

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NJ 2015





# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY



# 2015



# UNIFORMED FIRE DIVISION CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY



# 2015

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# MISSION STATEMENT

**The City of Long Branch Police Department is committed to providing a safe community and improving the quality of life for all people. We accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equality and impartiality. In partnership with the community, we reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, we demand of ourselves the highest professional standards and dedication to our core values.**

## **LONG BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT CORE VALUES**

### **Professionalism**

**In our actions, conduct, and job performance. Committed to training, education, individual self-discipline, service orientation and other attributes of a true professional.**

### **Respect**

**For all citizens, each other, and for differing points of view, regardless of age, race, gender, appearance, individual beliefs, or lifestyles.**

### **Integrity**

**Truthful and honest in word and deed. Ethical, being guided by the concept of fundamental fairness in everything we do, doing what is right.**

### **Dedication**

**To the organization, each other, our families, and the citizens we serve. Empower department members and citizens to work together to solve community problems.**

### **Excellence**

**In everything we do. Seeking to improve and excel, always.**



# MISSION STATEMENT



**The City of Long Branch Fire Department is dedicated to protecting and serving our entire community of residents and visitors with the utmost commitment to professionalism and performance. We will accomplish this mission through fire suppression, rescue, public education and professional development training. Our core values of Service, Integrity, Bravery and Dedication drive our mission forward every day.**



# FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY



*Greetings Community Members and Friends,*

*Welcome to our first edition of the Public Safety Annual Report for the City of Long Branch.*

*In an on-going effort to keep the public informed on the workings of the Police and Fire Departments and the state of affairs within the City, we have comprised the information in this packet to share with you.*

*It is my sincere hope that it will prove educational, informative and perhaps thought provoking.*

*Many citizens are not familiar with the types of calls we experience here in Long Branch, or the multitude of specialized departments and units which make up our Public Safety family. Furthermore, most do not realize the extent to which our employees serve the community. It is our goal to address these and other topics within this report and with future publications, give you a tool with which you can gauge the status and affairs within our Department and our City.*

*If everyone who takes the time to read this learns just one thing about our Departments and our City, we will have accomplished our goal.*

*Very truly yours,*

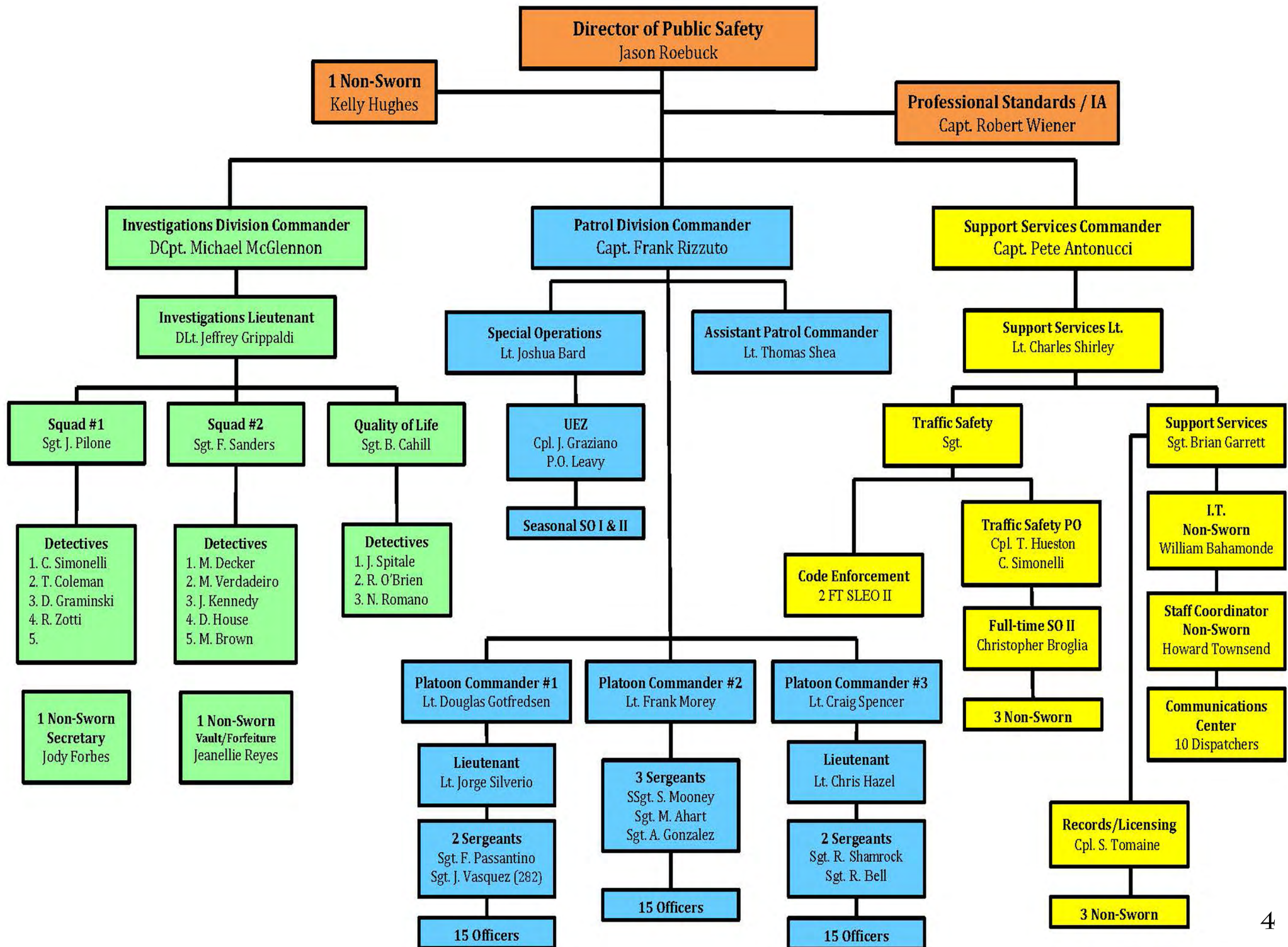
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Roebuck". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Jason Roebuck  
Director of Public Safety*

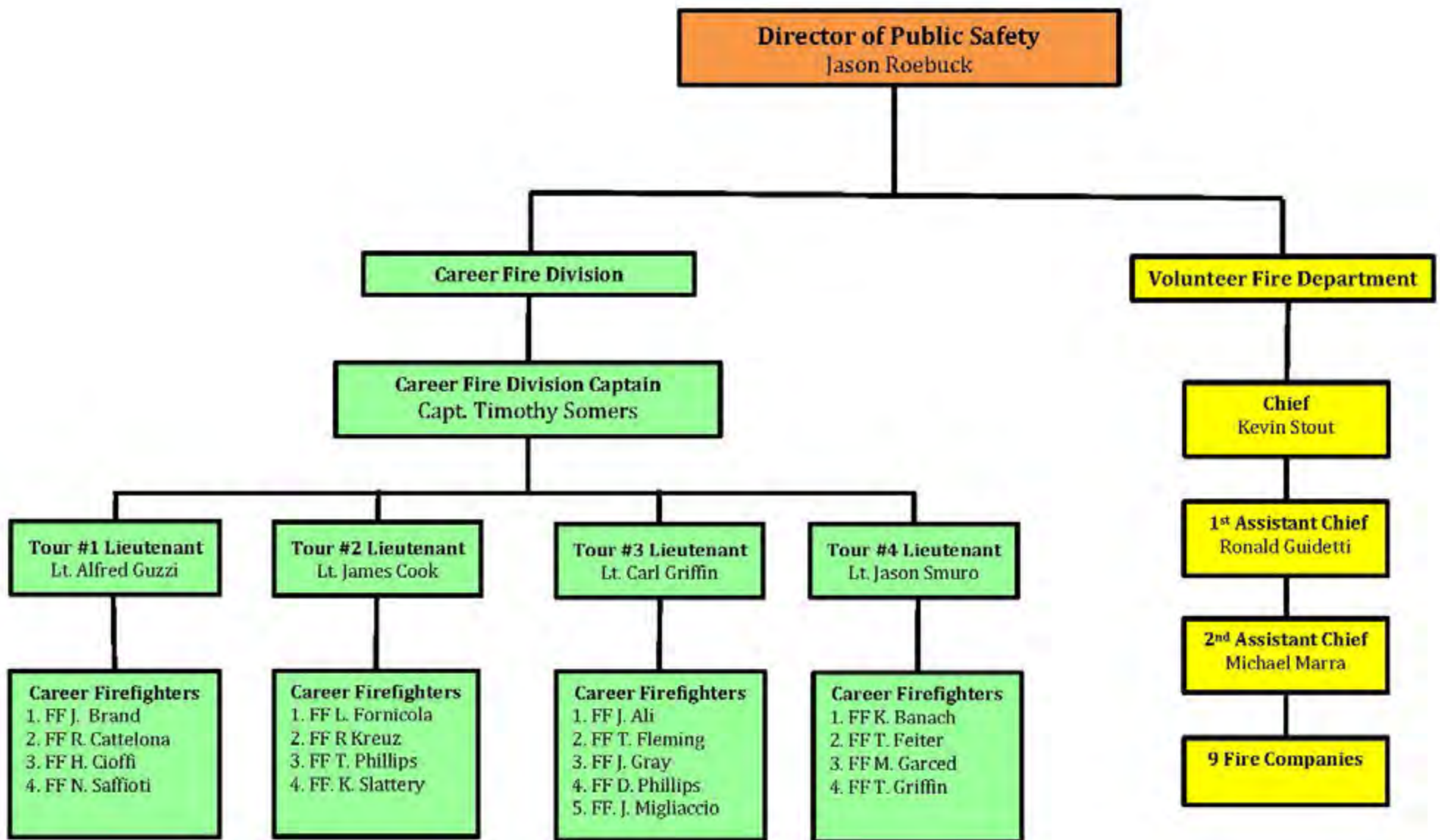




# POLICE DEPARTMENT TABLE OF ORGANIZATION









# PD ORGANIZATION



**Capt. Frank Rizzuto**  
**Patrol Commander**

Patrol, the largest of the four divisions, carries responsibilities such as routine patrol, investigating crimes, apprehending offenders, investigating non-fatal traffic accidents and enforcing motor vehicle laws.



**DCpt. Michael McGlennon**  
**Investigations Commander**

Responsibilities include investigating crimes, targeting narcotics, interviewing suspects and officer training. Detectives and Street Crimes are in this Division.



**Capt. Robert Wiener**  
**Professional Standards/  
Internal Affairs Commander**

Handles all reports of improper behavior of officers, internally and externally, in order to uphold the high standards of the Police Department.



**Cpt. Peter Antonucci**  
**Support Services  
Commander**

Handles the record keeping function of the Police Department, as well as the Dispatchers, budgeting and Traffic Bureau.



# F.D. ORGANIZATION



The Captain supervises day to day operations for the career department. He reports to the Public Safety Director and works with the Volunteer Fire Chief to support operations of the Volunteer Fire Department. Pictured here is Captain Timothy Somers

Each career Lieutenant is assigned to and supervises a shift of career Firefighters. They report to the Career Captain and work with the volunteer Fire Department at incident scenes.

There are four shifts of career firefighters. Each shift has four firefighters and one Lieutenant assigned. The firefighters work 24-hour shifts and are stationed at the Fire Headquarters located on Union Avenue.

The City is also served by the Long Branch Volunteer Fire Department which is headed up by three Volunteer Fire Chiefs who oversee nine Fire Companies of certified firefighters. Pictured (L to R) are the 2015 Fire Chiefs: 1st Asst. Ronald Guidetti, 2nd Asst. Michael Marra and Chief Kevin Stout.





# SPECIALIZED UNITS



**The FD Training Division is headed by Lt. Jason Smuro (left), who is assisted by Lt. Carl Griffin, FF Timothy Griffin and FF Nicholas Saffioti. These members are all N.J. certified instructors and provide regular required training programs to both the career and volunteer divisions of the FD.**



**The Hazardous Materials Response Team is comprised of members of both the PD and FD. This team responds as the mass decontamination unit in the event citizens are exposed to a hazardous material and provides specialized equipment to help clean off products that may contaminate individuals in an emergency. Members must participate in annual HAZMAT training administered by the N.J. State Police.**

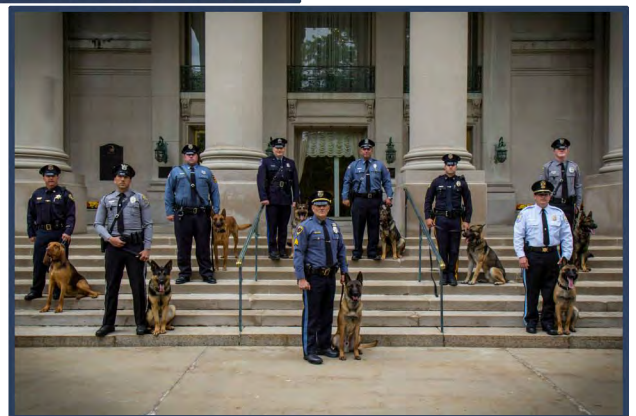
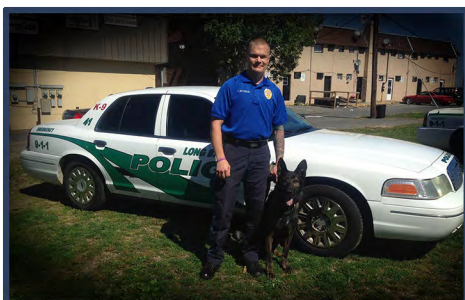


**The Water Rescue Team, made up of members from the PD along with both the career and volunteer FD divisions, respond as a back-up in the event a water rescue needs support. They are trained in both swift water and ocean water rescue techniques.**



**Our K-9 Teams are P.O. Erik Wettermark and K9 Bala (bottom left) and Sgt. Robert Shamrock and K9 Danyo (top right). Bala is trained in Patrol and Explosives. Danyo is trained in Patrol and Narcotics. In addition to being called out for official service calls when needed, our K-9 Unit serves the community by participating in many different events and presentations throughout the year.**

**We are proud to announce that 2 K-9 Class Graduations took place in 2015, both organized and taught by Sgt. Robert Shamrock. Basic Patrol #2 graduated in January and Basic Scent Class #2 graduated in May. Sgt. Shamrock also trained with a new partner, K9 Hagan (top left) in the classes as Danyo is getting ready to retire this year.**







Our Urban Enterprise Zone Unit (UEZ) is run by Cpl. Joseph Graziano and P.O. Kimberly Leavy. The scope of their work focuses on a wide-range of methods that maintain informational flow between the department and local businesses and community members. They provide a multitude of educational services throughout the year including the Citizens Police Academy, school programs, senior programs, business owner presentations, City Hall & PD tours, plus many more.



Our Motorcycle Unit rides year-round, weather permitting. They are tremendous asset in traffic control, especially during high-congestion events. They frequently assist in motor escorts, especially in dignitary transport and funeral details.



Class I Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO) are hired seasonally and help to maintain public safety during the busy summer months. They assist by patrolling the beachfront, concerts, special events and by assisting full-time Officers in daily operations. An Open House is hosted once per year by Lt. Bard for interested recruits, generally during the winter months.



## OPEN HOUSE

### City of Long Branch Police Department

The Long Branch Police Department will be looking for candidates for Special Law Enforcement Officers (SLEO I)

The Positions are for Seasonal Employment, Memorial Day to Labor Day.

**Must have completed 5 page application with you.**

Applications available @ Police Headquarters and at <http://bit.ly/SLEOApp>

**November 14, 2015 11:00am Sharp**  
City Hall, 2nd Floor Council Chambers  
344 Broadway  
Long Branch, NJ 07740

For Additional Information email  
Lt. Bard - [jbard@longbranch.org](mailto:jbard@longbranch.org)  
**NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE**



On January 26th, the Unit arrested a 39 year old Long Branch Avenue resident for a \$1000 failure to appear warrant. armed with information gained from Officers Olski, Eskridge and Pascucci, he was subsequently charged with robbery, burglary, and several counts of possession of a weapon (shotgun) and possession of a weapon with an unlawful purpose for crimes committed in the City in the 2 months prior, investigated by Detectives Verdadeiro and Zotti. Bail was set at \$200,000 with no 10%



A month-long investigation by the Unit, led by Det. Lt. Jeffrey Grippaldi, resulted in the arrest of 2 men on July 25th for possession of narcotics. They were also later charged with possession of narcotics, distribution of controlled dangerous substance (CDS), distribution of CDS within 500 feet of a park, distribution of CDS within 500 ft of a public park and public housing, distribution of CDS within 1000ft of a school zone and operating a CDS manufacturing facility.

The Street Crimes Unit is comprised of one Commanding Officer and three Detectives. Their primary focus is to eliminate drug manufacturing and distribution within the City and reduce the availability of narcotics and other illegal substances to our citizens. In addition, they serve as an intelligence bureau for criminals involved with weapons, gangs and other illegal activity. The Unit was reinstated in 2014, after a short disbanding. In 2015, they were credited with numerous high-profile arrests along with several drug seizures of substantial size. A few noteworthy cases are highlighted here.

On August 17th, 2015 members of the Street Crimes Unit, led by Lt. Jeff Grippaldi, and consisting of Detectives Joseph Spitale, Rich O'Brien and Nick Romano, arrested a 24 year old James Street resident. He was charged with 2 counts of terroristic threats and 2 counts of gang criminality after an investigation by Det. Todd Coleman, assisted by Detective Lt. Ray Chaparro discovered the man in a video on social media sites making a threat to kill 2 specific members of the Long Branch Police Department. Bail was set at \$240,000.

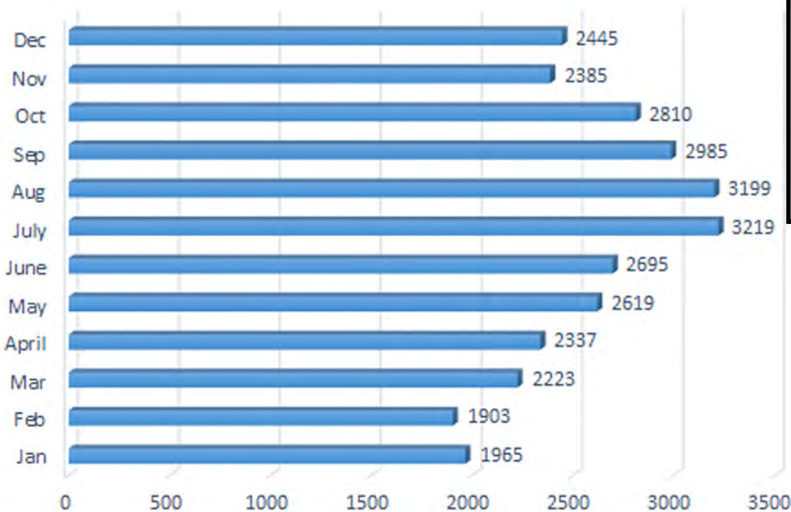
On August 24th, 2015 the Street Crimes Unit, consisting of Detectives Joseph Spitale, Richard O'Brien and Nick Romano, conducted a motor vehicle stop in conjunction with an ongoing narcotics investigation. A 43 year old Paterson man was arrested and charged with possession of heroin, possession of cocaine, distribution of heroin 3rd degree, distribution of heroin within 500ft of a park, distribution within 500ft of federal housing and distribution within 1000ft of a school. His bail was set at \$180,000 cash only. Additionally, a search warrant was granted for his vehicle on August 26th which provided additional charges of possession of heroin, possession of cocaine, distribution of heroin 1st degree, distribution of heroin within 500ft of a park, distribution within 500ft of federal housing, and distribution within 1000ft of a school. His bail for those charges was then set at \$280,000, cash only. Total seizures from the arrest totaled 5359 decks of heroin, worth more then \$40,000 in street value. \$753 in cash was also seized, along with a Kia Optima.

In October, two West End Avenue men in their forties were arrested on multiple drug charges in a joint investigation with The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics and Gang Bureau. Investigators seized more than 4,000 bags of heroin, crack cocaine, power cocaine, marijuana, drug distribution paraphernalia, \$8,000 in cash and weapons, including a .22 caliber handgun, a 9 mm replica handgun and several knives. Both were charged with second degree counts of possession of heroin with intent to distribute, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute, possession of a weapon for an unlawful purpose, and certain persons not to have weapons; third degree counts of possession of heroin, possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana, possession of heroin with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of cocaine with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school; and possession of drug paraphernalia. Bail was set for one man at \$401,000 cash and \$551,000 cash for the other.

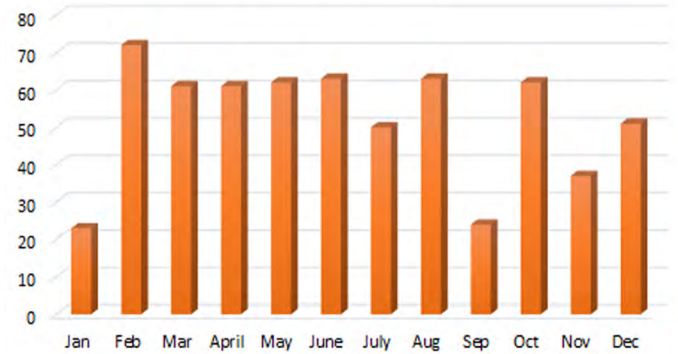


# POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 STATISTICS

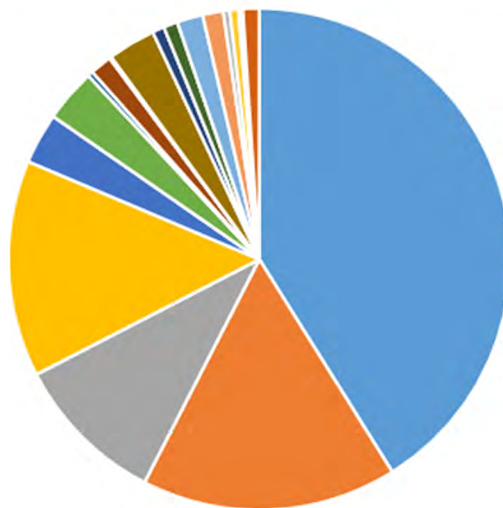
## 2015 Calls for service



## 2015 9-1-1 Calls

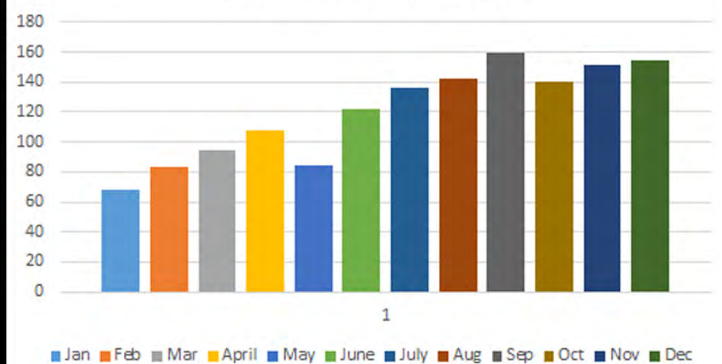


## 20 Most Common Arrest Charges in 2015



- FTA/Warrant
- Traffic Related
- Assault
- CDS
- DUI
- Disorderly Persons
- Assault on PO
- Trespassing
- Endangering
- Theft/Fraud
- Robbery
- Burglary
- Obstruction
- Criminal Mischief
- Harassment/Threats
- Alcohol Related
- Theft of MV
- Forgery
- Custody Interference
- Weapons

## Arrests By Month for 2015



2015 Blotter Stats												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Arrest Types (Most Common)</b>												
FTA/Warrant	37	42	44	40	43	47	51	34	90	56	59	46
Traffic Related	11	20	18	13	8	14	20	19	33	22	27	31
Assault	6	7	8	16	9	16	12	18	7	7	15	20
CDS	5	5	13	13	4	25	23	31	8	24	28	21
DUI	5	2	3	5	5	5	3	5	2	5	4	3
Disorderly Persons	3	0	1	1	3	7	13	6	5	5	3	2
Assault on PO	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
Trespassing	0	4	0	0	3	3	1	8	0	0	0	1
Endangering	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Theft/Fraud	0	1	3	3	1	0	2	10	8	2	7	7
Robbery	0	0	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	3
Burglary	0	0	1	4	2	2	0	1	0	0	2	1
Obstruction	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	6	3	1	2	6
Criminal Mischief	0	0	0	10	1	0	1	0	0	4	0	3
Harassment/Threats	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
Alcohol Related	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	2
Theft of MV	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Forgery	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0
Custody Interference	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Weapons	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	4	2	3
Resisting/Interfering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
False Info	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	3
Child Abuse/Neglect	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Arrest Totals</b>	85	93	128	141	119	151	168	215	206	198	161	51

	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Calls for service	1965	1903	2223	2337	2619	2695	3219	3199	2985	2810	2385	2445
Traffic Stops	355	370	425	370	367	449	542	647	655	678	566	485
Hit & Run	20	33	19	21	36	26	28	39	32	17	23	25
MV Accidents	50	77	65	61	115	101	166	120	79	87	69	69
9-1-1	23	72	61	61	62	63	50	63	24	62	37	51
Building Checks	1086	1141	1110	860	865	803	1117	1198	1387	1482	1278	1438



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF STATE POLICE  
UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING UNIT  
CRIME TREND FEEDBACK

February 26, 2016

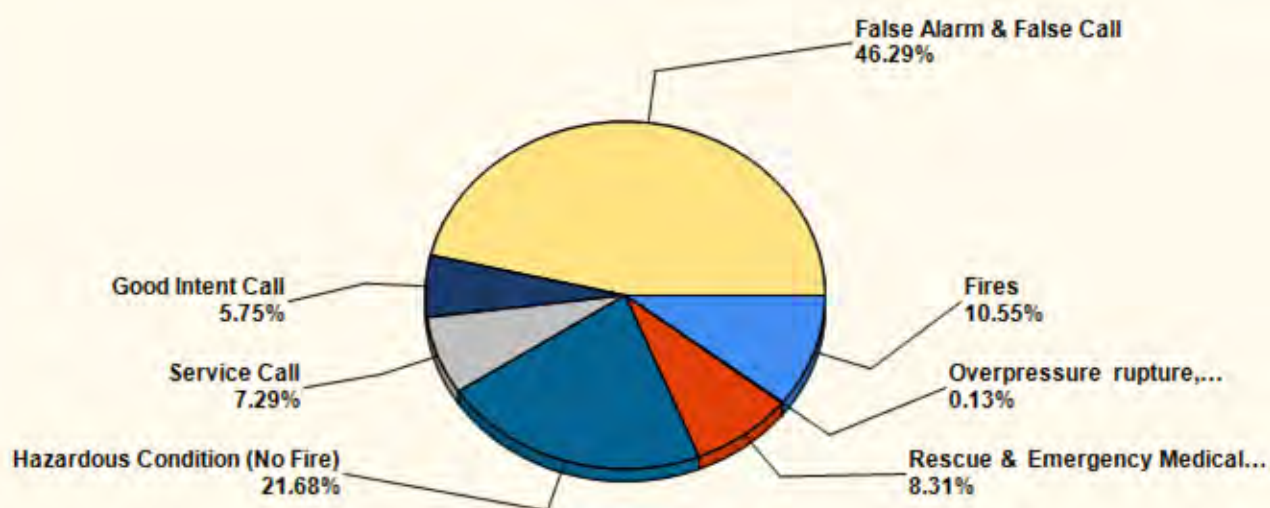
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January - December - 2015

NJ0132500 LONG BRANCH PD	December 2014 vs December 2015		Percent Change	Jan - Dec 2014 vs Jan -Dec 2015		Percent Change	No of Offenses Cleared	Percent Offenses Cleared	Juvenile Offenses Cleared
	2014	2015		2014	2015				
<b>Homicide</b>									
Murder	0	1	0.0%	2	4	100.0%	4	100.0%	0
<b>Rape</b>									
Rape	0	1	0.0%	7	9	28.6%	6	66.7%	1
<b>Total:</b>	0	1	0.0%	7	9	28.6%	6	66.7%	1
<b>Robbery</b>									
Firearm	2	1	-50.0%	8	8	0.0%	1	12.5%	0
Knife or Cutting Instrument	0	0	0.0%	4	4	0.0%	2	50.0%	0
Other Dangerous Weapon	0	0	0.0%	4	1	-75.0%	1	100.0%	0
Strong Arm (Hands, Fists, etc.)	0	1	0.0%	26	27	3.8%	9	33.3%	3
<b>Total:</b>	2	2	0.0%	42	40	-4.8%	13	32.5%	3
<b>Assault</b>									
Gun	0	0	0.0%	6	5	-16.7%	4	80.0%	0
Knife or Cutting Instrument	2	0	-100.0%	11	10	-9.1%	8	80.0%	0
Other Dangerous Weapon	0	1	0.0%	12	18	50.0%	15	83.3%	2
Aggravated (Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.)	0	0	0.0%	17	10	-41.2%	9	90.0%	1
<b>Total:</b>	2	1	-50.0%	46	43	-6.5%	36	83.7%	3
<b>Assault_Simple</b>									
Simple (Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.)	28	41	46.4%	346	369	6.6%	326	88.3%	17
<b>Burglary</b>									
Forcible Entry	12	6	-50.0%	61	58	-4.9%	10	17.2%	0
Unlawful Entry	5	7	40.0%	97	62	-36.1%	3	4.8%	1
Attempted Forcible Entry	5	3	-40.0%	15	23	53.3%	4	17.4%	1
<b>Total:</b>	22	16	-27.3%	173	143	-17.3%	17	11.9%	2
<b>Larceny - Theft</b>									
Larceny - Theft	40	53	32.5%	546	511	-6.4%	91	17.8%	4
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>									
Autos	4	0	-100.0%	18	17	-5.6%	7	41.2%	0
Trucks and Buses	0	0	0.0%	1	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
Other Vehicle	0	0	0.0%	3	2	-33.3%	0	0.0%	0
<b>Total:</b>	4	0	-100.0%	22	20	-9.1%	7	35.0%	0
<b>NJ0132500 Total:</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>17.3%</b>	<b>1184</b>	<b>1139</b>	<b>-3.8%</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>30</b>
Crime Index	70	74	5.7%	838	770	-8.1%	174	22.6%	13
Violent Crime	4	5	25.0%	97	96	-1.0%	59	61.5%	7
Non Violent Crime	66	69	4.5%	741	674	-9.0%	115	17.1%	6

# FIRE DEPARTMENT 2015 STATISTICS

## Breakdown by Major Incident Types for 2015



MAJOR INCIDENT TYPE	# INCIDENTS	% of TOTAL
Fires	165	10.55%
Overpressure rupture, explosion, overheating - no fire	2	0.13%
Rescue & Emergency Medical Service	130	8.31%
Hazardous Condition (No Fire)	339	21.68%
Service Call	114	7.29%
Good Intent Call	90	5.75%
False Alarm & False Call	724	46.29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1564</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



# OPERATIONAL ADVANCES



LBCPD officers began carrying Naloxone Hydrochloride (NARCAN) in 2015. There were nine deployments since its inception.

The LBCPD patrol vehicles were outfitted with DMVR's-Digital Mobile Video Recorders this year and are currently being used by all of our officers. The department is also in the beginning stages of acquiring Body Worn Cameras (BWC's). Several officers may be seen testing their use in the very near future.



The Traffic Safety Unit completed the huge task of equipping several new marked vehicles and retrofitting or upgrading an additional 30 vehicles. All of these vehicles have the same standard package including: emergency lighting, sirens, public address system, VHF radio, mobile video digital recorders (Dash Cam), mobile computer charging dock, locking rifle racks and prisoner containment systems. Some vehicles have specialized equipment such as radar units, automatic license plate readers (ALPR) and mobile command posts.



The new Quint #25-91 was placed into service in March. A quintuple combination pumper or quint serves the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. 25-91 is a 2015 Pierce, 75 foot aerial ladder with a 2000 gallon per minute pump. It is operated out of Fire Headquarters on Union Avenue by the Career Staff of the Long Branch Fire Department.



The use of conducted energy devices (CEDs), more commonly known as tasers began in 2015. Officers carrying these less-lethal weapons were required to attend a very rigorous training program during which a few were subjected to taser shocks themselves. No deployments were made in 2015.

# TRAINING

Members of the Police and Fire Departments are held to the highest standards of training. They must become certified on weapons and equipment and complete annual update and recertification training to stay up-to-date on the latest laws as well as state and municipal guidelines. They must also qualify at the range with their firearms. In addition, specialized units must complete additional training in order to hold a position of expertise within their field.

Pictured here are just a few highlights of the extensive training that took place in 2015.



New seasonal police officers experience what it's like to be sprayed with oleoresin capsicum (OC).



Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) held "Jurisdictional Crisis Incident Management" training in November. The goal was to make sure that first responders and command personnel are trained and prepared for large-scale emergencies such as man-made or natural disasters and terrorism. Eleven attendees from the PD & FD were sponsored, in-full by NJ TRANSIT.

PD and FD Personnel train annually for many types of specialized emergency equipment. Seen here they learn the proper use and fit of face masks.



Weapons training and re-certifications are held throughout the year as officers are required to requalify on rifles four times per year and twice per year on shotguns and handguns.





# NEW OFFICERS



Nine new Police Officers were welcomed to the Department in 2015. Two separate Swearing-In Ceremonies were held to celebrate. One in May and one in January of 2016.



Public Safety Director, Jason Roebuck and Mayor, Adam Schneider with the new Officers at the May 15th Swearing-In Ceremony



The May 15th Ceremony welcomed the following Officers (L to R):

P.O. Patrick Vaccaro #353  
P.O. Sergio Chaparro #352  
P.O. Omar Akel #351  
P.O. Vincent Roselli #350  
P.O. David Stone #349



New Firefighter, James Migliaccio #175, was welcomed to the FD in October of 2015. He also celebrated his Swearing-In Ceremony on January 8, 2016



The January 8th Ceremony welcomed the following Officers (L to R)

P.O. James Beirne #354  
P.O. Dana Page #355  
P.O. Robert Poss #356  
P.O. Kevin Morris #357

# RETIRED OFFICERS

Three long-time Officers retired in 2015. Their service and achievements were celebrated at the Annual Spring Gala hosted by the P.B.A. Local #10. The image below shows photos taken of them when they started their careers as compared to photos taken nearer to their retirement dates. Not pictured is Capt. Alphonse Muolo #238

*Thank You for your Service!*  
*Congratulations on your Retirement!*

Cpl. Beaver



Cpl. Ketch



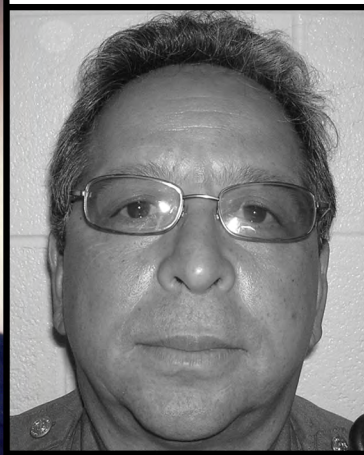


# *Remembering*

## *Our Fallen*

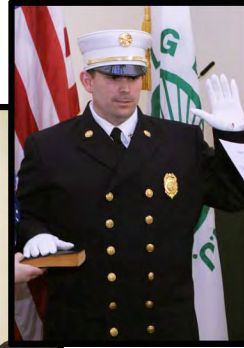


*Ret. Captain Gilbert Horrach, Jr. #186*



*May 22, 1954 - May 31, 2015*

# PROMOTIONS



**A Promotional Ceremony was held on April 2nd, 2015 honoring the Officers pictured above.**

**Left to Right:**

**Lieutenant Frank Rizzuto was promoted to Captain  
Sergeant Jorge Silverio was promoted to Lieutenant  
Officer Brian Garrett was promoted to Sergeant  
Officer Robert Bell was promoted to Sergeant  
Firefighter Michael Marra was promoted to 2nd  
Assistant Fire Chief.**





# 2015 Awards

Two of our newest LBPB Officers, Vincent Roselli and Kevin Morris, were presented with awards at their recent Academy Graduation. Roselli won the Physical Fitness Trainee Award as well as the Overall Outstanding Award. Morris took home the Marksmanship Award and as recognized as an Outstanding Trainee.



On December 17th, 2015, the Long Branch Fire Department presented Director of Public Safety, Jason Roebuck, with the Chief Armand F. Guzzi Jr. Award. This award is the "Fire Department's life-time achievement award named after Chief Armand F. Guzzi Jr. of Fort Monmouth who was for many years the Long Branch Fire Department training officer and a member of the Department. It is presented for dedicated and distinguished service and voluntary assistance which has improved services for the Fire Department and community and is given to senior department members only. It's the highest service award the FD gives that is not for actual fire-fighting operations."



# Official Commendation

CITY OF LONG BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Honorable Service

DLt. Jeffrey Grippaldi

Det. Joseph Spitale

Det. Richard O'Brien

Det. Nicholas Romano

For: *"Exceptional teamwork, dedication to duty and professionalism leading to the arrest of a local drug supplier on August 24th, 2015. Your efforts removed 5,359 decks of heroin with an estimated street value of over \$40,000.00 from the streets of Long Branch."*

## Unit Citation

Sgt. Antonia Gonzalez

Sgt. Brian Garrett

Cpl. Michael Vogler

Det. Richard O'Brien

P.O. Jennifer Gant

P.O. Christopher Walls

P.O. Patrick Vaccaro

P.O. Omar Akel

Dispatcher Hope White

For: *"Promptly, professionally and bravely effecting the arrest of an armed, known gang member on November 7th, 2015, during what began as a motor vehicle stop. Your swift and accomplished efforts allowed for a peaceful resolution without any injuries and led to the removal of a deadly weapon from the streets of the City of Long Branch. The teamwork put forth by you and your unit in this case was exemplary."*

The listed Officers were presented with Honorable Service Awards and/or Unit Citations at the 12/15/16 Council Meeting.

## 2015 Departmental Awards

In addition, the Officers listed below were presented with Letters of Commendation during Briefing.

## Commendatory Letters

P.O. Omar Akel

For: *"the exceptional manner in which you performed on December 3, 2015 in connection with the arrest you made following a motor vehicle stop. Your keen observation skills and exemplary skill allowed for the removal of a shotgun, a rifle, nearly 400 rounds of ammunition and a large amount of marijuana from the City streets."*

DLt. Jeffrey Grippaldi

Det. Joseph Spitale

Det. Richard O'Brien

Det. Nicholas Romano

*"...July 25, 2015 in connection with the arrests of two career criminals involved in the manufacture and distribution of narcotics. The extensive investigation which you conducted culminated in the seizure of 250 decks of heroin and 3.5 ounces of crack cocaine. In addition, it closed the doors on a CDS manufacturing facility which can no longer feed the epidemic of heroin plaguing our community."*



Long Branch Elks, Lodge #742 honored Det. Richard O'Brien as Officer of the Year at their Annual Charity Ball in April. Det. O'Brien was recognized for an incident where he stopped a male subject who was acting suspiciously. During the incident, Det. O'Brien observed the subject place what appeared to be a handgun in his waistband. During a brief physical altercation, the subject dropped a revolver and fled on foot. Det. O'Brien retrieved the weapon and chased the subject, apprehending him with the assistance of backup officers. Det. O'Brien's keen eye along with his swift and skilled actions ensured the safety of all involved and showed a true dedication to service.



Members of the Career Division Tour 2 were awarded the Gold Medal of Valor by the N.J. State Firemen's Mutual Benevolent Association for their actions at a fire scene in September. The members attempted a rescue of trapped residents from an early morning fire on Joline Avenue. Without the protection of a hoseline, the crew removed trapped victims via the interior stairs. For their unselfish act of bravery, the following members were honored:

Lt. James Cook, FF Kerin Slattery, FF Lawrence Fornicola,  
FF Timothy Phillips, FF Nicholas Saffioti.



Firefighter David Phillips (pictured furthest left), a member of Career Division Tour 3, was honored by the N.J. First Aid Council for his actions during a motor vehicle accident on Norwood Avenue where he provided care to a young accident victim.



Sergeant Antonia Gonzalez was honored at this year's Beauty & The Beach Run as Most Inspirational Competitor! As a resident and employee of Long Branch, she was selected to receive the "Long Branch Mayor's Health Initiative Award" for her dedication to the city of Long branch, and her dedication to her personal health and wellness.

The Long Branch Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local #10 and The Superior Officers Association (SOA) Local #10a share in their missions to provide mutual protection and benefit for their members in all aspects of job welfare and security. They are committed to the prevention of crime, protection of life and property, enforcement of laws, ordinances and the safeguarding of constitutional rights and guarantees and providing safety to officers and the public. They strive to develop and grow their partnerships with the community and to improve the community as a whole through their support of local charities and events and through their development of social and cultural assemblies.



*Long Branch P.B.A.*  
*Michael Decker, President*  
*Juan E. Vasquez, Vice President*  
*Joseph Kennedy, Treasurer*  
*Kimberly Leavy, Recording Secretary*  
*Joshua Wagner, Financial Secretary*  
*David Graminski, State Delegate*  
*Charles Simonelli, Trustee*  
*Christopher Gant, Trustee*  
*Sebastian Iomaine, Trustee*  
*Thomas Hueston, Sergeant At Arms*



*Long Branch S.O.A.*  
*Frank Rizzuto, President*  
*Stanley Moonex, Vice President*  
*Douglas Gotfredsen, Recording Secretary*  
*Craig Spencer, Treasurer*  
*Christopher Hazel, Trustee*  
*Frank Passantino, Trustee*  
*Jeffrey Grippaldi, Trustee*  
*Jorge Silverio, Sergeant At Arms*





**The Long Branch Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association Local #68 strives to protect the lives and property of all residents and visitors of the City of Long Branch by means of fire suppression, fire prevention, public education, emergency medical services and the extensive pool of resources available to the City to mitigate disasters either natural or manmade. They are committed to protecting the safety and well-being of their firefighters as they strive to make Long Branch a safer place to live, work and visit.**

*President - Ronald Cattelona, Jr.  
Vice President - Timothy Griffin  
Secretary - Joseph Gray  
Treasurer - Lt. Carl Griffin  
Delegate - Kerin Slattery*

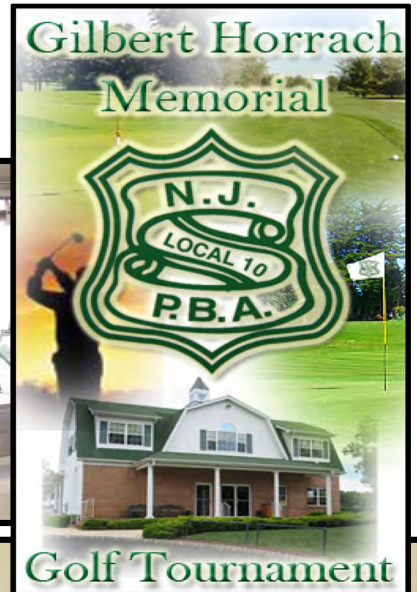
# ANNUAL S.O.A. & P.B.A. FUND RAISERS



The Annual S.O.A. Venison dinner was held March first at Ron's West End Pub. In spite of the winter storm that snuck up on them, it was a great event with tons of delicious variations of home-cooked venison recipes. This is one of the biggest fund raisers for the S.O.A. and helps to support local charities and causes throughout the year.



Pictured here are Records Clerk Linda Costa, P.O. Kim Leavy and Cpl. Joe Graziano shopping at Toys "R" Us shopping for donations for the annual Valerie Fund Toy Drive. The Valerie Fund is a unit at Monmouth Medical Center that supports comprehensive health care services for children with Cancer and blood disorders. Several years ago, Cpl. Joe Graziano began making private donations to the Valerie Fund at Christmas time, in the form of toys. He then involved the Long Branch PBA local #10 who has since been making a generous toy donation each year for the children's holiday party.



In October of 2015, the Annual P.B.A. Golf Outing was dedicated in honor of Ret. Cpt. Gilbert Horrach. Proceeds were donated to benefit Cancer Services at Monmouth Medical Center in his memory.



The P.B.A. sold pink shirts in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness. Proceeds were to benefit The American Cancer Society, Riverview's Woodruffe Warriors.





# ANNUAL F.M.B.A. FUND RAISERS

The members of the Career Division of the City Fire Department are regularly active in the community. The Firefighters are represented by their state union, Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association (FMBA) Local #68. The members do several charitable events each year in the city to assist the community. They also maintain a "Charitable Trust Fund" that is used to financially assist Long Branch residents and groups in anything from scholarships to donations. The following two pages show just a few of the community events they sponsored in 2015.



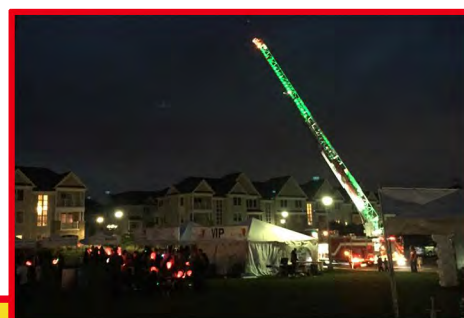
FD members often visit outside organizations such as the Ronald McDonald House to visit with children, show the kids the fire apparatus and even assist Santa in spreading cheer at Christmas time.



Pictured here are FD members presenting a \$2,500 check to the staff of The

Jacqueline M. Wilentz Breast Center at Monmouth Medical Center. The money was raised during their annual shirt sale during Breast Cancer Awareness month. The 2015 shirt logo is pictured on the left.

The FMBA Charitable Trust holds an annual Cigar Dinner Fund Drive on the beach at Rooney's Oceanfront Restaurant. Over the past 8 years, it has become a premier event for Firefighters from across the state of NJ, who give generously to help our FD assist Long Branch residents in need.



The FD Trucks can be spotted throughout the City in support of many events. Here, they helped "Light The Night" with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society



Throughout the year several Fire Safety & Prevention programs are hosted by the FD at HQ and at local schools and clubs.



The Annual Food Drive runs from October 1st through Christmas. All food and monetary donations go to local City food pantries. Plus, thanks to a generous donation from Stop & Shop, the FD delivered 20 meals to special Long Branch families this Christmas Eve.





# EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Officers Joseph Graziano and Kimberly Leavy of our Urban Enterprise Unit offered the first Citizens Police Academy in 2015. The goal was to better connect with the community and allow a closer understanding of what it means to be a police officer in today's day and age. They worked tirelessly to develop and implement the academy plan and schedule as well as to coordinate a plethora of guest speakers from all areas of public safety. They put together an outstanding academy that opened with a meet & greet with the Mayor, Council, Public Safety Director and other dignitaries. The weekly meetings



gave training and demonstrations on topics such as K-9, Life in the ER, Personal Safety, Use of Force, Witness Advocacy, Gangs and Drug Trends. Guest speakers included members of the local hospital, the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office as well as several veteran officers from our own department, all of whom volunteered their time to participate and share about their expertise. At the conclusion of the 8-week course, all graduates were recognized at a Council Meeting and presented with a Completion Certificate. The class was so well-received, the graduates formed an alumni group and the second class has been scheduled to begin in April of 2016.



Director Jason Roebuck and Captain Timothy Somers were chosen recently by two Long Branch Gregory School 3rd graders as mentors to follow for a project. The "Leaders All Around Us" event encouraged local youth to choose a community figure whose career was of interest to them and shadow them for a day.

The students were able to get a first-hand look at what each of these careers involves and got a one-on-one interview. Each did a presentation at the school about what they learned. Pictured here are Public Safety Director, Jason Roebuck and student, Clinton along with Fire Captain Timothy Somers and student, Christopher.



A Senior Safety & Crime Prevention Program was formed in partnership with the Housing Authority, the Urban Enterprise Zone and the Police Department. Officers Kimberly Leavy and Cpl. Joseph Graziano visited various senior residences throughout the year to speak and to answer questions that were of concern to local seniors.



Coffee With A Cop was started as "A conversation between the community and our police officers in an effort to keep the good relationship that we have here in Long Branch." Sponsored by the Greater Long Branch Ministerium, the Long Branch Board of Education and the Long Branch Police Department.



# PROGRAMS IN OUR SCHOOLS

The P.D. & F.D. participate in numerous educational programs in partnership with the Board of Education to promote safety and awareness. Here are just a few examples:

- Officers speak at assemblies throughout the schools to teach students about Police careers, anti-bullying, cyber safety and the dangers of drugs and alcohol.
- K-9 Officers give live presentations on the amazing things police dogs do in a day's work.
- Officers speak at the High School prior to prom season to address parents and students on the dangers of underage drinking.
- Several local Public Safety agencies join us to take part in the annual "How to Save A Life" presentation at the high school, using live actors and actual emergency equipment to show in real time the traumatic effects Drinking & Driving can have.
- Several times throughout the year, schools visit us at City Hall for an informative tour & to spread some holiday cheer.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**K-9 Demonstrations are always a favorite! Below are Sgt. Shamrock & Officer Wettermark with their K-9 Partners at The West End Block Party & Pooch Parade**



**National Night Out is the perfect time to mingle with the PD & FD! From Touch-A-Truck to a Prize Wheel, there's tons to do! It's a great opportunity to learn while having fun!**



**Our Officers take part in numerous community events throughout the year. Above: Officers salute our fallen Veterans at a Memorial Day Ceremony. Left: Officers carry the torch through town, running with The Special Olympics Torch Run.**







Lt. Craig Spencer once again represented us in the Annual Police Unity Tour.

The tour, which rides from NJ to DC, aims to honor America's fallen law enforcement heroes who have died in the line of duty



In 2015, The Unity Tour visited the LBPd to pay respect to Long Branch's fallen officers.

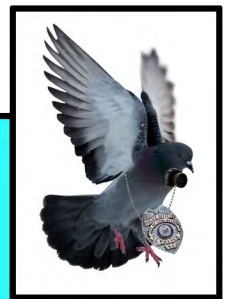
Family members of our fallen were presented with a 24K gold-dipped rose. Cpl. Kevin King is pictured here holding the rose presented for his brother, Sgt. Patrick King



# SOCIAL MEDIA



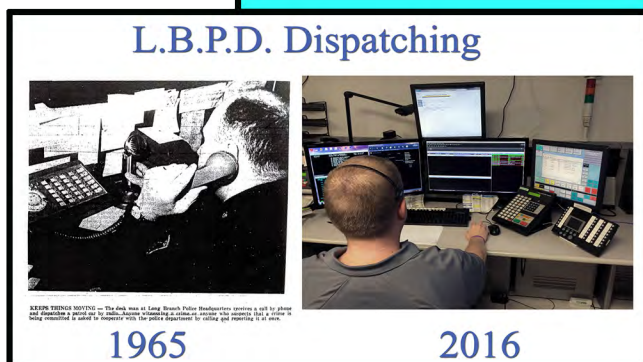
We had a little fun with our “Pigeon Drones” post on April 1, 2015. With 10K reached, 150 likes, over 50 shares and 100+ comments, we just may need to try a little April Fool’s fun again next year!



Our Facebook page celebrated its 2nd Birthday on April 22 and we reached 4,000 page likes on December 15th!



We implemented a few new features:  
Monthly Police Blotter - Monthly LBPD Call & Crime Statistics  
Throw Back Thursdays Police Clips - Old PD Facts, Photos & Articles  
The Director’s Dish - Notes written by the Director to the community



Visit us at:  
[www.facebook.com/LongBranchPolice](http://www.facebook.com/LongBranchPolice)  
<https://twitter.com/LongBranchPD>



# AND DID WE MENTION...

For years, the LBPD has shared in a wonderful relationship with our local Harley Davidson retailer. Recently, the President of the establishment, Jeffrey Margaritell, retired. We would like to wish him all the best on his retirement and thank him for his generous donation of three motorcycles just prior to his retirement. He played a huge role in the establishment and upkeep of our Motor Unit. Photo: (L to R) Cpl. Evangelho, Cpl. Delacruz, Cpt. Wiener, Lt. Silverio, Cpl. Simonelli.



For the 2nd year in a row, the Director of Public Safety signed a Temporary Order to allow officers the option of wearing a pink shirt as part of their uniform! The order reads: "During the month of October, in the interest of spreading awareness for Breast Cancer Month, officers are permitted to wear a pink shirt in place of a black shirt underneath their uniform."

Members of the PD & FD gathered for "Pink Shirt Friday" to show off their PBA & FMBA shirts in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on 10/16/15.





During winter storm Thor, Corporals Joseph Graziano and Thomas Hueston responded to a couple, lost on Broadway & Memorial Parkway, while trying to locate Monmouth Medical Center. Mom went into labor and the officers delivered a healthy baby girl! Mom and baby were then transported to the hospital.



Director Jason Roebuck signed a Statement of Support for the Guard & Reserve at a "Show of Strength Ceremony" in April to honor NJ Citizen Soldiers and the employers who support them.



Long Branch FD won 1st place in the annual Cooked & Uncorked over all State Locals! This event is sponsored by the State FMBA and benefits the burn center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

When Alexandra Stolzmann, a Monmouth University student, was struck by a vehicle in Long Branch early in December, her family came from Arizona to support her as she recovered. Corporals. Thomas Hueston and Cesare Simonelli organized a full Christmas dinner for the family!

The turkey and desserts were donated by the Rymer family of the Long Branch Poultry Farm & the sides were all prepared by the Hueston and Simonelli Families.







**Catch us at the next City Event! We're there looking out for you!  
Police and Fire Department members are present at all events such as parades,  
car shows and concerts. Our largest annual events are hosting  
The N.J. Marathon which can bring 20,000 plus in crowds and  
Oceanfest which draws visitors in the hundreds of thousands.**





# SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!



**LBPD portrayed in a painting! Check out this beautiful piece of art by Ret. Detective Larry Boody! Boody retired from the Bridgewater Township Police Department and took up painting. He chose to feature Long Branch PD in this painting. Our own Capt. Robert Wiener was the model for the Motorcycle Officer. When asked about the painting, Boody stated, "The theme behind this painting at first glance appears to be a police officer enjoying a beautiful summer morning. A closer look reveals he is facing forces much greater than himself while alone and exposed. Art aficionados may get the loose reference to the old Dutch master painters via Windmill restaurant. It's important to note that this is not a painting of Bob Weiner. Instead, it is a painting of any Long Branch officer because in its context, rank is irrelevant and was left out of the painting."**

*16x20 numbered and signed prints are available for sale by the artist and he can be contacted at: [detlarryboody@gmail.com](mailto:detlarryboody@gmail.com).*



ALL PHOTOGRAPHS WERE USED WITH PERMISSION WHEREVER  
PHOTOGRAPHERS WERE KNOWN.

**Some photos used were taken directly from City  
social media sites and the photographers are unknown.**

THANKS TO ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO ALLOWED US TO USE  
THEIR WORK!

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS ARE KNOWN CONTRIBUTORS:

**William Bahamonde**

**Sgt. Brian Garrett**

**Det. David Graminski**

**Kelly Hughes**

**Danna Kawut**

**Det. Joseph Kennedy**

**P.O. KiJung Kim**

**F.F. David Phillips**

**Lt. Craig Spencer**

**Annual Review was compiled and produced in 2016 under the direction of  
Public Safety Director, Jason Roebuck by Kelly Hughes**