

Ross Township Police Department 2023 Year End Report



Prepared by Lt. Matthew Grubb

Message From the Chief of Police

I am proud to present the Ross Township Police Department 2023 Annual Report. This report highlights our dedication to excellence, and our continued commitment to provide effective, efficient, and responsive police services to the citizens of Ross Township.

2023 has been an exciting year, full of changes and growth for the department. We have spent the last year reviewing and revising policies, instituting procedures, adopting new structures and processes, as well as training new officers and sergeants. We have launched a Social Services Program to better serve our residents, and as a department, we have developed new Core Values and a new Mission Statement.

In June, we welcomed new officers Joshua Hartle, Andrew Notbohm, Ronald Redman, Matthew Perkins, and Scott Moore. In December we said farewell to Officer David Young who retired after 29 Years of service.

We will proudly continue to work with our local stakeholders and law enforcement partners to develop and enact sound and innovative strategies to address crime and safety concerns for our community. I am inspired by and grateful for the incredible support our department receives from you, our residents, business, and community leaders.

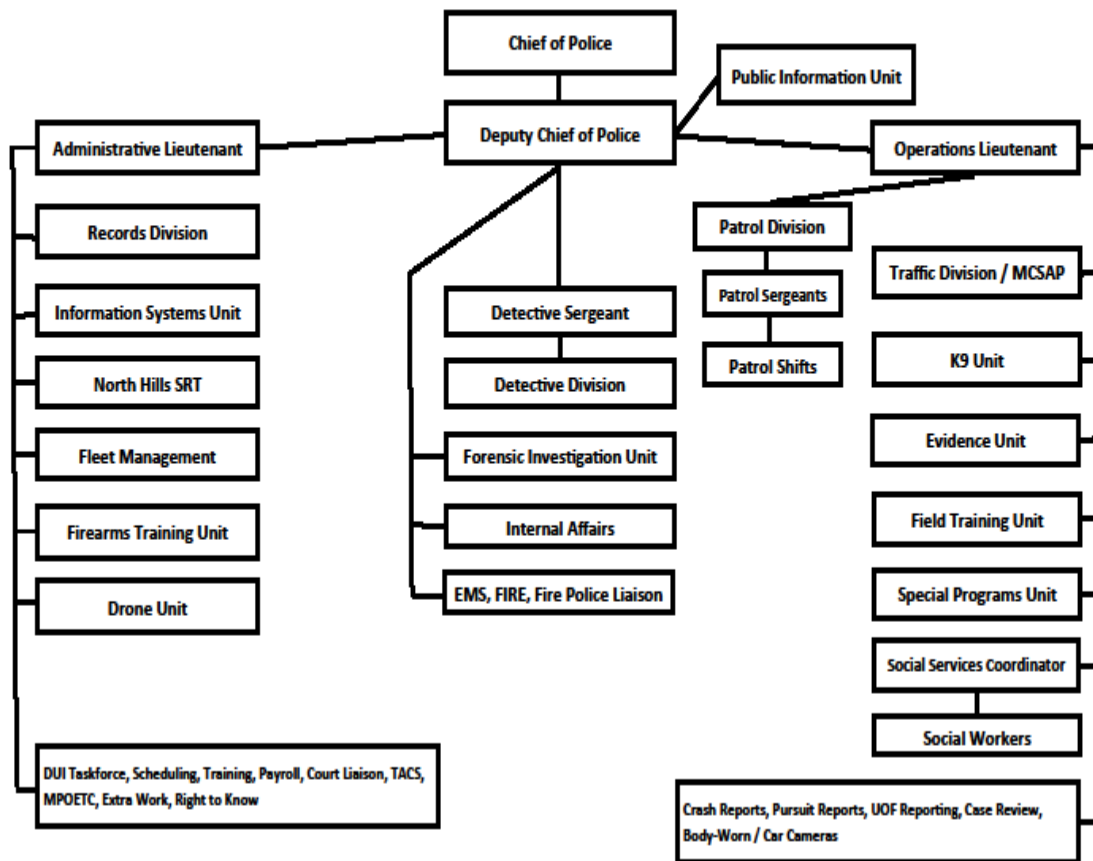
I am honored to work with a dedicated and professional group of police officers who do amazing work every day to serve and protect the citizens of Ross Township. This report allows us to highlight their excellence, innovation, and dedication to providing effective and responsive police services while maintaining dignity and respect for all.

Thank you for taking the time to review our report. I appreciate your continued interest and support of the Ross Township Police Department.

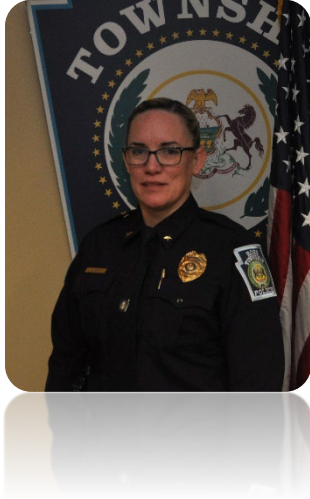
Chief Cristyn Zett

Chain of Command

Ross Township Police Department Organizational Chart and Lines of Responsibility 2024



Command Staff



Chief of Police Cristyn Zett

Chief Cristyn Zett leads the Ross Township Police Department with a budgeted compliment of 44 sworn officers under her command. Chief Zett is also responsible for the 18 civilian employees who perform police support functions for the department.

Deputy Chief of Police Brian Kohlhepp

Deputy Chief Brian Kohlhepp assists the Chief of Police in determining the path of the Ross Police Department. The Deputy Chief is responsible for administering the department's budget. Deputy Chief Kohlhepp also oversees the Detective Division and the Forensic Science Unit.





Administrative Lieutenant Randy McAllister

Lieutenant Randy McAllister serves as the Administrative Commander. Lt. McAllister's duties include the management of the Records Division, Training Unit, and the Internet Technology Unit.

Operations Lieutenant Matthew Grubb

Lieutenant Grubb serves as the Operations Commander. Lt. Grubb manages the Patrol and Traffic Divisions, along with the community outreach programs associated with the Special Programs and Social Worker Units.



Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Ross Township Police Department to deliver exemplary law enforcement service in partnership with our community, and to preserve the quality of life for all.

Our mission statement communicates the Ross Police Department's reason for being and how we aim to serve those that live, work, and play within Ross Township. We are extremely proud of the services that we offer as a department and the skills and abilities of our officers and staff.

Sergeant Seese and Officer Shortley are responsible for creating our new Mission Statement and Core Values. These changes reflect the ownership that all members feel towards this department.

Core Values

The Ross Township Police Department holds the following core values as a focus of our daily activity. Core values are deeply ingrained principles that guide the actions of both the individual officers and the department.

Integrity- We demand the highest ethical and moral standards which are the cornerstone of our profession.

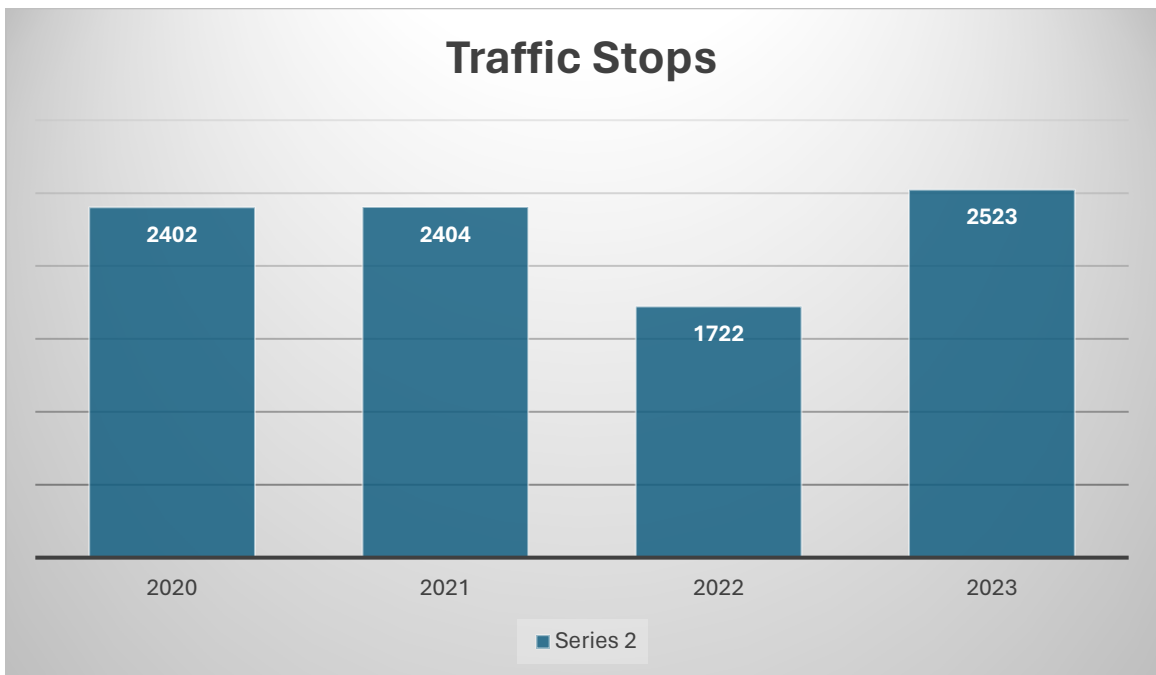
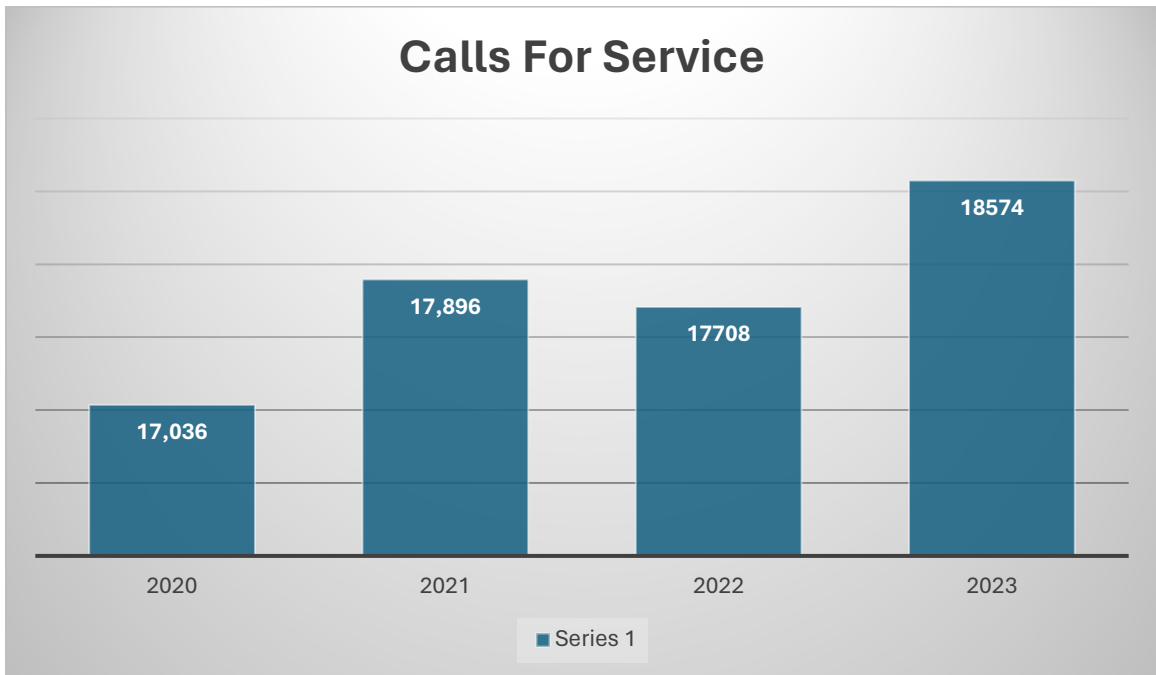
Accountability- We seek and accept responsibility for our conduct.

Trust- We commit to the fundamental principle of building relationships with each other and the community.

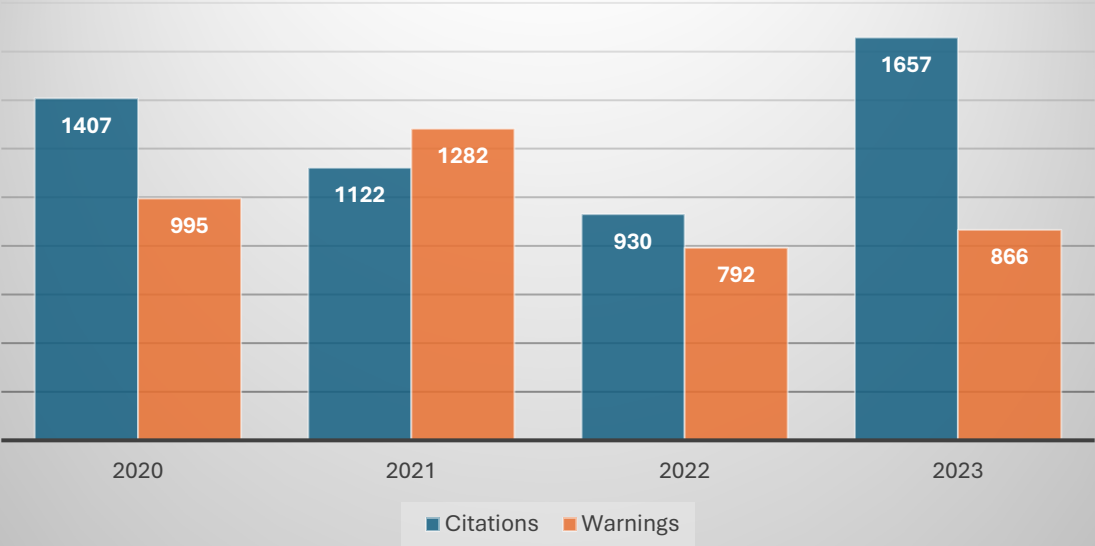
Honor- We embrace a proud history and strive to elevate our standards every day.

Professionalism- We serve with pride and dedicate ourselves to the continuous pursuit of excellence.

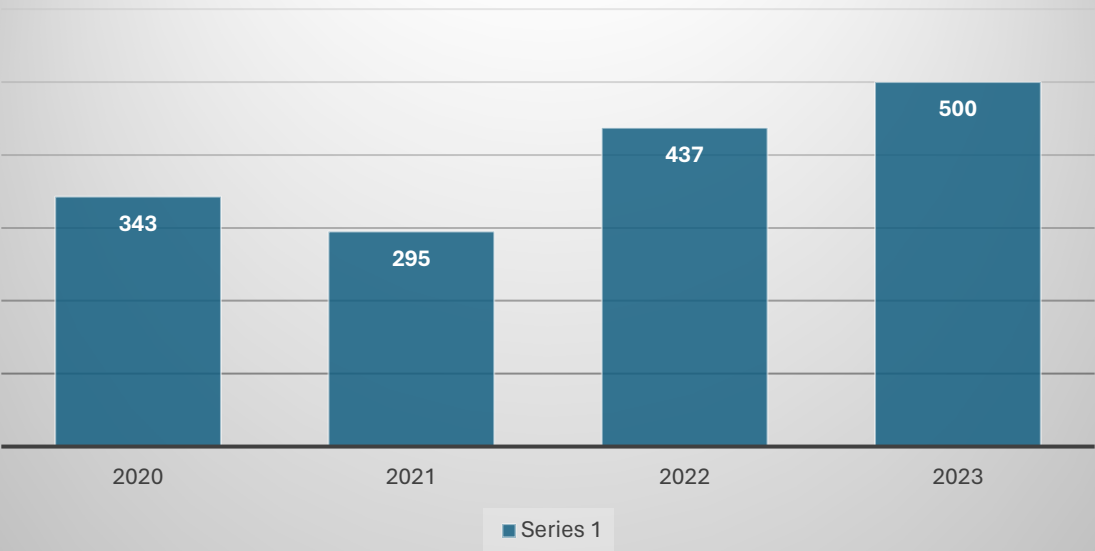
Statistics



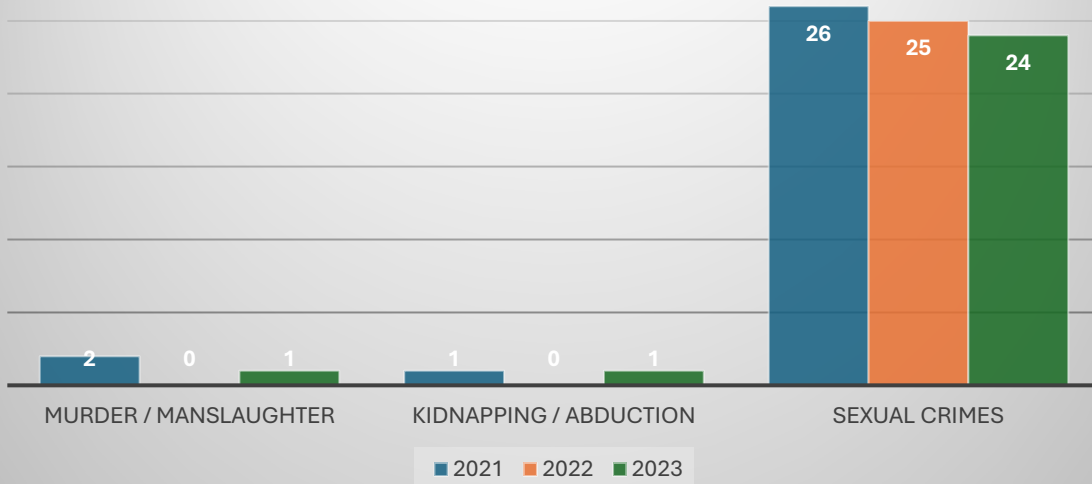
Citations / Warnings



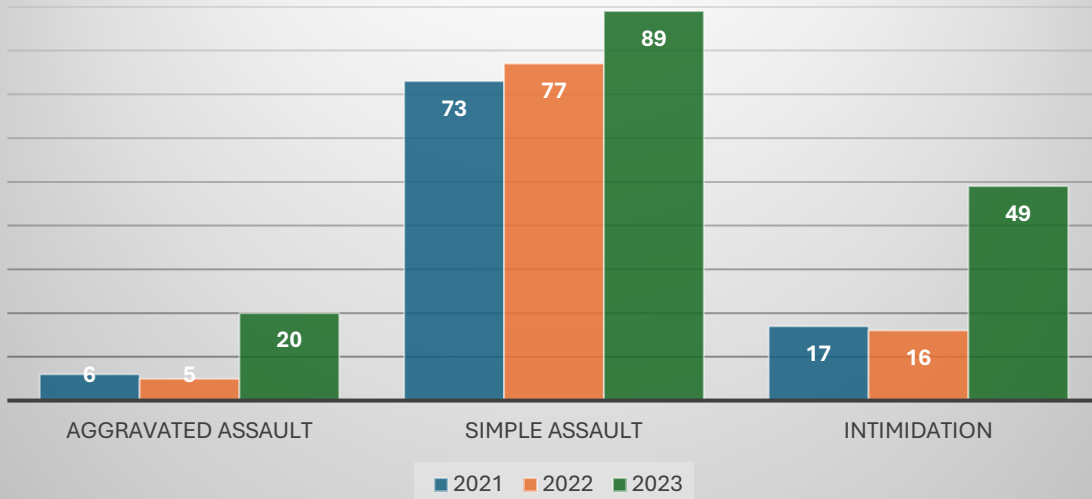
Arrests



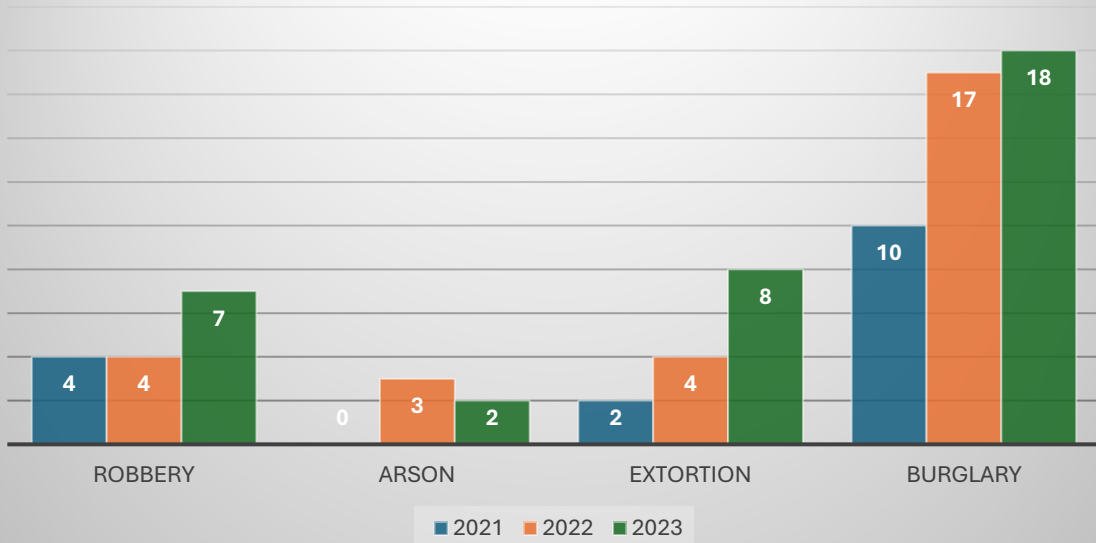
Crimes Against Persons



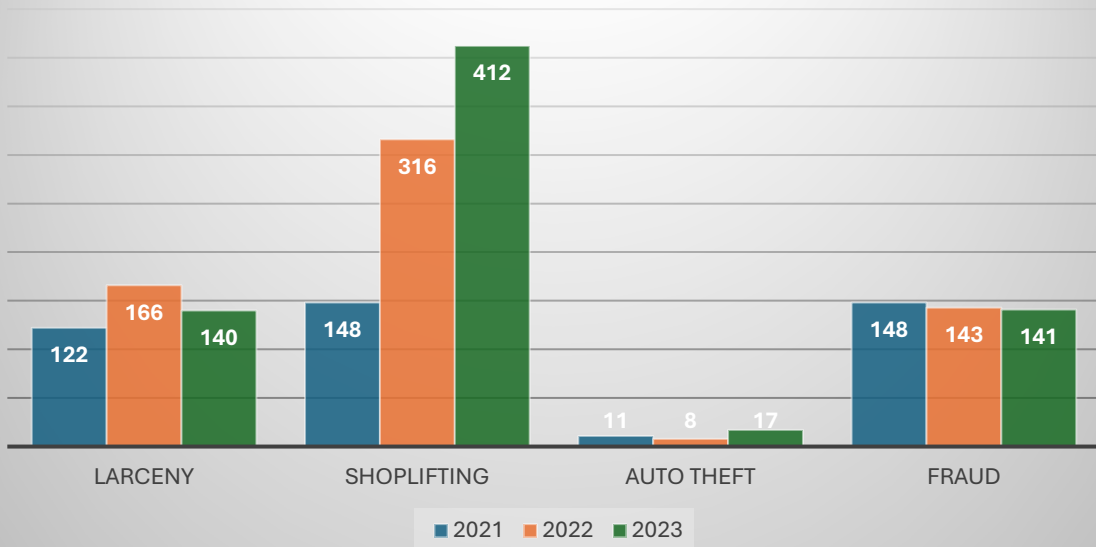
Crimes Against Persons



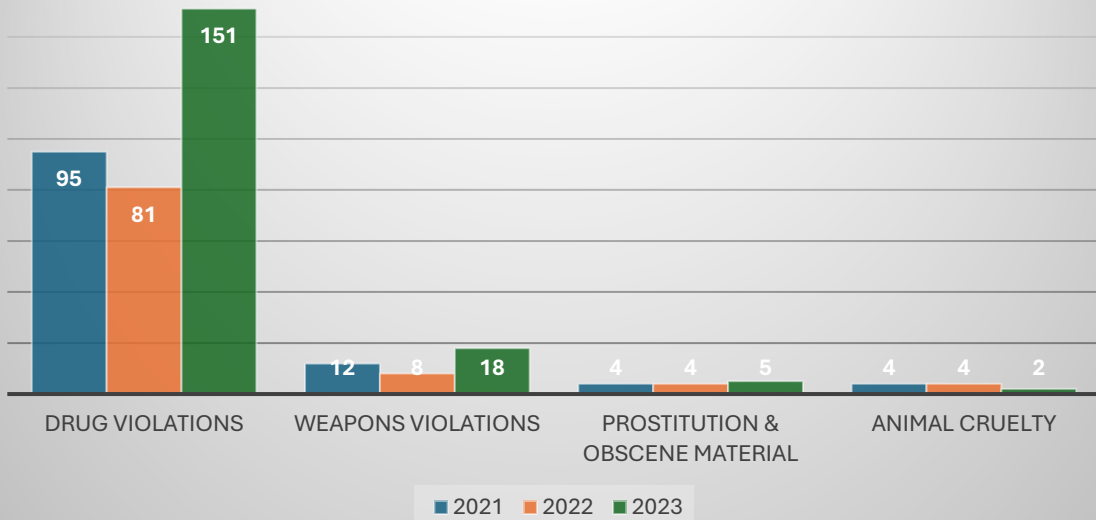
Crimes Against Property



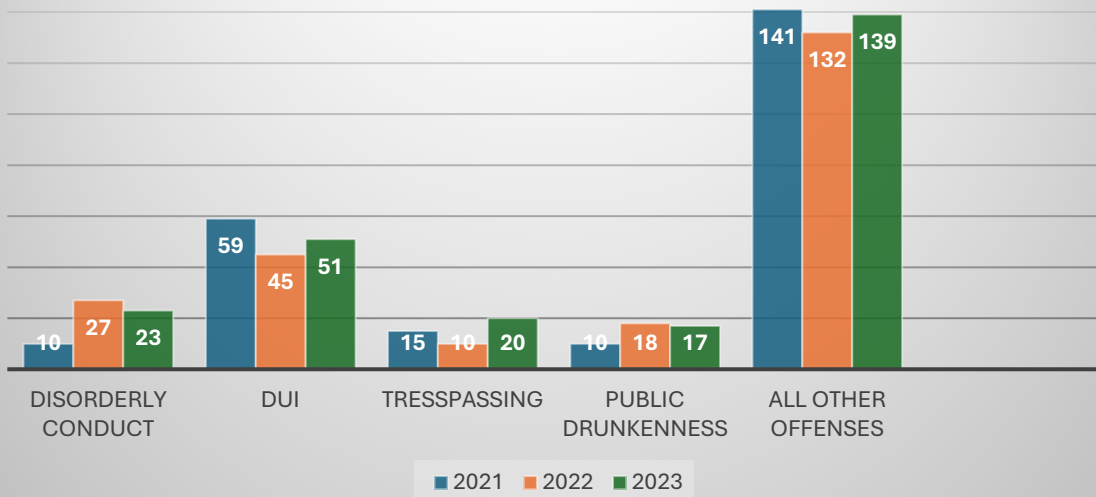
Crimes Against Property



Crimes Against Society

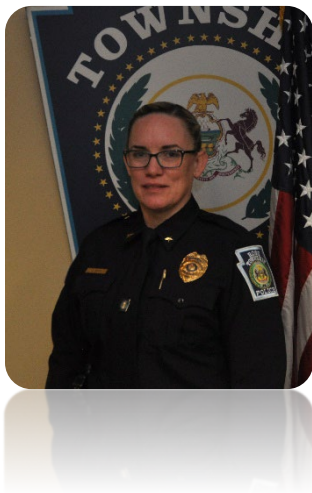


Crimes Against Others



New Police Department Employees

Chief Cristyn Zett



Cristyn Zett was hired as the Chief of Police in January 2023. She was a 23-year veteran of the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police (PBP) and retired as the commander in Zone 6, West End Station. She had served in both administrative and operational positions since her promotion to Commander in 2016. After graduating from Pittsburgh's academy in 2000, she worked her way through the ranks, working as a patrol officer in the Northside and then as a detective in Missing Persons and Narcotics & Vice. Promoted to sergeant in 2010, she served in patrol and in Narcotics & Vice. She was promoted to lieutenant in 2014 and served in patrol and the Training Academy. She has been a state-certified instructor since 2006 and served on committees developing statewide training for the Municipal Police Officers' Education and Training Commission. In 2019, she graduated from the FBI National Academy, session #277, and completed a Master of Science in Law Enforcement & Public Safety Leadership from the University of San Diego in May 2022.

Officer Josh Hartle

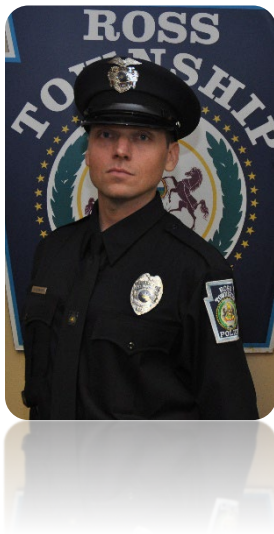
Officer Hartle graduated from Knoch High School and enlisted in the United States Air Force a week after graduation. He served four years in the military deploying multiple times overseas. Officer Hartle graduated from the Community College of the Air Force and Georgia Military College with associate degrees and Point Park University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Officer Hartle became a police officer in 2005 with the City of Pittsburgh and retired in 2023 to become a Ross Township Police Officer. He is currently assigned to the midnight shift. He is an avid outdoorsman and spends time with his family at their camp.



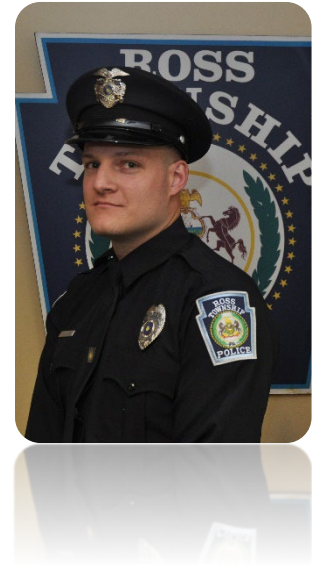
Officer Andrew Notbohm

Officer Notbohm grew up in the Greater Pittsburgh region. In 2005 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps and was deployed to Marjah, Afghanistan in 2010. Upon returning Officer Notbohm attended college majoring in Criminal Justice. In 2014 he was employed by the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police. He served the residents and guests of Pittsburgh for nine years prior to being hired by the Ross Police Department.



Officer Ronald Redman

Officer Redman is originally from Ross Township and is a North Hills High School alumnus. Officer Redman served in the United States Marine Corps as a Motor Transportation Operator. Officer Redman attended college majoring in Criminology and was previously employed with the Shaler Township Police from 2018-2023.



Officer Matthew Perkins

Officer Perkins grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia and Switzerland. Officer Perkins studied Criminology/Pre-Law at Indiana University of Pennsylvania and attended the Allegheny County Police Academy. Prior to being hired as a Ross Police Officer, Officer Perkins worked for the Indiana Township Police Department.



Officer Scott Moore

Officer Moore is from the greater Pittsburgh area. After finishing high school, he attended college and received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. After graduation, Officer Moore accepted a job with the City of Pittsburgh Police Department where he started as a patrol officer and finished his career as a Crime Scene Unit Detective.



Social Service Coordinator Jordan Sager



Jordan grew up in New Castle, Pa. and obtained his master's degree in social work from Slippery Rock University. Jordan enlisted in the United States Air Force following high school. While in the Air Force, Jordan became a Behavioral Health Technician and had the opportunity to work in the Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Family Services fields. Jordan was also attached to the Traumatic Stress Response Team (TSRT) that provided crisis support/intervention to military and community residents following traumatic incidents and natural disasters. In his free time, Jordan volunteers as an assistant basketball coach for Butler High School. He also enjoys lifting weights, fishing, and staying active.

Promotions

Deputy Chief Brian Kohlhepp



Brian Kohlhepp was promoted to Deputy Chief in January of 2023. He grew up in Ross Township and was proud to join the police force in 2001 as a patrol officer. He was assigned to the detective division in 2008, and later promoted to Detective Sergeant. He is the department Public Information Officer handling media events for major incidents and investigations. He has a BA from Waynesburg University in Criminal Justice and a master's from California University of Pennsylvania (Summa cum Laude). He holds a graduate-level certificate from the University of Virginia in CJ Studies and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy.

Deputy Chief Kohlhepp is also on faculty teaching for Pennsylvania Western University, Duquesne University, and John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is a regular lecturer in the area, and an instructor in numerous law and law enforcement continuing education classes for attorneys and police investigators.

Sergeant Daniel Papale

Sergeant Papale grew up in O'hara Township and graduated from Duquesne University with a dual major B.A. in Criminal Justice and Journalism. Following graduation Dan attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Police Academy and began his police career in 2005. He worked briefly for Brackenridge Borough as a part time officer before starting with the University of Pittsburgh Police Department. He was promoted to Sergeant in 2010 and served in that position until coming to Ross in 2013.

As a patrol officer at Ross, he worked steady afternoon shift for nearly his entire career. He is an Element Leader for North Hills SRT and serves as part of its Firearms Training Cadre as well as the Department's Firearms Training Unit. Sergeant Papale also worked as an FTO prior to his promotion to Sergeant in December.



Sergeant Jordan Seese

Sergeant Seese graduated from Taylor Allderdice Highschool and attended CCAC prior to starting the City of Pittsburgh Police Academy. Sergeant Seese was hired by the City of Pittsburgh Police in August of 2005. He spent 5.5 years with the City of Pittsburgh Police. During that time, Sergeant Seese worked as a patrol officer, was a certified crisis intervention team officer, completed a rotation in a plain clothes capacity and was detailed to work with the National Football League.

Sergeant Seese was hired by Ross Township in April of 2011. Sergeant Seese worked on the Attorney General Drug Task Force and was a certified DANET officer.



Sergeant Dean Chiaramonte



Sergeant Chiaramonte graduated from Pine Richland High School in 1996 and attended CCAC and the Allegheny County Police Academy. Prior to coming to Ross, he worked for Hampton EMS, Allegheny County 911, and the Millvale and Etna Police departments.

Sgt. Chiaramonte is currently assigned to the daylight shift and has been a member of The North Hills Special Response Team since 2013. He has been serving as a sniper/observer there since 2016.

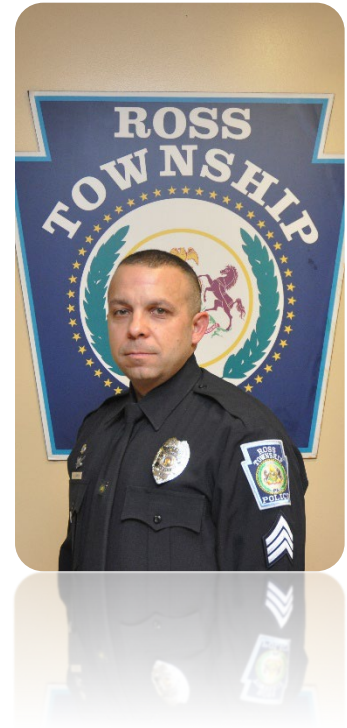
Sergeant Chiaramonte is married and has two sons in the Marine Corps and a daughter in high school. Off duty activities include managing the Pittsburgh Blueliners police hockey team, coaching amateur hockey, camping, and golf.

Sergeant Glen Garcia

Sergeant Garcia was raised in the small town of Northeast, PA but graduated from Riverside High School of Ellwood City. After School, he served in the U.S. Navy and was assigned to a helicopter squadron in San Diego, CA. During his time in the Navy, he did one tour in the Persian Gulf aboard the aircraft Carrier U.S.S. Constellation.

In 2002 Sergeant Garcia attended Allegheny County Police Academy and soon after, was hired by Munhall Police. While working for Munhall he received his associates degree at CCAC and later attended Penn State University.

In 2008 Sergeant Garcia joined Ross Township Police. He's currently assigned to the Firearms Training Unit and North Hills SRT as an operator. He's also a firearms and general instructor with Allegheny County Police Academy.



Changes of Assignment

K9 Officer Christopher Shortley



Officer Shortley was raised in Brentwood Borough and was a 2013 graduate of Brentwood High School. In 2017, he graduated from Waynesburg University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a minor in Political Science. In 2018, Officer Shortley attended the Allegheny County Police Academy. Following graduation, he began his career working for the Ohio Township Police Department and the Donegal Township Police Department. In January of 2019, Officer Shortley was hired by the Ross Township Police Department and is currently assigned to the afternoon shift.

In September of 2023 Officer Shortley was assigned to the K9 Division with his partner K9 Arrow. Arrow is a 1-year-old Belgian Malinois who was imported from Holland. Officer Shortley also serves as a Field Training Officer.

Detective Jason Moss

Detective Moss has 24 years of law enforcement experience. He graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminology. Detective Moss started his law enforcement career in 1999 in Wheeling, West Virginia, where he graduated from the West Virginia State Police Academy. He was hired by the Pittsburgh Police Department in 2000 and served there until 2011. Detective Moss was a Narcotics Detective in Pittsburgh from 2007-2011. In addition to his patrol duties with the Ross Township Police, Detective Moss served as the Attorney General Drug Task Force Coordinator from 2013-2021. He was assigned to the Ross Township Police Detective Division in December 2023.

Retirements

Officer David Young



Officer David Young began his career with the Ross Police Department in August of 1994. Officer Young was a Field Training Officer, teaching young recruits how to be Ross Police Officers. Officer Young spent a large part of his career assigned as a Traffic Officer, working to keep our roadways safe. Officer Young specialized in Motor Carrier Enforcement and was one of few Federally Certified Truck Enforcement Officers in Western Pennsylvania.

Military Service

Sergeant Joseph Serowik

Sergeant Joseph Serowik deployed to Djibouti, Africa in November of 2023. Sgt. Serowik is a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Col. Serowik is involved in the fight against Violent Extremist Groups that are operating in Africa such as al-Shabaab and ISIS. Col. Serowik is also leading humanitarian missions with a focus on public health in impoverished areas. The Ross Police Department has many veterans in our ranks. We are so proud of the sacrifices they have made and continue to make to keep all of us safe!



Patrol Division



Patrol operations are divided into three districts. The districts are managed by officers that work 12-hour day and night shifts. These patrol officers respond to the community's calls for service, enforce traffic and criminal laws, address community needs, and initiate actions based on their own observations.

Patrol is the backbone of the Ross Police Department. The police department uses marked and unmarked cars, foot patrol, and motorcycles to patrol Ross Township.

Officers attend community events to interact with the residents and address their concerns regarding policing in Ross Township. The patrol division provides the initial response to calls for service from the public. Patrol officers are responsible for the prevention of crime, enforcement of all laws, the arrest and prosecution of criminals and the protection of life and property.

In addition to daily patrol functions, officers must also frequently attend court for misdemeanor and felony cases.

Township parks and shopping centers are heavily patrolled by the district officers to reduce the problems of theft, disorderly persons, criminal mischief, fights, and drug activities to make Ross Township a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

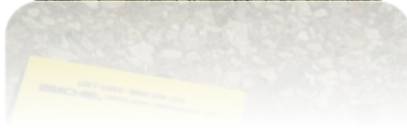


Detective Division

The Detective Division was staffed by Detectives Michael Kirtley, David Sciullo, Michael Orsino, and Deputy Chief Brian Kohlhepp. Ross Township is



unique compared to most police departments in the area in having a fully functional detective division that investigates all crimes in the township from burglary and theft to sexual assaults and suspicious deaths. We also have a certified polygraph examiner. We are very proud of the dedication of these hard-working officers who regularly handle sensitive cases and vulnerable victims. In 2024, Officer Jason Moss was transferred into the division as an additional detective.



In addition, our detectives are part of task forces with the US Secret Service Financial Crimes Task Force, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the FBI's Organized Crime/Drug Task Force.

Forensic Investigation Unit



A unique and proud piece of the Ross Police Department's ability to investigate crimes in the township is its stand-out Forensic Investigation Unit. This unit is staffed by detectives and officers. It assists in all investigations through the application of forensic sciences. We

regularly process crime scenes ranging from burglaries to sexual assaults and suspicious deaths. We have three experts in Blood Stain Pattern Analysis as well as a detective who is specially trained and equipped to extract evidentiary information from mobile electronic devices, such as smartphones.



K9 Unit

The K9 Unit has been in continual operation since its inception in 1995. The Ross Police Department currently has two K9's, Tyr and Arrow. Their handlers are Officers Justin Allenbaugh & Christopher Shortley. Ross K9's are cross trained in Patrol and Narcotics Detection. Both dogs are trained to detect the odors of cocaine, heroin, and methamphetamine. In addition to drug detection, the K9's can track offenders, search buildings for hidden people, locate thrown evidence, and assist in the location of missing people.



Special Programs Unit



The Special Programs Unit consists of several officers who want to have a deeper connection with our community. Special Programs Officers take part in charity fundraisers, station tours, and school demonstrations.

Special Programs Officers also act as liaisons with the North Hills School District. Special Programs has been supervised by Sergeant Joseph Serowik. In his absence, Officer Matthew Immekus has been overseeing the

operation of this Unit.

In 2023, Special Programs Officers raised over \$13,000 to supply disadvantaged youth with Christmas Gifts and clothing!



Traffic Safety Unit

In 2023, the Ross Township Police Department had 4 officers assigned to additional traffic duties. These officers were David Young, Al Elway, Sean Stafiej, and Kevin Novak. The high number of traffic-related issues we receive has kept these officers very busy.



173 Citations issued during Special Enforcement

5 Departmental Traffic Blitzes

3 Serious Accident Reconstructions

14 Traffic Studies

84 Targeted Traffic Complaints

14 Speed Sign Placements

7 Car Seat Installations

5 Funeral Escorts

2 Community Traffic Meetings

8 Speed timing line placements

Mock-Crash NHHS

Red Ribbon Week NHHS

Oversight of all speed timing device certifications

Organizers of the “Distracted Teen Driving” seminar.

Motor Carrier Enforcement



Ross Township has several major roadways traversing the township. As a result of the large commercial areas and industrial areas in the township, many commercial trucks travel throughout the township to get to these businesses. In 2023, Officers David Young, Sean Stafiej, and Kevin Novak made up our Motor Carrier Enforcement Team. These officers are tasked with removing potentially unsafe drivers and hazardous vehicles from our roadways. They do this through a federally recognized training program which very few municipal police officers have had the opportunity in which to participate.



Motor Carrier Officers conducted 278 Truck inspections during 2023. 65 trucks were placed out of service due to serious safety violations. 13 trucks were placed out of service due to driver violations. In total, the unit issued 611 Motor Carrier Citations for various violations.

Records Division



The Ross Police Department Records Division is staffed by Clerks Tracey Blough and Megan Jones. They handle hundreds of phone calls requesting records assistance on any given day. During 2023, Records assisted 176 citizen walk-ins. The records division prepared 875 reports for dissemination to the public, insurance companies, attorneys, and law enforcement entities. The records Division is truly the heart of the Ross Police Department.

Social Worker Unit



In 2023, the Ross Police Department joined a short list of departments in Pennsylvania that have decided to offer the highest levels of service to the community by establishing a Social Worker Program. We conducted several candidate interviews for the position of “Social Services Coordinator”. Jordan Sager was selected for this position with the understanding that he would be establishing this program from the ground up and would be supervising Social Worker Interns from Slippery Rock University. Interns Ashly Nicholas and Elizabeth Echevarria were selected as our first Social Worker Interns from a pool of qualified candidates.

Both Ashly and Elizabeth have ties to Ross Township.

Jordan instituted a “Crisis Intervention Model” as the focus of the Ross Program. Social Workers respond alongside officers to situations where people are experiencing an emergency in their lives. By providing short term management techniques, Social Workers can reduce the likelihood of a client will experience permanent damage caused by the crisis. Crisis Intervention Interactions include, but are not limited to, Altered Mental Status, Suicidal/Homicidal Ideation, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence, Child Abuse/Maltreatment, Elderly Abuse/Maltreatment, Death on Arrival, and Cognitive Decline.

The Social Worker program has been an enormous success in the 6 months that the program has been active. The progress we have seen in providing this additional quality service is a testament to the hard work of Jordan Sager, his Interns, and the officers of the department.

Between July and December, Jordan Sager provided the following services to the community:

Responded alongside officers to 171 Crisis Calls for Service.

Provided support services to Ross Residents 312 times.

Followed up on 54 police officer referrals.

Social Worker Interns Ashly and Elizabeth have accomplished the following so far during their internships:

Responded with officers to 68 Crisis Calls for Service.

Provided support services to Ross Residents 102 times.

Provided individual client counseling 34 times.



Firearms Training Unit

The Firearms Training Unit (FTU) is an integral part of the department, responsible for the internal training of our officers and maintenance of all the department's defensive weapons systems. The FTU qualifies all our officers twice yearly with their firearms as well as less lethal platforms such as the Taser and the Bean-Bag Shotgun. FTU officers maintain high training standards for both them and the officers they instruct. During 2023, Sergeant David Eckels headed the FTU with the assistance of Sergeant Dan Papale, Sergeant Glenn Garcia, and Officer Nate Roy. Officers David Horak and Mike Daley assist the FTU by providing Defensive Tactics training to the department. The Firearms Training Unit conducted the following during 2023:



Qualified all Ross Officers both during day and night shoots.



Instructed 5 new officers on tactics, firearms, and building searches.

Transitioned 16 Ross Officers to red-dot sights.

Taught "Active Shooter" to 122 officers from 14 area departments.

Taught "Active Shooter" to cadets at the Allegheny County Police Academy.

Assisted Allegheny County Police Academy with cadet firearms training.

Expanded low light training and incorporated the use of less lethal training with lethal coverage by using simunition and the shoot house.

Upgraded all department rifles to lighter and more modern barrels and handguards.

Installed suppressors on over a dozen rifles for other departments and SRT members.

North Hills Special Response Team



The North Hills Special Response Team (SRT) was formed in 2005 with the goal of creating a regional SWAT team that would respond to serious incidents which would require skills and equipment that patrol officers cannot provide. SRT is a life-saving organization with a focus on negotiations and less lethal means of resolving crises.

Several personnel changes due to retirements including a new Team Commander, new CNT element leader and newly promoted Squad Leader.

The addition of a newer/more reliable equipment vehicle and a new, low-profile personnel carrier.

New body armor for the team along with a smaller pole camera which had been provided by Region 13.

Continuation of the grant process for the funding of an armored vehicle.

The SRT team responded to 19 deployments for incidents ranging from warrant services to barricaded individuals.





In Remembrance

In 2023 we saw the passing of Retired Sergeant Frank Zotter. Frank was a well-respected member of the Ross Township Police Department and an active member of the Ross Township Community. Frank grew up in Ross and served as a Ross Police officer for 42 years! Sergeant Zotter was the founder of the annual Ross Police Fishing Tournament and has a pond named after him in

Evergreen Park. Frank touched the hearts of many and will be deeply missed.

