

Stratford Police Department Annual Report 2008



Prepared by: Chief Ronald Morello

STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Stratford Police Department to provide professional, high quality and effective police service in partnership with the community. We, the members of the Stratford Police Department, believe that our work has a vital impact on the quality of life in our community. To demonstrate our commitment to our profession, on and off duty, we subscribe to the following values:

Integrity

Integrity is defined as being honest, moral, upright and sincere. Public trust can only exist with our integrity and respect for one another. The foundation of the Stratford Police Department is the high level of integrity of its employees.

Commitment to Employees

The Stratford Police Department recognizes that its employees are the vital component to the successful delivery of police service. We believe we can achieve our highest potential by actively involving our employees in problem solving and improving police services. We support an organizational climate of mutual trust and respect.

Community Partnership

Recognizing the fact that police agencies were established as a result of society's voluntary limitation of personal freedoms, we encourage and expect the participation of the community in facilitating solutions to problems of mutual concern. We therefore solicit and support contributions from all members of this community regardless of race, sex, national origin or social status.

Community Sensitive Policing

Department members shall uphold laws in an ethical, impartial, courteous, and professional manner while respecting the rights and dignity of all persons. We shall strive to achieve a balance between enforcement and community needs which reflects both the spirit and the letter of the law.

Professionalism

Recognizing the changing and diverse needs of the community, the Stratford Police Department promotes and encourages a policy of professional and individual excellence which is delivered and enhanced by continuing education and training.

We realize fully that the expression of ideas is meaningless unless actively practiced. The integrity and professionalism demanded of members of the Stratford Police Department shall ensure the proper, lawful and unbiased application of police powers.

ORGANIZATION & PERSONNEL

Personnel

There was one formal promotion during the year of 2008. Patrolman Robert Kelly was promoted to the rank of Sergeant after scoring number one on the New Jersey Department of Personnel Examination. Sergeant Kelly is a 15 year police veteran and town resident. Officer James Thomas was transferred from the Patrol Division to the Detective Bureau after Patrolman Michael Meyers expressed an interest to return to the Uniformed Patrol. Patrolman Kimberly McColligan resigned from the department to pursue a position with the Prosecutors Office. Officer Glenn Behnke was then appointed as a Special Law Enforcement Officer to replace the void left by McColligan's departure.

Departures

Effective January 1, 2008, the department's Records Clerk Marie Gahagan retired after over 23 years with the Borough. Little Marie will surely be missed by all and we thank her for her years of service without ever taking a lunch break. (*true story*) During 2008, one Special Police Officer left the police department as indicated above.

Current Employees

The list below reflects the Stratford Police Department Personnel as of December 31, 2008.

Chief of Police
Ronald Morello

Police Captain
Vacant

Patrol Lieutenant
Vacant

Administrative Sergeant
Sergeant Stephen McBride

Patrol Supervisors
Sergeant John Brown
Sergeant Frank Gagliardi
Sergeant Robert Kelly

Detectives
Detective Scott Beasley
Detective Bret Johnson
Detective James Thomas

Administrative / Records

Maria Gahagen (*retired from service 12/31/08*)

Kristina Clement

Property & Evidence Function

Detective Scott Beasley

Patrolman

Patrolman Michael Meyers

Patrolman Michael Williams

Patrolman John Beasley

Patrolman Thomas Farrell

Patrolman Andrew Rebecca

Patrolman Kenneth Righter

Patrolman Vincent Jess

Patrolman Glenn Behnke

Class I Special Officers

Officer Anthony Campbell (auxiliary)

Crossing Guards

1. JoAnne Kelly (Captain)
2. Christine Osiak
3. Deseri Adolf
4. Alica Sims
5. Harry Cook
6. Sharon Boswell
7. Herb Todd
8. Keith Carney
9. Helene Ewald
10. Kim Houseman
11. 5 alternate crossing guards

Retirees and other Previous Employees

Below are the most contemporary sworn officers we wish to remember who dedicated many years of their lives to Stratford. Their good work still has a positive affect on the department today.

Retired Personnel

Detective Frank Rizzo
Chief James McBride

Deputy Chief Nick DiEttore
Chief James Fuller

Sergeant Edward Kane
Sergeant Paul Stoffel

Injuries and Accidents

Stratford Borough is self-insured for workers compensation claims. In order to ensure proper patrol coverage for the citizens of Stratford, there has been a concerted effort by all police officers to reduce the incidence of worker injury. However due to the inherently dangerous nature of the law enforcement profession, which often at times exposes police officers to hazardous situations, the potential for injury is extremely high. In 2008 there were four (4) cases of work related injuries which were reported as events which should have been classified as Injured on Duty. There were zero (0) work days missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2008, our Police Officers were assaulted on nine (9) separate occasions. These felonious assaults on Law Enforcement Officers occurred while police were investigating the following incidents: domestic disturbances, other disturbances, traffic stops and suspicious persons. Incidents and events at the Kennedy Hospital Emergency room have been of particular concern to police officers. Many visitors to the emergency room are seeking treatment for drug, alcohol and psychiatric conditions, or a variety of each category which tends to make their behavior erratic and irrational at best. As a result of assaults on police, the victim police officers received bumps, scrapes, bruises and contusions as inflicted by others.

The Stratford Police Department logged over 129,000 miles driven in department vehicles in 2008; resulting in zero (0) traffic accidents involving department vehicles. Because police officers are forced to drive in "emergency vehicle status" and given the amount of miles driven per year, having no police accidents during the year 2008 is exceptional. The Police Officers are commended for demonstrating exceptional care, caution and sound judgment.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Reported Crimes

As can be seen by the figures below, the total reported criminal offenses remained constant from 2006 to 2008 crime figures. The figures below include all reported criminal activity except for traffic and juvenile offenses.

	2006	2007	2008
Total Criminal Offenses	1018	1024	1156

Arrests

The figures listed below reflect the number of "individuals" arrested for the previous three years. It should be noted that most times multiple charges are filed against a single "individual." The arrests figures listed below reflect the number of persons physically arrested by Stratford Police Officers. In over 100 additional cases, criminal charges have been filed against suspects, but they have not been yet

arrested or were arrested by other law enforcement agencies at the request of the Stratford Police Department.

	2006	2007	2008
Arrests	611	649	623

Drug Offenses

Reported drug offenses continued to rise in 2008 to an all time high. The police department is continuing in its proactive enforcement efforts concerning drug use and distribution.

Year	Drug Offenses
2003	51
2004	53
2005	84
2006	86
2007	110
2008	84

Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 17,000 city, county, and state law enforcement agencies reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. It was established in 1930 to gauge the state of crime in the nation. There are eight (8) main offense classifications, known as Part I Crimes, used as part of the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The eight (8) crime classifications are divided into two categories; Violent Crimes and Property Crimes. The offenses which constitute the Violent Crime category include: Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter; Forcible Rape; Robbery; and Aggravated Assault. The offenses which constitute the Property Crime category include: Burglary; Theft; Motor Vehicle Theft; and Arson. During the month of June 2008, Governor Jon Corzine instituted a new Inner City Anti-Crime Initiative. In response the Camden County Police Chiefs Association has instituted a *Special Crime Records Program* to measure if crime and criminals are fleeing the states urban areas to seek refuge in our suburban communities.

Below is a chart highlighting the eight (8) identified crime classifications and the respective number of offenses for Stratford Borough for the last five (5) years.

Offense	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Change from 2007
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Rape	2	1	2	3	2	-1
Robbery	7	6	4	8	5	-3
Agg. Assault	9	9	11	9	9	-0-
Burglary	18	20	16	19	28	+9
M.V. Theft	5	9	15	22	18	-4
Theft	144	126	126	153	231	+78

There are a number of law enforcement calls for police services that are time consuming. Below are the most frequent calls for municipal police services / activity for the patrol division:

Activity	% of activity 2008
Suspicious Incidents	5%
Other Complaints	25%
Medical Assist	10%
Ordinance Violations	5%
Follow Up Investigations & Reports	26%
Patrol / Traffic Enforcement	29%

Domestic Violence

Acts of Domestic Violence are crimes the entire world must face and Stratford Borough is no way exempt. Domestic violence consists of a host of crimes committed by family members, which is extended to any two people who have ever resided together. Domestic violence also governs those who have engaged in a dating relationship. A large percentage of law enforcement officers who have been killed in the line of duty have resulted from responses to domestic violence incidents. By regulation, 2 police officers must respond to domestic disturbance calls. This is particularly challenging to the Stratford Police Department because there are hours which only one police officer is on duty. It is during these times that we must rely on mutual aid from neighboring police departments. In order to effectively

deploy manpower resources when they are most needed, the administration of the Stratford Police Department has identified below, when most acts of domestic violence occur within our jurisdiction. It comes as no surprise that reported acts of domestic violence mirror those days when most drunk drivers are arrested. At large, over 50% of domestic violence act during 2008 involved alcohol consumption on behalf of the actor, victim or both.

Domestic Violence at a “Glance” in the Borough of Stratford

2003.....Most frequent day of occurrence: Saturday
Most Frequent 2 hour period: 6:00 pm - 7:59 pm

2004.....Most frequent day of occurrence: Sunday
Most Frequent 2 hour period: 8:00 pm - 9:59 pm

2005.....Most frequent day of occurrence: Friday
Most Frequent 2 hour period: 6:00 pm - 7:59 pm

2006íMost frequent day of occurrence: Sunday
Most Frequent 2 hour period: 8:00 pm - 9:59 pm

2007Most frequent day of occurrence: Sunday
Most Frequent 2 hour period: 6:00 pm ó 7:59 pm

2008.....Most frequent day of occurrence: Sunday
Most Frequent 2 hour period: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

* Statistical data above are estimates based on data on information on file

TRAFFIC

Accidents

After a 2 year decrease in traffic accidents between 2005 and 2006, Stratford Borough has experienced a slight increase in traffic accidents during 2007. The department will continue to place an emphasis on hazardous motor vehicle violations through proactive, directed enforcement efforts. Officers are regularly assigned to high violation and problem areas in a continuing effort to reduce accident causing violations. These directed patrols are funded by grant money obtained by the Chief of Police. During 2008, the Stratford Police Department recorded 1 fatal motor vehicle crash of a pedestrian. The accident actually began within the jurisdiction of the Lindenwold Police Department however the fatality was recorded Stratford. 2008 was the third consecutive year, that the Borough of Stratford had a fatality upon our roadways.

Traffic Accident Three Year Comparison

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
○ Injury Accidents	75	83	84
○ Fatal Accidents	1	1	1
○ Number of Accidents	345	361	347

Total Traffic Accidents for 2008 =

Traffic Summonses issued by Category

○ Moving & Non	4861
○ DWI	149
○ Ordinance Summonses	155

PATROL

Patrol is the largest Division of the Stratford Police Department. Its primary responsibility is responding to calls for service from the community. These calls can range from neighborhood disputes, domestic violence incidents and traffic accidents to burglaries in progress, robberies and sudden death investigations.

As the first responder to criminal complaints, patrol officers are responsible for seeing to the medical needs of anyone involved, interviewing witnesses, recognizing and preserving evidence, determining whether, in fact, a crime has occurred, and identifying and ultimately arresting those responsible.

Officers in the Patrol Division are also expected to provide proactive services such as traffic enforcement, crime detection and suppression, and initiating contacts with community members to further the department's commitment to Community Oriented Policing. We are even called upon to unclog toilets and change flat tires.

Officers assigned to the Patrol Division are divided into two (2) Teams. Both teams are responsible for 24-hour patrol coverage, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The A-Team is supervised by Sergeant John Brown. The B- Team is supervised by Sergeant Frank Gagliardi and Sergeant Robert Kelly. The B-Team which enjoys the benefit of two supervisors is comprised mostly of newer or less experienced police officers. Each Team has a total of 5 police officers who are responsible for 24 hour coverage, on a 4 on 4 off, rotating work schedule. The officers in the patrol division work 10 hour work days.

Community Oriented Policing Programs & Strategies

In the mid 1990's the Stratford Borough Police Department identified a need to implement community-oriented / problem solving strategies to assist in more effectively addressing citizen concerns about crime, safety and quality of life issues. While still embracing traditional policing practices such as random patrol and rapid response to calls for service, the department recognizes that there must be a collaborative problem solving approach between the police and the community in problem identification, prioritization and resolution of community concerns. Our goal is to reduce crime and increase the quality of life by seeking citizen involvement, cooperation and support. Operationally, we seek to implement our strategy and accomplish our goals through various programs including but not limited to:

- Attendance at Community Meetings
- School Safety Programs
- Pre-K thru 12 Educational Programs
- PTA / PTO Participation
- SAO / SYAA Participation
- Child Identification Programs
- Officer Phil Program
- Red Ribbon Program
- Drunk Driving Enforcement
- Drug Enforcement Operations
- Local Code Enforcement
- Targeted Traffic Enforcement
- Volunteer Fingerprint Programs
- Crime Prevention Programs
- Town Watch Program (as needed)
- Bicycle Patrol
- Traffic Studies

Field Training

All police officers hired by the Stratford Borough Police Department must attend a state certified police academy. Upon graduation from the academy, all officers return to the department and are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program (FTO). The FTO program is an additional 2 months of supervised, intense training and evaluation in which the probationary officer is partnered with an experienced officer who has been carefully selected and trained as a Field Training Officer. It is the goal of the FTO Program to prepare and develop Probationary Officers to act efficiently, effectively and safely in a solo patrol capacity, which is an absolute essential function of the Stratford Police Department. Because there are many instances where an officer is unassisted during a patrol function, each and every member of the police department must have the knowledge, skills and abilities to properly handle any situation that may arise. To fill those voids, supervisors and detectives are on call to respond to or communicate with the duty police officer handling an incident or crisis. These detectives and supervisors perform this function without compensation 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Detective Bureau is charged with the responsibility to review all Police Investigation Reports and intelligence sources in order to prioritize and investigate criminal activity. Sergeant McBride is the supervisor of the Detective Bureau. The Detective Bureau also serves as the Stratford Police Department's Counter-Terrorism, Narcotics, Megan's, Firearms and Intelligence Liaisons and they meet regularly with other local, state and federal authorities in these regards. Additionally, members of the Detective Bureau instruct DARE Classes, Investigate Firearms Applicants, Investigate Business Licenses Applicants, secure and process all department evidence, and other property. The Detective Bureau is further responsible for providing for 24 hour a day, 365 days per year on call coverage. Detectives frequently are called during off hours to investigate serious active or recent crimes. The Detective Bureau works closely with the Camden County Prosecutors Office, and is reportable to that agency regarding all indictable crimes and investigations.

The Detective Bureau is staffed by three police officers who have each undergone weeks of specialized training in their function.

Detective Scott Beasley
20 years experience

Detective Bret Johnson
10 years experience

Detective James Thomas
2 years experience

Cases

Detectives Investigations are assigned to the individual investigator based upon the nature, complexity or area of expertise in the case. They also work a number of cases that they initiate upon receiving intelligence information. A running Detective Case Log ledger (tracking system) is maintained and ordinary cases are distributed evenly.

FEW NOTIBLE DETECTIVE BUREAU CASES FOR 2008

- In January of 2008 Detectives investigated a Robbery at CVS Pharmacy. A joint investigation with Evesham Township resulted in the confession and arrest of twin brothers.
- In January of 2008 Detectives investigated and arrested two females and a male after a Burglary/Robbery/Theft from an elderly male at Woodmere apartments.
- In January of 2008 Detectives arrested a male for a burglary/Theft at Sterling Pharmacy. A diligent investigation involving following a trail of used, stolen cards led detective to the suspect.
- In January of 2008 a male attempted to entice a juvenile into his vehicle, using Sexual toys. Detective Bureau located, interviewed and charged a suspect.
- In March 2008 a suspect burglarized a home and stole a vehicle. The suspect was arrested in Barrington, transported to Stratford Headquarters for an interview where he was then charged. The vehicle was later recovered in Camden
- In March 2008 Detectives investigated three missing children who were reported taken out of stated by their father, whom did not have legal custody. A diligent investigation led to contact via phone with the suspect whom later returned the children to the mother. Further investigation revealed the mother was not completely truthful and she was charged accordingly
- In April 2008 a suspect was charged after a long investigation involving six separate Criminal Mischief/Theft incidents in Woodmere apartments. Surveillance cameras were installed by Detectives. The suspect was caught in the act by patrol and confessed to Detectives during an interview to the five prior incidents.
- In May 2008 Detective Bureau investigated and solved a Burglary on Winding Way road. An arrest was made and some property was returned.
- In May 2008 Detectives investigated a Sexual Assault involving an adult female and a 17-year-old male at Goodwill enterprises who are both mentally challenged. Both the victim and the suspect were mentally 7-8 year olds. Investigation turned over to CCPO Child abuse/Juvenile Unit for determination of charges.
- In June 2008 Detectives investigated a prescription/Insurance fraud report at CVS involving a nurse filling prescriptions using patients names and insurance policies. The investigation led to charges in numerous other jurisdictions, as well as a state level investigation for a forged Nurses license, and at least five other suspects. One person was charged and numerous others are pending.
- In June Patrol arrested a male for a burglary at Echelon Ford. Detective Bureau interviewed him and secured a confession for that Echelon Ford as well as another business the same night, Under The Sun Learning Center
- In July 2008 The Detective Bureau investigated a Missing person from Stratford Court apartments. The victim was mentally challenged. Investigation and subsequent information broadcast by investigators located the victim sleeping in a park in Gloucester City
- In September 2008 while investigating theft of property at Stratford Sewer plant Detectives arrested three juveniles in the woods, after fleeing from the yard of the Sewer plant.
- In September of 2008 two juveniles were arrested after a diligent investigation for stealing and damaging three external surveillance cameras from the building at Yellin School.

- In September of 2008 The Detective Bureau investigating Child Pornography, executed a search warrant at an apartment in Stratford Court. Charges are pending the results from the NJSP Computer Forensics Lab who will be conducting a thorough search of the computer and related media and hard drives.
- In September of 2008 Detective investigated a missing and endangered person who fled Kennedy Hospital with an IV. Information broadcast on Trax system by detectives led to him being located.
- In October of 2008 detective investigated and solved a burglary on Warwick road resulting in arrest and some property being located and returned.
- In October of 2008 Detectives investigated Distribution of CDS at Saratoga Park and made two arrests.
- In October of 2008 Detectives investigated a Kidnapping/Armed Robbery that had occurred near Aldis Food Mart. Further investigation revealed the actual Kidnapping had occurred in Somerdale and the incident was the result of a Drug Transaction gone bad. A continued joint investigation with Somerdale Police resulted in charges in both towns of three of the suspects, the handgun being located, and charges pending for a fourth suspect.
- In October of 2008 Detectives investigated and solved a burglary on Laurel road resulting in an arrest and all property being returned.
- In October 2008 Detectives investigated an Attempted Murder, Attempted Kidnapping and Robbery, Domestic violence related. A suspect was charged and later apprehended by Camden Police after a vehicle pursuit.
- In October of 2008 Detectives investigated a Robbery at A potential suspect has been identified and charges are pending.
- In October 2008 Detective investigated a report of a Carjacking/Assault that had occurred at Woodmere apartments. Further investigation and interviewing led to a confession from the victim that he had made a false report.
- From May 2008- November 2008, 3 officers from the Stratford Police Department participated in a large scale retail theft investigation. The investigation netted 18 arrests and the forfeiture of over 100K in stolen property and assets.

These are just a few of the many investigations from a very busy year. Not included here are many investigations conducted by Detective Bureau personnel that are handled as the routine part of a workweek. They include death investigations, sexual assaults, thefts, and burglaries just to name a few.

Property Stolen and Recovered

Property offenses include Burglary, Theft, Criminal Mischief and Shoplifting. The exact amount of value in theft related offenses is hard to determine as officers and victims usually estimate the value of property stolen and recovered. The chart below reflects the estimated value of property stolen and recovered for the previous five (5) years. With the Borough of Stratford hosting 4 banks and 1 check cashing agency, the dollars lost to theft and fraud is significant.

Year	Stolen Property	Stolen Property Recovered
2006	\$224,370.00	\$122,230.00
2007	\$307,530.00	\$153,530.00
2008	\$320,658.00	\$152,658.00

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division of the Stratford Police Department supports the operational efforts of the detective bureau, patrol function and administrative sections. Along with performing a variety of other services, including but not limited to:

- Data Entry & filing
- Prosecutors Office Case Preparation
- Report Maintenance/Filing/Retrieval
- Issuing Licenses, permits
- Copy reports for Civilians/ Insurance Companies/Attorneys
- Isolating Expunged Files
- Issue Handicap Placards
- Process Firearms Applications
- Coordinate Background Investigations
- Process Fingerprint Cards
- Process Juvenile Complaints
- Compile monthly statistics

The chart below highlights a small percentage of the work processed by the Records personnel in 2007, additionally the records function is currently classified as a part time position. The records clerk has no back up, relief, or any type of assistance. The records clerk processes each and every case and document which are ultimately passed on to the municipal court office that is staffed by 3 full time employees.

	2008
○ *Reports Copied	2150
○ *Firearms Applications Processed	71
○ *Background Checks Initiated	200
○ *Juvenile Complaints Processed	98
○ *Handicap Placards Processed	42
○ Prepares Cases for Court Office	701

**denotes estimated*

COMMUNICATIONS

The Stratford Borough Police Department does not employ police dispatchers or communications officers. Our main Communications function is provided to Stratford by the Camden County Police Communications Center which is located in Lindenwold NJ. The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. 95% of Camden County municipalities utilize the Camden County Communications Centers with the exception of the "Big 6" who are Gloucester Twp, Pennsauken Twp, Voorhees Twp, Winslow Twp, and Cherry Hill Twp & Camden City. However, during business hours, the Records Clerk will receive, screen and dispatch 10-50, emergency and non-emergency calls for service per week. These calls are handled by the Stratford Police Department when a reporting person dials the police administration building directly instead of the non-emergency line or 911. Because the offices are closed 16 hours a day, and all weekend long, the Stratford Police Department discourages the public from calling the administrative offices to report crimes

Calls for Service

Calls for service are operational incidents that the police department can track and monitor. These include 911 calls, emergency and non-emergency requests for service, and "on-sight" criminal/public service activity by officers. The chart directly below reflects the number of calls for service handled by the Stratford Police Department for the previous five (5) years. As previously stated the vast majority of calls for police service are channeled through the Camden County Communications Center.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	change
Calls	9028	9059	8977	8424	8335	-89

MISCELLANEOUS

Overtime

Officers of the Stratford Police Department worked approximately 920 hours of overtime in 2008. Overtime is utilized and necessary for the patrol division and detective bureau for purposes such as the replacement of personnel out sick, injured or on other approved leave, attendance at mandatory training, completion of assignments, the investigation of serious offenses, or to work a special assignment such as parades, carnivals and other public events. Sworn officers are permitted to receive overtime pay or compensatory time off for any overtime worked. For accountability purposes, overtime must be approved by a Sergeant and by the Chief of Police. For accounting purposes, the Chief Financial Officer logs a running tally of overtime used. Uses for overtime are as follows:

Extended Tour - time worked in addition to and consecutive with one's regular 10 hour work day (examples include time at the end of a tour of duty to complete an arrest, assignment or reports).

Extra Tour - time worked in addition to one's regular work day (examples include replacing an officer on sick leave or a Detective called in to work on a serious case).

Court - To provide testimony in municipal, state or federal court (examples include mandatory court appearance which does not coincide with an officer's regularly scheduled work day).

Training - attendance at in-service training courses not available during work days or contractual uncompensated days (examples include CPR / AED Training, Alcotest Certification, Search & Seizure Updates and Criminal Law Refresher) Very limited overtime for training has been expended in the past 3 years

Records Rooms - coverage of the department's records division (examples include the necessity of a police officer to fill in for the records clerk when she is sick or on leave. In the spirit of effective and efficient government the Stratford Police Department employs just one records clerk and she enjoys no back up or relief for even a lunch break.

Crash Investigation Team - assistance provided to the Camden County Prosecutors Office investigating fatal accidents county wide. The Camden County Prosecutors Office reimburses the Stratford Police Department when our trained officer is used out of Stratford Borough on assignment.

DDEF - Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund: a state funded grant utilized to place additional police officers on the road to target drunk drivers (examples include extra patrols on holidays and weekends nights when instances of drunk driving are inherently increased)

Other Grant Overtime - Overtime used for extra patrols for seatbelt and speed reduction campaigns. Overtime in this category is generally reimbursed through state and federal grants.

Other Overtime - Overtime expended through the Borough paid for by private vendors (traffic construction, school events, fall festival, traffic control, security posts, and security details)

The chart below reflects the Stratford Police Department's estimated overtime, by category for 2008.

Overtime by Category:

	Hours				
Extended Tour	260				
Extra Tour	280				
Court	350				
Training	16				
Records Coverage	20				
County Reimbursement	4.5				
DDEF	280				
Other & Grants	325				
Total	1535.5				

Training and Education

One of the most important responsibilities of a law enforcement agency is the training and education of all personnel. It is well settled that training increases safety and reduces civil liability. The Stratford Police Department has in place a comprehensive police training program which provides for the annual training of all officers on topics determined to be critical to police officers of this agency. Since 2003 instruction has been provided by the Holtz Learning Centers at the cost of \$1500.00 per year. This represents a savings of \$8000.00 per year for training. The training and enormous discount received by the Stratford Police has become the envy of all New Jersey law enforcement agencies.

The men and women of the Stratford Borough Police Department attended a wide variety of in-service training courses throughout 2008 including:

- Blood-bornePathogens
- Property & Evidence
- Firearms Qualifications
- Child Abduction Response Training (C.A.R.T.)
- SRT Team Training
- Patrol Rifle Training
- Basic SWAT

- Active Shooter Response
- Report Writing
- EMT Recertification
- Arrest Search & Seizure
- Right to Know
- Use of Force
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Interview & Interrogation
- HAZMAT
- NIMS
- Attorney General Guidelines
- DWI Detection
- Radar Instructor Certification
- Work Zone Safety
- OC Training
- NCIC Training
- High Risk Motor Vehicle Stops
- Accident Investigation
- Crash Investigation II
- Certified Public Manager Training
- Field Training Officer Certification
- Evidence Technician Training
- Advanced Investigation of Domestic Violence Cases
- Domestic Violence
- Registry Seminar
- Alcotest Operator Certification
- Cell Block Management
- Crash Vehicle Dynamics
- ECDR
- ETRO
- AED / CPR
- Vehicle Pursuit
- Criminal Procedure
- Missing Child Investigation

Citizen Complaints / Internal Affairs

The Stratford Borough Police Department is committed to providing law enforcement services that are fair, effective, and impartially applied. Toward that end, officers are held to the highest standards of official conduct and are expected to respect the rights of all citizens. Officers' adherence to these standards, motivated by a moral and professional obligation to perform their job to the best of their ability, is the ultimate objective of this agency.

The effectiveness of a law enforcement agency is dependent upon public approval and acceptance of police authority. The department must be responsive to the community by providing formal procedures for the processing of complaints from the public regarding individual officer performance.

The purpose of the Department's Internal Affairs Policy is to improve the quality of law enforcement services. Citizen confidence in the integrity of the police department increases through the establishment of meaningful and effective complaint procedures. This confidence engenders community support for the police department. Improving the relationship between the police and the citizens they serve facilitates cooperation vital to the department's ability to achieve its goals. An effective disciplinary framework also permits police officials to monitor compliance with department policies and procedures. Adherence to established policies and procedures assists officers in meeting department objectives while a monitoring system permits managers to identify problem areas requiring increased training or direction. Finally, the Internal Affairs Policy ensures fairness and due process protection to citizens and officers alike.

The internal affairs process is also used to identify and correct unclear or inappropriate agency procedures. In addition, it will highlight organizational conditions that may contribute to any misconduct, such as poor recruitment and selection procedures or inadequate training and supervision of police officers.

In 2008, there were a total of 12 Internal Affairs Investigations and 2 Special Investigation of borough employees. The categories of these investigations included rule violations, demeanor, use of force, illegal search / stop and differential treatment.

Administration / Chief of Police

Pursuant to state law, the ordinances of the Borough and the regulations and policies established by the Chief of Police, the responsibilities of the appointed Chief of Police shall include the responsibility to:

- a) Conduct and manage the day-to-day operations of the Police Department including the work schedules of all members of the police department.
- b) Administer and enforce rules and regulations, act as the chief executive officer and appropriate authority for all matters and personnel assigned to the police department, and special emergency directives regarding the disposition and discipline of the police force, its officers, and personnel to include administrative statutes:
- c) Have, exercise, and discharge the functions, powers and duties of the police force:
- d) Delegate such of his authority as he may deem necessary for the efficient operation of the force to be exercised under his direction and supervision:
- e) Prescribe the duties and assignments of all subordinates and other personnel: and
- f) Report monthly in writing form, to the Borough an overview of police activity for the preceding month.

Police Policy Manual

By law and Attorney General Guidelines, every police department shall adopt certain policies which govern how law enforcement operations are carried out. Although the mandatory policies are few, the Chief of Police believes that policies are a critical element of an effective law enforcement agency. Since 2002 the Chief of Police has developed a comprehensive policy manual which consists of the below chapters:

Read & Initial Board
Court Appearances

Organizational Structure
Uniforms

Written Orders
Command

Police Chief Notifications	Detective Notifications	Secondary Employment
Use of Police Vehicles	Discipline	Accident Reporting
Mission Statement	Ethics	Property & Evidence
Body Armor	Authorized Leave	Training
Harassment in the Workplace	Police Reporting	Juvenile Holding
Criminal Complaints	Alternate Care for dependents	Domestic Violence
Amber Alert	Response to Bank Alarms	Strip Search
DWI Processing	Vehicle Impound	Detective Affairs
Death Notifications	Ordinance / Parking	Internal Affairs
Juvenile Processing	Vehicle Pursuit	Fingerprints
Bias Incidents	Officer of the Year	DYFS Matters
OC Spray	Anti-discrimination	Special Events
Fata MVA	Use of Force	AED & CPR
Missing Persons	MDT	Transportation
Release of Impounds	Mutual Aid	Hostage Situations
Bomb Threats in School	Holding Room Policy	NCIC Entry
Family Crisis Matters	Haz-Mat Incidents	Traumatic Events
Telephone Warrants	Home Firearm Security	Station House Juveniles
NCIC Computer Security	Blood borne Pathogens	Sexual Harassment
SWAT Team	Rapid Response Team	School Lockdowns
School Evacuations	Portable Breath Testing	Drug Testing of Police
Computer Email Policy	Immigration Notification	Emergency School Operations
Emergency Driving	ViCAP Policy	

During 2008, the Stratford Police Department ceased issuing paper policies. Each officer has been issued a password protected thumb drive and all departmental policies and directives have been converted to PDF format. This initiative has resulted in a cost savings while making the comprehensive patrol guides available to the officer while in the field / patrol vehicles.

Since authoring the Stratford Police Policy Manual, pertinent parts have been distributed for use in Camden City Police Department, Somerdale & Magnolia Police Departments.

Sterling Regional Special Response Team (SRT)

In 2006, the Stratford Police Department in cooperation with Somerdale and Magnolia Police Departments formulated a Special Response Team. The Special Response Team was assembled, outfitted, equipped and trained to rapidly respond to a crisis or incident within the Sterling School

District. While not a fully fledged SWAT Team, the regional Special Response Team is prepared to handle warrant services, barricaded suspects, and school threats. The team is essentially a gap filler between uniformed officers and a fully trained SWAT Team.

SRT Team Members

1. Detective Michael Meyers -Stratford (co-commander)
2. Patrolman Vincent Jess -Stratford
3. Patrolman Ken Righter -Stratford
4. Patrolman George Badey -Somerdale
5. Sergeant Paul Sims -Somerdale (commander)
6. Sergeant Bill Peters -Somerdale
7. Patrolman Rich Monticello -Somerdale
8. Patrolman Scott Paris -Magnolia
9. Patrolman Robert Koche -Magnolia

SRT Equipment is confidential and is not for publication

Law Enforcement Grants

Because of local fiscal restraints, the Stratford Police Department relies heavily upon State and Federal Grants to continue to function and a high level. And because the effective delivery of law enforcement services depends greatly upon training, equipment and effective use of manpower, the Stratford Police Departments literally operates on a shoe string budget supplanted by grant funds. The following is a partial list of grants applied for, and received by the Stratford Police Department during the year of 2008:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. DWI Enforcement Patrols | \$21,000.00 |
| 2. Speed Enforcement Patrols | \$28,500.00 |
| 3. State Bullet Proof Vests | \$16,500.00 |
| 4. Federal Equipment | \$102,00.00 |
| 5. NJ Safe & Secure Manpower | \$28,500.00 |
| 6. DOJ Missing Child Training | \$19,500.00 |
| 7. DOJ Other Training | \$5500.00 |

Since 2002, the Stratford Police Department estimates having received over **\$1000.000.00** in grant awards which include manpower hours and law enforcement training and equipment.

In addition to funds received from the state and federal government, the Stratford Police Department has been awarded the following assets through the State of New Jersey Criminal Asset Forfeiture Program:

<u>Property</u>	<u>Disposition</u>
o 2 Story Wooden Shed	in service at police headquarters
o 1998 Dodge Pick Up Truck	in service as a utility police vehicle
o \$3800.00 Cash	reserved in account
o Contents of massage parlors	sold at public auction, used by PD, disposed
o 1998 Dodge Concord	in service as a detective vehicle
o 1996 Chrysler Sebring	sold at public auction
o 1995 Mitsubishi Galante	sold at public auction
o 42ö LCD Television	sold at public auction
o \$2200.00 Cash	received
o \$1300.00 Cash	received

Personnel Assignments

In addition to those core responsibilities and police function, the Stratford Police administration has issued the below Personnel Assignments. These assignments are reviewed quarterly by the Chief of Police and officers are at times reassigned in the spirit of learning and to ensure each and every officer is multi-faceted .

Officer Assignment / Responsibility

Sergeant John Brown

1. Range Master / Firearms Instructor
2. Department Armor
3. Seatbelt Grant Coordinator
4. Domestic Violence Instructor
5. Use of Force Instructor
6. Use of Force Records Custodian
7. Pursuit Report Custodian
8. Pursuit Instructor
9. Alternate Internal Affairs Officer
10. Mug Shot Custodian (master file)

Sergeant Stephen McBride

1. Detective Bureau Commander
2. Crossing Guard Coordinator
3. Internal Affairs Officer
4. Outside Employment Coordinator
5. Motor Pool Officer
6. Alternant UCR Officer
7. School Liaison Officer
8. Alternant Prosecutors Grand Jury Liaison
9. Alternant Prosecutor / FBIA Liaison
10. Alternant Alco-Test Solution Maintenance
11. OEM Liason

Sergeant Frank Gagliardi

1. OC Instructor & Report Custodian
2. Parole Listings
3. T.A.C. Officer

4. FTO Officer
5. Radar Instructor
6. NCIC Validations
7. Alternate Internal Affairs
8. Monthly Arrest Reports

Sergeant Robert Kelly

1. Primary Accident Investigator
2. Camden County Fatal Accident Reconstruction Team (F.A.R.T. Officer)
3. Traffic Safety Officer / DWI Checkpoint Plans
4. FTO Officer
5. Warrant Custodian

Detective Scott Beasley

1. Detective Bureau Supervisor
2. Business License / Permits Investigations
3. Evidence Custodian
4. Alternate Firearms Investigation PIG Liaison Officer
5. Prosecutor / FBI Liaison
6. Terrorism Officer
7. Juvenile Aid Officer
8. Prosecutor's Grand Jury Liaison

Patrolman Mike Meyers

1. Alternate Team Supervisor
2. Alternate UCR Officer (3)
3. Alternate Accident Investigator 2
4. Alternant Ambulance Liaison
5. Fire Department Liaison
6. Shop Steward
7. Civil Disturbance Team
8. Special Response Team Co-Commander

Detective Bret Johnson

1. Dare Instructor
2. Megan's Law Officer
3. Firearms Investigation
4. School Liaison Officer

5. Prosecutor / FBI Liaison
6. Municipal Alliance Liaison
7. Assistance Property & Evidence Custodian
8. Good & Welfare Coordinator
9. Bike Patrol

Patrolman Mike Williams

1. Monthly Alarm Reports
2. Assistant Firearms Instructor
3. Dare Instructor
4. Bike Patrol
5. School Liaison Officer
6. Code Enforcement Officer

Patrolman John Beasley

1. Monthly Ticket Report
2. Mug Shot Custodian
3. Code Enforcement
4. Bike Patrol
5. Warrant Service Officer
6. Junk Vehicle Code Enforcement

Patrolman Thomas Farrell

1. CPR/ AED Instructor
2. Crime Prevention / Town Watch Officer
3. Ambulance Liaison Officer
4. MDT Maintenance & Repair
5. Picture Link Coordinator
6. Juvenile / Stationhouse Adjustment

Patrolman Andrew Rebecca

1. Alternate Discovery Officer 2
2. Business Listing Custodian
3. Alternate TAC Officer
4. Junk Vehicle Code Enforcement (see map)
5. Warrant Service Officer
6. UCR Officer
7. Dare Officer

Patrolman Kenneth Righter

1. Dare Officer
2. Special Response Team
3. Civil Disturbance Team Member
4. Warrant Service Officer
5. Junk Vehicle Code Enforcement (see map)
6. UCR Officer
7. Child Seat Technician Officer
8. Junk Vehicle / Code Enforcement

Patrolman Vincent Jess

1. Ordinance / Code Enforcement (town wide)
2. Warrant Service Officer
3. Patrol Room Officer
4. Assistant Motor Pool
5. Civil Disturbance Team Member
6. Special Response Team
7. Juvenile / Station House Adjustment Officer
8. Alternate Bailiff
9. Junk Vehicle / Code Enforcement

Detective James Thomas

1. Alternate Bailiff
2. Discovery Officer (primary with Ptl Behnke)
3. Junk Vehicle (see map)
4. Patrol Room Officer
5. Equipment & Vehicle Maintenance

Patrolman Glenn Behnke

1. Primary Bailiff
2. Discovery Officer (with Detective Thomas)
3. Bulletin Boards
4. Patrol Room Officer

Officer Anthony Campbell

1. Bailiff
2. Alternate Crossing Guard
3. Special Events

Staffing & Patrol Analysis

In these days of rising costs, and a shrinking tax base, staffing of all municipal departments legitimately comes into question. It is well settled that every municipal employee inclusive of elected officials has a right and duty to ensure that our taxpayers receive the effective and efficient delivery of police services. To achieve this mission, the administration of the Stratford Police Department strives to deploy the police officers when and where they are needed most by our citizens. To ensure public safety, the department has elected to employ Special Police Officers. These men and women are hourly employees who are called upon to assist our regular police officers. Special Police Officers are a special class of law enforcement officers who are restricted in a variety of ways. However they clearly serve the needs of our community while defraying overtime costs. Currently the Stratford Police Department employs fifteen (15) full time regular police officers. Which I consider fully staffed to meet the ever increasing public safety demands of our community. To put things in perspective, the Borough of Stratford enjoys the protection of 2.1 Police Officers, per one thousand residents. The County average in this regard is 2.7 Police Officers, per one thousand residents and the New Jersey State average is 2.5 Police Officers per one thousand residents. Although we may be significantly below the state and county averages regarding the number of police officers we employ, the administration of the Stratford Police Department is confident that our manpower is deployed in an effective and efficient manner which is continuously analyzed. Should crime or population meaningfully increase, the need for additional police officers may become necessary. However as stated, our manpower and workload is carefully monitored to ensure the safety of our citizens.

Shared Services & Consolidation

During the month of May 2008, the Boroughs of Stratford & Somerdale formed committees respectively To explore the concept of shared law enforcement services. Most recently, the Camden County Shared Services Office has joined into the discussions which has now expanded to all the communities within The Sterling High School District. Consequently, the County is in the process of drafting a Request for a Proposal which will request that an independent consultation firm study concept of a Regional Police Department. The study should be completed by January 2010.

Automated Red Light Enforcement System

During the summer of 2008, the Stratford Police Department conducted research, analysis and ultimately made application for an Automated Photo Traffic Enforcement system. A limited number of system will be approved statewide. The goal of this pilot program is to curtail red light violations at a specific problem location within the borough of Stratford. The Stratford Police Department has selected Berlin Road & White Horse Road (Pufferbelly). This location has been extremely problematic for decades because of the frequency of motor vehicle violations & crashes. Currently Stratford's Department of Transportation application is pending approval. Once approved, a Vendor will be selected and the program will begin. There are no costs associated for hardware, software or installation levied against the Borough.

2008 Year End Police Activity Report

<u>570</u>	Adults Arrests
<u>53</u>	Juvenile Arrests
<u>8</u>	Assaults to Police
<u>57</u>	Simple Assaults
<u>108</u>	Criminal Mischief Complaints
<u>144</u>	Harassment Complaints
<u>844</u>	Other Investigations & Complaints
<u>28</u>	Burglaries
<u>5</u>	Robberies by Weapons or Force
<u>231</u>	Thefts <u>\$320,552.00</u> in Property was Stolen <u>\$152,658.00</u> of Stolen Property was Recovered
<u>18</u>	Motor Vehicle Thefts
<u>149</u>	Drunk Driving Arrests
<u>84</u>	Narcotics Arrests
<u>4861</u>	Traffic Tickets issued
<u>347</u>	Motor Vehicle Accidents
<u>84</u>	Injuries from Car Accidents
<u>340</u>	Alarm Activations
<u>1156</u>	Total Crime Reports taken
<u>8335</u>	Total Calls for Police Service

