



LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT



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.

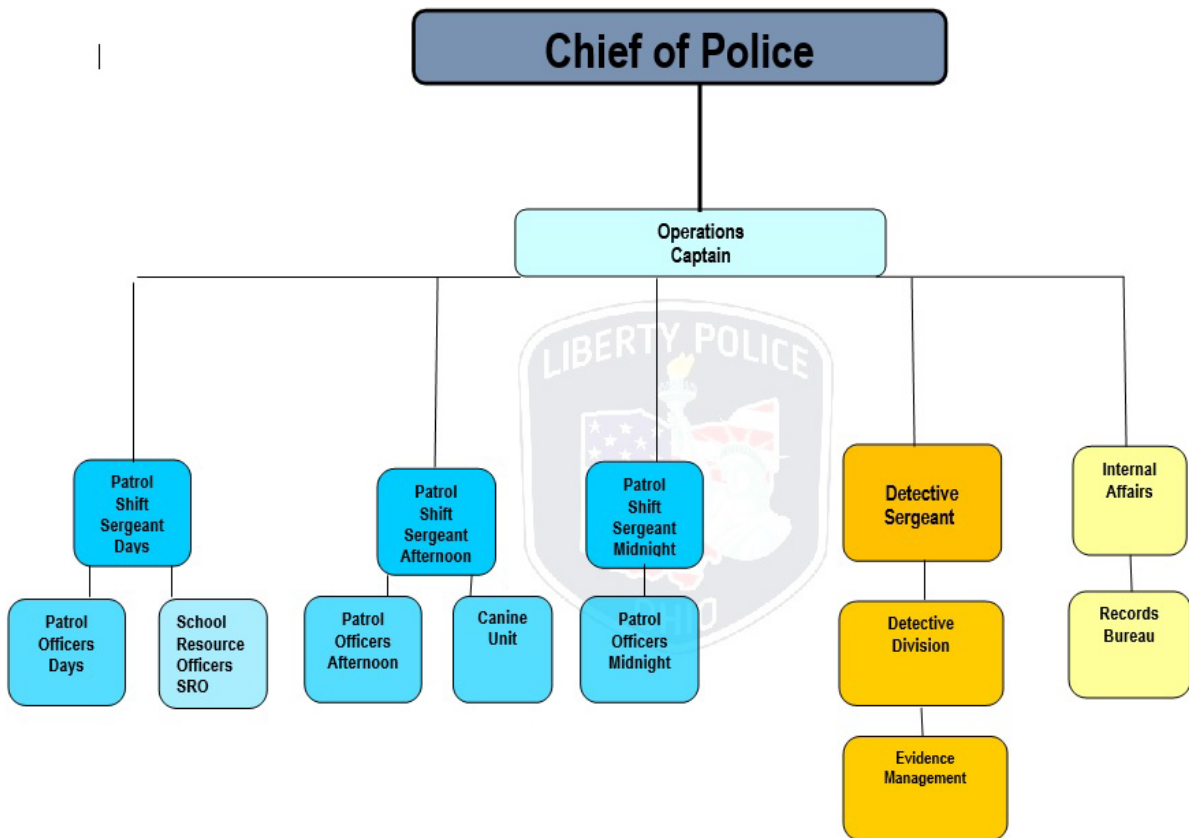
Commitment

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

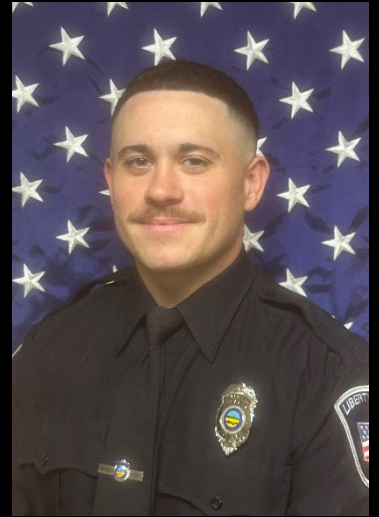


New Employees

Police Officer Hires

Brandon Rice

Thomas Martin



Retirements

Officer James Newton

28 Years of Service

Sergeant Michael Janovick

29 Years of Service





Department Statistics

Total Calls For Service

13,556

Homicide – 0

Theft - 240

Overdose- 26

Assault- 66

Burglary - 14

Domestic Disputes - 103

Assist other Departments - 79

Alarm Drops - 828

Unwanted Persons -169

Traffic Stops -2,514

Traffic Citations – 1,002

Traffic Warnings- 1,512

Vehicles Impounded – 568

Traffic Crashes – 481





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 24 times during the calendar year 2023.

Type of Force	#times used
Control Hold	13
ECD (ex. Taser)	7
Firearm	0
Impact Weapon	0
K-9 Deployed Apprehension	5
Pepper Spray	0
Pain Compliance	0
Personal Body Weapon	0
Balance Displacement	8
TOTAL	33



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.



2023 Statistics

Evidence Search	Suspect Search	Missing Person	Scene Photos	Training/ Demo
2	1	1	0	12



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 Filed	Seniors Active in Program
1042	1002	568	1993	85



Investigations



The Liberty Police Department Investigations Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and two Detectives. LPD has one detective assigned to the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (Drug Unit) . 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 2023 Detectives were assigned 177 cases, authored and served 21 search warrants, and processed 998 pieces of evidence.



Canine Unit

The police department has two dual purpose canine team. K9 Leo and K9 Shelby specialize in tracking, article searches, apprehension, as well as narcotic searches. They are utilized to search for suspects who have fled from officers after committing a crime, detecting illegal drugs concealed in motor vehicles and in residences, and searching large areas for missing persons.

In addition, our K9 teams travel 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.



2023 K9 Usage

- Tracking – 13
- Narcotic Searches -57
- Criminal Apprehensions – 15
- Area Searches – 20
- Public Events – 7
- K-9 Presence - 46
- Other- 7

TOTAL - 165



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 Sergeant Michael Shuster
- Sergeant George Bednar
- Sergeant Sean Ryan
- Detective Jeffrey Palmer II
- Officer Robert Altier
- K-9 Officer David Rankin
- Officer Chris Walla
- Officer Brian Delia
- Officer Tyler Beck
- Officer Ashley Kitchen
- Officer Kenneth Griffin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Tim Riley
- Officer Christian Thoma

Meritorious Conduct

- Sergeant Sean Ryan

Years of Service

- Chief Toby Meloro 30 +Years
- Sergeant G.T. Bednar 25+ years
- Sergeant Chad McGarry 25 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
- Officer Chris Walla 5 years
- Officer Brian Delia 5 Years

Firearms

Marksman

- Chief Toby Meloro
- Sergeant Bednar
- Officer James Marco
- Officer Brian Delia
- Officer Kenneth Griffin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Tim Riley
- Officer Christian Thoma
- Officer Brandon Rice
- Officer Thomas Martin

Expert

- Captain Ray Buhala
- Detective Sergeant Shuster
- Detective Palmer

Master

- Sergeant McGarry
- Sergeant Sean Ryan
- Officer Rob Altier
- Officer Dave Rankin
- Officer Tyler Beck

Community Award

- Chief Toby Meloro

Military Service

- Officer Brian Delia

Physical Fitness

- Detective Sergeant Michael Shuster
- Sergeant Sean Ryan
- Officer Tyler Beck
- Officer Ashley Kitchen
- Detective Jeffrey Palmer
- Officer Kenneth Griffin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Christian Thoma
- Officer Thomas Martin



2023 Officer Of The Year

Officer Christian Thoma

Congratulations to Officer Christian Thoma for being selected as the Liberty Police Department's Officer of the Year.

Officer Thoma has been with Liberty Police Department since 2022 working on afternoon shift. He came to the department with 16 distinguished years of law enforcement service.

In 2023 Officer Thoma made 421 Self initiated contacts that resulted in 358 citations, 178 misdemeanor arrests, and 117 felony arrests. He is responsible for taking 249 pieces of evidence including methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and dangerous drugs. In addition, Officer Thoma took eight firearms off the streets.

Officer Thoma's remarkable achievements and outstanding contributions have not gone unnoticed. We are proud to have you as a member of the Liberty Police Department, and we thank you for your commitment to serving and protecting our community.





Police Chaplin Program

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.

