail Reform Act) and empathizing with their frustration at the consequences those changes imposed on their Grandson's case.

Most recently in April and May of 2023, DG offered support to the victim and his Grandparents as they prepared for the case to finally go to trial. DG was instrumental in developing a rapport with H.L. and aiding him to open up in order for him to recall and discuss the abuse he had endured. DG was present when H.L. testified, and when a guilty verdict came in for both defendants. DG assisted the family prepare their impact letters and attended sentencing with the family on July 7, 2023.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

Economic Crimes Squad

The Economic Crime Squad of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office is comprised of two (2) Assistant Prosecutors, a Lieutenant, a Sergeant, and two (2) Detectives. The Economic 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 a scam victim.

The core function of the Economic Crime Squad remains the investigation and prosecution of financial crimes, often involving significant amounts of money. In 2023, there were several notable cases investigated and prosecuted by the Economic Crime Squad. In July 2023, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office and Plumstead Police Department charged Karly Simon-Sapp, a former bookkeeper of the New Jersey Apartment Association, with stealing over \$350,000 in monies from the association. Simon-Sapp subsequently pled guilty and is pending sentence, wherein the State is recommending a period of confinement in New Jersey State's Prison. Moreover, in August 2023, Adam Nevius of Coastal Restoration pled guilty to stealing funds from 18 homeowners who had contracted with his construction business to make repairs after Superstorm Sandy. Nevius was sentenced to a five-year period of incarceration as a result of the plea and ordered to pay back approximately \$500,000 in restitution.

Finally, in addition to investigative and prosecutorial work, members of the Economic Crimes Squad also spend considerable time educating our community about current scams and providing tools to prevent them. Specific effort is placed upon educating our 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 2023, ECS members educated our senior citizens and their families through nine (9) senior scam presentations, as well as social media postings, and other literature.

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!

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office acknowledges our senior citizen population here in Ocean County! Please stay vigilant against scams that target senior citizens. NEVER reveal ANY personal information over the phone...and when in doubt, JUST HANG UP!

High Tech Crime Squad

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office (OCPO) High Tech Crime Squad is comprised of one (1) Supervising Assistant Prosecutor, two (2) Sergeants, four (4) Detectives, one (1) Systems Analyst, one (1) part-time Analyst and one (1) Clerical.

The Detectives serve as both investigative staff and computer forensic examiners. Along with these duties each person assigned to the laboratory also serves an assigned accreditation role within the laboratory. The OCPO's Digital Forensic Lab is the first and only accredited non-federal digital forensic laboratory in the State of New Jersey.

This Squad provides technical assistance and support throughout the year. The HTCS also provides investigative assistance to the various units and local departments both during and after business hours. The Squad 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, Automatic License Plate Reader projects, 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.

HTCS triaged and/or managed 1,013 case records between duty referrals, investigations and forensics, an untold number of phones calls for investigative assistance and processed over 1,100 pieces of evidence, largely between four (4) people and one (1) sergeant. The Squad members accomplished this while maintaining the strict accreditation standards for the laboratory.

Below is an outline of the cases statistics for the past five (5) years for the laboratory and investigations.

FORENSIC EXAMINATIONS

2023

413 New Forensic Cases

124 carried over from 2022 to 2023

2022

369 New Forensic Cases

120 carried over from 2021 to 2022

2021

346 New Forensic Cases

78 carries over from 2020 to 2021

2020

290 New Forensic Cases

74 carried over from 2017 to 2018

2019

388 New Forensic Cases

50 carries over from 2018 to 2019

Breakdown Of The Nature Of The 2023 Forensic Cases

1 – Administrative	3 – DVR/Surveillance
19 – Aggravated Assault	1 – Eluding
1 – Animal Cruelty	1 – Extortion
7 – Arson	8 – Fatal Accident Support
0 – Auction Fraud	17 – Fraud
1 – Bank Robbery	0 – Gambling
1 – Bias Crime/Incident	11 – Homicide
1 – Bomb Threat	1 – Identity Theft
16 – Burglary	0 – In Custody Death
5 – Child Abuse	4 – Invasion of Privacy
24 – Child Pornography	0 – Loansharking
0 – Counterfeiting	2 – Luring or Enticing a Child
3 – Cyber Harassment	6 – Missing Person
66 – Death Investigation	46 – Narcotics
3 – Distribution of Obscenity to a Minor	1 – Official Misconduct
41 – Distribution of CDS	7 – Other
2 – Domestic Violence	1 – Police Involved Shootings

4 – Robbery

2 – Terroristic Threats

56 – Sexual Assault

23 – Theft

2 – Shoplifting

0 – Video Enhancement

3 – Stalking

9 – Weapons Offenses

3 – Suicide

**Note – total cases listed here is not exact match for total CF as case query includes submitted requests that were returned to submitting officer that were never generated into case files. Approximately 15 cases of the 413 submitted cases did not have crime types entered by the submitting officer. Additionally, 5 cases were submitted at the end of 2023 but were not generated into cases until 2024.*

Carried over cases are cases in process, needed lab reports completed or required technical or administrative review.

Duty Referral

2023

321 Duty Referrals

2022

266 Duty Referrals

2021

202 Duty Referrals

2020

129 Duty Referrals

2019

147 Duty Referrals

INVESTIGATIONS

2023

279 New investigations

11 arrests (12 search warrants, 7 adults, 4 juveniles arrested)

2 referred to MCPO, 1 referred to SVU, 1 referred to NJSP

2022

271 Investigations

5 Arrests

3 referred to other agency for prosecution

2021

140 Investigations

4 Arrests

2020

114 Investigation

7 Arrests

2019

158 Investigations

5 Arrests

Intelligence, 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, such as:

- 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
- OC Regional SWAT

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.

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 to facilitate a proactive Intelligence-led Policing model. The Squad 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 Squad also coordinates major multi-task events attended by various agencies to ensure a cooperative effort in creating a safe environment.

A substantial part of the Squad's 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.

Additional Programs Initiated in 2023:

- Initiated the use of Back Trace for information and Intelligence Support to include system administration responsibilities as well as user training and trouble shooting.
- Initiated Statewide County SWAT Organization.
- Point of contact for the AG Initiated Gun Violence Reduction Task Force (OC Gun Violence Intelligence Team).

- The Squad Supervisor was designated the ALPR assistant county coordinator during the implementation of the NJSNAP initiative headed by the NJSP designed to consolidate ALPR data statewide while providing central direction for compliance with ALPR related grants, directives, and best practices.
- OCPO Directive OCPO-2023-001 established to facilitate AG Directive 2020-11 regarding Jailhouse Informants. The Gangs / Intelligence / Homeland Security Squad created and implemented a system which has been designated as the centralized location within the OCPO wherein all records pertaining to any jailhouse informant whose testimony has been approved by the Prosecutor shall be maintained.
- Law Enforcement Directive LED-2023-018 established by the direction of the OAG to adhere to changes in the New Jersey State Parole Board notification policies and procedures. The Gangs / Intelligence / Homeland Security Squad created and implemented a system for receiving electronic parole release and address-change notifications which are subsequently distributed to the appropriate local law enforcement entity for intelligence purposes.

*****NOTE:** The future goal of the Squad is to continue building on previous accomplishments and liaise 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 reflects approximate 2023 County/Squad responses and statistics:

Tripwires:	52	DMI Conference Calls:	12
Major Details:	33	JTTF Board Meetings:	8
Target Hardening Details:	14	Military Base Conference Calls:	4
		Critical Infrastructure Advisory	
NJ SARS:	121	Board Meetings:	5
<u>See attached report for additional information</u>		ROIC CoreStat and StateStat Briefings:	102
		RDF Responses (Protests,	
Situational Awareness Incidents:	102	Demonstrations and large Gatherings)	
Site Assessments:	14	Civil Rights Protests/Demonstrations:	6
HSI & other OHSP Programs:	8	Newly Documented Gang Members,	
Specialized Training:	19	Associates, and Subjects:	533
Background Checks:	266	Intelligence Subject Files Updated:	3,705
Overdoses:	759	Documented Critical Incidents	
Fatal:	78	Criminal:	22
Special Events:	33	InfoShare Training Classes:	15
OSINT Requests:	10	Interns Assigned to Unit:	3

SWAT (Ocean County, Toms River, Lakewood, and Brick)

See attached reports for additional stats and breakdowns

Barricaded Subjects:	4	QFR/CAT:	8
No Knock Warrants:	0	UC Detail Coverage:	3
Knock and Announce:	75	Static Displays/Demos:	36
Total Search Warrants:	75	Quality of Life / High Visibility Patrols:	20
Man Hunts:	3		

Squad Structure

Gangs, Intelligence and Analysis Squad

The Intelligence Squad is responsible for gathering, analyzing, storing, and disseminating tactical and strategic information regarding potential threats and criminal activity, including both traditional and non-traditional organized crime and criminal street gangs while supporting criminal investigations conducted by local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. This includes information gathered through traditional police channels, as well as information from confidential sources and physical/electronic surveillance. These individuals and criminal enterprises are often integrally involved in narcotics and gun trafficking, violent crimes, intimidation, 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 proactively engages in cooperative investigations with local, county, state, and federal agencies. The Squad is also responsible for disseminating intelligence produced through the analysis of information which is specifically designed to support investigations conducted by units within OCPO and local law enforcement. Members of the Squad identify crime patterns,

criminals, and organizations engaged in activities which cross municipal borders. The investigative staff works closely with other agencies to combine resources in an effort to more quickly and efficiently apprehend these criminals. Some of the manners in which this is accomplished includes:

- Sharing of information at monthly police information sharing meetings;
- Various intelligence networks; and
- Regular interaction with local, state, county and federal law enforcement 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 as well as coordinating educational facility and house of worship site safety assessments. 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. The Squad 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 fifty-two (52) 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. The 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 Squad 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 naloxone was deployed or not, into OD Map. OD Map is an online platform that is overseen by the New Jersey State Police Drug Monitoring Initiative (NJSP DMI) that tracks and monitors all overdoses in the state. The Squad's Sergeant Petracca is the county coordinator for the program and liaison directly to the State Police and local departments to ensure the accuracy of the information entered into 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 Squads 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.

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 (NJOHSP)
- FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)
- Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE)
- Ocean County Department of Corrections
- Ocean County Department of Health
- New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
- State Department of Fish and Game
- US Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

- 87th Security Force Squadron Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst
- National Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) Lakehurst

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

Duties and Responsibilities of Staff

Sergeant

- Manage the overall operation of the unit
- Attend daily administrative meeting with unit 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 personnel working in the field
- Provide briefings to executive staff on critical incidents and potential threats
- 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
- Complete personnel periodic evaluations

Detectives

- Liaison to 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
- Coordinate and oversee all SWAT deployments throughout Ocean County
- 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 efficiently
- 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
- Administrator for TLO which is an investigative tool used throughout the office including adding new accounts and resetting passwords as needed
- Overdose Mapping Program Coordinator
- 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
- Add & update subjects into internal system as directed
- Parole Notifications
- CCH and DMV Requests
- Create and Maintain calendar of Squad's meetings, trainings and details
- 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 OFFENDER 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 (2) full-time Assistant Prosecutors (one dedicated for Recovery Court), a Sergeant, a full time Agent, and three (3) T-120 staff members, seven (7) volunteer veteran mentors and select undergraduate and graduate interns throughout the academic year. Additionally, two (2) years ago the SOU became a training site for PGY-2 psychiatry residents affiliated with Hackensack Meridian Health (HMH) and this past year the SOU 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 needed 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 the SOU and the providers, meet once a month to review all 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, there is constant communication with Bright Harbor Healthcare regarding the current and pending participants of 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 (1) 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 (1) year to monitor for recidivism.

The SOU 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 all together. 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 to the 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.

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.



What a great turnout on Friday, March 3, 2023, as Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer attended the "Shore to Age Well Health Fair," sponsored by the Berkeley Township Municipal Alliance. Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Special Offender's Unit staff were on hand to speak to members of the community about Operation Helping Hand! Thank you to everyone that attended!

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 2023, SOU 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 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**. OCPO's 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 instrumental in the development of the Michael Camillus Program and tasked with ensuring it remains organized and runs smoothly. 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. The third cohort of students began in January 2023, and graduated 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 and Ocean County College, OCPO can fight the stigma together and protect our community as a whole, both civilians and law enforcement officers.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to address the graduates of the second 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 by OCPO's 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!

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 a final mass training on March 27 and 28 at Ocean County College 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. SOU hosted CIT trainings in August and December of 2023.

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 (2) psychiatry residents within OCPO's Special Offenders Unit in one (1) to two (2) 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 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 expanded 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 five (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.

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, five (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 two (2) years ago. Any police office 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 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 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 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.

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 person 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 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 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.”

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 of children and adults, physical abuse of children, abandonment, neglect of children as well as human trafficking. 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; two (2) Assistant Prosecutors; one (1) Captain; one (1) Lieutenant; one (1) Sergeant; six (6) Detectives (one is bilingual); one (1) system analyst; one (1) Victim Witness Advocate; one (1) CAC Manager/MDT Coordinator; one (1) Forensic Nurse Examiner Coordinator (FNE); one (1) Forensic Nurse Examiner Assistant; one (1) bilingual agent; one (1) bilingual clerical staff member and one (1) bilingual patrol officer who is on loan to this office from the Lakewood Township Police Department. There are also 16 Forensic Nurses on call seven (7) days a week, 24 hours a day.



Domestic Violence/Weapons Squad

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Domestic Violence and Weapons Forfeiture Squad 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 2023 was primarily responsible for:

- Screening and review of all domestic violence matters;
- Prosecuting many indictable domestic violence cases with defendants at liberty at early disposition conferences;
- Prosecuting all non-indictable contempt cases that are 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 background investigations on individuals whose weapons were seized pursuant to law, as well as obtaining victim input when appropriate; ;
- Filing petitions to forfeit weapons that have been seized by or surrendered to local law enforcement agencies for reasons including but not limited to: 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 to the Superior Court for Retail Firearm Licenses and Name Changes; and
- Assisting local law enforcement agencies with weapon and firearm related inquiries.

Prior to the statutory change in the application process, the Weapons Forfeiture Squad also reviewed applications for Carry Permits which were submitted to the Superior Court.

For most of 2023, the Domestic Violence and Weapons Forfeiture Squad was comprised of the Chief Juvenile/Domestic Violence Attorney, one (1) Supervising Assistant Prosecutor, two (2) Assistant Prosecutors, a Sergeant, three (3) Detectives (two (2) domestic violence contempt and one indictable), two (2) agents (one (1) weapons and one (1) domestic violence screening), two (2) Clerks, one (1) Supervising Victim Witness Advocate, and one (1) Victim Witness Advocate. The Chief of the Squad was responsible for the overall supervision and administration of the Squad. The Assistant Prosecutors were responsible for all of the contempt matters and the Squad's early disposition conferences, while the Supervising Assistant Prosecutor was assigned to handle all weapons matters, including personal weapons seized from police officers. The investigative staff screened all new cases, prepared cases for both the weapons and domestic violence calendars, and handled follow-up investigation as necessary.

The Domestic Violence Squad Victim Witness Advocates facilitated contact between the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office staff and victims of domestic violence, as well as witnesses. The advocates also provided in-court support for victims and witnesses, along with information regarding services and case status. The Clerks managed both the Domestic Violence and Weapons

Forfeiture court calendars; assisted with the preparation of court filings, mailings, and discovery; and completed various other tasks.

The personnel in the Squad also participated in various liaison roles, including state and local Domestic Violence Working Groups, and collaborated with local shelters and victim advocacy groups. The Squad co-chaired the Ocean County Domestic Violence Working Group, working to address and resolve various local issues and obtain important speakers for the quarterly meetings. In July 2023, the Prosecutor's Office Executive as well as Domestic Violence Squad staff attended a groundbreaking event for an expansion of Catholic Charities Providence House. In October 2023, Squad staff attended the Annual Ocean Partnership For Children Candlelight Vigil in Recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Squad Chief Assistant Prosecutor spoke, as well as various community partners. 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 provided lectures on domestic violence to the community, schools, and police departments.

Members of the Squad seek specialized training regarding domestic violence and ensure local police departments are aware of specialized training. The Squad members care deeply about victims and each of their individual circumstances. They 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 ensure the ODARA is completed correctly and properly submitted to all the appropriate agencies.

Megan's Law Squad

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. The Squad is responsible for the county's population which exceeds over 576,567 people with respect to over 702 sex offenders. The Unit is comprised of one (1) Chief Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Assistant Prosecutor, one (1) Lieutenant, one (1) Sergeant, one (1) Detective and one (1) Administrative Assistant.

The Squad 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 Squad 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 with a 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 2023, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Megan's Law Squad processed 1,034 sex offender registrations, 457 community notifications were distributed, 282 address verifications were conducted and 39 failure to register complaints were signed throughout the county.

The Squad 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 the Squad has caused the New Jersey State Parole to attempt to implement this partnership statewide with all County Prosecutor's Offices. The Squad 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.

Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)

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 in order to prevent additional emotional trauma experienced by sexual assault survivors. Utilizing a victim centered approach to sexual assault, allows the needs of the victim to take precedence, and ensures the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in nonjudgmental manner. SART follows statewide protocols designed to improve services to victims including forensic physical examinations and evidence collection. Moreover, SART provides victims with appropriate referrals, 24 hour a day, 365 days a year. SART collaborates with other agencies in an effort to educate the public with regard to on the program as well as issues facing society such as human trafficking, strangulation, and sexually transmitted infection.

The SART team consists of a Forensic Nurse Examiner (FNE), Law Enforcement Officers from local municipalities and Detectives from the Special Victim Unit 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 to address important issues surrounding the collection of medical and legal information, and physical evidence.

During the year 2023, the Ocean County SART team responded to 91 victims. This encompassed the following:

- 12 pediatric victims (< 12 years old); and

- 79 adult/adolescent victims (>13 years old) activations.

Breathe Team (DVSRT) FNE Program 2023

On October 1, 2021, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office became the second county to receive funding for a pilot program enabling FNEs to perform forensic medical examinations for Domestic Violence victims that experience strangulation/smothering. Ocean County developed a Domestic Violence Strangulation Response Team (DVSRT). This team similarly to SART, provides a victim centered approach to Domestic Violence acts of strangulation, allowing the needs of the victim to take precedence. This approach allows the focus to be on the needs and concerns of a victim to ensure the compassionate and sensitive delivery of services in a nonjudgmental manner. We have developed protocols and procedures designed to provide services to victims including forensic physical examinations and photo documentation of injuries. DVSRT provides victims with appropriate referrals. These services are provided 24 hour a day, 365 days a year. DVSRT collaborates with other agencies in an effort to educate the public with regard to the program.

Decreased oxygen to the brain, even for short periods of time, has been demonstrated to be extremely dangerous with potential long-term consequences. These very dangerous incidents go unrecognized or under documented by first responders, law enforcement officers, health care providers, and social services personnel.

Strangulation has been identified as one of the most lethal forms of interpersonal violence. More than half of the time signs of strangulation are not visible, and symptoms are often overlooked. These can include hoarseness/sore throat, not being able to swallow, shortness of breath, and even lapses in their memory. Some additional nonobvious signs include incontinence, loss of hearing, and mood changes. Research clearly identifies strangulation as an early warning indicator of

impending homicide. The documentation of the interrelationship between strangulation, intimate partner violence, and sexual assault demonstrates 47-68% of women who reported domestic violence also reported one or more strangulation events (Stapczynski, 2010; Smith, Mills, & Taliaferro, 2001). Women who have been strangled are 7-8 times more likely to be murdered by their abuser. Although women are more often victimized than men, there are no age, gender or socio-economic boundaries to this type of violence.

During the year 2023, the Ocean County DVSRT team responded to 55 victims. This encompassed the following:

- 4 pediatric victims (< 18 years old); and
- 51 adult/adolescent victims (>18 years old) activations.

We have experienced a steady increase in activations for there has been an increase in public awareness about this specialized team.

Note: Due to the public's amplified awareness of this specialized program, there has been a steady increase of the team's activations.

Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Squad

The members of the Special Victims Unit are specially trained to conduct investigations regarding sexual assault, as well as investigations into physical abuse, abandonment, neglect of children and human trafficking. 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 Special Victims Unit's focus this past year was to better service the Hispanic community of Ocean County. We entered into a partnership with the Lakewood Township Police Department to take on a Spanish speaking, bilingual officer, whereby the officer was trained in conducting sexual assault and child abuse investigations. Additionally, the Squads invested grant funding thus providing said officer with quality courses which enhanced investigative skills.

The Special Victim's Unit continues to be a high volume unit that handles over 300 active cases annually, in addition to screening countless intelligence referrals. The Child Advocacy Center 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 have been assisted by the Tina's House staff. OCPO's Special Victims Unit will continue to thoroughly investigate allegations of sexual assault and child abuse, participate in community outreach and advocate for the most vulnerable members of our community.

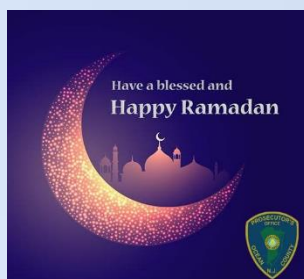
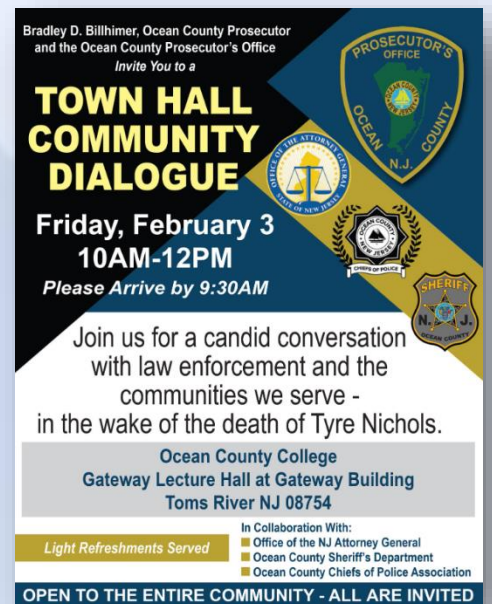
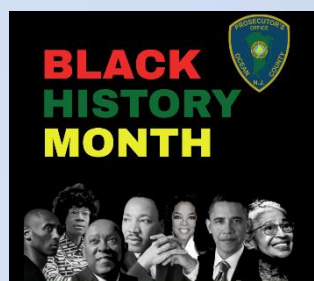
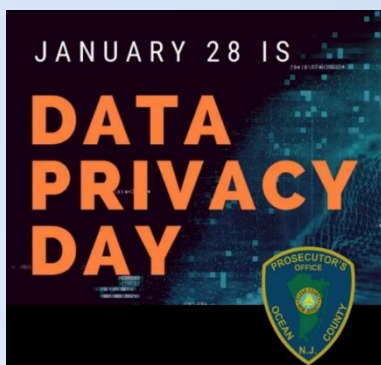
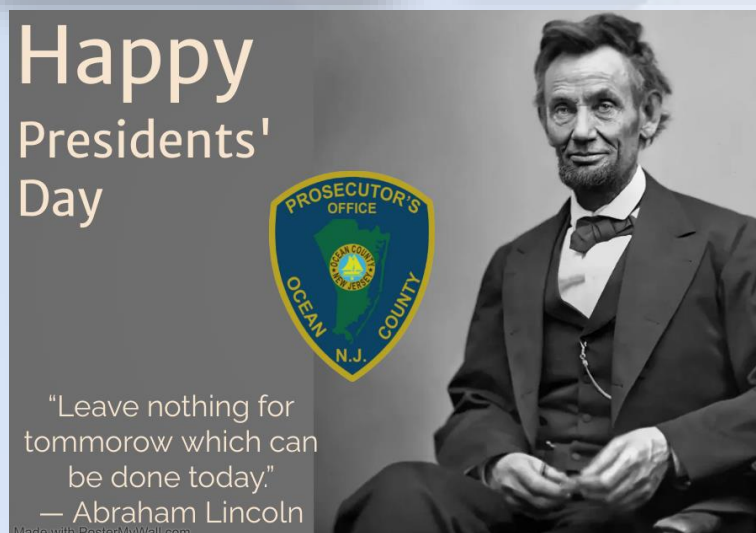
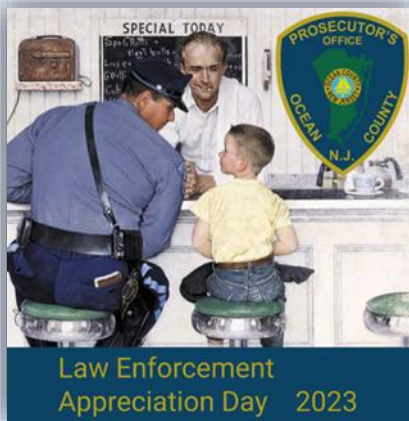
TRIAL UNIT

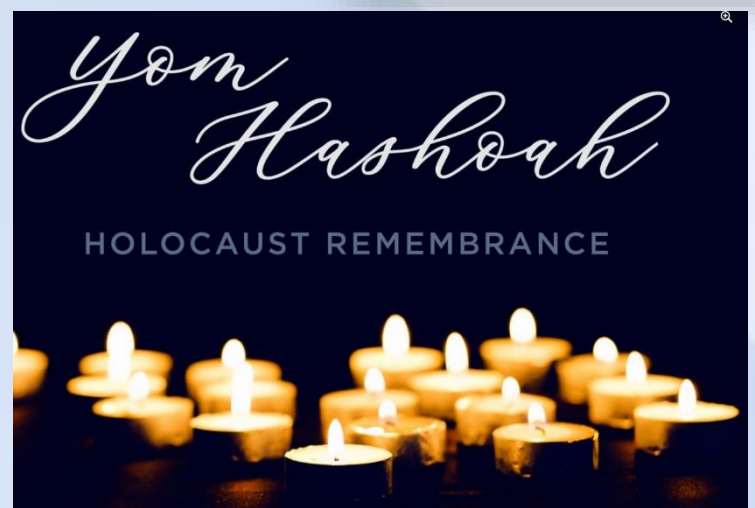
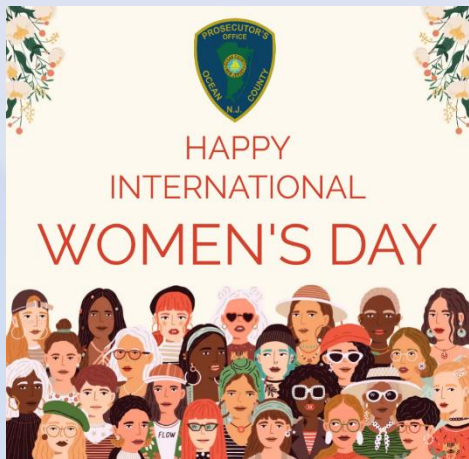
The Trial Unit's goal is to promote justice through the effective and expedient resolution of criminal matters impacting both victims individually, as well as the public generally. At present, this section is staffed by three trial teams of assistant prosecutors who are primarily responsible for the 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 all defendants with first or second degree charges or who are incarcerated, 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 section contains the largest legal staff in the Prosecutor's Office, and operates under the direction of the Chief Trial Attorney.

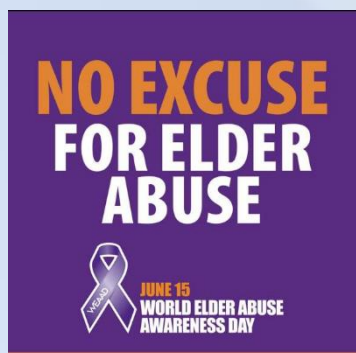
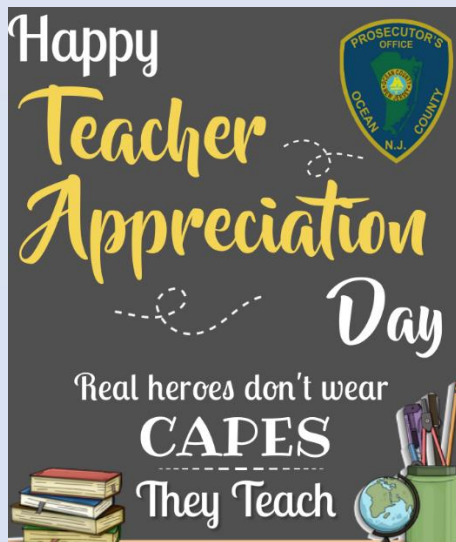
The Trial Section is supported in its investigations and witness preparations by the trial detectives. The trial detectives perform all of the post-indictment investigation which is required. This can take the form of obtaining documents, evidence, statements of witnesses, and any additional information 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 four (4) trial detectives assigned to the Trial Section who are supervised by a Sergeant.

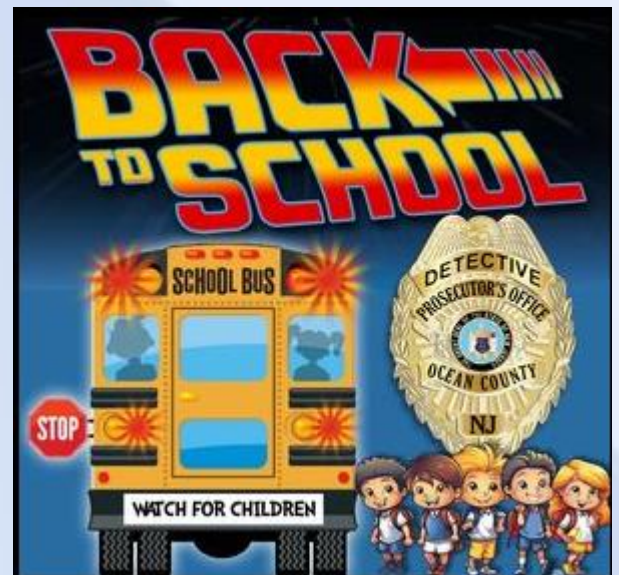
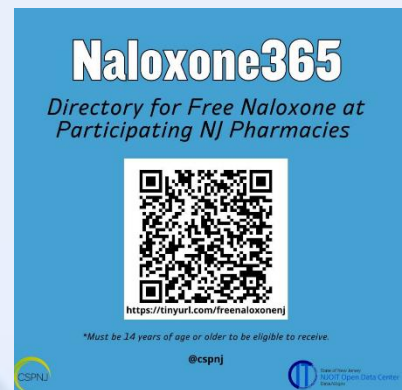
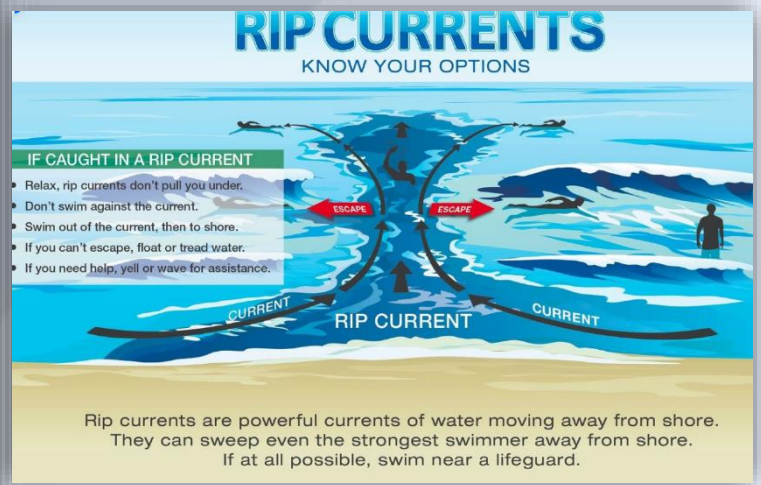
Occasionally, certain cases involving crimes of the first and second degree, as well as crimes of violence, are assigned to an assistant prosecutor for vertical prosecution prior to indictment in order to foster stability and consistency of representation for the victims as close to the initiation of 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 Squads, Vehicular Homicide Squad, Bias Crimes, Animal Cruelty, Computer Crimes, and Human Trafficking, all of which are crimes that are prosecuted vertically.

Significant cases during 2023 include: State v. Sullivan and Jones, murder and weapons charges (guilty on all counts), State v. Pillarella, aggravated manslaughter and aggravated assaulted (guilty on manslaughter and assault by auto), State v. Jung and Morris, child endangerment (guilty all counts), and State v. Waters, aggravated sexual assault and sexual assault (convicted on all counts).











You Are Invited To Join Us

OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY
Thursday, August 31st
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
 501 Boardwalk at the corner of
 Arnold Ave. & Ocean Ave.,
 Pt. Pleasant Beach

FREE GIVEAWAYS

The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, The Ocean County Health Department, Hope Sheds Light, Bright Harbor Healthcare and Pt. Pleasant Beach PD 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!

Bradley D. Billhimer
 Ocean County Prosecutor

WORLD SUICIDE PREVENTION DAY 10 SEP

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

PROSECUTOR BRADLEY D. BILLHIMER & THE OCEAN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE VICTIM WITNESS UNIT

INVITE YOU TO THE 2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WALK

Moving Forward Together

SEASIDE HEIGHTS BOARDWALK
 Check in at 9:30AM
 Group Walk Starts at 10:30AM
 T-Shirts to the first 100 Registrants
 Day of Registration Available

SEPT | 30th | 2023
 Hieing Ave. Boardwalk
 Seaside Heights, NJ 08751

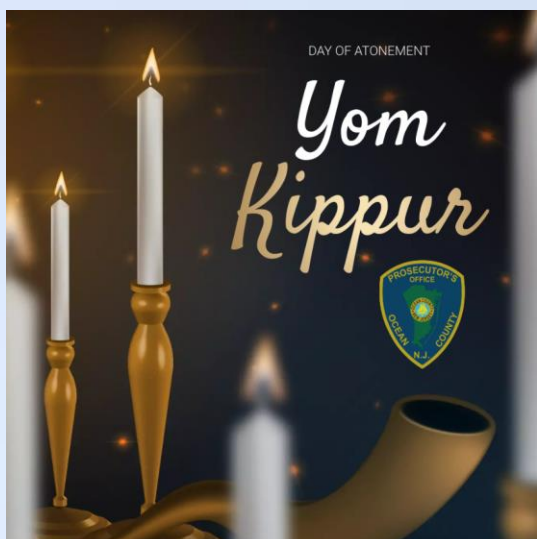
For this **FREE** event, we invite crime victims, survivors, their family and friends out to help raise awareness for victims' rights in Ocean County and show support for all victims of crime.

Learn about community resources by visiting vendor tables featuring service providers who work directly with victims and survivors of crime in Ocean County.

Pre-Register at <https://ocponj.gov/ncvrw-walk>

This project was partially supported by VOCA V-15-21, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, and the U.S. Department of Justice





Quick tips for preventing car theft.



Park in well lit areas.



Close and lock all windows and doors.



Never leave your vehicle while it's running.



Don't leave keys or valuables in your vehicle.

The Ocean County Hispanic Heritage Month Fair

Hosted By **Bradley D. Billhimer, Ocean County Prosecutor**
The Ocean County Prosecutor's Office
 Jersey Shore BlueClaws
 Lakewood Police Department

FREE!
 • Admission
 • Give-Aways
 • Parking

SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY
 OCTOBER 7th, 2023**
 Location - ShoreTown Ballpark
 Time - 10am to 2pm

Meet Buster!
 Food, Beverages
 & Live Music!

Jersey Shore BlueClaws | 2 Stadium Way, Lakewood, New Jersey 08701
 Tel: 732.991.7800 | Fax: 732.991.3907 | www.BlueClaws.com
 For More Information contact Melissa Rose | Email: MRose@cco.ocean.nj.us

**Nosh with a Cop
 Lakewood**

Join us for a Nosh with a Cop and casual conversation with your State and local law enforcement at our upcoming "NOSH WITH A COP" event!

DATE: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 | **TIME:** 9am-12pm
LOCATION: The French Press Coffee Roasters Southside,
 939 River Avenue, Lakewood

Questions? Contact
 New Jersey State Police Trooper Mudduser.Malik@njsp.gov,
 NJOHSP Detective EChaudhry@njohsp.gov

Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer
 Invites You To Participate In The

**DEA NATIONAL^{Rx}
 TAKEBACK**

LOST
STOLEN
MISUSED

**SATURDAY
 October 28, 2023
 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.



Learn more about...

Ocean County resources for residents with substance use disorder including:

How to Access Treatment, Family Support, and other local programs.

Free Narcan Kits and Training Available

WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 1st
6PM - 8PM

Silver Ridge Park West Clubhouse
145 Westbrook Drive • Toms River

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 13th
6PM - 8PM

Berkeley Township Recreation Bldg.
630 Route 9 • Bayville

Any questions, please email Tier@btpdnj.org

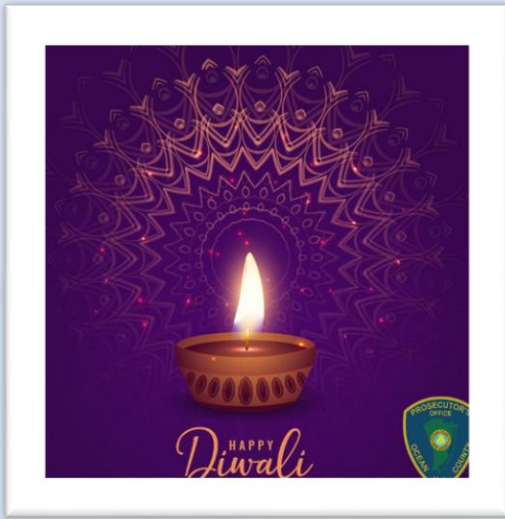


NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS DAY



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!





End of an Era



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!

Congratulations Chief Assistant Prosecutor William Porter on his retirement from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Chief Porter began his career in public service with the New Jersey Department of Criminal Justice as a Deputy Attorney General before joining OCPO in 2003. Chief Porter spent the majority of his distinguished career with the Major Crime Unit and the Ocean County Narcotics Strike Force. A skilled trial attorney, Chief Porter has tried some of the most important cases in the history of the office. A mentor to many young Assistant Prosecutors, Chief Porter will certainly be missed.



Congratulations Chief Porter on your well-deserved retirement!



Congratulations Sergeant Adam Sennick on his retirement from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Sgt. Sennick began his career with the New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife as a Conservation Officer before joining OCPO in 2007. During

his career here at OCPO he has served in the Grand Jury Unit, Special Victims Unit, Narcotics Strike Force and most recently in the Domestic Violence/Weapons/ Animal Cruelty Unit. In 2019 Sgt. Sennick was appointed the Chief Humane Law Enforcement Officer for the office. Congratulations Sgt. Sennick and good luck with the next chapter of your life!



Congratulations to Lieutenant Sandra Rodriguez on her retirement from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Lt. Rodriguez began her law enforcement career as an Agent with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office before joining OCPO in 1999. During her career here at OCPO, Lt. Rodriguez served in the Major Crime Unit, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force, Special Investigations Unit, Megan's Law Unit and Juvenile Unit.

Most recently, Lt. Rodriguez supervised the Trial and Grand Jury Units.

Thank you Lt. Rodriguez for your service. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement and best of luck on the next chapter of your life!

Congratulations to Lieutenant Brian Haggerty on his retirement from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Lt. Haggerty began his career with the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice as an Investigator before joining OCPO in 2006. During his career here at OCPO he has served in the Grand Jury Unit, Special Victim's Unit, Major Crime Unit, Megan's Law Unit and most recently the Administrative Unit. Thank you Lt. Haggerty for your service to the citizens of New Jersey. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement and best of luck on the next chapter of your life!



Promotions Captain



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer congratulates OCPO Lieutenant Thomas Tiernan on his promotion to Captain! Captain Tiernan began his law enforcement career as a State Investigator with the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice in 2002 before joining OCPO in 2006. He currently oversees the Special Investigations Unit, High Tech Crime Squad, Economic Crime Squad and the Gangs/ Intelligence/Homeland Security Squad. Congratulations Captain Tiernan on your well-deserved promotion!

Lieutenant



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer congratulates OCPO Sergeant Raymond Gardner on his promotion to Lieutenant! Lt. Gardner began his law enforcement career as a State Investigator with the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice in 1999 before joining OCPO in 2007. He currently supervises the Professional Standards/Corruption Squad and the Economic Crime Squad. Congratulations Lt. Gardner on your well-deserved promotion!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer congratulates OCPO Sergeant John Argento on his promotion to Lieutenant! Lt. Argento began his law enforcement career with the Bay Head Police Department in 2001 before joining OCPO in 2004. He currently oversees the Megan's Law Squad and the Domestic Violence/Weapons/Animal Cruelty Squad. Congratulations Lt. Argento on your well-deserved promotion!

Sergeant



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer congratulates OCPO Detective Stephanie Bayha on her promotion to Sergeant! Sergeant Bayha began her career here at OCPO in 2008 as a Clerk/Typist before becoming a Detective in 2010. Sergeant Bayha currently serves in the Special Victims Unit. Congratulations Sergeant Bayha on your well-deserved promotion!

Welcome to OCPO



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer is proud to welcome Detective Kyle Richardella to OCPO! Detective Richardella is currently assigned to the Administration Unit and will be attending the NJ Division of Criminal Justice Academy in January! Welcome aboard!

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer is proud to welcome Detective Joseph Hynes to OCPO! Detective Hynes began his law enforcement career as a Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II with the Point Pleasant Borough Police Department. Detective Hynes is currently assigned to the Administration Unit. Welcome to the Office Detective Hynes!





We are proud to welcome Detective Erica Bonfiglio to OCPO! Detective Bonfiglio began her law enforcement career with the Somers Point Police Department before joining the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department. She will be assigned to the Administration Unit here at OCPO. Welcome to the Office Detective Bonfiglio!

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer is proud to welcome Detective Cassidy Gobel to OCPO! Detective Gobel will be attending the NJ Division of Criminal Justice Academy in July! Welcome aboard!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer is proud to welcome Detective George Malast to the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! Detective Malast will be attending the NJ Division of Criminal Justice Academy in July! Welcome to OCPO!

OCPO in the Community



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer recently hosted a Town Hall Community Dialogue on the death of Tyre Nichols in Memphis, TN. Prosecutor Billhimer was joined by New Jersey Attorney General Matt Platkin and law enforcement executives from across Ocean County for a candid conversation on law enforcement's relationship with the communities we serve. The Town Hall Community Dialogue was a collaborative endeavor between the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, the Ocean County Sheriff's Office and the Ocean County Police Chiefs Association.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was recently honored by the New Jersey Bias Crimes Officers Association with their most prestigious award - the Thomas E. Culp, Sr. Exceptional Leadership Award! The NJ Bias Crimes Officers Association cited Prosecutor Billhimer's leadership in standing up to hate in all of its insidious forms throughout Ocean County and his ongoing efforts to build relationships between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Prosecutor Billhimer's work in this area was recognized by the men and women in law enforcement – a tremendous honor. Thank you to NJ Bias Crime Officers Association President Dave D'Amico for your tireless work in making New Jersey a safer and more inclusive place to live.



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Detectives Janine Kaiser and Stephen Shadiak joined Agent Michael Colwell to speak to students at Brick Township High School about internet safety, cyberbullying and making good decisions. Thank you to BTHS Student Assistance Counselor Lori Roland for the invitation to speak with the students!

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to participate in the roundtable discussion at the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Interfaith Advisory Council Winter Meeting at The College of New Jersey. The purpose of the NJOHSP Interfaith Advisory Council is to strengthen relationships between law enforcement and faith-based groups to build safer, more secure communities in New Jersey.



the students!

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Sergeant Taryn Ritacco and Agent Michael Colwell joined OCPO Victim/Witness Advocates Kelsey Hoban and Brooke Miranda to speak to Pinelands Regional Junior High School students about cyberbullying and internet safety. The speakers had a chance to meet the students and answer some great questions! Thanks to Anti-Bullying Coordinator Melissa Thompson for the invitation to speak to

We are on pace to speak to students in over 100 schools across Ocean County! Recently, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Assistant Prosecutor Taylor Toscano and Lt. Thomas Tiernan met with sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at St. Dominic's School in Brick Township. AP Toscano and Lt. Tiernan spoke to the students about internet safety, the dangers of social media and cyberbullying. Thank you to Principal Tonkovich for the invitation to speak to the students and a special thank you to all the students who sent us the great thank you cards!

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was happy to speak residents of the Lake Ridge Homeowner's



Association in Toms River on a variety of topics. The Prosecutor was joined by Detectives and Assistant Prosecutors from OCPO's Economic Crime Unit to update the residents on the latest frauds and scams targeting seniors in Ocean County. We were able to give the residents some good advice to protect themselves from being targeted by scammers.

Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Senior Assistant Prosecutor Jamie Schron and Assistant Prosecutor Kaitlyn Burke spoke to fifth-grade students at North Dover Elementary School about the dangers of social media, cyberbullying and the importance of exercising good judgment when it comes to how they interact with others online and in school. Thank you to Principal Colleen McGrath for the invitation to speak to the students!



Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Sergeant Taryn Ritacco Schwartz, Agent Michael Colwell and Senior Victim Witness Advocate Debra Giordano spoke to fifth grade students at Switlik Elementary School in Jackson Township about the dangers of social media, cyberbullying and the importance of exercising

good judgment when it comes to how they interact with others online and in school. Thank you to Principal Dr. Michael Raymond for the invitation to speak to the students!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer , Meghan Corrigan, Director of Adult Clinical Services for Bright Harbor Healthcare and Chief James Hawkins of the Little Egg Harbor Township Police Department participated in a panel discussion about the collaboration and partnership between law enforcement and social workers at The Great Hall Auditorium at Monmouth University. The panel discussed the success of the On P.O.I.N.T. Program in Ocean County. On P.O.I.N.T. (Proactive Outreach In Needs in Treatment) embeds social workers in police departments to collaborate with officers to address the needs of the community when responding to mental health, substance abuse and social service related calls.

In our continuing effort to speak to students across Ocean County, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Agent Michael Colwell and Victim Witness Advocate Brooke Miranda spoke to students at Donovan Catholic High School about cyberbullying, internet safety and making smart choices. Ms. Miranda, an alumnus of Donovan Catholic, enjoyed returning to the school to speak to the students about these important topics. Thank you to Principal Jillian Kelly for the invitation to meet the students!





Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Sergeant Taryn Ritacco Schwartz and Agent Michael Colwell spoke to students at Point Pleasant Borough Middle School about the dangers of social media, cyberbullying and the importance of exercising good judgment when it comes to how they interact with others online and in school. Thank you to Principal Gary Floyd for the invitation to speak to the students!



On April 13, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington joined law enforcement officials from throughout New Jersey at the Muslim American Law Enforcement Association's (MALEA) 3rd Annual Ramadan Iftar Dinner at Masjid Al-Wali in Edison NJ. Thank you to Lt. Kamil Warraich of the Asbury Park Police Department MALEA President for the invitation to attend this great event! Ramadan Mubarak.



We are on pace to speak to students in over 100 schools across Ocean County before the end of this school year! Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Sergeant Taryn Ritacco Schwartz and Agent Michael Colwell spoke to 4th and 5th grade students at Walnut Street Elementary School in Toms River about internet safety, cyberbullying and about exercising good judgment when it comes to how they interact with others online or in school. The students had some great questions! Thank you to Principal Kevin McCann for the invitation to speak to the students!

Thank you to everyone that participated in the Annual National Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Prescription Drug Take Back Day on Saturday, April 22, 2023! Our collection site, located in front of the Ocean County Justice Complex, safely disposed of 82 pounds of unwanted or outdated medications. Thank you for making DEA Take Back 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>



In our continuing effort to speak to students across Ocean County, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Agent Michael Colwell, Senior Victim Witness Advocate Debra Giordano, Victim Witness Advocate Kelsey Hoban and Victim Witness Advocate Brooke Miranda spoke to students at Pinelands Regional High School about

cyberbullying, internet safety and making smart choices. Thank you to Principal Troy Henderson for the invitation to meet the students!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr. and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington joined law enforcement officials from across New Jersey at “A Proper Tribute,” a service to honor First Responders who lost their lives as a result from Covid-19. The 45 public safety officials honored included OCPO’s very own Agent Gerard Eick who passed away on September 28, 2021. The ceremony began with a rousing rendition of the National Anthem performed by OCPO Sergeant Melissa Rose. Thank you to County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey; New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police; New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association; New Jersey Concerns of Police Survivors; New Jersey County Jail Wardens Association; New Jersey Firefighters Mutual Benevolent Association; New Jersey Fraternal Order of Police; New Jersey State Policemen’s Benevolent Association; New Jersey State Troopers Superior Officers’ Association; New Jersey Survivors of the Triangle; Police Unity Tour; Professional Firefighters Association of New Jersey; Sheriffs Association of New Jersey; State Troopers NCO Association; State Troopers Fraternal Association for giving these heroes the proper ceremony they deserve.

We had a great day for “Bring Your Child to Work Day.” It was a fun filled day at the Ocean County Prosecutor’s Office as we partnered with the Ocean County Sheriff’s Office and the Ocean County Department of Corrections to provide a unique experience and a glimpse of what we do every day! Thank you to Bethanie Adams for putting together a great day of activities for the kids!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to attend the annual Ocean County Bar Association (OCBA) Law Day Ceremony in Historic Courtroom One at the Ocean County Courthouse. The theme for this year’s Law Day was “Cornerstones of Democracy: Civics, Civility and Collaboration” and the program featured the Honorable Marlene Lynch Ford, A.J.S.C. (retired) as Keynote Speaker. Musical selections were provided by selected musicians from the Toms River High Schools. The Jackson Memorial High School Mock Trial Team was recognized as the winner of the OCBA Mock Trial Competition. The 42nd Annual OCBA Officers & Trustees Law Day Awards were presented; the Claire M. Calinda Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to the Honorable Vincent J. Grasso, A.J.S.C. (ret.), the Excellence in the Administration of Justice Award was presented to the Honorable Marlene Lynch Ford, A.J.S.C. (ret.), the Citizenship Award was presented to New Jersey State Senator Christopher J.

Connors and the John M. Hoffman Young Lawyer Award was presented to Ocean County Assistant Prosecutor Kaitlyn Pennypacker. Prosecutor Billhimer was honored to present AP Pennypacker with her award. Thank you to the OCBA and Law Day Chairs Linda M. Kelly and Adam Steuerman.



On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to attend the Unsung Hero Student Recognition Awards, held at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena. The event was sponsored by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Ocean County Executive County Superintendent of Schools and Ocean County Association of School Administrators and honored students from 28 schools throughout Ocean County who were recognized as "Unsung Heroes." These students have overcome obstacles, persevered in the face of a great challenge or have made huge strides academically! Teachers and administrators from every school in Ocean County were able to select an "Unsung Hero." Special thanks to Toms River Superintendent of Schools Michael Citta and his staff for their assistance in this great event. Over the next few weeks we will be

introducing you to this great group of students. Stay tuned!
Pictured are Prosecutor Billhimer and Superintendent Citta.

On May 10, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office First Assistant Prosecutor Michael T. Nolan, Jr. and Chief of Detectives Anthony Carrington were honored to attend the Ocean County Police Academy Special Law Enforcement Officer II Graduation Ceremony for Class #52. Thirty-five Police Officers representing nine Police Departments graduated! Congratulations to Officer Trevor Fox of the Long Beach Township Police Department, son of OCPO Capt. Dave Fox and Officer Patrick Fullerton of the Seaside Heights Police Department, son of OCPO Chief Clerk Becky Fullerton on their graduation! Congratulations to all the graduates and their families! Thank you to all of the instructors at the Ocean County Police Academy!





Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Robert Armstrong and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were honored to attend the 32nd Annual Ocean County Law Enforcement Memorial Day Observance, held at the Ocean County Police Academy in Lakewood. The Memorial, hosted by the Ocean County Chiefs of Police Association, commemorates Police Officers that have fallen or been disabled in the line of duty. Since 1927 there have been twenty Ocean County Law Enforcement Officers that have died in the line of duty. This year two more names were added to the Memorial, Captain Joseph Goertz, of the Lakewood Police Department who passed away on October 31, 2021, and Sergeant Matthew

Horton, of the Ocean County Sheriff's Office who passed away on February 22, 2022.

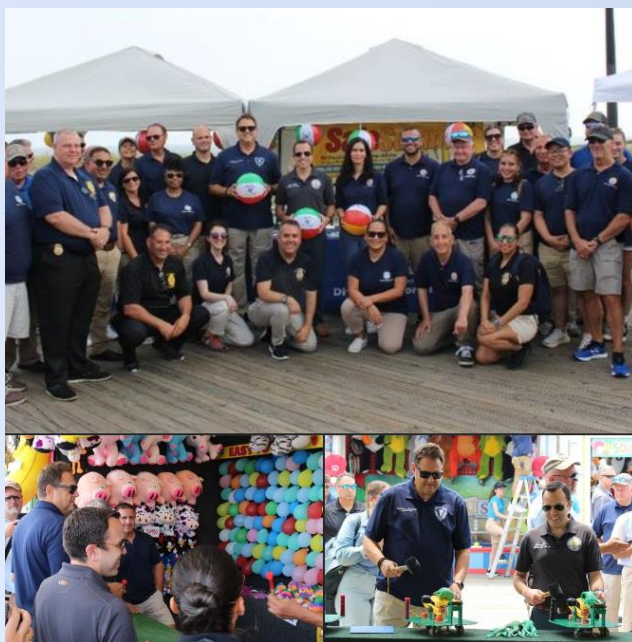
This Memorial is the culmination of National Police Week, a week where we all pay tribute to law enforcement officers and their families everywhere who have made the ultimate sacrifice.



Congratulations to our very own Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Renee White who received the Trainer of the Year Award from the Crisis Intervention Team–NJ (CIT-NJ) Center of Excellence. SAP White was recognized for her work in developing and delivering Crisis Intervention Training to first responders and mental health professionals across New Jersey. A two-time winner of this award, SAP White is also an R.N., FN-CSA (forensic nurse, certified in sexual assault), a FNP-BC (family nurse practitioner) and a relentless advocate for the collaboration of law enforcement and mental health professionals! Congratulations SAP White on your well-deserved award!



It was a great morning on Friday, June 9, 2023, as members of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in the 40th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics New Jersey! More than 3,000 officers across New Jersey took to the streets of their local communities, to run and raise awareness for Special Olympics New Jersey. Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were proud to support their effort!



On Friday, June 21, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer joined New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin, Division of Consumer Affairs Acting Director Cari Fais and Seaside Heights Police Chief Thomas Boyd on the Seaside Heights boardwalk to kickoff Safe Summer 2023. They were joined by the Ocean County Department of Consumer Affairs and Ocean County Division of Weights and Measures in an effort to make sure the boardwalk arcades and games of chance are fair for everyone that spends their hard-earned money at the Jersey Shore.

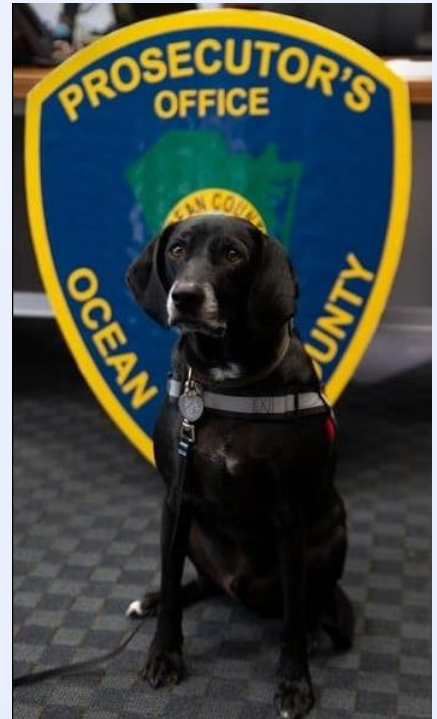
Jersey police officers that perished in the line of duty to the 16th Annual Monsignor Philip Lowery Law Enforcement Survivors Day at Breakwater Beach and Casino Pier in Seaside Heights. Monsignor Philip Lowery, the beloved New Jersey State Police Chief of Chaplains, passed away in November 2019. New Jersey Attorney General Matthew Platkin and, Lt. Colonel Jeanne Hengemuhle of the New Jersey State Police were also on hand to welcome the families – special thanks to the Storino family for hosting this wonderful event!



On August 1, 2023, 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. Detective Thomas Scalzullo and Agent Robert Surtees of the Ocean County Prosecutor's office had the opportunity to meet with residents of Brick Township. Thank you to all the police departments that participated and everyone who came out to say hello!



On August 8, 2023, the Barnegat Township Police Department held their 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. Representatives from the Ocean County Prosecutors Office were on hand to join in on the fun. Thank you to everyone who came out to say hello!



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!



On August 23, 2023, 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!



In observance of Overdose Awareness Day, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was joined by Director of the Ocean County Board of Commissioners Director Joseph Vicari, Commissioner Virginia Haines, Commissioner Gary Quinn, Commissioner Barbara Jo Crea and members of the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office on Thursday, August 31, 2023. We all wore purple to honor the loved ones we have lost in an effort to reduce the stigma of opioid abuse and substance abuse disorder. To honor those that have perished from fatal overdoses, the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office planted a purple pinwheel garden in front of office. Each pinwheel represented an individual lost to a fatal overdose in Ocean County since the beginning of 2023. All of us here at the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office remain committed to providing the residents of Ocean County every available resource in the battle against opioid abuse and substance abuse disorder. [#weareallinthistogether](#)

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer, Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington and representatives from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office were honored to attend the Annual Toms River Township Police Department Summer Night Out featuring Around the World in Toms River! This great event featured the food and customs from all the cultures that make up the community of Toms River. Great job by TRPD's Police Chief Mitch Little and his team for organizing such a great event!





Saturday, September 9, 2023 was a great day of Hope on the Seaside Heights boardwalk! Ocean County Prosecutor's Office Operation Helping Hand team members joined hundreds of walkers for the HOPE SHEDS LIGHT 10th 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 on such a great event!

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to join Ocean County Commissioner Director Joseph Vicari, Commissioner Virginia Haines, Commissioner Barbara Jo Crea and Sheriff Michael Mastronardy for Ocean County's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Thank you to Rev. Peter Hartney, Ocean County Sheriff's Office Color Guard and the Ocean County Vocational Technical Schools Performing Arts Academy Choir for joining us on this solemn occasion.



What a great turnout for the Second Annual What's Your Number Event hosted by the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office! The health fair, held in tribute to OCPO Agent Gerard Eick who passed away in September of 2021, gave employees from the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office, Ocean County Sheriff's Office and Ocean County

Department of Corrections access to diabetes and blood pressure screenings, stroke risk assessments and medication management counseling. Thank you to the Ocean County Health Department and Bright Harbor Healthcare for providing the services.

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington were honored to speak to the students in the Introduction to Law Enforcement class at Ocean County College. Prosecutor Billhimer and Chief Carrington spoke to the students about pursuing careers in law enforcement. Thanks to Professor Stuart Martinsen for the invitation to speak to the students.



Jersey Shore FOP Lodge 222, serving their Combustible Chili! Congratulations to this year's winner and repeat champion, the Union Beach Police Department!

Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington attended the 8th 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! Lieutenant Casey Long and Sergeant Thomas Haskell represented OCPO and

[JBJ Soul Kitchen Toms River](http://www.jbjsoulkitchen.org) 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.



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to address members of Beth Am Shalom, Chabad of Toms River, Congregation Ahvat Olam, Congregation B’nai Israel, JCC of LBI, Temple Beth Or and the Jewish Federation of Ocean County at Beth Am Shalom at a vigil for Israel last week in Lakewood. The Prosecutor’s message was that we must stand united against hate – in all of its insidious forms. It was a heartfelt and moving evening that brought together close to 400 members of our community to mourn the lives lost in Israel. [#HATEHASNOHOMEINOCEANCOUNTY](#)



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was proud to lead a contingent from Ocean County to the Attorney General’s ARRIVE Together meeting at Middlesex College. Law enforcement leaders and mental health professionals gathered to discuss the success of the ARRIVE Together program in Central New Jersey. The ARRIVE Together program pairs police officers with a certified mental health screeners to respond to mental health related calls for police. With the assistance of Bright Harbor Healthcare, the program has been launched in Ocean County in Beachwood, Berkeley Township, Ocean Gate and Pine Beach and Prosecutor Billhimer is looking to expand to more municipalities here in Ocean County. [Bright Harbor Healthcare Berkeley Township Police N.J. Beachwood Police Department](#)



On October 12, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor's Office participated in the 5th 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. Bilingual 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 84th Annual Toms River Volunteer Fire Company No.1 Halloween Parade. The theme of this year's float was "Don't Let Drugs Ruin Your Happily Ever After." Thanks to Supervising Assistant Prosecutor Renee White, Sergeant Taryn Ritacco Schwartz, Agent Mike Colwell and everyone at OCPO who helped make our Castle 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 and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington, Jr., were honored to speak to students at Toms River High School East as part of Career Day! Both the Prosecutor and Chief spoke to the students about their respective career paths and careers in law enforcement. Thank you to Mrs. Buckley for inviting us!



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: Sergeant John Dotto, United States

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

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!





On November 29, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored to present Captain Colleen Lynch the prestigious Kriza Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association. The Kriza Lifetime Achievement Award, named after New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association founding member and former Deputy Chief of the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office Joseph Krisza, honors an individual who spent a substantial period of their career investigating sex crimes and/or child abuse. A 25 year veteran here at OCPO, Captain

Lynch currently oversees the Special Victim's Unit, Megan's Law Squad, Domestic Violence/Weapons, Animal Cruelty Squad and the Juvenile Unit. She has spent her career protecting children and families here in Ocean County. Congratulations Captain Lynch on your well-deserved honor!

On December 6, 2023, Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer was honored as a Hero Against Hate at the Annual Heroes Against Hate Community of Caring Celebration, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Ocean County! Prosecutor Billhimer was honored for the numerous programs that he has initiated to address bias and hate-based incidents and crimes and his continuing commitment to investigating and prosecuting these crimes to the fullest extent of the law.

Congratulations to this year's other Heroes Against Hate recipients

Caroline Winn, a Toms River Intermediate North student who is standing up to hate by creating a presentation for students on anti-Semitism, Jasmine and Mateo Guarin, two former Toms River High School South students who founded the Community Ambassadors Club in their former school and the Toms River Jewish Community Council for their tireless efforts in spreading the message of tolerance and acceptance. Congratulations to all of this year's recipients, and thank you for your ongoing effort to make this world a better place!



On December 6, 2023, Girl Scouts of the Jersey Shore Troop 50261 visited the Ocean County Prosecutor's Office for assistance with earning their Detective Merit Badges. These junior sleuths learned how an investigation takes place and had some great questions for our Detectives and Assistant Prosecutors! Thanks for the visit!



Ocean County Prosecutor Bradley D. Billhimer and Chief of Detectives Anthony U. Carrington joined Ocean County Commissioner Gary Quinn, Ocean County Sheriff Michael Mastronardy and law enforcement officers from around Ocean County to collect toys and gifts for their annual toy drives at Steals & Deals in Toms River. Thank you to Steals & Deals, the National Chaplains Association and Amerigroup for their generous donations!

