

Town of Berlin Police Department

2024 Annual Report



240 Kensington Road, Berlin CT
www.berlinpd.org

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BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT



***“ENFORCE THE LAW AND SERVE THE PUBLIC IN A FAIR
AND JUST MANNER.”***

To accomplish the mission, we will work with others to provide a safe and orderly environment for our community. We will strive to instill public confidence by maintaining a high degree of professionalism, dedication, and expertise in the delivery of law enforcement services. The integrity of, and respect for, the Berlin Police Department is enhanced by our contribution to the welfare of the citizens and our standards of excellence.

Berlin Police Commissioners



Pictured from left to right are Chairman Steve Wilson, Commissioner Paul Eshoo, Vice Chairman Dave Rogan, Commissioner Ryan Zelek and Commissioner Melissa Urrunaga.





BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2024 Annual Report introduces Officers Brandon Scott, Ryan Johnson, Alan Yang, Melissa Johnson and Patrick Lawler to the Town of Berlin. The Town of Berlin also welcomed Dispatcher Natalie Perez.

This report reflects the efforts of personnel and descriptions of programs within the police department. Each and every individual plays a role and contributes to our mission of *“service and protection to the community”*.



The Berlin Police Department is committed to working together with the Board of Education, our four Fire Departments, Hunters Ambulance Service and all other town departments in order to provide the best service possible to the community.

Personnel of the Berlin Police Department are committed to making Berlin a safe community.

Chief Matthew J. McNally IV

Chief's Statement

As the Chief of Police of the Berlin Police Department, I am incredibly proud to reflect on the work accomplished by our dedicated officers and non-sworn staff over the past year. This department has faced numerous challenges (e.g. the Hawthorne Fire, et.al), but through unwavering commitment, professionalism, and a shared vision of keeping our community safe, we have made significant strides in building stronger bonds with the people we serve.

The achievements of the past year would not have been possible without the tireless effort and passion of our officers, who have worked around the clock to uphold the law, protect our citizens, and ensure that safety remains a top priority. From solving critical cases to providing swift responses in emergencies, our team has demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and a deep sense of duty to the community.

I am particularly proud of the strides we've made in community engagement. Whether through outreach programs (like the Bicycle Safety Rodeo), educational initiatives (The Anxious Generation program), or our many community policing efforts, we have worked hard to foster trust and cooperation with residents. We know that partnerships with the community are essential in creating a safer, more inclusive environment, and we are committed to continuing those efforts in the year ahead.

The department's focus on improving training and enhancing our officers' skills has been pivotal in preparing our team for the many challenges of 21st century policing they face. We have embraced new technologies and strategies to improve our ability to respond to incidents, investigate crimes, and support victims. These investments have made us more efficient, more effective, and more responsive to the needs of our community.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain focused on our mission to enforce the law and serve the public in a fair and just manner. The road ahead will present new challenges, but with the strength, dedication, and professionalism of this department, I have every confidence that we will continue to make positive impacts in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you to each member of our department for your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence. Together, we will continue to build a safer, stronger community for all.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. McNally IV
Chief of Police

Our Cover



October 4th saw three of our officers being honored at the 38th Annual MADD Connecticut Law Enforcement Recognition Ceremony at a luncheon held at Mohegan Sun. For the first time in Connecticut MADD's awards recognition history, Berlin Officers Brendan Clark and Maegan Musanti were honored jointly with the Connecticut MADD Top Cop Award. Officer Peggy Kennedy was also presented with a MADD Appreciation Certificate.



HISTORY OF THE BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT



On September 10, 1937, the Town of Berlin formed a Police Bureau which was supervised by four elected Constables. The Police Bureau was the town's only form of police protection until April 13, 1955.

In 1955, a formal police department was formed. Since that time, the Berlin Police Department has grown from three (3) constables to forty-six (46) full time officers, one (1) dispatch supervisor, nine (9) civilian dispatchers, one (1) administrative assistant to the Chief, two (2) records clerks, one (1) technical support administrator and three (3) crossing guards.

The Police Department has been led by eight (8) Police Chiefs; Theodore Strand (1956-1971), Robert Skinner (1971-1978), Phillip Buchanan (1978-1980), William Scalise (1980-1988), Gerald Charamut (1988-2003), Paul Fitzgerald (2003 – 2017), John Klett (2017 – 2021) and Matthew J. McNally who was appointed in 2021.

On February 2, 1985, the Berlin Police Department was shaken by the death of Officer Jeffery Casner, who was struck by a drunk driver while directing traffic at an automobile accident.

In November of 1988, the department was once again shocked by the sudden death of Chief William B. Scalise, who succumbed while clearing land for a new VFW Post.

The Berlin Police Department is looking to the future to better serve the Berlin community by utilizing new technologies, and by maintaining and efficiently utilizing staff and resources.



ACCREDITATION



The Berlin Police Department is an internationally accredited law enforcement agency. The agency was initially accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) in March 1996. We are one of 28 Connecticut Law Enforcement Agencies to be awarded. The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) first awarded State Accreditation to the Berlin Police Department in November of 2004.

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) administers the international accreditation program. The accreditation program requires agencies to comply with state-of-the-art standards in four basic areas: policy and procedures, administration, operations, and support services.

A team of assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) visited Police Headquarters October 16-19, 2023 to examine all aspects of the Berlin Police Department's policies, procedures, management, operations and support services. The Berlin Police Department had to comply with 391 of the applicable mandatory standards and at least 80% of the non-mandatory standards in order to gain accredited status. The department was found to be in compliance with 100% of all 328 mandatory standards and 79 of the 87 non-mandatory standards or 91%. The Berlin Police Department has been an internationally accredited agency since 1996 and will receive its ninth "Advanced Accreditation" in 2024.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS REVIEW

Senior Center Hours

The Berlin Police Department and Senior Center have partnered to have an officer visit the Senior Center once a month. Our C.A.T. (Community, Accreditation & Training Officer) Officer Maegan Musanti uses this time to introduce newly hired officers, discuss recent police activity and scams. This program has been well received and attended.

Torch Run

Once a year, since the mid 80's members of the Berlin Police Department are active in the Special Olympics Torch Run and fund raising that goes on during the year. Officer Mark DePinto gathers the local group of runners and they in turn raise money to be donated to Special Olympics. Officer Mark DePinto also works as the leg coordinator between seven towns on the Torch Run day. Eight participating police departments run from Newington to New Haven for the opening Special Olympic ceremonies. In 2024 the Berlin Police Department participants raised over three thousand dollars.

Citizen Input

The Berlin Police Department gives the citizens of Berlin a place to let us know how they feel and to share any concerns they may have. You can access our [Online Reporting](https://www.berlinpd.org) by going to our website at www.berlinpd.org. Look for the "In this Department" Section and click on complaints or customer survey on the website.

School Safety

Officers from the Berlin Police Department randomly visit all the schools in town weekly. These visits establish familiarity with the staff and layout of the school. The visits also provide an omnipresent sense of security. The Berlin Police Department continues to work closely with school staff on emergency preparedness drills. We have officers in the elementary schools who teach DARE and a School Resource Officer stationed at the high school. Annually, the Berlin Police Department conducts officer training in the schools for response to emergencies. This training is conducted when schools are closed and no students are present.

Safe Kids Wear Lids

In an ongoing effort to promote bicycle safety amongst the youth of Berlin, members of the Berlin Police Department participated in the 2024 "Safe Kids-Wear Lids" campaign. The program is designed to reward youths observed riding their bicycles while wearing helmets with a coupon good for a free ice cream redeemable at Pralines Ice Cream on Farmington Avenue. This program kicks off again in April of 2025!

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES

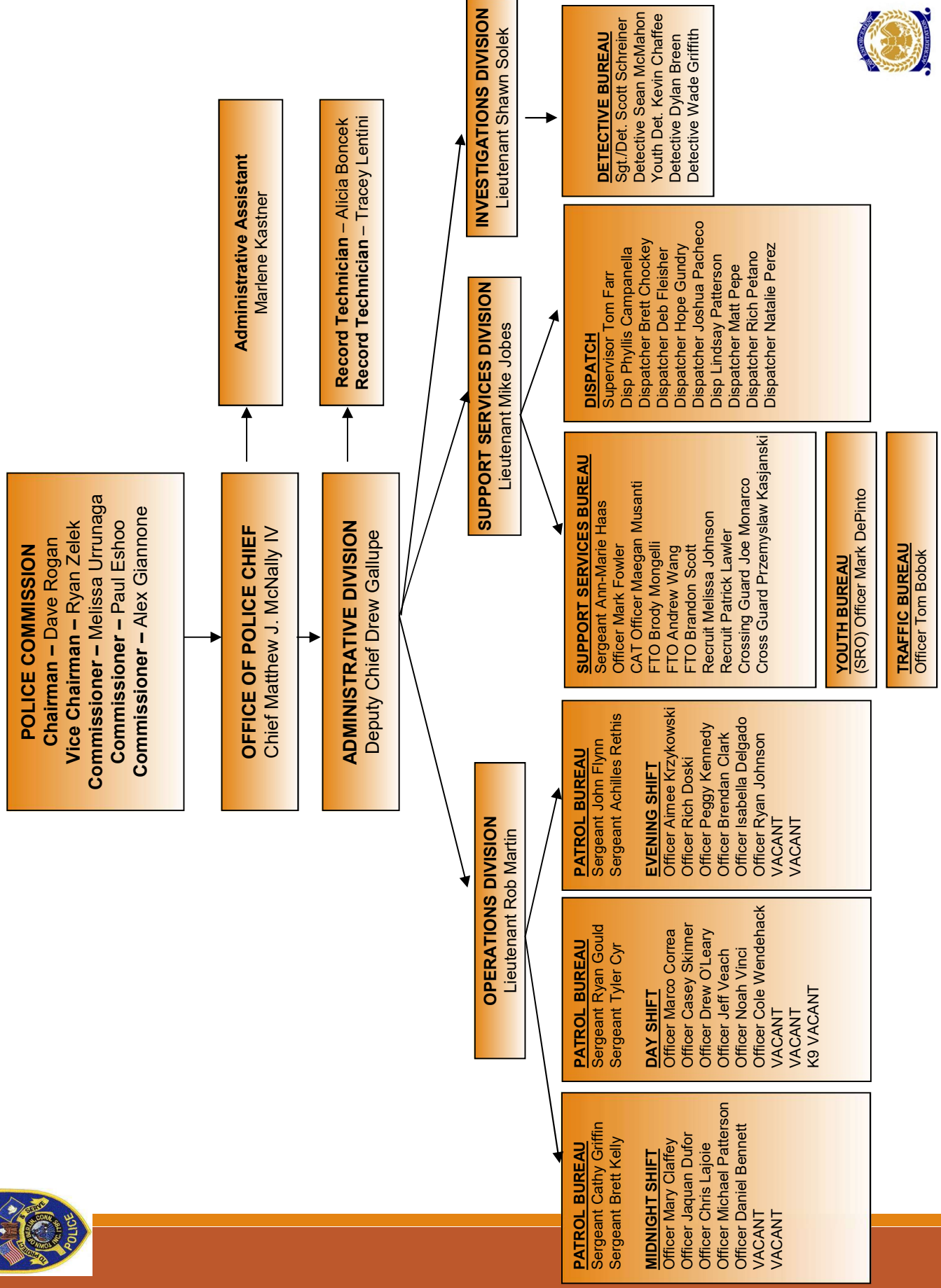


Berlin Police Officers work in partnership with the community to provide a safe community. The present day duties of a Berlin Police Officer are varied and complex. The Officer's primary function is the preservation of public peace, protection of life and property, prevention of crime, and proper enforcement of local and state laws and ordinances. The Officer must effectively investigate motor vehicle accidents while rendering first aid to injured parties. Motor vehicle safety is a high priority and motor vehicle laws are enforced through the use of laser and radar units.

A Berlin Police Officer is a first responder to all medical emergency calls. The Officer must be qualified as an EMR (Emergency Medical Responder) to render quick and effective first aid. All patrol vehicles are equipped with first aid and oxygen units. Officers are certified in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and the use of state-of-the-art AED (Automated External Defibrillator) units. There were 2,433 medical emergency calls in 2024 which is a 31% increase from 2020.



Other important duties include initial investigations of reported crimes and incidents. Officers must be able to provide crisis and conflict intervention, along with problem solving techniques, to serve and assist the community.



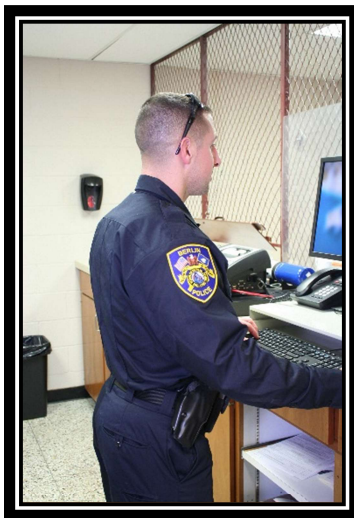
DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The **Administration Division** has the responsibility of the following areas:

1. Personnel
2. Public Relations
3. Training
4. Planning and Research
5. Budgeting
6. Purchasing
7. Records Bureau

The **Operations Division** consists of the patrol bureau and other special units as determined necessary by the Chief of Police.

The Patrol Bureau covers a wide range of traditional police services which may be generally defined as the patrolling of streets for the purpose of preventing crime, protecting life and property, assisting the public in any way possible, inspections of commercial establishments, vacant homes etc., and the investigation of suspicious persons and vehicles. The Patrol Bureau investigates crime, completes necessary crime and incident reports, protects crime scenes, investigates motor vehicle crashes, and educates the public in rules and laws of the Town and State. The Patrol Bureau is also responsible for traffic control, selective enforcement of motor vehicle laws, investigation of suspicious motor vehicles, and such other functions that the Chief of Police may determine as necessary.



DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Communications Unit is staffed by Civilian Dispatchers. Overall supervision is exercised by the Support Services Division Commander. The Dispatch Supervisor directly supervises the Communications Unit. The Communications Unit's responsibilities include; the reception, analysis, and dispatching of calls for service, the receiving of calls on the Town's Emergency 911 system, and dispatching police, fire, medical, and municipal services as needed. Dispatch also monitors and dispatches alarms for police, fire, municipal services and all non-emergency calls for service.



The **Support Services Division** consists of the Support Services and Traffic Bureaus. Within the Support Services Bureau there is a Court, School Resource and Training/Community Relations Officer. The Support Services Bureau is responsible for accreditation, scheduling, fleet management, grants, event planning and any other functions deemed necessary by the Chief of Police. The Court Officer assists with arrest reports and warrants, prisoner transports and coordinating with entities within the court system. The School Resource Officer (SRO), is assigned to work in the high school directly with teachers and students. The Training/Community Relations Officer oversees department training and coordinates community relations programs.

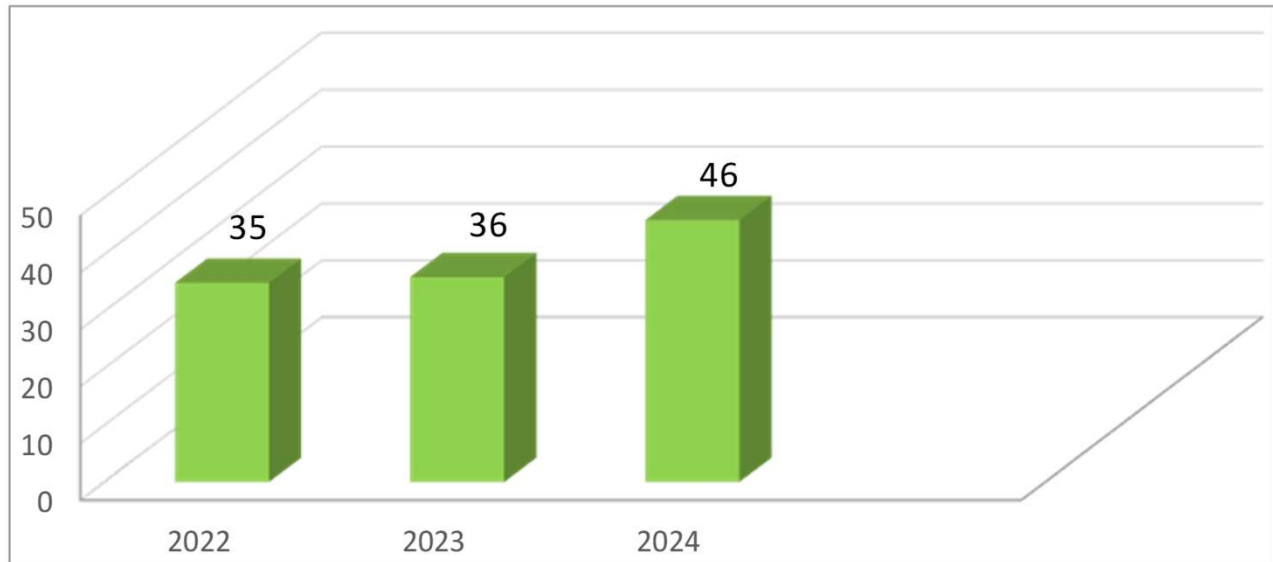
DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Investigations Division which consists of 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 3 Detectives, and 1 Youth Detective investigates all Major Crimes within the Town of Berlin. The Division is also responsible for all Crime Scene Processing and maintains the Evidence Lab and Property and Evidence Room. The Division also assists the Patrol Division when necessary in their investigation of felonies and all crimes involving narcotics, fraud, theft, and violence. The Investigations Division performs other related functions the Chief of Police determines necessary, to include all pre-employment background investigations.



The Youth Detective is responsible for the overall coordination of the department's efforts regarding children and youth, including delinquency, abuse, neglect, and missing persons. The Youth Detective screens all reports dealing with police contact with children, makes/ reviews all departmental court referrals of juveniles (persons less than eighteen years of age), and makes/reviews decisions to divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system. The Youth Detective serves as the DARE Program Coordinator, is a member of the Youth Services Advisory Board and the Juvenile Review Board.

DUI ENFORCEMENT



Driving Under the Influence, (DUI) enforcement, is an extremely important component of the Berlin Police Department's overall traffic safety program.

Over a three year period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2024 there has been a total of 117 DUI arrests. In this three-year period, there was an average of thirty-nine (39) DUI arrests per year. Out of the 117 DUI arrests, fifty-two (52) arrests stemmed from an accident investigation. The remaining sixty-five (65) arrests were a result of citizen complaints or self-initiated motor vehicle stops.

A majority of the alcohol related crashes that occurred in 2022/2023/2024 were at 2PM with (12.77%). The overwhelming majority of the alcohol related crashes occurred on Sunday and Thursday, each with (23.4%). During the same period, there were 47 alcohol related crashes.

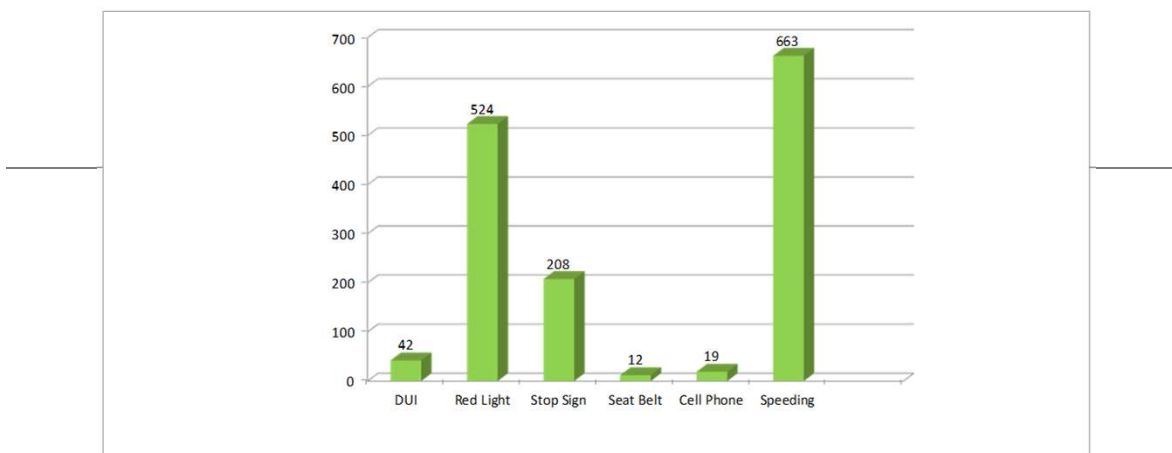
The department places great importance on DUI detection and apprehension.

The **Jeffery G. Casner Award** is given annually during Law Enforcement Week in May, to those officers who are at the forefront of the department in effecting “Driving Under the Influence” arrests. Previously, this award was presented every year on February 2nd, which is the anniversary date that Officer Jeffery G. Casner made the ultimate sacrifice for the Town of Berlin. The award is now given in May per the request of the family.



Officer Daniel Bennett is the recipient of the 2024 Jeffrey Casner Award. Officer Bennett completed his field training in March of 2024, and despite starting his solo officer career three months into the calendar year, his proactive DUI enforcement still led the department, accounting for over 22% of all DUI arrests in 2024. This is Officer Bennett’s first Casner Award.

2024 MOTOR VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT



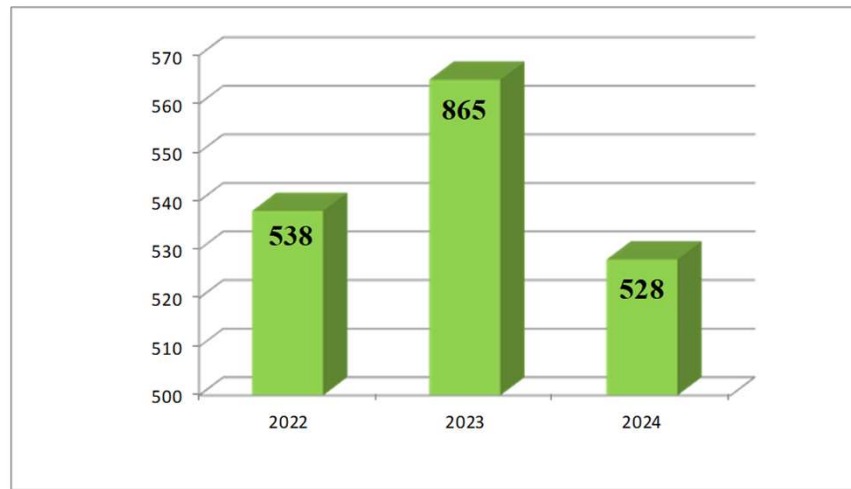
In 2024, Berlin Officers conducted 2,323 MV stops for moving violations. Some of the major violations included 42 DUI arrests, 524 Red Light violations, 208 Stop Sign violations, 12 Seat Belt violations, 19 Cell Phone violations, and 663 Speed/ Traveling too Fast offenses.

The DUI arrests were the result of self-initiated DUI Patrols and as a result of motor vehicle crash investigations.

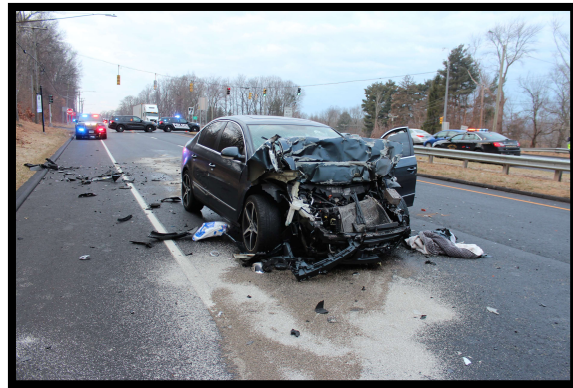
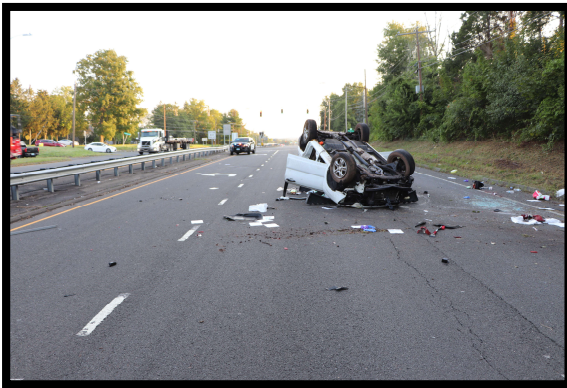
This year, we did not participate in WAVE seat belt enforcement spot checks. Instead, we used crash statistics to target enforcement in the areas and at times where most of our crashes occurred.

2024 MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

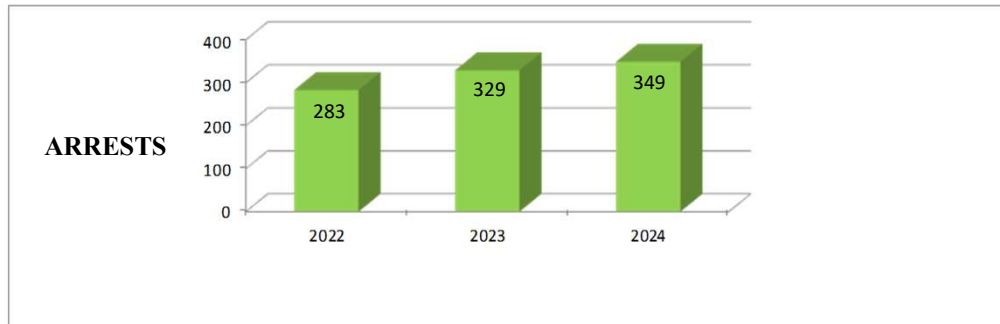
CRASHES



Motor vehicle crashes are an unfortunate fact of life on our nation's highways. Most, if not all, of these crashes are the result of inattentiveness and/or failure to obey motor vehicle laws. The purpose of motor vehicle laws and regulations is to make the highways safe for all. The purpose of motor vehicle enforcement is to ensure compliance with these laws and hence make the highways safer for all who travel them.

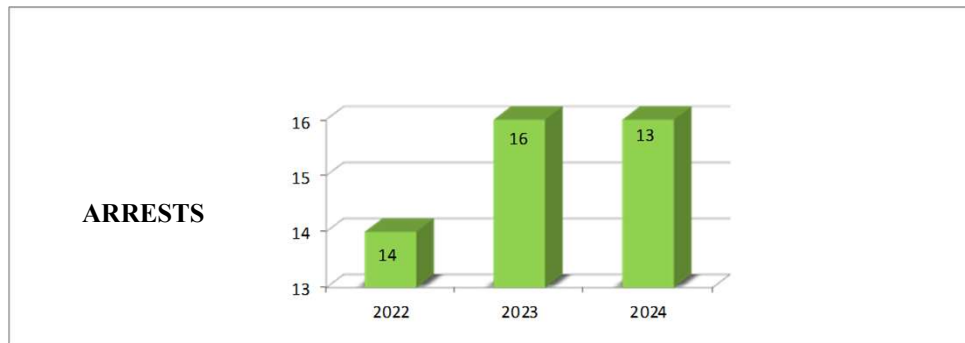


ADULT CRIMINAL ARRESTS (2022 – 2024)



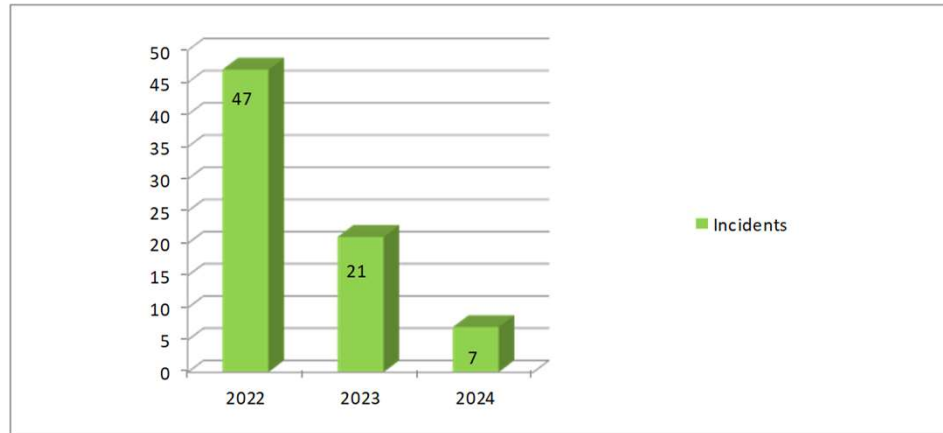
Criminal arrests are those arrests made for criminal violations of Connecticut General Statutes. These Statutes include Title 53 (Crimes), Title 53a (Penal Code), Title 54 (Criminal Procedure), Title 30 (Liquor Control), and Title 21a (Dependency-Producing Drugs). In Connecticut, adult arrests are those made of people 18 years of age or older.

JUVENILE CRIMINAL ARRESTS (2022 – 2024)



In Connecticut, juveniles are those persons who have not reached their 18th birthday. In juvenile cases, arrests are generally made through referral to the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters. In serious cases, arrests can be made by warrant. Criminal arrests are those arrests made for criminal violations of Connecticut General Statutes. These Statutes include Title 53 (Crimes), Title 53a (Penal Code), Title 54 (Criminal Procedure), Title 30 (Liquor Control), and Title 21a (Dependency-Producing Drugs).

2024 NARCOTICS INCIDENTS



* Asset forfeiture acquired in 2024 was \$1,097.98

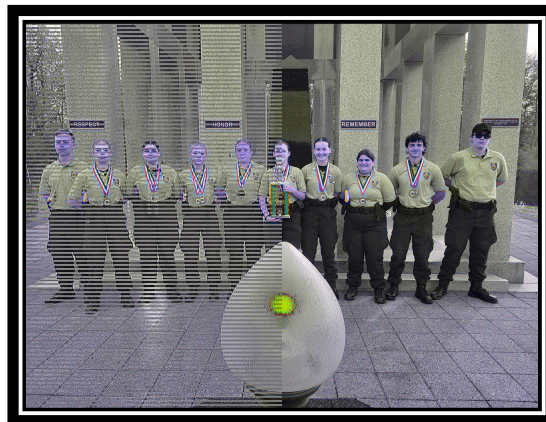


Narcotics investigations often result from information provided by the community. Complex investigations are conducted with the assistance of the Statewide Narcotics Task Force or DEA Taskforce.

2024 – In The News



Berlin police cadets graduated from the 2024 Cadet Police Academy. Several of our cadets won medals in Crime Scene Investigation, Physical Agility, Felony MV Stop and Hostage Negotiation. We also had several who made squad leader in their various programs. Of course the Posts advisors are Very Happy with their training, education and overall performance. It is hard to believe the Berlin Police Cadets are only 2 years in existence. BRAVO Berlin Police Cadets!!!



Berlin police cadets are Top Cadet Post in 2024 in the Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Education Association's 54th Programs.

2024 – In The News

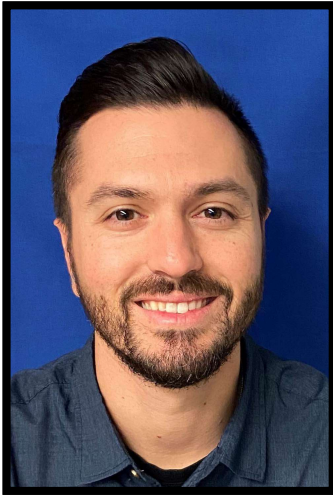
The Budney Corporation generously donates \$10,000 for a future K9 for the Berlin Police Department. As we look ahead for the need to acquire another K9, The department will have the funds to purchase a dog to go into the academy with one of our officers. Thank you to the Budney Corporation for your continued support of our K9 Program.



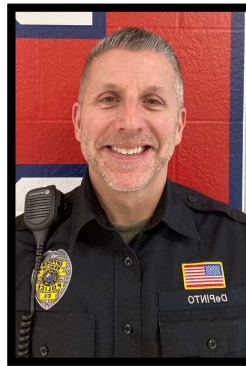
In 2024 Officer Casey Skinner and Officer Peggy Kennedy became DARE Instructors. They both completed a week-long class and will start teaching this year. Congratulations to them both as they begin a rewarding part of their career!



DARE OFFICERS



DARE Coordinator
Youth Det./ Det. Chaffee



SRO DePinto



Officer Griffith



Officers Skinner (left) and Kennedy (right)

The Berlin Police Department is very active in the community. Five educated, highly trained and motivated police officers have undergone a grueling 80 hour training course to learn how to teach our children the skills they need to stay drug and alcohol free. The D.A.R.E. Officers teach more than 800 students in grades 5 and 7 yearly. The curriculum which is taught in 11 classes (one class a week for eleven weeks), emphasizes a no-use message which is life based and focuses on peer pressure resistance training, self-concept improvement, and personal safety decision making skills. A wide range of teaching techniques, including interactive peer leadership and cooperative learning groups are used to encourage student participation and response. The Berlin D.A.R.E. program is evaluated yearly by teachers, administrators, parents and the students themselves and has been approved overwhelmingly.

The Berlin Police Department is also active in the community by being a partner in the Berlin UPBEAT program. This Berlin High School based intervention and prevention program has more than 300 members and is the largest high school club. Berlin UPBEAT also encompasses the middle and elementary levels with students and teachers as members. The Berlin Police Department is part of the high school Police team which includes 16 student members. The Officers and students work together to solve community problems. The Officers and students hold regular meetings, attend off site camping weekends that include team building and life skills training. The Officers donate hundreds of hours to the UPBEAT program each year.

BERLIN CADETS



The Berlin Police Cadets are currently sitting at 22 Cadets and 7 Advisors. We are registered both with NERLEEA and the Public Safety Cadet programs, allowing us the option to participate in many different skill competitions, week long academies, and opportunities to work with multiple other departments. The Berlin Police Cadets are active in community service events including the Berlin Fair, Tree Lighting on Main Street, as well as several different races hosted by various businesses throughout town. The cadets also participate in many non-profit fundraising events, such as the events below

Kids Carnival

Berlin High School hosted the annual Kids Carnival, organized by the Ryan T. Lee Foundation. Each year, Berlin Police Cadets volunteer to help run game stations, ensuring a fun and engaging experience for the children. This year, cadets assisted with activities such as the arts and crafts table, skeeball, rainbow run, and exciting games. Both the kids and cadets had a fantastic time working together, making the event a truly memorable experience for everyone involved.



Penguin Plunge

The Berlin Police Cadets joined the Berlin Police Department and New Britain Police Department in the Special Olympics Penguin Plunge at Silver Lake in Berlin. Participants braved the icy cold water submerging themselves in the frigid waters, supporting the Special Olympics. The Berlin Police Cadets look forward to continuing to support the Special Olympics when the LE Torch Runs comes to Berlin.

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



BICYCLE PATROL



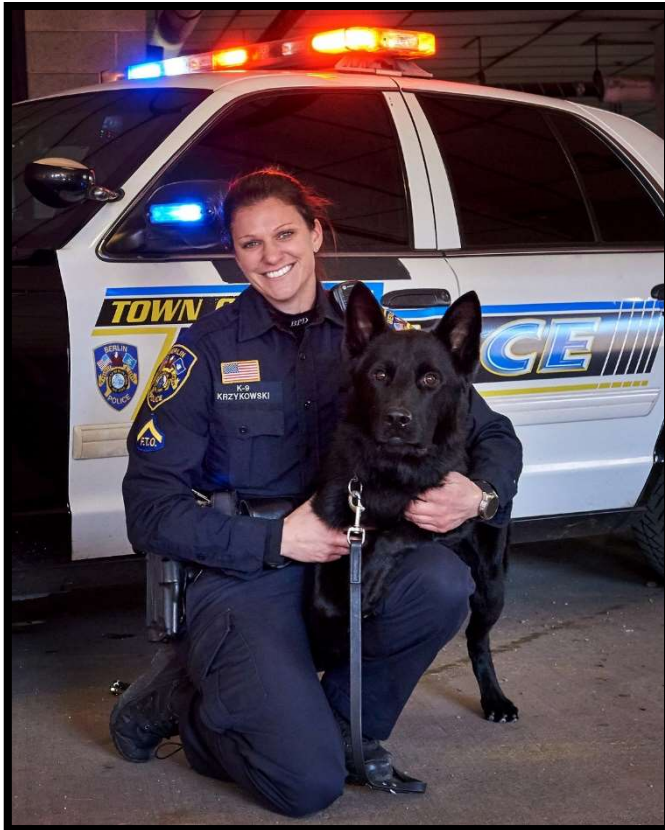
**UNDERWATER
RESPONSE TEAM**



BERLIN POLICE HONOR GUARD

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS

K-9 OFFICERS



“Being a K9 handler has been my dream since I chose to be a police officer. I work everyday side by side with the best partner, K9 Casner. Together we work to keep our community safe and promote positive encounters with our citizens!”



“Being a K9 handler has afforded me the opportunity to further grow my connection with the community and make connections that will last a lifetime.”

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



INTOXILIZER INSTRUCTOR



FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS



ATV UNIT

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



TASER INSTRUCTORS



**FIELD TRAINING
OFFICERS**

“Being a Field Training Officer has been an exciting experience for me. It allows me to draw from my background in teaching and utilize those skills to help new officers learn the job and grow into dependable and motivated officers. It is rewarding and challenging, and getting to see the growth new officers make between their graduation from the academy and their time in the FTO program is an awesome thing to be a part of.”

Officer Meghan Musanti

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER
Berlin High School

"Being part of the Berlin School Community has been so rewarding and valuable. Building relationships enhances BPD's ability to provide community focused public service in, and outside of the school buildings."

SRO Mark DePinto



DISPATCHERS
Berlin Police Department



Recruitment Team



**2024 Berlin Police
Cadets**