



2019 Annual Report

Michael H. Robertson
Prosecutor

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MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR, Michael H. Robertson



This 2019 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.

A lot has changed in the past few months since our last message. To say things are different would be an understatement. Everyone has been impacted by COVID-19 and it has brought about a lot of change both personally and professionally. I am proud to say that the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office has done an outstanding job navigating through these trying times and that everyone has been extremely supportive of one another and willing to step up and be a team player. Although much has changed, I am happy to begin this message with some positive highlights from our office including recent hires and promotions. The following detectives were hired over the past year and add some amazing talent to our pool of impressive detectives: Detective Carolina Moreno, Detective Brian Newman, Detective Jessica Pellechio, Detective David Formalarie, Detective Nicholas Gambino, Detective Garrett S. Johnson and Detective Troy Powell. We also hired two new Assistant Prosecutors, Ryan A. Quinones and Lauren Fox, who both have blended in with our office and are doing great. Other hires include, Legal Secretary Laura Polakiewicz, Evidence Custodian Shamil Graham, Criminal Analyst Joe Spicuzza, Data Specialist Cindy Aldana, Child Advocacy Manager Melinda Pullis and Prosecutor Agents Richard Borden, Arthur Akins, Mark Leopold, Terrence Thompson, Crystal Burrows and Mark Szczecina.

We also had a series of promotions in the Detective Bureau and would like to congratulate Captain David Whipple, Lieutenant William Federico and Sergeant Darren Herrling on their well-deserved promotions. Lastly we had a series of retirements, which included Captain Brian Hoey, Detective Jorge Ramos and Chief Assistant Prosecutor Merrill Mezzacappa. Congratulations to Jorge, Brian and Merrill for an outstanding career serving Somerset County. Although not a retirement, our very own Assistant Prosecutor Perry Farhat resigned after accepting an offer with the United States Attorney's Office for the District of New Jersey (Newark Office). We are all very proud of Perry but miss him and wish him the best.

As I began this message, much has changed with COVID-19. We are limiting in-person meetings and contact with others in an effort to provide the safest environment for our staff and the public we serve. We are nonetheless reaching out to the community through phone

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

LEGAL DIVISION

Trial Section
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

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

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contact and/or Zoom conferences, which seems to now be the “new norm.” We are all working hard to navigate these challenging times and figuring out how to accomplish our mission of protecting the public while administering justice. Again, it has been a challenge but I am proud to say Somerset County is doing a great job. Another positive note that I want to share in this message is the introduction of our Child Advocacy Center, which is due to open in early 2021 at 40 North Bridge Street on the 4th Floor. We could not have accomplished this without the hard work of Child Advocacy Manager Melinda Pullis, Victim-Witness Coordinator Erin Rocchetti, Assistant Prosecutor Anne Marie Mueller, Somerset County Engineering Department – Plans and Construction of the CAC, Nydia Monagas (New Jersey Children’s Alliance) – mentored SCPO by providing assistance on grant applications, touring other CAC’s, becoming an Associate Member of the National Children’s Alliance and plans for future accreditation and others who worked hard to have this great resource added to our Office and better serve the residents of Somerset County.

October was breast cancer awareness month and once again in partnership with Robert Wood Johnson, The Far Hills Race Commission and our municipal police departments, we wrapped our patrol vehicles in pink to bring awareness to the community. There were a total of seven vehicles that were wrapped in pink and the agencies that participated were the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office, the Sheriff’s Office, Franklin Township Police Department, Branchburg Police Department, Somerville Police Department, Raritan Police Department, and Far Hills Police Department. Breast cancer affects about 1 in 8 women and early detection is a key factor in offering more treatment options and increasing survivability. We in law enforcement are in a unique position to help increase awareness to this disease and the pink vehicle campaign is proof positive that law enforcement deeply cares about the communities they serve. I thank everyone who participated this past year and look forward to it next year.

In light of the tragic death of George Floyd and other police community related issues, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is pleased to announce a new training initiative entitled Principles of Policing (“POP” Program).

The first installment of this program includes six presentations that are approximately 10-15 minutes in length addressing a variety of topics related to issues faced by police officers, including police/community relationships. Topics to be addressed culminated from the Somerset and Hunterdon County Chief's Associations and the Somerset and Hunterdon County Prosecutor's Offices. Input for other training topics is welcomed by the public and other citizen groups. The first set of presentations is now available on disc.

Somerset County Police Academy Director, Dr. Richard Celeste, designed the presentations along with this Office. The presentations are designed to be administered by each municipal police department in Somerset County during roll-call or a shift change.

The first six topics include: Noble Cause Corruption, Duty of Care, Line of Duty Death Statistics, Implicit Bias, De-escalation and Social Media - Best Practices. In addition to the extensive training our officers already receive, here in Somerset, we wanted to provide local law enforcement agencies with a new training model due on Covid-19 restrictions and the national call for police reform. Although New Jersey arguably has the best trained law enforcement officers in the United States, there is always room for improvement and through the POP Program, we hope to further advance officers training here in Somerset County.

In concluding this message, I just wanted to again thank all of the staff, paralegals, detectives, assistant prosecutors and others on what a tremendous job you have all been doing while facing this global pandemic. It has been a very difficult challenge but all of you have stepped up and are carrying out the mission of this Office and making sure we serve the community of Somerset County; so thank you. I would also like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season and hope that 2021 brings about some positive news as we all try to get back to normal.



Respectfully submitted,
Michael H. Robertson
 Somerset County Prosecutor

PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE

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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 John W. Fodor	-	Branchburg Township
Chief Paul Payne	-	Bridgewater Township
Chief Michael DeCarolis	-	Far Hills Borough
Director Quovella Spruill	-	Franklin Township
Chief Samuel Caramela	-	Green Brook Township
Chief Michael McMahon	-	Hillsborough Township
Acting Chief Thomas Herbst	-	Manville Borough
Director Jim Gill	-	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

Darrin J. Russo - Sheriff
 Supervisory Senior Agent Jason Bevan - Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Lt. Charles Schultz - New Jersey State Police - Somerville Station Commander
 Lt. Gregory Pagano - New Jersey State Police - Hamilton Station Commander

Municipal Prosecutors

Steven Davis	Bedminster Township, Bernards Township, Bernardsville Borough, & Peapack Gladstone Borough
John E. Bruder	Bound Brook Borough & Raritan Borough
Christopher S. Bateman	Branchburg Township
Carl Taylor	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
John Kaplan	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

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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ROLL CALL

In 2019, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Merrill Mezzacappa retired from the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office after approximately 23 years of service. Captain Brian Hoey retired in December of 2019 after approximately 26 years of service as well as Detective Jorge Ramos after approximately 16 years of service.

Joining our office were: Assistant Prosecutor Ryan A. Quinones, Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Fox, Detective Carolina Moreno, Detective Brian Newman, Detective Jessica Pellechio, Detective David Formalarie, Detective Nicholas Gambino, Detective Garrett S. Johnson and Detective Troy Powell.

Other hires include: Legal Secretary Laura Polakiewicz, Evidence Custodian Shamil Graham, Criminal Analyst Joe Spicuzza, Data Specialist Cindy Aldana, Child Advocacy Manager Melinda Pullis and Prosecutor Agents Richard Borden, Arthur Akins, Mark Leopold, Terrence Thompson, Crystal Burrows and Mark Szczecina.

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 – 2020

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-two 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 2019, Somerset County continued to process cases through centralized screening while continuing the requirements of the 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: 24 Assistant Prosecutors

**B. Support Staff: 5 Paralegals
12 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 1 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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Criminal Investigation Section

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Insurance Fraud Unit

Internal Affairs Unit

Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force

Polygraph & Computerized

Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit

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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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- IV. The Assistant Prosecutor has 2 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 five 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, name changes and expungements, 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. Tamar Reaves, aka "T-MAC" - Indictment No. 17-11-00612-I

On May 16, 2019, the Honorable Kevin M. Shanahan, P.J.Cr., sentenced defendant Tamar Reaves, age 20, of Park Street, Franklin Township, to 27 years in New Jersey State Prison, with 23 years to be served without parole, for his conviction for First Degree Aggravated Manslaughter, Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose and Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun. Defendant Reaves' conviction stemmed from a shooting that occurred at 7:50 a.m. on August 9, 2017 on Battle Place in Franklin Township. At that time, defendant Tamar Reaves, aka "T-Mac," followed his 18 year-old victim from a convenience store to her relative's home, and shot her in the back of her neck with a 9mm handgun. After committing the crime, Reaves initially fled to a friend's home, and ultimately to his grandmother's Franklin Township home. Once there, he ordered a pizza, and made several posts to various social media accounts, including a photo of the pizza, as well as a video of himself singing the lyrics of a song which mirrored the circumstances of the shooting he just committed. Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Det. Randy Sidorski and Franklin Township Police Sgt. Kevin Fitzharris were assisted in solving this crime by local business owners and residents whose video surveillance systems recorded portions of the crime and who provided that video surveillance evidence to police. New Brunswick Police Lt. Mark Pappas and Det. Brandt Gregus recognized defendant as the individual depicted in the surveillance video, and assisted in locating and arresting the defendant that day. In addition, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms assisted by providing information gathered during an unrelated investigation of defendant which demonstrated that defendant possessed a 9mm handgun that was consistent with the handgun defendant used to commit the shooting. Following extensive pretrial litigation, on April 2, 2019, defendant Tamar Reaves pled guilty to First Degree Aggravated Manslaughter, Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose, and Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun.

Assistant Prosecutor Paul Heinzl

State v. Roger Covil - Indictment No.10-08-0474-I

This matter was successfully tried by Assistant Prosecutor Frank Kolodzieski, with defendant found guilty of First Degree Possession of Cocaine with Intent to Distribute. At the 2014 trial, the State introduced expert testimony in accord with existing Supreme Court case law, which expressly allowed the State to call an expert in drug distribution to opine (based on a hypothetical tracking the facts of the case) whether in the hypothetical defendant possessed the drugs for personal use or distribution. Some 2 years after trial but while appeal was pending, the Supreme Court issued its opinion in State v. Cain, which overruled the prior case allowing such testimony, and stated its new rule applied "going forward." Despite that limitation, the Appellate Division in this case held Cain applied retroactively to cases that were already tried when Cain came down but were pending appeal, and reversed defendant's conviction. This office's petition to the Supreme Court was granted on that issue, as was the State's additional argument that it otherwise elicited expert testimony that stayed within proper bounds. The Court also granted defendant's cross-petition on the propriety of the State introducing a "writ of replevin" defendant had prepared and filed after the State commenced a forfeiture action against \$70,000.00 seized from his closet, with defendant arguing that the State's forfeiture complaint effectively violated his Fifth Amendment right to silence by compelling an answer that would incriminate him by forcing him to admit that the seized cash was his. The case was argued in September.

State v. Juan Rodriguez - Indictment No. 18-04-085-I

This case involved the seizure of 28 pounds of marijuana during a roadside motor vehicle stop. The marijuana was suppressed when the trial court ruled that the police were required to obtain a search warrant before entering the vehicle, despite that the probable cause supporting the search developed spontaneously at the scene in an unforeseen manner. The trial court so ruled because the driver did not have a valid license and no one else was available to drive the car, thus making the car's tow and impoundment a certainty. This office sought leave to appeal, which was granted. The Appellate Division held the search was proper even though impoundment was inevitable, ruling that in such circumstances the decision whether to search the car at the side of the road (which does not require a warrant) or at headquarters (which does require a warrant) is committed to the discretion of the officer. State v. Rodriguez, 459 N.J. Super. 13 (App. Div.), leave denied, 238 N.J. 486 (2019).

State v. R.G. - Indictment No. 17-04-189-I

This case involved an application by this office to forcibly medicate a defendant to make him competent to stand trial on a charge of neglect of the elderly, arising out of his allowing his father to die on the floor of their home while defendant elected not to help him or call for help. The trial court agreed that the plan of compelled medication was substantially likely to render defendant competent to stand trial and unlikely to have side effects that interfered with his ability to assist his defense; agreed the medication was necessary toward making defendant competent to stand trial and that less intrusive treatments were unlikely to achieve the same results; and agreed that the medication was medically appropriate and in defendant's best medical interests. But it ruled the State did not have a sufficiently weighty interest to support the application since, in its view, the charge was not serious enough to justify the intrusion. Our motion for leave to appeal was granted. The Appellate Division ultimately affirmed the trial court's ruling and, in the process, gave the State needed guidance as to the legal standard to be applied for such applications, since this was a case of first impression in New Jersey. State v. R.G., 460 N.J. Super. 416 (App. Div. 2019).

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Kathleen P. Holly

State v. Devon Branham - Indictment Nos. 18-09-00565-I and 18-09-00566-I

Devon Branham pled guilty to Indictment No. 18-09-00566-I charging one count of Second Degree Certain Persons Not to Have Weapons in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-7b. Defendant also pled guilty to the following counts in Indictment No. 18-09-00565-I: Count 1 charging Second Degree Possession of a Firearm while violating N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5 in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a, Count 2 charging Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5b(1), Count 3 charging Second Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5b(4) and Count 5 charging Fourth Degree Possession of a Defaced Firearm in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-3d. Defendant also pled guilty to a motor vehicle summons charging Turns at Controlled Intersection in violation of N.J.S.A. 39:4-115A. The State recommended 5 years incarceration with a mandatory 5 years without parole on Indictment No. 18-09-00566-I charging Second Degree Certain Persons Not to Have Weapons. On Indictment No. 18-09-00565-I the State recommended on the Second Degree Possession of a Firearm while violating N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4.1a, 5 years incarceration with 5 years without parole consecutive to Possession with Intent to Distribute which had a 5 year flat sentence recommendation. Defendant's overall sentence recommendation was a mandatory 10 years, 5 years without parole. Defendant was sentenced in accordance with the plea agreement by the Honorable Kathy C. Qasim, J.S.C.

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A summary of the facts include the following: on July 1, 2018 Officer Kilgore was on patrol in a marked unit near Vosseller Avenue and West Second Street in Bound Brook when he observed a black four door Hyundai Sonata bearing New Jersey registration ending in JPB traveling north on Vosseller Avenue at a higher rate of speed than the speed limit. The officer then followed the vehicle in an attempt to clock the speed, whereupon the officer observed the vehicle make a right turn on red which was prohibited; there was a visible no turn on red sign at the intersection. The officer followed the vehicle, activated his overhead emergency lights and conducted a motor vehicle stop in the area of East Union Avenue and Mountain Avenue. The officer exited his vehicle and approached the Hyundai. He made contact with the driver who was identified as Devon R. Branham, via his New Jersey driver's license. There were 2 passengers in the vehicle. While speaking with the driver, the officer detected an odor of raw marijuana based on his training and experience. The officer requested back-up officers to respond to the scene. He instructed the driver, Mr. Branham, to exit the vehicle. Mr. Branham complied. The officer advised Mr. Branham that he detected the odor of raw marijuana whereupon defendant said "Jesus Christ." The defendant indicated that he would find something when the officer asked him that question. The passengers were removed from the vehicle. A search was conducted. The officer then heard Devon Branham say "it's in the center console." The officer felt that was an attempt by the defendant to direct his attention to that area and not elsewhere in the vehicle. The officer found 2 clear Ziploc bags with green vegetation that he recognized as marijuana, based on his training and experience, in the center console. Defendant admitted that that marijuana belonged to him. Defendant was then arrested. Defendant appeared to be nervous. The officer continued to smell the strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The officer requested that the defendant consent to a search of the trunk. Defendant initially declined, but then wanted a complete understanding of what his rights were. The officer explained same. The defendant determined he was not going to sign the consent form at that time. K-9 Officer Detective Jason Gianotto and the K9 responded to the scene. Once the occupants of the vehicle saw the canine, one of them shouted "oh shit." The canine indicated in the area of the trunk and a large black duffle bag was located. Officer Kilgore removed the bag from the trunk. There was a small black bag located within the larger bag that was heavier. Inside the small bag was a small black "SCCY" 9 mm handgun accompanied by clear bags filled with ammunition, later determined to be 174 rounds, some of which were hollow points. It was determined that the serial number was defaced on that handgun. In a further search of the black bag the officer located 3 individually tied clear plastic bags that contained a large number of pills, approximately 149 pills. Defendant later admitted to Detective Gianotto and Officer Kilgore that the pills were Ecstasy pills, but the laboratory report indicated that the pills were actually Methamphetamine.

Defendant was read his Miranda warnings and waived same and advised "they had nothing to do with it, it's all me." Defendant provided a formal taped statement at police headquarters. Defendant admitted that the car was registered to him, that the pills were Ecstasy and that he was going to sell them. Defendant admitted the handgun was loaded and that there was ammunition. The firearm was tested for operability and determined to be operable.

State v. Ulices I. Pineda-Ramirez - Indictment No. 19-05-00231-I

Ulices I. Pineda-Ramirez was charged in Indictment No. 19-05-00321-I with Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1). Defendant pled guilty to the indictment before the Honorable Kathy C. Qasim, J.S.C. The plea recommendation by the State was time served at the time of sentencing, a permanent Restraining Order with the Victim and restitution, if requested. Defendant was sentenced on February 14, 2020 in accordance with the plea agreement.

The facts which support the charge include the following: between on or about the 15th day of February, 2019 and the 6th day of March, 2019, in the Borough of North Plainfield, County of Somerset, and in the City of Plainfield, County of Union, defendant engaged in sexual conduct which would impair the morals of a child under the age of 18. That child is described as John Doe (DOB: 07/01/2003). On March 7, 2019, Detective Joseph Mazza of the North Plainfield Police Department spoke with the 15-year-old victim, described as John Doe and with John Doe's mother. Officer Jesus Medina assisted in the investigation since he speaks Spanish and the victim and mother are Spanish speaking. The victim had been receiving inappropriate sexual messages from a 26-year-old male who was determined to be Ulices I. Pineda-Ramirez. Formal statements were

taken. A summary of the victim's statement included the following: he was introduced to Ulices I. Pineda-Ramirez on Facebook by a friend. The victim was looking to shovel snow to make money and contacted Ulices Pineda-Ramirez to assist him with snow removal. The two communicated regarding that topic. The victim explained that Ulices Pineda-Ramirez thought the victim was gay and would make inappropriate comments to him regarding his sexuality. The victim did say he shoveled snow twice with Ulices Pineda-Ramirez and confirmed that Ulices Pineda-Ramirez did not touch him in any sexual manner, but attempted to "grab his ass" and made a comment to him in person stating that "if the victim fell asleep, I am going to do whatever I want to you." The victim indicated that Ulices Pineda-Ramirez was trying to get the victim to admit that he was homosexual. The victim reported that Ulices Pineda-Ramirez sent an audio recording to him telling him to "wash his ass because he wanted to touch it." The defendant also sent a photograph to the victim depicting an adult male's erect exposed penis. The victim's mother became involved and contacted the defendant. The defendant apologized to the victim's mother and the defendant brushed this off as "bro talk" and he said he knew that he had crossed the line.

The police investigation revealed the following: that on March 20, 2019 the victim did contact Mr. Pineda-Ramirez about the work related topics. Ulices Pineda-Ramirez did ask the victim if he wanted to have relations with him, and did send audio messages to the victim saying "wash your ass because he was going to touch it tomorrow and asked the victim to send him a picture of him in his underwear, to wash his genitals because they were going to have sex in the snow and that he was going to put his penis in the victim's ass." The victim said to the police that he felt uncomfortable with the direction of this conversation and thought the defendant was trying to have a sexual relationship with him. Additional sexually explicit messages were sent by Ulices Pineda-Ramirez to the victim. The police located defendant Ulices Pineda-Ramirez and with the assistance of a Spanish translator, which was Officer Jesus Medina, Ulices Pineda-Ramirez was read his Miranda warnings. Defendant acknowledged that he understood each right and agreed to waive the rights and speak with the officer. Defendant acknowledged that he shoveled snow and knew the juvenile who worked for him. He said he was sending messages to the juvenile on Facebook and knows him because his mother contacted him regarding a picture that he sent to the juvenile. He said he made a comment about the juvenile's hair. He claims he was talking to him like a friend. He confirmed that the photograph that he sent to the victim depicted an image of a penis and he explained that the conversation between him and the victim was like "bro talk", "bromiando." He further confessed to messaging to the victim "wash your ass because I am going to touch it tomorrow." Defendant claimed he was joking around.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Robert J. Hawkes and Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Casale

State v. Michael Weathers – Indictment No. 17-03-00092-1

On June 26, 2019, a Somerset County Jury found Michael Weathers, age 28, from the Somerset section of Franklin Township, Somerset County, guilty of the December 14, 2016, First Degree Armed Robbery of a young woman. The guilty verdict came after a 6-day trial before the Hon. Peter J. Tober, J.S.C. The jury deliberated approximately 1 hour before delivering their verdict.

Defendant remained in custody since his arrest. On September 17, 2019, Judge Tober sentenced defendant to 15 years in New Jersey State Prison, with 12 years and 9 months without parole pursuant to the No Early Release Act for violent offenders.

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During the early morning hours of December 14, 2016, at approximately 12:31 a.m., Franklin Township Police responded to a 9-1-1 call from the victim of an armed robbery in the apartment complex located at 1 JFK Boulevard in Franklin Township. The victim, a young woman in her mid-twenties, had just returned home after having dinner with friends. As she walked from the parking lot toward her apartment building, she was accosted by 2 men, 1 of whom threatened to stab her with a knife, the other of whom, the defendant Michael Weathers, threatened to shoot her if she screamed. They stole her tote bag with her possessions in it and her cellular telephone.

Patrolmen from the Franklin Township Police Department responded to the area. While 1 of the patrolmen met with the victim, other patrolmen searched the area for suspects. Within 10 minutes, a patrolman spotted defendant driving a car. He was not wearing a seat belt. He also was only wearing a t-shirt on this cold December night. The patrolman stopped defendant on Easton Avenue. While officers were dealing with the defendant on Easton Avenue, they noticed a red sweatshirt in the back seat area protruding from underneath the front passenger seat. The robber who had threatened to shoot the victim was described as wearing a red hooded sweatshirt. The victim also utilized her find my iPhone app from her iPad, and it noted that her cell phone was pinging at the area where the police had stopped defendant, and was not moving. The victim was then brought to the area where defendant was, and positively, 100%, identified defendant as the robber who was wearing the red sweatshirt; this was within an hour of the robbery.

Later that morning a search warrant was applied for, granted, and then executed by a Franklin Township Police Department detective on the car defendant was driving. The red hooded sweatshirt was recovered. Recovered under the hood of the car was the victim's tote bag with her belongings, including her cellular telephone.

Assistant Prosecutor John Ascione

State in the Interest of T.P. - FJ-18-214-19

On December 4, 2018, detectives from the Essex County Sheriff's Office set up surveillance of an area known for drug trafficking in Newark, N.J. That afternoon, detectives observed an adult male, later identified as Darryl Watson, arrive and enter the driver door of a black SUV. Detectives observed Watson reach into the rear passenger area, exit the vehicle with a clear plastic bag, and place the bag into his waistband. Watson then met with a juvenile male, later identified as T.P. Watson gave the bag to T.P. Shortly after, a female, later identified as Felicia Pearson, met with T.P. Detectives observed T.P. hand items from the bag to Pearson in exchange for money. T.P. then met with Watson and handed him the money received from Pearson. Detectives detained all parties at the scene. Pearson turned over 2 folds of suspected heroin and an amount of cocaine to the detectives. She was arrested and a search yielded 1 more fold of suspected heroin. T.P. was arrested and a search uncovered 13 folds of suspected heroin and \$129.00 in cash. Watson was also arrested and a search yielded \$190.00 in cash. Detectives obtained a search warrant for the vehicle and found 30 folds of suspected heroin in the pocket on the rear of the driver's seat. The State Laboratory later confirmed the substances involved to be both heroin and fentanyl. The juvenile case was transferred to Somerset County for prosecution because T.P. was a Somerset County resident. T.P. was charged with Third Degree Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Third Degree Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substance, Second Degree Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substance within 500 Feet of Certain Public Property, Third Degree Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute, and Second Degree Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute within 500 Feet of Certain Public Property. Juvenile T.P. was also charged with a Violation of Probation because he was charged with new crimes while on probation for prior juvenile adjudications. T.P. later entered guilty pleas to Third Degree Possession of Controlled Dangerous Substance and the Violation of Probation. Due to T.P.'s prior record and non-compliance with probation, he received a disposition of 18 months of incarceration.

State v. Olvin Vargas - Indictment No. 19-05-291-I

On October 19, 2018 an individual homeowner responded to the Peapack and Gladstone Police Department to report a suspicious actor on his property. The homeowner advised police that he had noticed a male Hispanic earlier in the day, walking around the area. He made note of this person because he seemed to be using a cane and a small child's bicycle as makeshift walking aids. Sometime later, the homeowner heard

a noise on his property. He opened the door to find that same actor standing there with a FedEx package in his hands. The package was addressed to the homeowner. When asked what he was doing there, the actor responded that he was delivering the package for FedEx. The homeowner asked him to leave and went to police headquarters to make the report. Police responded to the area and located the actor, later identified as defendant Olvin Vargas. Defendant was carrying a hammer, two screwdrivers, and a power tool. Police went back to speak with the homeowner. While at the residence, police noticed the same child's bicycle in a neighbor's yard. While retrieving the bicycle, police noticed a commercial pick-up truck that appeared to have been burglarized. The passenger window was smashed and the steering column had been damaged in an attempt to start the truck. Fingerprints were taken from the interior of the truck, which were confirmed to match the defendant's fingerprints. Defendant entered guilty pleas to Third Degree Burglary, Third Degree Criminal Mischief, Third Degree Attempted Theft of a Motor Vehicle, and Disorderly Persons Receiving Stolen Property. Defendant was sentenced to a term of 3 years in prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Bland

State v. Konate Attila - Docket No. A-3940-18T6

On January 10, 2019, defendant Konate Attila was charged with Uttering a Forged Writing, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-1(a)(3) Third Degree and Theft by Deception, N.J.S.A. 2C:20-4(a) Third Degree. The victim in this matter had mailed a rent check for the entire year on January 1, 2019 in the amount of \$32,587.00. The victim in this matter was the owner of a local preschool. The victim was subsequently alerted that the check was not received. A fraudulent check for the same amount was created using the original check information. Defendant was observed on surveillance footage on January 10, 2019 at 4:47 p.m. in Bordentown, New Jersey depositing the fraudulent check into a co-defendant's checking account.

Defendant was arrested and taken into custody on May 2, 2019. The State filed for detention the following day. Defendant's detention motion was held on May 8, 2019 before the Honorable Robert B. Reed, J.S.C., on recall. The court granted the State's motion based on defendant's danger to the community or others. Defendant appealed his detention to the Appellate Division on an emergent basis. The State opposed defendant's appeal, arguing the court properly considered all factors and did not commit an abuse of discretion in detaining defendant pre-trial. The Honorable Douglas M. Fasciale, J.A.D., affirmed the trial court's order of detention on June 3, 2019 in a written opinion, finding:

The court considered relevant and appropriate information in making its pretrial detention determination. N.J.S.A. 2A:162-20. The information considered by the court includes, but is not limited to, defendant's criminal history as reflected in the PSA, including one prior indictable conviction and several other pending charges relating to receiving stolen property, possession of false identification, credit card theft, unlawful possession of a handgun, and various controlled dangerous substance charges. In addition, at the time of the offense, defendant was on probation for a prior conviction and on pre-trial release for seventeen pending charges. Defendant also has an out-of-state criminal history. Thus, the trial court provided sufficient written findings of fact and adequate reasons for ordering defendant's pretrial detention. N.J.S.A. 2A:162-21(a)(1).

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Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Casale**State v. Miguel Mirambeaux - Indictment No. 08-12-921-I**

This was a petition for Post-Conviction Relief brought by the defendant alleging his defense attorney had given him incorrect information regarding the immigration consequences of his guilty plea to the charge of Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Controlled Dangerous Substance.

On November 10, 2008, defendant approached an undercover officer and offered to sell him cocaine. Defendant completed the transaction for \$400.00. He was arrested, charged and then hired Robert Norton, Esq. He pled guilty to the offense as charged on April 24, 2009. On July 17, 2009 he was sentenced by the Honorable Robert B. Reed, J.S.C., to 3 years of probation, 50 hours of community service, and 100 days in Somerset County Jail in addition to fines and other penalties. This sentence was below the State's plea offer which contemplated 120 days in Somerset County Jail. On April 8, 2019, an Immigration Judge ordered the Defendant removed from the United States.

Defendant filed a petition for Post-Conviction Relief alleging Mr. Norton had informed him that his guilty plea would have no immigration consequences whatsoever, despite being only a legal permanent resident and that the conviction could be expunged. The Honorable Peter J. Tober, J.S.C., granted an evidentiary hearing at which Mr. Norton and the defendant both testified. Judge Tober subsequently denied defendant's petition finding Mr. Norton credible in his testimony denying Defendant's allegations.

Assistant Prosecutor Jamin Cooper**State v. Morgan Smith – Indictment Nos. 18-11-00719-I and 18-11-00720-I**

In July and August of 2018 detectives with the Somerset County Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force were conducting an investigation into the distribution of cocaine and other controlled dangerous substances in Somerville. Information was received from a confidential source that Morgan Smith was distributing cocaine from his residence located on Bartine Street in Somerville. After a series of controlled buys, detectives applied for and were granted a Superior Court Search Warrant for Smith's residence. The warrant was executed on August 22, 2018. At the time of the execution Smith was at home with his live-in girlfriend, Lila Griffith. A search of the residence yielded the following substances: 315 grams of marijuana, 22 grams THC wax, 231 grams of hashish, 34 THC cartridges, 23 THC edibles, 29 grams of crystal methamphetamine, 156 grams of cocaine, 1.4 grams of raw heroin, 24 wax folds of heroin, and various items of paraphernalia indicative of distribution. A backpack was located under the porch of the residence. Inside the backpack detectives located a Glock 26 9mm handgun with five 9 mm rounds of ammunition. Both Smith and Griffith were arrested. Both were indicted for First Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine, Second Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine, Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Heroin, Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Hashish and Second Degree Possession of a Weapon while committing a Controlled Dangerous Substance offense. Smith was further indicted for Second Degree Certain Person Not to Possess a Firearm. After extensive plea negotiations, Smith pled guilty to Second Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute Cocaine and all other Possession with Intent charges. All firearms charges were dismissed. Smith exculpated Griffith, resulting in the dismissal of the indictment as to Griffith. On August 23, 2019, Smith was sentenced to 10 years in New Jersey State Prison with 36 months to be served without parole.

State v. David Reynolds - Indictment No. 18-09-00585-I

On July 14, 2018, at approximately 7:14 p.m., Officer Adam Fulmore of the Somerville Police Department responded to the ShopRite supermarket on a report of an unwanted person. Off. Fulmore met and spoke with the store manager who related that a male subject, later identified as David Reynolds, was observed sleeping at one of the tables in the food court. The manager asked the defendant to leave the premises. Defendant refused. Defendant then went to the men's room located downstairs and locked himself within.

Off. Fulmore made multiple attempts to make contact with Reynolds by instructing him to exit the restroom. Reynolds verbally refused to open the door. Off. Fulmore then made entry into the bathroom. Inside, he observed defendant standing near the sink. Defendant did appear to be under the influence of Controlled Dangerous Substance. However, he was able to answer Off. Fulmore's questions appropriately.

Off. Fulmore ran a warrant check and learned that defendant had four outstanding warrants for his arrest. A search incident to arrest yielded 4 wax folds of suspected heroin stamped "Passion" within a cigarette pack found in defendant's pocket.

While en route to police headquarters defendant stated that he felt ill and wanted to be transported to the hospital. Off. Fulmore requested that the Somerville Rescue Squad respond to headquarters. Reynolds was charged with a single count of Third Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance. Shortly thereafter, members of the rescue squad arrived and Reynolds was taken to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital located in Somerville.

Reynolds went to trial, arguing that he was overdosing in the bathroom and was protected under the Overdose Prevention Act. After a 3-day trial, Reynolds was convicted by a jury. On March 1, 2019 defendant was sentenced to mandatory Drug Court. Defendant later violated drug court probation and was sent to State Prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Rory Eaton

State v. Joseph Manna - Indictment No. 18-12-00737-I

On Tuesday, April 8, 2019, a Somerset County Jury found defendant Joseph Manna, age 38, guilty of Third Degree Aggravated Assault, Fourth Degree Criminal Trespass, and Disorderly Persons Theft by Unlawful Taking, following a 1 week trial in Somerville. Manna's conviction stemmed from a home invasion and assault which occurred on August 30, 2018. There were 3 victims and eyewitnesses to the incident. Victim Ashley Vlachos was Manna's ex-girlfriend and the mother of his two children; Toni Hacker was Vlachos' long-time friend with whom Vlachos was living at the time of the incident; and Michael Laracuenta was Hacker and Vlachos' friend who was spending time with Vlachos when the intrusion and assault occurred.

At some time around 5:00 p.m., Hacker was in a laundry room beneath her apartment when she observed Manna's vehicle pull into the complex parking lot and saw him run up an exterior staircase to the back door of her unit. Alarmed, Hacker called Vlachos to tell her to lock the door because the defendant was on his way upstairs. At the time of the phone call, Vlachos was watching television with Laracuenta in one of the bedrooms. Concerned for the well-being of her friends, Hacker ran up the exterior staircase to find the back door locked, the window next to it opened with the screen pushed through, and the kitchen in disarray. After entering the apartment, she observed Laracuenta "humped over" in a corner of Vlachos' bedroom and the defendant repeatedly striking him in the head and body with closed fists. Over the course of the assault, Manna accused Vlachos of having sexual relations with Laracuenta, spit on Vlachos, and took Laracuenta's cell phone. Before leaving the defendant told all present that if they did anything about it "they would get it too." Laracuenta subsequently received treatment at Robert Wood Johnson Somerset Hospital for contusions to his left rib cage, a chipped tooth and several facial lacerations which required sutures – 9 on his forehead and 5 on his chin.

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Despite the best efforts of the Bridgewater Township Police Department and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, Vlachos avoided service of subpoenas and did not cooperate with prosecution of the matter. This created a host of issues at trial, chief of which was trying the case without a critical eyewitness to the intrusion and assault. Furthermore, the defendant took the stand and testified that Laracuenta initiated the assault and continued the fight without any advance notice provided by the defense of the anticipated interposition of a self-defense argument, as required by Court Rule. The State's proofs, nevertheless, overcame the eleventh hour self-defense contention and the jury convicted Manna, who was later sentenced in the extended term range as a persistent offender to a 7-year term in the New Jersey State Prison.

State in the Interest of Q.C. - FJ-18-00127-20

On December 18, 2019, the Honorable Robert A. Ballard, J.S.C., granted the State's Motion to Waive the Family Part's Jurisdiction over 15-year-old defendant Q.C., who is charged with First Degree Murder, Second Degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Second Degree Unlawful Handgun Possession, and Fourth Degree Possession of a Firearm by a Person Under Eighteen. These charges stem from a fatal shooting that occurred on August 6, 2019 in North Plainfield, not far from the Borough's "National Night Out" program. On that evening, Q.C. left his residence and walked through a commercial plaza to Gavin Place in North Plainfield, where the victim A.J. commenced a physical altercation with him. After blows were exchanged, Q.C. stepped back, drew a handgun from a fanny pack he wore, and shot A.J. in the upper left torso in front of several individuals, many of whom had accompanied the victim to the altercation. The victim ran about half a block away before collapsing on the corner of Steiner and Gavin Place, later succumbing to his injury at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick. Surveillance footage recovered from several area businesses and residences depict the events before, during, and after the shooting, including Q.C.'s flight from the scene and return to the residence in which he was living at the time of the offense.

Following the issuance of a juvenile complaint, the State moved for waiver of the pending charges to the Criminal Part for Q.C. to be prosecuted at the indictable level. A testimonial waiver hearing was held on December 6, 2019, during which portions of the video were played and Detective Darren Herrling presented evidence obtained as a result of the investigation including one eyewitness' statement identifying Q.C. as the shooter. The State argued that the seriousness of the charged offenses, the devastating loss of life, and the offense circumstances, decisively favored waiver to the Criminal Part despite Q.C.'s age and his eligibility for participation in an IEP. In an oral decision rendered on December 18, 2019, Judge Ballard found the statutory waiver requirements met, holding that the State did not abuse its discretion in its waiver application. Judge Ballard stayed the Waiver Order pending a defense application for leave to appeal the decision. The Motive for Leave to Appeal was denied.

Assistant Prosecutor Kimberly Savino French

State v. Shawn Butler - Indictment No. 14-09-00629-I

Between August 4, 2009 and August 4, 2014, the defendant violated the terms of his Megan's Law conditions by participating in the No Limits Youth Ministry at the Eternal Life Christian Center in Franklin Township, N.J. He participated in the ministry as a youth counselor, youth mentor, and youth chaperone. The children that he counseled, mentored, and chaperoned were between the ages of 12 and 17 years old. Defendant worked with these children by supervising and mentoring them at various "No Limits Youth Ministry" activities including overnight camps, concerts, outings, and youth group.

Defendant was indicted on September 17, 2014 by a Somerset County Grand Jury with Third Degree Prohibited Participation in a Youth Serving Organization in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:7-23. Thereafter, the defendant moved to dismiss the indictment arguing that a youth ministry did not qualify as a "youth serving organization" under N.J.S.A. 2C:7-23. The motion was heard before the Honorable Julie Marino, J.S.C. Judge Marino granted the defendant's motion to dismiss the indictment. The State appealed. The Appellate Division agreed with Judge Marino finding that a youth ministry does not qualify as a "youth serving organization." The issue was appealed to the New Jersey Supreme Court. The New Jersey Supreme Court reversed the Appellate Division holding that the issue as to whether a youth ministry qualifies as a "youth serving organization" is a question for the jury. The indictment was reinstated.

The case was tried before the Honorable Kevin M. Shanahan, P.J.Cr., from April 29 through May 2, 2019. Judge Shanahan found the defendant guilty as charged.

The sentencing took place on September 20, 2019 before the Honorable Kevin M. Shanahan, P.J.Cr. The State requested that the defendant be sentenced to the maximum, 5 years New Jersey State Prison with a 2 and 1/2 year parole disqualifier consecutive to the sentence he was serving in Middlesex County. Judge Shanahan sentenced defendant to 5 years New Jersey State Prison consecutive to the sentence he was serving in Middlesex County.

State v. Daniel Felipe-Lopez - Indictment No. 18-05-00337-I

Between February of 2015 and March of 2018, defendant sexually assaulted his live-in girlfriend's 11-year-old daughter and his live-in girlfriend's 8-year-old niece. The defendant was indicted on May 31, 2018 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), Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1), and Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1).

The defendant entered into a negotiated plea agreement where he pled to Second Degree Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b and Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a. The State's plea offer was for 10 years incarceration in N.J. State Prison.

The sentencing took place on March 11, 2019 before the Honorable Kathy C. Qasim, J.S.C. The defendant was sentenced to 10 years New Jersey State Prison, Megan's Law, and Parole Supervision for Life.

Assistant Prosecutor William Guhl

State v. Monique and Dymarkis Walker – Indictment No. 18-05-339-I

Two New Brunswick siblings were sentenced to state prison terms after an investigation by the Somerset County Organized Crimes and Narcotics Task Force resulted in their arrest on drug and weapons charges. The arrest and indictment took place in 2018 but the case was closed after sentencing early in 2019.

Between February 5, 2018 and March 15, 2018 undercover detectives conducted a series of drug purchases from Monique Walker in Franklin Township. During the last purchase Monique Walker fled from the undercover detective with the drug transaction "buy money" in an attempt to steal the funds, but was arrested. A search warrant executed on her residence led to the recovery of additional quantities of heroin and cocaine in her bedroom as well as a .45 caliber handgun and 9 mm handgun. In a post-Miranda statement Monique admitted the gun and drugs belonged to her. Police found additional quantities of heroin in a second bedroom belonging to her brother Dymarkis Walker.

Monique Walker entered a guilty plea to possession of a firearm during a drug distribution offense and possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance. She was sentenced on January 4, 2019 by the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., to 5 years in the New Jersey State Prison, 42 months to be served without eligibility for parole, on the gun charge. She was also sentenced to a 3-year New Jersey State Prison sentence on the drug distribution charge – to run consecutive to the sentence on the gun charge.

Dymarkis Walker pled guilty to Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute a Controlled Dangerous Substance and was sentenced on January 4, 2019 by the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C., to 5 years in the New Jersey State Prison.

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Assistant Prosecutor Frank P. Kolodzieski, II**State v. Mason Pagnotta - Accusation No. 19-04-00242-A**

On June 14, 2019, defendant Mason Pagnotta, 21, was convicted and sentenced for committing Third Degree Arson following his guilty plea to an accusation for the said offense on April 8, 2019. The plea agreement followed an assessment of the State's proofs. The Honorable Kathy C. Qasim, J.S.C., imposed a non-custodial probationary sentence with conditions including a psychological evaluation and treatment. The Court entered an order that he have no contact with the victim and her family. Defendant was also ordered to pay restitution for the destruction of three vehicles. Defendant admittedly went to the victim's residence on January 18, 2016 at approximately 3:45 a.m. and set fire to her car with gasoline. The car was parked in the driveway near the residence of the victim, who was not home at the time. Her parents and siblings were home asleep but not injured in the fire. Fortunately, the residence was not damaged in the blaze. However, three cars in the driveway were destroyed by the fire. Months before the fire, defendant bought a gift for the victim's birthday to solicit her interest in a dating relationship. She was not interested. She kept the gift, which was the source of defendant's anger and motive for starting the fire. Surveillance video obtained days after the fire revealed a suspect vehicle similar to one driven by defendant, with a distinctive rear spoiler driving up to the house at the time the fire was set. Defendant's cellular telephone was active in the general area prior to the fire. A witness confirmed that defendant had been drinking during the early morning hours of January 18, 2016 and had left his residence for a period of time after speaking about his frustration and anger with the victim for not dating him and keeping his gift. After the fire, defendant told the witness he had "settled" the matter.

State v. William Gonzalez - Indictment No. 18-01-00058-I

On December 19, 2019 defendant William Gonzalez, 47, was found guilty by a jury of Second Degree Aggravated Arson, Third Degree Terroristic Threats, Fourth Degree Stalking, and Third Degree Invasion of Privacy (2 Counts). This case was tried before the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr., J.S.C., and a petit jury. The guilty verdicts stemmed from a 7-month period of domestic violence perpetrated on the victim, defendant's ex-girlfriend. In that period, defendant did the following: choked the victim; destroyed her car by setting fire to it with ignitable liquids; threatened to kill her and her family; posting non-consensual nude photographs of the victim on the internet; and stalking the victim at her former place of employment. The evidence at trial showed defendant, who paints cars for a living, committed these acts to control the victim and prevent her from leaving him. The trial began on October 29, 2019 and ended with the return of the jury's verdict on December 19, 2019. On December 20, 2019, Judge Picheca entered guilty findings on lesser-related charges joined for trial with the prosecution of the aforesaid indictable charges, namely, defendant was found guilty of Disorderly Persons Simple Assault for choking the victim; Petty Disorderly Persons Harassment (2 Counts) for posting pictures of the victim clad in her undergarments on Facebook and making numerous harassing phone calls to her. Judge Picheca sentenced William Gonzalez to New Jersey State Prison for 8 years with 4 years without parole.

Assistant Prosecutor Nicole McGrath**State v. David Jones - Indictment No. 18-07-00456-I**

David Jones was charged in Indictment 18-07-00456-I with Third Degree Aggravated Assault by causing or attempting to cause significant bodily injury, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b(7), Third Degree Aggravated Assault by Use of a Deadly Weapon, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b(2), Third Degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4d, and Fourth Degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5d. On February 26, 2019, jury selection began and a petit jury was selected and sworn in on February 27, 2019. However, on the morning of February 28, 2019, defendant entered an open plea to all charges in the Indictment without a recommended sentence from the State.

The facts which substantiate the charges to which defendant pled guilty included the following: On the evening of March 21, 2018, this defendant violently attacked the victim in this case with a crowbar in the parking lot of the 7-Eleven store in Somerville. As a result of being struck multiple times to his head and body, the victim sustained significant bodily injury requiring the emergency services of both Basic Life and Advanced Life Support on scene, and trauma doctors at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick.

What ended in significant injuries to the victim began with a disagreement minutes earlier inside the 7-Eleven store. The victim and defendant began arguing about the proximity in which the defendant was standing next to the victim in the checkout line. When the victim requested that defendant move away from him, defendant responded by erupting into a state of rage and eventually left the store to retrieve a weapon, specifically a crowbar, to use against the victim.

The defendant waited outside the store, armed with the crowbar, until the victim exited same. As soon as the victim left the store the defendant quickly advanced on him and struck him three times in the head and chest area with the crowbar. While the victim was barely conscious on the ground bleeding profusely from his injuries, defendant stomped on his head and chest with his foot.

On July 25, 2019, the Honorable Peter J. Tober, J.S.C., denied defendant's Motion to Withdraw his Guilty Plea. On August 9, 2019, Judge Tober sentenced defendant to 5 years of probation and mandated that defendant undergo anger management treatment.

Assistant Prosecutor Michael McLaughlin

State v. Royce Hodges – Accusation No. 19-10-00596-A

State v. Katrina Hodges – Warrant 2019-000055-1810

On March 22, 2019, the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force executed search warrants on Royce Hodges' residence in Hillsborough, N.J., and multiple locations in Newark, N.J., to include a business and residences. During those searches, law enforcement seized in excess of \$50,000.00 in U.S. currency, a handgun, two vehicles, and multiple financial records and ownership documents for businesses. Based on the foregoing, as well as the initial narcotics investigation, Royce and Katrina Hodges were charged on complaint and indicted for Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity (Money Laundering), Conspiracy to Commit Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity, Failure to File a New Jersey Tax Return, Failure to Pay New Jersey Taxes and Endangering the Welfare of a Child.

Royce Hodges is a high level member of the, "Sex, Money, Murder" set of the Bloods street gang. According to detectives from the Essex County Special Prosecutions Unit as well as detectives from the Essex County Narcotics Task Force, Hodges is the leader of an organized narcotics trafficking network operating out of Newark, New Jersey. Royce Hodges lives in Hillsborough with his wife Katrina Hodges, and his son Alsamad Hodges (a member of the Bloods, Brick City Brim set who is currently on house arrest as a result of a Federal Gang Sweep).

Royce Hodges has never filed a N.J. resident tax return. An analysis of Royce Hodges' checking account from the period of January 24, 2018 through September 29, 2018, showed that Hodges deposited \$33,885.92 and withdrew \$33,810.57 from that same account. Of that \$33,885.92, \$22,786.00 were cash deposits and the remaining deposits were internet transfers from various other accounts associated with Hodges. Not one of the deposits was from a paycheck or payroll.

Royce Hodges is not the known beneficiary of any estate. His home in Hillsborough is a townhome/condominium rental and Hodges pays for that rental in cash – no records of rental payments were found in the financial records of anyone in the Hodges' household. An analysis of rental "comps" in the area shows that rent averages between \$2,200.00 and \$2,500.00 a month.

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Additionally, Hodges paid a monthly Apple iTunes bill of at least \$300.00 every month, bills for Comcast and T-Mobile that were often several hundred dollars every month, and frequent rentals from Enterprise rent a car and use of Lyft ride services totaling thousands of dollars.

One of Royce Hodges' vehicles, a 2009 black Mercedes Benz CL, was partially financed. Following a subpoena of those records, it was learned that the sale price of that vehicle was \$57,000.00 and that Hodges paid \$35,000.00 of that amount in cash on the date of purchase. He financed \$27,000.00 to be paid out over 60 months and has been paying \$618.00 per month in 2018. On his loan application for the vehicle, Hodges listed himself as a partner of "Unisex 1141" located in Irvington, N.J. where he receives \$7,500.00 a month. No such business exists and the building at that location listed on the application burned down.

Royce Hodges ultimately pled guilty and was sentenced on the charge of Failure to File A New Jersey Tax Return while the remaining charges against him and all the charges against Katrina Hodges were dismissed.

Assistant Prosecutor Annemarie Mueller

State v. Jared Razzano - Indictment No. 18-08-00530-I

On February 27, 2019, Jared Razzano was found guilty by a jury of Second Degree Aggravated Assault and Fourth Degree Unlawful Possession of a Weapon after an 11-day trial. The defendant was found not guilty of First Degree Attempted Murder and Third Degree Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose. The Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr. J.S.C., presided over the trial.

On June 13, 2018, at approximately 10:30 p.m., the defendant returned home to North 9th Avenue in Manville to find his driveway partially blocked by a car. The defendant went to the house across the street and demanded that the car be moved. The victim came out, apologized, and moved his car. Defendant then called the victim over to his driveway and started attacking him with a sword. The victim tried to block the attack with a contractor's level that he had in his hand. The victim had taken the level out of his car to return to his friend. The victim suffered three 4-inch gashes to his head so that he was partially scalped. His left elbow was shattered and two fingers on his right hand were almost completely severed. The victim was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick and underwent multiple surgeries. The victim still does not have full function of his left arm and hand due to nerve damage from the elbow injury.

Lieutenant John Crater and Officer Nikolas Franzoso of the Manville Police Department, the victim, and numerous treating physicians testified at the trial. Dr. Andrew Falzon, the Chief Medical Examiner, testified as an expert regarding the defensive nature of the victim's injuries.

On July 19, 2019, the defendant was sentenced by Judge Picheca to 7 years in New Jersey State Prison with 85% of the sentence to be served without eligibility for parole on the Aggravated Assault conviction and a concurrent 18 months in New Jersey State Prison on the Unlawful Possession of a Weapon conviction.

State v. Rashad Lamah - Indictment No. 18-04-00227-I

On March 19, 2019, a Somerset County jury found the defendant Rashad Lamah guilty of Second Degree Eluding. The Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr. J.S.C., presided over the trial. The trial was 7 days long.

In the early morning hours of January 19, 2018, the defendant was pulled over for speeding on Route 78 in Bernards Township by Trooper David Kohn and Trooper Abraham Pena of the New Jersey State Police. The defendant handed the troopers his driver's license. The passenger was found to have warrants for his arrest. When the troopers asked the defendant to turn off the car so that they could arrest the passenger, the defendant stepped on the gas and fled the stop. The defendant drove over 130 miles per hour on Route 78 out of Somerset County, into Union County, and exiting into Newark in Essex County. The pursuit was terminated in Newark due to safety concerns. The defendant was arrested 2 weeks later.

On July 26, 2019, the defendant was sentenced by Judge Picheca to 7 years in New Jersey State Prison. The defendant was also sentenced to fines on the numerous motor vehicle offenses.

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State v. Robert Lyon - Indictment No. 18-09-00580-I

On April 4, 2019, a Somerset County jury found the defendant Robert Lyon guilty of Fourth Degree Violation of Community Supervision for Life. The Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr. J.S.C., presided over the trial. The trial was 4 days long.

The defendant was previously convicted of Endangering the Welfare of a Child and was sentenced to Community Supervision for Life, a type of parole. During a home visit in Manville on February 5, 2018, the defendant refused to take an oral swab drug test given to him by his Parole Officer Gina Cusumano. Due to his noncompliance, the defendant was directed to report to the parole office the next day. The defendant failed to show and then could not be located for almost 3 months. Parole Officer Cusumano went to the defendant's house multiple times in an attempt to locate him and get him to come into compliance with his conditions of Community Supervision for Life. Each time she went to his house, she left a notice to call her and report to the parole office. Officer Cusumano also called the defendant multiple times. Detective Sergeant David Sheffrin of the Manville Police Department also went to the defendant's house and called him multiple times in an effort to contact him. A warrant was issued for the defendant's arrest and he was arrested at his home in Manville on April 26, 2018.

On May 31, 2019, the defendant was sentenced by Judge Picheca to 18 months in New Jersey State Prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Matthew Murphy**State v. Sahil Kulgod - Indictment No. 15-04-00231-I**

At approximately 10:22 a.m. on Sunday, January 4, 2015, Hillsborough Police responded to a two-vehicle collision reported along Millstone River Road in Hillsborough Township. Police arrived at the scene and found a 2015 Ford Focus at final rest facing west across the north and southbound lanes. Police found a 1991 BMW 525i off the east side of the road against a tree.

The driver of the 1991 BMW was a 50-year-old female from Hillsborough Township, and she was pronounced dead at the scene. She was wearing a seatbelt restraint at the time of the collision. A passenger in that BMW was a 20-year-old female who sustained minor injuries. The lone driver of the 2015 Ford Focus was identified as Sahil Kulgod. Mr. Kulgod was uninjured. The investigation was conducted by the Hillsborough Township Police Department and Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team, and it was determined that the 2015 Ford Focus was travelling southbound on Millstone River Road and failed to maintain its lane of travel. The 2015 Ford Focus crossed over the double yellow lines painted in the roadway and entered the northbound lane striking the 1991 BMW. The victim died from multiple injuries sustained during the collision. The posted speed limit was 45 miles-per-hour covering the section of Millstone River Road. Forensic evidence collected during the investigation indicated that excessive speed was the approximate cause of the collision.

Sahil Kulgod was charged in Indictment No. 15-04-00231-I with Second Degree Vehicular Homicide. He was also charged in Hillsborough Township Municipal Complaints with Reckless Driving, and Failure to Maintain Lane of Travel.

Sahil Kulgod was convicted of Second Degree Vehicular Homicide by a Petit Jury on September 19, 2019. Kulgod was sentenced on November 8, 2019 by Superior Court Judge Robert A. Ballard, Jr., J.S.C., on Second Degree Vehicular Homicide to 5 years in the New Jersey State Prison with 85% of that sentence to be served without parole pursuant to the No Early Release Act. The motor vehicle charges were merged into the indictable charge.

Assistant Prosecutor Anthony J. Parenti, Jr.

State of New Jersey v. Ricco Jones - Indictment No. 18-02-00112-I

On December 21, 2017, Bridgewater Police Officer Veneman responded to a residence on Mountain Top Road to investigate a burglary in progress. The victim told Veneman that as she was returning home, she activated the garage door opener with the remote from her vehicle. As she entered her driveway, she immediately saw an unfamiliar male running diagonally across her front yard in a south east direction. The male then turned east on Mountain Top Road and continued to run into the wooded area adjacent to her home. The victim stated that the male was wearing a gray hat and a black and red lumberjack style flannel shirt. She said she then noticed that the glass panel next to her front door was broken and the front door was open. Once inside her home, she discovered that her bedrooms had been ransacked and her friend then called 9-1-1.

Bridgewater patrol officers converged on the area. Officer Cooper found Ricco Jones ("defendant"), lying in the leaves behind an air conditioner next to a home on Delaware Drive, about a block away from the crime scene. Sheriff's Officer Shannon DiNella and K-9 Basilone responded. Officer DiNella obtained a sock from defendant and presented it to K-9 Basilone at the residence on Mountain Top Road. K-9 Basilone scent tracked from the front door of the residence, across the lawn and into the wooded area on Mountain Top Road, into a backyard on Delaware Drive ending where defendant was found hiding next to the air conditioner. K-9 Basilone conducted an evidence search and located a red and black jacket on the ground about 20 yards from where defendant was hiding. Near the jacket K-9 Basilone found a pair of workman's gloves and a camera that was stolen from the home on Mountain Top Road.

Defendant was arrested and searched incident to arrest. Inside defendant's pants pocket was found a black jewelry pouch, matching the description of one of the items that had been stolen from the home on Mountain Top Road. Defendant's DNA was inside one of the gloves found by K-9 Basilone.

Defendant was indicted for Burglary, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:18-2a(1). On the day of trial, as jury selection was about to commence, defendant pled guilty to the one count in the indictment. Defendant's previous criminal history shows that he was arrested 18 times as a juvenile and has been arrested 24 times as an adult. This offense is defendant's 15th conviction for an indictable crime. Defendant was sentenced to serve 6 years in New Jersey State Prison, with 3 years of parole ineligibility pursuant to the Persistent Offender Statute, N.J.S.A. 2C:43-7 and N.J.S.A. 2C:44-3a.

APPELLATE

In 2019, the Assistant Prosecutors in the Appellate Section wrote 22 responses to petitions for certification. Thirty-one 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 14 excessive sentencing appeals in the Appellate Division.

In the Superior Court, Law Division, 24 municipal appeal letter briefs were filed. In 19 of those matters the municipal court convictions were upheld; 3 convictions were reversed; 4 were remanded for further proceedings, and 4 matters were pending at the end of the year.

INTAKE SCREENING

I. Purpose:

Somerset County continued in 2019 to use central screening of criminal charges and complaints as a method to expedite prosecutions. The Intake Screening Section is responsible for operating the central complaint screening system. Complaints are now filed electronically by the police departments after charges are authorized and the complaints are reviewed by an Assistant Prosecutor. 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 authorizing criminal charges and a 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 charges and 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 further investigations that may be necessary. All Assistant Prosecutors assigned to Intake Screening file and argue Pre-Trial Detention Motions and arrange for the setting of bail, if applicable.
- B. Support Staff:**
Three secretaries, with assistance, assemble all necessary reports, forms, and provide the screening packets to Assistant Prosecutors. Screening secretaries also advise Assistant Prosecutors when a screening telephone call has been received.

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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. 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 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.

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 filed by any individual who believes an offense has been committed. Citizen complaints include petty disorderly persons offenses, disorderly persons offenses, and indictable offenses:

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. Complaints where the citizen disagrees with local law enforcement action.

Citizen complaints are filed in Municipal Court. All citizen complaints must be accepted for filing. When a complaint alleging an indictable offense, an offense involving a party official, an offense involving a public servant, an offense involving a candidate or nominee for public office, or an offense involving a judicial nominee is filed, an Assistant Prosecutor reviews the complaint to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to support the complaint. If sufficient evidence exists, the complaint proceeds in the normal course. If sufficient evidence does not exist, the charges are declined. When an indictable charge is declined, the Assistant Prosecutor reviewing the complaint writes a letter explaining the reason for the decline. The letter is sent to the complainant, the defendant, the Assignment Judge, and the municipal court where the complaint was filed.

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 in eCDR 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 sent to the secretary or the paralegal of the Assistant Prosecutor who has been assigned the file.
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
2019**

Month	Cases Screened	Cases Accepted	Cases Not Accepted	Defendants Accepted	Complaints Accepted
JANUARY	91	53	38	58	124
FEBRUARY	82	41	48	51	111
MARCH	93	41	52	46	107
APRIL	86	41	48	59	110
MAY	88	47	41	55	104
JUNE	59	30	39	35	78
JULY	90	45	45	53	114
AUGUST	64	43	21	54	118
SEPTEMBER	85	48	37	56	101
OCTOBER	106	71	35	71	135
NOVEMBER	42	19	23	25	104
DECEMBER	31	11	20	11	838
Total:	917	490	427	574	1,289

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Trial Section

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Domestic Violence

Juvenile Unit

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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

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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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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 where there it is either dismissed, resolved by way of a plea or tried.

The Honorable Julie M. Marino, J.S.C., presides over the disorderly persons domestic violence contempt calendar. All matters are scheduled weekly on Wednesdays 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 2019:

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 also 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 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.

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<i>Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Unit</i>
<i>Special Investigations Unit</i>
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<i>Internal Affairs Unit</i>
<i>Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force</i>
<i>Polygraph & Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit</i>
<i>Somerset County Emergency Response Teams</i>
Operations Section
<i>Fugitive Unit</i>
<i>Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU) & Ballistics Laboratory</i>
<i>Criminal Intelligence Unit</i>
<i>Burglary Task Force</i>
<i>STOPit</i>
<i>Crime Stoppers</i>
<i>Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit</i>
<i>Vehicular Homicide Task Force & Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team (C.A.R.T.)</i>
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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 (Assistant Prosecutor)
3 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 2019:**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 3 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 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 1 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 Julie M. Marino, 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:

Erin Rocchietti
Bobbi Mowery
Alex Wick
Katie Cerillo
Ileana Cosme

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

Student Interns

2 student interns volunteered 51 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: 2,369
- Number of direct services provided to victims: 7,294

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 - Internal Affairs Unit
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 - Somerset County Emergency Response Teams
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 - Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU) & Ballistics Laboratory
 - Criminal Intelligence Unit
 - Burglary Task Force
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 - Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit
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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 2019, 17,536 case status letters, both InfoShare and hand-generated were mailed/emailed to crime victims and witnesses. In 2019, 239 case status letters were mailed to victims involved in the juvenile justice system. Twelve 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-preparation 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 2019 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 2019 Victim Advocate Victoria Sferra assisted 39 victims of domestic violence through accompaniment and advocacy services at municipal court hearings.

VII. Training Conducted by Advocate Staff:

- February: Erin Rocchietti provided training on victim services for victims of domestic violence at the Somerset County Police Academy;
- March: Victoria Sferra provided training on victim services for victims of domestic violence at the Somerset County Police Academy;
- April: Erin Rocchietti provided training on victim services for victims of domestic violence at the Somerset County Police Academy;
- April: Erin Rocchietti provided information about victim services/rights at the Raritan Valley Community College career fair;
- May: Erin Rocchietti provided training on victim services for victims of domestic violence at the Somerset County Police Academy;
- June: Erin Rocchietti provided training on victim services for victims of domestic violence at the Somerset County Police Academy;
- July: Erin Rocchietti provided an overview of victim services/rights information at a criminal justice internship class at Rutgers University.

VIII. Crime Victims' Rights Week Program

In 2019 the Victim-Witness Unit recognized National Crime Victims' Rights Week with social media advertising and distributing all notification letters to victims and witnesses via USPS in envelopes printed with the 2019 NCVRW theme. Erin Rocchietti attended the N.J. Department of Corrections Victim Services and Attorney General's Office Crime Victims' Rights Week events.

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IX. Other Crime Victim Related Programs

In response to the N.J. Attorney General Directive Implementing Procedures and Protocols for Sexual Assault Response and Referrals, the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy developed a brochure for distribution to victims reporting sexual assault. The brochure includes information about reporting to police, obtaining a restraining order, as well as referrals for counseling. These brochures are distributed to every police department in Somerset County.

In 2019 the domestic violence palm card program was continued with the distribution of palm cards (English and Spanish) to the Somerset County Library System. The palm cards are placed in the men's and women's bathrooms of the libraries. The initiative was expanded in 2019 with an outreach to the N.J. Transit Police Department to locate distribution sites for the 5 N.J. Transit train stations in Somerset County.

In 2019 the Victim-Witness staff collaborated with the SCPO detective staff to provide outreach about services for crime victims at the annual Somerset County 4H Fair. Victim-Witness staff also volunteered through the Somerset County Employee Reserve Volunteers (S.E.R.V.) and shared information on victim services with staff at the Agape House and Salvation Army.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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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- Special Investigations Unit
- Insurance Fraud Unit
- Internal Affairs Unit
- Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force
- Polygraph & Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit
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MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Major Crimes Unit investigates crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, arsons, and armed robberies. The Major Crimes Unit works with and assists the local agencies throughout Somerset County, along with state and other county agencies, in a wide array of criminal investigations. The Major Crimes Unit opened 40 criminal investigations resulting in 35 arrests in 2019. The number of homicides that occurred in Somerset County during 2019 was 6. The Major Crimes 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, 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 2019:

In 2019, the Major Crimes Unit opened 40 criminal investigations, which resulted in 35 arrests. Included among those cases were:

- 6 Homicide investigations
- 6 Death investigations
- 4 Attempted Murder
- 1 Missing Persons
- 2 Robbery
- 3 Bank Robbery
- 4 Arson
- 3 Prohibited Devices or Weapons
- 7 Aggravated Assaults
- 4 Miscellaneous

The Major Crimes Unit also tracked 22 suicides, 36 drug related overdose deaths, 416 unattended deaths, and is actively investigating 10 cold case homicides within Somerset County.

V. Case Highlights for 2019:

Case #1 – Homicide

On January 9, 2019, the Bound Brook Police Department responded to 142 Farm Lane in response to a shooting. The victim, Terrence Coulanges, was taken to a local hospital and pronounced dead. Initial reports was that the suspected shooter, Ryan Keogh, was friends at one point with the victim and Ryan Keogh shot the victim out of self-defense. Ryan Keogh, along with his mother and father, Cindy and David Keogh, provided statements. Ensuing investigation revealed that they were untruthful in their statements, based on nearby surveillance video and cellular telephone geo-mapping. Ryan Keogh was subsequently charged with Murder, First Degree and Cindy and David Keogh were charged with Hindering, Fourth Degree and Endangering an Injured Victim, Third Degree. Ryan Keogh was lodged in the Somerset County Jail and the matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

Case #2 – Homicide

On May 18, 2019, the Franklin Township Police Department responded to Naaman Williams Park in response to a 911 call reporting shots fired. Upon arriving, Franklin Police Officers learned that a shooting victim was transported to a local hospital by a friend. The victim was subsequently pronounced dead. The ensuing investigation revealed that over 100 people were present at Naaman Williams Park when the victim was shot. Multiple statements were obtained, and detectives traveled to Atlanta, Georgia, Virginia Beach, Virginia and Bolivia, North Carolina, to interview potential witnesses. Through witness statements and a photo array, Najee Croom and Ameer Harris were charged with Murder, First Degree. Croom and Harris were lodged in the Somerset County jail, and the matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

Case #3 – Homicide

On October 22, 2019, the Franklin Township Police Department responded to the intersection of Matilda Avenue and Phillips Road, on a report of shots fired. Upon arriving a female victim was found in her vehicle with an apparent gunshot wound to her head. She was taken to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. The ensuing investigation revealed that the suspect, Kerron Parker, mistakenly identified the victim's vehicle as one of his rivals' vehicles. Multiple statements led to the arrest of Kerron Parker for Murder, First Degree. Parker was also charged by the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office for Murder, First Degree in a shooting that led to the death of another victim on December 30, 2019 in the City of New Brunswick. Parker was lodged at the Middlesex County Jail and the murder of the Somerset County victim 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
4 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 4 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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- Special Investigations Unit
- Insurance Fraud Unit
- Internal Affairs Unit
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- Somerset County Emergency Response Teams
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- Fugitive Unit
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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 2019:**Investigations:**

- 112 referrals were processed in the unit and assistance given to local police, DCP&P and the Institutional Abuse Unit;
- There were also 81 additional referrals that resulted in an investigation conducted by the Prosecutor's Office;
- 10 of the 81 cases resulted in arrests;
- One bilingual detective remains in the unit out of a total of 4 investigators; and
- There have been 36 adult/adolescent Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activations plus 2 pediatric cases for the year.

Megan's Law:

- There were 58 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 2019:

- 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 resolves cases.

54 new cases were reviewed by the County MDT in 2019.

- 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.
- 7 Forensic Nurses – Certified in Sexual Assault (FN-CSA) are on staff/on-call to respond to Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activations.
- 7 SANE nurses have completed certification to conduct pediatric examinations.

2019 Case Summaries:

- In January of 2019, DCP&P received an anonymous report that a 7- year old female was involved in the making of pornographic films. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit interviewed the victim and conducted a search warrant at the residence. Numerous individuals were subsequently arrested and charged with: First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault, First Degree Human Trafficking, First Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, and Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of the Child. The defendants include: Sean Allen, Marina Volz, Ashley Romero and Dulcinea Gnecco.
- In January of 2019, the Division of Children Protection and Permanency contacted the Prosecutor's office stating that they had received a report of a 9-year old female with an injury to her left eye. They stated that the explanations provided by the child were not consistent with the injuries. The child was brought to St. Peter's Hospital and a doctor observed bruises on the child's arms and back and stated that the injuries were consistent with physical abuse. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit conducted an interview with the 9-year old victim who initially denied being hit. A second interview was conducted and the child disclosed that her father, Jayanta Thakuria hit her in the eye with a closed fist. Thakuria was arrested and charged with Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

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 2019, the Special Investigations Unit handled a total of 147 cases. This includes all bias crime as well as animal cruelty investigations (See year end reports for Computer Crimes for those statistics).

Investigations conducted by the Special Investigations Unit during 2019:

Criminal Investigations:	171
Arrests:	14
Background Investigations:	49 (includes intern background investigations)

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:

9 investigative personnel staffed the SIU in 2019: a Captain and Lieutenant who oversaw the Criminal Investigations Division and a Sergeant who commanded the unit of 6 Detectives and 1 Criminal Analyst.

B. Legal Staff:

Legal guidance was provided on a case-by-case basis by 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 2019:

Case #1

On May 24, 2019, Sgt. Federico arrested former Somerset County Department of Health Director Paul Masaba for Official Misconduct and Theft by Deception. The arrest came after an investigation found that Masaba used his private company as a vendor for Somerset County to gain a financial benefit for himself.

Case #2

On April 24, 2019, Det. Granstrom arrested Zenon Singletary for Insurance Fraud, and Attempted Theft by Deception. Mrs. Singletary had submitted a claim to Crum and Foster Insurance Company for an injury she had sustained when she slipped and fell in a Shop Rite Parking lot in Bound Brook, N.J. Singletary submitted bills in excess of \$5,000.00 to Crum and Foster related to the claim. The investigation revealed through surveillance footage that Singletary never actually slipped and fell.

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.

Case #3

On November 22, 2019 Det. Conway arrested George Tomasik for Insurance Fraud and Forgery. The Borough of Somerville had alerted the Insurance Fraud Unit that they had awarded Shamrock Maintenance Co. a Janitorial contract. They were later informed that the owner of Shamrock, George Tomasik, had forged a Certificate of Insurance for a janitorial contact he had in Hudson County. When Somerville checked the COI that Tomasik had submitted with them, it was found to have been forged as well. Tomasik was charged with Forgery and Insurance Fraud.

INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Insurance Fraud Unit (IFU) handles all cases involving insurance fraud related matters in Somerset County. In the year 2019, the Insurance Fraud Unit handled a total of 24 cases.

Investigations conducted by the Insurance Fraud Unit during 2019:

Criminal Investigations:	24
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 investigative personnel staffed the IFU in 2019: 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 1 Assistant Prosecutor assigned as legal advisor for insurance fraud matters.

IV. Highlighted Cases:

The Insurance Fraud Unit charged the following individuals in 2019:

Joaquim Cardoso/Marriane Cardoso

In May of 2019, the Insurance Fraud Unit investigated an OIFP referral that resulted in the arrest of Joaquim Cardoso and Marriane Cardoso for Insurance Fraud, and attempted theft by deception. On 03/07/2018, Cardoso reported to his home owners Insurance Company that a tree had fallen on his vehicle and wanted to make a claim. The insurance company referred him to his vehicle insurance company (USAA). Cardoso then added comprehensive insurance to his vehicle policy on 03/10/2018,

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and called USAA on 03/13/2018 and reported the damage, indicating that the date of loss happened on 03/12/2018. Both Cardosos were charged with Third Degree Insurance Fraud and Third Degree Attempted Theft by Deception. Joaquim Cardoso ultimately pled guilty to the charges, and the charges against Marianne Cardoso were dismissed.

Zenon Singletary

In July 2019, the Insurance Fraud Unit investigated an OIFP referral that resulted in the arrest of Zenon Singletary for Insurance Fraud and Attempted Theft by Deception. Mrs. Singletary had submitted a claim to Crum and Foster Insurance Company for an injury she had sustained when she slipped and fell in a Shop Rite Parking lot in Bound Brook, N.J. Singletary submitted bills in excess of \$5,000.00 to Crum and Foster related to the claim. The investigation revealed through surveillance footage that Singletary never actually slipped and fell. In addition, a review of the receipts that Singletary had submitted were reviewed and none of the \$5000.00 of receipts were in any way related to her claim. Singletary ultimately pled guilty to the charges and was sentenced to 3 years' probation.

George Tomasik

In June of 2019, the Insurance Fraud Unit investigated referral from the Borough of Somerville that resulted in the arrest of George Tomasik for Insurance Fraud and Forgery. The Borough of Somerville had alerted the Insurance Fraud Unit that they had awarded Shamrock Maintenance Co. a Janitorial contract. They were later informed that the owner of Shamrock, George Tomasik, had forged a Certificate of Insurance for a janitorial contact he had in Hudson County. When Somerville checked the COI that Tomasik had submitted with them, it was found to have been forged as well. Tomasik was charged with Forgery and Insurance Fraud.

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 |
| 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 2019 there were 329 investigations of police misconduct in Somerset County. Seventy three cases were exclusively investigated by the Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit.
- VI.** Of the 73 investigations, 1 resulted in a criminal charge or conviction. Of the remaining 72 dispositions; 10 were classified as exonerated, 5 were unfounded, 8 were not-sustained, 9 were sustained and 40 were administratively closed. There are 2 criminal cases that remain open from 2019.

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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:

- A. Legal Staff:** **2 Assistant Prosecutors**
- B. Investigative Staff:**
- 1 Captain**
 - 1 Lieutenant**
 - 3 Sergeants**
 - 12 Detectives**
 - 6 Task Force Investigators from local police departments**

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 narcotic 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 investigate 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 and Narcotics Task Force with the supervision and guidance of the legal staff of the Office of the Prosecutor.

V. Investigation, activities, and accomplishments for 2019:

Cases	142
Arrests	152
Weapons Seized	11
Vehicles Seized	16 automobiles, 1 motorcycle
Currency Seized	\$236,158.15
Narcotics Seized:	
Cocaine	2,573.35 grams
Crack Cocaine	188.2 grams
Cannabis	25.21 pounds
THC liquid cartridges	1,932 cartridges
Heroin	14,037 decks
MDMA	29.6 grams
Methamphetamine	23 grams
LSD	16 doses
Misc. Prescription Pills	117 doses (variety)
Value of Narcotics Seized	\$468,033.10

VI. Highlighted Cases for 2019:

A. Operation “Transformer”

The arrests of Ibe Allah, age 53, North Oaks Blvd., North Brunswick, N.J., Clifford Christian (A.K.A. “Cee”), age 55, Harvey Street, New Brunswick, N.J., Daniel Brown (A.K.A. “Twin”), age 39, Main Street, Spotswood, N.J., Robert Byrom (A.K.A. “Has”), age 62, French Street, New Brunswick, N.J., Christine Peritore, age 45, York Drive, Edison, N.J., and Shaday Gordon, age 33, Cedar Lane, Highland Park, N.J.

These individuals were arrested following a 4-month investigation relative to the distribution of heroin in the Somerset/Middlesex County area and charged with the following offenses:

Ibe Allah – Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network, First Degree, Promotion of Organized Street Crime, First Degree, Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility, First Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (cocaine), Second Degree.

Clifford Christian- Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Daniel Brown- Charged with Leader of Narcotics Trafficking Network, First Degree, Promotion of Organized Street Crime, First Degree, Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility, First Degree, Robbery, First Degree, Burglary, Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (cocaine), Second Degree, Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Robert Byrom- Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Christine Peritore- Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance production facility, First Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Shaday Gordon- Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility, First Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree.

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The following persons were also charged:

Hassan Cooper, age 31, Edpas Road, New Brunswick, N.J. - Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance, Production Facility, First Degree, Robbery, First Degree, Burglary, Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin) Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Melanie Giachetti, age 46, York Drive, Edison, N.J. - Maintaining or Operating a Controlled Dangerous Substance Production Facility, First Degree, Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Second Degree, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree, Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Jermaine Robinson, age 26, Millstone Road, Somerset, N.J.- Possession of a Weapon by Certain Persons, Second Degree, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, Second Degree.

Laquan Hill, age 30, Edpas Road, New Brunswick, N.J.- Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (cocaine) Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree.

Darrell Williams, age 42, Edpas Road, New Brunswick, N.J. - Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (cocaine) Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree.

Dwight Beckett, age 56, Somerset Street, Somerset, N.J. - Possession of Hollow Point Bullets, Fourth Degree, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Disorderly Persons.

Sanford James, age 48, Oliver Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J. - Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin), Second Degree, Conspiracy, Second Degree.

The following individuals were arrested for Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance:

Hazel Johnson (also, Possession with Intent to Distribute CDS (heroin) Third Degree, age 40, Perry Drive, North Brunswick, N.J., Derek Andrews, age 55, Hale Street, New Brunswick, N.J., Doussou Said, age 25, Quail Ridge Drive, Plainsboro, N.J., Irving Figueroa, age 31, Freeman Street, New Brunswick, N.J., Joseph Langone, age 48, Crescent Avenue, Spotswood, N.J., Jose Medero-Lopez, age 50, Wright Place, New Brunswick, N.J., Jose Corro, age 49, Towson Street, New Brunswick, N.J., Omar Narveaz, age 30, Gibbons Street, Linden, N.J., Thomas Newsom, age 66, Prospect Street, Somerset, N.J., Angel Oquendo, age 56, Plum Street, New Brunswick, N.J., Lemont Pringle, age 44, Winding Lane, Sayreville, N.J., Douglas Stephens, age 64, Pheasant Hollow Drive, Plainsboro, N.J.

The following individuals were charged with Conspiracy to Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance:

Angel Pena, age 69, Henry Street, Somerset, N.J., Timothy Glover, age 50, Belmar Street, Somerset, N.J., Travis Best, age 51, Remsen Avenue, New Brunswick, N.J., Robert Friedman, age 55, Briarwood Drive, Somerset, N.J.

Prosecutor Robertson stated that as a result of this comprehensive investigation investigators executed 8 Superior Court Search Warrants to include the residences of Daniel Brown, Hassan Cooper, Shaday Gordon, Sanford James, Christine Peritore, and Melanie Giachetti, which culminated in the seizure of approximately 70 grams of raw heroin, approximately 2,500 bags of heroin, approximately 1 ounce of cocaine, a Charter Arms .38 caliber handgun, \$5,050.00 in U.S. currency, and numerous items utilized for drug manufacturing to include empty wax folds, ink pads, various brands of stampers, sifters, scales, packaging material, rubber bands, and cutting agents.

The stamps seized included Transformers, Major League Baseball, Jumpman, Elmo with Love, Tango and Cash, Tiger Woods, Kill Bill, Joy & Pain, Dope Dick, Block Buster, and Cadillac. If any agency is requesting further information regarding the seized stamps please contact the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office at (908) 231-7100 and request to speak with Det. John Dugan or Det. John Tuchmatulin.

Hassan Cooper and Daniel Brown were charged with First Degree Armed Robbery for their roles during a home invasion in Plainfield, N.J.

The heroin seized has an estimated street value of \$30,000.00 and the cocaine seized has an estimated street value of approximately \$1,300.00.

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B. Operation “X Out”

The arrests of Xavier Bailey, aka “X”, age 29 Village Drive, Somerset, N.J., Viridiana Munoz, age 30, Village Drive, Somerset, N.J., Derrick Johnson, age 30, Lyon Lane, Franklin Park, N.J., Harold Lagrone, age 67, Roberts Road, Somerset, N.J., and Titus Peters, age 49, Roberts Road, Somerset, N.J.

These individuals were arrested following a 3 month investigation relative to the distribution of heroin in the Somerset/Middlesex County area and charged with the following offenses:

1. Xavier Bailey – First Degree Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Network, First Degree Promoting Organized Street Crime, Second Degree Possession of a Firearm, Second Degree Endangering Welfare of a Child, First Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute, Third Degree Money Laundering, Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
2. Viridiana Munoz – Second Degree Endangering Welfare of a Child, Second Degree Possession of a Firearm, First Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute, Third Degree Money Laundering, Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
3. Derrick Johnson – Two counts of Third Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
4. Harold Lagrone – Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess a Controlled Dangerous Substance.
5. Titus Peters, Sr. – Third Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance with Intent to Distribute and Third Degree Conspiracy to Distribute or Possess a Controlled Dangerous.

Prosecutor Robertson stated that as a result of this comprehensive investigation investigators executed 5 Superior Court Search Warrants to include the residences of Xavier Bailey, Titus Peters, Sr. and Derrick Johnson, which culminated in the seizure of approximately 10,026 wax folds of heroin, approximately over 50 grams of marijuana, a loaded .40 caliber Smith & Wesson M&P handgun, 4 motor vehicles, 1 motorcycle, and \$9,361.00 in U.S. currency.

The heroin seized has an estimated street value of \$50,130.00 dollars and the marijuana seized has an estimated street value of approximately \$2,000.00 dollars.

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 Lieutenant
	1 Sergeant	3 Sergeants
	1 Detective	

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 2019, the total number of Polygraph/CVSA examinations was 8, resulting in 5 no deception indicated findings and 3 deception indicated findings.

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SOMERSET COUNTY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAMS (SCERT)

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Emergency Response Teams (SCERT) are responsible for immediate response 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

90 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 indicates.

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 13 full-time officers from 9 different law enforcement agencies within Somerset County. Each of these specially trained officers is required to 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., and 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. 2019 Training Summary:

- A. The SWAT team conducted 12 regularly scheduled monthly drills throughout 2019, including 1 joint training session 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 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 of the crisis team equipment is checked for accountability, serviceability, and 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 negotiator personnel 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 a one day 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 2019 with an overall attendance of 56 negotiators participating.

In May 2019, the CNT hosted 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 235 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 1 combined drill with SWAT and TEMS personnel in 2019. 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 2019. 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 session. The 2 teams held large scale rehearsals for hostage situations including crisis negotiation.

VII. Brief Synopsis of SCERT Callouts:

August 3, 2019: SWAT/CNT Activation for a barricaded suspect in Bridgewater Township (swatting call).

December 5, 2019: SWAT/CNT Activation for a barricaded suspect with shots fired in Bridgewater Township.

VIII. Training provided by SCERT

Response to Active Shooter Instructor Course

In the Spring of 2019 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 in 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, Bernardsville and Bernards.
- Bring Your Child to Work Day – Somerset County
- Somerset County Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Police Youth Week Program
- Somerville Flag Day
- NJ Police UNITY Tour

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CNT members participated in the following special events:

During 2019 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 also assists Centenary College each semester, as requested with role players and 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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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 felons wanted for various criminal offenses, violation 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 300-500 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 2019, the Fugitive Unit extradited several fugitives from numerous states including: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Georgia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Vermont, and Ohio.

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 2019 are as follows:

- **526 New warrants were received**
- **478 Warrants were satisfied by arrest or vacated**
- **512 Active warrants at start of 2018**
- **4 Governor's Warrants**
- **2 Interstate Agreement on Detainers (IAD)**

VI. Fugitive Unit - 2019

	Arrests	Vacates	Dismissed	Totals
January	35	7	0	42
February	37	7	0	44
March	33	6	0	39
April	22	7	0	29
May	33	9	0	42
June	38	8	0	46
July	41	14	0	55
August	36	5	0	41
September	33	4	0	37
October	33	6	0	39
November	27	5	0	32
December	28	4	0	32
Totals	396	82	0	478

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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 personnel, 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 2019 the Crime Scene Investigation Unit opened 123 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 are also submitted to other laboratories for analysis;
5. Firearms, ammunition, projectiles and shell casings;
6. Gunshot residue;
7. Tool marks;
8. Accelerants from fire scenes that may be sent to other laboratories for analysis.

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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 2019, a total of 242 items were entered by the Firearms and Ballistics Unit resulting in 16 cold case "hits."

IV. Crime Scene Investigation Unit:

The Crime Scene 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 2019, the Crime Scene Unit was called on to process 33 crime scenes within Somerset County; not including vehicles that were transported to the CSIU building.

In addition to scene processing, the Crime Scene Unit assists all other units of the SCPO as well as local, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies as needed. The Crime Scene 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.

V. Crime Scene Investigation Unit:

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit is responsible for processing all items of evidence submitted to the laboratory for latent fingerprints. 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 2019, the Crime Scene Unit processed 823 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 2019, 37 cases were entered into AFIS resulting in 23 "hits" identifying suspects.

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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 federal regulation standards for operating a multi-jurisdictional Criminal Intelligence Systems (28 CFR Part 23)(2019).

II. Number of personnel assigned to unit:

A. Investigative Staff: **1 Detective**

III. Duties and responsibilities of unit personnel:

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 regulation standards of 28 CFR Part 23 (2019). In 2019, 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 Criminal Intelligence Systems Operating Policies 28 CFR Part 23 (2019) 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, as well as intelligence learned by 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 contains 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 CFR Part 23(2019). 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 Intelligence Network. In 2019, the Infoshare Intelligence Network is connected statewide with state law enforcement agencies as well as 17 out of 21 the majority of County Prosecutor's Offices.

The CIU lends support to all units of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office as well as to local municipalities as requested. On a daily basis the CIU provides timely intelligence to the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force, Fugitive Unit, 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, 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 Somerset County Prosecutor's Office detective staff. The CI files are maintained and updated as requested by the CIU unit.

Lastly, the CIU holds a by-monthly Roundtable Intelligence / Counter Terrorism / Commanders Meeting which is attended by Municipal, County, State, and Federal agencies in the State of New Jersey.

Additional CIU 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
- Deconfliction of all CIs

5. Intelligence Officer / Analyst

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

6. Infoshare Intelligence Database Supervisor

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

7. Email Distribution / Dissemination

- SCPOIntel email distribution list service was established through Reginal Information Sharing System (RISS) to easily generate and distribute intelligence to Somerset County law enforcement as well as to surrounding county departments. Approximately 300 law enforcements 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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8. 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 200 members

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

- Organize / Schedule
- Every 2 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

10. Attend Intelligence Meetings / Networking opportunities

11. Operation Helping Hand

- Grant Writer / Project Manager

BURGLARY TASK FORCE

I. Purpose:

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force, attached to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Major Crimes Unit, 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 Captain**
 - 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 2019, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force continued to review the past methods of investigation and constantly improved 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 2019. 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, along with the installation and monitoring of court ordered Global Positioning Systems (GPS) investigations. The Burglary Task Force works closely with the Division of Weights and Measures to insure local precious metal buyers are properly documenting purchases and filing our purchase receipts.

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In 2019 the Somerset County Burglary Task Force continued to monitor the buying and selling of precious metals throughout Somerset County. As the price of gold remains high, residential burglars who target gold continue to be on the rise. To ensure 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 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 422 residential burglaries based solely on the precious metal reporting forms.

In 2019 the Somerset County Burglary Task Force continued to maintain and review a uniform reporting form requiring each municipality to notify the Burglary 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 days, and methods the burglars used to search the house. This information has been useful in spotting patterns and identifying burglary suspects.

In 2019 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 3 municipalities have passed ordinances to enforce the requirement to use the new precious metal reporting system.

V. 2019 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 9 arrests for retail thefts and investigated 20 residential burglaries.

- On March 12, 2019 the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office Burglary Task Force began investigating numerous incidents of retail theft occurring at the Ulta Beauty Store in Watchung, N.J. These retail thefts appeared to have been perpetrated by the same organized group of individuals. The Burglary Task Force also discovered a pattern of retail thefts occurring at Ulta Beauty Stores throughout New Jersey and was able to identify a vehicle used in the thefts. During the course of the investigation detectives identified 8 individuals involved in these thefts. The 8 individuals were identified as Keion Daniels age 25 of Elizabeth, N.J., Quasim McCrary age 26 of Maplewood, N.J., Alkareem Bowser age 24 of Elizabeth, N.J., Jihad Holmes age 24 of Elizabeth, N.J., Fuquan Campbell age 29 of Elizabeth, N.J., Janaiyah Rozelle age 25 of Maplewood, N.J., Marquis Baker age 27 of Newark, N.J., and Aaliyah Lumpkins age 23 of Elizabeth, N.J. On April 11, 2019 the Burglary Task Force executed a Superior Court issued search warrant at the residence of McCrary and Rozelle in Maplewood, N.J. McCrary and Rozelle were located at the residence and taken into custody. Lumpkins and Baker were located at a residence in Elizabeth, N.J. and also taken into custody on the same day. Campbell, Bowser and Holmes were arrested at a later date. These subjects were charged with Shoplifting and Engaging in Organized Retail Theft. Daniels, McCrary, Bowser, Holmes, Campbell and Lumpkins pled guilty. The charges against Baker and Rozelle are 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 utilizes RAPID for reporting precious metals transactions with the 3 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.

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: **1 Detective (Coordinator) & 1 Prosecutor's Agent**

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 agent 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 agent 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© (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 (888) 577-TIPS. Tipsters may also email information via the internet by logging onto www.577tips.org. 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. 1 Prosecutor's Agent

III. Duties and responsibilities of personnel:

The Prosecutor's Agent is responsible for receiving, analyzing, and forwarding tip information to the appropriate law enforcement agency/unit.

IV. Crimestoppers Tips for 2019

There were 19 tips received for the year of 2019. The following is a breakdown of all of the tips received:

- Major Crimes: 7
- Narcotics: 9
- Special Investigations: 1
- Major Crime/Narcotics: 1
- Burglary/Sex Crimes: 1

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COMPUTER CRIMES / TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Computer Crimes Unit of the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office is a Unit within the Special Investigations Unit. It is comprised of a Captain, Lieutenant, Sergeant, and 3 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 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 provides local schools and community organizations with Internet Safety Presentations.

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

- A. Investigative Staff:**
 - 1 Captain**
 - 1 Lieutenant**
 - 1 Sergeant**
 - 3 Detectives**
 - 1 Criminal Analyst**

III. Investigations, activities and accomplishments for 2019:

I.C.A.C. Referrals/Investigations	44
Investigations of distribution of child pornography	24
Investigations of possession of child pornography	20
Investigations of enticing/obscenity to a minor	19
Arrest for above offenses	22
D.V.R. Extractions (including video analysis and editing)	15
Computer Forensic Examinations/Previews	33
Cellular Forensic phone examinations	100

IV. Accomplishments of the Unit during 2019:

- A.** The Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office Computer Crimes Unit along with the New Jersey State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force conducted an undercover chat operation titled Operation Open Door, between October 24 and October 27, 2019. The operation consisted of several trained undercover chat investigators attempting to identify individuals who were willing to travel for sexual acts with underage children. The operation was conducted along with several local, county, and federal agencies in the pursuit of child predators. The operation led to the arrest of 19 defendants who travelled to an undercover location to meet who they thought were underage children to engage in sexual acts.

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- B.** On August 6, 2019 a homicide occurred in the Borough of North Plainfield. Det. Foley of the C.C.U. responded to the scene to assist with identifying any video surveillance of the homicide. Det. Foley was able to identify and obtain several video surveillance files from several different locations. One of the video clips actually captured the homicide. The other video clips helped detectives identify who was at the scene as well as the direction of travel the defendant ran after the homicide.
- C.** In April of 2019, the C.C.U. assisted with an undercover chat operation (Operation Home Alone) being conducted by the Bergen County Prosecutor's Office and the New Jersey State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. S.C.P.O. Computer Crime detectives conducted undercover chats in an attempt to identify suspects who were willing to travel to meet with whom they thought were underage girls. The C.C.U. assistance led to numerous arrests of these defendants.

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 and 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 affords investigative parity to all jurisdictions throughout the county. The team assists the New Jersey State Police in investigating certain criteria cases on Interstate Highways throughout Somerset County.

II. Number of personnel assigned to the unit:

The Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team is comprised of 7 Investigators from the Prosecutor's Office and 24 municipal task force officers.

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III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit 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 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 at-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 of 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 2019 for C.A.R.T.

A. 7 SCPO and 24 municipal members are on the task force

B. Investigated 28 fatal or serious injury crashes

- 13 fatalities in 13 fatal crashes
- 15 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 6 out-of-county investigation
- 3 investigations resulted in indictable charges
- 3 crashes involved alcohol/drugs **

V. Significant Cases of 2019

State v. Julia O’Brien

Assault by Auto with Serious Bodily Injury

North Plainfield – 01/12/19 at 06:09 A.M.

Status – Guilty Plea, 3 yrs. probation

Defendant was traveling on Rt. 22 eastbound when she failed to stop for a red signal. She struck a victim’s vehicle at the driver’s door causing serious bodily injury to that driver. Defendant was operating under the influence of an alcoholic beverage at the time of the crash.

Third Degree

State v. Sahil Kulgod

Vehicle Homicide – D.W.I in School Zone

Hillsborough Township – 01/04/2015 at 10:25 A.M.

Status – Trial resulted in conviction in 2019

Defendant was charged with driving a motor vehicle at a high rate of speed on River Road where he lost control and crossed the centerline striking an approaching vehicle. The other driver was killed and passenger was injured.

This crash, which occurred in January 2015, finally came to trial. A guilty verdict resulted in a 5-year prison sentence (with no early release) and 3 years of supervised release.

Second Degree

VI. Twenty Years of the Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team

This year marks a milestone of 20 years since the implementation of this specialized unit to handle traffic-related crimes. Emphasis has been placed upon the structure, staffing, and operation of a task force concept. The complexity of fatal crash investigations can easily rival or often surpass the complexities of other types of investigations.

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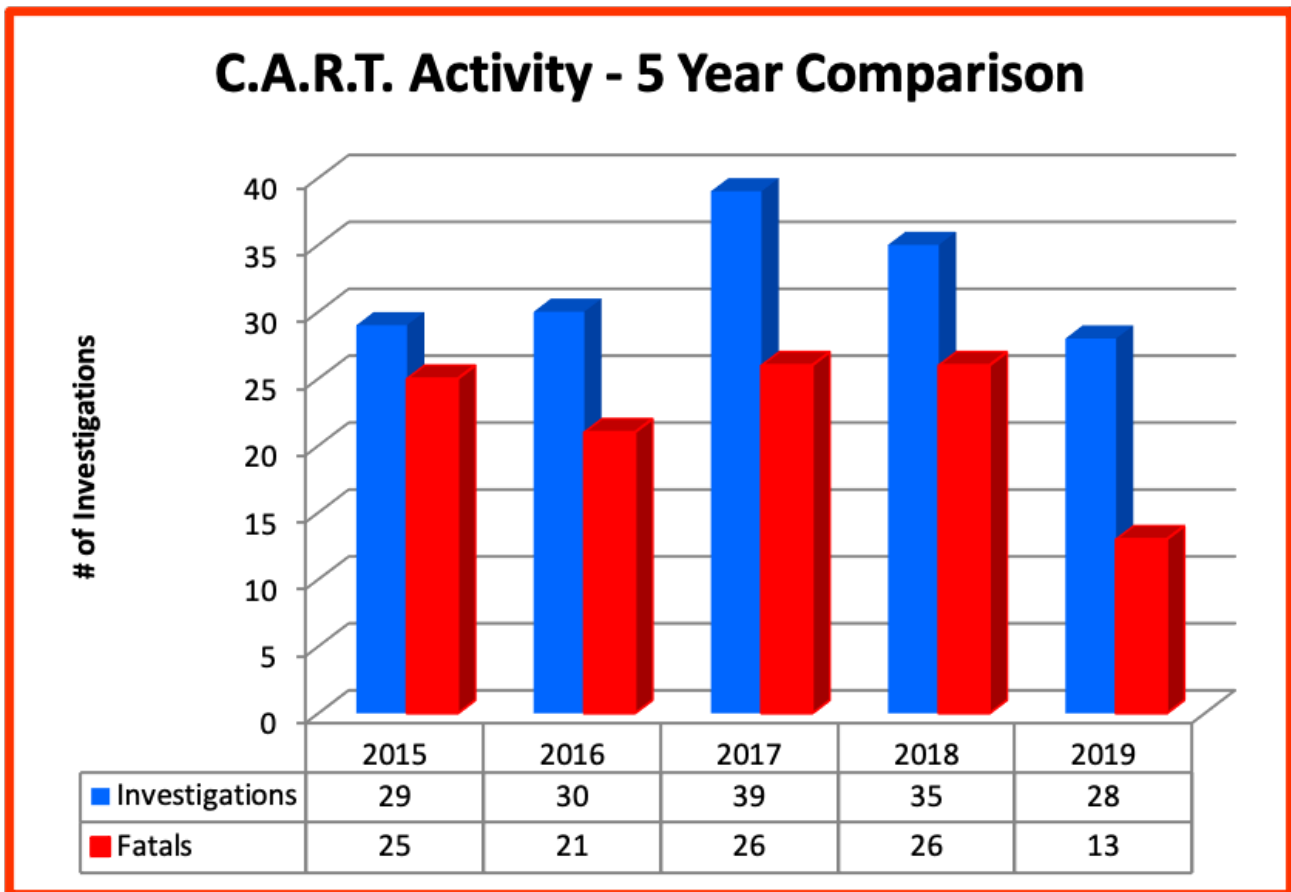
The fact that a life has been lost, coupled with the associated penalties for a conviction for vehicular homicide or assault, ensure that the stakes are high. Effective disposition of these matters requires the kind of extensive, professional investigation that will discourage litigation. Even when the possibility of criminal prosecution can be discounted early in the investigation, a loss of life and/or critical bodily injuries deserves a thorough and comprehensive analysis that can answer the concerns of surviving family and the community.

Since the inception of C.A.R.T., the unit has investigated:

- **749 criteria crashes**
- **421 fatalities**
- **91 crashes that warranted criminal charges**
- **90 cases involving assists to other out-of-county agencies**

NOTE – C.A.R.T. investigations decreased 20% in 2019 while the total number of fatalities decreased by 50%.

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 28 motor vehicle collisions this year which required either on-scene or supplemental investigations. There were 13 crashes resulting in 13 fatalities. Each of those fatal crashes received extensive and thorough investigations to commensurate with the loss of a human life.

**The presence of alcohol and/or drugs was found to be a factor in 3 of the 28 crashes, equating to approximately 10%. Some toxicological reports are still outstanding from 2019.

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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. Legal Staff: **2 Assistant Prosecutors**

B. Personnel Assigned to Unit: **1 Task Force Commander**
Team Members comprised of:
 7 Prosecutor's Office personnel
 7 Municipal Police Officers
 14 Municipal Fire Officials
 3 State Fire Marshals
 3 ATF Special Agent
 3 Fire Service Personnel
 3 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 and responsible for the enforcement of the Uniform Fire Safety Act and the Uniform Fire Safety Code.

IV. Fire Investigations:

Fire Investigations conducted: **10**

Types of structures involved:

Multi-Family	4
Single family	4
Motor vehicle	0
Commercial	1
Religious	1

V. Type of fire investigations conducted in 2019:

Intentional use of incendiary	0
Combustibles too close to heat source	8
Fatal	2

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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 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, and maintains open lines of communication between local businesses and corporations.

C. Support Staff:

Shares clerical and data entry responsibilities.

IV. Accomplishments of 2019:

In 2019, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit participated in 50 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, and subsequently confirmed or dispelled all suspicious activities.

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V. The Counter-Terrorism Unit investigated the following types of cases in 2019:

- Identified male made threats to a police department in North Plainfield., N.J.
- Unidentified subject made a bomb threat to a business in Green Brook Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unknown subject made 911 call of an AR-15 and hostages at a private residence in Bound Brook, N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence in Basking Ridge, N.J.
- Identified male made verbal threats of arson and bombing of a business in Branchburg, N.J.
- Unidentified subject faxed anti-Semitic messages to a religious institution in Warren Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified male made verbal threats of bombing a business in Hillsborough Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject was observed filming a religious institution in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject left graffiti in a learning institution threatening POTUS in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject distributed recruitment propaganda for a hate group in Manville, N.J.
- Two unidentified subjects attempted to purchase silencers at a gun shop in Green Brook Twp., N.J.
- A Chinese lantern containing anti-Semitic propaganda was turned over to the Bridgewater Twp. Police Department.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Victim reported the loss of a U.S. passport in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Victim reported the loss of a Chinese passport in Montgomery Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject e-mailed anti-Muslim propaganda to the Bernards Twp. Police Department.
- Unidentified subject made a threat of violence against POTUS via e-mail in Bedminster Twp., N.J.
- Identified male made verbal anti-American, Jihadist threats during a police investigation in Somerville, N.J.
- Identified juvenile student threatened school violence in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject attempted to elicit information on a municipal judge in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject threatened school violence via YouTube in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject made anti-Semitic threats against a U.S. Representative in Somerville, N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted anti-Semitic propaganda in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Unidentified subject made a swatting call in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted white-supremacist propaganda in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Unidentified subject operated an identified motor vehicle onto the property of the Trump National Golf course causing damage to the golf facility in Bedminster Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted white-supremacist propaganda in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject mailed and envelope containing unidentified white powder in Branchburg Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted white-supremacist propaganda in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Unidentified white supremacist subjects performed training exercises at a park in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Unidentified subject placed a hoax device at a private business in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Unidentified subject placed a hoax device at a park in Bridgewater Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject received a package containing \$10,000.00 using a fraudulent identification in Franklin Twp. N.J.
- Identified subject made verbal threats against a congressman and his family in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Unidentified subject posted white-supremacist propaganda in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Identified subject made verbal threats against police officers in Hillsborough, N.J.
- Identified subject made anti-Semitic threats against a religious institution in Basking Ridge, N.J.
- Unidentified subject threatened violence at a private business in Watchung, N.J.
- Identified subject made verbal threats against a school in Hillsborough, N.J.

- Identified subject gestured threats against a school in Franklin Twp., N.J.
- Identified subject made verbal threats against a hospital in Somerville, N.J.
- Identified subject made verbal threats against a Superior Court judge in Somerville, N.J.
- Unidentified subject pointed a green laser at a commercial airplane flying over Bound Brook, 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 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.

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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 2019, 2,497 criminal charges were issued and our staff processed thousands of criminal, civil and juvenile discovery requests. Additionally, our secretarial and paralegal staff processed and generated thousands of statements, letters and various types of legal documents;
- Policies and directives development;
- Data entry;
- Purchasing, 1,620 purchase orders were processed for the year;
- Budgeting, development and administration of a 13.6 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, 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. The Administrative Division had numerous accomplishments in 2019. Our Bring Your Child to Work Day in 2019 had 87 children registered. The children were treated to a N.J. State Police North Star helicopter landing and tour, K-9 demonstrations, our Crime Scene, SCERT and Dive vehicles and apparatus, Sheriff's drone demo, Mock Trial and a pizza and juice lunch.

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,

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cell phones, office furniture, office equipment, photocopiers, and fax machines. All 19 police agencies in Somerset County continue to be connected to our Evidence, Lab and Intelligence modules through a secured VPN. The Administrative Division also oversaw the renovation of 3 conference rooms to include new paint, carpet, furniture and 65" LED television with HDMI cables connected via an HDMI jack to view teleconferences, training videos, and for Assistant Prosecutors to view video confessions, witness statements and body cam footage when preparing cases for trial.

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 Department..

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

This years' 22nd Annual Bring Your Child to Work Day had the participation of 87 children. 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.

The Emergency Services Training Academy in Hillsborough, N.J. hosted various fire safety activities at this years event. 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 huge 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.

SCPO Assistant Prosecutors along with the Vicinage 13 Law Clerks presented and performed a skit at the Mock Trial this year. The theme was Theft & Social Media. This mock trial engages the participation of all the children, and it is a big hit every year.

C. 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 2019. This year the grant paid for child passenger safety seat technicians to be on hand to inspect car seats of attendees. A total of 15 car seats were inspected during this first year of this activity. Staff also provided the public with information and assistance with traffic safety related issues.

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 2019 calendar year 20 presentations were given by staff. Talks consisted of Distracted Driving Awareness, Avoiding Roadway Hazards, Teen Driving and Safe Winter Driving.

In 2019 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 2019 calendar year 640 seats were inspected and 89% were found to have some form of misuse or improper installation.

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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. Academy Director: | 1 Academy Director (Civilian) |
| C. Assigned Staff: | 1 Detective Captain (Commanding Officer)
1 Detective Sergeant (Trng. Sup. /Range Master)
1 Detective (Training Coordinator/Webmaster) |
| D. Support Staff: | 1 Office Manager (Civilian) |

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit:

- | | |
|--|---|
| A. Legal Staff: | Requested as needed to instruct and provide legal guidance on a variety of topics and 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. |

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IV. Accomplishments:

In 2019, we conducted 137 courses, a decrease from the 141 courses we conducted in 2018. Attendance for 2019 courses was 3,132 officers, a decrease of 380 officers as compared to the 2018 attendance total. This decrease in both training programs and associated officer attendance can reasonably be attributed to the new 7 canceled classes at the Academy. In addition to our scheduled classes we provided training space and support for a variety of agencies ranging from 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 2,682 students/officers, an increase of 476 participants. Overall our 2019 attendance was up compared to the 2018 totals. In 2018 we had 5,718. In 2019 we had 5,814, an increase of 96.

In 2019 the Academy designed and presented the Mandatory Agency Training Series (MATS), sixteenth 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, and domestic violence. 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 2019, the Academy provided 30 educational/positive Law Enforcement-Community programs to over 610 participants. Some of those programs are highlighted below:

In July 2019, 35 youths attended the Academy's Annual Police Youth Week program, a 5-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 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 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.

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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 Twp., 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, 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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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

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

Administrative Division Summary

D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T.
(Gang Resistance Education Training)

Bring Your Child to Work Day
& Community Events

POLICE ACADEMY

APPENDICES

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	63
b. Defendants with charges downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	33	37
c. Defendants accepted for pre-trial diversion	0	39
d. Defendants otherwise screened out	407	14
e. Defendants with change of venue	0	6
f. Accusations filed	0	110
g. Defendants with either indictable complaints authorized or charges approved for grand jury	0	248
h. AOC Correction: Defendants who completed grand jury	0	452
TOTAL SCREENING DECISIONS FOR YEAR (add a - h)	440	969

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	35	112
2. Recommended for acceptance	33	104
3. Recommended for rejection	4	16
4. Accepted into program	39	116

**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	45	0/0
2. 1+ to 2 months	64	0/5
3. 2+ to 3 months	85	0/2
4. 3+ to 4 months	26	0/2
5. Over 4 months	18	0/1
6. TOTAL defendant cases pending grand jury	238	0/10

DEFENDANTS COMPLETING THE GRAND JURY PROCESS AND ACTION TAKEN

ACTION TAKEN	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Defendants presented to the grand jury	737
2. Defendants indicted	728
3. Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	1
4. Defendants no billed/no action	8
5. TOTAL defendants completing the grand jury process	737

DEFENDANTS CHARGED BY ACCUSATION

	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
TOTAL Defendants charged through Accusation	110

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	106	0/21
2. 3+ to 6 months	65	0/21
3. 6+ to 9 months	37	0/27
4. 9+ to 12 months	29	0/15
5. 12+ to 24 months	27	0/61
6. 24+ months	38	1/332
7. TOTAL post-indictment/accusation defendant cases pending	302	1/477

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	5	1	10	10	13	20	46	0	167	0	2
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	2	0	4	6	1	3	4	0	36	0	0
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. persons offense	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	21	0	0
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense											
a. Jury	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	1	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	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	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
b. Non-jury	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
8. Acceptance into diversion program	1	0	1	1	5	8	3	0	56	0	1
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Dismissed pros. motion or consent	1	0	1	0	0	3	5	0	33	0	0
11. TOTAL dispositions	12	1	17	18	21	38	59	0	315	0	3

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	102	20	18	9	0	0	14	1	7	445
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	12	3	4	3	0	0	2	0	1	81
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. persons offense	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense										
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	10
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
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	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
b. Non-jury	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5
8. Acceptance into diversion program	42	5	10	9	0	0	5	0	5	152
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Dismissed pros. motion or consent	9	1	6	1	0	0	2	0	3	65
11. TOTAL dispositions	166	30	38	22	0	0	25	2	17	784

**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	22
2. TOTAL post-conviction relief applications/briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	10
a. Defendants granted relief	1
b. Defendants denied relief	5
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	0
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	1
3. TOTAL habeas corpus petitions/briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	1
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	1
a. Defendants indicted	1
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	0
4. 3+ to 4 months	0
5. Over 4 months	0
6. TOTAL defendant cases pending grand jury	0

**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. disp., plea to disorderly persons offense	1
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	1

Section/Unit

ALL

County Somerset, New Jersey

Completing report

Year 2019

Section IV. 7.a

From: 1/1/2019 To: 12/31/2019

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	325	30	3	23	205	586	3			
2.	Investigations opened during the year	679	92	11	110	499	1391	11			
3.	TOTAL Investigative workload for the year (add nos. 1-2)	1004	122	14	133	704	1977	14			
4.	TOTAL Investigations completed during this year	664	101	10	111	484	1370	9			
a.	Resulting in criminal charges	21	5	2	3	65	96	0			
b.	Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	11	4	2	7	27	51	0			
c.	Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	14	0	0	0	5	19	0			
d.	Closed - No further action	618	92	6	101	387	1204	0			
5.	Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	340	21	4	22	220	607	5			

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	206
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	5
b. Defendants with complaints downgraded to disorderly persons offenses	0
c. Defendants with complaints referred to Family Court	0
d. Defendants with complaints presented to grand jury	61
2. Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	0
3. Defendants charged through accusation	15
4. Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, TOTAL	63
a. Defendants indicted	61
b. Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no billed/no action	2

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 Interlocutory	Juvenile	Law Division (de novo)	Civil				
1. Appeals pending at beginning of the year	20	0	2	1	2	0	7	1	33	
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	52	0	6	0	7	0	22	3	90	
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	6	0	0	0	22	2	30	
4. Appellate briefs filed	22	0	9	0	7	0	4	2	44	
5. STATE Appeals and - TOTAL DISPOSED Cross Appeals	3	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	9	
a. Conviction or order affirmed	2	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	7	
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
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	32	0	3	1	5	0	16	4	61	
a. Conviction or order affirmed	28	0	3	1	5	0	16	4	57	
b. Conviction or order reversed	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
c. Remanded or judgment modified	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
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	
7. Appeals pending at the end of the year	27	0	0	0	2	0	3	2	34	

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	6	0	0	0	6
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	0	4	20	0	0	0	24
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
4. Appellate briefs filed	0	4	20	0	0	0	24
5. TOTAL APPEALS DISPOSED	0	3	23	0	0	0	26
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	2	17	0	0	0	19
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	1	2	0	0	0	3
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Appeals pending at the end of the year	0	1	3	0	0	0	4

Section/Unit _____

(completing report)

County: Somerset

Section IV. 9.a.

Year...: 2019

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Filings/New Cases	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
1. Total New Filings During the Calendar Year	184	227	421
VOP Filings			
2. Total Violations of Probation During the Calendar Year	25	28	28
Returned to Court			
3a. Cases Reactivated	10	16	38
3b. Cases Reopened	26	34	60
3c. Cases Successfully Appealed	0	0	0
3. Total Cases Returned to Court	36	50	98
Transfers			
4a. Entering this county	49	57	119
4b. Leaving this county	54	64	101
4. (Net Change)	-5	-7	18

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.
- 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.
- 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.

Section/Unit _____

County: Somerset

(completing report)

Section IV. 9.b.

Year...: 2019

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DISPOSED CASES

	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn			
1. Total Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn during Calendar Year	16	18	33
Diverted Cases			
2. Total Diversions during Calendar Year	71	76	133
Inactivated Cases			
3a. VOP Cases Inactivated	10	10	10
3b. Non-VOP Cases Inactivated	17	24	52
3. Total Inactivations during Calendar Year	27	34	62
Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)			
4a. Adjudicated Delinquent	2	2	2
4b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
4c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
4d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	5	10	16
4. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)	7	12	18
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	56	79	168
6b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
6c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
6d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	5	5	7
6. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)	61	84	175
VOP Decisions (1:1)			
	Mandatory Calendar	Non-Mandatory Calendar	Juvenile Referee
7a. Adjudicated Delinquent	0	0	17
7b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
7c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
7d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	1	0	0
7. Total VOP Decisions	1	0	17

Trials

8a. Total Number of Trials Where the Assistant Prosecutor Appeared.	<u>1</u>
8b. Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Delinquent on One or More Charges at Trial.	<u> </u>
8c. Total Number of Juveniles Adjudicated Not Delinquent at Trial.	<u>1</u>

Revised for 2019 data

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.)	1

Rev. 1999

VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES

NOTIFICATION SERVICES		NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO					
		VICTIMS		Lay WITNESSES		Law Enforcement Complainant	
		YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Initial contact	441	X					
Administrative dismissal	131	X		X		X	
GJ Remand to Remand Municipal Court	19	X	+	X		X	
Indictment returned	1378	X		X		X	
No bill (Grand Jury Dismissal)	0	X		X		X	
Applied to PTI	125	X		X		X	
Acceptance to PTI	278	X		X		X	
Completed PTI	187	X		X		X	
Terminated from PTI	15	X		X		X	
Pre-Trial Proceeding	8735	X		X		X	
Fugitive Status	572	X		X		X	
Court Dismissal	158	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	210	X					
Disposed of Charges Not Guilty	6	X		X		X	
Dispose of Charges Guilty To Be Sentenced	48	X		X		X	
Sentence Date	1218	X		X		X	
Sentence Imposed- Parole Input	103	X					
Sentence Imposed	2477	X		X		X	
Mistrial/Dismissal	0	X				X	
Mistrial	0	X		X		X	
Plea to Charges/To Be Sentenced	982	X		X		X	
Plea and sentenced	0	X		X		X	
Community Release	14	X					
Parole Denial	44	X					
Parole Eligibility	88	X					
Max Release (Sentence Expiration)	68	X					
Release on Parole	57	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	150	X				
Juvenile- Disposition of Case	51	X				
Juvenile Transfer Out	38	X				
Fugitive Arrest	44	X				
Condolence Letters	3	X				
VINE	252	X				
Administrative Hold	0	X				
Release to ISP	1	X				
Applied to Drug Court	12	X				
CAR Team	10	X				
Total Notifications for 2019	17,775					

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		X		
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		X

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY	NUMBER	VALUE
1. Notice of intention to solicit funds received	1	
2. Expungement applications received	440	
3. TOTAL number of forfeiture actions	53	
4. Number of motor vehicles obtained through forfeiture actions	8	
5. TOTAL value of property forfeited (add a. - c.)		228,004.42
a. Cash forfeited		183,244.42
b. Value of forfeited motor vehicles		44,760.00
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
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
Number of juveniles for whom harassment was upgraded to 4th degree crime	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: 2019

POLICE PURSUIT SUMMARY REPORT

Agency: All Somerset County Agencies	County: Somerset
Reporting Period: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019	
Person completing report: Lt. Justin Berger	Date completed: 1/27/20
Phone number: 908-575-3300	

1. Number of pursuits	45
2. Number of pursuits resulting in accidents	4
3. Number of pursuits resulting in injuries (NO DEATHS)	2
4. Number of pursuits resulting in death	0
5. Number of pursuits resulting in arrests	23
6. Number of vehicles in accidents	5
a) Pursued vehicles	5
b) Police vehicles	3
c) Third party vehicles	1
7. Number of people injured	2
a) Pursued vehicles	1
b) Police vehicles	1
c) Third party vehicles	0
d) Pedestrians	0
8. Number of people killed	0
a) Pursued vehicles	0
b) Police vehicles	0
c) Third party vehicles	0
d) Pedestrians	0
9. Number of people arrested	29
10. Number of pursuits in which a tire deflation device was used	0

SCPO - ANNUAL INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY REPORT

Agency: ALL SOMERSET COUNTY DEPARTMENTS

Year: 2019

Person Completing Report: Lt. Justin Berger

TABLE 1 - COMPLAINTS FILED


Type of Complaint	Anonymous Complaints	Citizen Complaints	Agency Complaints	Total Complaints
Excessive Force		19	1	20
Improper Arrest		6	1	7
Improper Entry			2	2
Improper Search		5		5
Other Criminal Violation		4	18	22
Differential Treatment		29	2	31
Demeanor	1	76	11	88
Domestic Violence		1	2	3
Other Rule Violation	5	46	100	151
TOTAL	6	186	137	329

Table 3 - Court Dispositions

Court	Cases Dismissed	Cases Diverted	Acquittals	Convictions
Municipal				
Superior	2	3	1	1
Total	2	3	1	1

TABLE 2 - AGENCY DISPOSITIONS

Type of Complaint	Pending Last Year	Received This Year	Total	Number and Type of Disposition							Unfounded	Admin. Closed	Closed This Year	Pending End of Year
				Sustained		Exonerated	Not Sustained	Internal Disciplinary	Criminal Charge					
				Criminal Charge	Internal Disciplinary									
Excessive Force	2	20	22		2	5	1	3	10	12				
Improper Arrest	1	7	8			5		1	1	1				
Improper Entry	2	2	4		2				2	2				
Improper Search	0	5	5			4		1		5				
Other Criminal Violation	4	22	26	4	4	4	5	1	2	6				
Differential Treatment	6	27	33		2	13	7	4	4	3				
Demeanor	8	92	100		12	31	23	7	12	14				
Domestic Violence	2	3	5		1	1			1	2				
Other Rule Violation	19	151	170		72	21	15	13	13	31				
TOTAL	44	329	373	4	95	84	51	30	43	294	71			

Signature of Person Completing Report: 
 Name of Person Completing Report: Lt. Justin Berger
 Date Report Completed: January 24, 2020

Department: ALL SOMERSET COUNTY DEPARTMENTS
 Year: 2019
 TW 3/28/14



2019 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOMERSET COUNTY

The following report contains the statistical summary of reports of police misconduct in Somerset County in 2019. 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 329 new cases in 2019 with 30 additional complaints pending from the previous year. Compared to the previous year (2018 – 333 total cases investigated), there was an approximate -1.92 % decrease in the number of complaints investigated.

Of the 329 complaints investigated in 2019, there were 99 sustained allegations (Refer to Table 2). Four (4) of those sustained allegations resulted in Criminal Charges; the remaining 95 represented Internal Disciplinary Action. Of the remaining complaints, there were 208 disposed allegations, which included: Exonerated – 84, Not Sustained – 51, Unfounded – 30, and Administratively Closed – 43. Sixty-three (63) complaints remain open and are pending into 2020.

The following chart compares the number of complaints between 2018 and 2019.

Type of Complaint	2018 Total Complaints	2019 Total Complaints	Percentage Increase/Decrease
Excessive Force	10	20	100.00%
Improper Arrest	9	7	-22.22%
Improper Entry	4	2	-50.00%
Improper Search	5	5	0.00%
Other Criminal Violation	10	22	120.00%
Differential Treatment	29	27	-6.90%
Demeanor	68	92	35.29%
Domestic Violence	7	3	-57.14%
Other Rule Violation	118	151	27.97%
Total	333	329	-1.20%

As you can see, there was a decrease in the overall number of complaints received in 2019 (329) when compared to the number of complaints received in 2018 (333). This represents a decrease of approximately -1.2% in the number of received complaints. Year 2019 also saw a decrease in the number of Improper Arrest (-22.22%), Differential Treatment (-6.90%), Improper Entry (-50 %), and Domestic Violence (-57.14%). Which based on the number of complaints received for the entire year, is a significant decrease from 2018.

However, based upon the above statistics there appears to be an increase in the number of received Excessive Force (+100%), Other Criminal Violation (+120%), Demeanor (+35.29%), and Other Rule Violations (+27.97%). There was no increase/decrease in the number of Improper Searches.

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)	2018	12,532,061	1,211,229
a. Salaries and Wages		11,580,945	412,935
b. Other Expenses		951,116	798,294
2. TOTAL Budgeted Appropriations, current report year (include all County, State and Federal funding)	2019	13,611,405	2,475,039
a. Salaries and Wages		12,510,096	601,998
b. Other Expenses		1,101,309	1,873,041

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