



LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT 2021 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT



Table of Contents

Message from the Chief.....2
The Department.....3
Department Statistics.....6
Use of Force.....7
Internal affairs.....8
Aerial Operations.....10
Administrative.....11
Investigations.....12
Patrol Division.....13
Canine Unit.....14
Community Events.....15
Chaplin Unit.....16





A Message from the Chief

I am honored to have serve as your police chief for the past 3 and half years . I am energized and optimistic about the future of our police department and our Township. We have an excellent staff of men and women that are dedicated to the citizens who live, work, and visit our township. Our Department is committed to the concept of excellence in law enforcement. This is achieved by maintaining the highest standards, by providing citizens prompt service that is respectful and professional .

The Community Oriented Policing Philosophy is a key component to the continued success and the future prosperity of Liberty Township . We encourage input from our community on law enforcement and quality of life issues. I want the residents of Liberty Township to move "toward the badge, not away from the badge"! We will continue to foster the relationships we have established and build new ones: where citizen and police officers work together to address issues . Ultimately, we all share the same goal -to reduce crime and provide a better quality of life for our citizens. As always , Liberty Township Police Department will put the community first and strive to keep Liberty strong!





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.

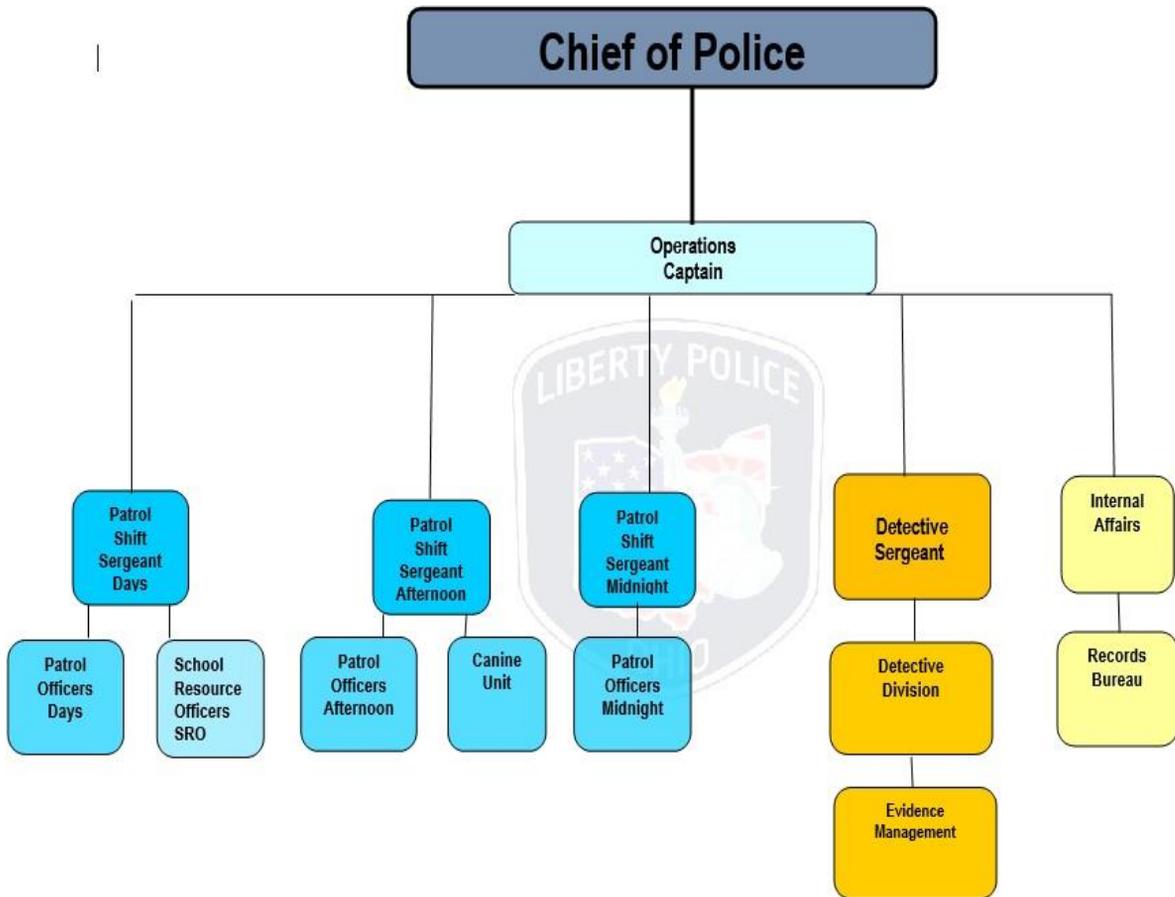
Commitment

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

Ashley Kitchen

Jeff Palmer

Nick Ryan

Kenny Griffin



Retirements

Alexandra Anastis Nichols - 25 years of service

Pete DeAngelo - 37 years of service





Department Statistics

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics			
<u>Part 1 Crime Totals</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Murder	0	1	0
Rape	8	12	13
Robbery	15	20	9
Aggravated Assault	2	2	5
Burglary	26	25	23
Larceny / Theft	274	321	222
Kidnapping	3	3	1
<u>Total Offenses</u>	328	384	273

We have seen an 18.3% reduction in part one crimes for the calendar year 2021



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 25 times during the calendar year 2021.

Type of Force	#times used
Control Hold	4
ECD (ex. Taser)	2
Firearm	2
Impact Weapon	0
K-9 Deploy/ Apprehension	1
Pepper Spray	0
Pain Compliance	2
Personal Body Weapon	1
Take Down (Trip/ Tackle)	13
TOTAL	25



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
2021	Citizen Complaint			1	1
2021	Internal Complaint	1			

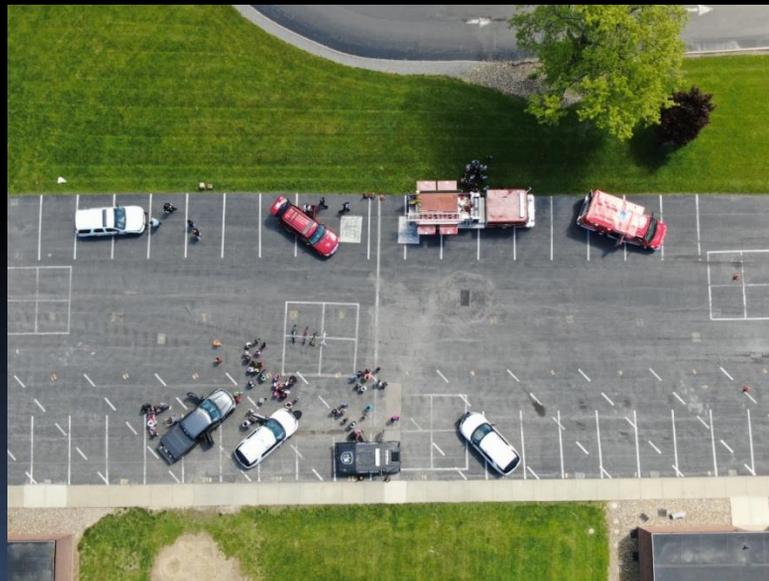


UAS (Drone Deployment)

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.



2021 Statistics

Evidence Search	Suspect Search	Missing Person	Scene Photos	Training/ Demo
2	1	1	1	5



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
773	1181	432	1425	25



Investigations

The Liberty Police Department Investigations Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and two Detectives. The LPD has one detective assigned to the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (Drug Unit), and two of the 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 2021 Detectives processed 2,602 pieces of evidence

Significant Cases

Armed Robbery/ Felonious Assault: Investigators followed up on an identification made through both physical evidence and public assistance. Cellular phone records and hours of surveillance led to the arrest of the suspects involved. Detectives located the firearm used in the crime, prepared multiple search warrants, and processed several scenes.



Felonious Assault: Investigators followed up on case where a man was shot in a parking lot of an apartment complex. Within Hours Investigators gathered evidence, recovered the firearm used, and made an arrest of the suspect.





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.



2021	Miles Traveled	Calls For Service Answered	Traffic Stops	Accident reports	Incident Reports
	158,018	13,060	1,893	320	1658



Canine Unit

Officer Rankin and K9 Leo completed their 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.



2021 K9 Usage

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

TOTAL - 85



Community Events

One of Chief Meloro's key tenets to leadership is community first. Since his appointment in 2018, Chief Meloro has taken a proactive approach in community outreach. In 2021 our department participated in the following events

- Easter Bunny Ride Along
- 2 Drug Take Back Events
- Coffee with a Cop
- Township Cleanup Weekend
- First Responder Day at the Schools
- Jewish Community Splash and Dash
- National Night Out
- 1st Annual Fall Festival
- 1st Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
- 10th Annual Fill A Cruiser Event





Police Chaplin Program

This year, Chief Meloro added an additional Chaplin to our roster. 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.

