



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Perry Township Residents,

Welcome to the 2023 Perry Township Police Department annual report. The annual report gives us the opportunity to educate the community about the Police Department and public safety issues that affected the Police Department in 2023.

Our officers are dedicated to advancing a high quality of life and safety in Perry Township. Our motto, "Service Above Self," guides all of us in performing those services with both courage and compassion. We rely on the Perry Township community as much as you rely upon us. Only with the continued support of those that live, work, and visit Perry Township is it possible to continue providing quality service to our community.

Like many other Law Enforcement agencies across the nation, our department is faced with the challenges of hiring and retaining quality police officers to serve our community. In 2023, the Department did see the addition of new officers, but also saw others leave for careers elsewhere. This challenge will undoubtedly continue in 2024.

The Police Department has built a cadet/explorer program which will begin in 2024. These cadets are well vetted, young adults who will be trained in policing and learn the practices and policies of the Perry Township Police Department. They will ride with and assist officers while learning on the job. As a volunteer program, the expectation is to prepare these cadets to step directly into the career of full-time police officer as they come of age.

The top priority of the Perry Township Police Department is to provide quality police service and maintain a safe community for the Perry Township community. We will continually work to improve and grow our means to do so.

K. Steve Cesaro



Chief of Police



MISSION STATEMENT

The Perry Township Police Department is committed to serving our community through honesty, integrity, responsibility, fairness, accountability, compassion, courage, and professionalism. We will always strive to meet the present and future needs of the citizens and businesses of Perry Township through a continued partnership with our community.

The Perry Township Police Department Core Values

1. Integrity

We hold ourselves accountable to the highest level of honesty, truthfulness, and ethical conduct. Our actions and our words must reflect sound moral principles that promote trust within our organization and with the public we serve.

2. Accountability

Being responsible and answerable to ourselves, our organization, and the public we serve.

3. Honesty

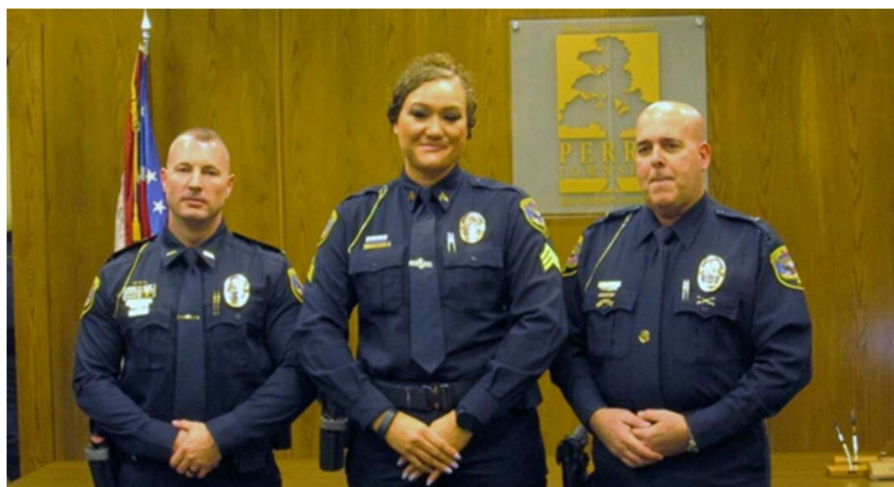
We will be of high moral character, and never lie, cheat, or abuse our authority. We will always be trustworthy, loyal, fair, and sincere to our organization and the public we serve.

4. Professionalism

We will conduct ourselves in a manner which displays the highest standards of personal and organizational excellence to ensure public trust and respect while constantly striving to learn and evolve in an ever-changing world.

5. Fairness

We will always be impartial and give everyone we have contact with just treatment, without favoritism or discrimination.



YEAR IN REVIEW



The Police Department had the privilege of participating in several community events both in and around Perry Township. Officers attended block parties, community garage sales, easter egg hunts, 4th of July festivities, Beggars Night trick-or-treat, and more. Outside of Perry Township, officers attended Cops and Kids Day at the Franklin County Fair, First Friday for First Responders in the City of Delaware, and Light Ohio Blue.

The Police Department hosted a collection site for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration's National Drug Takeback Day in both April and October. Perry Township Police collected over 70 lbs. of expired, unwanted, or unused medications to be safely disposed of. Officers also partook in Operation Unity with other Franklin County agencies in July. Operation Unity is a county-wide effort to reduce crime and engage with the community.

Three officers were promoted in 2023. Officer Julia Rashid was promoted to sergeant and now oversees third shift. Sgt. Mike Conkle was promoted to Patrol Operations Lieutenant to oversee the Patrol Operations Bureau. Sgt. Robert Forsythe was promoted to Administrative Lieutenant to oversee the Administrative Bureau. Two part-time officers were hired to work patrol. Officer Terrance Marks was hired in March and Officer Spencer Roush was hired in June. The department had to say goodbye to 3rd shift officer Kyle Storm in October. Officer Storm moved away from Central Ohio to be closer to family.

The department implemented body-worn cameras for the first time in March 2023. Funding for the body-worn cameras was received via grants through the Office of Criminal Justice Services. The body-worn cameras have increased transparency and accountability, improved officer safety, reduced paperwork time, and assisted with analyzing complaints against department personnel. The body-worn camera initiative will enhance the quality of policing in Perry Township and assist us in keeping the community safe.

As the department continues to evolve, we want to continue improving and expanding our involvement with the community. We are deeply thankful for the support we receive from the wonderful Perry Township community and look forward to 2024.

AGENCY OVERVIEW

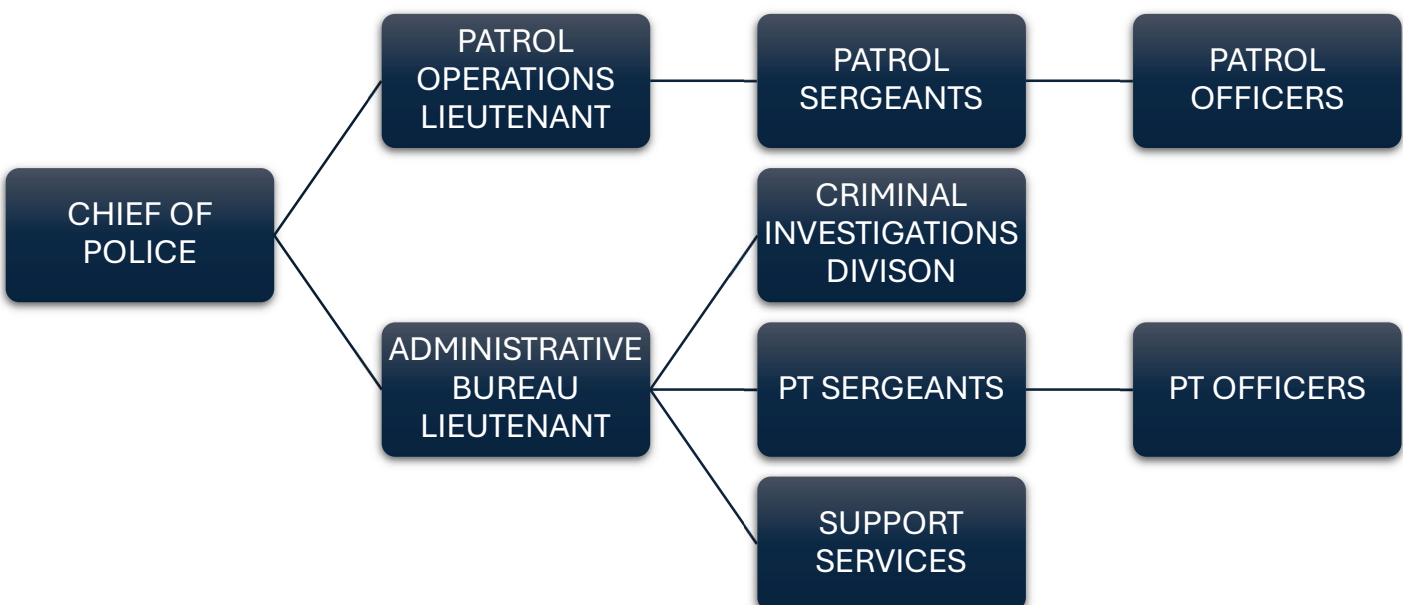
General: The Perry Township Police Department, located 7125 Sawmill Rd, provides 24-hour service to the Perry Township community. The department is an integral part of developing and maintaining a safe and secure community to live, work, and visit. The Police Department provides a range of services to community, including, but not limited to, community patrol, emergency and non-emergency response, traffic enforcement, residential house checks, business checks, wellness checks, and under-speed vehicle inspections.

Staffing: The Police Department is staffed by 22 sworn officers: 13 full-time officers and 9 part-time officers. All officers are professionally trained and certified by the State of Ohio. In addition to sworn staff, two civilian staff members provide support to the operations of the Police Department.

Areas of Responsibility: The Chief of Police is the chief executive officer for the Police Department. The Chief is responsible for planning the functions of the department, preparing the annual budget, supervising internal expenditures, and the overall administration of personnel selection.

The department is further divided into two bureaus: the Patrol Operations Bureau and the Administrative Bureau. Each bureau is supervised by a lieutenant who reports directly to the Chief. Full-time patrol sergeants and officers make up the personnel in the Patrol Operations Bureau and report to the Patrol Operations Lieutenant. Part-time sergeants and officers, criminal investigations, and support services are part of the Administrative Bureau and report to the Administrative Bureau Lieutenant.

Police Department Chain of Command



PATROL OPERATIONS

The Patrol Operations Bureau consists of the men and women patrolling the streets of Perry Township and responding to calls for service. They are the most visible and recognizable officers on duty, providing around the clock, uniformed police protection for Perry Township.



Patrol Officers must have the skills, knowledge, and ability to handle every aspect of police work, including emergency and routine

calls for service, traffic crashes, and criminal investigations. They are tasked with enforcing state laws, township resolutions, and making contact with the public. Patrol officers solve problems, write reports, testify in court, and actively patrol Perry Township to prevent and reduce crime.

The Patrol Operations Bureau consists of three daily shifts: first shift (6 AM-2 PM), second shift (2 PM-10 PM), and third shift (10 PM-6 AM). Each shift is supervised by a sergeant. There are two additional shifts to supplement daily staffing: day midwatch (8 AM-6 PM) and evening midwatch (6 PM-4 AM). The Patrol Operations Bureau’s goal is to add additional patrol officers as Perry Township continues to grow and calls for service increase.

Crimes & Offenses	2022	2023
Assault	2	3
Burglary	5	3
Counterfeiting/Forgery	3	7
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	6	15
Domestic Violence	14	7
Fraud	0	3
Homicide	0	0
Larceny/Theft	31	36
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	6
OVI	3	4
Robbery	0	1
Sexual Assault	1	2
Shooting	1	4
Stalking	0	4
Total	69	95

Vehicle Accidents by Location	2022	2023
Riverside Dr	132	135
W. Dublin-Granville Rd	25	21
Henderson Rd	6	4
Brookside Estates	9	8
Worthington Hills	9	8
Other	13	18
Total	194	194

Business & House Checks	2022	2023
Business Checks	7154	6254
Residential Checks	6188	6030
Total	13342	12284

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Perry Township Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division (CID) is responsible for investigations of criminal activity throughout Perry Township. The CID comprises of one full-time detective, one part-time detective, and one part-time detective/evidence technician. The detectives interview victims, witnesses, and suspects, and process crime scenes to collect and analyze evidence. Detectives document their work in case files, which are presented to the Prosecutor's Office for prosecution of the suspect/defendant. They also manage criminal intelligence information and analyze crime trends to help direct patrol officers in the prevention of crime.



The CID is part of a U.S. Secret Service task force for financial crimes, which gives the CID the option of taking a case to the federal level if they meet certain criteria. The Secret Service provides training and equipment at no cost to the CID, which has allowed the CID to create a digital forensics lab, enhancing the ability to respond to cyber-crime. In the past, evidence such as phones and computers would have to be sent to another agency to be analyzed. That process could take several months to get back results. With their own lab, the CID can process digital evidence much faster than before.

In 2023, the CID partnered with the Homeland Security Investigations Unit (HSI). HSI provides training, investigative assistance, and additional resources at no cost to the township. In return, CID detectives will assist HSI if they need additional investigators.

2023 CID Case Overview

Type	Beginning 2023	Cases Added	Cases Closed	Ending 2023
Criminal Incidents	13	72	68	17
Information Only	0	12	12	0
Vehicle Incidents	1	9	6	4
BOLO	0	1	1	0
Totals	14	94	87	21

SPECIAL UNITS

Special units are police units which serve ancillary functions to the agency's primary function of patrol. These units provide unique duties and capabilities that supplement the core functions of the Police Department.

Mounted Unit: The Mounted Patrol Unit primarily attends community events in place of patrol officers. The Mounted Unit can also be called upon to patrol areas where cruisers cannot, particularly in crowds or offroad for searches.

In 2023, the Mounted Unit grew to three officers. Support services officer Brian Correll and his horse Duke were trained and certified for mounted patrol work. The unit participated in 13 community events over the year.



We often receive questions about the cost of the Mounted Unit. The Police Department paid for saddle blankets, helmets, and a first aid kit. Training is also paid for by the Police Department. The care, maintenance, and transportation of the horses is provided by the Mounted Unit's officers, not the Police Department. When the Mounted Unit attends community events, patrol, or training, the department only pays for the officers' time.



K9 Unit: The K9 Unit consists of Detective Charles Mills and K9 Coyle. Coyle is dual purpose K9, which means that he is trained in both explosives and odor detection, as well as a patrol K9. As of 2023, Coyle is retired from patrol, but continues his service as an odor and article search K9. Coyle can search for evidence in a crime scene, detect explosives, and can track missing or wanted individuals when needed.

In addition to assisting Patrol Operations and other agencies, the K9 Unit attends community events in Perry Township, including the Worthington Hills 4th of July Parade, National Night Out, and Beggars Night trick-or-treat.

SPECIAL UNITS

Bike Patrol: The Bike Patrol Unit consists of five officers that have attended the 40-hour certification course through the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPBMA). Officers train on a variety of different cycling skills, including skill development, riding in diverse traffic situations practicing patrol tactics techniques, ascending curbs, descending stairs, and performing emergency maneuvers designed to avoid crashes.

Bike Patrol officers can patrol where a patrol car cannot. The Bike Patrol Unit is deployed for both general patrol and community events, such as Beggars Night trick-or-treat, school events, and parades.



Honor Guard: The Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit comprised of sworn members of the Police Department who are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance, conduct, and aptitude for ceremonial duty. The Honor Guard has the privilege of leading the Worthington Hills 4th of July Parade each year and are sometimes asked to participate in other parades, celebrations, and honorary functions. In 2023, the Honor Guard provided funeral honors for retired Perry Township Sergeant Richard Whitehurst.

UAS Unit: The police department operates an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Unit. UAS are commonly referred to as “drones.” The UAS Unit consists of sworn personnel that are specially trained in the operation and procedures for public safety drone flight and certified as Remote Pilots by the Federal Aviation Administration per Part 107. Perry Township Police UAS operators hold a daytime waiver so that they may fly the drones at night as needed.



SPECIAL UNITS



The UAS Unit uses these sophisticated tools for a variety of different safety functions, including search and rescue, locating missing persons, surveying and documenting traffic collisions and crime scenes, searching for evidence in inaccessible locations, fire incidents, HAZMAT incidents, and monitoring traffic and pedestrians at large events.

Chaplain Unit: The Chaplain Unit consists of two chaplains who volunteer their time with the Police Department. The chaplains provide emotional, moral, and spiritual support to victims of crime, their families, officers, staff, and the community. Chaplains are unpaid volunteers. The Police Department provides them with Perry Township polos in lieu of uniforms.



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The Police Department takes great strides to ensure our officers both meet and exceed the training standards required by the State of Ohio.

Officers are required to complete the State of Ohio's mandatory Continuing Professional Training annually. Officers also receive specialized training for ancillary duties and assignments. Officers receive pistol, shotgun, and rifle training along with annual firearms requalification each year. Officers also receive annual training in less-lethal weapons such as TASERs, Bola-Wrap, and less-lethal shotguns.

Training is either conducted on-site by Perry Township Officers certified to train in specific areas, or by outside instructors and agencies. The Police Department sometimes collaborates with neighboring agencies for training opportunities, including the Sharon Township Police Department and the Clinton Township Police Department.

In 2023, Perry Township Police officers completed over 900 hours of training, with an average of roughly 40 hours per officer. For 2024, the Police Department aims to collaborate further with neighboring agencies to conduct in-service training to help consolidate training and decrease the associated costs.



OPERATION UNITY

On July 13th, 2023, Perry Township Police Officers participated in Operation Unity, a county-wide multi-jurisdictional operation by the Franklin County Chief's Association. Perry Township Police joined the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Sharon Township Police, Clinton Township Police, Mifflin Township Police, and Minerva Park Police for Operation Unity.

The operation is a proactive approach to help get drugs, guns, and violent offenders off the streets. It also allows officers to engage with the community in high crime areas. Perry Township Police appreciate the opportunity to assist our mutual aid partners and are proud of our involvement with Operation Unity.

Operation Unity Statistics	
Traffic Stops Conducted	109
Citations Issued	27
Written Warnings issued	36
Felony Arrests	14
Misdemeanor Arrests	23
No Driver's License Citations	20
Illegal Guns Recovered	2
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	4
Vehicles Impounded	11
Juveniles Arrested	2
Contacts with Citizens (Non-Crime Related)	84
Grams of Fentanyl Seized	10
Grams of Heroin Seized	3
Grams of Marijuana Seized	68
Oxycontin Pills Seized	33



In 2024, the Police Department will continue collaborating with the Sheriff's Office via the DUI Task Force, a unified effort to combat impaired driving. The task force aims to address the impaired driving problem within Franklin County. It combines both enforcement and education strategies.

Continued collaboration with our partner agencies is important to improving the quality of law enforcement and safety of both Perry Township and Franklin County.



The Ohio Collaborative Police Community Advisory Board, a 12-person panel of law enforcement experts and community leaders throughout the state, established state standards for law enforcement agencies in 2015. Additional standards have been established each year since, addressing specific policy areas to help ensure agency quality and instill greater confidence with the public.

All law enforcement agencies are expected to meet or exceed these new standards as they develop policies and procedures to meet these new expectations. The Ohio Offices of Criminal Justices Services (OCJS), a division of the Ohio Department of Public Safety, has communicated these new standards to Ohio's 831 law enforcement agencies. OCJS also publishes a report listing which state and local law enforcements agencies have adopted and fully implemented the standards.

The Perry Township Police Department completed an assessment with OCJS in 2022. Each year thereafter, our department is required to submit certification documentation for review and has been awarded certification through the Ohio Collaborative for meeting all applicable statewide policy standards. It is our objective to continue meeting and exceeding those standards to provide the highest quality service to the Perry Township community.

OHIO COLLABORATIVE

As part of the Ohio Collaborative standards for Bias Free Policing, the Perry Township Police Department logs demographic data for all citations and warnings issued by our officers.

CITATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity	2021	2022	2023
White	147	177	289
Black	42	34	61
Asian	7	13	28
Hispanic	10	23	53
Other	6	22	48
Unknown	4	5	5
Total	216	274	484

Gender	2021	2022	2023
Male	134	179	317
Female	82	95	167
Total	216	274	484

Age	2022	2023
Juvenile	13	24
18-24	76	119
25-34	76	129
35-44	44	77
45-54	22	61
55-64	19	41
65+	24	32
Total	274	483

WARNING DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity	2021	2022	2023
White	99	85	240
Black	19	19	49
Asian	11	12	18
Hispanic	4	1	22
Other	8	16	48
Unknown	1	3	10
Total	142	136	387

Gender	2021	2022	2023
Male	83	86	232
Female	59	50	155
Total	142	136	387

Age	2022	2023
Juvenile	8	16
18-24	21	75
25-34	26	98
35-44	26	78
45-54	27	56
55-64	19	34
65+	9	30
Total	136	387