

Ross Township Police Department 2024 Year End Report



Prepared by Lt. Matthew Grubb

Message From the Chief of Police

2024 was an exciting year for the Ross Township Police Department. We are excited to present our Annual Report, highlighting the achievements and accomplishments of 45 officers and 3 professional staff members who serve the Ross Community. Their dedication and skill drive them to deliver exemplary service to our community every day.

This has been another year of change and growth for the department. Our Social Service Program is thriving, we completed a successful pilot for 12-hour shifts for officers, and we had some key changes in personnel. We welcomed new officers Chad Green, Alexandra Lizzi, Luke Lloyd, Jason Pokorny, and Nicolas Anderson. Sergeant David Eckels retired in February after 24 years of service. We also promoted Matthew Immekus and Peter Chuberko to the rank of Sergeant. Sgt. Jordan Seese took the role of Staff Sergeant and Sgt. Dean Chiaramonte took the role of Administrative Sergeant. Officer Allenbaugh is now officially a Nationally Accredited Trainer certified by NAPWDA (North American Police Work Dog Association). Our newest dog Arrow and his partner Officer Shortley are now fully certified in Patrol and Narcotics detection.

We are dedicated to serving our community and providing law enforcement services by fostering our relationships with our residents and local businesses through collaboration, fairness, compassion, and communication. I encourage community members to connect with us through our social media platforms as well as various programs and safety events. These include our first annual Citizen's Police Academy, Coffee with a Cop, Impact Teen Driver, and various other events geared to fostering education and engagement throughout the year.

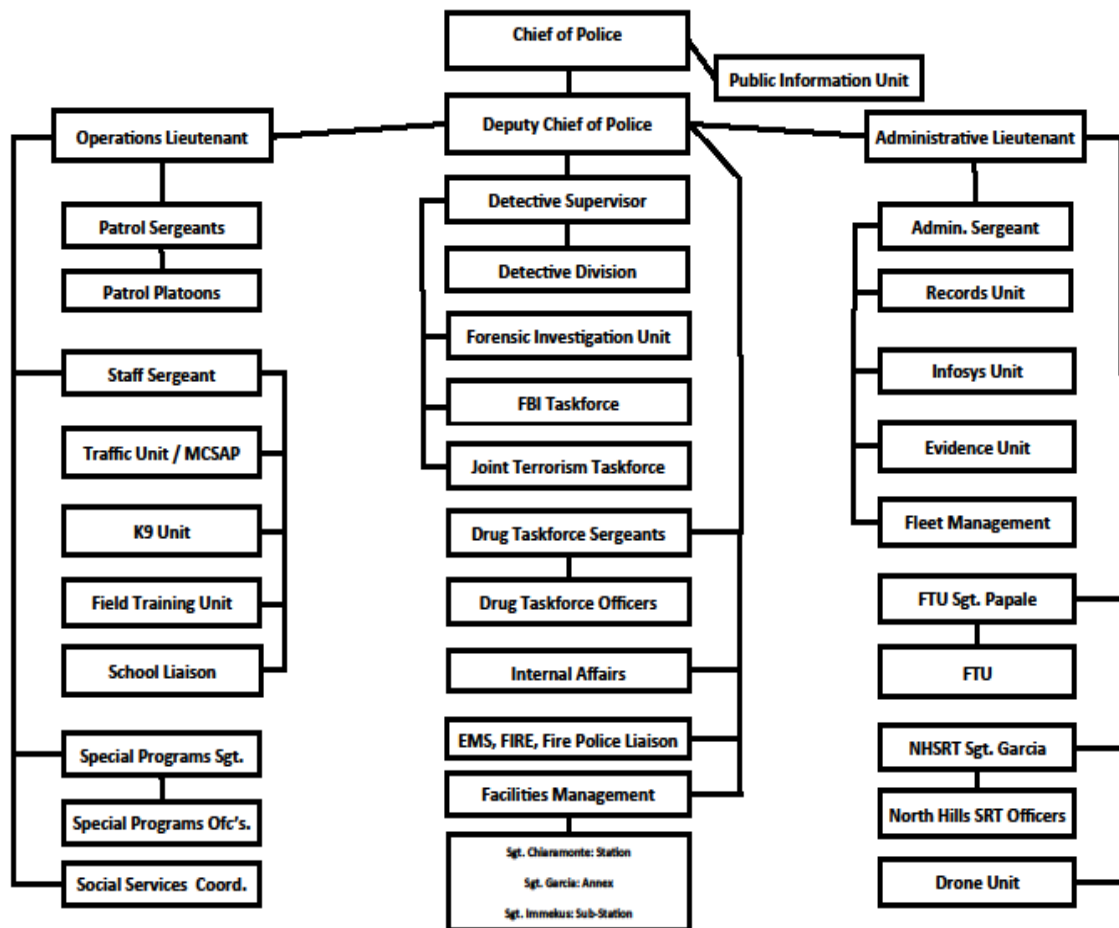
I am honored to work with an exceptional group of police officers who diligently work every day to serve and protect the citizens of Ross Township. This report allows us to highlight our various operations within the department that support our community.

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

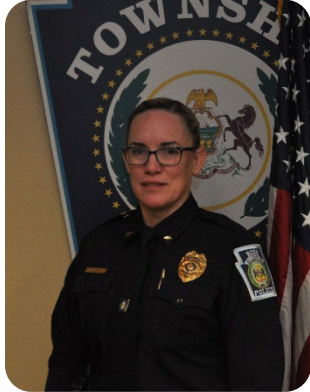
Chief Cristyn Zett

Chain of Command

Ross Township Police
Organizational Chart & Lines of Responsibility 2025



Command Staff

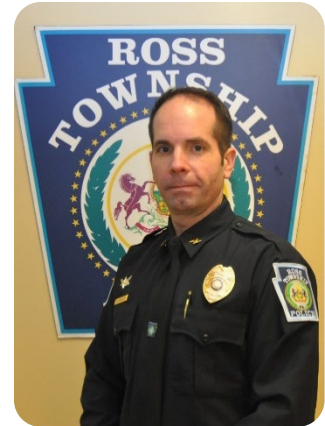


Chief of Police Cristyn Zett

Chief Cristyn Zett leads the Ross Township Police Department with a budgeted complement 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 Investigation 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 Services Unit.



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.

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.

2024 Officer of the Year & 2024 Leadership Award

Ross Police is recognizing two of our officers for their important contributions to the department.

Officer Francis Capobianco earned the Officer of the Year Award for 2024. He is a 14-year veteran officer with a tireless work ethic and an infectious personality. Officer Capobianco participates in the Attorney General's Task Force, Community Outreach, and became a Field Training Officer in



2024. His welcoming smile and enthusiasm for the job are assets in training our new hires. He is willing to take on extra duties without complaint and is always eager to help other officers. Helping officers with retail theft cases led him to start the Theft Investigation Unit in 2024. He has developed a large network of officers, loss prevention agents, and various related contacts which supplement his nearly photographic memory for faces. Officer Capobianco's retail theft clearance rate is 85% and he is a leader of the

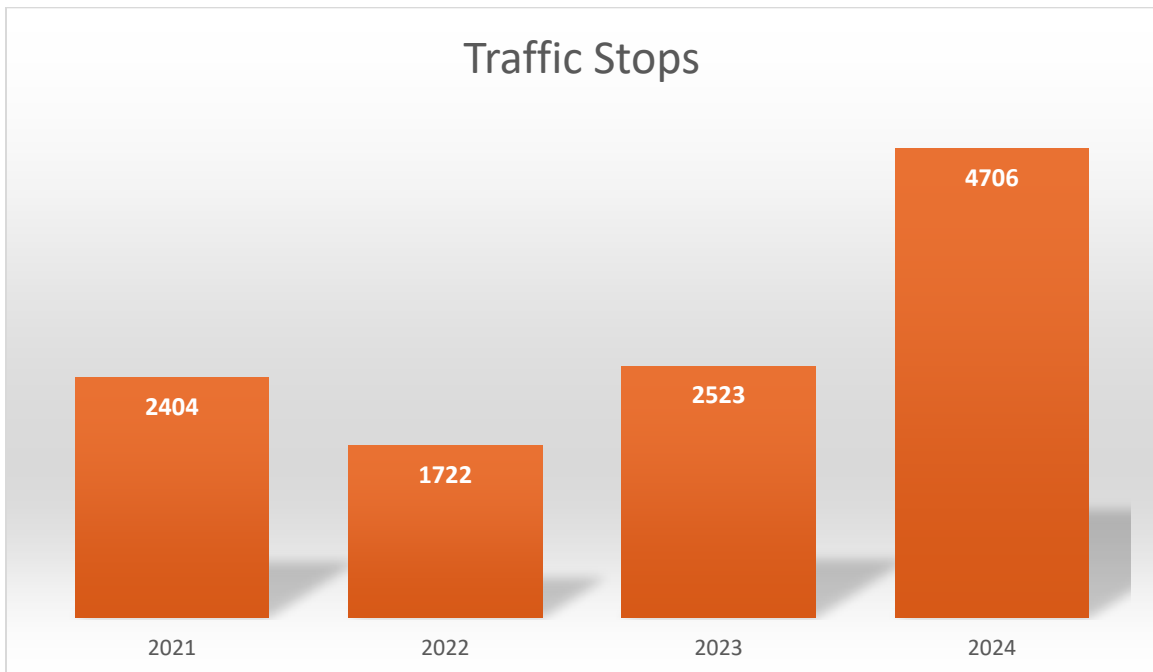
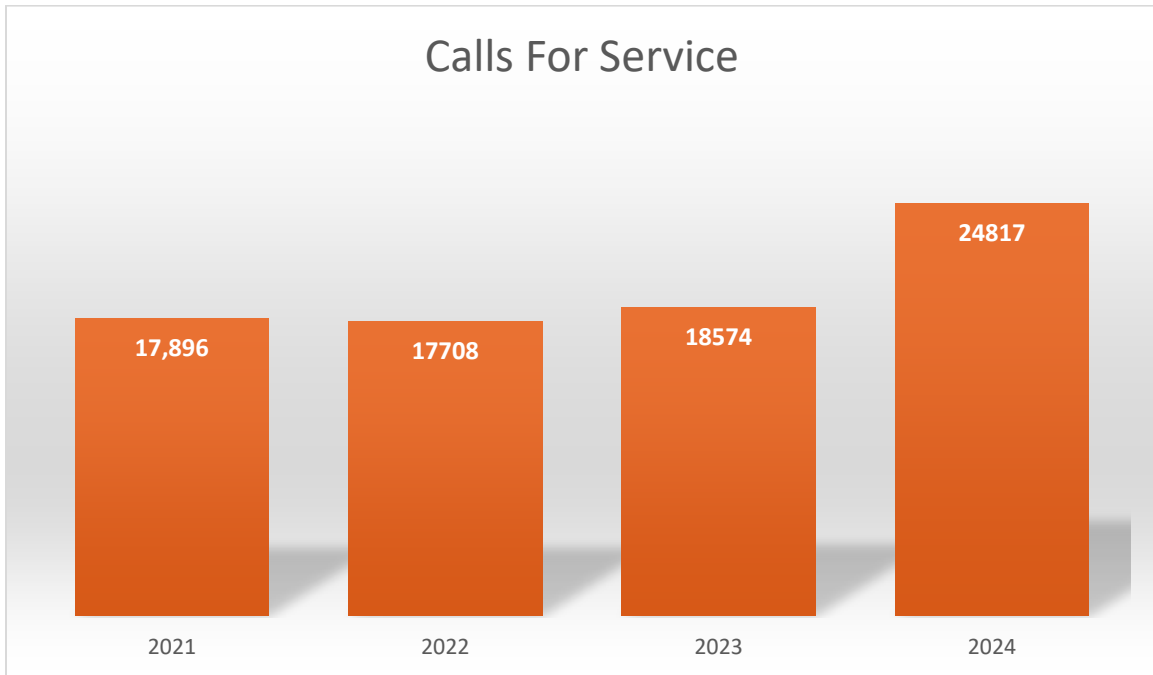
department in all categories. Officer Capobianco did excellent work in 2024 and embodies the core values of Accountability, Trust, Integrity, Honor and Professionalism.

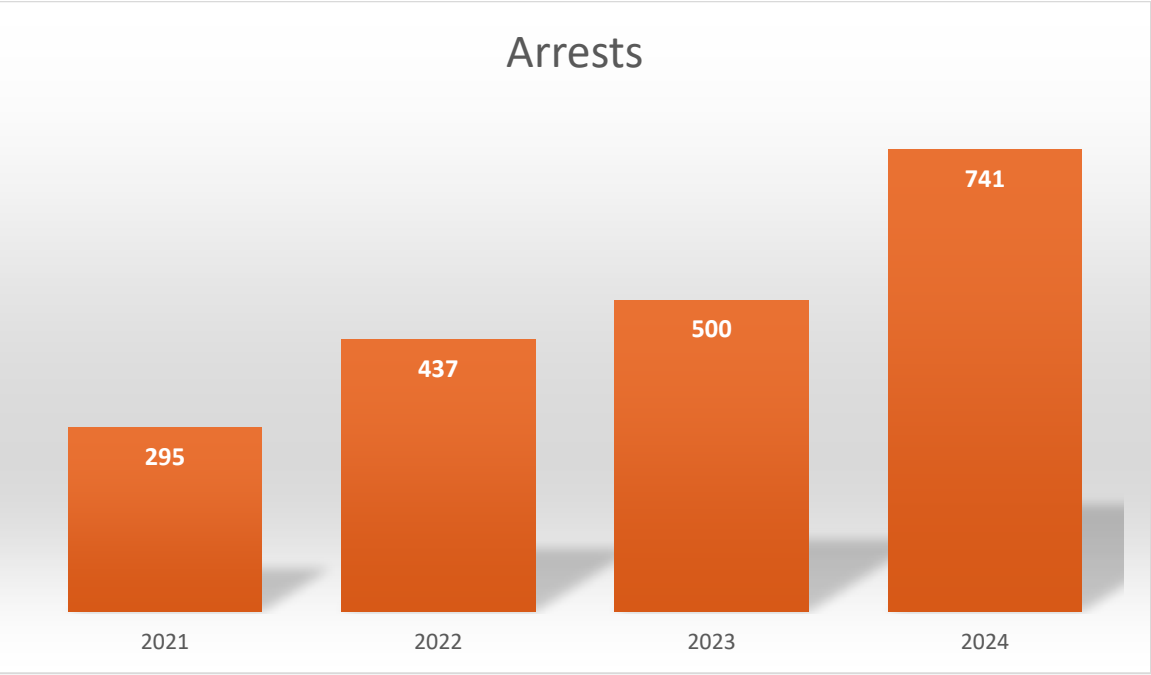
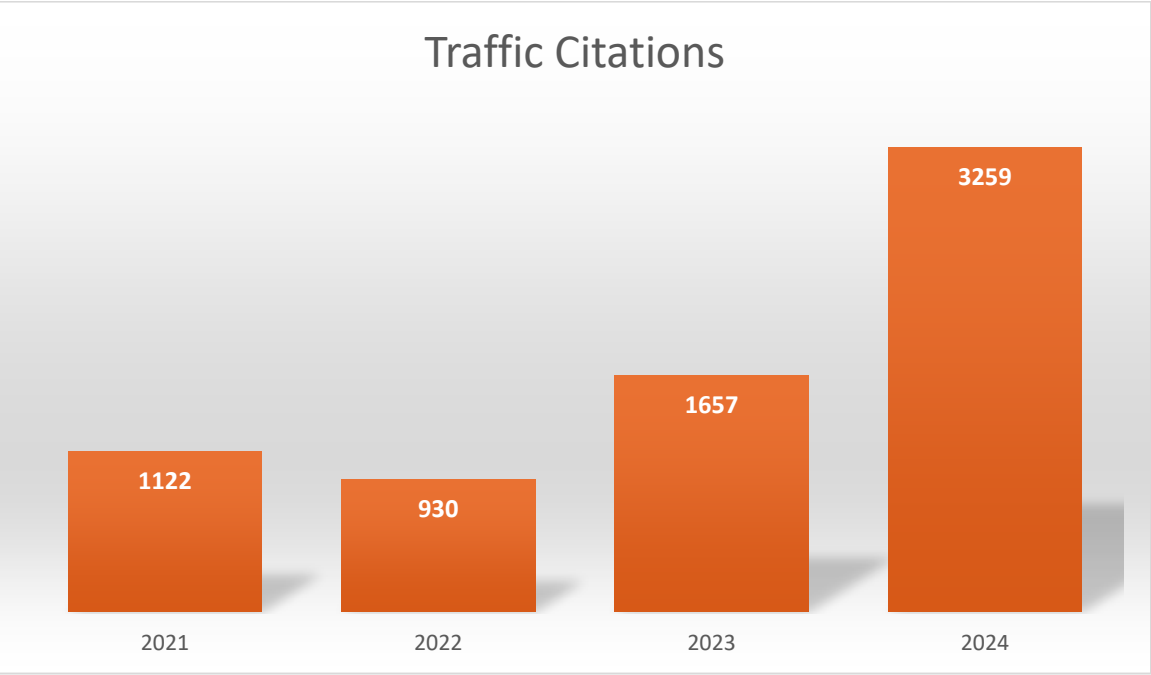
Sgt. Jordan Seese earned the Leadership Award for 2024. He is a 14-year veteran officer and in his second year as a Sergeant. Jordan consistently demonstrates drive, determination, fairness, and vision. He is not afraid to raise objections in the pursuit of advancing the department and never misses an opportunity to advocate for our officers and our department. He is one of the first to volunteer for challenges, including updating our mission statement and core values. This statement and values guide our every effort and decision that we make. Officers look up to him as a mentor, advocate, and role model. He is known for a healthy balance of business and humor. He has become a sounding board for department initiatives and his counsel is sought by many due to his balanced judgement and the rare skill of being an attentive and caring listener.



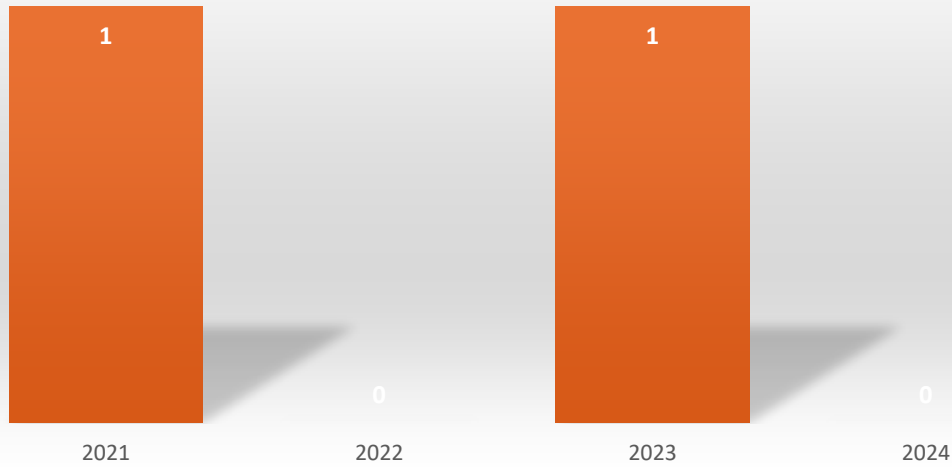
Sgt. Seese represents the highest standards of leadership and embodies the core values of Accountability, Trust, Integrity, Honor and Professionalism.

Statistics

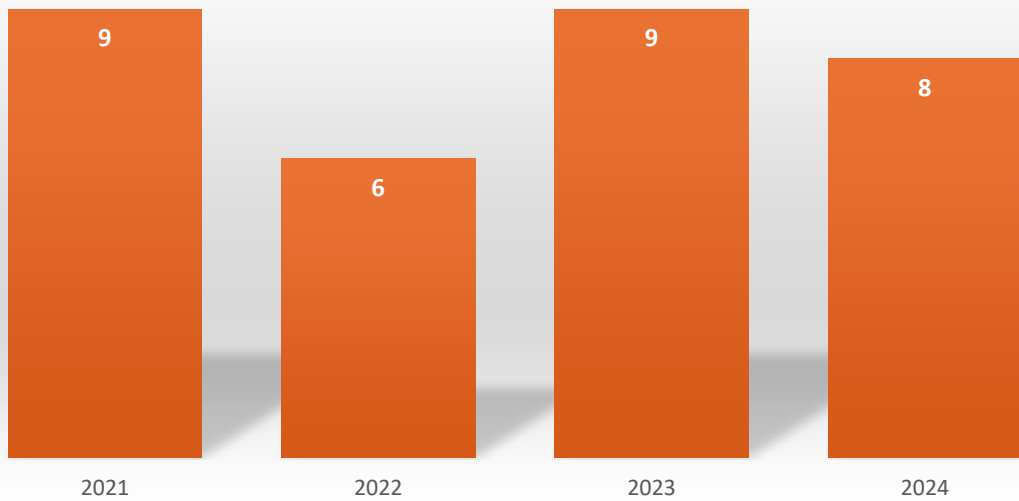


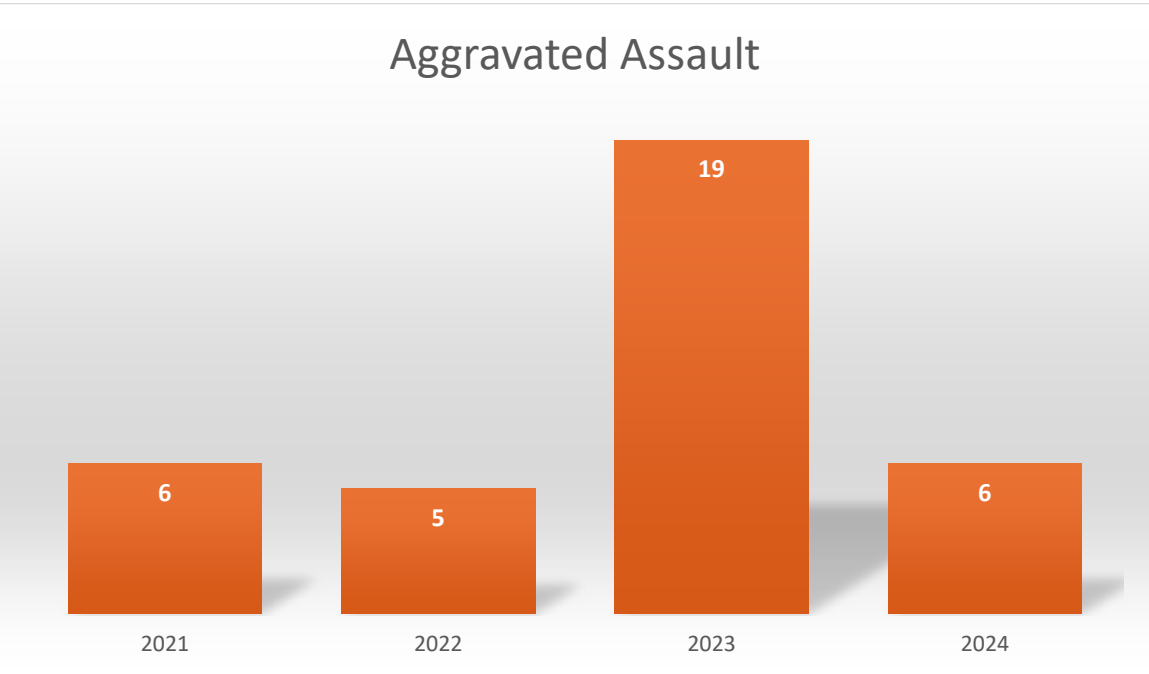
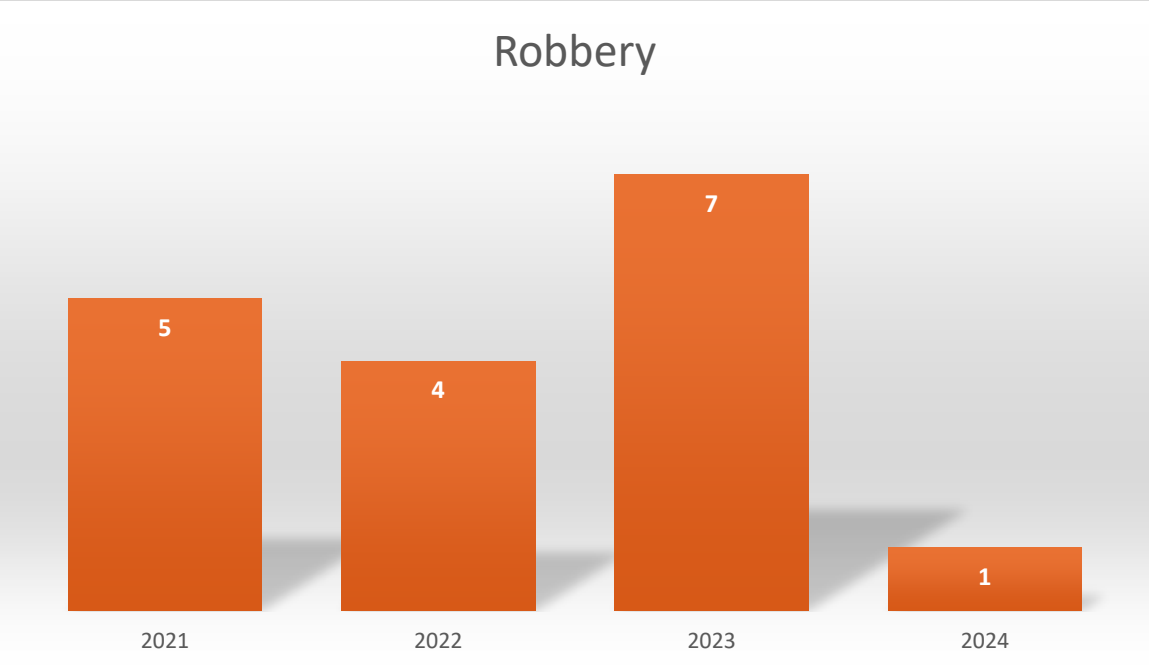


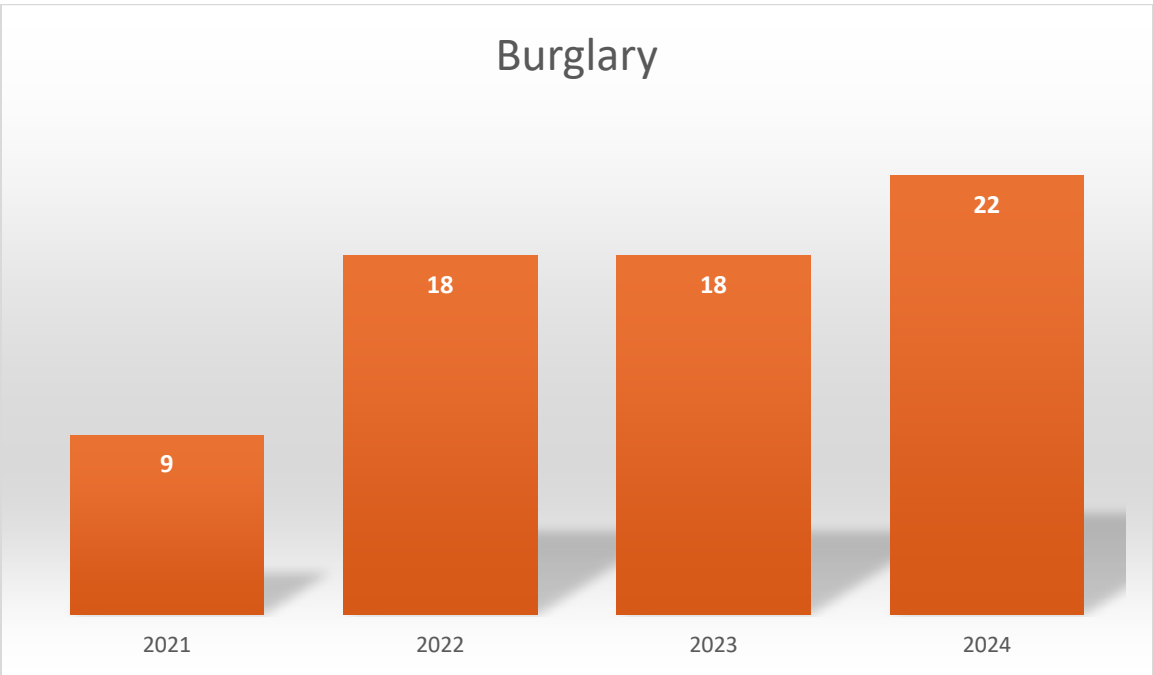
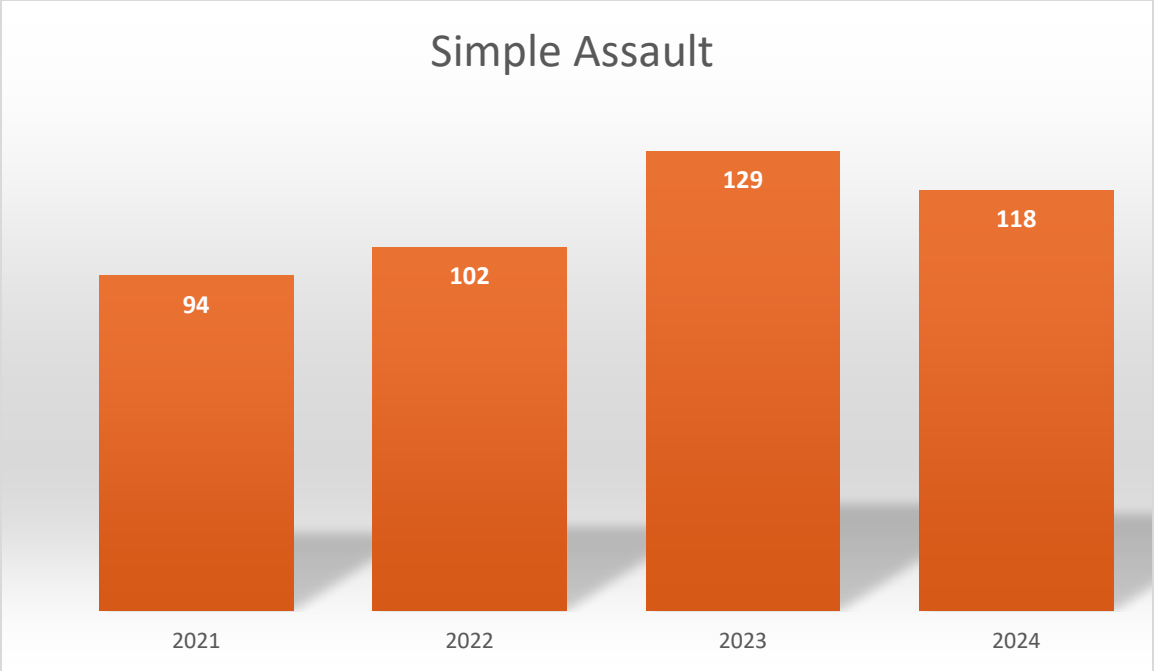
Murder and Manslaughter

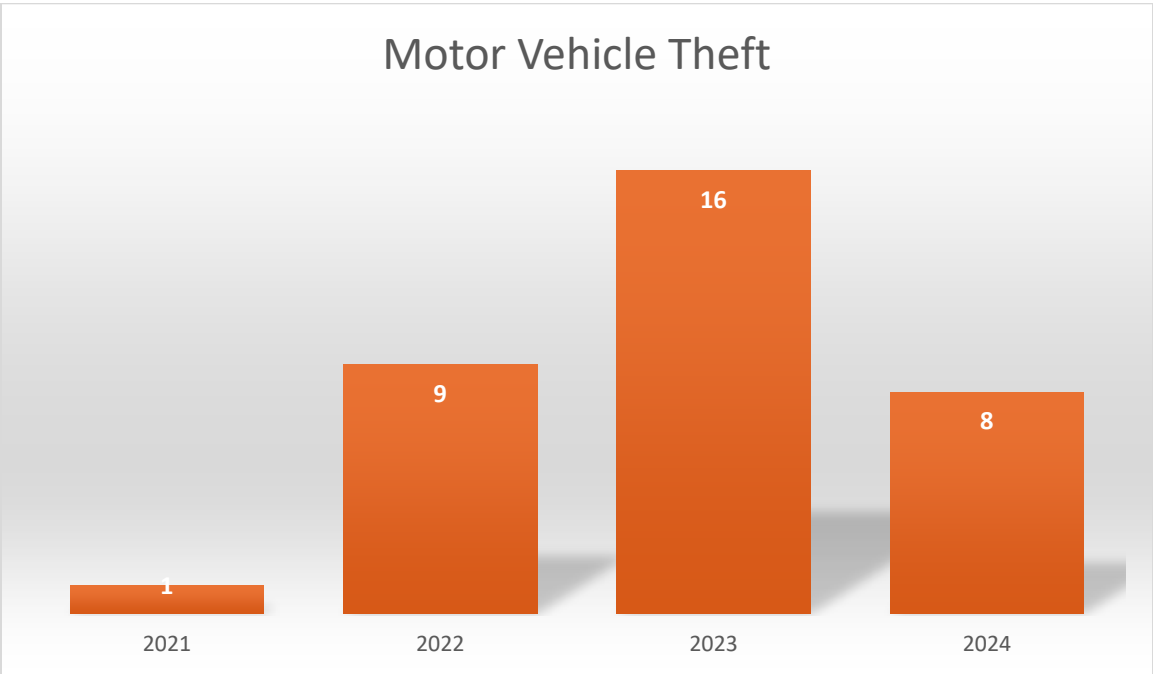
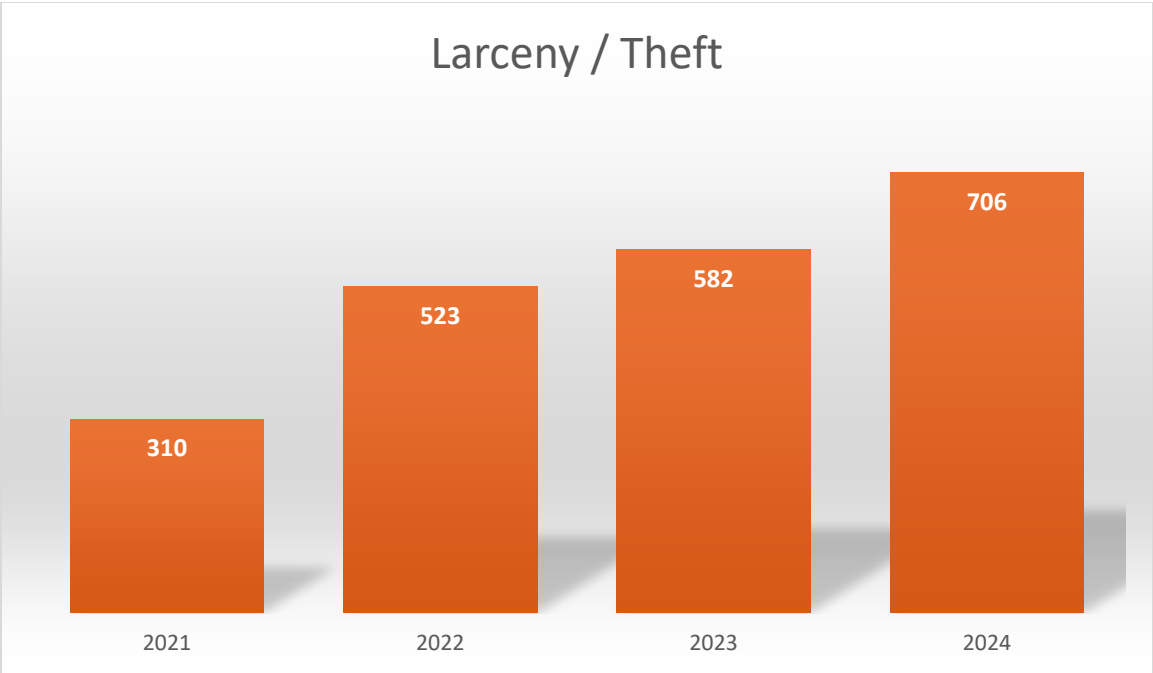


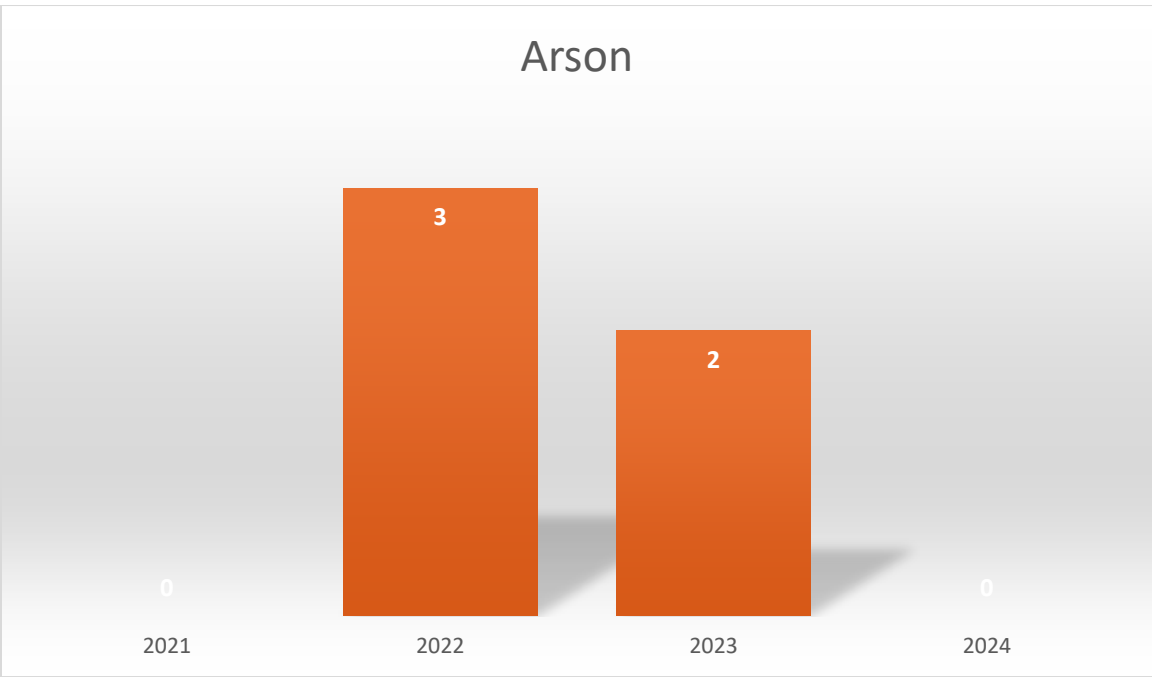
Rape



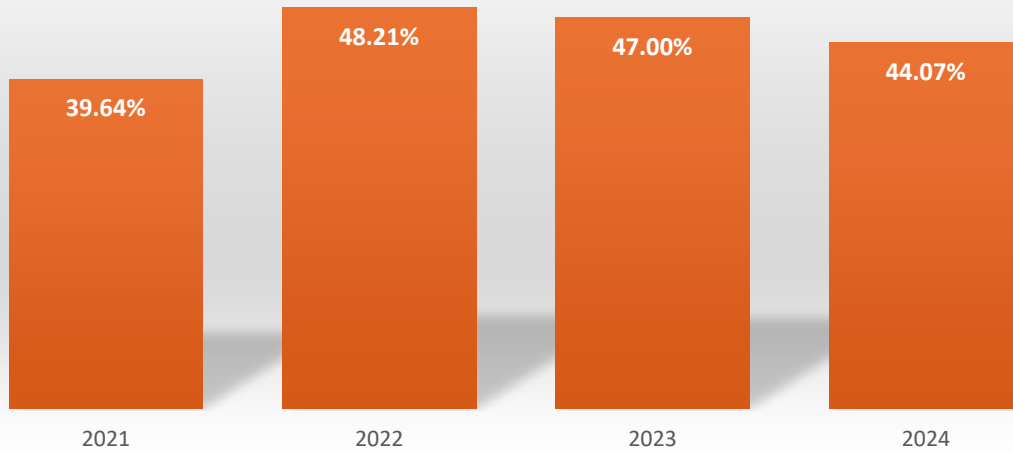




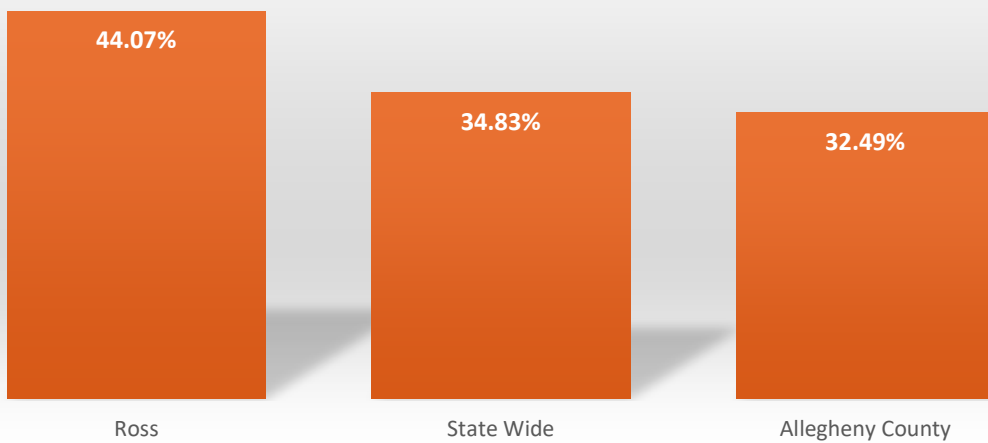




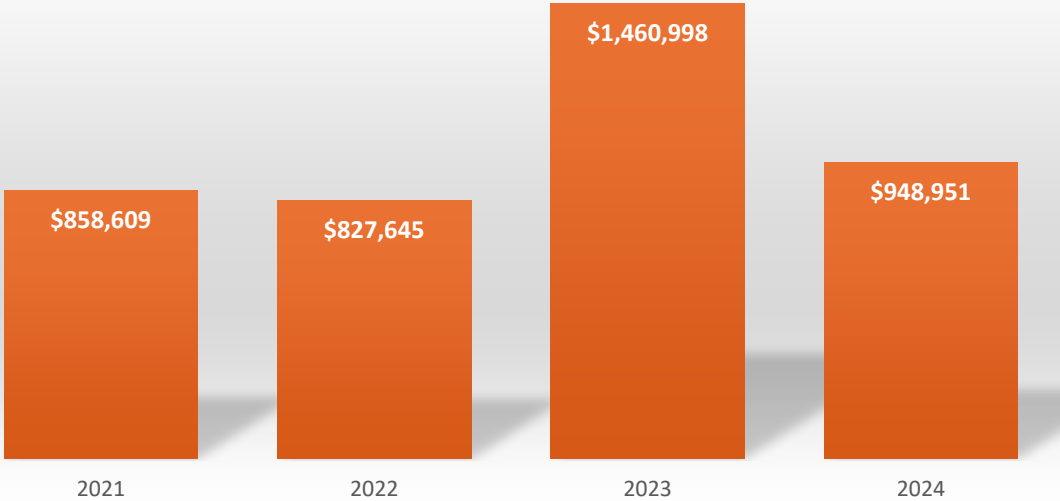
Clearance Rate - All Offences



Ross Clearance Rate vs. State Wide and Allegheny County Wide

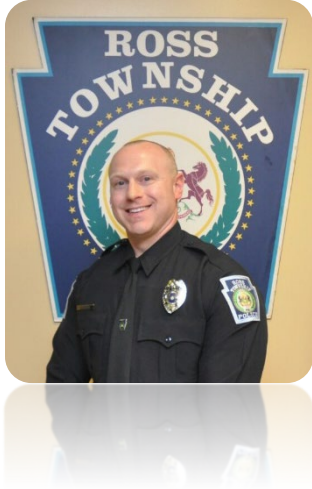


Stolen Property Values



New Police Department Employees

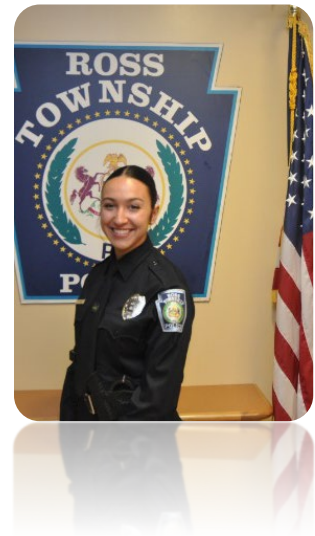
Officer Chad Green



Officer Green grew up in McCandless Township and graduated from North Allegheny High School. He attended Slippery Rock University, where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice. After graduating from the Allegheny County Policy Academy, Officer Green spent 12 years serving with the West View Borough Police Department, prior to being hired with Ross Township.

Officer Alexandra Lizzi

Officer Alexandra Lizzi grew up in Beaver County and graduated from Freedom Area High School in 2017. Officer Lizzi graduated from Cal U. of PA with a degree in criminal justice and a minor in psychology. After college, she attended the police academy and worked at New Sewickley Township Police Department for two years before being hired at Ross Township. Fun fact, Officer Lizzi is an avid Taylor Swift fan!





Officer Luke Lloyd

Officer Lloyd graduated from Avella High School in Washington county before attending Geneva college where he played football for 4 years and earned a bachelor's degree in Business/Sports Management. In 2021 he attended the Allegheny County Police Academy. Prior to being hired by Ross Township, he worked for the McDonald Borough Police Department and the South Park Township Police Department.



Officer Jason Pokorny

Officer Pokorny was born and raised in Ross Township. He graduated from North Hills High School in 2008. He then attended CCAC and received an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice. He still lives in the township with his wife and three children. Officer Pokorny began his law enforcement career with Pittsburgh Police in 2018. In 2024, he joined the ranks of the Ross Township Police Department. In his spare time, he enjoys camping with his family, fishing and doing construction projects.

Officer Nicholas Anderson

Officer Anderson comes to Ross Twp from the local area. He is a graduate of Shaler Area High School class of 2012 and attended CCAC prior to the Police Academy. He graduated from the Allegheny County Police Academy with recruit class 2016-1. He went on to serve the residents of Reserve Township for over 7 years and left at the recent rank of Sgt. He enjoys spending time with his wife, raising their 2-year-old son and looks forward to a long career at Ross Township



Promotions

Sergeant Matthew Immekus

Sergeant Immekus has been serving the community of Ross Township since 2011. Prior to his employment with Ross Township, he served as a Police Officer with the City of Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, the Brentwood Borough Police Department, and the Mt. Oliver Borough Police Department for a combined 19 years of law enforcement service in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In his current role with the Ross Township Police Department, Sergeant Immekus serves as a Patrol Sergeant. He is also managing our Special Programs / Community Engagement Unit. Sergeant Immekus served as a Field Training Officer (FTO) and he also helps manage the Police Department's Facebook and Instagram pages.

Sergeant Immekus is a trainer for the Project Lifesaver program through the Allegheny County District Attorney's Office. He is a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officer and he previously served as an International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) police cyclist instructor for many years.

Sgt. Immekus was born and raised in the Pittsburgh area. He is a proud father of four, who in his free time enjoys spending time with his family, running, cycling and mountain biking.



Sergeant Peter Chuberko

Sgt. Peter Chuberko has 30 years of experience as a police officer. He is a graduate of Gateway Senior High School and Penn State University where he received a BS in Administration of Justice. Sgt. Chuberko began his police career with Trafford Borough, Pitcairn Borough, and North Huntingdon Township. He also worked as a security officer at Forbes Regional Hospital



in Monroeville. He spent a short time as a police officer in the city of Pittsburgh where he was assigned to the Northside.

Sgt. Chuberko was hired in Ross Township in 2001. He was a founding member of the North Hills Special Response Team and spent 13 years as an operator. He was also a Canine Handler for 18 years and worked with two canine partners during that time, as well as being a department Field Training Officer. He enjoys outdoor activities including hunting, fishing, riding ATVs, and camping.

Changes of Assignment



Sergeant Jordan Seese has served as a Patrol Sergeant since his promotion in 2023. Sgt. Seese now serves as the department's Staff Sergeant, a new position created in 2024. The Staff Sergeant supervises the Traffic Unit and coordinates all traffic studies as well as all enforcement / education campaigns. Commercial truck enforcement is also supervised by the Staff Sergeant. Sgt. Seese will now oversee the Field Training Program and the Theft Investigation Unit. Sgt. Seese will also serve as the liaison to the North Hill School District and their police department. Sergeant Seese was hired by Ross Township in April of 2011.



Sergeant Dean Chiaramonte has served as a Patrol Sergeant since his promotion in 2023. In 2024, Sgt. Chiaramonte was assigned to the newly created Administrative Sergeant position. The Administrative Sergeant is the supervisor of the Records Division, the Internet Technology Unit, and the Evidence Unit. Sgt. Chiaramonte will also function as the department's Fleet Manager. Sergeant Chiaramonte was hired by the Ross Police Department in 2010.

Retirements



Sergeant David Eckels began his career with the Ross Police Department in October of 2000. Prior to coming to Ross, Sergeant Eckels served in Iraq as a United States Marine. Sergeant Eckels was a Field Training Officer, teaching many of our current officers. Sergeant Eckels spent a majority of his career assigned as the Senior Firearms Training Officer. Sergeant Eckels was a founding member of the North Hills Special Response Team and it's first Team Leader, a position which he held up until retirement.

Military Deployments

Sergeant Joseph Serowik was activated in October 2023 and was deployed for a yearlong tour to Djibouti, Africa as part of United States Army Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations Command (Airborne), USACAPOC(A). Sgt. Serowik is a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve with almost 38 years in serving our great country. Col. Serowik was involved in the fight with our African Partners against Violent Extremist Groups that are operating in their countries such as al-Shabaab and ISIS. Col. Serowik is also leading humanitarian missions with a focus on public health in impoverished areas as well as conducted Strategic Engagements with our African Partners to enhance partner nation capacity, promote regional security and stability, dissuade conflict, and protect U.S. and coalition interests. In February 2025, Sergeant Serowik was yet again activated and is currently serving in Germany.



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 is staffed by Detectives Michael Kirtley, David Sciullo, Michael Orsino, Jason Moss, 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 from Patrol 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. In 2024, Officer Allenbaugh received national recognition by earning his "Trainer" certification from the North



American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA). There currently are only 4 Trainers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



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 is supervised by Sergeant Matthew Immekus.

In 2024, Special Programs Officers raised over \$15,000 to supply disadvantaged youth with Christmas Gifts and clothing!



Traffic Safety Unit

In 2024, the Ross Township Police Department formed its first full-time Traffic Unit. The Traffic Unit consists of Officers Al Elway and Sean Stafiej. Addressing the high number of traffic-related issues we receive was the motivation for forming this specialized unit. 2024 has shown us that the Traffic Unit will play a safety role well into the future.



1,009 Citations issued

203 Citations issued during Special Enforcement

6 Departmental Traffic Blitzes

3 Serious Accident Reconstructions

17 Traffic Studies

73 Targeted Traffic Complaints

21 Speed Sign Placements

10 Car Seat Installations

4 Funeral Escorts

1 Community Traffic Meetings

12 Speed timing line placements

Red Ribbon Week NHHS / Mock-Crash 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 2024, Officers 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 172 Truck inspections during 2024. 59 trucks were placed out of service due to serious safety violations. In total, the unit issued 234 Motor Carrier Citations for various violations.



Records Division



The Ross Township 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 2024, Records assisted 363 citizen walk-ins. The records division prepared 760 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 Services Unit

In 2024, a social worker has co-responded with a police officer on 293 calls for service.

Referrals & Interactions

Ross Township residents were supported 805 times utilizing the social services coordinator program. These services include case management, consultation, client education, crisis intervention, risk assessments, short-term counseling, psychological first aid, and referrals to treatment centers and local helping agencies.



Interactions

- **Total Referrals – 212: Police - 194, Self - 10, Community - 8**
- **Total Client Interactions: 805**
- **Co-Responder Model Interactions: 293**
- **Individual Client Interactions: 512**

Crisis Response & Intervention (Crisis Intervention Model)

Crisis Response & Intervention Interactions: 213

Crisis Response & Intervention is a short-term management technique designed to reduce potential permanent damage caused by a person in 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, Self-Neglect, and Cognitive Decline.

The following interventions were used to prevent potential permanent damage for residents in crisis: Suicide/Homicide Risk Assessments, Domestic Violence Lethality Assessments, Safety Planning, ChildLine referrals, Adult Protective Services referrals, Protection from Abuse assistance, Drug & Alcohol Assessment and Referrals, Detox & Rehab Coordination, Involuntary/Voluntary client admission/transport to hospital, Psychological First Aid, and Emergency Housing coordination.

Community Engagement:

- Exceptional Citizens Expo at the Department of Public Works (April 2024) [Exceptional Citizens Expo offers 'very inclusive' experience in Ross | TribLIVE.com](#)
- Pennsylvania Overdose Prevention Program (Apr 2024-Present) [Ross police implement OD prevention program | TribLIVE.com](#)
- Fourth of July Parade & Fireworks Celebration at Ross Municipal Center Park (July 2024)
- Coffee with a Cop at The Block Northway (Sept 2024)
- Senior Fair Expo at Ross Township Community Center (September 2024)
- Social Services Unit Presentation (Sept 2024) [Collaborative approach: Social services program boosts ability of Ross police to provide help | TribLIVE.com](#)
- Citizens Police Academy Presenter (Sept-Oct 2024)
- Red Ribbon Week at North Hills High School (October 2024)



Education & Training:

- Slippery Rock Master of Social Work Interns (Aug 2023 – May 2024) Elizabeth Echevarria, MSW & Ashly Nicholas, MSW (Cranberry Township PD)
- Attended Addiction & Connection to Treatment Training provided by St. Joseph's University (Feb 2024)
- Assisted Mt. Lebanon Police Department with Social Services Coordinator program start up and discussed benefits of the program with township commissioners. (Apr 2024) Link: [Police seeking social services coordinator - Mt Lebanon Magazine](#)



recertification audit in Aug 2024

- Co-Presenter at the 2024 Social Work Law Enforcement (SWLE) Project National Conference at Southern Connecticut State University, "Police Social Work in Small to Mid-Sized Police Departments: Potential for Positive Community Impact" Attended & Provided Training (May 2024)
- Pennsylvania Certification Board (PCB) Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) granted recertification in May 2024 and passed

- Granted International Certified Alcohol and Drug Counseling (ICADC) Certification through the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium (IC&RC) in May 2024
- Completed National Tactical Officer Association (NTOA) Crisis Negotiator Team training (June 2024)
- Co-Presenter for the Allegheny County Crisis Intervention Team Training at the Hampton Community Center, (Oct 2024) [NOVEMBER 2024.pdf](#) (page 14)
- Allegheny County Information & Emergency Referral System (IRES) Training. Gained access to complete 302 petitions on behalf of the county for Allegheny County residents



Collaborated and Co-Presented for the Police Social Work Continuing Education Presentation - A Collaborative Co-Response Model at the Hampton Community Center with Angela Kenbok, MSW (Nov 2024) Social Worker Interns Ashly and Elizabeth accomplished the following during their year-long internships with the Ross Police Department.:



Responded with officers to 139 Crisis Calls for Service.

Provided support services to Ross Residents 213 times. 84 of which were deemed Emergency Crisis Intervention Calls.

Provided individual client counseling 74 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 2024, Sergeant Daniel Papale headed the FTU with the assistance of Sergeant Glenn Garcia, and Officer Nate Roy. Officer David Horak assists the FTU by providing Defensive Tactics training to the department. The Firearms Training Unit conducted the following during 2024:



Qualified all Ross Officers both during day and night shoots.



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

Taught "Active Shooter" to officers from over 15 area departments

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

Assisted Allegheny County Police with the training of their cadet classes

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 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.

2024 saw the NHSRT promote a new Team Commander, New Team Leader, and a number of Squad Leaders. Sgt. Glenn Garcia took over the role of “Team Liaison” with the retirement of Sgt. David Eckels.

The team received a grant for the purchase of a new armored vehicle which is currently being built. In 2024, the SRT team responded to 13 deployments for incidents ranging from warrant services to barricaded individuals.

In Remembrance



In 2024 we saw the passing of two members of the Ross Police Department family. Lieutenant Gary Waters and Officer Thomas Koedel. Both Gary and Tom were Ross residents and were very active in the community.

Lt. Gary Waters graduated from North Hills High School and Youngstown State University. Lt. Waters served in the Patrol Division starting in 1978. He was transferred into the Detective Division in 1988. In 2000 Gary was promoted to Lieutenant and remained in this position until his retirement in 2011.



Officer Tom Koedel was born in Etna, Pa. and joined the Ross Police Department in 1980. Tom spent his career serving the residents of Ross Township in the Patrol Division. Tom spent a large part of his career assigned to the Firearms Training Unit, a position which he loved. Officer Koedel retired in 2010 after serving the community for 30 years!

Both Lt. Gary Waters and Ofc. Thomas Koedel touched the hearts of many and will be deeply missed.
