



2021 Annual Report

John P. McDonald
Prosecutor

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MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR, John P. McDonald



This 2021 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 of Somerset County, I am pleased to submit this annual report to Acting Attorney General Matthew Platkin.

Former Prosecutor Michael Robertson stepped down as Prosecutor in February 2022 after serving the residents of Somerset County for five years. First Assistant Thomas Chirichella took over and led the Office until April 1, 2022, when he retired after over 40 years of service. From April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022 we were in experienced and capable hands as

Deputy Attorney General Annmarie Taggart ran the office. This report highlights the incredible work done by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office under the leadership of former Prosecutor Robertson, and Acting Prosecutors Chirichella and Taggart along with Chief of Detectives John Fodor and Acting First Assistant Brian Stack.

2021 was a year of transition for the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. The Office fully transitioned back to full-time after the initial pandemic response which allowed staff to work remotely on a rotating basis. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office continued to manage the Department of Health and Public Safety, and administered numerous vaccination and testing sites throughout the County. Due to the robust vaccination outreach conducted by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, approximately 61,900 Somerset County residents were vaccinated at the County operated locations. Hurricane Ida presented its own set of challenges for the community, and directly impacted the daily operations of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. To date, 45 Somerset County first responders have been honored for their heroism during the hurricane. Managing the operations of both the County's Department of Health and the Office of Emergency Management are not traditionally tasks associated with the Prosecutor's Office. Chief Fodor and other employees did an amazing job of providing these essential emergency services to the residents of Somerset County. Yet, even during the most challenging of situations, the critical mission of the Prosecutor's Office was never compromised.

As the Office transitioned back to in-person operations, law enforcement operations, including investigations conducted by the County Narcotics Task Force, continued. In 2021, high level drug distributors were targeted in an attempt to prevent violence and stem the tide of illegal drugs coming into the County. An investigation designated Operation Triple Tragedy resulted in charges against 31 individuals, the recovery of over 6 kilograms of cocaine, a handgun, an assault rifle, and almost \$200,000.00 in cash. Assistant Prosecutor Jamin Cooper worked with members of the Narcotics Task Force to secure these charges. In December, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office spearheaded "Operation Silent Night," a multi-agency undercover operation targeting individuals who utilized various social media applications to lure

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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Appellate Section
Intake Screening
Domestic Violence
Juvenile Unit
Victim-Witness

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

Criminal Investigation Section
Major Crimes Unit
Sex Crimes & Child Abuse Unit
Special Investigations Unit
Insurance Fraud Unit
Internal Affairs Unit
Organized Crime & Narcotics Task Force
Polygraph & Computerized Voice Stress Analysis (CVSA) Unit
Somerset County Emergency Response Teams
Operations Section
Fugitive Unit
Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU)
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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unsupervised underage victims for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. The operation was conducted by Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC) members from a variety of law enforcement partner agencies. Operation Silent Night ultimately resulted in the arrest of four defendants who believed they were meeting with an underage child for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. The underage “children” were, in fact, undercover officers who were posing as children on various internet platforms, including Scout, Kik and Grinder. The defendants were arrested when they arrived at a residence in Somerset County where they expected to find their victim home alone.

In 2021, in-person criminal trials commenced after halting during the pandemic, with a hybrid model of virtual jury selection and in-person trial. Those matters include the following: Assistant Prosecutors Frank Kolodzieski and Rory Eaton secured a guilty verdict in the matter of State v. Patrick Hammond. In April 2021, Hammond was found guilty of Second Degree Aggravated Arson, nine counts of Endangering the Welfare of Another, four counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, two counts of Animal Cruelty and one count of Criminal Mischief for setting his girlfriend’s house on fire in 2018. Hammond was subsequently sentenced to 14 years in State Prison, having to serve 85% of the sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

In September 2021, Assistant Prosecutor Nicole McGrath secured a guilty verdict in the matter of State v. Jose Martinez-Mejia. Martinez-Mejia was convicted of Second Degree Luring, Second Degree Attempted Sexual Assault, Third Degree Attempt to Endanger the Welfare of a Child and Third Degree Attempt to Promote Obscene Materials following a nine-day jury trial. The investigation into Martinez-Mejia started during an undercover operation where a law enforcement officer posed as a 14-year old girl and responded to communications from Martinez-Mejia through the on-line platform Skout. Martinez-Mejia, a Hudson County resident, traveled to Somerset County for the purposes of engaging in sexual activity with the 14-year old. Martinez-Mejia was sentenced to 5 years in New Jersey State Prison. Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Casale also worked on this case. In October, Assistant Prosecutors Matthew Murphy and Lauren Bland secured a guilty verdict in the matter of State v. Robert Smith. Smith was found guilty of two counts of First Degree Attempted Murder, Second Degree Unlawful Possession of Firearms, Fourth Degree Possession of a Defaced Firearm, Fourth Degree Possession of Hollow-Point Bullets, and Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose. Smith shot a gun three times into a vehicle in an attempt to murder the two occupants of the car in 2018. Smith was sentenced to 20 years in New Jersey State Prison, having to serve 85% of the sentence before becoming eligible for parole.

The Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office was finally able to fully open its new Child Advocacy Center. The Child Advocacy Center was built as a child friendly safe place to bring children and other vulnerable victims for their interview, services, and other interactions a victim may have with the criminal justice system. This space, located away from the main operations of the Prosecutor’s Office, ensures victims are not re-traumatized accompanying their interaction with law enforcement, and promotes safety and comfort. This beautiful and safe space was put together through the efforts of many, inside and outside of Somerset County, but a special thanks to Detective-Sergeant Jeanne Trilhaase, Child Advocacy Manager Melinda Pullis, Victim-Witness Coordinator Erin Rocchietti, and Assistant Prosecutor Annemarie Mueller for their efforts.

In 2021, the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office successfully rolled-out Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) and Integrating Communications Assessment and Tactics (ICAT) training for over 750 sworn law enforcement officers in the County. The ABLE-ICAT training was two full-day trainings that provided Somerset County officers with the

tools, skills, and options they need to successfully and safely defuse a range of critical incidents. ICAT is designed especially for interacting with individuals who are unarmed or armed with a weapon other than a firearm and are experiencing a mental health or other crisis. The de-escalation and tactics taught to limit the use of force needed to defuse a situation will lead to safer outcomes for officers and the public. The training was a massive undertaking by the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office, and through the efforts of Chief Fodor, Dr. Richard Celeste, Richard Buck, Werner Rodas, Rob Hoffman, Bill Brown, Scott Tallmadge, Maurice Guglielmo, and Alyssa Myrnyj, it was a success.

I was sworn in as the Somerset County Prosecutor on July 1, 2022. Former Superior Court Judge Michael J. Rogers was also sworn in that day, as he agreed to leave his Judicial Recall duties to serve as the Executive Chief Assistant Prosecutor. We represented clients charged by this office for over 35 years, and many of the Assistant Prosecutors appeared before us during the last five years. We have always had tremendous respect for the lawyers, detectives and staff who work tirelessly for the residents of Somerset County.

On August 5, 2022, Annemarie L. Mueller was appointed First Assistant Prosecutor. Annemarie has been with our office since 2011 and has extensive litigation experience, especially with Sex Crimes. She is highly respected by her colleagues, adversaries and the Judiciary. The Assistant Prosecutors, including many that have dedicated over 25 years of their career to the Prosecutor’s Office, are talented and hard-working litigators. They relentlessly pursue justice for the people of Somerset County and the State of New Jersey. The Detectives are well-trained and intelligent law enforcement officers who are well-equipped to continue the tradition of excellence in this Prosecutor’s Office. The administrative and support staff are essential to the success of the Office, and I have had the pleasure of working along side very dedicated individuals. The paralegals are the unsung heroes of litigation, and their importance cannot be overemphasized. It is my honor and pleasure to lead this exceptional office for the next five years.

The tremendous work that is highlighted in this report is a true testament to the dedicated people of the Somerset County Prosecutor’s Office, and the law enforcement community in Somerset County. To all, thank you for your service to the community, for your dedication to public safety, and for your commitment to justice.



Respectfully submitted,
John P. McDonald
 Somerset County Prosecutor

PROSECUTOR'S MESSAGE

LAW ENFORCEMENT OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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Trial Section
Appellate Section
Intake Screening
Domestic Violence
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CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION
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First Row (bottom): Victim-Witness Coordinator Erin Rocchietti, Paralegal Supervisor Amy VanderGoot, Prosecutor John P. McDonald, Executive Chief Assistant Prosecutor Michael J. Rogers, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Kathleen P. Holly.

Second Row (middle): Assistant Prosecutor Frank P. Kolodzieski, II, Chief Assistant Prosecutor Robert J. Hawkes, Chief John W. Fodor, Office Manager Ruthann Pauli, Assistant Prosecutor-Bureau Chief Appellate Section Paul H. Heinzel.

Third Row (top): Assistant Prosecutor Matthew Murphy and Deputy Chief Francis Roman.

Law Enforcement of Somerset County

John P. McDonald – Prosecutor
 Michael J. Rogers – Executive Chief & Assistant Prosecutor
 John W. Fodor – Chief of County Detectives

Chief Karl Rock	-	Bedminster Township
Chief Michael Shimsky	-	Bernards Township
Chief Kevin Valentine	-	Bernardsville Borough
Acting Chief Richard Colombaroni	-	Bound Brook Borough
Chief John W. Fodor	-	Branchburg Township
Chief Paul S. Payne	-	Bridgewater Township
Chief Michael DeCarolis	-	Far Hills Borough
Director Quovella Spruill	-	Franklin Township
Chief William Coward	-	Green Brook Township
Chief Michael McMahon	-	Hillsborough Township
OIC Craig Jeremiah	-	Manville Borough
OIC Tom Frascella	-	Montgomery Township
Chief William Parenti	-	North Plainfield Borough
Chief Stephen Ferrante	-	Peapack-Gladstone Borough
Chief Raymond Nolte	-	Raritan Borough
Chief Dennis Manning	-	Somerville Borough
Chief John W. Fodor	-	South Bound Brook Borough
Chief William Keane	-	Warren Township
Chief Andy Hart	-	Watchung Borough

Darrin J. Russo – Sheriff

Supervisory Senior Agent Jonathan R. Norbut – Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Lt. Peter Scherrer – New Jersey State Police – Somerville Station Commander
 Lt. Carlos Docarmo – 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, Hillsborough Township, Manville Borough & Montgomery Township
Christopher S. Bateman	Branchburg Township
John E. Lanza	Bridgewater Township
Richard Guss	Far Hills Borough, Green Brook Township & Watchung Borough
Norman W. Albert	Franklin Township & Millstone Borough
Raymond J. Stine	North Plainfield Borough & Rocky Hill Borough
Rebeccas Robles	Raritan Borough
Jeffrey Smith	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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ROLL CALL

In 2021, Lieutenant Douglas Brownlie retired after 18 years of service and Detective Mark Matthews retired after 16 years of service. We wish them all the best in their retirement and thank them for their years of service to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and to the citizens of Somerset County.

In 2021 we hired the following: Detective Bryan C. Bailey, Detective Frank Girard, Detective Pedro Velez, Senior Prosecutor Agent Michael Schutta, Senior Prosecutor Agent Maurice Guglielmo, Prosecutor Agent John Amey, Criminal Investigative Analyst Raymond Li, Investigative Analyst Alyssa Myrnyj, SANE/SART Coordinator Melissa Inzitari, Confidential Secretary to the Chief of Detectives Mackenzie Caruso and Legal Secretary Lindsay Werner. Welcome to all the new hires.

Congratulations to the following on their promotions: Shamil Graham from Evidence Custodian to Detective; Meredith McKay and Justin Berger from Lieutenant to Captain; Werner Rodas, William Brown, III and Omar Belgrave from Sergeant to Lieutenant; Scott Tallmadge, Michael Eaton, Jeffrey VanderGoot, Kenneth Drews, and Kristen Houck from Detective to Sergeant.

Somerset County Prosecutors

William Thompson 1830 – 1840 1852 – 1857	J.D. Bartine 1883 – 1884	Frederick A. Pope 1911 – 1916	John H. Beekman 1941 – 1946	David Linett 1977 – 1982
John M. Mann 1840 – 1852	W.V. Steel 1884 – 1896	Azariah Beekman 1916 – 1926	T. Girard Wharton 1946 – 1953	Nicholas L. Bissell, Jr. 1982 – 1996
Hugh H. Gaston 1857 – 1872	Nelson Y. Dungan 1896 – 1901	James I. Bowers 1926 – 1927	Leon Gerofsky 1953 – 1959	Wayne J. Forrest 1997 - 2010
John V. Voorhees 1872 – 1877	James L. Griggs 1901 – 1906	Frances L. Bergen 1927 – 1931	Arthur S. Meredith 1959 – 1965	Geoffrey D. Soriano 2010 – 2016
James Bergen 1877 – 1883	John F. Reger 1906 – 1911	Clarkson A. Cranmer 1931 – 1941	Michael R. Imbriani 1965 – 1972	Michael H. Robertson 2016 – 2022
			Stephen R. Champi 1972 – 1977	John P. McDonald 2022 –

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-four 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 2021, 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
21 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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- 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, preparing speedy trial reports and tracking statistics, coordinating trials with the court and assisting during trial.

First Assistant Prosecutor Thomas J. Chirichella, Jr.

State v. Douglas J. Haefner – Indictment No. 21-05-00403-A

This SIU investigation began when representatives from the Diocese of Metuchen reported that a Catholic priest, Father Douglas J. Haefner, who was in charge of a local parish, had used a parish issued credit card for his own personal benefit. When an audit by the Diocese began, Father Haefner told his Bishop that he "borrowed" approximately \$500,000.00 from the parish. Numerous records were subpoenaed including credit card statements and various bank account records for the church and the parish Catholic school for a two-year period. Additionally, administrative employees of the parish and Diocese were interviewed. The investigation revealed that \$516,984.56 in inappropriate charges were paid by the church to a credit card company for Father Haefner's personal benefit. As a result, he was charged in an Accusation with Second Degree Theft to which he plead guilty on 5/19/21. He was sentenced by the court on 8/4/21 to a seven-year period of incarceration and ordered to pay restitution in the aforementioned amount to the church.

Deputy First Assistant Prosecutor W. Brian Stack

State v. Ibrahim Sesay and Jovano Clarke, Middlesex – Indictment No. 17-08-0887-I

On January 24, 2022, defendant Clarke was sentenced to 7 years in prison with 85% to be served without parole. Co-defendant Ibrahim Sesay was previously sentenced in 2019 to 6 years in prison with 85% to be served without parole. Defendants' convictions stem from a 2016 incident in which they robbed and pistol-whipped a victim in Franklin Township. Due to a conflict, the case was transferred to Middlesex County. After extensive pretrial litigation, both defendants pled guilty, and thereafter unsuccessfully moved to withdraw their guilty pleas.

Assistant Prosecutor Paul Heinzl

In the Matter of the Request to Release Certain Pretrial Detainees, 245 N.J. 218 (2021)

This office assisted in drafting an amicus brief to the Supreme Court on behalf of the County Prosecutors Association of New Jersey in an appeal where the Public Defender and other defense entities sought an Order that would have: (1) released from confinement all criminal defendants across the state who had been detained on a pretrial basis for six months or longer and who faced charges no more serious than Second Degree crimes; and (2) also provided for new detention hearings for all defendants charged with First Degree crimes who had been detained six months or longer and for whom a presumption of release applied. The relief sought was based on the ongoing suspension of in-person jury trials due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the likelihood of no relief from that suspension in sight. The Court denied the across-the-board relief sought, but did provide a mechanism for individual defendants to seek relief if they were able to show a change in circumstances that had a material bearing on whether continued detention was appropriate given the individualized risks a defendant poses. Thus, a defendant could seek relief if the following factors showed that a material change in circumstances affected the release decision: (1) the length of detention to date as well as the length of projected continued detention; (2) whether a defendant has been or will be in detention for a period longer than he/she would likely serve if convicted; (3) the existence and nature of any plea offer; (4) a defendant's particularized health risks and whether they present a heightened risk the defendant will contract Covid-19; and (5) other factors relevant to the pretrial detention analysis as set forth in the Pretrial Detention Act.

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State v. Oscar Lopez-Carrera – Indictment No. 19-10-560-I, 245 N.J. 596 (2021)

This office had sought emergent relief from the Supreme Court following the refusal of lower courts to detain the defendant before trial given the certainty that if he were not detained by court order, he would be removed from the country by the U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the possibility of any future prosecution on state charges would thus end upon removal. ICE advised this office that a final order of removal had been obtained against defendant, that all appeals from that order were exhausted and that it was actively attempting to place him on the next flight out to his native country of Guatemala. We argued that if defendant were removed by ICE, which had now become an imminent certainty given the posture of the immigration proceedings, our ability to prosecute the matter at all would vanish and we would never be able to obtain justice. This year, a divided Court issued an adverse ruling, with the majority holding that the pretrial detention statute required that a defendant's risk of non-appearance at trial be based on the defendant's own volitional acts and not the actions of a government entity. A two-justice dissent agreed with our position, opining that certain and imminent deportation was a circumstance that warranted detention so as to allow the State to obtain justice for crime victims of this State whereas the majority's ruling led to absurd results.

State v. Ryan Keogh, Cindy Keogh and David Keogh – Indictment No. 19-05-288-I

This office successfully appealed a pretrial order that joined for a single trial the prosecutions of three defendants who are all family members (two parents and their son), where the defendants had delayed contacting the police for almost two hours following the son's fatal shooting of another man at the family home, so as to allow them to all "get their stories straight" and thus strengthen what we contend is a fabricated self-defense claim on the son's part. Our appeal was premised on the notion that a jury would have an impossible task in sifting through the three defendants' sworn statements to police that were demonstrably false in numerous respects and which would not be admissible toward co-defendants if they were tried separately, as they all contained otherwise inadmissible self-serving hearsay, but which would all have to be admitted at trial given that the statements themselves provided the basis for "false swearing" counts in the indictment. The Appellate Division granted the relief sought and reversed the joinder order, finding that the trial court abused its discretion as it had not found that a prior order by another judge that severed the parents' trials from the son's was somehow wrong and had not adequately considered the risks posed by such multi-layered hearsay on a single jury's ability to arrive at the truth when presented with so much evidence that would otherwise be inadmissible if the defendants were tried separately. Ryan Keogh was convicted of murder and related crimes on April 26, 2022. Sentencing is pending. The cases against Cindy and David Keogh are pending trial.

Chief Assistant Prosecutor Kathleen P. Holly**State v. Robert Figueroa – Accusation No. 21–07–00601–A****State v. Axel R. Colon–Merly – Complaint Warrant 1805–W–2021–000074****State v. Miguel A. Ortero–Journet – Complaint Warrant 1805–W–2021–000075**

Robert Figueroa was charged in Accusation No. 21–07–00601–A with Unlawful Possession of a Assault Firearm, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39–5f and to Unlawful Possession of a Large Capacity Ammunition Magazine, Fourth Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39–3j. The defense entered into plea negotiations, and based on those negotiations, the Prosecutor agreed to file a Motion for Reduced Sentence Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:43–6.2 (Motion for Graves Act Waiver). This motion was granted by the Honorable Peter J. Tober, P.J. Cr. for a Graves Act Waiver for a sentence of five years incarceration with one year mandatory minimum term of imprisonment to be served without parole pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:43–6.2. In exchange for defendant’s pleas of guilty to those two charges the State agreed to dismiss Complaint–Warrant No. 1022–W–2020–000027, Count 2 charging Possession of a Firearm for Unlawful Purposes, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39–4a(1) and Count 3 charging Terroristic Threats, Third Degree in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12–3a which are Counts 2 and 3 of a Hunterdon County complaint–warrant. The State agreed to the transfer of the Hunterdon County charges to Somerset County for consolidation and at the request of the assigned Hunterdon County Assistant Prosecutor. After consultation with the Hunterdon County Assistant Prosecutor the plea agreement was fashioned due to proof issues. Pursuant to the plea agreement the State agreed to a sentence of a Graves Act Waiver which was granted which included a term of five years New Jersey State Prison with one year to be served without parole.

The facts underlying the accusation reveal that the Branchburg Township Police were dispatched to an area of Route 202 for the report of a reckless driver who had brandished a weapon in Hunterdon County. The original incident is alleged to have occurred in the Township of Raritan, Hunterdon County. Branchburg Police were provided with a description of the vehicle which was described as a red Hyundai with a Pennsylvania registration. The Branchburg Township patrol officers located the red Hyundai on Route 202 Northbound near Kenbury Road. They followed the vehicle and did identify it as the red Hyundai bearing Pennsylvania registration ending in 6682. The police confirmed the vehicle, in fact, was a sedan. The motor vehicle stop was conducted by the Branchburg Township Police and the three individuals were taken into custody. They were: Robert Figueroa, Miguel A. Otero–Journet and Axel R. Colon–Merly. When Branchburg Township Police approached the vehicle they observed in plain view an AR style assault rifle in the front passenger compartment of the vehicle. They also observed a high capacity rifle magazine containing ammunition in the front driver’s side compartment. The three individuals were transported to the Branchburg Township Police Department. A search warrant was obtained. The rifle, described as a Sig Sauer, Model No. SIGM400 bearing Serial No. 20L046833, and a loaded high–capacity rifle magazine were seized. The operability report indicated that the firearm was operable. Robert Figueroa provided a post–Miranda statement claiming ownership of the firearm and the magazine. He exonerated his co–defendants in his plea colloquy.

On November 29, 2021 Robert Figueroa was sentenced by the Honorable Peter J. Tober, P.J. Cr. to the five years New Jersey State Prison with one year to be served without parole pursuant to the Graves Act Waiver. The charges against the co–defendants were dismissed since defendant Robert Figueroa exonerated them.

Assistant Prosecutor John Ascione**State v. Bryant Eggleston – Accusation No. 21-05-371-A**

On October 8, 2019, defendant Bryant Eggleston, driving his white Hyundai, struck a 12 year–old child crossing the street on Valley Road in Watchung. The child suffered multiple severe injuries, including brain trauma and spinal fractures. Despite heavy damage to his vehicle, including a shattered windshield, defendant did not stop after the collision. Defendant did not ever report the crash or call 9–1–1. Instead, defendant left the severely injured child at the scene. Defendant immediately drove his vehicle home and concealed it inside his garage for 14 months. During that time, defendant had his vehicle repaired to conceal the damage from the crash. The crash debris from defendant Eggleston’s heavily damaged vehicle found at the scene allowed police to identify the make and model of the vehicle. However, police were initially unable to identify the specific vehicle or the driver. Multiple sources were used to notify the public of the incident and the suspected vehicle including news reports, Facebook posts, and an electronic message board near the scene of the incident. In January 2021—15 months after the crash—defendant was

finally identified from an informant's tip. Evidence from the crash scene matched the damage and repairs made to defendant's vehicle. Defendant was arrested and charged in February 2021. On May 10, 2021, defendant waived presentment of the case to the Grand Jury and pled guilty to charges of Third Degree Leaving the Scene of a Motor Vehicle Accident Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1.1; Third Degree Endangering an Injured Victim, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1.2a; Fourth Degree Hindering Apprehension or Prosecution, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-3b(1); and Fourth Degree Tampering with Physical Evidence, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:28-6(1). On July 8, 2021, the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr., J.S.C., sentenced defendant to a term of 5 years in State prison with 18 months of parole ineligibility.

State v. Alberto Martinez – Indictment No. 21-02-115-I

At about 8:00 a.m. on July 16, 2020, a Manville police officer stopped the car defendant Alberto Martinez was driving for several motor vehicle violations. Defendant had a warrant for his arrest out of Middlesex County for pending charges of Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances (cocaine and heroin). A search of defendant's person incident to his arrest yielded \$1,750.00 cash in various denominations crumpled in 3 different pants pockets. Defendant told the officer that he was not selling drugs, and he has not sold drugs in the last 3 years because he was in prison. A police K-9 unit arrived and gave a positive indication for the presence of drugs in the vehicle. Police searched the car and found 2 bags of cocaine (weighing over ½ ounce), 3 "bricks" of heroin, a digital scale, and other drug paraphernalia. Defendant was charged with new distribution-related crimes, and the Court granted the State's motion for pre-trial detention. Defendant was indicted on charges of Second Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute cocaine, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and 5b(2); Third Degree Possession with Intent to Distribute heroin, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and 5b(3); and Third Degree Financial Facilitation of Criminal Activity, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:21-25a. On November 10, 2021, defendant pled guilty to the charges in exchange for a plea recommendation of 10 years in State Prison with 3 years of parole ineligibility. Defendant was sentenced on January 31, 2022.

Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Bland

In Re Daniel Santelli – Indictment No. 1806-XTR-2021-01

This was a Final Extreme Risk Protection Order (FERPO) that successfully was granted on March 31, 2021 by the Hon. Michael J. Rogers, J.S.C. Bridgewater Township applied for and was granted a Temporary Extreme Risk Protection Order against this respondent, alleging that he had a history of Parkinson's disease and hallucinations that caused him to be an imminent threat to others and himself by owning, possessing, purchasing or receiving firearms and/or ammunition. At the hearing, the State presented evidence that respondent, a firearm owner of approximately twenty shotguns, handguns, and rifles, had called police four times over the course of six months alleging that there were "unknown people in his house." At each police response, respondent alerted officers that he was armed and ready to protect himself from these "people he did not know in his backyard and inside his house." Officers never found anyone inside, however, they did observe respondent to be extremely distraught and upset each time. At one response, respondent said there were "thirty people inside his house and one of them had a dog which peed in his house." At that time, respondent had a semi-automatic handgun loaded in the kitchen, which was immediately seized by officers for safekeeping. At the hearing, respondent admitted to having a medical issue that caused severe hallucinations, and consented to the imposition of the FERPO after the State's presentation of evidence.

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Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Casale**State v. Steven Kadonsky – Indictment No. 92-04-00210-I**

This was a motion to change custodial sentence heard before the Honorable Kevin M. Shanahan, P.J.Cr. On April 20, 1992, the Somerset County Grand Jury returned Indictment No. 92-04-0210-I charging defendant with Leader of a Narcotics Trafficking Operation in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-2, Conspiracy to Possess Marijuana in excess of five pounds with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1), 2C:35-5b(10), and 2c:5-2, Possession of Marijuana in excess of five pounds with Intent to Distribute in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1) and 2C:35-5b(1), Possession of over fifty grams of Marijuana in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-10a(3). On June 5, 1992, the Somerset Grand Jury returned Indictment No. 92-06-0288-I charging defendant with Conspiracy to Possess Marijuana in excess of five pounds in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1), 2C:35-5b(10), and 2C:5-2.

On September 7, 1993, on the day of trial, defendant entered into a plea agreement with the State and pled guilty to all of the criminal offenses charged in each of the foregoing indictments in exchange for a recommended sentence of life in prison, which he received. Following that guilty plea the investigation continued and over the course of approximately six months, the State made several seizures of large quantities of marijuana. Extensive investigations were conducted after each seizure and on-going surveillance was maintained of the defendant and those who associated with him. Two individuals were identified as associates of the defendant during the investigation.

Subsequent to the last seizure in April of 1994, both individuals were interviewed by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. Statements given by both individuals revealed that the information given by defendant with respect to these seizures was false, and that defendant had in fact arranged for large quantities of marijuana to be placed in storage lockers by individuals using various disguises and fictitious identification, which defendant provided to them. In short, defendant not only covertly orchestrated the seizures with others to gain consideration on his "life" sentence, but was also responsible for the arrest of multiple individuals in connection with that case. Based upon defendant's orchestration of the marijuana seizures and his efforts to hinder his own apprehension, as well as the apprehension of others, a Somerset County Grand Jury returned a new indictment against him on June 30, 1994 charging two counts of Third Degree Hindering and two counts of Second Degree Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute.

In this application, defendant sought to be released from his prison sentence due to an alleged medical condition without providing any medical proofs of his condition. He also did not provide any proof of the alleged deterioration of his health due to his incarceration. His argument was predicated on the coronavirus outbreak within the State of New Jersey. Judge Shanahan denied his application and defendant was later released on parole.

Assistant Prosecutor Jamin Cooper**State v. James Sampson – Indictment No. 21-03-00228-I**

On August 6, 2020, at approximately 11 p.m., Officer Moreno of the Raritan Township Police Department attempted to conduct a traffic stop on a dark colored Ford Expedition for delaying traffic, non-functioning brake lights and an unclear license plate. Officer Moreno activated his emergency lights. The vehicle initially began to slow down and move onto the right shoulder of U.S. Highway 202 North. The vehicle proceeded forward on the shoulder and then reentered the right lane of travel. Officer Moreno then activated audible siren to signal the driver for a second time to bring the vehicle to a stop.

The vehicle then continued straight, fleeing at a high rate of speed. Officer Moreno contacted Hunterdon County Communications and advised of the vehicle's description and the location of the stop in order to alert neighboring jurisdictions. Officer Moreno did not pursue the vehicle further.

At approximately 11:15 p.m., Officer Dana Ferraro of the Branchburg Police Department was on a radar post on Route 202 when dispatch advised of a dark colored Ford Expedition heading northbound on Route 202 from Raritan Township. Officer Ferraro observed a vehicle matching the description traveling at a high rate of speed in the right lane of travel of Route 202. Officer Ferraro observed that the vehicle failed to signal a lane change, failed to maintain its lane of travel and drifted over the white shoulder line.

Officer Ferraro activated her overhead lights and siren in an attempt to stop the vehicle. The vehicle continued to travel north at speeds of approximately 90-100 mph, while driving recklessly with no regard for other vehicles. At Johnson and Johnson in Bridgewater, the speed of the vehicle reached 100 mph. Officer Ferraro was ordered to terminate the pursuit.

Officer Deberry of the Raritan Borough Police Department responded to the area of U.S. Highway 202 and First Avenue for a report of the vehicle pursuit coming into Raritan Borough. Officer Deberry observed the vehicle fail to stop at a red light at U.S. Highway 202 and swerve to miss cross traffic on First Avenue. The vehicle then turned right and entered Officer Deberry's lane of travel head on. The vehicle struck a curb on the corner of First Avenue before striking Officer Deberry's patrol vehicle on the passenger side front bumper.

Officer Deberry observed the driver, later identified as defendant James Sampson, reaching into the backseat of the vehicle. Officer Deberry exited his patrol vehicle and drew his service weapon, pointing it at defendant while demanding that defendant show his hands. Defendant exited his vehicle and began walking away before turning away and fleeing on foot. Officer Deberry pursued defendant as he ran across four lanes of U.S. Highway 202. Defendant continued north on First Avenue. Sgt. Raniere pursued defendant in his patrol vehicle while Officer Deberry pursued on foot. Sgt. Raniere was able to pull his vehicle in front of defendant as he passed 600 First Avenue. Defendant made a right turn into the parking lot of the business and as he neared the building, Officer Deberry observed defendant fall to the ground.

Officer Deberry ordered defendant to get down on the ground as he approached and as defendant was trying to get up. Defendant was ultimately secured in handcuffs. Defendant was found to have a large sum of U.S. currency in his possession contained in plastic bags. The total amount of U.S. currency was \$53,781.40, separated into \$1,000.00 increments. Defendant was also in possession of a brown leather bag which was found to contain seven pills of suspected Ecstasy, less than 50 grams of marijuana and several items of drug paraphernalia.

Defendant was indicted for both Third and Second Degree Eluding, Third Degree Possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance and Fourth Degree Resisting Arrest. On October 26, 2021, defendant pled guilty to Second Degree Eluding (after merger of the Second and Third Degree counts) and Third Degree Possession of CDS in exchange for five years in New Jersey State Prison. Defendant was sentenced on December 17, 2021.

State v. Matthew Weber – Indictment No. 21-07-00565-I

On October 22, 2020, Samantha Rebimbas reported to the North Plainfield Police Department that earlier that day, she contacted a buyer who had purchased items from her closet on the PoshMark website. She informed the buyer of a small defect in the item. When the buyer responded, she immediately believed the buyer to be defendant, Matthew Weber, against whom she has a permanent restraining order. The buyer's screenname was "holymolyrocks." The "about" section for "holymolyrocks" shows the initials "MW" and indicates "Matthew W."

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There were two phrases in the buyer's response to the victim that further indicated that the buyer was defendant. In the response to the victim on PoshMark, "holymolyrocks" calls the victim a "rock star. . . Mantenar el espiritu arriba!" Defendant sent a letter to the victim in 2015 in which he called the victim a rock star and then wrote the quote, "Mantenar el espiritu Arriba!"

The victim further reported that she has a permanent restraining order against the defendant. On February 7, 2019, this Court signed a Permanent Restraining Order for Stalking Conviction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:12-10.1, barring defendant from having any form of contact with Samantha Rebimbas.

On October 26, 2020, the victim again contacted North Plainfield Police Department to report another violation of the permanent restraining order. The victim reported that she received a package from Amazon. The package contained a Kate Spade handbag. The buyer of the package was listed as defendant, Matthew Weber.

A complaint warrant was generated, charging defendant with two counts of Fourth Degree Contempt and one count of Third Degree Stalking. On October 28, 2020, Detectives Jordan Rogers and Daniel Conceicao responded to defendant's apartment to place him under arrest. Defendant's vehicle was at the scene, but he would not come to the door. The detectives then went to the home of defendant's parents. Defendant's mother contacted him via FaceTime and detectives were able to speak with him. Defendant stated that he was not coming, that he wanted to place himself on a self-imposed house arrest, and stated that he would not speak to the victim and that he just wanted to know if she was okay.

Detectives went back to defendant's apartment. Defendant would not fully step out of his apartment and kept the metal latch closed so that the door would not open more than six inches. The detectives advised defendant that they had a warrant for his arrest and he needed to step outside. He refused. Detectives made entry into the apartment and placed defendant under arrest. Defendant was taken to the Somerset County jail. At the jail, he spontaneously uttered that he thought he canceled the Amazon package delivery.

On October 30, 2020, the victim again contacted the North Plainfield Police Department to report a third violation of the permanent restraining order. The victim reported that she received another package. This package contained a Pandora bracelet, a charm in the shape of an "S", and a moon-shaped charm. Records obtained from Amazon revealed that defendant, Matthew Weber, purchased those items.

Defendant was indicted for three counts of Fourth Degree Contempt and one count of Third Degree Stalking. On October 19, 2021 defendant pled guilty to all charges in exchange for a recommendation of three years in New Jersey State Prison. On October 25, 2021, the Honorable Peter J. Tober, P.J.Cr. sentenced defendant in accordance with the negotiated plea agreement.

Assistant Prosecutor Rory Eaton

State v. Jonathan Davies – Indictment No. 21-08-00628-1

In the early morning hours of May 27, 2020, defendant Jonathan Davies purposely set fire to a residence under construction in a densely populated North Plainfield neighborhood. On either side of that structure were homes occupied by sleeping victims, who were awakened by the fire's glow and able to evacuate their respective premises. Unfortunately, the fire spread to the adjacent homes, completely destroying one and substantially damaging the other, while the victims watched their property burn from across the street. Video surveillance footage recovered from another house showed defendant in the immediate area of the fire's outbreak. While the footage showed the fire emerge at approximately 1:52 A.M., defendant did not call 9-1-1 until approximately an hour after he had ignited it. Following his identification and arrest, defendant gave a post-Miranda statement tacitly admitting to starting the fire but minimizing his culpability; he claimed he accidentally started the blaze with a discarded cigarette.

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Fire Investigation Unit conducted a forensic investigation of the fire scene, sending samples of charred wood, debris and soil to the State Lab for testing. One sample tested positive for a mixture of light petroleum products (such as cleaning solvents,

paint thinners, etc.) and the other indicated positive for a mixture of gasoline and heavy petroleum. Based on the surveillance footage, the forensic investigation, defendant's statement and the exclusion of natural and accidental causes, it was opined that the fire cause was incendiary. Also recovered during the course of the investigation was a Facebook post which defendant published showing him holding a lighter to an aerosol can, producing a flame. Text accompanying the image stated: "I'm fascinated with fire."

Defendant was ultimately indicted for Second Degree Aggravated Arson under two separate subsections, N.J.S.A. 2C:17-1a(1) ("purposely or knowingly placing another person in danger of death or bodily injury") and N.J.S.A. 2C:17-1a(2) ("purpose[ly] . . . destroying a building or structure of another"), and related charges. Would the matter have proceeded to trial, the State's theory would have been that the defendant knew he placed others at risk of death or bodily injury when he doused the framed-out structure and set it aflame despite its close proximity to two homes with sleeping occupants. Confronted with the strong proofs resulting from a thorough follow-up investigation, defendant entered a plea of guilty to Second Degree Aggravated Arson, N.J.S.A. 2C:17-1a(2), in exchange for a recommended sentence of eight years New Jersey State Prison, restitution and no contact with the victims. Defendant was sentenced on January 3, 2022.

Assistant Prosecutor Lauren Fox

State v. Lukens – Indictment No. A-0458-20

After incurring a third DWI in 2018, defendant filed a motion to vacate his 2012 DWI plea, arguing that he had not been properly advised of the consequences of his plea. Defendant's third DWI now subjected him to a mandatory jail term. After defendant's motion was granted on reconsideration, this office successfully argued in the Appellate Division that there was no manifest injustice warranting defendant's withdrawal long after serving his sentence. While the Appellate Division found that defendant had not been properly notified of the consequences of his plea, the Court reiterated that failure to provide notice of the consequences of a future DWI violation does not preclude imposition of enhanced punishment on a future DWI conviction. Defendant's 2012 guilty plea was perfectly valid. The fact that he was now facing jail time after a third DWI was a collateral consequence due to his own new unlawful conduct.

In the Matter of M.H.

M.H. filed a motion to have his Megan's Law obligations terminated. Because M.H. committed a new offense within fifteen years of his original conviction, he was statutorily ineligible for termination under subsection (f). M.H. challenged the constitutionality of subsection (f), arguing that it violated substantive and procedural due process by creating an irrebuttable presumption of dangerousness. M.H. contended that an irrebuttable presumption is unconstitutional where (1) the presumption is not universally true, and (2) there exists an alternative means to achieve the state interest. M.H. provided three experts who testified that he was no longer a danger to the community. He further argued that scientific advances have disproven many of the original assumptions behind the enactment of Megan's Law, and there are now better methods of assessing when a registrant can safely be removed from Megan's Law.

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The trial court found that M.H. was clearly ineligible for termination under the plain language of the statute. The court then reviewed subsection (f) under the rational basis standard. The court noted that subsection (f) did serve a legitimate state interest of keeping the community safe from sex offenders. Furthermore, subsection (f) did not violate procedural due process because M.H. was given notice of its requirements. The court conducted an evidentiary hearing and gave him an opportunity to be heard. The court further found that subsection (f) did not unduly burden M.H.'s private liberty interests. Finally, the alternative means provided by M.H. would place serious fiscal and administrative burdens on the courts and are a question best left to the legislature.

Assistant Prosecutor Kimberly Savino French

State v. Alejandro Ortega-Bravo – Indictment No. 20-12-00289-I

In March of 2020, defendant Alejandro Ortega-Bravo digitally penetrated his 14-year-old step-daughter. The victim's mother heard the defendant enter her daughter's bedroom at approximately 2:00 am. Less than 10 minutes later, she heard the defendant exit the room and walk to the bathroom. It sounded as if the defendant was washing his hands. The victim's mother thought this was odd but didn't think much of it at the time. About a week later, the victim told her mother that the defendant had digitally penetrated her on two occasions. The victim shared a bed with her 9-year-old sister who did not wake up during the assaults.

Defendant was charged, and later indicted, for First Degree Aggravated Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2a(2)(c) and Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1).

Defendant pled guilty as part of a negotiated plea to Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(1) and Third Degree Aggravated Criminal Sexual Contact in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-3a. The plea was "open" with Megan's Law and Parole Supervision for Life to apply, and with the agreement that defendant would agree to a SORO barring him from having any future contact with the victim and her family. The defendant was sentenced on November 15, 2021 by the Honorable Peter J. Tober, P.J.Cr. to 7 years NJSP, Megan's Law and Parole Supervision for Life. The application for a SORO was granted.

State v. Duraikandan Murugan – Indictment No. 20-01-00028-I and Accusation No. 21-01-00049-A

On October 24, 2019, defendant engaged in sexually explicit chats with an undercover detective who was posing as a 14-year-old girl. During the chats, he offered to pay her \$25.00 for sexual relations. They agreed to meet in person for the purpose of engaging in sexual intercourse. When defendant arrived at the meeting location, he was arrested. Defendant lives in Indiana and was just visiting New Jersey.

On February 6, 2020, he was indicted for Second Degree Luring in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:13-6, Second Degree Attempted Sexual Assault in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1 and 2C:14-2c(4), Second Degree Attempt to Promote Prostitution in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1 and 2C:34-1b(3), and Third Degree Attempted Endangering the Welfare of a Child in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1 and 2C:24-4a(1). The State moved for pre-trial detention. The motion was denied. Defendant was released and was allowed to go home to Indiana.

Thereafter, on October 12, 2020, he was caught at the O'Hare International Airport in Illinois trying to flee the country using a fake ID. The SCPO extradited him at a cost of \$3,467.00. He was charged on complaint-warrant W-2020-000105-1805 with Fourth Degree Obstruction in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-1a and Fourth Degree Contempt in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-9a. The State moved to revoke pre-trial release on the first case. The motion was granted on November 10, 2020.

Defendant pled guilty on March 2, 2021 to the first file (Indictment 20-02-00106-I) and pled to an accusation on the second file (Accusation 21-01-00049-A). He was sentenced on June 21, 2021 to 4 years NJSP, Megan's Law, and Parole Supervision for Life on Indictment 20-02-00106-I. He was sentenced to 18 months NJSP on Accusation 21-01-00049-A. He was also ordered to pay restitution to the SCPO in the amount of \$3,467.00.

Assistant Prosecutor William Guhl**State v. Michael Brown – Indictment No. 20-02-104-I**

A 29-year old Edison man pled guilty to Attempted Sexual Assault and Endangering the Welfare of a Child after he was arrested by police and charged with chatting with an undercover detective whom he believed to be a minor and then attempting to meet that minor for a sexual encounter.

On October 27, 2019 defendant Michael Brown contacted an undercover detective posing as a 14-year-old female on a smartphone app and then via text messages. During the communications the defendant identified himself as “Troy” and asked the “14-year old” where he could meet her to have sex with her. “Troy” also told the undercover detective who was posing as the 14-year-old female that he was “packing some toys and stuff” and asked if he could take a shower at her residence. Defendant Michael Brown then showed up at the residence with several sex toys and in a Post-Miranda statement he admitted chatting with someone who told him she was a 14-year-old female, discussing sex, and bringing the sex toys to the location. The conversations were located on his phone.

The case was indicted by the Somerset County Grand Jury in February 2020 but resolution was delayed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Brown entered a guilty plea August 7, 2020 and was sentenced on January 8, 2021 by the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, J.S.C. to 3 years flat in the New Jersey State Prison along with Parole Supervision for Life and a requirement that he register under Megan’s Law.

Assistant Prosecutor Frank P. Kolodzieski, II**State v. Patrick M. Hammond – Indictment Nos. 19-03-00194-I & 19-05-00311-I**

Defendant was convicted of Aggravated Arson, Second Degree in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-1a(1); Endangering Another Person, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-7.1a(3) (9 Counts); Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2) (4 Counts); Animal Cruelty, Third Degree (2 Counts); and Criminal Mischief, Disorderly Persons, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:17-3a(1). Defendant was found not guilty of Attempted Murder, First Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1a and N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1). Defendant was found guilty after a bench trial conducted on various dates between March 15, 2021 and April 21, 2021 before Judge Michael J. Rogers of the New Jersey Superior Court. Judge Rogers found defendant guilty of the aforesaid offenses on April 21, 2021. On June 9, 2021, Judge Rogers granted the State’s motion for an extended term of imprisonment on the conviction for Aggravated Arson due to Mr. Hammond’s extensive criminal record. Judge Rogers then sentenced defendant to 14 years in State Prison with 85% of said term to be served without parole under the No Early Release Act. Aggravated Arson is a Second Degree offense which normally carries a range of 5 – 10 years in State Prison. By granting the extended term motion by State, Judge Rogers augmented defendant’s sentencing range to 10 – 20 years, which is the range for a First Degree offense. Judge Rogers in effect sentenced defendant as a First Degree offender for Aggravated Arson. Defendant’s act of aggravated arson endangered the lives of 9 residents and took the lives of two pet cats. The endangerment to persons triggered the provisions of the No Early Release Act. Judge Rogers also granted the State’s motion for entry of a permanent restraining order under the Crime Victim’s Bill of Rights to prohibit defendant from having any contact with the victims.

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Defendant purposely set fire to a residence occupied by 9 people during the early morning hours of December 30, 2018. He set the fire with an ignitable liquid. One of the occupants happened to see the fire and alerted the remaining occupants who were asleep. All victims safely evacuated the inferno without any personal bodily injury. Two cats died of smoke inhalation. The fire was the result of an argument defendant had with his on-again/off-again girlfriend, who resided in the home with her two young children. There were 4 children in the home during the fire which accounted for the child endangerment counts. Defendant fled the blaze without calling 9-1-1. He took pictures of the burning home with his cell phone and sent the pictures to friends. He called a friend for a ride home to flee the area. In his effort to rendezvous with his ride, he fled through a wooded area across the street from the fire scene. There he discarded a charred glove, his cell phone, and a lighter. He was detained by police as he was about to be driven home. He was taken to Hillsborough Police Headquarters where he damaged a sheetrock wall during detention by slamming his head into the wall. His sneakers were seized with a search warrant and later tested positive at the State Police Lab for the presence of a flammable liquid.

State v. Lashawn D. Boyd – Indictment No. 21-05-00410-I

Lashawn D. Boyd was charged in the indictment with Strict Liability For Drug-Induced Death in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-9a (Count One) and four counts of Distribution of CDS, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:35-5a(1)(Counts Two through Five). Defendant entered a guilty plea on November 17, 2021 after the State moved to amend Count One of the indictment to the charge of Endangering Another Person, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-7.1a(3). He also pled guilty to Counts Two through Five. State moved for an extended term of imprisonment due to the defendant being a persistent offender, having two indictable convictions preceding this case. Judge Rogers accepted defendant's guilty plea and sentenced defendant on January 18, 2022. In exchange for defendant's guilty plea Mr. Boyd agreed to face a base term of 7 years in State Prison with 3 years of parole ineligibility. The plea agreement is based on the imposition of an extended term. The Drug Induced Death charge was amended based on proof issues.

January 16 through 19, 2020, in Hillsborough Township or Franklin Township, defendant distributed fentanyl and cocaine to the victim which contributed to her overdose death. She also had been taking Zoloft. Defendant did not distribute Zoloft to victim. This created a proof issue on the element of causation. In order to prove cause of death in a drug-induced death case, State must show that the death was not too dependent upon the conduct of another person. The victim's cause of death was from the combined adverse effects of cocaine, fentanyl, and sertraline (Zoloft). The State presented additional charges of distribution of CDS to the grand jury as the victim had 22 adulterated packets of CDS each containing a mixture of fentanyl, tramadol, and 4-ANPP. Defendant sold her 24 packets and she consumed two. Text messages from the victim's cell phone proved that defendant distributed cocaine and fentanyl to the victim.

Assistant Prosecutor Nicole McGrath

State v. Jose Martinez-Mejia – Indictment No. 20-01-00028-I

On September 15, 2021, defendant Jose Martinez-Mejia was convicted of Second Degree Luring, Second Degree Attempted Sexual Assault, Third Degree Attempt to Endanger the Welfare of a Child and Third Degree Attempt to Promote Obscene Materials following a nine-day jury trial in Somerville, New Jersey. The facts substantiating the charges which defendant was convicted of include the following. On October 24, 2019, through October 27, 2019, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office participated in an undercover operation involving law enforcement posing as underage boys and girls through various online platforms, including the "Skout" social media application. In furtherance of the operation, a Homeland Security Special Agent created a Skout profile under the persona of Angela, a 14-year-old female residing in Franklin Township, New Jersey. On October 26, 2019, Angela was contacted by defendant, a thirty-two year old male residing in West New York in Hudson County. Shortly after the two began communicating, Angela disclosed to defendant that she was only fourteen-years of age and home alone, as her guardian was away for the weekend in Atlantic City. Defendant thereafter pursued Angela by asking her to "be his girl," professing his love and desire for her and requesting sexy pictures of her.

During the course of their communications, occurring over various platforms including the Skout application, text messaging and phone calls, defendant repeatedly requested pictures of Angela and sent her an unsolicited picture of his erect penis. After confirming that Angela's guardian would not be home until the following day, defendant conveyed his desire to meet her in person to perform oral sex on her. Defendant explained to Angela that he did not own a vehicle, but would hire an Uber to drive him from his home in Hudson County to Angela's home in Somerset County for the purpose of engaging in sexual activity. Law enforcement were alerted to defendant's communications and set up physical surveillance in the area of Angela's purported home address. When defendant arrived at the prearranged location, he was arrested and a search of his person revealed the cellular telephone he used to communicate with Angela, a slip of paper containing Angela's supposed home address and 2 Trojan condoms.

Defendant was detained and held without bail pending his jury trial on the underlying charges before the Honorable Peter J. Tober, P.J.Cr.. The defendant's trial, which commenced in August of 2021, marked the first jury trial held in Somerset County since the start of the pandemic. During the trial, the State presented evidence in the form of testimony from the law enforcement officers who communicated in an undercover capacity as Angela, as well as numerous items of physical evidence, including the content of the conversations between Angela and the defendant, the photo defendant sent of his erect penis, defendant's cellular telephone he used to communicate with Angela on and the two Trojan condoms that he brought with him to meet and engage in sexual activity with Angela. The defendant denied criminal wrongdoing and instead claimed that he believed Angela to be at least 18 years of age and argued that he was entrapped by law enforcement into meeting with Angela. Ultimately, the jury rejected defendant's entrapment claim and found defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of Second Degree Luring, Second Degree Attempted Sexual Assault, Third Degree Attempt to Endanger the Welfare of a Child and Third Degree Attempt to Promote Obscene Materials. The defendant was sentenced to 5 years in State Prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Fara Momen

State v. Tyrone A. Jenkins, Supreme Court Docket No. 085147

The Bergen County Prosecutor's Office initiated a multi-jurisdictional investigation into numerous burglaries occurring in several counties in N.J., as well as PA. and N.Y. over the course of several months. Specific to SCPO are three homes burglarized in Watchung, Somerset County between January and March of 2020. In the course of investigations, Communications Data Warrants placed defendant and co-defendants in the location at the time of burglaries. On September 4, 2020 defendant was charged with 3 counts of Burglary, 2 counts of Theft, and 3 counts of Criminal Mischief. The State moved for Pretrial Detention, which was granted by the Hon. Peter J. Tober, P.J.Cr. on September 14, 2020.

Defendant filed a Motion for Reconsideration on September 25, 2020, arguing that the State failed to turn over discovery. After oral arguments, Judge Tober again granted detention on October 1, 2020. Defendant appealed to the Appellate Division and alleged unprovided discovery again. The unprovided discovery alleged was geolocation reports referenced in the Affidavit of Probable Cause. The Appellate Division affirmed the trial court's order, finding that the pretrial discovery challenged

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was consistent with the requirements of Rule 3:4-2(c)(2) and *State v. Robinson*, 229 N.J. 44 (2017) on November 13, 2020. Defendant filed a Motion for Leave to Appeal with the Supreme Court, submitting their brief on December 9, 2020 again claiming that the State failed to comply with *Robinson*. The State's brief was submitted on January 4, 2021 and comprehensively encompassed all of the discovery provided by date and reiterated that the unprovided discovery alleged was provided in raw data format.

While awaiting the briefing and decision of the New Jersey Supreme Court, defendant filed a Motion to Reopen Detention on December 30, 2020 before the trial court, alleging still that significant discovery has not been provided, referencing the geotime/geolocation indicated in the Affidavit of Probable Cause. The State responded by brief to that filing on January 11, 2021, laying out the items of discovery the State possessed and the fact that they were provided. Additionally, the State argued that specific claims made by defendant at the time were inappropriate for a pre-trial detention hearing and are matters suited for trial. Oral arguments were held on January 14, 2021, where Judge Tober granted the defendant's motion, and released the defendant.

On January 15, 2021, the Clerk of the Supreme Court uploaded the much-awaited decision of the Court denying the Motion for Leave to Appeal. This order was dated January 12, 2021.

Due to a day off by a clerk in the Supreme Court and the subsequent delay of uploading of the Supreme Court's decision, defendant was released.

Assistant Prosecutor Annemarie L. Mueller

State v. Victor Ortiz-Ramos – Indictment No. 20-12-00291-I

An investigation by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office revealed that the defendant Victor Ortiz-Ramos sexually assaulted an eight-year-old child in August 2015. The victim reported that the defendant touched her vagina with his hand and anally penetrated her with his penis. The defendant lived with the victim and her family in Franklin Township at the time and she referred to him as her uncle. The defendant admitted in a post-*Miranda* statement that he pressed his penis on the buttocks of the victim to put it inside.

On June 24, 2021, the defendant entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr., J.S.C. The defendant pled guilty to an amended charge of Attempted Aggravated Sexual Assault, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1a (3) and 2C:14-2a (1); Sexual Assault by Contact, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b; and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a (1). On November 4, 2021, Judge Picheca sentenced the defendant in accordance with the plea agreement to 7 years in New Jersey State Prison with the No Early Release Act to apply requiring the defendant to serve eighty-five percent of his sentence prior to being eligible for parole. The defendant was also sentenced to Megan's Law, Parole Supervision for Life, three years of Parole Supervision after his release, and psychotherapy as recommended by the Avenel Evaluation. The defendant will be required to pay mandatory penalties for sexual offenses and \$1,890.00 to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office for mental health services provided to the victim.

State v. Monterrosas-Garcia – Indictment No. 21-03-00137-I

An investigation by the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office revealed that the defendant Rafael Monterrosas-Garcia sexually assaulted the granddaughter of his girlfriend on multiple occasions from 2018 to 2020 when she was eight to ten years old. The victim reported that the defendant touched her breasts and her vagina, exposed his penis, and placed her hand on his penis. The defendant admitted in a post-*Miranda* statement that he touched the victim's vagina and grabbed her hand to touch his erect penis.

On August 12, 2021, the defendant entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr., J.S.C. The defendant pled guilty to Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a (1). The plea agreement was for the defendant to be sentenced to five years in New Jersey State Prison and the charge of Sexual Assault by Contact, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2b,

will be dismissed. The defendant will also be subject to Megan’s Law, Parole Supervision for Life, and mandatory penalties for sexual offenses. On December 9, 2021, the Honorable Michael J. Rogers sentenced the defendant in accordance with the plea agreement to five years in New Jersey State Prison. The defendant was also sentenced to Megan’s Law and Parole Supervision for Life. He will be required to pay mandatory penalties for sexual offense and \$8,357.14 to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office for loss of support compensation provided to the victim and her family.

State v. Morales-Gamez – Indictment No. 18-06-00401-I

In May 2017, a 14-year-old female was sexually assaulted by a 20-year-old male at a house party in North Plainfield. The victim attended the party with two friends and consumed alcohol. In the early morning hours, the victim woke up to use the bathroom. The defendant offered to take her as she was not feeling well. The victim’s friends found her in the bathroom with the defendant on top of her. The crotch of the victim’s shorts was ripped and the shorts were pulled up to her waist. The defendant admitted to being in the bathroom with the victim when her friends came in. He voluntarily provided a DNA sample. The defendant was found to be the source of the major DNA profile after an analysis of the vaginal swabs taken from the victim. The defendant failed to appear for court in July 2018 and a bench warrant was issued. He was later located and detained in March 2021.

On September 30, 2021, the defendant entered a guilty plea before the Honorable Anthony F. Picheca, Jr. J.S.C. The defendant entered a guilty plea to the Indictment charging Sexual Assault, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:14-2c (4); and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a (1). The plea agreement calls for a sentence of 6 years in New Jersey State Prison on count one concurrent to 4 years in New Jersey State Prison on count two. The defendant will also be subject to Megan’s Law, Parole Supervision for Life, and mandatory penalties for sexual offenses. Defendant was sentenced on May 23, 2022 to 6 years in State Prison.

Assistant Prosecutor Matthew Murphy

State of New Jersey v. Amy Locane – Indictment No. 10-12-00770-I

On March 18, 2021, defendant perfected a fourth Appellate Division (App. Div. Docket No. A-001158-20) appeal following a fourth sentencing proceeding in the Law Division regarding the June 2010 DWI vehicular homicide and aggravated assault. In November 2012, a petit jury convicted the defendant of Second Degree Death-by-Auto and Third Degree Aggravated Assault. In February 2013, the trial Judge imposed a downgraded sentence of three years in State Prison pursuant to the N.E.R.A. This Office cross-appealed the sentence. The Appellate Division affirmed the conviction but vacated the sentence as illegal. The second sentence occurred in January 2017 during which defendant was sentenced to another downgraded three years/three year sentence. This Office appealed again, and the Appellate Division reversed on the ground that the sentence “shocked the conscience of the court” for its leniency and removed the Judge from the case. The third sentence occurred in February 2019 during which the defendant was sentenced to five years N.E.R.A. and granted bail pending her appeal of her double jeopardy claim. The State appealed both rulings again, and the Appellate Division again vacated and reversed the sentence.

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On September 19, 2020, a newly-assigned Jurist sentenced the defendant to serve eight years N.E.R.A. with credit for time served. Defendant then filed a motion in the Law Division seeking an Order vacating the recent sentence and the recusal of the sentencing Judge on the grounds of conflict and appearance of impropriety. The Judge denied the motion. Defendant has now filed the fourth appeal of her sentence in the Appellate Division challenging, post-sentence, both her sentence imposed and the denial of her motion to recuse the Judge. This Office filed its brief in opposition in May 2021. The Appellate Division decided both issues in the State's favor and upheld defendant's sentence.

Simultaneously, with the filing of the fourth appeal, defendant also filed a Petition seeking gubernatorial clemency as well as a Habeas Corpus Petition in the United States District Court in Camden in 2021. This Office filed opposition briefs to both Petitions, and decisions are pending.

State of New Jersey v. Robert Smith – Indictment No. 18-06-00380-I & 18-06-00381-I

On October 13, 2021, a petit jury returned guilty verdicts finding defendant guilty of two counts of First Degree Attempted Murder, Second Degree Unlawful Possession of a Firearm, Fourth Degree Possession of Defaced Firearm, Fourth Degree Possession of Hollow-Nose Bullets, and Second Degree Possession of a Firearm for an Unlawful Purpose. Following the return of its verdicts, and pursuant to *State v. Ragland*, 105 N.J. 189 (1986), the petit jury returned a verdict of guilty on the companion charge of Second Degree Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Person. On November 17, 2021, this Office filed a Sentencing Memorandum seeking the imposition of an extended term sentence, as a persistent offender, of fifty-years in State Prison subject to N.E.R.A., less credit for time served, and a consecutive term of eight to five years in N.J. State Prison on the certain person conviction. Defendant was sentenced to 20 years in State Prison.

The jury found beyond a reasonable doubt that on May 17, 2018, defendant Robert Smith laid-in-wait along Stanford Drive in Bridgewater Township in an attempt to kill the mother of his two children and her new paramour. At that time, the defendant was operating a black 2016 Nissan Rogue that neither victim would recognize. The defendant was armed with a six-shot revolver that had been defaced and six hollow-nose bullets. Wearing gloves to avoid forensic evidence, the defendant drove alongside the victims' vehicle and fired three shots - two of which pierced the victims' vehicle without striking his targets. During the event, both vehicles came into contact before separately departing the roadway and crashing. The police were called. The defendant was arrested at the scene. One victim's excited utterances, and defendant's pre-Miranda denials, were captured and recorded on police officers' body-worn microphones. A subsequent Search Warrant executed on the black Nissan Rogue yielded the firearm in a cocked position - meaning the defendant intended to fire a fourth time immediately before crashing into a utility pole and fracturing his leg and hip.

Assistant Prosecutor Anthony J. Parenti, Jr.

State of New Jersey v. Mark Byars & Jakee L. Jennings

Indictment No. 19-03-00183-I, 19-05-290-I, & Accusation No. 20-02-00149-A

On October 30, 2018, defendants robbed a cab driver at gun point. During the robbery the victim reports that he was dispatched to a location on Hollywood Avenue in Somerset, New Jersey. When he arrived two masked men got into the back of his cab. One of the men pointed a large silver handgun at his head while the other got out of the cab, opened the driver's door, and stole his money and cell phone. Members of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office working with the Franklin Township Police Department were able to identify the defendants through cellphone records used to summon the taxi.

On December 19, 2018, warehouse video from an industrial area of Franklin Township captures Zakee Jennings sitting in the back seat of a BMW that is parked behind the warehouse. In the video Jennings is seen placing a large silver handgun to the back of the front seat passenger's head. The passenger then jumps out of the BMW and turns to face Jennings. The gun in Jennings' hand discharges blowing out the front passenger window of the BMW. The passenger runs from the scene. The driver of that BMW gets out of the driver's seat and confronts Jennings near the back of the BMW. Jennings points the gun at the driver, but the driver appears undeterred. Jennings then smacks the driver in the head with the handgun. (The driver later tells police that he could see that the cylinder of the gun was empty, so he wasn't afraid). Both the driver and

Jennings then run from the scene. Shortly thereafter Mark Byars appears on the video getting into the BMW and driving it away.

The BMW is found unoccupied a block away from the shooting near the New Brunswick city line. New Brunswick police are called to an adjoining neighborhood on a report of a man running through back yards with a gun in his hand. They find Mark Byars in a back yard, and after a brief foot chase, they observe him discard a large silver handgun. The handgun is recovered and is later determined to be .44 magnum Smith and Wesson revolver that had been reported stolen from Pennsylvania some months earlier. Mark Byars is arrested nearby and makes a post-Miranda statement admitting his role in the both the taxicab robbery and in the shooting involving the BMW. Byars implicates Jennings as the shooter in the BMW and claims that it was Jennings who had the gun in the taxicab robbery.

A Somerset County Grand Jury returned Indictment: 19-03-183-I, charging both defendants with: Robbery, First Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:15-1a(2), and Mark Byars with Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5b(1).

Both defendants were charged in indictment: 19-05-00290-I, with: Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-5b; and Receiving Stolen Property, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C: 20-7a. Zakee Jennings was individually charged with: Attempted Murder, First Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:5-1a(2)&(3), and N.J.S.A. 2C:11-3a(1); Possession of a Weapon for an Unlawful Purpose, Second Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:39-4a; Aggravated Assault, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b(2); and two counts of Aggravated Assault, Fourth Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:12-1b(4). Mark Byars was individually charged with Hindering Apprehension, Third Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-3a(3); and Unlawful Taking of a Means of Conveyance, Fourth Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:10b, and Obstructing Administration of Law, Fourth Degree, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-1a.

The State offered to resolve both indictments pertaining to Jennings with a sentence in the First Degree range of 12 years in New Jersey State Prison with 85% to be served without parole pursuant to the No Early Release Act ("N.E.R.A."). Jennings requested to conference the matter with the Court, and the State consented. The Court, in an effort to resolve both matters without trial, suggested that if the State would amend the charge on Indictment No. 19-02-00183-I, from Robbery, First Degree, to Theft from the Person, Third Degree, (as amended by Accusation 20-02-00149-A), and to amend the charge on Indictment No. 19-05-299-I, from Attempted Murder, First Degree, to Aggravated Assault, Third Degree, that the Court would sentence Jennings on all of the counts in both indictments to serve a 10-year term in New Jersey State Prison, with 84 months to be served without parole. The conference was memorialized in a Supplemental Plea Form for Non-Negotiated Pleas in which the Court agreed to sentence Jennings on Indictment 19-03-183-I (Accusation 20-02-149-A) to serve five years in New Jersey State Prison, with 42 months without Parole pursuant to the Graves Act, consecutive to five years in New Jersey State Prison, with 42 months without Parole pursuant to the Graves Act, on Indictment 19-05-290-I. This resulted in an aggregate sentence of 10 years in New Jersey State Prison, 84 months without Parole.

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Mark Byars pled guilty on Indictment No. 19-03-00183-I, to an amended charge of Robbery, Second Degree; and on Indictment 19-05-290-I, to: Unlawful Possession of a Handgun, Second Degree; Hindering Apprehension Third Degree; Unlawful Taking of a Means of Conveyance, Fourth Degree; Obstruction, Fourth Degree; and Receiving Stolen Property, Third Degree. Byars was sentenced to serve 5 years in New Jersey State Prison, with 85% to be served without parole pursuant to N.E.R.A. concurrent on both indictments. (The Graves Act period of parole ineligibility was subsumed by the N.E.R.A. sentence).

Assistant Prosecutor Natacha Despinos Peavey

State v. Anna Mastrian – Accusation No. 21-09-00735-A

Anna Mastrian was charged in Accusation No. 21-09-735-A with Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:24-4a(2), Second Degree Eluding, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:29-2b and Third Degree Theft of a Motor Vehicle, in violation of N.J.S.A. 2C:20-3a. On September 24, 2021, defendant plead guilty to all counts of the accusation, and was court ordered into the pretrial intervention program. On April 4, 2021, witnesses reported that Mastrian and a minor child entered a running motor vehicle. Mastrian drove off in the vehicle without the owner's consent. Witnesses observed that both Mastrian and the child were completely nude. Hillsborough Township police initiated pursuit of the stolen vehicle in an attempt to effectuate a stop. Mastrian, ignoring the police commands to pull over, drove through the township incurring several motor vehicle infractions. Due to safety concerns, the Hillsborough Township police terminated pursuit. Mastrian eventually crashed the motor vehicle in Bound Brook. Fortunately, no serious injuries were reported. Thereafter, Mastrian underwent a battery of psychiatric evaluations and treatments. After a thorough review of the case including the defendant's medical/psychiatric history, this matter was resolved through a guilty plea into Pretrial Intervention with the condition that the defendant continue to abide with all psychiatric and substance abuse treatment.

APPELLATE

In 2021, the Assistant Prosecutors in the Appellate Section wrote fourteen responses to petitions for certification. Twenty-two appellate briefs were filed in the Appellate Division of the Superior Court of New Jersey. Two briefs were filed in the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

In the Superior Court, Law Division, ten municipal appeal letter briefs were filed and a total of 13 matters were disposed of in 2021 (four such cases had still been pending as of the beginning of 2021). In five of those matters the municipal court convictions were upheld, four convictions were reversed, three were remanded for further proceedings in the municipal court, one appeal was withdrawn and one case was pending at the end of the year.

INTAKE SCREENING

I. Purpose:

Somerset County continued in 2021 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**
7 Assistant Prosecutors; others as needed
- B. Support Staff:** **2 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*
2021**

Month	Cases Screened	Cases Accepted	Cases Not Accepted	Defendants Accepted	Complaints Accepted
JANUARY	57	39	18	44	90
FEBRUARY	53	43	10	50	80
MARCH	47	25	22	34	80
APRIL	58	45	13	46	97
MAY	62	43	20	47	94
JUNE	71	45	26	70	113
JULY	63	42	20	49	85
AUGUST	43	22	21	25	58
SEPTEMBER	56	37	19	48	113
OCTOBER	45	27	18	31	87
NOVEMBER	34	20	14	19	101
DECEMBER	20	5	15	4	76
Total:	609	393	216	467	1,180

*Numbers affected by COVID-19

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

I. Purpose:

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

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

- A. Legal Staff:**
 - 1 Supervisor
 - 4 Assistant Prosecutors

- B. Support Staff:**
 - 1 Paralegal
 - 1 Secretary
 - 1 Victim-Witness Advocate, assigned to DV Superior Court cases and to DV municipal court cases in certain designated municipalities.

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

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

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

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

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

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

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

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

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

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

Domestic violence cases originate in the local police departments. The local police department is responsible for charging and filing contempt complaints. The complaints and accompanying police reports are then forwarded to the S.C.P.O. for prosecution. Once the case is received at the S.C.P.O., a file is opened and an Assistant Prosecutor is assigned the case. The Family Court assigns court dates where the case proceeds to court 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 2021:

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.

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)**
 - 4 Assistant Prosecutors**
- B. Support Staff:**
 - 1 Paralegal**
 - 1 Secretary**
 - 1 Victim-Witness Advocate**

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

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

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

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

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

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IV. Description of the functions of the unit:

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

V. Operations and activities of the Juvenile Unit for 2021:**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, the law enforcement agency is contacted and advised of which charges are authorized. That police department will file the complaint in the Juvenile E-CDR. Once a complaint is signed, 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
Victim Advocate
Victim Advocate
Secretary

Student Interns

8 student interns volunteered 752 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: 1,615
- Number of direct services provided to victims: 7,423

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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:

During the first half of this reporting period, our offices were closed to the public due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our staff continued to contact victims to offer information and assistance via phone, email and letters but could provide very limited in-person assistance. We offered victims meetings with Advocate and Prosecution staff via Zoom to allow for face-to-face contact.

- 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 (when attending court proceedings)
 - 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 and 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
 - Interpreter Services
 - Access to virtual court NJCourt link and via Zoom

V. Case Status - Letter Notification and Outreach

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 2021, 18,109 case status letters, both InfoShare and hand-generated were mailed/emailed to crime victims and witnesses. In 2021, 355 case status letters were mailed to victims involved in the juvenile justice system. Zero case notification letters were generated and mailed for victims of crimes committed by defendants who are eligible for drug court.

The Victim-Witness Unit maintains the Victim-Witness Portal which allows victims and witnesses to sign up for electronic notifications of court events. Victims and survivors can also submit Victim Impact Statements and text in questions for Victim-Witness Staff through the portal. In 2021, the Victim-Witness portal app went live. The app includes a mapping feature that provides victims and survivors with contact information and directions to resources to include police, local government offices, and medical and counseling facilities.

In addition to communication regarding existing cases, Victim Advocates provide outreach to victims and survivors for First Appearances and Detention Hearings. This includes weekends and holidays where an advocate is assigned to notify the victim of the process and provide services and emotional support.

VI. Victim-Advocate Accompaniment

Advocates provide court accompaniment at criminal trials, status conferences, detention and sentencing hearings, Krol hearings and motions. Advocates also accompany victims in discussions regarding plea offers and trial-prep meetings with the Assistant Prosecutors, in-person and during conference and Zoom calls. Advocates attend court hearings with victims of juvenile offenses and also with domestic violence victims in municipal courts as well as in family court at weapon forfeiture and contempt hearings.

VII. Training Conducted by Advocate Staff:

- June: Katie Cerillo and Alex Wick provided training on Victim Advocacy to interns as part of the SCPO Speaker series.
- September: Katie Cerillo provided a training on the changes to the Assault by Strangulation statute at the Domestic Violence Liaison Officer's meeting.
- November: Bobbi Mowery provided training on working with victims of sexual assault to Seton Hall University students.

All members of the Victim-Witness Unit provided training to the 2 student interns we had at the start of 2021. Due to the nature of remote internships, there were weekly trainings on various topics related to crime victimization.

VIII. Crime Victims' Rights Week Program

In 2021 the Victim-Witness Unit recognized National Crime Victims' Rights Week with an awareness campaign. Car magnets in the shape of an awareness ribbon and with the 2022 theme were distributed to every police department for display on all patrol cars. The week was advertised via social media and included photos of the police vehicles and officers displaying the magnets. All notification letters to victims and witnesses via USPS were sent in envelopes printed with the 2021 NCVRW theme, RIGHTS, ACCESS, EQUITY, for all victims.

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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)
- Criminal Intelligence Section (CIS)
- Burglary Task Force
- STOPit
- Crime Stoppers
- Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit
- Vehicular Homicide Task Force & Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team (C.A.R.T.)
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MAJOR CRIMES UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Major Crimes Unit investigates crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, arsons, missing persons, 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 47 criminal investigations resulting in 34 arrests in 2021. The number of homicides that occurred in Somerset County during 2021 was 4. 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 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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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)

Criminal Intelligence Unit

Burglary Task Force

STOPit

Crime Stoppers

Computer Crimes / Technical Services Unit

*Vehicular Homicide Task Force & Collision
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Fire Investigation Unit

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IV. Investigations, activities and accomplishments for 2021:

In 2021, the Major Crimes Unit opened 47 criminal investigations, which resulted in 34 arrests. Included among those cases were:

- 4 Homicide investigations
- 4 Death investigations
- 9 Attempted Murders
- 5 Missing Persons
- 7 Robberies
- 2 Arsons
- 2 Prohibited Devices or Weapons
- 1 Strict Liability, Drug Induced Death
- 2 Suicides
- 1 Carjacking
- 6 Miscellaneous
- 4 Aggravated Assaults

The Major Crimes Unit also tracked 11 suicides, 51 drug related overdose deaths, 507 unattended deaths, and is actively investigating 10 cold case homicides within Somerset County.

V. Case Highlights for 2021:

Case #1 – Homicide

On November 9, 2021, a witness observed a Toyota Corolla in a ditch on Mountainview Road, Hillsborough. The witness spoke with the driver, later identified as Yuhwei Chou, and observed that Chou's hands were zip tied to the steering wheel. Chou's two young children were located in the backseat and their faces were duct taped and hands zip tied. The witness called 9-1-1 and Hillsborough Police Officers arrived on scene, along with detectives with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office. The two children were subsequently pronounced dead. Chou provided a post-Miranda statement indicating that she killed both of her children the day before. Chou stated that she first drove to the Wawa for lunch and then drove to the True Value to purchase duct tape and zip ties. Next, she drove to Apex Park in Hillsborough and began to duct tape the older child's face but Chou was spooked by a bystander in the park. Chou then drove to Mountainview Road and parked in a hunting area adjacent to a dirt driveway on the side of the road. Chou then stated that she got into the backseat and zip tied the older child's hands and duct taped her face along with the other child's face. Chou stated that she used her hands to suffocate both victims until they were deceased. Chou further stated that she has been planning the two murders for approximately one week. Video surveillance was obtained from the Wawa and True Value confirming Chou's statement. Chou was charged with two counts of Murder, First Degree. Chou was lodged in the Somerset County Jail and the matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

Case #2 – Homicide

On August 13, 2021, the North Plainfield Police Department responded to a 9-1-1 call regarding shots fired at the location of 450 Little Place, North Plainfield. Three victims were located on the front porch of that residence. Two of the victims were subsequently pronounced dead. Detectives with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and North Plainfield Police Department obtained surveillance video in the area of the shooting. As a result, two vehicles of interest were identified as a GMC Acadia and a Ford Explorer. These vehicles were observed arriving together at 450 Little Place and leaving together right after the shooting. The GMC Acadia was previously reported stolen out of Plainfield. The GMC Acadia was equipped with OnStar and detectives were able to track the vehicle's whereabouts from the time it was stolen to the homicide scene. The vehicle was tracked to a shopping mall in South Plainfield. The driver of the GMC Acadia subsequently went into a restaurant in the shopping mall. Based on the surveillance video of the shopping mall, detectives were able to identify the driver as Amir Madison. An occupant of the Ford Explorer was identified as Troy White. White exited the Ford Explorer and entered into a convenience store located in the shopping mall. Both vehicles left the shopping mall and remained together until arriving at, and then leaving the scene of the homicide. This was based on LPR hits in Plainfield, video surveillance, and also the obtaining and reviewing of White's and Madison's cellular telephone records, to include the geo-location. Madison and White were charged with two counts of Murder, First Degree. Madison and White were lodged in the Somerset County Jail and the matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

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Case #3 – Homicide

On May 18, 2021, the Franklin Township Police Department received a 9-1-1 call from a mother reporting that her son had been assaulted by multiple unknown males. The mother stated that her son was bleeding all over her couch at her residence of 2911 Holland Drive, Franklin. Franklin Township Police Officers arrived on scene and began CPR on the victim. The victim was observed to have a lower abdomen stab wound. The victim succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead. Detectives with the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office and Franklin Township Police Department interviewed multiple witnesses. Detectives were able to ascertain that two black males, with the street names of "Duck" and "Ice" had knives in their possession and were trying to fight the victim earlier in the night. "Duck" was identified as Nasir Williams and "Ice" was identified as Ishadir Hunter, both residing in the area of 2911 Holland Drive. Detectives were able to view the social media accounts of the victim, Williams, and Hunter. In the messages contained in the social media accounts, detectives observed that Hunter and the victim agreed to fight the night of the stabbing. Messages were also observed between Williams and the victim asking each other their whereabouts and to "come outside." Detectives executed Superior Court Search Warrants on Williams' and Hunter's residences. Williams subsequently provided a post-Miranda statement advising that he and Hunter walked from Hunter's residence to meet the victim in front of his residence to fight. Williams stated that the victim and Hunter began to fight and the victim dropped a knife. Williams said he picked up the knife and stabbed the victim two or three times. Williams and Hunter were charged with Murder, First Degree. Williams and Hunter were lodged in the Somerset County Jail and the matter is pending in Somerset County Superior Court.

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 of 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
Child Advocacy Center Manager |

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 four 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. |

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C. Support Staff:

The Victim-Witness Unit provides support and referral services. Shared secretarial and data entry responsibilities. The Child Advocacy Center manager provides support to the detectives of the Sex Crimes/Child Abuse Unit and ensures that the National Children's Alliance standards for child advocacy centers are being followed. The manager is also responsible for working towards getting the center accredited.

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 digitally recorded on video in the child advocacy center when feasible. 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 2021:**Investigations:**

- 62 referrals were processed in the unit and assistance given to local police, DCP&P and the Institutional Abuse Unit;
- There were also 79 additional referrals that resulted in an investigation conducted by the Prosecutor's Office;
- 14 of the 79 cases resulted in arrests;
- Two bilingual detectives remain in the unit out of a total of 4 investigators; and
- There have been 41 adult/adolescent Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) activations plus 3 pediatric cases for the year.

Megan's Law:

- There were 61 sex offenders served with Megan's Law Tier Notification (includes those who were initial registrants, as well as those who needed to be re-tiered). For schools, daycare centers and community agencies, 310 notifications were sent out.

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 2021:

- The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is a participating member of the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association (NJSCOA);
- The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office is a member of the New Jersey Children's Alliance Board of Trustees.
- The unit is a member of the Somerset County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and meets once a month to discuss and resolve cases.

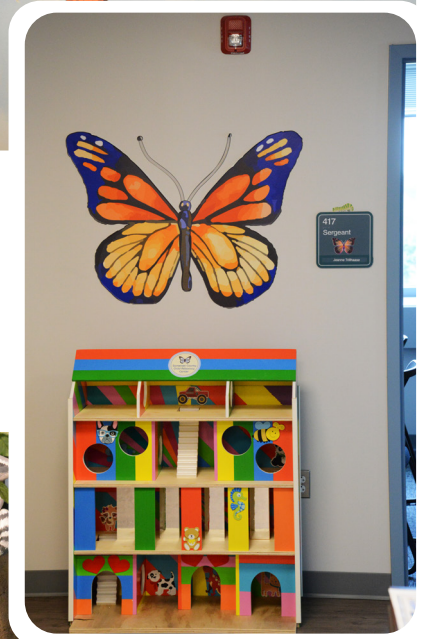
62 new cases were reviewed by the County MDT in 2021

2021 Case Summaries:

- In October of 2021, a 12-year-old female reported being sexually assaulted by her adult uncle. She disclosed that the sexual abuse had gone on for the past three years. Franklin Township Police and the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office conducted that investigation. The victim was forensically interviewed in the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Child Advocacy Center. Additional investigation was conducted and the uncle, Astley Brown, was arrested and charged with Second Degree Sexual Assault and Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child.
- In October of 2021, it was reported to the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office that a 17-year-old female student at a local, private high school had engaged in a sexual relationship with her male teacher/coach. Additional investigation revealed that an adult female teacher/coach was actively aware of the sexual relationship and failed to take action. Matthew Rennie was arrested and charged with Second Degree Sexual Assault and Second Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child. The female coach/teacher Ranait Griff was charged with Third Degree Endangering the Welfare of a Child.



Detective David Velez, Detective Carolina Moreno, Sergeant Jeanne Trillhaase, Prosecutor John P. McDonald, Assistant Prosecutor Annemarie L. Mueller, Executive Chief Assistant Prosecutor Michael J. Rogers, Detective Monica Jimenez, SANE Coordinator Melissa Inizitari, and Child Advocacy Center Manager Melinda Pullis.



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 2021, the Special Investigations Unit handled a total of 368 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 2021:

Criminal Investigations:	368
Arrests:	4
Background Investigations:	30 (includes intern background investigations)

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

- A. Legal Staff:** **3 Assistant Prosecutors**
- B. Investigative Staff:** **1 Captain (Commander, Criminal Investigative Division)**
1 Lieutenant (Deputy Commander, CID)
1 Sergeant
4 Detectives
1 Senior Prosecutor Agent
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 2021: a Captain and Lieutenant who oversaw the Criminal Investigations Division and a Sergeant who commanded the unit of 4 Detectives, 1 Senior Prosecutor Agent, and 1 Criminal Analyst.

B. Legal Staff:

Legal guidance was provided on a case-by-case basis by 3 Assistant Prosecutors assigned as legal advisors: one for insurance fraud matters and 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 individual in 2021:

Case: 2106-0620

In June of 2021, Det. Rigoberto Gonzalez led a month long investigation involving the fraudulent purchase of 7 cars valued over \$350,000.00 from VIP Honda. Det. Gonzalez was able to identify the defendant, Tareek Steele, as being the ringleader. Steele and his accomplices used stolen identities to apply and receive financing for the vehicles. Det. Gonzalez was able to recover 6 of the 7 vehicles during the course of the investigation.

INSURANCE FRAUD UNIT

I. Purpose:

The Insurance Fraud Unit (IFU) handles all cases involving insurance fraud related matters in Somerset County. In the year 2021, the Insurance Fraud Unit handled a total of 25 cases.

Investigations conducted by the Insurance Fraud Unit during 2021:

Criminal Investigations:	25
Search Warrants:	0
Arrests:	9

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 2 Detectives 1 Senior Prosecutor Agent
C. Clerical Staff:	1 Secretary

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

A. Investigative Staff:

Four investigative agent personnel staffed the IFU in 2021: a Captain and Lieutenant who oversaw the Criminal Investigations Division, and a Sergeant who commanded the unit of 2 Detectives, and 1 Senior Prosecutor Agent.

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 Case:

During 2021, the Insurance Fraud Unit completed a one-year investigation involving Somerset Hills Towing (SHT). For several years SCPO had been receiving referrals from both OIFP and Insurance Companies directly, regarding SHT and their fraudulent practices. The majority of the complaints involved the owner of the company deliberately delaying the release of vehicles in a timely fashion, and charging for indoor storage when the vehicles were actually stored outside, creating fraudulently higher fees charged to the insurance company. The investigation resulted in ten indictable Insurance Fraud charges against the business as well as the business owner.

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In February of 2021, the Insurance Fraud Unit received a referral from OIFP regarding a vehicle reported stolen that may not have been stolen. On 08/27/2020 the Defendant reported to Progressive Ins. Co. that someone had stolen her vehicle. Subsequently an insurance claim was made for the loss. During the investigation it was learned that the defendant's vehicle had been diagnosed with serious mechanical problems that she could not afford to have repaired. The defendant admitted that she staged that her vehicle had been stolen in an attempt to collect the insurance money and was charged with indictable insurance fraud.

In August of 2021, the Insurance Fraud Unit received a referral from OIFP regarding a vehicle that been damaged during a hit and run accident. The insured, Yasmin Gomez, claimed her vehicle had been struck while parked on 07/08/2021. The investigation revealed that a License Plate Reader had detected her vehicle traveling on a roadway in June of 2021 with the same damage that she was reporting happened in July. The defendant ultimately admitted that she filed a false claim in an attempt to have her vehicle repaired. She was charged with an indictable 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 Captain |
| | 1 Sergeant |
| | 1 Detective |
| | 1 Agent |
| 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 2021 there were 205 investigations of police misconduct in Somerset County. Forty-four cases were exclusively investigated by the Prosecutor's Office Internal Affairs Unit.

- VI.** Of the 43 investigations, 1 resulted in a criminal charge or conviction. Of the remaining 43 dispositions 11 were classified as exonerated, 4 were unfounded, 2 were not-sustained, 2 were sustained and 20 were administratively closed. Four cases remained active from 2021 into the 2022 calendar year.

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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:** **3 Assistant Prosecutors**
- B. Investigative Staff:**
- 1 Captain**
 - 1 Lieutenant**
 - 3 Sergeants**
 - 15 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 2021:

Cases	108
Arrests	148
Weapons Seized	16
Vehicles Seized	7 automobiles
Currency Seized	\$272,295.89
Narcotics Seized:	
Cocaine	8,432 grams
Crack Cocaine	315 grams
Cannabis	5.15 pounds
Heroin	4,611 decks
MDMA	6 pills
Meth	20 grams
Misc. Prescription Pills	310 doses (variety)
Value of Narcotics Seized	\$900,820.00

VI. Highlighted Cases for 2021:

A. Operation “Triple Tragedy”

In the Spring of 2021, the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force conducted a narcotics investigation into individuals trafficking illegal narcotics. The investigations lead to four residential search warrants, multiple vehicular search warrants, and the arrests of thirty-one individuals, four of which were for First Degree charges. The investigation also resulted in the seizure of approximately 6.5 kilograms of cocaine, a 9mm polymer 80% handgun-equipped with a thirty-round extended magazine, an AR-15 rifle equipped with a high capacity thirty-round magazine, and \$193,536.25 in cash.

B. State vs Jared Frances “Banga”

In January of 2021, the Organized Crime and Narcotics Task Force conducted a narcotics investigation into a male known as “Banga” who was later identified as Jared Francis. After a five-month investigation into Francis, he was charged with eight Second Degree charges and ten Third Degree charges, including Distribution of CDS in School Zones/Parks and Aggravated Assault on an Officer. During the investigation 1,950 decks of heroin and 20 grams of crack cocaine were seized.

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POLYGRAPH & COMPUTERIZED VOICE STRESS ANALYSIS UNIT

I. Purpose:

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

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

A. Legal Staff: **Assistant Prosecutors as needed**

B. Certified Examiners:	<u>Polygraph</u>	<u>CVSA</u>
	1 Chief	1 Captain
	1 Sergeant	1 Lieutenant
		1 Sergeant

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 2021, the total number of Polygraph/CVSA examinations was 1, resulting in 1 deception indicated finding.

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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
 Senior Prosecutor Agent Trevor Oldenburg
 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 40 full-time officers from 15 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 members consisting of officers, detectives, and sergeants from 9 different law enforcement agencies within Somerset County to include Mental Health Specialist, Paul Mehaffey, who volunteers his time for both training drill dates and SCERT callout activations. Paul has provided his mental health expertise and guidance to the Crisis Negotiation Team since its inception in 1987 and has never received monetary compensation for doing so.

D. The Dive-Rescue Team is comprised of 17 full time law enforcement officers and 1 retired law enforcement officer who is employed by the Prosecutor's Office. Officers are from 10 different law enforcement agencies within Somerset County. The members are trained in various aspects of water rescue, underwater search and recovery, underwater evidence search and recovery, underwater crime scene collection and processing, ice diving and rescue, urban flooding and water rescue, boat operations, 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. 2021 Training Summary:

The Somerset County SWAT team conducted 12 monthly drills in 2021.

VI. Joint Training

Due to Covid-19 and additional variants, there was no joint training conducted in 2021.

VII. Brief Synopsis of SCERT Callouts:

- **February 18, 2021:** SWAT/CNT activation for a report of shots fired on Ross Street in Somerville.
- **August 17, 2021:** SWAT/CNT activation for an emotionally disturbed 68-year-old male with a report of a single gunshot fired in Montgomery Twp.

Dive Rescue Team Callouts

- **January 29, 2021:** Dive Team activation for an occupied vehicle submerged in D&R Canal. Deceased juvenile female recovered from vehicle.
- **September 1, 2021:** Dive Rescue Team activation for Storm Ida, urban flooding. Numerous rescues performed in Manville, Hillsborough, Somerville, Bound Brook, and other parts of the County.
- **September 3, 2021:** Dive Rescue Team activated for search and body recovery of missing flood victim. Deceased victim located and recovered.
- **November 24, 2021:** Dive Team activated to recover submerged vehicle from quarry. Vehicle found to have been stolen.

SWAT Team Callouts

- **February 18, 2021:** SWAT/CNT activation for a report of shots fired on Ross Street in Somerville.
- **August 17, 2021:** SWAT/CNT activation for an emotionally disturbed 68-year-old male with a report of a single gunshot fired in Montgomery Township.
- On several dates SWAT participated with High-Risk warrant service the OCNTF.
- **September 7, 2021:** members of the SWAT provided security for President Biden’s visit to Manville.

VIII. Training provided by SCERT

NONE - Due to Covid-19 and additional variants.

IX. Community Outreach

The Somerset County SWAT team did not participate in any community outreach due to Covid-19.

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

National Night Out and provided the community of Bernard’s Township with information about the Dive Rescue Team.

SWAT team members participated in the following special events:

Public appearances at several national night out events, and various demonstrations at police department youth academies at various police agencies.

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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
1 Task Force Investigator
- C. **Clerical Staff:** **1 Criminal Analyst**

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, violations of parole and failure to appear warrants. These efforts require extensive cooperation between the fugitive unit and law enforcement agencies from local, state and federal sectors.
- C. **Support Staff:**
Analyst 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 2021, the Fugitive Unit extradited several fugitives from numerous states including: New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Alabama, California, North Carolina, Delaware, and Massachusetts.

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 2021 are as follows:

- **264 New warrants were received**
- **303 Warrants were satisfied by arrest or vacated**
- **805 Active warrants at start of 2021**
- **2 Governor's Warrants**

VI. Fugitive Unit - 2021

	Arrests	Vacates	Dismissed	Totals
January	21	10	0	31
February	23	4	0	27
March	21	8	0	29
April	15	10	1	26
May	21	8	0	29
June	17	4	0	21
July	17	3	3	23
August	19	4	0	23
September	19	5	1	25
October	25	6	0	31
November	18	4	0	22
December	15	1	1	17
Totals	231	67	5	303

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CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION UNIT (CSIU)

I. Purpose:

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit 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.

During the course of 2021 the Crime Scene Investigation Unit opened 68 cases that were either submitted by local Police Departments, County Prosecutors' 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 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.

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 2021, the Crime Scene Unit was called on to process 30 crime scenes within Somerset County.

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.

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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 veteran officers;
6. Conducts presentations to a wide variety of public groups including high school and college classes on general crime scene and laboratory processing techniques;
7. Conducts blood stain pattern analysis at scenes and on clothing.

The Crime Scene Investigation Unit is responsible for processing all items of evidence submitted to the laboratory for latent 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 2021, the Crime Scene Unit processed 486 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 Somerset County Prosecutor's Office terminal and searched through the state database in an attempt to find a match or "hit". In 2021, 37 cases were entered into AFIS resulting in 24 "hits" identifying suspects.

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)(2021).

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 (2021). In 2021, the CIU maintains the Intelligence database entries as well as vetting its users within Somerset County.

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 information collected from various sources and it 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(2021). 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.

The CIU lends support to all units of the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office as well as to local municipalities as requested. The dissemination is 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.

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

CIU duties also comprise Community Affairs which includes but is not limited to the Operation Helping Hand (OHH) Initiative. OHH is a program where law enforcement plays an integral part in identifying individuals with substance use disorders and together with community partners serves as a point of entry into treatment and/or recovery support services. By conducting door-to-door outreach or by deploying the mobile outreach van, Somerset County's OHH's goal during each encounter is to have law enforcement, accompanied by recovery support specialists, engage residents in need by providing on-the-spot referrals to treatment and other resources. In Somerset County, the success of our OHH initiative would not be possible if not for the hard work and dedication of its community partners, especially the working professionals of Somerset County Department of Human Services, R4R Program (Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center), Somerset Treatment Services, EmPoWER Somerset/ Pioneer Family Success Center and Community in Crisis.

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Additional CIU duties:**1. CJIS**

- TAC Officer for Somerset County
- Train / Test / Certify Users
- NJSP Audits (every 2 years) Completed 2020

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).

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 2021, 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 2021. 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 2021 the Somerset County Burglary Task Force continued to monitor the buying and selling of precious metals throughout Somerset County. As the price of gold and silver 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 2021 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.

The Somerset County Burglary Task Force continues 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. In addition, the Somerset County Burglary Task Force has fostered new relationships with the New York Police Department and other federal agencies who are actively investigating burglaries targeting Asian homeowners and Jewelry Store burglaries.

V. 2021 Significant Case:

The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force has continued to assist municipal, county and state law enforcement agencies in investigating residential and commercial burglaries. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Burglary Task Force made 10 arrests for burglaries and investigated 14 residential/commercial burglaries. Listed below is a highlighted case for 2021:

On April 15, 2021, the North Plainfield Police Department received a report of a burglary to the BP Gas Station located at 497 U.S. Highway 22 West. Detectives reviewed the surveillance footage and observed a gray BMW parked near the vacuum area of the gas station's parking lot at approximately 3:49 am. At approximately 4:40 am, a black male with a gray beard and glasses, wearing a white t-shirt and a gray hooded sweatshirt, walked over to the unlocked exterior bathroom door of the gas station and entered. While inside the bathroom he forcibly opened the locked interior bathroom door that lead to the office area. While in the office area he pried open the safe and stole \$12,000.00 dollars in cash, along with black and mild cigars. Detectives broadcasted an all-points bulletin regarding the burglary. A detective from another agency identified the suspect as Abufurqan Ahmad. Detectives obtained recent photographs of Ahmad and compared them to the surveillance footage and could positively identify the suspect as Abufurqan Ahmad.

On May 9, 2021, the North Plainfield Police Department received a report of a burglary to the Raceway Gas Station located at 643 U.S. Highway 22, North Plainfield, N.J. Detectives reviewed the surveillance footage and observed a silver BMW sedan bearing a N.J. registration, park in front of the garage bay doors. A driver exits the vehicle and forcibly pries open the glass door that was part of the larger garage bay door. As a result the glass broke on the door. The driver is a black male wearing a navy blue hooded sweatshirt, a navy blue hat with an emblem on the front, black pants, glasses, and black and white sneakers. The driver entered the garage area and went into a utility room. He used a ladder to climb up towards a surveillance camera. The driver's face is seen on the surveillance footage and can be identified as Abufurqan Ahmad, who is the registered owner of the silver BMW. Ahmad climbed over the wall to the convenience store and stole cash from the cash register, three rolls of lottery tickets, and several packs of Newport cigarettes. A second suspect exited the passenger seat and entered the garage area. The passenger is a black male with a beard that was wearing a black wool hat, a black belt, a black hooded sweatshirt with writing on the back and black pants. The passenger had a distinct limp when he walked. He stole a backpack leaf blower from the garage area.

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On May 17, 2021 Detectives observed Abufurqan Ahmad operating a gray BMW sedan bearing a N.J. temporary registration in the area of Kent Street, Newark, N.J. Ahmad ran a red light and was stopped by the Detectives. The front seat passenger in the car, later identified as Coleman Holden, matched the description of the second suspect and had a distinct limp when he walked. Holden provided a post-Miranda statement and admitted to entering the Raceway Gas Station on May 9, 2021 and stealing a backpack leaf blower. Holden also stated that he committed the burglary at the Raceway with Ahmad. Coleman was charged with Burglary, Third Degree, and Ahmad was charged with two counts of Burglary, Third Degree, along with theft and criminal mischief charges.

VI. Future

The Somerset County Burglary Task Force will continue to expand investigative techniques and continue to network throughout the bordering counties sharing available intelligence. The Task Force utilizes RAPID for reporting precious metals transactions with the three 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. The Somerset County Burglary Task Force is also creating an email correspondence consisting of Somerset, Warren, and Hunterdon police agencies ensuring that information pertaining to residential and vehicular burglaries are being properly disseminated.

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

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

A. Investigative Staff: 2 Detectives & 1 Agent (Coordinator & 2 Assistants)

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 come and making sure they are assigned to the appropriate personnel. The coordinator is also responsible for sending out STOPit broadcasts, either to notify users of important information or to request assistance or information on active investigations.

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

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

IV. Number of STOPit reports in 2021: 116 STOPit reports

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CRIME STOPPERS OF SOMERSET COUNTY

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

I. Purpose:

Crime Stoppers of Somerset County, Inc. is a New Jersey 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and it is funded entirely by tax-deductible donations from the private and corporate sectors. As a community-based program, it brings the public, the media and the police together in a cooperative effort to help prevent and solve crimes, as well as helping law enforcement apprehend fugitives from justice. This is accomplished by offering cash rewards and anonymity to persons who furnish information leading to the arrest and conviction of a criminal offender. The program encourages individuals with knowledge of a crime or whereabouts of a fugitive to call a toll-free (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 2021

There were 22 tips received for the year of 2021. The following is a breakdown of all of the tips received:

- Major Crimes: 2
- Narcotics: 4
- Special Investigations: 1
- Sex Crimes: 15

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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 4 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
	4 Detectives

III. Investigations, activities and accomplishments for 2021:

I.C.A.C. Referrals/Investigations	117
Investigations of distribution of child pornography	117
Investigations of possession of child pornography	117
Investigations of enticing/obscenity to a minor	4
Arrest for above offenses	10
D.V.R. Extractions (including video analysis and editing)	10
Computer Forensic Examinations/Previews	20
Cellular Forensic phone examinations	135

IV. Accomplishments of the Unit during 2021:

- A.** In February of 2021, the CCU received a Cybertip from the New Jersey I.C.A.C. Task Force which indicated a 14-year-old female had met with a 22-year-old male from California and reported to have had sexual intercourse. After a joint investigation with the Sex Crimes and Child Abuse Unit it was determined the 22-year-old male had met the 14-year-old victim online. After travelling to New Jersey to meet with the victim, the 22-year-old defendant was arrested for sexual assault of a minor.

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- B.** In August of 2021, the Major Crimes Unit investigated a double homicide that occurred in the Borough of North Plainfield. As part of that investigation numerous electronic devices were recovered and turned over to the Computer Crimes Unit for examination. That examination led to several messages between suspects in reference to the homicide. The information found on the devices was an integral part of the investigation which eventually led to a successful arrest.
- C.** In December of 2021, the CCU and the New Jersey State Police I.C.A.C. Task Force conducted Operation Silent Night. The operation consisted of undercover I.C.A.C. Detectives posing as underage children online. The operation led to 4 arrests of adults who travelled to a pre-arranged location where they believed they would be meeting with children to engage in sexual activity.

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 6 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 2021 for C.A.R.T.

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

B. Investigated 44 motor vehicle cases involving 29 deaths:

- 25 fatalities in 25 fatal crashes
- 2 crashes resulted in driver deaths by natural causes
- 2 crashes resulted in driver deaths by suicide
- 1 crash involving unsuccessful suicide attempt
- 15 serious bodily injury crashes
- 4 cases reviewed for criminal charges as requested by Municipal Courts
- Assisted State Police with 8 fatal and/or serious injury crashes
- Assisted/consulted on 7 out-of-county investigations
- 3 investigations resulted in indictable charges
- 6 crashes involved alcohol/drugs as contributing circumstances with many 2021 autopsy results still outstanding

V. Significant Cases of 2021

State v. Thomas E. Kantor

Assault by Auto

Raritan Borough – 04/05/2021 at 10:25pm

Status – Pending Trial

Defendant was driving well in excess of the speed limit and struck the rear of a stopped vehicle causing serious bodily injury to an occupant. Defendant arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated resulting in both motor vehicle and criminal charges.

State v. in the Interest of C.C. (Juvenile)

Vehicular Homicide

Branchburg Township – 10/8/2021 at 8:21pm

Status – Pending Sentencing

Defendant was driving recklessly at extremely high speeds in a residential, 25mph speed zone, when the driver lost control of his vehicle striking three solid, unyielding objects and ejecting the right front passenger causing his death.

State v. Tierra Gourdine

Aggravated Assault with Motor Vehicle (multiple counts)

Hillsborough Township – 12/10/2021 at 1:22pm

Status – Pending Trial

In an unsuccessful suicide attempt, defendant purposefully crossed the centerline of a bi-directional roadway and intentionally drove head-on into an approaching vehicle causing serious bodily injury to both occupants.

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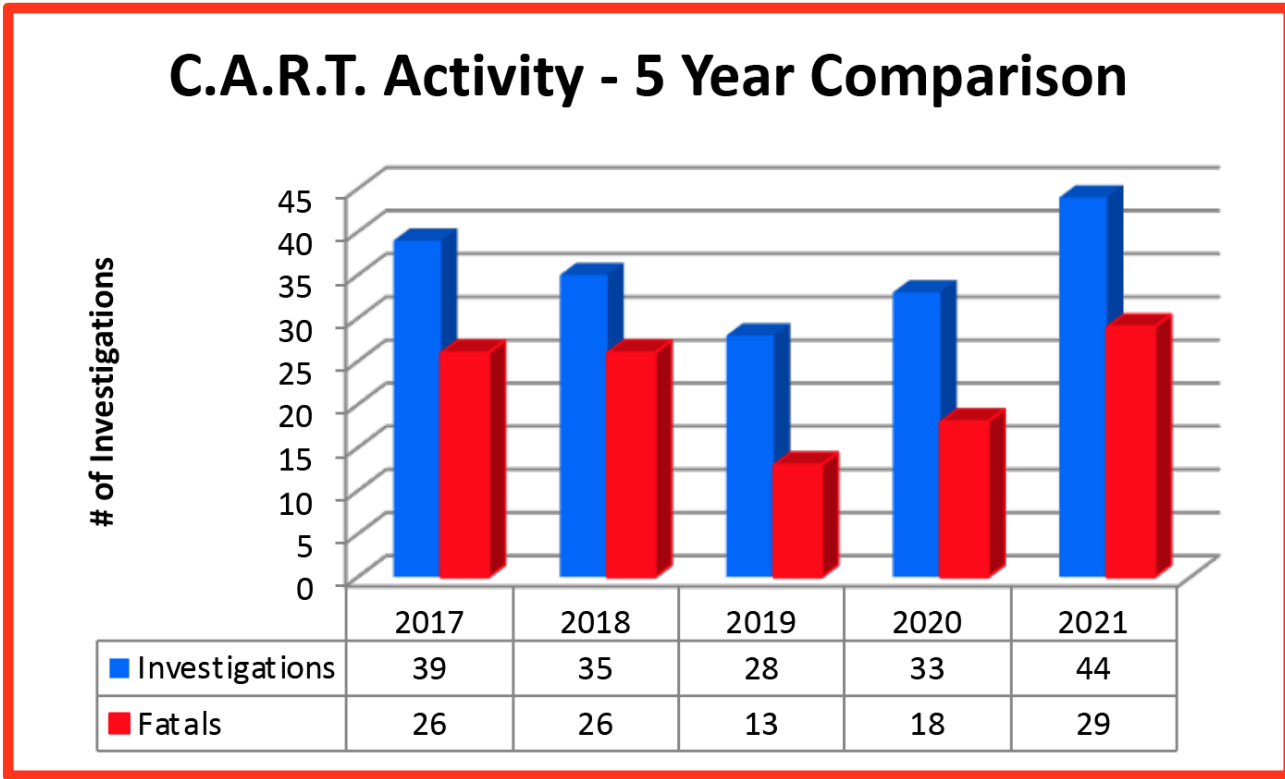
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VI. Totals since the inception of the Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team in 1999:

- 826 cases investigated
- 468 fatalities
- 98 crashes that warranted criminal charges
- 103 cases involving assists to other out-of-county agencies

NOTE – C.A.R.T. investigations increased dramatically since 2019. Cases increased by 33% over 2020 and 57% over 2019. Total vehicle deaths also increased by 61% over 2020 and 123% over 2019.

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.

Summary:

There were 44 motor vehicle collisions this year which required either on-scene or supplemental investigations. There were 25 crashes resulting in 25 fatalities. Additionally, 2 drivers died of natural causes and 2 other drivers died due to intentional life-ending actions. Each of those fatal crashes received extensive and thorough investigations commensurate with the loss of a human life.

The presence of alcohol and/or drugs was found to be a factor in 6 of the 44 crashes, however some toxicological reports are still outstanding from the N.J. Regional Medical Examiner’s Office for 2021.

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.

The FIU was awarded Fire Investigation Unit of the Year Award in March 2020 by the International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI) New Jersey Chapter.

II. Number of personnel assigned to section or unit

A. Legal Staff: **3 Assistant Prosecutors**

B. Personnel Assigned to Unit: **1 Task Force Commander**
Team Members comprised of:
 7 Prosecutor’s Office Personnel
 8 Municipal Police Officers
 14 Municipal Fire Officials
 3 State Fire Marshals
 3 ATF Special Agents
 4 Fire Service Personnel
 2 Arson K-9

III. Duties and responsibilities of section or unit personnel:

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

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- Special Investigations Unit
- Insurance Fraud Unit
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- Somerset County Emergency Response Teams

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- Fugitive Unit
- Crime Scene Investigation Unit (CSIU)
- 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 (FIU)**
- Counter-Terrorism Unit

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IV. Fire Investigations:**Fire Investigations conducted: 7****Types of structures involved:**

Multi-Family	2
Single family	3
Motor vehicle	2
Commercial	1
Religious	0

V. Type of fire investigations conducted in 2021:**Intentional use of incendiary 2****Combustibles too close to heat source 3**

Fatal	1
Undetermined	2

VI. Notable Cases:

- On Friday, October 22, 2021, at approximately 7:15 pm a fire was reported by business owner, Robert Pouliot, to his place of business, Somerset Springs and Chassis located at 586 Central Avenue, Building 3, Bridgewater, N.J. Mr. Pouliot reported that the fire was confined to an upstairs office area. Based on the fire patterns, damage, and fire debris, the area of origin was determined to be in a cardboard box located on a metal shelving unit. The box contained the financial documents of the business. After review of statements, photographs, fire damage, and video surveillance it was determined that the fire was incendiary. Mr. Pouliot was subsequently charged and is awaiting trial.
- On Saturday, November 2021, a fire was reported by a neighbor of 31 Cooper Avenue in Franklin Township, N.J. It was reported that the attached garage was on fire. It was also reported that just prior to the fire Ms. Yvette Bedeau had a verbal altercation with her boyfriend, Mr. Khalil Siddiq. Based on the fire patterns, damage, and fire debris, the area of origin was determined to be inside of the garage, in a pile of shoes and clothing. Only one person had access to the garage at the time of the fire and witnesses saw Mr. Siddiq by the garage. After review of statements, photographs, and fire damage, it was determined that the fire was incendiary. Mr. Siddiq was subsequently charged and is awaiting trial.

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:** 1 Lieutenant
2 Detectives
1 Task Force Investigator
- C. Support Staff:** 1 Criminal Analyst

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. Criminal Analyst:**
Shares clerical and data entry responsibilities.

IV. Accomplishments of 2021:

In 2021, the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Counter-Terrorism Unit participated in 42 incidents where suspicious activities were reported. The Counter-Terrorism Unit participated in numerous interviews of suspicious individuals, performed surveillance of residences and vehicles, and spoke to several citizens who observed peculiar activity. All information gleaned as a result of these investigations was forwarded to OHSP and JTTF for review. The Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, working jointly with municipal police departments, OHSP and JTTF, subsequently confirmed or dispelled all suspicious activities.

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V. The Counter-Terrorism Unit investigated the following types of cases in 2021:

- An unidentified male was attempting to illicit information from a church in Warren, N.J.
- Identified male emailed several threats of violence against law enforcement in Hillsborough Township, N.J.
- Resident reported their Australian passport to be stolen in Montgomery Township, N.J.
- Two identified individuals breached security and gained access to the rooftop of the Bridgewater Commons Mall in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An unidentified individual sent a letter to the Trump National Golf Course threatening property damage in Bedminster Township, N.J.
- An identified male in Bound Brook, N.J. left a threatening voicemail at the office of a United States Congressman.
- N.J. State Police received a suspicious letter making references to Anthrax attacks and wished the N.J. State Police a Merry Christmas (no specific threat was noted) in Somerville, N.J.
- An identified male threatened a police officer via a departmental email account in Montgomery Township, N.J.
- An identified male threatened gun violence against a prior employer in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An identified male threatened gun violence against a coworker at a retail store in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An identified male contacted employees of a quarry and attempted to illicit information about explosives and weapons in Somerset, N.J.
- An identified juvenile eluded police officers and was found to be in possession of a large amount of U.S. currency and several fraudulent drivers licenses in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An identified juvenile advised a school security officer that he planned on bringing a firearm to school and threatened harm to another student in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An unidentified male was observed taking photographs of a school and children playing on the playground in Branchburg Township, N.J.
- Reported aviation/drone activity above the PSE&G Data Center in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An identified juvenile threatened violence against students at a school in Hillsborough Township, N.J.
- Animal body parts (cow tongues) were nailed to trees affixed with a paper detailing recent homicide information in a park located within Somerset, N.J.
- A resident reported a lost/stolen Malaysian issued identification for international travel.
- An identified male contacted Somerset County Superior Court and threatened to cause an explosion over his dissatisfaction with a criminal court case.
- An identified male called the Somerset County Superior Court and threatened an active shooter incident.
- An identified male threatened physical harm to personnel at the Social Security Administration office in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An identified juvenile threatened gun violence and mentioned they would burn down a school in Hillsborough Township, N.J.
- An identified male threatened violence against an auto parts store worker when he was refused a cash refund.
- Reported aviation/drone activity above the PSE&G storage facility in Somerset, N.J.
- An identified male contacted a school in Bedminster and stated that he was going to cause harm to everybody but decided to file a lawsuit instead.
- An unknown male called the North Plainfield Police and threatened that he was going to shoot his daughter. The police made contact with the residents and discovered that this was a "Swatting" incident.
- An identified male attempted to breach security at the Thermo Fischer Scientific facility in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- Reported aviation/drone activity above the N.J. Transit Rail Yard in Raritan, N.J.
- An unidentified male emailed the Hillsborough Township Police chief and stated that he intended to cause harm to children at the local parks. The unidentified male mistakenly contacted Hillsborough Township New Jersey instead of his intended target, Hillsborough, California.
- An identified student posted a school bomb threat on Twitter in Hillsborough Township, N.J.
- An identified male threatened to perform a mass shooting at Lehigh University (PA) and also made threats towards his sister, who resides in Bridgewater Township, N.J.

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- An identified juvenile made statements during a psychiatric evaluation that they had thoughts of stabbing other students and the school resource officer in Bernardsville, N.J.
- Reported aviation/drone activity in airspace above Hillsborough Township, N.J. American Airlines commercial aircrafts were struck by a yellow laser beam.
- An identified juvenile advised another student that they were going to bring an AK-47 to school in Hillsborough Township, N.J.
- Four unidentified males made 110 transactions of diesel fuel utilizing 70 different credit cards in Hillsborough Township, N.J. All four males were traveling in pickup trucks with Texas license plates.
- An unidentified male sent Snapchat messages to multiple students in regards to a bomb threat at the high school in Hillsborough Township, N.J.
- An unidentified woman contacted the volunteer fire department and stated that she ordered an "airstrike" on the Johnson & Johnson facility in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- Reported aviation/drone activity in airspace over Watchung, N.J. A United Airlines commercial carrier was struck by a green laser beam.
- An identified juvenile was reportedly writing notes about gun violence and causing harm to other students in Somerset, N.J.
- An identified juvenile was found with a knife in his pocket and other students had seen this student with the knife on previous occasions at a Hillsborough Township school.
- An unidentified individual posted a Snapchat post threatening gun violence at the high school in Bridgewater Township, N.J.
- An unidentified male breached security and accessed various areas of the high school utilizing a employee keycard in Bridgewater Township, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

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

- A. Division Head:** 1 Administrator
1 Office Manager
- B. Support Staff:** 49 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 Responsibilities of the Division:

- Management of the clerical, secretarial and support staff in addition to computer systems management. In 2021, 2,084 criminal warrants/summons 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;
- Assists with policies and directives development;
- Data entry;
- Purchasing, 1,451 purchase orders were processed for the year;
- Budgeting, development and administration of a \$14.3 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 2021, despite the pandemic. We purchased or received several new InfoShare modules, the Child Advocacy Center, Megan's Law, and the Forfeiture modules. All three were installed and are operational. We completed construction on the new Child Advocacy Center (CAC) and moved our staff in. Lastly, we remodeled two conference rooms on the second floor that had not been updated in over twenty years. Unfortunately, Our Bring Your Child to Work Day in 2021 was cancelled again due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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As we do each year, we continued a program of upgrading our office computers, cell phones, office furniture, office equipment, photocopiers, and fax machines, to include new InfoShare servers. All nineteen police agencies in Somerset County continue to be connected to our Evidence, Lab, Intelligence, Forfeiture and Adult CJP Screening modules through a secured VPN.

Government Emergency Telecommunications (GETS) and Wireless Priority Service (WPS) continues to be installed on the cell phones of key SCPO 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. Bring Your Child to Work Day

Due to Covid-19, Bring Your Child to Work Day was canceled.

B. Community Events

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown much of the community outreach was cancelled or suspended.

POLICE ACADEMY

I. Purpose:

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

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

- A. Legal Staff:** **1 Assistant Prosecutor (On-Call)**
Others as needed
- B. Academy Director:** **1 Academy Director (Civilian)**
- C. Assigned Staff:** **1 Detective Lieutenant**

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:**
Sworn personnel facilitate the scheduling of in-service law enforcement courses.

IV. Accomplishments:

In 2021 the New Jersey Attorney Generals Office mandated 20 hours training for all officers in the State. The Academy Staff provided this in-person training to all 700+ law enforcement officers in the County.

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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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- DEFENDANT APPLICATIONS FOR DIVERSION PROGRAM
- PRE-INDICTMENT DEFENDANT CASES
- DEFENDANTS COMPLETING THE GRAND JURY PROCESS AND ACTION TAKEN
- DEFENDANTS PENDING DISPOSITION BY AGE OF INDICTMENT OR ACCUSATION
- INDICTMENTS/ACCUSATIONS DISPOSED
- POST-CONVICTION ACTIVITIES AND MISCELLANEOUS COURT ACTIVITIES
- CAREER CRIMINAL DISPOSITION
- INVESTIGATIVE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS
- DISPOSITIONS OF ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS
- APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS (LAW DIVISION)
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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	23	38
c. Defendants accepted for pre-trial diversion	0	86
d. Defendants otherwise screened out	216	19
e. Defendants with change of venue	0	5
f. Accusations filed	0	191
g. Defendants with either indictable complaints authorized or charges approved for grand jury	0	258
h. AOC Correction: Defendants who completed grand jury	0	395
TOTAL SCREENING DECISIONS FOR YEAR (add a - h)	239	1,055

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	85	69
2. Recommended for acceptance	82	62
3. Recommended for rejection	8	17
4. Accepted into program	86	63

**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	56	0/0
2. 1+ to 2 months	56	0/0
3. 2+ to 3 months	39	0/1
4. 3+ to 4 months	32	0/1
5. Over 4 months	71	0/2
6. TOTAL defendant cases pending grand jury	254	0/4

DEFENDANTS COMPLETING THE GRAND JURY PROCESS AND ACTION TAKEN

ACTION TAKEN	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
1. Defendants presented to the grand jury	827
2. Defendants indicted	818
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	827

DEFENDANTS CHARGED BY ACCUSATION

	NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS
TOTAL Defendants charged through Accusation	191

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	102	0/27
2. 3+ to 6 months	119	0/45
3. 6+ to 9 months	106	0/39
4. 9+ to 12 months	69	0/40
5. 12+ to 24 months	40	0/24
6. 24+ months	75	2/410
7. TOTAL post-indictment/accusation defendant cases pending	511	2/585

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	3	11	12	8	11	26	34	0	141	0	3
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	2	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	12	0	0
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. persons offense	1	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	9	0	0
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense											
a. Jury	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5. Guilty at trial, lesser indictable offense											
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6. Guilty at trial, dis. persons offense											
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Not guilty at trial											
a. Jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
b. Non-jury	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
8. Acceptance into diversion program	0	1	2	0	5	9	6	0	37	0	3
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Dismissed pros. motion or consent	0	2	0	0	1	2	1	0	28	0	0
11. TOTAL dispositions	9	17	15	10	18	43	42	0	227	0	6

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	58	5	15	3	0	0	21	3	13	367
2. Guilty plea to lesser indictable offense	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	28
3. Ind. dism., plea to dis. persons offense	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
4. Guilty at trial, most serious offense										
a. Jury	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	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	0
b. Non-jury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
8. Acceptance into diversion program	21	16	15	7	0	0	6	0	3	131
9. Dismissed over objection of pros.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10. Dismissed pros. motion or consent	1	1	8	0	0	0	1	0	2	47
11. TOTAL dispositions	84	24	39	11	0	0	31	3	19	598

**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	19
2. TOTAL post-conviction relief applications/briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	9
a. Defendants granted relief	0
b. Defendants denied relief	7
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	1
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	0
3. TOTAL habeas corpus petitions/briefs filed involving the prosecutor's office	2
a. Defendants granted relief	0
b. Defendants denied relief	0
c. Defendants granted relief in part/Denied relief in part	0
d. Defendants dismissed/Withdrawn	0

CAREER CRIMINAL WORKLOAD AND GRAND JURY ACTION

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

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

Completing report

Year 2021

Section IV. 7.a

From: 1/1/2021 To: 12/31/2021

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	253	19	9	30	168	479	4
2. Investigations opened during the year	746	67	6	45	593	1457	14
3. TOTAL Investigative workload for the year (add nos. 1-2)	999	86	15	75	761	1936	18
4. TOTAL Investigations completed during this year	771	61	5	56	556	1449	12
a. Resulting in criminal charges	20	0	0	6	48	74	12
b. Referred to other agency for criminal prosecution	24	2	2	4	16	48	0
c. Referred to other agency for civil or administrative action	0	0	0	0	3	3	0
d. Closed - No further action	727	59	3	46	489	1324	0
5. Investigations pending or inactive at the end of the year	228	25	10	19	205	487	6

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	201
a. Defendants with complaints administratively dismissed	6
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	60
2. Defendants with original charges presented to grand jury on direct presentment	4
3. Defendants charged through accusation	17
4. Defendants completing grand jury process on direct presentment and complaint presentation, TOTAL	65
a. Defendants indicted	64
b. Defendants no billed and remanded to municipal court	0
c. Defendants no billed/no action	1

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS Appellate Division and Other Appellate Courts

APPELLATE WORKLOAD AND DISPOSITIONS/OUTCOMES	Appellate Division Appeals							NJ Supreme Court Appeals	U.S. and Other Court Appeals (specify court)	TOTAL
	Criminal referral cases	Other criminal appeals	Criminal Inter-locutory	Juvenile	Law Division (de novo)	Civil				
1. Appeals pending at beginning of the year	22	0	2	0	1	0	0	6	4	35
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	13	0	5	0	2	0	0	14	3	37
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	8	0	1	0	0	14	0	23
4. Appellate briefs filed	10	0	10	0	2	0	0	2	3	27
5. STATE Appeals and - TOTAL DISPOSED Cross Appeals	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	1	0	5
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	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	0
6. DEFENSE Appeals - TOTAL DISPOSED	13	0	1	0	2	0	0	13	4	33
a. Conviction or order affirmed	10	0	1	0	2	0	0	13	4	30
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
e. Affirmed in part/Reversed and or remanded in part	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
7. Appeals pending at the end of the year	22	0	3	0	0	0	0	5	3	33

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	4	0	0		4
2. Notices of appeal received/filed	0	1	9	0	0		10
3. Appellate motions, motion responses filed	0	0	0	0	0		0
4. Appellate briefs filed	0	1	9	0	0		10
5. TOTAL APPEALS DISPOSED	0	0	13	0	0		13
a. Conviction or order affirmed	0	0	5	0	0		5
b. Conviction or order reversed	0	0	4	0	0		4
c. Remanded or judgment modified	0	0	3	0	0		3
d. Withdrawn or dismissed	0	0	1	0	0		1
6. Appeals pending at the end of the year	0	1	0	0	0		1

Section/Unit _____
(completing report)

County: Somerset

Section IV. 9.a.

Year...: 2021

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY INTAKE

Filings/New Cases	Number of Juveniles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
1. Total New Filings During the Calendar Year	78	100	184
VOP Filings			
2. Total Violations of Probation During the Calendar Year	5	6	6
Returned to Court			
3a. Cases Reactivated	8	15	34
3b. Cases Reopened	7	12	32
3c. Cases Successfully Appealed	0	0	0
3. Total Cases Returned to Court	15	27	66
Transfers			
4a. Entering this county	16	20	47
4b. Leaving this county	26	31	45
4. (Net Change)	-10	-11	2

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 _____
 (completing report)

County: Somerset

Section IV. 9.b.

Year.: 2021

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DISPOSED CASES

	Number of Juvenciles	Number of Cases	Number of Offenses
Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn			
1. Total Dismissed/Consolidated/Withdrawn during Calendar Year	298	305	438
Diverted Cases			
2. Total Diversions during Calendar Year	25	25	47
Inactivated Cases			
3a. VOP Cases Inactivated	4	5	5
3b. Non-VOP Cases Inactivated	12	20	40
3. Total Inactivations during Calendar Year	16	25	45
Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)			
4a. Adjudicated Delinquent	0	0	0
4b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
4c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
4d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	4	4	16
4. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Mandatory Calendar)	4	4	16
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	24	40	84
6b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
6c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
6d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	3	8	15
6. Total Non-VOP Decisions (Juvenile Referee)	27	48	99
VOP Decisions (1:1)			
	Mandatory Calendar	Non-Mandatory Calendar	Juvenile Referee
7a. Adjudicated Delinquent	0	0	7
7b. Adjudicated Not Delinquent	0	0	0
7c. Not Adjudicated Dismissed	0	0	0
7d. Case Returned/Post Adjudication Decision	0	0	0
7. Total VOP Decisions	0	0	7

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

Revised for 2021 data

JUVENILE WAIVER DECISIONS

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

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VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES

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

VICTIM/WITNESS NOTIFICATION SERVICES

NOTIFICATION SERVICES	NOTIFICATION PROVIDED TO					
	VICTIMS		Lay WITNESSES		Law Enforcement Complainant	
	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Pre-Grand Jury Remand/ Decline /Family Court	X					
Disposed of Charges Not Guilty	X		X		X	
Dispose of Charges Guilty To Be Sentenced	X		X		X	
Sentence Date	X		X		X	
Sentence Imposed- Parole Input	X					
Sentence Imposed	X		X		X	
Mistrial/Dismissal	X				X	
Mistrial	X		X		X	
Plea to Charges/To Be Sentenced	X		X		X	
Plea and sentenced	X		X		X	
Community Release	X					
Parole Denial	X					
Parole Eligibility	X					
Max Release (Sentence Expiration)	X					
Release on Parole	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	X					
Juvenile- Initial Contact	X					
Juvenile- Disposition of Case	X					
Juvenile Transfer Out	X					
Fugitive Arrest	X					
Condolence Letters	X					
VINE	X					
Administrative Hold	X					
Release to ISP	X					
Applied to Drug Court	X					
CAR Team	X					
Total Notifications for 2021	18,464					

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) Virtual Court Access	X	X		
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	1,218	
3. TOTAL number of forfeiture actions	24	
4. Number of motor vehicles obtained through forfeiture actions	6	
5. TOTAL value of property forfeited (add a. - c.)		\$315,575.47
a. Cash forfeited		\$263,327.47
b. Value of forfeited motor vehicles		\$52,248.00
c. Value of other forfeited property		0
(Specify property)		

ADULT DEFENDANTS WITH BIAS CRIME RELATED CHARGES DISPOSED

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

JUVENILE DEFENDANTS WITH BIAS CRIME RELATED CHARGES DISPOSED

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

POLICE PURSUIT SUMMARY REPORT

Agency Somerset County – All Agencies	County Somerset
Reporting Period: January 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	
Person completing report: Capt. Justin Berger	Date completed: 1/29/2022
Phone number: 908-575-3383	

1. Number of pursuits initiated	48
2. Number of pursuits resulting in accidents	6
3. Number of pursuits resulting in injuries (NO DEATHS)	0
4. Number of pursuits resulting in death	1
5. Number of pursuits resulting in arrest	12
6. Number of vehicles in accidents	4
a. Pursued vehicles	3
b. Police vehicles	1
c. Third party vehicles	0
7. Number of people injured	0
a. Pursued vehicles	0
b. Police vehicles	0
c. Third party vehicles	0
d. Pedestrians	0
8. Number of people killed	
a. Pursued vehicles	1
b. Police vehicles	0
c. Third party vehicles	0
d. Pedestrians	0
9. Number of people arrested	13
10. Number of pursuits in which a tire deflation device was used	0

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)	2020	13,937,205	1,720,270
a. Salaries and Wages		12,588,629	420,294
b. Other Expenses		1,348,576	1,299,976
2. TOTAL Budgeted Appropriations, current report year (include all County, State and Federal funding)	2021	14,418,813	1,610,407
a. Salaries and Wages		13,290,004	619,011
b. Other Expenses		1,128,809	991,396

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