

STRATFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT



2009

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 were no promotions during 2009. However in early May, Officer Michael Williams was transferred to the Detective Bureau after serving for 15 years in the Uniformed Patrol Division. In addition to his new investigative responsibilities, Detective Williams also instructs two DARE classes at the Yellin School. Additionally, during the summer of 2009, Officer Stephen Schmidt joined the department. Officer Schmidt serves as a Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer. Officer Schmidt recently graduated at the top of his class from the Gloucester County Police Academy.

Departures

During the month of August, Special Officer Anthony Campbell left the department after receiving a full time position with the Somerdale Police Department. Congratulations are extended to Officer Campbell for realizing his a career goals and aspirations. Additionally, during the fourth quarter 2009, J. Thomas was removed from the active police roster and is no longer in the law enforcement profession.

Current Employees

The list below reflects the Stratford Police Departments Active Personnel Roster as of December 31, 2009.

Chief of Police

Ronald Morello

Police Captain

Vacant

Patrol Lieutenant

Vacant

Day-Watch Sergeant

Sergeant Stephen McBride

Evening Patrol Supervisors

Sergeant John Brown

Sergeant Frank Gagliardi

Sergeant Robert Kelly

Detectives

Detective Scott Beasley

Detective Bret Johnson

Detective Michael Williams

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
Patrolman Stephen Schmidt

Crossing Guards

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

Administrative / Records

Kristina Rauer

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

Sadly, over the past year, both Sgt Paul Stoffel and Deputy Chief Nicolo DiEttore have passed-on. Both of these officers will forever be regarded for their commitment to the department and community they served for over a quarter century respectively.

Injuries and Accidents

Stratford Borough is self-insured for workers compensation claims. In order to ensure the proper level of police services for the citizens of Stratford, there has been a concerted effort by all police officers to reduce incidents of work place injury. However due to the inherently dangerous nature of the law enforcement profession, which often exposes police officers to hazardous situations, the potential for injury is extremely high. In 2009 there were three (3) cases of work related injuries. There were 393 work days missed due to these injuries. Throughout 2009, our Police Officers were assaulted on five (5) 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 to police, the victim police officers received bumps, scrapes, bruises and contusions as inflicted by others.

The Stratford Police Department logged over 127,0000 miles driven in department vehicles in 2009; resulting in two (2) 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 only two police accidents during the year is commendable. Our Police Officers are recognized for demonstrating exceptional care, caution and most of all sound judgment.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Reported Crimes

As can be seen by the figures below, the total reported criminal offenses remained constant from 2007 to 2009 crime figures. The figures below include all reported criminal activity except for traffic and juvenile offenses.

	2007	2008	2009
Total Criminal Offenses	1024	1156	1092

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 120 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.

	2007	2008	2009
Arrests	649	623	518

Drug Offenses

Because drug related crimes remain a high priority to law enforcement, the Stratford 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
2009	70

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	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change from 2008
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0	-0-
Rape	1	2	3	2	2	-0-
Robbery	6	4	8	5	3	-2
Agg. Assault	9	11	9	9	13	+4
Burglary	20	16	19	28	42	+14
M.V. Theft	9	15	22	18	10	-8
Theft	126	126	153	231	176	-55

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 2009
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, two 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 52% of domestic violence act during 2009 involved alcohol consumption on behalf of the actor, victim or both.

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

2005.....	Most frequent day of occurrence:	<u>Friday</u>
	Most Frequent 2 hour period:	<u>6:00 pm - 7:59 pm</u>
2006í	Most frequent day of occurrence:	<u>Sunday</u>
	Most Frequent 2 hour period:	<u>8:00 pm - 9:59 pm</u>
2007	Most frequent day of occurrence:	<u>Sunday</u>
	Most Frequent 2 hour period:	<u>6:00 pm ó 7:59 pm</u>
2008.....	Most frequent day of occurrence:	<u>Sunday</u>
	Most Frequent 2 hour period:	<u>6:30 pm - 8:30 pm</u>
2009.....	Most frequent day of occurrence:	<u>Sunday</u>
	Most Frequent 2 hour period:	<u>6:00 pm ó 7:59 pm</u>

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

TRAFFIC

Accidents

After a two year up trend, the Stratford Police Department investigated less traffic accidents than in the prior three years. Although accidents were down by approximately 12%, traffic fatalities increased by 100%.

Traffic Accident Three Year Comparison

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
○ Injury Accidents	75	83	84	70
○ Fatal Accidents	1	1	1	2
○ Number of Accidents	345	361	347	336

Traffic Summonses issued by Category

○ Moving & Non	4165
○ DWI	136
○ Ordinance Summonses	161

PATROL

Patrol is the largest Division and core law enforcement function 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, discipline children, unlock car doors 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.

Patrol Division Challenges

Often overlooked by many, is the law enforcement challenges presented by Kennedy Memorial Hospital. During the year of 2009, the Stratford Police Department responded to the hospital on 611 occasions. On 90% of these occasions police officers were called to the emergency room to deal with drunkards, drug addicts, walk-aways and the mentally ill. Most of these individuals were brought to our Borough from other municipalities. Over the past three years, Kennedy Hospital has become a well documented drain on local law enforcement resources.

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 also 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
22 years experience

Detective Bret Johnson
11 years experience

Detective Michael Williams
15 years experience

Stratford Police Detective Bureau 2009 End of Year Report

From 1/1/2009 of 12/31/2009 the Detective Bureau was assigned 198 cases.

Burglaries	58
Thefts	49
Identity Thefts /Forgery	17
Robberies	2
Assaults/Terrorist Threats	8
Narcotics	8
Sex Crimes	5
Stolen Motor Vehicles	2
Misc. Investigations	33
Fatal MVA	1
Missing Persons	6
Sudden Death Investigations	10

Firearms:

Fire Arms Permits/ ID cards issued	29
Mercantile License	2
Vendor	2

Backgrounds

148 Background checks were done this year, Including Firearms, Vendors & Mercantile Licenses.

128 One-Day Vendor Permits were issued for Stratford's Fall Festival Day.

In 2009 Stratford Borough issued their first *Liquor license* after a lengthy and detailed background check on (6) six co-owners of the business 30 Strikes

60 suspects were arrested or charged by the Detective Bureau including 48 adults, (33 males & 15 females). And 12 juveniles (7 males and 5 females)

15 of these arrests were made jointly with Patrol involving audio taped statements and processing crime scenes.

A break down of the incidents is as follows.

Burglaries

Residential	28	7 arrests clearing 8 cases
Commercial	5	1 arrests clearing 2 cases
Vehicles	23	4 arrests clearing 3 cases
Garages	2	

Robbery

Strong Arm	Robberies	2
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Thefts

Forgery/Credit Card/Identity Theft	30	15 arrests clearing 15 cases
Bad Checks	4	4 arrests clearing 4 cases

Shoplifting 6 3 arrests clearing 4 cases
Misc. Thefts 28 6 arrests clearing 6 cases

Assaults

Aggravated Assault 8 6 arrests clearing 6 cases

Narcotics Investigations 8 7 arrests clearing 6 cases

Sex Crimes 5 1 arrests clearing 1 case
(4) Cases cleared without arrest

Misc. Investigations 33 9 arrests clearing 7 cases
(19) Cases cleared without arrest

Fatal Motor Vehicle Accident 1

In June of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated a Fatal Pedestrian /MotorVehicle Accident on Rt.30, @ Laurel rd.

Sudden Death Investigations 10

Detectives responded to and investigated 10 deaths in 2009.

In February Stratford Detective Bureau investigated the sudden death of a 3 month old infant. The cause of death was listed as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

During the summer Detectives responded to and investigated two separate, ðfound deathsö involving severely decomposed males whom had been dead in their residences for at least a week in the heat. The deaths were listed as Natural Causes.

Two recent deaths involved a 29 year old female & a 24 year old male, both possibly related to drug abuse. Cause of death is pending results of toxicology reports.

In December a 67 year old male hung committed suicide by hanging in his garage.

Four other deaths were determined to be ðNatural Causesö

Missing Persons 7

Detectives investigated 7 missing personø incidents.

1. Two were juveniles who ran away and were located after a brief search by detectives and patrol.
2. Five were missing and endangered from Kennedy Hospital. Two were later, located at home. Three were not located and may possibly be the same person using different names.

Over all, of the 198 cases assigned, 54 were cleared by arrest, 59 were cleared with no arrest needed, and 57 are inactive investigations with no further information available. 28 cases are listed as active open cases, which are recent, or pending lab results or further investigation.

Megan's Law

Detectives registered 7 Meganø Law offenders in 2009.

We currently have seven offenders living in Stratford.

Detective Johnson delivered 84 Meganø Law notices this year.

Evidence

175 Property reports were turned in and logged as evidence. This resulted in 559 items logged in.

Miscellaneous

1. A Search warrant involving distribution of CDS was executed at Cornell Manor apts. resulting in one arrest.
2. In August 2009 we received notification of a DNA hit from a vehicle Burglary from 2007. In December of 2009 this suspect was charged with this Burglary.

Asset Forfeiture

Asset forfeiture paper work was filed on one incident in 2009 involving a total of \$3418.00. US Currency. A decision by the court on the currency has not yet been determined.

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.

Notable Detective cases October 2008-December 2009

- In October of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested a Laurel Springs man for Burglary/Theft of a residence on Warwick road. Most property was recovered
- In October of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested two juvenile male for distribution of CDS, at Saratoga Park playground.
- In October of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested a Camden man for Burglary/Theft of a residence on Laurel Rd. Most property was recovered
- In October & November of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested 2 juveniles & two adults, for Conspiracy to commit Kidnapping & Robbery of a Stratford juvenile which was the result of a "drug deal gone bad."
- In October of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested Lindenwold man for Kidnapping and Attempted Murder resulting from a "Rolling Domestic Violence incident" traveling through town.
- In October of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested homeless man for Armed Robbery of a Cab driver. The money and a firearm were recovered.
- In November of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested James Downing for an Armed Robbery of CVS Pharmacy in Stratford that had occurred in October.
- In November of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested Camden man for burglary/theft of a purse from a vehicle. Suspect was apprehended during a foot pursuit after he was observed by Detectives, fleeing from the area, immediately following the incident.

- In December of 2008 Stratford Detectives assisted in the Investigation a Fatal Motor Vehicle which began in Lindenwold. The victim was dragged over a mile beneath the vehicle which finally stopped on Warwick road in Stratford.
- In December of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested 3 juveniles, for Burglary/Theft of an apartment.
- In December of 2008 Stratford Detectives arrested a Cherry Hill women for Burglary/Theft & Forgery of Prescription Blanks after she entered a Doctors Office stole prescription blanks and forged them for prescription medication.
- In January 2009 Stratford Detectives arrested a Lindenwold man for Burglary/Theft of two Stratford businesses, Stratford Tire & Jump for Joy Day Care. Suspect had recently been released from prison after serving time for burglary of two other Stratford Businesses in June of 2008. During the 2008 Burglaries Stratford Tire was also burglarized, however suspect would not admit to that burglary at the time. During the interview for this 2009 Burglary, of Stratford Tire he admitted to the 2008 incident and was charged for that also.
- In February of 2009 Somerdale man who had been previously charged by Stratford Detectives for Burglary/Theft, was arrested & charged with theft after a Stratford Detective investigating another burglary, observed his name on a receipt in a pawn shop, and further investigation revealed he had stolen items from a relative.
- In February of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated the sudden death of a 3 month old infant. The cause of death was listed as Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.
- In February of 2009 Stratford Detectives arrested Hassan Miller for Credit Card Fraud after a diligent investigation.
- In March 2009 Stratford Detectives arrested two Stratford residents for Burglary/Theft of a residence. Most Property was recovered.
- In April 2009 Stratford Detectives arrested a Hi-Nella women for two home burglaries. DNA evidence recovered from the scene later confirmed she was the suspect.
- In April 2009 a Search warrant was serviced in Cornell Manor apartments after an investigation involving Distribution of CDS. One person was charged with possession of CDS.
- In June of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated a Fatal Pedestrian/ Motor Vehicle Accident on Rt.30, @ Laurel rd.
- In June of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau Arrested a Voorhees women who works at a doctors Office in Glassboro and called in prescription medication for herself, using the doctor's state ID #. The female was arrested at CVS Pharmacy by Stratford Detective's attempting to pick up the medication.
- In June of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated an incident involving a resident, who had been found unconscious by his parents, and had taken some pills in an apparent attempted suicide. At the hospital the resident jumped out of the ambulance and over a fence and fell approximately 20' to loading dock area below. The resident was admitted to the hospital with head injuries.

- In July of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated a dwelling fire on Berlin Road.
- In July of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated a sudden death of a decomposed male whom had been dead in a house for a least a week in the heat. The death was listed as Natural Causes.
- In July of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau arrested two juveniles for Burglary & thefts from vehicles.
- In July of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau charged convicted felon with burglary / theft of a residence from June of 2007 after DNA evidence collected at the scene revealed a CODIS hit and identified the suspect, who is currently incarcerated on unrelated charges, including another burglary.
- In August of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau investigated a sudden death of a decomposed male whom had been dead in an apartment, for a least a week in the heat. The death was listed as Natural Causes
- In September of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau Charged Monroe Twp resident with Identity theft after she had attempted to pick up her birth certificate at Stratford Borough Hall in the name of a dead person.
- In October of 2009 Stratford Detective Bureau Charged with Burglary/theft of a vehicle which occurred in March of 2007. DNA evidence collected a the scene revealed a CODIS hit and identified the suspect, who is currently incarcerated on unrelated charges.
- During the months of October and November 2009, the Detective Bureau investigated a rash of residential burglaries. After approximately 6-7 weeks, a suspect was developed and arrested while attempting to burglarize yet another home. A Lindenwold women was charged with a series of burglaries and attempts. Like many others, the suspect was committing crimes on the way to, and from the PATCO High Speedline which she used to travel to Philadelphia and Camden to purchase narcotics.
- In December of 2009, the Detective Bureau arrested a Voorhees man for aggravated sexual assault on a 6 year old family member.
- In December of 2009, the Detective Bureau arrested a Lindenwold man after firearms were stolen in a residential burglary at the Woodmere apartments.
- In addition the above listed incidents Stratford Detective Bureau has charged 50 additional individuals with forgery and counterfeit checks, and another seven people with writing bad checks for insufficient funds.

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 & assaults 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
2009	\$240,517.00	\$138,611.00

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 2009, 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 two full time employees.

	2009
○ *Reports Copied	2200
○ *Firearms Applications Processed	69
○ *Background Checks Initiated	265
○ *Juvenile Complaints Processed	103
○ *Handicap Placards Processed	47
○ *Prepares Cases for Court Office	777

**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, located in Lindenwold NJ. The Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. Despite all appearances, when calling 911, the process of dispatching a police officer is nearly immediately underway. Officers of the Stratford Police Department respond to most emergency and non-emergency calls within 120 seconds of receipt from the Communications Center. 95% of Camden County municipalities utilize the Camden County Communications Centers with the exception of the "Big 5" who are Gloucester Twp, Voorhees Twp, Winslow Twp, and Cherry Hill Twp & Camden City. However, during business hours, the Records Clerk will receive, screen and dispatch 10 to 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 in progress.

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.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	change
Calls	9059	8977	8424	8335	8682	+347

MISCELLANEOUS

Overtime

Officers of the Stratford Police Department worked approximately 1500 hours of overtime in 2009. 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, and other public events. This year, weather related events accounted for approximately 4.5% of the entire overtime budget. This is significant because most weather events are unanticipated and of course unpredictable. 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 ó 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)

Compensatory Time-Hours: Compensatory hours are actually overtime hours worked in which the police officers elects to bank hours which can be later used as time off. Compensatory hours per Federal Law can be accrued up to 480 hours.

The chart below reflects the Stratford Police Department's estimated overtime, by category for 2009.

Overtime by Category:

	Hours				
Extended Tour	260				
Extra Tour	380				
Court	330				
Training	16				
Records Coverage	0				
County Reimbursement	20				
DDEF	280				
Other & Grants	300				
Total	1586				

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 unlimited instruction has been provided by the Holtz Learning Centers at the flat rate, controlled 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 2009 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 2009, there were a total of 9 Internal Affairs Investigations and 1 Special Investigation of borough employees. The categories of these investigations included rule violations, demeanor, use of force, illegal search / stop and differential treatment. 1 Internal Affairs case has been carried over into 2010. As per the protocol established by the Camden County Prosecutors Office, the Internal Affairs function conducted random drug testing of 25% of the police department. All random drug tests results were negative.

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	Organizational Structure	Written Orders
Court Appearances	Uniforms	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. During the month of October 2009, the respective participating communities renewed the inter-local shared services agreement to continue the SRT 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 2009:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. DWI Enforcement Patrols | \$29,500.00 |
| 2. Click it or Ticket | \$4500.00 |
| 3. State Bullet Proof Vests | \$2200.00 |
| 4. Federal Equipment & Training | \$10,500.00 |
| 5. NJ Safe & Secure Manpower | \$22,500.00 |
| 6. DOJ Missing Child Training | \$2,500.00 |
| 7. DOJ Other Training | \$2500.00 |
| 8. County DWI Task Force | \$48,500.00 |

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>
○ 2 Story Wooden Shed	in service at police headquarters
○ 1998 Dodge Pick Up Truck	in service as a utility police vehicle
○ \$3800.00 Cash	reserved in account
○ Contents of massage parlors	sold at public auction, used by PD, disposed
○ 1998 Dodge Concord	in service as a detective vehicle
○ 1996 Chrysler Sebring	sold at public auction
○ 1995 Mitsubishi Galante	sold at public auction
○ 42ö LCD Television	sold at public auction
○ \$2200.00 Cash	received
○ \$1300.00 Cash	received
○ 2000 Honda Accord	sold at public auction
○ 1998 Chevy Work Truck	pending

To put the work and workload of our officers into perspective, I have included a glance of the 3rd quarter enforcement activity of our officers. The below data represents the workload of the Stratford Police Department.

Stratford Police Department Statistical Data
3rd Quarter 2009

<u>Indictables</u>	<u>Non-Indictables</u>	<u>Other Criminal</u>	<u>DWI</u>	<u>Other Traffic</u>
47	178	57	55	1558
<i>Total 3rd Quarter Activity</i>				<i>1895</i>

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 Custodian
7. Pursuit Report Custodian
8. Pursuit Instructor
9. Alternate Internal Affairs Officer
10. Mug Shot Custodian (master file)
11. Red Light Enforcement Officer

Sergeant Stephen McBride

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

Sergeant Frank J. Gagliardi

1. OC Instructor & Report Custodian
2. Radar Instructor
3. Terminal Agency Coordinator (T.A.C.)
4. F.T.O. Officer
5. Parole Listings Officer

6. N.C.I.C. Validations
7. Alternate Internal Affairs Officer
8. Monthly Arrest Reports
9. Live Scan Project Manager
10. V.I.C.A.P. / LEO Liaison
11. Red Light Enforcement Officer

Sergeant Robert Kelly

1. Primary Accident Investigator
2. Camden County Fatal Accident Reconstruction Team Member (C.R.I.T.)
3. Traffic Safety Officer / DWI Checkpoint Plans
4. F.T.O. Officer
5. Warrant Custodian
6. Red Light Enforcement Officer

Detective Scott Beasley

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

Patrolman Michael Meyers

1. Alternate Team Supervisor
2. Alternate UCR Officer (3)
3. Alternate Accident Investigator (2)
4. Alternate 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. Assistant Property & Evidence Custodian
8. Good & Welfare Coordinator
9. Bike Patrol

Detective Michael Williams

1. Assistant Firearms Instructor
2. Dare Instructor
3. Evidence Custodian
4. School Liaison Officer
5. Bike Patrol

Patrolman John Beasley

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

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 Officer
7. Junk Vehicle Code Enforcement (see map)

Patrolman Andrew Rebecca

1. Dare Officer
2. Alternate Team Supervisor
3. Alternate Terminal Agency Coordinator (T.A.C.)
4. Business Listing Custodian
5. Junk Vehicle Code Enforcement (see map)
6. Warrant Service Officer
7. Alternate Discovery Officer (3)

Patrolman Kenneth Righter

1. Dare Officer

2. Special Response Team Member (S.R.T.)
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. Firearms Instructor

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 Member (S.R.T.)
7. Juvenile / Stationhouse Adjustment Officer
8. Alternate Bailiff

Patrolman Glenn Behnke

1. Bailiff
2. Alternate Discovery Officer (1)
3. Monthly Alarm Report
4. Patrol Room Officer
5. Bulletin Boards
6. Junk Vehicle Code Enforcement (see map)

Patrolman Steven Schmidt

1. Primary Bailiff
2. Alternate Crossing Guard
3. Special Events
4. Patrol Room Officer
5. Bulletin Boards
6. Junk Code Enforcement Officer (see map)

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 employees fifteen (15) full time regular police officers. Which I consider the authorized strength 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, Blue Shield Consultants of Morris County was selected to perform the study. The consulting firm will be paid over \$56,000.00 for the service. The study began October 1, 2009 and should be completed by May 2010. A series of public hearings will then follow to review the final report.

Special Initiatives -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. Red Flex Corporation of Arizona has been selected to install the technology and manage the account. The Automated Red Light Enforcement Program should be placed in service early 2010.

Special Initiatives -Camden County Regional DWI Task Force

During the summer of 2009, the Stratford Police Department made application to the New Jersey Office of Highway Traffic Safety to receive funding federal funding for drunk driving enforcement. Consequently, 5 municipal police departments along the White Horse Pike corridor joined forces to develop the Camden County Drunk Driving Task Force. As of December 31, 2009, our Task Force has removed over 40 drunk drivers from our neighborhoods.

CAMERAS GIVE EXTRA EYES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Stratford New Jersey Cameras give extra eyes to law enforcement

BY KAREN DEMASTERS



It is obvious police officers cannot be everywhere they are needed at the same time, so several New Jersey municipal police departments are turning to cameras to help them put extra eyes on busy intersections.

The state Department of Transportation has set up a pilot program to allow municipalities to install cameras to take pictures of drivers running red lights at busy intersections that have a history of accidents. Similar to the cameras that take pictures of drivers avoiding paying tolls at E-Z Pass booths, the cameras have been in use in many other states for years.

The law authorizing the pilot program for a five year period was signed in January 2008. At the end of five years DOT will analyze data from the intersections to see if the number of drivers running red lights and the number of accidents have been reduced.

The slow approach to initiating the program is being used at the request of Gov. Jon S. Corzine, who asked that the program, known as Red Light Running Automated Enforcement Program, be enacted in a careful and deliberate manner.

Municipalities applied to be part of the pilot program, with the approval of their respective counties, and then DOT selected towns from various regions to start the tests. Stratford in Camden County is one of the municipalities that has received approval from DOT. Everyday scores of motorists run red lights within the borough of Stratford, especially at one particular intersection, which is situated between the University of Medicine and Dentistry and the PATCO High Speed Rail Line, Stratford officials said in their application to DOT. When traffic laws are disobeyed, drivers endanger themselves and others. As a consequence within the borough of Stratford, dozens of people are injured each year by red light runners.

The application continued, After nearly a decade of enforcement and some engineering upgrades, the problem of red light running (at the intersection of White Horse Road and Berlin Road) still exists (creating) dangers that are inherent with aggressive drivers.

Municipalities have to show that other efforts have been made to reduce red light running at an intersection before it will be added to the pilot program.

It is important that DOT is aware of the existing enforcement efforts of the Stratford Police Department, Stratford Police Chief Ronald Morello said. Due to traffic volume, traditional traffic enforcement efforts are, at most times, unsafe for the public and police officers, and only result in additional congestion, delays and accidents at this intersection, he added.

The cameras are needed first and foremost to improve traffic safety within the busiest and most congested intersection in Camden County, he added.

Stratford is in the process of selecting a vendor to install the cameras. The program will not cost the borough anything because the vendor will receive part of the \$100 fine that the driver pays for running the red light. The borough receives the remainder of the fine. Several companies have submitted bids because everyone wants the business, said Morello. The camera equipment costs about \$30,000 per unit or \$120,000 for an intersection.

That intersection has a high volume of traffic and about 125 red light violations per day each direction, the chief

said. We hope to cut that in half within five years. Brick Township in Ocean County also has been approved for the cameras at two busy intersections, State Route 70 and Chambersbridge Road and Brick Boulevard and Chambersbridge Road. We have hundreds of accidents at those intersections directly related to running red lights, said Brick Township Sgt. Donald Ling. This is very sophisticated equipment and we hope to eliminate red light violations. There will be signs as you approach the intersections telling drivers they are being observed by red light running cameras.

Municipalities hope to expand the camera surveillance to stop speeders in the future and so are picking vendors who have that capability, Morello said.

A violation does not carry any motor vehicle or insurance points. A driver caught on camera will receive a summons in the mail.

In addition to Brick Township and Stratford, DOT approved red light programs in Newark, North Brunswick, Piscataway, Roselle Park, Edison, Jersey City, Lawrence, Linden, New Brunswick, Hoboken, Morris Township, South Brunswick, Woodbridge, Gloucester Township, Cherry Hill, Deptford, Monroe and Glassboro. The municipalities are in various stages of selecting vendors and getting the program started. Application to be part of the program can still be made to DOT.

However, South Brunswick decided at the end of May to put the process on hold in that municipality, at least for awhile. The Township Council, which had applied for permission to install the cameras, said at a council meeting they want more information on what happens at intersections after the cameras are installed.

Ronald Schmalz, a spokesman for the township, said the council feared more accidents might be caused by drivers distracted by the presence of the cameras or slamming on their brakes at the last minute to avoid a ticket.

Five departments share duties on Pike

Stratford New Jersey

BY KAREN DEMASTERS

Police in five municipalities in Camden County are working with each other to try to reduce drunk driving and the accidents it causes along the White Horse Pike. The officers from the five communities now have the authority to make arrests for driving under the influence in all of the participating municipalities. A similar program was started in Burlington County in the summer of 2008 and there was a 28 percent reduction in drinking-related crashes during that summer. Three more towns joined the Burlington County program for 2009.



Camden's program started in October and runs through Labor Day 2010. Stratford Police Chief Ronald Morello is heading the effort and Somerdale, Magnolia, Laurel Springs and Hi-Nella are participating.

By having the five towns come together, it gives us the ability to detect drunk driving on a broader scale, Morello said. Stratford has seen an increase in DUI arrests, especially along the White Horse Pike, a major highway that goes through the five participating communities.

Pam Fischer, director of the state Division of Highway Traffic Safety, said. The more enforcement we can put out there on the street, the more effective it is going to be.

During 2008, officers in the five Camden towns made 202 drunken driving arrests on the White Horse Pike and nearly 30 alcohol-related crashes took place in those towns, Morello said. In 2008, 13 of the 44 car crash fatalities that occurred involved alcohol. The task force is being paid for through a \$48,600 federal grant.

2009 Year End Police Activity Report

<u>468</u>	Adults Arrests
<u>50</u>	Juvenile Arrests
<u>5</u>	Assaults to Police
<u>60</u>	Simple Assaults
<u>63</u>	Criminal Mischief Complaints
<u>125</u>	Harassment Complaints
<u>970</u>	Other Investigations & Complaints
<u>42</u>	Burglaries
<u>3</u>	Robberies by Weapons or Force
<u>176</u>	Thefts <u>\$240,517.00</u> in Property was <u>Stolen</u> <u>\$138,611.00</u> of Stolen Property was <u>Recovered</u>
<u>10</u>	Motor Vehicle Thefts
<u>136</u>	Drunk Driving Arrests
<u>70</u>	Narcotics Arrests
<u>4165</u>	Traffic Tickets issued
<u>336</u>	Motor Vehicle Accidents
<u>70</u>	Injuries from Car Accidents
<u>2</u>	Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents
<u>430</u>	Alarm Activations
<u>1092</u>	Total Crime Reports taken
<u>8682</u>	Total Calls for Police Service

