

CITY OF LAMBERTVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2017

**Bruce M. Cocuzza
Police Director**



LAMBERTVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
349 North Main Street
Lambertville, New Jersey 08530

Bruce M. Cocuzza
Police Director

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May 31, 2018

Mayor DelVecchio and City Council Members:

The City of Lambertville Police Department is a progressive, pro-active, community oriented law enforcement agency. We are a full-service department staffed by nine police officers and one special officer that is operational around-the-clock, seven days a week. Primarily a uniformed patrol based operation we also provide a criminal investigative function through the assignment of a detective (when feasible) and conduct periodic specialized patrol in the form of a Bicycle Patrol Unit. Our police officers receive continuous, up-dated in-service training relating to both existing and new policies, procedures, firearms proficiency, and other areas relevant to the law enforcement function. Most of our officers have attended advanced classes, covering many diverse topics that include traffic accident and criminal investigations, Interview and Interrogation, Bias Crime Reporting and Investigation, Cultural Diversity, Terrorism, Internal Affairs, Narcotics Enforcement, Methods of Instruction, Handling the Emotionally Disturbed, Evidence Management, Autism Awareness, and Computer Crime/Identity Theft. I am proud to say that the caliber of our officers and civilian staff is second to none.

It is the philosophy of this department to perform our duties consistent with modern, community policing practices. We routinely solicit citizen input in addressing crime and quality-of-life issues and always strive to identify and solve problems by maintaining open lines of communication with the community. We take these responsibilities seriously and continually look for ways to improve our performance.

I respectfully submit for your review the 2017 Annual Report for the City of Lambertville Police Department. This report details operational statistics, administrative activities and functions and a general assessment of department productivity in a variety of areas.

2017 continued to be another challenging year for the department. As I've stated before, we continue to operate with a reduction in force of one police officer (10% of department) that took effect in 2011. This staff reduction resulted in the elimination of a dedicated investigator position. This slot had been crucial with respect to our ability to conduct timely and efficient initial and follow-up investigation of reported crimes, and all other type of investigations such as background checks, domestic violence case

follow-up, ABC, firearms, taxicab, and vending machine licensing. These responsibilities are presently assigned to Detective Vincent Albani. However, he remains assigned to the regular duty chart and is still required to perform all routine patrol duties and respond to calls for service. Detective Albani also serves as the department's Evidence/Property and Project Medicine Drop Program Officer.

In 2017, the department handled 10628 calls for service. Although this figure represents a slight decrease from last year (-3.78%), the overall trend indicates that the demand for police service is on the rise as our calls have increased about 25% over the last 3 years. The unanticipated departure of three officers (2 resignations and 1 dismissal) added to the challenge of providing police coverage on a 24/7 basis. In addition, 2017 saw a huge increase in major infrastructure projects with both the Suez Water and Elizabethtown Gas companies implementing extensive upgrades throughout the city. These projects required the assignment of 1-2 police officers for traffic control on almost a daily basis. In order to fulfill the need for this extra coverage, officers were often required to work double shifts throughout the year. Both projects have continued into 2018 and are ongoing.

In 2017 the department experienced declines in virtually all arrest and moving violation categories, at least partially attributed to personnel vacancies coupled with the extra coverage requirements noted above. The force was stretched thin for much of last year. Fortunately, we have returned to authorized staffing levels this year with the hiring of Police Officer Lauren Balaity in December and Kyle Czerniak in March. Both officers are recent Alternate Route (self-enrolled) graduates from the Camden County Police Academy.

In 2017 the department again secured grant funding (\$5,500.00) from the state to participate in a "2017 Drive Sober or Get Pulled over Labor Day Crackdown" enforcement campaign. The program resulted in 3 DUI and 1 CDS arrest and 360 moving and non-moving violations.

Between May 17 through June 6, the department partnered with Hunterdon County Rural Transit (HART) in a "Street Smart" campaign that focused on educating the public about crosswalk safety, speeding, distracted driving and walking, and other motorist/pedestrian safety issues. The campaign had officers engaging both pedestrians and motorists about safety and handing out informational literature regarding current law and safe practices. There was also an enforcement component to the program. HART personnel surveyed pre and post program compliance with relevant laws and reported that the campaign had a positive impact on both motorist and pedestrian behavior.

Parking violations declined in 2017 by about 7%. The drop in parking tickets can be attributed to two factors- implementation of the ParkMobile pay-by-phone application which has made it much easier for motorists to avoid meter violations, and the ongoing utility projects that have resulted in closed roads and restricted access to parking meters in the Central Business District. However, the ticket revenue deficit is more than mitigated by the fact that contractors pay for all reserved parking spaces, both metered and non-metered. In 2017, contractors paid almost \$ 17,000 for reserved parking spaces.

Notwithstanding the drop in parking violations, meter and ParkMobile revenue increased by about 1%. Interestingly, the ParkMobile revenue portion increased almost threefold over 2016 (\$39,891 vs \$15,692); a testament to the fact that usage continues to increase substantially.

Part I UCR crimes in 2017 totaled 50, down over 25% from the prior year. This significant decrease was principally due to a large drop (-34%) in reported larcenies, from 56 in 2016 to 37 in 2017. A total of three violent crimes, all domestic violence related aggravated assaults, were reported in 2017. In one case, the victim was severely beaten with fists and sustained serious physical injuries.

There were 160 motor vehicle accidents in 2017, compared with 162 reported in 2016. No fatalities resulted from these accidents. Six (6) pedestrians were struck by motor vehicles in 2017. Two of those incidents resulted in the victims sustaining serious, but non-life threatening physical injuries. In one incident, near the intersection of N. Main and Coryell Streets, the driver was cited for careless driving. In the second incident, which occurred on S. Main Street (Route 29), investigation determined that the pedestrian's actions were primarily responsible for the accident. Three motor vehicle accidents resulted in DUI arrests. The top two accident locations were once again occurred in the general vicinity of Routes 165/ 518 (12) and Route 165/179 (6).

In September, the department acquired body worn cameras and associated equipment to outfit all sworn, uniformed police officers. The cameras were partially funded (\$4500.00) through the NJ State Body Worn Camera Assistance Program utilizing state forfeiture funds and enable officers to record virtually all interactions between officers and the public. The cameras must be activated on all motor vehicle stops, arrests, accidents, routine service calls and criminal investigations. Use of the cameras is strictly governed by New Jersey State Attorney General and Lambertville Police Department guidelines, policies and procedures. All officers have been trained and equipped with the cameras which have already proven to be a valuable asset.

Also in 2017, the department headquarters facility underwent a much needed interior restoration (painting and carpeting). This work was last done 17 years ago, in 2001, when the department first moved into this facility.

Although the responsibilities and challenges to police departments in general have become increasingly demanding, all of our members remain steadfastly committed to providing first-class police service and a safe, secure environment for all Lambertville residents and visitors.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce M. Cocuzza', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce M. Cocuzza
Police Director



MISSION STATEMENT

“The City of Lambertville Police Department’s primary mission is to protect lives and property and provide the highest quality police service to all persons; professionally, impartially and within the framework of community policing ideals. We are committed to achieving this mission by adhering to the highest ethical standards and developing a well trained and disciplined workforce.”

LAMBERTVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PERSONNEL ROSTER

MAY 23, 2018

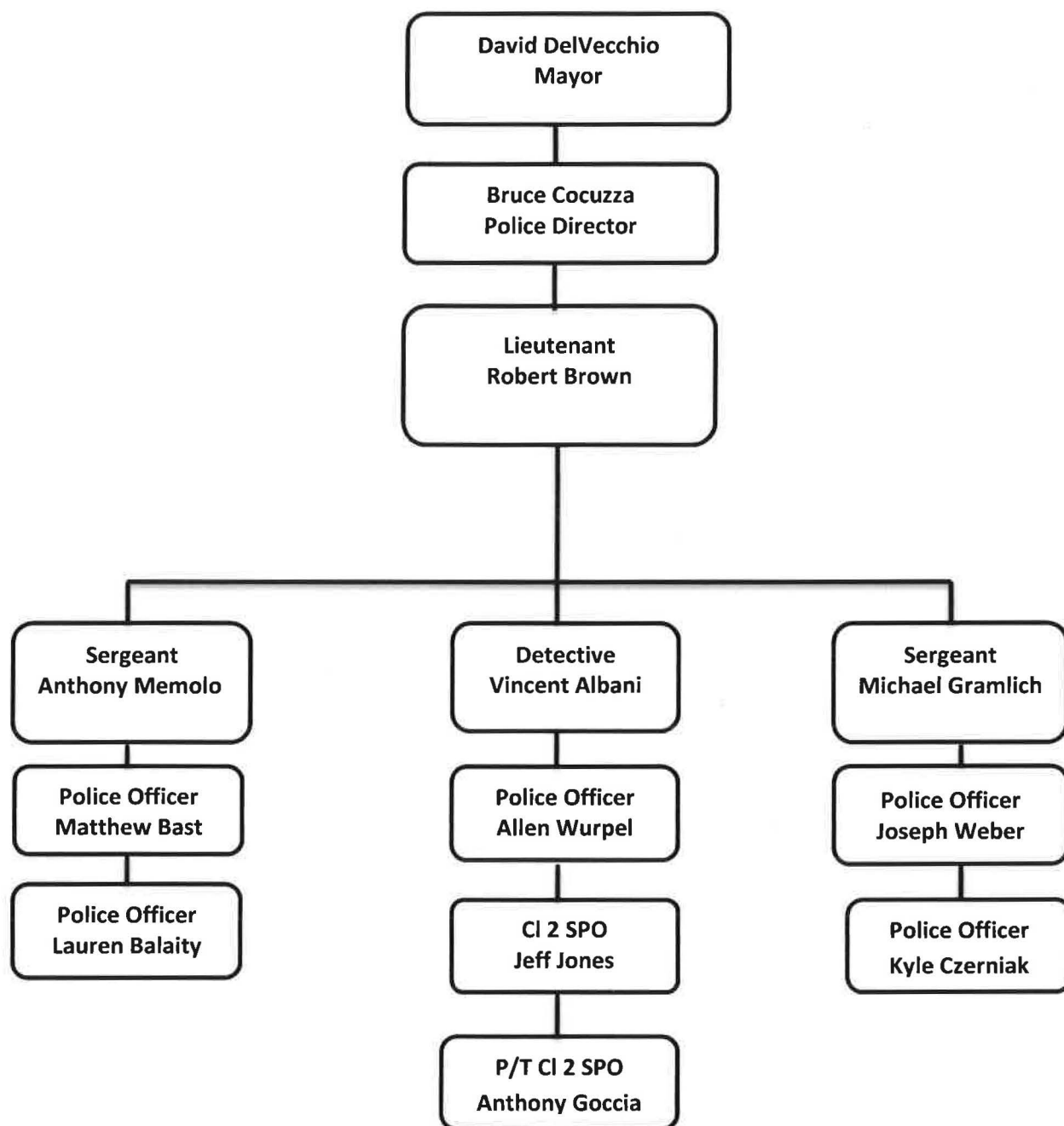
<u>RANK/TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>OPER. #</u>	<u>DATE APPOINT.</u>
Police Director	Bruce Cocuzza	Op # 1	April 5, 1999
Lieutenant	Robert Brown	Op # 2	July 15, 1996
Sergeant	Anthony Memolo	Op # 3	February 6, 2003
Sergeant	Michael Gramlich	Op # 4	February 1, 2004
Police Officer	Joseph Weber Jr.	Op # 10	March 18, 2002
Detective	Vincent Albani	Op # 12	May 20, 2005
Police Officer	Matthew Bast	Op # 13	May 1, 2014
Police Officer	Allen Wurlpel	Op # 14	December 29, 2014
Police Officer	Lauren Balaity	Op # 18	December 19, 2017
Police Officer	Kyle Czerniak	Op # 19	February 27, 2018
Class 2 SPO	Jeffrey Jones	Op # 17	September 20, 2016
P/T CL 2 SPO	Anthony Goccia	Op # 20	May 14, 2018

SUPPORT STAFF

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHEDULE</u>	<u>DATE APPT</u>
Office Mgr.	Sally Lelie	Mon-Fri (0800 X 1530)	June 22, 1992
P/T Secy.	Tara Barlow	Mon-Fri (1330 X 1630)	Aug 18, 2014
Parking Enforcement Officer (F/T)	Michael Vecchio	Mon-Fri (various)	Mar 18, 2015
School Crossing Guard	Vernon Barlow	Mon-Fri (various)	Dec 18, 2014

Bruce Cocuzza
Police Director

LAMBERTVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART 2017



Administrative/Support Staff

Sally Lelie-Administrative Assistant

Tara Barlow-P/T Secretary

Michael Vecchio-Parking Enforcement Officer

Vernon Barlow-School Crossing Guard

TABLE #1: LCPD ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL STATISTICS 2017

CATEGORY	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Total Calls	883	832	894	1009	936	920	776	914	962	910	846	746	10628
Criminal Investigations	6	5	5	19	14	14	13	18	6	14	5	4	123
Non-Criminal Investigations	55	64	56	82	88	77	77	95	55	73	85	57	864
Service Calls	10	19	19	20	26	23	29	28	30	27	28	21	280
Administrative Assignments	12	13	9	10	4	5	3	9	3	7	6	8	89
Fire Calls	3	3	5	10	7	10	13	5	8	8	4	15	91
EMS Squad Calls	57	30	38	36	36	27	34	33	27	29	34	33	414
M.V. Accidents	16	11	11	10	13	13	21	17	15	11	13	9	160
Parking Summonses	161	180	164	405	244	294	375	333	245	328	190	81	3000
Moving Violations	169	126	124	149	67	138	124	152	191	120	130	68	1558
Indictables	0	1	0	1	0	4	3	1	0	1	2	0	13
Disorderly Persons Arrests	0	0	0	2	0	2	3	2	3	7	3	0	22
DUI Arrests	2	2	1	0	0	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	16
CDS Arrests	3	2	2	4	1	2	2	1	3	2	1	1	24
Warrant Arrests	3	2	2	3	0	4	2	4	3	0	1	2	26
Domestic Incidents	2	2	0	1	3	4	1	3	1	2	2	0	21
Juvenile Incidents	0	1	0	2	2	0	3	3	5	0	1	1	18
Alarms	10	10	7	6	25	12	17	20	12	13	16	18	166
Assist Other Agencies	12	3	12	11	7	8	14	8	3	4	7	11	100
Overtime (Hours)	14.5	27	108.5	117	108.5	103	121	54	27.5	150.25	204.5	153	1188.8
Sick Days	7.5	0.50	8	9	4	2	10	3.5	0.5	4.5	0.5	3	53

TABLE #2: LCPD INDIVIDUAL OFFICERS ANNUAL ACTIVITY 2017

OFFICER	M.V.	PARK	IND	DP	DUI	SICK	VAC	OT HRS	TRN HRS	CDS	ORD VIOL	WARR	JUV
LT. BROWN	494	60	4	6	7	10	17	206.5	36.5	10	11	4	0
SGT. MEMOLO	71	20	2	5	2	16	20	171.5	52.5	1	5	4	0
SGT. GRAMLICH	213	18	0	2	3	1	8	164	84.5	2	6	4	0
PO WEBER	59	20	0	0	0	12	21	38.25	33	0	0	0	0
PO ALBANI	22	5	3	0	0	4	18	220	39	0	2	0	0
PO BAST	276	20	1	2	1	1	4	137.5	95.5	8	21	5	2
PO WURPEL	164	7	0	3	1	1.5	11	101.5	89.5	0	8	5	0
PO BALAITY	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	0	0	0	0
CL 2 SPO JONES	45	70	0	4	0	3.5	16	89	32.5	0	1	1	0
PO PASCOE *	43	1	0	0	2	0	0	7.5	0	3	0	2	0
PO COOPER *	129	5	2	0	0	4	5	49	12	0	0	1	0
PO KUCINSKI *	41	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	190.5	0	0	0	0
PEO VECCHIO	N/A	1789	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PEO T BARLOW	N/A	163	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PEO VANGLAHN	N/A	359	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
PEO TOWNES	N/A	459	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	1558	3000	13	22	16	53	120	1188.75	735.5	24	54	26	2

OT BREAKDOWN: SHIFT (897), OPER (202), TRAINING (74.5), COURT (16) TOTAL 1189 HOURS

NOTE (S): PO PASCOE RESIGNED 3/31/17, PO COOPER RESIGNED 7/5/17, PO KUCINSKI TERMINATED 12/01/17

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ANNUAL TRAINING

All police officers received mandatory in-service, semi-annual training (28-hours) in the following areas: Firearms Proficiency, Use of Force, Vehicle Pursuits, Domestic Violence, Pepper Spray-ASP Baton Use and Tactics, Right to Know, Bloodborne Pathogens, Chemical Safety and Hazardous Materials Awareness, AED Certification and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. Members also attended advanced training at certified academies and training facilities throughout the state in: Cultural Diversity, Criminal Investigation, Bias Crime Reporting and Investigation, Dealing With Special Needs Individuals/Mental Illness, Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training relating to handling emotionally disturbed individuals, Autism and Law Enforcement: Recognition, Response and Risk Management, Street Smart Pro-Active Patrol Tactics, AlcoTest Operator Course, Bail Reform Act training, Work Zone Safety, NJSP CJIS TAC Officer Update, Uniformed Crime Reporting Update, Evidence Management, and Internal Affairs Investigations.

POLICIES, PROCEDURES, OTHER DIRECTIVES

The Department continued to review existing policies and procedures and updated or promulgated directives as necessary. Policies and procedures were revised and/or promulgated in the following areas: Conducted Energy Devices and Vehicle Towing and Impoundment. Additionally, various Prosecutors' Office directives and Attorney General Directives and/or guidelines were received and disseminated as appropriate.

The Police Director issued five post conditions and seven personnel orders in 2017. These directives covered areas that included community policing and enforcement activities, directed patrols, post assignments, personnel appointments, special event coverage and other operational and/or administrative subjects.

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

In 2016 the department investigated five (5) citizen complaints and initiated three (3) departmental investigations of misconduct. Three citizen complaint involved employee demeanor. In two cases, the subject officers were exonerated- actions deemed appropriate and no misconduct noted. The third demeanor complaint was substantiated and appropriate disciplinary action was taken. The fourth citizen complaint involved an alleged procedural violation that was withdrawn when the complainant realized that the officer's actions were in fact lawful and proper. The final citizen complaint was incorporated into a departmental investigation of misconduct.

All three departmental misconduct investigations were substantiated and resulted in one officer's resignation and the second officer's dismissal.

SPECIAL EVENTS/DETAILS

- Lambertville-New Hope Winter Festival
- Annual Shad Festival
- Annual Hunterdon Healthcare Shad Run
- Annual Memorial Day Parade
- Lambertville Unity Celebration
- Love Thy Neighbor Walk
- River to Sea Benefit Run
- Dawn Commercial Dinner Event
- Major Taylor Cycling Club of NJ Annual Bicycle Ride
- Enhanced December Holiday Patrol Coverage
- Annual AIDS WALK
- LPS Walking School Bus program
- Annual Pet Masquerade

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- Annual Historical House Tour
- "Mischief Night" and Halloween Deployments
- Annual Halloween Parade (LPS)
- Annual Holiday Tree & Menorah Lighting
- "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" DUI Enforcement Campaign
- LPS Back to School/End of School Picnics
- Zombie Crawl
- Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot
- Various Block Parties
- Various road repair/construction projects throughout city requiring contractual traffic control details
- Lambertville-New Hope Celebration Parade
- Friday Night Fireworks
- Chamber of Commerce Holiday Fun Run

ONGOING PROGRAMS

- Child Safety Seat Installation Program
- Bicycle Registration Program
- Bicycle Patrol Unit
- Project Child Safe Gun Lock Program

PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/DISMISSALS

Police Officer Brian Pascoe resigned March 3, 2017.

P/T Parking Officer Thomas Van Glahn resigned June 18, 2017.

P/T Parking Officer Christopher Townes appointed June 20, 2017.

Police Officer Steven Kucinski appointed June 26, 2017.

Police Officer Jeffrey Cooper resigned July 6, 2017.

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Police Officer Steven Kucinski terminated December 1, 2017.

Police Officer Lauren Balaity appointed December 19, 2017.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Between May 17 through June 6, the department partnered with Hunterdon County Rural Transit (HART) in a "Street Smart" campaign that focused on educating the public about crosswalk safety, speeding, distracted driving and walking, and other motorist/pedestrian safety issues. The campaign had officers engaging both pedestrians and motorists about safety and handing out informational literature regarding current law and safe practices. There was also an enforcement component to the program. HART personnel surveyed pre and post program compliance with relevant laws and reported that the campaign had a positive impact on both motorist and pedestrian behavior.
- In 2017 the department again secured grant funding (\$5,500.00) from the state to participate in a "2017 Drive Sober or Get Pulled over Labor Day Crackdown" enforcement campaign. The program resulted in 3 DUI and 1 CDS arrest and 360 moving and non-moving violations.
- The Department had a 50% decrease in officer total sick days, from 106 in 2016 to 53 in 2017.
- Police Officer Allen Wurpel represented the department at the October 19th Hunterdon County Law Enforcement Pistol Competition and achieved second place in the team category. Congratulations Officer Wurpel!

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Lieutenant Robert Brown- Training Officer, IT-TAC Officer, Terrorism Task Force Representative, Domestic Violence Liaison Officer, Special Event coordinator. Led Department in total Moving Violations, DUI, CDS, Indictable and Disorderly Persons Arrests. Once again received the MADD 2017 DWI Enforcement Recognition.
- Sergeant Anthony Memolo- Firearms Training/ Department Armorer. Evidence/Property Supervisor, Internal Affairs Officer, Project Medicine Drop Supervisor.
- Sergeant Michael Gramlich- Radar Instructor, AlcoTest and PBT coordinator, Alternate TAC Officer, School Security Coordinator.
- Officer Joe Weber- Primary UCR Reporting Officer.
- Officer Vincent Albani- Criminal, background and other investigations, Gang Officer, Juvenile Officer, ABC Licensing Inspections, Vending Machine Inspections, Primary Evidence/Property Officer, MAGLOCLIN Representative, Project Medicine Drop Coordinator.
- Officer Matthew Bast- Firearms Application Investigations and Processing, Backup UCR Officer, 2nd in moving violations, led in ordinance violations, warrant and juvenile arrests. Mrs. Bast's (Matt's Mom) outstanding cupcakes and chocolate cream puffs.
- Officer Allen Wurpel- Child Car Seat Inspection/Installations, Motor Vehicle Accident Analysis and Reporting. Tied for most warrant arrests. Second Place Team Category Hunterdon County law Enforcement Pistol Competition.
- Class II Special Officer Jeff Jones- led all police officers in parking violations.

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- Probationary Police Officers Lauren Balaity and Kyle Czerniak- both recently hired are adjusting well to public service and show excellent potential to become outstanding members of the department.
- Office Manager Sally Lelie- Customer Service, Deputy Public Records Administrator, Records Maintenance/Processing, overall management of administrative functions and Good Will Ambassador.
- Part-time Police Secretary Tara Barlow-Reports, Customer Service, Traffic Detail Coordinator, Discovery, Police Matron, continued to fill candy jars and feed cops on holidays.
- Parking Enforcement Officer Michael Vecchio- parking enforcement, meter revenue processing, meter maintenance, mail runs, motor pool coordinator. Monitors social websites and reports to Police Director regarding any issues impacting city. Worked all special details for department during year.
- School Crossing Guard Vernon Barlow- Dependably protecting LPS students throughout the year and working special details for P.D.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Cocuzza', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Bruce Cocuzza
Police Director