



# Mahoning Township Police Department 2023 Annual Report

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## **Board of Supervisors**

*Bill Lynn – Board Chair*

*John Whelan – Vice Chair*

*Glen Cromley*

*Andy Lysiak*

*Kyle Yeager*

## **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 2023 Mahoning Township Annual Police Report.

The report represents the highlights, challenges, and activities of the officers and staff the Mahoning Township Police Department during the year 2023.

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



**Chief Frederick C. Dyroff, III**

## 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 seven 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 8.6 square mile jurisdiction. Contained within the jurisdiction is Geisinger Medical Center, Geisinger Health Plex, 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 is a NRA and Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) Certified Firearms Instructors, an NRA certified patrol rifle instructor, 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, 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.

## 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

On July 25, 2023, the Pennsylvania Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (PLEAC) awarded the Mahoning Township Police Department “Accreditation Status”. Aside from the Pennsylvania State Police and the Bloomsburg University Police Department, Mahoning Township is the only “accredited” municipal department in the entire central Susquehanna Valley to include Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Union, Snyder, Lycoming, and Clinton Counties.

Only an approximate 15% of the 1100 police departments in Pennsylvania have achieved this honor. The MTPD has been working toward Accreditation for the past few years. It was a long and arduous process for the entire department, especially for Sgt. Matthew Gerst, our Accreditation Manager. He worked with subject matter experts on policies and procedures, as well as with the recent remodel of our department to meet approved standards. The department will be reassessed for accreditation in 2026.



***Sgt. Matt Gerst, Chief Frederick Dyroff, Cpl. Jason Bedisky, and Board Chair Bill Lynn***



## GRANT AWARDS

In 2022 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, then State Representative (now Senator) Lynda Schlegel Culver and then Senator John Gordner's offices, as well as the Montour County District Attorney Angie Mattis.

With the use of the funds, in 2023 the department purchased equipment such as virtual reality training simulator, ballistic shields, riot shields, gas masks, water rescue disks, gear bags, night vision monocular, thermal image monocular, BolaWrap cartridges, external vest carriers, 3D laser scanner for crime scene and accident processing, an indoor Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (drone), a new outdoor drone with thermal imaging and zoom camera capabilities, as well as a 21<sup>st</sup> parking enforcement software program; all of this at no cost to the taxpayers of Mahoning Township.



*Clockwise: DJI Avata (indoor drone), DJI Matrice 30T, Sgt. Gerst and Officer Pander on V.R. simulator, Matterport Pro3 3D scanner.*



## **Mahoning Township Police Department Recognized for Excellence in Policy and Training**



In January of 2023, the Department was recognized for excellence in policy and training for the previous year (2022). ***This is the third straight year the department has received this award.*** In 2023, Mahoning Township Police Department personnel responded to more than 4950 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.

### **OFFICER HIRED FULL-TIME**

Due to the resignation of a full-time officer, Chief Dyroff requested the Board of Supervisors promote part-time Officer George Geise to full-time. On April 10, 2023, Officer Geise began his duties as a full-time officer with the department.

### **OFFICER PROMOTED TO CORPORAL**

On November 11, 2023, Detective Jason Bedisky was promoted to corporal after a competitive process. Cpl. Bedisky will remain the detective for the department, as well as perform supervisory duties as directed by the Chief of Police.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

The department participated in the annual Danville Halloween Parade and the National Night Out, 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 to grow a beard. The money raised was matched by the Mahoning Township Police Officer's Association, totaling \$500. The \$500 was donated to **a local resident who is battling cancer.**

The department continued its Ride Along program where citizens may ride with a patrol officer for a shift to learn an officers duties on a typical day. Several people participated in the program.





## COMBINED ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The department works hand-in-glove with other Montour County law enforcement agencies daily. On April 27, 2023, Montour County law enforcement consisting of the Danville Police Department, Mahoning Township Police Department, Riverside Police Department (Northumberland County), Montour County Sheriff's Office, Montour County Probation Department, Pennsylvania State Police, and Pennsylvania State Police Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement (LCE), conducted a saturation patrol and warrant service detail in Montour County, with an emphasis on patrolling Danville Borough and Mahoning Township. LCE conducted administrative checks on liquor establishments within Montour County. Montour County Probation officers conducted checks on persons on probation within Montour County, and the Montour County Sheriff's Office served several outstanding warrants. In all, uniformed officers issued 42 traffic citations, 44 warnings, and 1 DUI arrest were made because of this combined effort.

## INTERSHIP PROGRAM

In 2022 the Board of Supervisors approved a college student to participate in a Student Internship with the Department. Currently, the department has one intern, Tenneson Scott, a student at Bloomsburg University, as well as two other interns scheduled for the first 6 months of 2024. Both the student and department gain valuable experiences through the internship program and we look to continue with it well into the future.

## 2023 POLICE ACTIVITIES

Below is a snapshot of statistics that reflect some of the activities the MTPD has engaged in during 2023. Detailed information on criminal statistics can be gleaned by visiting the Pennsylvania State Police Uniformed Crime Reporting website.

| TOTAL INCIDENTS   |  | 4950 - 16% increase over 2022 |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Traffic Crashes</b>  |  |                               |
| Reportable Crashes  |  | 26                            |
| Non-Reportable Crashes  |  | 56                            |
| Hit and Run   |  | 23                            |
| <b>Incidents (not all inclusive of incidents handled by the MTPD)</b> |  |                               |
| Thefts  |  | 29                            |
| Harassment  |  | 66                            |
| House Checks  |  | 645                           |
| Patrol Actions  |  | 448                           |
| Assists (police, fire, ems)   |  | 213                           |
| Disorderly Conduct  |  | 26                            |
| Domestic  |  | 16                            |
| Fingerprinting  |  | 49                            |



|                                   |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Animal incidents                  | 50  |
| Suspicious Persons/Vehicles       | 102 |
| Motorists' Assists/Lockouts       | 59  |
| Welfare Checks                    | 32  |
| 911 Hang ups                      | 80  |
| Traffic Citations                 | 316 |
| Criminal Arrests                  | 67  |
| Written Warnings                  | 219 |
| Driving Under the Influence (DUI) | 7   |
| Drug Possession                   | 14  |

## PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The MTPD in conjunction with Geisinger Security, there were at total of 2,304 parking tickets issued in the township.

## DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Training of officers is paramount for the MTPD. Officers of the MTPD received training in the following disciplines in 2023:

- Mandatory In-Service Training via MPOETC (Municipal Police Officer's Education Training Commission)
- Quarterly Firearms Range Training
- Active Shooter Train the Trainer
- Field Training Officer instruction
- Accreditation Training
- CODY RMS training
- Gracie Jiu-Jitsu
- Bomb Threats and Swatting Hoaxes
- PSP Heritage Affairs Training
- Interview and Interrogation
- Virtual Reality Training
- Monthly Caselaw Reviews
- Daily Training Bulletins

Additionally, the department participated in an Active Shooter exercise at the Liberty Valley Intermediate School on June 12, 2023. This was a full-scale exercise with approximately 120 people involved from law enforcement, fire department, EMS, Geisinger, DASD staff, and 30+ volunteers. The following agencies participated:

*Danville PD  
Mahoning Twp PD  
Riverside PD  
Montour County Sheriff's Office*

*East End Fire Co.  
Liberty Fire Co.  
Valley Fire Co.  
Continental Fire Co.*



*Danville School Police  
PA State Police  
Danville Area School District  
Danville Fire Police  
Montour County EMA*

*Friendship Fire Co.  
Washies Fire Co.  
Goodwill Fire Co.  
Southside Fire Co.  
Geisinger EMS*

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO 2024...**

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 2024.

## **MAHONING TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

