

PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2025

Annual Report



ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM

CHIEF MATTHEW R. SOLOVAY

It is my privilege to present the Princeton Police Department's 2025 Annual Report, reflecting on a year marked by significant transition, innovation, and continued commitment to serving our community with Knowledge, Honor, Integrity, and Service. As we look back on the past year, I extend my sincere appreciation to the dedicated men and women of the department, our professional staff, and the community partners who support and strengthen our shared mission every day.

The year 2025 represented an important period of leadership transition for the department with the retirement of Chief Christopher Tash, whose service and leadership left a lasting impact on the organization and the Princeton community. Chief Tash's departure marked the close of a distinguished chapter, while also presenting an opportunity to build upon a strong foundation and continue advancing the department's vision and goals. The transition of leadership was handled carefully, ensuring organizational continuity, operational stability, and a continued focus on professionalism and community trust.

Throughout the year, the department made meaningful advancements in operations, technology, and officer wellness. A major initiative included the transition to a new police uniform, designed to improve comfort, durability, and functionality while maintaining a professional appearance. The updated uniform also incorporates enhanced accessibility features and medical and wellness benefits, supporting the physical demands of policing and the long-term health of our personnel.

The department also completed a comprehensive upgrade and replacement of its Axon Body Worn Camera system, reinforcing our commitment to transparency, accountability, and modern evidence management practices. In addition, the Princeton Police Department formally integrated the NJ ARRIVE Program into operations, strengthening our response to mental health-related calls through collaboration with clinical partners and emphasizing care, de-escalation, and appropriate resource deployment.

Preparedness and interagency collaboration remained a priority in 2025. The department conducted Active Shooter tabletop awareness programs with law enforcement partners from surrounding jurisdictions, enhancing regional coordination, communication, and readiness. We also initiated the pursuit of Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) Accreditation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, a significant step toward formalizing best practices and standards within our communications operations.

Community engagement continued to evolve with the re-branding of the Safe Neighborhood Bureau to the Community Relations Bureau, better reflecting the bureau's mission and reinforcing the department's focus on outreach, partnership, and trust-building. Additionally, the implementation of drone technology into police operations expanded our capabilities in areas such as search and rescue, critical incidents, and situational awareness, while maintaining a strong emphasis on policy, training, and responsible use.

As we look ahead to 2026, the Princeton Police Department remains focused on strengthening community partnerships and engagement, enhancing traffic safety initiatives, and continuing to prioritize officer wellness. Achieving agency re-accreditation will be a key objective, reflecting our ongoing commitment to professional standards, accountability, and continuous improvement. Together with our community, we will continue working toward a safer, more connected, and resilient Princeton.

I appreciate you taking the time to review the 2025 Annual Report and for your continued support of the Princeton Police Department.



PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Mission Statement

The Princeton Police Department mission is to protect the lives, property, and rights of all people; maintain an ethical environment of mutual respect, trust and dignity; foster a partnership with the community we serve; and, improve the quality of life for all within the community.

Core Values

The employees of the Princeton Police Department are committed to its mission. We are accountable for our actions and we conduct ourselves accordingly in pursuit of our core values of:

Honor: Always act with the utmost integrity, and be honest and truthful. Enforce the laws equally and without bias. Hold yourself and other members to the highest ethical standards.

Integrity: We place the highest value on honesty and an adherence to a strict code of ethics; we will always engage in behavior that is beyond ethical reproach to maintain public confidence.

Service: Putting responsibilities before self-interest, performing duties to meet the needs of others, promoting partnerships to identify and solve problems, doing what is right for the community.

Knowledge: We seek truth, awareness, and understanding through investigation, education and experience.

PRINCETON PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Established by municipal ordinance No. 2012-22

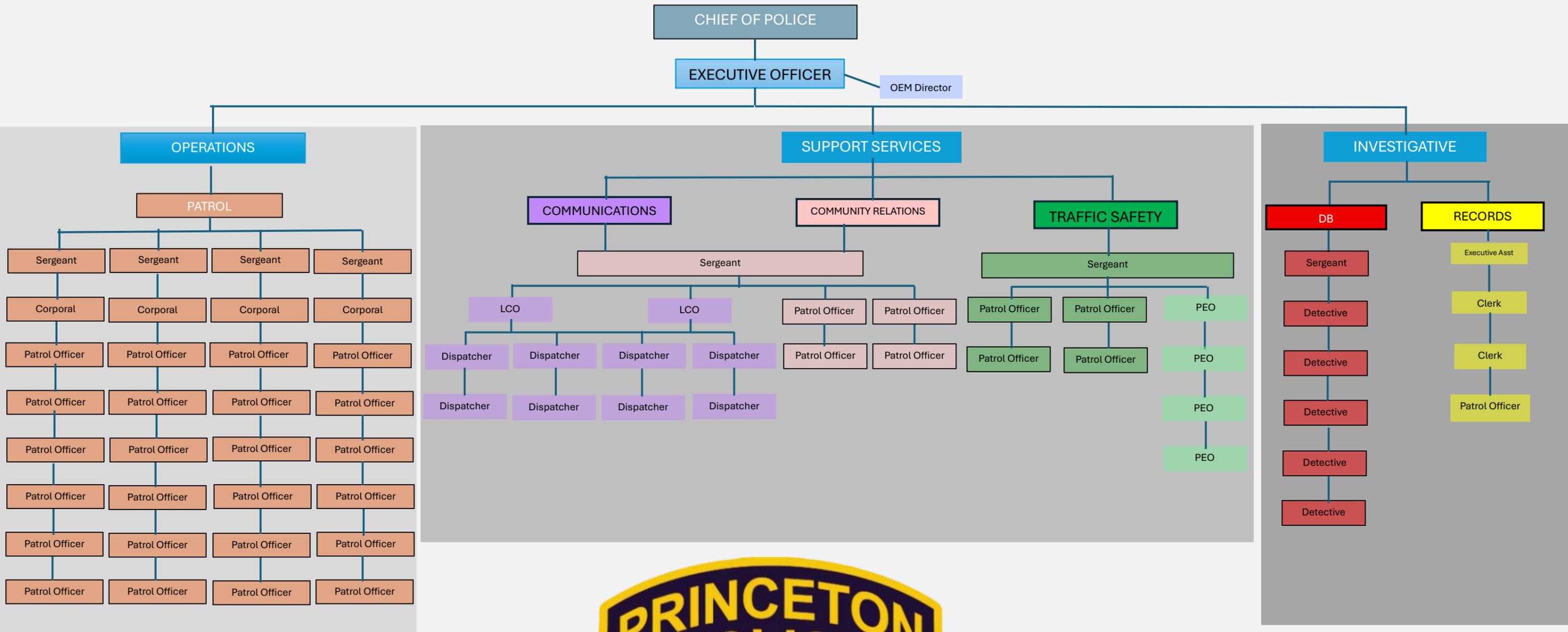
There is hereby established a public safety committee consisting of four members, including the mayor and administrator, both ex officio, and two members of the governing body. The terms of the appointed members shall expire on the first day of January following their appointments, but they shall serve after the expiration of their terms until their successors shall have been appointed and qualified. Any vacancy in any of the appointive offices shall be filled in like manner, but for the unexpired term only. One of the appointed members shall be designated as the police commissioner, and in that capacity such member shall be the chairperson of the public safety committee. The public safety committee shall have the powers and duties prescribed by law.

The Public Safety Committee convenes on a regular, typically monthly, basis with the Chief of Police to exchange information, coordinate activities, and discuss matters impacting public safety. Representatives from the Princeton Police Department, Princeton Fire Department, Princeton Fire Marshal's Office, Princeton Office of Emergency Management, and the Princeton First Aid and Rescue Squad all participate in these meetings. This collaborative structure allows all emergency services to share information, coordinate resources, and work cohesively toward maintaining public safety in Princeton. These meetings provide an opportunity for open dialogue on departmental operations, emerging trends, strategic priorities, and other issues of shared concern, helping ensure alignment, transparency, and collaborative problem-solving.

The representatives on the Public Safety Committee for 2025 were:

Mayor Mark Freda
Councilwoman Leticia Fraga (Chair)
Councilwoman Michele Pirone-Lambros
Town Administrator Bernard Hvozdovic





PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT SWORN PERSONNEL CHANGES

The following police officers retired from the Princeton Police Department in 2025:

Chief Christopher Tash

Det. Jennifer Gering

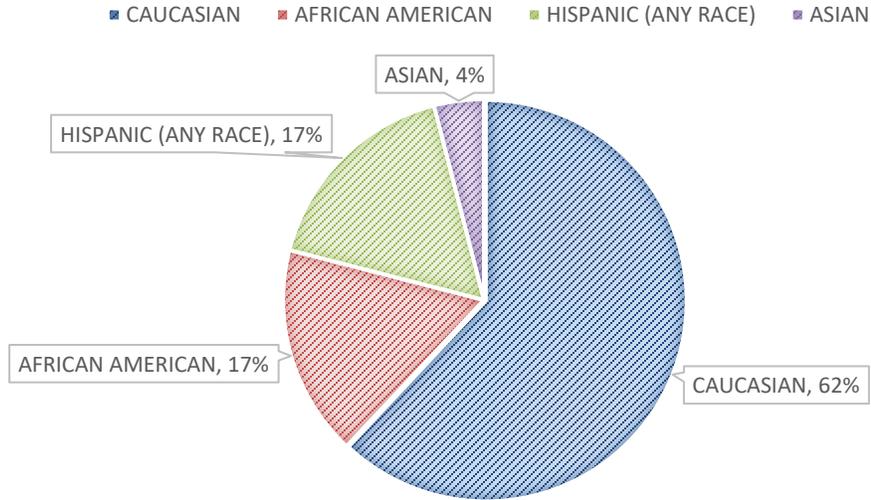


The 2025 PPD Recruitment Process resulted in the hiring of the following individuals-

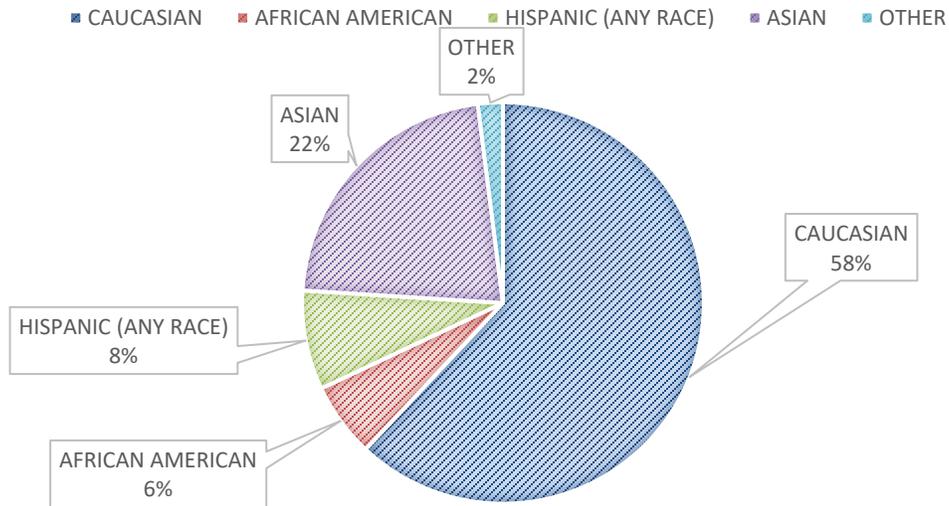


Ptl. Jordan Nitti
Ptl. Connor Luckie
Ptl. Nicole Carannante

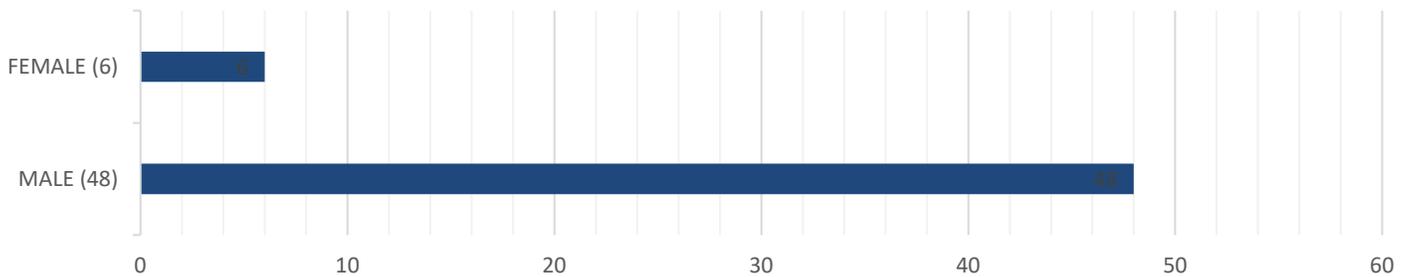
CURRENT SWORN OFFICERS



SERVICE POPULATION



SWORN OFFICERS (54)



RISK ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Princeton Police Department remains committed to proactive and transparent reporting of enforcement activity, use-of-force incidents, and internal affairs matters. This information is published monthly on the department's website and supplemented by comprehensive reports formally presented to the Mayor and Council during regularly scheduled public meetings. Together, these reporting mechanisms are designed to keep elected officials and community members informed, promote accountability, and provide meaningful insight into departmental operations.

Transparency is a cornerstone of public trust, particularly in addressing concerns regarding potential racial bias in law enforcement. The Princeton Police Department acknowledges these concerns and has engaged in ongoing, data-driven analysis of enforcement activity since 2017. To support this work, the department established the Risk Assessment Committee (RAC), a peer-review body tasked with identifying patterns and trends in policing actions through systematic evaluation.

The RAC focuses its review on categories of police activity that have been identified by advocacy organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), as areas where discriminatory practices are most likely to emerge. This analysis is conducted at both the aggregate departmental level and the individual officer level, with the goal of identifying indicators that may suggest bias or require corrective action. Findings are reviewed on a regular basis by department leadership to ensure appropriate oversight, accountability, and continuous improvement.

Some of the areas of police interaction reviewed by the Risk Assessment Committee include:



Executive Officer

The Princeton Police Department is organized into three primary divisions—Operations, Investigative, and Support Services—each overseen by a division commander responsible for their respective areas. These commanders report to the Executive Officer (Captain), who reports directly to the Chief of Police. In addition to providing operational oversight and administrative coordination, the Executive Officer is charged with supervising the department’s Internal Affairs and Professional Standards function in strict compliance with directives issued by the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office. Captain Thomas Lagomarsino currently serves in the role of Executive Officer.

The Internal Affairs function plays a critical role in preserving public confidence and reinforcing the department’s ethical foundation. It provides a formal, consistent framework for the intake, investigation, and resolution of allegations of officer misconduct. Through objective, impartial review, this process ensures accountability while safeguarding fairness for both community members and department personnel.

In response to evolving expectations surrounding police accountability and transparency—particularly with respect to use-of-force incidents—the department adheres to clearly defined external review protocols. In the event of a serious use-of-force incident involving a Princeton Police Department officer, independent investigations are conducted by the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office and the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office, as mandated by state law. This layered oversight structure promotes transparency, impartiality, and public trust.

Beyond mandated requirements, the Princeton Police Department has taken a proactive approach to internal oversight. The department implemented an early warning system prior to its adoption as a statewide requirement, reinforcing its commitment to identifying performance trends and potential concerns at an early stage. This policy, which is publicly accessible on the department’s website, establishes structured monitoring of work functions to support accountability and professional development. In addition, internal affairs activity summaries are published on a quarterly basis through the municipal website.

The following pages present internal affairs and use-of-force data compiled for calendar years 2023, 2024, and 2025. This information is made publicly available and is also submitted annually to the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office and the New Jersey Attorney General’s Office for review and oversight.



INTERNAL AFFAIRS DISPOSITIONS

	SUSTAINED			EXONERATED			NOT-SUSTAINED			UNFOUNDED			ADMINISTRATIVELY CLOSED		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
Excessive Force	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Arrest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Improper Search	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Criminal Violation	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Differential Treatment	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Demeanor	0	1	1	4	2	0	1	1	12	0	0	0	0	1	1
Domestic Violence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Rule Infraction	2	4	1	4	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total	2	5	2	9	14	2	3	5	13	0	0	0	0	6	1

*2023- It should be noted that there were 12 total Internal Affairs Complaints, involving 14 officers

*2024- It should be noted that there were 19 total Internal Affairs Complaints, involving 30 officers

*2025- It should be noted that there were 15 total Internal Affairs Complaints, involving 18 officers

Sustained: The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to prove the allegation against the officer by a preponderance of the evidence.

Exonerated: The alleged incident did occur, but the actions of the officer were justified, legal, and proper.

Not-Sustained: The investigation failed to disclose sufficient evidence to clearly prove or disprove the allegation.

Unfounded: The alleged incident did not occur.

Administratively Closed: Examples include situations where a complainant withdraws their complaint, or the subject officer terminates his or her employment prior to the conclusion of the internal affairs investigation.

USE OF FORCE SUMMARY REPORT

	TOTAL NUMBER OF USE-OF-FORCE INCIDENTS	WHITE NON-HISPANIC	WHITE HISPANIC	BLACK NON-HISPANIC	BLACK HISPANIC	NATIVE AMERICAN NON-HISPANIC	NATIVE AMERICAN HISPANIC	ASIAN NON-HISPANIC	ASIAN HISPANIC
2023	6	0	1	3	0	0	0	2	0
2024	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2025	6	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0

In 2023, 11 officers used physical force during 6 incidents.

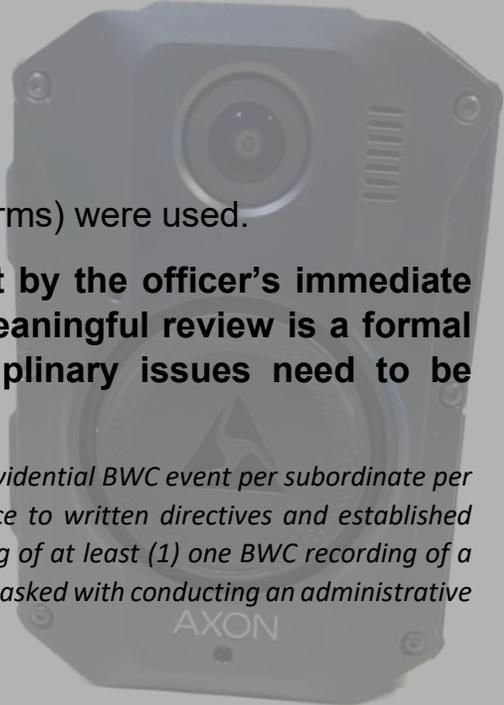
In 2024, 8 officers used physical force during 4 incidents.

In 2025, 16 officers used physical force during 6 incidents.

*There were no instances where mechanical force (baton and/or OC) or deadly force (firearms) were used.

Each of these use-of-force incidents prompted a meaningful review of the incident by the officer’s immediate supervisor, divisional commander, Internal Affairs, and the Chief of Police. The meaningful review is a formal documented process to determine whether policy, training, equipment, or disciplinary issues need to be addressed.

It should be noted that supervisors of the Princeton Police Department are tasked with randomly reviewing (1) one non-evidential BWC event per subordinate per calendar month in an effort to ensure the equipment is operating properly, to assess officers’ performance, adherence to written directives and established professional standards, and to identify other training needs. Additionally, patrol supervisors reviewed a random sampling of at least (1) one BWC recording of a motor vehicle stop for each of their subordinates for each month during 2025. The Operations Division Lieutenant was then tasked with conducting an administrative review of all.



Accreditation

The Princeton Police Department first achieved accreditation through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) in 2014, marking an important milestone in the department's commitment to professionalism, accountability, and best practices in modern policing. Since that time, the department has remained dedicated to maintaining compliance with the rigorous standards established by the accreditation program.

The NJSACOP accreditation process requires law enforcement agencies to demonstrate adherence to a comprehensive set of professional standards governing policies, procedures, operations, and administrative practices. Every three years, independent assessors conduct a detailed on-site review of the department's operations, including management practices, training, internal accountability systems, and support services. This process ensures that accredited agencies maintain a high level of organizational effectiveness and remain aligned with evolving policing standards.

The Princeton Police Department has successfully maintained its accredited status through multiple review cycles, most recently earning re-accreditation in June 2023. This achievement reflects the department's ongoing commitment to continuous improvement and professional excellence.

The department is currently operating within its next three-year accreditation cycle and is scheduled for its next review in 2026. Under the leadership of Chief Matt Solovay, who previously served as the department's Accreditation Manager, the agency remains focused on maintaining policies and procedures that are both conceptually sound and operationally effective, ensuring that the department continues to meet the high standards expected of an accredited law enforcement agency.



Princeton Police Training Summary

2025 Courses

As a New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP) accredited law enforcement agency there is a robust in-service training schedule that is mandated for accreditation based on best practices in law enforcement. The Princeton Police Department not only adheres to the recommended schedule but mandates some training topics be delivered with increased frequency.

<u>TRAINING TOPIC</u>	<u>DELIVERED</u>
Active Shooter Response	(Quarterly)
CPR/Blood-Bourne Pathogen/First Aid	(Every two years January)
Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS)	(Every two years February)
Hazardous Materials Awareness	(Yearly March)
Right-to-Know	(Every two years March)
Field Training Officer Training Update/Review	(Every three years March)
Handling and Helping the Mentally Ill	(Yearly April)
De-Escalation Training	(Yearly April)
Firearms	(April & October)
Use-of-Force Training	(April & October)
Pursuit Training	(April & October)
Racially Influenced Policing	(Yearly May)
Legal Updates	(Yearly July)
Active Shooter Training	(Yearly July)
Ethics	(Yearly August)
Evaluation Training	(Every three years August)
Workplace Harassment Training	(Quarterly)
Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) Training	(Every two years August)
Baton Training	(Every two years August)
Prison Rape Elimination Act	(Yearly September)
Detention Facility Management	(Yearly September)
Domestic Violence	(Yearly November)
Diversity	(Yearly November)
Body Worn Camera Training	(Every three years)
Performance Evaluation Training	(Every three years)
Resiliency Training	(Yearly)
Defensive Tactics Training	(Yearly)



CLEAR Training

In addition to the listed required training, the NJ Attorney General's office has mandated all sworn police officers in the state of New Jersey attend annual "CLEAR" training (Community Law Enforcement Affirmative Relations). The CLEAR training usually consists of NJ Attorney General's Office approved training blocks of instruction to include: Cultural Diversity, De-Escalation Techniques and Strategies, Dealing with Individuals in Mental Health Crisis, and similar continuing education topics.

The goal of the Attorney General's Office is to create a library of approved topics/materials for use by law enforcement agencies for the annual CLEAR training. The modules are produced with subject area experts from law enforcement, clergy, mental health and other stakeholders.

The training requirement of the program for 2025 consisted of one course entitled, "Miranda Warnings-A Law Enforcement Update." This course was distributed by the Police Training Commission and made available through the Acadis online portal. All active officers from the police department completed the CLEAR training in 2025.

Resiliency Training

The Attorney General's Office has mandated that all law enforcement agencies appoint at least one Resiliency Program Officer (RPO), who will be responsible for implementing the NJRP-LE in their agency. The Princeton Police Department is in compliance with this directive as we have three (3) certified Resiliency Program Officers (RPOs). These RPOs are in communication with the county designated liaison (Det. Megan Flanagan MCPO), as well as the Acting Chief Resiliency Officer, David Leonardis, of the New Jersey Department of Criminal Justice. Our RPOs attended quarterly Resiliency Program meetings throughout 2025 and continue to offer our officers guidance and support services when applicable.

Furthermore, in 2025 the Princeton Police Department continued to provide in-service resiliency training to bring mental health awareness to agency personnel. The police department partnered with mental health professionals from Center at 353, who came into the police department and educated our officers on mental health. Center at 353 provides the Princeton community with mental health services through evidence based clinical practice and education as an independent non-profit.



Continuing Education/Professional Development **Classes Attended by Princeton Police Officers**

The Princeton Police Department continued scheduling in-service training in 2025. The following Continuing Education/Professional Development training courses were attended by the officers of the Princeton Police Department:

Sworn Personnel

- Alcotest Operator Course
- Alcotest Recertification
- Drug Impaired Driving
- Active Shooter Incident Management (ASIM)
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement
- Driving While Intoxicated/Standard Field Sobriety Test Training Course
- Alcotest Conversion Training Course
- Bicycle Patrol Course
- Emergency Medical Dispatch Training Course
- Mercer County Rapid Response Training
- Executive Protection Institute
- Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response
- DWI Essentials
- Patrol Response to Critical Incidents
- Concealed Carry Law
- CPR Instructor Course
- Drone Operator Course
- DCJ Rifle Instructor
- Retail Theft and Street Level Crime
- Case Law for Cops – The Street Edition
- New Jersey Women in Law Enforcement Conference
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Terminal Access Coordinator Training
- Effective Report Writing
- Case Law for Cops – Road Cop Essentials
- Practical Patrol Techniques
- Evidence Technician Course
- Case Law for Cops – The Basics
- NJSACOP Alcohol Beverage Control
- Financial Crimes Investigations

- Tackling Organized Crime: Retail Theft & Street Level Gangs
- Title 39: Traffic Law and Vulnerable Road Users
 - Title 39 Heavy Truck Familiarization
- Command Level Series: Front line Supervision
 - Advanced Patrol Tactics
 - Money Laundering
 - FBINA Leadership Seminar
 - LEEDS Conference
 - NJSP Missing Persons Seminar
 - NJOEM Basic Workshop
- Child Passenger Safety Technician Training
 - Defensive Tactics Instructor
- Targeted Violence Mass Casualty Hospital Response Workshop
 - Basic Crime Scene Investigation
 - NJ Juvenile Detective Conference
 - Sirchie CSI and Forensic Investigations
 - Film Ready New Jersey Program
 - Bulletproof Report Writing
 - MCPO Human Trafficking
 - MCPO Megan's Law training
- Case Law For Cops: Legal Update (Fall 2025)
 - Internal Affairs Investigator
 - Radar Instructor Refresher
 - Juvenile Law Update
 - Recruiting for Law Enforcement
 - Tactical Leadership
- Patrol Response to Critical Incidents
- Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Session 294
- Budgeting and Financial Administration for the Chief Executive

VIRTUAL REALITY



SIMULATOR TRAINING

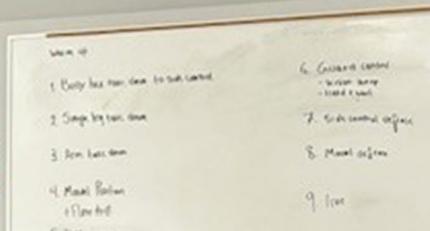
Virtual Reality (VR) simulator training is revolutionizing law enforcement training by offering a safe, controlled, and immersive environment for officers to develop critical skills.

This technology provides several key benefits:

- **Enhanced Decision-Making** – VR simulations allow officers to practice high-pressure scenarios, improving their ability to assess situations quickly and make sound decisions in real-time.
- **Realistic Scenario-Based Training** – Officers can engage in life-like situations, such as de-escalation encounters, active shooter responses, and crisis intervention, ensuring they are better prepared for incidents.
- **Risk-Free Environment** – Unlike traditional training, VR eliminates the risk of injury while allowing officers to make mistakes, learn from them, and refine their techniques without severe consequences.
- **Cost-Effective** – VR training reduces the need for extensive physical setups, live role-players, and ammunition, making it a more economical long-term training solution.
- **Consistency and Repetition** – Officers can repeatedly train on specific scenarios to improve performance, ensuring familiarization and standardized skill development.
- **Data-Driven Feedback** – VR systems can track performance metrics, providing officers with instant feedback on their decision-making, reaction times, and situational awareness.



Knowledge • Honor



PATROL BUREAU



The Patrol Bureau, a core component of the Operations Division, serves as the foundation of the Princeton Police Department's day-to-day policing mission. Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, Patrol Bureau officers provide continuous public safety services to residents, businesses, and visitors throughout the community. As the most visible and accessible members of the department, patrol officers are often the first point of contact between the public and law enforcement and play a critical role in maintaining community safety, order, and trust.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Bureau are responsible for responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service, ensuring timely and professional assistance to those in need. Their duties include conducting proactive patrols designed to deter criminal activity, identify quality-of-life concerns, and enhance overall public safety. Patrol officers also perform preliminary investigations, collect evidence, and take appropriate enforcement or corrective action as necessary. In addition, they enforce motor vehicle laws, conduct traffic stops, investigate motor vehicle crashes, and work to improve roadway safety for all users.

Patrol Bureau officers routinely serve as first responders to medical emergencies, providing immediate assistance until advanced medical care arrives. Their role extends beyond traditional law enforcement functions and includes a wide range of community-oriented services that directly support residents' daily needs. These services include assisting with vehicle and residential lockouts, conducting welfare checks on vulnerable individuals, responding to burglar, fire, and panic alarms, addressing animal-related complaints, and assisting with school crossing details to ensure the safety of children and families.

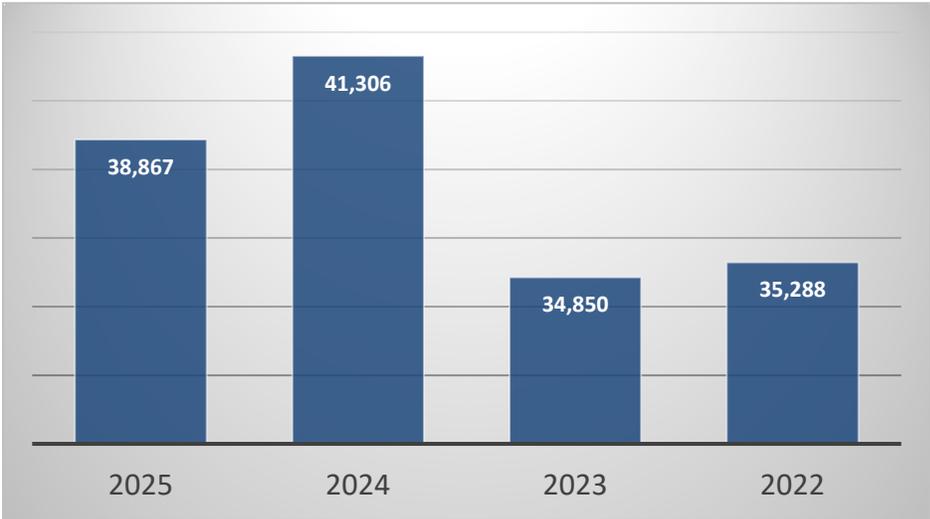
Through consistent presence, proactive engagement, and responsive service delivery, Patrol Bureau officers play a vital role in strengthening community relationships and promoting a safe and welcoming environment throughout Princeton. In 2025, the Operations Division, including the Patrol Bureau, was led by Lieutenant Christopher Craven.



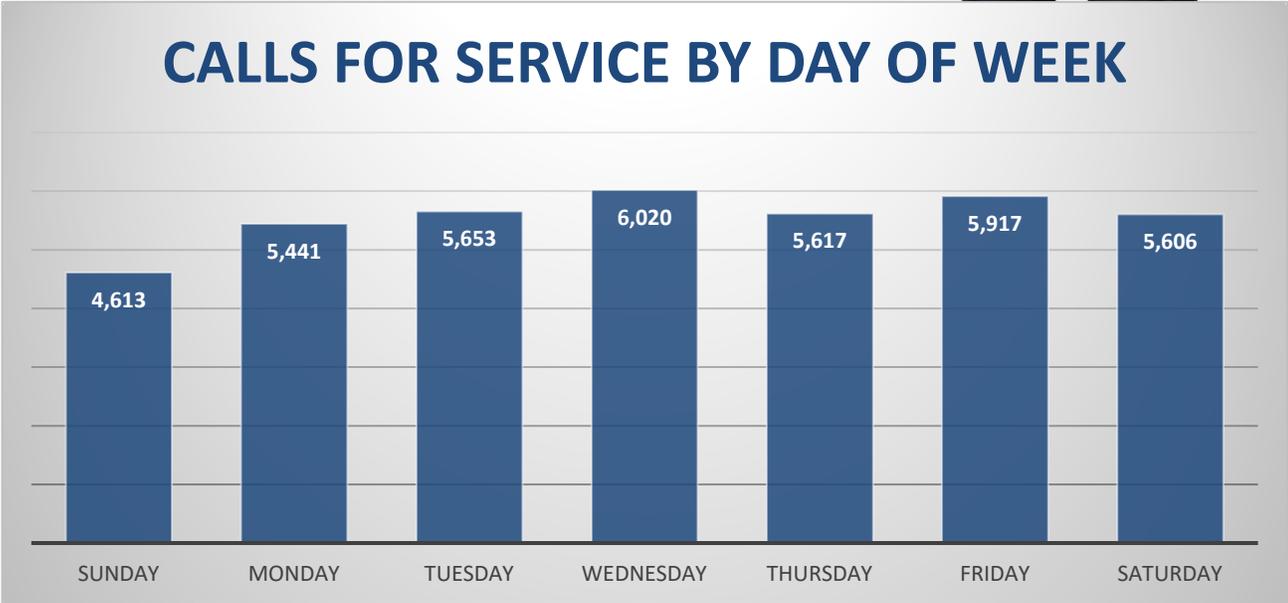
PATROL BUREAU

The department uses calls for service as a key metric to assess its level of interaction and service within the Princeton community. These calls can be externally generated—such as 9-1-1 emergencies, reports of crimes in progress, or motor vehicle crashes—or internally generated by officers, including traffic stops, clearing roadway hazards, or assisting stranded motorists encountered during patrols.

Yearly Calls for Service



CALLS FOR SERVICE BY DAY OF WEEK



Patrol Bureau

Calls for Service by Month



<u>CALLS FOR SERVICE</u>	<u>Jan</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>Mar</u>	<u>Apr</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>	<u>Aug</u>	<u>Sep</u>	<u>Oct</u>	<u>Nov</u>	<u>Dec</u>
2021	1,772	1,760	2,193	2,301	2,582	2,569	2,658	2,865	3,048	3,133	2,770	2,494
2022	2,696	2,709	3,029	3,069	3,197	3,186	2,710	2,612	2,999	3,399	2,914	2,768
2023	3,116	2,989	3,011	2,925	3,335	2,897	2,617	2,737	2,899	2,969	2,700	2,265
2024	3,410	3,153	3,355	3,986	4,310	3,785	3,413	3,385	3,349	3,438	2,945	2,277
2025	2,971	3,135	3,116	3,688	3,401	3,311	3,287	3,130	3,303	3,182	3,115	3,228



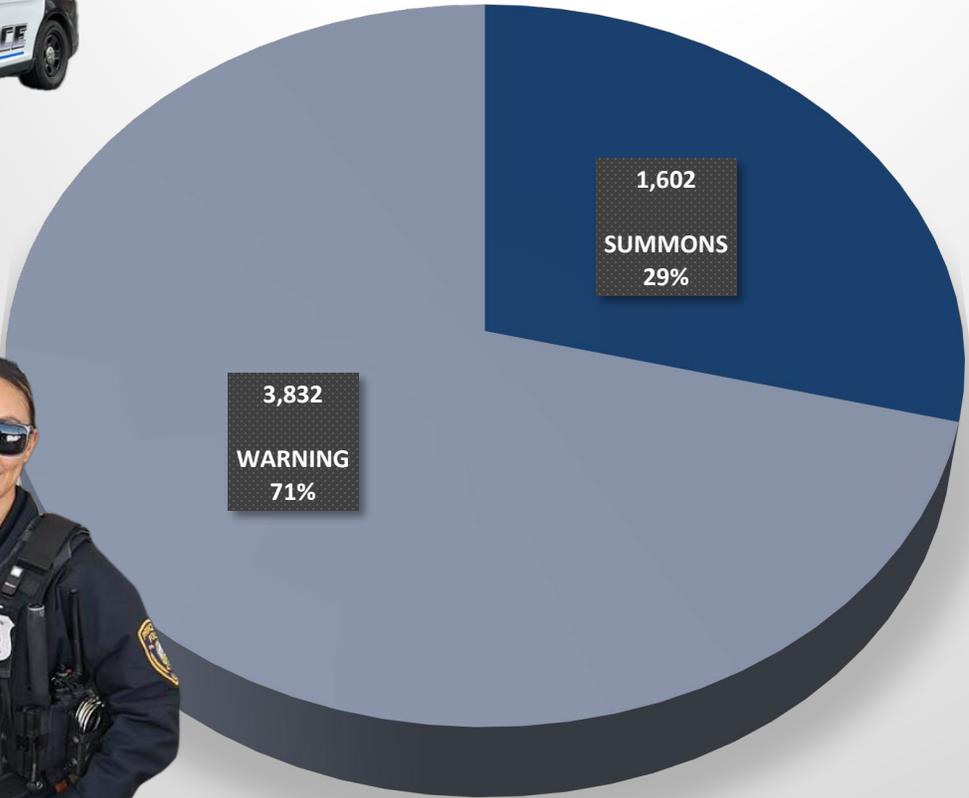
PATROL BUREAU



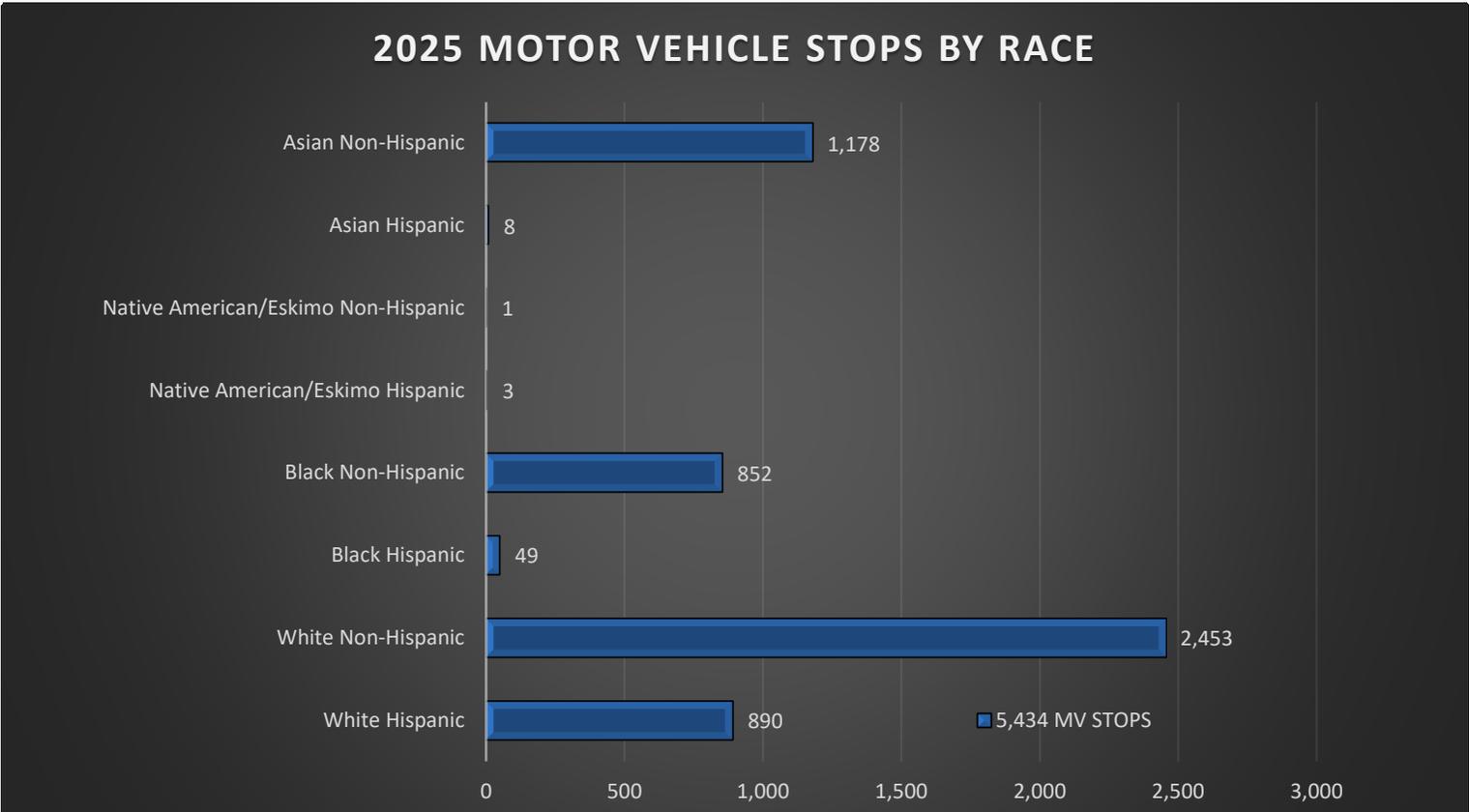
ARRESTS	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
2021	5	9	4	4	4	6	8	11	11	11	17	10	100
2022	16	7	19	9	17	15	11	12	10	15	11	10	152
2023	11	11	16	16	13	15	17	17	8	8	9	9	150
2024	15	14	14	12	11	15	11	15	14	13	14	12	160
2025	12	11	10	11	14	11	20	11	15	24	14	13	166



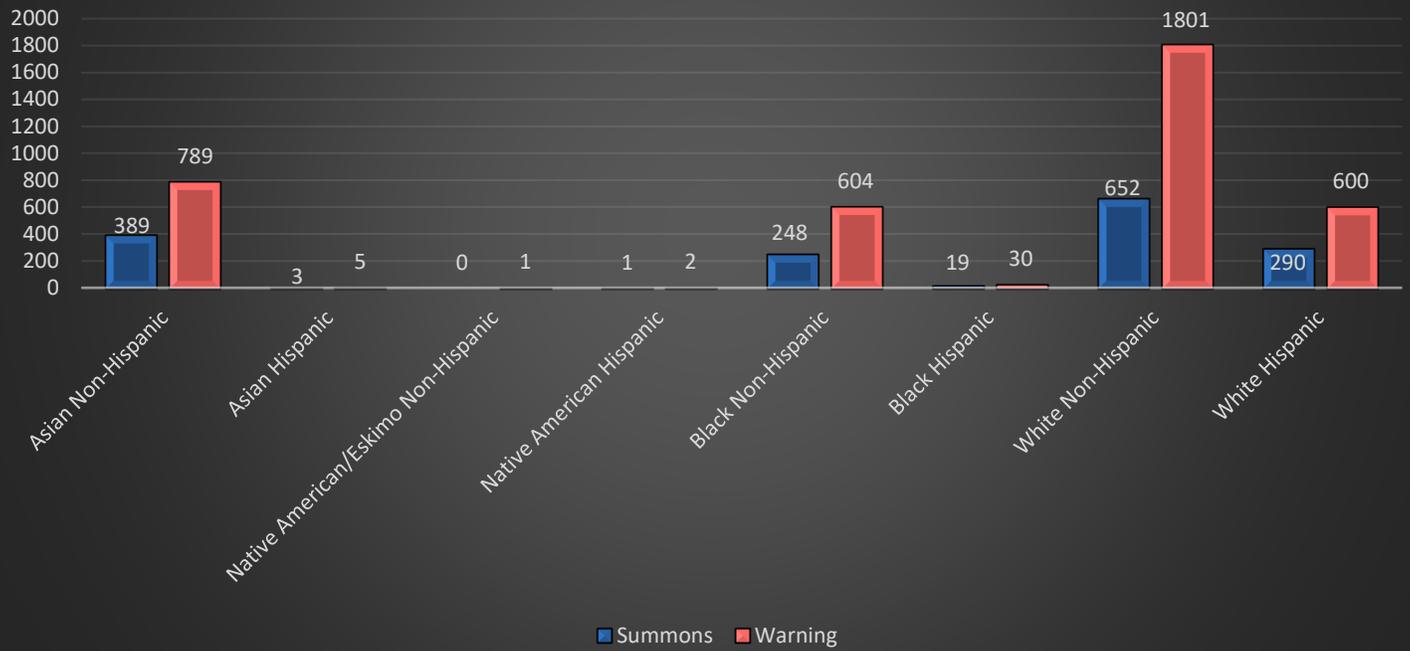
2025 MV STOP DATA



2025 MOTOR VEHICLE STOPS BY RACE



MOTOR VEHICLE STOP OUTCOME SUMMONS vs WARNING



DRONE OPERATIONS



In 2025, the Princeton Police Department integrated Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), commonly known as drones, into its operational capabilities. The use of drone technology has become increasingly common among public safety agencies due to its ability to provide rapid aerial perspectives, improve situational awareness, and support informed decision-making during critical incidents.

For the Princeton Police Department, drones serve as a valuable tool during search and rescue operations, emergency incidents, traffic investigations, and large public events, allowing officers to quickly assess conditions from above while enhancing safety for both responders and the community. The technology can also assist with scene documentation and investigative efforts by capturing aerial imagery that supports accurate reporting and analysis.

In a community like Princeton, where large gatherings, a vibrant downtown, and a major university environment present unique public safety considerations, the integration of drone technology provides an efficient and forward-thinking approach to supporting the department's mission of protecting and serving the community.





K-9 Unit



The Princeton Police Department's K-9 Unit consists of K-9 Ellie, a single-purpose explosive detection canine, and her handler, Corporal Steve Lattin. K-9 Ellie joined the department in 2020 and, shortly thereafter, successfully completed the New Jersey State Police Specialty Scent Detection Course, where she was trained to detect a wide range of explosive materials.

Corporal Lattin and K-9 Ellie are members of the New Jersey Detect and Render Safe Task Force, a collaborative partnership of state, county, and local law enforcement agencies that includes bomb squads and explosive detection K-9 teams. The task force is designed to provide a coordinated and consistent response to potential bomb threats and suspicious devices, while allowing agencies across the state to quickly mobilize specialized resources through a comprehensive mutual aid agreement.

Within Princeton, the K-9 Unit plays an important role in maintaining public safety. Corporal Lattin and K-9 Ellie routinely conduct explosive detection sweeps at large gatherings, public venues, and special events throughout the community. In 2025, the team performed numerous sweeps in support of Princeton University events, high-profile visits to the area—including those involving VIP dignitaries—and other public safety operations.

Beyond their operational duties, the K-9 Unit is also actively involved in community outreach. Corporal Lattin and K-9 Ellie frequently provide demonstrations for school students, as well as participants in the department's Youth Academy and Citizen Police Academy programs. They are also a visible presence at many major community events, including the Princeton Half Marathon, where they provide both security support and an opportunity for residents to interact with the department.

Through specialized training, regional collaboration, and community engagement, the K-9 Unit continues to serve as an important asset in protecting the Princeton community while strengthening the relationship between the police department and the public it serves.





In 2025, the Princeton Police Department adopted the New Jersey Attorney General’s ARRIVE Together Program, a statewide initiative designed to improve how law enforcement agencies respond to calls involving individuals experiencing mental health or behavioral health crises. ARRIVE Together—Alternative Response to Reduce Instances of Violence & Escalation—pairs law enforcement officers with trained mental health professionals to provide a coordinated, compassionate, and clinically informed response to situations that may otherwise be difficult for police to manage alone.

Under this program, Princeton Police Department officers work in partnership with mental health professionals who are specially trained to assess behavioral health needs, de-escalate tense situations, and connect individuals with appropriate treatment and support services. When calls for service involve individuals who may be experiencing a mental health crisis, officers have the ability to request the assistance of a mental health screener who can respond alongside them or provide immediate consultation. This collaborative approach allows for more effective communication with individuals in distress and increases the likelihood that they will receive appropriate care rather than solely a law enforcement response.

The adoption of the ARRIVE Together program represents another progressive and proactive step in the department’s commitment to modern, community-focused policing. By integrating behavioral health expertise into emergency response situations, the program helps reduce the likelihood of escalation, enhances officer and public safety, and ensures that individuals experiencing mental health challenges are met with understanding and support.

For the Princeton community, the benefits of this program are significant. Residents receive a more comprehensive response to behavioral health-related calls for service, ensuring that individuals in crisis are connected with the appropriate mental health resources and services available in Mercer County. The program also helps build trust between law enforcement and the community by demonstrating a commitment to addressing complex social issues with empathy, professionalism, and collaboration.

The Princeton Police Department recognizes that many calls for service involve underlying behavioral health challenges that require more than traditional law enforcement solutions. Through programs like ARRIVE Together, the department continues to evolve its response strategies by partnering with healthcare professionals and community service providers to deliver the most effective and compassionate response possible.

By embracing innovative programs such as ARRIVE Together, the Princeton Police Department remains committed to enhancing public safety while prioritizing the well-being of all members of the community.

Community Relations Bureau

2025

During the 2025 calendar year, the Princeton Police Department re-branded the Safe Neighborhood Bureau as the Community Relations Bureau. This change was intentional and reflects the department's continued evolution toward a broader, more inclusive community-focused policing model. While the bureau has long been dedicated to neighborhood safety and outreach, the updated name more accurately captures the scope of its mission, which extends beyond enforcement and crime prevention to include education, engagement, problem-solving, and direct support services for the community.

The Community Relations Bureau serves as a critical bridge between the police department and the public, with a primary focus on building trust, strengthening relationships, and fostering collaboration with residents, schools, houses of worship, businesses, and community organizations. Officers assigned to the bureau work proactively to address quality-of-life concerns, identify emerging issues, and promote open communication between the department and the diverse populations it serves.

A significant component of the bureau's mission is youth engagement and school safety. Community Relations Bureau officers maintain strong partnerships with both public and private schools throughout Princeton, providing age-appropriate educational presentations for students and staff, conducting safety and security assessments, and supporting school administrators in emergency preparedness planning. Officers also maintain a visible presence during school arrival and dismissal periods, reinforcing safety while fostering positive, informal interactions with students, parents, and school personnel.

The bureau's outreach efforts extend to faith-based institutions and other community gathering spaces. Officers regularly conduct security assessments at houses of worship and provide guidance on safety planning, emergency procedures, and crime prevention strategies tailored to each location's unique needs. These efforts are designed to support institutions in maintaining welcoming environments while enhancing preparedness and resilience.



SOCIAL MEDIA

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS BUREAU MANAGES THE CONTENT FOR THE PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS, ENSURING TIMELY AND RELEVANT COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY. CURRENTLY, THE DEPARTMENT UTILIZES FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM, ALONG WITH NIXLE, WHICH ALLOWS RESIDENTS TO OPT-IN FOR TARGETED ALERTS ABOUT COMMUNITY SERVICES AND EVENTS.

SOCIAL MEDIA HAS BECOME A CRUCIAL TOOL FOR REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION, ALLOWING US TO QUICKLY INFORM THE PUBLIC ABOUT EMERGENCIES, EVENTS, AND IMPORTANT UPDATES WITHIN OUR TOWN.

KEY BENEFITS OF OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE:

1. STRENGTHENING TRUST & COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS – BY MAINTAINING AN OPEN DIALOGUE WITH RESIDENTS, WE FOSTER TRANSPARENCY, BUILD TRUST, AND REINFORCE A STRONG SENSE OF COMMUNITY.
2. SHOWCASING OUR OFFICERS & DEPARTMENT EFFORTS – SOCIAL MEDIA ALLOWS US TO HIGHLIGHT THE DEDICATION OF OUR OFFICERS AND THE WORK OF OUR DEPARTMENT, PROMOTING A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF LAW ENFORCEMENT'S ROLE.
3. ENCOURAGING TWO-WAY COMMUNICATION – RESIDENTS CAN ASK QUESTIONS, SHARE TIPS, AND ENGAGE IN MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS, CREATING A MORE INTERACTIVE AND INFORMED COMMUNITY.
4. PROVIDING CRITICAL REAL-TIME UPDATES – WHETHER ALERTING THE PUBLIC ABOUT MISSING PERSONS, ROAD CLOSURES, CRIMINAL ACTIVITY, OR SAFETY HAZARDS, SOCIAL MEDIA ENSURES THAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION REACHES THE COMMUNITY INSTANTLY.

BY LEVERAGING SOCIAL MEDIA, THE PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT REMAINS PROACTIVE, ACCESSIBLE, AND ENGAGED, REINFORCING OUR COMMITMENT TO KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED AND SAFE.





CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY



The Princeton Police Department **Citizen's Police Academy** is an invaluable program that fosters stronger relationships between law enforcement and the community by providing residents with an in-depth understanding of police operations. This is the third year that our agency supplied this innovative program, and it continues to receive rave reviews.

The 8-week course is designed to educate participants about the daily responsibilities of law enforcement officers, build trust and strengthen relationships, and encourage open dialogue between police and the community.

Key Benefits of the Citizen's Police Academy

Enhanced Community-Police Relations

The academy creates a bridge between law enforcement and the community by allowing participants to interact directly with officers, ask questions, and gain insight into police work. This transparency helps build mutual trust and respect, which is essential for effective community policing.

Education and Awareness

Many community members only see policing from an external perspective. The academy provides first-hand knowledge of police procedures, policies, and challenges. This education helps dispel myths and misconceptions about law enforcement, leading to greater understanding and informed discussions within the community.

Increased Public Safety

Graduates of the academy gain knowledge about crime prevention, traffic safety measures, and other law enforcement fields, empowering them to become proactive in their neighborhoods. Understanding how police respond to emergencies and crime allows participants to recognize suspicious activity, report crimes more effectively and take precautions to enhance their own safety and that of their community.

Recruitment and Career Insights

For individuals considering a career in law enforcement, the academy can serve as an informational and exploratory opportunity. By gaining hands-on experience and learning directly from officers, participants can determine if a career in policing or related fields aligns with their interests.

Promotes Transparency and Accountability

One of the most important aspects of modern policing is community trust. The academy provides an inside look at police operations, allowing citizens to understand policies on use-of-force, investigative procedures, internal affairs function, and department protocols. This insight reinforces the department's commitment to accountability, ethical policing, and public service.

Strengthens Communication Between Police and the Community

The open discussions in the academy create opportunities for officers to hear community concerns, feedback, and perspectives in a constructive setting. These conversations help law enforcement tailor their approach to better serve the unique needs of our community.

The Princeton Police Department Citizen's Police Academy is a valuable initiative that **enhances public trust, promotes safety, and fosters collaboration between law enforcement and the community**. By educating participants about police operations, the program empowers residents to become informed, engaged, and proactive partners in community policing.

Wheels Rodeo

The Princeton Wheels Rodeo was held again at the Community Park Pool Lot, where participants had the opportunity to challenge their skills and knowledge on our road course.



Community Night Out
Tuesday, August 5th
5-8 pm at CP Pool

Come join the fun at Princeton's Annual Community Night Out. This free event offers a fun, family-oriented experience



Including...

- Free Pool Admission
- Free Food (While Supplies last)
- Dunk Tank, Inflatable Activities, Kids Activities
- Display of Emergency Vehicles and much more!!!



SPONSORED BY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

MUNICIPALITY OF PRINCETON

Sponsored by the Princeton Police Department and Princeton Recreation Department. For more information, please visit www.princetonrecreation.com



Community Night Out is a free event and a great opportunity to connect with neighbors, meet your local first responders, and enjoy a fun, family-oriented evening full of activities, entertainment, and community spirit.

Community Night out!

Youth Academy



The Princeton Police Department Youth Academy is a program open to interested 6th, 7th, & 8th grade students. All participants have the opportunity to learn about Crime Scene Investigation, Fire Safety, and other topics.

They also had a chance to visit the NJ State Police Museum. They conducted drill training, physical fitness training, as well as an emergency vehicle operations course in a golf cart.

All City Dodgeball Tournament



SCHOOL VISITATIONS

The Community Relations Bureau maintains a strong commitment to school-based engagement by regularly visiting local schools and collaborating with students, teachers, and school staff. These visits establish a consistent and approachable police presence, foster positive relationships, and encourage open dialogue, helping students view officers as accessible, trusted partners in school safety and community well-being.



PRINCETON POLICE
Vacant House Program

GOING AWAY FOR A WEEKEND OR A HOLIDAY TRIP? LET US HELP KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE!

How to Apply

1. Fill out the vacant house check request form available on the Princeton Police Department's Website (Community Services)
2. Provide details such as your departure and return dates, emergency contact information, and any specific concerns.

VACANT HOUSES

The Community Relations Bureau continued to offer vacant home checks for residents upon request, providing an added layer of security and peace of mind while homeowners are away. Residents are encouraged to take advantage of this valuable service as part of the department's ongoing commitment to community safety.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Princeton Police Department is committed to fostering strong relationships with the community through proactive engagement and outreach. By participating in a wide range of community programs and initiatives, officers work to build trust, maintain open lines of communication, and strengthen collaborative partnerships. This approach to community policing enhances public safety and ensures that law enforcement efforts reflect the needs, concerns, and priorities of the people we serve.



Community Outreach



The Princeton Police Department continually seeks creative opportunities to strengthen connections with the community through informal outreach events such as “Coffee with a Cop.” These gatherings provide residents with a relaxed environment to meet officers, ask questions, and engage in open conversation about issues affecting the community. As these efforts have evolved, the department has expanded the concept to include events such as “Smoothie with a Cop” and “Matcha with a Cop,” helping attract a diverse group of participants and making engagement more accessible and inviting. These initiatives reflect the department’s ongoing commitment to building trust, fostering dialogue, and maintaining strong community relationships.

Thanksgiving Dinner @ Harriet Bryan House



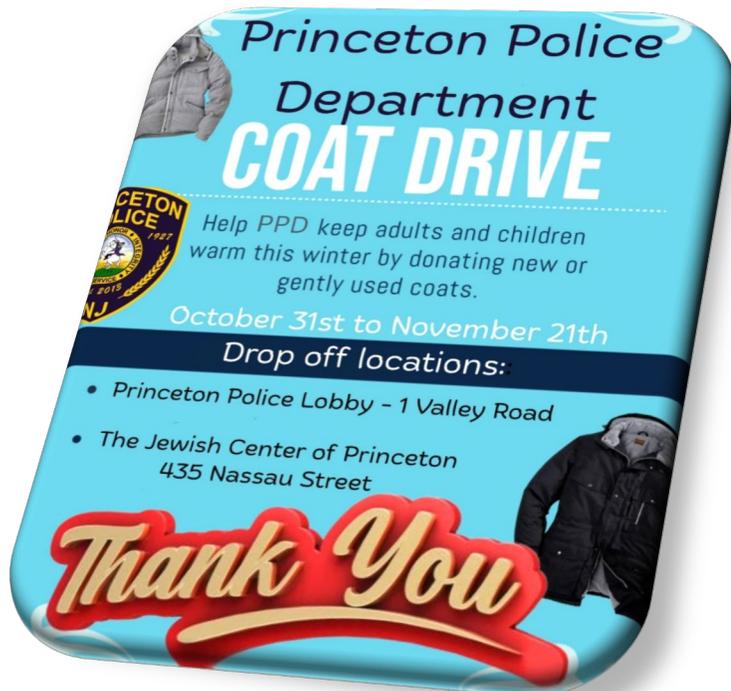
Each year during the Thanksgiving season, members of the Princeton Police Department proudly participate in the annual Thanksgiving celebration at the Harriet Bryan House.



This meaningful event brings officers together with members of our senior community to share a holiday meal and spend time in conversation and fellowship. Officers assist in serving Thanksgiving dinner and take the opportunity to connect with residents, reinforcing the department’s commitment to community engagement and support for Princeton’s older adults. The gathering has become a cherished tradition that reflects the strong relationship between the police department and the community it serves.

EACH YEAR, THE PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS A COAT DRIVE, ACCEPTING NEW OR GENTLY USED WINTER COATS, HATS, AND GLOVES.

WINTER COAT DRIVE



THESE DONATED COATS ARE BROUGHT TO THE PRINCETON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND ARE DISTRIBUTED TO THOSE IN NEED AT THE CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY KITCHEN "STORE".

A special thanks to all the community members who so generously donated their coats for a great cause. As you can see, we were able to fill an entire van to donate this year!

Operation Blue Angel

This free program is open to those who are 55 years of age or older and live alone, or will be alone for extended periods of time on a regular basis. This program is also for people with a medical condition(s) of any age that could lead to incapacitation and who live alone, or who are alone for extended periods of time on a regular basis.

The program consists of a lockbox, which is owned and maintained by the police department, which will be placed on the participant's residence by police personnel. The lockbox will contain a key to the residence (which the resident must supply). The key will only be accessed by responding police officers in the event of an emergency where officers cannot access the residence. The Operation Blue Angel program lockbox will not be accessed for lock-outs or any other non-emergent situation.



Recruitment



JOIN THE PRINCETON PD

SERVE YOUR COMMUNITY

THE PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT IS SEEKING DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS WITH A PASSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE. EMBRACE A REWARDING CAREER THAT CHALLENGES YOU, OFFERS GROWTH, AND ALLOWS YOU TO MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE COMMUNITY

BENEFITS & PERKS

- GREAT STARTING & TOP PAY
- NJSHBP HEALTH AND BENEFITS PLAN
- PFRS RETIREMENT SYSTEM
- EDUCATION REIMBURSEMENT
- SPECIALIZED UNITS
- EXTRA DUTY OPPORTUNITIES
- 12 HOUR PITMAN SCHEDULE
- UNIFORMS & DRY CLEANING PROVIDED

Start your journey and apply on **PoliceAPP**

During the 2025 calendar year, the Princeton Police Department initiated focused recruitment efforts designed to attract highly qualified individuals interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement with the department. The Recruitment Plan emphasizes building a diverse and professional workforce by seeking candidates whose racial and gender composition reflects the community the department serves. Through targeted outreach and inclusive recruiting strategies, the department aims to strengthen its workforce while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and service.

The recruitment campaign was initiated through broad advertising of the application and hiring process. Outreach efforts included promotion on the department’s website and social media platforms, as well as through local media and community organizations. The department also continued to utilize PoliceApp.com, which streamlined the application and document-handling process while expanding the overall reach of recruiting efforts.

The Support Services Division of the police department, commanded by Lt. Leonard Thomas, led the majority of formal community outreach associated with recruitment. These efforts included attending career fairs and distributing recruitment materials to community organizations, police academies, and other relevant institutions. This approach ensured consistent engagement with prospective applicants and strengthened connections with key recruitment partners.

Several years earlier, the department introduced a Recruitment Open House, which proved to be an effective tool for attracting and educating potential candidates. The event provided interested applicants with a behind-the-scenes look at the Princeton Police Department, including an overview of departmental operations, training expectations, and career opportunities. Building on its success, the department continued this initiative and hosted another Recruitment Open House in 2025.





Princeton Clergy Association

The Princeton Police Department places great importance on its strong partnership with the Princeton Clergy Association. Building meaningful relationships with faith leaders throughout the community is a key component of the department's community policing philosophy and reflects our commitment to open dialogue, trust, and collaboration. These partnerships help strengthen communication between law enforcement and the diverse congregations that make up Princeton's faith community.

One of the central pillars identified by The President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing is the importance of building trust and legitimacy. Engagement with faith leaders plays an important role in achieving this objective. Members of the Princeton Clergy Association serve as trusted voices within the community and often provide guidance, comfort, and support to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances. Maintaining a strong working relationship with these leaders helps ensure that the police department remains connected to the concerns and perspectives of the community we serve.

The department remains actively engaged with houses of worship throughout Princeton and provides additional attention and resources to support their safety and security. Officers regularly conduct security assessments, share safety guidance, and maintain open lines of communication with religious institutions to address potential concerns and enhance preparedness. These proactive efforts are designed to help ensure that houses of worship remain welcoming, safe, and secure spaces for worship and community gathering.

The Princeton Police Department deeply values the collaboration and ongoing dialogue we share with the Princeton Clergy Association. Their partnership, support, and commitment to the well-being of our community are invaluable. Together, through continued engagement and mutual respect, we work to foster a safe, inclusive, and connected community for all who live, work, and worship in Princeton.



PRINCETON S.A.F.E

SECURE AWARENESS FOR FIRST ENCOUNTERS REGISTRY



Keeping Special Needs Kids Safe



Princeton Police continue to endorse and register members of the community in the Princeton S.A.F.E. program.

This registry is for members of the community that are Autistic or have another communication disability which gives police quick access to critical information about a registered person in case of an emergency situation.

In 2025, the Princeton Police Department proudly partnered with educators from Riverside Elementary School to enhance our understanding of how to best interact with students with special needs. This collaboration provided our officers with valuable insights and training, equipping them with the skills to engage more effectively and compassionately with individuals with special needs. In turn, this partnership helped to foster a sense of comfort, trust, and familiarity between our officers and the special needs community, strengthening our commitment to inclusive and supportive policing.



TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU



The Traffic Safety Bureau plays a vital role in promoting safe and efficient roadways through a comprehensive approach that integrates traffic enforcement, public education, and traffic engineering principles. Staffed by highly trained officers with specialized expertise, the bureau focuses on proactive strategies and detailed collision analysis to enhance roadway safety, accountability, and data-driven decision-making.

In addition to traffic enforcement and crash investigations, the Traffic Safety Bureau (TSB) supports a range of operational and analytical functions. Officers deploy and monitor radar feedback signs throughout the community to evaluate traffic patterns, assess vehicle speeds, and support speed management initiatives. TSB also collects and analyzes crash data to identify trends, high-risk locations, and contributing factors, allowing the department to implement targeted enforcement and proactive safety measures.

TSB is responsible for maintaining and deploying variable message boards to provide real-time traffic information, safety messaging, and alerts to motorists. In support of impaired driving enforcement, the Traffic Safety Bureau coordinates with the New Jersey State Police to oversee the operation and maintenance of the Alcotest 9510 unit, ensuring accuracy, reliability, and compliance with evidentiary standards.

Beyond operational responsibilities, the Traffic Safety Bureau serves as a key liaison to the Traffic Safety Committee and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee. Through these partnerships, the bureau works collaboratively with municipal stakeholders to address roadway design, mobility concerns, and policies that enhance safety for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians alike.

Through enforcement, analysis, education, and collaboration, the Traffic Safety Bureau remains committed to reducing traffic-related crashes, improving traffic flow, and fostering a safer transportation environment for all roadway users.



TRAFFIC SAFETY BUREAU

CRASH STATISTICS

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Vehicles Involved	1,075	1,125	1,289	1,270	1,312
Total # of Injuries Sustained	110	110	129	112	106
MV Crashes with Reported Injury	89	87	97	93	94
Crashes with Property Damage	62	71	87	67	63
Summonses Issued	513	566	517	629	624
Crashes with Deer	24	20	28	28	29
Pedestrian Crashes	23	10	13	16	22
Pedestrians Injured	20	9	11	16	22
Pedestrians Killed	1	1	1	0	2
Bicyclist Crashes	9	5	13	16	12
Bicyclists Injured	6	5	12	12	12
Motorcycle Crashes	2	3	2	1	4
Fatal Crashes	2	2	2	0	2

The Princeton Police Department monitors motor vehicle crash data to identify trends, improve roadway safety, and guide enforcement efforts. In 2025, the department received 711 motor vehicle crash reports, involving 1,312 vehicles. Each crash was reviewed by the Traffic Safety Sergeant to assess contributing factors and identify patterns.

A total of 106 injuries were reported in 2025, continuing a downward trend from the prior two years. Crashes involving property damage declined to 63, while 624 motor vehicle summonses were issued, reflecting the department's emphasis on enforcement. Despite these improvements, two fatal motor vehicle crashes occurred in 2025, highlighting the ongoing risks on local roadways.

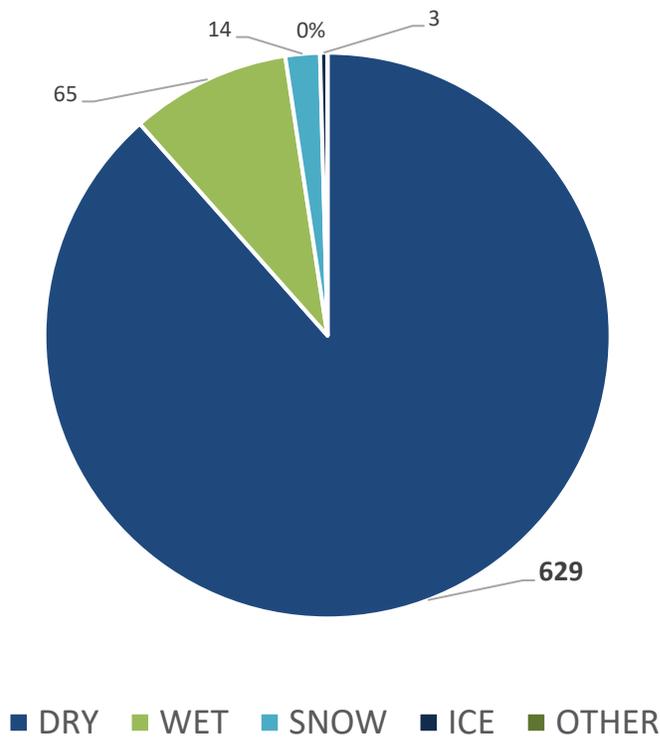
Pedestrian and bicyclist safety remained a key concern. In 2025, officers investigated 22 pedestrian crashes, resulting in 22 injuries and two fatalities. Bicycle-related crashes declined slightly; however, 12 bicyclists were injured, consistent with recent years.

The Traffic Safety Bureau conducted monthly Directed Enforcement operations based on crash data, citizen concerns, and officer observations. Enforcement locations were shared publicly through social media to promote transparency and community involvement. Through continued analysis, targeted enforcement, and collaboration, the department remains committed to improving roadway safety for all users.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES BY DAY OF THE WEEK

YEAR	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2021	46	84	102	92	92	98	85
2022	51	75	101	116	108	95	69
2023	69	115	106	108	126	122	52
2024	83	85	126	102	112	110	80
2025	45	109	119	119	103	129	87

ROAD CONDITIONS AT TIME OF CRASH



Traffic Enforcement & Education

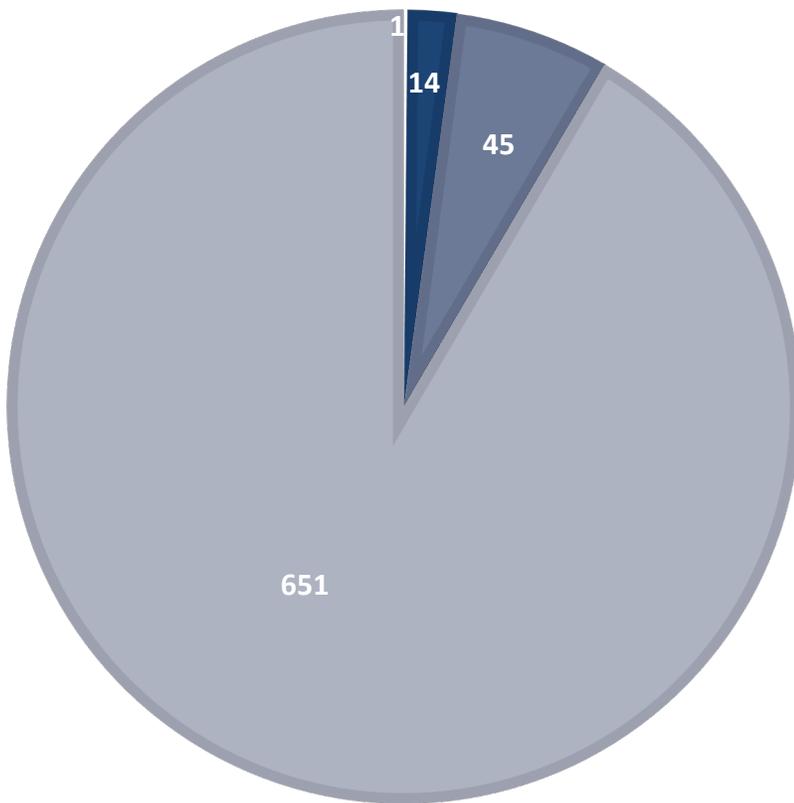
Traffic enforcement is a measure taken by law enforcement agencies to help limit motor vehicle accidents and eliminate poor driving behaviors.

The Traffic Safety Bureau is actively working to improve road safety by monitoring traffic patterns, enforcing speed limits, and addressing common driving issues. By using initiatives like Directed Enforcement Streets and radar details, they're not only responding to violations but also gathering data to target areas with high risk. By combining enforcement, education, and community partnerships, they're addressing issues from multiple angles.

The Directed Enforcement Streets initiative and radar details are part of a proactive strategy to not only catch violations but also understand when and where issues are most likely to occur.



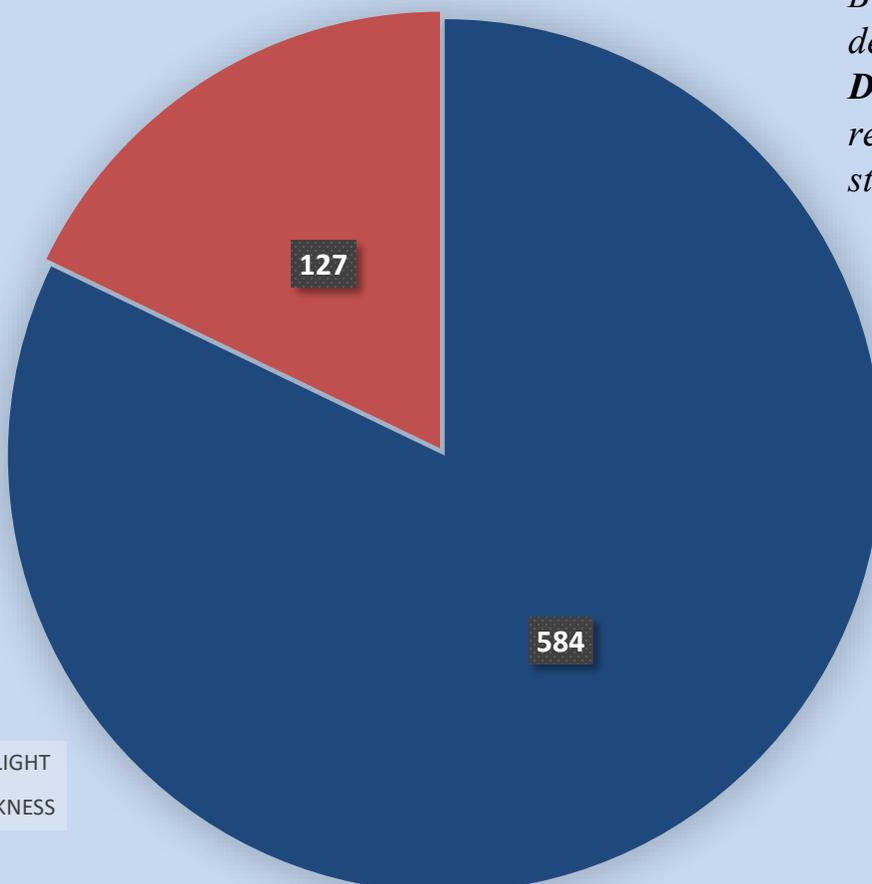
■ OVERCAST ■ SNOW ■ RAIN ■ CLEAR



WEATHER CONDITIONS AT TIME OF CRASH



LIGHTING CONDITIONS AT TIME OF CRASH



■ DAYLIGHT
■ DARKNESS

*In 2025, the Traffic Safety Bureau, in conjunction with the Patrol Bureau, initiated 1,459 traffic details associated with identified **Directed Enforcement Streets**, resulting in 1,559 motor vehicle stops.*

The Traffic Safety Bureau also oversees pedestrian and bicycle safety educational promotions and campaigns. In 2025, the Traffic Safety Bureau hosted the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey for training, to include surrounding municipalities, regarding vulnerable road users and applicable statutes. The educational campaigns aimed at pedestrians and cyclists show an effort to keep all road users safe, not just motorists.

MVAs with Bicyclists & Scooters



DATE	TIME	STREET	AGE	INJURY
1/24/25	8:27 AM	Washington Rd./Ivy Lane	19	Yes
2/12/25	8:04 PM	Washington Rd./Ivy Lane	19	Yes
2/18/25	12:16 PM	Nassau St./Vandeventer Ave.	39	Yes
5/1/25	4:23 PM	Witherspoon St./Franklin Ave.	18	Yes
5/20/25	5:16 PM	Ewing St./Franklin Ave.	11	Yes
6/12/25	5:39 PM	Moore St./Wiggins St.	14	Yes
6/21/25	5:12 PM	Washington Rd./Woodlands Way	36	Yes
9/19/25	5:17 PM	Hamilton Ave./Chestnut St.	13	No
10/1/25	9:29 PM	Witherspoon St./Spring St.	*	Yes
10/28/25	11:43 AM	Washington Rd./Ivy Lane	18	Yes
11/2/25	1:57 AM	**Prospect Ave./Washington Rd.	20	Yes
12/1/25	12:11 PM	Washington Rd./Nassau St.	22	Yes

*Bicyclist left the scene of the MVA, but was visibly injured

**Scooter MVA

In 2025, Princeton experienced 12 reported crashes involving bicyclists or scooter riders. These incidents occurred at various locations throughout the community and involved riders ranging in age from 11 to 39 years old.

Of the 12 incidents reported, 11 resulted in injuries, highlighting the significant vulnerability of cyclists and other micromobility users when sharing the roadway with motor vehicles. Only one incident resulted in no reported injuries.

Several crashes occurred along Washington Road, including locations at Ivy Lane, Woodlands Way, and Nassau Street, suggesting that this heavily traveled corridor continues to see a high level of bicycle activity. Other incidents took place at intersections such as Witherspoon Street and Franklin Avenue, Nassau Street and Vandeventer Avenue, Hamilton Avenue and Chestnut Street, and Moore Street and Wiggins Street, among others.



The data also shows that many of the riders involved were younger individuals, including several juveniles, reinforcing the importance of continued bicycle safety education for youth and families. Most crashes occurred during daytime and early evening hours, when both traffic and bicycle activity tend to be higher.

These incidents serve as a reminder that bicyclists are among the most vulnerable users of our roadways. The Princeton Police Department remains committed to working with municipal partners to promote roadway safety through education, enforcement, and engineering improvements, helping ensure that Princeton's streets remain safe for cyclists, pedestrians, and motorists alike.

MVAs with Pedestrians

DATE	TIME	STREET	AGE	
1/11/25	1724	Wiggins/Madison St.	46	Injury
1/24/25	1805	Paul Robeson Place/Witherspoon St.	51	Fatal*
1/26/25	2045	Washington/Faculty Road	20	Injury
2/11/25	1930	Nassau/South Tulane St.	23	Injury
3/11/25	1544	Sylvia Beach Way/Wiggins St.	74	Fatal
3/25/25	1732	South Harrison St.	39	Injury
3/27/25	0832	North Harrison St./Hamilton Ave.	16	Injury
5/9/25	0826	Nassau/South Harrison St.	28	Injury
5/11/25	0028	Witherspoon/Hulfish St.	22	Injury
5/18/25	1915	Bayard Lane/Birch Ave.	62	Injury
6/2/25	0819	Terhune/Mt. Lucas Road	19	Injury
6/2/25	1512	Nassau/Chestnut Street	91	Injury
6/14/25	1448	Stockton St./Library Place	76/81	Injury
8/15/25	0919	Hulfish/Chambers St.	35	Injury
8/17/25	1138	301 North Harrison St./Valley Rd.	31	No Injury
8/22/25	0839	Nassau/South Tulane St.	27	Injury
9/7/25	2137	Washington Rd./Ivy Lane	21	Injury
11/18/25	1837	Alexander St./Faculty Rd.	27	Injury
12/9/25	1756	Library Pl./Stockton St.	79	Injury
12/12/25	2332	Nassau/Moore St.	60	Injury
12/13/25	0930	Hamilton Ave./Moore St.	60	Injury
12/23/25	1805	301 North Harrison St.	24	Injury

In 2025, Princeton recorded 22 motor vehicle crashes involving pedestrians at locations throughout the community. These incidents involved pedestrians ranging in age from 16 to 91 years old, illustrating that roadway safety remains a concern for residents of all ages.

Of the reported incidents, the vast majority resulted in injuries, while two crashes were fatal. These tragic incidents highlight the serious risks pedestrians face when interacting with vehicular traffic and reinforce the importance of continued efforts to improve roadway safety for vulnerable users.

Several crashes occurred along major travel corridors and busy intersections, including areas along Nassau Street, Witherspoon Street, Washington Road, and North Harrison Street. Additional incidents occurred at locations such as Library Place, Stockton Street, Alexander Street, Bayard Lane, and Terhune Road, reflecting the wide distribution of pedestrian activity throughout Princeton.

The data also reflects that pedestrian crashes occur at a variety of times throughout the day, from morning hours through late evening. This pattern aligns with typical pedestrian activity levels, particularly in areas near downtown Princeton, residential neighborhoods, and locations with significant foot traffic.

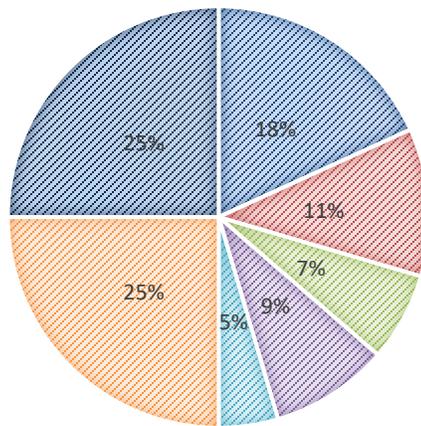
Pedestrians are among the most vulnerable roadway users, and these incidents underscore the need for continued collaboration between law enforcement, municipal engineering, and community partners to enhance pedestrian safety. Through public education, targeted enforcement, and infrastructure improvements, Princeton remains committed to creating safer streets for everyone who lives, works, and travels in the community.

DWI Statistics

A review of the Princeton Police Department's 2025 impaired driving data shows that 44 DWI-related incidents were recorded during the year, representing an increase from 34 incidents in 2024 and 36 incidents in 2023. This continued upward trend highlights the ongoing need for proactive strategies aimed at preventing impaired driving before it occurs.

DAY OF THE WEEK

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday



The majority of arrests took place during late-night and early-morning hours, particularly between 12:00 a.m. and 3:00 a.m., when a combined 24 incidents occurred.

The demographic breakdown shows that 33 of the arrestees were male and 11 were female. The age distribution indicates that impaired driving was most prevalent among individuals in their mid-30s to early-40s, with the 34–37 age group accounting for the highest number of arrests (10), followed by 38–41 (7 arrests).

While enforcement remains an important tool in addressing impaired driving, these statistics reinforce the value of proactive prevention initiatives. Programs such as Princeton PD Provides Your DD focus on preventing individuals from driving while impaired by offering safe transportation alternatives. By addressing the issue before someone gets behind the wheel, initiatives like this help reduce risk to motorists, pedestrians, and the community as a whole while complementing traditional enforcement efforts.

Together, enforcement, public education, and innovative prevention programs remain essential components of Princeton's ongoing commitment to roadway safety and responsible decision-making.

PRINCETON PD PROVIDES YOUR DD

The **Princeton Police Department**, in partnership with **Uber**, proudly continues its “**Provides Your DD**” Program, an initiative aimed at reducing drunk driving within the **Town of Princeton**.

This program offers patrons of participating Princeton bars and restaurants a **free ride home** (up to **\$15 in value**) by simply scanning a **QR code**. The QR code is available at **all participating locations** and is active on **Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights** between **8:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.** for destinations within Princeton.

To take advantage of the program, scan the QR code on posters at any of the listed locations or save it in advance for use on your next eligible ride. Enjoy all that Princeton has to offer, and let **us** help you get home safely!



Princeton PD Provides your DD

FREE late-night on demand transportation option for Princeton residents powered by Uber

1. Download the Uber app onto your smartphone and create an Uber account.
2. Scan QR code to receive voucher which grants you access to the free option.

Service available **Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8pm - 2am**

*free rides home up to \$15 within the municipality of Princeton

Scan QR code for more information.



Uber



Participating Locations:

- **Roots Ocean Prime**
- **Agricola Eatery**
- **Mistral**
- **Yankee Doodle Tap Room**
- **Conte's Pizza**
- **Teresa's Pizza/Wine Bar**
- **Witherspoon Grill**
- **Winberie's Restaurant & Bar**
- **The Meeting House**
- **The Perch at Peacock Inn**
- **Mediterra Restaurant & Taverna**
- **Ivy Inn**
- **Metro North**
- **Alchemist & Barrister**
- **McCarter Theatre Center**
- **Triumph Brewing Company**
- **The Dinky Bar & Kitchen**

BENEFITS OF THE PROGRAM

The **Princeton PD Provides Your DD Program** is an innovative initiative designed to **prevent** impaired driving by offering residents and visitors a safe, responsible alternative to getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol. Rather than focusing solely on enforcement, the program **emphasizes prevention and responsible decision-making**, reinforcing the Princeton Police Department's commitment to proactive public safety strategies.

Through the program, individuals who find themselves unable to safely drive can request a ride home, helping to remove impaired drivers from the road before a dangerous situation occurs. By providing this service, the department aims to reduce the risk of alcohol-related crashes, protect motorists and pedestrians, and encourage responsible choices within the community.

The program reflects a **progressive approach** to traffic safety—recognizing that while enforcement remains an important component of DWI prevention, education and practical alternatives can play an equally powerful role in keeping roadways safe. By creating a **convenient and accessible option** for individuals who may have consumed alcohol, the program supports responsible behavior and reinforces the message that planning ahead and making safe choices benefits everyone.

The continued success of the Princeton PD Provides Your DD Program is made possible through the generosity and support of the community. Donations from residents, businesses, and community partners help fund the program and ensure that this **important service remains available**. The Princeton Police Department extends its sincere appreciation to those who contribute and support the initiative, as their commitment helps make Princeton's roadways safer for all.





Parking Enforcement



The Traffic Safety Bureau oversees parking enforcement operations throughout the Town of Princeton, ensuring compliance with state parking regulations and local ordinances designed to promote safety, accessibility, and efficient use of limited curbside space. Parking Enforcement Officers play a vital role in maintaining traffic flow, supporting local businesses, and enhancing the overall experience for residents and visitors, particularly within high-demand areas of the community.

Parking Enforcement Officers are responsible for the daily enforcement of parking laws, including time-limited parking, permit regulations, loading zones, and accessible parking spaces. Their work helps prevent congestion, improves emergency vehicle access, and supports equitable parking availability across residential neighborhoods and the Central Business District.

In 2025, Parking Enforcement Officers issued 19,127 parking summonses, reflecting consistent enforcement efforts in response to ongoing parking demand and community needs. While enforcement is a key responsibility, officers also serve a customer-service function by assisting residents and visitors with parking questions and directing them to alternative parking options, garages, and permitted areas when available.



Through a balanced approach that combines enforcement, education, and public assistance, Parking Enforcement Officers contribute significantly to the Town's mobility, accessibility, and quality of life. Their presence supports compliance while reinforcing a welcoming and orderly environment throughout Princeton.



Crossing Guards



The Traffic Safety Bureau oversees and coordinates the Town of Princeton’s civilian School Crossing Guard Program, which plays an essential role in ensuring the safety of students traveling to and from school each day. In 2025, the program provided coverage at 18 designated school crossings throughout the community during both morning arrival and afternoon dismissal periods.

School Crossing Guards are stationed at key intersections near schools to safely guide students across roadways, monitor traffic conditions, and promote safe pedestrian behaviors. Their presence helps manage vehicle and pedestrian traffic during peak school travel times, reducing the risk of accidents and creating a safer environment for children, families, and motorists alike.

The Town of Princeton is also proud to participate in the New Jersey Safe Routes to School initiative, which encourages students to walk or bicycle to school safely. The School Crossing Guard Program directly supports this initiative by providing the supervision and safety measures necessary to promote active and healthy transportation options for students.

Beyond their traffic safety responsibilities, School Crossing Guards serve as trusted and familiar figures within the community. Their daily interaction with students, parents, and school staff reinforces a culture of safety and awareness around local schools. Through their dedication and vigilance, the program continues to play a vital role in protecting Princeton’s youngest residents and supporting safe routes to school.



Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau is led by **Investigative Division Commander Lieutenant Dan Federico**, who oversees a team of five experienced detectives dedicated to investigating criminal activity and supporting the Princeton community. Following his promotion in **December 2025**, **Detective Sergeant Mike Strobel** assumed responsibility for the day-to-day supervision of the Detective Bureau and its investigative operations.

Detectives are responsible for crime scene processing, conducting follow-up and secondary investigations, and interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects. The bureau also manages the collection, handling, and storage of evidence and plays a critical role in preparing cases for prosecution in coordination with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office.

In addition to investigative responsibilities, the Detective Bureau oversees criminal intelligence management and conducts background investigations for firearms permit applicants, solicitors, and police personnel. The bureau is also responsible for registering Megan's Law offenders within Princeton and handling juvenile-related matters. Criminal investigations are reviewed and prioritized based on severity and solvability, with detectives applying specialized training and extensive experience to ensure thorough, professional, and effective case resolution.



STATISTICS

-489 Detective Workload Cases

-86 Total Firearms Permit Investigations Assigned

-239 Pieces of Property/Evidence Processed in 2024

Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau plays a critical role in the Princeton Police Department's investigative mission and operates in direct support of the department's community oriented policing philosophy. In addition to conducting thorough criminal investigations, the bureau actively engages with the community to promote crime prevention, awareness, and victim support.

The bureau is responsible for conducting follow-up and secondary investigations, processing crime scenes, interviewing victims, witnesses, and suspects, and managing evidence collection and storage. Detectives also play a vital role in case preparation and coordination with the Mercer County Prosecutor's Office to support successful prosecution outcomes. Criminal investigations are reviewed and prioritized based on severity, solvability, and community impact.

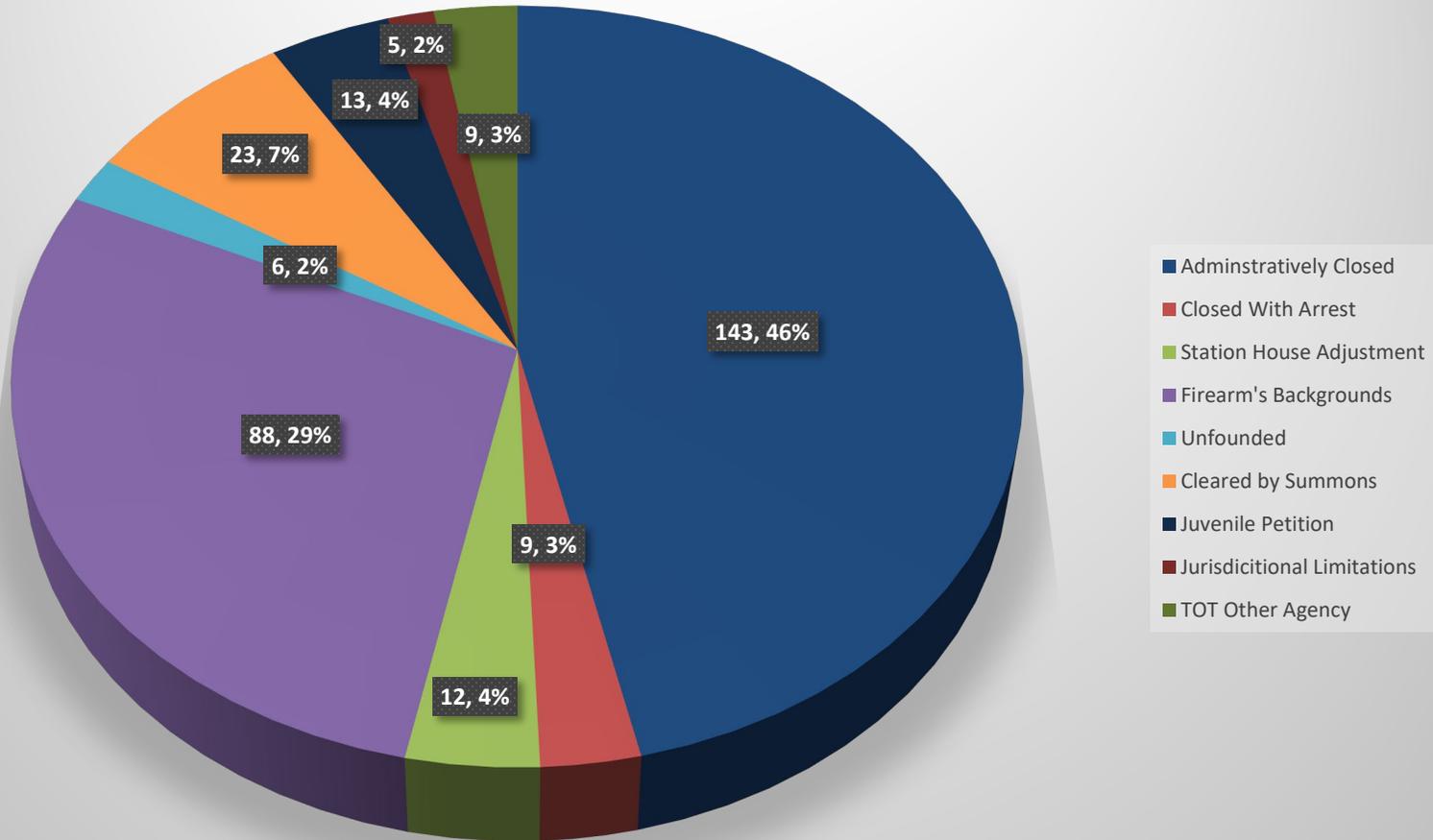
Utilizing modern investigative technology and analytical resources, detectives remain vigilant in identifying and addressing evolving crime trends, including offenses that extend beyond local or state boundaries. Their commitment to continuous training and the adoption of advanced investigative techniques has proven essential in resolving complex cases.

Beyond traditional investigations, the Detective Bureau oversees criminal intelligence management and conducts background investigations for firearms permit applicants, solicitors, and police personnel. The bureau is also responsible for Megan's Law offender registration within Princeton and the investigation of juvenile-related matters, ensuring compliance with statutory requirements while maintaining a balanced, community-focused approach.

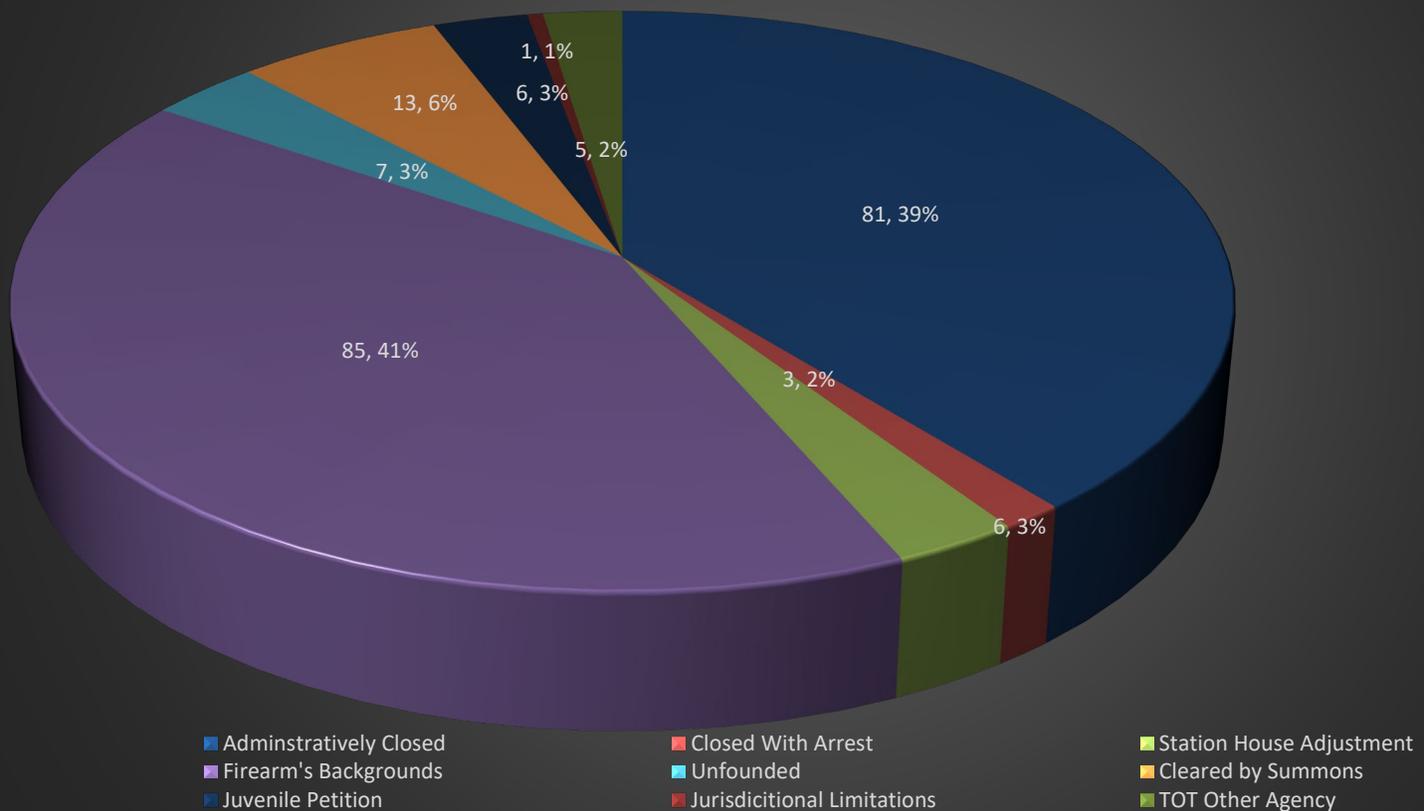
Through proactive collaboration, technological innovation, and community education, the Detective Bureau remains committed not only to solving crimes but also to strengthening public trust and helping residents protect themselves. Their work reflects a comprehensive approach to public safety that balances enforcement, prevention, and partnership.



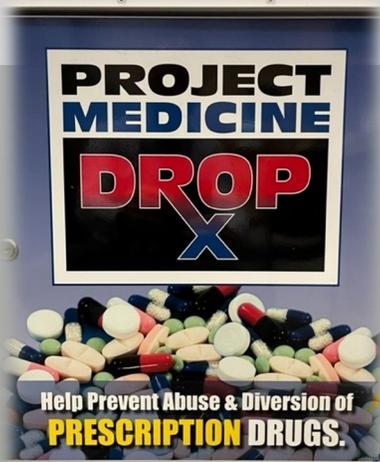
2024 Cases Assigned



2025 Cases Assigned



Project Medicine Drop



760 POUNDS OF MEDICATION WAS COLLECTED AND PROPERLY DISPOSED OF BY THE PRINCETON POLICE DEPARTMENT IN 2025



Records Bureau

The Records Bureau serves as the central hub for managing and maintaining the Princeton Police Department’s official documentation and public records. Open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the bureau provides residents and other stakeholders with direct access to a variety of police-related documents. Requests can be submitted in person, by phone, or via email for materials such as motor vehicle crash reports, crime incident reports, clearance letters, temporary handicapped parking applications, and other documents.

Beyond public assistance, the Records Bureau performs a wide range of administrative and operational functions that support the daily activities of the police department and the broader criminal justice system. Staff members are responsible for processing, organizing, and maintaining criminal investigation records, motor vehicle crash reports, and summonses to ensure accurate documentation and efficient retrieval when needed.

The bureau also manages discovery requests from attorneys and prepares case documentation for both the Princeton Municipal Court and the Mercer County Prosecutor’s Office. Additionally, Records Bureau personnel process Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests, which can range from simple document requests to complex inquiries requiring the review of multiple years of records.

In support of departmental operations, the Records Bureau assists patrol officers with administrative processes such as taxi licensing applications, including assigning case numbers, scheduling inspections, and reviewing documentation. The bureau also conducts record checks for outside law enforcement agencies, processing nearly 2,000 requests annually.

Another key responsibility of the bureau is the compilation and distribution of monthly statistical reports detailing police activity, including arrests, motor vehicle stops, DWI incidents, summonses, and local ordinance violations. These reports provide valuable operational insights for department leadership and are regularly shared with municipal officials, including the Mayor and Council.

In accordance with New Jersey state record retention requirements, the Records Bureau follows the established Records Retention and Disposition Schedule. Each year, staff compile and submit documentation to the State Division of Archives and Records Management (DARM) for approval to dispose of eligible records. Once authorization is received, records are securely destroyed, ensuring the department remains organized, compliant with state regulations, and able to efficiently manage its growing records system.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Handicapped Parking Placards	71	69	93	89	128
Firearms Permits Issued	167	152	89	108	86
Firearms ID Cards	82	81	41	49	44
Public Records Requests (OPRA)	999	943	860	839	1,108
Taxi Applications	3	4	4	1	1
Police Reports Processed	6,947	7,224	7,198	6,909	6,750

Communications

The Princeton Police Department's communications team consists of ten (10) dedicated Communications Officers. Working 12-hour shifts, they serve as the vital link between the community and emergency service providers, ensuring the seamless flow of critical information to keep Princeton safe.



The Communications Bureau plays a vital role in public safety, serving as the primary point of contact for residents and visitors seeking police, fire, or emergency medical assistance. Staffed by trained public safety telecommunicators, the Communications Center operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ensuring that calls are answered promptly and that critical information is relayed quickly to first responders.

Communications personnel are responsible for receiving emergency and non-emergency calls, dispatching police, fire, and EMS resources, and coordinating responses to incidents throughout the community. Their work requires professionalism, accuracy, and the ability to remain calm while managing multiple calls and radio transmissions.

In 2025, the Communications Center handled 39,867 telephone calls, including 7,780 emergency 911 calls, 515 abandoned 911 calls, and a total of 34,952 non-emergency calls for service. Each call was managed with urgency and professionalism, ensuring that residents receive timely assistance and that responding units are provided with the information needed to address each situation safely and effectively.

Through their dedication and attention to detail, Communications personnel remain a critical link in the public safety system and an essential part of the department's ability to protect and serve the Princeton community for all.

