

MAHONING TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Frederick C. Dyroff, III

On behalf of the members of the Mahoning Township Police Department, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2021 Mahoning Township Annual Police Report.

The report represents the highlights, challenges, and activities of the men and women of the Mahoning Township Police Department during the year 2021.

Engaging our citizens in all facets of the community remains the core of our policing philosophy. The Mahoning Township Police Department is committed to delivering the highest level of police services to our citizens and guests.

The men and women of the Mahoning Township Police Department will continue to embody the Department's Core Values of Integrity, Professionalism, Teamwork, Community, and Duty.

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Mahoning Township Police is to facilitate our fundamental duty to serve the public by safeguarding lives and property, protecting the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder. In carrying out this mission, we respect the constitutional rights of all."

VALUES STATEMENT

Integrity. A value that is paramount to the police profession. Integrity produces an atmosphere of credibility. Where integrity thrives, the diseased root of misconduct and corruption cannot take hold.

Professionalism. Our conduct and demeanor display the highest standard of personal and organization excellence. Professionalism is dictated by concepts like courtesy, civility, and the ability to deliver high standards of police services.

Teamwork. We value collaboration and diversity of thought. We encourage growth and development – both on a personal and professional level, and understand that the team is always stronger than the individual.

Community. We adhere to the contemporary standards of community policing and embrace each of the nine Peelian Principles. We acknowledge a symbiotic relation with the community we serve; and through this partnership we work cohesively to promote positive solutions to community concerns.

Duty. Our duty is to protect and serve the public, prevent crime, and apprehend criminals. We obey the law and enforce it unconditionally and do not swerve from our obligations.



2021 HIGHLIGHTS

ADDITIONAL PART-TIME PATROL OFFICER ADDED TO FORCE

In May of 2021 the Mahoning Township Board of Supervisors approved the hiring of a part-time officer, George Geise to be added to the force. Officer Geise supplements the patrol schedule as needed when full-time officers are away for training or on leave. Officer Geise is a lifelong Point Township resident and volunteer firefighter.

TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT UPGRADES



The Mahoning Board of Supervisors approved, via the 2021 budget, for the department to transition from our 20-year-old Records Management System (RMS), which is Visual Alert to one of the best RMS in the industry in CODY Systems. CODY Systems is a PA based company with over 41 years of experience and is family owned and operated. CODY Systems provides 24/7/365 live customer support, always talking to a live person. CODY Systems will integrate with our LiveScan fingerprint computer, as well as our traffic citation, written warning, and crash reporting program known as TRACS, capturing driver and vehicle data; this was not possible with our old RMS, Visual Alert. CODY Systems allows our officers to file criminal complaints and search warrants electronically with the local Magisterial

District Court. On August 4, 2021 MTPD went live with CODY RMS after 10 months of transition and training. The system is a great improvement from Visual Alert, although the officers are still learning the finer points of operating it.



In July 2020 the Mahoning Board of Supervisors approved the purchase of Body Worn Cameras (BWC) for the department. The BWC triggers when the officer activates the emergency lights on the patrol vehicle and synchs with the current MVR, or when the officer simply pushes the on button. On May 4, 2022 the MTPD went live with the BWC and has been capturing footage of officers on patrol since. The BWC captured Officers Garon Fenstermaker and George Geise rescue a lady trapped on the smoke filled third floor of a burning building in Danville on May 28, 2021. Both officers were subsequently awarded the department's Meritorious Award by the Board of Supervisors on June 14, 2021.

Photo of BWC footage from Officer George Geise's camera locating fire victim hanging out third floor window.



Officers Garon Fenstermaker and George Geise receiving Meritorious Award by Chief Frederick C. Dyroff, III on June 14, 2021. Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Bill Lynn looks on.

Photo courtesy of The Daily Item

Less lethal device called the G.L.O.V.E. (Generated Low Output Voltage Emitter) was purchased in September 2021 with funds from the American Rescue Plan. It is a pain compliance device used on non-compliant or fighting subjects. The G.L.O.V.E. is like a TASER but the jolt received by the offender is through the glove contacting the subject's skin, namely their arm or hands unlike the TASER where probes are fired at the subject. All officers will receive training and authorization to carry the G.L.O.V.E. in January of 2022. The MTPD continues to shine as one of the region's most progressive police departments as it is the second agency in the area with such a device.



During the summer and fall of 2021 the department transitioned to new duty pistols. The trend in law enforcement is to go the optic sights on pistols. There are several reasons for this, namely much faster site acquisition resulting in more accurate shots, which is vital in life and death situations. The new pistols are Glock 45, Gen 5, 9 mm pistol with Holosun optics. The new pistols and optics were purchased from the 2020.

In the first quarter of 2021 the department began utilizing a recently purchased Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) in one of the patrol vehicles; the ALPR is easily moved from car to car as needed. ALPR are regularly used by law enforcement to scan vehicle license plates to inquire their status (current/expired registration or stolen) within seconds. Several hundred vehicles can be scanned within a few minutes. The ALPR was purchased with funds from the 2020 budget. There was a 26% increase in traffic citations issued in 2021 compared to 2020. This increase in production can be partially attributed to the acquisition and use of the ALPR.



CONTINUING IMPROVEMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE FLEET

In July the department took possession of a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor SUV. The SUV is a marked fully functional police vehicle with all the working components and equipment. It has state-of-the-art emergency lights, siren, barrier separation between the officer and prisoner, secure rifle rack, on-board mobile data terminal (computer), speed timing device, as well as a secure cargo containment system that secures equipment and reports safely in the rear of the vehicle. This SUV replaced a 2015 Ford SUV that was beyond its police service life and was becoming problematic with repairs and breakdowns. Said SUV was traded in to Kovatch Ford prior to taking delivery of the 2021 SUV, due to receiving over \$9,000 for the trade at this time due to Kovatch having a buyer for the SUV. Had the department waited to trade in at the time of delivery of the new SUV, we would have received only \$5,000 for the trade-in.



COMMUNITY CAMERA PROGRAM



In 2021 the department started a voluntary program where residents and businesses with security cameras may register those cameras with the MPTD. This is viewed as a “neighborhood Crimewatch for the 21st century” and will potentially provide critical video/still photos to assist the MTPD with investigations. The program does provide the MTPD the ability to freely access those registered cameras. Rather, it will be a contact list allowing MTPD investigators to review in the event a crime or incident occurred in view of those cameras. At that time the MTPD investigator would contact those registered residents/businesses to inquire if they have captured footage of the crime/incident and would be willing to share that with law enforcement.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mahoning Township Police Department Recognized for Excellence in Policy and Training

In March of 2021, the Department was recognized for excellence in policy and training for the previous (2020). In 2020, Mahoning Township Police Department personnel responded to more than 3,521 requests for assistance from criminal investigations, traffic crashes to mental health crisis interventions to motor assists and animal complaints. To maintain a consistent and professional response, the department relies on comprehensive, up-to-date policies.

The Mahoning Township Police Department was recognized by the Lexipol Connect program for achieving Gold level for consistently and effectively disseminating policies to officers, issuing timely policy updates as laws change, and ensuring officers are trained on policies. Lexipol is the nation’s leading content, policy, and training platform for public safety agencies; the Connect program tracks Mahoning Township Police Department’s performance on five metrics proven to measure success in policy management.

Mahoning Township Police Department’s excellence in policy and policy training enhances community safety by ensuring consistent, effective response based on national best practices.



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Training of officers is paramount for the MTPD. Officers of the MTPD received training in the following disciplines in 2021:

- Taser Recertification
 - Investigative Interviewing
 - Autism Spectrum Disorder
 - Best Practices in Municipal Police Departments
 - Video Evidence
 - Sovereign Citizens
 - Firearms Range Training
 - Police Reporting and Time Management
 - Search and Seizure Post Alexander Case
 - Death Scene
 - Records Management UCR/NIBRS
 - Tactical Communication: The Art of De-escalation
 - Glock Armorer School
 - Death Scene Photography
 - Basic Homicide Investigation
 - Gracie Survival Tactics
 - G.L.O.V.E.
 - Class A Wiretap Certification
 - Strangulation Investigations
 - Intermediate Cyber Investigations: Virtual Currency
 - First Officer at the Scene
 - Quarterly Firearms Range Training
 - Mandatory In-Service Training via MPOETC (Municipal Police Officer's Education Training Commission)
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AGENCY PROFILE

Mahoning Township PD was established in October of 1954, with its primary purpose of providing safety for children at the Mahoning Township Consolidated School. Presently, there are eight sworn officers and a full-time civilian who serves in an administrative/clerical function.

The MTPD provides 24/7 primary police services to approximately 5,000 residents, within an 8.2 square mile jurisdiction. Contained within the jurisdiction is Geisinger Medical Center, Geisinger Surgery Center, Geisinger Hospital for Advanced Medicine, and Geisinger Children's Hospital with over 26,000 employees. Collectively, the Geisinger System is boasted to be the largest rural hospital in the world.

The department is organized in a traditional police structure, with the Chief as the agency head who reports to a five-member Board of Supervisors. Under the chief is a Sergeant who supervises five full-time and two part-time police officers and one detective. Department members participate in the County Drug Task Force, Pennsylvania's Highway Safety Enforcement Network, and the Montour/Columbia County SWAT.

Within the ranks of MTPD are two NRA and Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Certified Firearms Instructors, an NRA certified patrol rifle instructor, a school resource officer, an instructor for the police expandable baton, Taser, OC spray, BolaWrap, and G.L.O.V.E. Additionally, a certified instructor for civilian response to active shooters, child car seat technician, a police sniper, a certified forensic child abuse interviewer, a PSP trained crime scene technician and photographer, a cellular technology forensic technician, and an officer who is fluent in Mandarin and trained in advanced interrogation techniques.

FINGERPRINTING SERVICE

The MTPD serves as the host for the Montour County Central Booking Center and houses the county's only LiveScan machine/computer. Outside agencies routinely use the LiveScan to process those they have arrested.

In addition to being used for criminal justice purposes, the LiveScan machine housed within the department offers fingerprinting services for non-criminal justice purposes.

In 2018, the Montour County Criminal Justice Advisory Board (CJAB) recognized that, while providing non-criminal justice fingerprinting is a valuable service to residents of the county, it was placing a considerable strain on the MTPD's limited resources. In response, the Montour County CJAB graciously authorized the MTPD to collect a \$40 fee from each consumer of the service. From 2019 through 2021 the department has conducted **272** fingerprinting services for a total of **\$10,880** money that goes directly back into the township general account.

2021 POLICE ACTIVITIES

Below is a snapshot of statistics that reflect some of the activities the MTPD has engaged in during 2018. Detailed information on criminal statistics can be gleaned by visiting the Pennsylvania State Police Uniformed Crime Reporting website.

TOTAL INCIDENTS
3718, 6% increase over 2020

CRIMINAL ARRESTS
43

CRASH INVESTIGATIONS
92

TRAFFIC CITATIONS
282

PARKING TICKETS
1307

MOTORISTS ASSISTED
99

ALARMS
59

ASSISTS OTHER AGENCIES (POLICE, FIRE, EMS)
320

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The department participated in the annual Danville Halloween Parade and the National Night Out each year, as well as the Trunk or Treat event held at Trinity United Methodist Church within the township. The department participated in “No Shave November”, wherein the officers each paid \$30 in order to grow a beard. The money raised was matched by the Mahoning Township Police Officer’s Association, totaling \$500. The \$500 was donated to the East End Fire Company for their use.

The department continued its Ride Along program where citizens may ride with a patrol officer for a shift to learn what an officers do on a typical day. Several persons participated in the program. A reporter from a local newspaper participated in this program and published an article that was very favorable to the officer (Fenstermaker) and department.

Internship Program

In 2021 the Board of Supervisors approved a college student to participate in a Student Internship with the Department. Maria Babb worked with the Department from August through December of this year. It was a great experience for the Ms. BABB as she did numerous ride alongs with officers, sat in on interviews, saw how officers conducted criminal and crash investigations, landlord – tenant disputes, assisted with filing and parking tickets, as well as data entry. The department staff enjoyed Ms. BABB and benefited from her assistance on projects.



Maria Babb
2021 Student Intern

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022...

The final phase of office improvements will be accomplished in 2022. These improvements will include a new evidence room with enhanced temporary and permanent storage units, security locks, air purifier, as well as fortifying the room. An improved and expanded patrol room with workstations for each officer, a dedicated gun armory closet, storage closet, new flooring, and improvements to the break room and chiefs' office will be accomplished by the end of the first quarter of 2022.

The department will continue its march toward becoming an accredited law enforcement agency. This endeavor will take a few years to accomplish, but we hope to make significant leaps toward that end during the 2022 campaign.

As a department, we have set goals to reduce criminal activity occurring within our jurisdiction through smarter policing by aggressively targeting problems as they emerge. That involves engaging our community to collaboratively work with us in identifying problems, reporting crimes, and sharing information that may aid us in solving those crimes. In the age of lightning-fast information sharing on social media, we hope to continue expanding our presence on that platform; wherein we currently use Facebook and Crimewatch.

In closing, the men, and women of the MTPD are looking forward to improving our services where we can, while expanding on our strengths. We have enjoyed much success over the past few years and that success is directly linked to the strong support the MTPD has received from our community and elected officials. Our goal, as always, is to provide excellent police services to the residents and guests of Mahoning Township, and we look forward to proudly serving you in 2022.

