



Annual Report
2020

FORT LEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

1327 16TH STREET FORT LEE, NJ 07024

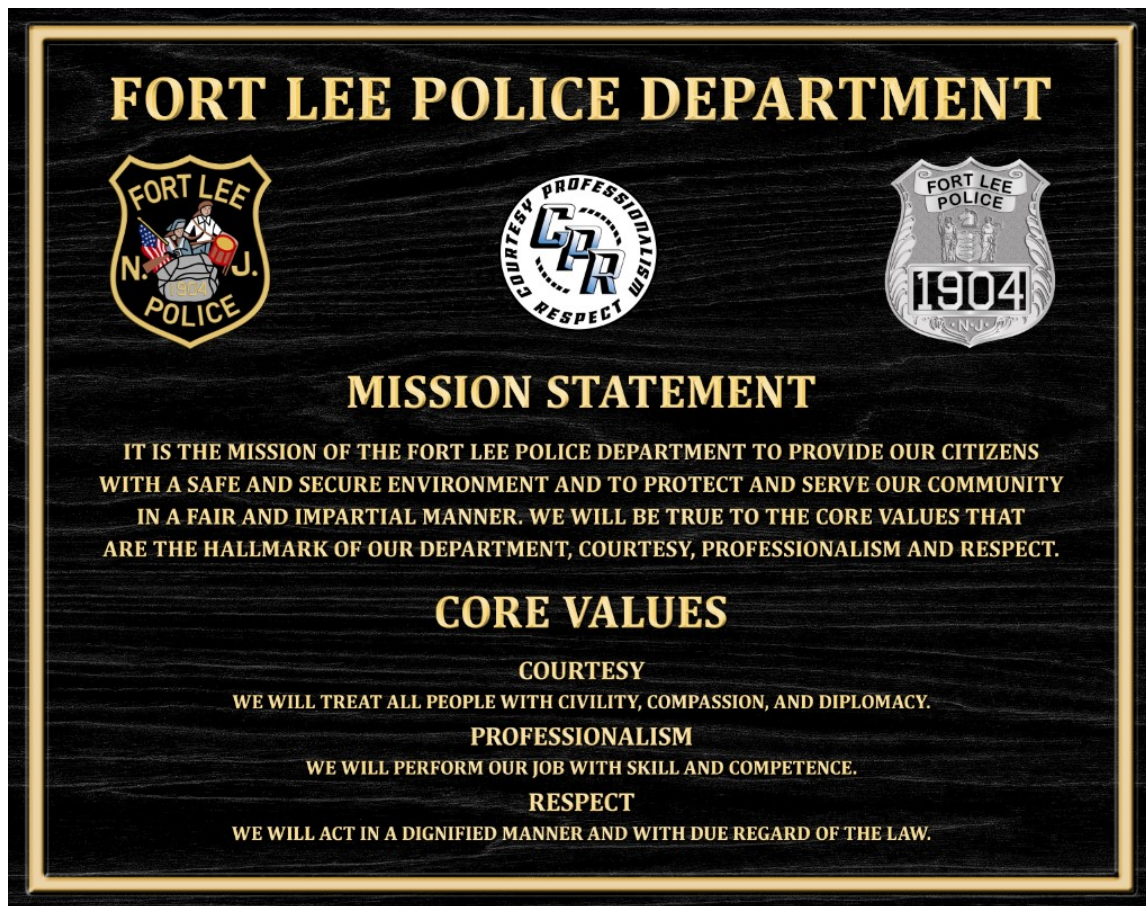
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Courtesy

Professionalism

Respect



Vision Statement

As ambassadors of Fort Lee, we will strive every day to conduct ourselves with the highest degree of integrity. We will work together to build trust between the police department and our community. We believe in accountability for our actions and will work with honor and dedication.

We will preserve life, protect property, reduce crime and the fear of crime, improve traffic safety and maintain human rights for all who live, work and visit the Borough of Fort Lee.

We will enforce the laws while respecting the rights and dignity of each individual, regardless of race, color, creed, gender or gender identity, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religious beliefs, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability.

We will strive to always do what is in the best interest of our community. We will provide our community with a superior level of services and will conduct our work in an efficient and timely manner. We will strive to maintain an open environment that is accessible to the public and to conduct our affairs publicly whenever possible.

MATTHEW J. HINTZE

CHIEF OF POLICE

On June 1, 2019, Matthew J. Hintze became the eleventh person appointed as the Chief of Police for the Borough of Fort Lee Police Department. As Chief, he is responsible for establishing and enforcing the Rules and Regulations of the department, as well as the policies and procedures vital to successfully managing the daily operations of the police department. He is also responsible for determining the department's internal organization and structure to ensure adequate staffing necessary to serve the community of the Borough of Fort Lee.



Prior to assuming the Chief of Police position, Chief Hintze has held numerous supervisory positions within the department. As a Captain, he was the Detective Division Commander, where he was responsible for overseeing all criminal investigations conducted by detectives in the following bureaus: General Investigations, Narcotics / Anti-Crime, Juvenile, Evidence, and Data Analysis Reporting and Trends (DART). Chief Hintze was also the Commander of the Internal Affairs Bureau and was responsible for the intake, investigation, and disposition of internal, anonymous and citizen complaints made against members of the department.

While in the rank of Lieutenant, Chief Hintze was assigned to various positions. He was the Commander of the Emergency Services Unit, where he supervised high risk incidents that not only occurred in the Borough of Fort Lee but also in outside jurisdictions. Chief Hintze was also the Training Bureau Supervisor, Background Investigation Unit Supervisor, the Communication Center Supervisor / 9-1-1 Coordinator and a Patrol Supervisor. As a Sergeant, Chief Hintze was assigned to the Detective Division, as well as the Patrol Division.

Prior to becoming a Sergeant in 2011, Chief Hintze was assigned to the Patrol Division, where he was a Field Training Officer for new officers that recently graduated the Police Academy. He was also a member of the department's Emergency Services Unit and a certified Emergency Medical Technician. Chief Hintze obtained his New Jersey police instructor certification while in patrol, and has maintained certifications as an instructor for Firearms, TASER, CPR, Use of Force, and Active Shooter Response.

Chief Hintze was raised in the Borough of Fort Lee and attended Fort Lee Public Schools. After graduating from the Fort Lee High School, he attended Pace University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice. He completed the Rutgers University Certified Public Manager program and recently graduated from Fairleigh Dickinson University, with a Master's degree in Administrative Science. Chief Hintze is an exempt member of the Fort Lee Fire Department and a life member of the Fort Lee Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

COMMAND STAFF

Deputy Chiefs



Deputy Chief Stephen Gallagher



Deputy Chief Daniel Zusi

Captains



Captain Andrea Cappola



Captain Steven No



Captain Ricky Mirkovic

2020 PROMOTIONS



Lt. Thomas Porto



Lt. Brian Cullen



Lt. Richard Hernandez



Sgt. Jared Zusi



Sgt. Dean Mirkovic



Det. David Tropea



Det. Laki Pothos

2020 RETIREMENTS



Both Dispatcher Ennis (Left) and Officer Cabrera (Right) retired this year after 25 years of service.

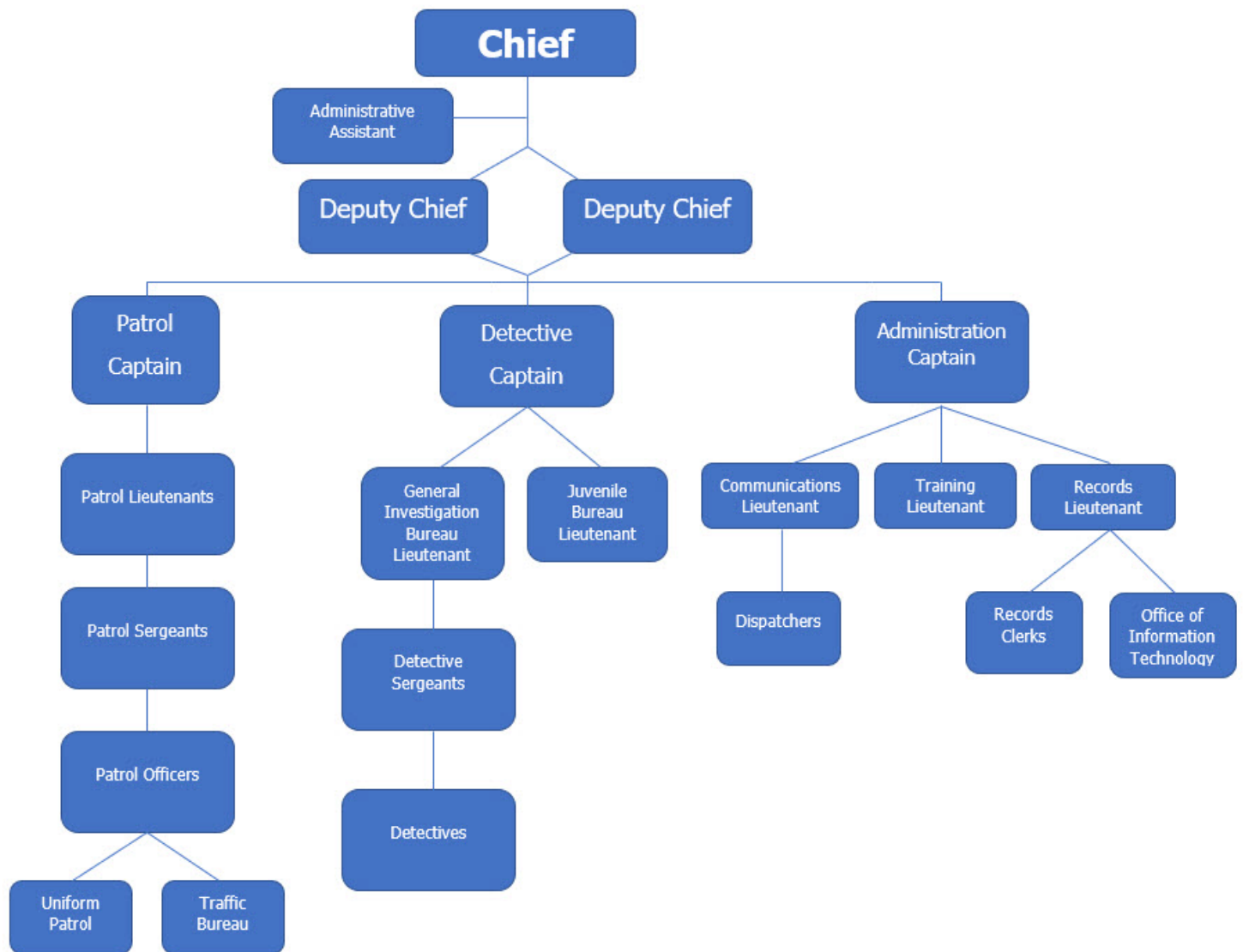
2020 PATROL PERSONNEL ADDITIONS

The Fort Lee Police Department had the honor of adding 8 new officers to the department, all sworn in on December 21, 2020.



From left to right: Christopher Dombroski, Nicholas Zevits, Anthony Sutura, Jason Cho, Joseph McCue, Gabriel Noel, Christine Bizub, and Armando Antonio.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



DATA & CRIME STATISTICS

CALLS BY THE NUMBERS

Assist A Person = 931

Motorist Assist = 180

Police Investigations = 2,715

Motor Vehicle Stops = 7,867

Pedestrian Stops = 8,331

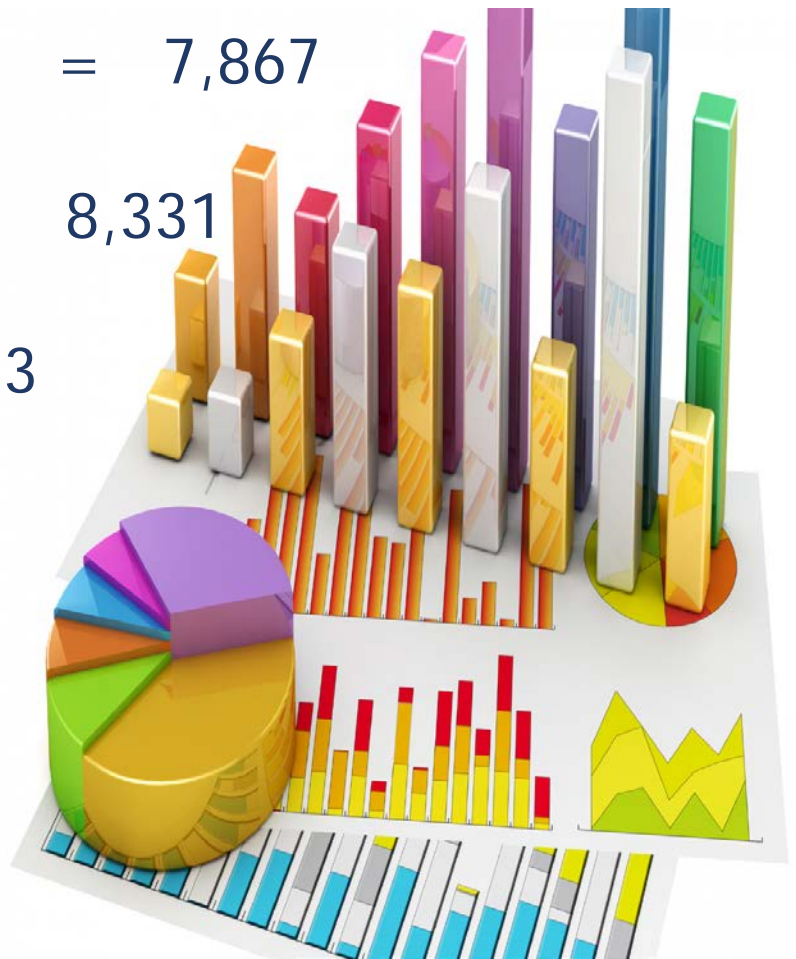
Total Arrests = 443

Stolen Cars = 33

Burglaries = 74

Shoplifting = 48

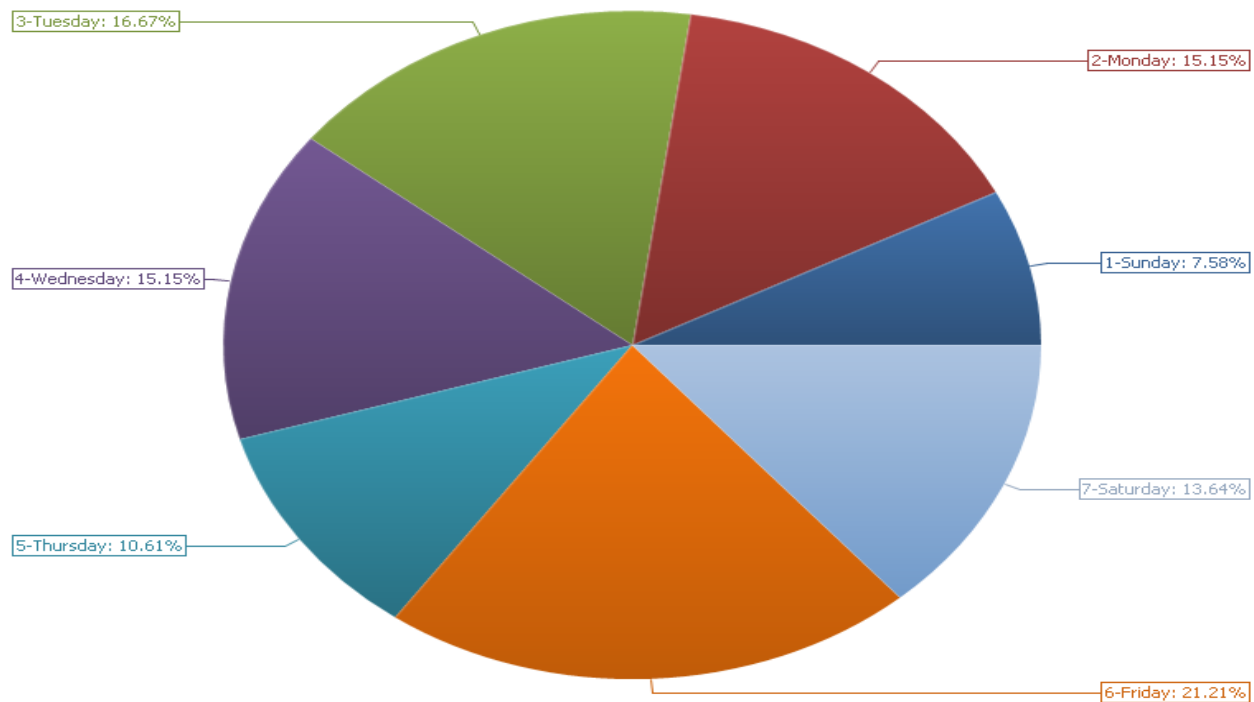
Total Call for Service = 79,536



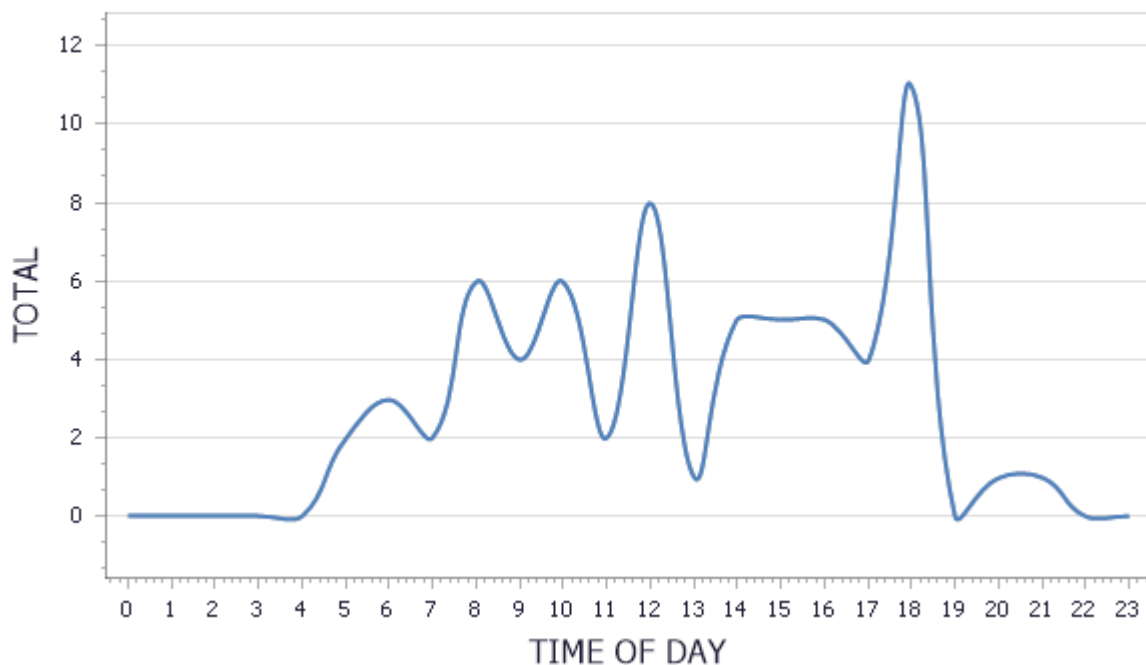
TRAFFIC SAFETY

STRUCK PEDESTRIAN STATISTICS

Call Breakdown By Day Of Week

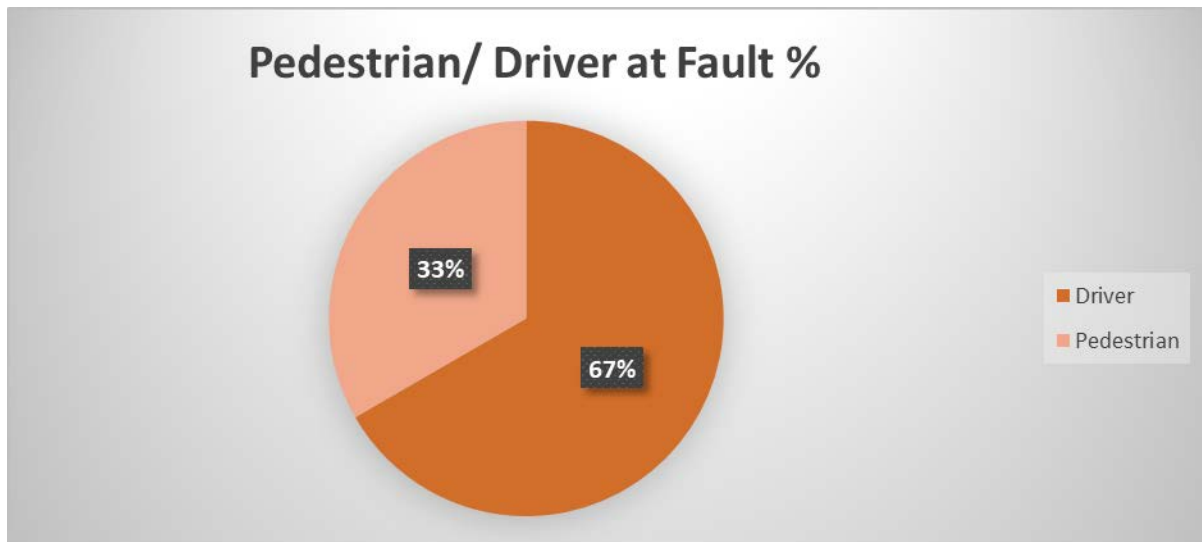
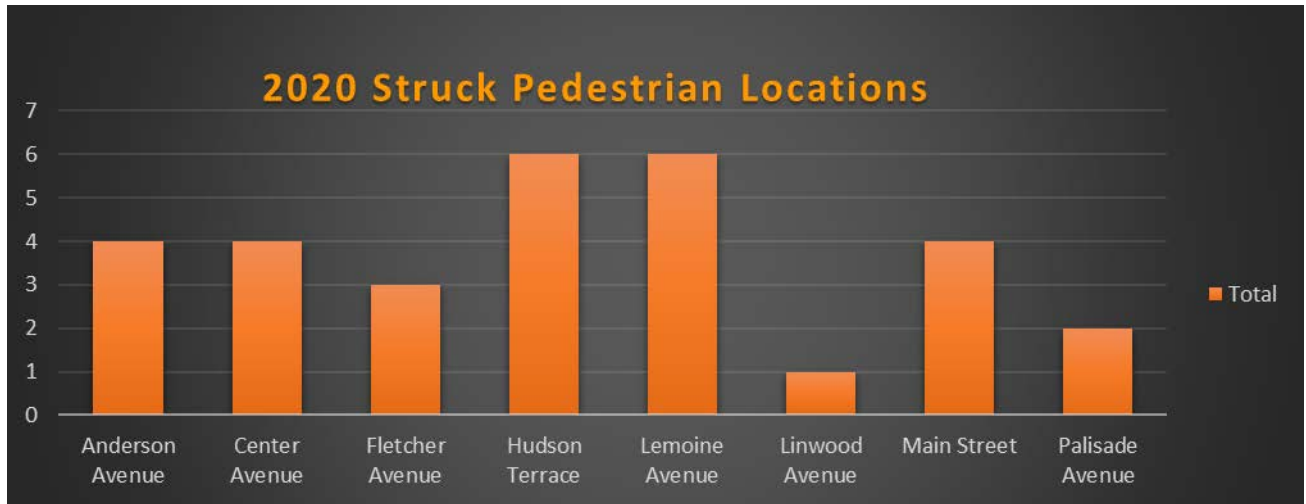


Call Breakdown By Time Of Day



PEDESTRIAN STATISTICS

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Pedestrian Crashes	62	70	77	66
Crashes involving Injuries	16	13	22	21
Pedestrian Deaths	1	2	1	2



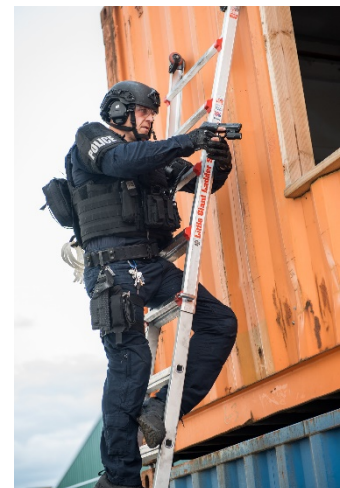
MOTORCYCLE UNIT

The Motorcycle Unit hold a unique position within the Fort Lee Police Department and has many functions including traffic enforcement, patrol duties, escorts, public relations and parades. Motorcycles are highly maneuverable and their response capabilities make them excellent tools for traffic law enforcement in any congested area. A Motor Unit's ability to maneuver through heavy traffic allows them to respond to incidents much faster than a traditional patrol car. The Fort Lee Police Motor Unit's are invited regularly to schools and special events such as local parades, community events, and other details. Our motor units are also regularly called upon to participate in funerals and other ceremonial duties.



EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

The Emergency Service Unit (ESU) is part of the Patrol Division. The officers assigned are uniquely trained and equipped to perform tactical operations much like a SWAT unit and perform technical rescue operations. Members of ESU are cross-trained in multiple disciplines for fire emergencies, police, first aid, and rescue work. ESU responds to high-risk, tactical operations involving barricaded suspects, hostage situations, high-risk warrant service and tactical crowd control. ESU is always on patrol (all three tours, 365 days a year).

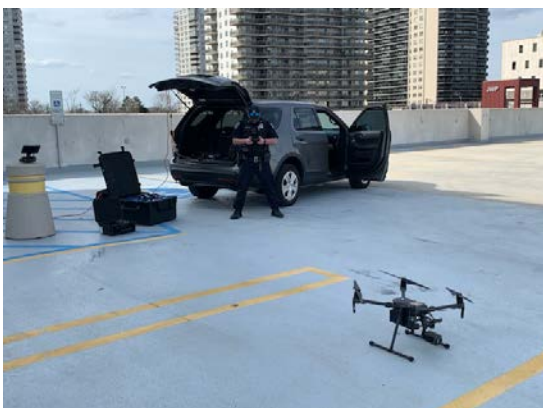


AVIATION UNIT

The Fort Lee Police Department Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, is operational during critical incidents, such as searching for missing or wanted persons, fires, and other major incidents. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) granted the police department with a Certificate of Authorization, which permits public safety flights over Fort Lee's complex air space. Team members are trained and licensed FAA Remote Pilots, who undergo a robust training program to ensure team preparedness and readiness.

FLPD UAS are equipped with spot lights, speakers and thermal imaging cameras that enable the department to locate hotspots at fires, search for suspects and conduct search and rescue missions more efficiently, while keeping both our personnel and the general public safe. With 4K aerial video and photograph capabilities, the team has utilized UAS to assist with traffic management during major gridlock conditions, crime scene photography and accident reconstruction. The department's UAS are also capable of providing incident commanders with live stream video at incidents, which provides public safety leaders with real-time situational awareness during these demanding emergency situations. This enables these leaders the ability to make immediate decisions to preserve life and property.

The FLPD UAS team is part of the primary team that responds to the Palisades Interstate Park to assist in locating lost hikers and persons who have fallen off of the cliffs on the New Jersey side of park. The Palisades Interstate Park is a 2,500-acre park spanning over 12 miles between Fort Lee and Alpine with cliffs that drop more than 400 feet. As such, having the UAS team is critical in bringing resolution to critical incidents involving such a large wooded and potentially dangerous terrain. In 2020, the UAS team was directly involved and responsible for locating several lost hikers and the recovery of several bodies that had succumb to falls along the cliffs.



HONOR GUARD

The Fort Lee Police Department Honor Guard has two specific functions. The Color Guard displays flags and traditionally attends at the lead or opening of events. The Rifle Squad performs rifle volleys to commemorate the deceased on certain occasions.



COMMUNICATION CENTER

The Communications Center handles radio and telephone communications, providing 24-hour coverage with all on-duty emergency personnel. In total, for the year of 2020, the Fort Lee Communications Center received 82,106 calls. Specifically, 15,707 emergency calls and 66,398 non-emergency calls. The Communications Center is staffed by 12 Full-Time employees under the supervision of a Police Lieutenant.



DEPARTMENT VEHICLES

In 2020, the Fort Lee Police Department purchased 2020 Ford Police Interceptor Utility vehicles, which are 75-mph rear-impact crash tested. In the event of a crash, advanced safety technology helps to absorb the energy of the collision and to direct the impact forces away from the occupants. Additionally, crumple zones are strategically placed in the frame or body of the vehicle, further absorbing and dissipating the energy of a crash to reduce intrusion into the occupant compartment. These new vehicles are powered by a 285-hp, 260-lb-ft naturally aspirated 3.3-liter V-6 engine.



COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many of our usual events were canceled, but we plan on continuing many of them when it is safe to do so. We were able to assist the Fort Lee Health Department in conducting mobile COVID-19 testing sites throughout the borough on several dates at several different locations. We also participated in Read Across America, NJ Street Smart Program – Walk Smart, Operation Chill, Special Olympics Torch Run, Memorial Day Drive by Parade, Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge, Bicycle Safety for our kids, DEA's Operation Takeback and delivering food to the needy in cooperation with the Bergen County Sheriff's Department.

Mobile Covid-19 Testing Center



Read Across America



NJ Street Smart's Walk Smart Program



Operation Chill

A tasty reward for staying cool – that's the Operation Chill program. This 7-Eleven community outreach program is designed to reduce crime and enhance relations between police and youths. It allows law enforcement officers to reward kids they observe doing good deeds or exhibiting positive behavior with drink coupons. The coupon is good for a free medium Slurpee® at any participating store.



Special Olympics Torch Run



Memorial Day Drive by Parade



Polar Bear Plunge



Food Delivery w/ BCSD



Operation Takeback



Bicycle Safety



MERIT BOARD

The Merit Board reviews any act of Police service performed by the Fort Lee Police Department based upon investigation of the merits of the act, recommend the category and type of award.



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This Award will be given to an officer who has made an especially valuable contribution to the running or improvement of the Police Department.

- Lieutenant Thomas Porto
- Lieutenant Edward Young
- Detective Jay Makroulakis
- Detective Thomas Keelen
- Police Officer Christopher Richter
- Detective Dennis Conway
- Detective David Tropea
- Police Officer Tony Pickens
- Police Officer Ralph Liquori
- Police Officer Dillon Turner
- Police Officer John Gallo

01/15/2020 – Life Saving Award

The Life Saving Award may be awarded to any member of the department whose prompt and alert action, through disregard of personal safety, results in saving a life.

- Lieutenant Edward Young
- Police Officer Patrick Cillo
- Police Officer Harold Campo
- Police Officer Yoon Hye (Alice) Ji
- Police Officer Nicholas Cima
- Police Officer Natalie Mateus
- Civilian Award (Crisitian Preda)

12/07/2019 – Meritorious Unit Citation

Service Awards will be recommended for exceptional police work, where the officer works with other officers, however did not involve a degree of danger.

- Police Officer Zachary Joseph
- Police Officer Nicholas Cima

09/15/2020 - Meritorious Unit Citation

Service Awards will be recommended for exceptional police work, where the officer works with other officers, however did not involve a degree of danger.

- Police Officer Alex Zevits
- Police Officer Michael Scicutella

01/31/2019 - Investigation Award

- Detective Nick Orta
- Detective Thomas Keelen

07/23/2019 – Investigation Award

- Sergeant Cory Horton
- Sergeant Dean Mirkovic
- Detective Jay Makroulakis



Police Officers Lakawicz, Ji, and Mateus were also recognized by the Fort Lee VAC

12/30/2019 – Critical Care Award

- Sergeant Antonio Hernandez
- Police Officer Alan Rivero
- Police Officer Stephen Domenick
- Police Officer Joseph Zevits

05/26/2020 – Letter for Service

Letter of Appreciation will be given when the Merit Board wishes to recognize an officer's actions.

- Police Officer Michael Bialoblocki

06/27/2020 – Letter of Service

Letter of Appreciation will be given when the Merit Board wishes to recognize an officer's actions.

- Police Officer Carlos Cabrera

02/11/2020 – Civilian Appreciation Award

This Award will be given to citizens that significantly assist the police.

- Dispatcher Jennifer Perelli

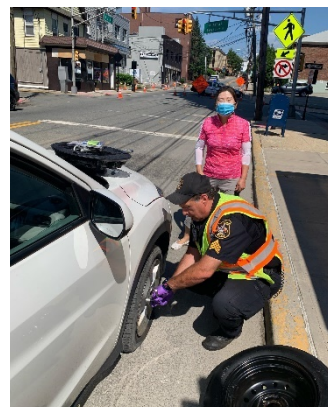
SOCIAL MEDIA

Website

The Fort Lee Police Department's website was redesigned in 2019 and was incorporated into the Borough of Fort Lee's website (www.fortleenj.org), along with every other department within the borough. The Fort Lee Police Department currently sends out messages via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Many messages are broadcast across multiple social media platforms, but considering the differences in each platform – some messages may not be posted on all platforms. **#FortLeePD**



The Fort Lee Police Department utilizes the Nixle platform in order to reach the public. Currently, our Nixle account has over 5,000 contacts. We sent out over 5,000 Nixle messages in 2020. People can opt in for both services. In an emergency situation, we have the ability to contact over 22,000 residents with a pre-recorded voice message via the telephone. Typical messages included are road closures, emergency notifications, crime alerts and more.



THANK YOU

The Fort Lee Police Department would also like to thank the public for their outpouring of support during the COVID-19 pandemic.



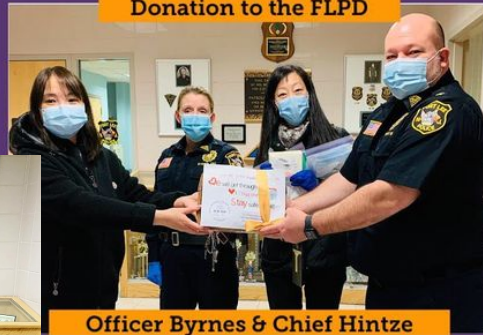
To Our Fort Lee Police Officers,

While each one of us has a calling in life that ultimately defines who we are, there are no greater callings than those that characterize individuals as people who dedicate their lives to protecting the safety, security, health, and well-being of others. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers daily as you risk your lives to protect ours.

In an effort to safeguard your health and well-being, please accept this donation of masks on behalf of the management of WokBar here in Fort Lee. We can never repay you for the enormous daily sacrifices you are making on behalf of the people of our community, but we can and always will support you in your efforts.

Thank you, stay safe, and stay strong.

Wok Bar spicy hot pot

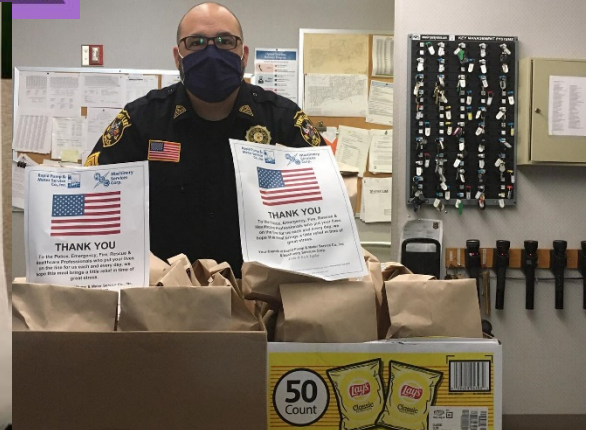
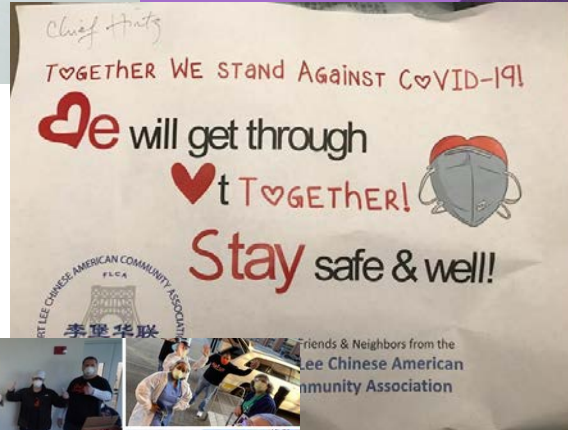


Masks & Gift Cards Donation to the FLPD

Officer Byrnes & Chief Hintze

RADIATE POSITIVITY

PIC•COLLAGE



Thank You To Our Bergen County Heroes!

Tomas Flores, Dennis Conway, Jackson Platsky, David Tropea, Jon Wyman, Eddie Young, Michael Contento, Michael Nersesian, Scott Toledo
Feed the Frontline



Freeholder Steve Tanelli
Who's Your Bergen County Hero?

Today, we recognize the men behind Feed The Frontline - Tomas Flores, Dennis Conway, Jackson Platsky, David Tropea, Jon Wyman, Eddie Young, Michael Contento, Michael Nersesian, and Scott Toledo - life long friends that were all part of the undefeated 1990 Fort Lee Bridgemen Football team. They were nominated by Amy Ko-Tong.



2021 GOALS

As we begin a new year in 2021, we will be looking forward to some new initiatives to improve upon our accomplishments.

- **Police Headquarters**: In 2021 we will continue to improve and address any safety issues on our property and are working on dedicating our briefing room to William T. Birch
- **Accreditation**: In 2021 we will continue to pursue NJ State Chief of Police Association Accreditation Commission. This is a method of assisting law enforcement agencies to calculate and improve their overall policing.



- **Body Cameras**: In 2021, we anticipate implementing our Body Worn Camera program.

Law Enforcement is a dynamic profession that frequently requires us to modify our goals based on local needs and even incidents that can affect our agency on a national level. I thank you in advance for the opportunity to lead this outstanding organization and I look forward to our continued commitment to providing the citizens of Fort Lee with exemplary service they have come to know and expect from the Fort Lee Police Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew J. Hintze
Chief of Police