



LIBERTY POLICE DEPARTMENT  
2025 ANNUAL POLICE REPORT



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## Message From The Chief

As we reflect on the past year, it is essential to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of our officers, staff, and the community we serve. Our annual report serves not only as a summary of our accomplishments and challenges but also as a testament to the strong partnership between law enforcement and our community.

Throughout the year, we have worked diligently to enhance public safety, ensure accountability, and foster trust. We continue to explore new initiatives aimed at crime prevention, community engagement, and improved response times. While we faced various challenges, our resolve to protect and serve has only strengthened.

This report highlights our achievements, outlines the areas in which we must improve, and sets the stage for our future goals. As we move forward, we remain committed to open communication, believing that a strong, informed partnership with the community is crucial to our success.

Thank you for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we can make our community a safer and more welcoming place for everyone.

Chief Ray Buhala #901



## 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.

### 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.

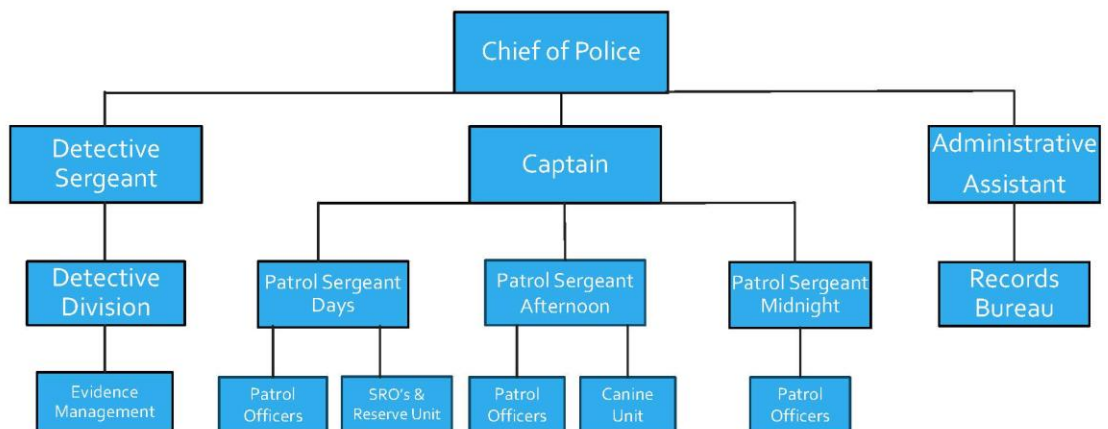
### Commitment

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





# New Employees

## Police Officer Hires

Jennifer Hudson-Hightower

Lou Ronghi



## Reserve Officer Hires

- Adam Grymberg
- Dominic Rozzo
- Tony Villanueva
- Scott Siegel





## Department Statistics

### **Total Calls For Service** 13,463

Homicide- 0

Robbery- 1

Sex Offense- 19

Theft- 170

Overdose- 22

Assault- 47

Burglary- 24

Domestic Dispute- 91

Assist other Departments- 61

Alarm Drops- 814

Unwanted Person- 218

Traffic Stops- 1,651





## 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 **27** times during the calendar year 2025.





# 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	Warnings	Impounds	Reports	Seniors Active in Program
693	677	974	282	1433	30



## Investigations

The Liberty Police Department Investigations Unit is comprised of a Sergeant and Detectives. LPD has one detective assigned to the Mahoning Valley Law Enforcement Task Force (Drug Unit). One of our Detectives is a member 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.

<b>Cases Assigned</b>	<b>216</b>
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<b>Cases Closed</b>	<b>161</b>
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<b>Cases Pending</b>	<b>57</b>
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<b>Charges Filed</b>	<b>83</b>
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<b>Phone Calls</b>	<b>343</b>
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<b>Interviews</b>	<b>93</b>
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<b>Surveillance</b>	<b>58</b>
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<b>Preservation Letters</b>	<b>09</b>
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<b>Subpoenas</b>	<b>13</b>
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<b>Arrest Operations</b>	<b>06</b>
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<b>Assist Other Agency</b>	<b>14</b>
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<b>Phone Extractions</b>	<b>06</b>
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<b>Search Warrants</b>	<b>28</b>
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<b>Vehicles Towed</b>	<b>02</b>
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<b>Trash Pulls</b>	<b>01</b>
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<b>Consent Searches</b>	<b>05</b>
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<b>After Hours Call Outs</b>	<b>10</b>
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<b>Line up/ photo id's</b>	<b>08</b>
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<b>Cars Processed</b>	<b>05</b>
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<b>Guns Test Fired</b>	<b>08</b>
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## 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.



2025	Miles Traveled	Calls For Service Answered	Traffic Stops	Accident reports	Incident Reports
	179,068	13,463	1651	335	1268





## Canine Unit

Our police department has two dual purpose canine teams. K9 Leo and K9 Shelby are dual-purpose canines. They specialize in tracking, article searches apprehension, as well as narcotic searches..

In addition, our K9 teams travel to various school districts and community events where they interact with students and the public.



### **2025 K9 Usage**

- Tracking – 5
- Narcotic Searches -28
- Criminal Apprehensions – 20
- Area Searches – 8
- Public Events – 6
- Other - 7

**TOTAL - 74**

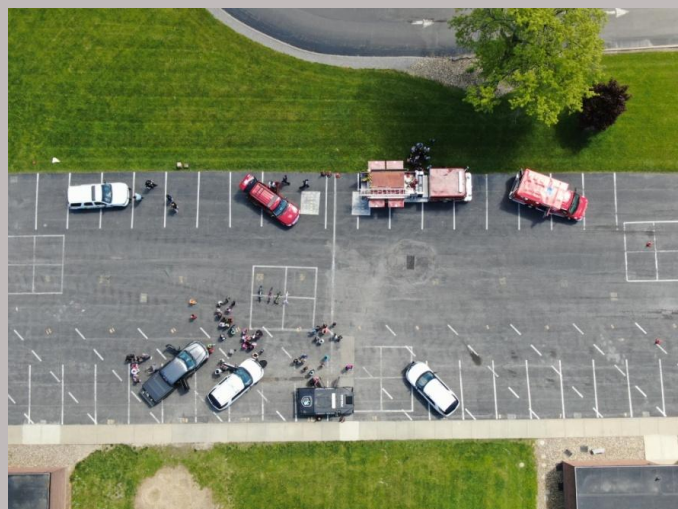


## UAS (Drone Deployment)

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.



### 2025 Statistics

Evidence Search	Suspect Search	Missing Person	Scene Photos	Training/ Demo
3	4	1	0	10



## Police Chaplin Program

Pastor Mitchell pictured top right has been serving since 2021 and Pastor Hartzell has been serving officially since 2022.

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.







# 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:

## **Meritorious Award**

- Officer Tyler Beck
- Officer Kenny Griffin
- Officer Colin Traves
- Officer David Rankin

## **Police Commendation**

- Captain Michael Shuster
- Sergeant David Rankin
- Sergeant Robert Altier-2
- Sergeant James Marco
- Officer Tyler Beck -2
- Officer Kitchen-3
- Detective Palmer
- Officer Kenny Griffin-2
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Tim Riley
- Officer Brandon Rice
- Officer Thomas Martin-3
- Officer Colin Traves
- Officer Lou Ronghi
- Chaplain Patrick Mitchell
- Chaplain Wade Hartzell

## **Community Service**

- Sergeant James Marco

## **Chief's Excellence Award**

- Marcy Haney

## **Marksman**

- Chief Ray Buhala
- Captain Mike Shuster
- Sergeant Sean Ryan
- Sergeant James Marco
- Sergeant Dave Rankin
- Sergeant Rob Altier
- Officer Brian Delia
- Officer Tyler Beck
- Officer Ashley Kitchen
- Detective Jeff Palmer
- Officer Kenny Griffin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Tim Riley
- Officer Brandon Rice
- Officer Thomas Martin
- Officer Colin Traves
- Officer Jen Hightower
- Officer Lou Ronghi
- Officer Adam Grymberg
- Officer Dom Rozzo
- Officer Tony Villanueva
- Officer Scott Siegel

## **Physical Fitness**

- Sergeant Sean Ryan
- Sergeant James Marco
- Sergeant David Rankin
- Officer Nick Ryan
- Officer Kenneth Griffin
- Officer Colin Traves
- Officer Thomas Martin

## **Military Service**

- \_Brian Delia

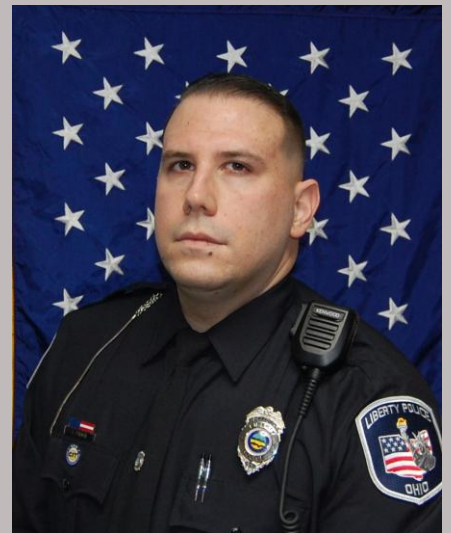


## Officer of the Year

### **Congratulations to Detective Jeff Palmer II on being selected as the Liberty Police Department's Officer of the Year.**

Detective Palmer has been a valued member of the Liberty Police Department since 2021, bringing with him six and a half years of distinguished prior law enforcement service. Since joining our department, Detective Palmer has consistently demonstrated exceptional professionalism, dedication, and a strong commitment to excellence.

In 2025, Detective Palmer's remarkable achievements and outstanding contributions set him apart. As a detective, he has shown diligence and skill in investigating numerous cases, ensuring thorough follow-up and attention to detail.



Beyond his investigative responsibilities, Detective Palmer has gone above and beyond by providing critical support to the administration of the department. His efforts include assisting with the department impound, organizing and maintaining departmental identification, managing rosters, and handling numerous other tasks that are essential to daily operations but often go unseen. His willingness to step in wherever needed reflects his selflessness, reliability, and true team-first mentality.

Detective Palmer's work ethic, initiative, and dedication embody the highest standards of this department. We are proud to have him as a member of the Liberty Police Department and thank him for his continued commitment to serving and protecting our community.