



## *2019 ANNUAL REPORT*

*Fairness*

*Trust*

*Professionalism*

*Dedication*



*An Internationally and State Accredited Agency*



# ***FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT***

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

The mission of the Findlay Township Police Department is to fulfill all of our job duties and responsibilities while adhering to the philosophy of safeguarding the rights and liberties of both citizens and fellow coworkers, in recognition of human dignity and the constitutional rights bestowed on all persons. We shall always treat other persons as we would expect to be treated or that we would want our loved ones to be treated under similar circumstances.

## ***VISION STATEMENT***

We will continue to be a leader and an example, both professionally and personally, to all law enforcement agencies as we provide an effective service through partnerships built in the schools and the community with the ultimate goal of detecting and preventing crime, while preserving peace, integrity and public trust.

## ***VALUES STATEMENT (FTPD)***

### **Fairness**

We will enforce the law fairly without compromise for crime, with relentless prosecution of criminals and without fear of favor, malice or ill will.

### **Trust**

We will recognize the badge of our office as a symbol of public faith and trust to be held so long as we hold ourselves to the ethics of the policing profession.

### **Professionalism**

We will conduct the business of our profession in an honest, compassionate and efficient manner, while adhering to a higher standard of personal conduct and decency.

### **Dedication**

We will hold true to our oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Township of Findlay.

**Dear Resident:**

**It is with great pride that I present to you the annual report for the 2019 calendar year for the Findlay Township Police Department.**

**This was a very special year in that we moved from our old facility that was in the existing municipal building to a new State of The Art police station. Our Township Leaders invested in the future of the municipality from a public safety perspective in that the new facility will handle the future projected growth in the township. The facility is the envy of most police departments in the area. The facility provides a safe and secure structure that will allow us to keep up with a demanding profession.**

**By statistical comparison, our 2019 was not unlike years past in any one category. Officers patrolled a total of 213,125 miles and investigated or handled 5,682 total complaints for the year. There were 7 fewer complaints investigated in 2019 than there were in 2018. Our criminal arrests in 2019 were 107 compared to 115 in 2018. There was a total of 33 Felony, 99 Misdemeanor and 70 Summary charges for a total of 202 charges in 2019. In 2018 there were 37 Felony, 113 Misdemeanor and 132 Summary charges for a total of 282 charges in 2018. This represents 80 fewer charges being filed in 2019. The department also conducted 2,276 traffic violator contacts in 2019 in an attempt to reduce the number of traffic accidents in the township. There were 2,229 traffic violator contacts in 2018. This represents an increase of 47 traffic violator contacts when compared to 2018.**

**The department has continued its status as an Internationally and State Accredited law enforcement agency as we were re-accredited again in 2016. The department is one of only eight (8) departments in the state to hold this distinction.**

**The department maintains its commitment to the West Allegheny School District by providing an officer to teach various programs to our students. These programs are tailored to the changing threats to which our children are exposed. In 2019 our K-9 Unit conducted numerous locker searches at both the High School and Middle School. The department has also hosted the NRA "Refuse to Be a Victim" program and partnered with the DEA to facilitate a drug take-back program where residents can turn in any unused prescription medication.**

**The agency continues to invest in our officer's training. Officers of the department are required to attend drivers training every two years. In the past, the department received funding. In 2019, the department did not receive this necessary funding. As with other specialized training, small departments in today's financial climate are required to do more with less. We have demonstrated that we can be more self-sufficient in this area by combining resources with other agencies in the area to help manage the costs.**

**The department continues to train its officers in ALERRT, (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training) by providing refresher training at various schools and office type structures. Officers with our Commercial Vehicle Inspection Team work in partnership with numerous Police Departments in the area to inspect commercial vehicles in an effort to keep our roadways safe.**

As we enter 2020, the Findlay Township Police Department maintains its preparedness to face any and all challenges and remains committed to its citizens by providing a quality service to all of the residents, business owners and visitors of Findlay Township.

Sincerely,

*Jesse J. Lesko, Jr.*

Jesse J. Lesko, Jr.  
Chief of Police



## ***ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY***

	2018	2019
• Total Calls for Service:	5,689	5,682
• Total Arrests (Felony, Misdemeanor):	67	64
• Non-Traffic Citations issued (summary arrests):	44	43
• Traffic Citations issued:	497	544
• Traffic Warnings issued:	1,913	1,624
• Total Parking Complaints/Violations:	54	38
• Total Parking Citations	3	0
• Total DUI Arrests	19	15

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## ***USE OF FORCE REPORTS***

• Soft Empty Hand Techniques (pressure points, etc.)	0
• Hard Empty Hand Techniques (joint locks, etc.)	0
• Intermediate Weapon Strikes (baton strikes, OC Spray, Taser, etc.)	1
• Showing of Weapons (General Use of Force)	1
• Deadly Force	0

The use of force incident for 2019 was reviewed and critiqued and found to have been conducted within the policies and procedures set forth by the department and approved by all accreditation standards. Out of 103 criminal arrests and 5,682 calls for service, the Findlay Township Police Officers had only used force one (1) time. This is a very impressive statistic that we are very proud of and a result of our extensive training and the fact that all officers act within the guidelines of the Mission, Vision and Values Statements.

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## ***VEHICLE PURSUITS***

The Findlay Township Police Officers were not involved in any vehicular pursuits in 2019.

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## ***TRUCK INSPECTIONS***

The Findlay Township Police department has two (2) trained Motor Vehicle Carrier Inspection Officers. Officers Patrick Zilles and Russel Andree. Both of these Officers receive extensive training and are required to recertify annually.

- Total number of truck inspections: 217
  - Total number of citations issued to truck drivers: 11
  - Total number of violations: 119
  - Total commercial vehicles placed out of service: 10
  - Total number of drivers placed out of service: 2
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## ***COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING ACTIVITIES***

During the 2018 calendar year, the officers of the department have either provided traffic control, crowd control or merely made their presence known by interacting with citizens through various programs such as:

- Crime Watch Program
- Business Watch Program
- Participation in the Fair in the Woodlands annual event
- The Christmas Light-Up Celebration
- Various Montour Trail events such as the IKEA Race, Montour Trail Bike Detail, and Crop Walk, etc.
- Daily AM and PM school bus traffic control during the school year on Route 30 @ Santiago road
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Annual Halloween Day Parade
- Annual Independence Day Fireworks celebration
- Participation in the annual Fishing Derby at the Leopold Lake
- Child Safety Seat Programs/Installations

The Findlay Township Police Officers provide Vacation Home checks. To participate in this program, contact the police department at (724) 695-1300.

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## ***SPECIAL PURPOSE K-9 TEAM***

The police department employs one (1) K-9 officer, Sergeant Neil Cridge. Sergeant Cridge and his K-9 Scooby received extensive training in order to become a fully trained K-9 Officer. K-9 Scooby was utilized in more than one way. The following is a summary of the activities of the K-9 unit:

- Tracking: 7
- Article search: 0
- Narcotics search: 6
- Warrant service: 0
- Area search: 0
- Building search: 2
- Apprehension: 0

The Sports and Recreation Complex were patrolled approximately 35 times throughout the year by the K-9 Team.

K-9's Scooby was utilized to perform locker searches at the West Allegheny High School, Middle School and assisted with searches of multiple other schools in neighboring jurisdictions.

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## ***TASK FORCES***

The police department was involved with the following task forces during 2019:

- The District Attorney Narcotics Enforcement Team sponsored by the Allegheny County District Attorney
- The West Hills Area DUI Task Force
- Critical Incident Response Team sponsored by the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG)
- Mobile Field Force Team sponsored by the South Hills Area Council of Governments (SHACOG)

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## ***INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS/CITIZENS COMPLAINTS***

There were (0) Internal Affairs Investigations and one (1) Citizen Complaint during 2019 and the incident was unfounded.

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## ***TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS***

Each Police Officer has received approximately 100 hours of training and each Communications Officer has received approximately 50 hours of training in 2019. The training aspect of the department is one of the most important because it affords the members an opportunity to become more adept at their individual positions which ultimately provides a professional service to the public. The following is a summary of the training received by the members of the department:

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## ***POLICE OFFICERS***

- All officers completed their annual mandatory in-service training required by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission
- All officers completed their annual Use of Force Tactics training
- All officers completed their annual Taser® re-certification
- All officers completed three (3) firearms training/qualifications, Spring, Summer and Winter
- All officers completed their Force on Force, scenario-based training
- All officers completed their drivers training (every 2 years)
- All officers completed their Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT)
- CPR/AED Training
- Narcan Training
- Incident Command System Training
- Bicycle Patrol Training
- Bloodborne Pathogens Training
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- Mental Health Training

Individual officers received training in the following categories:

- Risk Management
- Emergency Management
- J-NET/CLEAN Access Training and Recertification
- K-9 Maintenance
- Cody Computer Records Management Training
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training
- Advanced Critical Incident Response Training
- Car Seat Installation Training
- Commercial Vehicle Inspection Training
- Domestic Violence Training
- Various Officer Safety Training Programs
- Crime Scene Investigation Training
- Bullying Prevention Training
- School Security Training
  
- DARE Training
- Interview and Interrogation Training
- Various Computer Training Classes
- Critical Incident Response Operator Training (CIRT)
- Critical Incident Response Negotiator Training (CIRT)
- Mobile Field Force Training

In 2019, the Department continued providing PAVTN training for the police officers and dispatchers. The program, Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network (PAVTN), is administered through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association and involves several training videos that are completed on-line. The videos are all job related and provide our personnel with cost effective (free) and time efficient training.

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## ***COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS***

Individual Communications Officers received training in the following categories:

- J-NET/CLEAN Access Training and Recertification
  - Computer Network Training
  - Excel Computer Training
  - Cody Records Management Refresher Training
  - APCO Basic Telecommunicator Course
  - Incident Command System Training (ICS)
  - Bloodborne Pathogens Training
  - CPR/AED Training
  - Fire Extinguisher Training
  - Emergency Medical Dispatching Training
  - PA Emergency Management Training
  - License Plate Reader Training
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### ***D.A.R.E. PROGRAM***

During the 2019 calendar year, Officer Jamie Sacco taught numerous lessons to students in grades K-12 in the following schools within the West Allegheny School District:

- Wilson Elementary School
- West Allegheny Middle School
- West Allegheny High School
- There was no D.A.R.E. grant in 2019. It is important to remember that there had not been any changes to the programs offered and the department and township administration utilized other sources of funding for these programs. The West Allegheny School District had decided to pay a portion of an officer's salary to ensure that the officer remains in the school teaching vital information to our children.

In addition to teaching D.A.R.E. to the students in the West Allegheny School District, Officer Sacco also performed the following activities throughout the year:

- Conducted a program on Protecting Kids on the Internet to students in grades K-12, at parent meetings and with teachers.

- **Conducted Safety Programs.**
- **Conducted the Eddie Eagle Firearms Education Program.**
- **Formulated Block Watch and Safe House Programs.**
- **Developed and managed the Crime Watch and Business Watch Programs.**
- **With the donations from area businesses, the officers were able to develop and manage the Shop with a COP Program.**
- **Served on the Safe Schools Committee.**
- **Remain actively involved with the Boy Scout and Girl Scouts.**
- **Remain actively involved with the PTA Organization.**
- **Utilize McGruff at community events.**
- **Continually evaluate and assess juvenile crime throughout Findlay Township and the West Allegheny School District in order to assess possible solutions or crime prevention programs that could assist in the reduction of juvenile crime.**
- **Maintain a close working relationship with the school district and the local district magistrate in devising a plan to deal with juvenile offenders involved in minor offenses and offer community service.**
- **Work closely with the school district and the local district magistrate in devising plans to reduce truancy.**

**If you have any questions or you have any requests for assistance, please feel free to contact Officer Jamie Sacco at (724) 695-1300.**



## ***POLICE DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE***

The police department currently maintains a page on the township wide website. The webpage contains links to the following areas of interest:

- Block Parent Program
- Business Watch Program
- Crime Watch Program
- Swift 9-1-1 Emergency Notification System (residents are encouraged to sign up for free)
- Anti-Bullying Programs
- Assistance to Families/Drug & Violence Prevention
- Bicycle Safety
  
- Boy Scout/Girl Scout Safety Programs
- Car Seat Program
- Charlie Check First (Stranger Awareness Program)
- Conflict Resolution
- D.A.R.E. Program K-4
- D.A.R.E. Program 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
- D.A.R.E. Program (Middle & High School)
- Drug Identification Programs
- Eddie the Eagle Gun Safety Programs
- Fingerprinting Services
- Halloween Safety
- Home and Business Security Checks
- Home Invasion Prevention Programs
- Identity Theft Prevention Programs
- Internet Safety
- McGruff the Crime Dog Appearances
- Montour Trail Bicycle Patrol
- Road Rage Prevention
- Safety & International Programs for Businesses
- Seatbelt Safety
- Terrorism Awareness
- Truck Safety Inspections, Enforcement Team
- Vacation House Checks
- Welcome Packet Program
- Wilson Elementary Student Safety Programs

The police department instituted a Facebook (Findlay Township Police Department) And a Twitter account (@FindlayTwpPD) so that the department could interact with the community utilizing social media.

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## ***ROSTER OF OFFICERS***

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>YEARS OF SERVICE</i></b>
Chief Jesse J. Lesko, Jr. (Graduate of Southern Police Institute)	33
Captain John H. Hart (Graduate of The FBI National Academy Session #270, NRA Firearms, Taser and ALERRT Instructor)	29
Sergeant Michael Flaskos (Graduate of Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, NRA Firearms Instructor, Taser & ALERRT Instructor, Computer Forensics Examiner, IT Director)	22
Sergeant Detective Christopher Stang	19
Sergeant James Malesky (Accreditation Manager)	19
Sergeant Neil Cridge & K-9 Scooby (K-9 Officer, Use of Force & PPCT Instructor)	15
Officer Patrick Zilles (Certified Motor Carrier Inspector)	28
Officer Michael Zacios (Firearms, Taser and O.C. Spray Instructor)	15
Officer Miguel Amaya (Firearms, Taser, Use of Force & PPCT Instructor, Mobile Field Force Team Member)	11
Officer Jamie Sacco (Certified D.A.R.E. Officer, Accreditation Function Assistant, Car Seat Technician)	7
Officer Michael Johnson	4
Officer Russ Andree (Certified Motor Carrier Inspector)	4
Officer Antonio Mascilli (JTAC, Mobile Field Force Team Member)	4
Officer Shannon Luhrman	3
Officer Bryce Cochran (Critical Incident Response Team Negotiator)	3
Officer Duell Thompson (Critical Incident Response Team Operator)	2
Officer Anthony Tarentino	2
Officer Corey McNally	2

- Total years of experience = 222
  - Average years of experience per officer = 12.3
  - Age of oldest police officer = 59
  - Age of youngest police officer = 27
  - Average age of police officer = 40.1
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### ***ROSTER OF DISPATCHERS***

<b><i>NAME</i></b>	<b><i>YEARS OF SERVICE</i></b>
Dispatch Supervisor Linda Weible	44
Dispatcher Teresa Reaghard	27
Dispatcher Cindy Sherbondy	19
Dispatcher Elizabeth Vuono	12
Dispatcher Trina Tokarski	11
Dispatcher Kimberly Eisenried	5
Dispatcher Heather Bombard	4

- Total years of experience = 122
  - Average years of experience per dispatcher = 17.43
  - Age of oldest dispatcher = 62
  - Age of youngest dispatcher = 33
  - Average age of dispatchers = 55.43
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The members of the Findlay Township Police Department want to thank you for all of your support over the years. Without the support of the citizens of the township, our job would be much more difficult.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact:

Chief Jesse J. Lesko, Jr. at (724) 695-1300.