

BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015 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 Vice Chairman Paul Eshoo, Robert Peters, Chairman Joe Annunziata, Ryan Zelek and Brad Parsons





BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2015 Annual Report introduces our newest K9, Bane, to the Town of Berlin.

The photo below shows Officer Joe Linskey being promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

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.

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

Chief Paul Fitzgerald



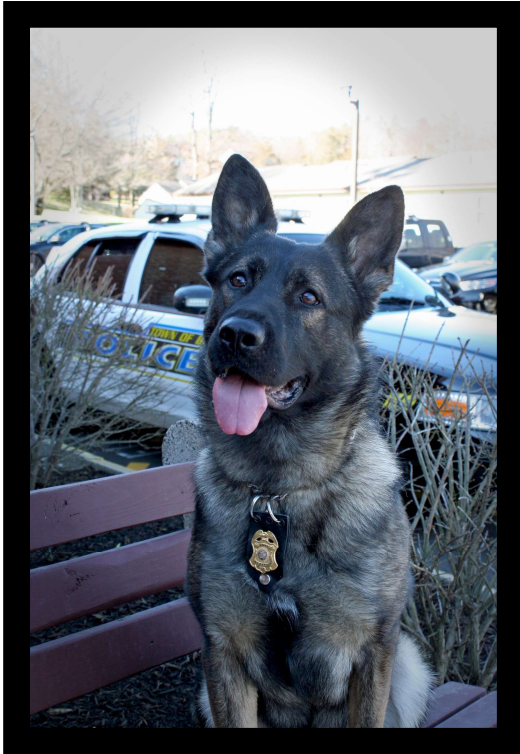
BERLIN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

This year we welcomed Officers James Venditto, Mark Fowler, Tyler Cyr and James Monthei to the Berlin Police Department. We had two officers retire.



Chief Paul Fitzgerald

Our Cover



The cover for the 2015 Annual Report introduces our newest K9, Bane, to the Town of Berlin. Officer Brandon Lagueux was selected to be Bane's handler and with the assistance of the CT State Police, Bane was chosen in January of 2015. Officer Lagueux and Bane then attended training and have been active since May 28th of 2015.

We would like to extend our continued appreciation to the Budney family who have and continue to generously finance our K9 division. Without their support, there would not be a K9 program in Berlin.



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-one (41) full time officers, nine (9) civilian dispatchers, one (1) administrative assistant to the Chief, two (2) records clerks, and one (1) technical support administrator.

The Police Department has been led by six (6) Police Chiefs; Theodore Strand (1956-1971), Robert Skinner (1971-1978), Phillip Buchanan (1978-1980), William Scalise (1980-1988), Gerald Charamut (1988-2003), and Paul Fitzgerald, who was appointed in 2003.

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, moving into a newer and larger facility and by maintaining and efficiently utilizing staff and resources.



ACCREDITATION



The Berlin Police Department is a state and internationally accredited law enforcement agency. The agency has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) since March 1996. We are one of 19 Connecticut Law Enforcement Agencies to be awarded. The Police Officer Standards and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) also 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 November 15 – 18, 2015 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 343 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 338 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 received its sixth re-accreditation award on April 2, 2016.

A separate and distinct Connecticut State Accreditation Program is administered by the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. This program can stand alone for agencies that are not CALEA accredited or in conjunction with CALEA accreditation. CALEA accredited agencies are required to show proof of compliance with additional standards that are unique to the State of Connecticut as well as the results of their last CALEA on-site inspection. In November 2004, the department submitted these standards and was approved for State Accreditation. State Accreditation was officially awarded in January 2005 with the department being the second agency in Connecticut to be recognized. The department has since been re-accredited in May of 2016.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS REVIEW

Neighborhood Watch

The town of Berlin has two active neighborhood watch organizations working at this time. Officer John Burns is the department contact person and attends the meetings. The group consists of residents of the Fairview Drive area and Sun Meadow Drive.

Torch Run

Once a year members of the Berlin Police Department are active in the Special Olympics Torch Run and the fund raising that goes on during the year. The Torch Run was held on June 5, 2015. Sgt. John McCormack gathers the local group of runners and they in turn raise money to be donated to Special Olympics. Lt. James Gosselin 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.

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](#) by going to our website at www.berlinpd.org. Click on the [Contact Us](#) section then the [Online Reporting](#).

School Safety

Officers from the Berlin Police Department randomly visit all the schools in town. 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 School Resource Officers stationed at the high and middle schools.

Peace Walk

On September 11th Officers Doski and Canto walked with the McGee students during their Annual Peace Walk.

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 2015 “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.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES

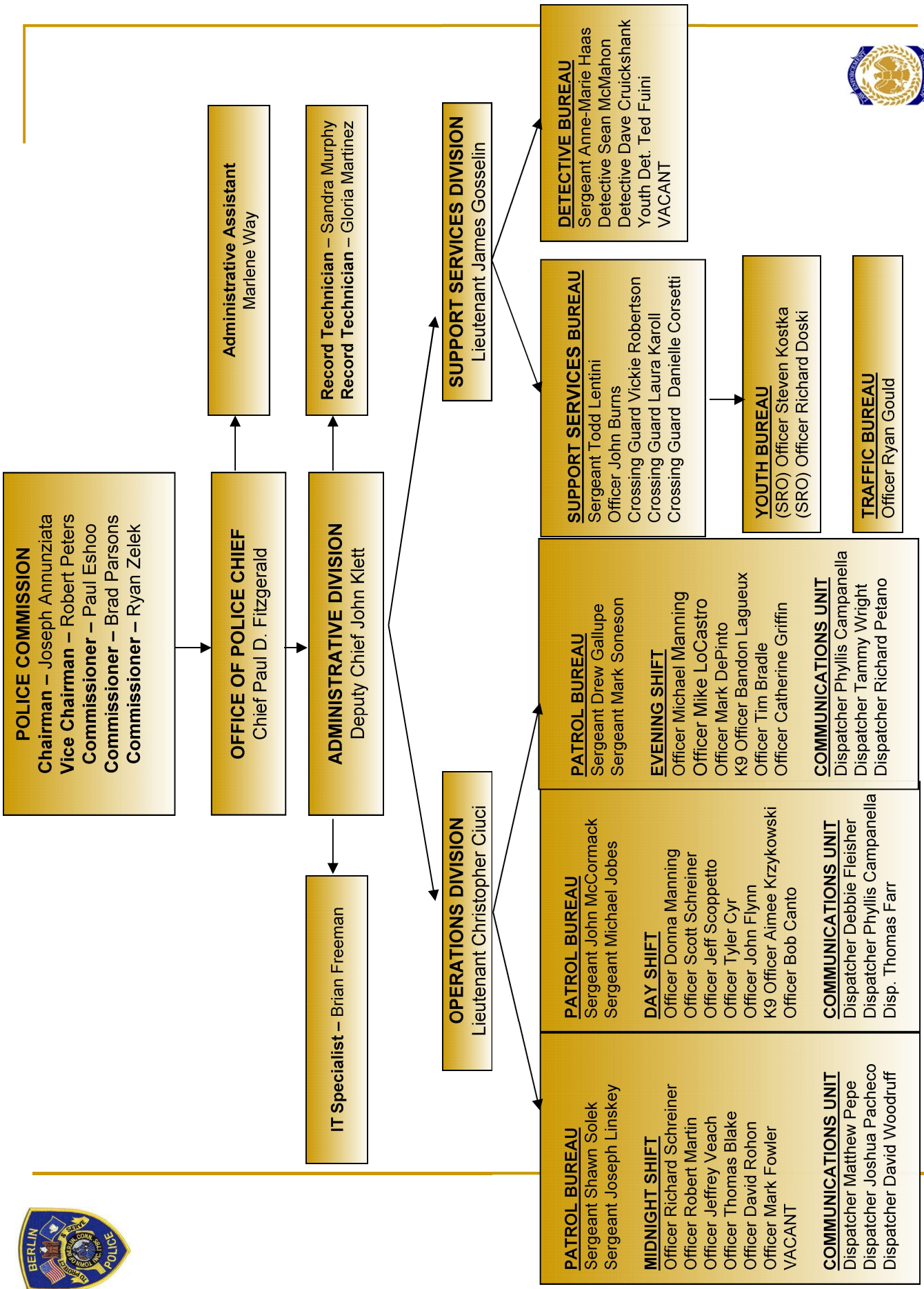


The present day duties of a Berlin Police Officer are varied and complex. The Officer's main function is the preservation of public peace, protection of life and property, prevention of crime, and proper enforcement of local and state laws and ordinances. The Officer must effectively investigate motor 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 Technician) to render quick and effective first aid. All police 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 1,304 medical emergency calls in 2015.



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 and communications units and other special units as determined necessary by the Chief of Police.

The Patrol Unit 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 Unit 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. Patrol Units are 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 Operations Division Commander. Patrol Unit Supervisors directly supervise 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 Bureau, Detective Bureau, Youth Bureau, SRO, and the Traffic Bureau. The Court Liaison Officer assists with arrest reports, prisoner transportation, arrest warrants, and search warrant preparation. The Support Services Bureau is responsible for grants, computers, communications, accreditation, permits, alarm registrations, court liaison, scheduling personnel for private duty and overtime assignments, and any other function deemed necessary by the Chief of Police. The School Resource Officers (SRO), are assigned to work in the high school and middle school working directly with teachers and students.



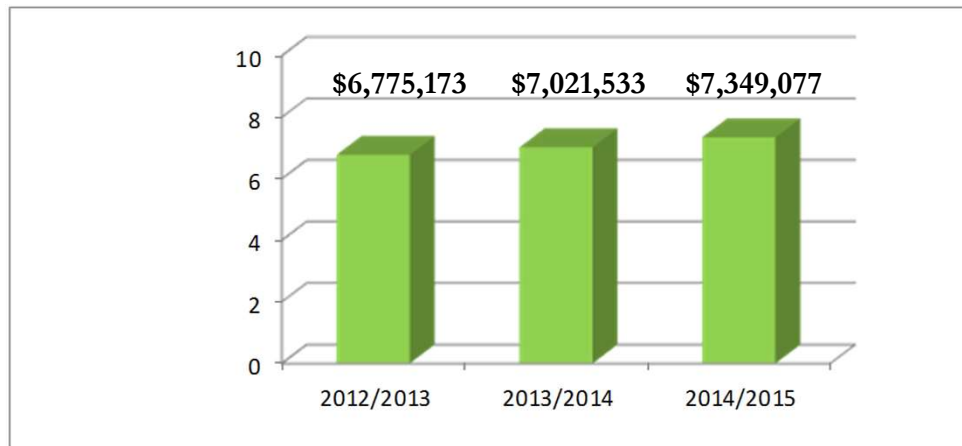
DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Detective Bureau operates and maintains the evidence lab. It also maintains all department photographs and the departments' fingerprint file. The Detective Bureau investigates and assists other areas of the department in their investigations of felonies and all crimes involving fraud, theft, and violence. The Detective Bureau performs other related functions the Chief of Police determines necessary.



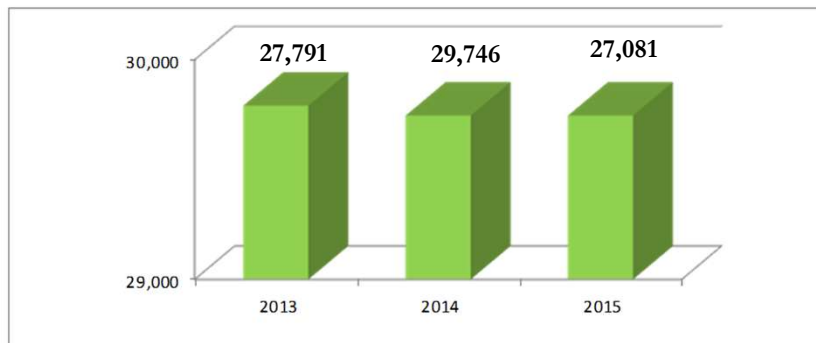
The Youth Bureau is responsible for the overall coordination of the department's efforts regarding children and youth, including delinquency, family with services needs, abuse, neglect, and missing persons. The Youth Officer screens all reports dealing with police contact with children, makes/reviews all departmental court referrals of juveniles (persons less than sixteen years of age), and makes/reviews decisions to divert juveniles from the juvenile justice system.

POLICE BUDGET



The Town of Berlin is in the geographical center of the State of Connecticut. The town is surrounded by seven other cities with a combined population of 240,000 people. The Berlin Police Department has a jurisdiction area of 26.5 miles. The population of Berlin is estimated to be 19,750 people. Berlin has 3,300 children attending public schools. Berlin has one high school, one middle school and three elementary schools. There are two private schools in town. There are 12 churches and one mosque within town limits. There are 129 small, medium, large sized businesses in town. The Berlin Police Department patrols 112 miles of roads. There are 369 streets. There are eight state maintained roads in town and the Berlin Police Department has full responsibility for six of these roads and highways, including the heavily traveled Berlin Turnpike (Route 5 & 15) for a distance of 5.4 miles. Within the town boundaries are six reservoirs belonging to surrounding municipalities. Berlin has three United States Post Offices and four separate fire departments. There is one public golf course. The Berlin Fair Grounds are located in the eastern section of town and once a year the Berlin Lions Club holds the Berlin Fair where the Berlin Police department provides security and traffic assistance for the large crowds that attend. The grounds are also utilized for several other events during the year.

POLICE CALLS FOR SERVICE



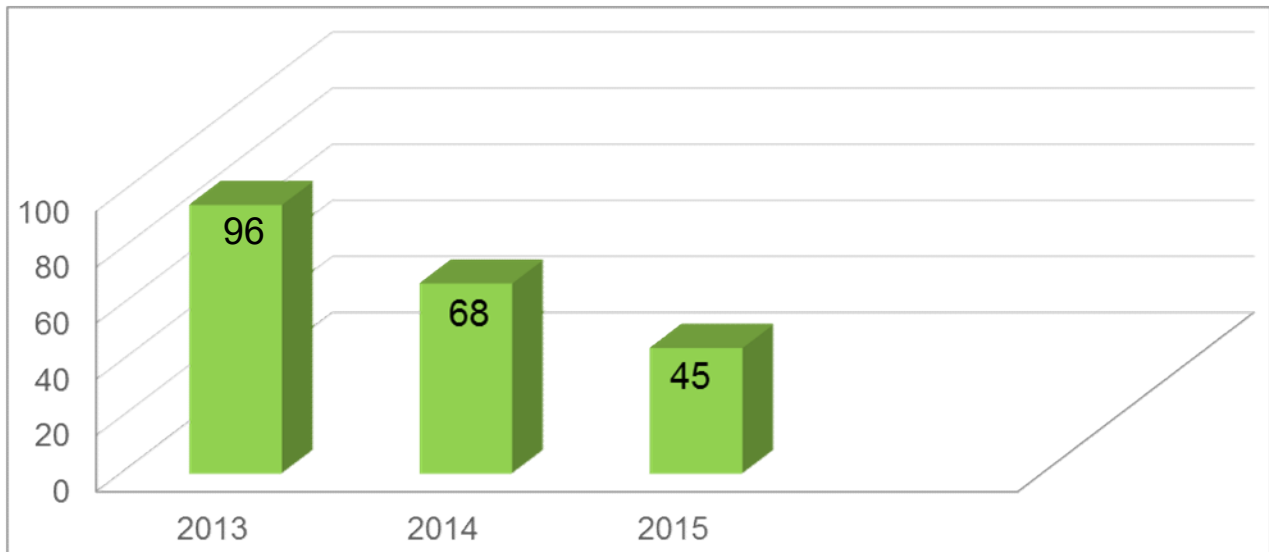
2015 POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS

<u>Grant Name/Type</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Amount Reimbursed</u>
2015 “Click it or Ticket”		
May 18 – 31, 2015	\$8,829.35	\$8,829.35
100% Federal Funds		
<hr/>		
Comprehensive DUI	\$21,735.62	\$16,301.71
1/02/15 — 5/25/15		
75% Federal Funds		
Comprehensive DUI	\$4,640.08	\$3,480.06
5/28/15 – 7/31/15		
75% Federal Funds		
Comprehensive DUI	\$4,093.61	\$3,070.20
8/01/15 – 09/12/15		
75% Federal Funds		
Comprehensive DUI	\$2,116.77	\$1,587.58
10/01/15—1/01/16		
75% Federal Funds		

2015 POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANTS

<u>Grant Name/Type</u>	<u>Total Amount</u>	<u>Amount Reimbursed</u>
Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant		
4/1/15 – 4/30/15	\$26,265.01	\$19,698.72
75% Federal Funds		
Distracted Driving High Visibility Enforcement Grant		
8/3/15 – 8/16/15	\$3,024.92	\$2,268.69
75% Federal Funds		
High Risk Rural Road Speed Enforcement Grant		
7/1/15 – 8/31/15	\$24,811.07	\$24,811.07
100% Federal Funding		
JAG Violent Crime Prevention Equipment Grant		
4/15/15 – 9/30/15	\$22,000.00	\$22,000.00
100% Federal Funds		
Totals	\$117,516.43	\$102,047.38
Total cost to Town after reimbursement:		\$15,469.05

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 between January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015, there has been an average of twenty four (24) alcohol related crashes per year within the Town of Berlin. Berlin Officers have made two hundred and eleven (211) arrests for operating under the influence since January of 2013 and have averaged approximately seventy (70) arrests per year. During the same period there have been four (4) alcohol related fatalities.

83% of the alcohol related crashes that occurred in 2013/2014/2015 happened between the core hours of 1900-0400. Fifty-nine percent (59%) of alcohol related crashes occurred on Thursday (12%), Friday (12%), Saturday (26%), and Sunday (9%). We focus our DUI enforcement efforts during these periods for that reason. The remaining forty-one percent (41%) of the crashes occurred on Monday (12%), Tuesday (9%), and Wednesday (14%).

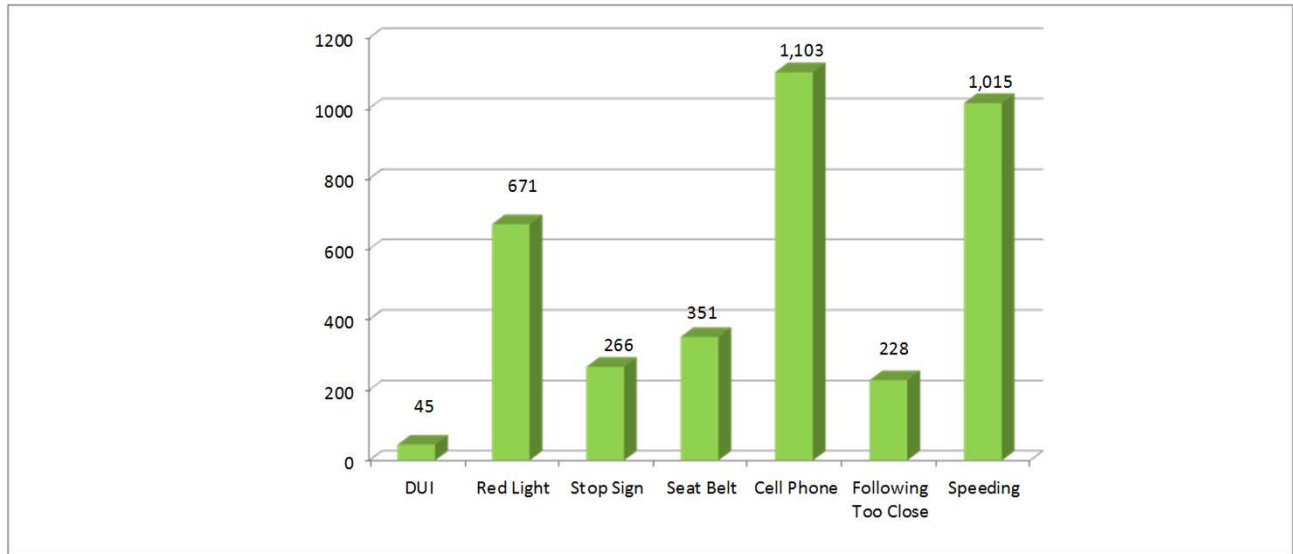
The department places great importance on DUI detection and apprehension. The department participates in all DOT highway safety grant initiatives that provide funding for DUI enforcement.

The **Jeffery G. Casner Award** is given annually 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 Thomas Blake has earned the 2015 Jeffery G. Casner award. He is responsible for making eleven (11) arrests for Driving Under the Influence. This represents approximately a fourth of all the Driving Under the Influence Arrests made by the Department in 2015.

2015 MOTOR VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT



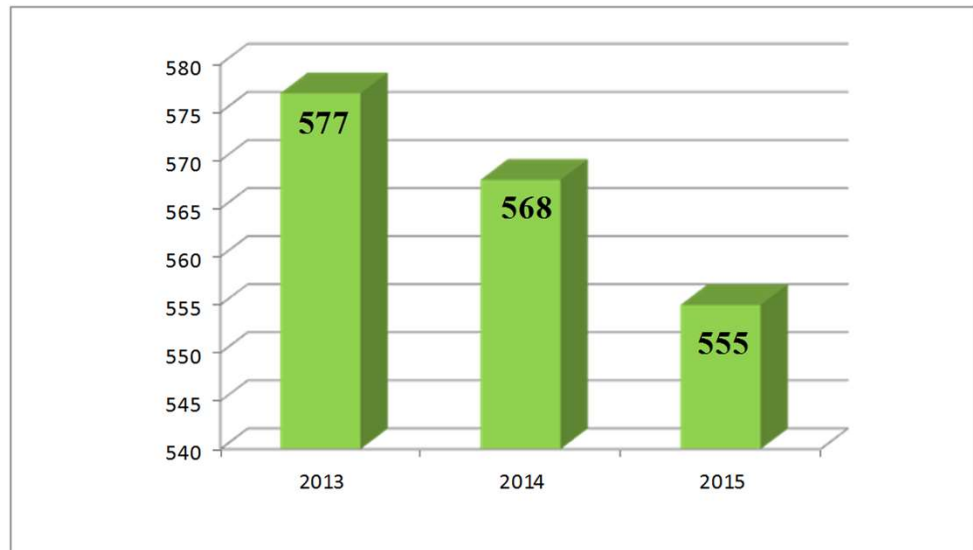
The department regularly participates in the Department of Transportation, Division of Highway Safety's seatbelt "WAVE" program. This is an enforcement program specifically targeting seatbelt law compliance. The department uses seatbelt compliance checkpoints to enforce the mandatory seatbelt use statute. Seatbelt use has been shown to reduce the severity of injuries suffered in motor vehicle crashes. Enforcement of this statute is an important part of the department's traffic safety program.

In 2015, Berlin Officers issued 5,194 citations (summons, infractions, & written warning) to motorists. Some of the major violations included: forty-five (45) DUI arrests. 671 red light violations, 266 stop sign violations, 351 seat belt violations, 1,103 cell phone violations, 228 Following too closely, and 1,051 speeding citations.

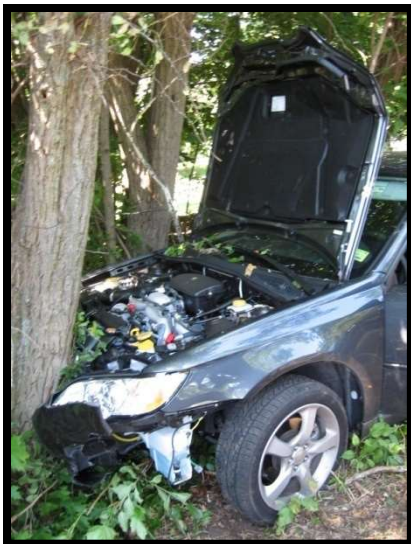
The DUI arrests were the result of self-initiated DUI patrols, spot checks, and as a result of motor vehicle crash investigations. A total of 13 crash investigations let to the arrest of an operator for DUI.

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

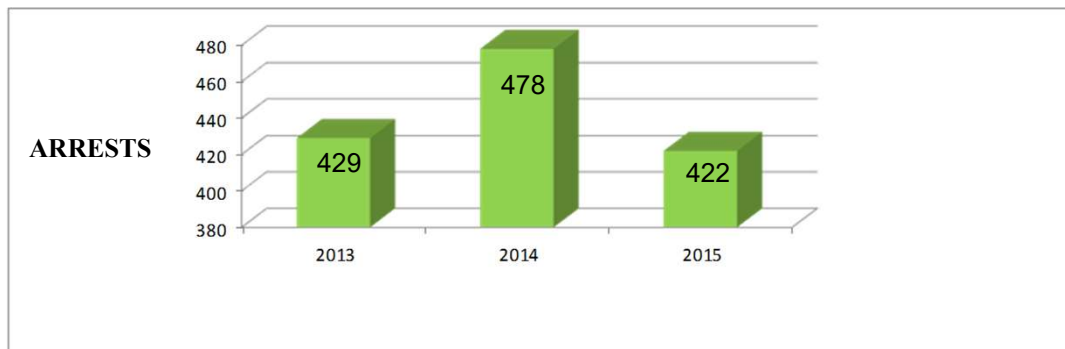
CRASHES



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.

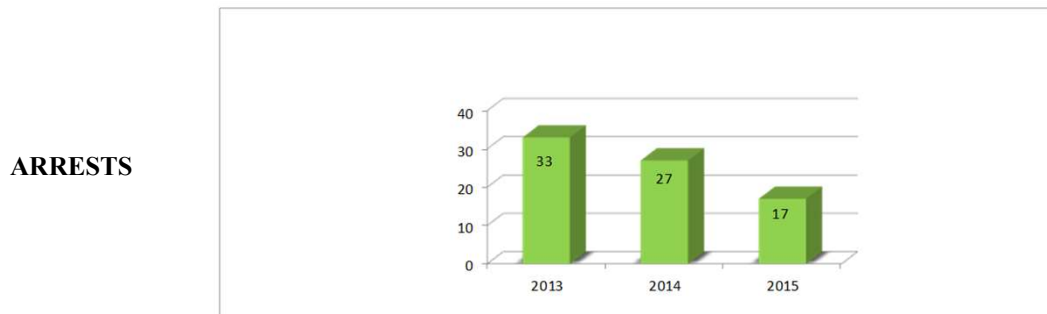


ADULT CRIMINAL ARRESTS (2013 – 2015)



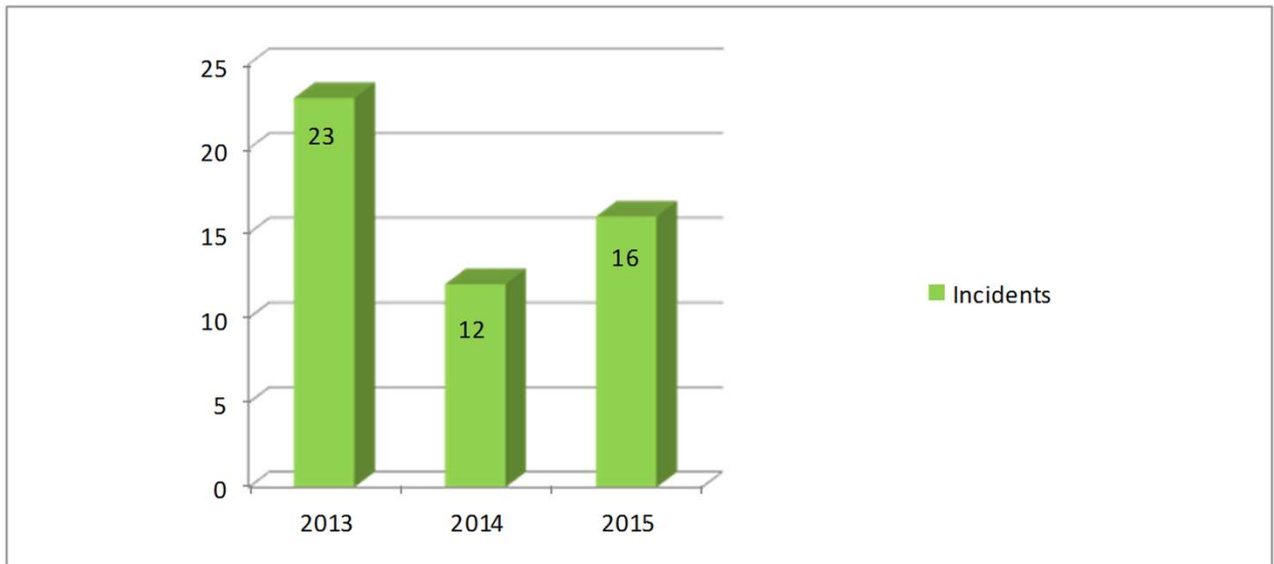
Criminal arrests are those arrests made for criminal violations of Connecticut General Statutes. These Statutes include Title 53 (Crimes), Title 53a (Penal Code), Title 54 (Criminal Procedure), Title 30 (Liquor Control), and Title 21a (Dependency-Producing Drugs). In Connecticut, adult arrests are those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

JUVENILE CRIMINAL ARRESTS (2013 – 2015)



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).

NARCOTICS INCIDENTS



* Asset forfeiture acquired in 2015 was \$678.44



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

2015– IN THE NEWS

The COIN program, which was initiated in 2015, aims to educate citizens of their obligations to the community and the shared responsibility for its welfare. Our department seeks to further the acceptance of these duties through recognition of those citizens whose actions have contributed to the accomplishments of the department's mission or the safety of the community.

All of our officers have been issued a challenge coin that may be presented to a citizen when the officer feels that the citizen has made a significant contribution to an incident that might not have been resolved without the citizen's participation.



Chief's Challenge

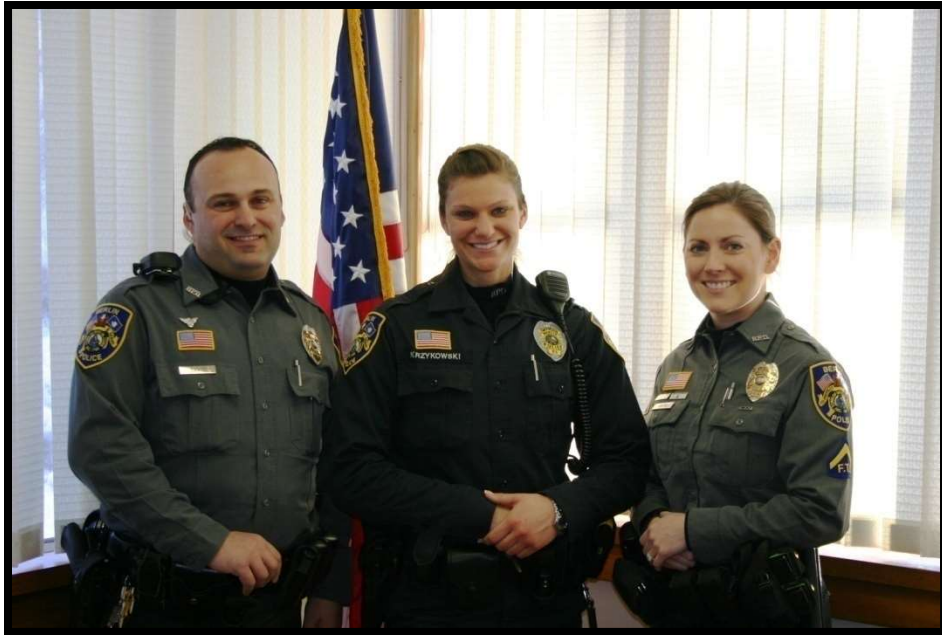


The annual “Law Enforcement Summit” of the Connecticut Department of Transportation’s Highway Safety Division was held at Webster Bank Arena at Harbor Yard, Bridgeport on Thursday, October 22, 2015. At this summit, the Highway Safety Division announces the winners of the 2014 “Chief’s Challenge”. The participants in this challenge are evaluated on their traffic safety programs by a panel of national judges convened under the International Chief’s of Police Association. The Berlin Police Department received two awards.

- First place Speed Enforcement, State of Connecticut.,
- Second place, Best Overall Traffic Enforcement – Municipal Three Category
- Winner – 2015 Ford Taurus – Key Lottery

Sergeant Todd Lentini and Traffic Officer Robert Canto are responsible for overseeing traffic safety programs and for submitting the application package to DOT for review.

DARE OFFICERS



The Berlin Police Department is very active in the community. Six educated, highly trained and motivated police officers, who 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 OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



BICYCLE PATROL



**UNDERWATER
RESPONSE TEAM**



BERLIN POLICE HONOR GUARD

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



K-9 OFFICERS



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INSTRUCTORS

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



INTOXILIZER INSTRUCTOR



FIREARMS INSTRUCTORS



ATV UNIT

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



TASER INSTRUCTORS



**FIELD TRAINING
OFFICERS**



**SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER
Berlin High School**



**SCHOOL RESOURCE
OFFICER
McGee Middle School**