

# Fanwood Police Department

2021

## Annual Report



# 2021 Executive Summary

2021 can best be described as a challenging year, not for just Law Enforcement, but for all aspects of society. 2021 began with the Fanwood Police Department (FPD) still under the oversight of the Union County Prosecutor's Office (UCPO), which began on July 13, 2020.

As a Law Enforcement Agency, the members of the FPD continued to provide exceptional policing services while a global pandemic raged into its 2nd year.

New officers were hired, current members were promoted, and unfortunately one member was terminated for not meeting the high standards expected by members of the FPD.

Under the vision of the Honorable Mayor Colleen Mahr, members of the Borough Council and Borough Administrator, the Borough set out to hire a Police Director, for a transitional period between oversight from the UCPO to the naming the next Chief of Police. In August, Michael Bramhall was hired as the Police Director and the UCPO ceased their oversight of the FPD.

Continuing in the solid foundation set by the UCPO, the new Police Director continued the path of increased training, along with policy development and revision.

Agency members actively participated in the creation of a new "Mission Statement" emphasizing the core values that the members pledge to the public they serve.

A video monitor was installed in the Police Department lobby and is scrolling with over 100 pictures of agency members interacting with the public. This is one of the many community engagement efforts that are on-going.

The FPD continues to pride itself in Community Engagement, participating in numerous community related activities aimed at increasing the already solid relationships with all members of the Borough of Fanwood.

In October 2021, Lt. Dan Kranz had a vision to create a “Mission Statement” that embodies the spirit of the Fanwood Police Department and their dedication to the community. Several drafts were generated and the members voted.....

*“We, the members of the Fanwood Police Department, are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the people, traditions, and diversity of the Borough. We will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, and performance with integrity.”*



From the Fanwood Police Patrol and Operations Division led by Lt. Dan Kranz.....

**In 2021, the Fanwood Police Department created and/or revised a significant number of policies it continues the goals of becoming an even more professional police agency. This work continues and is conducted with the best practices in Law Enforcement as the model.**

A total of 63 policies were issued in 2021

General Orders: 19

Attorney General Guidelines: 15

Personnel Orders: 13

Special Orders: 8

Miscellaneous Orders: 8

**The members of the Fanwood Police Department pride themselves in community engagement well above and beyond the daily calls for service that residents and businesses see them involved in. Some of these community based events include:**

- July: SPPD/FPD Youth Academy
- August 3: National Night Out
- September 11: Fan Jam
- September 19: Fanny Wood Day
- October 6: Coffee with a Cop
- October 30: Police & Pumpkins
- October 31: Halloween Parade
- November 10: Raiders Don't Risk it @ SP-F HS
- December: Tree of Hope

**As in any organization, our personnel have life changing events outside of the department.**

**During 2021:**

One officer was married

One officer got engaged

One officer and their spouse welcomed a baby girl



Moving into 2022 the Fanwood Police Department has again raised the bar and continues to strive towards reaching these goals and objectives.

**General Goals:**

Come to full complement on all patrol shifts

Increase proactive arrests to include narcotics and Driving While Intoxicated

Integrate into the Union County Body Worn Camera Pilot Program

Continue Policy development and revisions

Develop a streamlined and thorough hiring process for police applicants

Hire new personnel as authorized by the Borough

Create a new system of onboarding new employees

Participate in county-wide task force operations to gain experience and bring back equipment, knowledge, and monies through asset forfeiture

Re-brand patrol uniforms where feasible to increase comfort for officers as well as provide tactical efficiency and safety

Establish a more efficient way of scheduling and payment for outside employment details, benefitting both the borough and officers.

**Training Goals:**

Have two additional officers attend Crisis Intervention Training

Complete mandatory Use of Force training for all personnel as required by NJ State Attorney General

Have four officers attend the NJSP Standard Field Sobriety Testing course

Have one officer attend Methods of Instruction

Have one officer become a certified Field Training Officer

Continue progressive training for all personnel in investigation practices, supervision techniques, and updates on all laws and regulations

Keep up to date on new training as mandated by various county, state, and federal agencies

**Community Policing Goals:**

Continue the current community policing projects

Develop unique events and ideas to bring the police department together with the Borough community

Institute the new mission statement into various aspects of the Department

Create a challenge coin for dissemination

From the Fanwood Police Traffic Bureau, led by Officer Elliot Bernard.....

The Traffic Bureau worked with the town engineer and of the Union County Bureau of Traffic Safety & Maintenance to improve pedestrian safety in the borough. Two LED school pedestrian crossing signs were installed on Midway Avenue at Tillotson Road. The LED signs activate when the signal is pressed, to alert motorists that a pedestrian is crossing.

The Traffic Bureau worked closely with the town engineer to address speeding complaints at the intersection of Pleasant Avenue and Forest Road. The intersection was repainted as a traffic calming strategy to slow motorists. The new painted gateway treatment narrows the perceived width of the intersection to slow motorists.

The Traffic Bureau acquired, through close partnerships with other police agencies, “Stop for Pedestrian” signs, which were placed throughout the borough at commonly used crosswalks.



*Scotch Plains-Fanwood Police Summer Youth Academy 2021*

From the Fanwood Police Investigative Division, led by Sgt. Dan Piccola.....

**Significant Cases/Investigations:**

**January 14, 2021** – Stolen/Recovered Motor Vehicle – Night shift was dispatched to 190 South Avenue, Kwick Mart, for the report of a stolen motor vehicle. Patrol arrived and met with the victim who stated he left his vehicle running and entered the business. A short time later, an unknown individual(s) entered his vehicle without consent, and left the area. While on scene, patrol heard that Scotch Plains Police located and initiated a pursuit with that vehicle near the Route 22 overpass. The pursuit continued onto Interstate 78 eastbound before it was terminated by the Scotch Plains Police supervisor. The vehicle was equipped with On-Star which pinpointed the vehicle in Newark. Newark Police were dispatched to the area and located the vehicle with two (2) occupants inside. Another pursuit was initiated before the vehicle crashed and both occupants bailed out, later apprehended by Newark Police. Both occupants were juveniles who were identified using video footage obtained by patrol and reports provided by Newark Police Department. The Fanwood Detective Bureau followed up later that morning and juvenile charges were generated for the suspected driver. The vehicle was returned to the owner that same night.

**March 18, 2021** – Stolen/Recovered Motor Vehicle – Night shift was dispatched to the area of Carsam Street and Coriell Avenue for multiple reports of individuals attempting to enter parked, unoccupied motor vehicles. While on scene, a resident in the area reported that his work van had been stolen. Night shift and the on-coming day shift patrol officers obtained video footage from several residences. Unfortunately, none revealed the description of the actors or direction of flight of the work van. The Fanwood Detective Bureau followed up and, through various investigative means, and assistance from Piscataway, Edison and the Plainfield Police Departments, we were able to locate, process and return the vehicle to the owner in less than 2 weeks. (None of the vehicles that night, except the work van, were entered/damaged)

**July 23, 2021** – Agency Assist – Union County Dispatch notified patrol day shift of a theft of a motor vehicle from a business in Scotch Plains. Video surveillance obtained revealed a suspect description and direction of flight of said vehicle. A Fanwood Officer located a male in the area matching the description within minutes. Officers relayed the information to Scotch Plains PD and the male was placed in custody and turned over to Scotch Plains Police. The vehicle was located a short time later in the vicinity where the suspect was captured.



### **Significant Cases/Investigations (continued):**

**August 13, 2021** – Agency Assist – Day shift was notified by dispatch of a vehicle that was stolen out of North Plainfield and had recently been involved in a homicide in Plainfield moments later. The Traffic Division, along with members of the Detective Bureau and the Patrol Commander, located a vehicle matching the description, on the border of Fanwood and Plainfield, shortly after the alert went out. A Fanwood Officer attempted to stop the vehicle, at which point the vehicle sped past him, narrowly missing him and his patrol vehicle. The vehicle fled the scene not being pursued, and was located within ten (10) minutes by members of the Fanwood Police Department. A search ensued which involved the Fanwood, Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Union County Police and Sheriff's Departments with negative results. The Union County Prosecutors Office identified, located and arrested the homicide suspect a few days later with help from body worn camera footage they obtained from Fanwood PD.

**August 17, 2021** – Assault – Day shift was notified of a possible carjacking in the area of Midway Avenue and Terrill Road involving an assault with a weapon, specifically a firearm. Patrol, the Detective Bureau, the Traffic Division and the Patrol Commander responded and ascertained that one (1) of two (2) suspects assaulted the complainant, took his vehicle and left the scene. Within moments, the vehicle in question and both suspects were located and placed in custody. Through various investigative means and several interviews, conducted by the Detective Bureau, one (1) of the suspects was subsequently charged.

**October 12, 2021** – Domestic Violence/Assault – Day shift was dispatched to a residence on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street on the report of a domestic violence incident with an assault involving a firearm. Upon the arrival of Patrol, the Traffic Division and the Detective Bureau, it was determined that the suspect had physically assaulted the victim and left the scene with a firearm in his possession. A county-wide alert was put out to surrounding jurisdictions and the suspect was located in a neighboring town, along with the firearm. The suspect was charged accordingly, the firearm was seized and the suspect was transported to the jail by the Detective Bureau.

**October 20, 2021** – Agency Assist – Members of the Fanwood Police Department were advised through a county-wide alert of a home invasion and sexual assault that occurred in Westfield, NJ. The Detective Bureau, Traffic Division, Patrol and the Patrol Commander, along with Detectives from the Union County Prosecutors Office, canvassed several areas on the borough for video footage of the suspect vehicle. The efforts of the members of the Fanwood Police Department eventually led to the identification and arrest of the suspect.

### **2022 Goals for the Detective Bureau**

- Update and replenish any equipment that is utilized by the Detectives.
- Monthly meetings with Detectives within the bureau and quarterly meetings with the Patrol Commander and Police Director/Chief of Police.
- Attend specialized training.
- Attend monthly/quarterly Intel meetings throughout the county and state.
- Create specialized crime deterrent details.
- Host events for the borough residents to raise awareness of fraud and identify theft.
- Raise awareness about cyber-crimes involving juveniles and bridge the gap between the police and juveniles.
- Purchase and properly equip new vehicles for the Patrol Division, Detective Bureau and Traffic Bureau.



*Coffee with a Cop Event \* October 2021 \* Railside Café*



*Officers attending a 5 day Patrol Bicycle Course \* August 2021*



*Senior Summer Luncheon June 2021*



*Mayor Collen Mahr, along with Council Members, take a moment to take a picture and thank members of the Fanwood Police Department, Fire Department and First Aid Squad during Fan Jam in September 2021*



*Fanny Wood Day September 2021*



National  
Night  
Out  
August  
2021





***November 2021 Fanwood Police Personnel attended the 28th Annual Blue Mass honoring the dedication and sacrifices of all active, retired, and deceased New Jersey law enforcement personnel. The liturgy was celebrated by Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, Archbishop of Newark, in Newark's Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart.***



***All School Crossing Guards were given letters of appreciation, gift cards to a local coffee shop and box of chocolate over the past few months to show them how much they are appreciated.***



*Fanwood Police Promotion Ceremony 2021*



*New Fanwood Police Officer being Sworn in by Mayor Collen Mahr*

*Paint a Pumpkin with a Cop Event  
October 2021*



*Fanwood-Scotch Plains  
Senior Holiday Luncheon  
December 2021*

*Coffee with a Cop Event  
October 2021*



## 2021 Statistics

Calls for Service: 11,259

Training Classes Attended: 212



### Arrests

Adult Arrests: 22

Juvenile Arrests: 0



### Traffic Enforcement

Motor Vehicle Stops: 1,959

Summonses Issued: 1,195

Traffic/Radar Details 1,066

Moving Violations: 625

Non-Moving Violations: 530

Parking Violations: 40



## **Fanwood Borough Mayor and Council Members**

Mayor Collen Mahr

Council President Anthony Carter

Council Member Patricia Walsh (Police Commissioner)

Council Member Erin McElroy Barker

Council Member Katherine Mitchell

Council Member Jeffrey Banks

Council Member Francine Glaser

### **Borough Administrator**

Rayna Harris

### **Police Department**

Director Michael J. Bramhall

Lieutenant Daniel Kranz

Sergeant Kevin Stomber

Sergeant Phillip Ugone

Sergeant Thomas Chisholm

Sergeant Ryan Gilmore

Sergeant Daniel Piccola

Officer Elliott Bernard

Officer Michael Rusin

Officer Kathleen Case

Officer Timothy Green

Officer Tyler Flowers

Officer Robert Jastrzebski

Officer Ki'mara Ransom

Officer Carlos Gonzalez

Officer Sean Hoffman

Officer Christopher Pinerio

SLEO Jack Ross

Administrative Assistant Dianne Howarth