

# PUBLIC SAFETY ANNUAL REPORT

# 2017

## LONG BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT



Long Branch  
Police Department  
2017

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>MISSION STATEMENT</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>LETTER FROM THE POLICE CHIEF</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>TABLE OF ORGANIZATION</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>OFFICERS &amp; RANKS</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>SPECIALIZED UNITS</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>PATROL ZONES</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>STATISTICS</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>OPERATIONAL ADVANCES</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>TRAINING</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>DEPARTMENTAL MILESTONES</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>PRESS RELEASES</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>AWARDS</b>
<b>35</b>	<b>UNIONS</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>COMMUNITY RELATIONS &amp; EVENTS</b>
<b>43</b>	<b>SOCIAL MEDIA</b>
<b>44</b>	<b>AND DID WE MENTION?</b>



# 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.

## 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 & 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.



## LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Welcome to the 2017 Long Branch Police Department's Annual Report! This review is our effort to capture a snapshot of the services we provide to the 30,000 residents of our City, and many more visitors, on a daily basis. The 90 sworn men and women of the department, along with our civilian and part time summer help, are dedicated to protecting the interests and well-being of our community.

In 2017 we have continued to improve and upgrade our technological capabilities, introducing a new radio system that replaced one that was over 40 years old. This is in addition to the advances we have made in recent years to our Computer Aided Dispatch system, and introducing Digital Mobile Video Recorders and Body Cameras, as well as Automatic License Plate Readers. With the continued support of our Mayor and Council, we will strive to stay abreast of the exploding technological advances that permeate police work and our world today.

Our primary objective, however, is still effective policing. While we will continue to make the most of our resources, I realize that our most important asset is our personnel. We will continue to invest in training our officers and staff to the highest degree possible. It is only through the officers that are "working the road" every day that we can continue to build the public trust that is so important in policing. I am confident that with the commitment from our staff and the support of the community members, we can do just that.

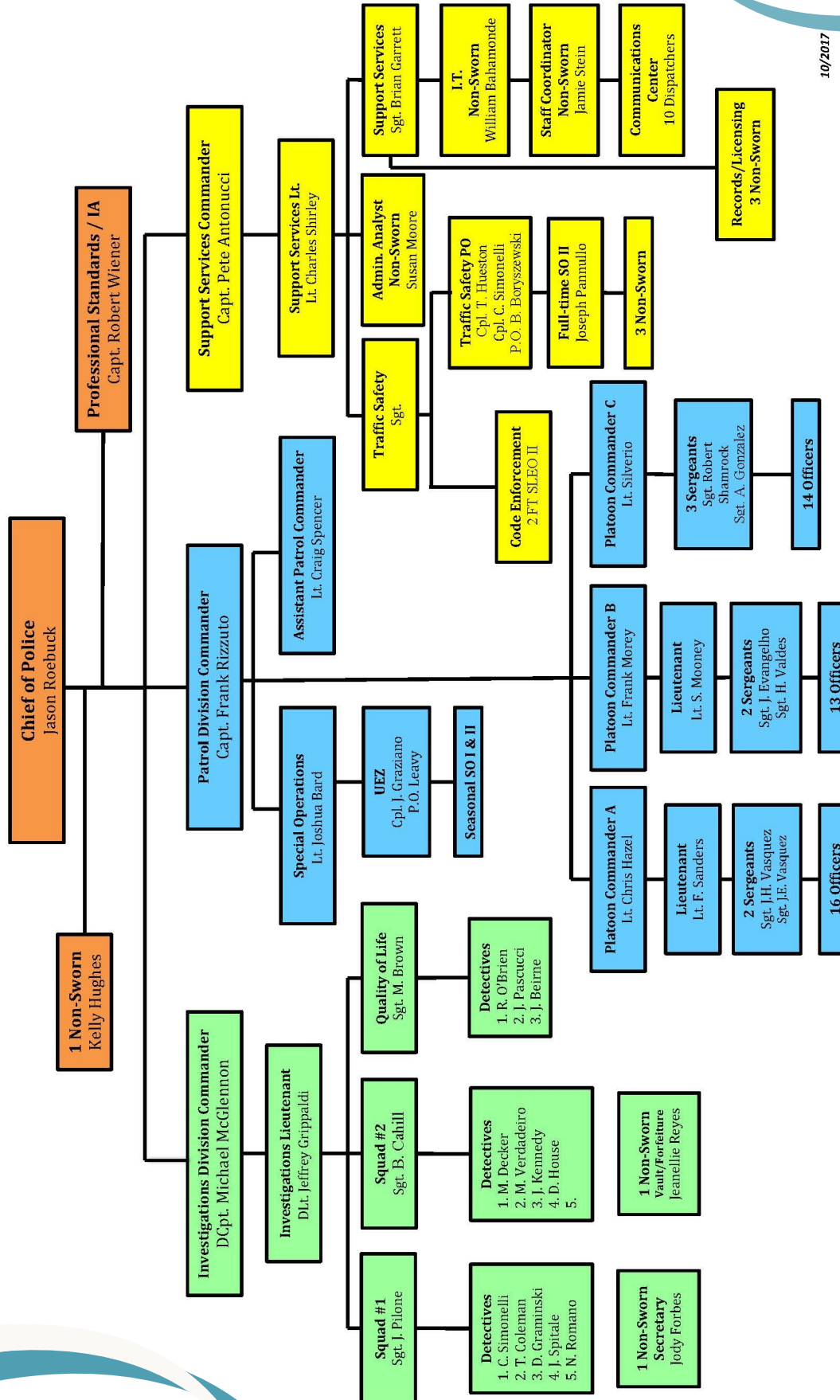
It continues to be my privilege to serve with the highly dedicated, highly trained and best equipped officers of the Long Branch Police Department. I am proud of the work they do every day, and look forward to a bright future for the City of Long Branch.

Thank you for taking the time to read this annual review. I hope everyone that does can take away a further understanding about what our department does every day and learn something new about our men and women in blue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim R...".



# TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



10/2017

## CAPTAINS

- Peter Antonucci #265
- Robert Wiener #244
- Michael McGlennon #243
- Frank Rizzuto #266

## LIEUTENANTS

- Frank Morey #254
- Craig Spencer #258
- Joshua Bard #300
- Jeffrey Grippaldi #292
- Jorge Silverio #295
- Christopher Hazel #291
- Charles Shirley, Jr. #284
- Fernando Sanders #250
- Stanley Mooney #263

## SERGEANTS

- Jeffrey Pilone #255
- Robert Shamrock #245
- Brendan Cahill #318
- Antonia Gonzalez #270
- Brian Garrett #306
- Robert Bell #329
- Juan H. Vasquez #282
- John Evangelho #274
- Marshall Brown #319
- Heather Hollis Valdes #290
- Juan E. Vasquez #272

## CORPORALS (15+ Years)

- Michael McGowan #248
- Joseph Graziano #257
- Robert Korn #267
- Edwin Gomez #276
- Cpl. Julio Delacruz #278
- Cpl. Kevin King #281
- Cpl. Thomas Hueston #294
- Cpl. Cesare Simonelli #298
- Cpl. Lance Fanning #299
- Cpl. Christopher Gant #301
- Cpl. Jennifer Gant #304
- Cpl. Kimberly Leavy #308

## 2017 OFFICERS & RANKS

### DETECTIVES

- Cpl. Charles Simonelli #286
- Michael Decker #312
- Cpl. Michael Verdadeiro #309
- Cpl. Todd Coleman #289
- David House #296
- Cpl. David Graminski #302
- Joseph Spitalo #339
- Richard O'Brien #345
- Joseph Kennedy #324
- Nick Romano #342
- Jake Pascucci #348
- James Beirne #354

### PATROL OFFICERS

- Tracey Widdis #310
- Robert Rush Bataille #311
- Stanley Eskridge #313
- Christopher Walls #314
- Erik Wettermark #316
- Sam Jung Yoo #317
- Bienvenido Cruz #320
- Marco Rodrigues #322
- Josh Wagner #323
- Matthew Widdis #325
- Patrick Joyce #326
- KiJung Kim #327
- Hector Umana #328
- George Samol #330
- Ross Zotti #331
- George Olski #336
- Jesus Otero #340
- Gary Vecchione #343
- Brian Oliveira #344
- Brian Boryszewski #346
- Daniel Richards #347
- David Stone #349
- Vincent Roselli #350
- Omar Akel #351
- Sergio Chaparro #352
- Patrick Vaccaro #363
- Dana Page #355
- Robert Poss #356
- Kevin Morris #357
- Steven Grant-White #358
- Daniel Gould #359
- Joseph Corcoran #360
- Mark Yutko #361
- Conor Mullan #362
- Shane Carrol #363
- William Davies IV #365
- Charles Conover #366
- Francis Sheldrick #367
- Kevin Romano #368

# SPECIALIZED UNITS

## K9 UNIT

The City of Long Branch Police Canine (K9) Unit celebrated two graduations in 2017. Both classes were instructed by Long Branch Sergeant Robert Shamrock.

Basic Patrol Class Graduation was held on January 06, 2017 and Canine Scent School #1 celebrated their graduation on Thursday, April 13th, 2017, both at the Long Branch Middle School. Graduating teams for both classes were P.O. Omar Akel & K9 Hades of the Long Branch Police Department along with P.O. Jesse Moore & K9 Opus of Howell Township Police Department. Officer Akel and K9 Hades are seen top right on graduation day in April.

In addition to responding to official service calls, our K9 Unit plays a vital role in our community outreach efforts. Officer Akel and K9 Hades participate in numerous demonstrations for our public schools, Citizens Police Academies, National Night Out, and many other events.







## HONOR GUARD

The Long Branch Police Department Honor Guard assists at official police functions such as swearing in ceremonies, promotions and funerals. The officers involved in the Honor Guard participate on a voluntary basis.



The top photo shows Officers Oliveira and Boryszewski in front of the Long Branch Police Department's Fallen Officer Memorial as they participated in the 20 Year Remembrance Ceremony of Sgt. Patrick A. King on November, 20, 2017.



On December 17, 2017, the members of the Long Branch Honor Guard presented the Flags during the National Anthem at the Giants vs. Eagles game in remembrance of Ret. Cpl. Howard Townsend #210. In addition, notes of remembrance posted on the message boards before and during the game.

Officers currently active in the Honor Guard, and pictured here, are Lance Fanning, Hector Umana, Brian Oliveira, Kijung Kim, Gary Vecchione and Brian Boryszewski. Not pictured are Officers Daniel Richards and Jesus Otero.



Scheduling is underway for future events where the Honor Guard can participate in pre-game ceremonies. A New Jersey Devil's Game is on the calendar for March of 2018 and a Lakewood Blue Claws game in June.

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division consists of a total of nine Detectives in two squads. Each squad has a Commanding Officer.. The Commanding Officers of both squads and the Street Crimes Unit are supervised by a Lieutenant and the entire Bureau is led by a Captain.

In 2017, the Detective Bureau investigated 114 cases that resulted in an arrest, including homicides, armed robberies, aggravated assaults, and weapons possessions.

### Operation Lights Out



Detectives Charles Simonelli, Nicholas Romano and Richard O'Brien, members of the Street Crimes Unit, participated in a nine-month county-wide investigation, led by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office, known as "Operation Lights Out". The investigation targeted high profile individuals known to distribute large quantities of narcotics, many of whom were confirmed members of violent street gangs. At the conclusion, 32 people were arrested who now face charges ranging from Racketeering, Distribution of Narcotics, Conspiracy to Distribute and/or Possess Narcotics, Unlawful Possession of Handguns, Unlawful Transfer or Sale of Firearms, Certain Persons Not to Possess Weapons and Hindering Apprehension of Another. The investigation revealed the criminal organization distributed approximately 150-200 grams of powder and crack cocaine a week with an estimated street value of \$225,000.00, and approximately 250 packets of heroin per week with an estimated street value of \$22,500.00. In addition, two semi-automatic handguns (.40 and .380 caliber), over 200 grams of cocaine, 35 bricks of heroin, approximately \$14,000 in cash and three vehicles were seized.

## STREET CRIMES

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.

In 2017, the Street Crimes Unit made 106 arrests, 69 of which were narcotics related offenses. They also submitted 6 vehicles for forfeiture and executed 9 search warrants. Through their investigations and arrests, they seized 6 vehicles, \$15,400.00 cash and were able to remove 3,494 decks of heroin, 277 grams of cocaine, 136 grams of marijuana and 2 guns from the streets.



## URBAN ENTERPRIZE UNIT (UEZ)

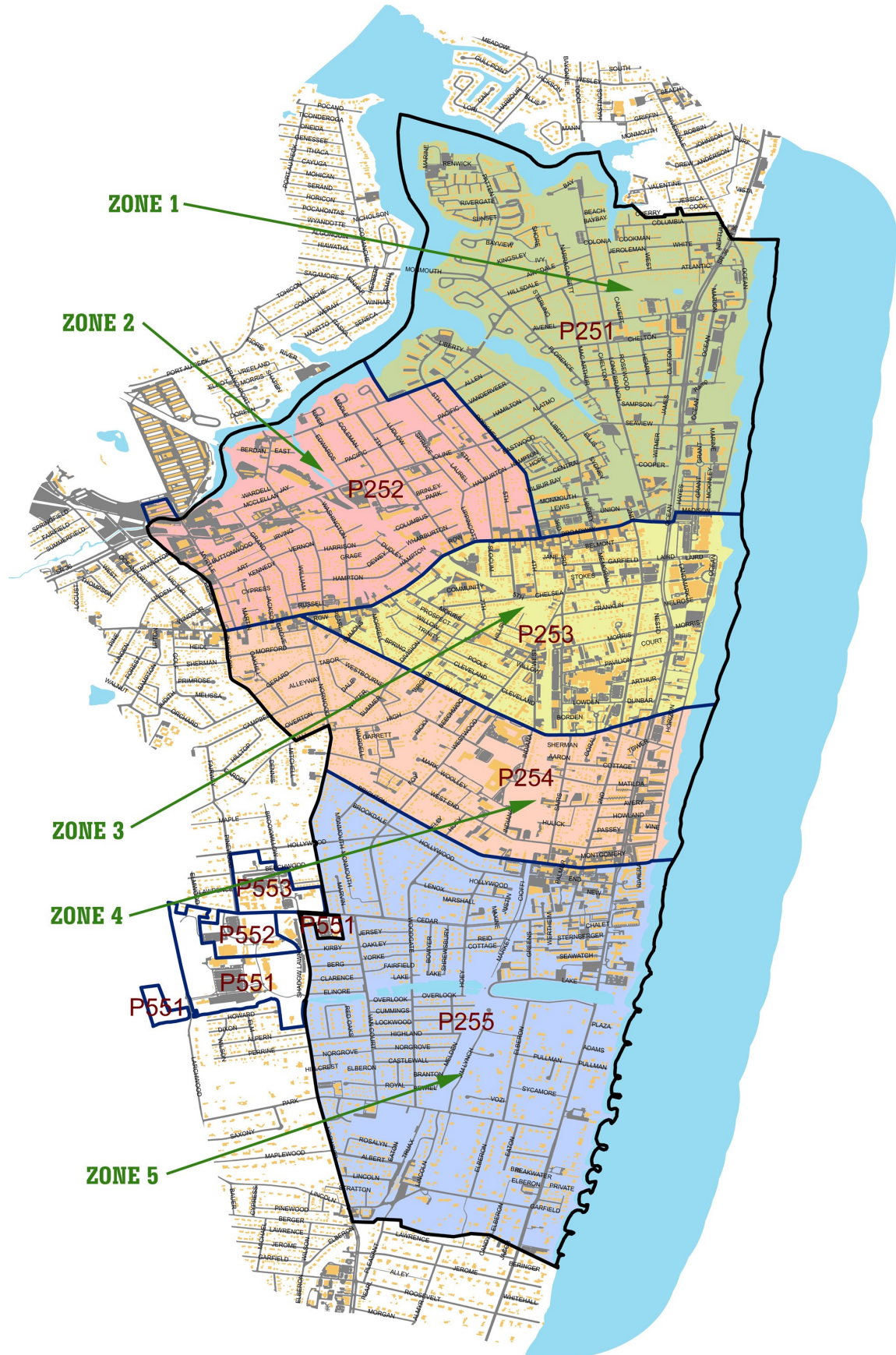
The Urban Enterprise Zone (U.E.Z.) focuses on our community in an effort to keep the lines of communication flowing between the police department and the public. Corporals Joseph Graziano and Kimberly Leavy work closely with local business owners, students and residents and provide a multitude of events and services throughout the year. A few examples of their programs include school presentations, senior program involvement, City Hall tours for scouts and students, and perhaps the two most popular, National Night Out and the Citizens Police Academy (CPA).

National Night Out has proven to be a tremendous way to bring the police and the community, especially families, together for a night of learning and tons of fun. The event has grown each year in Long Branch since we began to participate 20 years ago. Make sure to join us on the first Tuesday in August for pizza, hot dogs, sub sandwiches, desserts, cakes and soft drinks! Check out a K-9 and a Martial Arts demo! Dance to the sounds of a live DJ! Get an "Ident-A-Kid" ID! Climb into a variety of awesome vehicles in the "Touch-a-Truck" program! Spin the Prize Wheel! Join in a game of Gaga Ball! Win exciting giveaways and gather important community information! All for free!

The CPA was started in 2015 by Corporals Graziano and Leavy and has grown with each of its biannual classes. The eight week course offers an opportunity for residents to meet & greet with City Police Officers, Department Heads, Mayor and Council and local professionals that work closely with our public safety goals. The participants are encouraged to participate in several hands-on activities and are provided class time to learn more about some of the less-known facts involving police work. At the conclusion of the course, participants are awarded certificates which are presented at a council meeting. Corporals Graziano and Leavy have been recognized several times by our department as well as outside agencies for their success with this program.



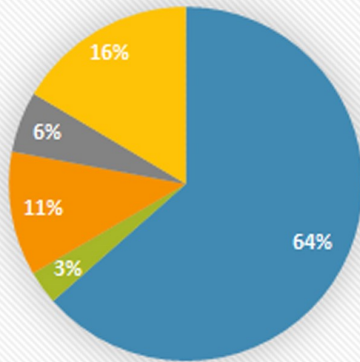
# PATROL ZONES





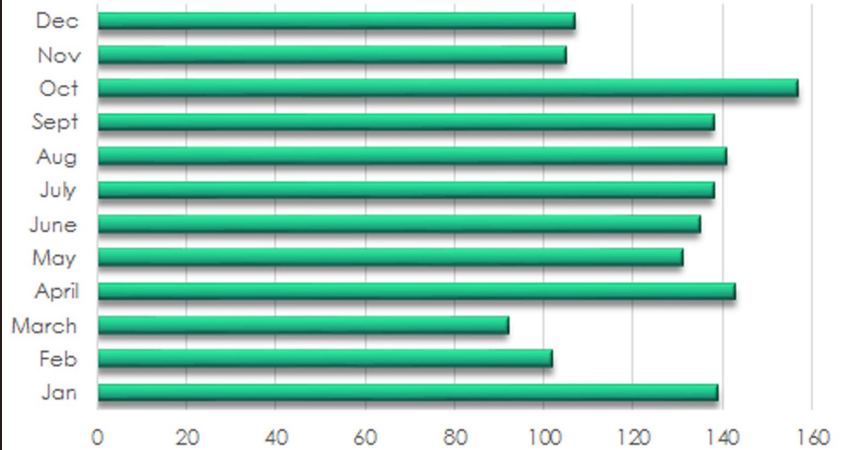
# STATISTICS

## 2017 Call Types



■ Traffic Stops ■ Hit & Run ■ MV Accidents ■ 9-1-1 ■ Arrests

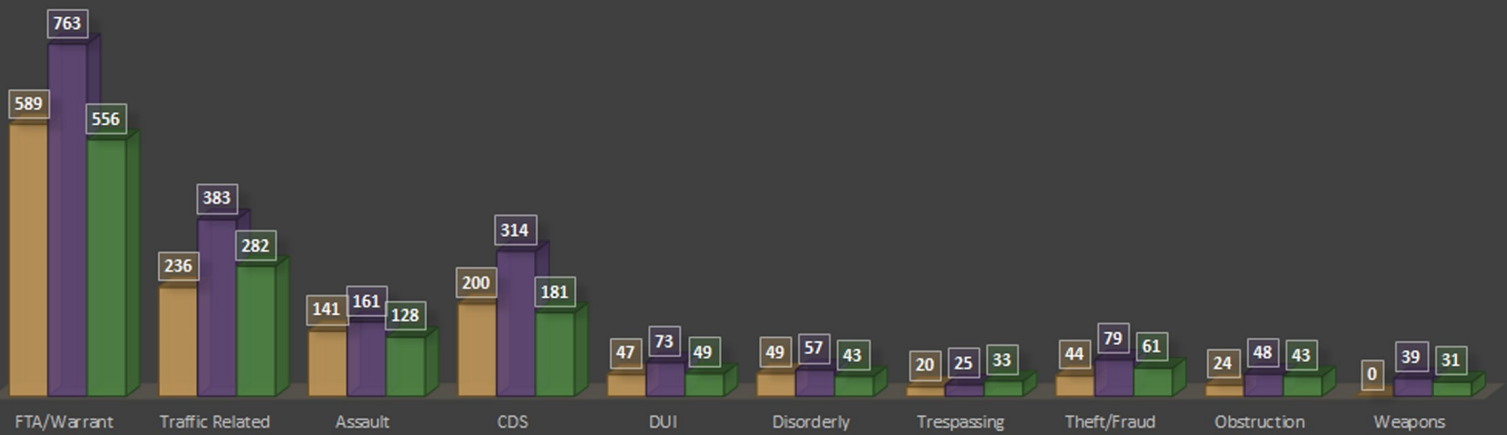
## Arrests By Month for 2017



## 2015-2017 COMPARISON OF 10 MOST COMMON ARREST CHARGES

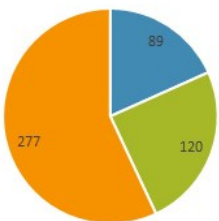
\* ONLY THE MOST SEVERE CHARGE PER ARREST WAS CALCULATED. ADDITIONAL LESSER CHARGES MAY EXIST FOR EACH ARREST.

■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017



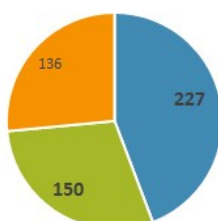
## STREET CRIMES SEIZURES

### Cocaine (gms)



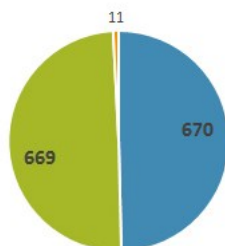
■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017

### Marijuana (gms)



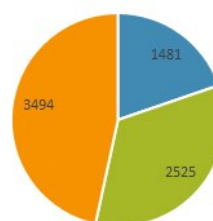
■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017

### Xanax Pills



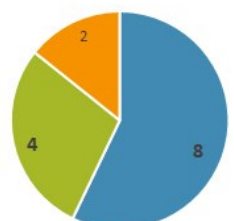
■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017

### Heroin (decks)



■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017

### Guns



■ 2015 ■ 2016 ■ 2017

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

May 04, 2018  
10:05:53AM

January - December - 2017

NJ0132500 LONG BRANCH PD	December 2016 vs December 2017		Jan - Dec 2016 vs Jan -Dec 2017		Percent Change	Percent Change	No of Offenses Cleared	Percent Offenses Cleared	Juvenile Offenses Cleared
	2016	2017	2016	2017					
<b>Homicide</b>									
Murder	0	4	0.0%	5	400.0%		5	100.0%	4
<b>Rape</b>									
Rape	1	0	-100.0%	7	-46.2%		4	57.1%	2
<b>Total:</b>	1	0	-100.0%	7	-46.2%		4	57.1%	2
<b>Robbery</b>									
Firearm	3	1	-66.7%	4	-33.3%		3	75.0%	0
Knife or Cutting Instrument	1	0	-100.0%	4	-20.0%		4	100.0%	0
Other Dangerous Weapon	0	1	0.0%	1	-50.0%		1	100.0%	0
Strong Arm (Hands, Fists, etc.)	2	5	150.0%	34	41.7%		24	70.6%	2
<b>Total:</b>	6	7	16.7%	43	16.2%		32	74.4%	2
<b>Assault</b>									
Gun	0	0	0.0%	5	0.0%		1	20.0%	0
Knife or Cutting Instrument	0	0	0.0%	1	-83.3%		2	200.0%	0
Other Dangerous Weapon	0	1	0.0%	3	-81.3%		2	66.7%	0
Aggravated (Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.)	9	4	-55.6%	35	2.9%		23	65.7%	2
<b>Total:</b>	9	5	-44.4%	44	-21.4%		28	63.6%	2
<b>Assault_Simple</b>									
Simple (Hands, Fists, Feet, etc.)	27	22	-18.5%	304	-7.9%		217	71.4%	14
<b>Burglary</b>									
Forcible Entry	0	2	0.0%	33	10.0%		6	18.2%	0
Unlawful Entry	2	2	0.0%	24	-41.5%		5	20.8%	0
Attempted Forcible Entry	8	3	-62.5%	63	75.0%		19	30.2%	1
<b>Total:</b>	10	7	-30.0%	120	12.1%		30	25.0%	1
<b>Larceny - Theft</b>									
Larceny - Theft	48	44	-8.3%	692	10.2%		250	36.1%	10
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>									
Autos	0	2	0.0%	26	100.0%		7	26.9%	0
Trucks and Buses	0	0	0.0%	0	-100.0%		0	0.0%	0
Other Vehicle	0	0	0.0%	1	0.0%		1	100.0%	0
<b>Total:</b>	0	2	0.0%	27	58.8%		8	29.6%	0
<b>NJ0132500 Total:</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-9.9%</b>	<b>1189</b>	<b>4.5%</b>		<b>574</b>	<b>46.2%</b>	<b>35</b>
Crime Index	74	69	-6.8%	938	9.2%		357	38.1%	21
Violent Crime	16	16	0.0%	99	-7.5%		69	69.7%	10
Non Violent Crime	58	53	-8.6%	839	11.6%		288	34.3%	11

# OPERATIONAL CHANGES & ADVANCES

## POLICE COMMUNICATIONS



Our police communications system underwent some significant upgrades including new radios and a new tower system. Pictured is Cpl. Cesare Simonelli of our Traffic Department giving a little lift to the workers involved in the project.

## ANIMAL CONTROL

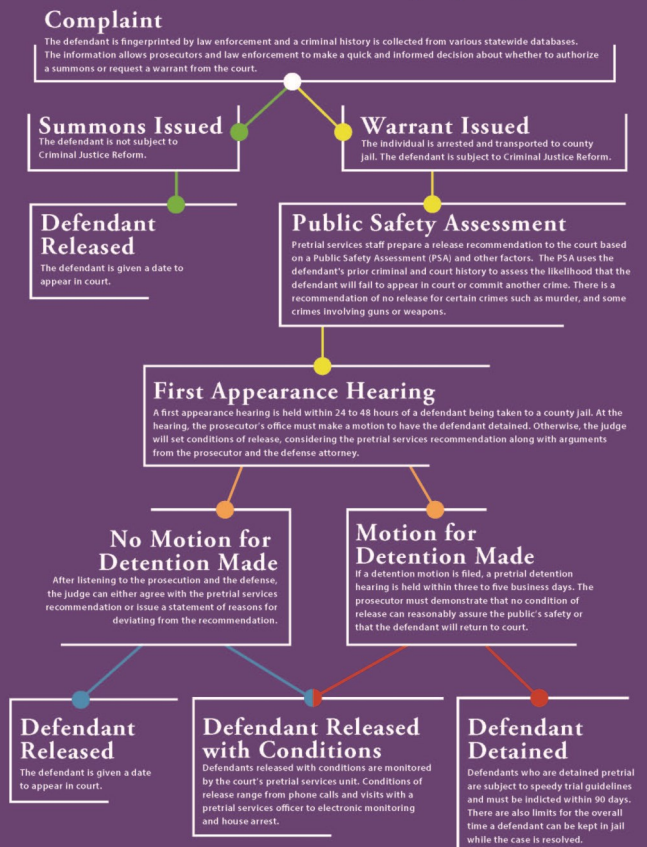


While the Animal Control Unit continues to operate as part of the City's Health Department, in 2017, the procedure for Animal Control requests changed. All Animal Control calls now go through the Police Dispatch unit. Information is entered into our computer system and an Animal Control officer is dispatched to the call site. Another change for Animal Control is that a new cat licensing law, Ordinance #2-17 has been adopted in Long Branch. Any cat which has attained the age of seven months or which possess a set of permanent teeth will require a license.

## BAIL REFORM

In accordance with NJ State Law, Long Branch began use of the new Bail Reform Act. Here's a brief description from the NJ Courts Criminal Justice Reform Information Center's website: "On Jan. 1, 2017, the state shifted from a system that relies principally on setting monetary bail as a condition of release to a risk-based system that is more objective, and thus fairer to defendants because it is unrelated to their ability to pay monetary bail. The statute also sets deadlines for the timely filing of an indictment and the disposition of criminal charges for incarcerated defendants."

### Criminal Justice Reform: A Step-by-Step Guide





# TRAINING

Members of the Police Department are held to the highest standards of training. They must become certified on weapons and equipment and complete 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, Officers are required to attend in-service training sessions which cover current laws, professional guidelines, operations and procedures. The sessions consists of classroom style instruction as well as hands-on training. Most training is required every six months to one year. Specialized units must complete additional training in order to hold a position of expertise within their field.



These photos were taken during two of Cpl. Sebastian "Sammy" Tomaine's last training sessions, Rifle and Taser, as our Firearms Instructor. Cpl. John Evangelho will take over as Firearms Instructor upon Cpl. Tomaine's retirement in April.



# DEPARTMENTAL MILESTONES

## NEW POLICE CHIEF

In 2017, the City Council voted in favor of reinstating the title of Police Chief. On July 27th, Jason Roebuck was named as the Provisional Chief of Police pending the NJ Civil Service exam results. Thus, making him the first Long Branch Police Chief for the City in nearly fifty years. Kevin J. Hayes, Jr. was appointed to Roebuck's prior title, Director of Public Safety.



## PROMOTIONS



Sergeant Stanley Mooney was promoted to Lieutenant and Corporal Juan E. Vasquez was promoted to Sergeant. They celebrated a Swearing-In Ceremony together with seven new officers on Thursday, October 19, 2017. The photo on the left shows Lt. Mooney with Chief Roebuck and Mayor Adam Schneider. The photo on the right shows Sgt. Vasquez with Cpt. Robert Wiener.

# NEW POLICE OFFICERS

Long Branch Police Department welcomed nine new full-time Police Officers in 2017.

- Daniel Gould, #359 joined us on April 1, 2017 as part of the NJ State Inter-governmental Transfer System. He has over 5 years of law enforcement experience including over 2 years in corrections and 3 years as a police officer.
- Joseph Corcoran #360 joined us on April 15, 2017 as part of the NJ State Inter-governmental Transfer System. He served in Ocean County as both a Corrections Officer and for the Sheriff's Office. In addition, he was a Military Policeman for the United States Army.
- Mark Yutko #361, William Davies #365, Charles Conover #366 and Francis Sheldrick #367 began their careers with the LBPD as SLEO I Officers. On June 19, we were proud to announce their official swearing in as full-time Patrolmen!



PO Mullan & PO Carroll

- Kevin Romano #368 graduated the Ocean County Police Academy with the Belmar Police Department in May of 2016. He was hired as a year round Class II officer with the Englishtown Police Department where he worked for just over one year before being officially sworn in at our department on September 27th.
- Conor Mullan #362 and Shane Carroll #363 originally joined the LBPD as a SLEO I officers. They were hired as full-time Patrolmen on July 24, 2017 and officially sworn in upon academy graduation on December 15, 2017.



(L to R) Lt. Mooney, Sgt. Vasquez, Officers Gould, Corcoran, Yutko, Davies, Conover, Sheldrick and Romano



## NEW SEASONAL OFFICERS

LBPB welcomed 11 new Special Law Enforcement Class II (SLEO II) Officers. for the 2017 season.

Pictured (by badge # not picture order) at their graduation with Chief Roebuck are:

Alexander Heimbuch #860, Julian Morgan #861, Daniel Cunha #862, Christopher Remedios #864, Ivan Guzman #865, Robert Kelly #866, Mark Yutko #867, Lawrence Rozensvit #868, Kevin Cuje #869, Karleigh Neidt #871, William Davies IV #872.

### CLASS II OFFICERS



### CLASS I OFFICERS



21 new Special Law Enforcement Class I (SLEO I) Officers joined us for the 2017 summer season. Their focus is the enforcement of ordinances, primarily pertaining to the beachfront, boardwalk, and summer events such as concerts and car shows. Many of our full-time officers started their career as a SLEO I. The hiring process for this seasonal position begins with an open house held by Lieutenant Joshua Bard, usually in November or December.

## RETIRED OFFICERS

Three long-time officers retired from the Long Branch Police Department in 2017:

Lt. Shea retired January 31st

Corporal Tomaine retired April 1st

Corporal Vogler retired July 31st

We thank them for their many years of service and wish them nothing but the best in their retirement and future endeavors!



**Corporal Sebastian "Sam" Tomaine #237**



**Lieutenant Thomas Shea #279**



**Corporal Michael Vogler #256**



## REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN

### RETIRED LIEUTENANT PATRICK M. JOYCE #151

Retired Lieutenant Patrick M. Joyce served the Long Branch Police Department from June 10, 1972 until his retirement on May 1, 2002. Lt. Joyce served in multiple divisions within the police department, most recently as Commander of the Detective Bureau. He was honored with many com-



mendations and awards during his career. Lt. Joyce was a former Vice President of the PBA Local #10 and was instrumental in the development of the former Long Branch Boxing Club. In his personal time, he was a talented musician, an avid golfer and a member of the Long Branch Elks as well as The Emerald Society. Lieutenant Joyce passed away on December 27th and will be greatly missed as an officer and a friend.



### K9 BALA

K9 Bala was born in Belgium and arrived in the U.S. at approximately 14 months old. Bala and his partner, P.O. Erik Wettermark, attended the Port Authority Police 18th K9 scent class and graduated 01/27/06. They were certified as a Explosives Detection K9 team, making them the first Explosive Detection K9 team for the LBPD. In addition, they attended the Long Branch/Tinton Falls Police K9 Patrol Class #1, graduating on 06/02/06 as a certified Patrol K9 team. (i.e. tracking, criminal apprehension, article search, etc.) K9 Bala served the City of Long Branch for 10 years before retiring on July 31, 2016. Bala



lived with the Wettermark family after retirement and enjoyed a fulfilling life before the tolls of old age and years of service caught up with him in September. Thank you for your service K9 Bala! May you rest in peace!

# L.B.P.D. FALLEN OFFICER MEMORIAL



**BECOME A PART OF P.D. HISTORY**  
**ORDER A PERSONALIZED PAVER STONE**  
**TO BE ADDED TO OUR NEW MEMORIAL**  
**HURRY! AVAILABILITY IS LIMITED!**

**PROCEEDS WILL FUND A BRONZE STATUE OF A POLICE OFFICER FOR THE CENTER OF THE MEMORIAL**

**4 x 8** \$200 - 3 Lines w/ 13 Characters ea.  
**6 x 9** \$350 - 4 Lines w/ 16 Characters ea.  
**6 x 12** \$500 - 4 Lines w/ 20 Characters ea.

Please make checks payable to:  
 Long Branch PBA Local #10 with "Off Memorial" in the memo.  
 Mail to LBPD at 344 Broadway, Long Branch, NJ 07740, attention Kelly Hughes  
 DONATIONS OF ANY DENOMINATION ARE APPRECIATED IN LIEU OF A PAVER!

**THANKS TO OUR PROJECT SPONSORS!**  
 Joe Clambrone of V&B Landscape Supply  
 Elite Landscapes & Pavers  
 EP Henry Corp.  
 Perry's Trophy Co.

Our new Memorial to honor our fallen officers was constructed, the garden was planted and the first round of personalized paver stones were installed.

Each year, the Long Branch Superior Officers' (SOA Local #10) and the Policeman's Benevolent Association (PBA Local #10) purchase flowers for our memorial around the anniversaries of their loss, to remember and honor them.

On November 20, 2017, the 20 year anniversary of the passing of Detective Sergeant Patrick A. King #167, Long Branch Police Department hosted a memorial service in his honor near the new memorial garden.

Pavers are still available and sales will resume in the Spring of 2018 for anyone interested in supporting the memorial and becoming a piece of LBPD history. For more information, email [khughes@longbranch.org](mailto:khughes@longbranch.org) or call 732-571-5676.



# DETECTIVE SERGEANT PATRICK A. KING

## 20 YEAR REMEMBRANCE

November 20, 2017 marked the 20 year anniversary of the passing of Detective Sergeant Patrick A. King #167. Long Branch Police Department hosted a memorial service in his honor on Monday, November 20th outside police headquarters near the new memorial garden. The ceremony opened with remarks from Chief Jason Roebuck and Mayor Adam Schneider, followed by a prayer lead by Rev. Mark Nillo of St Michaels R.C. Church of West End. At 8:20 PM a moment of silence was observed and the ceremony closed with Officer Bienvenido "Benny" Cruz playing "Taps". All who attended were invited to join in appetizers and a toast to Sgt. King hosted by Ron's West End Pub and sponsored by the P.B.A. and S.O.A. While at Ron's Diane Johantgen sang "Amazing Grace" and John Feehan played a few songs on his bagpipes. We were delighted to see such a tremendous turnout in support of Sgt. King and thank everyone who participated in and attended this event!





# 2017 POLICE UNITY TOUR



POLICE UNITY TOUR  
2017



*20 Year Remembrance*

Sgt. Patrick A. King # 167



End of Watch 11/20/97



Seventeen of our officers participated in the Police Unity Tour on May 9th for the 20 year remembrance of Detective Sergeant Patrick King .



## PRESS RELEASES

From Chief Roebuck: On January 25th, at approximately 3pm, the Long Branch Police received a call of a possible kidnapping near Prospect Street and Bath Ave. While officers were enroute to this call, another call came in from the same area concerning the robbery of a cell phone. SGT Robert Bell immediately responded to the area and was able to detain a subject who fit the description of the accused in both incidents. Officers Gary Vecchione, Daniel Richards and Hector Umana arrived shortly thereafter, and were able to ascertain that 3 separate incidents had occurred, all involving girls aged 12-14 that had either just exited the school bus or were walking home from school.

The accused, later identified as Daniel Omar Mejia-Reyes, approached the girls separately, but all within a few minutes of each other. In the first two incidents, he forcibly robbed the victims of their cell phones. In the last case he picked up the young victim and attempted to remove her from the area. In the first two cases, the bus driver and bus aide saw the robberies and came to the victim's aid, and ushered the victims back onto the bus. In the last case, the victim was walking home from school, and she attempted to fight off her attacker, and was helped by another classmate.

Detectives arrived at the scene at the same time. Detective Jake Pascucci became the lead investigator and he was assisted by Detective SGT Brendan Cahill, Romano, O'Brien, Spitale and Kennedy. They were able to arrest Daniel Omar Mejia-Reyes, 27 years old, 383 Bath Avenue, and he was charged with 2 counts of Robbery, Criminal Restraint, Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact and Sexual Assault. He was remanded to the Monmouth County Correctional Institution with no bail and additionally held on an Immigration detainer.

The quick response time and actions by both the Patrol Division and the Detective Bureau, working together, brought this incident to a quick conclusion, ending in the arrest of the accused. Everyone involved, including the bus aide driver and student, should be commended.

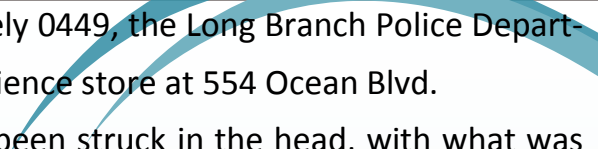
From MCPO: A man wanted on charges of Attempted Murder and Robbery was arrested after evading authorities. Detectives and members of the Monmouth County Emergency Response Team (MOCERT) found him hiding out in a home in Long Branch, announced Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni.

Denismar Andrade, 26, was being sought by law enforcement after he was charged with two counts of Attempted Murder and Robbery, stemming from an incident that occurred in Long Branch on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at approximately 1:24 a.m. It is alleged that on February 18th, Andrade stabbed two victims in their necks with a knife during the course of a robbery. Both victims were Long Branch residents. The victims have been treated, released, and are expected to survive.

On Wednesday, February 22, 2017, an investigation led detectives to 224 Ludlow Avenue in Long Branch where Denismar Andrade had been trying to evade authorities, concealing himself in a wall. MOCERT was deployed and found Andrade hiding in the basement where he was attempting to conceal himself within the walls of the structure with a stash of food and water. He was arrested without incident. Detectives have no reason to believe that Andrade acted in concert with anyone and there is no further danger to the public.

The Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office would like to thank the agencies that participated in the investigation that led to Andrade's arrest. Those agencies include: the Long Branch Police Department, the U.S. Marshal's Office, the Long Branch Fire Department, Officers of the Monmouth County Emergency Response and Rapid Deployment Teams, the Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, and in particular, the Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.





From Chief Roebuck: On February 26th, 2017 at approximately 0449, the Long Branch Police Department received a call of an armed robbery at the 7-11 convenience store at 554 Ocean Blvd. When the officers arrived, they discovered the cashier had been struck in the head, with what was later determined to be a pistol. The victim was not able to give much more information, and was transported to Monmouth Medical Center for an apparent head injury.

Officer Chris Walls and CPL Juan Vasquez were able to access the security video with the help of the owner, and could see a suspect enter the store with a gun, jump over the counter, and appear to fire the gun at the cashier and miss. He then struck the victim with the gun and attempted to open the cash register, but couldn't. The suspect then jumped backed over the counter and fled the scene.


Detectives Kennedy and Zotti were called out to process the crime scene and Detective Michael Decker was assigned as the primary investigator. An investigation was conducted by the Detective Bureau, and not much more the 24 hours later an arrest was made. Detectives Charles Simonelli, Joseph Kennedy and Michael Verdadeiro were able to identify and arrest Shawn Caughey by using good, old fashioned police work. They, along with Detective Decker, should be commended for their work and for taking this dangerous suspect off the streets in record time. The gun used in the crime was also recovered.

Caughey, 26 years old, has a last known address of 42 Winant Street, Staten Island, NY but recently began staying in Long Branch. He was charged with attempted murder, robbery, aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for unlawful purpose, unlawful firearm possession, and having a defaced firearm. He was remanded to Monmouth County Correctional Institution with no bail.

From Chief Roebuck: On Wednesday, 5/3/17, at approximately 4:15 AM, headquarters received a call for a suspicious vehicle stopped in the middle of the road, with two occupants whom appeared to be sleeping. Cpl. Delacruz and P.O. Umana were first to arrive on scene and began to investigate. Their professional actions and keen observations allowed them to locate and retrieve a loaded handgun which the driver was carrying. P.O. Umana secured the handgun and handcuffed the driver while Cpl. Delacruz covered the passenger.

The status of the call was radioed in to headquarters and backup officers, P.O. Richards and P.O. Beirne, quickly arrived. P.O. Richards removed the passenger from the vehicle while P.O. Beirne covered the subject. While conducting a pat down of the second subject, P.O. Richards discovered that he too was carrying a loaded handgun.

The excellent communication and teamwork demonstrated by all officers involved not only resulted in the removal of two handguns, but also the seizure of a sizable amount of illegal narcotics which were located within the vehicle.



From Chief Roebuck: On 7/6/2017 at 11:18pm, an unknown white male entered the Super Stop and Shop located at 150 West End Court, Long Branch. This subject approached the cashier pretending to be a customer. He quickly rounded the counter, pressed an object into the employee's back and demanded the money from the register drawer. This employee was in fear for her life and allowed him to remove the money from the register. The assailant then quickly left the store. Police were immediately notified and responded along with a police K-9 but they were unable to locate the accused. This case was assigned to Det David House of the Long Branch Police Dept.

On 7/9/17 at approximately 9:30pm, a white male entered Falvo's Liquor and Wines located at 197 Norwood Ave, Long Branch. The subject approached the female employee who was located behind the counter, near the register and counting money. As he neared the employee the assailant charged her and knocked her off her feet. The attacker then removed all the money from the register drawer. He then quickly fled the scene in the same direction he had entered. Once again police were called and responded. A K9 officer was also utilized but failed to locate this subject. This case was assigned to Det David Graminski and Det Joseph Spitale of the Long Branch PD.

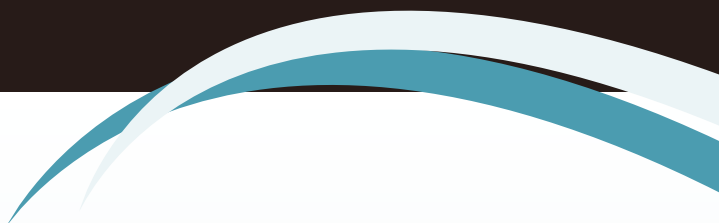
Detectives ascertained similarities from both robberies to include suspect description and Modus Operandi. Following an extensive investigation, John B. Vernicek aka "Brooks" (37yoa) was identified as the accused in both robberies. Based on information gathered throughout this investigation by Detectives and Patrolman Daniel Richards, it was learned that he was currently residing at 364 Westwood Ave, Long Branch. Several members of the Long Branch Police Detective Bureau responded to that location on 7/10/17. Vernicek was subsequently located in his apartment and arrested.

John B Vernicek was charged with two counts of 2nd degree Robbery as well as Possession of Heroin which he was found to be in possession of at the time of his arrest. He was subsequently shipped to MCCI where he is currently incarcerated.

From MCPO: Long Branch man arrested and charged for Sunday's shooting death in city, announced Monmouth County Prosecutor Christopher J. Gramiccioni. Jeffrey S. Williams, 29, of Long Branch, was arrested and charged in connection with the shooting death of Hector C. Mejia. Williams is formally charged with first degree Murder, first degree Felony Murder, first degree Robbery, second degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose and second degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm. Williams is scheduled for a detention hearing on Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at 1:30 before Monmouth County Superior Court Judge Richard W. English at the Monmouth County Courthouse.

The Long Branch Police Department received a 911 call from a resident of Liberty Street, at approximately 11:41 p.m. on July 16, 2017. The caller reported to police that she found her husband, Hector C. Mejia, lying on the ground bleeding in front of her home at that address. Police and medical personnel responded to that location and found the victim, with a gunshot wound, near the front door of the aforementioned address. Shortly thereafter, the victim was pronounced deceased at 11:56 p.m.

Long Branch Police contacted the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and a joint investigation was launched into the murder of Hector Mejia. Over the course of the next 4 days, detectives from both agencies worked tirelessly to identify the person responsible. Both the Keansburg and Lakewood Police Departments, also assisted in this investigation.

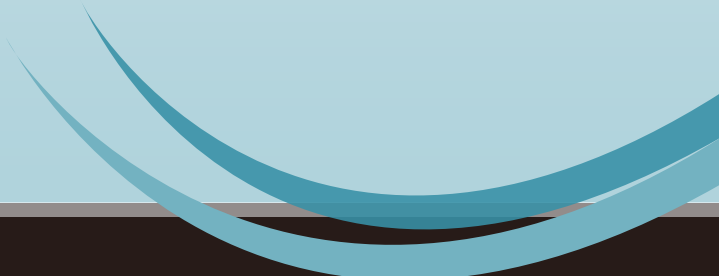


From MCPO: Yesterday, after a 10-day manhunt, officers from the US Marshals Service and Monmouth County Sheriff's Office arrested fugitive Donovan L. Wesley, 25 of Brick Township. Wesley, who was apprehended in Asbury Park, had been wanted for charges including Attempted Murder in connection with a shooting earlier this month in Long Branch.

On Sunday, October 8, 2017 at approximately 1:50 a.m. the Long Branch Police Department responded to a 911 call reporting a shooting inside a West Columbus Place residence in the city.

The victim, a 30-year-old male, was taken to a local hospital as a result of multiple gunshot wounds. He is currently on the road to recovery at home.

As a result of a joint investigation by the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Long Branch Police Department, Wesley was charged with first degree Attempted Murder, second degree Armed Burglary, first degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm and second degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose.



From Chief Roebuck: On October 18th at approximately 1851 hours, Eric Henderson, 32, of Bayville NJ was arrested in the armed robbery of off-duty Officer Patrick Joyce.

After a 5 day investigation by the Long Branch Detective Bureau, he was charged with 1st Degree armed robbery, aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for unlawful purposes and violation of a Final Restraining order (Contempt of Court). He was remanded to the Monmouth County Correctional Institution and currently awaits a bail hearing. The weapon, a knife, was recovered.



Here's a fun one from the desk of Police Chief Jason Roebuck: Fivo has been full of surprises this season as he visited the Long Branch Police Department. He was spotted in numerous locations throughout the City of Long Branch spreading holiday cheer and handing out candy canes. But he also put in many hours learning about police work. Before he has to return to the North Pole, the Long Branch Police Department wanted to surprise him for a change. In appreciation for all his training, hard work and the smiles he created this month, Fivo will be sworn in as official Police Elf on Friday, December 22, 2017!

Early in December, Fivo was introduced to the Long Branch Police Department after arriving at the home Chief Roebuck's Administrative Assistant, Kelly Hughes. As it turns out, he is related to her son's elf. Never seeing an elf in blue, she asked the Detective Bureau to help her do a background check and they opened an investigation into Fivo's story. They found that elves with blue outfits are very different from your average elf on the shelf. For starters, they all seem to be big supporters of law enforcement officers and have a keen interest in learning more about them. More importantly, the blue outfits they wear are magical in themselves as they are made from a technologically advanced material, only available in remote areas of the North Pole, which can protect an elf from any harm caused by a human's touch! (But, just in case, Corporal Jennifer Gant took a special online course to become certified as an E.E.M.T. or Elf Emergency Medical Technician so that she could administer first aid for any magic loss.) Once Kelly learned all this, she knew right where Fivo belonged and came to me for the approval to bring him to LBPD.

In the short time Fivo has spent with the PD, he has visited multiple schools, hidden in the Mayor's office with a sign welcoming Anastasia students to City Hall for their annual tour, ridden along with several officers handing out candy canes, learned investigation techniques from the Detective Bureau, assisted the Honor Guard at a Giants game to honor the memory of Ret. Cpl. Howard Townsend, visited the Citizens Police Academy, put some smiles on kids' faces when he visited Monmouth Medical and even had a little fun in the snow! Most importantly, he has been amazing at spreading holiday cheer to both the police and citizens of Long Branch! Even the Grinchiest of individuals who were not thrilled to hear an elf was joining the team eventually came to love him! It is definitely worth noting that any officer that trained or traveled with Fivo did it completely voluntarily!

In a recent statement, Kelly was quoted as saying, "I'm so grateful to Fivo for helping me share with so many people a little bit of what I see every day. Long Branch Officers are always doing kind things behind the scenes, especially for local children. And they do it just to see them smile!"

We want to send Fivo off with a special ceremony to name him our official Police Elf. We will be very sad to see him return to the North Pole but we hope he will be back next year!



# AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS

## L.B.P.D. AWARDS

The following officers received awards and/or letters in 2017 from the Department. Awards were given during a council meeting presentation on Tuesday, March 28th, 2017. Letters were presented during their platoon's briefing meeting.



Lt. Jorge Silverio  
DSgt. Brendan Cahill  
Sgt. Robert Bell  
Sgt. Heather Valdes  
Det. Michael Verdadeiro  
Det. Joseph Spitale  
Det. Richard O'Brien  
Det. Joseph Kennedy  
Det. Nicholas Romano  
Det. Jake Pascucci  
Cpl. Robert Korn  
Cpl. Jennifer Gant  
P.O. Stanley Eskridge  
P.O. Christopher Walls  
P.O. Matthew Widdis  
P.O. Patrick Joyce  
P.O. Hector Umana  
P.O. Jesus Otero  
P.O. Gary Vecchione  
P.O. Brian Oliveira  
P.O. Daniel Richards  
SLEO Giovanni Rodriguez  
SLEO Daniel Cunha  
Disp. Angela Blewett  
Disp. John Mania

## HONORABLE SERVICE

Sgt. Robert Bell

## UNIT CITATION

Cpl. Robert Korn  
DSgt. Brendan Cahill  
P.O. Stanley Eskridge  
P.O. Hector Umana  
P.O. Gary Vecchione  
Disp. Angela Blewett  
Disp. John Mania  
Lt. Jorge Silverio  
Det. Joseph Kennedy  
Det. Joseph Spitale  
Det. Nicholas Romano  
Det. Richard O'Brien  
Det. Jake Pascucci  
P.O. Daniel Richards  
S.O. Il Giovanni Rodriguez

### Honorable Service For:

The swift response and diligence you exhibited on the afternoon of January 25, 2017 during a call involving an attempted child abduction and multiple robberies. Your quick actions allowed for the apprehension of the suspect and the return of the stolen cell phones and prevented any further attempts by the suspect to harm additional victims.

### Unit Citation For:

Promptly and professionally effecting the arrest of a suspect wanted for an attempted child abduction as well as multiple robberies on the afternoon of January 25, 2017. The teamwork put forth by you and your Unit allowed for the safe resolution of this case within minutes of the crimes. Your swift efforts and thorough communication skills were exemplary.

### For:

The skill and perseverance you put forth during a month-long investigation during November of 2016. Though faced with many challenges including sensitive interviews and language barriers, through teamwork, you successfully closed the case. Your efforts resulted in the arrest of eleven people and permanently shut the doors of a facility promoting illegal drug use and prostitution.

## UNIT CITATION

P.O. Jesus Otero  
Det. Richard O'Brien  
Det. Jake Pascucci  
Det. Nicholas Romano  
Det. Michael Verdadeiro  
DSgt. Brendan Cahill





## HONORABLE SERVICE

S.O. I Daniel Cunha

For: Promptly and effectively assisting another officer in need of backup on June 5, 2016. Your swift response to aide the officer, without regard for your own safety, brought a dangerous situation to a peaceful conclusion. Your initiative to respond, without being dispatched, stands as a testament to your professionalism.

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE

P.O. Matthew Widdis

P.O. Brian Oliveira

For: Your brave and compassionate actions during an incident on May 30th, 2016 involving a distraught and intoxicated female. You selflessly placed yourself in a dangerous position, on the edge of a 15 foot roof, to attempt to reason with the subject. When negotiations failed, you took quick action, pulling her away from the roof and ensuring her safety. Your performance is a shining example of empathy and professionalism.

## LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Sgt. John Evangelho

P.O. James Beirne

P.O. Patrick Vaccaro

For: The exceptional manner in which you performed on May 30, 2016 in connection with a case involving a distraught and intoxicated female on a 15 foot roof. The outstanding teamwork and swift response you demonstrated were exemplary and allowed for the safe removal of the female from the roof without further incident or injury. The level of professionalism you demonstrated during this incident stands as a credit to the Long Branch Police Department.

## HONORABLE SERVICE

Cpl. Jennifer Gant

P.O. Christopher Walls

For: Your swift assessment and action during your response to an emergency medical call on the afternoon of September 5th, 2016. In spite of unfavorable conditions, you remained vigilant in your administration of medical care to an unresponsive, pregnant female from the point of your arrival on-scene, through her safe delivery to the hospital. Your skill and dedication saved the lives of both mother and unborn child and are a true asset to this department.

## HONORABLE SERVICE

P.O. Patrick Joyce

For: Your vigilant actions on August 14th, 2016, in locating and surveilling a wanted suspect from another town. You are commended for your rapid response to the call, received off-duty, during which you followed and apprehended the suspect while maintaining constant radio updates. Your actions allowed for the swift arrest of a suspect wanted for a stabbing.

## LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Cpl. Edwin Gomez  
Lt. Christopher Hazel  
Cpl. Juan E. Vasquez 272  
Cpl. Kevin King  
P.O. David Stone  
S.O. II Eric Bacany  
Disp. Angela Blewett

For: The exceptional manner in which you performed on August 14, 2016 in connection with a case involving a suspect wanted for a stabbing in Eatontown. Through your thorough communication and skilled initiative, the suspect was apprehended just minutes after the crime occurred. In addition, evidence, crucial to the successful prosecution of the case, was recovered.

The level of professionalism you demonstrated during this incident stands as a credit to the Long Branch Police Department.



## HONORABLE SERVICE

Lt. Jorge Silverio

For: Your keen observation skills and vigilant actions on March 31, 2016 while surveilling for a suspect wanted in a string of armed robberies and burglaries. Your ability to locate the suspect and take possession of his weapon prevented this case from escalating to a potentially dangerous outcome. Your swift decision making allowed for the arrest and removal of a dangerous suspect and a deadly weapon from the city streets.

Your swift actions on August 13th, 2016, when you responded to two frantic parents flagging you down to help their lifeless toddler. Your quick assessment of the situation allowed you to provide the proper medical attention and revive the toddler. Your ability to keep a calm demeanor in such a stressful situation is a testament to your professionalism and your performance undoubtedly saved

## HONORABLE SERVICE

Sgt. Heather Valdes

## LETTER OF COMMENDATION

P.O. KiJung Kim

For: The exceptional manner in which you performed on January 5, 2017 in connection with a case involving a burglary suspect. Your attentiveness during briefing and your keen observation skills allowed you to locate a suspect wanted in a string of car burglaries within only one hour of patrol. The apprehension of this suspect closed multiple cases of burglary in the city and undoubtedly prevented additional ones. The level of professionalism you demonstrated during this incident stands as a credit to the Long Branch Police Department.



## LONG BRANCH ELKS

Long Branch Elks Lodge #742 hosted their annual Charity Ball on April 22, 2017. Sergeant Heather Valdes was honored as Police Officer of the Year. Sgt. Valdes was chosen for this honor based on her swift actions on August 13th, 2016, when she responded to two frantic parents flagging her down to help their lifeless toddler. Her quick assessment of the situation allowed her to provide the proper medical attention and revive the toddler. Also honored were Chief Ron Guidetti, Volunteer Firefighter of the Year, Mark Garced, Firefighter of the Year and Jonathan Ryan, First Aider of the Year.



## NJNEOA

Cpl. Juan E. Vasquez, Det. Nicholas Romano and P.O. Dana Page were honored by The New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association (NJNEOA) at their Annual Awards Luncheon and presented with the "NJNEOA Guns, Gangs & Narcotics Law Enforcement Award" on June 8th.

Just before 11AM on April 10, 2016, Officer Dana Page responded to a first aid call describing a male victim suffering from seizures. Upon arrival, P.O. Page was greeted by a male who directed her to a first floor bathroom where another male was lying face-down on the ground. After a brief medical assessment, P.O. Page was able to determine that the subject was not suffering from seizures, but from an overdose of narcotics. She immediately informed EMS of her findings and ensured proper treatment of the subject. Meanwhile, she continued to investigate and gather information from the other male on scene. Based on the information gathered, P.O. Page did a walk-through of the residence, looking for any narcotics that may have been the cause of the overdose. During the investigation, she uncovered machines, equipment and paraphernalia utilized to manufacture and distribute controlled dangerous substances (CDS). Corporal Juan E. Vasquez and Detective Nicholas Romano arrived on scene to assist in securing the residence and continuing the investigation. Additional equipment and supplies were found in a room that appeared to be utilized as a laboratory.

Together, these officers, along with assistance from their supervisors and other members of the Detective Bureau, were able to shut down a large-scale narcotic manufacturing facility, arrest a drug manufacturer and seize a significant amount of illegal drugs.

## 200 CLUB OF MONMOUTH COUNTY

One June 2nd, the following officers were honored by the 200 Club of Monmouth County at their Annual Valor Awards Luncheon:

Sgt. Heather Valdes :

On August 13th, 2016, Sgt. Heather Hollis Valdes was on routine patrol when she was flagged down by a frantic father who was enroute to the hospital with his wife and daughter in his car. The man begged Sgt. Valdes to help his infant daughter who had fallen into a pool without a life-vest and was now limp and unresponsive. Sgt. Valdes took quick medical action to clear the girl's lungs of the water that was preventing her from breathing. After a few hits to the infant's back, she expelled an excessive amount of water and began to cry. Then, Sgt. Valdes put mom and daughter into her patrol vehicle to rush them to the hospital, instructing mom on how to keep her child awake and alert throughout the ride. Sgt. Valdes escorted the family to the pediatric emergency room and accompanied them while they assessed the girl. Sgt. Valdes went above and beyond the call of duty in her follow-up of this case. Later that evening, Sgt. Valdes called the parents to check on them and the status of their daughter. The next morning, she awoke and called them first thing to tell them they were on her mind. And, to this day, she has remained in contact with the family who credits her with "keeping their family whole".

Cpl. Jennifer Gant:

On Monday, September 5, 2016, a little after 6PM, LBPD Officers Cpl. Jennifer Gant and P.O. Christopher Walls responded to an EMS call on Myrtle Avenue. Dispatch advised the officers that there was an 8 month pregnant female that had collapsed and was unresponsive. Upon arrival, the officers were greeted by a child who directed them to the kitchen where he said, "Mommy dropped the blueberries and fell down". There, they found the woman collapsed on the floor in an extremely hot section of the home that was not much larger than a closet. Neither officer could find a pulse and the female was not breathing so Cpl. Gant immediately began chest compressions and P.O. Walls spoke to the victim's boyfriend to obtain information. MONOC arrived and began treating the woman as Cpl. Gant continued to administer CPR, administering chest compressions and providing breaths, remaining vigilant in her administration of medical care, in spite of the unfavorable and very uncomfortable conditions. The woman regained a heartbeat and began to take some small breaths. Cpl. Gant continued to assist with medical treatment all the way to the ambulance. Both Cpl. Gant and P.O. Walls escorted the ambulance to MMC. Cpl. Gant's remained in contact with the family through a long recovery period and was surprised to learn the parents had given the baby girl "Jennifer" as her middle name to honor Cpl. Gant! When the dad told Cpl. Gant about this, he added, "So now you're stuck with us, your new extended family. I wanted to honor you and that was the best way I knew how."

## 200 CLUB

Officers Matthew Widdis & Brian Oliveira:

On May 30, 2016, at approximately 0035 hours, Officers Matthew Widdis and Brian Oliveira, along with other officers, were dispatched to a call involving an out of control female. Upon arrival, the subject was found to be intoxicated and distraught. P.O. Widdis spoke with the female who explained that she had been fighting with her live-in boyfriend, who she felt was being non-sympathetic to her feelings after losing a close friend. It was agreed that the best course of action was for the female to leave and stay at a family member's house for the night to avoid any further confrontations. As she went to pack a bag, several units cleared and P.O. Widdis returned to his patrol car to enter call information via his laptop. When he heard yelling and a banging noise, he exited the vehicle to find the female on the roof, approximately 15' from the ground. P.O. Widdis quickly found and utilized a fire escape to climb onto the roof ledge with the female and attempted to reason with her to come back inside. A short time later, P.O. Oliveira joined them on the roof to assist. In spite of her agitated state and uncertain movements, these officers, without regard for their own safety, remained on the roof with the subject attempting to convince her to return inside. Reasoning with the subject failed, and she continued to move closer and closer to the ledge, putting herself and the officers in even greater danger. In a moment of her distraction by officers on the ground, P.O. Widdis and P.O. Oliveira grabbed the subject and dragged her to a nearby window where she was handed off to officers inside and dragged in to safety.

Officer Stanley Eskridge:

On 1/8/16 the Neptune Township Police Department was dispatched to a report of a fight at the intersection of SH 66 and Green Grove Rd. While officers were in route additional calls for service were received reporting a physical altercation between two drivers and the report of an off-duty police officer arriving on scene. Upon the arrival of the responding officers, PO Eskridge had control of the scene and the 20 year old accused in custody and handcuffed. The victim, a 57 year old male, was injured. As a result of the assault, he sustained a large red swollen mark on his forehead and multiple red marks to the left side of his ribs. The victim stated the accused began to pass a stopped school bus which was actively letting children off at the school and almost struck two children crossing the roadway. The victim and the accused exchanged words and the accused drove off. As the victim approached the intersection of SH 66 and Green Grove Road the accused turned his vehicle around and pulled behind the victim's vehicle. The accused approached the driver's side door on foot and threw a large soda in the victim's face. As the victim attempted to exit his vehicle, he slipped, and fell to the ground at which point the accused proceeded to punch and kick him. PO Stanley Eskridge who was in uniform and responding for duty at the Long Branch Police Department drove upon the accused who was actively mauling the victim. PO Eskridge stopped the assault, ordered the accused to comply and handcuffed him until Neptune Township Police Officers arrived. The victim personally thanked PO Eskridge for intervening while he was being assaulted. PO Eskridge should be commended for his actions on this date. His intervention during this assault saved the victim from serious bodily injury and assisted the Neptune Township Police Department with the arrest and charges filed against the accused.



# LONG BRANCH SOA & PBA

## S.O.A. BOARD

Christopher Hazel, President  
Stanley Mooney, Vice President  
Jorge Silverio, Recording Secretary  
Brian Garrett, Treasurer  
Jeffrey Grippaldi, Trustee  
Marshall Brown, Trustee  
Brendan Cahill, Trustee  
Robert Shamrock, Sergeant At Arms



## P.B.A. BOARD

Michael Decker, President  
Charles Simonelli, Vice President  
Joseph Kennedy, Treasurer  
Kimberly Leavy, Recording Secretary  
Joshua Wagner, Financial Secretary  
David Graminski, State Delegate  
Christopher Gant, Trustee  
Sam Yoo, Trustee  
Joseph Spitale, Trustee  
Thomas Hueston, Sergeant At Arms



The Long Branch Policemen's Benevolent Association (PBA) Local #10 and the Superior Officers Association (SOA) Local #10a share in their mission to provide mutual protection and benefits 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 and ordinances, the safeguarding of constitutional rights and guarantees and to 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 as well as through their development of social and cultural assemblies.

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS & EVENTS

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The 20th Annual Long Branch National Night Out Against Crime took place on Tuesday, August 1st in Slocum Park! The entire community was invited to attend and enjoy free

- Pizza, Hot Dogs, desserts and soft drinks!
- A K-9 and a Martial Arts demo!
- A live DJ
- Child ID's
- Touch-a-Truck
- Prize Wheel & Gaga Ball
- And much more!

This is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Many local businesses and organizations attend to help make this event the huge success it is every year.

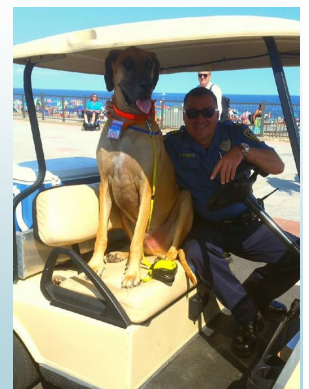
Sponsored in part by The National Association of Town Watch (NATW), United Neighbors, Inc., The LBPD and the City of Long Branch. Coordinated by Corporal Joe Graziano of the Urban Enterprise Zone.



## OCEANFEST

Since 1990, hundreds of thousands visit the oceanfront promenade from points all over the Mid-Atlantic region for Oceanfest — an all-day, family-friendly festival with food, music, art, vendors, live entertainment and bands and the most spectacular fireworks display you'll see anywhere along the NJ coast.

All of our Officers are there looking out for you!  
(And having a little fun along the way!)



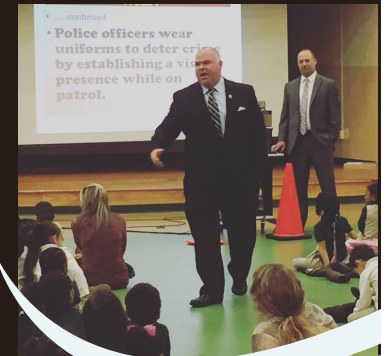


# SCHOOL PROGRAMS



LBPDP participated in many school related programs throughout the year. Corporals Joseph Graziano and Kimberly Leavy visited the younger grades to discuss general safety and teach the students about police. Detectives Charles Simonelli and Michael Decker gave presentations at the middle school and high school pertaining to more mature safety topics. Many other members assisted such as Sergeant Robert Shamrock, Officer Omar Akel and K9 Hades who did countless K9 demonstrations for the schools. Another always popular event amongst local students was attending one of our tours of the Police Department and City Hall.

The annual "How to Save a Life / Project Prom" presentation, held at the High School, aimed to raise awareness of the very serious and very real consequences that can stem from teen drinking. This program is a very powerful and large-scale presentation that is made possible through the partnering of the Long Branch Public Schools with many local and state agencies. The L.B.P.D., along with the Long Branch Fire Department, Long Branch First Aid, Monmouth County Sheriff's Office, New Jersey State Police, MONOC and other local organizations and businesses all assisted.





# CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY



The L.B.P.D. Citizens Police Academy (LBCPA) was started in 2015 by Corporals Joseph Graziano and Kimberly Leavy and has become a huge success! In 2017, Classes #4 and #5 graduated and over 180 people have completed the program!

The LBCPA is designed to provide members of the community with a greater understanding of the Long Branch Police Department and its operations. It is a free 8-week course with lectures by guest speakers, in-the-field hands-on experiences and a graduation ceremony at the conclusion.

A few topics participants learn about include firearms, motor vehicle stops, K9 demonstrations, LBPd operational procedures, legal system overview, use of force, dangerous drugs, domestic violence and elder abuse.

Corporals Graziano and Leavy were recognized by several local organizations in 2017, including Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and the Rotary Club of Long Branch for their outstanding work with this program.



# POLICE WEEK



In 2017, the Long Branch Police Department celebrated their first ever Police Week! From the vision of Rev. Sandra Gonzalez, founder of the Long Branch Citizens Police Academy Alumni, and the generous support of many local organizations, a week of events to

honor First Responders and celebrate Community was born! All Police Officers, Fire Fighters, First Aiders, families, friends and community members were invited to join in on the activities. All events were free with the exception of a small admission fee for the basketball game. Donations were accepted at each event to go towards the purchase of a bullet-proof vest for our newest K-9, Hades. The week was a big success & the 2nd Annual Police Week is already in the planning stages!

Police Week ran from May 30th to June 4th and events included:

- A Community & Law Enforcement Forum
- Inbound Service to the Seniors
- Community Garden Kickoff & Children of Police Officers Talk
- Young Adults vs. Police Officers Basketball Game & Pizza Party
- Who Let the Dogs Out? - Dog Walk / K9 Meet & Greet
- Blue Mass—First Responder Appreciation & Prayer Service

THE LONG BRANCH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY & THE CITY OF LONG BRANCH, NJ PRESENT

## POLICE WEEK

MAY 30<sup>TH</sup> - JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2017

A WEEK OF EVENTS TO HONOR FIRST RESPONDERS AND CELEBRATE COMMUNITY

**TUESDAY, MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>**

**"Community & Law Enforcement Forum"**

6PM Long Branch Public Library, 325 Broadway

M.C. Pastor Tony Moss of L.B. Covenant Church will lead a discussion between Officers and Community Members

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 31<sup>ST</sup>**

**"Inbound Service to the Seniors"**

10AM Long Branch Senior Center, 85 Second Avenue

Long Branch Police Officers & Police Academy Alumni will assist in delivering meals to homebound Seniors

**THURSDAY, JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup>**

**"Community Garden & Children of Police Officers"**

4PM - 7PM Community Garden, Seventh Avenue / L.B. Concordance Family Success Center, 300 Broadway

Volunteers will assist with gardening then meet for refreshments & a discussion about what it means to be part of a family with generations of police service

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**"Young Adults vs. Police Officers Basketball Game & Pizza Party"**

5PM - 7PM Long Branch Middle School, 350 Indiana Avenue

L.B. Officers will compete on the court with local youth followed by a pizza party in the cafeteria. A small ticket fee will be charged at the door to raise funds for a K-9 vest.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup>**

**"Who Let the Dogs Out? Dog Walk / K-9 Meet & Greet"**

12PM - 3PM Wolf Hill Dog Park, 3 Crescent Place, Oceanport

Bring your furry friend for a stroll around the dog park & chat with Long Branch Officers including a K-9 team or two! Help buy a K-9 bullet-proof vest with a donation!

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**"BLUE MASS - Police Officer Appreciation & Prayer Service"**

4PM St. James' Episcopal Church, 300 Broadway

All are invited to this celebration of First Responders & Blessing of their fleet vehicles followed by light refreshments

For more information on these events please email [lbcpaalumni@aol.com](mailto:lbcpaalumni@aol.com)

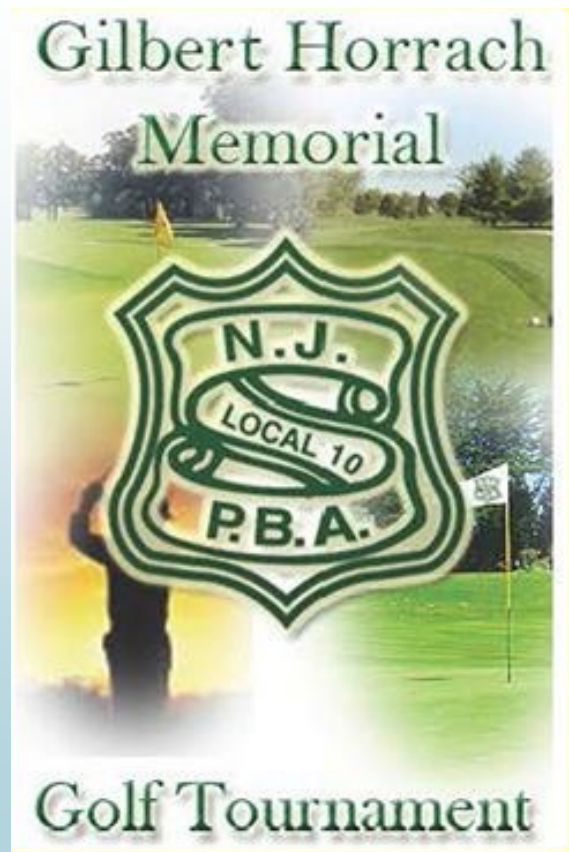
**SPONSORED BY:**





## ANNUAL PBA GOLF TOURNAMENT

The annual Captain Gilbert Horrach Memorial Golf Tournament sponsored by Long Branch P.B.A. Local #10 was held on Monday August 14, 2017 at Battleground Country Club in Manalapan. The proceeds of this event are going to the Head and Neck Cancer Research Center at Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in the name of Sam Nativo. Sam Nativo is the owner of Mix Lounge & Food Bar in West End and is currently under treatment for cancer. Mr. Nativo is an avid supporter of both the City of Long Branch and the Long Branch Police Department. The Long Branch Police Department is honored to raise money on behalf of Mr. Nativo.



## HURRICANE HARVEY HELP

The Long Branch PBA Local #10 and Long Branch FMBA Local #68 sent eight boxes of shirts to the Texas Fire Marshals' Office as a donation to help assist First Responders who were in need from the effects of hurricane Harvey.



# MARATHONS & OTHER RUNS/WALKS

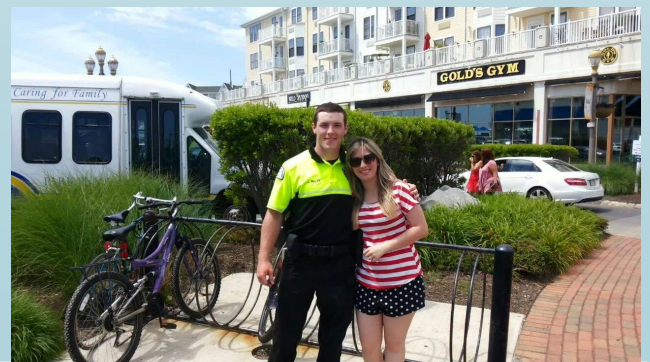
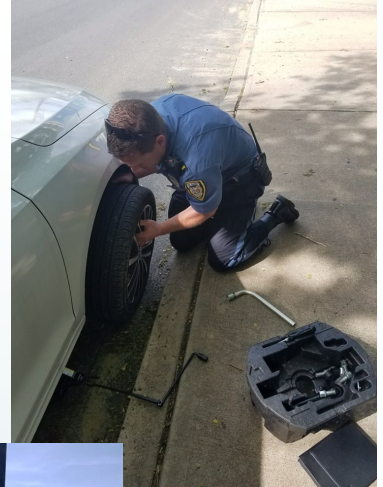
From the New Jersey Marathon, which draws thousands in participants and spectators, to our city to organizational Runs and Walks, the Long Branch Police Department is there. Every event that takes place in our City is planned for and overseen by our officers.

Officers also participate in the NJ Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics , helping to keep the torch moving safely through Long Branch. “More than 3,000 officers take to the streets of their local communities on one of 26 separate routes to help carry the ‘Flame of Hope’ to the Special Olympics New Jersey Summer Games. The culmination of the run is the lighting of the Special Olympics New Jersey cauldron at the Opening Ceremony to officially open the 2017 Summer Games, an event that features more than 2,500 Special Olympics athletes. “





# RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS



On any given day, you may catch one of our officers doing a good deed for our many locals and visitors. From taking their lunch break at the school cafeteria with students to changing a tire, here are a few of our favorite random acts of kindness caught on camera in 2017.



## COMMEND-A-COP

We commend the many good deeds performed by our officers on a regular basis that often go unnoticed. Our hope is to acknowledge those actions with the help of our community. And so, the Commend-A-Cop Program was born.

Citizens are encouraged to share positive interactions with our officers via our website at: <http://bit.ly/CommendACop>

## MOST POPULAR POST

8/23/17

854 Likes · 250 Shares

Sgt. Robert Shamrock stops Taylor in her pink convertible.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

- April 22, 2017 marked 4 years that we've shared with all of you on Facebook! Thank you to all who have visited our page, liked our photos, shared our posts and followed us!
- Reached 7,000 Facebook page likes on 8/23/17
- Posted 17 Events, 25 Status Updates, 97 Links, 19 Videos & 542 Photos on Facebook & Twitter
- #FIVOLBPD - Fivo (5-0) arrived in December to help spread some holiday cheer. He was an instant hit with children of all ages and was even featured on 94.3 The Point & Fox News! By the end of his visit, he was sworn in as "Official Long Branch Police Elf".
- 4/1/17-Treasure washes up on Long Branch Public Beach! Or did it? With 265 Reactions, 94 Shares & 73 Comments we're warning you in advance of another April Fool's Day post!

## VISIT US!

Facebook: [facebook.com/LongBranchPolice](https://facebook.com/LongBranchPolice)

Twitter: [twitter.com/LongBranchPD](https://twitter.com/LongBranchPD)





## AND DID WE MENTION...?

Four of our Officers proudly supported the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) agreement with FEMA by embarking on a mission to assist in Puerto Rico. Sgt. Juan H. Vasquez #282, Sgt. Heather Valdes #290, Cpl. Edwin Gomez #276 and Cpl. Julio Delacruz #278 left their families to go help on a two week assignment in Puerto Rico in response to the hurricane devastation. Our officers joined the incredible team of many other first responders and organizations who made this mission possible, including the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management, the New Jersey State Police, Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office and, of course, FEMA Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Giovanni Cichella, Chief of Police in Pineto, Italy visited The City of Long Branch, NJ with his family and got the grand tour of the police department. Chief Cichella contacted Chief Roebuck about two years ago to inquire about policing in the United States. Since then, they have been electronic "Pen Pals" and have been in touch on a regular basis. It was our pleasure to meet him and his lovely family!



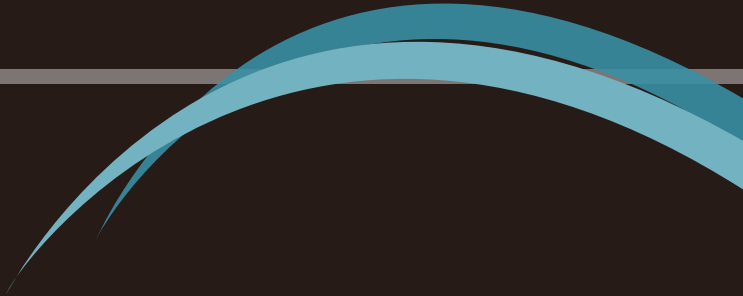
The Long Branch Police Department will celebrate its 150th Anniversary in 2018. A committee was formed and planning started for a celebratory Ball in April!



# LONG BRANCH

## *Public Safety Open Data*

PS Open Data Page - LBPD's new Public Safety Open Data page is up and running!  
Easily find information about calls for service, community involvement, contacts, officer requirements and more! New information is added and updated as available. Check it out at [www.visitlongbranch.com/departments/public-safety/police/public-safety-open-data](http://www.visitlongbranch.com/departments/public-safety/police/public-safety-open-data)



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	Cpl. Joseph Graziano
Lt. Joshua Bard	Det. David House
Theresa Coyne	Kelly Hughes
Cpl. Bienvenido Cruz	Det. Joseph Kennedy
Sgt. Brian Garrett	Cpl. Kimberly Leavy
Det. David Graminski	Det. Charles Simonelli



The 2017 Annual Review was compiled and produced in 2018 under the direction of Police Chief Jason Roebuck by Kelly Hughes

**LONG BRANCH POLICE DEPARTMENT**