



2018 Annual Report

Michael H. Robertson
Prosecutor

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MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR, Michael H. Robertson



This 2018 Annual Report of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:17B-111. As Prosecutor for Somerset County, it is my honor to submit this Report to the Honorable Gurbir Grewal, Attorney General for the State of New Jersey. It is further my honor to share the information contained herein with the citizens of Somerset County in order for them to better understand the functions of the law enforcement community as well as the level of professionalism and pride with which the members of this Office, the Sheriff's Office and our local police departments perform their duties.

Since our last "Message from the Prosecutor" we have continued to hire new and talented individuals to join the Office. In January we welcomed back Erin Rocchietti

to take over as our Victim- Witness Coordinator. Erin once served as a victim-witness advocate in the Office but left to pursue an opportunity in the private sector. Upon Debbie McGowan's retirement we were excited to welcome Erin back to take over the position as Victim-Witness Coordinator. I know Erin will do a great job in serving the community in this very important role within the Office. We also welcomed back Christen Piersanti to join our paralegal staff. Christen was formerly an intern with us from Monmouth University. She has since been hired full-time as a paralegal and is doing an excellent job. In the detective bureau we recently hired Detective Robert Hofmann. Robert was a police officer with the Watchung Police Department prior to joining our office. He also served in the United States Air Force prior to becoming a police officer. We welcome Detective Hofmann who is currently assigned to our Narcotics Unit. We also hired Detective Kevin Luckenbach. Kevin was a police officer with the Far Hills Police Department prior to starting with us. Kevin is likewise currently assigned to our narcotics unit, and we welcome him to our office. Victoria Stackhouse was hired this past year as an Intel Analyst. Prior to joining our office she was an intelligence analyst for the Drug Enforcement Administration. Victoria is also an active non-commissioned officer with the New Jersey Army National Guard where she serves with Bravo Company, 150th Assault Helicopter Battalion. Our staff has been increased with the hiring of Mollie Booker and Izabela Da Silva, who have been wonderful additions to our legal staff. Lastly, in June we welcomed Yoana Yakova as an Assistant Prosecutor; she was an Essex County Assistant Prosecutor and brings experience with her. In September we expect to add two additional Assistant Prosecutors to our staff, which we are excited to welcome as we have been extremely busy.

Beginning last spring and as part of an initiative started by the Attorney General, we have been hosting quarterly public events to discuss issues relevant to community policing in the 21st century (the "21/21 Community Policing Project"). The goal of the project is to strengthen relationships between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve – and to address areas of concern before conflicts arise. Each of the County Prosecutors was responsible for organizing one meeting each on the following topics: Investigations of Officer-Involved Shootings; Opioids; Immigration Enforcement; Bias Crimes and Juvenile Justice. Here in Somerset County we held presentations on each of the above topics and they were a great success.

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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Intake Screening
Domestic Violence
Juvenile Unit
Victim-Witness

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Unit
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Internal Affairs Unit
Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force
Polygraph & Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit
Somerset County Emergency Response Teams
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Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit
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Fire Investigation Unit
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On May 8, 2018, we hosted a presentation on police use of force and officer involved shootings. The panelists were Somerset County Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor Brian Stack, Somerset County Police Academy Director Dr. Richard Celeste, and Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Detective Lieutenant David Whipple. The discussion focused on the law concerning police use of force and examples of when police can and cannot use force. Additionally, we discussed the investigation process in instances where officers discharge their firearm that results in a death. This was a well-attended event by members of our community and a very productive conversation ensued. Many of those in attendance found the information to be extremely informative as most of them had little knowledge on when force is permitted by police officers or about the investigative process when a police officer discharges a firearm. The takeaway was that we strive and will continue to strive for transparency when an event like this occurs but there are procedures and processes that must be followed in order to maintain the integrity of these investigations. Again, it was a very insightful and productive event and I appreciate the panelists and those community members who came to have an important discussion.

On July 11, 2018, we hosted a presentation on combating the opioid epidemic in our community. The presenters were Michael McLaughlin - Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor, Ivana Pareja - Alcohol & Drug Coordinator, I.D.R.C. County of Somerset, Department of Human Services, Katherine Abarca - Admissions Recruiter at Raritan Valley Community College, Bill Hinrichs - Substance Abuse Counselor at Guided Life Structures, Angela Cicchino - OORP Program Coordinator (former Recovery Specialist), RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery, Nick Beam - OORP Patient Navigator, RWJBarnabas Health Institute for Prevention and Recovery, and Rocky Schwartz - Family Support Coordinator from Prevention Resources Inc./Prevention Links. This was a great example of the collaboration between law enforcement, human services, RWJBarnabas and other members of our community in an effort to combat this serious and pressing issue that affects everyone in this County and everyone in this State. I appreciate the efforts of all that are working diligently to rid our community of this terrible epidemic.

On November 28, 2018, we held a presentation on Immigration Enforcement and our guest speakers included: Anthony J. Parenti, Jr. - Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor; Matthew S. Boez, Esq. - Detention Attorney, American Friends Service Committee Immigrant Rights Program, Newark, N.J.; Laura Rodriguez, Esq. - LGBTQ/Detention Attorney, American Friends Service Committee Immigrant Rights Program, Newark, N.J.; and special agents with the Department of Homeland Security, Newark, N.J. This was likewise another well-attended event and there was a wealth of information that was provided to those in attendance. This event dispelled a lot of misinformation that several audience members assumed based on either media reports or rumors they heard concerning immigration law. I again appreciate our guest speakers and their willingness to help inform our community about the relevant law concerning immigration.

On January 9, 2019, this Office along with the Hunterdon and Warren County Prosecutor's Offices, the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General/Division of Criminal Justice, the Jewish Federation of Somerset, Hunterdon & Warren Counties, the New Jersey Bias Crime Officers Association and the New Jersey Interfaith Coalition, co-hosted an event at Raritan Valley Community College on learning how to recognize, respond to and report a bias crime or incident. The program focused on identifying bias incidents on a local level and understanding the difference between a bias crime and a bias incident. The event covered the role of community outreach, as it related to local leaders, chaplains, interested community groups and the Human Relations Commissions. It was attended by many members of our community and Attorney General Gurbir Grewal was present and gave opening remarks. This was an extremely informative meeting and at the conclusion of the program, participants shared what they learned with other members of the community in an effort to encourage all to come forward and report bias crimes and incidents as they occur.

On April 17, 2019, we hosted a symposium on juvenile justice. Our presenters were Merrill Mezzacappa - Somerset County Chief Assistant Prosecutor, Lauren Casale - Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor, Richard Oscilowski - CSS2 Vicinage 13 Probation (Somerset Office), Gayle Kaufman - Acting Program Coordinator, Juvenile Institutional Services, Monica Mulligan - Director, Juvenile Institutional Services, Ike Onyejiaka - Program Coordinator for Promises/Journeys, Middle Earth, and Sara Hayes - Coordinator for Station House Adjustment Program, Middle Earth. The respective roles of each agency was discussed at this symposium as well as programs and resources available to juveniles in order to better serve that population of our community. Again, this was a well-attended event and some really useful information and dialogue was had amongst those in attendance.

We will continue to host similar presentations and welcome attendees from law enforcement, civil rights leaders, religious communities and all members of the public. These issues are relevant to all of us and the more dialogue and discussions we are having, the better. Information

PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE

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Fire Investigation Unit
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about these community meetings and other upcoming events can be found on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Somerset-County-Prosecutors-Office> as well as on our Instagram page at <https://www.instagram.com/somersetctyprosecutorsoffice> and our website at www.scpo.net.

Training and keeping up with the relevant updates in the law is something I emphasize consistently. Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor Kimberly French, Paralegal Katelyn Seyler, and Paralegal Maria Ducca hosted a Megan’s Law training seminar on May 20, 2019, at the Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough.

Police officers from Bedminster, Bernardsville, Bernards, Bound Brook, Branchburg, Bridgewater, Far Hills, Franklin Township, Green Brook, Manville, Hillsborough, Montgomery, North Plainfield, Raritan, South Bound Brook, Somerville, and the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office attended.

The first part of the training was presented by Assistant Prosecutor Kimberly French. The training addressed the law with respect to sex offenders and Megan’s Law, with emphasis on the departments’ obligations under the law. The second part of the training was presented by New Jersey State Police Sergeant Jeffrey McGee. Sergeant McGee provided detailed instruction on Offender Watch, the New Jersey Sex Offender module. The training included the functions of the module as well as instruction on the mandatory requirements in utilizing the module. I want to thank everyone who attended and thank the members of this Office for hosting the training.

The Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office along with the Sheriffs’ Office and the Courts on April 25, 2019, once again hosted Bring Your Child to Work Day. It was another great success due to all the efforts of those who planned and prepared for this special day. We once again had members from law enforcement, EMT/EMS, the Fire Department, Sheriff’s Office, and the Court provide a fun and informative day for our kids to show them all the great things we do here each and every day. I want to again thank all of those who participated and thank the New Jersey State Police North Star helicopter crew for arriving in style at ESTA.

In the pages that follow, there are highlights of notable investigations and prosecutions of various cases which were originated or culminated in the past year. It is a testament to the relationship between this office and our local police agencies as well as our state and federal partners. It also highlights the hard work and efforts of the various components that comprise the Legal, Criminal and Administrative Divisions of the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office. Many thanks and appreciation are also to be extended to Attorney General Gurbir Grewal; Senator Christopher “Kip” Bateman, Somerset County Freeholder Brian Levine, who serves as liaison to this Office, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders; Honorable Yolanda Ciccone, Superior Court Assignment Judge of Vicinage 13, and the Judiciary of Somerset County; Michael J. Amorosa, Somerset County Administrator; Chief William Parenti, President of the Somerset County Association of Chiefs of Police, and all of the Chiefs from our municipal police departments; Somerset County Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano; Colonel Patrick Callahan, Acting Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police; the FBI R/A Branchburg field office; and those federal law enforcement agencies with which we have undertaken investigations.



Respectfully submitted,
Michael H. Robertson
 Somerset County Prosecutor



Prosecutor Michael H. Robertson, Chief of Detectives John W. Fodor, along with First Assistant Prosecutor Thomas J. Chirichella, Jr., Chief Assistant Prosecutors, Litigation Advisor, Paralegal Supervisor, Victim-Witness Coordinator, Members of the Investigation Division Command Staff, and the Office Administrator and Office Manager.

Law Enforcement of Somerset County

Michael H. Robertson - Prosecutor
 Thomas J. Chirichella, Jr. - First Assistant Prosecutor
 John W. Fodor - Chief of County Detectives

Chief Karl Rock	-	Bedminster Township
Chief Michael Shimsky	-	Bernards Township
Chief Kevin Valentine	-	Bernardsville Borough
Chief Vito Bet	-	Bound Brook Borough
Chief David Young	-	Branchburg Township
Chief Al Nicaretta	-	Bridgewater Township
Chief Michael DeCarolis	-	Far Hills Borough
Chief Richard Grammar	-	Franklin Township
Chief Samuel Caramela	-	Green Brook Township
Chief Darren Powell	-	Hillsborough Township
Chief Mark Peltack	-	Manville Borough
Capt. Thomas L. Wain	-	Montgomery Township
Chief William Parenti	-	North Plainfield Borough
OIC Steven Ferrante	-	Peapack-Gladstone Borough
Chief Ray Nolte	-	Raritan Borough
Chief Dennis Manning	-	Somerville Borough
Chief Jeffrey Titus	-	South Bound Brook Borough
Chief William Keane	-	Warren Township
Chief Joseph R. Cina	-	Watchung Borough

Frank J. Provenzano - Sheriff
 Supervisory Senior Agent Jason Bevan - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Lt. Charles Schultz - New Jersey State Police - Somerville Station Commander
 Lt. Richard Knochel - New Jersey State Police - Hamilton Station Commander

Municipal Prosecutors

Miles S. Winder, III	Bedminster Township, Bernardsville Borough & Peapack Gladstone Borough
Steven Davis	Bernards Township
John E. Bruder	Bound Brook Borough & Raritan Borough
Christopher S. Bateman	Branchburg Township & Bridgewater Township
Richard Guss	Far Hills Borough, Greenbrook Township, Watchung Borough
Bernice Jalloh	Franklin Township & Millstone Borough
Frank A. Blandino	Hillsborough Township, Montgomery Township, Manville Borough
Frank Puccio	North Plainfield Borough
Raymond J. Stine	Rocky Hill Borough
Robert Janzekovich	Somerville Borough
Dominic P. DiYanni	South Bound Brook Borough
Brent A. Bramnick	Warren Township

PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE

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ROLL CALL

In 2018, Assistant Prosecutor James Lankford retired from the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office after approximately 19 years of service. Detective Herbert Foster also retired in December of 2018 after approximately 14 years of service.

Joining the office in 2018 were: Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Bland, Detective William Seiple Jr., Detective William Perez Jr., Detective Mark Nigro , Victim Advocate Alexandra Wick, Paralegal Christen Piersanti, Data Specialist/Timekeeper Melanie Lee and Legal Secretary Mollie Booker.

Somerset County Prosecutors

William Thompson 1830 – 1840 1852 – 1857	J.D. Bartine 1883 – 1884	Frederick A. Pope 1911 – 1916	John H. Beekman 1941 – 1946	Stephen R. Champi 1972 – 1977
John M. Mann 1840 – 1852	W.V. Steel 1884 – 1896	Azariah Beekman 1916 – 1926	T. Girard Wharton 1946 – 1953	David Linett 1977 – 1982
Hugh H. Gaston 1857 – 1872	Nelson Y. Dungan 1896 – 1901	James I. Bowers 1926 – 1927	Leon Gerofsky 1953 – 1959	Nicholas L. Bissell, Jr. 1982 – 1996
John V. Voorhees 1872 – 1877	James L. Griggs 1901 – 1906	Frances L. Bergen 1927 – 1931	Arthur S. Meredith 1959 – 1965	Wayne J. Forrest 1997 - 2010
James Bergen 1877 – 1883	John F. Reger 1906 – 1911	Clarkson A. Cranmer 1931 – 1941	Michael R. Imbriani 1965 – 1972	Geoffrey D. Soriano 2010 – 2016
				Michael H. Robertson 2016 – 2019

LEGAL DIVISION

I. Purpose:

The Legal Division is responsible for the prosecution of indictable matters from the 21 municipalities of Somerset County and for providing legal advice during investigations through disposition of the matter. It also handles de novo appeals from 20 municipal courts.

Twenty-three (23) Assistant Prosecutors are available to provide legal advice for the County Prosecutor's Office Detective Division and local police departments 24 hours a day. This includes screening cases for legal sufficiency and suggesting further investigation where warranted. Legal services provided include obtaining court orders for evidence. Typical orders are investigative detention orders, search warrants and communication data warrants. Other typical orders are for wiretaps or other electronic surveillance. Assistant Prosecutors obtain many grand jury subpoenas each year to aid in investigations.

Assistant Prosecutors instruct in-service classes at the Police Academy in criminal law and procedures. Assistant Prosecutors also serve on various committees and commissions in the county to address law enforcement issues. Classes and lectures on criminal law are given to various schools, civic groups and religious organizations.

In 2018, Somerset County continued to process cases through centralized screening while continuing the requirements of the recent Bail Reform Act. This process requires a review of every criminal investigation by an Assistant Prosecutor before a complaint charging an indictable offense is filed.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

A. Legal Staff: 22 Assistant Prosecutors

**B. Support Staff: 6 Paralegals
10 Secretaries
Investigative support as required**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

This division is responsible for prosecuting criminal matters in the Superior Court through indictments or accusations. A vertical prosecution system is used. After a case is screened by an attorney, it is assigned to one attorney whose responsibility it is to handle the case through disposition. This includes grand jury presentation, arraignment/status conference, pretrial conference, motions, and trial. Post-conviction and appellate matters are generally handled by the Appellate Section.

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- IV. The Assistant Prosecutor has two primary functions: to provide legal advice, counsel and support to law enforcement during the course of investigations and to prosecute criminal complaints filed through the Prosecutor's Office. The former function involves giving legal guidance during an investigation and providing support in the form of obtaining court orders, wiretaps, search warrants and the like. In addition, legal training for in-service officers is provided. The latter function includes screening complaints, grand jury presentations, and prosecuting indictments through guilty plea or trial.
- V. The Paralegal Unit consists of six paralegals, all of whom hold college degrees. The paralegals work with Assistant Prosecutors to prepare cases for grand jury and trial. Their duties include: follow-up investigation, criminal history and DMV checks, victim/witness contact, preparing speedy trial reports and tracking statistics, coordinating trials with the court, and assisting during trial.

Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor W. Brian Stack

State v. Sahil Ram, Jaylen Folk, and Evan Moore - Indictment No. 16-06-00355-I.

This matter involved three knifepoint gas station robberies that occurred on January 30, 2016. On that date, defendant Moore drove his two co-defendants, Ram and Folk, to three Somerset County gas stations, which they robbed while armed with knives and a club. At 7:20 p.m., the defendants robbed the Bridgewater BP located on Rt. 22 by placing a knife to the attendant's throat and assaulting him. Next, they travelled to the Somerville Shell Station located at West End Ave. at 8:30 p.m. and robbed the attendant by brandishing a knife and punching him in the face. Finally, they travelled to the BP Station located on Rt. 22 East in North Plainfield at 9:45p.m. and attempted to rob the attendant there, but were unsuccessful after the attendant locked the door and called the police. Defendant Folk was apprehended by North Plainfield police after they observed him and defendant Ram casing a fourth station. Defendants Ram and Moore successfully fled the area.

Following an investigation by Det. Sidorski of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and three local police departments, all three defendants were indicted for multiple counts of robbery, weapons offenses and conspiracy. On March 29, 2017, defendant Ram pled guilty to three counts of robbery in exchange for a recommended sentence of eight years in prison, with 85% to be served without parole, pursuant to the No Early Release Act, and agreed to testify truthfully against his co-defendants.

In September, 2018, defendant Moore went to trial, and on October 5, 2018, a Somerset County Jury found Moore guilty of Second Degree Robbery, Second Degree Attempted Robbery, Second Degree Conspiracy to Commit Robbery, and Fourth Degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, following a two week trial in Somerville.

On October 30, 2018, defendant Jaylen Folk pled guilty to multiple counts of robbery in exchange for a recommended sentence of ten years in prison, with 85% to be served without parole.

On December 21, 2018, all three defendants were sentenced by the Hon. Peter J. Tober, J.S.C. as follows: Sahil Ram received seven years in prison, with 85% to be served without parole; Jaylen Folk failed to appear for sentencing and a bench warrant was issued. Evan Moore received 4 years in prison, with 85% to be served without parole.

Assistant Prosecutor Paul Heinzl, Chief Appellate Section

Avram Gottlieb v. Steven Johnson, et al. - Indictment No. 95-06-0267-I

This was a federal petition for habeas corpus for a criminal defendant convicted as the mastermind of a 1995 botched armed robbery of a jewelry store, where the wife of a husband-wife business was shot to death as the robbery scheme went awry. Gottlieb aggressively litigated this matter ever since, resulting in a lengthy trial, protracted PCR proceedings, and now federal habeas corpus, where he filed a 96-page single-space petition, raising scores of claims. This office filed a motion to dismiss the entire petition with prejudice as untimely under the AEDPA's one-year statute of limitations. Gottlieb raised a number of grounds to oppose it, such as "equitable tolling," his being "actually innocent" of the crimes for which he was convicted, or that he could not have discovered the predicates of his claims earlier through the exercise of due diligence. In 2018, the U.S. District Court granted our motion and dismissed the entire petition with prejudice. Thereafter, the Third Circuit denied Gottlieb's request for a certificate of appealability.

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State v. Carlos Martinez - Indictment No. 17-03-110-I

This matter was successfully tried by Assistant Prosecutor Anthony Parenti, where two defendants were found guilty by a jury of Second Degree Robbery of a cab driver, the testimony showing they sprayed him in the face with pepper spray (leaving him temporarily blinded) and threatened to kill him with a scissors while robbing him of \$150.00 in cash. Over the State's strenuous objection, defendant was sentenced to drug court probation. Given the recent published Appellate Division decision in State v. Hyland that precludes the State from appealing a drug court sentence at all, this office filed for direct certification to the New Jersey Supreme Court, asking that it grant the Attorney General's pending motion for reconsideration of the denial of the petition in Hyland given that the absence of review of such sentences cuts against notions of uniformity and that allowing violent robbers into drug court was contrary to legislative intent. That motion for direct certification is pending.

State v. Owen Harshaney - Indictment No. 13-07-387-I

This matter was successfully tried by Assistant Prosecutor Frank Kolodzieski, with defendant found guilty by a jury of Third Degree Arson after he drenched his ex-girlfriend's family home with gasoline and set it ablaze. The conviction was reversed on appeal due to the State's introducing evidence that it obtained a search warrant (CDW) for defendant's phone and that an arrest warrant was ultimately obtained for him. This office filed a petition for certification with the New Jersey Supreme Court, claiming defendant opened the door to all this by attacking the completeness of the investigation, and further urging the Court to recognize such a response as particularly necessary in this time of heightened juror expectations regarding the thoroughness of police work. That petition is pending.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Kathleen P. Holly**State v. Dina Didario-Smith - Indictment No. 18-03-00167-I**

Dina Didario-Smith was charged in Indictment No. 18-03-00167-I with Second Degree Theft by Deception, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-4 and Third Degree Uttering a Forged Instrument, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-1a(3) (Three Counts). Defendant subsequently pled guilty to the entire indictment. In exchange for defendant's plea of guilty, the State recommended five (5) years incarceration which was conditioned upon restitution. The amount stolen was \$203,646.58. The defendant agreed that that was the amount of money that she stole. The State further agreed that all counts should run concurrently with each other and defendant was obligated to make a \$100.00 restitution payment at the time of sentencing.

A summary of the facts that support the charges include the following: between approximately January 1, 2011 and March 10, 2017 in Green Brook Township, while working as a branch manager for Sweatt and Walters Associates, LLC, defendant committed the theft by stealing over \$75,000.00 belong to the company, namely, \$203,646.58. She was an employee for approximately eighteen (18) years. In March of 2017, the owners of the company contacted the Green Brook Township Police Department because they determined that there were forged and altered checks in their business records. Those checks were well in excess of \$75,000.00 and were written out and endorsed by Dina Didario-Smith. The investigation was conducted and the financial records that were obtained revealed that defendant's bank accounts at TD Bank, PNC Bank and Bank of America showed numerous deposited checks of the victims approximating \$133,711.40. Defendant was not authorized to negotiate those checks nor were those checks provided by the owners. Surveillance video did show

defendant on several occasions at the TD Bank depositing checks. She was identified in those surveillance photographs by the victim. Defendant also opened a line of credit without authorization for over \$62,000.00 and made unauthorized purchases and received unauthorized gift cards.

An Ability-to-Pay Hearing was held before the Honorable Peter J. Tober, J.S.C., on November 15, 2018. Defendant acknowledged that the amount of theft was \$203,646.58. However, she contended that she is unable to make that amount of restitution because of her financial situation, claiming that she owned no real property, no car and that she had no savings or investments. Defendant will be entitled to Social Security and does have a small retirement account. Defendant offered the explanation that she gave the money mostly to her son because he had a drug problem and she was paying for rehabilitation and medical expenses. However, the written proof that she provided regarding the money that she sent to her son only totaled a little over \$14,000.00. Defendant was unable to account for the remaining money that was stolen. Dina Didario-Smith was sentenced on November 30, 2018 by the Honorable Peter J. Tober, J.S.C., to five (5) years in New Jersey State prison on the Second Degree Theft by Deception and to three (3) years New Jersey State prison on the three (3) counts of Uttering in the Third Degree. The Court merged those counts into the Theft by Deception count. Defendant was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$150,000.00 payable upon her release from prison. Various fines and penalties were ordered by the Court.

State v. Leonard M. Sabatino - Indictment No. 17-03-00151-I

Leonard M. Sabatino was charged in Indictment No. 17-03-00151-I with First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2a(1), Second Degree Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b and Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1). Defendant pled guilty to Second Degree Sexual Assault and Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child. In exchange for that plea of guilty, the State agreed to dismiss the first degree charge and to recommend that defendant be sentenced to nine (9) years incarceration with 85% to be served without parole on the Second Degree Sexual Assault and to nine (9) years flat, concurrent on the Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child charge. Defendant is subject to Megan's Law.

The facts which substantiate the charges to which defendant pled guilty included the following: Between June 1, 2015 and November 20, 2016 in the Borough of Raritan or the Township of Franklin, County of Somerset, this defendant committed acts of sexual contact with a female child whose date of birth is 11/11/2004 while this child was entrusted to his care; the child would sleep over his house upon occasion. The families knew one another and were close friends. During the time that this child stayed at his residence, he did have the legal duty to care for her. She often referred to the defendant as "Uncle Lenny" and she reported that defendant had touched her private areas to include her chest, her bottom and her front private area. She reported that she was scared and that when she found out she needed to go to his residence again and stay there because her parents were going away, she revealed to her teacher what had happened because she did not want to visit the residence. The child also demonstrated with the anatomical dolls what had occurred to her. The child reported that these acts occurred approximately over one (1) year. Defendant provided a post-Miranda statement and made admissions that he did touch the victim, rub her vagina and that his finger may possibly have penetrated the vagina. Defendant indicated the touching occurred on two (2) separate occasions. Defendant also admitted that it was possible he touched her breasts. Defendant did try to blame the child by saying that the child came on to him and started the activity. Defendant was examined at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Facility Center, and it was determined that his case fell within the purview of the Sex Offender Statute, N.J.S.A. 2C:47-1, thereby enabling the Court to sentence the defendant to the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center at Avenel, New Jersey.

On June 8, 2018, defendant was sentenced by the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., as follows: on Sexual Assault Second Degree defendant was sentenced to nine (9) years at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center for treatment. The Court found that the No Early Release Act applied. On the Second Degree charge of Endangering the Welfare of a Child the defendant was sentenced to nine (9) years pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:47-1 to be treated at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center. Defendant was also sentenced to the provisions under Megan's Law and to various other fines and penalties.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Robert J. Hawkes and Assistant Prosecutor Nicole McGrath**State v. Michael Washington – Indictment No. 18-01-00045-I**

On the evening of October 16, 2017, at approximately 6:23 p.m., Bound Brook Borough Police responded to multiple 9-1-1 calls of shots fired in the area of 34 Church Street. Responding officers located William Roberts, of Center Street, Somerville, New Jersey, a 27 year-old male, suffering from a gunshot wound to his stomach. The police along with emergency medical personnel began life saving measures on Roberts who was then transported to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick where he was pronounced dead. A subsequent autopsy revealed that the projectile had struck Mr. Roberts' abdominal aorta, causing him to bleed to death internally. Detectives assigned to the Bound Brook Borough Police Department and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes and Crime Scene Investigation Units conducted an investigation which revealed that Michael Washington pulled out a handgun, and fired multiple times at William Roberts with one shot striking Mr. Roberts, causing his death.

On June 27, 2018, Washington was found guilty of First Degree Aggravated Manslaughter as a lesser offense of First Degree Murder, Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose and Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun. The guilty verdicts came after an eleven-day trial before the Hon. Kevin M. Shanahan, J.S.C. On October 29, 2018, Judge Shanahan sentenced Washington to 13 years with an 85% parole disqualifier for Aggravated Manslaughter along with a consecutive seven year term for the handgun with a three-and-one-half year parole disqualifier. Defendant at the time of the homicide had another pending charge of Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun under Indictment No. 16-08-00636-I. He had pled guilty to that charge on June 29, 2018. He received another consecutive seven-year term for that handgun with a three-and one-half year parole disqualifier. Defendant's total sentence amounted to 27 years with 18 years and 18 days without parole.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Robert J. Hawkes**State v. David Domanski and Frank Kline – Indictment No. 17-07-00337-I**

On March 26, 2017, an individual entered the Krauszer's convenience store on Sterling Road in Warren Township. He brandished a handgun and demanded money. He even fired the gun once, fortunately hitting no one. He eventually left after getting money from the owners. The individual appeared to be the same person who had committed a similar robbery of a convenience store the month before in Long Hill Township, Morris County. An investigation by the Warren Township Police Department, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office detective division and law enforcement officials in Morris County revealed that Frank Kline was the gunman in both robberies, while David Domanski was his cohort in providing the weapon and in driving Kline to and from the robberies.

Domanski pleaded guilty on August 21, 2018, and Kline pleaded guilty on September 17, 2018, to Second Degree conspiracy to Commit Robbery, First Degree Armed Robbery, Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose and Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun. Under a separate indictment, 17-10-00599-I, Domanski pleaded guilty to Second Degree Certain Persons not to Have Firearms. On November 5, 2018, both defendants were sentenced on the Somerset County matter and on the Morris County matter, to which they had previously pleaded guilty, to 14 years in New Jersey State Prison, with an 85% parole disqualifier pursuant to the No Early Release Act.

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Chief Assistant Prosecutor Merrill Mezzacappa**State v. Craig Lewis - Indictment No. 17-11-00644-I**

Defendant was indicted for three counts of First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault, three counts of Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child and two counts of Second Degree Sexual Assault. Defendant's date of birth is 9/13/1994 and he is a North Plainfield resident. The three victims in this case were siblings of each other, ages 9, 5 and 4. The defendant had contact with the children because he was a family friend. He was staying at their residence in Somerville during the month of August, 2017. The police were initially contacted by the victim's mother; her 9 year old son had disclosed to her that he did not wish to be left alone with the defendant and that the defendant had been sexually assaulting him and his younger sisters. Members of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit, interviewed all three children. Each disclosed acts of sexual abuse perpetrated upon them by the defendant. Indeed the 9 and 5 year old children specifically disclosed sexual penetration. Members of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit interviewed the defendant. The defendant admitted to sexually assaulting the children, to include acts of sexual penetration upon all three children. Defendant indicated he abused the children in order to teach them about sex. On July 31, 2018, defendant pled guilty to three counts of First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault and three counts of Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in exchange for the State's recommendation that he serve 15 years in New Jersey State Prison with 15 years to be served without parole. The Honorable Kevin M. Shanahan, J.S.C., presided over the case. The case is still pending sentencing because we are awaiting a report from the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center.

Assistant Prosecutor John Ascione**State v. Kyell Brown - Indictment No. 17-09-541-I**

Defendant Kyell Brown was indicted for two counts of Burglary, Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, Criminal Mischief, and Obstruction for his actions in an incident that occurred on June 12, 2017. On that afternoon, defendant went to the home of his former girlfriend and hopped the fence into the backyard. The victim and a friend noticed defendant peering into her first-floor bedroom window and called police. Defendant fled, but returned a short time later to the same bedroom window. The victim called police again. As she did, defendant broke the window and attempted to climb into the house. The victim tried to stop defendant from entering. Both received deep cuts from the shattered glass around the window frame. Defendant entered the home. The victim ran from defendant through the house, out the front door, and to a neighbor's home for safety. Inside the victim's house, defendant encountered her friend. There was a brief struggle and the friend noticed defendant was holding a knife. Defendant chased after the victim out the front door. Shortly after, police noticed defendant walking down the street with blood on his pants. Police told him to stop, but defendant ran. Police chased him on foot through several backyards, and soon caught him. The victim and defendant have a prior domestic violence history. Defendant entered a guilty plea to one count of Burglary, Criminal Mischief, and Obstruction. On October 5, 2018, he was sentenced to three years in State Prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Jamin Cooper**State v. Joseph Wright, Azikwa Rustin, Alquan Harris and Ismael Proctor – Indictment No. 18-01-00031-I**

At approximately 4:00 p.m. on October 26, 2017, officers of the Somerville Police Department and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office responded to the area of Center Street and Third Street in Somerville on multiple reports of gunshots fired. Dispatch advised that there were multiple gunshot victims, and a red sport utility vehicle and a white sedan were observed leaving the area. A short time after the officers' arrival, they were advised that an individual later identified as defendant Azikwa Rustin was being treated for a gunshot wound to his buttocks at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Somerset (RWJ Somerset). Officers at the scene in Somerville were also advised that another individual, identified as victim Cecil Jones, called the Franklin Township Police Department and reported that he had been shot in Somerville and that the Dodge Charger bearing N.J. Registration ***JHH he was driving became disabled on Easton Avenue. Detective Sal Martinez of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office observed surveillance cameras on the exterior of the residence at 49 Third Street. The surveillance footage shows defendant Azikwa Rustin and co-defendants Joseph Wright and Alquan Harris arrive to the area of the shooting in a black Audi bearing N.J. Registration ***HBY (Audi) driven by another individual subsequently identified as Ismael Proctor. Rustin, Wright and Harris exit the Audi and move to the rear of 49 Third Street. Rustin, armed with a semi-automatic handgun, is seen standing near some garbage cans at the rear of the residence. Wright and Harris walk over

to a red Chevy Avalanche pickup truck bearing N.J. registration ****JDD (Chevy) which was parked in the rear of 49 Third Street. Wright and Harris enter and rummage through the Chevy. Rustin conceals the handgun in his hooded sweatshirt and walks out to the middle of the intersection of Center and Third Street and speaks to Proctor, who is still driving the Audi. The Audi then makes a right onto Center Street and Rustin walks down Center Street toward the rear of 49 Third Street. Rustin then turns toward Third Street, draws his handgun and begins firing at the Dodge, which is travelling on Third Street towards Center Street. The Dodge loses control as it is being fired upon and crashes into the side of 61 Center Street. Rustin runs towards the vehicle and continues firing. Wright, having retrieved a handgun from the Chevy, runs towards Rustin's location and fires in the direction of the Dodge. One of the rounds fired by Wright appears to strike Rustin in his buttocks. Wright and Rustin then flee to the rear of 49 Third Street. Wright returns to the rear driver side of the Chevy and places something in the vehicle. Rustin hands the handgun he used to Harris. All three defendants ultimately flee on foot. All four defendants were charged with Attempted Murder and Conspiracy to commit same, as well as numerous weapons charges. Rustin, Wright and Harris all pleaded guilty to all weapons charges and the amended charges of Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Assault, Second Degree, and Aggravated Assault, Second Degree. Proctor pleaded guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Aggravated Assault. The defendants were sentenced as follows: Azikwa Rustin, 8 years in New Jersey State Prison with 85% to be served without parole and concurrent 5 years in New Jersey State Prison with 5 years without parole on the Certain Persons Indictment; Joseph Wright, 8 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% to be served without parole and concurrent 12 years New Jersey State Prison with 5 years without parole on the Weapons Indictment; Ismael Proctor, 4 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% to be served without parole; Alquan Harris, 5 years New Jersey State Prison with 85% to be served without parole.

State v. Anthony Dover - Indictment No. 18-09-00576-I

The fifteen year-old related that on June 4, 2018, after school, she met with several friends, including the defendant's nephew. The group went to Green Acres Park where the victim smoked marijuana. After smoking marijuana, the victim started to get a headache and she wanted to go home. She walked to the defendant's house alone to retrieve her book bag. When she knocked on the door, the defendant, who was 44 years old, answered the door and pulled her into the house. She was escorted to a "music studio" in the house, where the defendant rubbed her hand and started to "sweet talk" her. The defendant began kissing the victim's neck and removed her clothing. The defendant grabbed the front of her neck as he performed an act of oral sex upon her. The victim tried to push the defendant off of her, but she felt weak and she was unable to resist the defendant. Then the defendant made her perform an act of oral sex upon him and then penetrated her vaginally. The defendant ejaculated on the victim's stomach area. Afterwards the defendant gave the victim a ride home. Laboratory testing of the victim's clothing revealed the presence of sperm in her underwear. After obtaining a buccal swab from defendant, laboratory testing revealed that the sperm matched defendant's DNA sample. Defendant was ultimately charged with Second Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault and Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Defendant pled guilty on October 24, 2018. Defendant was sentenced on February 8, 2019 to 7 years incarceration in the New Jersey State Prison.

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Assistant Prosecutor Rory Eaton**State v. Mark Nemes - Indictment No. 17-10-00562-I**

This jury trial concerned a charge of Fourth Degree Driving while Suspended in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:40-26b, against defendant Mark Nemes who evaded police and was not arrested or ticketed on the scene. On June 29, 2017, Officer Michael Zangrillo responded to the area of the Weston School in Manville on a report of an intoxicated motorist in the area. While driving northbound on Whalen Street, Officer Zangrillo observed at some distance down the road a landscaping truck matching the general description provided. As the patrol car passed the landscaping truck, Officer Zangrillo was able to observe the driver amidst bright and clear visibility conditions. The defendant drove his truck, which was registered to him, to the curb outside his residence and successfully fled from the area on foot. Officer Zangrillo was able to subsequently identify the defendant using a prior arrest photo taken during defendant's fifth Driving while Intoxicated arrest, and defendant was charged with N.J.S.A. 2C:40-26b for driving during a suspension period resulting from that most recent DWI conviction.

The jury trial focused on the circumstances of Office Zangrillo's identification and defendant's claim that a day laborer he employed operated his landscaping truck on the date of the incident. Over the State's objection, the Court admitted defendant's own self-serving statements to police that the truck was driven by employee "Carlos Rios." Officer Zangrillo also testified, however, that during a telephone conversation regarding the charge defendant asked the officer not to ticket him because he would have to do jail time. A Somerset County petit jury convicted defendant and he was subsequently sentenced to probation conditioned on 270 days Somerset County Jail, to be served consecutively to a 180-day sentence to be served in Middlesex County resulting from a separate N.J.S.A. 2C:40-26b charge.

State v. Nasiyr Peters - Indictment No. 17-12-000691-I

This jury trial centered on defendant Nasiyr Peters' possession of a stolen automobile in Franklin Township three days after it had been carjacked from the victim at gunpoint in New Brunswick. Following issuance of a material witness order authorizing his arrest, the victim testified to the circumstances of the September 3, 2017 carjacking, during which one of four masked assailants placed a black, metallic object against his head and demanded everything he had. The victim, left over ten miles from his home without transportation, reported the incident to the New Brunswick Police Department. Three days later, amidst an unrelated investigation, officers of the SCPO Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force stopped defendant as he approached and opened the door of the stolen vehicle with the key in his hand. At the time of the investigative stop, defendant lied about his identity and stated he obtained the car from his unnamed "girl" he had just visited in a nearby apartment. The female civilian testified that she had only met defendant earlier that day and did not loan or give him the keys to the vehicle, which she knew nothing about. The circumstances of defendant's possession and consciousness of guilt evidence notwithstanding, he was acquitted by a Somerset County petit jury of Third Degree Receiving Stolen Property, N.J.S.A. 2C:20-7a. He ultimately pled open to Disorderly Persons Obstructing the Administration of the Law and was sentenced to fines alone.

Assistant Prosecutor Kimberly Savino French**State v. Hector Suarez - Indictment 17-04-00169-I**

Between September 1, 2015 and January 7, 2016, the defendant forcibly vaginally penetrated G.M., his 11 year-old step-daughter, resulting in her becoming pregnant. He took her to an abortion clinic and forced her to terminate the pregnancy. On January 27, 2017, when G.M. was 12 years old, he held her down and penetrated her anus with his penis. G.M. revealed this second assault to her mother the next day. Her mother confronted the defendant and used her cell phone to record the confrontation. Defendant is heard on the recording repeatedly begging for a second chance.

Defendant was indicted on April 6, 2017 by a Somerset County Grand Jury for two counts of First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2a(1). The case was tried before a Somerset County petit jury. The State filed a motion *in limine* to admit the audio recording of the victim's mother confronting the defendant. Judge Reed denied the motion reasoning that the evidence was unduly prejudicial. The State filed an emergent interlocutory appeal to the Appellate Division. The Appellate Division declined to hear the matter. The State then attempted to appeal that decision to the New Jersey Supreme Court. The New Jersey Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal.

The trial commenced on June 11, 2018. The Honorable Robert B. Reed, P.J.Cr., presided over the trial. During the trial, the State again sought to admit that recording. The State argued that defense “opened the door.” Judge Reed agreed and allowed the State to play the majority of the recording. After 9 days of testimony and after 18 witnesses testified for the State, the defendant entered into a negotiated plea. Pursuant to that agreement, defendant pled to an amended charge of Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a. The plea offer was 10 years New Jersey State Prison, Megan’s Law, and Parole Supervision for Life.

The sentencing took place on September 7, 2018 before the Honorable Peter J. Tober, J.S.C. The defendant filed a motion to be sentenced one degree lower. Judge Tober denied the motion and sentenced the defendant to 10 years New Jersey State Prison, Megan’s Law, and Parole Supervision for Life.

State v. Rahsaan Johnson - Indictment 18-03-00158-I

On one occasion between May 1, 2014 and May 31, 2014, the defendant digitally penetrated his 12 year-old adoptive daughter. The victim never reported the assault and did not want her father to be prosecuted. The assault was reported three years later by members of the defendant’s church. (The defendant confessed to a group of church friends.) The defendant was indicted on March 15, 2018 by a Somerset County Grand Jury for First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2a(2)(c) and Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a.

The defendant entered into a negotiated plea where he pled open to a downgraded charged of Second Degree Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b and to Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a.

Defendant was sentenced on May 24, 2019 to 5 years in New Jersey State Prison subject to the No Early Release Act.

Assistant Prosecutor William Guhl

State v. Jossie Lopez – Indictment No. 17-06-296-II

On October 10, 2018, in the midst of jury selection, defendant entered an open plea of guilty to the charge of First Degree Possession of Cocaine with the Intent to Distribute in connection with a February 2017 investigation and arrest by the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office.

Jossie Lopez, had been charged in February 2017 with First Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute. A trial was scheduled for the week of October 9, 2018 with the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr., J.S.C., presiding. The State was represented by Somerset County Assistant Prosecutor William A. Guhl.

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On February 14, 2017 the Somerset County Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force was conducting a narcotics investigation in the area of Raymond Avenue in North Plainfield. When Detective Kenneth Drews and Sergeant Werner Rodas approached the defendant's car he had a kilo of cocaine stuffed in the waistband of his pants. As he was exiting the car the kilo brick of cocaine was falling out of this waistband and was recovered by detectives. Subsequent testing by the New Jersey State Police Lab confirmed that the substance was cocaine and the weight qualified for a first degree charge. In a post-Miranda statement to Sergeant Mike Guerra, defendant Lopez admitted the cocaine was his and said he intended to use it to make money. An expert report prepared by Detective David Lissner also concluded that the amount of cocaine and the manner in which it was packaged was consistent with an intent to distribute.

Defense counsel filed a motion in the Spring of 2018 to suppress the physical evidence and also a motion to suppress the defendant's statement. In a testimonial hearing before the Honorable Robert B. Reed, P.J.Cr., the detectives testified to the facts of the investigation and the circumstances of the arrest. Following the hearing Judge Reed denied both motions, and he permitted the State to use the evidence and the statement at trial. Jury selection began on October 9, 2018 and was nearly complete on October 10th when the defendant asked to enter an "open" plea to the charge. An open plea means the defendant received no sentence bargain from the State and could face the maximum sentence.

Defendant is facing an extended term First Degree sentence of 20 years to life in State Prison with a parole disqualifier of one-third to one-half of that sentence, due to a prior drug distribution conviction.

State v. Joseph Ereyi – Indictment No. 17-05-243-I

On November 28, 2018 a Somerset County petit jury convicted defendant Joseph Ereyi of Fourth Degree Driving while Suspended following a two-day jury trial before the Honorable Robert B. Reed, J.S.C. (t/a on Recall).

Ereyi had been arrested after Bernards Township Police initiated a motor vehicle stop on Interstate 78 Westbound just before 1 p.m. on February 1, 2017. Defendant's car did not have a New Jersey inspection sticker and the rear license plate was covered in a dirt, or tar-like substance obscuring the numbers and making it difficult for the officer to read the plate.

When Bernards Police Officers Frank Girard and John Mulhall approached the driver, he was evasive with officers and did not produce a driver's license. After a couple minutes of discussion he finally acknowledged his license was suspended, and a check revealed his license was suspended for a second Driving while Intoxicated conviction. Ereyi had been convicted of Driving while Intoxicated in 2014 and again in December of 2016 – just over a month before this incident.

Ereyi was charged with Fourth Degree Driving while Suspended in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:40-26b and a grand jury returned an indictment for that charge. Ereyi filed a motion to suppress the motor vehicle stop which was denied by the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr., J.S.C., following a testimonial hearing where Officers Girard and Mulhall testified.

At trial Ereyi raised a defense of "necessity." He testified that his 3-year old son and the mother of the child had run out of gas on I-78 and he was driving there to render assistance. The officers involved did not recall Ereyi offering this information the day of the stop.

The State was represented by Assistant Prosecutor William A. Guhl. The State argued that even if the story were true, Ereyi and the mother of his child had numerous other "reasonable alternatives" to him committing the crime, and that therefore, this did not rise to the level of "necessity," under the law. They did not call roadside assistance, the police, a friend, a relative or a cab or Uber. On cross-examination Ereyi acknowledged that after his arrest it took one phone call to get a friend to pick up his son and his son's mother – just such an alternative.

The jury returned a guilty verdict after deliberating for just over two hours. Ereyi now faces a mandatory sentence of 180 days in jail without parole.

Assistant Prosecutor Frank P. Kolodzieski, II**State v. Laura Gonzalez - Indictment No. 18-02-00103-I**

On August 16, 2018, defendant Laura Gonzalez was convicted of Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Disorderly Persons Simple Assault following an eight-day jury trial in Somerville, New Jersey. Defendant Gonzalez' conviction stemmed from admitted ongoing acts of child abuse inflicted on a nine-month old infant in her care while she was the victim's nanny. The investigation was commenced after the baby was admitted to the Morristown Medical Center with a right femur spiral fracture, a fractured right tibia and left ankle corner fracture. The child's parents told officials that their child was under the supervision of defendant, their nanny, who they hired through an internet-based service. The State Division of Child Protection & Permanency was initially called and later notified the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. An investigation by detectives in the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit revealed that the aforesaid injuries were inflicted by defendant while caring for the victim. On September 28, 2018, the Hon. Angela Borkowski, J.S.C., sentenced defendant to nine years in State Prison.

State v. Ramon Cadiz - Indictment No. 16-10-00750-I

On October 3, 2018, defendant Ramon Cadiz pled guilty to two counts of First Degree Murder before the Hon. Robert B. Reed, J.S.C. (t/a On Recall). On November 9, 2018, defendant was sentenced by Judge Reed to two consecutive life terms of imprisonment. The homicide investigation was commenced after the Raritan Borough Police responded to First Avenue at approximately 3:15 p.m. on December 11, 2015 regarding concerns for the welfare of the occupants in a residence. Officers entered the residence and proceeded to the second floor master bedroom where they discovered the deceased body of Kimberly Streath, age 15. Officers then cleared from the residence and preserved the house as a crime scene, while obtaining a search warrant. It was determined that Ms. Streath's death was caused by blunt force trauma. Detectives from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes and Crime Scene Units responded to the scene to conduct the investigation, in conjunction with the Raritan Borough Police Department. Detectives also located the deceased body of Kim Streath's mother, Sandra Giuseppe, age 51, on the first floor of the residence. The cause of Ms. Giuseppe's death was determined to be blunt force trauma and ligature strangulation. Defendant was identified as a suspect during the investigation. Defendant was residing with the victims prior to their deaths. He fled the scene in Ms. Giuseppe's Jeep prior to police arrival on December 11, 2015. On December 12, 2015, detectives placed defendant under arrest after he was found asleep in the victim's Jeep parked in North Brunswick, New Jersey. Forensic examination of defendant's cell phone by Somerset County detectives revealed evidence of a deleted suicide note/confession written by defendant after he committed the murders. Defendant has prior indictable criminal convictions for Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Manslaughter, Robbery, Child Abuse, Criminal Sexual Contact, and Wrongful Impersonation.

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Assistant Prosecutor Nicole McGrath**State v. Daniel Suarez - Accusation No. 18-11-00690-A**

In August of 2018, officers from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force were alerted to a rash of burglaries occurring at commercial businesses within Somerset County. In total, five commercial structures, including the Dunkin Donuts and Rendezvous Point Food and Deli in Green Brook, Grove Deli and Global Express Mart in North Plainfield and the Krauzers store in Warren had been unlawfully accessed by an individual who utilized a hammer to break the exterior glass door of the commercial properties. Once inside, the actor stole various items including cash registers with United States Currency inside, lottery tickets, cigars and cigarette packs. During several of the commercial burglaries the actor was captured on video surveillance wearing an identifiable sports shirt with the wording "slacker" and number "00" appearing on the rear of the shirt. The actor further armed himself with a hammer and wore a facemask to disguise his face and gloves to cover his hands.

On September 7, 2018, during the burglary of the Rendezvous Point Food and Deli in Green Brook, the actor was observed by three eyewitnesses exiting the store, after having burglarized same, by crawling through the structure's front glass door that he had previously broken to gain access to the interior of the building. The eyewitnesses called the police and the actor was thereafter arrested and identified as Daniel Suarez. Task Force members subsequently obtained a Superior Court Search Warrant and searches of his vehicle and residence revealed proceeds of the burglaries, to include stolen cash registers, United States Currency and cigarette packs. A search of defendant's vehicle revealed a number of hammers, gloves and face masks. Inside Daniel Suarez' residence, investigating officers recovered the above-mentioned shirt with the wording "slacker" and number "00" appearing on the rear of same.

On November 1, 2018, Daniel Suarez pled guilty before the Honorable Peter J. Tober, J.S.C., to the above-captioned accusation in exchange for a recommended sentence of 5 years New Jersey State Prison, 2 ½ years without parole. Defendant was sentenced on January 4, 2019 to 5 years New Jersey State Prison with 2 years without parole.

State v. Eric Yourish - Indictment No. 18-02-0092-I

In March of 2016, Special Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) responded to the residence of defendant, Eric Yourish, located in North Plainfield, New Jersey, regarding an investigation into the possible possession of child pornography by defendant. Information had been received by the FBI that an I.P. address that returned to defendant's residence had been observed visiting a known child pornography website and possibly downloading images of same. By way of background, the FBI had been monitoring the "Playpen" website on the dark web "Tor" network for a period of time. Through investigation it was determined that the "Playpen" site was a repository for child pornography. Specifically, the "Playpen" website allowed its users to upload, download and distribute images and videos of child pornography. As a result, the FBI obtained a search warrant for the site authorizing the agency to utilize a "network investigative technique" on the server to capture the I.P. addresses of any computer that visited the "Playpen" site. An I.P. address that returned to Eric Yourish's residence had been one such address captured by the FBI's "network investigative technique" on the Playpen website.

In furtherance of the investigation, FBI agents knocked a "knock and talk" at defendant's residence during which defendant agreed to speak with the responding agents and further consented to a search of his computer. A resultant search of same revealed numerous images and videos of child pornography. Defendant admitted that he possessed the images/videos for purpose of his own sexual gratification, namely masturbation.

On October 23, 2018, defendant pled guilty before the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., to the above-captioned Indictment charging one count of Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4b(5)(b). In exchange for defendant's plea of guilty to same, the State agreed to recommend a sentence of probation. The plea agreement further indicated that at the time of sentencing the State will move for the imposition of Parole Supervision for Life. Defendant is pending sentence.

*** All facts stated above were obtained from Public Records

Assistant Prosecutor Annemarie L. Mueller**State v. Silvio Lezcanomallada – Indictment No. 18-04-00245-I**

An investigation was conducted by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office in reference to a sexual assault on a child. The investigation revealed that the 14-year-old victim reported that her uncle, the defendant, Silvio Lezcanomallada, touched her over her clothes on her breasts and her vaginal area outside of her house in the summer of 2016. On another occasion, the defendant pulled the victim onto his lap and held her there. The victim could feel the defendant's erect penis while he was breathing heavily. During a post-Miranda statement, the defendant admitted to touching the victim's breasts and to pulling her onto his lap where she could feel his penis.

The defendant entered a guilty plea on June 4, 2018, before the Honorable Robert B. Reed, then P.J. Cr., now on Recall J.S.C. The defendant pled guilty to Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a (1). The first count of the Indictment, Sexual Assault by Contact, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b, was dismissed as part of the plea agreement. On September 7, 2018, the defendant was sentenced by the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., to 364 days in the Somerset County Jail, Megan's Law, Parole Supervision for Life, No Contact with the Victim pursuant to the Sex Offender Restraining Order, and sex offender specific therapy as recommended by the Avenel evaluation.

State v. Christopher Staikopoulos – Indictment No. 18-07-00433-I

On April 10, 2018, Officer Keith Kilgore of the Bound Brook Police Department was on patrol when he observed the defendant, Christopher Staikopoulos, driving a car with dark window tinting. When Officer Kilgore ran the license plate, the defendant was listed as the registered owner and his driver's license was found to be suspended. The officer activated his emergency lights to conduct a motor vehicle stop and the defendant made a turn without pulling over. The officer then activated his siren. The defendant crossed over the double yellow line into oncoming traffic to pass the cars in front of him. The defendant accelerated to 60 miles per hour in a 25 mile per hour zone passing cars in front of him by crossing into the lane of oncoming traffic. The defendant narrowly missed an accident after he cut in front of a car to make a turn. The defendant sped past parked school buses and bystanders disregarding multiple stop signs. The pursuit was ultimately terminated due to safety concerns. The defendant was arrested in Bridgewater the following day. During a post-Miranda statement, the defendant admitted that he was the driver involved in the pursuit the previous day. The defendant further stated that he fled because he was scared and had marijuana in the car.

On September 14, 2018, the defendant entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., to Eluding, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2b. The defendant also pled guilty to multiple motor vehicle tickets. On October 26, 2018, the defendant was sentenced by Judge Picheca to five years of special probation in Drug Court with an alternative sentence of five years in New Jersey State Prison if he is later terminated from Drug Court. The defendant was sentenced to fines and a six month driver's license suspension on the motor vehicle tickets.

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Assistant Prosecutor Anthony J. Parenti, Jr.**State v. Harry “Nalani” Wilkins & State v. Carlos “Royal” Martinez - Indictment Nos: 17-03-0111-I and 17-03-0110-I**

On February 15, 2018, Harry “Nalani” Wilkins (“Wilkins”) and Carlos “Royal” Martinez (“Martinez”) (“defendants”), were found guilty by a jury after an 11 day trial of Robbery, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1.

The facts of the case show that on November 5, 2016, defendants were at the Clarion Hotel in Franklin Township, New Jersey, and called for a cab to take them from the hotel to the Bronx, New York. When the cab driver, Mr. Joseph Hairan (“Mr. Hairan”) arrived at the hotel, they entered his cab and asked him to drive them to the Bronx. Mr. Hairan told the defendants that the fare was \$160.00.

Defendants told Mr. Hairan that they did not have any money, but that they would have someone pay him when they arrived in the Bronx. Mr. Hairan explained that they could have someone pay the fare by credit card, but that he simply could not drive to the Bronx without being paid in advance. Mr. Hairan called his dispatcher on his cellphone, and gave the phone to Wilkins. When the dispatcher reiterated that they would have to pay in advance, Wilkins became irate and threw the phone on the floor of the cab demanding that Mr. Hairan drive them to the Bronx.

Mr. Hairan became nervous that they were going to rob him and asked the defendants to exit the cab. Wilkins then grabbed Mr. Hairan by his collar, and Martinez got out of the cab and blocked the driver’s door from being opened. Martinez yelled to Wilkins, “spray him take the money”. Wilkins sprayed Mr. Hairan’s eyes with pepper spray, then produced a pair of scissors and threatened to kill him while demanding Mr. Hairan’s money. Mr. Hairan gave Wilkins between \$150.00 and \$160.00 dollars that he had in his shirt pocket. Wilkins took the money, and both defendants ran from the Clarion Hotel towards Weston Canal Road.

Mr. Elsharouny, the clerk of the Clarion Hotel, testified that he heard Mr. Hairan calling out for help and went out to see what was happening. Mr. Elsharouny testified that Mr. Hairan was staggering into the hotel lobby complaining that he was blinded by pepper spray, threatened with scissors, and robbed by two men who were dressed as women. Another guest of the hotel helped Mr. Hairan to the bathroom to flush the spray from his eyes, and then called 9-1-1. Mr. Elsharouny identified both defendants in Court as the persons that stayed at the Clarion Hotel, called for a cab using the hotel phone, and that he saw them enter the cab just before the robbery.

Officer Laurence Bird of the Franklin Police Department was dispatched to the hotel. The clerk told Officer Bird that men matching the description given by Mr. Hairan had been staying at the Clarion in rooms 202 and 229. Police notified surrounding cab companies to be on the lookout for two people seeking a ride to the Bronx. Police searched the rooms and found them in disarray, but no persons were located inside. The Franklin First Aid Squad responded to the hotel and assisted Mr. Hairan in flushing the pepper spray from his face and eyes.

Dispatch notified patrols that a cab company reported that a fare to the Bronx was declined at the Fairfield Inn in Somerset. Police responded to the Fairfield Inn and found defendants in the lobby. Mr. Hairan was transported to the Fairfield Inn and during a show-up identification he positively identified the defendants as the persons who robbed him at the Clarion Hotel. Mr. Hairan also identified defendants in Court as the persons that robbed him.

Defendants were arrested and during a search they were found to possess pepper spray, scissors, Clarion Hotel keys, and \$155.00 dollars in cash.

The jury convicted both defendants of Robbery, Second Degree. The Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., sentenced Carlos “Royal” Martinez to Drug Court Probation over the State’s objection. Judge Picheca sentenced Harry “Nalani” Wilkins to 5 years in New Jersey State Prison subject to the No Early Release Act which requires 85% of the sentence to be served before becoming eligible for parole. Carlos “Royal” Martinez absconded from the drug program and is now a fugitive.

APPELLATE

In 2018, the Assistant Prosecutors in the Appellate Section wrote nineteen responses to petitions for certification. Forty appellate briefs were filed in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Four briefs were filed in the Supreme Court of New Jersey. Additionally, the Assistant Prosecutors in the Appellate Section handled twenty-one excessive sentencing appeals in the Appellate Division.

In the Superior Court, Law Division, twenty-three municipal appeal letter briefs were filed. In eighteen of those matters the municipal court convictions were upheld; three convictions were reversed, two were remanded for further proceedings and six matters were pending at the end of the year.

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INTAKE SCREENING

I. Purpose:

Somerset County continued in 2018 to use central filing and screening of criminal complaints as a method to expedite prosecutions. The Intake Screening Section is responsible for operating the central complaint filing system. This section consists of Assistant Prosecutors and secretaries. (All Assistant Prosecutors assist in screening cases as the need arises). The attorneys screen cases prior to filing a criminal complaint and provide police officers with supervision, legal advice, and direction as to necessary additional investigation. The Assistant Prosecutors decide what charges will be filed. A primary mission of the section is to have all cases in proper order for assignment to the Legal Division for grand jury presentation as soon as possible. This section handles the file until complaints are filed and first appearance is completed. The file is then reviewed by the Chief Assistant Prosecutor and assigned to a trial attorney.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- A. Legal Staff:** **1 Supervisory Assistant Prosecutor**
8 Assistant Prosecutors; others as needed
- B. Support Staff:** **3 Secretaries**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- A. Legal Staff:**
Review and authorize any potential indictable complaints with the investigating officer. Supervise investigative procedures to insure that complaints are signed for proper offenses and that sufficient evidence exists to support such charges. Direct investigations that may be necessary. All Assistant Prosecutors assigned to Intake Screening arrange for the setting of bail, if applicable.
- B. Support Staff:**
Three secretaries with assistance generate all necessary complaints, reports, forms, and make screening appointments. Screening secretaries also type all juvenile complaints and prepare juvenile files.

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IV. Description of unit functions:

A. In general:

Whenever a suspect is arrested on an indictable offense, the police officer will bring the defendant to police headquarters for processing. The arresting officer will then call the Prosecutor's Office (or after hours, the "on call" Assistant Prosecutor) to discuss the case. The Assistant Prosecutor will either direct that the defendant be released to await screening of the case, authorize charges on a summons and the Defendant will be released on his/her own recognizance (ROR) or authorize charges on a warrant and the defendant will be held in the jail pending a first appearance. The defendant will be photographed and fingerprinted as per procedures. There are a few instances where a judge should be called to set bail. The Assistant Prosecutor, if the facts clearly indicate, may suggest that a disorderly persons or petty disorderly persons complaint be filed by the officer directly in the appropriate municipal court.

If the decision is made to call the judge, the Assistant Prosecutor will call the on-call Superior Court Judge and request that bail be set. When bail is set, the judge will make a determination of whether probable cause to arrest exists. The Assistant Prosecutor will then provide the officer with the bail information. If the defendant appears to be able to make bail, a reasonable opportunity will be given to him/her to do so. If, after a reasonable opportunity, the defendant cannot make bail, the defendant is transported to the Somerset County Jail. The arresting officer(s) will inform the jail of the bail that has been set. A Notice of First Appearance is prepared which includes the name of the Assistant Prosecutor authorizing lodging.

If the defendant is in jail, it is the duty of the arresting officer to send all investigative reports and the affidavit of probable cause via email to the Prosecutor's Office by 7:30 a.m. the day after the arrest or by the next business day if the arrest occurs on a weekend or a holiday. If the defendant is released, either with or without bail, the arresting officer will still email all materials by 7:30 a.m.

During the screening process it is the duty of the Assistant Prosecutor to insure that a complaint is signed for an offense supported by the evidence. Additionally, the screening Prosecutor provides legal advice and investigative direction to the officers. A detective from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office will sign complaints on behalf of the complaining officer for juvenile complaints.

B. Screening Policies:

The following are the general policies of the Intake Screening Section regarding screening potential indictable complaints:

1. Authorize criminal (indictable) complaints only when investigation, including required reports, is complete, or almost complete, and the facts and circumstances mandate an indictable charge.
2. Decline cases where further investigation is required until that investigation is completed, or when no charge is appropriate. Declined cases are filed and recorded in screening.
3. Authorize downgrade charges in cases where the Assistant Prosecutor decides that municipal court action will provide the most appropriate disposition. Cases that are initially downgraded are filed and recorded in screening.

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C. Citizen Complaints:

Citizen complaints are made either by telephone or a personal visit to the office. The following are general types of citizen complaints that have often been addressed:

1. Non-criminal matters often relating to governmental agencies;
2. Complaints against police officers;
3. Complaints by emotionally disturbed persons;
4. Complaints regarding personal or business disputes;
5. Disorderly persons complaints where the citizen disagrees with local law enforcement action.

It is the policy of this office that citizen complaints should first be referred to the local police department. An officer should make a preliminary report prior to contacting this office. In no case should a citizen simply be referred to our office by the local department without any initial investigation by the department.

D. File Flow through the Screening Process:

1. A screening memo is completed by a screening attorney indicating what is required to complete the file.
2. A letter is sent by mail or fax to the specific local department Chief describing follow-up investigation needed which is to be completed within a 10-day period.
3. Complaint is docketed by screening secretary and referred to computer supervisor for input into the Promis/Gavel System. All future events are scheduled through the Promis/Gavel System.
4. File is returned to screening room for opening and first appearance.
5. The file is forwarded to the Chief Assistant Prosecutor for attorney assignment and a Grand Jury date.
6. Additional reports received are presented to the computer operator for Promis/Gavel log-in. Reports are then returned and included in the file, if in screening. If the file is not in screening, the reports are given to the paralegal assisting the assigned attorney.
7. Files will remain in the Intake Screening Section until first appearance.
8. All out-of-state fugitive files are given to the Assistant Prosecutor who authorized the charge(s). The Fugitive Unit notifies the Assistant Prosecutor when the fugitive leaves the Somerset County Jail. The file is returned to screening for administrative dismissal when the defendant is picked up by the requesting authority.
9. The Fugitive Unit is notified when bench warrants are requested by the screening attorney and issued by a Superior Court Judge. The Fugitive Unit is given a copy of the complaint and necessary information to open a fugitive file.

**Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Intake Screening Review
2018**

Month	Cases Screened	Cases Accepted	Cases Not Accepted	Defendants Accepted	Complaints Accepted
JANUARY	96	56	40	65	107
FEBUARY	102	54	48	63	113
MARCH	87	55	32	63	113
APRIL	112	64	48	73	110
MAY	91	40	51	42	95
JUNE	103	55	48	78	129
JULY	98	56	42	60	136
AUGUST	117	63	54	63	140
SEPTEMBER	76	28	48	34	83
OCTOBER	86	46	40	57	113
NOVEMBER	89	33	56	37	114
DECEMBER	42	17	25	35	118
Total:	1,099	567	532	670	1,371

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I. Purpose:

The Assistant Prosecutors assigned to this section are responsible for prosecution of all disorderly persons contempt complaints, including trials, plea negotiations, weapon forfeiture applications, weapon forfeiture hearings, and legal advice to police regarding domestic violence matters. The Assistant Prosecutors prosecute those contempt and forfeiture cases to completion. They are also responsible for making recommendations for sentencing.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- A. Legal Staff:** **1 Supervisor (Chief Assistant Prosecutor)**
4 Assistant Prosecutors
- B. Support Staff:** **1 Paralegal**
1 Secretary
1 Victim-Witness Advocate, assigned to DV Superior Court cases and to DV municipal court cases in certain designated municipalities.

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- A. Legal Staff:**
The Assistant Prosecutors assigned to this section are responsible for prosecution of all disorderly persons contempt complaints, including trials, plea negotiations, and sentencing. They are also responsible for weapon forfeiture applications, weapon forfeiture hearings, and legal advice to police regarding domestic violence matters.

B. Support Staff:

The Paralegal is available to assist the Assistant Prosecutor regarding collection of discovery, trial preparation and trial where necessary.

The Victim-Witness Advocate contacts the victims prior to arraignment to explain the case process. Any additional information learned during those conversations is relayed to the Assistant Prosecutor handling the case. The Victim-Witness Advocate addresses any concerns the victims may have and refers them to special programs, when necessary. The Victim-Witness Advocate also attends court proceedings and keeps the victims updated as the cases proceed.

The Secretary opens contempt and weapon forfeiture files, obtains criminal histories and sends discovery when necessary. The Secretary keeps track of the court's calendar regarding scheduled domestic violence matters and weapons forfeiture. The Secretary also sends subpoenas to the witnesses.

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

This unit is responsible for the prosecution of all disorderly persons domestic violence contempt complaints and weapon forfeiture applications and hearings. Upon receiving a contempt file, an Assistant Prosecutor reviews the facts and charges, and makes a determination as to what additional investigation is required. Once counsel has been assigned, the Assistant Prosecutor will issue a plea offer and engage in plea negotiations. If the plea offer is not accepted, the Assistant Prosecutor will prepare for trial and try the matter. The Assistant Prosecutor will handle the sentencing.

Upon receiving a weapon forfeiture file, an Assistant Prosecutor reviews the facts and determines whether an application to forfeit the weapon is appropriate. If such application is made, the Assistant Prosecutor will prepare the appropriate pleadings. The Assistant Prosecutor will then prepare for and handle the weapon forfeiture hearing.

This unit provides legal advice and guidance to local police departments concerning all domestic violence related issues.

V. Operations and activities, including highlights are as follows:**General Overview of the Domestic Violence Contempt Process:**

Domestic violence cases originate in the local police departments. The local police department is responsible for charging and filing contempt complaints. The complaints and accompanying police reports are then forwarded to the S.C.P.O. for prosecution. Once the case is received at the S.C.P.O., a file is opened and an Assistant Prosecutor is assigned the case. The Family Court assigns court dates where the case proceeds to court. There it is either dismissed, resolved by way of a plea or tried.

The Honorable Bradford Bury, J.S.C., presides over the disorderly persons domestic violence contempt calendar. All matters are scheduled weekly on Thursdays beginning at 1:30 p.m. The first appearance is similar to a criminal arraignment. At this time, the charges are read, the defendant enters a “not guilty” or “guilty” plea, the plea offer is put on the record, and in cases where a “not guilty” plea was entered, the case is assigned a trial date. On or before the day of trial, the defendant may enter a guilty plea or proceed to trial. Immediately after entry of a “guilty plea” or a finding of guilt after trial, the judge will sentence the defendant.

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Goals for the Domestic Violence Unit, 2018:

One of the goals of the Domestic Violence Unit is to maintain the current status of moving cases through the Family Court in an efficient and expeditious manner. Additionally, it is this unit's goal to continue in our efforts of training the local police in the area of domestic violence.

General Highlights:

The Supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit attends important meetings with various professionals, both on the County and the State level, concerning issues of domestic violence and communicates those issues to others within the unit and within the municipal police departments. The Supervisor of the Domestic Violence Unit is the point of contact for all police officers in Somerset County for Domestic Violence related questions.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is also represented at the quarterly Somerset County Working Group meetings and at the quarterly Attorney General Domestic Violence Unit Chiefs meeting by the Supervisor of the unit.

This unit provides in-service training to police officers in the area of Domestic Violence.

JUVENILE UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Assistant Prosecutors assigned to this section are responsible for the prosecution of all juvenile complaints. They also provide legal advice to the police regarding juvenile matters. The attorneys determine whether to charge, decline or divert a case and they prosecute charged cases to completion. They are responsible for making recommendations for disposition of cases, including transfer to another jurisdiction, stationhouse adjustment, deferral, plea, trial or waiver.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| A. Legal Staff: | 1 Supervisor (Chief Assistant Prosecutor)
4 Assistant Prosecutors |
| B. Support Staff: | 1 Paralegal
1 Secretary
1 Victim-Witness Advocate |

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

A. Legal Staff:

The Assistant Prosecutors screen cases with various police departments, authorize appropriate charges as well as determine potential pre-trial disposition of cases. The Assistant Prosecutors represent the State at weekly plea hearings, preliminary hearings, trial conferences, detention hearings, disposition hearings and waiver hearings that involve transfer of jurisdiction to the Law Division. The Assistant Prosecutors prosecute those cases that proceed to trial.

B. Support Staff:

The Paralegal assists the Assistant Prosecutor in handling a given case by making sure the case is complete and contains all necessary police reports and related information. The Paralegal will also accompany the Assistant Prosecutor at trial.

The Secretary opens files and tracks their progression, inputs information into the juvenile module of the Infoshare Computer Case Management System and copies and forwards discovery to Family Case Management and defense attorneys. The secretary also subpoenas witnesses where necessary.

The Victim-Witness Advocate contacts the victims prior to court proceedings to explain the case process. Any additional information learned during those conversations is relayed to the Assistant Prosecutor handling the case. The Victim-Witness Advocate addresses any concerns the victims may have and refers them to special programs when necessary. The Victim-Witness Advocate also attends all court proceedings and keeps the victims updated as the cases proceed.

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

This unit is responsible for the disposition of all juvenile complaints. Upon receiving a file concerning a juvenile, an Assistant Prosecutor reviews the facts along with the arresting agency and makes a determination of the appropriate charges. The Assistant Prosecutor also assists the agency in determining whether to contact Family Case Management for detention. If charges are filed, the case is then prepared for appropriate disposition, such as transfer, deferral, plea, trial or waiver. This unit also provides legal advice and guidance to local police departments concerning all juvenile related issues.

V. Operations and activities of the Juvenile Unit for 2018:**General Overview of the Juvenile Process**

Juvenile cases primarily originate in the local police departments. Generally, after law enforcement's contact with a juvenile, the police reports are sent to the S.C.P.O. for formal screening of charges. The S.C.P.O. policy requires the police to send copies of their reports to this office within three days. Some complex cases, however, may take more time. Once the reports are received at the S.C.P.O., a file is opened and an Assistant Prosecutor reviews the file for appropriate disposition. S.C.P.O. policy requires that most cases be screened by an Assistant Prosecutor within five (5) days of receipt by that attorney. After the case is screened, if charges are authorized, a complaint is signed and discovery is sent to the Family Court. The Family Court assigns a date and the case is scheduled for the first appearance. Approximately one week later, the case proceeds to a preliminary hearing and if the juvenile does not enter a guilty plea, the matter is scheduled for trial. Although there are several other paths a juvenile case can take, this is among the most common.

The Honorable Bradford Bury, J.S.C. hears most juvenile cases. Weekly, the attorney for the State and the juvenile's attorney appear for the juvenile's first appearance, preliminary hearing or disposition. The first appearance is similar to adult arraignment. At this time, the charges are read, the juvenile enters a "not guilty" plea, the plea offer is put on the record, and the case is assigned a preliminary hearing and trial date. At the preliminary hearing, if the juvenile does not change his or her plea to guilty, discovery and motion issues are discussed and an order is entered concerning the disposition of any pre-trial issues. Generally, all juvenile motions are heard on the day of trial. At the conclusion of the trial, if the juvenile is adjudicated delinquent, he or she proceeds to disposition. At disposition, the Judge sentences the juvenile.

Juvenile trials are scheduled for Wednesdays each week. On average, 5-10 juvenile cases are listed for trial each week. Of these listed trials, few proceed to trial. Most cases are resolved without the necessity of trial. In the juvenile justice system, the focus is on methods of rehabilitation where appropriate.

General Highlights

The Supervisor of the Juvenile Unit attends important meetings of various professionals, both on the County and the State level, concerning issues pertaining to Juvenile Justice.

This unit provides in-service training to police officers to update personnel on the relevant case law in the area of Juvenile Justice.

VICTIM-WITNESS

I. Purpose:

County Offices of Victim-Witness Advocacy were established in 1985 to ensure the rights of crime victims as stated in the Crime Victims’ Bill of Rights (N.J.S.A. 52:4B-36 amended 10/6/2012) with the primary focus to inform crime victims and witnesses of the criminal justice process, advise victims and witnesses of case progress and final disposition and ensure that victims are treated with dignity and compassion by the criminal justice system.

II. Personnel assigned to the unit:

Deborah McGowan
Bobbi Mowery
Victoria Sferra
Alex Wick
Ileana Cosme

Coordinator
Victim Advocate (part-time)
Victim Advocate
Victim Advocate
Secretary

Student Interns

3 student interns volunteered 406.5 hours to Victim Witness Unit activities

III. Data Collection for Victims Services and the Number of Victims by Crime Type

Victim-Witness staff enter victim services data in the Victim Services tab in the Info Share computer program. The data collected is reported on a quarterly basis to the Department of Justice via the Office for Victims of Crime Performance Measurement Tool (PMT).

- Number of unduplicated victims provided direct services: 2,167
- Number of direct services provided to victims: 8,372

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IV. Services Provided:

In accordance with the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights as well as the Attorney General's Standards to Ensure the Rights of Crime Victims, staff in the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy is required to provide the following specific services to crime victims/victim survivors and witnesses:

- Crisis intervention and emotional support
- Criminal justice advocacy/support i.e.:
 - Criminal justice orientation and information
 - Inform victims of their rights within the criminal justice system
 - Case status information
 - Assistance completing victim impact statements
 - Referrals for counseling and support services
 - Information concerning transportation, parking and courthouse location
 - Child care
 - Information and assistance in filing claims with the Victims of Crime Compensation Office
 - Assistance in applying for restitution
 - Employer/creditor/school intercession
 - Court accompaniment
 - A secure, but not necessarily separate waiting area in the courthouse
 - Assistance with the return of property
 - Information and assistance regarding the NJ VINE system
 - In sexual assault cases, assistance in obtaining HIV/AIDS testing results of the defendant
 - Assistance with the Parole Board victim input process

V. Case Status - Letter Notification

The Victim-Witness Unit secretary Ileana Cosme sends (via email and mail) victim and witness case status letters, case specific Victim Impact Statements and Plea Negotiation Forms generated from InfoShare. Ms. Cosme also hand-generates the following letters to victims and witnesses: pre-grand jury remand/decline, inmate parole eligibility/release, parole denial notification, release at maximum time served, fugitive arrest, change in Krol status, consideration of inmate community release application, release to ISP, Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team charge decisions, condolence letters and VINE letters. During 2018, 19,682 case status letters, both InfoShare and hand-generated were mailed/emailed to crime victims and witnesses. In 2018, 205 case status letters were mailed to victims involved in the juvenile justice system. Thirty case notification letters were generated and mailed for victims of crimes committed by defendants who are eligible for drug court.

VI. Victim-Advocate Accompaniment

In addition to providing court accompaniment at criminal and juvenile court trials, status conferences, sentencing hearings, Krol hearings and motions in the criminal court, advocates also accompany victims at trial-prep meetings with the Assistant Prosecutors, during conference calls with Assistant Prosecutors, juvenile court hearings, with domestic violence victims in municipal courts as well as in family court at weapon forfeiture and contempt hearings.

In 2018 Victim Advocate Victoria Sferra provided accompaniment for victims of domestic violence in Hillsborough (Montgomery and Manville cases held), Watchung (North Plainfield cases held), Raritan, Franklin, Bound Brook, Bedminster, Bridgewater (Somerville cases held) and Bernards Township municipal courts. In 2018 Victim Advocate Victoria Sferra assisted 61 victims of domestic violence through accompaniment and advocacy services at municipal court hearings.

VII. Training Conducted by Advocate Staff:

- April Deborah McGowan provided an overview of victim services/rights information at a criminal justice internship class at Rutgers University
- May Deborah McGowan provided information about victim services/rights to State Police recruits
- May Deborah McGowan provided information about victim services/rights to Zufall sexual assault response team trainees
- August Deborah McGowan provided information about victim services/rights to attendees at the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office summer internship series

VIII. Crime Victims’ Rights Week Program

The New Jersey Victim-Witness Coordinators’ Association, which is a statewide committee comprised of the Victim-Witness Coordinators from each of New Jersey’s twenty-one counties, has partnered with the County Prosecutors’ Association of New Jersey to sponsor a statewide speaker series on sexual assault for National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Victoria Sferra and Deborah McGowan attended; the keynote speaker was Jeffrey Bucholtz from "We End Violence."

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The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Criminal Investigation Division is headed by the Chief of Detectives and the Deputy Chief of Detectives who oversee the following:

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION:

- Major Crimes Unit
- Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Unit
- Special Investigations Unit
- Insurance Fraud Unit
- Internal Affairs Unit
- Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force
- Polygraph & Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit
- Somerset County Emergency Response Teams

OPERATIONS SECTION:

- Fugitive Task Force
- Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU) & Ballistics Laboratory
- Criminal Intelligence Section (CIS)
- Burglary Task Force
- STOPit
- Crime Stoppers
- Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit
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MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Major Crimes Unit (1 Sergeant and 2 Detectives) investigates crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults and armed robberies. The Unit works with and assists the state, local and other county agencies throughout Somerset County with a wide array of criminal investigations. The Major Crimes Unit opened 66 criminal investigations resulting in 24 arrests. Three homicides occurred in Somerset County during 2018. The Unit also investigated aggravated assaults and armed robberies. The Unit investigates all unsolved homicides throughout Somerset County as well as any suspicious deaths and suicides.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A. Investigative Staff: | 1 Captain (Commander of CID)
1 Lieutenant (Deputy Commander of CID)
1 Sergeant (Commander of Major Crimes Unit)
2 Detectives |
| B. Legal Staff: | 1 Assistant Prosecutor – Primary
1 Assistant Prosecutor – Secondary |
| C. Support Staff: | 2 Clerical (shared) |

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| A. Legal Staff: | Provides legal supervision of investigations in preparation for prosecution and provides legal advice as needed. |
| B. Investigative Staff: | The Sergeant commands the unit members who are on-call 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week to respond to investigative Major Crime incidents throughout the County. |
| C. Support Staff: | Shares clerical and data entry responsibilities. |

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IV. Investigations, activities and accomplishments for 2018:

In 2018, the Major Crimes Unit opened 66 criminal investigations, which resulted in 24 arrests. Included among those cases were:

- 2 Homicide investigations
- 28 Death investigations
- 2 Official Misconduct
- 1 Terroristic Threats
- 1 Carjacking
- 2 Attempted Murders
- 3 Burglaries
- 1 Bomb Threat
- 1 Human Trafficking
- 3 Missing Persons
- 5 Robberies
- 1 Bank Robbery
- 1 Arson
- 7 Miscellaneous
- 3 Prohibited Devices or Weapons

The Major Crimes Unit tracked 8 suicides, 36 drug related overdose deaths, 405 unattended deaths, and is actively investigating 10 cold case homicides within Somerset County.

V. Case Highlights for 2018:**Case #1 – Carjacking**

On November 28, 2018 at approximately 12:30 a.m. a detective from the Major Crimes Unit responded to the North Plainfield Police Department regarding a reported Carjacking which had occurred. During the course of the investigation it was learned that two females had been carjacked by four males wearing black masks. Responding patrol officers located three male juvenile suspects in the area and transported them to the North Plainfield Police Department. As a result of the investigation three juveniles were charged with Carjacking.

Case #2 – Murder

On August 19, 2018 at approximately 2:18 a.m. the North Plainfield Police Department responded to the area of 11 Grove Street, North Plainfield, N.J. for a homicide. Upon the arrival of patrol officers and detectives from the Somerset County Major Crimes Unit it was learned that Nelson Noe Garcia Lopez, age 25, of North Plainfield, N.J. had been stabbed to death.

During the course of the investigation Oscar Baqueeano-Martinez, age 23 of Plainfield, N.J., Cesar Carcamo-Ortega, age 24 of Plainfield, N.J., Patricio Piruch-Nekta, age 25 of Plainfield, N.J., and Nelson Aguilar-Lopez, age 20 of Plainfield, N.J. were all charged with Murder. Gicsy Galindo-Acosta, age 22 of Plainfield, N.J. was charged with Hindering and Alder Juarez, age 22 of Plainfield, N.J. was charged with Assault. These individuals were lodged in the Somerset County Jail and the matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

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SEX CRIMES & CHILD ABUSE UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for investigating and preparing for prosecution investigations involving the physical or sexual abuse of children and sexual assault cases involving adult victims throughout the County. In addition to the primary role of investigating and prosecuting these offenses, the Unit takes an active role in providing education and training to local law enforcement agencies, parent groups and various civic organizations.

II. Number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. Legal Staff: | 1 Assistant Prosecutor assigned as Supervisor of the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit.
Other Assistant Prosecutors assigned to advise and prosecute as needed. |
| B. Investigative Staff: | 1 Captain (Commander of CID)
1 Lieutenant (Deputy Commander of CID)
1 Sergeant
3 Detectives |
| C. Support Staff: | 1 SANE Coordinator
Victim-Witness Unit
Shared Secretary
Shared Data Entry |

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

A. Assistant Prosecutors:

The unit legal supervisor reviews all cases and provides supervision and legal support on a daily basis.

B. Investigative Staff:

The Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit has a Captain and a Lieutenant who oversee the Criminal Investigation Division and a Sergeant who commands the unit of three detectives. The staff is on-call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and provides direction and assistance to the local police, the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), and any member of the public reporting a sexual assault and/or a child abuse allegation. They conduct complete investigations, including the interview of victims, witnesses and suspects.

C. Support Staff:

The Victim-Witness Unit provides support and referral services. Shared secretarial and data entry responsibilities.

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

The Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit is a reactive, investigative unit. Upon receiving a complaint from the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCP&P), a police agency, or any other source, the unit reviews the data received, and takes the appropriate action.

This action could include immediate response by investigative unit personnel, or the matter may be referred to a municipal police department or other law enforcement agency for investigation. In cases where the victim is a child and the alleged suspect is a parent or caretaker the matter is also referred to DCP&P, or one of their subdivisions (e.g., the Institutional Abuse Unit). Upon completion of the investigation, the facts are screened with an Assistant Prosecutor and a determination is made regarding prosecution of the case.

In physical or sexual abuse investigations dealing with children, DCP&P or the local police usually refer cases. Additionally, but to a lesser degree, our office receives cases reported to us directly. A case file is opened as warranted and the victim is then interviewed as soon as possible. In cases when the victim is very young or has developmental disabilities, the interview is usually recorded on videotape. In all cases, if a complaint is substantiated through investigation, the case is processed and forwarded to the legal staff for prosecution.

V. Investigations, activities, and accomplishments for 2018:**Investigations:**

- 109 referrals were processed in the unit and assistance given to local police, DCP&P and the Institutional Abuse Unit;
- There were also 75 additional referrals that resulted in an investigation conducted by the Prosecutor's Office;
- 18 of the 75 cases resulted in arrests;
- One bilingual detectives remain in the unit out of a total of 3 investigators; and
- There have been 37 adult/adolescent Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activations plus 2 pediatric cases for the year.

Megan's Law:

- There were 76 sex offenders served with Megan's Law Tier Notification as well as schools, daycare centers and community agencies being given Megan's Law Notification.

Education and Training:

- The unit continues to provide countywide training for police, dispatchers, rape care advocates, DCP&P, Institutional Abuse and Robert Wood Johnson Hospital at Somerset medical staff on procedures for investigating sex crimes and child abuse;
- The unit continues to provide in-service training to police officers within the County and State on the process of investigating sex crimes and child abuse.

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Milestones Met in 2018:

- The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office maintains a seat as Chair on the executive board of the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association (NJSCOA);
- The unit is a member of the Somerset County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and meets once a month to discuss and resolve cases.

46 new cases were reviewed by the County MDT in 2018.

- The unit meets quarterly on the Sexual Response Team Advisory Board to discuss countywide Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activations and discuss ways to improve the program.
- 6 Forensic Nurses – Certified in Sexual Assault (FN-CSA) are on staff/on- call to respond to Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activations.
- 6 SANE nurses have completed certification to conduct pediatric examinations.

2018 Case Summaries:

- In December of 2018, police received a report that a 4-year old female was physically assaulted by Queendalene Anukan. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit interviewed the victim. Anukan was subsequently was arrested and charged with Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child.
- In August 2018, the Division of Children Protection and Permanency contacted the Prosecutor's office stating that they had received a report of sexual abuse of an 8-year old female by Manuel Rodriguez, a family friend. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit conducted and interview with the 8- year old victim. Manuel Rodriguez was interviewed and admitted to sexually assaulting the child. Rodriguez was arrested and charged with one count of Second Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault and one count of Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

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SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) handles all cases involving official corruption, government integrity, high profile white-collar crimes (over \$75,000.00 loss), insurance fraud, environmental crimes, illegal documents, bias and hate crimes, computer crimes, technical services and background investigations.

In 2018, the Special Investigations Unit handled a total of 125 cases (refer to year end reports for insurance fraud and computer crimes units for individual statistics).

Investigations conducted by the Special Investigations Unit during 2018:

Criminal Investigations:	125
Arrests:	18
Background Investigations:	17

II. Number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- A. Legal Staff:** 4 Assistant Prosecutors
- B. Investigative Staff:** 1 Captain (Commander, Criminal Investigative Division)
1 Lieutenant (Deputy Commander, CID)
1 Sergeant
6 Detectives
1 Criminal Analyst
- C. Clerical Staff:** 1 Secretary

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

A. Investigative Staff:

Nine (9) investigative personnel staffed the SIU in 2018: a Captain and Lieutenant who oversaw the Criminal Investigations Division and a Sergeant who commanded the unit of seven (7) Detectives and (1) Criminal Analyst.

B. Legal Staff:

Legal guidance was provided on a case-by-case basis by four (4) Assistant Prosecutors assigned as legal advisors: one for insurance fraud matters, one for general investigations, one for both Bias and Hate Crimes and Environmental Crimes and one for computer related crimes.

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IV. Highlighted Cases:

The Special Investigations Unit charged the following individuals in 2018:

Case #1

On October 11, 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Special Investigations Unit was contacted by Somerset County Social Services regarding a fraud involving food stamp benefits in excess of \$56,000.00. During the course of the investigation Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Investigators identified suspects Alejandra Pastuna, age 28 of Green Brook, N.J. and Jorge Pastuna, age 33 of North Plainfield, N.J.

On May 14, 2019 Alejandra Pastuna and Jorge Pastuna were arrested and charged with Forgery and Theft By Deception. The matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

Case #2

On April 10, 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Special Investigations Unit was contacted by a male victim who reported that he was being extorted by a female named Adrianna Smith, age 20 of Holyoke, Massachusetts with whom he had had a sexual relationship. The victim reported that Smith had threatened to expose their relationship if she was not compensated financially. Over a period of time the victim provided Smith with cash in exchange for her silence.

On August 7, 2018 a complaint warrant was signed for the arrest of Adrianna Smith charging her with Extortion. Adrianna Smith is currently a fugitive.

INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Insurance Fraud Unit (IFU) handles all cases involving insurance fraud related matters in Somerset County. In the year 2018, the Insurance Fraud Unit handled a total of 16 cases.

Investigations conducted by the Insurance Fraud Unit during 2018:

Criminal Investigations:	16
Search Warrants:	0
Arrests:	5

II. Number of personnel assigned to section or unit:

A. Legal Staff:	1 Assistant Prosecutor
B. Investigative Staff:	1 Captain (Commander, Criminal Investigative Division) 1 Lieutenant (Deputy Commander, CID) 1 Sergeant 3 Detectives 1 Criminal Analyst
C. Clerical Staff:	1 Secretary

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

A. Investigative Staff:

Seven (7) investigative personnel staffed the IFU in 2018: a Captain and Lieutenant who oversaw the Criminal Investigations Division, and a Sergeant who commanded the unit of 3 Detectives and 1 Criminal Analyst.

B. Legal Staff:

Legal guidance was provided on a case-by-case basis by an Assistant Prosecutor assigned as legal advisor: 1 for insurance fraud matters.

IV. Highlighted Cases:

The Insurance Fraud Unit charged the following individuals in 2018:

Kelli Jo Kinney

In February of 2018, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Insurance Fraud Unit received a referral from the OIFP involving the defendant, Kelli Jo Kinney. Ms. Kinney submitted a claim to USAA Insurance Co. for three rings that she reported had been stolen or lost. An investigation was conducted and several inconsistencies between Kinney's claim and the interview that had been conducted by the USAA SIU investigator were quickly noted. The Somerset County Prosecutor's

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Office conducted an interview with Ms. Kinney and she ultimately admitted that the insurance claim was a fraud and that the rings were never stolen and that she had fabricated the story to collect the insurance money. Ms. Kinney was charged with Third Degree Insurance Fraud, and was accepted into Pre-Trial Intervention.

Shirley Rodriguez-Campos/Johnny Campos

In March of 2018, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Insurance Fraud Unit arrested Shirley Rodriguez-Campos along with her husband, Johnny Campos for Insurance Fraud. As part of our OIFP grant, goals, objectives and activities, a detective from the Insurance Fraud Unit participated in a ride-along with the Branchburg Township Police Department traffic unit. The ride-along program was structured so the detective could check for fictitious insurance cards and/or policy verification on various traffic stops. A motor vehicle stop was conducted and a 19 year-old male, Mike A. Rodriguez-Campos was identified as the driver. The driver presented an NJM insurance card and upon further investigation it was discovered that the driver was not listed on his parents' NJM insurance policy. The investigation revealed that both Shirley Rodriguez-Campos and Johnny Campos had made material misrepresentations to their insurance company and did not disclose additional drivers in the household in an attempt to save money on their premium paid to NJM. Shirley Rodriguez-Campos and Johnny Campos were each charged with Third Degree Insurance Fraud and accepted into Pre-Trial Intervention.

Kanika Williams

In June of 2018, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Insurance Fraud Unit received a referral from the OIFP involving the defendant, Kanika Williams. Ms. Williams submitted a claim for coverage to Progressive Insurance Company, and indicated that her vehicle had received bad gas which resulted in complete engine failure, which would need to be replaced at a value of approximately \$20,000.00. An investigation was conducted and it was learned that Ms. Williams contacted Progressive Insurance Company via telephone and inquired about the cost of lowering her deductible; she then asked if she was covered for bad gas. Two days later Ms. Williams lowered her Progressive Insurance Company deductible from \$2000.00 to \$500.00. The investigation revealed that thirteen days after her initial call to Progressive, Ms. Williams again called Progressive and advised that she had just received bad gas in her vehicle the previous night and submitted a claim for coverage. It was discovered that her vehicle had been brought to a repair facility with a seized engine twenty-two days prior to her claimed date of loss, and the lowering of her deductible. Ms. Williams was charged with Third Degree Insurance Fraud. Ms. Williams pled guilty to the charge and was sentenced to drug court.

Miguel Figueroa

In 2018, the Insurance Fraud Unit continued to investigate an on-going large Medical Insurance Fraud case involving defendant Stewart Kaufman and several other co-defendants. In September of 2018, Miguel Figueroa, a law enforcement officer, was charged with Third Degree Insurance Fraud for his participation in the fraud. Figueroa was the sixth defendant arrested in the case. Figueroa reported that he had been receiving acupuncture twice a week since 2014 from Stewart Kaufman. Insurance claims were filed with Horizon Insurance Company by Kaufman for each of the visits. With the use of GPS tracking devices and cell phone data, the investigation revealed that Figueroa was not attending the appointments, despite the insurance claims being made. The investigation revealed that Figueroa would then split the insurance money with Kaufman. Kaufman pled guilty to his role in the fraud and accepted a plea offer of 3 years in State Prison; sentencing is pending for Kaufman. Figueroa was indicted for Third Degree Insurance Fraud and his case is currently pending trial.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Internal Affairs Unit of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for conducting internal affairs investigations of police officers from 19 municipal police departments, in addition to the Somerset County Sheriff's Office and Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. The unit also investigates discharge of weapons by police officers and police pursuits which result in accidents with injuries to the operators of the vehicles. Additionally, the unit handles police procedure reviews for all 19 municipal police agencies.

II. Number of personnel assigned to section or unit:

- A. **Legal Staff:** **2 Assistant Prosecutors**
- B. **Investigative Staff:**
 - 1 Lieutenant**
 - 1 Sergeant**
 - 1 Detective**
- C. **Clerical Staff:** **1 Secretary**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- A. **Legal Staff:**
Provides legal supervision of investigations in preparation for prosecution and provides legal guidance on a day-to-day basis.
- B. **Investigative Staff:**
Conducts investigations concerning complaints made against police officers and police operations within Somerset County.

IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

The unit not only conducts all internal investigations within the Prosecutor's Office but it also works cooperatively with local internal affairs officers in cases where serious allegations of improper conduct are alleged against county and municipal officers. It is also the responsibility of this unit to review policy and procedures for municipal police departments upon request. The unit supervisor reports directly to the Chief of Detectives.

- V. For the year 2018 there were 260 investigations of police misconduct in Somerset County. Of those, fifty-nine (59) cases were exclusively investigated by the Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit.
- VI. Of the fifty-nine (59) investigations, one (1) resulted in a criminal charge or conviction. Of the remaining fifty-eight (58) dispositions; one (1) was classified as exonerated, five (5) were unfounded, eight (8) were not-sustained, six (6) were sustained and thirty-eight (38) were administratively closed. All cases were closed in 2018.

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ORGANIZED CRIME & NARCOTICS TASK FORCE

I. Purpose:

The Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is responsible for the detection, investigation, apprehension and prosecution of those individuals who violate the drug laws of the State of New Jersey. It is further responsible for the investigation of other forms of organized criminal activity, gangs, gambling and prostitution.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

Personnel during January 2018 to December 2018

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. Legal Staff: | 2 Assistant Prosecutors |
| B. Investigative Staff: | 1 Captain
1 Lieutenant
3 Sergeants
11 Detectives
6 Task Force Investigators from local police departments |
| C. Support Staff: | 1 Clerical |

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| A. Legal Staff: | Provides legal supervision of investigations in preparation for prosecution and gives legal guidance on a daily basis. |
| B. Investigative Staff: | Conducts narcotic and organized crime investigations throughout Somerset County. Detectives work in an undercover capacity and are responsible for all organized crime and narcotics related electronic surveillances. |
| C. Clerical Staff: | Prepares reports and completes paperwork to place into case files. |

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

This Task Force uses a wide variety of investigative techniques to combat the use and sale of drugs as well as to pursue other forms of organized criminal activity. These techniques include undercover or plainclothes operations, physical surveillance, electronic surveillance, intelligence gathering and the investigative follow-up of referrals from other law enforcement agencies.

Case preparation is developed by members of the Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force with the supervision and guidance of the legal staff of the Office of the Prosecutor.

V. Investigation, activities, and accomplishments for 2018:

Arrests	126	
Weapons Seized	36	
Vehicles Seized	9 automobiles	
Currency Seized	\$149,115.17	
Narcotics Seized:		
Cocaine	3,136.79	grams
Crack Cocaine	249.7	grams
Cannabis	35.63	pounds
THC liquid cartridges	3,208.35	ml
THC Edibles	1,853.5	grams
THC wax	15	oz.
Heroin	10,247.80	decs
MDMA	149.7	grams
Methamphetamine	49	grams
Misc. Prescription Pills	918	doses (variety)
Mushrooms	2	oz.
Value of Narcotics Seized	\$417,644.44	

VI. Highlighted Cases for 2018:

A. July 2, 2018

On July 2, 2018, the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force concluded a seven (7) month investigation into a large scale heroin and cocaine distribution network with dealings in the Middlesex and Somerset County areas. Law Enforcement Officers from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Newark Field Office, New Jersey State Police, the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office, the Union County Prosecutor's Office, the Linden Police Department, the Edison Police Department, the Plainfield Police Department and the Roselle Police Department assisted in the investigation. Individuals involved in the narcotics network were Dante Royster, aka "Cash", age 35, Tayir Pugh, age 35, Al Hannah, age 31, Gregory Copeland, age 32, Patrick McInerney, age 32, Joseph Robinson, age 51, Dongin Shin, age 26, Robert Neglio, aka "Bananas", age 33, Christopher Oberberger, age 30, Danielle Staunton, age 36, Kyle Lewis, age 33, Vincent Arias, age 47, Julio Aponte, age 44, Ronald Rebernik, age 62, David Bodine, age 36. Arrest warrants were issued for Kimberly Mathews, age 31 and Melissa Zuczek, age 47.

The following is a list of all persons charged with criminal offenses in regard to their involvement in the narcotics trafficking network:

1. Dante Royster, age 35, Third Street, Plainfield, New Jersey – First Degree Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, Second Degree Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy.
2. Al Hannah, age 31, West Second Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey – First Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute, Second Degree Eluding, two counts of Second Degree Aggravated Assault, Third Degree Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Third Degree Resisting, Fourth Degree Resisting, Fourth Degree Tampering with Evidence and Fourth Degree Assault by Auto.
3. Tayir Pugh, age 35, Myrtle Avenue, Plainfield, New Jersey- First Degree Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Third Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy.
4. Gregory Copeland, age 32, Liberty Village, Warren, New Jersey - Third Degree Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
5. Patrick McInerney, age 32, Cypress Court, Monmouth Junction, New Jersey - Third Degree Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
6. Joseph Robinson, age 51, Weston Forbes Court, Edison, New Jersey - Third Degree Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
7. Dongin Shin, age 26, Whitebirch Road, Edison, New Jersey - Third Degree Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
8. Robert Neglio, age 33, Forrest Street, Iselin, New Jersey – Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance.

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9. Christopher Oberberger, age 30, Bordentown Avenue, South Amboy, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
10. Danielle Staunton, age 36, Patricia Avenue, Colonia, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
11. Kyle Lewis, age 33, Woodbridge Avenue, Edison, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
12. Vincent Arias, age 47, Niles Street, Elizabeth, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
13. Julio Aponte, age 44, Hickory Street, Edison, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
14. Ronald Rebernik, age 62, Second Street, Raritan, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
15. David Bodine, age 36, Jackson Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey - Third Degree Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Attempt to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.

As a result of this multi-jurisdictional comprehensive investigation detectives executed six Superior Court search warrants on locations to include the residences of Dante Royster, Al Hannah, Kimberly Mathews and Tayir Pugh. Two other Superior Court search warrants were granted for two other locations involved in the investigation located within Potters Crossing apartment complex in Edison, New Jersey which culminated in the seizure of approximately three hundred ninety nine (399) grams of cocaine, two thousand twenty eight (2,028) folds of heroin and one hundred sixty four (164) pills, packaging materials and cutting agents. Additionally, \$13,318.00 in U.S. Currency was seized.

As a result of this investigation the following individuals were also charged with the following offenses:

1. Kimberly Mathews, age 31, First Avenue, Roselle, New Jersey - Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy.
2. Melissa Zuczek, age 47, West Francis Street, Iselin, New Jersey - Third Degree Distribution of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance.

The cocaine seized has an estimated street value of \$27,930.00 and the heroin seized has an estimated street value of \$10,140.00.

POLYGRAPH & COMPUTERIZED VOICE STRESS ANALYSIS UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Polygraph Unit and CVSA Unit are responsible for conducting examinations to test the veracity of statements given to investigative units and local departments when needed.

II. Number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

A. Legal Staff:	Assistant Prosecutors as needed	
B. Certified Examiners:	<u>Polygraph</u>	<u>CVSA</u>
	1 Chief	1 Captain
	1 Detective	2 Sergeants
		3 Detectives

III. Duties and responsibilities of section/unit personnel:

A. Legal Staff:

Assistant Prosecutors provide legal guidance as needed on a case-by-case basis. All agreements and stipulations are reviewed and approved by the Assistant Prosecutors.

B. Certified Examiners:

Polygraphists and CVSA Examiners conduct examinations as needed. Polygraph and CVSA examinations are a collateral responsibility of the members of this unit based on their specialized training in this area.

IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

The requests for in-county Polygraph and CVSA examinations must be reviewed and approved by the unit commander. Any request for an examination for an out-of-county agency must be approved by the Chief of Detectives.

During 2018, the total number of Polygraph/CVSA examinations was 3, resulting in 2 non-deceptive findings and 1 inconclusive.

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SOMERSET COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (SCERT)

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Emergency Response Teams (SCERT) are responsible for responding immediately to incidents of a critical nature where specially trained personnel are required to assist in disturbances or other life-threatening situations, such as hostage incidents, barricaded persons, high risk warrant service, civil disturbances, suicidal subjects, search/rescue, dignitary protection, crowd control, evidence/area searches, and water related rescue/recovery operations. The SCERT are comprised of the SWAT Team, Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT), Dive-Rescue Team and Tactical Emergency Medical Services Team (TEMS).

II. Number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

A. Legal Staff: Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor W. Brian Stack

B. Sworn Personnel: Chief John Fodor SCPO
SCERT Commander
Lieutenant Edward Ciempola North Plainfield P.D.
SWAT Commander
Detective Edward Conway SCPO
CNT Commander
Detective Mark Matthews SCPO
Dive – Rescue Team Commander

87 law enforcement officers and medics are trained and assigned to various teams.

C. Civilian Personnel: A contingent of 18 paramedics from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-Somerset, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-New Brunswick, 2 civilian divers, and a Mental Health Specialist are team members.

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III. Duties and responsibilities of section/unit personnel:

A. Legal Staff:

Provides legal assistance as the need and situation dictates.

B. Sworn Personnel:

Assigned to the teams from the Office of the County Prosecutor, Sheriff and municipal law enforcement agencies within Somerset County.

C. Civilian Personnel:

Assigned as team members based on their particular expertise in the medical or mental health field.

IV. Description of the functions of the teams:

A. SCERT is comprised of 4 essential components. The first is the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) component, the second is the Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT), the third is the Dive-Rescue Team and the fourth is the Tactical Emergency Medical Services Team (TEMS). When an incident occurs that requires mobilization of any of the SCERT components, notification is made activating all members of the required component(s) to respond. Team members have specific responsibilities within each component.

B. The SWAT team consists of 38 full-time officers from 17 different law enforcement agencies within Somerset County. This team is a specially trained group of police officers who are equipped to handle extraordinary situations necessitating a specialized police response anywhere within Somerset County.

C. The Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT) is comprised of 12 full-time officers from 9 different law enforcement agencies within Somerset County. Each of these specially trained officers is required to minimally attend the FBI's 40 hour "Crisis Negotiations Training" course. Since 1987, the team has the added support and resources of a Mental Health Specialist, Mr. Paul Mahaffey, M.S., M.A.

D. The Dive-Rescue Team is comprised of 16 full-time law enforcement officers and 1 retired law enforcement officer from 13 different law enforcement agencies within Somerset County. The members are trained in various aspects of water rescue, underwater search and rescue, crime scene processing, ice-dive rescue, flood water rescue and surface swift water rescue operations.

E. The Tactical Emergency Medical Services Team (TEMS) consists of 18 paramedics from Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-Somerset, and Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital-New Brunswick Mobile Intensive Care Unit. The members of TEMS provide tactical medical services to both Somerset County SWAT and Middlesex County SWAT. The members of TEMS are required to attend Tactical Medic training and actively train with other SCERT components.

V. 2018 Training Summary:

- A.** The SWAT team conducted 12 regularly scheduled session monthly drills throughout 2018, including 2 joint training sessions with the Crisis Negotiations Team.

During the training year, the team trained in the following functional areas: operational planning, building clearing, tactical movement, use of distraction devices, building approach, perimeter control, self-defense techniques, civil disturbance, firearms training, (including qualifications in assault rifles, sniper rifles, and sub-machine gun), and breaching and response to active shooters. Members were also given instruction on field treatment of traumatic injuries, downed officer extraction, deployment of chemical agents, crowd control, and physical training.

- B.** The members of the CNT participate in monthly drills. During each of these drills all the crisis team equipment is checked for accountability, serviceability, and is charged as required. Additionally the drills include classroom presentations from assigned members or guest presenters on the various themes associated with the science and art of negotiations. Drills also include scenario and role play trainings in order to keep the negotiators skilled in their trade. Tactical trainings are also included, so that negotiators can continue to develop their associated tactical skill sets to better serve the team, and ultimately the citizens serviced by the team.

During the month of February, CNT members attended 2 days of case study and classroom training which was held in Baltimore County, Maryland. Baltimore County has conducted this training for over 35 years, and it is recognized as the largest and most comprehensive crisis negotiations training on the East Coast, with attendance often exceeding 700 officers from around the world.

In October 2013 the CNT developed training called "The Best of the Best". This training placed crisis negotiations teams from across N.J. in competition against other teams to refine each team's crisis response performance. The training was repeated in 2018 with an overall attendance of 75 negotiators participating.

In May 2018, the CNT hosts an annual CNT conference at the Raritan Valley Community College. This event is sponsored through a partnership consisting of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office (CNT), the Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Office (CNT) and the Newark Office of the FBI (Crisis Negotiations Unit (CNU)). This event has attendance of approximately 225 negotiators and police officers. It involves classroom blocks on the science of negotiations as well as Negotiation/SWAT case studies. This annual training was attended by officers/negotiators from throughout New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Washington, D.C.

The CNT participated in 2 combined drills with SWAT and TEMS personnel in 2018. The purpose of the combined drills is to ensure inter-discipline cooperation, coordination and overall enhanced effectiveness when the multi- team SCERT is activated.

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- C. The SCERT Dive-Rescue Team conducted 12 regularly scheduled monthly drills throughout 2018. During the training year, the team trained in the following functional areas: operational planning, ice rescue operations, rappelling, hoisting and lowering systems, rescue boat operations, swift water operations, diving in deep water, black water diving, night diving, underwater search patterns, underwater crime scene searches, and underwater crime scene processing. Members of the team also perform in-house VIP inspection of all SCUBA bottles.
- D. The TEMS Team actively trains every month with SWAT and on all joint drills.

VI. Joint Training

Part of the training included 1 joint, SWAT and CNT, training sessions. The 2 teams held large scale rehearsals for hostage situations including crisis negotiation. In addition, SWAT and CNT conducted an active shooter response drill at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital -Somerset.

VII. Brief synopsis of SCERT 2018 call-outs:

January 2018 – Dive team recovery of missing person who was found in water. Dive team removed the victim.

April 2018 –Dive team, drowning. Person was located in the water and later removed.

June 2018 – SWAT assisted Somerset County Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force on three search warrants.

July 2018 – Dive team drowning (search for person in water). Dive team was canceled shortly after activation.

August 2018 – Dive team search for a knife. Dive team searched the stream and located one (1) knife.

October 2018 – SWAT/CNT/TEMS activation of barricaded suspect in Bernardsville Borough.

December 2018 – SWAT/CNT/TEMS activation of barricaded suspect in Bridgewater Township.

VIII. Training provided by SCERT

Response to Active Shooter Instructor Course

In the Spring of 2018 the SWAT Team, CNT Team and the Somerset County Police Academy joined to offer a 40 hour block of in-service training entitled "Patrol Response to an Active Shooter Instructor Course".

The course allowed the SWAT, CNT and TEMS teams to share their expertise on this topic with police instructors from around the county and adjoining counties. The school was a great success and will appear annually in the Somerset County Police Academy Catalog.

IX. Community Outreach

SWAT team members participated in the following special events:

- Somerville Police Department Youth Week
- National Night Out in North Plainfield and Somerville
- Bring Your Child to Work Day – Somerset County
- Somerset County Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Police Youth Week Program
- Somerville Flag Day

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CNT members participated in the following special events:

During 2018 the CNT provided demonstrations of equipment and personnel as requested by community groups and events, allowing the citizens of Somerset County to recognize the professionalism of their law enforcement community, as well as the many specialty resources available here in Somerset County.

The CNT assists Centenary College each semester, as requested with role players who have expertise relative to an undergraduate Criminal Justice course offering titled: "Crisis Negotiations in Police and Corrections".

DIVE – RESCUE team members participated in the following special events:

- Bring Your Child to Work Day – Somerset County

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<i>Major Crimes Unit</i>
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<i>Special Investigations Unit</i>
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<i>Internal Affairs Unit</i>
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FUGITIVE UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Fugitive Unit is comprised of county detectives whose primary responsibilities are to locate and apprehend wanted fugitives.

II. Number of personnel assigned to section or unit:

- A. **Legal Staff:** **1 Assistant Prosecutor**
- B. **Investigative Staff:** **1 Lieutenant
2 Detectives**
- C. **Clerical Staff:** **1 Secretary**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- A. **Legal Staff:**
Provides legal supervision and guidance to investigative staff relating to legal issues concerning fugitive cases and other matters as needed.
- B. **Investigative Staff:**
This unit is on-call 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. The Fugitive Unit travels throughout various jurisdictions within New Jersey and outside state boundaries to pursue persons wanted for various criminal offenses, violations of parole, and failure to comply with bail tracking. These efforts require extensive cooperation between the Fugitive Unit and law enforcement agencies from local, state and federal sectors.
- C. **Support Staff:**
Secretary provides data entry and updates files.

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

Since 1997, this unit averages approximately 300-400 arrests per year. An additional function includes the arrest and incarceration of the individuals located within Somerset County who are wanted as fugitives from out-of-state authorities. All wanted fugitives arrested outside of New Jersey must be extradited to New Jersey. It is the responsibility of the Fugitive Unit to apply for a Governor's Warrant within 90 days to bring the wanted individuals back to New Jersey.

In 2018, the Fugitive Unit extradited several fugitives from numerous states including: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Georgia, West Virginia, Connecticut, and North Carolina.

In addition to the out-of-state extraditions and in-state transports the Fugitive Unit was able to proactively work with local law enforcement agencies to attempt service on outstanding active warrants on numerous occasions.

V. Investigative activities for 2018 are as follows:

- **597 New warrants were received**
- **574 Warrants were satisfied by arrest or vacated**
- **465 Active warrants at start of 2018**
- **4 Governor's Warrants**
- **9 Interstate Agreement on Detainers (IAD)**

VI. Fugitive Unit - 2018

	Arrests	Vacates	Dismissed	Totals
January	36	6	0	42
February	52	9	0	61
March	40	6	0	46
April	39	8	0	47
May	39	14	0	53
June	50	8	0	58
July	56	5	0	61
August	40	8	0	48
September	31	7	0	38
October	48	5	0	53
November	28	6	0	34
December	29	4	0	33
Totals	488	86	0	574

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CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT (CSIU) & BALLISTICS LABORATORY

I. Purpose:

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit and Ballistics Laboratory of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office utilizes the most current technology and equipment to obtain and analyze physical evidence for use in criminal investigations.

II. Crime Scene Investigation Unit:

Staffed by 1 Lieutenant, 1 Sergeant, 3 detectives, 1 civilian, 1 Ballistics Examiner from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, and 1 Ballistic Examiner from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

During the course of 2018 the Crime Scene Investigation Unit opened 224 cases that were either submitted by local Police Departments, County Prosecutor's Offices, Federal Agencies or generated as a result of the Crime Scene Unit processing a scene.

Among the items the Crime Scene Investigation Unit may be requested to collect, analyze, process or compare include, but are not limited to:

1. Biological or serological evidence (blood, semen, saliva, etc.). These items are collected and submitted to other laboratories for analysis. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Forensics Laboratory does not conduct biological or trace evidence analysis;
2. Latent finger and palm print development and comparisons;
3. Impression evidence such as tire impressions, footwear impressions, glove and fabric impressions and bite mark evidence;
4. Hairs, fibers and other trace evidence;
5. Firearms, ammunition, projectiles and shell casings;
6. Gunshot residue;
7. Tool marks;
8. Accelerants from fire scenes.

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit responds to the scene of various crimes and is responsible for processing the scene for potential physical evidence. The most common types of scenes processed include homicides, death investigations, aggravated assaults, robberies, burglaries and sexual assaults. During the course of 2018, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit was called on to process 49 crime scenes within Somerset County; not including vehicles that were transported to the CSIU building.

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In addition to scene processing, the Crime Scene Investigation Unit assists all other units of the SCPO as well as local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies as needed. The Crime Scene Investigation Unit is a participating member of a statewide Major Crimes Task Force that is able to respond anywhere in the state to assist with processing major crime or disaster scenes.

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit also provides the following services for the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office:

1. Attends autopsies in cases of homicide or suspicious deaths;
2. Prepares crime scene diagrams and other documents for court presentation;
3. Utilizes various photography techniques to document crime scenes, evidence and public relations events;
4. Collects and submits DNA and other trace evidence specimens for laboratory analysis;
5. Provides training classes on various crime scene and evidence related topics to in-service police.
6. Conducts presentations to a wide variety of public groups including high school and college classes on general crime scene and laboratory processing techniques;
7. Conducts blood stain pattern analysis at scenes and on clothing.

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit is responsible for processing all items of evidence submitted to the laboratory for latent finger prints. The unit is also responsible for the collection, preservation and submission of biological evidence, hairs, fibers or other trace evidence to other laboratories for analysis. During 2018, the Forensics Unit processed 1,845 individual items of evidence.

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit has the responsibility of operating the Automated Fingerprint Identification System or AFIS Terminal, which directly accesses the NJSP AFIS fingerprint database. Latent prints developed at crime scenes, in the laboratory or submitted by local agencies are input into the SCPO terminal and searched through the state database in an attempt to find a match or "hit". In 2018, 62 cases were entered into AFIS resulting in 27 "hits" identifying suspects.

III. Firearms and Ballistics Unit:

The Firearms and Ballistics Unit is responsible for the following examinations:

1. Operability to determine if a weapon is readily capable of firing;
2. Serial number restoration utilizing mechanical and chemical processes to restore defaced serial numbers;
3. Microscopic comparisons of projectiles and casings in an attempt to identify weapons used in a specific crime and to determine if there is any correlation between the weapon, projectiles or casings with any other crimes;
4. Gunshot distancing: used to determine the distance between the muzzle of the firearm and the point of impact of the projectile;
5. Trajectory analysis to determine the path that a projectile takes after it exits the barrel to where it comes to rest. This is most commonly used to determine from where the weapon was fired.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office operate the Integrated Ballistics Identification System, (IBIS). IBIS is a computerized imaging system where projectiles and casings are received in the laboratory, analyzed for forensic value, weighed, measured and entered into the IBIS database. The items are searched against the database and potential matches or "hits" are reported. The "hits" are then microscopically compared for verification. In 2018, a total of 195 items were entered by the Firearms and Ballistics Unit resulting in 15 cold case "hits".

CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) provides the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office with the knowledge and recommendations to allow for effective management of its resources. Criminal Intelligence is a process involving planning and direction, collection, evaluation, collation, analysis, dissemination, and re-evaluation of information on suspected or known criminals and/or organizations operating within our jurisdiction.

The focus of the CIU resources consist of but are not limited to the following criminal activities: violations of New Jersey Statutes pertaining to controlled dangerous substances, gambling, traditional and non-traditional organized crime, burglary/theft, street gangs, strategic threat groups and violent crimes.

Information received is maintained and secured in a computerized database. This information or data that is maintained in the database is restricted to criminal intelligence and related information from public records, media sources, and substantiated information received from citizens and law enforcement agents which adheres to the Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies (28 C.F.R. § 23 (2018)).

II. Number of personnel assigned to unit:

A. Investigative Staff: 1 Detective

III. Duties and responsibilities of unit personnel:

The CIU investigative staff is composed of a career law enforcement professional, who is also a Certified Criminal Analyst with 18 years experience in the Intelligence field. The CIU is responsible for the collection, collation, evaluation, analytic review, dissemination, and re-evaluation of the data maintained in the Infoshare Intelligence database. It is the duty of the CIU to educate, train, and monitor users of the Infoshare Intelligence database, making sure its users comply with the federal intelligence standards of 28 C.F.R. § 23 (2018). In 2018, the CIU maintained the Intelligence database entries as well as vetting its users within Somerset County. All users of the Intelligence Database are required to complete 28 C.F.R. § 23 (2018) training to gain access to the system.

Data collected by the CIU is entered into the Infoshare Intelligence database and maintained by the CIU. Data collected consists of, but is not limited to the following items: information received from confidential informants, probation and parole updates for Somerset County residents, Narcan deployments and heroin overdoses in Somerset County, as well as intelligence gleaned by members of Somerset County Local municipalities.

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The CIU receives and evaluates hundreds of intelligence emails on a daily basis to include monitoring the Critical Reach / TRAK system. Information collected from various sources is then disseminated to intelligence liaisons throughout Somerset County, various law enforcement contacts in the State of New Jersey, surrounding states, and federal agencies.

Any and all intelligence products and emails generated and disseminated by the CIU to law enforcement contain a confidentiality statement. The statement is as follows:

This is a confidential intelligence report and is the property of the Intelligence Unit of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. This agency is a "participating agency" within the meaning of [28 C.F.R. § 23 (2018)]. As such, this publication is regarded as a government record exempt from public access or review under O.P.R.A. N.J.S.47:1A-1 et seq. This office further asserts that this publication is exempt on the basis that it constitutes "inter-agency advisory consultative or deliberative material." Further dissemination of this report without the expressed authorization of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is strictly forbidden. Unauthorized use or dissemination of this report may result in civil/criminal liability. No enforcement action should take place based solely on the contents of this report. Do not make this report or any portion thereof part of any discovery package. Do not post in a publicly visible area.

In March 2012, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Criminal Intelligence Unit began sharing intelligence information with 13 outside law enforcement agencies on the INFOSHARE Network. In 2018, the INFOSHARE Network is connected statewide with 95% compliancy by state law enforcement agencies as well as the majority of County Prosecutors' Offices.

The CIU lends support to all units of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office as well as for local municipalities and for other SCPO detective staff as requested. On a daily basis the CIU provides timely intelligence to the Narcotics and Organized Crime Unit, Fugitives, and the Burglary / Major Crimes Unit. The CIU continues to lend support by the dissemination of information, case analysis, as well as producing analytical products. Analytical products include mapping, GPS mapping, telephone toll analysis, timelines, and organizational charts, and case-by-case intelligence lookups.

The CIU is responsible for maintaining and compiling a database comprised of confidential informants who are contracted by SCPO detective staff. The CI files are maintained and updated as requested by the CIU unit.

Lastly, the CIU holds a bi-monthly Roundtable Intelligence meeting which is attended by multiple agencies both in Somerset County, as well as surrounding agencies. It should be noted that the meeting is attended by Municipal, County, State, and Federal agencies in the State of New Jersey.

Other duties:

1. CJIS

- TAC Officer for Somerset County
- Train / Test / Certify Users
- NJSP Audits (every 2 years) Completed 2018

2. Deconfliction

- Lead POC for HIDTA Case Explorer
- Organize / Maintain HIDTA User list

3. FBI VICAP

- Lead POC for Somerset County
- Input / Maintain records
- Update Users / Maintain

4. Confidential Informant database

- Maintenance of database as well as hard copy of CI files
- Track CDS prices from narcotic vouchers
- Maintain narcotic vouchers in CI files

5. Intelligence Officer / Analyst

- Collect, correlate information received
- Analyze data
- Produce tactical and strategic intelligence products
- Publish immediate Intelligence Bulletins, and Monthly Intelligence Briefs
- Disseminate intelligence to Local, County, State and Federal agencies
- Evaluate the intelligence

6. Crime Stopper Law Enforcement Liaison

- Disseminate tips received

7. Infoshare Intelligence Database Supervisor

- Input (parole notifications, CI intelligence received, gang identifications, Crime Stopper tips)
- Review (all records added by SCPO and local police departments)
- Purge (deletion of outdated records)

8. Email Distribution / Dissemination

- SCPO Intel email distribution list service was established through Regional Information Sharing System (RISS) to easily generate and distribute intelligence to Somerset County law enforcement as well as to surrounding county departments. Approximately 250 law enforcement officers currently subscribe. Intelligence distributed is not limited to the following topics (i.e, APB, NJSP ROIC, PA Attorney General Intelligence Unit, officer safety, crime/drug trends).

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9. Statewide Intelligence Commanders Meeting

- Lead coordinator since January 2016
- Organize / schedule
- Held quarterly (March, June, September, December)
- Hosted throughout the State of New Jersey
- Maintain email distribution list
- Provide training
- Approximately 160 members

10. Somerset County Intelligence / Counter-Terrorism / Commanders Meeting

- Organize / Schedule
- Every two months
- Outlet for active law enforcement officers to share open case data and network
- Provide training
- Open to SCPO detective staff, Somerset County local police departments, and surrounding counties / agencies

11. Attend Intelligence Meetings / Networking opportunities

BURGLARY TASK FORCE

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office Burglary Task Force is an investigative unit created to assist municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies in investigating burglaries. The function of the Burglary Task Force is to collect data, analyze crime patterns, and disseminate pertinent information to police agencies affected by common burglary types.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the unit:

- A. Legal Staff:** **1 Assistant Prosecutor**

- B. Investigative Staff:** **1 Detective Lieutenant**
1 Detective Sergeant
2 Detectives

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

- A. Legal Staff:**
Provides legal supervision in preparation for prosecution and gives legal advice and opinions on a day-to-day basis as needed.

- B. Investigative Staff:**
Collects data from local police agencies, analyzes crime patterns, disseminates pertinent information to police agencies affected by common burglary types, and conducts pro-active investigations into burglary suspects.

IV. Descriptions of the functions of the unit:

In 2018, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force continued to review the past methods of investigation and constantly improve upon how the Burglary Task Force would carry out its mission. In previous years the Burglary Task Force operated as more of a reactive unit. Starting in 2011 the Burglary Task Force established itself as a pro-active intelligence led investigative unit and that concept continued into 2018. The Burglary Task Force was further expanded in 2013 and is now comprised of 1 Detective Lieutenant, 1 Detective Sergeant, and 2 Detectives. The assistance provided by the Burglary Task Force to Somerset County municipalities varies on a case-by-case basis. The Burglary Task Force disseminates the names of burglary suspects obtained from confidential informants and other police agencies to the municipalities within Somerset County. As serial residential burglars often cross county lines and begin working in larger regions, the Somerset County Burglary Task Force saw the need to forge strong relationships with other intelligence and burglary units in our surrounding counties to foster information sharing. The Burglary Task Force also assists by providing physical surveillance of suspects believed to be actively committing burglaries. The Burglary Task Force works closely with the Division of Weights and Measures to insure local precious metal buyers are properly documenting purchases and filling our purchase receipts.

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In 2018 the Somerset County Burglary Task Force continues to monitor the buying and selling of precious metals throughout Somerset County. As the price of gold remains high, residential burglars targeting gold continue to be on the rise. There are 36 precious metal buyers in Somerset County. To insure uniformity and compliance the Burglary Task Force, along with the Division of Weights and Measures, constructed a uniform receipt to be utilized by each buyer within Somerset County at the time of the purchase. The Burglary Task Force requires that the receipt be forwarded to both the Burglary Task Force and the police department in the town where the buyer resides. The Burglary Task Force provides the information gathered from the precious metal buyers to all sworn law enforcement personnel through a searchable online database. This database allows a detective to search jewelry sold to all buyers across Somerset County from their desktop computer. To date the program dubbed "Operation Gold Rush" assisted the Burglary Task Force and other municipalities that use the system in solving over 442 residential burglaries based solely on the precious metal reporting forms.

In 2018 the Somerset County Burglary Task Force continued to maintain and review a uniform reporting form requiring each municipality to notify the Task Force when a residential or commercial burglary occurs within their jurisdiction. By collecting this information the Burglary Task Force is able to study the methods of entry, times of day, and methods the burglars used to search the house. This information has been useful in spotting patterns and identifying burglary suspects.

In 2018 The Somerset County Burglary Task force began to make the transition in a more advanced precious metal reporting system called Regional Automated Information Database (RAPID). Currently 7 municipalities have passed ordinances to enforce the requirement to use the new precious metal reporting system.

V. 2018 Significant Cases:

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force has continued to assist municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies in investigating residential and commercial burglaries. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force made 10 arrests for burglaries and investigated 15 residential burglaries. Listed below are highlighted cases for 2018:

- On September 24, 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force began a joint investigation with the Warren Township Police Department regarding two residential burglaries which had occurred in Warren Township, N.J. During the course of the investigation detectives identified Michael Hans, age 22 of Middlesex, N.J. and Paul Procopro, age 21 of Bridgewater, N.J.

On October 4, 2018 Hans and Procopro were taken into custody by investigating detectives after Hans was observed exiting a residence in Bridgewater Township that had just been burglarized and then left the area in a car driven by Procopro. Both subjects were charged with Burglary and Theft. The matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

- On May 18, 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force began investigating a residential burglary which had occurred in Bridgewater Township. The Bridgewater Township Police advised that a residence on Brian Drive in Bridgewater Township had been burglarized by a subject who made entry to the residence through an open bedroom window. A check with neighbors in the area revealed that a home security camera had recorded a suspicious vehicle in the area at the time of the burglary. Investigating detectives were then able to identify a suspect as being Khiry Moody, age 28 of Plainfield, N.J.

On July 6, 2018 investigating detectives located Khiry Moody and placed him under arrest. Moody was charged with Burglary and Theft. The matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

VI. Future

The Somerset County Burglary Task Force will continue to expand investigative techniques and continue to network throughout our bordering counties sharing available intelligence. The Task Force uses RAPID for reporting precious metals transactions with some municipalities. The RAPID system is in full use in Maryland and Delaware and is beginning to be used more in New Jersey. The RAPID system records and photographs the purchase of all precious metals at the point of sale which would alleviate the data entry currently being done by police detectives giving them more time to conduct pro-active burglary investigations.

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STOPit

The STOPit program was initiated in October of 2017 and has proven to be a highly successful way for citizens to provide information to law enforcement anonymously.

I. Purpose:

The STOPit program is a new and innovative way of anonymously reporting suspected criminal behavior. STOPit is a simple, user-friendly mobile app that immediately and discreetly connects people affected by crime with law enforcement. The STOPit app allows for anonymous two-way communications with dispatchers and/or law enforcement who obtain the information necessary to render assistance. The app is monitored 24- hours a day, 7- days a week, has a chat/messenger function, in addition to the ability for users to send photos, videos and screenshots. Another important feature of the STOPit app is the Get Help section that makes it easy for someone to access services within Somerset County to deal with opioid addiction, suicide, child abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence. Since its inception the Somerset Strong STOPit account has proven to be highly valuable, leading to the arrests of fugitives, as well as providing information on narcotic and homicide investigations in Somerset County. The app is free to download on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store with an access code of SOMERSETNJ.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the STOPit program – Somerset Strong:

- A. Investigative Staff:** **2 Detectives (Coordinator & Assistant)**
- B. Dispatchers:** **Multiple –provide 24/7 monitoring of app**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

The detective coordinator oversees the day-to-day operations of the program to include setting up accounts for dispatchers and law enforcement, monitoring the reports that are received and making sure that they are assigned to the appropriate personnel. The coordinator is also responsible for sending out STOPit broadcasts, either to notify users of important information or to request assistance or information on active investigations.

The assisting detective is responsible for periodically reviewing the STOPit reports, making sure that they have been assigned appropriately and closing them out when no further action is necessary.

Both the coordinator and assisting detective are responsible for publicizing and disseminating information on the STOPit app.

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CRIME STOPPERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY

The Crime Stoppers program was initiated in Somerset County in February of 2004 and it remains a highly successful program in assisting the Somerset County law enforcement community in solving crimes.

I. Purpose:

Crime Stoppers of Somerset County, Inc. is a New Jersey 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and it is funded entirely by tax-deductible donations from the private and corporate sectors. As a community-based program, it brings the public, the media and the police together in a cooperative effort to help prevent and solve crimes, as well as helping law enforcement apprehend fugitives from justice. This is accomplished by offering cash rewards and anonymity to persons who furnish information leading to the arrest and conviction of a criminal offender. The program encourages individuals with knowledge of a crime or whereabouts of a fugitive to call a toll-free hotline 1-888-577-TIPS. Crime Stoppers has proven to be an effective weapon against crime. There are over 1,000 Crime Stopper programs in the United States, Canada and Europe.

II. Number of personnel assigned to Crime Stoppers of Somerset County:

A. Investigative Staff: 1 Detective

III. Duties and responsibilities of personnel:

The Chief of County Detectives oversees the day-to-day operations of the program and is the liaison between the board of directors, the media and all law enforcement agencies throughout the County.

The Detective is responsible for receiving, analyzing and forwarding tip information to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

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COMPUTER CRIMES / TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Computer Crimes Unit of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is comprised of a Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, and 5 Detectives. The Unit supports all of the units in the Prosecutor's Office as well as the County's municipal police departments with computer related investigations. The Computer Crimes Unit is responsible for forensically analyzing/previewing computers and cellular devices, which are suspected of being used in the commission of a crime. The Unit is also affiliated with the Internet Crimes Against Children (I.C.A.C.) Task Force which investigates internet crimes against children. As a member of the I.C.A.C. Task Force, the Unit handles referrals from I.C.A.C. Task Forces across the country in addition to actively investigating online child predators. The Unit also provides local schools and community organizations with internet safety presentations.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the Unit during 2018:

A. Investigative Staff:	1 Captain
	1 Lieutenant
	1 Sergeant
	5 Detectives

III. Investigations, activities and accomplishments for 2018:

Computer Forensic Examinations/Previews	12
I.C.A.C. Referrals/Investigations	48
Investigations of distribution of child pornography	17
Investigations of possession of child pornography	24
Investigations of enticing/obscenity to a minor	5
Celebrite cell phone examinations	57
Arrest for above offenses	7

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IV. Accomplishments Made by this Unit during 2018:

- A.** In February of 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit executed a Search Warrant and Communications Data Warrant at 5 Norris Road in Somerset, N.J. Seventy-two year-old former teacher, Kent Kollmer, was found to be in possession of hundreds of pictures of child pornography with victims ranging in age from infant to teenager. Kollmer was arrested and charged with three Third Degree charges, Possession of Child Pornography, Child Erotica and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.
- B.** In March of 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit executed a Search Warrant and Communications Data Warrant in Warren Township. A forensic preview of cellphones and computers in the residence located toddler age child pornography; a 17-year old juvenile suspect was identified, arrested and charged with Third Degree Possession of Child Pornography.
- C.** In July of 2018 The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Computer Crimes Unit along with North Carolina Homeland Security ICAC Task Force members and Mathews, North Carolina Police Detectives identified an 8-year old child pornography victim who lived in Mathews, North Carolina. The victim had been pressured and directed to send pictures and videos of sexual acts to a male in Raritan Borough, N.J. With the assistance of Homeland Security Investigators a Search Warrant and Communications Data warrant were executed at a residence in Raritan Borough. A 17-year old juvenile suspect was identified, arrested and subsequently charged with Third Degree Possession of Child Pornography
- D.** In October of 2018 the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office participated in Operation Open House, an undercover operation that targeted alleged child predators using social media to lure children for sex. Twenty-four men were arrested during the 5-day operation including a Somerset County resident. The operation was led by the N.J. Division of Criminal Justice, and the N.J. Regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (NJ ICAC).

VEHICULAR HOMICIDE TASK FORCE & COLLISION ANALYSIS RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (C.A.R.T.)

I. Purpose:

The Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team (C.A.R.T.) was established in 1999 to enhance the capacity of Somerset County Law Enforcement agencies to swiftly, efficiently, systematically and professionally investigate motor vehicle crashes resulting in fatal or serious bodily injuries; to determine whether criminal or other related charges are warranted.

The C.A.R. Team makes available to the 21 municipalities of Somerset County and to the New Jersey State Police, a highly trained team of experienced collision investigators from throughout the county who can properly investigate and reconstruct fatal and serious bodily injury motor vehicle collisions and pursue the prosecution of same.

The C.A.R. Team also makes available to all municipalities a response vehicle equipped with state-of-the-art reconstruction equipment maintained and utilized by the Team.

The C.A.R. Team's multi-jurisdictional approach increases dramatically the experience level of its members. It also affords investigative parity to all jurisdictions throughout the County. The Team also assists the New Jersey State Police in investigating certain criteria cases on interstate highways in Somerset County.

II. Number of personnel assigned to the unit:

The Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team is comprised of 6 Investigators from the Prosecutor's Office and 24 municipal task force officers.

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III. Duties and responsibilities of personnel:

The C.A.R. Team is managed by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. However, it is still the responsibility of the local police department for the jurisdiction in which the crash occurred to complete all required reports in a joint investigation with the C.A.R. Team.

Team Commander:

The duties and responsibilities of the Team Commander include, but are not limited to:

- Determining when the Team should be activated based upon information received about a serious or fatal crash.
- Determining the scope and degree to which the investigation progresses. Identify circumstances which require immediate criminal charges and then screen those charges.
- Assigning personnel duties and responsibilities during on-scene investigations.
- Making proper notifications to all support services (i.e., Medical Examiner's Office, hospitals, local police departments, emergency services, tow companies, etc.).
- Making notification to superiors advising of Team activations.
- Consulting with the Team's assigned Assistant Prosecutors regarding all legal concerns.
- Serving as liaison between the Team, the SCPO, local police and fire departments, County Chief's Police Association, and the N.J. State Police Fatal Accident Investigation Unit.
- Tracking progress of all open cases and reporting to the Team's assigned Assistant Prosecutor.
- Provide expert reports and testimony in criminal and quasi-criminal proceedings.

Total Station Operators:

All C.A.R. Team Total Station Operators must have completed a training course specific to each Total Station and show competency in mapping scenes with that Total Station. All Total Station Operators will be responsible for forensically mapping crash scenes and all relevant evidence. Operators shall be responsible for producing both after-situation and dynamic scale diagrams of the scene and an operator's report in a timely manner.

Task Force Members:

The duties of all members of the C.A.R. Team shall include, but are not limited to:

- Crash scene evaluations to identify contributing causes for the crash.
- Interviewing witnesses and participants.
- Photographing scenes and evidence.
- Vehicle inspections.
- Assisting in forensic documentation of roadways, vehicles, and evidence.
- Attending autopsies when necessary.
- Identification, collection, preservation, and analysis of all scene evidence.
- Hand-drawn field sketches of scenes.
- Supplemental investigations (i.e., vehicle inspections, interviews, diagrams, additional photography).
- Timely response to scenes.

IV. Highlights of 2018 for C.A.R.T.

A. 6 SCPO and 24 municipal members are on the task force

B. Investigated 35 fatal or serious injury crashes

- 26 fatalities in 26 fatal crashes
- 9 serious bodily injury crashes
- 3 cases reviewed for criminal charges as requested by Municipal Courts
- Assisted State Police with 6 fatal and/or serious injury crashes
- Assisted/consulted on 4 out-of-county fatalities
- 4 investigations resulted in indictable charges
- 8 crashes involved alcohol/drugs

V. Significant Cases of 2018

State v. Mario Rodolfo Infante Sailema

Leaving the Scene of a Fatal Pedestrian Crash

North Plainfield – 05/15/18 at 1:03 a.m.

Status – Fugitive, fled country

Defendant struck and killed a pedestrian as he crossed the street and did not stop. Defendant had car repaired the following day. Person that repaired the car learned of the crash two days later and reported same. Investigation revealed that defendant fled the country the next day to Ecuador; confirmed by Federal Authorities.

Second Degree

State v. Ronald Rebernik

Vehicular Homicide – D.W.I in School Zone

Assault by Auto with Serious Bodily Injury

Raritan Borough – 07/07/2018 at 7:18 p.m.

Status – Guilty Plea, 15 years incarceration

Defendant was driving under the influence of narcotics. He drove onto the sidewalk, struck 3 people, killing a 1- year old boy, seriously injuring mother and other child.

First Degree

Fourth Degree (2 Counts)

State v. TW (juvenile)

Vehicular Homicide

Bernards Township – 08/03/18 at 2:50 a.m.

Status – Guilty Plea, pending sentencing

Defendant stole a vehicle from a private residence and fled from police when attempting to be stopped. Defendant driver lost control of the vehicle, ran off the road, striking trees and overturning. His 14- year old passenger was ejected and killed.

Second Degree

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State v. Jhonny Herrera

Vehicular Homicide

Assault By Auto with Serious Bodily Injury

Franklin Township – 10/04/18 at 1:54 p.m.

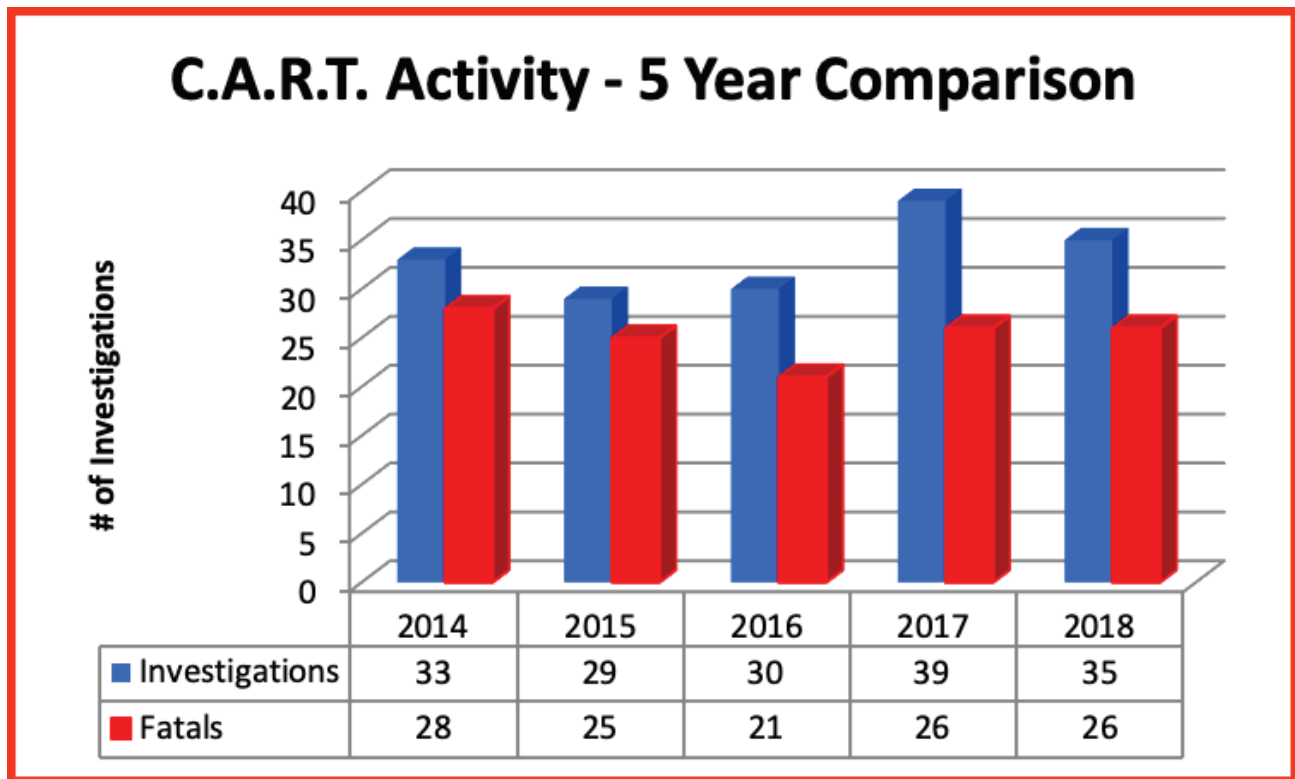
Status – Recently Charged

Defendant charged with driving recklessly, which resulted in him striking a vehicle broadside that had pulled out of an intersection. The driver of the other vehicle was killed and the front seat passenger sustained serious bodily injuries.

**Second Degree
Fourth Degree**

VI. Totals since the inception of the Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team in 1999:

- 721 cases investigated
- 408 fatalities
- 88 crashes that warranted criminal charges
- 84 cases involving assists to other out-of-county agencies



NOTE – C.A.R.T. investigations decreased 11% in 2018 while the total number of fatalities remained the same.

Notwithstanding the year-to-year fluctuation in the number of crashes investigated, an attempt was made to maintain fiscal prudence by keeping to a minimum the number of task force investigators (both county and municipal) that responded to each of the call-outs.

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Summary:

There were 35 motor vehicle collisions this year which required either on-scene or supplemental investigations. There were 26 crashes resulting in 26 fatalities. Each of those fatal crashes received extensive and thorough investigations commensurate with the loss of a human life.

The presence of alcohol and/or drugs was found to be a factor in 8 of the 35 crashes, equating to approximately 23%. Some toxicological reports are still outstanding from 2018..

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FIRE INVESTIGATION UNIT (FIU)

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Fire Investigation Unit was formed to provide the 21 municipalities of Somerset County with a professionally staffed team trained and equipped to conduct all phases of fire investigations. The Task Force is comprised of law enforcement officers, municipal fire officials, career and volunteer fire personnel.

II. Number of personnel assigned to section or unit:

A. Personnel Assigned to Unit:	1 Task Force Commander
	2 Assistant Prosecutors/Legal Division
	Team Members comprised of:
	8 Prosecutor's Office personnel
	7 Municipal Police Officers
	16 Municipal Fire Officials
	3 State Fire Marshals
	1 ATF Special Agent
	1 Fire Service Personnel
	2 Arson K-9

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

The Fire Investigation Unit team members are all trained in origin and cause determination. The team is staffed with personnel from the law enforcement community to handle any and all criminal investigations and fire officials who are familiar with and responsible for the enforcement of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and the Uniform Fire Safety Code.

IV. Fire Investigations:

Fire Investigations conducted: 13

Types of structures involved:

Multi-Family	2
Single family	6
Motor vehicle	3
Commercial	1
Park/Bridge	1

Fire Causes for the 13 fire investigations:

Intentional use of incendiary	2 (1 arrest)
Combustibles too close to heat source	3
Fireworks	1
Undetermined	8

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COUNTER-TERRORISM UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit is an investigative unit created to assist the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness (OHSP) and Federal Bureau of Investigations Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) in investigating possible terrorism suspects and activities. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit provides manpower and resources to assist OHSP and JTTF in terrorism related cases that originate or fall within the boundaries of Somerset County. The Counter-Terrorism Unit also interacts with businesses and corporations deemed "critical and non-critical infrastructures and facilities" to deter terrorist activity, protect their property, and promote better lines of communication.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the unit:

A. Legal Staff: 1 Assistant Prosecutor

B. Investigative Staff: 2 Detectives

C. Support Staff: 1 Clerical

III. Duties and responsibilities of unit personnel:

A. Legal Staff:

Provides legal supervision in preparation for prosecution and legal advice and opinions on a day-to-day basis as needed.

B. Investigative Staff:

Conducts thorough investigations concerning terrorism with the assistance of local and federal agencies; maintains open lines of communication between local businesses and corporations.

C. Support Staff:

Shares clerical and data entry responsibilities.

IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

In 2018, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit participated in 62 incidents where suspicious activities were reported. The Counter-Terrorism Unit participated in numerous interviews of suspicious individuals, performed surveillance of residences and vehicles, and spoke to several citizens who observed peculiar activity. All information gleaned as a result of these investigations was forwarded to OHSP and JTTF for review. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, working jointly with municipal police departments, OHSP, and JTTF, subsequently confirmed or dispelled all suspicious activities.

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V. The Counter-Terrorism Unit investigated the following types of cases in 2018:

- Seven Italian passports were taken from unlocked vehicles in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject left an anti-Semitic voicemail, at a synagogue, in Bernards Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject made a bomb threat via a police department tips email in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Unknown subject made a threat of violence towards an identified juvenile that may have included the victim's religious school as reported in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject flew a UAS / Drone over a temple in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject attempted to elicit information regarding class size and busiest times of operation, at a yoga studio, in Far Hills, N.J.
- Identified juveniles gained access to the roof of a high school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject posted a threatening YouTube video as reported in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subjects distributed white supremacist recruiting fliers in Branchburg Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject left white supremacist group postings at a college in Branchburg Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject reported the theft of currency and checks, possibly linked to a terrorist organization, in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- An unidentified subject left recruitment propaganda at a county park in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject distributed recruitment pamphlets for a hate group in Watchung, N.J.
- Tip line Email complainant reports fliers from white supremacy group Identity Evropa posted in a park in Basking Ridge, N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted Identity Evropa fliers at the Far Hills, N.J. train station.
- Victim reported the loss of his Indian passport in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject could not locate his Indian passport in Belle Mead, N.J.
- Identified juvenile posted a threat of violence on social media in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject made a threat of violence against POTUS while being screened for transport to a facility as reported in Bernards Twp., N.J.
- Identified group posted recruitment fliers in the area of Bedminster Twp., N.J.
- Two unknown subjects trespassed upon a water treatment facility in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject was found in possession of rail yard/train access keys, in Somerville, N.J.
- Unidentified subject operated a drone within close proximity to a commercial aircraft in airspace over Green Brook Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence, at an alternative school, in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile was overheard making a threat of school violence towards another student at the high school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile made threatening statements on social media in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- A commercial aircraft was illuminated by a green laser over Bernards Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile offender made a threat of violence while at school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unknown subjects trespassed into a middle school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted a bomb threat, on a social media application, regarding a middle school in Bound Brook, N.J.
- Unidentified subject(s) vandalized a golf course in Bedminster Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened violence at an alternative school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject placed a recruiting flier from an extremist organization at a park in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile made a threat of school violence at a high school in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile made a threat of school violence at a high school in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject made verbal threats against fellow members and staff of a group home in Liberty Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject made alarming threats of violence at a college in Branchburg Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject reported a perceived threat of school violence, via social media, as reported in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified suspect threatened violence at the school in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile student made threats of school violence at a high school in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject was overheard discussing making a bomb at an elementary school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject made a telephonic bomb threat to a hospital in Somerville, N.J.

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Appellate Section

Intake Screening

Domestic Violence

Juvenile Unit

Victim-Witness

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Criminal Investigation Section

Major Crimes Unit

Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Unit

Special Investigations Unit

Insurance Fraud Unit

Internal Affairs Unit

Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force

Polygraph & Computerized

Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit

Somerset County Emergency Response Teams

Operations Section

Fugitive Unit

Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU)

& Ballistics Laboratory

Criminal Intelligence Unit

Burglary Task Force

STOPit

Crime Stoppers

Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit

Vehicular Homicide Task Force & Collision

Analysis Reconstruction Team (C.A.R.T.)

Fire Investigation Unit

Counter-Terrorism Unit

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D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T.

(Gang Resistance Education Training)

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- An identified juvenile threatened violence while in a school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject sent a letter containing threats of violence, to a community college, in Branchburg Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject reported her passport lost/stolen in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile threatened school violence while in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject threatened school violence in Manville, N.J.
- Identified subject made verbal threats against government officials in an online video, as reported in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Identified student possessed a handgun at a middle school in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Identified victim reported the loss of his Somerset County employee ID card in Somerville, N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject made threats of violence against a teacher at a school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject threatened school violence at a high school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject threatened school violence at a high school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile subject threatened school violence at a high school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- An identified juvenile student threatened violence against another student in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject from Brooklyn, N.Y. threatened violence towards the employees of a credit union in Basking Ridge, N.J.
- Identified student threatened school violence in Watchung, N.J.
- Identified juvenile was arrested for a threat of violence towards students at a high school in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- An unidentified female was observed trying to improperly enter an elementary school in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Two unidentified male subjects broke into a law enforcement officer's Watchung, N.J. home and stole weapons, uniforms, badges, and the officer's personal vehicle.
- Unidentified subject activated security alarms, during an intrusion attempt, at a switching station in Branchburg Twp., N.J.
- Unknown suspect telephoned the Hillsborough Twp. Police Department stating that there was a bomb at the Police Station in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit is responsible for updating all municipal police on intelligence relating to terrorism. All information sent to the Somerset County Counter-Terrorism Coordinator from OHSP and JTTF is disseminated via e-mail to all local police counter-terrorism coordinators. Local coordinators, in turn, are required to provide the intelligence to the patrolmen in their respective jurisdictions.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit is also responsible for maintaining a working relationship with businesses in Somerset County considered to be "Critical and Non-Critical Infrastructures." "Critical Infrastructures" are defined as businesses or structures that, if targeted by terrorists, could severely damage the national or state economy or cause mass civilian casualties. Businesses such as chemical facilities, water treatment plants, malls, insurance corporations, and airports are considered "Critical Infrastructures." "Non-Critical Infrastructures" are businesses such as hotels, storage facilities, car rental agencies, and garden supply stores that are capable of supplying terrorists with supplies, tools, or concealment from which to prepare or launch a terrorist attack.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

I. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- A. Division Head:** 1 Administrator
1 Office Manager
- B. Support Staff:** 38 Clerical & Support Staff

II. Description of the functions of the unit/Mission Statement:

The mission of the Administrative Division of the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office is one of support, assistance and the facilitation of logistical, material and personnel services to the Legal and Investigative Divisions so that they may ensure the effective, efficient and uniform enforcement of the criminal laws and the administration of criminal justice throughout Somerset County.

The Division’s responsibilities include:

- Management of the clerical, secretarial and support staff in addition to computer systems management. In 2018, 2,615 criminal charges were issued and our staff processed thousands of criminal, civil and juvenile discovery requests. Additionally, our secretarial and paralegal staff generated over 7,250 reports, statements, letters and various types of legal documents;
- Policies and directives development;
- Data entry;
- Purchasing, 1,570 purchase orders were processed for the year;
- Budgeting, development and administration of a \$12.9 million + budget;
- Grant management;
- Management of the seized, forfeited, petty cash, confidential fund accounts, and Municipal law enforcement trust accounts;
- Assist in the pre-employment screening and background investigations, and fleet vehicle purchases;
- Liaison to the County Police Chiefs/Director and educational community;
- Logistical support for the Legal and Investigative Divisions;
- Coordination of Community Justice Programs.

First and foremost, the Administrative Division prides itself on the prompt response to inquiries and timely resolution of office problems and issues.

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LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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- Appellate Section
- Intake Screening
- Domestic Violence
- Juvenile Unit
- Victim-Witness

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

- Criminal Investigation Section
 - Major Crimes Unit
 - Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Unit
 - Special Investigations Unit
 - Insurance Fraud Unit
 - Internal Affairs Unit
 - Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force
 - Polygraph & Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit
 - Somerset County Emergency Response Teams
- Operations Section
 - Fugitive Unit
 - Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU) & Ballistics Laboratory
 - Criminal Intelligence Unit
 - Burglary Task Force
 - STOPit
 - Crime Stoppers
 - Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit
 - Vehicular Homicide Task Force & Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team (C.A.R.T.)
 - Fire Investigation Unit
 - Counter-Terrorism Unit

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The Administrative Division had numerous accomplishments in 2018 to include our Bring Your Child to Work Day in 2018. We finished the process of purchasing and implementing the InfoShare Victim- Witness Adult Letter Generator module to improve on the efficiencies of our Victim- Witness Unit. We created two new positions, a Senior Prosecutor Agent and Prosecutor Agent. These positions will be responsible for supporting the Detective Division with any analytical and support type tasks and responsibilities that can be conducted by non-sworn personnel. As we do each year, we continued a program of upgrading our office computers, cell phones, office furniture, office equipment, photocopiers, and fax machines. All nineteen police agencies in Somerset County continue to be connected to our Evidence, Lab and Intelligence modules through a secured VPN.

Government Emergency Telecommunications (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) continues to be installed on the cell phones of key Somerset County Prosecutor's Office personnel that will provide priority cell phone service during major incidents such as terrorist attacks and natural disasters.

The Administrative Division also serves as the liaison to other County agencies, such as the Facilities & Services Department, Purchasing, Human Resources, Finance, Vehicle Maintenance, MIS Department and Printing & Graphics Departments.

III. School Based and Community Programs:

A. Project D.A.R.E./ G.R.E.A.T. School Resource Officers

In order to ensure continuity and purity of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education) the Prosecutor's Office:

1. Monitors D.A.R.E./G.R.E.A.T. and School Resource Officer Programs within the County of Somerset as needed;
2. Serves as a liaison between the County Superintendent, district superintendents, educators, upper management law enforcement officials, D.A.R.E./ G.R.E.A.T. and School Resource Officers.

B. Bring Your Child to Work Day

Our 21st Annual Bring Your Child to Work Day had 104 children registered. This was the largest participation of children since the inception of the program. Bring Your Child to Work Day is a national event that is held every year on the fourth Thursday in April. This nationwide event is designed to create a day that not only helps educate the children about the world of the workplace, but also showcases various career opportunities in Law Enforcement and the Judiciary.

This year the children participated in various fire safety activities at the Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough, N.J. The Fire Academy provided an educational morning where the children participated in a fire maze, smoke maze, electronic fire extinguishers, and more. The Somerset County Sheriff's Office demonstrated their drone and spoke about the various applications of the drone used in law enforcement. The Sheriff's Office K-9 demonstration was a big success.

The New Jersey State Police North Star Helicopter made a spectacular landing and the children were shown the workings of the helicopter. The State Troopers also answered questions about their job and responsibilities.

Other afternoon activities included tours and the workings of the Medic Truck, SWAT truck, the Dive-Rescue vehicle, Arson truck and the CNT Robot. The Somerville Fire Department aerial ladder was a big hit with both the children and adults. Another K-9 presentation from the Sheriff's Office rounded out the afternoon.

Vicinage 13 Law Clerks performed a skit during the lunch hour about Cyber-bullying/Bullying which was carried over as the topic for the ever popular Mock Trial.

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D. Community Events

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and the Somerset County Traffic Safety Alliance brought the message of traffic safety to the 4-H Fair in 2018. A booth staffed by the County Comprehensive Traffic Safety Program Coordinator(CTSP) and municipal police officers and Prosecutor's staff provided the public with information and assistance with traffic safety related issues. Highlighted was the County's Distracted Driving Initiative, "Put It Down", and Child Passenger Safety. The municipal officers present were all certified Child Safety Seat Technicians.

The CTSP Coordinator and other Prosecutor's staff continued to work with Ridewise and other groups to provide educational presentations throughout Somerset County. During the 2018 calendar year twenty-six presentations were given by staff. Talks consisted of Distracted Driving Awareness, Avoiding Roadway Hazards, Teen Driving and Safe Winter Driving.

In 2018 the Somerset County Traffic Safety Alliance continued to operate Child Passenger Safety Seat Fitting Stations in Somerset and Hunterdon Counties. The Fitting Stations are free of charge to parents and caregivers. Twice a month on the first Saturday and third Wednesday of each month in Somerset County and on the second and fourth Tuesday in Hunterdon County, Certified Child Safety Seat Technicians are on hand to inspect and teach how to properly install and use child safety seats. During the 2018 calendar year 502 seats were inspected and 89% were found to have some form of misuse or improper installation.

POLICE ACADEMY

I. Purpose:

The mission of the Somerset County Police Academy is to offer a comprehensive continuing education calendar each year including both required and elective courses for law enforcement personnel. Included in the continuing education component is the scheduling, maintenance and supervision of the Somerset County Firearms Range, a facility utilized by both County and municipal agencies serviced through the Academy. The Academy provides outreach to the community through its participation in various events and specialty classes.

II. The number of personnel assigned to the section or unit:

- A. Legal Staff:** **1 Assistant Prosecutor (On-Call)**
Others as needed
- B. Assigned Staff:** **1 Academy Director (Civilian)**
1 Detective Sergeant (Commanding Officer)
1 Sheriff's Officer (Range Operations)SCSO*
1 Detective (Training Coordinator/Webmaster)
**Range Operations officer is a full-time temporary assignment to the Academy.*
- C. Support Staff:** **1 Office Manager**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit:

- A. Legal Staff:**
Requested as needed to instruct and provide legal guidance on a variety of topical issues.
- B. Academy Director (Civilian):**
The Academy Director provides oversight to the operations of the Somerset County Police Academy.
- C. Sworn Personnel:**
The cadre of sworn personnel delivers the day-to-day coordination, facilitation, and supervision consistent with the purpose of the Academy and its identified mission.
- D. Support Staff (Civilian):**
The Office Manager provides administrative activity and support services to all areas of the Academy.

PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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V. Accomplishments:

In 2018 we conducted one hundred and forty-one courses (141), an increase from the one hundred and thirty-nine (139) courses we conducted in 2017. Attendance for 2018 courses was 3512 officers, an increase of 940 officers as compared to the 2017 attendance total. This increase in both training programs and associated officer attendance can reasonably be attributed to the new direction of the Academy, an offering of more Continuing Education Courses. In addition to our scheduled classes we provided training space and support for a variety of agencies including local Somerset County law enforcement departments, other county law enforcement departments, New Jersey State Police and a variety of Federal Government law enforcement agencies. These extra training events had a total attendance of 2206 officers.

In 2018 the Academy designed and presented the Mandatory Agency Training Series (MATS), fifteenth year curriculum, which continues to make available a standardized training system throughout Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties, for all attending officers relative to the use of force, pursuit, domestic violence and cultural diversity, CLEAR program. This program remains very well received and allowed comprehensive and uniform training in the Attorney General's mandated training within Somerset, Hunterdon and Warren Counties.

Community Outreach

In 2018, the Academy provided thirty-seven (37) educational/positive Law Enforcement-Community programs to over 725 participants. Some of those programs are highlighted below:

In July 2018, forty-eight (48) youths attended the Academy's annual Police Youth Week program, a five-day summer camp sponsored by the Somerset County Chiefs of Police Association, and coordinated by Academy staff. The objective of this program is to introduce high school students to a career in law enforcement and to develop positive interaction between students and members of the law enforcement community.

Working with the high schools in Somerset County, the Academy provided two "Personal Safety for High School Seniors" programs attended by more than forty-two (42) high school seniors. This was a program that promoted situational awareness for those students that were potentially advancing to college or others that would be living on their own after high school graduation.

The Academy continued to provide civilian Active Shooter training classes for 384 county and municipal employees and interested citizens.

The Academy also:

- Provided instructors to Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, N.J. supporting their Associate in Arts Criminal Justice Program.
- Provided support to the Raritan Valley Community College, Criminal Justice Club.
- Provided instructors to Centenary College, Hackettstown, N.J. supporting their Undergraduate Criminal Justice Program.
- Provided instruction, interaction and support to the Centenary College, Criminal Justice Club.
- Participated in the Somerset County "Bring Your Child to Work Day" program.
- Worked with various colleges and universities to assist their students interested in a career in Criminal Justice through their specific internship or student learning programs.

PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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Somerset County Emergency Response Teams
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The Somerset County Firearms Range (SCFR):

The Academy provides oversight, scheduling and maintenance of the Somerset County Firearms Range (SCFR), located on Roycefield Road in Hillsborough, N.J. The Range is used almost daily throughout the year by the Academy for firearms related Continuing Education courses, and by most law enforcement agencies from throughout Somerset County for their New Jersey Attorney General mandated semi-annual firearms qualifications and other agency specific tactical firearms training programs.

The SCFR is a New Jersey Police Training Commission approved firearms training range. The Range is a 50-yard, 16-lane outdoor shooting facility. In addition it has a 100-yard line shooting platform for lanes 1 through 5. This allows agencies to conduct true 100-yard rifle qualifications. It has 2 overhead protected "classroom" or "weapon cleaning" areas, a range tower, 2 storage sheds and portable toilet facilities. The Range is approved for the firing of agency-authorized on- and off-duty handguns, agency-authorized shotguns, and agency-authorized police rifles.

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- PROSECUTORIAL SCREENING OF DEFENDANTS
- DEFENDANT APPLICATIONS FOR DIVERSION PROGRAM
- PRE-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES
- DEFENDANTS COMPLETING THE GRAND JURY PROCESS AND ACTION TAKEN
- DEFENDANTS PENDING DISPOSITION BY AGE OF INDICTMENT OR ACCUSATION
- INDICTMENTS/ACCUSATIONS DISPOSED
- POST-CONVICTION ACTIVITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS COURT ACTIVITIES
- CAREER CRIMINAL DISPOSITION
- INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS
- DISPOSITIONS OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS
- APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS (LAW DIVISION)
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- JUVENILES WITH CASES REACHING FINAL ADJUDICATION
- VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES
- VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED
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- JUVENILE - BIAS CRIME RELATED CHARGES DISPOSED
- POLICE PURSUIT SUMMARY REPORT
- INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY REPORT
- BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

PROSECUTORIAL SCREENING OF DEFENDANTS

SCREENING OUTCOMES	STAGE OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS WHEN DECISION OCCURS	
	PRE-COMPLAINT DECISIONS	POST-COMPLAINT DECISIONS
a. Defendants administratively dismissed	0	64
b. Defendants with charges downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	28	11
c. Defendants accepted for pre-trial diversion	0	39
d. Defendants otherwise screened out	505	22
e. Defendants with change of venue	0	1
f. Accusations filed	0	141
g. Defendants with either indictable complaints authorized or charges approved for grand jury	0	273
h. AOC Correction: Defendants who completed grand jury	0	521
TOTAL SCREENING DECISIONS FOR YEAR (add a - h)	533	1,072

DEFENDANT APPLICATIONS FOR DIVERSION PROGRAM, ACTION TAKEN AND OUTCOME

Pre-trial Intervention Diversion Program

	Number of DEFENDANT APPLICATIONS FOR PRE- TRIAL INTERVENTION	
	PRE-INDICTMENT	POST-INDICTMENT
1. Applications reviewed	44	118
2. Recommended for acceptance	38	100
3. Recommended for rejection	14	34
4. Accepted into program	39	108

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**DEFENDANTS PENDING GRAND JURY PROCESS
(Pre-Indictment Defendant Cases)
BY AGE OF COMPLAINT**

AGES OF PRE-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE/FUGITIVE
1. 0 to 1 month	81	0/0
2. 1+ to 2 months	65	0/3
3. 2+ to 3 months	53	0/3
4. 3+ to 4 months	17	0/1
5. Over 4 months	49	0/1
6. TOTAL defendant cases pending grand jury	265	0/8

DEFENDANTS COMPLETING THE GRAND JURY PROCESS AND ACTION TAKEN

ACTION TAKEN	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Defendants presented to the grand jury	767
2. Defendants indicted	757
3. Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	0
4. Defendants no billed/no action	10
5. TOTAL defendants completing the grand jury process	767

DEFENDANTS CHARGED BY ACCUSATION

	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
TOTAL Defendants charged through Accusation	141

DEFENDANTS PENDING DISPOSITION OF CHARGES BY AGE OF INDICTMENT OR ACCUSATION

AGES OF POST-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES FROM DATE OF INDICTMENT OF ACCUSATION	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS	
	ACTIVE	INACTIVE/FUGITIVE
1. 0 to 3 months	83	0/18
2. 3+ to 6 months	64	0/25
3. 6+ to 9 months	49	0/25
4. 9+ to 12 months	21	0/15
5. 12+ to 24 months	28	0/56
6. 24+ months	33	1/302
7. TOTAL post-indictment/accusation defendant cases pending	278	1/441

DEFENDANTS WITH INDICTMENTS/ACCUSATIONS DISPOSED BY OFFENSE CATEGORY AND MANNER OF DISPOSITION

MANNER OF DISPOSITION	OFFENSE CATEGORIES										
	Homicide	Kidnap- ping	Sexual Assault	Robbery	Arson	Assault	Burglary	Bribery	Narcotics	Official Miscon- duct	Perjury/ Falsifi- cation
1. Guilty plea to most serious offense	6	7	16	18	9	24	47	1	252	0	3
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	2	0	2	3	1	4	2	0	23	0	0
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. persons offense	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	21	0	0
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense											
a. Jury	1	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Guilty at trial, lesser indictable offense											
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Guilty at trial, dis. persons offense											
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Not guilty at trial											
a. Jury	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8. Acceptance into diversion program	0	1	1	0	3	9	6	0	55	1	1
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
10. Dismissed pros. motion or consent	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	34	0	0
11. TOTAL dispositions	9	8	19	27	13	42	60	1	385	2	4

DEFENDANTS WITH INDICTMENTS/ACCUSATIONS DISPOSED BY OFFENSE CATEGORY AND MANNER OF DISPOSITION

MANNER OF DISPOSITION										
	Theft	Forgery/ Fraud	Weapons	Child Abuse/ Endanger	Gambling	Wiretap	Obstr. Gov't Oper.	Fail to Register	Other	TOTAL
1. Guilty plea to most serious offense	94	20	22	13	0	0	22	2	13	569
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	9	0	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	52
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. persons offense	6	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	36
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense										
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Guilty at trial, lesser indictable offense										
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Guilty at trial, dis. persons offense										
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Not guilty at trial										
a. Jury	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
8. Acceptance into diversion program	34	10	16	3	0	0	3	0	1	144
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
10. Dismissed pros. motion or consent	10	2	16	1	0	0	5	1	7	81
11. TOTAL dispositions	154	33	61	17	0	0	34	3	28	900

POST-CONVICTION ACTIVITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS COURT ACTIVITIES BY TYPE AND OUTCOME

POST CONVICTION ACTIVITY AND OUTCOME	NUMBER
1. Krol hearings involving the prosecutor's office	27
2. TOTAL post-conviction relief applications/ briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	17
a. Defendants granted relief	1
b. Defendants denied relief	7
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	1
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	1
3. TOTAL habeas corpus petitions/ briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	0
a. Defendants granted relief	0
b. Defendants denied relief	0
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	0
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	0

CAREER CRIMINAL WORKLOAD AND GRAND JURY ACTION

CAREER CRIMINAL WORKLOAD AND GRAND JURY ACTION	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Defendants reviewed for acceptance into career criminal prosecution program	0
2. Defendants accepted for prosecution as career criminals	0
3. TOTAL career criminal defendants completing grand jury process	0
a. Defendants indicted	0
b. Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no billed/no action	0
4. TOTAL career criminal defendants charged through accusation	0

**CAREER CRIMINAL
DEFENDANTS PENDING GRAND JURY PROCESS
(Pre-Indictment Defendant Cases)
BY AGE OF COMPLAINT**

AGES OF PRE-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES FROM DATE OF COMPLAINT	NUMBER
1. 0 to 1 month	0
2. 1+ to 2 months	0
3. 2+ to 3 months	1
4. 3+ to 4 months	0
5. Over 4 months	0
6. TOTAL defendant cases pending grand jury	1

**CAREER CRIMINAL
DEFENDANTS PENDING DISPOSITION OF CHARGES
BY AGE OF INDICTMENT OR ACCUSATION**

AGES OF POST-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES FROM DATE OF INDICTMENT OR ACCUSATION	NUMBER
1. 0 to 3 months	0
2. 3+ to 6 months	0
3. 6+ to 9 months	0
4. 9+ to 12 months	0
5. 12+ to 24 months	0
6. 24+ months	0
7. TOTAL post-indictment/accusation defendant cases pending	0

**CAREER CRIMINAL
DEFENDANTS WITH INDICTMENTS/ACCUSATION DISPOSED
BY MANNER OF DISPOSITION**

MANNER OF DISPOSITION	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Guilty plea to most serious offense	0
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	0
3. Ind. dism., plea to disorderly persons offense	0
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense	0
a. Jury trial	0
b. Non-jury trial	0
5. Guilty at trial, lesser indictable offense	0
a. Jury trial	0
b. Non-jury trial	0
6. Guilty at trial, disorderly persons offense	0
a. Jury trial	0
b. Non-jury trial	0
7. Not guilty at trial	0
a. Jury trial	0
b. Non-jury trial	0
8. Acceptance into diversion program	0
9. Dismissed over objection of prosecutor	0
10. Dismissed on motion of prosecutor	0
11. TOTAL dispositions	0

INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS

	INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS	NUMBER OF INVESTIGATIONS BY TYPE-Original and Post-complaint Investigations							
		Original Investigations Conducted Jointly With				Original Exclusive Investigations	TOTAL Original Investigations	TOTAL Post-complaint Investigations	
		Local Police	State Agency	Other County Prosecutor	Other Agency				
1.	Investigations pending or inactive at the beginning of the year	285	24	3	15	168	495	4	
2.	Investigations opened during the year	684	97	7	105	474	1367	10	
3.	TOTAL Investigative workload for the year (add nos. 1-2)	971	121	10	120	642	1862	14	
4.	TOTAL Investigations completed during this year	628	93	7	98	415	1241	12	
a.	Resulting in criminal charges	30	2	0	2	44	78	0	
b.	Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	29	7	0	13	8	57	0	
c.	Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	3	0	0	4	1	8	0	
d.	Closed - No further action	566	84	7	79	362	1098	0	
5.	Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	341	28	3	22	227	621	2	

DISPOSITIONS OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN CRIMINAL CHARGES

DISPOSITION OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS RESULTING IN CRIMINAL CHARGES	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Defendants charged by complaint, TOTAL	179
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	6
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	1
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	80
2. Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	2
3. Defendants charged through accusation	16
4. Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, TOTAL	82
a. Defendants indicted	82
b. Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no billed/no action	0

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS Appellate Division and Other Appellate Courts

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS/OUTCOMES	Appellate Division Appeals							NJ Supreme Court Appeals	U.S. and Other Court Appeals (specify court)	TOTAL
	Criminal referral cases	Other criminal appeals	Criminal Inter-locutory	Juvenile	Law Division (de novo)	Civil				
1. Appeals pending at beginning of the year	29	1	2	2	0	0	5	1	40	
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	48	0	8	0	6	1	23	2	88	
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	2	0	9	0	0	0	19	0	30	
4. Appellate briefs filed	29	0	5	2	3	1	4	0	44	
5. STATE Appeals and - TOTAL DISPOSED Cross Appeals	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	3	
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
e. Affirmed in part/Reversed and or remanded in part	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
6. DEFENSE Appeals - TOTAL DISPOSED	39	1	3	2	4	0	16	3	68	
a. Conviction or order affirmed	28	0	2	2	3	1	15	3	54	
b. Conviction or order reversed	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	7	
c. Remanded or judgment modified	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
e. Affirmed in part/Reversed and or remanded in part	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	
7. Appeals pending at the end of the year	20	0	2	0	2	0	7	1	32	

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS Law Division

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS/OUTCOMES	MUNICIPAL COURT APPEALS -- BY TYPE OF VIOLATION						TOTAL
	Criminal	Disorderly Persons	Motor Vehicle	Municipal Ordinances	Other		
1. Appeals pending at beginning of year	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	0	2	22	0	0	0	24
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	8	0	0	0	8
4. Appellate briefs filed	0	2	21	0	0	0	23
5. TOTAL APPEALS DISPOSED	0	2	21	0	0	0	23
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	2	16	0	0	0	18
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Appeals pending at the end of the year	0	0	6	0	0	0	6

Section/Unit _____
(completing report)

County: Somerset

Section IV. 9.a.

Year...: 2018

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Filings/New Cases	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
1. Total New Filings During the Calendar Year	205	262	459
VOP Filings			
2. Total Violations of Probation During the Calendar Year	16	18	18
Returned to Court			
3a. Cases Reactivated	15	21	49
3b. Cases Reopened	36	45	97
3c. Cases Successfully Appealed	0	0	0
3. Total Cases Returned to Court	51	66	146
Transfers			
4a. Entering this county	44	47	107
4b. Leaving this county	76	85	132
4. (Net Change)	-32	-38	-25

5. County Screening Procedures.....: Check the box that most accurately describes the procedure in your county. Do not check more than one box.

- a. Prosecutor's office reviews all new delinquency complaints either before or after diversion. X
- b. Prosecutor's office reviews selected delinquency complaints either before or after diversion based on offense charged or other criteria
- c. Prosecutor's office does not screen new delinquency complaints.

6. Violations of Probation Procedures: Check the box that most accurately describes the procedure in your county. Do not check more than one box.

- a. An Assistant Prosecutor appears at all V.O.P. hearings. X
- b. An Assistant Prosecutor appears at selected V.O.P. hearings based on offense charged or other criteria.
- c. Assistant Prosecutor's do not at V.O.P. hearings.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DISPOSED CASES

Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
1. Total Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn during Calendar Year	23	26	36
Diverted Cases			
2. Total Diversions during Calendar Year	65	70	104
Inactivated Cases			
3a. VOP Cases Inactivated	4	5	5
3b. Non-VOP Cases Inactivated	15	19	34
3. Total Inactivations during Calendar Year	19	24	39
Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)			
4a. Adjudicated Delinquent	0	0	0
4b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
4c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
4d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	9	13	28
4. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)	9	13	28
Non-VOP Decisions (Non-Mandatory Calendar)			
5a. Adjudicated Delinquent	0	0	0
5b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
5c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
5d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	0	0	0
5. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Non-Mandatory Calendar)	0	0	0
Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)			
6a. Adjudicated Delinquent	75	115	260
6b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
6c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
6d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	7	10	27
6. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)	82	125	287
VOP Decisions (1:1)			
	Mandatory Calendar	Non-Mandatory Calendar	Juvenile Referee
7a. Adjudicated Delinquent	0	0	12
7b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
7c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
7d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	0	0	0
7. Total VOP Decisions	0	0	12

Trials

8a. Total Number of Trials Where the Assistant Prosecutor Appeared.	<u>0</u>
8b. Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent on One or More Charges at Trial.	<u>0</u>
8c. Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Not Delinquent at Trial.	<u>0</u>

JUVENILE WAIVER DECISIONS

1.	Voluntary Waivers at Juvenile's Request	0
2.	Juvenile Waiver Applications by Prosecutor	
a.	Pending at Beginning of Year	0
b.	Motions Filed by Prosecutor this Year	1
3.	Juvenile Waiver Decisions (Prosecutor's Applications)	
a.	Waived on Prosecutor's Motion with Juvenile's Consent	0
b.	Waived on Prosecutor's Motion after a Hearing	1
c.	Motion Voluntarily Withdrawn by Prosecutor	0
d.	Waivers Denied	0
e.	Total Decisions (sum of 3a through 3d)	1
4.	Juvenile Waiver Applications filed by Prosecutor Pending at Year End (2.a. + 2.b. - 3.e.)	2

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VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES

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NOTIFICATION SERVICES	NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO					
	VICTIMS		Lay WITNESSES		Law Enforcement Complainant	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Initial contact	X					
Administrative dismissal	X		X		X	
GJ Remand to Remand Municipal Court	X	+	X		X	
Indictment returned	X		X		X	
No bill (Grand Jury Dismissal)	X		X		X	
Applied to PTI	X		X		X	
Acceptance to PTI	X		X		X	
Completed PTI	X		X		X	
Terminated from PTI	X		X		X	
Pre-Trial Proceeding	X		X		X	
Fugitive Status	X		X		X	
Court Dismissal	X		X		X	

VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES

NOTIFICATION SERVICES	NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO					
	VICTIMS		Lay WITNESSES		Law Enforcement Complainant	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Pre-Grand Jury Remand/Decline	145	X				
Disposed of Charges Not Guilty	23	X	X		X	
Dispose of Charges Guilty To Be Sentenced	0	X	X		X	
Sentence Date	1449	X	X		X	
Sentence Imposed- Parole Input	110	X				
Sentence Imposed	2308	X	X		X	
Mistrial/Dismissal	0	X			X	
Mistrial	0	X	X		X	
Plea to Charges/To Be Sentenced	1153	X	X		X	
Plea and sentenced	0	X	X		X	
Community Release	21	X				
Parole Denial	56	X				
Parole Eligibility	134	X				
Max Release (Sentence Expiration)	76	X				
Release on Parole	27	X				

VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES

NOTIFICATION SERVICES	NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO					
	VICTIMS		Lay WITNESSES		Law Enforcement WITNESSES	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Return to Custody	0					
Juvenile Release	0	X				
Juvenile- Initial Contact	113	X				
Juvenile- Disposition of Case	65	X				
Juvenile Transfer Out	14	X				
Fugitive Arrest	108	X				
Condolence Letters	5	X				
VINE	226	X				
Administrative Hold	0	X				
Release to ISP	10	X				
Applied to Drug Court	30	X				
CAR Team	20	X				
Total Notifications for 2018	18,370					

VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROVIDED

VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE SERVICES	SERVICE PROVIDED TO			
	VICTIMS		WITNESSES	
	Juvenile Cases	Adult Cases	Juvenile Cases	Adult Cases
INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SERVICES				
Introductory brochure	X	X		
Criminal Justice system orientation	X	X		
Case information	X	X	X	X
VCCO referral	X	X		
Social service information/referral	X	X		
Crime prevention information/refer				
Property return information	X	X		
Witness fee information				
Public education, community awareness		X		
LOGISTIC SERVICES				
Stand-by subpoena and call		X		
Witness waiting area	X	X	X	X
Response to witness intimidation, harassment				
Restitution to recommendation at sentencing	X	X		
VCCO Claim Assistance	X	X		
Social service intervention	X	X		
Employer/student intervention	X	X		
Travel, lodging assistance		X		
Transportation assistance	X	X		
Child care assistance				
Property return assistance		X		
Witness fee assistance				
Victim impact statement assistance	X	X		
Counseling referral		X		
Other (specify)				
Court accompaniment	X	X		
Bilingual Spanish Assistance	X	X		

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	NUMBER	VALUE
1. Notice of intention to solicit funds received	1	
2. Expungement applications received	391	
3. TOTAL number of forfeiture actions	40	
4. Number of motor vehicles obtained through forfeiture actions	6	
5. TOTAL value of property forfeited (add a. - c.)		126,229.53
a. Cash forfeited		89,364.53
b. Value of forfeited motor vehicles		36,865.00
c. Value of other forfeited property		0
(Specify property)		

ADULT DEFENDANTS WITH BIAS CRIME RELATED CHARGES DISPOSED

	TOTAL	NUMBER CONVICTED		ACQUITTED	DISMISSED	DOWNGRADE/ REMAND
		PLEA	TRIAL			
Number of defendants disposed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants for whom application for extended term of imprisonment made	0					
Number of defendants for whom application was granted	0					
Number of defendants for whom application was denied	0					
Number of defendants for whom simple assault was upgraded to 4th degree crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants for whom harassment was upgraded to 4th degree crime	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of defendants who had both an upgrade to a 4th degree crime and an application for extended terms	0					

JUVENILE DEFENDANTS WITH BIAS CRIME RELATED CHARGES DISPOSED

	TOTAL	NUMBER CONVICTED			ACQUITTED	DISMISSED	DOWNGRADE/ REMAND
		PLEA	TRIAL				
Number of juveniles disposed	0						
Number of juveniles waived for adult prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of juveniles for whom application for extended term of imprisonment made	0						
Number of juveniles for whom application was granted	0						
Number of juveniles for whom application was denied	0						
Number of juveniles for whom simple assault was upgraded to 4th degree crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of juveniles for whom harassment was upgraded to 4th degree crime	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of juveniles who had both an upgrade to a 4th degree crime and an application for extended terms	0						

Section/Unit _____
 completing report
 Section IV 14a.

County: Somerset
 Year: 2018

POLICE PURSUIT SUMMARY REPORT

Agency: All Somerset County Agencies	County: Somerset
Reporting Period: January 1, 2018 - December 31, 2018	
Person completing report: Lt. Roxanna Catterson	Date completed: 1/24/19
Phone number: 908-541-5082	

1. Number of pursuits	37
2. Number of pursuits resulting in accidents	8
3. Number of pursuits resulting in injuries (NO DEATHS)	4
4. Number of pursuits resulting in death	1
5. Number of pursuits resulting in arrests	27
6. Number of vehicles in accidents	6
a) Pursued vehicles	8
b) Police vehicles	2
c) Third party vehicles	1
7. Number of people injured	4
a) Pursued vehicles	1
b) Police vehicles	
c) Third party vehicles	
d) Pedestrians	1
8. Number of people killed	
a) Pursued vehicles	1
b) Police vehicles	
c) Third party vehicles	
d) Pedestrians	
9. Number of people arrested	32
10. Number of pursuits in which a tire deflation device was used	

SCPO - ANNUAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY REPORT

Agency: ALL SOMERSET COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Year: 2018

Person Completing Report: LT. ROXANNA CATTERSON

TABLE 1 - COMPLAINTS FILED

Type of Complaint	Anonymous Complaints	Citizen Complaints	Agency Complaints	Total Complaints
Excessive Force		8	2	10
Improper Arrest		8	1	9
Improper Entry		4		4
Improper Search		4	1	5
Other Criminal Violation	2	4	4	10
Differential Treatment		21	8	29
Demeanor		61	7	68
Domestic Violence	1	2	4	7
Other Rule Violation	4	29	85	118
TOTAL	7	141	112	260

Table 3 - Court Dispositions

Court	Cases Dismissed	Cases Diverted	Acquittals	Convictions
Municipal				
Superior		1		

Total	0	1	0	0
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TABLE 2 - AGENCY DISPOSITIONS

Type of Complaint	Number and Type of Disposition											
	Pending Last Year	Received This Year	Total	Sustained			Exonerated	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Admin. Closed	Closed This Year	Pending End of Year
				Criminal Charge	Internal Disciplinary							
Excessive Force	2	10	12		1	3	1	2	3	10	2	
Improper Arrest		9	9		1	2	2	2	1	8	1	
Improper Entry	1	4	5			2		1		3	2	
Improper Search	1	5	6		1	2		2	1	6	0	
Other Criminal Violation	5	10	15	1	1	1		2	6	11	4	
Differential Treatment	3	29	32		2	10	5	7	2	26	6	
Demeanor		68	68		9	9	21	13	8	60	8	
Domestic Violence		7	7	1				1	3	5	2	
Other Rule Violation	18	118	136		63	13	10	11	20	117	19	
TOTAL	30	260	290	2	78	42	39	41	44	246	44	

Signature of Person Completing Report: 

Name of Person Completing Report: LT. ROXANNA CATTERSON

Date Report Completed: January 24, 2019

Department: ALL SOMERSET COUNTY DEPARTMENTS
 Year: 2018



2018 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOMERSET COUNTY

The following report contains the statistical summary of reports of police misconduct in Somerset County in 2018. In addition, the report provides statistics for the dispositions of those complaints. A review of the report and a comparison of this report with the report prepared the previous year reveals the following:

Somerset County law enforcement agencies investigated 260 new cases in 2018 with 34 additional complaints pending from the previous year. Compared to the previous year (2017 – 333 total cases investigated), there was an approximate 21.92 % decrease in the number of complaints investigated.

Of the 260 complaints investigated in 2018, there were 80 sustained allegations (Refer to Table 2). Two (2) of those sustained allegations resulted in Criminal Charges; the remaining 78 represented Internal Disciplinary Action. Of the remaining 180 complaints, there were 166 disposed allegations, which included: Exonerated – 42, Not Sustained – 39, Unfounded – 41, and Administratively Closed – 44. Forty-four (44) complaints remained open and were pending into 2019.

The following chart compares the number of complaints between 2017 and 2018.

Type of Complaint	2017 Total Complaints	2018 Total Complaints	Percentage Increase/Decrease
Excessive Force	17	10	-41.17%
Improper Arrest	5	9	+80%
Improper Entry	4	4	0%
Improper Search	9	5	-44.44%
Other Criminal Violation	24	10	-58.33%
Differential Treatment	34	29	-14.70%
Demeanor	82	68	-17.07%
Domestic Violence	4	7	+75%
Other Rule Violation	154	118	-23.37%
Total	333	260	-21.92%

As you can see, there was a decrease in the overall number of complaints received in 2018 (260) when compared to the number of complaints received in 2017 (333). This represents a decrease of approximately -21.92% in the number of received complaints. Year 2018 also saw an decrease in the number of Excessive Force Complaints (-41.17%), Improper Search Complaints (-44.44%), Other Criminal Violations (-58.33%), Differential Treatment Complaints (-14.70%), Demeanor Complaints (-17.07%), and Other Rule Violation Complaints (-23.37%). Which based on the number of complaints received for the entire year, is a significant decrease from 2017.

However, based upon the above statistics there appears to be an increase in the number of received Improper Arrest Complaints (+80%) and Domestic Violence Complaints (+75%). There was no increase/decrease in the number of Improper Entry Complaints.

As in the past, the goal is to continue to investigate and dispose of cases in a timely manner. As well as to thoroughly and fairly investigate all complaints brought to the Internal Affairs Unit and pursue all sustainable charges.

BUDGETS AND EXPENDITURES

ACTIVITY	YEAR	Total Operating Budget (excluding Grants)	Total Grants Funding
1. TOTAL actual expenditures, prior report year (include all County, State and Federal funding)	2017	12,042,118	1,031,381
a. Salaries and Wages		11,166,225	430,037
b. Other Expenses		875,893	601,344
2. TOTAL Budgeted Appropriations, current report year (include all County, State and Federal funding)	2018	12,724,895	1,208,357
a. Salaries and Wages		11,664,020	496,840
b. Other Expenses		1,060,875	711,517

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