



Thank you for visiting the New Castle County Police web site and allowing me to share some of the exciting accomplishments and future missions of the Division of Police. Since receiving the honor of commanding the agency in November 2012, I have had the privilege of receiving strong support and guidance from those who share our commitment to public safety. New Castle County Executive Thomas P. Gordon, Public Safety Director Joseph Bryant, Jr., New Castle County Council, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #5, The Delaware Attorney General's office, numerous Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies, our communities, citizens, and especially the officers of the New Castle County Police to name just a few of the stakeholders that work diligently with us and have made our County even safer.

Upon being appointed as Chief of Police, we immediately began to look at what type of service our citizens were requesting and the how these calls were impacting the safety of their communities. What we found was that "quality of life" calls for service (disorderly subjects, loud radios, traffic violations, drug dealing, etc..) and property crime (thefts from parked cars, home break ins, etc...) were top concerns. We knew that these "quality of life" crimes if left unchecked could escalate into more serious crime. This information confirmed what we had already suspected, that traditional re-active policing was failing. We had to get officers off of the "911 treadmill" of responding to crimes that had already occurred or where someone had already been victimized and find ways to return to pro-actively policing our communities. We immediately set a course to establish teams of officers that would be mobile, have the ability to be proactive and would address communities we determined to be reporting a large quantity of quality of life calls for service. Additional officers were also assigned to our detective division to bring increased focus to drug and property crime investigations. At the same time, we also began a new program that aggressively went after these "quality of life" calls for police service from our communities. Many thought that this initiative, called T.A.P.S. (Targeted Analytical Policing System), would not have an impact in reducing crime. However in just one year because of the program, combined with opening our operations to outside stakeholders and the invaluable partnerships with those mentioned previously, we were able to reduce crime by 10%, decrease homicides by 41% and eliminate over 25% of the most serious crimes while at the same time, pro-active policing by officers increased 47%. For the first time in recent memory, there were no homicides in our historically violence plagued areas. This was all accomplished within current budget and staffing levels. However our efforts will not stop there.

We also recognized a need to focus on those crimes where homes were being burglarized, cars were being broken into and the vehicles themselves stolen. We recently implemented our Property Crime initiative to combat these crimes. Now specially trained officers responded to these crimes, conduct

even more detailed investigation and forensic evidence collection and regularly meet with our detective division. In just the first few months of the program, home break-ins have been decreased 20%, thefts by 21% and stolen cars by 8% over last year's reduced levels. In addition these specially trained officers have been the catalyst behind the 58% increase in fingerprint comparisons that have assisted in the investigations of these cases. We also recognize that illegal drugs, in particular heroin, are playing a large role in criminal incidents with particular emphasis on property crimes. An array of resources continues to be devoted to identifying and arresting both the dealers and users of illegal drugs. In just the past year, our number of drug investigations has grown by 64% with a resulting 270% increase in the amount of heroin seized and a shocking 1440% increase in amount of methamphetamine removed from the streets by our officers. However, we cannot fight this battle alone and are again relying on our citizens to assist us with this endeavor. Our renowned Heroin Alert program has been a very successful part of the Community Services repertoire. We continue to offer this highly effective program with the hopes that education about the dangers of drug abuse and the signs that family and friends can look for of someone who has been trapped by an addiction, will assist us in making a difference.

This is an exciting time in New Castle County as our neighborhoods are becoming even safer, more marketable and an outstanding place to live and work. As we continue our journey in serving our citizens, the unwavering commitment to public safety by Executive Gordon and all of County Government is unquestionable. Their investment in working to improve the safety and services offered to our communities continues to pay tremendous dividends in making our County one of the best. I invite and encourage you to continue to revisit our website as we will provide updates on our crime fighting progress, information and dates for our hiring process, programs and training we are offering and a variety of other information we feel will be useful and beneficial to the citizens we serve. I look forward to the challenges and ultimately the accomplishments that lay ahead and thank you for the privilege of being able to serve our County.

Respectfully,

Colonel E.M. Setting

Chief of Police