



Mahoning Township Police Department 2022 Annual Report

Board of Supervisors

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Chief of Police

Frederick C. Dyroff, III



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the members of the Mahoning Township Police Department, it is my pleasure to present to you the 2022 Mahoning Township Annual Police Report.



Chief Frederick C. Dyroff, III

The report represents the highlights, challenges, and activities of the men and women of the Mahoning Township Police Department during the year 2022.

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.

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. The township population is well over 10,000 people daily due to Geisinger. Collectively, the Geisinger System is boasted to be the largest rural hospital in the world.

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.

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 organizational 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.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

Following recommendations of several studies into the tragic school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, the department, with Board approval, began to purchase breaching and door ram equipment for each patrol car. To date, all patrol cars have a door ram and halogen tool. Additionally, breaching kits for each car were ordered and should be arriving in the early part of 2023.



GRANT AWARDS

The department applied for two grants through the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and one grant through Keystone Municipal Insurance Trust (KMIT) during 2022 and received a combined **\$175,464** for our department. The grant process through PCCD is difficult to navigate and tedious but it is worth the effort. The department had the support from the Board of Supervisors, State Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver and State Senator John Gordner’s offices, as well as the Montour County District Attorney Angie Mattis.

With the use of the funds, the department will be making purchases for equipment, technology ballistic shields, riot shields, gas masks, water rescue disks, gear bags, night vision monocular, thermal image monocular, BolaWrap cartridges, 3D laser scanner for crime scene and accident processing, and an



indoor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone) were ordered or will be ordered in the first quarter of 2023. All of this at no cost to the taxpayers of Mahoning Township.



ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Mahoning Township Police Department Recognized for Excellence in Policy and Training

In January of 2022, the Department was recognized for excellence in policy and training for the previous (2021). ***This is the second straight year the department has received this award.*** In 2021, Mahoning Township Police Department personnel responded to more than 3,718 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.

OFFICERS RECOGNIZED

Chief Dyroff nominated Officers Garon Fenstermaker and George Geise for the **Geisinger Emergency Medical Services Outstanding Provider of the Year award for Heroism** for their actions when they removed two persons from a burning apartment building on May 28, 2021. On June 5, 2022, both officers received the award from Geisinger while being honored at Scranton/Wilkes Barre Rail Riders. Officer FENSTERMAKER also threw out the honorary first pitch of the baseball game.

QUILTS OF VALOR

The Quilt of Valor is presented to military veterans as a healing method for those touched by war. Each quilt is unique and is handmade by a group of volunteers over the course of a few months. The Quilts of Valor are presented to those who are nominated by a current Quilt of Valor recipient. The Quilts of Valor presented to Detective Jason Bedisky and Officer Garon Fenstermaker were made possible by the nomination from former township supervisor TS Scott. Detective Bedisky is still active in the Pennsylvania National Guard.



Detective Jason Bedisky and Officer Garon Fenstermaker



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. Officers made many visits to local daycare centers within and just outside of 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 **Sweet Grace Ministries**.

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 people participated in the program.

IMAGES FROM 2022



***Det. Jason Bedisky
“Wreaths Across
America”***

***Sgt. Matthew Gerst at
Trinity United Methodist
Church Christmas Party***



***MTPD Officers Bedisky,
Fenstermaker, Geise, and
Fahringer, along with
former Secretary of State
Mike Pompeo at Frosty
Valley Country Club – The
Iron Fork. MTPD provided
extra security at the
request of U.S. Department
of State.***





***Officer Tammy Figueiredo
at Awards Presentation at
Danville Primary School***

***Sgt. Matthew Gerst and Officer
Ryan Pander using Virtual Reality
Training Device***



Chief Dyroff and Detective Bedisky at Danville Child Development Center

INTERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2022 the Board of Supervisors approved a college student to participate in a Student Internship with the Department. Alan Lynn, a student at Luzerne County Community College, worked with the Department from January through May of this year. It was a great experience for Alan as he 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 Alan and benefited from his assistance on projects. He wishes to pursue a career in law enforcement.



***Alan Lynn
2022 Student Intern***



2022 POLICE ACTIVITIES

Below is a snapshot of statistics that reflect some of the activities the MTPD has engaged in during 2022. Detailed information on criminal statistics can be gleaned by visiting the Pennsylvania State Police Uniformed Crime Reporting website.

TOTAL INCIDENTS		4242 - 14% increase over 2021 (3781)
Traffic Crashes		
Reportable Crashes (1 fatal crash)		19
Non-Reportable Crashes		58
Hit and Run		15
Incidents (not all inclusive)		
Thefts		38
Harassment		61
House Checks		227
Patrol Actions		274
Assists (police, fire, ems)		265
Disorderly Conduct		25
Domestic		18
Fingerprinting		88
Animal incidents		67
Suspicious Persons/Vehicles		77
Motorists' Assists/Lockouts		114
Welfare Checks		31
911 Hang ups		74
Traffic Citations		283
Criminal Arrests		51
Parking Tickets (in conjunction with Geisinger Security)		2455



DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Training of officers is paramount for the MTPD. Officers of the MTPD received training in the following disciplines in 2022:

- Mandatory In-Service Training via MPOETC (Municipal Police Officer's Education Training Commission)
- Quarterly Firearms Range Training
- Latent Prints/DNA Collection
- Investigating Property Crimes
- MIST instructor training
- Drone Assessment and Response Tactics
- Standardize Field Sobriety Testing
- Child Abuse Investigation
- Redacting Police Records
- Accreditation Training
- Aquatic Death Investigation
- Non-Traffic Death Investigation
- Sniper Training
- Defensive Tactics
- JNET TAC Training
- OC Spray Recertification
- Managing Critical Incidents
- Virtual Reality Training
- Monthly Caselaw Reviews
- Daily Training Bulletins

SECOND RETIREMENT OF OFFICER

Officer Clay Fahringer had previously served as an officer, detective, and a corporal with the Mahoning Township Police Department from 1997 through 2015, when he officially retired. In 2017, he graciously accepted a position as a part-time officer when the department needed help; he worked as needed through 2022. He is officially stepping down from law enforcement to enjoy retirement. We wish Clay health and happiness in retirement.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023...

Improvements to the department office during 2022 included 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, prisoner restroom, new flooring, and improvements to the break room and chiefs' office were also accomplished in 2022. The final phase of office improvements will be accomplished in 2023 to include painting of the break room and sergeant's office, as well as new flooring in the sergeant's and chief's office.

The department continues its march toward becoming an accredited law enforcement agency. As of this writing only 149 agencies out of 1100 are accredited within Pennsylvania. It is our hope to achieve accredited status by mid-2023. The benefits of being an accredited agency are numerous, but the foremost reason is to ensure our agency is following standards, benchmarks, and best practices set by the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) to maintain a professional law enforcement agency in the 21st century.

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 possible, 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 2023.

