

FAIR LAWN POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

GLEN CAUWELS
CHIEF OF POLICE



SERVING SINCE 1930

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Fair Lawn Police Department (FLPD) is located at 8-01 Fair Lawn Avenue, Fair Lawn NJ, 07410. Main line: 201-796-1400, 9-1-1 emergency.

The department serves a community of 35,564.¹ The daytime population exceeds this count by virtue of commercial establishments, industrial operations, school services, and people in transit.

As of 12-31-2024, the total number of full-time sworn personnel is 61. There are 12 part-time Class III Special Police Officers, 11 part-time Class I Special Police Officers, 5 full-time public safety dispatchers, 2 per diem dispatchers, 3 full-time civilian staff, and 2 part-time civilian staff members. In addition, there are 45 part-time school crossing guards, tasked with safety crossing children at arrival and dismissal times throughout the year that are managed by the FLPD.



¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/fairlawnboroughnewjersey/POP060210>

PATROL DIVISION

As an agency, the Fair Lawn Police Department handled 22,558 calls for service in 2024. The patrol division dealt with the majority of the calls for service. The patrol division is commanded by Captain Joseph Dawicki and consists of 4 Lieutenants, 4 Sergeants and 28 Police Officers working across 4 different 12 hour shifts. Some of the functions of the division are:

- To provide police services 24 hours a day
- Investigation of crimes
- Response to all types of calls for service
- Motor vehicle crash investigations
- Directed patrols for various law enforcement efforts
- Community engagement
- Business security checks after hours



CALLS FOR SERVICE BREAKDOWN

This table lists the total calls for service into communications with the number and percentage of total volume.

<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Total Calls Received</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
Traffic Stop	3360	15.20
Glass Check	2073	9.38
Sick and Cared	1686	7.63
Traffic Detail/Work Zone Safe	931	4.21
Mva with Prop Damage(no inj)	758	3.43

False Alarm	701	3.17
Traffic/MV Violations	650	2.94
Suspicion Report	594	2.69
School Post	550	2.49
Suspicious Person,car,ETC	432	1.95
Welfare Check	402	1.82
Minor MVA	388	1.76
Patrol Observation	381	1.72
Dispute	370	1.67
Animal Complaint	356	1.61
School Guard Sick/Absent	339	1.53
Assist	335	1.52
Fire Alarm	310	1.40
Motor Vehicle Disabled	306	1.38
Noise Complaint	295	1.33
Lift Assist	278	1.26
Sick/Disability Leave	253	1.14
Harassment	201	0.91
Traffic/MV Violations	201	0.91
Community Policing	196	0.89
Security	186	0.84
Mva with Injuries	176	0.80
Hazardous roadway	177	0.80
Miscellaneous Others	175	0.79
Shoplifting	164	0.74
Fraud	161	0.73
Theft	147	0.66
Utility Emergency	144	0.65
Burglar Alarm	139	0.63
Emotionally Disturbed	130	0.59
Hit and Run	123	0.56
SNAP Detail	124	0.56
Found	115	0.52
Juvenile	114	0.52
LEAD	112	0.51
Escort	107	0.48
Wanted Person	107	0.48
Medical Alarms	104	0.47
Missing Property	103	0.47
Service for Other Departments	104	0.47
Public Accidents	101	0.46
Event (Parade,Firework,etc)	99	0.45
MV Other Violations	93	0.42

Police Equipment	91	0.41
Notification	88	0.40
Accidental Property Damage	87	0.39
911 Abandoned Call Check	82	0.37
Car or Other Fire	76	0.34
Criminal Mischief	68	0.31
Follow-Up to Original Case	69	0.31
Contempt of Court	66	0.30
Carbon Monoxide Alarm	61	0.28
Natural Gas Leak	62	0.28
Threats	63	0.28
Unsecured	61	0.28
Mutual Aid	59	0.27
Simple Assault	59	0.27
Driving Under the Influence	48	0.22
Courtroom Testimony	43	0.19
Structure Fire	42	0.19
Solicitors/Peddlers Complaint	39	0.18
CCH or III look up for Court	38	0.17
Civil Matter	37	0.17
Drunkenness	36	0.16
Lost/Missing	36	0.16
Police Vehicles	34	0.15
Traffic Control Device Repair	32	0.14
Dangerous driving report	28	0.13
Narcotics	28	0.13
Standby	29	0.13
Vehicle Repossession	28	0.13
Sudden Death/Bodies Found	28	0.13
Burglary in the Past	26	0.12
Evidence Transportation	27	0.12
Occupational Accident	27	0.12
Training	26	0.12
Confidential Investigation	25	0.11
Interference with Custody	24	0.11
Megans Law Registration	25	0.11
Forgery	22	0.10
Motor Vehicle Theft	23	0.10
Special Project/Assignment	21	0.09
Panic Alarm	19	0.09
Burglary in Progress	19	0.09
Courtroom Security Detail	20	0.09
Duty to Warn	20	0.09

Home Accidents	19	0.09
Illegal Dumping	21	0.09
Noise Complaint outside town	20	0.09
Park and Walk	19	0.09
Traffic/MV Violations	19	0.09
Police Weapons	17	0.08
Sex Offense (Except Rape)	17	0.08
Test Call	18	0.08
Assault Aggravated	15	0.07
Blackmail-Extortion	16	0.07
Offenses Against the Family	15	0.07
Trespassing	16	0.07
Brush Fire	14	0.06
Traffic/MV Violations	13	0.06
Other Boro Ord. Violations	13	0.06
Theft of Services (Fraud)	14	0.06
Tenant/Landlord	11	0.05
Stolen Property Recovered	11	0.05
Suicide Attempt	9	0.04
Auxiliary Functions	9	0.04
Fraud, Bad Check	9	0.04
Prisoner Transports	8	0.04
Theft by Deception (Fraud)	8	0.04
Dog/Animal Bites	7	0.03
Assault (All Other)	7	0.03
Transformer Fire	7	0.03
Obstruction of Justice	6	0.03
Traffic Post (Non Work Zone)	7	0.03
Animal Cruelty	4	0.02
Counseling	4	0.02
Fire Commercial	5	0.02
Police Pursuit	5	0.02
Counterfeiting	3	0.01
Disturbing the Peace	2	0.01
False Fire Alarm	2	0.01
Inspection Tour/Tour Commander	2	0.01
Lewdness	2	0.01
Curfew/Loitering (Juveniles)	2	0.01
Motor Vehicles Abandoned/Towed	2	0.01
Solicitors/Peddlers Complaint	3	0.01
Prostitution	2	0.01
Runaway (Juveniles)	3	0.01
Stalking	2	0.01

Suicide	3	0.01
Bicycle Theft	3	0.01
Truancy from School	2	0.01
Weapons Offense	2	0.01
Open/silent 911 call	1	0.00
Hold Up Alarm	1	0.00
All Other Offenses	1	0.00
Disorderly Conduct	1	0.00
Dog/Animal Bites	1	0.00
Embezzlement	1	0.00
Causing False Public Alarm	1	0.00
Gambling	1	0.00
Fatal Mva	1	0.00
Pornography	1	0.00
Rape	1	0.00
Surrendered/Found Weapon	1	0.00
Vacant	1	0.00

ARREST DATA

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
1st degree crime	3
2nd degree crime	11
3rd degree crime	83
4th degree crime	31
Disorderly Persons	95
Petty Disorderly Persons	9
Motor Vehicle Related	47
Other Violation	27
No code entered	1
Total arrests:	307

Male: 218, Female: 89

<u>Demographic Factor</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
H-Asian/Pacific Islander, Hispanic	5
H- Black, Hispanic	11
H-White/Latin, Hispanic	86
N-Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	8
N-Black, Non-Hispanic	51
N-White, Non-Hispanic	146

MOST SERIOUS OFFENSES

This table alphabetically lists the most serious offenses reported in 2024.

Nature	Total Number
Alarm	522
Assault, Simple	76
Assault/Aggravated	15
Agency Assist	409
Burglary, Nonres, Att Force En	2
Burglary, Nonres, Force En	17
Burglary, Nonres, Unlawful En	7
Burglary, Resd, Att Force En	5
Burglary, Resd, Force En	5
Burglary, Resd, Unlawful En	9
Burglary	2
Custodial Interference	19
Criminal Mischief	94
Disabled Vehicle	303
Embezzlement	1
Fraud, Credit Card or ATM	47
False Fire Alarm	1
Counterfeiting or Forgery	28
Fraud/Swindle/Confidence Game	167
Fraud, Wire	1
Juvenile Problem	1
Littering or Pollution Problem	13
MV Accident-Unclassified / UNF	267
Motor Vehicle Stop	3361
Not Classified	1
Obstructing Justice	24
Possess Burglary Tools	3
Prostitution	2
Rape	1
Recovered Stolen Veh	6
Sex Offense	20
Receive or Possess Stolen Prop	5
Follow-Up to Existing Case	67
Threatening	62
Theft, Prop, Bicycle	6
Theft, Prop, Building	34
Theft, Prop, Coin Machine	1

Theft, Prop, From Motor Veh	52
Theft, Prop, Othr	63
Theft, Prop, Shoplifting	169
Theft, Prop, Veh Parts	20
Trespassing	14
Theft, Veh, Automobile	28
Theft, Veh, Truck or Bus	1
Vacant Building	1
Welfare Check	483
Weapons Offence	6

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASH ANALYSIS

List of reported motor vehicle crashes, including hit and run reports.

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
Fatal MVA W/Pedestrian	1
Injury MVA W/Pedestrian	21
Injury MVA W/Other MV	131
Injury MVA W/Bicycle	6
Injury MVA W/Animal	1
Injury MVA W/Fixed Object	6
Injury MVA Overturn	1
MVA Property Damage	1
MVA Property Dam. W/Pedestrian	2
MVA Property Dam. W/Other MV	475
MVA Property Dam. W/Bicycle	5
MVA Property Dam. W/Animal	13
MVA Property Dam.W/Fixed Obj.	61
MVA Property Dam Ran Off Road	6
MVA Minor	335
MVA Property Dam. W/Other MV	6
MVA Minor	3
Hit & Run	2
Hit & Run W/Personal Injury	7
Hit & Run W/Property Damage	96
	Total: 1179

DETECTIVE BUREAU

The FLPD Detective Bureau is under the command of Detective Captain Ronald Patterson. The detective bureau is responsible for investigating a wide range of issues within the Borough of Fair Lawn. Detectives assigned to the Bureau investigate crimes reported to the department. Some of the more common type of crimes our detectives investigate are thefts, burglaries, robberies, fraud, narcotics, sexual assaults, and juvenile investigations. Some of the other functions the Bureau is responsible for is conducting background investigations for police applicants, firearm purchase permits, and conducting Internal Affairs Investigations. Members of the detective bureau are also tasked with maintaining compliance with local, county, state and federally mandated training, via classroom, virtual, and tactical hands-on training.

In 2024, the FLPD Detective Bureau investigated 319 crimes, resulting in 71 arrests. Some noteworthy cases:

- In January Officers responded to an altercation at a residence. During the investigation, which revealed signs of a struggle, there was a significant amount of marijuana product in the residence. Detectives were summoned to the scene which resulted in the seizure of 35 pounds of marijuana. Charges filed for narcotics distribution.
- A victim reported being accosted by a ride service driver in April. After investigation, the driver was charged with sexual assault and sexual contact.
- In July detectives were investigating two individuals who were seen entering a motor vehicle. They were followed and ultimately arrested in Ridgewood, with the victims' credit cards in their possession during the course of committing a fraud.

COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

The Community Policing and Traffic units are under the command of Captain Brian LaRosa. These units provide a multitude of vital services to the community. On any given day, officers from community policing can be found performing some of the following tasks:

- Public speaking engagements, to educate the public about a wide variety of topics such as pedestrian safety, school safety, crime awareness, and fraud prevention and other timely information.
- Law Enforcement Against Drugs (LEAD), offered to 5th and 6th grade students.
- Citizen and Junior Police Academies, held in the spring and summer yearly
- Police Cadet Post 1126, open to high school and college age individuals who have an interest in law enforcement. Monthly meetings and training are held, as well as a yearly summer week long academy. Police Cadets are also visible around town at special events under supervision of Sgt. Eleshewich, Sgt. Macys, and Det. O'Shaughnessy.



Cadets (faces blurred) with Det. O'Shaughnessy & Sgt. Eleshewich

- Citizen ride-along program with officers
- Street fairs, including National Night Out held every August
- Coffee with a cop, citizen outreach

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The FLPD Traffic Division consists of Sgt. Sean Nagle and 4 dedicated officers under his command. They are responsible for addressing a wide variety of traffic related issues to include:

- Motor vehicle enforcement
- Receive & address citizen complaints
- Work zone safety projects to improve traffic management and safety at construction zones
- Crossing guard supervision. In 2024, Fair Lawn had 45 crossing guards
- Speed monitoring & surveys via pole mounted radar equipment
- Timed parking enforcement, via the part-time parking officer
- Child seat installations, 30 were performed in 2024. To schedule an appointment for a free install, call the main desk at 201-796-1400 on Wednesdays or Saturdays from 9am-1pm to confirm availability.

HONOR GUARD

The FLPD Honor Guard was formed in 1973, and is currently under the command of Captain Joseph Dawicki. For over 51 years, the Honor Guard has represented both the FLPD and the Borough of Fair Lawn with distinction both locally and regionally in the tristate area and along the eastern seaboard of the United States of America. The Honor Guard serves to memorialize law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, our nation's Veterans, and also for momentous occasions such as police graduations and other ceremonial functions.



FLPD Honor Guard, Memorial Day Parade, 2024

POLICE RECORDS

The FLPD Records Bureau is staffed by two full-time civilian employees and one part-time employee. The records bureau is responsible for maintaining, filing, sorting, storing, and disseminating all records created by the FLPD. This includes all incident reports and related paperwork such as arrest records, photographs, motor vehicle crash reports, property and inventory reports, and all other legal documentation that is required by the State and Federal Government. These documents are requested on a daily basis for the following needs:

- Legal discovery for prosecution & defense
- OPRA requests, 284 fulfilled in 2024
- Municipal, state, and federal agency requests
- Insurance companies
- Involved parties to police incidents

In addition, the Records bureau is tasked with:

- Borough parking pass sale & registry, 731 yearly permits and 90 monthly permits issued in 2024
- Solicitor permit sale & registry, 26 processed in 2024
- Processing 179 citizen reports in 2024
- Record & background checks
- Monthly FBI crime statistic reporting

CLASS III OFFICERS

FLPD Class III Special Police Officers are under the command of Detective Captain Ronald Patterson. They are retired law enforcement officers in accordance with [guidelines](#) from the State of New Jersey Police Training Commission who are tasked with providing security to the Fair Lawn Middle and Elementary Schools. Officers work closely with school personnel to ensure a safe environment for all. The unit has 12 Officers assigned part-time, and each public school is covered on a daily basis.

CLASS I OFFICERS

FLPD Class I Special Police Officers are tasked with providing support to the Police Department in the following disciplines:

- Courtroom security
- Special event security & crowd control
- Weather related emergencies

In 2024, the Class I officers worked hundreds of posts throughout town for a variety of events. Sgt. Eric Eleshewich is in charge of the Class I officers, all 11 of which are assigned part-time.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications handles in excess of 100,000 telephone calls and 9-1-1 calls per year. The volume of radio traffic is even higher. The communications room is staffed 24/7 by five rotating dedicated full-time personnel and supplemented by per diem staff and police officers on occasion. You can count on them to get the officers heading to your situation!



PROPERTY & EVIDENCE FUNCTION

In 2024, the FLPD property & evidence function handled an intake of 373 items of property. One item of property technically may have dozens of items associated to it however. Property ranges from evidence to contraband to confiscated items and found property. The total number of items currently in inventory is 7,174. In addition, there were 687 items removed from inventory and disposed of and 43 items returned to their owners.

FIREARMS APPLICATIONS & PERMITS

The FLPD investigated & processed the following numbers of firearms items:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Total Number</u>
Pistol permit applications	322
Firearms ID applications	176
Carry permit investigations	129
Duplicate ID applications	44

DEPARTMENT NEWS

In 2024, the following was noteworthy:

- In March, Captain Joseph Dawicki graduated the 289th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA, the 4th officer in department history to do so.
- In May, the Department regrettably announced the passing of SPO Class I Nicholas Magarelli Sr.
- PO Boskovski resigned to take a position with the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office in June.
- In August, the FLPD swore in 2 new recruits, Patrick Jablonowski and Vincent Messina to attend the police academy.
- PO Koenemund resigned to take a position with the Paramus Police Department in October.
- In December, the FLPD swore in PO Diosnedy Lanfranco, a lateral transfer from the Paterson Police Department.

JOIN THE FLPD

Interested in joining one of the leading departments in Bergen County? We offer a generous total package to include:

- Academy starting pay of \$49,652 (1-1-2025)
- 424 hours of annual PTO to start
- 4 on 4 off 12-hour patrol schedule
- Enrollment in NJ Police & Firemen's Retirement System & NJ State Health Benefits Plan
- Specialized training and units available
- Participation in regional SWAT and RDF teams
- Education incentive per credit and for Associates, Bachelors or Masters for degrees in Police Science, Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement or Police/Public Administration



File for the NJ Civil Service Commission Exam at
<https://www.nj.gov/csc/jobs/publicsafety>

We also keep resumes on file for Class I, Class III, Dispatch, and Lateral Officers for when there are openings. Send your resume and cover letter to
gcauwels@fairlawnpd.com

THE BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

EEO/Affirmative Action Policy Statement

The Borough of Fair Lawn maintains a strong policy of equal employment for all employees and applicants for employment. The Borough hires, trains, promotes and compensates employees on the basis of personal competence and potential for advancement without regard for race, religion, color, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), parental status, national origin, age, disability, family medical history or genetic information, political affiliation, military service, other non-merit based factors as well as other classifications protected by applicable federal or state laws.

This equal employment opportunity philosophy applies to all aspects of employment with the Borough, including recruiting, hiring, training, promotion, job benefits, pay, dismissal, educational assistance and social and recreational activities.