

**PERRY TOWNSHIP
POLICE DEPARTMENT**
SERVICE ABOVE SELF

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Perry Township Residents,

When 2024 began, I started my 26th year at Perry Township and my 3rd year as your Chief of Police. I have been honored to serve the Perry Township community throughout my career, and I am proud of the accomplishments of our Police Department.

Over my career at Perry Township, I have watched the Police Department evolve into a professional full-service police agency. We have received commendations, accreditations and recognition for the hard work our officers do on a daily basis and for the way we approach law enforcement in our community.

The men and women of the Perry Township Police Department live the motto "Service Above Self" and provide a safe, welcoming and inclusive community for all that live, work and travel in Perry Township. This is made possible with the support of our elected officials and community to provide the service you know and have come to expect.

The top priority of the Perry Township Police Department is to provide quality police service and maintain a safe community for the Perry Township community. We will continually work to improve and grow our means of doing so.

K. Steve Cesaro



Chief of Police



MISSION STATEMENT

The Perry Township Police Department is committed to serving our community through honesty, integrity, responsibility, fairness, accountability, compassion, courage, and professionalism. We will always strive to meet the present and future needs of the citizens and businesses of Perry Township through a continued partnership with our community.



The Perry Township Police Department Core Values

1. Integrity

We hold ourselves accountable to the highest level of honesty, truthfulness, and ethical conduct. Our actions and our words must reflect sound moral principles that promote trust within our organization and with the public we serve.

2. Accountability

Being responsible and answerable to ourselves, our organization, and the public we serve.

3. Honesty

We will be of high moral character, and never lie, cheat, or abuse our authority. We will always be trustworthy, loyal, fair, and sincere to our organization and the public we serve.

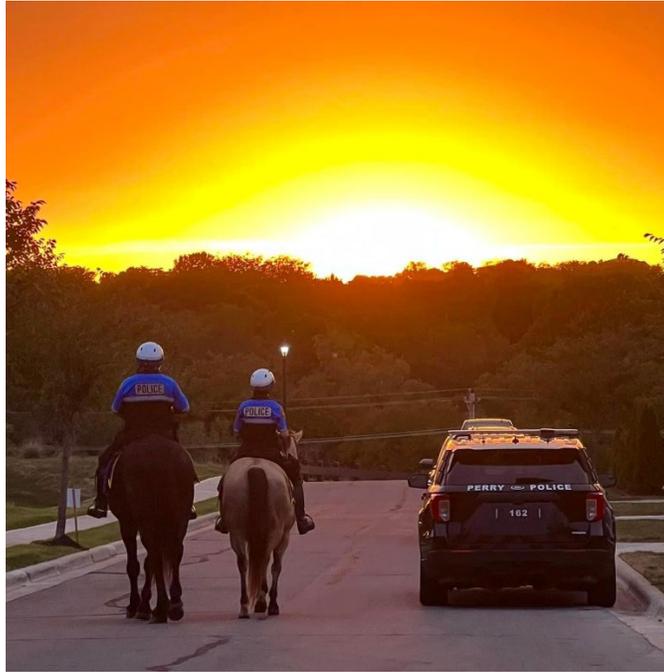
4. Professionalism

We will conduct ourselves in a manner which displays the highest standards of personal and organizational excellence to ensure public trust and respect while constantly striving to learn and evolve in an ever-changing world.

5. Fairness

We will always be impartial and give everyone we have contact with just treatment, without favoritism or discrimination.

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



The Police Department partook in many community events both in and around Perry Township. Fostering positive community relations and engaging in extensive outreach with the public is important to the Police Department. Within Perry Township, officers attended block parties, community garage sales, holiday events and more.

The Police Department experienced some personnel changes in 2024. Sgt. Anthony “Tony” Ashley retired after 25 years in law enforcement. Tony started his career at Perry Township in 1999, then took a position with Madison Township, and then returned to Perry Township, where he finished his career. We wish a long and well-deserved retirement!

With Sgt. Ashley’s retirement, Officer Christopher Ruh was promoted to sergeant to serve as the third shift supervisor. Officer Ruh joined the Police Department in 2009; his many years of experience will be a valuable resource for young officers. Officer Stephen Jackson was hired in 2024 to fill the opening created by the promotion of Sgt. Chris Ruh. Officer Jackson came to us from a neighboring agency and brought with him several years of law enforcement experience. We congratulate Sgt. Ruh on his well-earned promotion and look forward to Officer Jackson’s career at Perry Township.

A levy issue for the Police Department was on the ballot last year to address an operations budget shortfall. Three community meetings were held and the Police Department sent out communications to discuss the need for a levy and to receive feedback from our residents. Residents approved the levy ballot measure in November 2024. Revenue from the levy will begin to be received throughout 2025, and the Police Department will begin to use revenue in the coming years to better serve the Perry Township community.

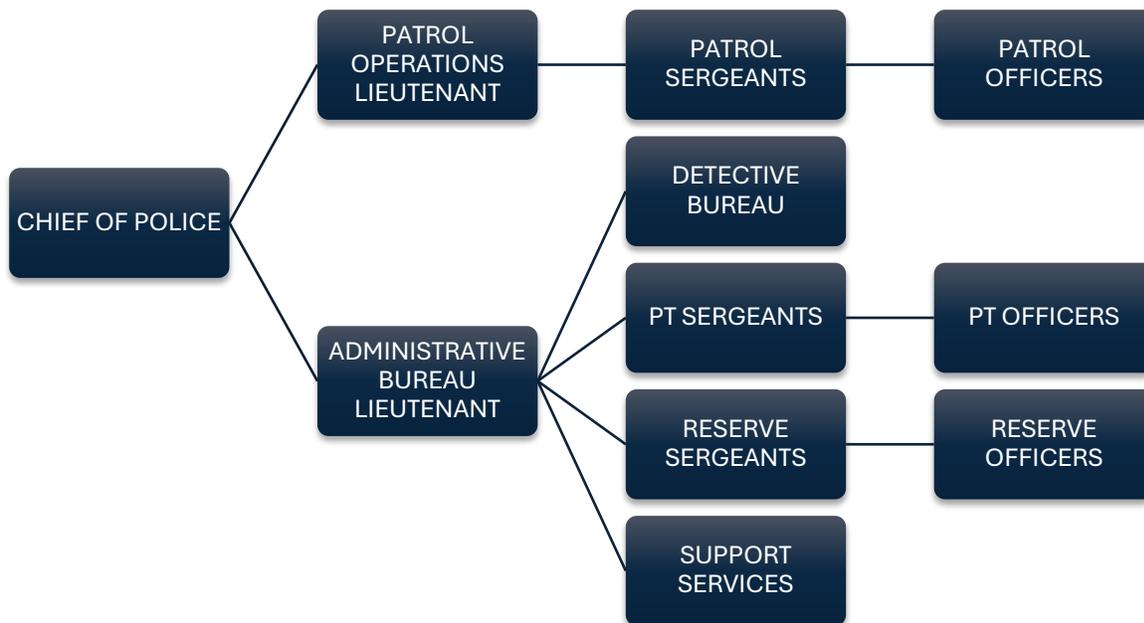
AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Perry Township Police Department provided 24-hour service to the community of Perry Township. The Department is an integral part of developing and maintaining a safe and secure community to live, work, and visit. The Police Department provides a range of services to the Perry Township community, including the primary duties of community patrol, emergency response, and traffic enforcement, and ancillary services offered to residents including residential and business checks, under-speed vehicle inspections, issuance of Kidprint IDs, and more.

Staffing: The Police Department is served by 24 sworn officers: 14 full-time officers, 6 part-time officers, and 4 reserve officers. All officers are professionally trained and certified by the State of Ohio. In addition to sworn staff, two civilian employees, two cadets, and a volunteer chaplain support the functions of the Police Department.

Areas of Responsibility: The Chief of Police is the chief executive officers of the Police Department. The Chief is responsible for planning the functions of the Department, establishing short and long term objectives, preparing the annual budget, supervising internal expenditures, and the overall administration of personnel selection.

Police Department Chain of Command



The Department is further divided into two principal bureaus: the Patrol Operations Bureau and the Administrative Bureau. Each bureau is supervised by a lieutenant who reports directly to the Chief. The Patrol Operations Lieutenant oversees the day-to-day patrol and emergency response functions of the Police Department, and all full-time sergeants directly report to him. The Administrative Bureau Lieutenant oversees the administrative and support functions of the Police Department, directing the Department's Reserve Officer and Cadet Programs, and supervising part-time officers.

PATROL OPERATIONS

The responsibility of the Patrol Operations Bureau is to maintain a safe and secure environment for citizens and visitors in all areas of Perry Township. Officers assigned to patrol are the backbone of the Perry Township Police Department.

The Patrol Bureau is responsible for responding to all types of emergencies and non-emergencies, including automobile accidents, wellness checks, misdemeanors and felonies, and other requests for assistance. Patrol officers are advocates of preventative patrol and strive to maintain high visibility in the community to deter crime and provide proactive assistance.



Patrol officers are almost always the first to respond to calls for service. They often arrive at the scenes of emergencies before other first responders and are trained to provide first aid and comfort to victims and the injured. Officers also frequently put themselves in harm's way such as when they are called upon to stabilize a domestic violence call or when searching for dark buildings for a dangerous suspect.

2024 Incident Statistics

The Police Department responded to 586 incidents in 2024, decreased from 608 in 2023. Criminal incidents decreased overall, while DUI/OVI and vehicle incidents, primarily traffic offenses and vehicle accidents, increased in 2024.

Incident Type	2023	2024
Criminal Incident	345	274
DUI/OVI	4	15
Missing Person	1	3
Overdose	1	1
Vehicle Incident	257	293
Grand Total	608	586

The Police Department attributes the increase in vehicle incidents to factors including increased traffic due to post-COVID return-to-office initiatives and the Police Department's proactive traffic enforcement initiatives. The Department expects the number of vehicle incidents to continue increasing in 2025 and proactive traffic enforcement will continue to be a point of emphasis for the Department.

Vehicle Incidents	2023	2024
Disabled Vehicle	16	5
Hit Skip	22	13
Motorcycle-ATV-Mini Bike Complaint	2	0

Recovered Vehicle	1	3
Suspicious Vehicle	2	1
Traffic Jam or Road Blocked	1	1
Traffic Offense	57	91
Vehicle Crash	156	179
Grand Total	257	293

While vehicle incidents increased, criminal incidents decreased from 2023 to 2024. The Police Department attributes this to an increase in preventative patrol and community presence of patrol officers.

Criminal Incidents	2023	2024
Arson	0	1
Assault	3	5
Burglary	3	4
Complaint	99	83
Counterfeiting/Forgery	6	2
Cyber Fraud Task Force	0	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	15	9
Detail	0	1
DOA - Unknown	1	2
DOA - Suicide	1	0
Domestic Violence	7	8
Fraud	1	1
Larceny/Theft	35	22
Menacing	6	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	3
Officer in Trouble	0	1
Person in Jeopardy	31	17
Pornography / Obscene Material	1	0
Property Impound	8	4
Property in Jeopardy	6	6
Request for Assistance	58	54
Robbery	1	0
Sexual Assault	2	0
Shooting	4	1
Stalking	2	1
Unspecified Call	45	34
Warrant	4	12
Weapon Law Violation	0	1
Grand Total	345	274

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Perry Township Police Department’s Detective Bureau is responsible for investigations of criminal activity throughout Perry Township. The Detective Bureau comprises of one full-time detective, one part-time detective, one part-time detective/evidence technician, and one reserve detective. The detectives interview victims, witnesses, and suspects, and process crime scenes to collect and analyze evidence. Detectives document their work in case files, which are presented to the Prosecutor’s Office for prosecution of the suspect/defendant. They also manage criminal intelligence information and analyze crime trends to help direct patrol officers in the prevention of crime.

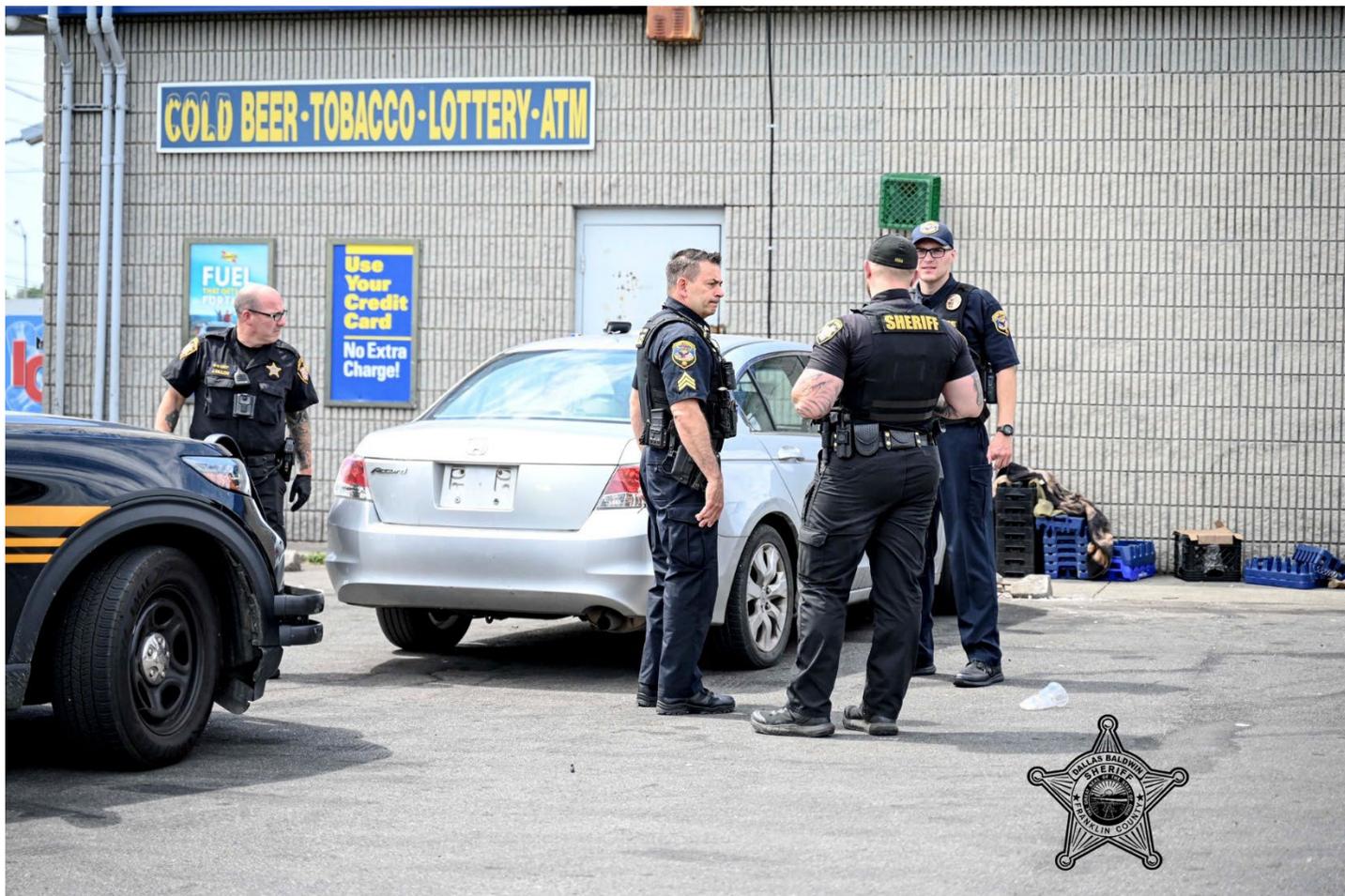
The Detective Bureau is part of a U.S. Secret Service task force for financial crimes, which gives the Bureau the option of taking a case to the federal level if they meet certain criteria. The Secret Service provides training and equipment at no cost to the Detective Bureau, which has allowed them to create a digital forensics lab, enhancing the ability to respond to cyber-crime. In the past, evidence such as phones and computers would have to be sent to another agency to be analyzed. That process could take several months to get back results. With their own lab, the Detective Bureau can process digital evidence much faster than before

In 2024, the Detective Bureau expanded local, regional, and national cooperation efforts, with detectives working with the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Task Force and Delaware County Child Abduction Response Team (CART) and applying for membership in the Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLLEN). These relationships benefit Perry Township with access to greater resources and personnel to assist with local investigations.

2024 Detective Bureau Case Overview

Case Type	Begin 2024	Added	Closed	End 2024
Arson	0	1	1	0
Assault	0	1	1	0
Burglary	0	4	2	2
CFTF-Skimmer Only	0	1	1	0
Complaint	5	18	17	6
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	1	2	0
Cyber Fraud Task Force	0	1	1	0
Cyber Fraud Task Force – Other	0	1	1	0
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	0	6	4	2
DOA – Unknown	0	1	0	1
DUI/OVI	0	1	1	0
Fraud	2	3	3	2
Hit Skip	3	4	7	0
Larceny/Theft	9	16	24	1
Menacing	1	0	1	0
Miscellaneous	0	2	2	0
Missing Person Reported	0	1	1	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	1	2	0
Person in Jeopardy	0	3	3	0

Property in Jeopardy	0	2	2	0
Rape	0	1	0	1
Request for Assistance – Criminal Incident	0	4	3	1
Request for Assistance – Vehicle Incident	0	1	1	0
Robbery	1	0	1	0
Stalking	1	0	1	0
Traffic Offense	0	1	1	0
Trafficking	0	1	1	0
Unspecified – Vehicle Incident	0	2	2	0
Unspecified Call	1	3	4	0
Vehicle Crash	1	4	4	1
Weapon Law Violation	0	1	1	0
Grand Total	26	86	95	18



SPECIAL UNITS

Special units are police units which serve ancillary functions to the agency's primary function of patrol. These units provide unique duties and capabilities that supplement the core functions of the Police Department.

Mounted Unit: The Mounted Unit primarily attends community events in place of patrol officers. The Mounted Unit can also be called upon to patrol areas where cruisers cannot, particularly in crowds or offroad for searches.

The Mounted Unit attended 14 public events in 2024, including the Worthington Hills 4th of July Parade, the Brookside Sleigh Rides, Neighbors' Night Out in the Courtyards on Riverside, and Cops N' Kids Day.

K9 Unit: The K9 Unit consists of Detective Charles Mills and K9 Coyle. Coyle is dual purpose K9, which means that he is trained in both explosives and odor detection, as well as patrol K9. As of 2023, Coyle retired from patrol but continues his service as an odor and article search K9. Coyle can search for evidence in a crime scene, detect explosives, and can track missing or wanted individuals when needed.



In 2024, the K9 unit responded to two (2) bomb threats and attended three (3) public relations events. The unit also conducted parade float inspections and route clearance for the Worthington Hills 4th of July festivities, and conducted a pre-event security sweep for the Ohio National Guard Military Ball.

In addition to assisting Patrol Operations and other agencies, the K9 Unit attends community events in Perry Township, including the Worthington Hills 4th of July Parade, National Night Out, and Beggars Night trick-or-treat.

Bike Patrol: The Bike Patrol Unit consists of five officers that have attended the 40-hour certification course through the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPBMA). Officers train on a variety of different cycling skills, including skill development, riding in diverse traffic situations practicing patrol tactics techniques, ascending curbs, descending stairs, and performing emergency maneuvers designed to avoid crashes.

Bike Patrol officers can patrol where a patrol car cannot. The Bike Patrol Unit is deployed for both general patrol and community events, such as Beggars Night trick-or-treat, school events, and parades.

Honor Guard:

The Honor Guard is a ceremonial unit comprised of sworn members of the Police Department who are highly motivated and maintain exceptionally high standards of appearance, conduct, and aptitude for ceremonial duty. The Honor Guard has the privilege of leading the Worthington Hills 4th of July Parade each year and are sometimes asked to participate in other parades, celebrations, and honorary functions.



UAS Unit: The police department operates an Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Unit. UAS are commonly referred to as “drones.” The UAS Unit consists of sworn personnel that are specially trained in the operation and procedures for public safety drone flight and certified as Remote Pilots by the Federal Aviation Administration per Part 107. Perry Township Police UAS operators hold a daytime waiver so that they may fly the drones at night as needed.

The UAS Unit uses these sophisticated tools for a variety of different safety functions, including search and rescue, locating missing people, surveying and documenting traffic collisions and crime scenes, searching for evidence in inaccessible locations, fire incidents, HAZMAT incidents, and monitoring traffic and pedestrians at large events.

In 2024, Detective Roberts trained four (4) additional Perry Township Police Officers in drone operations, and they received their FAA Part 107 licenses, certifying them as UAS pilots. The Detective additionally trained 12 personnel from Worthington divisions of Police and Fire & EMS in the operation of UAS. This training enhances the response capability of both the Perry Township Police Department and our partner agencies.

Chaplain Unit: The Chaplain Unit consists of two chaplains who volunteer their time with the Police Department. The chaplains provide emotional, moral, and spiritual support to victims of crime, their families, officers, staff, and the community. Chaplains are unpaid volunteers. The Police Department provides them with Perry Township polos in lieu of uniforms.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

The Police Department takes great strides to ensure our officers both meet and exceed the training standards required by the State of Ohio. Perry Township officers typically complete 40 and 50 hours a year.

Officers are required to complete the State of Ohio's mandatory Continuing Professional Training annually. Officers also receive specialized training for ancillary duties and assignments. Officers receive pistol, shotgun, and rifle training along with annual firearms requalification each year. Officers also receive annual training in less-lethal weapons such as TASERs, Bola-Wrap, and less-lethal shotguns.

Training is either conducted on-site by Perry Township Officers certified to train in specific areas, or by outside instructors and agencies. The Police Department sometimes collaborates with neighboring agencies for training opportunities, including the Sharon Township Police Department and the Clinton Township Police Department.



OHIO COLLABORATIVE



As part of the Ohio Collaborative standards for Bias Free Policing, the Perry Township Police Department logs demographic data for all citations and warnings issued by our officers. These statistics assist our agency to determine if and where bias may exist. Tracking total citations and warnings also assists the Police Department in analyzing the efficacy of our proactive traffic enforcement measures and ensuring our Department remains free of bias.

CITATION DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity	2022	2023	2024
White	177	289	231
Black	34	61	72
Asian	13	28	24
Hispanic	23	53	98
Other	22	48	30
Unknown	5	5	7
Total	274	484	462

Gender	2022	2023	2024
Male	179	317	319
Female	95	167	143
Total	274	484	462

Age	2022	2023	2024
Juvenile	13	24	19
18-24	76	119	126
25-34	76	129	149
35-44	44	77	74
45-54	22	61	39
55-64	19	41	26
65+	24	32	28
Total	274	483	461

WARNING DEMOGRAPHICS

Ethnicity	2022	2023	2024
White	85	240	211
Black	19	49	43
Asian	12	18	23
Hispanic	1	22	16
Other	16	48	22
Unknown	3	10	4
Total	136	387	319

Gender	2022	2023	2024	Age	2022	2023	2024
Male	86	232	208	Juvenile	8	16	17
Female	50	155	110	18-24	21	75	65
Total	136	387	318	25-34	26	98	86
				35-44	26	78	49
				45-54	27	56	49
				55-64	19	34	26
				65+	9	30	25
				Total	136	387	317