

MIAMI TOWNSHIP



MONTGOMERY COUNTY

# ANNUAL REPORT



# Community First



2021



# Year End Report



Thank you for taking the time to read the Miami Township Police Department 2021 Annual Report. I am honored to lead this agency because of the professional team of personnel who make up its ranks. As you review these pages, keep in mind the theme we picked for 2021, Community First. You will notice the accomplishments of the agency all focus on strengthening our relationship with the community we serve.

2021, challenged the police department with several big projects to complete. We switched emergency police dispatch service from the Montgomery County Regional Dispatch Center to the City of Kettering Dispatch Center. This provided better police response to our residents at a lower cost. The police department purchased and implemented body worn cameras for all police officers. The body cameras provided more public transparency in the daily operations of the police department. Finally, the police department was granted our re-accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). This is the national Gold Standard in Public Safety.

2021 allowed the police department to continue my vision of implementing more technology into the department and enhance my mantra of "working smarter and not harder." We implemented the Flock camera system and placed these cameras at the major entrances and exits of Miami Township and in our business district. These cameras help detect and prevent criminal activity making Miami Township a safer place to be. We purchased portable speed measuring devices, which are being deployed throughout the township to help with traffic calming in the residential neighborhoods.

2021 also allowed the police department to welcome back our community outreach programs, which were all placed on hold in 2020. The coveted Miami Township Police Department's National Night Out program placed 3rd in the nation, while other community events such as Safe Senior Program, Bowling with the Police, Shop with a Hero, Trunk or Treat, and the annual Christmas Tree lighting at Austin Landing all returned in 2021.

As we head into 2022, the Miami Township Police Department is committed to the Servant Leadership principals I preach and place the safety and needs of our community as our primary goal. Being a police officer is challenging in today's environment, however being a police officer is still one of the most noble professions there is. I am honored to be the Chief of Police for the Miami Township Police Department and I am proud of the men and women who serve this great organization.

**Charlie Stieglmeyer, Chief of Police**

# Contents

Year End Report	1
Mission and Core Values	2
Challenges & Opportunities	3
Department Organization	4
Operations	5
Patrol Sergeants	6
Professional Standards	7
Detective Section	8
Crime Stats	9
CALEA Accreditation	10
School Resource Officers	11
Grants and Kettering Public Safety	12
Community Outreach	13
Technology Implementation	15
Employee Updates 2021	16
Board of Trustees	17
Awards Banquet	18

## Mission Statement

The members of the Miami Township Police Department are committed to excellence in law enforcement and are dedicated to the residents, businesses, and visitors to our community. In order to protect life and property, prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime, we will provide service with understanding, response with compassion, performance with integrity, and law enforcement with professionalism.

## Core Values

### *Professionalism*

We are proud of our profession and will ensure that our conduct and demeanor display the highest standard of personal and organizational excellence.

### *Integrity*

We are guided by the fundamental concept of applying fairness in everything we do.

### *Excellence*

We are dedicated to doing every task the right way at the right time.

### *Honor*

We always act with the highest integrity; always honest and truthful.

### *Dedication*

We are empowered to unwavering service to the community through humble service.

### *Service*

We recognize that customer service is our highest priority.

### *Courage*

We recognize that "Courage is not the absence of fear, but the mastery of it".



# Challenges & Opportunities



The focus of 2021 was improving the way we provide law enforcement services to the community with an emphasis on using technology to enhance the safety for both our citizens and personnel. In order to accomplish this goal, we identified a number of important projects we deemed necessary to keep the department progressive into the future.

While our overall goal was progressive use of technology to best serve the community, there were lingering impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic which required our attention. Since the pandemic, and other societal issues, hiring and recruiting efforts had been negatively impacted. Finding qualified law enforcement candidates has become challenging with departments competing for applicants. In 2021 we had many shifts in personnel as some employees moved to opportunities in other agencies, and new officers joined our ranks. We will continue recruitment efforts into 2022 because hiring and retaining professional staff is crucial to our continued success.

enter Miami Township. This crime fighting tool allows officers accessing the system to track criminal activity through movement of vehicles between access points. The value of the FLOCK system became evident immediately as several stolen vehicles were located and a bank robber's location was revealed and resulted in arrest. Body Worn Cameras have become a crucial tool in law enforcement to allow transparency in activity and public interactions. Body Cameras were implemented in July 2021 and have resulted in providing valuable evidence in several criminal cases.

John Magill, Assistant Chief

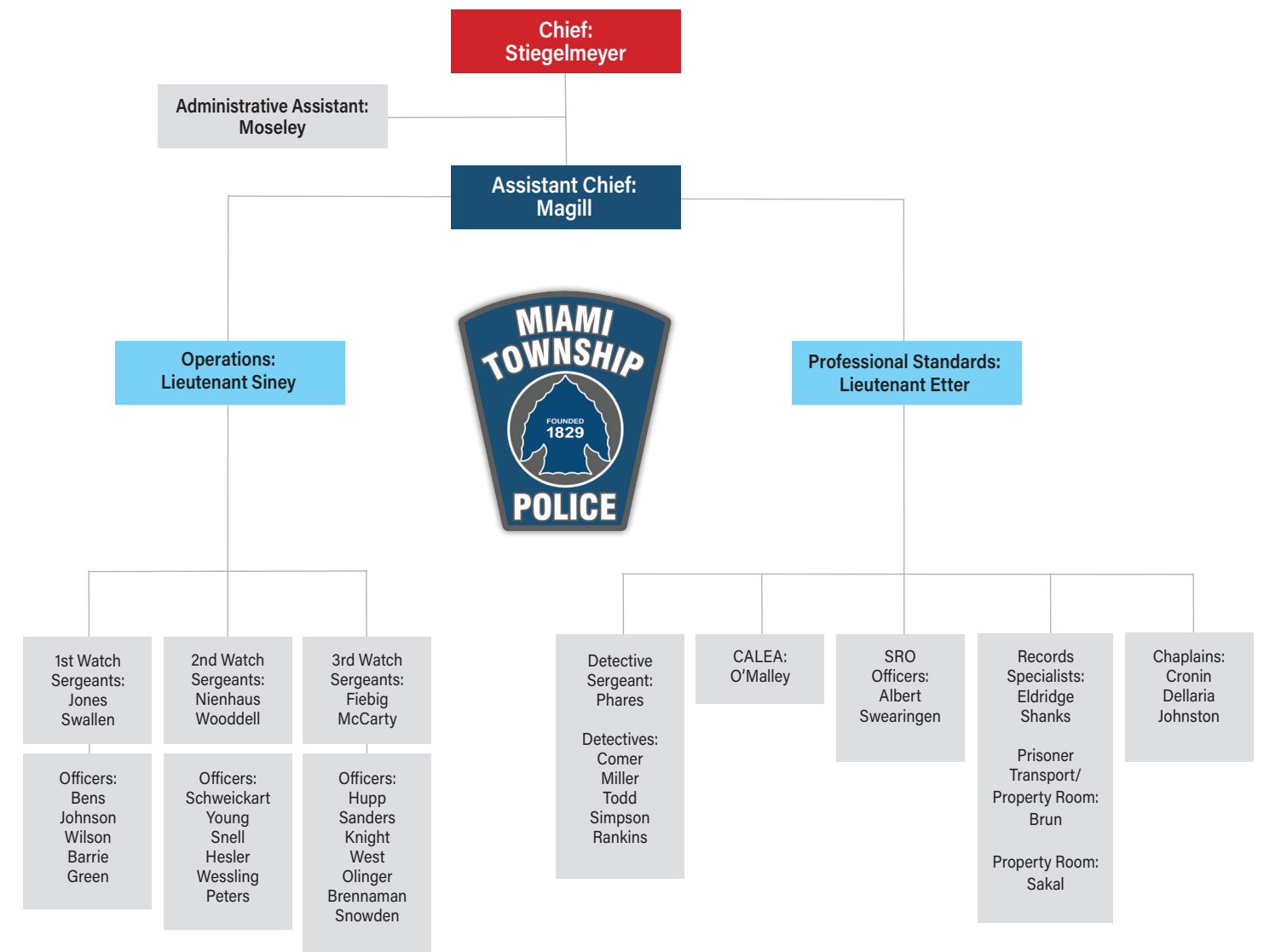
## Executive Administrative Assistant



Susie Moseley started her career with the Miami Township Police Department in March, 2005 doing a variety of tasks in the Records Section. Susie was greatly instrumental in implementing the Ohio Incident Based Reporting System (OIBRS) in the department.

She also helped facilitate the switch to the Motorola Report Management System in the department in 2017. In 2018, Susie was promoted to Executive Administrative Assistant where she assists Chief Charlie Stiegelmeier and Assistant Chief John Magill. Susie's duties consist of paying invoices for the Police Department and payroll. She also assists in a variety of different responsibilities throughout the year. In October 2019, Susie was awarded the Chief's Award of Excellence for her dedication and service to the Miami Township Police Department.

# Department Organization



Servant Leadership Award

Chief Stiegelmeier





# Operations



Lieutenant Mike Siney started his career at MTPD in April of 2007. He worked in the patrol division until 2012 when he moved to the detective section until 2015 when he was promoted to sergeant. In 2019 he was placed in charge of the detective section serving as the Det. Sgt. In 2020 he was promoted to Lieutenant and is currently the Operations Lieutenant. Lt. Siney is a graduate of Columbia Southern University, Supervisor Training Education Program (STEP), Police Executive Leadership College (PELC) and a Certified Law Enforcement Executive (CLEE).

In my opinion the best way to display the Miami Township Police Department's commitment to the community is through the work completed by personnel assigned to the Operations Division. The Operations Division has the important distinction of having a daily impact on the community we serve. Personnel assigned to the Operations Division include 21 Road Patrol Officers responsible for patrolling Miami Township 24-hours a day seven days a week. These officers handle all calls for service and patrol our community with the obligation of deterring crime while offering assistance to those in need. There are six Road Patrol Sergeants responsible for the supervision of the Road Patrol crews as well as administrative obligations.

A definite highlight in 2021 was the promotion of Sergeant Eric Wooddell who worked his way to his new position by demonstrating professionalism and integrity during his time working as a Road Patrol officer. In addition to the promotion, we were pleased to welcome two new officers to the department. Officer Nick Peters and Officer Kurtis Green are fantastic additions to the department and it will certainly be interesting to watch their careers with the department.

With a community first mindset, the police department increased participation in several different initiatives which will help us continue provide professional services. Our drone program began with three drone pilots in the beginning of 2021, by the end of the year it grew to having five drone pilots focusing on a variety of solutions such as search and rescue, tracking and surveillance. The department was granted a Ohio Public Safety Traffic Grant of \$49,512.78 to pay for officers to participate in a variety of traffic safety blitzes in addition to selective traffic enforcement programs we can use to fight drunk driving, distracted driving and encourage seat belt usage.

I am proud of the 2021 accomplishments of the Operations Division focused on putting the community we serve in the forefront of everything we do.

# Patrol Sergeants



Sergeant Fiebig



Sergeant Jones



Sergeant McCarty



Sergeant Nienhaus



Sergeant Swallen



Sergeant Wooddell

Jones served four years in the United States Marine Corps as a Military Police Officer. Next he served with the Fairborn Police Department for five years. Sergeant Jones has served with the Miami Township Police Department as a patrol officer, detective, and now one of the sergeants for Road Patrol. He has attended the Supervisor's Training and Education Program and Public Safety Leadership Academy.

**Sergeant McCarthy** has been with Miami Township Police Department since 2017, and was promoted to sergeant in 2019. Having worked in Law Enforcement for 19 years, Sgt. McCarty started his career in Virginia Beach, VA before moving to the Miami Valley and eventually joining the Miami Township Police Department.

**Sergeant Nienhaus** joined the Department in 2000. Promoted to sergeant in 2005, he is currently the longest serving sergeant on the department and has been assigned to supervise Day, Evening, and Midnight Shifts as well as the now defunct Relief Shift. He attended the first ever STEP (Supervisor Training and Education Program) class in 2006. He was assigned to supervise the Investigations Section as Detective Sergeant from 2015-19. Currently assigned to Road Patrol as the Day Watch Road Supervisor.

**Sergeant Swallen** started his career in law enforcement in the Village of Batavia in 2005. In 2010 he joined the Miami Township Police Department. In 2014 he was assigned from Road Patrol to the Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force and was recognized as the Detective of the Year in 2015. In 2020 he was promoted to Sergeant.

**Sergeant Wooddell** has been with the Miami Township Police Department since 2011, and was promoted to sergeant in 2021. During his employment, Sergeant Wooddell has held the roles of Evidence Technician, EVOC Driving Instructor and Field Training Officer.

**Sergeant Fiebig** started her career in 2007. She became and Evidence Technician in 2009 and now oversees the Evidence program for the police department. She became a Field Training Officer 2015 and she currently oversees the training program for new officers. Promoted to Sergeant and has completed First Line Supervision training and the Supervision Training and Education Program (STEP).

**Sergeant Jones** has been with the Miami Township Police Department since 2009. Prior to Miami Township, Sergeant



# Professional Standards



Lieutenant Jason L. Etter came to Miami Township in 2000. He has served as a Road Patrol Officer, Detective, Patrol Sergeant, and Professional Standards Sergeant before his promotion to Professional Standards Lieutenant in July of 2020. In 2021, Lieutenant Etter graduated from the 145<sup>th</sup> Administrative Officers Course of the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville.

### The Professional Standards Division includes:

- Detective Sergeant
- Accreditation Manager
- Four Detectives
- Two Property Room Clerks
- Two Task Force Officers
- Two School Resource Officers
- Two Records Specialists

Community first is something the Professional Standards Division focuses on daily. Our role in the department is to provide support to the Operations Division and maintain the administrative files and support systems to keep the department running smoothly. In 2021, we were faced with several huge projects to prepare for the move to the Kettering Communications Center, to achieve reaccreditation with CALEA and doing a complete inventory of the Property Room with a software conversion. The Detective Section handled a heavy caseload that required complete dedication to solving crime and ensuring criminals are brought to justice in court. The School Resource Officers (SRO) focused time and effort in maintaining peace to allow students to learn and grow.

The Records Division, Betty Eldridge and Shelly Shanks, faced several challenges requiring them to continue day-to-day operations while learning new software and preparing for procedural changes. They were able to maintain a high level of professional service to the community and the court systems during the transition. The Property Room Clerks, Bob Sakal and John Brun, were faced with what must have seemed an insurmountable task of manually entering information for even

more than 4,000 pieces of property into the new software and replacing all of the barcode stickers. Their dedication and attention to detail made this monumental task a success.

On July 16, 2021, the Miami Township Police Department was recommended for reaccreditation after participating in a very successful Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) onsite in April 2021. The CALEA process is a voluntary program to ensure policy and procedures for the department meet the highest standards for reducing liability and strengthening officer safety to ensure professional service to the community.

In 2021, the Detective Section was required to maintain a heavy caseload, prepare cases for court, as well as anticipate how to prepare for the switch to the new report writing software. Sergeant Jay Phares is responsible for the section which consists of four detectives, and two task force officers.

The School Resource Officers focused on increasing safety for the students in the schools they serve in 2021. They were able to work with the school administration to implement the Run Hide Fight program, as well as the See Something Say Something program. The School Resource Officers relationship with the schools allowed them to conduct training and scenario drills for the staff and students.

# Detective Section



Sergeant Jay Phares has served the community through a variety of different positions. He began his career as an Auxiliary Patrol Officer, then Reserve Patrol Officer, Full-time Officer, Detective, Bike Patrol Officer, Evidence Technician, Senior Intoxilyzer Operator, Community Resource Officer, Staff Sergeant, Acting Chief of Police and is currently assigned as the Detective Sergeant. Sergeant Phares is a proud veteran of the Persian Gulf War where he served as a sergeant in the United States Army. In 2018, Sergeant Phares was the Miami Township Police Department Employee of the Year.

**Detective Todd Comer** started with Miami Township in 1989 as a Reserve Officer and in 1990 became a Road Officer. In 1993 Detective Comer went into the detective section and has been there ever since. In 2021, Detective Comer was awarded the Ohio Distinguished Law Enforcement Mark A. Losey Service Award from the office of the Ohio Attorney General.

**Detective Scott Miller** was promoted to the Detective Section in October 2019 and has served in the Miami Township Police Department since 2005. Detective Miller previously served in the U.S. Army and Ohio Army National Guard and retired from the Guard in 2015 with 25 years of service. His Military Service included four combat deployments to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Military awards include the Combat Action Badge, Army Commendation, and Army Achievement Medals. Detective Miller's commendations with the Miami Township Police Department include the Medal of Valor and Employee of the Year for 2020.

**Detective Crystal Rankins** started her law enforcement career in 2009 at Sinclair Community College. She was later hired by the Miami Township Police Department in 2014. During her career she has served as a patrol officer, bike patrol, evidence technician, field training officer, crisis intervention specialist and school resource officer. Now assigned to the detective section working with the Miami Valley Human Trafficking Task Force. Sworn as an Agent through Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission and as a TFO through Homeland Security.

**Detective Tyler Simpson** became apart of the Miami Township Police Department as a patrol officer in 2012. In 2019, he was assigned to the detective section. Detective Simpson currently is assigned to Miami Valley Bulk Smuggling Task Force, which also has me sworn as an Agent through Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission and sworn as a TFO through Homeland Security Investigations.

**Detective Shawn Todd** began his career with the Miami Township Police Department in 2009. Throughout his career, Detective Todd has placed great emphasis on training and developing new skills. He has acquired extensive training in the areas of technical traffic accident investigation, impaired driving enforcement, crime scene investigation, and criminal interdiction. He has earned certification as an advanced traffic accident reconstructionist, crash data retrieval analyst, evidence technician, drug recognition expert, senior Intoxilyzer operator, standardized field sobriety testing instructor, and emergency medical technician.

**Detective Dan Wessling** graduated the Police Academy in 2005, He started with the Department in 2014 and just completed over 5 years of being assigned to the Detective Section. Detective Wessling headed several investigations, most notably is the shooting that occurred at the Double Tree Hotel in 2019. Detective Wessling also sits on the board for the Montgomery County Law Enforcement Memorial. Our greatest achievement with the organization in 2021 is the commission of final plans to build a permanent memorial in Dayton next to the Masonic Temple.



### Detective Cases Adults

Drugs	21
Theft	149
Assault	24
Burglary	41
Auto Theft	38
Robbery	5
Checks/Fraud	55
Sex Offense	40
Weapons	25
Domestic Violence	19
Special Inv./Info	64
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>481</b>

### Detective Cases Juvenile

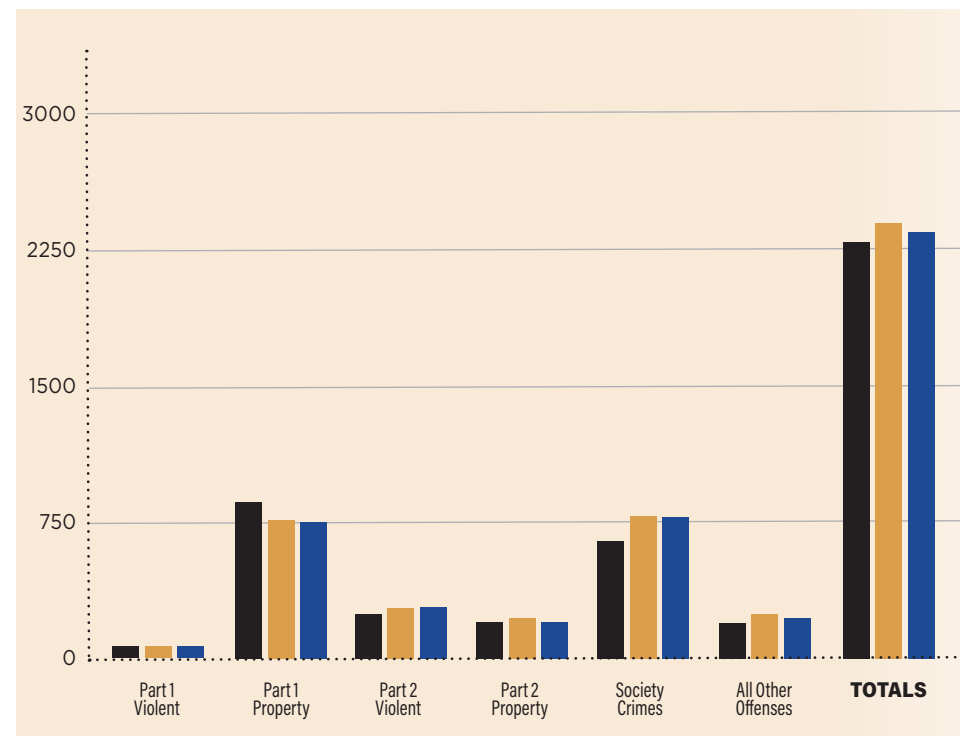
Drugs/Alcohol	7
Theft	9
Assault	7
Burglary	2
Auto Theft	0
Robbery	0
Checks/Fraud	0
Sex Offense	6
Vandalism/Crime Mis.	15
Domestic Violence	23
Unruly	56
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125</b>

### Detective Cases Cleared

Filings	172
Inactivated	481
Plea Deals/Conv.	35
Grand Jury	75
Diversion	11
Warrants Issued	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>794</b>

### Court Cases

Montgomery County Juvenile Court	73
Miamisburg Juvenile Satellite Court	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114</b>



### UCR Crimes

#### Miami Township

■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021

**Part 1 Violent Crimes**  
Include Murder, Robbery and Aggravated Assault

**Part 1 Property Crimes**  
Include Burglary, Shoplifting and other Thefts

**Part 2 Violent Crimes**  
Include Simple Assault and some sex offenses

**Part 2 Property Crimes**  
Include Fraud and Receiving Stolen Property

**Society Crimes**  
Include OVI, Drug Violations

# CALEA Accreditation



Leah O'Malley is the Accreditation Manager for the department and oversees the files containing policy and proofs of compliance required by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Leah also manages the requirements for certification through the State of Ohio Collaborative through Ohio Criminal Justice Services, as well as, manages the department cruiser and body camera video requests. October 2021, Chief Stiegelmeier awarded Leah a Meritorious Service medal for her work in the department.

The Miami Township Police Department (MTPD) is proud to be accredited by the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation (CALEA). Through this completely voluntary process the department subscribes to standards which represent the gold standard of law enforcement policy. Every year representatives from CALEA do a web-based assessment of the department's files to ensure compliance with CALEA standards and confirm policy is up to date with the most progressive trends in law enforcement. Every four years CALEA sends a team of assessors to do a complete audit of all policies and proof of compliance to the department. For the Miami Township Police Department this happened on April 12 and 13, 2021. Because of the pandemic, CALEA had to revise the traditional onsite model and switch to a Zoom platform. For the onsite, MTPD identified three areas of focus for the assessors to highlight initiatives in the department. The first was the work of the Community Resource Officer Drew Olinger and his work with the community through programs with youth and the Safe Senior Program. The second was Traffic Safety with a focus on projects created to improve officer safety on traffic stops such as the move over for flashing lights campaign. The third area of focus was the use of technology in the department including demonstrations of the drone, discussion of the impact of the Flock camera and preparations for the implementation of body cameras. The assessors spoke to employees of every area of the department including Records, Property Management, Detectives, Road Patrol and Administration. They evaluated all aspects of operation of the Miami Township Police Department.

The virtual onsite was a complete success with the assessors during the exit interview remarking about being impressed with MTPD employees' knowledge, professionalism, and passion about their responsibilities. The assessors also discussed the department's impact in the community. During the onsite they spoke to several members of the community including residents, business owners, and religious leaders. The assessors' opinion was that the department maintains a healthy relationship with the community. After the onsite was complete, the assessors were responsible to complete a comprehensive report and submit it to the CALEA Commission.

The reaccreditation process took place on Friday, July 16, 2021, when Chief Stiegelmeier, Assistant Chief Magill, and Accreditation Manager Leah O'Malley defended the onsite report by answering questions from the CALEA Commission Committee. After that meeting, the committee recommended unanimously to grant reaccreditation to the Miami Township Police Department.



The Miami Township Police Department also participates in the Ohio Law Enforcement Collaborative by not only adhering to the collaborative's standards but surpassing them.



# School Resource Officers

Both School Resource Officers, Swearingen and Alber, have aided in the implementation of Run Hide Fight and See Something Say Something programs in their schools. They have conducted training and education for the staff and students and conducted scenario drills as well.



Officer Swearingen took over as School Resource Officer for the Dayton Christian School in August of 2020. Joining the Miami Township Police Department in February of 2011, he spent his time assigned as a road patrol officer and served as an Evidence Technician, a

RADAR/LIDAR Instructor, a bike patrol officer, and a Field Training Officer.

Officer Swearingen is a middle school football coach. He works closely with staff to create a safe, healthy, positive environment in which students could thrive. This included the implementation of rules regarding entering the building, limiting visitors, and upgrading the camera system. He has also taught several classes to students. Through these efforts, he has developed a firm trust relationship with students and the staff.



Officer Alber began his career at Miami Township in November of 2005. He served a Certified Evidence Technician assigned to road patrol. He started his position as a School Resource Officer in July 2021. He is responsible for the Miamisburg City School System schools

located within Miami Township which are Jane Chance Elementary School, Maddux Lang Primary School, and Miamisburg Middle School. He attended a Certified School Resource Officer Course through the State of Ohio and has become a vital resource for the school district. He has worked closely with the district and school administrators to foster a positive learning environment. He conducts Internet Safety Classes/Presentations with students throughout the school year. He also assists the School District and Police Department in training the building staff on School Safety Issues.

Officer Alber has completed several Certified School Resource Officer Training Courses in his first year as the SRO and plans on attending more in the future.



# Grants

In 2021, the department received two grants to fund crime prevention programs. The Recovery Ohio Major Drug Interdiction Funding Grant for \$56,789.85 was a reimbursement grant to pay part of the salary for a Miami Township Police Department detective to participate in a task force which targets drug use in high crime areas. The Ohio Public Safety Traffic Grant is a reimbursement grant for \$49,512.78 which was used for officers to work overtime on traffic details targeting impaired drivers and for selective enforcement to focus on issues such as texting while driving, seatbelt usage and speed. Saving the taxpayers \$106,302.63.



# Kettering Public Safety Dispatch

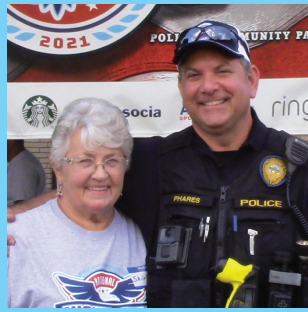
In March of 2021, we began preparations for moving to the Kettering Public Safety Dispatch Center for police dispatching with a goal of having the transfer complete on January 4, 2022. The decision to make the change was based on several factors: officer safety, professional service to the community and fiscal responsibility. The change of dispatching services is a complex issue which required coordination of Road Patrol, Records Specialists, Information Technology and Administration to work together to find all the aspects of the police department impacted by the change to a different communication center.

We had to consider how to get all law enforcement records currently stored in our old software to be accessible in the

new software including police reports, items stored in the property room and other historical data. We worked closely with Kettering Police Department Road Patrol, Dispatchers, Records and Administration and met weekly to discuss the best ways to make a smooth transition with the least amount of disruption to services. In addition to the new dispatching style, we also had to train all employees to use the new Flex Mobile software before the switch. The Flex Mobile software is user-friendly as it was designed by law enforcement. Software changes impact every aspect of operations of the department and having a streamlined package will be beneficial to the agency.



# Community Outreach



The Miami Township Police Department has a reputation in the Miami Valley for exceptional community outreach through a variety of programs we host throughout the year. In 2021 we were thrilled to be able to get back out in the community after being forced to cancel many public programs in 2020. Our National Night Out celebration has been recognized for excellence nationally for more than 20 years. Our goal is to engage with citizens of all ages in activities which are fun, educational and help to build police/community partnerships.



The pandemic forced us to cancel National Night Out in 2020, so we focused on making our 2021 celebration one to remember. The citizens of Miami Township supported our

businesses, non-profit organizations, and other law enforcement agencies. After National Night Out, the Miami Township Police Department submits a comprehensive written report, summary video and pictures to the National Association of Town Watch to compete for awards among other communities of the same size. In 2021, the department ranked third in the nation for our outstanding National Out celebration.



National Night Out by hosting 16 block parties in neighborhoods throughout the community. Our celebration included three new neighborhoods hosting block parties: Moraine Heights Baptist Church, Habitat Condominiums and Rolling Greens. It is exciting for us to have new block parties join established neighborhoods some of which have been having block parties for more than 20 years. National Night Out is a foundational aspect of the Miami Township Police Department's focus on connecting with the community to build neighborhoods where people watch out for one another and know the members of the police department on a personal level. Because we believe in the message of strong community, we host a public National Night Out party at Austin Landing for citizens who may not have a neighborhood block party. The party at Austin Landing was a huge success not only to make connections through the law enforcement community, but also through the Community Blood Center blood drive resulting in 30 people donating blood during National Night Out. We have been hosting National Night Out block parties for 27 years, and the impact on the community can be seen in many aspects of strong relationships among neighbors,

## Back the Blue Rally

On May 23, 2021, the pastor of the Moraine Heights Baptist Church and the congregation, hosted a Back The Blue Rally during their worship service. Pastor Patrick Dellaria invited law enforcement personnel from not only Miami Township, but all over Montgomery County to worship and a luncheon. The event was attended by 400 people with representatives from several area departments. The purpose of the Rally was to help police officers to know they are supported and appreciated by the community. Chief Stiegelmeier was the featured speaker of the event. He spoke about his pride for his officers and their dedication to providing professional service to the community. Pastor Dellaria presented every officer who attended the event a Bible and prayer for protection and comfort. It was a rejuvenation for both police officers and their families to receive sincere thanks.



## Back to School Event

The Miami Township Police Department enjoys strong support from the business community. The Back-to-School event was hosted by Dick's Sporting Goods in the Dayton Mall. We were able to shop with six children using funds donated by the store to purchase clothes, shoes, and sports equipment they might have had to do without. At the last minute we were informed we would have the opportunity to shop with an additional six children from the Miracle House of Dayton. This type of event not only benefits the children receiving the supplies, but also benefits the officers who donate their time to assist. Building relationships with young people helps them to know law enforcement as helpers.

## Senior Safe Program

In July 2021, our Community Resource Officer, William Olinger, started a new program designed to support our most vulnerable senior citizens to be in contact with the Police Department through participation in the Miami Township Safe Senior Program (MTSSP). The program is designed to identify Miami Township residents with serious medical conditions. Senior citizens participating in the MTSSP are required to complete a File of Life form and return it to the Miami Township Police Department. The File of Life includes pertinent information about the person including emergency contacts, doctor, and hospital information. This information allows first responders to assist the citizen in a more personalized manner. Officer Olinger coordinated with local businesses to receive donations of lock boxes and identification stickers. These donations allow first responders to easily identify participants in the program and enter the home in case of emergency. The Miami Township Safe Senior Program is open to all residents who need extra support.

## Shop with a Hero

Another way we connected with the community in 2021 was through participation in the Shop with a Hero program hosted by Meijer. Using donations provided by Meijer, officers from the Miami Township Police Department and other local jurisdictions were able to shop one-on-one with children in the community to purchase Christmas gifts and other necessities. A total of XXX children participated in the shopping with XXX Miami Township officers. We have participated in this event for several years, and it is always a highlight of the holiday season.

## Police and Youth Bowling

On July 22, Miami Township Officers participated in a Police and Youth Bowling night at Poelking Lanes. This was beneficial for our community by allowing our Officers to spend time with our local youth and parents in a fun and casual manner. This was also a great opportunity to connect with one of our local businesses. Joe Poelking was more than happy to step in when the idea was pitched to him. All involved had a great time opening up the possibility for another bowling night to hopefully be announced sometime in 2022.



# Technology Implementation



Using technology to improve service to the residents of Miami Township is something Chief Stiegelmeier emphasizes as part of his administration. He is interested in “working smarter” and encourages using technology as part of officer safety and a way to provide the best, most efficient service to the community.

The Miami Township Police Department prides itself on remaining transparent with the community, and at the forefront of progressive law enforcement. As part of that commitment, on July 19, 2021, sworn personnel of the Miami Township Police Department began wearing body cameras. Chief Stiegelmeier chose to purchase Watch Guard body cameras because they sync with our cruiser video cameras to provide a multi-camera view of incidents in which both systems are used. New policy was implemented with the body cameras and Ohio has strict redaction laws in place to protect privacy of innocent people. The body camera enables the department to continue to ensure service to the community is professional, and open for review.

Another way to use technology effectively in crime prevention in 2021 was through the implementation of the Flock Technology stationary license plate reader. This technology provides information to investigators concerning vehicles entering and exiting Miami Township. The best example of using this technology is the arrest of a bank robber whose license plate, and location, were identified by the software. One of the most impactful aspects of the license plate reader system is the ability to connect with other law enforcement agencies all over Ohio to share data.

One of the most common complaints we receive from residents is that drivers speed through the neighborhood. Since police officers do not have time to just stay on one street running

RADAR, another type of technology we employed in 2021 was stationary speed signs which can be adhered to speed signs in various neighborhoods where neighbors believe there is an issue with speeding cars. The signs have software which allows the police department to obtain statistical information about the speed of cars traveling past the area. The signs have the added benefit of getting drivers to slow down, while providing valuable data to make informed decisions concerning traffic patterns and speed.

In the spring of 2021 eight stationary Flock license plate readers were installed on streets near the main entrances/exits for Miami Township. The Flock Safety License Plate uploads pictures and videos of all cars traveling through Miami Township’s main roads to a cloud-based server accessible by officers in the cruiser. The system has already proven to be effective crime fighting technology assisting officers in locating several stolen vehicles and a serial bank robber.

Further technology implemented in 2021 was the addition of four drones. Four officers were certified licensed drone pilots to use the drones to help search large areas, take arial pictures of crime scenes and other crime prevention uses. One drone pilot was able to use the drone to follow a suspect who fled in a vehicle. The drone pilot was able to radio other officers the location of the vehicle enabling them to safely apprehend the driver without needing to pursue the vehicle through traffic.

# Employee Updates 2021



Detective Todd Comer started his career with the Miami Township Police Department in September 1988 as a part-time officer and was promoted to a full-time in March 1990. In 1993, Detective Comer transferred to the detective section, and this is where he quickly developed into the “go to” detective.

Detective Comer has spent the last 30 plus years dedicated to helping those in need in Miami Township and this has carried over into Det. Comer’s personal life as well. He spends his off-duty time mentoring and assist youths who are “at risk” or less fortunate than others. Comer volunteers his time at the Ronald McDonald House and The Victory Project. The Victory Project is a outreach program targeting teenage boys who are “at risk.” Comer volunteers his time mentoring the teenagers helping them make good life decisions, encouraging them to get an education, and making sure they have food to eat without regard of the costs he personally covers.

In 2019, Detective Comer received the “Chief’s Award for Excellence” from the Miami Township Police Department for his dedication to the community and for the community outreach he has accomplished during his three-decade career. In 2021, he received the “Officer of the Year” from the Miami Township Police Department because of his dedication and self-sacrifice to the citizens of Miami Township and Montgomery County.



## 2021 New Employees

Top left to right: Officer Green, Officer Peters and Officer Snowden



# Board of Trustees

We are pleased to present our distinguished 2021 Board of Trustees. Thank you for your dedication and leadership.



**Ronald Hess, Township Administrator**

As chief administrative officer, Hess reports directly to the Board of Trustees. As administrator, he is responsible for daily administration, enforcement and execution of the policies and resolutions set forth by the board. He also supervises and directs the daily activities of each department, and sits on the Operational Oversight Committee of the Miami Valley Fire District.



**Don Culp, Trustee**  
Elected 2020-2024  
First Term 2018



**John Morris, Vice President**  
Elected 2022-2026  
First Term 2018



**Terry Posey Jr., President**  
Elected 2022-2026  
First Term 2020



**Aaron Newell, Fiscal Officer**  
Elected 2020-2023  
First Term 2016



2021 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Detective Todd Comer



# Awards Banquet

On October 16, 2021, the Miami Township Police Department held their second Awards Banquet at the Moraine Heights Baptist Church. Our Heroes were honored on this night for their dedication, sacrifice and service to the community.



Safe Driving Awards went to Assistant Chief John Magill and Officer Craig Sanders.



Distinguished Service Awards were given to Jordan West, Drew Olinger, Kory Caldwell, Eric Wooddell, Scott Snell and Austin Snowden.



Chief's Department Award of Excellence went to Patrick Dell'Aria, Scott Cronin, Jason Johnston, Betty Eldridge and Bob Sakal.



Nightsticks were given to Kurtis Green, Mike Holtrup and Austin Snowden.



Medal of Valor Awards were given to Josh Samples, Scott Miller, Drew Olinger and Austin Snowden.



Letters of Recognition were given to Bobby Johnson, Alex Brenneman, Jordan West and Craig Sanders.



Chief's Civilian Award of Excellence were given to Surjit Mattu, Jill Drury, Amy Zahora, Danniele Simon, Mel King and Wesley Bocock.



Meritorious Service Awards were given to Dan Wessling, Danielle Schweickart, Ben Albert, Leah O'Malley, Matt Barrie, Paul Nienhaus, Bill Jones, Kory Caldwell, Drew Olinger, and Crystal Rankins.



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