

LINWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



STEVEN M. CUNNINGHAM
CHIEF OF POLICE

THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LINWOOD

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Council President Eric Ford

Councilwoman Blair Albright, Councilwoman June Byrnes,

Councilwoman Stacy DeDomenicis, Councilman Matthew B. Levinson

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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The purpose of this report is to give a snapshot of the statistical data compiled by the Linwood Police Department, comparing 2022 to previous years. This data can be used to gauge production, proactivity vs. reactivity, and identify trends in both call volume and statistical production.

Additionally, this report will provide some highlights and accomplishments of our Department in our continuing quest to increase community engagement and education. It is our desire to be good neighbors and a source of strength and consistency for the public during difficult times.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Welcome to the Linwood Police Department's 2022 Year in Review.

I am very excited to provide this annual report to our community. This report summarizes the Linwood Police Department for 2022 and demonstrates the level of service we provide to our community and stakeholders. This year's report represents a time of transition and organizational change for our agency. We have entered a new chapter in our agency's history and we are very excited about what the future holds.

We started 2022 with an ambitious plan to be focused on a people-centered approach to creating a feeling of one-to-one policing. We look forward to working with the community in creating a one-to-one policing approach. While the Linwood Police Department continues to evolve and change with current trends, we remain committed to the residents, business owners, and visitors that come to the City of Linwood. I want to thank our residents and visitors for their support and wish them a safe 2023.

2022 also began with the celebration of the retirement of Chief Jason Weber. Chief Weber's career with the Linwood Police Department began in 1990 as a dispatcher and several years later he was offered the opportunity to become a police officer, a title that he held for the next 30 years. Chief Weber was a fixture and face of the department. Throughout his career, he was assigned to patrol, the detective bureau, and finally administration. He was a friend to the community and to us all in the department and we all wish him the best in his future.

Once again, I want to thank the community, visitors, and all who follow this police department for allowing us into your lives. Without your support, we would not be effective in our mission and we do not take the trust instilled in us for granted. We are committed to representing the values of the community we serve.

Best regards,
Steven M. Cunningham,
Chief of Police



MISSION STATEMENT

The Linwood Police Department is committed to providing the highest quality of Professional Police services by empowering our employees and the community, to work in partnership with the common goal of improving the quality of life within the City of Linwood.

We will enforce the laws, preserve the peace, protect life and property, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment for all members of the community, while at the same time maintaining the respect for individual rights and human dignity as provided for within the framework of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New Jersey.



ABOUT OUR NEW LOGO

Our new logo represents a re-branding for our agency. While we will continue to provide the top-notch professional police service that our residents expect, we will also at ALL times seek to be a source of INTEGRITY and SERVICE to our COMMUNITY.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

PARTNERSHIP: We are committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to resolve issues which impact public safety.

RESPECT: We are committed to respecting individual rights, human dignity, and the value of all members of the community and the department.

INTEGRITY: We are committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.

DEDICATION: We are committed to providing the highest quality of professional law enforcement service to the community with the goal of enhancing the quality of life within the City of Linwood.

EMPOWERMENT: We are committed to empowering our members and the community to resolve problems by creating an environment that encourages solutions that address the needs of the community.

DEPARTMENT VISION



One-by-one policing is the Linwood Police Department's newly adopted vision and is a unique way of leading and serving people that is central to our mission of providing a safe and secure community. It is why we do what we do. One-by-one policing starts within our organization. We focus on creating a safe and secure environment for our employees so they are better equipped to serve the community. For the department to provide the best possible service to our community, we as leaders must serve our employees individually to create an environment where team members not only feel empowered to share ideas and concerns but also where they are encouraged to grow professionally and personally.

It is essential that we earn and maintain a deep sense of trust and respect between the leadership team and the rest of the organization.

While we are responsible for serving our community as a whole, our one-by-one approach to fulfilling this responsibility allows us to focus on individuals. We understand that each member of our community is an individual and that their situation is unique. When our officers serve people one-by-one, we listen and care for the human factors that remind us that we are serving real people and families. In addition to the safety and security we maintain, the genuine desire we have to see our community thrive should be felt each time our officers interact with the community in an attentive, caring manner.

Providing safety and security is vital to our community, but we are inspired to take our service to the community a step further. This involves helping people with problems or concerns that are not explicitly related to crime yet matter related to the quality of life.

PRORITIES AND GOALS

1

TOP QUALITY EMPLOYEES

- Attract and retain the highest-quality employees
- Train and develop our employees
- Ensure employee health and wellness

2

COMMUNITY POLICING & PARTNERSHIPS

- Community engagement through outreach and education
- Optimize communication participation within our community through increased social media and community events.

3

CRIME PREVENTION

- Ensure safety by deterring criminal activity through proactive police work, visibility, and community educational events.
- Develop and expand our investigative capability.
- Improve the response to and recovery from critical incidents by providing a faster and more effective response to emergency situations.

4

NJSACOP ACCREDITATION

- Continue pursuit of the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Accreditation for the Department
- Chief Cunningham was awarded certification as a New Jersey Association Chiefs of Police Accredited Chief Executive.

PRORITIES AND GOALS

5

TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Increase traffic safety on the roadways of the City of Linwood by reducing motor vehicle crashes and resulting injuries through officer visibility and enforcement of motor vehicle laws.

6

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

- Optimize fiscal responsibility via a balanced budget

7

TECHNOLOGY, EQUIPMENT, BEST PRACTICES

- Maintain and utilize the most effective technology, equipment, and best practices.

8

TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION WITH CITY GOVERNMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES

- To promote an environment of teamwork and collaboration to provide the best services to our residents

DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Linwood Police Department is led by the Chief of Police and consists of two Divisions, Administrative and Operations which are each led by a Lieutenant who serves as the Division Commander. The Operations Division is further divided into the Patrol Division (four patrol squads led by Sergeants) and the Detective Bureau (led by a Detective Sergeant). Support staff includes one Civilian Agent responsible for Firearms Investigations, one Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer who handles the majority of Code Enforcement issues, three Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers in our schools, and the Chief's Secretary.

ADMINISTRATION

Steven M. Cunningham, Chief of Police
Lieutenant Chester Brown, Administrative Division Commander
Lieutenant Austin Martin, Operations Division Commander
Barbara Harrington, Chief's Secretary

INVESTIGATIONS

Timothy Devine, Detective Sergeant
Detective Jarred Levenson
Agent Donald Auge, Firearms Investigations

PATROL DIVISION

"A" Squad Sergeant Michael Fountas
Patrolman Jared Pagano
Patrolman Timothy Tighe

"B" Squad Sergeant Brandon Settle
Patrolman Mac Mancuso
Patrolman Chris Nazha

"C" Squad Sergeant Charles Champion, K-9 Unit
Patrolman James Cohen
Patrolman John Morris

"D" Squad Sergeant John Moran
Patrolman Sean Boylan
Patrolman Eric Guanchez

SPECIAL OFFICERS

Class II SLEO Pierce Shaud
Class III SLEO George Adams, Seaview Elementary School
Class III SLEO Daniel Bryan, Belhaven Middle School
Class III SLEO Belford Rivera, Mainland Regional High School

2022 VS. PREVIOUS YEARS

Overall call volume increased by 27.5% in 2022 vs. 2021. School Patrols (including school traffic, events, etc.) increased by 117% in 2022. Overall Community Policing efforts (schools, directed patrols, bike patrols, etc.) increased by 83.25%, making our police force much more visible. This goes hand-in-hand with our increased social media usage. It is also noteworthy that 227 pounds of unwanted or unneeded prescriptions were taken in via the drop box in our lobby and safety turned over to the Drug Enforcement Agency.

	2020	2021	2022
Total Incidents*	27,303	27,591	35,176
Assaults	7	3	11
Auto Theft	0	0	5
Burglary	20	24	22
Crim Misch	17	16	21
Domestics	50	27	41
Thefts	26	36	48

- Total Incidents reflects calls received from the public along with self-initiated incidents created by officers.



MOTOR VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT

2617

MOTOR VEHICLE
STOPS CONDUCTED

Traffic summonses increased by 27.1% in 2022 vs. 2021. Adult arrests increased by 61.8% in 2022 vs. 2021. DWI arrests decreased by 33% in 2022 vs. 2021, in part due to increased awareness campaigns such as checkpoints, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over details, and a new highly-visible HERO car along with the deterrence that comes from an increase in visible motor vehicle enforcement on a day to day basis.

1257

TRAFFIC
SUMMONSES
ISSUED

156

MOTOR VEHICLE
CRASHES
INVESTIGATED

TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

In 2022, the Linwood Police Department implemented the GUARDIAN TRACKING system. Guardian Tracking is innovative software that helps transform the culture within police departments by identifying personnel in need of additional training before an adverse incident takes place, while also recognizing high-performing personnel.

In addition to Guardian Tracking, we have expanded the use of POWER DMS. Power DMS is a secure, cloud-based repository to manage policies and procedures across their entire lifecycle. We use Power DMS to develop, review, approve, and distribute new and updated policies while at the same time providing officers with the ability to have real-time access to this information whenever it is needed.

We have also installed new CYBER THREAT MITIGATION SOFTWARE which helps to make us a harder target for hackers, phishing schemes, and others who seek to surreptitiously infiltrate our computer network to access, steal, or corrupt our private information. In addition to the software, we have begun continuously training our officers on cybersecurity issues, cyber awareness, and best practices to ensure that perpetrators cannot access our most vital IT infrastructure.

Finally, we expanded our AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READER (ALPR) program by adding two new ALPR vehicles to our fleet. These vehicles scan the license plates of vehicles as they pass by, helping to identify stolen vehicles, expired registrations, and vehicles whose registrations have been revoked along with other important alerts and information. ALPR data can also be used in criminal investigations as needed.



CLASS III SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

In 2022 we welcomed Class III Special Law Enforcement Officers George Adams (formerly of Atlantic City Police Department) and Daniel Bryan (formerly of Somers Point Police Department) as new School Resource Officers. Officers Adams and Bryan joined Class III Officer Belford Rivera (Mainland High School) as our School Resource Officer program was expanded into Seaview Elementary School and Belhaven Middle School. This was done in conjunction with the support, cooperation, and partnership of the Linwood Board of Education.

Our School Resource Officers provide a positive role model for the student in our schools while maintaining a constant police presence to ensure the safety of the faculty, staff, and students. These officers help to prevent issues before they happen and provide guidance, mentorship, and a positive example to the students of our schools. These officers help to coordinate security for extra-curricular activities and provide input on emergency management practices.



CART TEAM & CRISIS NEGOTIATORS

Linwood Police Department is proud to participate in the Atlantic County CHILD ABDUCTION RESPONSE TEAM (CART). This program is not only multi-jurisdictional but also a multi-disciplinary collection of trained personnel who provide rapid response to reports of endangered, abducted, or missing children. While we never want to have to respond to such incidents, we are ready and willing to provide whatever assistance is needed for families who have a child go missing.

Atlantic County CART Team members from the Linwood Police Department are Lt. Chester Brown, Lt. Austin Martin, and Det/Sgt. Timothy Devine.

Linwood Police Department also employs three trained HOSTAGE NEGOTIATORS who respond to calls regarding barricaded subjects, people in crisis, hostage situations, emotionally disturbed persons, and other similar situations with the goal of handling these scenarios at the lowest possible level with the least amount of force. These negotiators are not only available to our agency but are also available as mutual aid for other agencies in need of these services. These officers have attended 80 hours of Hostage/ Crisis Negotiator Training (including de-escalation training and active bystander training) conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and also attend quarterly in-service training with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office to continue their education and training. These negotiators are available at all times.

Linwood Police Department's hostage negotiators are Chief Steven Cunningham, Sergeant John Moran, and Patrolman James Cohen.

2022 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

1st Quarter

- DEA Prescription Drug Take-Back Event
- SWAT Demonstration at Seaview Elementary School
- Read Across America at Seaview Elementary School
- Child ID Safety Kids released to the public

2nd Quarter

- Handgun Safety Course at Range 129
- Career Day at Seaview Elementary School
- Narcan Training/ Opioid Awareness Training for residents
- Chief DJ Event in Ocean City
- New HERO Car unveiled in Ventnor
- Senior Breakfast at Belhaven Middle School
- Helicopter landing at Mainland High School

3rd Quarter

- Handgun Safety Course at Range 129
- New Class III Officers at Seaview Elementary and Belhaven Middle Schools
- National Night Out
- Bicycle Helmet & Safety Seminars at Seaview Elementary and Belhaven Middle Schools

4th Quarter

- Santa visit to Brandall Estates
- Santa visit with Toys for Kids to 3 families in town
- Santa visit with gifts to the Headstart Program
- Assist Linwood Fire Department with Santa on fire trucks
- Pizza with the kids at Seaview Elementary School
- Senior Holiday Lunch at Linwood Library
- Shop with a Hero (hosted by the EHT PAL)
- Coffee with a Cop at Brandall Estates
- DEA Prescription drug Take-Back Event
- HERO Walk on Ocean City Boardwalk
- Visit to Interactive Kids to familiarize students with police officers.

NJSACOP ACCREDITATION

In 2022, the Linwood Police Department entered in the New Jersey Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) Accreditation Program with the goal of completing the program as quickly and efficiently as possible. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven method of assisting law enforcement agencies to calculate and improve their overall performance. It is an ongoing process whereby agencies evaluate policy and procedure against established criteria and have their compliance with those criteria verified by an independent and authoritative body.

The true indicator of compliance, however, lies with an evaluation conducted by trained, independent professional peers. The establishment of meaningful and professional standards is the fundamental purpose of an accreditation program.

”ACCREDITED STATUS REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT. ACCREDITATION ACKNOWLEDGES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT ARE CONCEPTUALLY SOUND AND OPERATIONALLY EFFECTIVE.”

The New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police has pursued the concept and development of a voluntary statewide law enforcement accreditation program for New Jersey. This has resulted in the formation of the NJSACOP Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. These commissioners have the overall responsibility of adoption of program standards, as well as review of all assessment reports and approval of all recommendations for the granting of accredited status of applicant agencies.

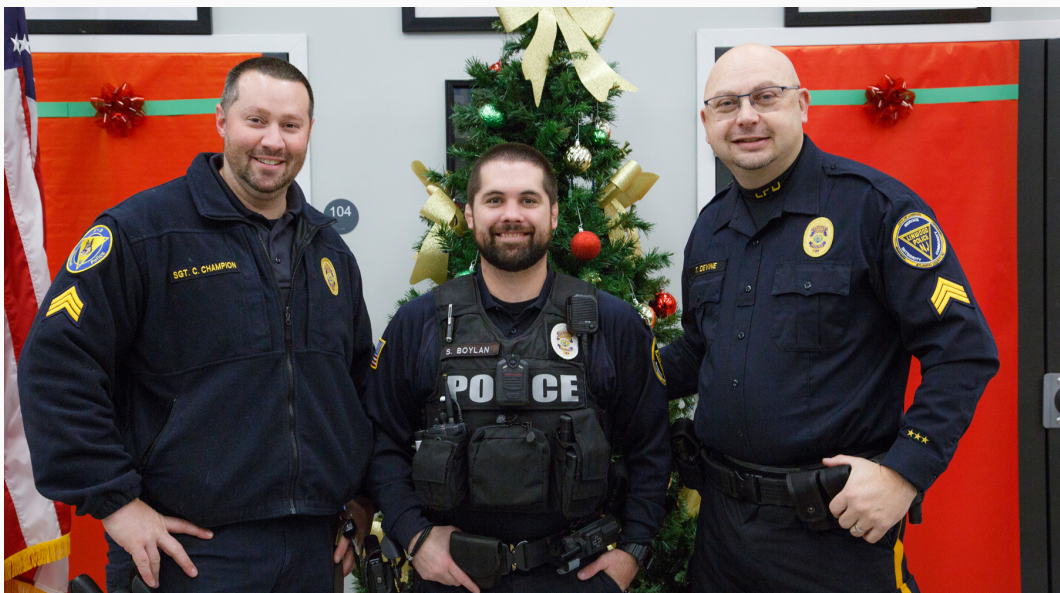




HANDGUN SAFETY COURSE









PIZZA IN THE SCHOOLS





