

CITY OF ATLANTIC CITY

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
Atlantic City, New Jersey 08

MEMORANDUM

To: Marty Small Sr.
Honorable Mayor
City of Atlantic City

From: Henry M. White Jr.
Chief of Police

Date: January 24, 2020

Re: 2019 End of Year Report

Atlantic City began a rebirth in 2018 with the opening of Stockton University, the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, and the Ocean Resort Casino. In 2019, Atlantic City continued to thrive and improve the outlook of returning to a destination resort. Gaming revenue was more than \$3.29 billion, a more than 15 percent increase from the previous year. Stockton is looking to add to its footprint. Casinos are looking at new additions to their properties. And, Atlantic City is looking to add more residents and contributors that can make our city a success.

The Atlantic City Police Department wants to be a main contributor to the success of Atlantic City. Our interactions with the community and visitors should be positive and is a primary goal that we strive to achieve. Those interactions can be through our many community engagements that our officers participate in, those in need of assistance, or even those that are arrested.

This year our most successful accomplishment was the formation of the Neighborhood Coordination Unit (NCU). With funding provided by the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority, the NCU was formed as our department's newest commitment to community-oriented policing. Sixteen officers are dedicated specifically to this form of community policing. Twelve officers are assigned to the 6 wards within the city, and four to our homeless outreach program.

These officers are allotted time during their shift to focus solely on community engagement and follow up. They are available by cell phone to the residents for non-emergent matters. They attend neighborhood and business association meetings, and focus on quality-of-life issues as well as crime trends within their wards.

The formation of the NCU allowed us to add fifteen additional police officers that were sorely needed to our ranks. We also promoted seven officers to the rank of Lieutenant and twenty-four to the rank of Sergeant. The promotions allow us to properly supervise and mold our young police department.

2019 Calls for Service/Uniform Crime Report

In 2019, although the men and woman of the Atlantic City Police Department performed at a high level, we did not fulfill our duty to continue to lower crime. We are not satisfied with our 2019 performance and must perform better during 2020. During the year, officers responded to 105,927 calls for service. Those calls for service resulted in 2,656 arrests ranging from DWI to homicide. During these calls, the officers recovered 85 firearms.

Overall crime in the city rose for the first time in several years. There is no concrete reason for the increase in crime, however, we have seen a significant increase in the crime committed by juveniles. Many criminal offenses such as larceny and motor vehicle theft if committed by a juvenile result in them being returned to a parent or guardian. We will continue to analyze the data for indicators so that a comprehensive plan can be developed, if necessary.

The Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is a compiled list of crimes that occur in municipalities throughout the state of New Jersey and is maintained by the New Jersey State Police. The below graphs details the crimes recorded for the 2019 UCR and the two previous years.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Homicide	12	13	7	11
Rape	23	24	33	29
Robbery	271	227	131	182
Assault	1,099	787	657	926
Burglary	267	319	116	130
Larceny- Theft	1,461	1,298	994	1,520
MV Theft	79	115	73	89
Total	3,212	2,783	2,011	2,886

Homicides, Non-Fatal Shootings and Investigation Statistical Overview

In 2019, the gun violence that has affected this country did so in our community, however, I am proud to say that for the fourth consecutive year, the department's solvability rate for non-fatal shootings was over seventy percent. During the year, patrol officers and detectives responded to 25 non-fatal shootings with four deemed to be self-inflicted gunshot wounds. As a result of these investigations, 27 individuals were arrested for their various roles during the shootings and 19 firearms were recovered.

Unfortunately, after seeing a reduction in homicides in 2018, that number rose by four to 11 in 2019. Our detectives along with the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office solved seven of the homicides. All unsolved homicides and non-fatal shootings are still being actively investigated by our agency to bring closure to the families of those that were touched by these terrible acts.

The strong partnership with the members of our community has proven crucial in many of these investigations. We rely on citizens coming forward with information to pursue violent offenders and successfully close cases. Maintaining a relationship with the community and working together is a primary focus of the ACPD.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Homicides	12	13	7	11
Non-Fatal Shootings	24	21	20	25
Arrests	28	29	27	23
Solvability Rate for N/F Shootings	71%	81%	75%	72%

Tourism District Unit

In 2017, the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority allotted monies to fund a police unit that would specifically patrol the Tourism District within Atlantic City. The unit consists of Special Law Enforcement Officers and commanded by a police Captain and Lieutenant and supervised by police Sergeants. Their main focus is to combat crime and quality of life issues along the Boardwalk, Atlantic Avenue, Pacific Avenue and Tanger Outlets, The Walk. The officers patrol in marked patrol cars, on foot, on ATVs, or on bicycle. To combat crime, the TDU conducts daily property checks and interacts with the workers and visitors at our city’s casinos, hotels/motels, and stores. In 2019, the TDU conducted more than 32,000 community contacts and more than 19,000 property checks. They also act as an ambassador to the community as they patrol the Boardwalk in their bright specialized uniform shirt and are frequently asked questions from visitors.

2019 Tourism District Unit Statistics	
Arrests	162
Motor Vehicle/Parking Summonses Issued	431
Special Complaints Issued	632

Accident Investigations Section

The Accident Investigations Section (AIS) is tasked with responding to motor vehicle collisions, traffic enforcement, and escorts for special events. These officers patrol in marked police cars or on motorcycles. In 2019, they handled 2,428 motor vehicle collisions. This was an increase of nine percent compared to the previous year.

The AIS provided motorcycle escorts for the Vice President of the United States of America, Air Show, beach concerts, and numerous other high profile events. Their most important escorts are the countless number of funerals they assist in each year. The officers are frequently commended for their professionalism and assistance by members of grieving families.

During the year, there were 110 individuals arrested for DWI. The officers in this unit are generally tasked with assisting in these arrests. Three of our officers, Joseph Bereheiko, Fitzroy Simpson and Eric Knuttel, were recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving as the top three leading DWI enforcers in the county.

The tow lot which falls under the command of the AIS generated \$566,640 in revenue for the City of Atlantic City. This is almost \$25,000 more revenue generated than last year.

A.C.H.I.L.E.S. and Emergency Operations Center

In 2017, we opened our state-of-the-art surveillance and emergency operations center. We now have the capabilities to monitor thousands of surveillance cameras from different locations throughout the city to virtually patrol for crime and traffic issues. Within the surveillance center, we can connect with the medical center, all of our casinos, all of the school district, and other select locations through Mutual Link, which allows us to speak directly with security. In addition, this gives us access to all of these companies' surveillance cameras.

Project P.A.C.T. (Protecting Atlantic City Together) provides residents and merchants an opportunity to agree to allow us to have access to their home or business security/surveillance cameras. This provides an added layer of security to residents and merchants, and provides us with real time information during an incident or the opportunity to retrieve video of a crime that has occurred. Through Project P.A.C.T., we have the capability to view more than 2,000 cameras throughout the City.

Our Emergency Operations Center allows for a fully functional command post during major events that occur in Atlantic City from special events to weather events. Coupled with A.C.H.I.L.E.S, we are able to maintain situational awareness during these events along with personnel from needed federal, state, county, and local agencies.

During the year, our personnel monitoring the surveillance cameras have been instrumental in fighting crime and virtually patrolling the streets, boardwalk, and beach of the city. Surveillance center personnel have been utilized in hundreds of investigations and calls for service. They have been involved in more than 360 arrests, and the recovery of evidence associated with criminal acts. They have also been successful in reuniting families that have lost a child or loved one along the beach and/or boardwalk.



Narcotics and a Statistical Overview

Each year, the Atlantic City Police Department combats the possession and distribution of narcotics in our city through pro-active investigations, enforcement, and training. We combat these problems in many different ways.

Through our investigations and calls for service, ACPD officers removed a large amount of narcotics from the streets of Atlantic City and Atlantic County. Heroin, cocaine, and marijuana account for a large portion of narcotics that are recovered by our officers. During 2019, we recovered more than 63 pounds of heroin, cocaine, and marijuana. These numbers do not include the other narcotics that we recover throughout the year such as; prescription pills, ecstasy, fentanyl, and PCP.

During the year, our largest and most successful narcotic investigation resulted in the dismantling and crippling of a drug organization that was responsible for many deaths and overdoses related to their distribution of heroin. Members of our Special Investigations Section, FBI's Safe Streets South Jersey Violent Incident and Gang Task Force, Atlantic City Resident Office, and a host of other law enforcement agencies participated in a wiretap investigation that targeted drug dealers involved in the distribution of heroin throughout Atlantic City and the surrounding area.

As a result of the investigation, investigators arrested twenty-two individuals and recovered more than 61,000 individual bags of heroin that would have flooded this area with a drug that has caused hurt to so many. During the operation, it was learned that this organization was operating stash houses in our neighborhoods throughout Atlantic City.

	Grams	Pounds
Heroin	23,583.9	51.99
Cocaine	806.89	1.78
Marijuana	4,518.87	9.96

For many, addiction begins in the medicine cabinet. Our effort to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs begins at home. In 2012, the Atlantic City Police Department partnered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs in an effort to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. The Atlantic City Police Department became the first municipal police department in Atlantic County to allow consumers to dispose of their unused, unwanted or expired medications safely. A Project Medicine Drop Box is located in the lobby of the Public Safety Building and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. In 2019, 149 pounds of prescription drugs was turned in and destroyed by the ACPD. To date, more than 1,600 pounds of medication has been responsibly removed from our medicine cabinets and destroyed.

ACPD patrol officers have been carrying Naloxone, or Narcan, since 2015. All members of the police department are trained in the use of the nasal spray which counteracts the life-threatening effects of an opioid overdose. Additionally, we have provided training for the Police Chaplains, the Atlantic City Fire Department, and the Atlantic City Beach Patrol in a citywide effort to combat the current epidemic. There

have been 90 Narcan deployments by the ACPD since the beginning of the program, with 26 of the deployments in 2019.

Emergency Response Team

The Atlantic City Police Department maintains an Emergency Response Team consisting of three units; the Bomb Squad, the SWAT Team, and the Crisis Negotiation Team. The Emergency Response Team not only responds to critical incidents, but our Bomb Squad and SWAT Team are routinely called upon by schools, organizations, and programs to provide demonstrations of their service.

Bomb Squad – readiness is based on a rapid response with equipped special utility vehicles, fully equipped bomb response vehicles, robots, fiber optics and portable x-ray capabilities. The Unit is also a member of the New Jersey Render Safe Task force that has the capabilities to activate certified hazardous devices technicians for deployment from throughout New Jersey. In 2019, the Bomb Squad conducted 11 investigations and participated in 43 special events and sweeps. The Bomb Squad also took part in ten community outreach events. During these events, the unit will bring their equipment truck and provide demonstrations to the crowd and allow for children and adults to try on their gear or tour the truck.

Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) – specially trained personnel provide tactical response to hostage situations, barricaded persons, sniper and terrorism incidents, crowd control during major disturbances or riots, work or school place violence and high-risk search warrant entries for various investigative units. In 2019, the SWAT Team was activated 36 times resulting in the arrest of 21 individuals. These callouts ranged from the execution of a search warrant to a high risk apprehension. The SWAT Team took part in many community outreach events. They are usually the top act for the children who get to try on a team member's helmet, ballistic vest, and carry a ram or shield. They also get to go in the Bearcat, our armored vehicle.

Crisis Negotiators – can be called upon in incidents involving barricaded subjects, hostage takers, or persons threatening suicide. Crisis negotiators must establish contact with subjects, identify their demands, and work to resolve tense and often volatile standoffs without loss of life. To actively participate in any negotiation, the Crisis Negotiator Team member must have completed the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crisis Negotiation course. In 2019, our negotiators participated in the safe surrender of six individuals that were threatening suicide and four barricaded suspects.

Internal Affairs Statistical Overview

During 2019, the Atlantic City Police Department's Internal Affairs Section received 48 complaints. This is an eight percent reduction from last year. Of these complaints, four were for excessive force. It should be noted that not all of the complaints were initiated by civilians. There were 204 Use of Force reports submitted for the year. Seventy-five percent of the reports submitted are for compliance holds which is the least amount of force that can be used.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Internal Affairs Complaints	143	50	51	57	52	48
Excessive Force Complaints	42	11	6	13	9	4
Use of Force Reports	544	408	308	267	271	204
Arrests	4,104	3,296	3,047	3,222	2,930	2,656



We have seen a drastic reduction in complaints about our officers over the last several years. This reduction can be attributed to the professionalism of our police officers, continuous training, and the commitment to employing de-escalation tactics rather than using force.

Our continued use of our body worn cameras (BWC) and Early Warning Alert System are also significant factors. Every uniformed officer is now issued a BWC. Supervisors will routinely select certain calls for service and watch all of the officer's BWC's from that particular incident to ensure that officers are acting in accordance with departmental policies. The BWC also aides our Internal Affairs detectives with their investigations into received complaints.

The Early Warning Alert System's is a risk management procedure that offers the Police Department non-disciplinary avenues to address any potential, patterns, practices, or changes in employee performance before they may develop into problems or deficiencies. Positive performance is also monitored.

Community Interaction Through Electronic Communication

The Atlantic City Police Department has a connected with the community through many forms of social media. We currently operate and utilize pages on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Through these outlets, we are being followed more than 26,800 times. This allows us to not only provide information from the Police Department, but we also provide information related to community, school, and weather related events as well as any other information that we believe is noteworthy to our community members and visitors.

The department also maintains and utilizes tip411, which is an anonymous texting service where citizens can report anything from information about an illegally parked vehicle to information on a homicide. This has allowed members of the community who ordinarily would not have notified the police department about a particular issue to have a voice. We have seen great success come from tip411 with tips that have aided in investigations leading to arrests and the solving of neighborhood issues.

Community Activities, Programs, and Philanthropy

A main focus of the Atlantic City Police Department’s mission is our relationship with our community. We strive each day to better our relationship with our residents, especially the youth. We accomplish this in many ways.

Our commitment to the Police Athletic League, Community Relations Unit and now our new Neighborhood Coordination Unit are the primary layer in this mission. Their goals are to:

- help build a community partnership that will heighten the public’s level of confidence in the ACPD;
- enhance the cooperation between the community and the police;
- strengthen the department’s minority recruiting and outreach to diverse groups;
- foster cultural diversity training and youth crime diversion programs;
- develop school partnerships and ensure children’s safety; and
- expand the neighborhood watch and citizen assistance programs.

These tasks are completed through the many events and programs that we sponsor and co-sponsor throughout the year. Below are many of the special events or programs that we participated in with several that are special to us highlighted.

Homework Completion Program	Police/Junior Explorers	Police Chaplain Program
Junior Police Academy	Civilian Police Academy	National Night Out
Pizza with the Police	Coffee with a Cop	Career Day
Christmas at the Rescue Mission	Cupcake with a Cop	Holiday Basketball Game
Summer Camp	Autism Fun Day	Reading Corner
LE Against Drugs (L.E.A.D.)	Mentoring Program (Boys & Girls)	Reading Across America

Community Barbeques	Senior Public Safety Health Fair	Community Care Meetings
Summer Family Movie Nights	Trunk or Treat	Community Clean-Up
Spanish Classes for LE	Book Bag Giveaway	STEM Program
Hooked on Fishing	Shop with a Cop	Turkey & a Box

Community Walks- On select days throughout the summer, our officers along with community leaders, residents, and other law enforcement agencies participated in walks through several of the city’s housing complexes. Several of the walks ended in a barbeque or movie night

Community Barbeques- Our newly deployed Neighborhood Coordination Unit held summer barbeques in each of the city’s six wards. The barbeques were free to residents and allowed for community members and officers to break bread with each other.

Homework Completion Program- the ACPD partnered with the Atlantic City Housing Authority and Stockton University to create the program at Stanley Holmes Village. The program runs after school throughout the year allowing students a quiet time to complete homework. Officers, ACHA volunteers, and Stockton students will monitor the homework time and assist the students with any questions that they may have.

Police Explorer Program- A career oriented program that allows young adults and children the opportunity to experience law enforcement through instruction and hands-on training. We currently divide our 32 Explorers into two groups, the Police Explorers and Junior Explorers. Our 15 Police Explorers range in age from 13 to 18. Our 17 Junior Explorers range in age from 9 to 13. While many police departments select older candidates, we find that through our program we can instill self-confidence, self-respect, and show the benefit of working as a team to some of our younger residents. This also allows us the opportunity to interact at a younger age with these boys and girls and build a relationship. Our Explorers can frequently be found assisting the ACPD at many special events.

Over the past several years, our Police Explorers have participated in the NJ State Youth Law Enforcement Competition. In 2019, the event was held at Stockton University and the Explorers were judged in events such as: physical fitness, arrest, search & seizure, motor vehicle stops, and shoot/don’t shoot scenarios. We are proud to say that our Police Explorers finished second overall in the competition. We also had multiple teams win their individual events. They are already training and preparing for 2020’s competition.

Police Chaplain Program- The ACPD recognizes the influence and impact that faith-based leaders have in the community. This program creates a partnership with the various faith-based leaders of the community to respond and assist police officers with providing an overall better quality of service to the citizens of Atlantic City. There are currently 13 Chaplains who assist us during the year.

Junior Police Academy- This two week training session for fifth and sixth grade students details the inner workings of the ACPD and promotes understanding of law enforcement and public safety. Recruits are provided with field trips, hands on instruction and physical training by officers. In 2019, we held two sessions with 82 recruits completing the academy.

Civilian Police Academy- This eight week program provides a unique opportunity for insight into the structure and limitations of authority within each entity of the public safety community. Recruits are provided with instruction from personnel assigned to each unit in the police department and the other city public safety departments. We held a spring and fall session with 22 residents taking part. To date, more than 250 residents have taken part in this program.

National Night Out- Each year the ACPD participates in National Night Out (NNO). NNO is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. Furthermore, it provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

Career Day- Each year the ACPD participates in Career Day at our schools. Officers from throughout the department explained to students what it is like to work in patrol, investigations, as a K9 handler, as a SWAT officer, and other areas. Demonstrations from our K9 unit, SWAT Team, and Bomb Squad are provided.

Autism Fun Day- The ACPD participated in the 7th Annual Autism Awareness Day sponsored by the Gentlemen of the Shore Motorcycle Club. More than 400 children from throughout Atlantic County interacted with our officers and received a demonstration from our K9 unit and Bomb Squad.

Coffee with a Cop- These events consist of coffee and conversation with neighbors, community members, and police officers. No agendas, just a chance to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know the officers in the ACPD.

Pizza with the Police- Certain classes throughout the schools are selected to receive a pizza lunch served by our officers. This allows the officers and the youth of the city to interact, ask questions of each other, and build relationships and trust.

Cupcake with a Cop- Is a way to engage with our first and second grade students. Officers will read a story to a set of classes as the children enjoy a cupcake.

Holiday Basketball Game- This year, the third annual Holiday Basketball Game between the Atlantic City Police Department and students of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. School Complex took place. The students got an early visit from Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus, and many students walked away with presents.

Summer Camp- During the summer, PAL offers Summer Camp to the children of our community, ages 5 to 13. The children are provided meals and fun experiences such as trips to the Aquarium, Black Bear Cave, skating, Clementon Park, and Sky Zone. They are active and use Browns Park as an outdoor gym where they learned new things such as yoga.

Hooked on Fishing, Not on Drugs- Local youth had the chance to do some fishing at the 19th annual Officer Dennis P. McGurk Jr. Memorial "Hooked on Fishing Not on Drugs" fishing derby. About 50 boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 17 years old participated in the event and had a great time.

Not only do we provide support to our community through our city sponsored endeavors, but our officers are going in their own pocket and benefiting members of Atlantic City and Atlantic County. Below are some examples, of the generosity of our men and women.

Early Christmas for Children from the AC Rescue Mission- On December 20, Christmas came early for some special boys and girls at the Atlantic City Rescue Mission. Members of the Atlantic City Police Department arranged for the children to meet Santa Claus at the Moose Lodge. The 13 boys and girls, ranged in age from an infant to 12 years old, provided a wish list to our Community Outreach officer. Each division/unit selected a child and purchased the requested gifts.

The "Blessing Bag"- For the third year, patrol officers and their families assembled bags that would be provided to members of our homeless population. The officers wanted to find a way to give back to the community. The bags consisted of various items such as hats, scarves, gloves, socks, toiletries and food.

Breast Cancer Awareness- In October, we held our inaugural Breast Cancer Awareness month. Officers purchased hats with a pink ACPD patch that could be worn while on duty to honor those affected by this disease. This year, we raised money for the Shirley Mae Foundation.

No Shave November- Each November, our officers participate in the national campaign, No Shave November. Officers are permitted to put down the razor for the month, as long as they have made their donation. This year, we raised money for the AtlantiCare Foundation.

Special Events

In 2019, the ACPD provided support for numerous high-profile events. We were directly involved in the designing of traffic flow patterns, providing traffic control, crowd control, and on-site security.

Events included the weekend trip for Vice President of the United States Mike Pence, the 25th annual Warped Tour, and the Atlantic City Air Show. All of these events are a testament to all of public safety in Atlantic City and our area. They require local, county, state and federal partners to collaborate to ensure the specific event runs safely and efficiently.

The two-day Warped Tour festival featured the biggest footprint for an Atlantic City beach concert. The set up included multiple stages with almost 40 acts performing. Our training and preparation for the event was evident on the first day when we quickly and safely evacuated more than 20,000 spectators from the beach due to severe weather. Between the Warped Tour and Atlantic City Air Show, Atlantic City saw more than 450,000 people on our beaches and boardwalk. With the frequency throughout the world in terrorist attacks involving open, public events, there has never been a more important time to ensure the safety and security of our visitors. We were tasked with providing security plans for these events that not only

provided safety to our visitors, but allowed them to enjoy the events, and wanting to return to Atlantic City for future events.

Some of the additional events the ACPD staffed were:

Latin Festival	Atlantic City Marathon	Food Truck Festival
Ironman 70.3 Atlantic City	Atlantic City Triathlon	Atlantic City Beer Fest
New Jersey State Democratic Convention		St. Patrick's Day Parade



Goals for 2020

As Atlantic City continues to prosper, our number one goal for 2020 will be to show a reduction in the violence that has plagued our city. With additional manpower, resources and community engagement, I believe that the men and women of the Atlantic City Police Department will accomplish this task.

As you saw earlier in our overview of the Internal Affairs statistics, we have made extraordinary strides in reducing our Internal Affairs complaints and the use of force needed when making arrests. This will correlate to a reduction in lawsuits brought against the city and wasted money to fight those lawsuits that could be used more productively.

As has been mentioned many times, community engagement is vital to the success of our police department. We will continue to engage our youngest and oldest residents through programs and interaction. Increasing our ranks could dramatically add to this endeavor. With more officers, especially those assigned to the Neighborhood Coordination Unit, we could add foot and bicycle patrols in our neighborhoods. These types of patrols are the cornerstone of community policing and would be a welcome addition to the community and enhance our interaction with its members, especially the young people.

We want to be a positive force in the lives of our youth in hopes that one day, they too, will become a member of the Atlantic City Police Department.

Through the years, due to the uncertainty of the city's financial situation, our patrol fleet has been neglected. We are now paying that price with an old, deteriorating fleet of available marked patrol cars. It is imperative that we develop a replacement plan for these vehicles to come in compliance with industry standards regarding the life expectancy of a patrol car. The condition of a patrol car can be indicative of the police department and municipality it represents. We want to show both in the best possible light.

The technological advances that we have seen in police work through the years has been unbelievable. In 2020, we hope to expand our camera network by the installation of cameras along Pacific Avenue. This will assist in combating crime along this major hub of our city. We are also anticipating more cooperation from our residents and businesses joining Project P.A.C.T.

The men and women of the Atlantic City Police Department come to work each day with a desire to better our city, better our community and better the lives of the residents and visitors. We will be on the front line of returning Atlantic City to the glory days. It is our goal to continue to strive to provide exemplary service to our residents and many visitors.

