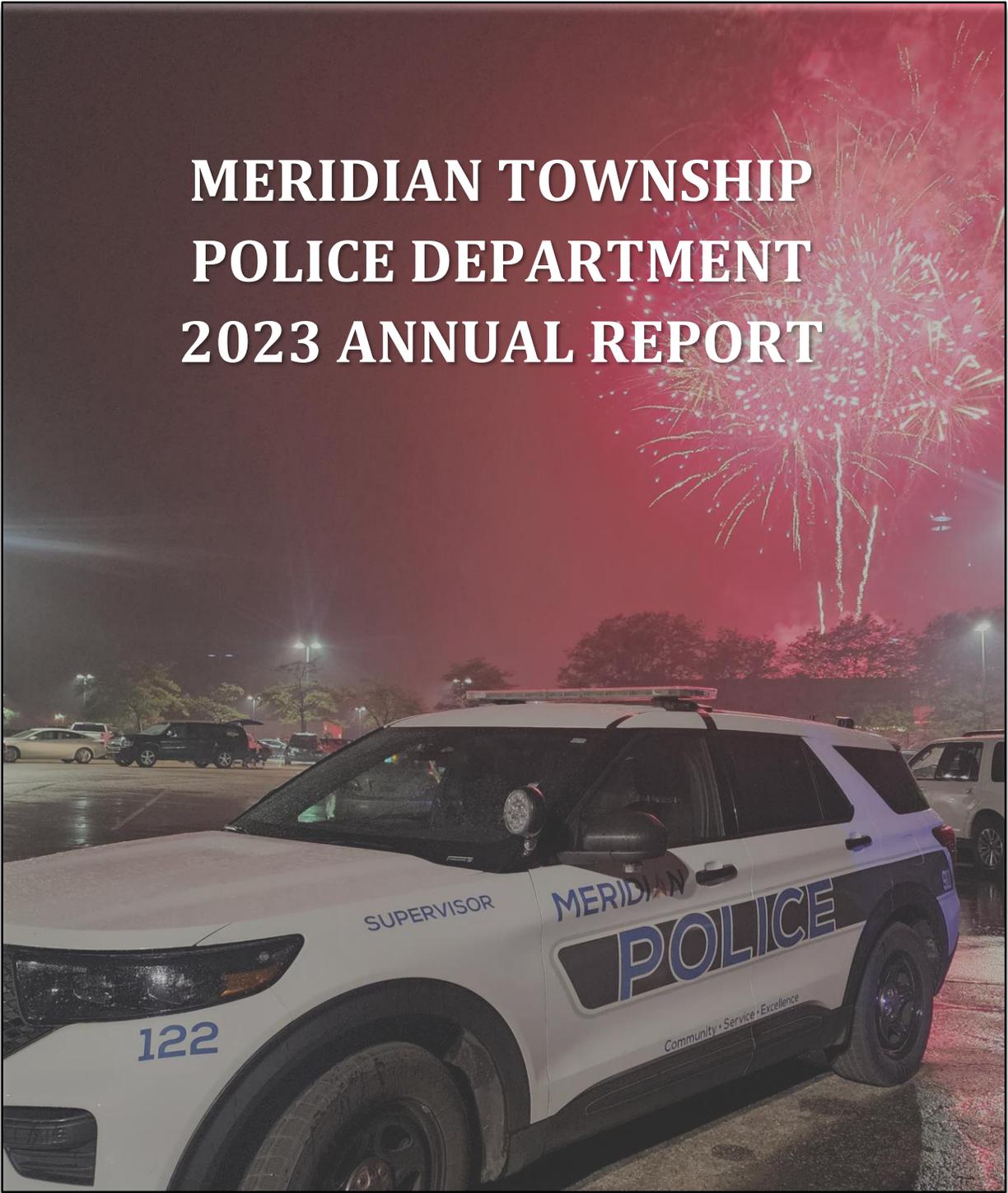


# MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Rick Grillo, Chief**  
**5151 Marsh Road**  
**Okemos, MI 48864**  
**Phone: 517-853-4800**

## MISSION AND VALUE STATEMENTS

The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation and equality; we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.

### ***COMPASSION***

We care for and empathize with our fellow human beings.

### ***COURAGE***

We face danger to ensure the safety of others. We will stand up for what is right. We will be brave when others may not. We strive to eliminate fear through our actions.

### ***EXCELLENCE***

We employ those who strive to achieve a higher standard. We listen to our employees and the members of our community to continually improve our effectiveness and reliability. We strive to exceed community and professional expectations.

### ***FAIRNESS***

We will treat all individuals impartially. We will act in a just manner. We appreciate different points of view. We exercise discretion appropriately.

### ***INTEGRITY***

We will fulfill our mission in its entirety using sound principles, honesty and sincerity.

### ***RESOURCEFULNESS***

We can be relied upon for help and support. We have the ability to deal with situations effectively. We build on our mutual experiences to effectively resolve problems.

### ***RESPECT***

We value the rights and beliefs of others. We are courteous. We treat others as we expect to be treated. We appreciate diversity.

### ***WORK ETHIC***

We are self-motivated and self-directed. We do what is asked and strive to achieve expectations. We hold ourselves to a higher standard.

## **MESSAGE TO THE COMMUNITY FROM CHIEF GRILLO**

On behalf of the men and women who protect the citizens and visitors of Meridian Township, I would like to present to you the 2023 Meridian Township Police Department Annual Report. Our main focus in 2023 was to continue to provide excellent service to our community in a professional and safe manner. Meridian Township is a thriving community that continues to grow year over year. Our police department has made a commitment to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of ALL in Meridian Township.

In 2023, we saw many changes in our staffing. A retirement in our records unit led to the addition of a new records technician. Several officers left for various reasons and, even though we hired five new officers, we still saw a reduction in our staffing levels. The Township Manager, Frank Walsh, as well as the Township Board of Trustees recognized the need to address our staffing levels and took action. In late 2023, the Township Board, led by Supervisor Pat Jackson, passed the Meridian Township Public Safety Recruiting and Retention Program which has already had a great impact on staffing levels. As a department, we are grateful for the swift and decisive action taken by the Township Board to improve our staffing levels. The most important goal we have set for our department in 2024 is to achieve full staffing levels by the end of the year. This goal is lofty yet achievable.

Chief Ken Plaga retired from MTPD the Department in August of 2023 after almost three decades of service. His positive impact on our community as well as our department will be felt for years to come.

In February, we responded to Okemos High School for a very frightening call of an active shooter. Though the call ended up being a hoax, our officers responded quickly and, without hesitation, ran into the school to ensure everyone was safe. Our partnerships with the schools in Meridian Township were strengthened by this event and lots of necessary dialogue and planning came about due to this event.

Also in February, we assisted Michigan State University with an active shooter event. Unfortunately, this event resulted in the loss of several lives. Our heartfelt condolences go out to the families and friends of the students who were senselessly taken on that day as well as all who were impacted by this incident.

I would like to thank the entire staff of the Meridian Township Police Department, both sworn and non-sworn for all of their efforts to keep our community safe. As we enter 2024, we look forward to continuing to serve our prime community with dignity, respect, and excellence!

-Rick Grillo, Chief of Police

## PERSONNEL

### Promotions

Interim Chief Rick Grillo was promoted to Chief of Police  
Lieutenant Bart Crane was promoted to Captain  
Sergeant Curt Squires was promoted to Lieutenant  
Officer Dan King was promoted to Sergeant  
Officer Lorenzo Velasquez was promoted to Sergeant



### Retirements

Chief Ken Plaga – 28 years of service



### New Police Officers

Officer Steven Sloan  
Officer Alex Stachura  
Officer Larry Vandermolen  
Officer Hayden Kling  
Officer Nathan Wicks



**Department Roster – December 31, 2023**

Grillo, Richard	Chief
Crane, Bart	Captain
Squires, Curt	Lieutenant
McCready, Andrew	Sergeant
Besonen, Edward	Sergeant
Lofton, Christopher	Sergeant
Clements, Jason	Sergeant
Canen, Brian	Sergeant
King, Dan	Sergeant
Velasquez, Lorenzo	Sergeant
Scaccia, Chrissy	Officer
Royston, Kyle	Officer
Payne, Rebecca	Officer
LeRoy, Bryan	Officer
Strouse, Doug	Officer
Slavick, Adam	Officer
Mandernack, Ian	Officer
Casaday, Kolby	Officer
Klein, Megan	Officer
Anderson, Blaine	Officer
Trevino, Antonio	Officer
Reinke, David	Officer
Heinemann, Megan	Officer
Cole, Meghan	Officer
Cole, Maggie	Officer
Martin, Bryant	Officer
Acker, Isabela	Officer
Akers, Jack	Officer
Bazan, Stacey	Officer
Tyndall, Natalie	Officer
Vandermolen, Larry	Officer
Wicks, Nathan	Officer

**Civilian Personnel**

Kristi Schaeding, Administrative Assistant  
Alycia Boik, Records Technician

Heidi LaFargue, Records Supervisor  
Emma Gorrell, Records Technician

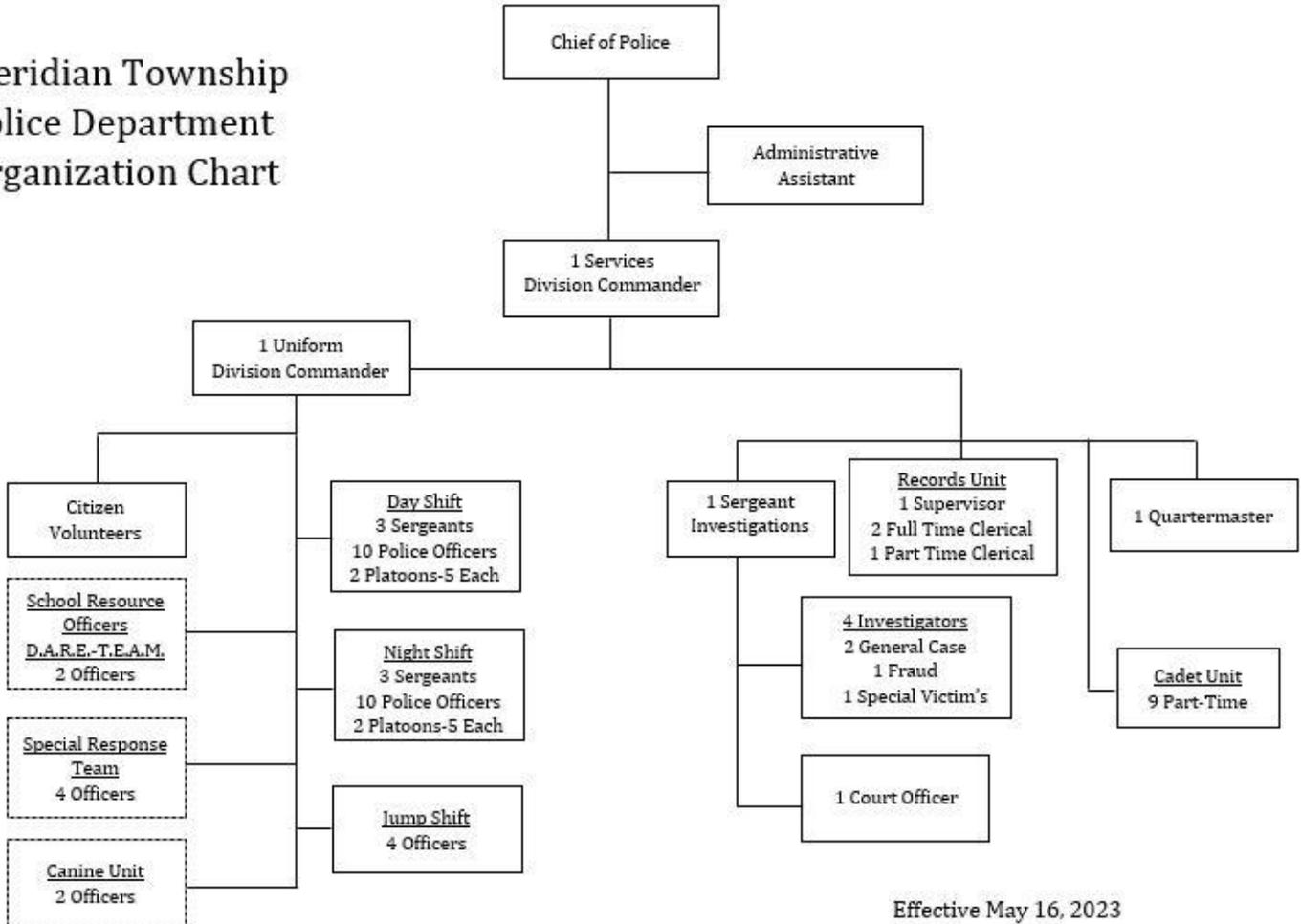
**Cadets**

Kayla Frank  
Lauren Rico  
Carrigan McGraw

Sara Hanson  
Tala Atta

De'Mia Finley  
Maggie Eggleston

# Meridian Township Police Department Organization Chart



Effective May 16, 2023  
Total Sworn = 42

**ADMINISTRATION**

The Chief of Police is the head of the Department. The two distinct divisions under the Chief of Police are the Services Division and the Uniform Division.

**UNIFORM DIVISION**

The Uniform Division, which is overseen by Lieutenant Curt Squires, includes 6 Sergeants and 17 Officers. Within the division, there is the Road Patrol, Canine Unit and the School and Community Resource Unit. Road patrol personnel provide 24-hour patrol services to Meridian Township and Williamstown Township. Patrol officers are assigned to four platoons that work twelve-hour shifts with a sergeant on duty at all times.

In 2023, there were 19,026 calls for service (excluding traffic stops 2,637).

2023 Written Reports	
Alarms	383
Traffic Crashes	727
All Other	3,853
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,963</b>

**Yearly Comparisons**

**Written Reports**

2020	2021	2022	2023
4,963	5,008	5,526	<b>4,963</b>

**Calls for Service**

2020	2021	2022	2023
16,228	17,211	18,540	<b>19,026</b>

**Arrests**

2020	2021	2022	2023
402	554	503	<b>441</b>

**Citations**

	2020	2021	2022	2023
<b>Citations Issued</b>	1,517	1,711	1,231	<b>736</b>
<b>Total # of Charges</b>	1,888	2,279	1,590	<b>1,055</b>

**Top 15 Calls for Service As Received From Dispatch for 2023**

<b>Alarm</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>Noise Complaint</b>	<b>244</b>
<b>Animal Complaint</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>Property Damage Accident</b>	<b>756</b>
<b>Fire Assist</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>Reckless Driving</b>	<b>463</b>
<b>Fraud</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>Retail Fraud</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>Hazard - Road</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>Suspicious Situation/Person/Vehicle</b>	<b>1,103</b>
<b>Larceny</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>Trouble With Subject</b>	<b>482</b>
<b>Medical Assist</b>	<b>4,535</b>	<b>Welfare Check</b>	<b>1,138</b>
<b>Motorist Assist</b>	<b>258</b>		

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 19,026 \***

\*Call-for-service numbers include any agency who took action within the Township borders. Ingham 911 dispatch was unable to filter out other agencies.

**Offenses in 2023**

<b>Abandoned Vehicles</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>Kidnap</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Alarm Response</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>K9 Search/Training</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Animal Cruelty</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Larceny</b>	<b>478</b>
<b>Arson</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Liquor Law/Violations</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Assault</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>Medical First Responder</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>Building Code Violation</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Miscellaneous Non-Criminal Offense</b>	<b>287</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Commercialized Sex/Prostitution</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Murder</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Conservation</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Negligent Homicide/Manslaughter</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Criminal Sexual Conduct</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>Obscenity</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Damage to Property</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>Obstructing Justice</b>	<b>237</b>
<b>Disorderly Conduct</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Obstructing Police</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Dog Complaints</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Ordinance Violation</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Embezzlement</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>OUI of Liquor of Drugs</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Extortion</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Peeping Tom</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Family Abuse / Neglect / Other</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>Public Peace Other</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Fire Assist</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Retail Fraud</b>	<b>203</b>
<b>Fireworks</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Robbery</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Forgery / Counterfeiting</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>School Threat</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Fraud</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>Sex Offense (Other)</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Stolen Property</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Hit and Run Motor Vehicle Accident</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Threat to Burn/Bomb</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Immigration</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Traffic Civil</b>	<b>915</b>
<b>Incapacitated / Mental Health</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>Traffic Criminal</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Intimidation / Stalking</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>Trespass</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>Investigation / Inspection (Non-Criminal)</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>Violation of Controlled Substance</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Invasion of Privacy (other)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Weapons Offense</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Juvenile Offenses / Runaway</b>	<b>32</b>		

**TOTAL OFFENSES REPORTED: 4,963**

*\*Some written reports have multiple offenses*

In 2023, crash investigations in Meridian Township totaled 727. This represents a decrease of 91 crashes from 2022. There were 590 crashes in which no one was injured, 135 crashes in which occupants were injured, and 2 fatal crashes.



**TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Traffic safety is a primary focus of keeping the community safe. Our aim is to address traffic safety using three strategies: Education, Enforcement, and Engineering. The Department works in conjunction with the Ingham County Road Department and the State Highway Department to address concerns related to road design. The Department uses a data driven approach to target specific areas identified as potential problem areas based on review of traffic crash data, citizen complaints, and traffic problems that are created as a result of road closures. Speed monitoring instruments including a speed trailer and speed signs are used to complete traffic studies regarding speed-related safety concerns and traffic counts. The equipment is used to educate the motorists and can be deployed easily in areas identified internally or through citizen reporting. This year we completed eight (8) directed patrols and seven (7) traffic surveys.

One of our officers provides car seat inspections for the Department. During 2023, eight (8) car seats inspections took place throughout the year. We also provided one (1) free car seat to a parent in need during a traffic stop.

Meridian Township Deer Involved Collision Data			
Year	Injury Involved	No Injury Involved	Total
2020	5	157	162
2021	4	125	129
2022	2	99	101
<b>2023</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88</b>

## **TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION TEAM**

Traffic crashes involving fatal or potentially fatal injuries require investigators with specialized training and equipment. Area law enforcement agencies have committed personnel to the Ingham Regional Crash Investigation Team (IRCIT). On-duty team members are called to assist participating agencies with potentially fatal crash investigations. While providing a more rapid response of team members to the scene of an accident, the sharing of resources has also provided investigators with increased experience and has reduced the financial burden on member agencies. The Department added two (2) new accident investigators to the IRCIT in 2023. The IRCIT was activated 49 times in 2023, with Meridian Township Police requesting it four (4) times. Additionally, Meridian Township Police accident investigators assisted in a total of eleven (11) IRCIT activations outside of the township in 2023. In 2023, the Department had two (2) fatal crashes, one (1) serious injury crash, and one (1) single vehicle/single occupant crash on private property that was determined to be medical and required no additional investigation.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers continued to be instrumental this year during several events hosted by the Department. Volunteers assisted at our annual Halloween open house in October, greeting guests and helping to hand out treats and gift bags. Volunteers also came to assist the Department to help wrap presents for our Shop with a Cop event. A volunteer parking enforcement program has been looked at for revival in 2024.

## **COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS**



Community Policing is the foundation of all our actions and interactions. Officers are assigned specific neighborhoods to serve as a familiar point of contact for those neighborhoods and their leaders. Through this contact, relationships are formed, trust is built, and problem solving is shared. Officers communicate directly with their citizens, participate in community activities, and spend uncommitted time in their neighborhoods so our community trusts and understands our Department.

Neighborhood leader meetings are held quarterly at the Township Hall and are well attended, both by residents and officers.

Annually on the first Tuesday of August the Department engages the community through a nationwide event known as National Night Out (NNO). The event is a great opportunity for the community to come together with law enforcement in a casual and inclusive way. In 2023, 22 individual NNO events were attended by members of the both the Police and Fire Departments. Officers had the opportunity to interact with residents, play games with children, and enjoy food and casual conversations.



National Faith & Blue Weekend is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect, trust and understanding. Law Enforcement entities and faith-based groups are key pillars of a local community, and when they work together, communities thrive. The Department attended several events hosted by local churches in October.

**ADULT CROSSING GUARDS**

The Department hires, trains, and manages five (5) adult school crossing guards for schools in the township. The guards are supervised by the School Resource Officers and the Department is always actively accepting applications for more.

**CANINE SUMMARY**



Meridian Township Police Department maintained one K9 Team in 2023, Officer Anderson and K9 Ares, and added a second one in service comprised of Officer Trevino and K9 Reno. Officer Trevino and K9 Reno passed their certification course in October. Both teams are trained in article searches, area searches, building searches, narcotics detection, apprehension/protection, and tracking. Surrounding Departments request or provide mutual aid from K9 Teams when they either do not have one on-duty or do not have one at their Department. Officer Anderson and K9 Ares completed 388.75 hours of monthly maintenance training as well as certifying nationally through the National Association of Professional Canine Handlers (NAPCH) at the yearly seminar. Officer Trevino and K9 Reno completed 408 hours of training including initial certifications and monthly maintenance trainings.



2023 Canine Team Activity Numbers	
Calls Handled By Meridian’s Canine Team	25
Calls Handled By Other Departments	14
Call Outs To Other Departments	19
<b>Total Calls For Service</b>	<b>58</b>
Activity Type	
Ingham Regional SRT	0
Article Search	7
Area Search	2
Building Search	3
Narcotics Search	15
School Sweeps (OHS/HHS/ELHS)	1
Tracking	30
Demonstrations	3
Other Use	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>64</b>

\*A canine call may include more than one activity type.

### **SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM**



The Ingham Regional Special Response Team (IRSRT) is comprised of personnel from the Meridian Township Police Department, Ingham County Sheriff's Office, MSU Police Department, and East Lansing Police Department. The team is called upon to respond to high-risk situations such as barricaded suspects, active shooter situations, and other situations involving extreme danger. IRSRT's primary jurisdiction is all of Ingham County, with the exception of the city of Lansing. Meridian Township commits four operators to the team, currently one lieutenant, two sergeants, and one officer. Meridian

Township operators received 576 hours of regular monthly training and 192 hours of annual training in 2023. This totals 768 hours of yearly training. IRSRT had 19 activations in 2023.

### **SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT**

The School and Community Resource Unit is comprised of two School Resource Officers (SROs) who work with the Haslett and Okemos Public Schools. In 2023, a state funded grant allowed Haslett Schools to receive a full-time school resource officer. Officer Kolby Casaday was assigned to the position and began his service to HPS in August. The SROs provide a number of services to the schools in an effort to provide a safe environment for children to learn including DARE lessons, emergency planning, and security throughout the district. They also assist with a number of community events throughout the year.



The SROs participated in "No Senior with Christmas" event. This is a Tri-County TRIAD program which led to about 450 holiday baskets distributed to tri-county elderly residents. Meridian Township residents received 25 of the baskets.

Meridian Township Police Department held the annual "Shop with a Cop" event in December of 2023. The SROs worked with school counselors and nine (9) area students participated. The officers worked in conjunction with Walmart, Buddies Pizza, and Dunkin Donuts to fund the event. Numerous private donors also provided funds to support this event.

### **SERVICES DIVISION**

The Services Division Commander, Captain Crane, oversees the administrative functions of the police department. The Services Division includes the Police Records Unit, Court Services, the Investigations Unit, the Evidence and Property Room, the Cadet Program, the MLEAC Accreditation Team, and the Recruiting Team. The Services Division is responsible for hiring and recruiting new officers, the MLEAC Accreditation process, property and evidence management, police services at the front desk, all aspects of MLEAC accreditation and police investigations.

### **INVESTIGATIONS UNIT**

Sergeant Ed Besonen handles the day-to-day operations of the unit and ensures each investigation is handled efficiently and with great care. In 2023, one sergeant and four officers were assigned to the unit.

Criminal complaints begin at the road patrol level but sometimes require additional attention from a specialized investigator. Our Investigations Unit may take over an investigation if it is determined the crime is complex or will require a more time consuming and thorough investigation. Investigators work closely with victims, officers, other law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and the Township Attorney to ensure a thorough and fair investigation is complete.

The investigations unit assigned a total of 292 complaints in 2023.

Complaints Assigned Per Year	
2020	351
2021	279
2022	171
<b>2023</b>	<b>292</b>

The table below lists the types of offenses investigated. The number of complaints is lower than the number of “offenses” because a single complaint may include more than one crime or offense.

Crime	2020	2021	2022	2023
Homicide	0	0	1	<b>0</b>
Kidnap	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Criminal Sexual Conduct	54	50	55	<b>63</b>
Robbery	1	6	12	<b>4</b>
Assault/Stalking	13	17	5	<b>8</b>
Arson	0	3	1	<b>2</b>
Extortion	7	2	2	<b>3</b>
Burglary	55	39	30	<b>12</b>
Larceny	56	47	28	<b>103</b>
Unlawful Driving Away Auto	4	10	7	<b>13</b>
Forgery	15	1	18	<b>6</b>
Fraud	71	52	53	<b>111</b>
Embezzlement	2	1	2	<b>2</b>
Stolen Property	8	1	3	<b>4</b>
Malicious Destruction of Property	7	3	25	<b>2</b>
Retail Fraud	13	4	1	<b>7</b>
Drugs	5	2	0	<b>0</b>
Sex Offenses	3	2	0	<b>7</b>
Obscene Material	11	5	7	<b>3</b>
Threat of Terrorism	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Child Abuse	10	10	16	<b>13</b>
Liquor Law Violation	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Obstructing Police	2	0	0	<b>0</b>
Obstructing Justice	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Weapons Offense	4	3	7	<b>2</b>
Public Peace	1	3	0	<b>0</b>

Hit & Run Accident	1	0	0	1
Health and Safety	0	0	0	0
Invasion of Privacy	1	1	1	0
Conservation	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Runaway	1	4	5	3
Traffic Offenses	0	2	0	0
Juvenile Violation	1	1	0	0
Civil Custody	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	0	0
Suspicious Situations	32	26	22	24
General Assist	3	1	0	3
Death Investigations	43	43	56	49
Missing Persons	3	3	1	0

In 2023, the Investigations Unit continued to investigate 48 offenses from 2022, 292 offenses were assigned, 159 were cleared, 64 were inactivated, and 65 will continue to be investigated in 2023.

2023 Complaint Dispositions	
Continued from 2021	48
Assigned in 2022	277
Cleared in 2022	159
Inactivated in 2022	64
Continued in 2023	65

When an investigation is completed and reviewed for charges, the Investigator is responsible for forwarding the warrant request to the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office (ICPO). In 2023, the Investigators submitted 138 requests for warrants and petitions to the ICPO.

Investigations, Warrant Requests & Petitions for 2023			
	Felony	Misdemeanor	Totals
Requested	121	17	138
Issued	50	8	58
Denied	20	8	28
Diversion	6	0	6
Status Pending	49	2	51

Over \$30,000 worth of stolen property was recovered in 2023 with most of that being from larceny from automobile complaints. As much of the recovered stolen property was returned to the victims as possible. The rest has been retained in the Department’s secure evidence storage as we have been unable to locate owners for many of the gift cards and stolen items.

Noteworthy investigations for 2023 include:

- Several areas within Meridian Township were victimized by larcenies from vehicles. In many of these cases credit cards were stolen and then used to purchase gift cards. Through investigative efforts and search warrants many of the gift cards were recovered and several suspects were identified and arrested.

- While investigating a criminal sexual conduct complaint that occurred in January of 2023 our road patrol was able to identify and arrest a suspect. After the assistance of our Investigations Unit and a trial, the suspect was convicted and will subsequently be serving a long prison sentence.
- The Department responded to multiple indecent exposure complaints in the parking lot of a local store. Through investigative efforts this subject was identified as the suspect in several incidents and subsequently charged through the Ingham County Prosecutor’s Office.
- In another criminal sexual conduct complaint it was learned that an adult had been having sexual contact with his own minor child. Through interviews and search warrants to obtain evidence a case was built and a suspect arrested. He is currently awaiting trial.

**COURT SERVICES**

Our Court Services Officer (CSO) acts as a liaison between the police department, the Ingham County Prosecutors Office, the Township Attorney, and the court system. The CSO tracks and processes criminal complaints and submits them to the appropriate attorney’s office for review of warrant request and juvenile petitions. The CSO is also responsible for the registration and address verification of sex offenders in Meridian Township.

COURT SERVICES	2020	2021	2022	2023
Subpoenas Served	729	328	461	<b>422</b>
Personal Protection Orders	43	40	40	<b>44</b>
Warrant Requests	581	787	809	<b>873</b>
Warrants Signed by CSO	362	251	339	<b>398</b>
Twp. Attorney Requests	113	93	122	<b>112</b>
Total Petition Requests	39	50	107	<b>102</b>
Retail Fraud Requests	190	145	145	<b>111</b>
OWI Requests	61	69	55	<b>36</b>
Assault Requests	47	127	73	<b>175</b>
Assault Requests-Domestic	151	138	142	<b>90</b>
Larceny/Fraud Requests	70	48	63	<b>110</b>
Narcotics Requests	10	16	19	<b>20</b>

**RECORDS UNIT**

The Records Unit consists of a supervisor, two full-time technicians, and a part-time technician. They provide support to the Uniform Division as well as the Investigations Unit by preparing criminal reports for prosecution and reporting crime statistics to state agencies. They also maintain databases for statistical reports which are provided to department staff, the Township Manager, the Township Board, and is made available to the public.

Records personnel also process all police reports, crash reports, traffic citations, and other related documents. Customer service is an emphasis of our Records Unit. Records personnel assist the public by responding to FOIA requests, processing insurance requests for reports, processing pistol purchase licenses, and answering incoming phone calls.

Annual Crime Reporting Summary	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 2022-2023
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	1	0	1	0	-100%
Rape and Attempted Rape	51	62	36	60	67%
Robbery	12	10	17	6	-92%
Aggravated Assault	39	35	35	51	57%
<b>Total Part 1 Violent Crime</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>31%</b>
Burglary	88	64	69	66	-4%
Larceny	749	611	467	478	2%
Vehicle Theft	44	56	75	74	-1%
Arson	0	6	0	3	300%
<b>Total Part 1 Property Crime</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>2%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Offenses</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>738</b>	<b>5%</b>
OWI Arrests (Liquor or Drugs)	53	69	48	35	-27%
Traffic Accident – Roadway	588	785	818	711	-13%

**ACCREDITATION**

Accreditation is an on-going program that encourages law enforcement agencies to improve performance and service to the community. Accreditation status acknowledges the implementation of conceptually sound written directives, policies, procedures, and training. It is the voluntary adoption of the best practices in law enforcement and requires constant evaluation of the professional objectives set forth by an independent body of professionals in the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission (MLEAC).

In February 2020, the Department became the first police agency in mid-Michigan to gain full accreditation status from the MLEAC and the 19th overall in the state of Michigan. Today, there are 64 accredited agencies in the state and many more agencies are in the process.

In February of 2023, through the hard work of our accreditation team, we officially received accredited status for an additional three years.

**MID-MICHIGAN POLICE ACADEMY**

The Services Division Commander represents the Department and acts as a coordinator for the Mid-Michigan Police Academy which is hosted by the Lansing Community College (LCC). Coordinators work closely with recruits during the 17-week academy, giving our coordinator an opportunity to identify possible candidates for employment. This also allows the coordinator to monitor each recruit’s progress and assist in career development. Because of our involvement in the police academy, the Department can have an active role in shaping the future of law enforcement locally, regionally and across the state of Michigan. Three Department officers also teach various classes at the academy. The Department earns LCC credit hours for the time spent coordinating and teaching at the police academy. These credit hours can be used to send officers to training at LCC.

In 2023, the Department sponsored two recruits through the Mid-Michigan Police Academy during the fall session. Two other recruits are being sponsored through the Washtenaw Community College Police Academy and will be completing the academy in mid-March. The recruits from the fall academy are currently in field training.

## **TRAINING**

Under the direction of the Chief of Police, the Training Sergeant oversees all training for the Department. The Department provided employees with 2,572 hours of training in 2023. It included some of the following:

- In-Service: 1,151.50 hours (this includes de-escalation training, mental health/PRT training)
- External: 1,157 hours
- Firearms: 178 hours

The Department prides itself in keeping our employees up to date on best practices and keeping our skills sharp through training. Our officers are routinely trained in subjects such as verbal de-escalation, dealing with people in mental health crisis, domestic assault investigations, legal updates and many other important topics. The in-service training program consists of monthly training for all sworn employees, periodic roll call videos, policy tests, quarterly firearms sessions, and computer based instruction. The external training program utilizes universities and private experts to handle specialized training outside the scope of the Department trainers. The Department strives to remain at the forefront of progressive policing by acknowledging the importance of both continuing education to retain current skills and the acquisition of new knowledge for officers to expand their skill base.

## **CITIZENS' ACADEMY**

The Department traditionally hosts a ten-week Citizens' Academy that meets once a week for three hours in the fall. This academy exposes the attendees to police operations and procedures. The department did not host the academy this year due to renovations at both the Township Hall and the Police Department.

## **YOUTH CITIZENS' ACADEMY**

The Department hosts a seven-week Youth Academy that meets once a week for two hours in the spring. The students learn about police work while being able to experience hands-on activities. The Department did not host a Youth Academy this year due to the renovations at the police department.

## **PROPERTY ROOM**

The Quartermaster maintains the property room. Activity involving the property room in 2023 included:

- 1,872 items entered as evidence
- 506.5 pounds of narcotics incinerated from the Prescription Drug Drop-Off Box
- 273 abandoned vehicles were processed

## **CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY**

A total of 1,200 citizen satisfaction surveys were mailed to victims and complainants involved in traffic accidents and other calls for service in Meridian and Williamstown Township. Surveys are used as an instrument to monitor customer satisfaction with the Department's services. In 2023, a total of 179 surveys were returned. The 18% response rate was increased as compared to 2022.

**Citizen Satisfaction Survey for Sworn Personnel**

Category	Rating of Excellent/Good
Helpfulness	94%
Friendliness	93%
Knowledge	95%
Quality of Service	95%
Professional Conduct	94%
Response Time	94%

**Rating of Emergency and Non-Emergency Dispatch Service (Ingham 911 Dispatch)**

Category	Rating of Excellent/Good
Helpfulness	73%
Friendliness	73%
Knowledge	72%
Quality of Service	73%
Professional Conduct	73%

*\*Not all questions generated a response.*

**CITIZEN SERVICE COMPLAINT SUMMARY**

The Department investigated one formal citizen service complaint during 2023. The following is a summary of the findings (some complaints had multiple officers involved and findings).

- 0 Partially Sustained – Sufficient evidence exists to support the allegation and further action will be taken.
- 0 Not Sustained – Insufficient evidence exists to either support or disproves the allegation.
- 0 Partially Exonerated - The incident occurred but was lawful or proper.
- 1 Exonerated – The incident occurred but was lawful or proper.
- 0 Unfounded – The alleged actions or events did not in fact occur.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

The Department is committed to having an online presence using Facebook and Twitter. The Department has solved crimes that would most likely have remained unresolved without the teamwork of the Department and residents made possible through social media. Numerous retail fraud suspects have been identified by posting security footage. The Department also uses its Facebook platform to engage the community in discussions.

Facebook offers the greatest return on time invested. The 11,782 people who “Like” our page is an increase from 2022 (30% men and 70% women). Facebook has been helpful in many areas including the identification of suspects, distributing traffic alerts and the posting of wanted persons. There are also 2,515 individuals who follow the Department’s Twitter page.

## **EVERBRIDGE ALERTS**

The Department partners with Everbridge Alerts, to keep residents safe and informed with quick and reliable emergency notifications and public service announcements. To better serve the residents of Ingham County, police, fire and EMS agencies have joined together to utilize one platform for community messaging. It is called the Capital Area Ingham County Alert System. Residents are encouraged to register to receive the alerts: [bit.ly/EverbridgeSignup](https://bit.ly/EverbridgeSignup)

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 GOAL BASED ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

In conjunction with the Township Board and Township Manager, the Department establishes goals to help in the delivery of law enforcement services. Many of our goal accomplishments and other activities are listed as follows.

- **Continue efforts to fill all vacant positions while simultaneously working toward creating a diverse and inclusive workforce.**

In 2023, we have hired four new officers to fill vacant positions. It was determined in field training that some of these officers did not meet our standards and are no longer employed here. However, we currently have four recruits in the police academy, two of which graduate in December. We have two other candidates who have accepted conditional offers to attend upcoming police academies as well.

Nine of our thirty one officers are female, bringing the total percentage of female officers to over 29%. Our goal of employing 30% females by the year 2030 is absolutely obtainable. We continue to seek out qualified candidates of all backgrounds who meet our standards.

- **Leverage suggestions made by Uniform, Health and Wellness, Recruitment and Retention, and Social Media Committees to provide an environment more likely to retain employees while attracting potential employees.**

All officers have received new Class B uniforms, fulfilling a recommendation from the recruiting and retention committee and the uniform committee. The uniforms look professional, are more comfortable, and have tactical advantages over the Class A uniform.

A newsletter has been designed and sent out to all employees to ensure communication is routinely made to all, a recommendation from the retention committee.

New members were added to the recruitment team to ensure we are attracting the most qualified candidates to our agency.

- **Refresh the Police Department by updating vital areas such as the briefing, locker, and equipment rooms to create a modern, comfortable, and efficient workspace.**



New lockers replaced old, mismatched lockers in both the men's and women's locker rooms. The briefing room received a much-needed update such as fresh paint, new table and chairs, new cabinets for more efficiency, and new technology including a message board that will be used to more effectively communicate through all shifts. Other updates including access control and new flooring throughout the building are scheduled for completion before the end of 2023.

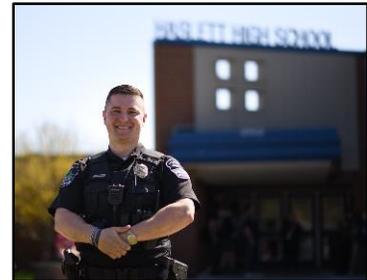
- **Expanding technology available to all employees for a more efficient workflow. Integration of new software to increase efficiency and flow of information through the township and to the community.**

PowerFTO, an online application, was purchased and is being utilized to document training for our newly hired officers. We are also using PowerTime, an online application that allows employees to check their work schedules, submit time off requests, and submit overtime among other things. Power Engage allows for online surveys to be sent to the public at the completion of a police contact via text message.

iPads are being purchased for all sworn officers to be used to make evidence collection more efficient, to improve our Telehealth program for people in crisis, and to offer a mobile option for many of our electronic applications.

- **Collaborate with school district partners to receive School Resource Officer grants and secure two full time SRO positions.**

Haslett Public Schools secured a state-funded grant and Officer Kolby Casaday was named their full-time SRO. Officer Casaday will have an office in Haslett High School and will be committed to providing full-time service to Haslett Schools.



- **Prepare for staff succession through training and mentoring.**

Multiple promotions have been made in 2023, including the promotion of Curt Squires to lieutenant, Dan King to sergeant, and Lorenzo Velasquez to sergeant. All will attend leadership training in the near future. Several officers were trained as field training officers, a necessary step in preparing young officers for supervision and leadership in our department.

- **Assist the parks department with the Deer Cull to reduce injuries and damage as a result of collisions with the motoring public.**

Our department harvested approximately 200 deer during the program in 2023. The number of traffic crashes involving deer has steadily decreased over the past three years while the program has been in place.

- **Upon becoming fully staffed, assign officers to specialized units to expand their job knowledge, provide added proactive services to the community without relying on partner agencies, and expand assignments needed to recruit and retain employees.**

Though we have added officers through our hiring process and sponsorship activities, we have not yet reached full staffing levels. We continue to work toward this goal as we focus on recruiting talented individuals that meet the high standards we have for our employees.

- **Identify an officer to train as a canine handler and purchase a new canine to assist in the detection of narcotics, the location of missing and wanted persons, and location of missing articles.**

Officer Trevino was chosen as the next canine handler and our newest canine, a German Shepard named Reno, was purchased. They attended training together in September and are currently assigned to road patrol. Our canine team now features two duos, Officer Anderson and Ares and Officer Trevino and Reno. This team enables us to have a canine scheduled to be on duty every day.

During 2023, the K9 vehicle was replaced by a new Ford Police Interceptor. The new vehicle has much needed upgrades from the prior vehicle, including a larger and safer internal K9 containment system, as well as several safety systems for the handlers and their K9 partners.

**MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP  
POLICE**

**WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP  
POLICE SERVICES**



**2023  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**Williamstown Township  
Police Services  
2023 Annual Report**

The Meridian Township Police Department provides law enforcement services to Williamstown Township. The 2022-2024 contract arranges for Williamstown Township to compensate Meridian Township \$146,056.06 for calendar year 2023 and \$69.68 per hour outside of the 40 hours of weekly patrol for emergency and non-emergency responses.

<b>Williamstown Township Statistics</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Written Reports	285	280	251	232
Calls for Service	1,304	1,506	1,279	1,222
Calls for Service (excluding traffic stops)	1,043	1,143	1,063	1,035
Arrests	8	12	15	15
Citations Issued	115	95	46	10
Total Number of Charges	132	111	56	14

<b>Written Reports</b>				
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Alarms	31	29	23	19
Traffic Crashes	102	105	101	72
All Other	152	146	127	141
<b>Total</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>232</b>

<b>Williamstown Township Deer Involved Collision Data</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Injury Involved</b>	<b>No Injury Involved</b>	<b>Total</b>
2020	2	64	66
2021	1	70	71
2022	0	54	54
<b>2023</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>53</b>

**Top 15 Calls for Service As Received from Dispatch for 2023**

<b>Admin</b>	16	<b>Medical Assist</b>	252
<b>Alarm</b>	28	<b>Property Damage Accident</b>	78
<b>Animal Call</b>	54	<b>Reckless Driving</b>	50
<b>Civil</b>	16	<b>Suspicious Situation/Person/Vehicle</b>	45
<b>Fire Assist</b>	36	<b>Traffic Stop</b>	187
<b>Follow-up</b>	42	<b>Utility / Wires Down</b>	19
<b>Fraud</b>	21	<b>Welfare Check</b>	66
<b>Hazard/Road</b>	52		

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE: 1,222 \***

\*Call-for-service numbers include any agency who took action within the Township borders. Ingham 911 dispatch was unable to filter out other agencies.

**Offenses in 2023**

Alarm Response	19	Juvenile/Runaway	4
Animal Complaint	0	K9 Search/Training	1
Animal Cruelty	0	Larceny	7
Arson	0	Liquor Violations	0
Assault	14	Littering	0
Assist Other Agency	2	Medical First Responder	2
Burglary	1	Miscellaneous Non-Traffic-Offense	13
City Ordinance	2	Missing Person	0
Conservation	1	Motor Vehicle Theft	0
Contributing to the Delinquency of Minor	0	Natural Death	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	1	Noise	0
Damage to Property	3	Obscene Materials	1
Disorderly Conduct	0	Obstructing Justice	12
Embezzlement	2	Obstructing Police	0
Extortion	2	OUI of Liquor of Drugs	1
Family Abuse/Neglect/Other	3	Public Peace	0
Fraud	18	Sex Offender/Fail to Comply	0
Harassing Communication	1	Sex Offense/Other	1
Health and Safety	1	Suicide	0
Hit and Run Motor Vehicle Accident	0	Traffic Civil	74
Incapacitated/Mental Health	9	Traffic Criminal	12
Indecent Exposure	0	Trespass	4
Intimidation/Stalking	2	Violation of a Controlled Substance	0
Investigation/Inspection (Non-Criminal)	18	Weapons Offense	1
Alarm Response	19	Juvenile/Runaway	4

**Total Offenses Reported 232**

*\*Written reports may have multiple offenses*

**Williamstown Township - 2023 Annual Crime Reporting Summary  
Part 1 Offenses and OUIL/OUID Arrests & Traffic Accidents**

<i>Part 1 Offenses:</i>	2020	2021	2022	2023	% Change 2022-2023
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Rape and Attempted Rape	2	1	1	<b>1</b>	<b>0%</b>
Robbery	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Aggravated Assault	3	1	1	<b>5</b>	<b>400%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Violent Crime</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>200%</b>
Burglary	3	6	2	<b>1</b>	<b>-50%</b>
Larceny	8	17	7	<b>7</b>	<b>0%</b>
Vehicle Theft	1	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
Arson	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Property Crime</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-11%</b>
<b>Total Part 1 Offenses</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27%</b>
OUIL / OUID	5	5	2	<b>1</b>	<b>-50%</b>
Traffic Accidents	103	105	100	<b>72</b>	<b>-28%</b>

A total of 72 traffic crashes were investigated in 2023. Of those, 11 crashes involved personal injury to people, 60 crashes resulted in property damage without any injuries and there was 1 fatal accident.

**Investigations Unit**

During 2023, 4 cases were continued from the previous year, 5 reports were assigned, 4 reports were cleared, 3 reports were inactivated, and two report will continue to be investigated in 2024. The victims of crimes that lack any investigative leads are notified by letter that the case is not being investigated; however, the case may be reopened if new information develops.

<b>2023 Report Dispositions</b>	
Assigned	5
Cleared	4
Inactivated	3
Continued in 2024	2

The following chart shows the types and individual number of offenses that occurred in Williamstown Township and were investigated by Meridian Township Investigators.

<b>Offenses</b>	<b>2023</b>
Fraud	5
Child Neglect	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	0
Embezzlement	0
Family Trouble	0
Identity Theft	0
Larceny - From Automobile	2
Death Investigation	2
<b>Total Offenses Investigated</b>	<b>9</b>