



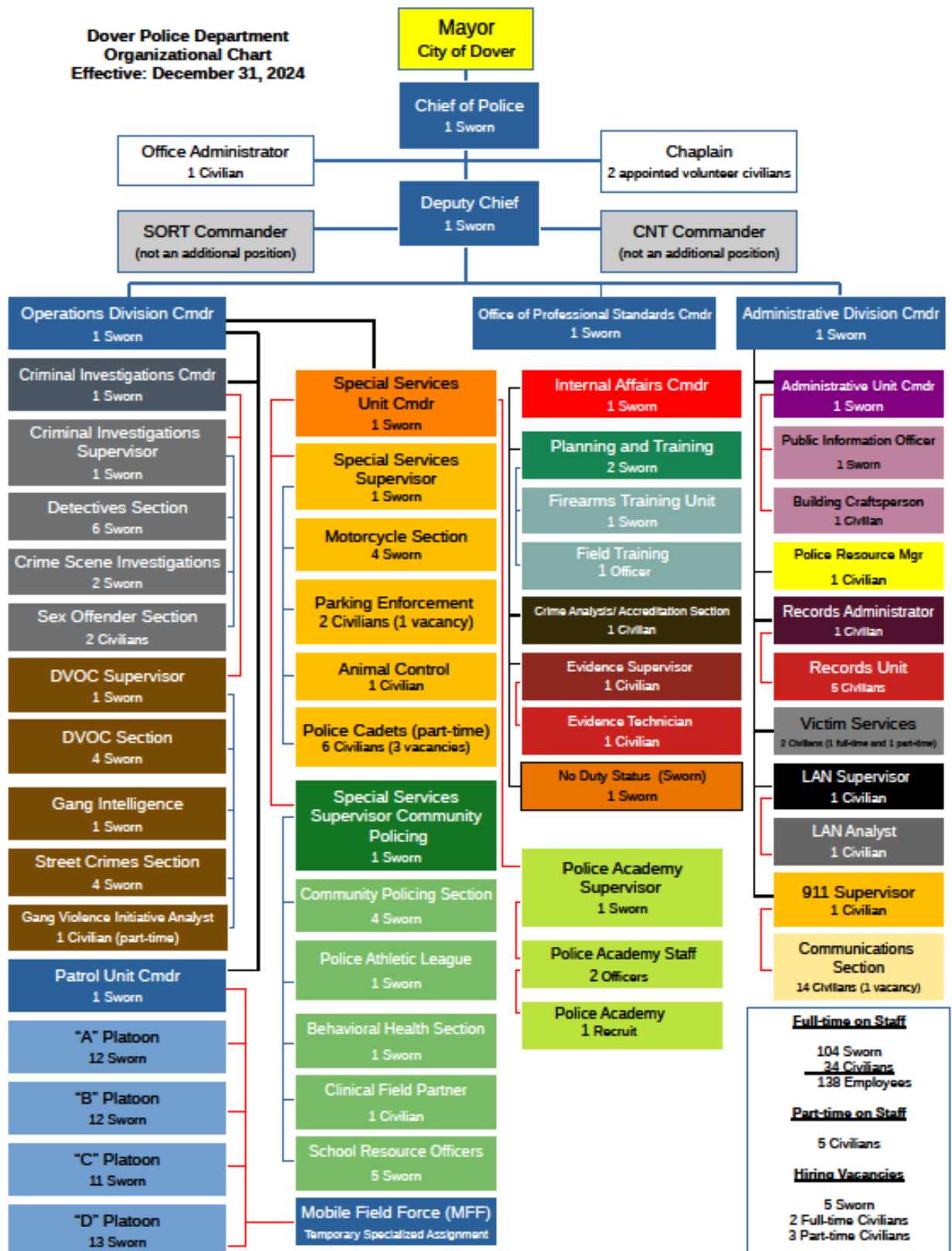
# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Thomas A. Johnson Jr.  
Chief of Police



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**Dover Police Department  
Organizational Chart  
Effective: December 31, 2024**





# City of Dover Police Department

## Sworn Staff



**Thomas A. Johnson, Jr.**  
Chief of Police



**Major David Spicer**  
Deputy Chief of Police



**Captain Paul Kuntzi**  
Operations Division Commander



**Captain Randy Robbins**  
Office of Professional Standards  
Commander



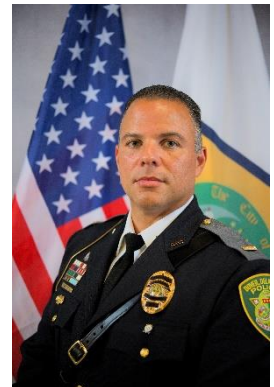
**Captain Robert "Ernie" Roswell**  
Administrative Division Commander



**Lieutenant Christopher Bumgarner**  
Criminal Investigations Commander



**Lieutenant Peter Martinek**  
Patrol Unit Commander



**Lieutenant Mark Hoffman**  
Admin Unit Commander



**Lieutenant Jordan Miller**  
Special Enforcement Unit  
Commander



**Lieutenant Kevin Streadwick**  
Internal Affairs  
Commander

# City of Dover Police Department

## Civilian Administrative Staff



Police Resource Manager  
**Robin Adkins**  
(Until 9/21/24 Retirement)



Police Resource Manager  
**Barrie Lighe**  
(From 9/21/24)



911 Communications Manager  
**Matthew Carey**



Records Unit Supervisor  
**Emily Waldrige**



Evidence Manager  
**Frank Grosso**



Senior LAN Analyst  
**Christopher Menge**



# PLANNING & TRAINING UNIT

The Planning and Training Unit is responsible for all aspects of **training, recruitment, and applicant testing**. Planning and Training ensures that all sworn and civilian members of the Department receive training in compliance with the standards established by the **Delaware Police Officer Standards & Training Commission (POST)**, Departmental Policies, the **Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)** standards, and Federal mandates. The Planning and Training Unit also provides training to outside agencies upon request and assists the **Dover Municipal Police Academy** with instruction and physical fitness tests. The Unit makes sure that **Subject Matter Experts** obtain the necessary **continuing education** for their specialties, designated staff keep up with their **Instructor credentials**, and ensures that the agency takes advantage of certain **seminars and conferences** that connect to the needs of public safety in Dover. **Leadership Training** is an area of emphasis and the Department continues to host the **FBI Leadership Development Courses** each year. This nationally known program is provided in conjunction with the **Delaware Department of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement (DATE)**.

The Unit is also responsible for all newly hired police officers from their first day of **Orientation** through to their completion of the **Field Training Program**. Throughout the year, Planning and Training participates in regional **job fairs and special presentations** in an effort to **recruit talented and diverse applicants** for service in the Dover Police Department.

Major Training Accomplishments for 2024:

- 7 new Police Officers hired
- 7 new civilian team members hired
- 627.25 civilian training hours
- 12,468.5 sworn officer training hours
- 20 out of state training schools attended
- 196 ride-along hours
- 9 formal Recruiting Events
- 4 “How to Succeed in the Hiring Process” Seminars



Pictured to the left, **Sgt. Joe Bauer** and **MCpl. Matt Krogh** join **Chief Johnson** and **Mayor Christiansen** in a photo with the **36th graduating class** of the **Dover Citizen’s Police Academy**

## VICTIM SERVICES UNIT

The Victim Services Unit continues to provide critical assistance to victims and their families. **Casey Wilson** serves as the Department's **Victim Services Coordinator**, providing in-depth crisis intervention and assistance through trauma-informed care. In addition to providing **services to the victims** of crime, Casey continues to train recruits attending the **Dover Municipal Police Academy**. Her knowledge and expertise in the field of **Domestic Violence** and **Sexual Assault** victimization provides officers with basic understanding of what they may encounter when responding to crime scenes. She continues to serve the Department on a **24-hour basis** to respond to **critical incidents or call-outs** that often include death notifications.

Recognizing the importance of **Officer Wellness**, she was a part of the launch of the Officer Wellness smartphone app during summer of 2024. The **GUIDE App** provides **mental health resources** and life-success support to officers and their families as well as civilian staff and retirees. Casey is responsible for coordinating the **emergency response** to support Officers after critical incidents. One **Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)** response was coordinated in 2024. Dedicated to the Department's Mission, she continues to serve on several state-level **Task Forces** and **Sub-Committees** to keep staff informed on victim-related programs and legislation.

In August of 2024, **Danielle Martin** was hired to be part of the Unit. Danielle comes to the Department with more than **20 years of experience** in law enforcement. She retired from the **Delaware State Police** in 2021. Her background as a **Domestic Violence Detective** has proved beneficial to the Department as she assists crime victims with information and referrals. We are thankful for the City's approval of this position. Together for victims,  
**Casey and Danielle make a great team!**



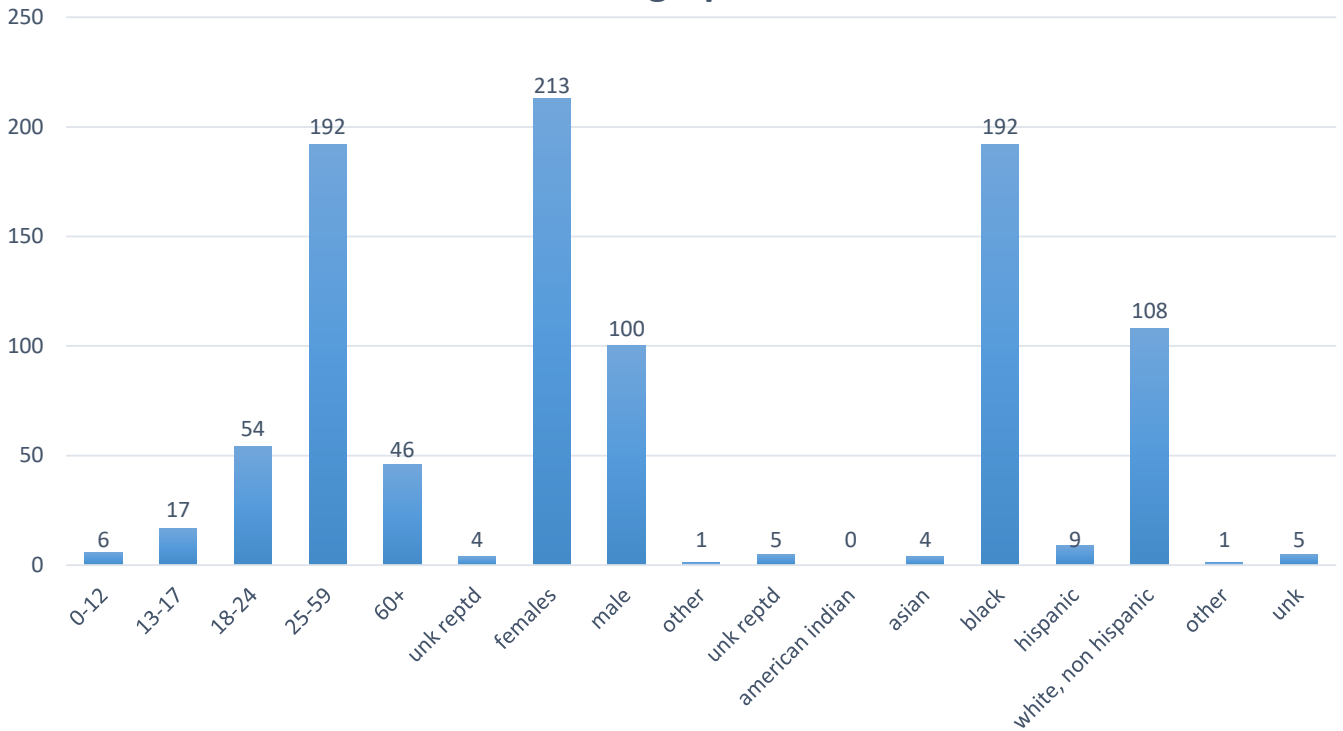
**Casey Wilson**



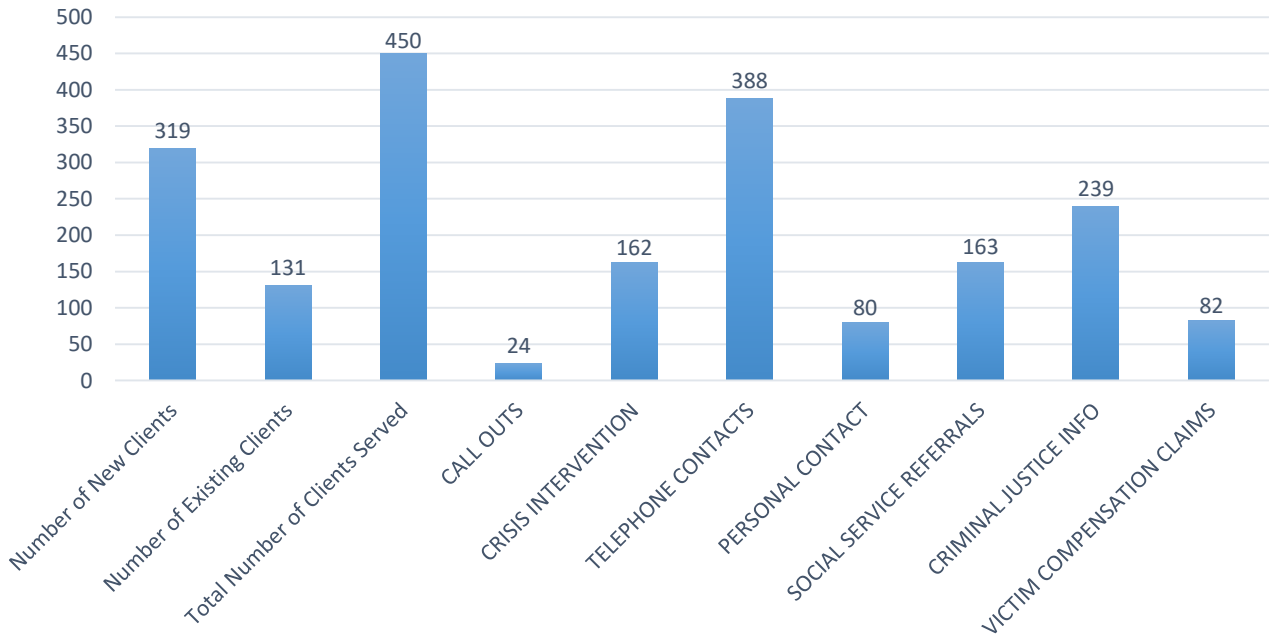
**Danielle Martin**

# VICTIM SERVICES UNIT CONTINUED

## Client Demographics 2024



## Client Services- 2024





# City of Dover Police Department Municipal Academy

In 2024, the Dover Municipal Police Academy **graduated two classes** and started a third. **Class #6** began on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and graduated on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. **Class #7** began on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and graduated on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. **Class #8** began on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and is projected to graduate mid-March 2025. The Dover Municipal Academy Staff **trained thirty-five (35) new officers** and **sixteen (16) pre-certified officers** in 2024. Currently, there are nineteen (19) police recruits enrolled in Class #8. The presence of the Academy continues to be a **positive influence** on the larger organization in the sense that **Dover PD continues to be a teaching and learning agency**. Beyond the presence of Dover Recruit Officers, approximately **20 different law enforcement agencies** were represented in these classes.

The academy coordination duties were passed to **Sergeant Jacob Rankin** from **Master Corporal Willie Johnson**. Master Corporal Willie Johnson previously trained recruit officers at the **Delaware State Police Academy** and has been on the **Dover Municipal Police Academy** staff from Class #1 to Class #7. His efforts have **laid the foundation** for the Dover Municipal Police Academy's future success. Staff instructors consisted of **Corporal Nathaniel Weir** and **Corporal Siobhan Burton**. Visiting subject matter experts, trainers from the Dover Police Department and members of surrounding agencies provided instruction throughout the classes.



**Class 6**



**Class 7**

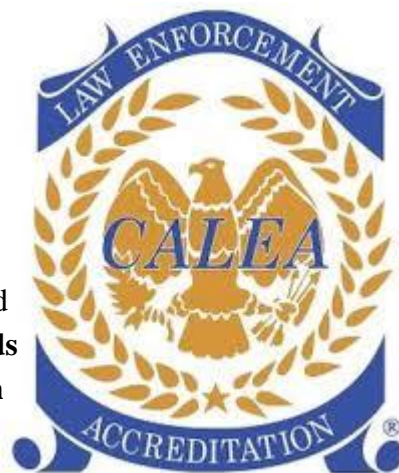


**Class 8**

# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

## CRIME ANALYSIS & ACCREDITATION

**Mr. Robert Scott** is a retired Dover PD Captain and continues his service to Dover in a civilian role that draws upon his considerable training and experience in public safety. He is known best for his role as our **Accreditation Manager**. At its core, Accreditation is simply the task of proving to an independent body that the agency **observes, follows and promotes** what the industry considers to be “**Best Practices.**” Rob serves DPD at the intersection of **policy** and **procedure** as we adhere to roughly **500** separate **national standards** for policing organizations. The **Commission for the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)** is the governing body and monitors the written directives of the Dover Police Department.



Professional assessors from CALEA perform **remote annual audits** with Rob offering **proof of compliance** through official documentation. Every three to four years, CALEA does a full review on the premises. This review is an **examination** of the entire operation and involves **interviews** with internal and external **stakeholders**. Following the “on-site” visit, the Chief accompanies Rob to the CALEA **annual conference**. While there, Rob attends accreditation **training** while the Chief **defends the agency assessment** to the standards board responsible for Delaware. This is an **open hearing** and the Department has no advanced knowledge of the questions.

There are only a few police organizations in Delaware capable of meeting national benchmarks. In 2022, Dover PD was awarded our **8<sup>th</sup> consecutive Gold Standard award** for excellence and Rob was the **biggest reason**. We are rapidly approaching our next “on-site” visit and through Rob’s efforts, we are ready to make it 9 in a row! Accreditation also exists at the State-level for smaller departments. Rob is a great resource for agencies seeking to meet the standards of the **Delaware Police Accreditation Committee (DPAC)**. He will often serve as an assessor for DPAC as all of Delaware’s police departments are now **required** to obtain and maintain accreditation.



Rob had a very successful operational career as a police officer and that experience is critical to his work as a **crime analyst**. He knows what working officers **need to do their job** and what staff officers **need in order to plan** all of it. He compiles information from a variety of data sources and turns them into **maps** and **illustrations** to assist the leadership team. This might involve crime trends or the examination of reportable crashes occurring in the city.

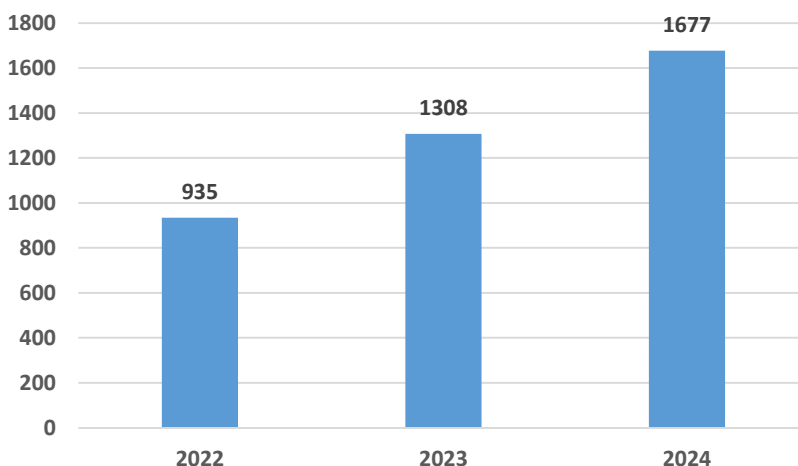
# PATROL UNIT

As with every police agency, the **backbone** of our Department is the **Patrol Unit**. The Officers assigned to “patrol” ensure the **safety and security** of our community through proactive **engagement**, quick **response** to emergencies, and visible **presence** on the streets. Over the past year, our Officers have continued to exemplify **dedication** and **professionalism** as they responded to **thousands of calls** for service, addressed **community concerns**, and **fostered positive relationships** with the residents of, and visitors to, the Capital of the First State. From **routine** patrol to **high-risk** incidents, the Officers of the Patrol Unit have consistently demonstrated their commitment to **protecting** and **serving**. They **adapt to evolving challenges** and **uphold the highest standards** of law enforcement.

## Notable Occurrences

**Shoplifting** has been a **national epidemic** and remains one of the most prevalent crimes impacting local businesses, and our patrol officers have been at the forefront of addressing this challenge. Over the past year, officers responded to **1677 shoplifting incidents**, showcasing their vigilance and commitment to supporting local retailers and maintaining public order. This has been an **increase of over 28%** from 2023. Through rapid response times, and thorough investigations, our patrol officers either **immediately apprehended** suspects or **work closely with business owners** to identify those subjects who had fled before police arrival. These efforts have not only reduced losses for businesses but have also fostered a stronger partnership between us. As we continue to address retail theft, our focus remains on **balancing enforcement with proactive strategies** to deter future incidents.

The increase of response to shopliftings compared over the past 3 years.



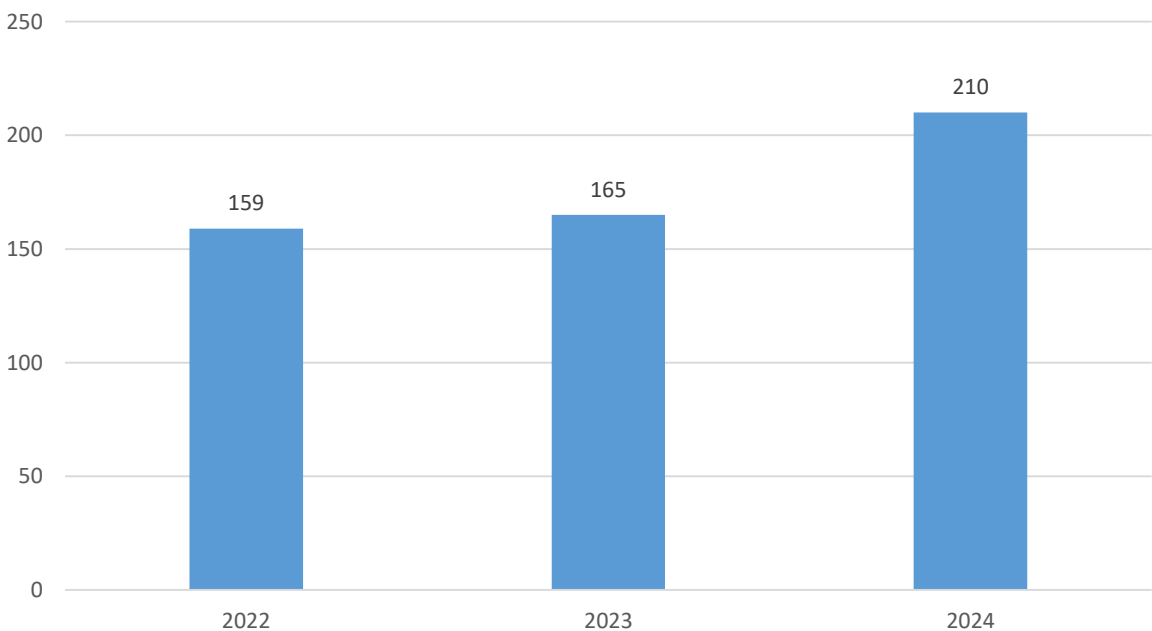


# PATROL UNIT

The **opioid crisis** continues to pose **significant challenges** in our Dover community. Our **officers remain steadfast** in their efforts to **save lives** and combat this epidemic. In 2024, officers equipped with **Naloxone (Narcan)** responded to **210 overdose incidents**. They **administered Narcan** and/or **performed other lifesaving measures** designed to reverse opioid overdoses or **keep the patient viable** for responding medics. They **often make the difference** between life and death. These interventions not only highlight the importance of immediate response, but also underscore the **evolving role of law enforcement** in addressing this public health crisis.

Beyond emergency responses, our Department **collaborates with community organizations** to connect individuals, and families, affected by addiction with **essential resources and support services**. Together, we are working to reduce the impact of overdoses and build a path toward **recovery and prevention**. The Patrol Unit is in constant contact with the **Behavioral Health Unit** to maximize the potential of all uniformed sections in the Department.

The number of administered Narcan responses compared over the past 3 years.



# PATROL UNIT

In the early hours of May 29, 2024, a concerned passerby noticed a **mother duck anxiously pacing** near a storm drain on Route 13, close to **Royal Farms at 295 S. DuPont Highway** in Dover, Delaware. Recognizing the duck's distress, and the probability that something was wrong, the individual contacted the Police Department.



Patrol officers promptly arrived at the scene and discovered that several **ducklings** had **fallen into the storm drain**, unable to reunite with their mother. Demonstrating **compassion** and dedication, the **Corporal Thomas Rivera** entered the storm drain to **rescue the trapped ducklings**. During their efforts, they **found another duckling** in a separate storm drain nearby and rescued it as well. (Below)

The successful operation concluded with the **reunion of four ducklings** with their relieved mother. This is “a small but great example of the type of service the officers of the Dover Police Department are proud to provide to the City of Dover.



# PATROL UNIT

## Collision Reconstruction Unit

The Collision Reconstruction Unit, a **specialized component** of the Patrol Unit, is dedicated to **investigating and analyzing** serious traffic collisions to determine their **causes and contributing factors**. During 2024, Officers responded to **2646 motor vehicle collisions**. Tragically, as a result of these collisions, **3 lives were lost**. Employing advanced **technology** and meticulous investigative **techniques** to **reconstruct** crash scenes and provide critical insights into the **reasons** for the collisions. Their efforts have identified **negligent behaviors**, such as impaired or distracted driving, and have supported **successful prosecutions** when warranted. The unit collaborates with local and state agencies to **enhance traffic safety initiatives** and **reduce the likelihood of future collisions**. By combining **technical expertise** with a **commitment to uncovering the truth**, the Collision Reconstruction Unit plays a crucial role in promoting **driver accountability** and fostering **safer roadways** in our community.

On April 29, 2024, at 12:39 p.m., Officers responded to a traffic collision which resulted in the **death of a 64-year-old man** from Pennsylvania. The crash involved a Nissan Murano and a Suzuki motorcycle at the intersection of **North DuPont Highway** and **Rustic Lane**. The **motorcyclist**, who was stopped at a red light, was **struck from behind** by the Nissan Murano, which failed to stop for traffic. The motorcyclist was transported to **Bayhealth Kent Campus** but later died from his injuries. The 20-year-old driver of the Nissan was **not injured**. The investigation closed the roadway for about three and a half hours. Charges are still pending a final decision from the Office of the Attorney General.



On November 19, 2024, at 7:03 p.m., officers began investigating a fatal pedestrian accident that occurred when a **29-year-old female was struck and killed** by a 2004 Nissan Titan pickup truck on **North DuPont Highway**, just north of **Leipsic Road**. The pedestrian, wearing **dark clothing and not in a crosswalk**, was crossing the highway **improperly** when she was hit by the truck being driven by a 17-year-old male. The pedestrian was **pronounced dead at the scene**. **No charges were indicated** in this incident as fault, unfortunately, belonged to the victim.



# PATROL UNIT

## K9 Section

The K9 Unit, an integral part of the Patrol Unit, continues to play a **vital role** in ensuring **public safety** and supporting daily law enforcement operations. This year, our K9 teams provided invaluable assistance in areas such as **narcotics** detection, suspect **apprehension**, **search** and **rescue**, and **evidence** recovery. The **highly-trained handlers**, along side their canine partners, have proven to be an **exceptional resource**. They **track fleeing suspects**, **detect illegal substances**, and perform **security sweeps** at major events. Beyond operational duties, the K9 Unit has also fostered strong **community relationships** through **demonstrations and educational events**, showcasing their skills and strengthening public trust. These dedicated teams exemplify the **synergy of training, teamwork, and service** that define our commitment to protecting and serving the community.



Corporal Mitchell & Jits



Corporal Figueroa & Reeko



Corporal Spence & Jax



Corporal Krumm & Asher

# Communications Section

On August 27, 2024, at 3:36 pm, **Communications Operator Atkinson** spoke to a **caller in the country of Albania** reporting that his **brother's boat was sinking** in the **English Channel**, off the coast of **Dover, England (UK)**. Atkinson was able to **obtain lifesaving details**, using the 911 Center's new certification in **Emergency Fire Dispatch**, from the **International Academies of Emergency Dispatch**. The caller advised the boat was **headed from France to England** and he was in communication with his brother through a phone "app" however; the phone was now dead.

While understanding the caller was **screaming "it is going down"** repeatedly to his shift mate, **Communications Operator Logan** urgently started making **international lifesaving efforts**. In under four minutes, he began making contact with the following **Domestic and International Resources**:

- \* **Kent County 911**
- \* **US Coast Guard District 5**
- \* **Del. River and Bay Authority**  
**Section of the USCG**
- \* **French Coast Guard**
- \* **Dover, England Police Department**
- \* **His Majesty's Coast Guard from England**
- \* **Maritime & Coastguard Agency**  
**Coordination Center**



Communication Operator Logan was **relentless in his efforts**, as he **exhausted every resource** lead or transfer to try to send help. Based upon the actions of the Dover Police Department Communications Operators, within **15 minutes and 48 seconds** we were able to get **help to the sinking boat in international waters**. It was confirmed through the Maritime and Coastguard Agency that **all persons** and their vessel were **returned safely** to the **Port of Dover, England**.

The actions of the **dispatchers** resulted in the award of a **Distinguished Unit Commendation**. Communications Operator **Logan** was awarded **Civilian of the Quarter**. Communications Operator **Atkinson** was nominated as Police Executive Research Forum (**PERF**) **Dispatcher of the Year for 2024**, and the unit received recognition from the **International Academy of Emergency Dispatch 911 Highlight** for the Third Quarter of 2024.

# Communications Section

## Dispatch Productivity 2024

37,332	911 Calls Received for Police, Fire, and Medical Emergency's
55,520	Administrative Calls Received
92,852	Total Calls Received for the Center
94.81%	of all 911 calls answered were answered in 10 seconds or less The National NENA Standard is 90% in 15 seconds or less

### Inside the numbers

2,548	Warrants/Stolen Items/Missing Persons, entered, updated, modified, validated, and audited.
6,680	Priority 1 Complaints processed and protocolled.
14,093	Axon Weapon and Taser real time activations, monitored, managed, and resolved in AXON RESPOND/Evidence.com.
1,523	Flock Activations leading to a police response.
557.25	Hours of training were completed.

The entire unit certified in **Emergency Fire Dispatch** and recertified in **Active Assailant / Active Shooter** through the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch.

**Community Outreach:** Utilizing the **Community Response Vehicle**, our veteran Communications Operators **visited and/or hosted** multiple **schools and summer camps** to **educate young people** on the 911 system. Dover has **portable equipment** to provide students an **opportunity to practice** making a 911 call. In emergency situations, the portable equipment can be used to **supplement the efforts** of the main system.





# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

## Detective Section

The Criminal Investigations Unit, Detective Section, contains a sergeant, six detectives, and two crime scene detectives. The Section is tasked with **investigating the most serious crimes** that occur in Dover. Major crimes include; **homicide, burglary, robbery, rape/sexual assault, shooting investigations**, as well as **crimes against children** and other **special victims**. The Section conducts a variety of **fraud and identity theft** investigations. It is also responsible for the comprehensive **background investigations** completed on all civilian and sworn applicants.

The Detection Section maintained an **excellent clearance rate** for 2024. The unit investigated **46 shootings** with a clearance of 54%, **47 robberies** with a clearance of 81%, **41 Rapes** with a clearance of 78% and **60 burglaries** with a clearance rate of 73%.

	2022	'22 Clearance Rate	2023	'23 Clearance Rate	2024	'24 Clearance Rate
Homicide	3	67%	2	100%	6/7	100%
Shootings	40	68%	46	63%	46	54%
Burglary	25	84%	55	75%	60	73%
Robbery	21	81%	26	85%	47	81%
Rape	80	86%	79	84%	41	78%

A further review of shootings in 2024 revealed a total number of confirmed **58 shots fired incidents** in the city which is about the statistical mean between the numbers recorded in 2023 (55) and 2022 (60). The same as last year, those **58 calls resulted in a total of 46 reportable crimes**. A comparison of the trend data reveals that there was a **decrease in the amount of property damage** but an **increase in the number of victims struck** by gunfire in 2024. In 2022, approximately 55% (22) of the 40 reported shootings resulted in a victim struck by gunfire. In 2023 only 26% (12) of the 46 reported shootings had that result and our 2024 analysis recorded 41% or (19) of the 46 reported shootings.

Shootings	2022	2023	2024
Total confirmed shots fired	60	55	58
Reports	40	46	46
Injury Sustained	22	12	19
Property Damage/Misc.	18	32	27
Clearance Rate	68%	63%	54%

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

## Detective Section

During the year 2024, the Detective Section successfully **investigated seven homicides**. All of these crimes were **closed by arrest**. This included five homicides in 60 days, during which the City Council recognized the Detective Section. While all of the murders that the Detective Section investigated are **tragic and senseless**, the murder of 18-year-old **Camay Mitchell DeSilva** on the campus of **Delaware State University** captured regional media attention.

**Family of Camay De Silva relieved after arrests were made in connection to DSU Homicide** *May 6, 2024*

[Leila Weah](#)



**'You took my baby girl from me,': Mom reacts as 2 charged in slaying of teen at Delaware State Univ.** By [Hayden Mitman](#) • Published May 6, 2024 **10 PHILADELPHIA**



On April 21, 2024, the **victim was on campus with her friends** when they witnessed a fight occurring between two groups in the area of the dorms. One of the groups began to open fire on the other. **The victim, who was not involved, was struck by gunfire.** The shooters fled the area and the **Delaware State University Police Department** responded to the scene.

The City of Dover Police were involved in the emergency response and ultimately the **DPD Detective Section took over as the lead investigators** with the support of the DSUPD. The investigation was manpower intensive, with multiple angles of inquiry. Due to the number of students on campus, detectives had to **interview many potential witnesses** and conduct a **forensic examination** of the crime scene. Detectives and DSU Police scoured the area for potential **security videos**, which resulted in **several solid leads**. Additionally, investigators found potentially **evidentiary video on cell phones**. Video forensic techniques were used to extract and analyze all videos.



The joint investigation soon developed **two suspects**. In consultation with the **Delaware Department of Justice**, the Dover Police were able to obtain arrest warrants for **Destry Jones**, age 20, and **Damien Hinson**, age 18. It was discovered that Destry Jones had since **fled to New York City**. Working with the **United States Marshals Service New York/ New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force**, detectives tracked Jones to a location in **Brooklyn, NY**.



A team of detectives assisted the USMS Task Force with taking Destry into custody in New York. On the same day, detectives assisted the **USMS First State Fugitive Task Force** with taking Damien Hinson into custody in Dover. **Both suspects confessed** to their part in the murder and are awaiting trial.

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

## Drugs, Vice & Organized Crime (DVOC) & Street Crimes Sections

The Drugs, Vice, and Organized Crime Unit (DVOC) contains multiple specialized detectives, uniformed officers, and a sergeant overseeing both **DVOC Detectives** and the **Street Crimes Unit**. The unit is tasked with conducting **proactive investigations** into illicit **drug** sales, **firearms** trafficking, **gangs**/organized crime, and **human trafficking**. To do this, the DVOC Detective Section works closely with the Street Crimes Section. Some unit members are additionally assigned to various **Federal Task Forces**, such as the Dover **ATF** Violent Crimes Task Force, **DEA** Task Force, **FBI** Violent Crimes Task Force, and **USMS** First State Fugitive Task Force.

The Street Crimes Section serves the uniformed proactive functions of the DVOC Unit. Members of this section work in partnership with **Delaware Probation and Parole Operations Safe Streets**. The members provide proactive **patrol, gang enforcement**, and investigate **high-risk probationers**. The combined efforts of the Officers from DVOC and Street Crimes addressed a total of **332 cases**, netting a total of **995 arrests**, and the **seizure** of the following illegal substances:



14,454.42 grams of **marijuana**

4,739.55 grams of **cocaine**

1730.52 grams of **fentanyl**

652.83 grams of **heroin**

1160.7 grams of **ecstasy / MDMA**

241.5 doses of controlled **prescription pills**

166 grams of **methamphetamines**

3190.95 grams of other controlled substances

which included: **LSD, DMT, ketamine,**  
and **psilocybin mushrooms**

**93** illegally possessed **firearms** were also recovered and **\$210,720** in illegally obtained **United States Currency** was turned over to the Delaware DOJ.



# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT DVOC & Street Crimes Sections

## Noteworthy Drug Investigations of 2024

In early 2024, DVOC Detectives began investigating Markevis Anderson and Gregory Dove. The case was concluded on April 12, 2024, when SORT executed **search warrants** in the 200 block of James Court and 100 block of Thames Drive, Dover. Detectives located **1.5 kilograms** (1,669.5 grams) of **cocaine**, **2,415.5 grams of marijuana**, **\$21,689 USC** and a **firearm**.



In 2024, the Drugs, Vice, and Organized Crime Unit, the Street Crimes Unit and Probation and Parole, **executed a search warrant** at 118 Roosevelt Avenue, where Cameron Christmas and Jessica Cooper were taken into custody. Investigators learned that **118 Roosevelt Avenue** was utilized as a **daycare facility** during the investigation. As a result of the search warrant, approximately **93.1 grams of cocaine**, **26.4 grams of crack cocaine**, **302 bags of heroin**, **2 firearms**, and **\$32,262 USC** was recovered as evidence.



# POLICE RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit is perhaps one of the **most under-appreciated** aspects of the organization.

This team handles an incredible amount of **critical information**. Over the past decade, after **losing an assigned position**, the staff has managed an **ever-increasing workload**. Many do not consider that **additional mission requirements**, and the employees that come with an expanded mission, deliver data and documents to the **same-sized support unit**. As has been the case, on more than one occasion, the **loss of just a single clerk** to injury, illness or complete separation creates a **problematic backlog**. **Accident reports** might not be processed, **customer service** might slow down, **crime data** is delayed, follow up work on **ordinance violations** might be delayed, and most importantly to the entire Department, *something could go wrong with payroll!*

Accident reports are the **most requested document** for all of the understandable reasons. Crime data is subject to **mandatory reporting** and is needed for **operational planning** efforts.

There is a **financial consequence** to unaddressed Dover City Ordinance violations. Payroll is **personal**, accuracy in calculations is **essential**, and deadlines are **not negotiable**. Working with residents, Freedom of Information Act Requests, compliance to retention regulations, training, and chasing down cops to make corrections on reports is often an overwhelming proposition. If records management was an Olympic sport, this team takes home gold.



**Lisa Hoffer**



**Emily Waldrige**



**Brenda Unruh**



**Jenna Ridgeway**



**Melissa Ridgeway**



**Elizabeth Turner**



# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

The **Special Services Unit (SSU)** is organized to address some the most challenging needs within the City. The Unit is comprised of the **Community Policing** Section, the **Motorcycle** Section, the **Youth** Section (School Resource Officers), the **Police Athletic League**, **Behavioral Health** Team, the **Animal Control** Officer and the **Parking Enforcement** Officers. The **Cadet** Program and the **Municipal Police Academy** are linked to the Community Policing Section of the SSU.

**Formerly** known as the **Special Enforcement Unit**, this area of the Operations Division was **re-branded** in 2024 to better reflect its 21<sup>st</sup> Century purpose. While it is true that enforcement is part of the Unit's function, it was recognized that **the majority of the activities found in each Section were more service-oriented** thus prompting the change.

The primary goal of Department is public safety through **crime fighting**, **crime prevention**, public **education**, and **service** functions. The women and men of the Special Services Unit help accomplish this task by expanding the **positive public image** this Department has worked so hard to earn. Through a combination of community **engagement**, **outreach and enforcement** activities, the entire team works to **establish and maintain** the needed **relationships** in Dover to have a safe and thriving town.

The following pages highlight a sample of each Section's **accomplishments**. It is imperative to stress that the overall success of the mission comes via the cooperation of all Officers assigned to the Special Services Unit. Selection to the SSU is a **competitive process** and the successful members are the ones who are the most **dedicated and selfless**.





# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## Motors Unit

In 2024, the Motorcycle Section took on a broader and more diverse range of responsibilities in order to enhance **traffic safety** and **community engagement**. In addition to conducting their primary function of **traffic enforcement**, their contributions went far beyond routine duties. Motor Officers were actively involved in everything from **community events** and **public meetings**, to conducting **traffic surveys** and, to implementing **speed calming measures** in neighborhoods so their presence would be felt throughout the city.

The unit wasn't fully staffed until the summer, but once that was achieved, they quickly expanded their impact. A key responsibility of the unit is **collecting traffic data**, which they do in several ways. Officers are regularly **engaged with local residents**, who provide valuable input on traffic concerns. With this information, they use advanced **technology** to conduct traffic surveys, collecting data that helps pinpoint the most effective times for enforcement. On the issue of **speeding**, there are areas that may not require aggressive enforcement and the desired outcomes can be achieved through one of our four **speed trailers acting as a deterrent**.



The Motorcycle Section also plays a central role in monitoring the city's **red-light camera** program, which saw nearly **10,000 violations**. Additionally, they manage a program at the **JP Court** designed to **streamline the prosecution process**, benefiting both the court system and the public. There are two other important functions that linked to the Motors chain of command. The **Parking Enforcement** and **Animal Control** Officers report to the Motor Sergeant. We are happy to announce that our new Animal Control Officer, **Kaitlyn Smith** will be functional by the spring of 2025 after completing the **Delaware Animal Welfare Training Academy**. One of our two Parking Enforcement positions was filled in 2024 by **Mr. Donald Wood, Sr.** More information can be found about Don's efforts on the Parking Enforcement page of this report.

The Motor Unit is frequently seen at **community events** such as **parades** or **ceremonies**. What is not frequently seen are the **behind-the-scenes** efforts that ensure the safety of these events by securing roadways and making sure parade routes are properly marked.



# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## Community Policing



The Community Policing Section continued its excellent service during all of its community engagement events of 2024. The efforts included a variety of **outreach activities** aimed at **strengthening our connections** with the public. The **Community Response Vehicle** visited neighborhoods such as Manchester Square, Capital Green, Dover East Mobile Home Park, Persimmon Park Place, and Liberty Court. Regular meetings included discussions with the **Downtown Dover Partnership Board**, multiple **Neighborhood Watch Programs**, Property Managers, and the **Kent County Crime Watch**. The Officers partnered with schools for events to include **mentoring** programs, attending **career days** at various elementary schools, and **engaging with students during drop off**, safety patrol **ceremonies**, and **field days**.

Community Policing also hosted events like **Coffee with a Cop**, **Hometown Holiday**, **Backyard BBQ**, **Faith and Blue**, **Holiday Heroes**, and **Operation Gobble**. They attended local events such as the **Special Olympics Torch Run**, **NeighborGood** cookouts, **Masonic Lodge Community Fair**, **Jeepers Back the Blue**, and various **Trunk or Treats**, fostering deeper ties with the community. While these events are attended by all CPU members, the true **star of the show is Roy**, the Department's **Facility Dog**. He is Dover's **most popular and recognized** member of the team. Roy makes appearances at almost all of our events and **is a great icebreaker** when engaging with members of the community who may be uneasy with a police presence.



Cadet's **Sophia Basler** and **Krystal Olivieri** joined Cadet **Collin Chesley** this past year and brought our total to 3. The Cadets are utilized for a myriad of tasks that range from wearing the **Paw Patrol** costume during **Trunk or Treats** to simply transporting vehicles for maintenance. They are certainly **dedicated** to public service as each have **full-time responsibilities they balance** to participate in the program. Cadet Chesley is a full-time student at **DTCC** and a **volunteer firefighter** with **Robbins Hose Company**. Cadet Basler is also a full-time college student will routinely **travel back to Dover** from out of state to help our events. Cadet Olivieri is an **Airman** on active duty in the **United States Air Force** and still had the extra drive to serve the Dover PD.

# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## Community Policing Continued

2024 brought with it a renewed focus on the **Quality-of-Life** concerns found in many sections of the city over the last several years. It began following a **Town Hall Meeting** involving several residents from the **Downtown Dover** community. The meeting was attended by **Lieutenant Jordan Miller** and **Captain Paul Kuntzi**. Similar to other meetings attended by the Chief, **residents voiced concerns** that included **trespassing, prostitution, drug offenses and loitering**. The problems were widespread and **negatively impacting the daily experience** of individuals living, working and visiting Dover.

With that in mind, most of the summer was spent trying to **balance traditional** Community Policing activities **with a targeted enforcement** of Quality-of-Life concerns in the Downtown area. While there was **some improvement** in the situation, it was **not enough** to be considered successful or **change the perception** of stakeholders. At the end of the summer, Chief Johnson met with the **Mayor**, the **City Manager**, and other key personnel to discuss a **more concerted effort**. Though laden with significant **finance, planning and logistical challenges**, at the direction of **Mayor Christiansen**, steps were taken to prepare to **divert** the Community Policing Section **away from their traditional duties and focus solely on Quality-of-Life** issues for as long as possible or practical.

The initiative began on **November 5, 2024** and involved an **Action Plan** that rallied other **law enforcement** agencies, associated **city departments**, the **DOJ** and **private sector** resources to the task. The focus of enforcement was all the typical offenses that impacted the Quality-of-Life within the City of Dover but specifically, **trespassing**, nuisance complaints, **drug possession** and **prostitution**. This initiative was rolled out **city-wide** and **has made progress**, resulting in more than **170** individuals contacted and over **200 criminal charges** by years end. Charges filed were either **new criminal arrests** or **active warrants** or both.

The focus of the support or referral effort was the usual list of problems impacting the city to include **substance abuse, mental health and housing** challenges. Of course, some people **struggle with all three**. The **Behavioral Health Unit** leads the charge in this **equally important** arm of the initiative and has been getting **sick and injured people to the hospital**, getting **addicts to detox or rehab**, and getting folks with **unstable mental states connected to treatment**. At the time of this report, it is **too early to draw conclusions**. Success metrics, and barriers to success, should be available for the 2025 annual report.



# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## Youth - School Resource Officers

The Youth Unit is comprised of our **School Resource Officers** and continues to be an integral part of our Department's goal in **fostering relationships with the youth** in our community. While the role of an SRO is simply to **provide a safe and secure place** for our youth to learn and thrive within the educational system, **the DPD SRO program is much more** than that. The Officers are **specially-trained** protectors, discipline figures, mentors and friends to the students. Those relationships prove to be most effective in maintaining a safe learning environment.

The Dover Police Youth Section currently consists of **five officers**, all of which are **certified** as School Resource Officers (SRO's). Four are assigned to a specific school within the **Capital School District** as follows: 1 to **Dover High School**, 2 to Dover Middle School which houses the **School of Innovation** and the **School of Excellence**, and 1 to the **Kent County Intensive Learning Center (ILC)**. The fifth SRO splits time between the **Parkway Academy**, **Holy Cross K-8**, and the **Campus Community and Academy of Dover** charter schools. The Capital School District **elementary schools are not specifically assigned** a School Resource Officer. However, they have been divided up among the SRO's to ensure **each one has a visiting SRO** and **point of police contact** for the Principal.



The SRO's routinely support the efforts of **Corporal Anthony Smith** and the Dover **Police Athletic League (PAL)**. The past year the SRO's held various **meetings to alert parents** to the dangers of **sexting**, the dangers of **online predators** and the multiple forms of **bullying**. Corporal Demetrius Stevenson planned and coordinated the **National Night Out** event held at the campus of Dover High School. It is very **successful and well-attended** by community members. The event features City, State and sometimes Federal Agencies of government service, military branches and Delaware Law Enforcement. Youth Officers also assist the **Dover Police Youth Academy** during the summer when school is out of session.

# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## Police Athletic League



The City of Dover's Police Athletic League provides children from within the community, **opportunities and experiences** beyond athletic programs and opportunities to socialize with other children. While the after-school program still provides opportunities for the children to play games and have fun, P.A.L. has begun expanding upon their **CPR** certification course and partners with **Capital School District** for the **21<sup>st</sup> Century Program**. The CPR certification provides the children with a **life skill that they can take with them** throughout life and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program helps provide the children with **self-confidence, discipline and leadership** skills.

Along with the programs listed above, P.A.L. continued to hold the **Football Combine**, Day in Their Boots, Easter Egg Hunt, Fishing with Cops, a trip to the **National Holocaust Museum** and our flagship event, the City of Dover Police Department, **Youth Academy**. The Youth Academy brings thirty children from the community between the **ages of 10 to 15** and exposes



them to numerous classroom and practical presentations by Police Officers from various units within the Dover Police Department. This helps familiarize them with the inner workings of the Police Department and hopefully build a desire for them to become First Responders one day. Due to an increased youth participation level, the Department was able to hold two different one-week youth academies. This year, the **Academy of Dover** provided the **facilities and transportation** for the Youth Academy. As a testament to the success of the DPD Youth Academy, both the **Millsboro and Harrington Police Departments** now hold Youth

Academies and request the assistance of **Corporal Anthony Smith**, our PAL Director.

P.A.L. was **also honored by the Capital School District** with the **State of Our Schools Award**, which was presented to Corporal Smith for **his continued partnership** within the community, specifically the CPR Program. Pictured to the right is CSD Board Member **Sean Christiansen**, who nominated Cpl. Smith [middle], next to Chief **Thomas Johnson** [left] who was on hand to support the partnership.



# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## Behavioral Health Unit



Jake and Watara receiving their  
*Community Spotlight Award*

In 2024, the Behavioral Health Unit became a permanent part of the City of Dover family when it moved from being a contracted clinician program to a DPD professional staff member. With the support of state-level funding, we hired our **Clinical Field Partner, Watara Heath**, full time. Watara had been with the program since its inception and was the **main reason for its continued success**. The program had always found measureable success during the early months of operation but it really began to function at a high level when **Patrolman First Class Jake Shepherd** was selected to partner with Watara. The success of that team made it an easy sell for Chief Johnson when he presented the

plan to hire Watara, at the conclusion of the **Criminal Justice Council (CJC)**-funded kick-start. The Department would like to thank the Mayor, City Manager and City Council, along with key members of the **Delaware Legislature** for their efforts to make this possible. **Dover is a better place** because of this concept.

When it comes to achievements, this duo had an **extremely productive year** focused on **training, outreach, and partnerships** to improve the response to behavioral health-related issues in the community. They **attended** Basic and Advanced **Crisis Intervention Training**. They also **delivered** training on **Lethal Violence Protective Orders** and **Weapon Relinquishment Orders** to sworn members as well as mental health / substance abuse courses for the Police Academy. The BHU took a proactive role in **improving data collection** and **statistical analysis** for mental health encounters. This helps the local operation and many other organizations involved in the field.

The BHU scheduled **collaboration meetings** with organizations such as the **Mobile Addiction Recovery Unit**, **Veterans Treatment Court Program**, **U.S. Veteran Affairs**, **Delaware Guidance Services**, and **Concerted Care Group** to help improve service to our community. The BHU was involved in several **community networking** events such as **Special Olympic Ceremonies**, the **Veterans Stand Down Event**, and the **Delaware Community Services Program**. Lastly, the BHU has played a vital role in the ongoing **Quality of Life Initiative**. But of course, the **most important work** they do, is their continued close **connection to other officers** within the Department to offer **resources** and **treatment** to “at risk” individuals.



# SPECIAL SERVICES UNIT

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the success of the Special Services Unit would not have been possible this past year without the overall cooperation of each and every member of the Unit. Below I will list **events and meetings** either held, conducted, planned, attended or participated in:

### Community Response Vehicle Event Locations:

- Manchester Square
- Capital Green
- Dover East Mobile Home Park
- Persimmon Park Place
- Liberty Court

### Meetings:

- Downtown Dover Partnership Board Meetings
- Neighborhood Watch Meetings
- Green Beret Project Meetings
- Kent County Crime Watch Meetings
- Habitat for Humanity Meetings

### Events at Schools:

- Mentoring Program at Reilly Brown
- Attended Student Arrival to School
- National Walk to School Day
- W. Reily Brown (A Leader in Me Day)
- Lake Forrest Elementary Career Day
- Hartly Elementary Career Day
- Holy Cross Career Day
- Troop 4 School Career Day
- Dover Elementary Schools Safety Patrol Ceremonies
- Daycare Visits
- Dover PD Building Tours for Schools and different Scout Troops
- Attended Various Field Days
- Christmas Cookies at Charlton School
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Program
- CPR Certification



# **PARKING ENFORCEMENT SECTION**

One of our two Parking Enforcement Officer positions was filled in the summer of 2024 by Mr. Donald Wood, Sr. Since hitting the streets, PEO Wood has been actively trying to find resolution to quite a number of parking issues that have plagued the City of Dover while the two positions sat empty. In the short time since he completed his training, Mr. Wood has issued 771 parking violations. He has also been responsible for removing 274 vehicles from the streets of Dover which were either abandoned, wrecked or unregistered. Sometimes they were towed and other times the owner did the right thing and addressed the issue. Either way, conditions are certainly improving.



**Donald Wood**

# ***MAJOR AWARDS FOR 2024***

## ***Exceptional Performance***



*Master Corporal  
Christopher Peer*



*Corporal  
Jonathan Haith*



*Cadet  
Collin Chesley*

*On March 14, 2024, Dover Police Department was dispatched to a **working house fire** and the home **potentially occupied by an elderly male on oxygen**. Upon arrival, Master Corporal **Christopher Peer** and Corporal **Jonathan Haith**, saw **smoke pouring** from the home. They responded to the **back of the residence**, and without regard for their own safety, **forced entry** into the burning house and **located a victim** on the floor. As a team, the two officers **drug the victim out** of the residence and **began rendering aid**.*

*In their effort to save the victims life, **the officers had faced heat and flames** intense enough to **melt a body worn camera** and a flashlight. Cadet **Collin Chesley** also arrived on scene and immediately began to utilize his **training and experience** as a member of **Robbins Hose Company**. He got a message to move a police vehicle that was **inadvertently blocking** a fire hydrant. He used his fire service training to begin **moving hose into position** and **set up ladders** for both access and escape. The actions of the responding police resources clearly **exceeded expectations** and went beyond their normal realm of responsibilities.*

*Unfortunately, the gentleman was too badly burned to survive and later passed away in the hospital. The Department continues to **keep his family in our prayers**.*



# **MAJOR AWARDS FOR 2024**

## *Exceptional Performance*



*Master Corporal  
Derrick Mast*

*During 2023, Master Corporal **Derrick Mast** conducted **research** on the current industry rating of the issued Dover duty weapon and the **possible benefits** of switching out the Department's handguns to a **different model**. The literature demonstrated measurable **improvements** to both **9 mm ammunition** and police **pistol optics**. After he was able to obtain **grants to fund the entire project**, as well as the ammunition to complete the transitional training, the Department began to **replace our .40 cal. Glock handguns with a 9 mm. model**. He continued this process, without difficulty, well into 2024, and was the **lead instructor** for the red dot optics training.*

*No sooner did MCpl. Mast conclude the handgun transition, the Department identified a **manufacturing problem within our Rifle inventory**. This required **immediate action** to pull all of the newly deployed rifles from service on the **Special Operations Response Team** and **replace them** with the spare rifle inventory. MCpl. Mast was able to **prepare 18 rifles** to each SORT member's preference and have them back in service in **just four days**.*

*Later in the year, with continuing concerns about the potentially defective rifles, MCpl. Mast began **researching new rifle options**. He organized a demonstration, received a quote, and was able to **trade-in several department weapons** that were no longer in routine use towards the purchase of new rifles. His extra **effort and dedication** saved the City of Dover a substantial amount of money. Even with all these added responsibilities, MCpl. Mast maintained his duties as the **Department Armorer** and **Lead Firearms Instructor** for the **Dover Municipal Police Academy**. He is a great contributor to the Agency.*

# **MAJOR AWARDS FOR 2023**

## *Exceptional Performance*



*Sergeant  
Christopher Peer*



*Master Corporal  
Brian Gedney*



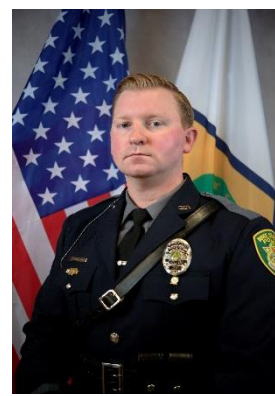
*Corporal  
Demetrius Stevenson*



*Corporal  
Thomas Rivera*



*Patrolman  
Daniel Kauffman*



*Patrolman  
Cole Revel*

*On October 18, 2024, Officers from the Dover Police Department were working an **extra duty security assignment** at a high school football game. During the detail, they responded to a **large altercation** near the entrance of the **football stadium**. As they approached the fight, they **heard a single gunshot**. The officer closest to the scene actually witnessed a male participant **fire a gun into the air** and place it back into his waistband. **MCpl. Gedney** went after the shooter who **immediately fled** upon his approach. With the **firearm still visible**, Gedney chased him towards the **Leander Lakes Apartments**. A second male involved in the fight also fled police in the same general direction of the shooter. Both were **lost in the darkness**. A **perimeter was established** and a **search was conducted** by all of the recognized officers. Due to their **teamwork** and **quick thinking**, the Officers were able to **coordinate** with the working patrol shift to **quickly apprehend both suspects** on the grounds of the apartment complex. **Officer Kauffman located the gun** on the high school property along the suspect's path of flight. There were **no injuries** and a large scale event was **successfully protected**.*

# **MAJOR AWARDS FOR 2023**

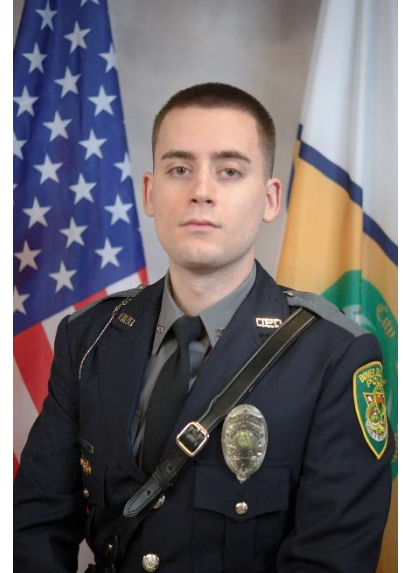
## *Life Saving*



*Sergeant  
Jacob Rankin*



*Patrolman First Class  
Anthony Slaughter*



*Patrolman  
Tyler Hughto*

*At 2:41 a.m. on **February 1, 2024**, Officers responded to a call of a **working house fire** on the 200 block of **Grinding Wheel Drive**. Upon arrival, having reason to believe that the **home was still occupied**, Officers made entry to facilitate **evacuation**. Once inside, they discovered **two elderly females**, one of which was connected to an **oxygen tank** and the other **refusing to leave** the burning home. **PFC Anthony Slaughter** worked with Officer **Tyler Hughto** to get the ladies out. In the end, they were forced to **carry the “reluctant” one**. While the **rescue** was in progress, Sgt. **Jacob Rankin** ran in and out of the residence **removing** the remaining **oxygen tanks**. Pressurized cylinders, particularly oxygen, are **serious hazards** to firefighters. Due to the actions of these three officers, not only were the **lives of two residents saved**, they successfully removed the oxygen tanks that could have **caused an explosion** and injured other first responders.*



# OFFICERS OF THE QUARTER

## OFFICER OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER



Corporal  
**David Spence**

Cpl. Spence demonstrated **outstanding performance** during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2024. While his primary role as a **K9 officer** involves specialized assistance, he still actively **patrols, investigates, and enforces** traffic laws. His **professionalism** and commitment to public safety were evident in several key incidents. On January 17, he helped **resolve a standoff** where a **suspect surrendered** due to the presence of his K9 partner. On February 11, his K9 assisted in a **search warrant** that led to the discovery of **multiple firearms**. In March, his K9 successfully tracked a **DUI suspect** and located a **Robbery suspect** hiding in a wooded area. On March 27, he assisted in a **drug investigation** where his K9 detected illegal substances in a package. Throughout the quarter, he handled **313 complaints**, including **20 major investigations**, and made a total of **16 traffic** and **9 criminal** arrests.

## OFFICER OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER



Corporal  
**Logan Spicer**

Corporal Logan Spicer played a **critical role** in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024, leading the Drug, Vice, and Organized Crime Unit and contributing to the **U.S. Marshals Task Force**. He commanded **10 operations** that resulted in the arrest of **57 violent fugitives**, including **three homicide suspects**. On March 8, he assisted in **tracking a suspect** involved in an **attempted murder** case, who ultimately **took his own life** upon being confronted. On April 5, he coordinated with the DVOC Unit to apprehend a suspect wanted for **firearm-related charges**. While addressing a personal loss, he located **two homicide suspects** on April 30, leading to their arrests. In May and June, he led multiple **fugitive apprehensions** across state lines, including suspects wanted for **kidnapping, rape, and weapons** violations. His investigative work led to the capture of a felon involved in **firearms trafficking**. During the **pursuit of a rape/abduction suspect** in June, he remained **focused and poised**, ultimately ensuring the fugitive's capture. Cpl. Spicer's dedication and leadership **continue to be instrumental** in bringing dangerous criminals to justice.

# OFFICERS OF THE QUARTER

## OFFICER OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER



Patrolman  
First Class  
**Travis Smith**

PFC Smith has been with the Dover PD since April 12, 2021 after serving **four years with the Roswell, N.M. Police Department**. He was assigned to the **Street Crimes Unit** on September 17, 2023 and is a member of the **Special Operations Response Team (SORT)** as a shield operator. Known for his **strong work ethic**, he consistently goes **above and beyond** in his duties, assisting with **arrests**, evidence processing, and **high-risk investigations**. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2024, he handled **40** complaints leading to **17 arrests** and the **seizure of firearms**, drugs, and other contraband. His efforts have contributed to solving multiple firearm-related cases, including **linking seized guns to past shootings** through forensic analysis. He played a key role in **major investigations**, such as gang-related firearm recoveries, drug seizures, and illegal **firearm trafficking** cases. His work at large-scale events like the **PHISH** festival resulted in multiple drug-related arrests. Overall, PFC Smith's contributions have significantly **enhanced public safety** and the effectiveness of the Street Crimes Unit.

## OFFICER OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER



Patrolman  
First Class  
**Samuel Seibert**

PFC Seibert has been with the Dover PD since July 7, 2020, after service in the **Delaware State University Police Department**. During the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, his **dedication to duty** was evident through his **high productivity** numbers while also serving as a **Field Training Officer**. On October 3<sup>rd</sup> he conducted a **traffic stop** that led to the seizure of a **loaded Glock 19 handgun**, ammunition, and drug paraphernalia from a **prohibited person**. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, he arrested two individuals for possessing **35.3 grams of crystal meth** and provided intelligence that led to **further drug dealer arrests** in New Castle County. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, on another traffic stop, he discovered of marijuana, an open alcohol container, and a **loaded firearm**, leading to multiple charges. In December, he utilized **downtown cameras** to document and disrupt **illegal drug transactions**. This resulted in **four arrests** and seizure of **heroin and cocaine**. He also managed a heavy caseload, responding to 250 complaints. He made **7** DUI, **65** criminal, and **119** traffic arrests. His exceptional work ethic, investigative skills, and proactive enforcement efforts make him a **great asset to the Department**.

# CIVILIANS OF THE QUARTER

## CIVILIAN OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER



Records Clerk  
**Melissa Ridgeway**

Melissa Ridgeway has quickly become an **integral part** of the Records Unit, bringing a **positive attitude** and **strong work ethic**. She greets everyone warmly and **fosters relationships** with both officers and civilians, thus **strengthening our community connections**. Her **efficiency** has improved our ability to handle calls, payments, and false alarms **more effectively**. Upon noticing a **language barrier** in public documents, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of 2024 she worked with **PFC Zamora** to create **Spanish-language** False Alarm notifications to ensure better service for Spanish-speaking community members. Melissa is an **innovative thinker** and always **eager to learn** and contribute.

## CIVILIAN OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER



Communications  
Operator  
**Nicholas Cathell**

Nicholas Cathell is one of the **hardest-working employees** in the dispatch unit, consistently demonstrating dedication and **attention to detail**. Since joining us in December of 2023, he has become an **invaluable team member**, earning his second nomination in recent quarters. His **professionalism**, courteous **demeanor**, and **willingness** to assist coworkers make him a standout employee. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024, he led the dispatch unit by answering **939 calls** with a **98.62% response rate within ten seconds** and correctly entering **1,175 complaints** in under **90 seconds**. He handled **167 Priority-1** complaints, including emergencies such as homicides, medical incidents, and domestic disputes, while also completing **71 warrants**. Nick is a **full-time college student**, an intern with the **City of Dover Emergency Management Office**, and recently achieved a **perfect score** on his Emergency Fire Dispatch certification. CO Cathell's work ethic, and **commitment to excellence**, make him an wonderful asset to the **City of Dover**.



# CIVILIANS OF THE QUARTER

## CIVILIAN OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER



Communications  
Operator  
**Connor Logan**

During the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of 2024, Connor Logan played a crucial role in **coordinating an international rescue effort** for a **sinking boat** in the **English Channel**. His quick thinking and **leadership** set life-saving emergency protocols into motion as he **briefed multiple domestic and international agencies** in under four minutes. He assisted in a **firearm-related** incident by using the city **camera system** to obtain critical **suspect details**. This led to a **safe arrest** and the recovery of firearms, drugs, and paraphernalia. He also investigated a **911 disconnect** and discovered an **industrial accident**, using his Emergency Fire Dispatch training to provide immediate assistance that helped **save a victim's finger**. Remarkably, Connor managed these challenging situations while **training and mentoring** a new CO. That same trainee became the **first in the Unit's history** to receive a departmental award while still in training. CO Logan's passion, leadership, and work ethic is what **distinguishes him** within the Department. His dedication to **excellence** ensures both the **success** of his team and the **safety** of the community.

## CIVILIAN OF THE 4<sup>th</sup> QUARTER



LAN Analyst  
**Alexander Hassman**

Alexander Hassman was recognized in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of 2024 due to his **unwavering dedication** to keep us operational. He consistently performs his duties with **high quality** and **attention to detail**, helping the Department excel daily. As the **go-to person** for resolving **technical issues**, he plays a crucial role in maintaining our Computer-Aided **Dispatch** system, City **Camera** system, and secure **recording** server. His expertise was instrumental in establishing the Emergency Fire Dispatch testing server, allowing the Unit to **successfully implement** fire call protocoling. His support has been the **catalyst of smooth operations** within the 911 center. Mr. Hassman's commitment extends **beyond regular duty hours**, always making himself available to address issues. His passion has earned him the deep appreciation of the entire Department. The Dispatch Unit offered his nomination as they consider him an **essential** part of their success. They know their **operations would not run as smoothly** without his continuous support.

# **OFFICER AND CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR**

## **OFFICER OF THE YEAR**



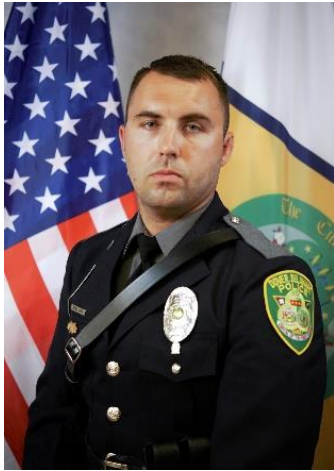
**Patrolman First Class  
Travis Smith**

## **CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR**

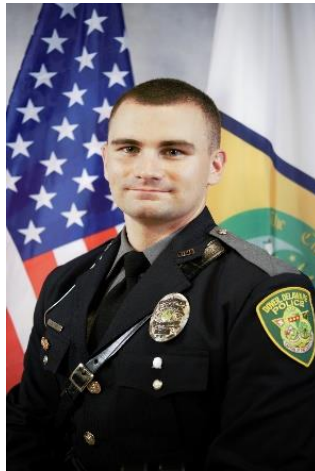


**Communication Operator  
Connor Logan**

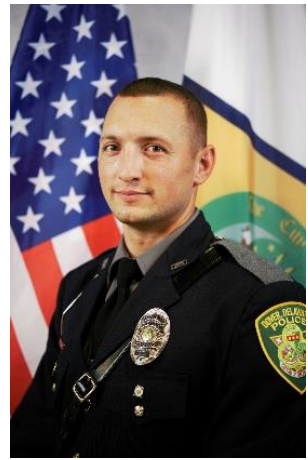
# New Sworn Officers



**Patrolman  
Zachary Davis**



**Patrolman  
Jacob Burkitt**



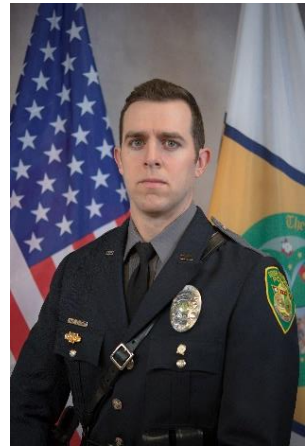
**Patrolman  
Jacob Di'Antonio**



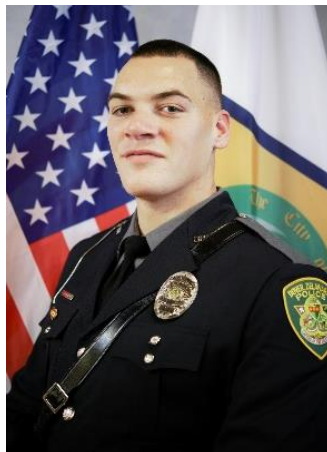
**Patrolman  
David Frazier-McKiever**



**Patrolman  
Mark Jones**



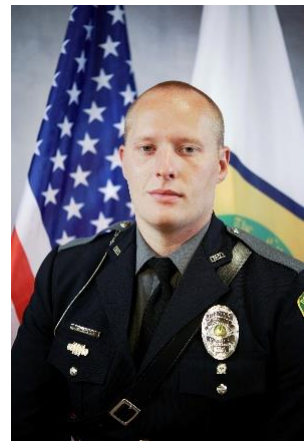
**Patrolman  
Daniel Kauffman**



**Patrolman  
Kyle McMahon**



**Patrolman  
Cole Revel**



**Patrolman  
Jason Stewart**



# PROMOTIONS

*Each year the Officers of the Dover Police Department take part in a highly competitive promotion process, the following Officers were promoted during 2024:*

## **Captain**

*Paul Kuntzi & Robert Roswell*

## **Lieutenant**

*Christopher Bumgarner, Mark Hoffman & Peter Martinek*

## **Sergeant**

*Christopher Peer, Justin Richey & Nathaniel Warren*

## **Master Corporal**

*Jordon Barrows, Lee Killen & Logan Spicer*

## **Corporal**

*John Brennan, Siobhan Burton, Emily Gurian, Daniel Godwin,  
Heather Seibert & David Spence*

## **Patrolman First Class**

*Tyshaun Cole, Tyler Hughto, Jean Jacques Lafleur, Robert  
Stevenson, Chase Strickland & Anthony Weedon*

# RETIREMENTS



*Captain  
**Kevin Kober**  
29 Years of Service*



*Resource Manager  
**Robin Adkins**  
25 Years of Service*



*Records Unit Clerk  
**Brenda Unruh**  
13 Years of Service*

# TRAFFIC ARREST SUMMARY

CLASSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS	NUMBER OF ARRESTS		
<b>DANGEROUS MOVING VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>% Change</b>
DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE	162	151	-7%
SPEEDING	654	516	-21%
STOP SIGN	149	69	-54%
CARELESS OR INATTENTIVE DRIVING	463	510	10%
ALL OTHER DANGEROUS MOVING VIOLATIONS	768	917	19%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,196</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>-2%</b>
<b>LICENSE &amp; REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS</b>	<b>2,255</b>	<b>2,183</b>	<b>-3%</b>
<b>OTHER VIOLATIONS</b>			
SEATBELT VIOLATIONS	64	35	-45%
CHILD RESTRAINT VIOLATIONS	26	13	-50%
USE OF CELL PHONE WHILE DRIVING	50	47	-6%
ALL OTHER VIOLATIONS	2193	1700	-22%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>2,333</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>-23%</b>
CIVIL RED LIGHT	10,238	9,427	-8%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>17,022</b>	<b>15,568</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>E-WARNINGS</b>	993	1142	15%



# TIME DISTRIBUTION HOURS

TIME DISTRIBUTION, HOURS	2023	2024
Criminal Investigation	31855.90	36652
Administrative	44957.25	46323
Interview	870.00	566.5
Evidence Processing	1963.50	2194.5
Special Duty	7479.50	6843
Meeting	4083.50	3840
Assist Other Agency	6431.00	3442
Training	25377.00	23766
Collision Investigation	2844.00	2194
Patrol	26232.50	24980
Traffic Enforcement	2765.50	3071
Traffic Control	720.50	512.5
Community Service	3295.50	2391.5
Intelligence	572.80	2001
Arrest Processing	1330.90	1305
Court	2938.50	2096.5
Transport	1061.00	983.5
Equipment Maintenance	4085.00	2554
Total on Duty	168863.85	165716

Sick*	2023	2024
*Sick time not included in the total	10038	6117

PERSONNEL STRENGTH	2023	2024
Authorized Strength	109	109
Actual Strength	101	103

# MISCELLANEOUS CALLS FOR SERVICE

<b>SERVICE REQUEST TYPE</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Percent of change</b>
ALARMS	1,939	2,074	7%
ANIMAL	466	423	-9%
ASSIST OTHER AGENCY	836	877	5%
CITY ORDINANCE VIOLATION	14	13	-7%
DRUG OVERDOSE	71	60	-15%
ESCORTS, INCLUDES CITY HALL	92	39	-58%
LOST/FOUND PROPERTY	195	192	-2%
LOUD MUSIC/PARTY/NOISE	594	569	-4%
COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUESTS	957	1,132	18%
MEGAN'S LAW (SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION)	1,021	982	-4%
PSYCHIATRIC INCIDENT	546	676	24%
MISSING PERSONS	298	376	26%
PROTECTION FROM ABUSE ORDER VIOLATIONS/COURT ORDERS	127	192	51%
PROPERTY CHECK	3,384	4,114	22%
PROPERTY RETRIEVAL/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE*	878	968	10%
SHOOTINGS	28	34	21%
SHOTS FIRED	136	139	2%
SUDDEN DEATH	81	64	-21%
SUICIDE (INCLUDES ATTEMPTS)	4	1	-75%
TRAFFIC REQUEST	1,100	742	-33%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,767</b>	<b>13,667</b>	<b>7%</b>

*\*Lock Jock only done in emergency situations, included in Public Assistance*

## STATUS/DISPOSITION OF CALLS RECEIVED

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>Percent of change</b>
REPORT REQUIRED	10,142	10,981	8%
NO REPORT REQUIRED	11,985	14,853	24%
CANCELLED PRIOR TO OFFICER ARRIVAL	1,234	1,427	16%
CRIME PREVENTION CHECK PERFORMED	9	5	-44%
NO REPORT - AREA CHECKED W/NEGATIVE RESULTS	2,218	2,151	-3%
NO REPORT - FALSE ALARM	1,500	1,399	-6.73%
TURNED OVER TO ANOTHER AGENCY	603	686	14%
ALL OTHER CATEGORIES	15,354	16,372	7%
<b>TOTAL DISPOSITIONS</b>	<b>43,045</b>	<b>47,874</b>	<b>11%</b>

# Grant Funding Summary

## STATE OF DELAWARE

Grant in Aid Funding	\$ 500,000.00
Bond Bill	\$ 420,000.00

## STATE ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE

Criminal Justice Council (CJC) Grants	\$ 66,252.00
State Law Enforcement Assistance Fund (SLEAF) Grants	\$ 112,903.52

## STATE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA)	\$ 16,944.12
<b>Training Reimbursements</b>	
Emergency Illegal Drug Enforcement (EIDE) Grants	\$ 13,792.34
Office of Highway Safety Events	\$ 40,604.41
State Aid to Local Law Enforcement (SALLE) Grants	\$ 24,854.41
Violent Crimes Fund Grant	\$ 154,746.28

## US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Edward G. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants (JAG)	\$ 64,486.00
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## FEDERAL GOVT/US TREASURY

US Marshals Service	\$ 14,537.29
ATF	\$ 12,489.74
DEA	\$ 20,032.62
FBI	\$ 1,312.52

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TOTAL	\$ 1,462,955.25
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# Extra Duty Hours Billed

## Page 1

Vendor	2022 Billed		2023 Billed		2024 Billed		Increase / (Decrease)	
	Hours	Dollars	Hours	Dollars	Hours	Dollars	Hrs	\$
<b>LOCAL BUSINESSES *</b>								
A-Del Construction	-	-	22.6	2,119.97	-	-		
AEG	1,059.0	68,498.52	-	-	-	-		
Arbor Management	-	-	10.0	993.44	-	-		
Attento, LLC dba Royal Prime	-	-	10.0	784.39	-	-		
Bally's Dover Casino/Hotel	8.0	560.00	589.0	46,139.66	3,149.6	160,633.53	435%	248%
Bike Delaware	48.0	3,360.00	48.0	3,984.52	47.8	3,539.89	0%	-11%
Brosnan Risk Consultants - Sams Club	-	-	130.0	9,917.44	-	-	-100%	-100%
Byers Industrial Services	9.0	776.25	-	-	48.0	4,672.68		
Caesar Rodney High School	-	-	-	-	3.0	250.05		
Caesar Rodney Institute	6.0	420.00	-	-	-	-		
Campus Community School	-	-	-	-	3.0	233.25		
Capital School District	-	-	264.7	19,328.77	619.7	47,641.01	134%	146%
Caribbean Culture Awareness Inc	-	-	-	-	21.0	1,912.52		
Central Middle School	32.5	2,275.00	17.0	1,190.00	-	-		
City of Dover	453.5	31,745.00	-	-	-	-		
City of Dover - Mayor's Office	-	-	155.1	11,514.21	-	-		
Corrado	-	-	26.3	2,743.26	-	-		
Delaware Council of Teachers of Math Inc	-	-	10.0	762.48	9.5	791.83	-5%	4%
Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens with intellectual disabilities	-	-	6.0	407.87	3.0	274.02	-50%	-33%
Delaware Pride	-	-	12.0	857.95	10.0	813.30	-17%	-5%
Delaware Prostate Cancer Coalition	-	-	47.5	3,854.64	44.0	3,615.85	-7%	-6%
Delaware Secretary of State (Grant)	1,592.5	108,292.48	-	-	-	-		
Delaware Standardbred Owners	7.0	490.00	-	-	-	-		
Delaware State News	9.0	630.00	13.0	768.75	-	-		
Delaware State University	505.5	34,311.00	899.2	77,608.23	1,622.3	110,253.61	80%	42%
Delaware Technical Community College	-	-	-	-	24.0	2,051.64		
Delaware Transit Corporation	-	-	36.0	3,597.76	317.0	28,230.34	781%	685%
Delaware Standardbred Owners Assoc	-	-	7.5	525.00	-	-		
Del-One Federal Credit Union	-	-	3.5	323.75	9.0	751.16	157%	132%
Department of Elections, Kent County	-	-	-	-	186.0	16,881.61		
DEMA	7.0	490.00	-	-	-	-		
Destination Downtown Dover	20.0	1,400.00	56.0	4,050.44	32.0	2,200.91	-43%	-46%
Do Portugal Circus	45.0	3,150.00	-	-	-	-		
Dover AFB	54.0	3,780.00	-	-	-	-		
Dover High School	93.0	6,510.00	146.2	10,836.48	229.9	19,133.15	57%	77%
Dover High School - Class 2022	10.0	700.00	-	-	-	-		
Dover High School Athletic Dept	122.0	8,540.00	30.0	2,100.00	-	-	-100%	-100%
Dover Hope Zone	-	-	-	-	24.4	1,984.12		
Dover Mall	100.0	7,000.00	-	-	-	-		
Dover Middle School	-	-	55.5	4,629.23	77.3	6,463.99	39%	40%
Dover Motor Speedway	1,222.5	81,372.50	949.6	71,695.33	1,329.2	106,871.78	40%	49%
DSOA	-	-	-	-	7.0	692.45		
DSUAA - Atlanta Metro Chapter	8.0	560.00	-	-	-	-		
Dynamite Championship Wrestling	-	-	6.0	391.65	-	-	-100%	-100%
Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware	-	-	9.0	744.63	9.0	784.54	0%	5%
Extra Duty Solutions	-	-	3.0	240.32	-	-	-100%	-100%
Focus Multisports	31.5	2,205.00	-	-	-	-		
Girls on the Run Delaware	16.0	1,120.00	9.0	618.21	9.0	880.22	0%	42%
Goodguys Rod Custom	-	-	-	-	27.5	2,358.24		
Hopkins Construction Inc	-	-	-	-	7.0	607.51		
Irish Mikes Olde Town Pub	-	-	-	-	6.0	415.97		
ISOCDE	-	-	61.3	6,121.88	220.0	19,680.76	259%	221%
Maple Dale Country Club	7.5	525.00	-	-	-	-		
Meeting of the Minds	-	-	7.0	595.01	-	-	-100%	-100%
Michael Zaragoza	74.5	5,215.00	-	-	-	-		
Mumford and Miller	-	-	-	-	136.0	11,936.59		
Namati	-	-	-	-	3.0	235.57		
National MS Society - Dover DE	42.0	2,940.00	21.0	1,566.85	18.0	1,719.18	-14%	10%
Off Duty Services Best Buy #0842	334.0	23,380.00	9.0	890.29	-	-	-100%	-100%
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc Psi Iota Chapt	-	-	12.0	879.32	8.0	845.27	-33%	-4%
PolyTech School District	3.0	210.00	-	-	4.0	379.02		
Pride Parade	39.0	2,730.00	-	-	-	-		
Races to Run	-	-	18.0	1,260.00	-	-	-100%	-100%
Rail Haus	-	-	-	-	24.0	2,160.66		
RE Pierson Construction	138.5	11,945.67	160.2	15,163.74	11.0	834.52	-93%	-94%

# Extra Duty Hours Billed

## Page 2

Vendor	2022 Billed		2023 Billed		2024 Billed		Increase / (Decrease)	
	Hours	Dollars	Hours	Dollars	Hours	Dollars	Hrs	\$
Redners Markets	744.5	52,115.00	-	-				
Rommel Infrastructure Inc	-	-	45.0	4,065.60			-100%	-100%
Simon - Dover Mall	22.0	1,540.00	347.5	23,172.49	1,111.0	75,891.51	220%	228%
Smyrna High School	-	-	3.0	250.05			-100%	-100%
Summit Off Duty Services - GardaWorld - 3	-	-	-	-	120.0	9,664.73		
Susan Oliver	4.0	280.00	-	-				
Target	-	-	26.0	2,155.14			-100%	-100%
The Boulevard Live	-	-	8.0	810.19			-100%	-100%
The Laurels	-	-	6.0	451.94			-100%	-100%
United Church	179.0	12,530.00	179.7	14,174.89	228.3	19,460.65	27%	37%
Walmart - Dover	-	-	-	-	78.0	6,493.98		
Wilmington University	6.0	420.00	-	-				
<b>Local Business Subtotals</b>	<b>7,053.0</b>	<b>482,016.42</b>	<b>4,475.3</b>	<b>354,285.77</b>	<b>9,836.4</b>	<b>674,241.61</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>
<b>LOCAL BUSINESS SUMMARY</b>								
Small Events Vendors	5,830.5	400,643.92	3,525.7	282,590.44	8,507.2	567,369.83	141%	101%
Dover Motor Speedway	1,222.5	81,372.50	949.6	71,695.33	1,329.2	106,871.78	40%	49%
<b>Local Business Summary Subtotals</b>	<b>7,053.0</b>	<b>482,016.42</b>	<b>4,475.3</b>	<b>354,285.77</b>	<b>9,836.4</b>	<b>674,241.61</b>	<b>39.5%</b>	<b>39.9%</b>
<b>GRANTS</b>								
CJC Grants	772.3	55,060.51	1,108.3	80,584.91	583.0	43,164.77	-47%	-46%
SALLE Grants	-	-	82.3	6,342.35	-	-	-100%	-100%
EIDE Grants	-	-	-	-	40.0	2,859.22	0%	0%
Justice Assistance Grants	-	-	124.9	8,574.19	157.0	11,538.83	26%	35%
ATF, DEA, FBI & USMS	187.5	12,540.81	124.9	8,574.19	581.0	48,372.17	365%	464%
Highway Safety Events	425.0	26,484.77	412.5	27,202.41	582.3	40,604.41	41%	49%
Violent Crimes Grants	596.0	41,100.44	845.8	61,776.99	469.5	36,052.11	-44%	-42%
Grant Subtotals	1,980.8	135,186.53	#####	193,055.04	2,412.8	182,591.51	21.8%	35.1%
<b>GRAND TOTALS (Payroll Div 31)</b>	<b>9,033.8</b>	<b>617,202.95</b>	<b>7,174.1</b>	<b>547,340.81</b>	<b>12,249.2</b>	<b>856,833.12</b>	<b>35.6%</b>	<b>38.8%</b>

\* Local Business extra duty hours are scheduled and processed on a biweekly basis by Extra Duty Solutions (EDS), a third party contractor. EDS reimburses the city through Finance on a biweekly basis for the hours worked.



# **2024**

# **DOVER POLICE**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**