



## Lower Township Police Department

405 Breakwater Road  
Erma, NJ 08204  
609-886-1619

### Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 2009 LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE RELEASE YEARLY REPORT

10 pages attached

Prepared by:

Contact Number: 609-886-1619 ext.

Authorized: Y  N  By: \_\_\_\_\_



# LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

EDWARD P. DONOHUE  
Chief of Police



**CAPTAIN LOUIS A. RUSSO**  
Executive Officer

**CAPTAIN BRIAN Q. MARKER**  
Administrative Services Commander

**LT. WILLIAM MASTRIANA**  
Patrol Bureau Commander

**DET. LT. THOMAS KEYWOOD**  
Detective Bureau Commander

**HEADQUARTERS**  
Cape May County Airport  
405 Breakwater Road  
Erma, NJ 08204

Office: (609) 886-1619  
Fax: (609) 886-4924

## LOWER TOWNSHIP POLICE RELEASE YEARLY REPORT DOCUMENT RISE IN ASSAULTS ON POLICE OFFICERS OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS

Lower Township Police Chief, Edward Donohue has released the police department's Yearly Activities Report for 2009.

The Lower Township Police Department responded to and/or investigated a total of **32,030** Calls For Service in 2009.

Chief Donohue noted an increase in the following areas over 2008:

- **Simple Assaults**
- **Domestic Violence Complaints**
- **Domestic Violence with Assaults**
- **Robberies**
- **Burglaries**
- **Drug Possession Arrests**
- **Reported Sexual Offenses**
- **Motor Vehicle Accidents**
- **Residential and Commercial Alarm Calls**
- **Fire Alarm Calls**

The department experienced a decrease in the following areas as well:

- **Theft Complaints**
- **Criminal Mischief Complaints**
- **Disorderly Conduct Complaints**

## Lower Township Police Department

Chief Donohue noted a disturbing trend that has been emerging over the last several years and that is the number of Aggravated Assaults on his Police Officers while working in the line of duty.

Donohue noted that in 2006, five **(5)** police officers were physically assaulted in the line of duty. In 2007, nine **(9)** police officers were assaulted. That number rose to **12** in 2008 and last year, **15** Lower Township Police Officers were physically assaulted in the line of duty.

The police department also had an officer involved shooting last year during a Domestic Violence call, where an officer fired one **(1)** round from his duty weapon to stop a subject from striking a woman with a large wooden pole.

Donohue stated, "Fortunately none of my officers were seriously injured in these incidents, however this should be a wake up call for some of our younger Class II Officers to remain diligent while working the streets."

However our veteran officers are well aware of the threats out there having already experienced two of their brother officers being shot in the line of duty. Donohue noted that in his 29 years as a police officer, the responsibilities of law Enforcement have certainly increased along with the risk and threats encountered by police officers on a daily basis across the country, which now include Domestic and Foreign terrorist threats and various armed gangs attempting to spread their influence across the country and state.

### 2009 MAJOR CRIMES

During 2009, Lower Township Police Officers responded to **446** Domestic Violence Complaints, **85** of which involved assaults with mandatory arrests while handling criminal complaints which included the following offenses:

<b>Reported Rapes</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Reported Sexual Offenses</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Robberies</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Aggravated Assaults</b>	<b>26</b>
(Aggravated Assaults Breakdown)	
Knife or other cutting instrument	<b>4</b>
Other Dangerous Weapon	<b>8</b>
Strong Arm (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	<b>14</b>
<b>Simple Assaults</b>	<b>196</b>
<b>Burglaries –</b>	

## Lower Township Police Department

<b>Forcible Entries into homes</b>	<b>71</b>
<b>Unlawful Entries w/no force</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>TOTAL BURGLARIES:</b>	<b>167</b>

<b>Thefts</b>	<b>340</b>
<b>Stolen Motor Vehicles</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Reported Arsons</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault on Police Officers</b>	<b>15</b>

## PATROL DIVISION OPERATIONS

Lower Township Officers responded to and investigated **510** Motor Vehicle Accidents on Lower Township roadways while conducting a total of **5,428** Motor Vehicle Stops which resulted in **1,728** traffic summonses being issued, along with **509** traffic warnings issued. Officers also issued **36** Local Ordinance complaints, along with **68** Warnings for Local Ordinance violations.

Total arrest made for the year include; **543** Adult arrests, with **112** Juveniles arrested. In addition, Lower Township Police Officers arrested a total of **80** drivers for Operating a Motor Vehicle while Intoxicated.

Officers assisted the Lower Township Rescue Squad with over **1,487** Emergency Medical Calls and responded to **518** Fire Alarm call outs with the township's three (3) Fire Departments.

Patrol Officers responded to **656** Commercial and Residential Alarms, **814** Disorderly Conduct complaints, **453** Criminal Mischief complaints and along with Animal Control Officers, **483** Animal complaints.

Officers completed **1,385** Investigation Reports and conducted **9,308** Residential and Commercial Property Checks throughout Lower Township during the reporting period.

## DETECTIVE DIVISION OPERATIONS

The department conducted a total of **32** Sudden Death investigations in 2009 of which one **(1)** was ruled a suicide, two **(2)** were determined to be drug overdoses, two **(2)** resulted from Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents and the remaining **27** deaths were ruled non-suspicious in nature.

**One (1) of the Fatal Motor Vehicle Accidents resulted in a charge of Death By Auto.**

The Detective Division and Patrol Division conducted numerous Drug/Narcotic investigations in 2009 which resulted in the arrest of **85** subjects for Narcotics violations. During 2009, the department seized and/or confiscated:

**428 Packets of Heroin**  
**108 Packets of Crack/Cocaine**  
**87 Packets of Marijuana**  
**824 Illegal Narcotic Pills**  
**56 Pieces of Drug Paraphernalia**  
**(to include pipes, bongos, hypodermic needles, etc.)**

The Detective Division executed seven **(7)** Residential Search Warrants and confiscated over **\$34,000** cash monies used in narcotics transactions. The Police Department and the Cape May County Prosecutors Office will receive a certain percentage of these monies based on forfeiture funds regulations.

The department also confiscated one **(1)** pick-up truck used in narcotic activity and has requested forfeiture of same through the Cape May County Prosecutors Office .

Our Detectives assisted DYFS Case Workers with **34** Child Abuse/Neglect Investigations in 2009.

In addition, the Detective Division is responsible for tracking and monitoring the addresses of the **53** known sex offenders currently residing in Lower Township.

## **FIREARMS PURCHASER IDENTIFICATION CARDS AND PERMITTS FOR REQUESTS TO PURCHASE HANDGUNS –**

Following lengthy background investigations, by the Detective Division; Lower Township Police Chief, Edward Donohue issued and/or approved **60** Firearm Purchaser Identification Cards and **206** Permits for request to Purchase Handguns in 2009 with one **(1)** permit being denied and two **(2)** being withdrawn following background investigations.

## **POLICE COMMUNICATIONS CENTER**

The Lower Township Police Department Communications Center is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by full time Public Safety Telecommunications Operators. They are the initial point of contact for a majority of the public requiring police services. They are an extremely vital component in delivering effective police services to the community and their dedication and importance should not be overlooked. Often times they are required to maintain a reassuring and calming demeanor in the face of extraordinary circumstances in order to assist the caller and police officer responding to an emergency. All of the Public Safety Telecommunication operators are required to receive and maintain certification by the Office of Emergency Telecommunications Services in the Department of Law and Public Safety. Some of the examples of work performed include:

- Receive and respond to telephone requests for emergency services
- In response to medical emergencies, provide First Aid or CPR instructions to stabilize the medical condition of persons until arrival of medical assistance.
- Relay all vital information to responding police officers
- Utilize radio, telephone or other electronic equipment to dispatch specific law enforcement, Fire Department or Medical units to the scene of an emergency.
- Refer non-emergency situations to the appropriate public or private agencies
- Make data entries into the Police Departments computer system as well as various system databases such as the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the State Crime Information Center (SCIC),k stolen vehicle file and Missing persons file.

During the year of 2009 Lower Township Police Department Telecommunications Operators processed over **30,000** calls for Service into the computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, while answering a total of **8,134** incoming emergency 911 calls as well.

## **GOALS ACHIEVED IN 2009**

In 2009, the Lower Township Police Department received full Accreditation Status Recognition from the Commission on Accreditation For Law Enforcement Agencies or (CALEA).

The department had to meet 112 strict standards that included updating its Rules & Regulations, General Orders, Special Orders and Training Requirements.

The department underwent a three (3) day assessment by assessors from the New Jersey Police Chiefs Association that included ride alongs with police officers prior to receiving State and National Accreditation Recognition.

The Lower Township Police Department was only the 30<sup>th</sup> police department in the State of New Jersey to receive such accreditation status and as a result, Lower Township received a discount on its joint insurance fund premiums.

## **COMMUNITY POLICING PROGRAMS / ACTIVITIES**

In cooperation and in conjunction with Mayor Michael Beck, Township Manager, Kathleen McPherson and Council Members, the Lower Township Police Department initiated the following Community Based Police Programs in 2009:

- **Crimereports.com – a web based program whereby local residents can track police calls for services occurring in Lower Township and even get messages on their emails for incidents occurring in their neighborhoods.**
- **Child Find Notification Alert System – a phone notification system whereby residents are alerted to missing children or elderly persons within Lower Township.**
- **Placed into service two new trailer message display boards for use on streets where complaints of speeding are received and to display community notification messages.**

## **GRANTS/FUNDS RECEIVED**

In 2009, the Lower Township Police Department in conjunction with Mrs. Colleen Cripton, Lower Township's Grants Coordinator, requested and received the following grants and/or funds for Special Law Enforcement Activities:

**1. Cops In Shops - \$1,600.**

**Allows Officers to work in an undercover capacity in liquor stores to discourage the purchase of alcoholic beverages by minors.**

**2. Click It or Ticket - \$4,000.**

**Allows for extra patrols to enforce seat belt and other motor vehicle violations.**

**3. Over The Limit/Under Arrest - \$11,000.**

**Allows for patrols to target motorists for DWI and other violations.**

**4. BYRNE JAG GRANT - \$31,275.**

**Federal Grant which will allow the township to purchase a new Dodge Charger Police Vehicle and ammunition for the police department and SWAT Team members.**

**5. Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund - \$12,900.**

**Annual fund which also allows for supplemental DWI patrols.**

**Total Grant/Fund Money received by the Lower Township Police Department in 2009:  
\$60,775.**

## **NEW LOOK FOR POLICE VEHICLE FLEET**

In 2009, the police department began to replace its Ford Crown Victoria's with new black and white Dodge Charger Police Vehicles.

This was a totally new look for Lower Township Police Vehicles. In addition, the emblem on the side of the cars was updated as well to include the Cape May Point State Park Light House which is actually located in Lower Township with the wording, "Serving Ocean To Bay Since 1955."

## **MADD RECOGNITION AWARD**

In 2009 Lower Township Patrol Office Jennifer Anzelone was recognized at an awards ceremony in Princeton New Jersey by the New Jersey chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving for having the most DWI arrests of any municipal police office in Cape May County during 2008.

Officer Anzelone arrested 14 drunk drivers on Lower Township Roadways in 2008.

## **GOALS FOR 2010**

**Maintain CALEA Certification status by meeting all established standards and training requirements in preparation for recertification.**

**Continue to phase in the new Dodge Charger Police Vehicles into the fleet.**

**Implement new Cop/Stop Program in conjunction with township government and the Mayor Advisory Board whereby residents can periodically visit local establishments and talk one on one with police officers.**

**Implement new Global Connect Reverse 9-1-1 Phone Notification System in cooperation with the township government and the local office of Emergency Management.**

**The phone notification system will allow authorities to contact all residents of the township via phone with information regarding special weather statements, power outages, evacuation information if needed, along with information regarding school lock downs, etc.**

**Continue to apply for grants to assist with extra traffic law enforcement patrols to combat drunk drivers, and impact community issues such as speeding, careless and aggressive drivers.**

**Upgrade the Detective Division's Crime Scene Investigation Response Vehicle which houses equipment used to process crime scenes including burglaries, robberies, sexual assaults, arsons, and major motor vehicle accidents.**

**The equipment includes still cameras, video cameras, fingerprint lifting devices, night vision equipment, and lasers for mapping crime scenes and motor vehicle accidents.**

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE COMPARISON 2009 vs. 2008**

**NOTE: Calls for Service numbers include two (2) categories. Actual 9-1-1 and other phone calls made to the police department for assistance and Officer Initiated Activities.**

**Therefore the amount of officers actually working the street will have a direct impact on the total number of Officer Initiated activities for the year, such as:**

**Motor Vehicle Stops  
On View Arrest  
DWI Arrest  
Community Policing Activities  
Property Checks  
Etc.**

In 2008, the Lower Township Police Department had a total of 46 sworn officers.

In 2009, the department lost three (3) full time positions that were not replaced. Specifically a patrol officers position, a Sergeant First Class position and a Lieutenant's position.

This brought the total number of sworn officers at the Lower Township Police Department, to 43.

**Lower Township Police Department**

**2009 – Calls For Service**

**2008– Calls For Service**

	Total:
General Complaints and Service Calls	32030
Emergency Medical Calls with L. T. Rescue	1487
Fire Alarm Call Outs (Total)	518
Villas Fire Company	156
Town Bank Fire Company	203
Erma Fire Company	169
Assaults	222
Robbery	7
Domestic Violence Complaints	446
Domestic Violence with Assaults	85
Motor Vehicle Accidents	510
Traffic Warnings	509
Traffic Summons	1728
Motor Vehicle Stops	5428
Local Ordinance Warnings	68
Local Ordinance Complaints	36
Assaults on Police Officers	15
Residential and Commercial Alarm Calls	656
Property Checks	9308
Death Investigations	32
Burglaries	167
Thefts	389
Criminal Mischief Complaints	453
Disorderly Conduct Complaints	814
Animal Control Complaints	483
Adult Arrests	543
Juvenile Arrests	112
D.W.I. Arrests	80
Drug Possession Arrests	85
Investigation Reports Completed	1385
Supplemental Investigation Reports Completed	515

	Total:
General Complaints and Service Calls	39791
Emergency Medical Calls with L. T. Rescue	1609
Fire Alarm Call Outs (Total)	502
Villas Fire Company	127
Town Bank Fire Company	197
Erma Fire Company	178
Assaults	214
Robbery	6
Domestic Violence Complaints	443
Domestic Violence with Assaults	71
Motor Vehicle Accidents	460
Traffic Warnings	1202
Traffic Summons	2461
Motor Vehicle Stops	7810
Local Ordinance Warnings	61
Local Ordinance Complaints	100
Assaults on Police Officers	12
Residential and Commercial Alarm Calls	615
Property Checks	12783
Death Investigations	45
Burglaries	143
Thefts	443
Criminal Mischief Complaints	520
Disorderly Conduct Complaints	838
Animal Control Complaints	1042
Adult Arrests	870
Juvenile Arrests	142
D.W.I. Arrests	115
Drug Possession Arrests	77
Investigation Reports Completed	1418
Supplemental Investigation Reports Completed	553

***Lower Township Police Department's 2009 Yearly Activities Report prepared by:***

***Chief Edward P. Donohue***