



townofbethlehem.org/police

2024 Annual Report

Town of Bethlehem Police Department

Chief Gina F. Cocchiara



TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

Police Department



The Bethlehem Police Department was established in 1941. Prior to that date, the Town of Bethlehem was policed by constables. The police department initially had three members – one Chief of Police and two patrolmen. They worked with the New York State Police to patrol the hamlets of Slingerlands, Delmar, Elsmere, Glenmont, Selkirk, and South Bethlehem.

Since then, the Town of Bethlehem Police Department has increased in size and become a more professional organization. In 1990, the Bethlehem Police Department became the first accredited police department in New York State to be accredited by the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. The New York State Law Enforcement Agency Accreditation Program is a voluntary initiative that helps agencies improve effectiveness through 110 required standards, with annual adherence and a five-year onsite assessment. New York States Accreditation Program is managed by the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), which ensures agencies are complying with “best practices” in administration, training, and operations. The Bethlehem Police Department has been continuously accredited since 1990 and most recently received re-accreditation in 2020 after another successful assessment.

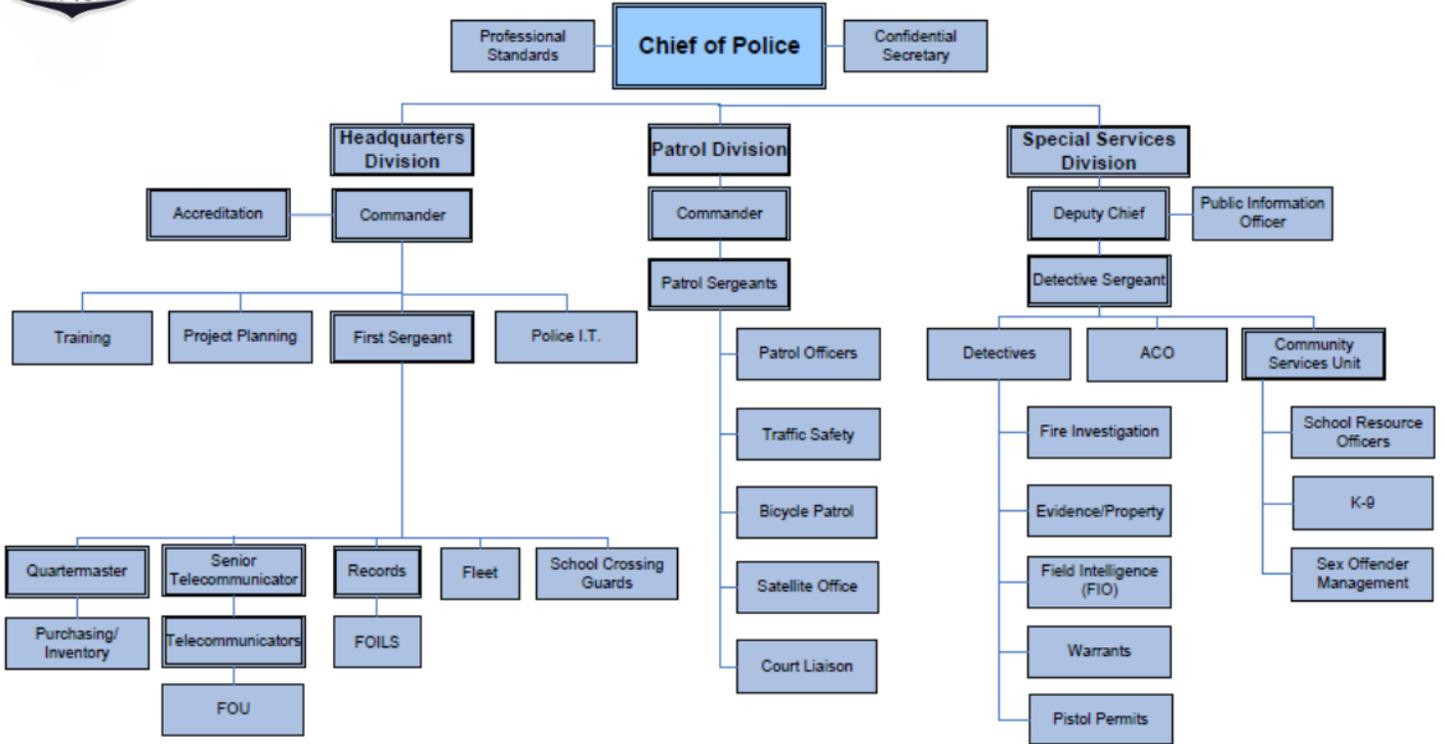


The organizational structure within the Bethlehem Police Department is divided into three divisions: Patrol, Special Services, and Headquarters. Each division is led by a command officer, with the Chief of Police overseeing all Department operations. While each division has their own unique responsibilities and functions, they work together daily to provide professional police services to the Town of Bethlehem Community.

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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Effective 01/2024

CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT

Chief of Police

Chief Gina Cocchiara
gcocchiara@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1207

Headquarters Division

Commander Robert C. Baldwin, Jr.
rbaldwin@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1211

Patrol Division

Commander Michael A. Cozzy
mcozzy@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1208

Special Services Division

Deputy Chief James L. Rexford
jrexford@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1209

First Sergeant Roy K. Swann, Jr.
rswann@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1205

A- Line (Overnight Shift)

Sergeant Kristen N. Spinnato
kspinnato@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1384

Detective Office

Detective Sergeant Adam H. Cobb
acobb@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1226

Sergeant John D. Springer
jspringer@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1398

B-Line (Day Shift)

Master Sergeant James E.
Corrigan
jcorrigan@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1376

Community Services Unit

Detective Sergeant Caitlyn A. Krage
ckrage@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1225

Sergeant Chad Ferraro
cferraro@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1369

C-Line (Afternoon Shift)

Sergeant Matthew J. Dring
mdring@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1389

Sergeant Daniel V. Callahan
dcallahan@townofbethlehem.org
518-439-9973 ext. 1399

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL
2024 DEPARTMENT SWORN PERSONNEL

Chief of Police
Gina F. Cocchiara

Deputy Chief
James L. Rexford

Commanders
Michael A. Cozzy
Robert Baldwin

Administrative Sergeant
Brian Hughes **
Roy K. Swann, Jr.

Patrol Sergeants
James E. Corrigan
Chad A. Ferraro
Kristen N. Spinnato
Matthew Dring
Daniel Callahan
John D. Springer

Detective Sergeant
James E. Cross, Jr.

Traffic Safety Investigator
William D. Austin

Patrol Officers
Rico R. Fiore
Ryan W. VanAmburgh
Mark D. Gorman, Sr.
Bryan P. Mahan
Yekaterina N. Dickerson *
Isaiah F. Burton
Amanda L. Mueller
Andrew T. Hynes
Cameron Apple
Corey J. Watts
Alexander S. Hazelton
Brady G. Hughes
Luke T. Mara
Alexander Griffin
Antonio Archina
Stephen Celestino
Christopher Nicastro
Ivan Garcia *
Blake Orosz
Austin Ellis

Detectives
Chad A. Rice
Kenneth G. Beck, Jr.
Adam H. Cobb
Michael J. Berben
Caitlyn Krage

Senior Telecommunicator
Brent W. Dragon

Telecommunicators
Melissa J. Powell
Sharon E. Huether
Jared L. Willard
Katherine A. Gould
Joanna Nunziato
Michael K. Mittler
Christopher P. Kowalski
Robert Geurtze
Brittany Corbett
Zoie Libertucci
Breah Burns
Emily Kainer
Allana Scutt

Animal Control Officers
Geoffrey A. Nunziato
Andrew Schmidt

***Retired*
**Resigned*

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL
2024 DEPARTMENT CIVILIAN PERSONNEL

**Chief's Confidential
Secretary**
Susan Heath

Senior IT Specialist
Frank Heuer

Records
Brianna M. Tice
Ciara Hodges

School Crossing Guards

Charles J. Asprion
Isabella D. Glasetter
Robert McElroy
Mike P. Roberts
Mary E. Root
Nancy Toomey
Linda T. Taylor



(3/29/24 - Retirement Ceremony for First Sergeant Brian Hughes after over 30 years of service)

TOWN OF BETHLEHEM Police Department



Gina F. Cocchiara
Chief of Police

Gina F. Cocchiara was sworn in as Bethlehem's eighth Chief of Police on August 31, 2020. Chief Cocchiara began her policing career in 1994 and joined the Bethlehem Police Department in 1998 and has been a resident of the Town of Bethlehem since 2000. She started in the Patrol Division, and was later promoted to the rank of Patrol Sergeant in 2008. After spending a number of years working in the Patrol Division, Sergeant Cocchiara was promoted to the position of Detective Sergeant in 2015, leading Detectives in both the Detective's Office and then the more specialized division, the Family Services Unit (now known as the Community Services Unit). In 2020, Detective Sergeant Cocchiara was promoted to the rank of Chief of Police where she currently leads all operations within the Bethlehem Police Department. Chief Cocchiara is the first woman in the history of the Bethlehem Police Department to attain any rank above patrol officer, and most notably the rank of Chief.

Chief Cocchiara holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She is a graduate of the 2020 Inaugural Session of the F.B.I.'s National Command Course at Quantico, VA. She is the current President of the New York State Women in Law Enforcement (NYWLE) organization and on the Board of Directors for the Zone 5 Regional Law Enforcement Training Academy. She is an active member in the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), the New York Association of Chiefs of Police, Northeastern Chiefs of Police Conference (NECOP), and the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association (SNYPJOA).

Chief Cocchiara was born and raised in Suffern, NY. Outside of work, Chief Cocchiara enjoys hiking, bike riding, and taking quick trips to explore new places with her family.

HEADQUARTERS

Commander Robert Baldwin



The Headquarters Division is led by Commander Robert Baldwin. Commander Baldwin began his law enforcement career with the Bethlehem Police Department in 2009. He has served as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, and was promoted to Commander in June 2022. As Commander, he oversees the Telecommunications, Records, Training, IT, and administrative functions, including fleet management and grant administration. He has earned a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Sage Graduate School and a Bachelor Degree in Marketing and Management from Siena College. Commander Baldwin also is a certified Fire Investigator, Firearms Instructor, and is a member of the Capital Region Forensic Hazardous Materials Team.

TRAINING



The Headquarters Division oversees departmental training, ensuring personnel meet certification requirements and stay current on current law enforcement techniques and legal issues. The Bethlehem Police Department prioritizes education and is recognized statewide for its commitment to law

enforcement training. Annual training includes topics such as Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, De-Escalation, Implicit Bias, First Aid-CPR, Firearms Certification, Active Shooter Response, Use of Force, Domestic Violence, Hazardous Materials Response, and Blood Borne Pathogen safety.

In April 2024, the Bethlehem Police Department opened the doors to the Bethlehem Police Range and Training Facility. The facility was a collaborative partnership with federal and local law enforcement partners and provides two 15 lane ranges, a classroom, a dedicated firearms cleaning room, and has space for virtual reality (VR) training that will be coming in the future.



(2024 Police Bicycle Patrol Course put on by Bethlehem Police for regional Law Enforcement)

FLEET MANAGEMENT



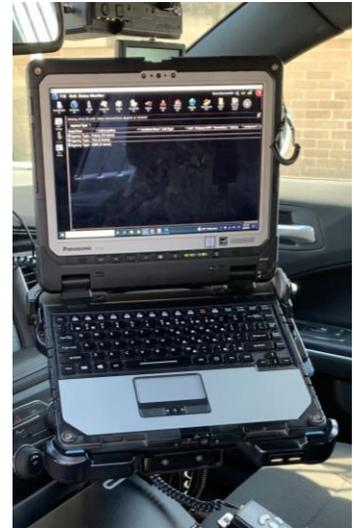
The Headquarters Division oversees the police department's fleet of marked and unmarked vehicles, as well as specialty vehicles (Field Operations Unit, Forensic Unit and Animal Control vehicles). The goal of fleet management is to provide properly equipped police vehicles to members of the department, while remaining

fiscally responsible to the Town of Bethlehem taxpayers.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Headquarters Division supports the department's Information Technology (IT) needs of the police department. The police department's IT Specialist is tasked with managing the various technologies that are utilized by the members of the department. This includes:

- Managing a fleet of 23 Mobile Data Terminals in patrol cars.
- The department's electronic tickets and accident reporting system
- License Plate Readers (LPRs)
- Both Body Worn Cameras and In-car Cameras
- Evidence and Records Management System



In 2024, the Headquarters Division was able to secure a Law Enforcement Technology Grant for over \$700,000 dollars as part of an ongoing effort to replace equipment and remain current with police technology and equipment. The grant will be used to replace aging radio consoles within the building, update audio recording systems used for evidence preservation, and secure funding to replace MDTs in patrol vehicles.

RECORDS

The Records Section processes, secures, and stores all departmental records. It is the repository for all departmental records of arrests, incidents, accidents and other departmental reporting. The Records Section is responsible for data entry and retrieval for all federal, state, and local statistical reporting. The Records Section is also responsible for all Freedom of Information Requests received.

COMMUNICATIONS CENTER



The Police Department handles dispatching for police, fire, emergency medical services, and rescue in the town. Communications personnel are highly trained and have saved lives while awaiting emergency medical services. The Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) system supports call-taking and dispatching, tracking unit activity and time-stamping calls. It quickly identifies units to dispatch and provides instant access to critical

data like hazardous materials, medical histories, and/or location histories; improving overall response times and safety. CAD also facilitates electronic reporting, direct links to state and federal systems, and on-scene data entry by personnel in the field. In 2024, the Department undertook a project to revamp and remodel the Communications center. This initiative took over a month and involved contractors and BPD personnel installing everything from new flooring to IT hardware to updated consoles.



Before



After

SPECIAL SERVICES

Deputy Chief James L. Rexford



The Special Services Division is led by Deputy Chief James Rexford, who began his law enforcement career in 1997 with the Town of Coeymans Police Department, and joined the Town of Bethlehem Police Department in 1998. Deputy Chief Rexford has served as Patrol Officer, Sergeant, Master Sergeant, and Commander before being promoted to Deputy Chief in 2022. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from the State University of New York at Albany and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Marist College.

The Special Services Division includes the Detective Office, which handles major adult crimes, and the Community Services Unit, which focuses on adolescent offenses and community outreach programs. Both units collaborate on investigations and work closely with various county and state agencies, including the Albany County District Attorney's Office, Albany County Family Court, and Adult and Child Protective Services.

DETECTIVES OFFICE / COMMUNITY SERVICES UNIT

The Detective Office (DO), consisting of one Detective Sergeant and three Detectives, handles major crimes, death investigations, adult sexual offenses, and vice-related investigations like human trafficking and drug operations. They are highly trained in crime scene investigation, evidence collection, and interviewing. They also serve as the primary contact for large-scale or joint investigations with local, state, or federal agencies. The Community Services Unit (CSU), led by two detectives, focuses on juvenile-related crimes such as criminal mischief, larceny, and abuse.



CSU members serve as School Resource Officers and are assigned to schools within the Bethlehem Central School District. Established in 1996, the School Resource Officer Program is a partnership between the Police Department and local schools, aiming to provide specialized education, safety, and trust.



Additionally, members of the CSU oversee the New York State sex offender registry for the police department. New York State provides law enforcement agencies with a registry of sex offenders who have been convicted and are now living within the Town of Bethlehem. CSU Detectives are responsible for ensuring that this registry is kept up-to-date and community notifications are done when required.

To keep residents informed about sex offenders, the Bethlehem Police Department utilizes a service called Offender Watch. This service is free to the public and can be utilized by the community as a resource to inform the public about registered sex offenders in their neighborhood.

For residents of the Town of Bethlehem the web site is:
http://www.sheriffalerts.com/cap_main.php?office=54797.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The Town of Bethlehem Animal Control Officers are dedicated to protecting residents, pets, and wildlife. Their duties include dog licensing, handling animal cruelty cases, capturing stray dogs, and caring for sick or injured animals. Animal Control Officers also respond to a wide range of situations, from sick wildlife to loose livestock.



PATROL DIVISION

Commander Michael Cozzy



The Patrol Division, overseen by Commander Michael Cozzy, is made up of uniformed officers who respond to calls for service and patrol the community. Commander Cozzy began his law enforcement career in 2002 with the Albany County Sheriff's Department, and joined the Town of Bethlehem Police Department in 2003. He has held the positions of Police Officer, Patrol Sergeant, and was promoted to Commander in 2020. Commander Cozzy holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology from the State University of New York at Albany.

The Patrol Division includes six Patrol Sergeants and twenty-one Patrol Officers. The Town is divided into four patrol zones: Zone 1 (Slingerlands/North Bethlehem), Zone 2 (Delmar/Elsmere), Zone 3 (Glenmont/Delmar), and Zone 4 (Selkirk/South Bethlehem) that also includes a satellite station. The division handles traffic safety enforcement, investigates crashes and crimes, and offers services such as vehicle lockouts, vacation home checks, and addressing quality-of-life concerns.

TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT

Within the Patrol Division there is also the Traffic Safety Unit. This unit is comprised of one Traffic Safety Investigator who is specially trained in commercial vehicle enforcement and vehicle crash management. As of 2022, the Traffic Safety Investigator is part of the Albany County Crash Reconstruction Team which investigates serious and fatal vehicle crashes.

BIKE PATROL

The department's Bike Patrol is used to supplement vehicle operations and provide a presence in areas of the Town not readily accessible by patrol cars. It promotes increased communications between officers and the community. The department currently has over 20 members that are bike patrol certified officers.



PATROL DIVISION - GRANT FUNDED INITIATIVES

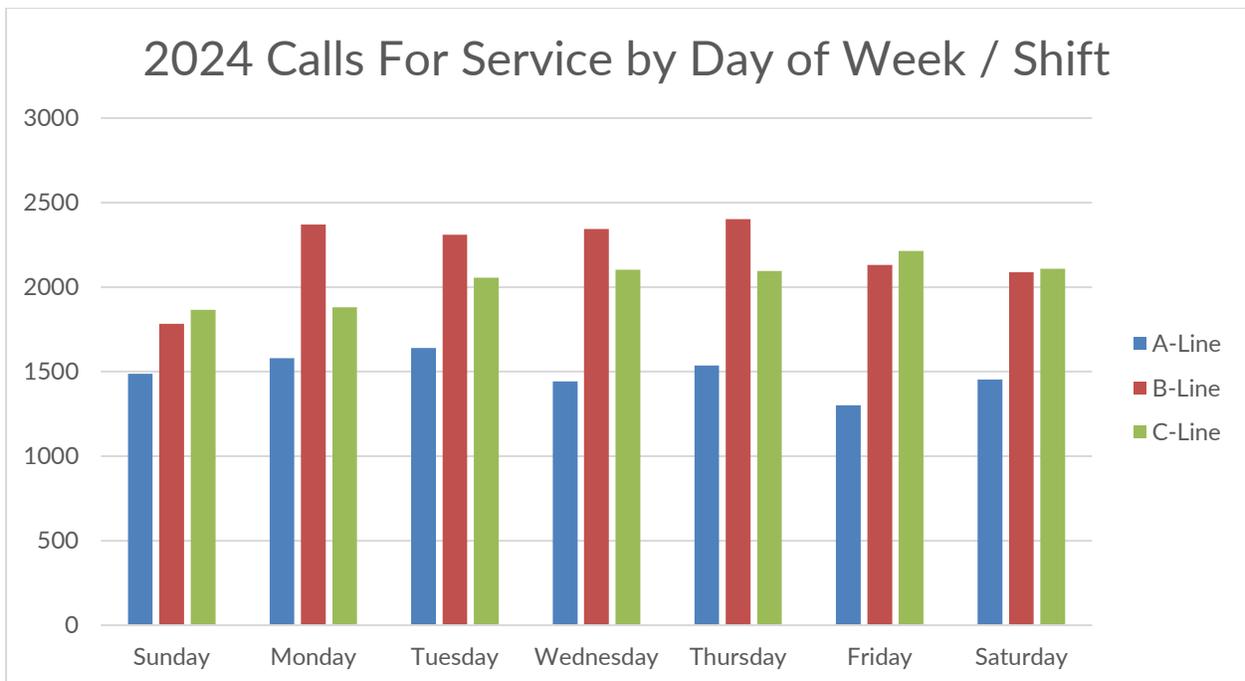
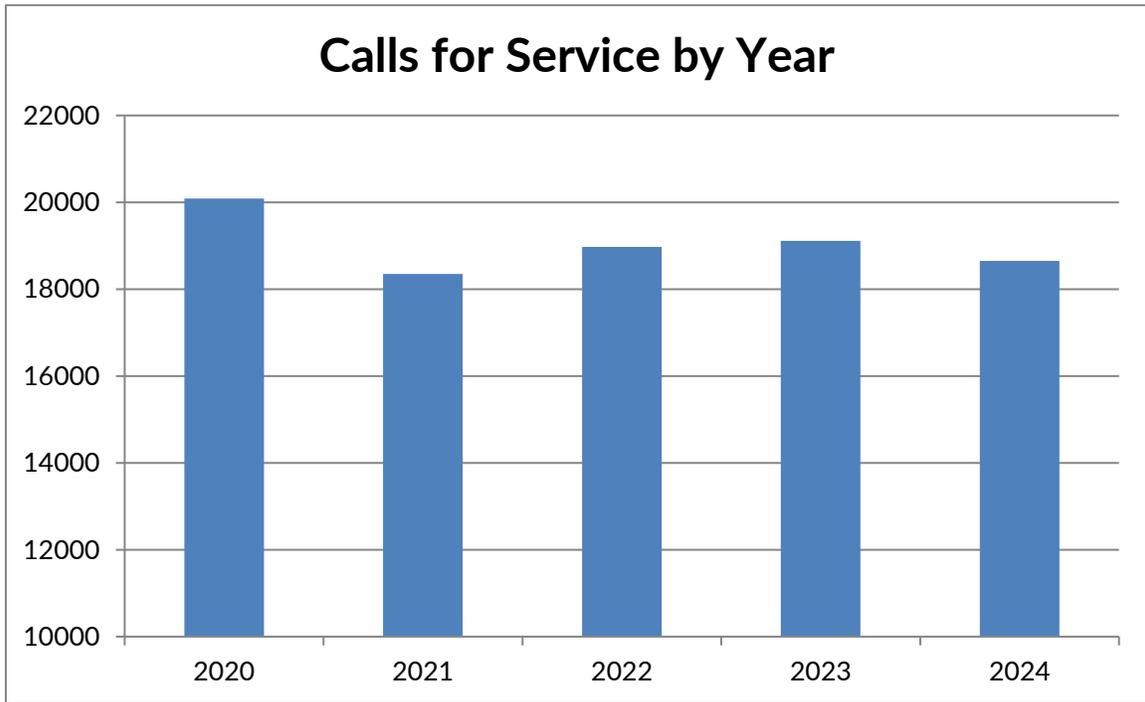
The Patrol Division participates in several grant-funded initiatives:

- STOP DWI Program - This program is administered by Albany County, which focuses on impaired driving education and enforcement.
- High Visibility Engagement Campaign (HVEC) - HVEC addresses impaired driving with a two-pronged approach: public education in Traffic Safety and funding for law enforcement initiatives.
- Click It or Ticket - Funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, Click it or Ticket aims to reduce personal injury crashes by promoting occupant protection through educational and enforcement efforts.

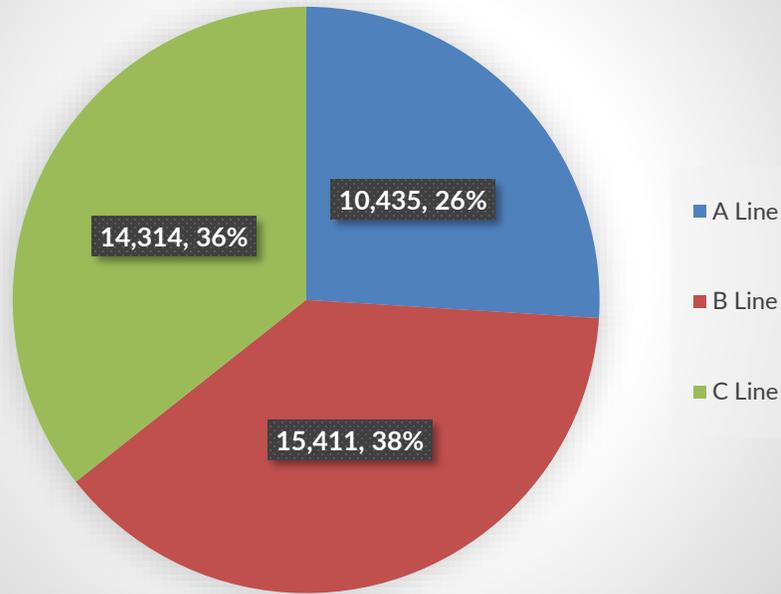


CHARTS

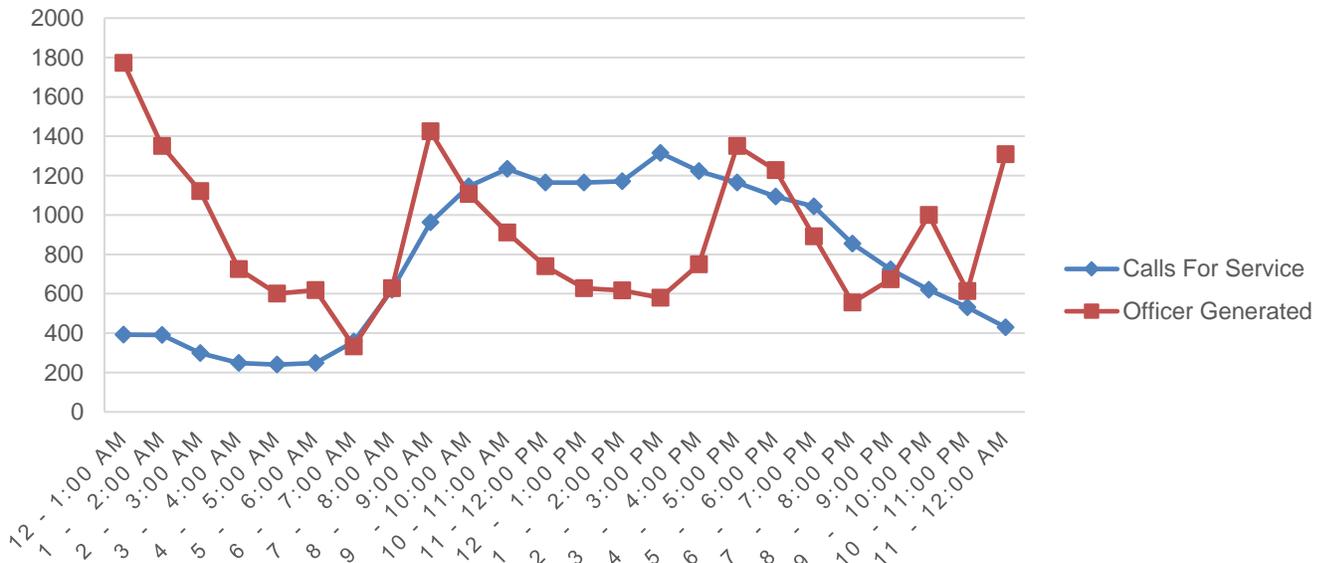
CALLS FOR SERVICE



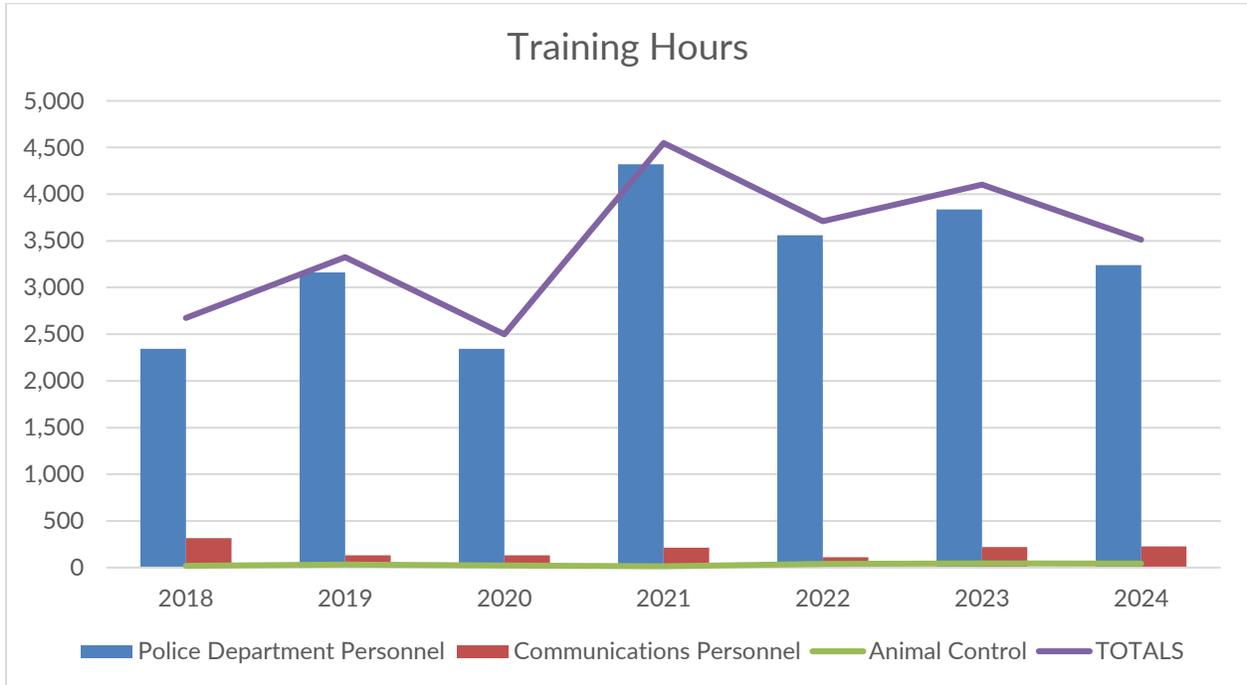
2024 Calls For Service by Shift



2024 CALLS FOR SERVICE AND OFFICER GENERATED ACTIVITY BY HOUR OF THE DAY

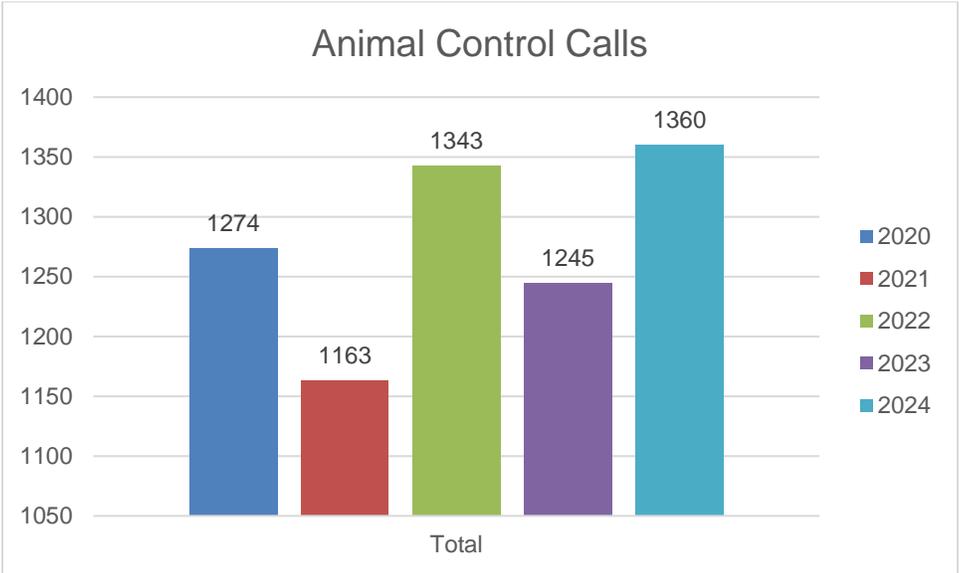


HEADQUARTERS - Training hours



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Police Department Personnel	2,343	3,162	2,343	4,322	3,560	3,837	3,240
Communications Personnel	314	133	132	212	110	221	228
Animal Control	18	32	24	14	40	45	44
TOTALS	2,675	3,327	2,499	4,548	3,710	4,103	3,512





CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service by Dispatch Type

Incident Type	2024
911 Accidental	484
911 Hang Up	430
Administrative	459
Alarm Bank	23
Alarm Burg	648
Alarm Hold Up	11
Animal Control	1,363
Assault	13
Assist Other Agency	199
Assist Person	1,271
Boat Incident	3
Burglary	15
Check A Person	1,446
Check A Vehicle	1,437
Community Programs	533
Court	51
Crash PD	779
Crash PI	119
Crash Unknown	58
Criminal Mischief	36
Dispute Civil	88
Domestic Physical	77
Domestic Verbal	258
DPW Notification	171
Drugs	202
Emotionally Disturbed Person	79
EMS Call	4,055
Fight	21
Fire Call	822
Fireworks	38
Get a Report	232
Investigation/Follow Up	262
Juvenile Incident	50
Larceny	359
Missing Person	26
Open Door/Window	24
Other	43
Person Suicidal	4
Person With Weapon	7
Plane Incident	1

Police Information	990
Property	288
Property Check	11,059
Prowler	9
Robbery	1
Sex Crimes	33
Shots Fired	21
Town	39
Traffic Detail	4,313
Traffic Hazard	492
Traffic Stop	6,161
Unknown	23
Vehicle in Violation	267
Vehicle Lockout	137
Warrant	146
Grand Total	40,176

2024 SYNOPSIS OF SIGNIFICANT CASES

January 3, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department took a report of a burglary from a Selkirk residence. An investigation ensued that resulted in the finding of several other burglaries from residences within the Town of Bethlehem. Through the investigation a suspect was identified and arrested for the incidents. 2024-0349, 2024-2236, 2024-2724, 2024-3690

February 8, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department responded to Community Bank located in Delmar for a report of a robbery. Members of the Special Services Unit who were attending training in Albany were notified of the incident and responded to the scene for evidence processing. Within 24 hours of the time of call, a suspect was identified, taken into custody and charged with the incident. 2024-4346

March 23, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department responded to a call for a domestic dispute and possible order of protection violation. The male party fled the scene prior to patrol arrival and was soon after observed by an officer turning into an apartment complex parking lot. Responding members detained the male for an active arrest warrant and within the area of where the male parked his vehicle, a handgun and container containing narcotics was located. The male denied the illegal items belonged to him and the items were swabbed for DNA. Lab analysis confirmed that the items did contain the male's DNA and was subsequently arrested for the possession of the illegal firearm and narcotics. 2024-9750



April 23, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department as well as surrounding fire departments responded to the Bethlehem Central High School for a report of a smoke condition coming from one of the boys restrooms. Through investigation, the fire was determined to be incendiary and a juvenile student was found to be responsible for the fire. 2024-13275

May 1, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department, Albany Police Department, Albany Fire Department, Slingerlands Fire Department and EMS were called to State Route 85 for a high-speed collision. Upon arrival it was learned that one operator was being treated for non-life-threatening injuries and transported to the hospital. Lifesaving measures were attempted on scene of the second operator, unfortunately they were unsuccessful. The operator who caused this fatal crash has been charged for causing other operators' death. 2024-14187



May 15, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department were called to the Center Square laundromat for a report of a burglary. It was learned that after reviewing CCTV surveillance footage of the business, that an unknown male suspect had entered the business, caused damage to numerous money machines and washer/dryer machines and did steal US Currency as well as other items. Many other local jurisdictions had similar reported laundromat burglaries within the same time period. During the investigation, a suspect was developed by this agency and arrested. 2024-15604, 2024-15732

August 6, 2024 – On August 18, 2023 members of the Bethlehem Police Department responded to a Delmar residence for a report of a theft from a motor vehicle. Detectives were called to the scene for evidence processing. DNA results provided a return for a suspect who was observed in the area of the crime on the date the crime was originally reported. That suspect was been charged for the incident. 2023-28954

August 15, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department took a report for a missing female juvenile out of Selkirk. Members of the Detective Office worked with other local, state and the New York City Police Department and were able to successfully locate the missing juvenile and arrange for a safe return. 2024-25521

August 19, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department, Selkirk Fire Department and EMS responded to the area of 1469 River Rd, Selkirk for a report of a high-speed collision. Upon arrival of members, the driver and passenger of one vehicle were observed to have minor injuries and transported to Albany Medical Center. Unfortunately, the operator of the second vehicle involved succumbed to injuries from the crash on scene. The driver of the vehicle transported to Albany Medical Center was charged with causing the other operators death. 2024-25917



September 10, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department received phone call at the police station as well as from the Bethlehem High School in regard to a person Making a Terroristic Threat. These phone calls continued through October 7, 2024 with a total of 12 separate calls. Through a joint investigation with this agency, The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Ontario Provincial Police (Canada) the juvenile responsible for these incidents was identified and charged.

2024-28592, 2024-28383, 2024-28464, 2024-28483, 2024-28583, 2024-28584, 2024-30620, 2024-30708, 2024-30728, 2024-30773, 2024-31104

September 25, 2024 – Members responded to Broadview Federal Credit Union in Slingerlands for a person in the bank trying to fraudulently withdraw money from an account that they did not own. Members quickly arrived on scene and took the female suspect in the bank as well as a male accomplice into custody and were charged in this incident. 2024-29954

October 2, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department responded to Sunmark Federal Credit Union in Glenmont for a report of a male subject attempting to cash a fraudulent check. Members quickly arrived on scene and took the male along with one additional male and female accomplice into custody who were all charged with the incident. 2024-30595

October 15, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Special Services Unit responded to the Bethlehem High School for a report of a bomb threat. Within hours of the initial call and through investigation, a juvenile suspect was identified and charged for this incident. 2024-31869

October 30, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department responded to an apartment complex in Glenmont in regard to a Menacing complaint. Responding members observed the suspect emerge from a wooded area and fled back into the apartment building which resulted in a barricaded person. Shortly thereafter the suspect was identified and taken into custody. A search warrant executed by the Detective Office resulted in one illegal stolen handgun and a large amount of narcotics and US currency being located in the suspect's apartment that he was later charged with. 2024-33403



November 12, 2024 – Members of the Bethlehem Police Department as well as surrounding fire departments and EMS responded to 7 Eastmount Dr in Slingerlands for a reported structure fire of an apartment building. The fire heavily damaged one apartment and many other suffered water and smoke damage. No injuries were reported. 2024-34895