Plymouth Township
Police Department

In remembrance of
Chaplain Nicholas Salios
October 21, 1924 – May 15, 2016

2016 Annual Report
Submitted by:
Joseph F. Lawrence
Chief of Police/Director of Public Safety
Plymouth Township Police Department
Annual Report 2016

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On Sunday, May 15, 2016 our Police Chaplain, Reverend Dr. Nicolas Salios or “Chaplain Nick” as he was fondly called passed away. He served our department for 15 years providing guidance and support to our personnel including baptisms and weddings. Rev. Dr. Nicholas Salios entered the Navy following high school and served his country for three years in WWII. He then completed his Bachelor’s Degree and eventually his Doctorate of Ministry Degree. Rev. Dr. Salios served in the National Guard in Delaware and became an Army military Chaplain for twenty years. Rev. Dr. Salios accepted a commission as a First Lieutenant in the Army where part of his twenty year service was spent as a Chaplain at the Valley Forge Military Hospital during the Vietnam War. Rev. Dr. Salios also served in industrial chaplaincy for some years and he was a member of the International Association of Police Chaplains. Chaplain Nick will be greatly missed.

2016 again saw the various components of the Police Department challenged with large scale incidents and events. Not only did personnel meet the challenges, but they excelled. Members of the Plymouth Township Police Motorcycle Unit, K-9 Unit and officers assigned to the Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) and SWAT assisted with the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia. Officers who assisted in this historic event were complimented on their professionalism and hard work. In August, members of the Plymouth Township Police Patrol Division responded to the 2000 block of Arch Road for the report of a suicidal, barricaded armed subject. Officers quickly established a perimeter and began dialogue to de-escalate the situation. After many hours of negotiation, the subject was taken into custody for a mental health evaluation and criminal charges related to the initial standoff.

The Township saw significant increases in sex offenses, burglary offenses, and drug offenses: two hundred percent (200%), seventy percent (70%), and thirty-seven percent (37%) respectively. Conversely, there were decreases in theft and arson offenses: twenty-six percent (26%) and thirty-three percent (33%). Notable cases cleared in 2016 include the arrest of eleven (11) subjects for six (6) different armed robberies, a serial burglar that committed eight (8) residential daytime burglaries and the arrest of two (2) subjects that were involved in an international fraud ring.

Staffing changes in 2016 occurred in the Patrol Division. In May, Officer Joshua Fox decided to leave the Police Department and in July Officer Cameron Legge was sworn-in as a probationary officer. Detective Doug Copostick was reassigned from the Special Investigation Unit to the Patrol Division in November ahead of his impending promotion in February of 2017. The reassignment of Det. Copestick and the hiring of Officer Legge brought the Patrol Division back up to thirty-two officers.

In 2016, the Police Department obtained $40,650.00 in grant monies. A breakdown of the funding sources include: Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Grant ($20,000.00), Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Grant Wave 2 (2,200.00), Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Grant Wave 3 (2,200.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education May Grant ($3,350.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement and Education Child Passenger Safety Grant ($3,800.00),
Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Grant Wave 1 ($1,150.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education Teen Seat Belt Grant ($1,200.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education November Grant (1,750.00), Target Store Law Enforcement Grant ($1,000.00) and the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program provided $4,000.00 in funding.

The Police Department, as in years past, continues to provide the best possible service to all members of our community. We pledge to maintain a safe and harmonious community for all.
# Departmental Personnel Information

## As of 12/31/2016

### Police Personnel

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**Total**: 46

The average age of a Police Officer is 43.7 years. The average year of experience is 15.7 years.

### Civilian Personnel

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**Total**: 24

2016 Total Complement of Personnel – 70
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The Patrol Division of the Plymouth Township Police Department is widely considered to be the back bone of the entire Department. It is comprised of four individual Patrol squads, providing twenty four hour coverage of the Township. Because the Patrol Officer is usually the first and oftentimes only contact the public has with the police, they are the Department’s ambassadors to the community. Each squad is led by an experienced Patrol Sergeant: Sergeants Michael Haig, Robert Heger, Rocco Wack and Brian Wagner. Officers assigned to Patrol typically work twelve hour shifts and rotate between a day shift and a night shift every two weeks. Additionally, the Highway Patrol Unit, which is comprised of four officers trained in accident reconstruction and supervised by Sergeant John Jackson, round out the Division. Officers in the Highway Patrol Unit tend to work rotating shifts during the hours when there is more roadway congestion and a greater number of accidents.

At the end of 2016, the Patrol Division was made up of thirty-two sworn officers, with twenty-seven being in Patrol and five being in the Highway Patrol. In May of 2016, Officer Joshua Fox decided to leave the Plymouth Township Police Department and in July Officer Cameron Legge was sworn in as the Department’s newest officer. All new officers spend several months being trained and closely supervised, gaining valuable experience, mentoring and training from seasoned veterans of the Department.

The Patrol Division works closely with both the Highway Patrol Unit and the Detective Division. In Plymouth Township, the Patrol Officer conducts a preliminary investigation and very often handles a call from start to finish; this includes many arrests and any subsequent court proceedings. Nearly every call, every serious accident and every significant incident that is eventually transferred to the Investigative Unit, begins with a response from Patrol. Many of these calls for service are unstable in nature, they may be chaotic, and many times there are legitimate safety concerns upon the officer’s initial arrival. Once a scene has been stabilized and information has been gathered, it may warrant the expertise of a specialized unit for a more detailed investigation.

Some of the more noteworthy incidents the Patrol Division responded to in 2016 included three bank robberies, numerous assaults and a barricaded gunman who was threatening to kill both the police and himself during a standoff that lasted several hours. This standoff was eventually resolved without any serious injury. Many officers from both the Patrol and the Highway Patrol also assisted in Philadelphia with security at the Democratic National Convention.

Just as important as the incidents described above, the Patrol Division is highly visible and in constant contact with the citizens of Plymouth Township. Sometimes it is the more common duties such as responding to an alarm at a home or business, helping a disabled motorist, giving directions, walking a foot beat or interacting with children that account for the positive image our officers enjoy within the community. The men and women of the Patrol Division literally do these types of services thousands of times each year, in all kinds of weather, and at times, in unfavorable conditions.

In 2016 Highway Patrol Sergeant John Jackson was publicly recognized as the Plymouth Township Police Officer of the Year. Sgt. Jackson has been with the Plymouth Township Police
Department since 1982 and 2016 will be his final complete year of service to the Department and its citizens.

Officers of the Patrol Division are dedicated to protecting the citizens of Plymouth Township and are committed to preserving quality of life for our residents, business owners and visitors.
Plymouth Township Police Department
Serious Crimes 2016

- Theft 218 (33%)
- Burglary 51 (15%)
- Assaults 20 (8%)
- Retail Theft 236 (36%)
- Robbery 18 (1%)
- Drugs 100 (3%)
- Sex Offense 6 (3%)
- Rape 3 (1%)
Plymouth Township Police Department
Incident Reports
By Day of the Week
Plymouth Township Police Department
Incident Reports
Three Year Graph
Part I Offenses are classified as serious crimes by the FBI and include the following offenses: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Thefts, and Arson.
Part II Offenses are classified as less serious crimes by the FBI and include the following offenses: Forgery & Fraud, Other Assaults, Receiving Stolen Property, Drug Offenses, Sex Crimes, Disorderly Conduct, Liquor Law Violations, Vandalism, and All Other Offenses.
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<th>JUN</th>
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#### 2016 Arrest Breakdown by Category

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Plymouth Township Police Department
Highway Patrol Unit

The Highway Patrol Unit is comprised of four (4) officers and led by Sergeant John Jackson. Sgt. Jackson and the officers of the Unit (John McCormick, Mark Lacy, Jeff Conrad and Joseph Epright) bring a combined service time of over 100 years to the Department. All members of this unit are trained in accident investigation and reconstruction, vehicle safety violations and the mitigation of traffic problems.

Officers responded to and investigated 1138 traffic accidents in 2016. There were sixty-two vehicle crashes involving injuries to ninety-five people. Sadly, there was one fatal crash in Plymouth Township during the year. In November of 2016, the operator of a motorcycle was killed when he collided with another vehicle on Ridge Pike.

There were 826 motor vehicle complaints handled in 2016. These complaints included, but were not limited to issues involving parking, disabled vehicles and reckless drivers. The Highway Patrol Unit processed 290 abandoned vehicles during 2016. These are vehicles that were abandoned on both public streets and private property. Many of these vehicles created parking problems and hazardous conditions for motorists.

In addition to responding to citizen calls for service, the Highway Patrol Unit was also proactive in addressing criminal and traffic related problems. Officers of the Highway Patrol Unit frequently set up details targeting aggressive drivers, speeding and stop sign violations.

Officers of the Highway Patrol Unit conduct a large number of traffic stops. Since each of these officers is trained in the identification and detection of drugs, often times these traffic stops have resulted in arrests for criminal activity and warrants.

Highway Patrol Officers are responsible for placing portable speed timing devices at locations throughout the Township. These devices collect data which include the volume of vehicles as well as the speeds that motorists are traveling during specific times. The resulting data is then analyzed and allows for more effective traffic control measures and the better utilization of manpower and resources. These devices also serve as a reminder to vehicle operators to maintain a safe and legal speed on a given roadway.

In 2016, the Department added two state of the art Harley Davidson Electra Glide motorcycles, bringing our fleet up to a total of six. The police motorcycles are an integral part of the Highway Unit and are primarily used for traffic enforcement and routine patrol assignments. The motorcycle enables officers to respond quickly to crash scenes and other emergency calls by allowing officers to carefully maneuver through heavy traffic. This enables officers to assist victims and open roadways more efficiently. The motorcycles also enable our department to provide escorts and control traffic for large funerals, dignitaries, parades and other special events. During 2016, the Motorcycle Unit assisted the Philadelphia Highway Patrol Unit during the Democratic National Convention by escorting dignitaries throughout the city of Philadelphia. In addition, the
Motorcycle Unit provided an escort for “Law Enforcement United” while they rode their bicycles to Washington DC for National Police week.
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Plymouth Township Police Department
Ten Year Crash Chart
The Plymouth Township Police Department’s K-9 Unit has now been in service for over twenty five (25) years, providing protection to the residents of Plymouth Township virtually around the clock. This dedicated unit continues to train hard and work hard, setting the standard in this region as one of the premiere K-9 units. The K-9 Unit is widely respected, not only for the officers and their K-9 partners’ dedication, but also for the Township’s commitment to training, equipment and our facilities. This commitment and dedication has been demonstrated time after time over the years.

The Plymouth Township Police Department K-9 Unit consists of four handlers and their partners. All four are certified to work patrol duties; two of which are cross trained in narcotic detection with the remaining two cross trained in explosive detection. Each team trains twenty-four hours a month in order to remain proficient at their specialty.

The two teams trained in Patrol/Narcotic detection are Officer Wells and K-9 Vilko, and Officer Severson and K-9 Jinx. The two teams trained in Patrol/Explosive detection are Officer Jon Monaghan and K-9 Fox, and Officer Watts and K-9 Major.

Plymouth Township Police K-9 Units are used on a regular and routine basis within the Township. They were also called upon for assistance fifty-one (51) times by outside agencies in 2016. Our K-9 teams have been utilized in the tracking of suspects for homicides, robberies, burglaries, stolen vehicles and mentally ill individuals. Additionally, they are requested by area schools for narcotics detection, they track for lost children and the elderly, and they often search homes and businesses keeping officers safer.

In 2016, the Plymouth Township Police Department responded to two separate bank robberies where K-9 tracks directly led to the apprehension of the actors responsible. One track led from the bank to the apartment complex where the actor lived. In the other instance, a K-9 officer tracked and located an individual wanted in connection to a Plymouth Township bank robbery just a few days prior.

Some additional K-9 responses in 2016 include: A bomb threat at a school in Upper Dublin, the locating of a subject who had been shot in Norristown and the assisting of the US Marshalls for a fugitive wanted for home invasions in Florida. The narcotic handlers also assisted with several positive indications for controlled or illegal substances in both Plymouth Township and throughout Montgomery County.

The Plymouth Township Police Explosive Detection K-9 teams also provided an invaluable service to the Philadelphia Police Department during the Democratic National Convention. They also conducted protective sweeps for several events within Montgomery County for various dignitaries at presidential campaign events.

Our K-9 teams remain a popular attraction at community events both within Plymouth Township and surrounding municipalities. They continue to bring positive recognition to Plymouth Township, not just the police department. Plymouth Township Police K-9 units performed
several demonstrations in 2016 at various community events within and around Plymouth Township, mainly to school aged children.

Sadly, two retired Plymouth Township Police canines passed away in 2016. K-9 Bosco was 13 years old and assigned to Officer Marinello. K-9 Bosco retired in 2011. K-9 Judo also passed away at the age of 12. K-9 Judo was assigned to Officer Wells and retired in 2014.

In this 2016 yearly report, and all that follow, let us not forget the events of September 13, 2012, when K-9 Officer Brad Fox #178 was shot and killed in the line of duty while pursuing a fleeing felon along with his K-9 partner Nick. K-9 Nick was also shot and wounded, but thankfully survived.

Plymouth Township Police Department
K-9 Unit

Officer Doug Wells / K-9 Vilko
Officer Scott Severson / K-9 Jinx
Officer John Monaghan / K-9 Fox
Officer Michael Watts / K-9 Major
Plymouth Township Police Department
Detective Division

The Plymouth Township Police Detective Division consists of three separate units, the Criminal Investigations Unit, the Special Investigations Unit and the Community Policing Unit. These separate units function independently and also collaborate with each other as a single cohesive division, as well as with all of the other divisions of the Police Department. In 2016, the Detective Division investigated many high profile cases that required our detectives to blend their investigative talents. The members of the Detective Division are dedicated, diligent, skilled and highly motivated. All of these traits are imperative in order to bring the investigations of criminal activity in Plymouth Township to a positive resolution.

In 2016, there were some minor changes within the Detective Division. In November, Detective Doug Copestick was transferred from the SIU to the Patrol Division to assist with manpower ahead of his pending promotion to the rank of Patrol Sergeant.

The Detective Division had a total of nine officers assigned to it, and is supervised by Detective Sergeant Thomas Longo. The other members assigned to the Division are Detective Jeffrey McGee Sr., Detective Anthony Costello, Detective Joseph LaPenta III, and Detective Andrew Moretti. The Special Investigations Unit was staffed by Detective Christopher Schwartz and Detective Douglas Copestick. The Community Policing Unit was staffed by Officer Michael Cassidy and Officer Michael Capperella. Officer Cassidy is retiring from the Police Department in January 2017, after 30 years of service.

In 2016, members of the Detective Division were assigned 717 cases for investigation. This is an 18% increase in cases investigated in 2015 (609). The Detective Division was able to clear 79.5% (570) of the cases assigned. Of the 570 cases cleared, 227 were cleared by arrest, and 343 were cleared exceptionally. The Detective Division made a total of 283 criminal arrests in 2016, which is a 15% increase over 2015.

Detective Jeffrey McGee Sr. continued his special assignment with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Violent Crimes Task Force, based in Philadelphia. Detective McGee’s assignment with the FBI has enabled the Detective Division the ability to utilize the vast resources available through the FBI to assist us with suspect identification and apprehension, evidence processing, analytics, information acquisition, federal subpoenas and warrants. Detective McGee is personally handling the arrest and federal prosecution of a serial bank robber who is responsible for eleven bank robberies, including one in Plymouth Township.

Some notable cases investigated and solved in 2016:

**Crimes Against Persons**

- Arrest of one suspect for a gunpoint robbery – American Gasoline & Convenience Store
- Arrest of one suspect for bank robbery – Vist Bank
- Arrest of three suspects for a gunpoint bank robbery – TD Bank, Germantown Pike
- Arrest of three suspects for a knife point street robbery – New Elm Street
- Arrest of one suspect who used a taser on his robbery victim – Industrial Way
- Arrest of two suspects for a strong arm robbery – Black Horse Tavern
• Arrest of one suspect for threats & barricaded himself in his home – Arch Road

**Sexual Offenses**

• Arrest of one adult suspect for sexual assault on a minor child
• Arrest of one adult suspect for sexual assault on a minor child which occurred circa 1998-2001

**Crimes Against Property**

• Arrest of one suspect, a serial burglar for eight residential daytime burglaries
• Arrest of two suspects for commercial burglary at an auto repair shop
• Arrest of one suspect for multiple commercial burglaries at PECO
• Arrest of one suspect for burglaries that occurred at SEPTA Frontier Division

**Fraud**

• Arrest of two suspects for their participation in a national fraud ring – Wells Fargo Bank
• Arrest of three suspects in an identity theft ring – Einstein Medical

**Drugs**

• Arrest of six suspects for their participation in a heroin and cocaine distribution organization.

The members of the Detective Division were immensely challenged while investigating our case load throughout the year. Most of these investigations required adroit, in-depth investigative techniques which consumed many “man hours” and police department resources in order to bring the cases to a favorable disposition. All of these investigations were handled with the professionalism, diligence and determination which are the standard of all of the members assigned to the Detective Division.
Plymouth Township Police Department
Cases Assigned by Detective

- Sgt. Longo: 52
- Costello: 112
- LaPenta: 109
- Moretti: 223
- Schwartz: 90
- Copestick: 49
- SIU: 28
- Phillips: 26
- Cassidy - CPU: 12
- Capparella - CPU: 12
# Plymouth Township Police Department
## Burglaries

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Plymouth Township Police Department
Burglaries

RESIDENTIAL  COMMERCIAL  APARTMENT

23  24  4
# Plymouth Township Police Department
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Plymouth Township Police Department
Community Policing Unit

The Plymouth Township Police Department’s Community Policing Unit, or CPU, was formed in 2001 in response to the growing needs of the Community. The primary goal is to establish a collaborative effort between the police and the community (school, citizens, groups and businesses) in which we all work together to identify and solve community problems. The Community Policing Unit consists of Officer Michael Cassidy and Officer Michael Capperella. Detective Sergeant Thomas Longo supervises the Unit.

The Community Policing Unit has conducted many programs throughout the year for our residents, school children, and businesses. These programs include: Be a Safety Kid/STAR Curriculum and Emergency 911 for Pre-School Children, Anti-Alcohol and Anti-Drug Classes, Anti-Bullying and Anti-Cyber-Bullying Programs, Internet Safety Programs, Identity Theft, Senior Citizen Fraud Programs and Active Shooter/Business Safety Program. The CPU assisted township residents and businesses with employment fingerprinting and various personal safety seminars. The CPU also provides home security surveys to victims of burglaries, as well as any other resident who may request one. This same service is also provided to businesses.

The Community Policing Unit participated in several community events held within the township. Events like Plymouth Township Day, Plymouth Township Fishing Derby, and others. Every year the Plymouth Township Community Policing Unit partners up with the Target Store, located in the Metroplex Shopping Complex, for the National Crime Night Out Event. This event is an opportunity for citizens to learn about various services offered to them through different organizations and agencies. This year we had over a dozen county and local agencies in attendance, as well as many vehicle displays and live demonstrations. This event alone attracted close to twelve hundred people.

The Community Policing Unit organizes and conducts holiday food and gift drives for Plymouth Township families in need. All members of the Police Department donate money and gifts needed for the November and December events. During the Christmas season, the Community Policing Unit again took a lead role in the 21st Annual Lt. Patty Simons – Law Enforcement Food/Toy Drive. This event benefits the Montgomery County Salvation Army, Catholic Social Services, Eagleville Elementary Backpack Program, The Patrician Society, the Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard and other charitable organizations. Food and toys were donated from area businesses, schools and residents. The CPU took part in the food drive parade and assisted in the unloading of over seven tons of food and toys for the needy. The CPU also participated in the “Holiday Meals for Fallen Hero’s” deliveries for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays.

Another function of the Community Policing Unit is to obtain and manage grants to fund several programs for the Department. In 2016, the Police Department obtained $40,650.00 in grant monies. A breakdown of the funding sources include: Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board Grant ($20,000.00), Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Grant Wave 2 ($2,200.00), Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Grant Wave 3 ($2,200.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education May Grant ($3,350.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education Child Passenger Safety Grant ($3,800.00), Pennsylvania Aggressive Driving Grant Wave 1
($1,150.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education Teen Seat Belt Grant ($1,200.00), Pennsylvania Seat Belt Enforcement & Education November Grant (1,750.00), Target Store Law Enforcement Grant ($1,000.00) and the Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Assistance Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Program provided $4,000.00 in funding.

The Community Policing Unit continues to promote the Plymouth Township Police Department in a positive way to our residents, school children, and businesses. In doing so the Community Policing Unit continues to strengthen our community relationships.
Plymouth Township Police Department
Community Policing Unit Programs

- Civilian Finger Printing Program
- Operation Decoy
- DEA Drug Take Back Program
- Internet Safety Program Martin Luther Silver Springs School and Holy Rosary School
- PW High School and CMS Career Presentations
- PA Liquor Control Board Grant Management
- Aggressive Driving Grant
- CMS, Alcohol Awareness Presentation
- CMS, Survival Safety 101 Presentation
- PA Buckle Up Aggressive Driving Grant Management
- 1033 Federal Program Management
- Pine Wood Derby Event
- Distracted Driving Presentations
- Meals for Fallen Heroes Program
- PW High School, DUI Crash Assembly and Demonstration
- Hotel/Prom Detail for PLCB Grant
- Montgomery County Community College Career Day Event
- PW High School, Student Coalition Meeting
- Cop Camp
- National Night Out
- Fishing Derby Event
- PAL Community Appreciation Event
- Montgomery County Police Memorial Ceremony
- 911 Hero’s Run
- CMS picnic at Mermaid Lake
- Plymouth Township Day
- Movies/Concerts in the Park Events at GPCC
- CMS, Graduation Detail
- Station Tour for Variety Club Disabled Children
- Child Passenger Seat Grant
- Souderton Car Show Event
- Teen Seat Belt Mobilization Grant
- Big Blue Race Event
- First Responder Event at Place One Apartments
- Halloween Candy Give Away and Tornetta Glow Stick Event
- Ridge Park Elementary Halloween Parade
- Lt. Patty Simons Food Drive
- Grow and Go Preschool Career Presentations
- Thanksgiving Holiday Meal Program
- Christmas Presents for the children of Fallen Heroes Motor Escort
- Christmas Presents for Needy Children Program
Plymouth Township Police Department
Special Investigations Unit

The Plymouth Township Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit was formed in 2007 in response to ongoing concerns and complaints of nuisance criminal activity, mainly narcotics violations in Plymouth Township. In addition to aggressively combating local narcotics violations, the Special Investigations Unit also conducts surveillances in areas of known criminal activity and aggressively targets areas within the Township where criminal activity is occurring. The Special Investigations Unit also focuses on quality of life crimes such as prostitution, public drunkenness and the use of illegal narcotics in public places. Additionally, the Special Investigations Unit conducts aggressive targeted patrols in support of the Patrol Division and assists with and is assigned cases in support of the Criminal Investigations Unit.

Detective Christopher Schwartz and Detective Doug Copestick were assigned to the Special Investigations Unit in 2016. In November 2016, Detective Copestick was transferred to the Patrol Division.

The Special Investigations Unit made a combined thirty-four narcotics arrests in 2016. These narcotics arrests resulted in the seizure of marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, crystal methamphetamine, heroin and various controlled prescription medications. Coupled with the arrests for narcotics violations, the Special Investigations Unit seizes proceeds and assets from the illegal drug enterprises; forfeiting the same to the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office. During 2016, $2041.00 in US Currency and a vehicle were seized and have been, or will be, processed for forfeiture. Any forfeited US Currency or assets are returned to the law enforcement effort to fight against these very crimes.

Collectively, the Special Investigations Unit conducted numerous investigations that resulted in a combined one hundred and twenty-nine (129) arrests for criminal violations. The most notable cases are as follows:

- In February 2016, the Special Investigations Unit worked with a Confidential Informant who arranged two separate deliveries of one pound of marijuana from different suspects from New York City and the City of Philadelphia. The Confidential Informant arranged these deals after reviewing numerous online advertisements offering high grade marijuana for sale. The suspects transported their marijuana to Plymouth Township for these deals. One of the suspects arrested was an illegal alien and subsequently deported. The second suspect was found to be on Federal parole for previous drug distribution convictions.

- In June 2016, the Special Investigations Unit investigated vehicles that were broken into at the Greater Plymouth Community Center. Immediately following the theft from motor vehicles, the victim’s credit cards were used at the Metroplex. The investigation revealed that a male and female from Philadelphia were responsible and had committed similar crimes in East Norriton, Upper Merion and areas in Bucks County; targeting fitness center parking lots. The cases in Montgomery County were consolidated and charged collectively by the Special Investigations Unit.
In July 2016, the Special Investigations Unit was assigned to investigate a stabbing incident at a local restaurant/bar. As a result of the quick actions by restaurant staff, the female suspect was quickly identified and detained by Patrol Units. The female patron was arrested for stabbing a male patron in the abdomen during a scuffle in the restaurant area during a dance event. The defendant is currently incarcerated pending deportation.

In August 2016, the Special Investigations Unit was assigned to investigate a suspicious fire in the Conshohocken section of the Township. As a result of the investigation, it was determined that the homeowner had intentionally set fire to her residence in an attempt to take her own life. The female defendant was charged with arson and related offenses.

In addition to their assignment in the Special Investigations Unit, Detective Schwartz and Detective Copstick are also members of the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office Drug Task Force. As members of the Drug Task Force, they are sworn as Special County Detectives for the purpose of narcotics investigations and work in support of narcotics investigations, throughout the County. The most notable Drug Task Force investigations for 2016 are as follows:

- In March 2016, the Special Investigations Unit conducted a joint investigation with the Upper Merion Police Department into the distribution of heroin by a twenty-one (21) year old female. As a result of the investigation, an undercover purchase of heroin was made and the female was arrested and charged with delivering heroin.

- From June through September 2016, the Special Investigations Unit lead a Drug Task Force investigation in the Ambler, Blue Bell and Lansdale areas focusing on the distribution of heroin, cocaine and crack cocaine. Task Force Members from Abington, Ambler, Whitpain, Lower Salford and Upper Dublin assisted in the investigation along with the Montgomery County Narcotics Enforcement Team. As a result of this investigation, five suspects were arrested, and nearly $700 was seized for forfeiture. This investigation also led to more than two ounces of cocaine/crack cocaine to be seized along with a large amount of heroin. Analysis of some of the suspected heroin revealed that one or more of these dealers was distributing fentanyl and/or 3-Methylfentanyl; two drugs proven to be extremely fatal.

The Special Investigations Unit continues to work in conjunction with the other units within the Plymouth Township Police Department as well as with outside agencies to rid Plymouth Township of narcotics activity, both on a large scale and a small scale. Those endeavors, as well as their attention to other nuisance criminal activity, help to make Plymouth Township a safe and healthy place to live.
Plymouth Township Police Department
Special Investigations Unit
Arrests by Type

- Narcotics: 34
- Warrant Arrests: 20
- Other Arrests: 75
Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics
Central Region (MSWAT-CR)

The Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics – Central Region (MSWAT-CR) is a multi-jurisdictional tactical team comprised of officers from fourteen (14) police departments in the central region of Montgomery County. In addition to the contributing member police departments, MSWAT-CR, is also responsible for tactical responses to an additional eleven (11) jurisdictions that currently have no police officer representatives on the team.

MSWAT-CR is staffed, trained, and equipped to handle high risk situations that are beyond the capabilities of traditional law enforcement. The team is comprised of three main specialty groups consisting of entry operators, marksman/intelligence and crisis negotiators. MSWAT-CR is available for response 24/7, 365 days a year. Montgomery County Special Weapons and Tactics is led by a team of commanders, deputy commanders, a team leader and element leaders, while remaining under the command of the host Police Chief where an incident is taking place.

MSWAT-CR members must meet rigorous entry standards to be selected and they must continue to maintain these high standards in order to remain active on the team. Members of MSWAT-CR must pass a physical fitness test twice a year, bi-annual firearms qualifications as well as pass a monthly firearms qualification. In addition to sixteen (16) hours of monthly training, MSWAT-CR members attend an annual three (3) day training course. In the past, MSWAT-CR members have attended these trainings at military installations located in Fort Dix and Fort Indian Town Gap. Past instruction has been provided by retired and current members of the Los Angeles Police Department SWAT Team through LEAD Consultants.

In 2016, Officer Adams and Officer Wilhelm retired from the MSWAT-CR Team with eighteen (18) and fourteen (14) years of service respectively. After passing the selection process, including a six (6) day SWAT training class, Officers Ponzek and Ransom were detailed to the MSWAT-CR Team.

Currently, the Plymouth Township Police Department details five (5) officers to MSWAT-CR. Sergeant Wagner, Officer Ponzek and Officer Ransom are currently assigned as entry team members. Detective Phillips is assigned as a marksman/intelligence element leader and Officer Zinni is detailed as a crisis negotiator.

In 2016, MSWAT-CR responded to a protest protection detail at a local mall, two (2) high risk arrest/search warrants and five (5) armed barricaded subjects, including an incident in Plymouth Township. During this incident, a person in crisis was armed, suicidal and barricaded inside of a residence. Officer Zinni negotiated with the barricaded gunman for his unarmed surrender. Eventually, the barricaded gunman exited his residence and pulled a firearm from his pocket. Despite the gunman’s actions, he was taken into custody by MSWAT-CR members utilizing less-lethal weapons and tactics that caused no serious injury or loss of life.

As this case illustrates, Plymouth Township’s participation as a member agency to MSWAT-CR provides its citizens with the tactical services of a highly motivated and extremely professional
tactical team. Officers assigned to MSWAT-CR maintain both their regular duties with the Plymouth Township Police Department and their MSWAT-CR responsibilities. MSWAT-CR meets rigorous training standards set forth by the National Tactical Officers Association. In addition, the Department’s affiliation with MSWAT-CR provides valuable free training opportunities to patrol officers through Urban Patrol Rifle schools and various tactical training sessions. Ultimately, this affiliation provides our citizens and officers with a higher level of safety during any critical incident.

MSWAT-CR responded to the following incidents in 2016.

1. 1/29/2016 Barricaded Subject East Norriton Township
2. 4/4/2016 Barricaded Subject East Norriton Township
3. 6/11/2016 High Risk Search Warrant Towamencin Township
4. 8/6/2016 Protest Protection Upper Merion Township
5. 8/30/2016 Barricaded Subject Plymouth Township
6. 9/13/2016 Barricaded Subject Franconia Township
7. 10/28/2016 Barricaded Subject Lower Providence Township
8. 11/5/2016 High Risk Search Warrant Bridgeport Borough
Plymouth Township Police Department
Major Incident Response Team (MIRT)

The Montgomery County Major Incident Response Team (MIRT) is comprised of a contingent of officers formed from police departments throughout Montgomery County. The team is jointly funded by the member departments, as well as the Department of Homeland Security. MIRT was developed to better handle large scale events, civil disturbances, natural/manmade disasters, as well as chemical/radiological/biological terrorist incidents.

The Plymouth Township Police Department has dedicated four (4) officers to MIRT. These officers have assumed the additional responsibilities that come with this county-wide team, above and beyond their normal duties as Plymouth Township Police Officers. All officers on MIRT are trained by Homeland Security for Field Force Operations (civil disturbances). They are also trained on how to respond to a chemical, radiological, and/or biological terrorist attack. As a result, all MIRT members have been issued specialized equipment for dealing with these types of incidents. Some officers on the team are also crossed trained and are members of the Bike Response Team (BRT) which is a smaller field force unit also capable of responding to disturbances and/or disasters.

Events that have occurred throughout the country repeatedly demonstrate the need for a well-trained, well equipped and disciplined field force capable of dealing with large scale protests, civil disturbances and criminal behavior.

During 2016, MIRT officers received training from the Department of Homeland Security, the Philadelphia Police Department’s MIRT Team, the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Department and the MIRT, Bike Response Team. The training was in the following areas: MIRT-Bike Response Training and Maneuvers, Radiation Detection and Field Force Command and Planning.

MIRT responded to the following incidents in 2016:

1) 02/02/2016 – Bill Cosby Preliminary Hearing, Montgomery County Courthouse
2) 04/04/2016 – Villanova University Men’s Basketball Championship, Radnor Township.
3) 04/21/2016 – Senator Bernie Sanders Campaign Rally, Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, Upper Providence Township.
4) 04/25/2016 – Candidate Donald Trump Campaign Rally, West Chester University, West Chester Borough.
5) 05/24/2016 – Bill Cosby Preliminary Hearing, Montgomery County Courthouse
7) 07/29/2016 – President Bill Clinton, Secretary Hillary Clinton and Senator Tim Kaine Campaign Rally, Hatfield Township.
9) 10/18/2016 – President Bill Clinton, Campaign Rally, Montgomery County Community College, Whitpain Township.
Team Roster

Response Team

Officer Michael Capperella (MIRT/BRT)
Detective Andrew Moretti (MIRT)
Officer Shaun Kozak (MIRT)
Officer Chad Robinson (BRT)
Plymouth Township Police Department
Records Division

The Records Division of the Plymouth Township Police Department manages information for all calls for police service and ensures they are properly documented in the Department’s database. The Records Division is staffed by Administrative Supervisor Sabrina Evangelist and Evidence Custodian Jennifer Brooke.

The Records Division is an essential part of the Police Department and works extensively with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies. The many duties of the Records Division include the preparation of criminal cases for submission to the Montgomery County District Attorney’s Office, providing arrest information to various probation departments, children and youth agencies, and victim services. The Records Division also provides reports to victims and can be delivered through the mail or in person during normal business hours, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Other services the Records Division provides to the residents and visitors of Plymouth Township include preparing a “Letter of Good Conduct” or similar record checks for individuals seeking certain types of employment, students traveling abroad and adults who wish to adopt a child.

As the evidence custodian, Jennifer Brooke is responsible for controlling and maintaining all evidence and/or recovered property stored in the Department’s evidence room. Jennifer works directly with the officers to ensure the chain of custody and storage of evidence. Jennifer is also responsible for overseeing the destruction of evidence as allowed by the case to include the destruction of weapons (non-firearms) and firearms.
Plymouth Township Police Department
Communications Center

The Plymouth Township Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides personal assistance to the residents, businesses and visitors of Plymouth Township who may call or come in for emergency and non-emergency requests.

The Communications Center is headed by the Administrative Supervisor, Sabrina Evangelist. It is staffed with full-time Dispatchers: Karen Bowman, Phil Smith, Lacey Smith, and Lisa Rumler. In addition, part-time Dispatchers, Eileen Blattner, Annamaria Mastrocola, Michael Italia, Richard Tarozzi, Daniel Fox, Mandy Redman, Patricia Karaffa, Johnathon Davidson, Caitlyn Bonner, Elizabeth Trandahl, Jessica Tomaselli, Andrew Thomas, and Danielle Politsky assist with the staffing of the Communication Center.

All of our Dispatchers come with many years of experience in their field; they assist the officers with records checks on vehicles and suspects, as well as entering missing persons, wanted subjects, stolen vehicles and property into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). The Communication Center is outfitted with six large screen monitors that view twenty-four cameras throughout the Township at various intersections. In addition, our Dispatchers monitor over forty in-house cameras that consist of all areas of the Police Department and Township building to include our secure prisoner facility. Dispatchers ensure the safety of our prisoners through constant video and audible monitoring and alert officers in the event of a problem. All personnel in the Communications Center assist with entering reports and traffic citations into our records management system, fulfill requests from insurance companies for accident reports, and assist the Records Division when needed.
Plymouth Township
Fire Marshal’s Office

The Plymouth Township Fire Marshal’s Office is responsible for the investigation of all fires, the enforcement of fire codes for existing structures, and the promotion of fire safety through educational programs. The Fire Marshal’s Office is staffed by Fire Marshal Andrew Mount, as well as part time deputies Michael Matusheski and James Wallace who assist Fire Marshal Mount with fire investigations and fire lane enforcement. Part time Fire Inspector Julie DeOrzio assists by conducting fire inspections of existing structures. The Fire Marshal reports directly to the Plymouth Township Public Safety Director, Chief Joseph F. Lawrence.

The Fire Marshal’s Office responded to two hundred sixty three (263) incidents and investigated thirteen (13) fires in 2016. Three (3) fires were determined to be arson and were referred to the Detectives for further investigation. There were no fires resulting in the loss of life or involving a major property loss. Three lives were most likely saved in two incidents where the fires were controlled by sprinklers (134 Plymouth Road and 137 Irwins Lane).

In addition to fire investigations, the Fire Marshal’s Office is tasked with the coordination of an emergency management system in the event of a catastrophe. Fire Marshal Andrew Mount has been designated as Plymouth Township’s Emergency Management Coordinator, and Plymouth Township Police Lieutenant Karen Mabry is his Deputy Coordinator. There were no emergencies requiring the activation of the emergency plan in 2016.

The Fire Marshal’s Office works closely with the Police Department, both Township Fire Companies, and Plymouth Community Ambulance and is committed to the well-being of our residents. We will continue to keep our community safe through inspections, fire prevention programs, and the promotion of fire safety education to our Township’s residents.
The Fire Police of the Harmonville Fire Company fall under the jurisdiction of the Chief of Police. They have continued to prove that they are a vital and necessary asset to the operation of the Police Department. These dedicated volunteers provide effective assistance to the police at traffic accidents, road closures, fire calls and other serious incidents that require well-trained personnel. They are also an important part of community events such as monument dedications, parades, charity runs and/or races and Plymouth Township Day; to name a few.

Captain Zip Rota is the officer in charge of this dedicated group of volunteers. Captain Rota receives valuable assistance from Lieutenant Frank Solomon as well as Sergeants Ray Naylor and Dave Colucci. The following personnel make up the volunteers of the Harmonville Fire Police: Jennifer McGuigan, Barbara Spilove, Mary Jane Rodziak, Michele Solomon, Elisa Goldman, Paul Wolfe, Ed Albert, Laura Yeager, Jim Nolan, Robert Evans, Tony Costa, Dave Marks, George McKinney, Dennis Gravinese Sr. and Dennis Gravinese Jr.

In 2016, the Harmonville Fire Police responded to a total of 680 calls for service; including Alarms, Alarms Assisting Police and Special Service Alarms Assisting Police. The total number of Fire Police Officers in service for these calls was 618 officers for over 897 hours of volunteer service.

The Harmonville Fire Police now track the total number of officers and officer hours in service. The unit no longer conducts calculations based on individual services, but as a total instead. The Harmonville Fire Police did assist the Plymouth Township Police 56 times in 2016. This is the same number of police assists as the previous year.

Every hour that the Harmonville Fire Police volunteer to the citizens of Plymouth Township, and other jurisdictions within Montgomery County, is an hour that enables police officers to be available for other emergency calls and services.
Harmonville Fire Police Report
Alarm Responses

Alarms and Special Service: 680

Officers in Service: 618

Time in Service: 897 Hours

Assisting Police Department: 56
The volunteers that make up the Fire Police of the Plymouth Fire Company continue to provide an invaluable service to the Plymouth Township Police Department as well as the entire Plymouth Township community. These professional, dedicated and well trained volunteers donate their time and service in order to allow the sworn officers to be available to handle additional calls for service. The Plymouth Fire Police respond to serious vehicle accidents, road closures, fire calls and numerous other serious incidents and special services. Their assistance is an invaluable part of the overall public safety system in place for the citizens of Plymouth Township.

The Plymouth Fire Police, who fall under the command of the Chief of Police, are led by Captain Adam Heffelfinger. In 2016, Captain Heffelfinger received assistance from Officer Michael Petriga and Officer Raymond Stocchi.

This past year has once again been a busy year for the Plymouth Fire Police. The unit is constantly responding to calls for service and recruiting new officers, while always making training and equipment a top priority.

The Plymouth Fire Police responded to a total of 232 calls for service in 2016, which is consistent with the prior year. The Fire Police recorded 303 Fire Police Officers in service for over 117 total hours. They responded to specifically assist the police on 27 service calls with 22 Fire Police Officers for over 35 hours. These statistics are more than double the amount of calls, officers and time reported in 2015. Finally, the unit also recorded 1 special service response with 2 officers for approximately 3 hours in 2016.
Plymouth Fire Company
Fire Police Report

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Total Calls for Service:</td>
<td>232</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Manpower in Service:</td>
<td>303</td>
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<td>Total Time in Service:</td>
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<td>Total Police Assist:</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Manpower in Service (Police Assist):</td>
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<td>Total Special Services:</td>
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<td>Total Manpower (Special Services):</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Time in Service (Special Services):</td>
<td>3 Hours</td>
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Plymouth Township Police Department Training

The Plymouth Township Police Department continues to strive to be the best in all aspects of law enforcement, including training. In 2016 the Department had, as the state mandates, all of our officers recertified under the requirements set forth by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission. Officers also received recertification training for Oleoresin Capsicum (OC), impact munitions, Taser and hazardous materials awareness for first responders. Numerous officers were sent to training seminars covering topics from leadership skills, firearms training and motorcycle operations.

The Plymouth Township Police Department continued to use the online training program Policeoneacademy.com. This is an online database with over one hundred and seventy online courses available to the Department. Policeoneacademy.com also allows the Department to create their own courses and to share courses with other departments who subscribe to the system. Many of these programs are approved by MPOETC to count for continuing education credits. This system enables the Department to administer monthly training to officers and dispatchers without affecting the Department’s readiness and street coverage. This ensures the Department is administering a uniform and consistent program to each officer along with the appropriate documentation for training. With a full year of implementation, we have more than doubled the amount of in-house training with our officers.

Detective Phillips conducted a series of seminars on Active Shooter training for all township employees. This culminated with a table top exercise with the Department heads of the Community Center and a full scale exercise in the Township building. This training educated the Township employees to better deal with emergency situations in the workplace.

Training requires a proactive approach to keep up with technology, techniques and current trends. Moving forward in 2017, the Department will continue to train our officers and staff with training that is recent, relevant and realistic. These are the standards to ensure the Department is ready to deal with an ever changing social environment and to keep our community safe.
Adams, Andrew  
Firearms Instructor

Managing Your Stress  
Preventing Police Officer Suicide  
Job Stress: Myths and Truths  
The Balanced Warrior  
Concealed Carry in our Nation's Schools  
Responding to Mental Illness with Compassion  
Distracted Driver Enforcement  
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TASER Qualification and Recertification  
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Managing Your Stress  
Job Stress: Myths and Truths  
Responding to Mental Illness with Compassion  
Distracted Driver Enforcement  
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National Child Passenger Safety Certification  
Teaching Education and Mentoring School Liaison Program  
Baton Certification  
Handcuff Certification  
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Motorcycle Operator Instructor
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<th>Topics</th>
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<tr>
<td>LaPenta III, Joseph</td>
<td>The Balanced Warrior, Preventing Police Officer Suicide, Managing Your Stress, Job Stress: Myths and Truths, Responding to Mental Illness with Compassion, Distracted Driver Enforcement, 9 General Orders, Fraud Investigations, Baton Certification, Handcuff Certification, Impact Munitions Qualification, TASER Qualification and Recertification, MPOETC Mandatory In Service Training 2016, Firearms Training/Qualifications 2016, First Aid/ CPR/ AED Training for LE, Background Investigations Checklist, Ambush Awareness and Preparation, Anti-Bias Training For Law Enforcement, Juveniles in the Criminal Justice System, Alcohol Enema (Buttchugging)</td>
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<td>Legge, Cameron</td>
<td>The Balanced Warrior, Managing Your Stress, Job Stress: Myths and Truths, Reality Training: How to Handle a suspicious activity call, Dispatcher Call Handling: Bomb Threats, Responding to Mental Illness with Compassion, Safety Restraint Chair, Distracted Driver Enforcement, Sharpen Your Edge: Perception of Danger, Baton Certification, Handcuff Certification, Impact Munitions Qualification, AED Certification, TASER Qualification and Recertification, Taser Exposure, OC Exposure, OC User Recertification/Certification, Impact Munitions, County Radio Orientation, Sig Sauer P320 Transition Course, Firearms Training/Qualifications 2016, 129 General Orders, Juveniles in the Criminal Justice System, Ambush Awareness and Preparation, Anti-Bias Training For Law Enforcement</td>
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Defensive Tactics Instructor
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MCSWAT  
Firearms Instructor  
FTO  

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Ransom, Mark  
MCSWAT

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Taser Instructor

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