



LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT



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The Department Mission, Vision, & Values

Mission

To consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and quality service to members of Liberty Township.

Vision

As a model law enforcement agency, we will foster an environment of partnership, respect, and honesty with each member of our community, our department, and our law enforcement partners. We will represent the ideals of public service in carrying out our mission and living our values. The Liberty Police Department will be known for its commitment to steadfast compassionate service and vigorous crime fighting.

Values

As members of the Liberty Police Department, we accept responsibility for contributing to the quality of life and safety in our community. We will meet the challenge of fulfilling our responsibility through our shared values and commitment to:

Honor

We are genuinely concerned with how we treat our fellow department members, and the public. To honor and respect other's delivery of law enforcement service is the mindset that enables us to model our values.

Integrity

We will demonstrate our allegiance to the character of sound moral principals as described in the Police Officer's Code of Ethics coupled with the qualities of honesty and openness. Our words will match our actions.

Leadership

We will serve with humility, initiative, courage, and authenticity at every level in our organization.

Accountability

We consistently improve our organizational and individual performance by enabling a culture of responsibility and continuous development. We will take responsibility for our actions.

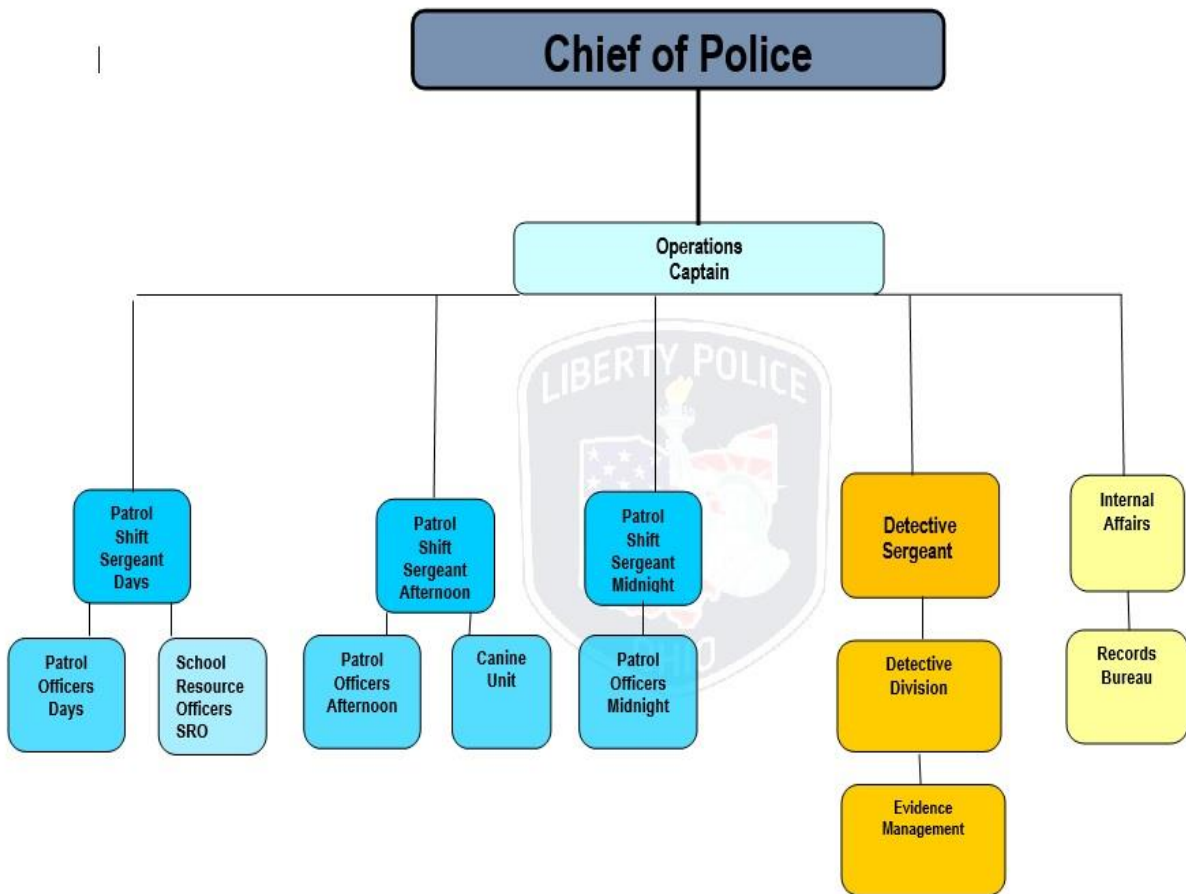
Commitment

We will reflect our inner strength through our dedication to public service in how we carry out our mission, pursue our vision and exhibit our values.



Organizational Chart

Liberty Police Department Organizational Chart



Revised 12/02/2021



New Employees

Police Officer Hires

Tim Riley

Christian Thoma

Canine Shelby





Department Statistics

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics			
<u>Part 1 Crime Totals</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Murder	1	0	0
Rape	12	13	19
Robbery	20	9	11
Aggravated Assault	2	5	1
Burglary	25	23	16
Larceny / Theft	321	222	274
Kidnapping	3	1	
<u>Total Offenses</u>	384	273	321



Use of Force

When officers use force to make an arrest, we carefully examine the events leading up to the use of force, as well as the events following, to make sure that our officers used force reasonably and provided adequate aid in the event of an injured community member. Liberty Police Officers seek compliance when making an arrest but must be prepared to reasonably respond to resistance.

Use of Force Tracking and Review

The Liberty Police Department does not track the use of control holds to accomplish handcuffing, unless a person is injured or reports that they are injured. Handcuffing control holds are techniques used during almost every arrest situation. The department tracks and reviews all other use of force including takedowns, firearms, impact weapons, canine uses, pepper spray, and personal body weapons (elbows, knees, fists). A single use of force incident may include multiple officers using a variety of techniques.

Officers Used force against subjects 26 times during the calendar year 2022.

Type of Force	#times used
Control Hold	10
ECD (ex. Taser)	6
Firearm	1
Impact Weapon	0
K-9 Deployed Apprehension	12
Pepper Spray	0
Pain Compliance	2
Personal Body Weapon	3
Take Down (Trip/Tackle)	14
TOTAL	48



Internal Affairs

Every year, the Liberty Police Department conducts investigations into the actions of Police employees. The LPD investigates complaints from two sources: members of the public and employees of the police department. Just because a person makes a complaint about a police employee, it does not mean that the misconduct occurred. It is the responsibility of trained investigators to interview involved people, gather and analyze evidence, and make a fact – based determination about the allegation.

Complaint Process

Members of the public can make complaints against police personnel in several ways. People can travel to the police department and pick up a complaint form. They can also visit the Liberty Police Department website and download a complaint form. Community members can make a complaint:

In writing by completing a complaint form and mailing it to the police department\

In writing by completing a complaint form and dropping it off at the Police Department

Verbally by calling the police department and speaking with a supervisor

By email by contacting the Chief of Police or the Captain

Once a complaint is made, it is referred to the Captain. Depending on the nature of the complaint, it might be investigated by a trained in-house internal affairs investigator, or an investigative body hired by the Townships authority.

The possible outcomes are:

The allegation is **sustained** , evidence shows the conduct did occur

The allegation is **not sustained** , evidence shows the conduct may not have occurred

The allegation is **unfounded**, evidence shows the conduct did not occur

The allegation shows the employee is **exonerated**, evidence shows that the conduct did occur, but it was lawful and proper.



Internal Affairs

Discipline

All investigations are reviewed by the Police Captain and Police Chief. When an investigation is sustained, the Police Captain reports the findings in writing to the Chief of Police. The discipline can range from a verbal counseling up to termination.

At the conclusion of an investigation, The Chief of Police or Captain writes a letter to the reporting party to inform them of the outcome of the investigation.

		Sustained	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Exonerated
2022	Citizen Complaint	1		2	2
2022	Internal Complaint				

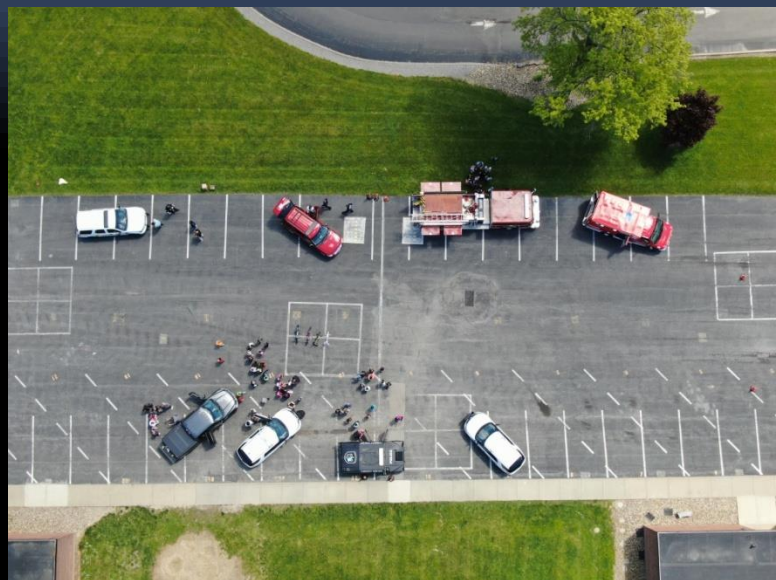


UAS (Drone Deployment)

In 2019 , Liberty Police Department began to deploy a drone for law enforcement uses. LPD investigators use drones for evidence photography, searching for missing and wanted people, and training.

UAS OPERATION

When flying the UAS, there must be an operator and an observer. The operator is a member of the Liberty Police Department who is trained as a UAS pilot and exercises control over a UAS during flight. Both operator and observer complete all required department-approved training in operation, applicable laws, policies , and procedures regarding the use of UAS.



2022 Statistics

Evidence Search	Suspect Search	Missing Person	Scene Photos	Training/ Demo
3	1	1	0	10



Administrative Division

The Administrative Division plays an essential role in the management, risk reduction, and effectiveness of the Department. The Administrative Clerk manages critical department records, oversees our Senior Watch Program, manages the towed vehicle program, and provides public assistance at the front counter.

RECORDS PROCESSED

Arrests	Total Citations	Impounds	Reports	Seniors Active in Program
855	1239	471	2354	30



Investigations

The Liberty Police Department Investigations Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and three Detectives. LPD has one detective assigned to the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (Drug Unit), one Detective assigned to Trumbull Action Group (TAG). Two of our Detectives are members of The Trumbull County Prosecutors Homicide Task Force.

Detectives are responsible for following up on criminal reports and other incidents reported within Liberty Township. They conduct follow up interviews, author and serve arrest and search warrants, and process evidence. Detectives prepare and present cases to the Girard Municipal Court and Trumbull County Common Pleas Court. The Investigative Unit works closely and collaboratively with law enforcement partners throughout the Mahoning Valley.

For the calendar year of 2022 Detectives were assigned 200 cases, authored and served 19 search warrants, and processed 972 pieces of evidence.



Patrol Division

The uniformed members of the Patrol Division are the front line of the police departments efforts. The division includes patrol officers, sergeants, school resource officers, and canine handlers. If a person calls the police department and needs help or has a problem, members of the patrol unit respond.

Patrol officers are first to arrive at traffic collisions, crimes in progress, and medical crisis.



2022	Miles Traveled	Calls For Service Answered	Traffic Stops	Accident reports	Incident Reports
	171,774	16,495	1863	318	2354



Canine Unit

In 2022 police department added a second dual purpose canine team. second year together. K9 Leo is a dual-purpose canine. He specializes in tracking, article searches apprehension, as well as narcotic searches. Officer Rankin and Leo are utilized to search for suspects who have fled from officers after committing a crime, detecting illegal drugs concealed in motor vehicles and in residence, and searching large areas for missing persons.

In addition, our K9 team travels to various school districts and community events where they interact with students and the public. They demonstrate their abilities and answer any questions people may have about the program.



2022 K9 Usage

- Tracking – 6
- Narcotic Searches -63
- Criminal Apprehensions – 7
- Area Searches – 4
- Public Events – 5

TOTAL - 85



Citation Award Recipients

The Citation Award Program is a recognized program that allows the administration of the Liberty Police Department to recognize individual officer achievements and other notable milestones within an officer's professional career. Citation Awards themselves are special commendations issued to officers in recognition for specific acts or behavior, for educational and other special achievements, for proficiency in firearms, and for years of service with the Liberty Police Department. This year's recipients are the following:

Police Commendation

- Detective Jeffrey Palmer II
- Officer James Newton
- K-9 Officer David Rankin
- Officer Ashley Kitchen
- Officer Tim Riley
- Officer James Marco
- Officer Tyler Beck
- Officer Kenneth Griffin

Military Service

- Officer Brian Delia

Years of Service

- Chief Toby Meloro 30 Years
- Sergeant Michael Janovick 25 years
- Sergeant G.T. Bednar 25 years
- Officer James Newton 25 years
- Sergeant Chad McGarry 20+ years
- Sergeant Mike Shuster 20 years
- Captain Ray Buhala 15 years
- Officer Robert Altier 15 years
- Officer David Rankin 5 years
- Officer James Marco 5 years

Marksman

- Chief Toby Meloro
- Captain Ray Buhala
- Sergeant Mike Shuster
- Sergeant Mike Janovick
- Sergeant Chad McGarry
- Sergeant G.T. Bednar
- Officer James Newton
- Officer Robert Altier
- Officer David Rankin
- Officer James Marco
- Officer Chris Walla
- Officer Brian Delia
- Detective Sean Ryan
- Officer Eric Sewell
- Officer Ashley Kitchen
- Officer Jeff Palmer
- Officer Kenny Griffin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Tim Riley
- Officer Christian Thoma

Physical Fitness

- Captain Ray Buhala
- Sergeant Mike Shuster
- Officer Robert Altier
- Officer James Marco
- Officer Chris Walla
- Officer Tyler Beck
- Detective Palmer
- Officer Kenneth Griffin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Christian Thoma



Citation Award Recipients Officer Involved Shooting

On June 10, 2022 at approximately 2:55 pm officers responded to a shooting at the intersection of Belmont Avenue and Liberty Street within Liberty Township wherein a 20-year male victim had been shot in the face while seated in the vehicle at that intersection.

While officers were responding, Officer Sean Ryan observed the suspect vehicle approaching him and attempted to initiate a Felony traffic stop of the vehicle. The driver abruptly stopped his vehicle on Liberty Street, exited and immediately opened fire on Officer Ryan. Officer Ryan returned fire as he was taking a position of cover behind his marked patrol vehicle.

The suspect continued to engage Officer Ryan using the same tactics employed by Officer Ryan. Minutes later, Officer Rankin arrived to the scene. Both officers used their training and worked together from a position of cover. Officers Kitchen and Riley arrived and worked with Officer Ryan and Rankin to eliminate the threat.

Because of these officers' quick actions, the suspect was immediately subdued and apprehended preventing any additional violent acts from being committed.

Medal of Honor

- Detective Sean Ryan

Medal Of Valor

- Officer David Rankin

Award of Merit

- Officer Ashley Kitchen
- Officer Tim Riley



Police Chaplin Program

Pastor Constantino pictured on the left has been serving since 2019 and Pastor Mitchell has been serving officially since 2021.

The responsibilities of a chaplain related to this department include, but are not limited to:

Assisting members in the diffusion of a conflict or incident, when requested.

Responding to natural and accidental deaths, suicides and attempted suicides, family disturbances and any other incident that in the judgment of the Shift Sergeant or supervisor aids in accomplishing the mission of the Department.

Responding to all major disasters, such as natural disasters, bombings and similar critical incidents.

Being on-call and, if possible, on-duty during major demonstrations or any public function that requires the presence of a large number of department members.

Attending department and academy graduations, ceremonies and social events and offering invocations and benedictions, as requested.

