

TOWN OF BERLIN

Police Department

“Working with K9 Penny has been an absolute honor. There is no better feeling than knowing I have a partner with me 24/7 who will not give up until the job is complete.”

K9 Officer Michael Patterson

2023
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 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2023 Annual Report introduces Officers Michael Almeida, Jaquan Dufour, Mary Claffey, Daniel Bennett, Ryan Johnson, Noah Vince and Cole Wendhack to the Town of Berlin. We had one officer retire.

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 Matthew J. McNally IV

Our Cover

A police officer in a dark uniform and cap stands in a park. He is holding a leash for a large, light-colored dog. In the background, a blue slide is visible on the left, and a group of children and an adult are sitting on the ground. The scene is outdoors with trees and a fence in the distance.

“Being able to watch K9 Penny work and grow more comfortable each day has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my entire life. There is a comfort knowing that when its time for K9 Penny to work, she will undoubtedly give her best effort to protect not only the community but her fellow co-workers as well.”

K9 Officer Michael Patterson

In the Spring of 2023, the K9 Unit began looking for our next dog, specifically a blood hound. This breed of dog was picked due to its incredible abilities to track and locate persons. Ofc Krzykowski began a search and a bloodhound puppy was found at the Pawtucket, Rhode Island Animal Shelter. The puppy, who would be named Penny by a vote by Berlin elementary students, passed her evaluations and began training to become a Police K9.

Penny and her handler, Ofc Patterson, completed training in May 2023 and have been very active tracking and locating persons since! K9 Penny has been a great addition to the Berlin Police K9 Unit and an asset to the Town of 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-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 eighth re-accreditation award in March of 2024.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS REVIEW

Neighborhood Watch

The Town of Berlin has twelve (12) neighborhood watch programs. The Berlin Police is currently publicizing our neighborhood watch program and created a community relations team to help assist citizens in starting and maintaining a neighborhood watch which is being coordinated by Officer Brandon Lagueux.

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. 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.

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. 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. 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 2023 “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. At the end of the season, one winner is picked to win a prize.

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 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 2,170 medical emergency calls in 2022.



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.



POLICE COMMISSION
 Chairman – Steve Wilson
 Vice Chairman – Dave Rogan
 Commissioner – Melissa Urrunaga
 Commissioner – Paul Eshoo
 Commissioner – Ryan Zelek

OFFICE OF POLICE CHIEF
 Chief Matthew J. McNally IV

Administrative Assistant
 Marlene Kastner

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
 Deputy Chief Drew Gallupe

Record Technician – Alicia Boncek
Record Technician – Tracey Lentini

OPERATIONS DIVISION
 Lieutenant Rob Martin

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION
 Lieutenant Mike Jobs

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
 Lieutenant Shawn Solek

PATROL BUREAU
 Sergeant Cathy Griffin
 Sergeant Brett Kelly

MIDNIGHT SHIFT
 Officer Mary Claffey
 Officer Curtis Williams
 Officer Chris Lajoie
 Officer Michael Patterson
 Officer Eddison Yunga
 VACANT
 VACANT
 VACANT

PATROL BUREAU
 Sergeant Ryan Gould
 Sergeant Tyler Cyr

DAY SHIFT
 Officer Marco Correa
 Officer Casey Skinner
 Officer Wade Griffith
 Officer Jeff Veach
 Officer Noah Vinci
 Officer Drew O'Leary
 VACANT
 VACANT

PATROL BUREAU
 Sergeant John Flynn
 Sergeant Achilles Rethis

EVENING SHIFT
 Officer Aimee Krzykowski
 Officer Meagan Musanti
 Officer Peggy Kennedy
 Jeffrey Dylan Breen
 Officer Rich Doski
 Officer Brendan Clark
 VACANT
 VACANT

SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU
 Sergeant Ann-Marie Haas
 Officer Mark Fowler
 Trng. Officer Brandon Lagueux
 FTO Cole Wendehack
 FTO Daniel Bennett
 FTO Jacquan Dufour
 Recruit Ryan Johnson
 Recruit Michael Almeida
 Recruit Roy Pena
 Crossing Guard Joe Monarco
 Cross. Guard Pzemyслав Kasjanski

DISPATCH
 Supervisor Tom Farr
 Disp Phyllis Campanella
 Dispatcher Brett Chockey
 Dispatcher Deb Fleisher
 Dispatcher Hope Gundry
 Dispatcher Joshua Pacheco
 Disp Lidsay Patterson
 Dispatcher Matt Pepe
 Dispatcher Rich Petano
 Dispatcher Randy Courchesne

DETECTIVE BUREAU
 Sgt./Det. Scott Schreiner
 Detective Sean McMahon
 Youth Det. Kevin Chaffee
 Detective Bella Delgado
 Detective Vacant

YOUTH BUREAU
 (SRO) Officer Mark DePinto

TRAFFIC BUREAU
 Officer Tom Bobok

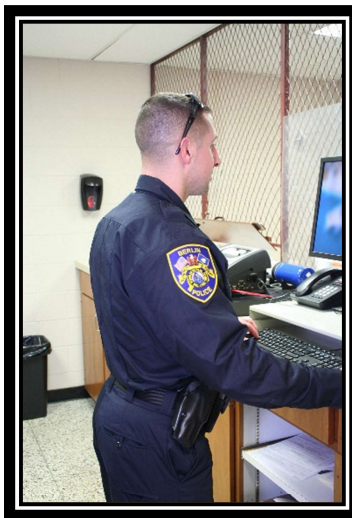
DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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.

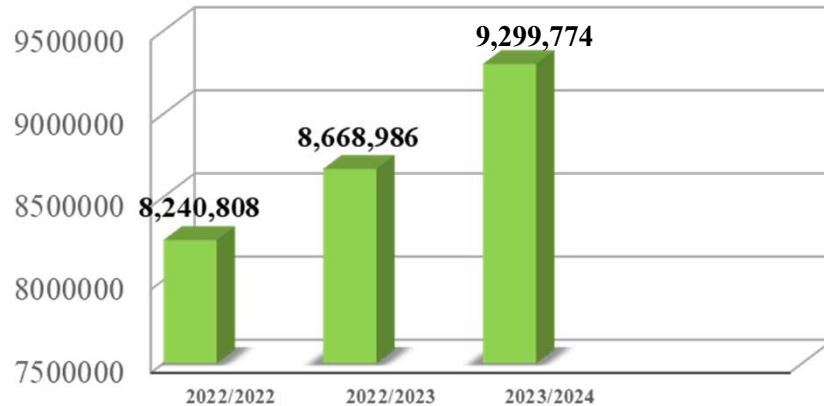
DIVISIONS WITHIN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Investigations Division operates and maintains the evidence lab. It also maintains all department photographs and the departments' fingerprint file. The Investigations Division investigates and assists other areas of the department in their investigations 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 pre-employment background checks.



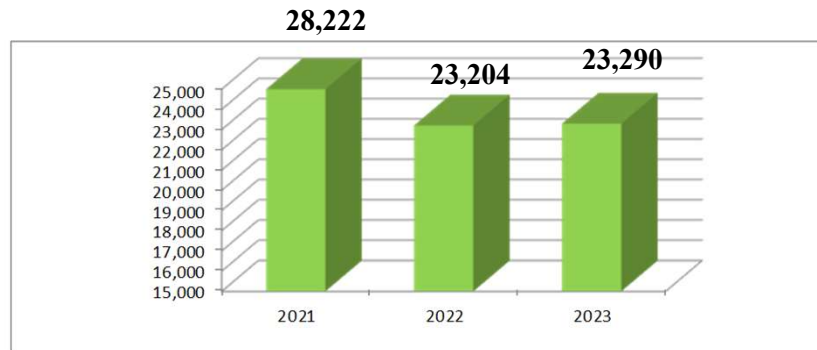
The Youth Detective is responsible for the overall coordination of the department's efforts regarding children and youth, including delinquency, abuse, neglect, and missing persons. The Youth Detective screens all reports dealing with police contact with children, makes/ reviews all departmental court 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.

POLICE BUDGET

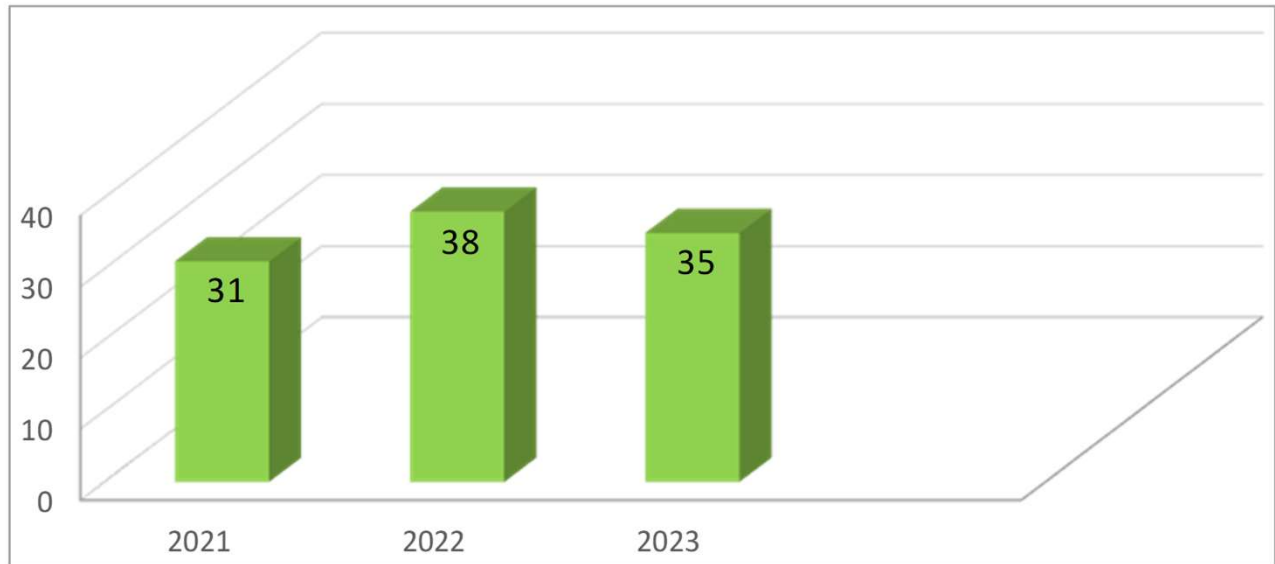


The Town of Berlin is in the geographical center of the State of Connecticut. The town is surrounded by seven other cities. The Berlin Police Department has a jurisdiction area of 26.5 miles. The population of Berlin is estimated to be 20,499 people. Berlin has one high school, one middle school and three elementary schools. There is one private school in town. There are approximately 600 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



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, 2021 through December 31, 2023 there has been a total of 104 DUI arrests. In this three-year period, there was an average of thirty-five (35) DUI arrests per year. Out of the 104 DUI arrests, fifty-three (53) arrests stemmed from an accident investigation. The remaining fifty-one (51) arrests were a result of citizen complaints or self-initiated motor vehicle stops.

A majority of the alcohol related crashes that occurred in 2021/2022/2023 were between the hours of 6PM to 3AM. The overwhelming majority of the alcohol related crashes (26%) occurred on Sunday, followed by Thursday with (22%) and Friday and Saturday each with (14%). During the same period, there were 65 alcohol related crashes and two (2) alcohol related fatalities.

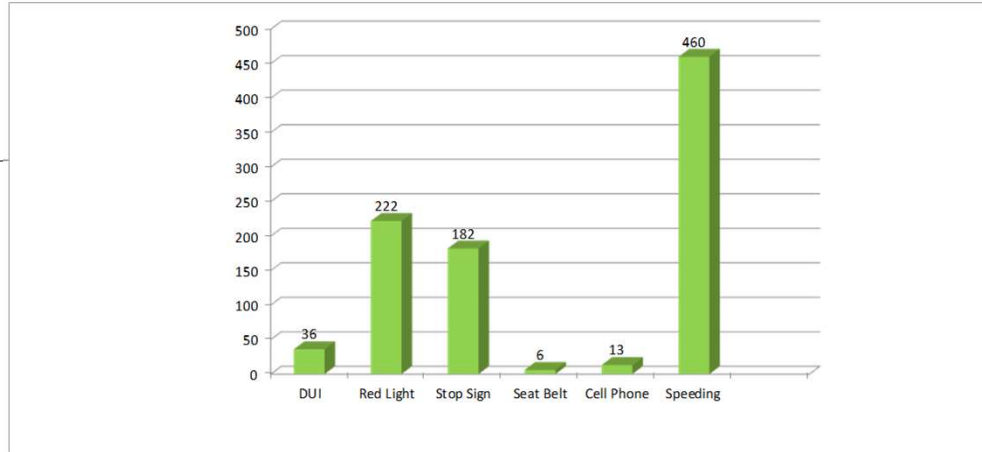
The department places great importance on DUI detection and apprehension.

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 Brendan Clark and Officer Peggy Kennedy have earned the 2023 Jeffery G. Casner Award. They each have executed 14% of all Driving Under the Influence Arrests made by the Department in 2023. This is the first year that Officer Kennedy has received the Casner Award and the second year that Officer Clark has received the Casner Award.

2023 MOTOR VEHICLE ENFORCEMENT



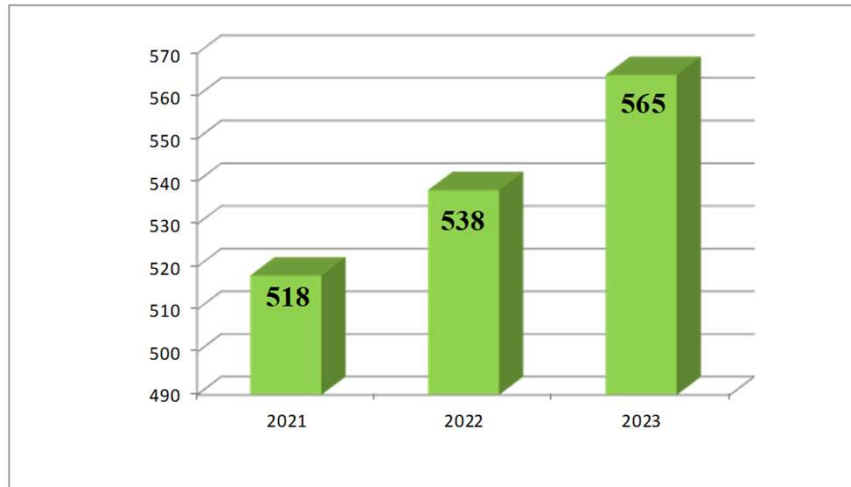
In 2023, Berlin Officers conducted 1,335 MV stops for moving violations. Some of the major violations included 36 DUI arrests, 222 Red Light violations, 182 Stop Sign violations, 6 Seat Belt violations, 13 Cell Phone violations, and 460 Speed/ Traveling too Fast offenses.

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

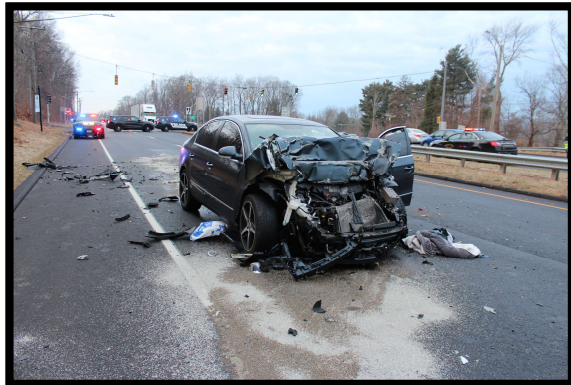
This year, we did not participate in WAVE seat belt enforcement spot checks. Instead, we used cash statistics to target enforcement in the areas and at times where most of our crashes occurred.

2023 MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

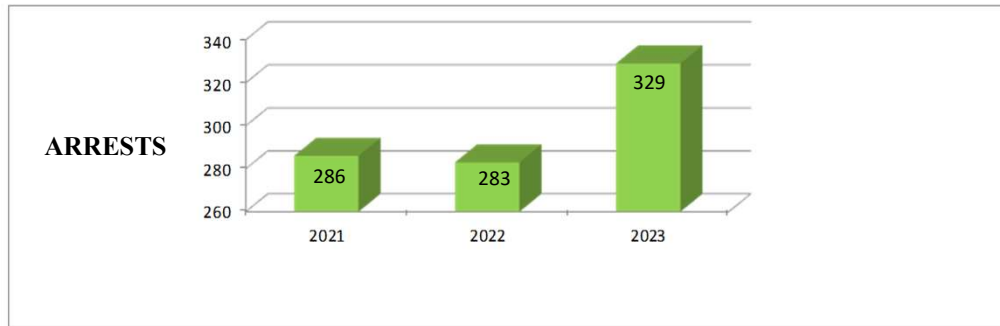
CRASHES



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.

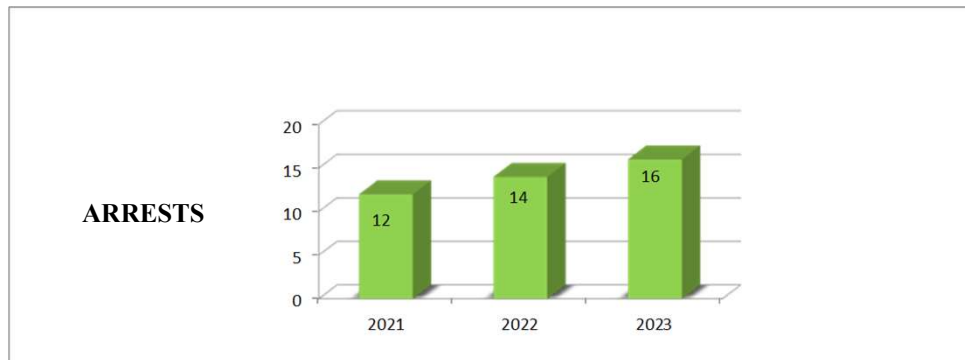


ADULT CRIMINAL ARRESTS (2021 – 2023)



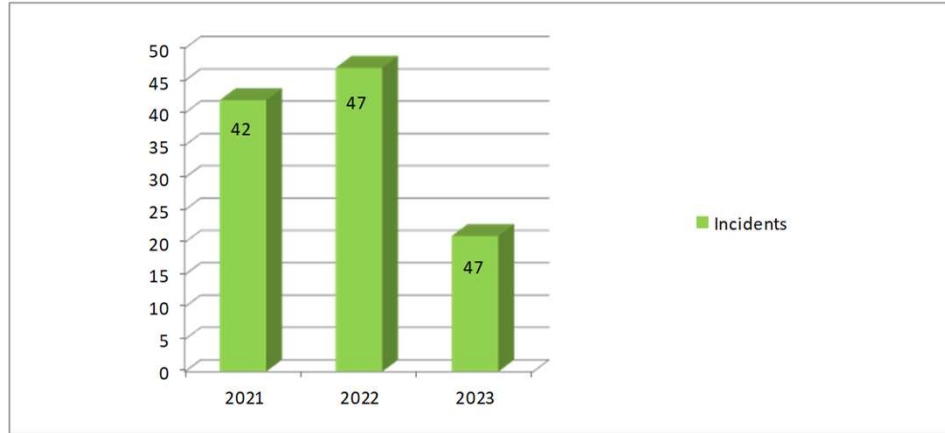
Criminal arrests are those arrests made for criminal violations of Connecticut General Statutes. These Statutes include Title 53 (Crimes), Title 53a (Penal Code), Title 54 (Criminal Procedure), Title 30 (Liquor Control), and Title 21a (Dependency-Producing Drugs). In Connecticut, adult arrests are those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

JUVENILE CRIMINAL ARRESTS (2021 – 2023)



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).

2023 NARCOTICS INCIDENTS

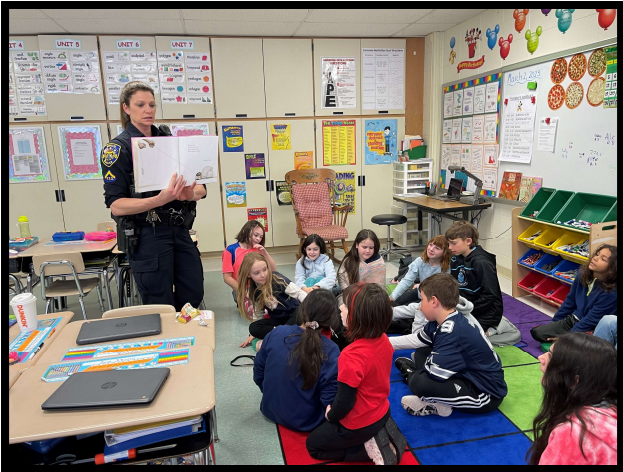


* Asset forfeiture acquired in 2023 was \$30,695



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

2023 – In The News



Every year Reading Across America encourages children to read by having people go into schools and read to children. The Berlin Police Department was happy to participate in the program. Here we have Officer Krzykowski reading to a class at Willard School.



Every year the Berlin Police Department holds a department football game. Here is a photo of the 2023 Department Football Team Photo.

2023 – In The News



The Berlin Police Department brought their UTV to Law Enforcement Day at Channel 3 Kid’s Camp. It was an amazing day for the kids who don’t get a chance to be around law enforcement in a positive way. Everyone had a wonderful time!

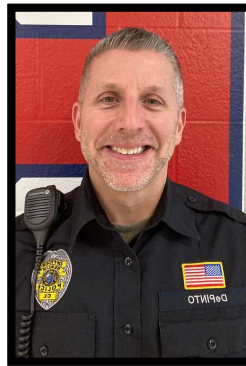


Officer’s Clark and Krzykowski were awarded the Life Saving award for saving the life of Tyler Lavette. He later came in to the Police Department and donated \$1,000 to the Police Department to thank the officers for saving his life.

DARE OFFICERS



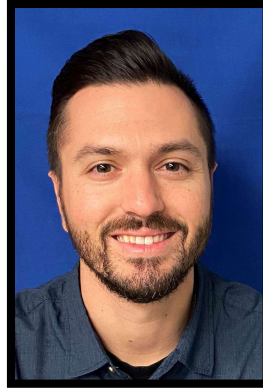
DARE Coordinator
Youth Det./ Brett Kelly



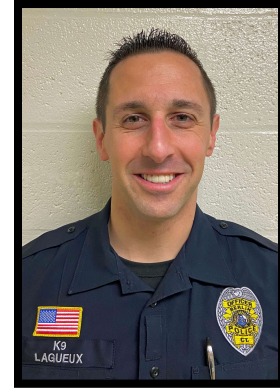
SRO DePinto



Officer Griffith



Act/Det. Chaffee



Trng. Off. Lagueux

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 OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS



BICYCLE PATROL



**UNDERWATER
RESPONSE TEAM**



BERLIN POLICE HONOR GUARD

BERLIN OFFICERS WEAR MANY HATS

K-9 OFFICERS

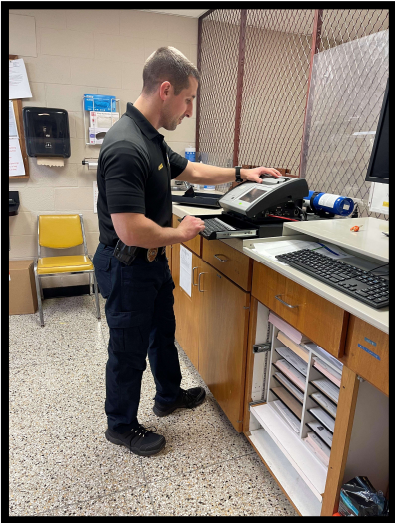


“Being a K9 handler has been my dream since I chose to be a police officer. I work everyday side by side with the best partner, K9 Casner. Together we work to keep our community safe and promote positive encounters with our citizens!”



“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



2023 Berlin Police Cadets