



2024



**POLICE**  
*"To Protect & Serve"*

**COMMUNITY  
POLICING  
UNIT**

# ANNUAL REPORT

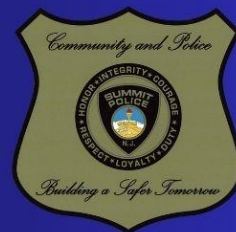
CHIEF STEVEN ZAGORSKI

CAPTAIN RYAN PETERS

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL BYRNE

OFFICER DAVID KOTIGA

JUV. DETECTIVE LENNY FRANCHINO





**Summit Police Department**  
**Steven Zagorski**  
**Chief of Police**

**Support Services Division**  
**Community Policing Unit**

**Annual Report**  
**2024**



## **Summit Police Department**

512 Springfield Avenue ▪ Summit ▪ New Jersey ▪ 07901  
908-273-0051

Steven Zagorski  
Chief of Police

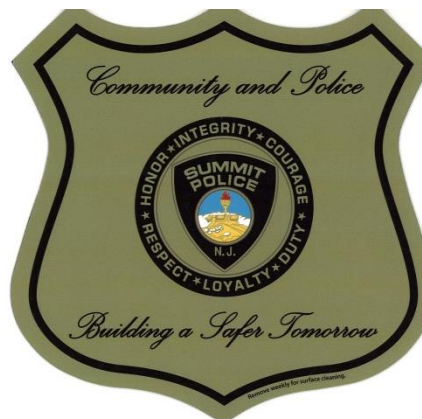
## **Support Services Division**

Captain Ryan Peters  
Commanding Officer

Lieutenant Michael Byrne  
Support Services Division Supervisor

Detective Lenny Franchino  
Juvenile Detective  
Community Policing Unit

Police Officer David Kotiga  
Community Policing Unit



## Community Policing Unit

### *History and Objective of the Unit*

A focal point of Chief Steven Zagorski's vision for the Summit Police Department is his dedication to Community Policing Unit. The Community Policing Unit's specially trained officers consisting of Lieutenant Michael Byrne, Juvenile Detective Lenny Franchino, and Police Officer David Kotiga, are committed to fostering and furthering all of the community policing and community outreach functions of the Summit Police Department.

These community outreach functions play a central role in the Department's ongoing mission to forge a close partnership with Summit's residents, businesses, and visitors. This partnership allows the Department to proactively respond to the public safety needs of the City as well as develop progressive strategies for providing the highest possible quality of life for all those who live, work, and visit the City of Summit.

The Community Policing Unit strives to build strong, trusting relationships with the citizens of Summit. Through these relationships, the Community Policing Unit works closely with other divisions of the Police Department to address public safety concerns. Additionally, the Unit enjoys a dynamic working relationship with other branches of the City Government, including the Department of Community Programs, the Summit Board of Education, and the Summit Police Athletic League.

These community outreach functions, coupled with the important relationships fostered by the Community Policing Unit, allow the Summit Police Department to serve the people of our community through a variety of channels – furthering the Department's role in making Summit a safe and enjoyable place to visit and live.

### *Mission Statement*

*The City of Summit Police Department's Community Policing Unit serves to build strong relationships with residents and businesses through the organization and facilitation of community outreach programs. The Unit's specially trained staff of Police Officers aims to develop meaningful, educational, and engaging programs in order to partner with the Summit Community in order to deter crime and protect life and property. The Community Policing Unit works tirelessly alongside all members of the Summit Police Department to provide professional law enforcement services with the highest levels of honor, integrity, courage, respect, loyalty, and duty.*

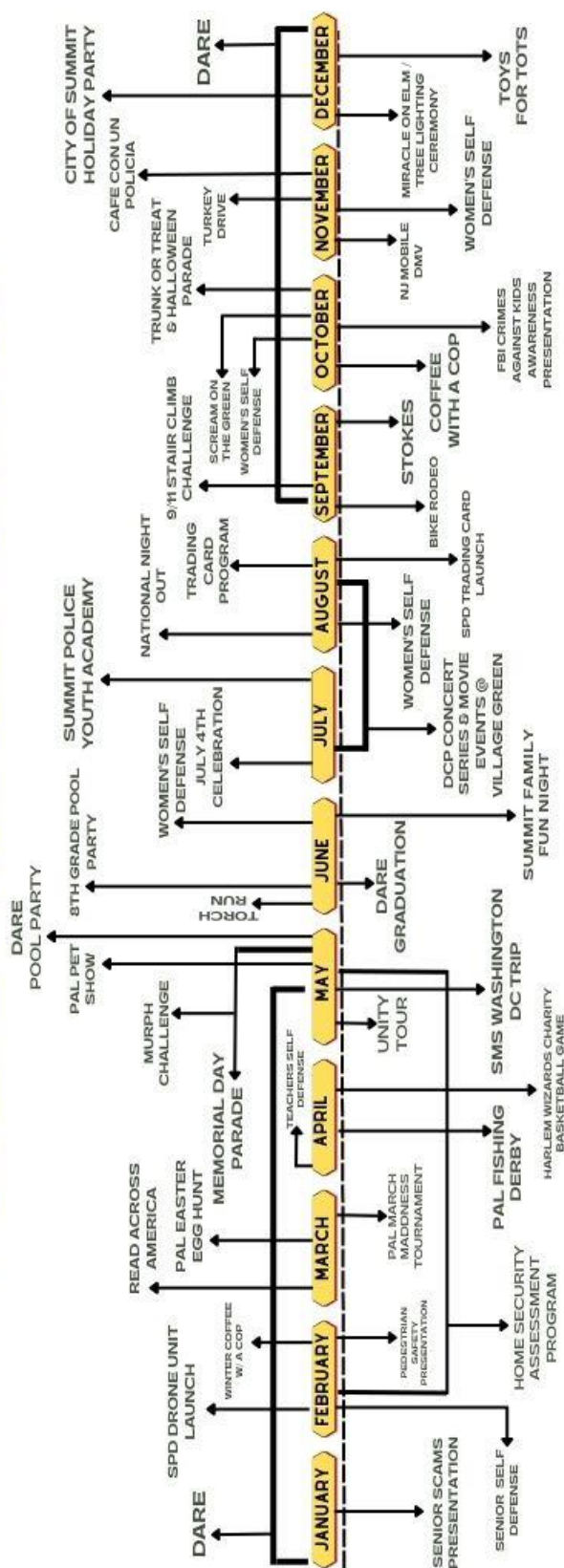


**STEVEN ZAGORSKI**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**



## COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

## 2024 EVENTS TIMELINE



- SUMMIT SENIOR SCAMS PRESENTATIONS
- DEPARTMENTAL TOURS
- TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT DETAILS
- BADGES & BOOKS READ-A-LONGS
- PEDESTRIAN SAFETY INITIATIVES
- CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS
- SOCIAL MEDIA PLANNING & OUTREACH
- PUBLIC SAFETY VIDEO ANNOUNCEMENTS
- CBD PARKING ENFORCEMENT
- SCHOOL SAFETY PRESENTATIONS
- SCHOOL SECURITY ASSESSMENTS
- SDI, PAL, & DCP EVENTS

# 2024 Annual Activity Report

## **D.A.R.E.**

Hours of Instruction

150

## **Presentations / Tours / Community Events**

Departmental Tours

10

Safety Presentations

8

Child Safety Seats Installed

12

Community Events Attended (Stokes, Village Green Events, Etc.)

41

Community Events Coordinated

22

## **School Safety**

Admin Duties (Meetings, Training, Misc., Etc)

106

School Posts

25

School Walk Throughs

20

Escorts (Bank, Funeral, Etc.)

8

## **Home Security Assessment Program**

Home Security Assessments Performed

84

## **SPD UAS / Drone Unit**

Drone Missions

20

Off Duty Call Outs

7

Total Flights

109

## **Community Programming and Outreach Initiatives**

In order to successfully accomplish its mission of building strong relationships between the Police Department and the Summit community, the Community Policing Unit organizes many different educational and outreach programs throughout the year. These programs allow the Department to further assist the residents of the City in areas such as traffic safety awareness, senior citizen safety, school safety and security, and school-based curricular enhancements - including D.A.R.E., driver's education, and seasonal safety presentations.

In addition to these programs, the Community Policing Unit also maintains a close working relationship with the city's Department of Community Programs and the Summit Police Athletic League. These relationships allow the Community Policing Unit to work with the city in planning events and celebrations which residents enjoy year-round, including the annual Independence Day celebration, Movies on the Village Green, the Summer Concert Series, and parades held throughout the year.

Through the organization of a variety of events, the Community Policing Unit offers city residents the unique opportunity to interact with the Summit Police Department and its Officers on a personal level. This personal interaction serves to enhance the Department's mission to provide the highest quality of police services to the city as well as strengthen the Department's ability to promote public safety and quality of life.

This report will detail each of the initiatives in which the Community Policing Unit participates. In order to provide the City with the highest level of services, the Unit has developed or assisted in organizing programs which incorporate various areas of public safety. These different areas of focus are listed below:

- 🏠 *Police Department Community Programs*
- 🏠 *Department of Community Programming Events*
- 🏠 *School Curriculum Enhancement Programs*
- 🏠 *Board of Education Sponsored Learning Programs*
- 🏠 *Summit PAL Sponsored Events*
- 🏠 *Traffic Safety & Enforcement*

## **Police Department Community Programs**

The Police Department is deeply invested in providing the finest professional police services to all people who live and work in the City of Summit. In order to carry out this important task, the Community Policing Unit plans hallmark events which highlight the many services which the Department offers to its residents and visitors. Special events, such as the annual Open House, give the community the opportunity to tour Police Headquarters and experience first-hand the daily operations of a full service law enforcement agency. This event, and the many others planned by the Community Policing Unit, allows the community to engage the Police Department and its Officers in dialogue and showcases the dedication of the Department's Sworn and Civilian staff in carrying out its mission to provide a safe environment for the City and its residents.

### **National Night Out**



Held annually in early August, National Night Out is an exciting and vibrant celebration of our country's freedom and the Police Department's continuing partnership with the community to help maintain that freedom through promoting a crime-free environment. The event, which has grown to be the largest National Night Out event held in Union County, invites law enforcement agencies from neighboring municipalities, counties, and even the Federal

Government to showcase police equipment and interact with residents of all ages. Attending agencies have included the Coast Guard, FBI, United States Customs and Border Protection, and the New Jersey State Police. The City's Police Department is also on display! Attendees are able to meet officers and get behind the wheel of a real police vehicle – experiencing firsthand what sitting in the driver's seat of police car feels like. National Night Out also offers the Department the opportunity to give back to the community by raising awareness for local charities and organizations in need of assistance. The excitement of this event continues throughout the evening with live musical performances, special guests, and food provided by Summit local restaurants. National Night Out is a community favorite event and allows the Police Department to provide an engaging showcase of its continuing partnership with the Summit Community.

### **Summit Police Youth Academy**



"I want to be a police officer when I grow up!" These words are spoken by many children while they are growing up and the City of Summit's Police Youth Academy gives students ages 10-14 the opportunity to experience a unique training academy environment modeled after the State of New Jersey's Basic Course for Police Officers. In addition to learning marching, drill formation, and

participating in physical fitness activities, students are presented with hands-on activities to help them learn about the many aspects of a career in law enforcement. Forensic investigation, crime scene analysis, emergency vehicle operation, traffic enforcement, and Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), are just some of the topics covered during this week-long program. Led by Police Instructors from the City's Police Department, the Youth Academy is our most popular and successful program. Many attendees return year after year to experience the discipline, pride, and unique lessons taught by the Instructors at the Summit Police Youth Academy!



## Summit Safe Seniors



In recent years, senior citizens have fallen victim to a larger number of crimes than has been experienced in the past, especially in the areas of identity theft and telecommunication-based fraud. In order to adapt to this changing environment and provide tailored services to the increasingly expanding senior citizen community of Summit, the Community Policing Unit has developed targeted educational materials which serve to promote increased awareness of these crimes as well as prevention. In addition to providing a special presentation

entitled *Summit Safe Seniors* covering burglaries, car thefts, telemarketing scams, identity theft, and other crimes frequently victimizing seniors, the Unit has developed a comprehensive information packet which contains additional resources to assist seniors in identifying and responding to criminal activity.

## Summit PAL Fishing Derby



In cooperation with the Summit Police Athletic League and the Summit Municipal Golf Course, the Community Policing Unit organizes this community favorite event annually during May. The Fishing Derby celebrates the arrival of Spring (and the upcoming fishing season!) by welcoming families to enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and fishing pond-side at the Municipal Golf Course. Attended by Officers from the Department, this two-day event allows residents to enjoy spending time with members of the Department

and further reinforces the positive impact made by a strong Police–community partnership.

## Police Headquarters Departmental Tours



Throughout the year, residents, school groups, Scout groups, and other interested parties are invited to request personal tours of the Police Department. Groups are guided through a hands-on tour experience by a member of the Community Policing Unit. Visitors are given the opportunity to meet Police Officers, tour the entire police headquarters facility, and go hands-on with the department's fleet of police vehicles.

These fun, high energy tours provide the Police Department with the opportunity to offer an educational experience to the residents of the City and give insight into the daily operations of a law enforcement agency.

## Bike Rodeos



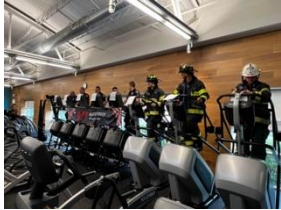
Learning to ride a bike is a fun and exciting rite of passage for young children. These fun and interactive clinics organized by the Community Policing Unit serve to teach children important safety tips and bike riding skills that will help them enjoy a safe riding experience. The Rodeos also help the children to recognize and trust Police Officers as their friends and community leaders who keep their families safe.

## Women's Self Defense



The Summit Police Department is offering a self-defense class for women ages 16 to 60. The class is offered multiple times per year and taught by Summit Police Department officers who specialize in defensive tactics. The self-defense class provides participants with valuable information on how to stay safe and protect themselves in potentially dangerous situations. Participants will learn practical self-defense techniques that can be used in real-life scenarios. The class is designed for women of all fitness levels.

## 9/11 Stair Climb Challenge



Organized along with the Summit Fire Department, the 9/11 Stair Challenge is an event that pays tribute to the First Responders who died in the line of duty on 9/11/2001, as well as civilian victims of the attacks. Held at Equinox Gym since 2022, participants climb or walk the equivalent of 110 stories, or 2,071 steps, to symbolize the height of the World Trade Center towers.

## Scams, Fraud & Identity Theft Workshop



In order to help raise awareness of the national increase in identity theft, fraud, and technology- based crimes, the Summit Police Department organized a community workshop to engage the community in dialogue about this rising trend. The workshop featured an overview of the most common types of telephone and internet scams during which unsuspecting victims often provide personal information to an unknown person with criminal intentions. The workshop also covers preventative measures which can be taken to help recognize scams in advance, thus helping to avoid falling victim to them. Attendees were provided with information packets which contained a summary of the workshop information as well as recovery resources should they suspect their identity or personal information has been compromised.

## Coffee with a Cop



Held on National Coffee with a Cop Day, this community engagement event aims to build trust and relationships between law enforcement and our local community. The event is informal in nature, with no agenda or speeches, and are held in one of Summit's local coffee shops. The purpose is to provide a space for community members and officers to have real conversations about issues that matter to them. The Summit Police Department holds two per year in the hopes of fostering positive relationships with the community in which we serve.

## Café Con Un Policia



This community outreach event is identical to Coffee with a Cop, but focuses specifically on our growing Hispanic community members. The event is informal and utilizes many of our Spanish speaking officers to engage in conversation with individuals who may have questions that may be unique to them. This event, which began in 2022, has been very successful and well-received.

## NJ MVC Mobile Unit



In 2024, the Summit Police Department has partnered with the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to host one of their Mobile Units. These Mobile DMV Units are a popular community outreach tool which began popping up around towns during the Covid 19 Pandemic. These Mobile Units contain most of the features present in traditional MVC brick and mortar agencies. Customers can use them to renew or obtain duplicate driver licenses, obtain a non-driver ID, renew their vehicle registration, or even obtain a Person with a Disability, Purple Heart, or Disabled Veteran parking placard. They present a convenient option for those who are unable to easily travel long distances such as our Senior Residents.

## FBI Crimes Against Children Presentation



In October of 2024, the Summit Police hosted a community awareness presentation on “Crimes Against Children”, in conjunction with the FBI Newark Branch. FBI Special Agents presented information about crimes against children including child safety awareness tips and proactive safety precautions parents can take to protect children - with a focus surrounding social media platforms and the internet.

## Halloween Trunk or Treat



In conjunction with Summit Downtown Inc., members of the Summit Police Department gather on Beechwood Road near Lyric Park to celebrate the tradition of Trick or Treating with Summit youth. Candy is given out to trick or treaters and over 200 Summit Police Glow in the Dark Safety Bracelets are distributed for safe evening trick or treating.

## Toys for Tots



Working alongside members of the Summit Fire Department, the Summit Police Department participates in the annual United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots holiday toy drive. This national charitable program, run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, collects and distributes new, unwrapped toys to children in need during the Christmas season. During the months of November and December, residents are encouraged to bring new and unwrapped toys to the donation boxes at various local businesses throughout the community during normal business hours. The toys collected through this program are distributed to children throughout Union County and the surrounding area. Since 1947, the Marine Toys for Tots program has collected



and distributed more than 604 million toys to 272 million deserving children in the United States, Puerto Rico, and Virgin Islands.

## Community Safety Video Engagement Initiative



Studies indicate that in 2023, 82.5% of all internet related traffic is comprised of video content. Working in conjunction with the city's Communications Department, the Summit Police Department works throughout the year to augment and enhance its comprehensive media outreach plan and - as the years progress - a strong emphasis is placed on creating short, PSA-style videos in order to provide quick safety information to our communication targets. As part of this initiative, the following videos were produced and distributed across all of our media channels in recent years:

- |                         |                          |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| ● Pedestrian Safety     | ● Teen Safety            |
| ● Back to School Safety | ● Fraud & Identity Theft |
| ● Safe Place Program    | ● Motor Vehicle Theft    |
| ● Halloween Safety      | ● Self Defense           |
| ● Holiday Safety        | ● Holiday Safety Tips    |

## **Department of Community Programs Events**

### Movies on the Green



During the summer months, Officers from the Community Policing Unit attend the many different movies featured every week on the Village Green. The city's Department of Community Programs hosts these sponsored viewings. In addition to ensuring a safe environment for these events, Officers are able to interact with residents on a personal level – further continuing the relationship building between the Summit Police Department and the community.

### Parades



The time-honored tradition of holding parades to celebrate important events is alive and well in the City of Summit! With parades including the annual Memorial Day Parade and the Halloween Parade, the Community Policing Unit assists the city in providing escorts, road closures, and security for these much-anticipated events. Additionally, the Community Policing Unit is responsible for providing the services of the Police Department's Honor Guard which present the Colors and provide a traditional twenty-one-gun salute when appropriate.

### Summer Night Concert Series

The Department of Community Programs (DCP) hosts Hot Summer Nights Concert Series has become a favorite summertime tradition in the City of Summit. Every Tuesday night (weather permitting), hundreds of people gather on the Village Green to enjoy some of the best bands of the East Coast as well as food trucks and free ice cream, courtesy of Investors Bank. The



Community Policing Unit as well as other Officers are present at these concerts for the purposes of safety and to engage with attendees.

## **School Curriculum Enhancement Programs**

The Police Department believes that a relationship with the City's Board of Education, Public School System, and Private Educational Institutions is vital in promoting a safe and healthy community environment. By fostering positive relationships with students, families, faculty and staff, the Department is able to quickly adapt to the changing needs of residents and the community. Additionally, through classroom interaction, students are afforded the opportunity to interact with Police Officers in a learning environment which encourages them to view the Police Department as a positive and cooperating influence throughout their educational career. Students are offered enhanced instruction through D.A.R.E., driver's education, safety presentations and other educational programs.

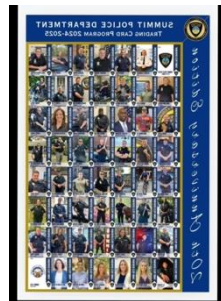
### **D.A.R.E. ©**



Offered to Summit Public School Elementary students in the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, the D.A.R.E. curriculum instills the important values of self-respect, self-confidence, and healthy decision making. Instructed by the Community Policing Unit's staff of Certified D.A.R.E. instructors, students work with their D.A.R.E. officer to learn sound strategies for resisting peer pressure and for making safe decisions using the *Dare Decision Making Model*.

The D.A.R.E. curriculum's proven record for affecting a positive impact on students throughout the country also lays the foundation for a life-long friendship between the participating students and their D.A.R.E. officer, further contributing to the Community Policing Unit's mission to build positive relationships with the residents of our city.

### **Summit Police Trading Card Program**



The Summit Police Department's trading card program returned for the 20th anniversary of the program's inception. Originally launched in 2004, the program is designed to foster communication and trust between members of the Police Department and young Summit residents. Each sworn and civilian member of the Summit Police Department is issued a trading card with their name, position, and photograph on the front, with a brief biographical statement on the back. Children are encouraged to collect all 56 trading cards by approaching police officers and staff and asking for their card.

### **Police Officer Read-A-Longs / Badges & Books Program / Read Across America ©**



Officers from the Community Policing Unit are available for classroom visits to share the important love of reading with the city's younger students. These fun and interactive meetings offer students the opportunity to build a friendship with our Officers and to recognize Police Officers as people who they can turn to for help and support. During 2023, presentations included visits to several Summit Elementary Schools and the Summit Free Public Library. Additionally, in

conjunction with the elementary schools, the Community Policing Unit helped coordinate Read Across America where Chief Zagorski, Captain Peters, and other Officers read a book to individual classrooms. Mayor Radest and other elected officials participated in this event as well.

### **D.A.R.E. © Graduation Pool Party**



The Police Department recognizes that student's graduation from the D.A.R.E. program is not only an educational achievement, but a milestone which marks a new understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. To celebrate this milestone, the Community Policing Unit, with the support of the Summit Police Athletic League, organizes a pool party celebration at the Summit Family Aquatic Center. This special event, which takes place at the end of the academic year, is an annual favorite among D.A.R.E. graduates showcases their achievement in completing the D.A.R.E. curriculum and their commitment to making healthy and responsible decisions.

### **Safety Presentations**



During the course of the year, holidays and special seasons present safety concerns for students and their families. The Community Policing Unit aims to provide annual school safety assemblies for students in order address these safety concerns and ensure that families enjoy these special celebrations. Areas addressed include Halloween Safety, Bicycle Safety, Safety for the Summer Months, Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Safety. These lively and engaging assemblies present tips and reminders for enjoying these special activities and allow for an enhanced partnership between the Board of Education and the Police Department in building a safe environment for our city's children.

### **Drivers Education**

As students in their sophomore year of High School prepare to earn their driving licenses, the Community Policing Unit offers enhanced classroom curriculum in order to ensure students enjoy a safe driving experience. Presentations are made regarding the State of New Jersey's Graduated Driver's License Program, traffic laws, the dangers of driving while intoxicated, and the importance of avoiding texting or using electronic devices while driving. Special presentations, including the demonstration of police radar, are also made available to the school. The Driver's Education Curriculum affords students the opportunity experience a police-driven perspective on their new driving privileges and encourages students to seek the help of the Police should they need assistance while driving.

### **Police and Teens Together (P.A.T.T.)**

*Police and Teens Together* is a community outreach program organized by the Summit Police Department and the Community Policing Unit in cooperation with the Summit Board of Education. This interactive, three-day program, allows high school students to engage in open dialogue with Police Officers and share their experiences and perceptions of police in society. The program concludes with students taking part in hands-on, simulated law enforcement activities. These activities help to acquaint the students with the stringent standards expected of police officers and

the reasoning associated with police tactics and strategies. *Police and Teens Together* serves to strengthen the bond between the Police Department and the future leaders of our Community, furthering the Department's mission to partner with residents to deter crime and build a safer future for the City.

### **Legal Considerations for Juveniles and the Juvenile Justice System**

Instructed by Detective Lenny Franchino, the City's Juvenile Detective, this classroom presentation presents a police perspective on the Law and Justice Curriculum offered to Summit High School students. Encompassing a wide range of legal topics concerning young adults, Detective Franchino explains the complexities of New Jersey's Juvenile Justice System, the uniqueness of the system in relation to the Adult Justice System, as well as important recommendations for making safe and healthy decisions throughout the students' high school careers.

### **Board of Education Sponsored Learning Experiences**

The Summit Board of Education sponsors annual extra-curricular field trip experiences for students in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. These trips, including the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade STOKES Weekend Experience and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Washington, D.C., expose Summit students to important lessons which transcend the classroom environment. In order to continue its long-standing relationship with the Summit Board of Education, Officers from the Police Department and the Community Policing Unit volunteer their time as chaperones and mentors for both of these activities. Through this special interaction, students come to develop strong, life-long friendships with the Officers who attend. Involvement in these activities serves to develop trusting relationships between the young people of the community and the Department as well as forge meaningful friendships which last well beyond middle school.

#### **STOKES**



The STOKES motto embodies the fun loving, yet important developmental lessons imparted to students during this annual outdoor team-building weekend hosted by the Summit Middle School. Each year, during the month of September, new 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students attend this traditional weekend event in order to come together as a single Summit Middle School class and participate in confidence building activities at the YMCA Camp in Stillwater, New Jersey. Officers from the Community Policing Unit volunteer their time as camp counselors for this fun weekend-long event. The Officers' presence and close involvement with students throughout the weekend serves to further impart positive attitudes rooted in self-confidence, determination, and respect.

## **Washington, D.C., Trip**



Officers from the Community Policing Unit serve as volunteer chaperones for the Summit Middle School's annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to our Nation's Capital. This two-day trip is designed to allow 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students – soon to be high school students – a first-hand experience of the center of our government, in the heart of Washington, D.C. In addition to facilitating travel and guiding tours throughout the monuments, museums, and government buildings, Officers from the Unit serve as mentors for the students as they explore and learn about the history of our country.

## **Lawton C. Johnson Middle School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pool Party**



At the conclusion of the academic year in June, the Community Policing Unit, in cooperation with the Summit Police Athletic League and P.T.O., assists the Summit Middle School in hosting its annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pool Party at the Summit Family Aquatic Center. Officers from the Unit spend time celebrating the student's middle school graduation and transition to high school with a fun-filled day poolside with the students. Students are given the opportunity to reunite with their D.A.R.E. Officers and build relationships with the Police Department as they prepare to enter the next chapter of their academic careers into high school.

## **Traffic & Safety Enforcement**

The City of Summit is proud to host numerous visitors throughout the year. Whether a visitor or resident is working in the city, shopping downtown, or enjoying a meal at one of the city's many fine dining restaurants, hundreds of thousands of cars and people utilize our roadways and sidewalks throughout Summit. Given this high volume of motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic, the officers within the Community Policing Unit – along with members of the Patrol Bureau and Traffic Bureau – conduct a targeted focus on ensuring that traffic laws are obeyed throughout the city in order to provide a safe traveling environment for all. Additionally, the Unit engages in educational campaigns which serve to enhance motorist and pedestrian awareness of these traffic laws. These responsibilities, combined with ensuring roadway safety, conducting traffic volume studies, and placing appropriate traffic signage throughout the City, assist the Police Department in its mission to deter crime and ensure public safety.

### **Traffic Enforcement / Motor Vehicle Law**

Officers assigned to the Community Policing Unit are responsible for conducting traffic enforcement throughout the city. Through this dedicated assignment, these officers, under the supervision of the Police Department's Traffic Supervisor, Lieutenant Charles Daly, target areas of the city which require enhanced enforcement. Resident reported traffic concerns, including parking, speed violations, pedestrian safety, and other safety concerns are addressed by the Unit in order to provide the safest possible traveling environment.



## **Pedestrian Safety Campaigns**



Summit is host to thousands of people who come to the city to enjoy the many different entertainment and social opportunities the city has to offer. In addition to sharing fun times with family and friends, Summit also hosts a vibrant corporate community which attracts employees from throughout the tri-state area. This high level of interest in the city also gives rise to an increased number of pedestrians using sidewalks and street crossings to reach their destinations. The Community Policing Unit recognizes it is important to protect everyone who works and visits Summit and organizes Pedestrian Safety Campaigns throughout the year to further this goal. By conducting motor vehicle enforcement at high traffic intersections and roadways and through distribution of educational material encouraging pedestrians and motorists to “share the road”, the Community Policing Unit is able to address this important safety concern and ensure all visitors to Summit enjoy their time spent in the city safely.

## **Child Car Seat Installations**



Along with members of the Patrol Bureau and Traffic Bureau, the Community Policing Unit’s team of nationally certified Child Car Seat Installation Technicians serves to assist the residents of Summit and the surrounding area with the proper installation of child car seats. The Police Department recognizes that these seats play a critical role in providing for the safety of young passengers. The Department also recognizes that child car seats require proper installation in order to provide the most effective protection. These seats are often difficult to install, thus the Community Policing Unit offers complimentary installation by appointment throughout the week.

## **School Safety and Preparedness**

In addition to organizing educational presentations and participating in community events, the Community Policing Unit is responsible for coordinating the Police Department’s city-wide effort to ensure that all educational institutions located in Summit are provided with the latest safety and security strategies.

Under the direction of Lieutenant Michael Byrne, the Department’s School Safety and Security Liaison, the Unit facilitates training, conducts safety assessments, reviews communications protocols, and serves as an always-ready consultation resource for the Summit Board of Education and the various private educational institutions located throughout the city.

The Police Department is proud to support the City’s public and private schools in providing an enriching, global learning environment for their students. In order ensure this environment is maintained, the Department conducts continual training throughout the calendar year which focuses on the most advanced law enforcement strategies available to address school-based threats and security-related concerns.

In addition to conducting advanced Officer training, the Community Policing Unit coordinates a variety of educational programs and support services which assist the Board of Education and the city's private institutions in assessing their school's security initiatives and safety preparedness. The following programs are offered by the Unit in order to further the Police Department's mission of working with city schools to provide a safe learning environment for students, faculty, and staff:

- 🏛️ ***Faculty and Staff Training***
- 🏛️ ***School Communication Assessments***
- 🏛️ ***Campus Safety & Security Assessments***
- 🏛️ ***Officer Safety Training***

### **Faculty & Staff Training**

School faculty and staff receive comprehensive, hands-on training in order to best prepare themselves for a possible school emergency or threat. Utilizing the ALICE Method ©, school employees are instructed in the latest "options-based" law enforcement training which gives faculty and staff the skills needed react quickly and effectively in the event of a crisis situation. Through this thorough preparation and training, Summit's schools are able to secure the safety of their students and employees. Members of the Community Policing Unit and the Juvenile Detective regularly oversee and participate in lock-down drills and other security based drills within each Summit school.

### **School Communication Technology Assessments**

In order to coordinate rapid response tactics and strategies between educational institutions and the Police Department, advanced communication technology has been deployed throughout the city. The Community Police Unit continually monitors and maintains this equipment to ensure it is functioning properly. Communication policies are also evaluated, ensuring that a constant link is maintained between the Police Department and the city's schools.

### **Campus Safety and Security Assessments**

Officers from the Community Policing Unit are specially training in conducting complete educational site security assessments. These assessments, available to schools throughout the year, assist in identifying potential safety improvements for the schools' campus grounds. Officers also consult with the school administration in addressing safety concerns and work closely with the Board of Education or school directors to develop a comprehensive emergency response plan.

## **Officer Safety Training**

In addition to preparing faculty and staff for emergency situations, Summit's entire complement of sworn Officers receive on-going training in the most advance law enforcement response strategies for responding to school crisis situations. Training is conducted in a dynamic environment and is "live scenario" based, ensuring that, in the event of a crisis situation, the Police Department is able to provide a rapid response founded in the latest and most comprehensive law enforcement strategies and tactics. This demanding training furthers the individual Officer's understanding of school-based emergency response. Additionally, training is coordinated with area law enforcement agencies in order to facilitate an increased level of preparedness.

## **Residential and Commercial Safety and Security**

The City of Summit hosts an estimated total population of 22,000 residents. In addition its citizens, the City supports a rapidly expanding Central Business District as well as numerous large corporate headquarters. In order to ensure that residents and visitors enjoy the highest possible quality of life and that City's businesses are prepared to offer a safe and secure working environment for their employees, the Community Policing Unit provides several Residential and Commercial Safety and Security Services.

These services focus on ensuring homes, businesses, and other properties are safe from burglary, vandalism, theft, and other crimes. Additionally, Officers from the Community Policing Unit are available for consultation with homeowners and business owners in order to help them assess their preparedness for emergency situations. Through this interaction, the Police Department is able to build strong relationships with residents and businesses and further its mission of building a strong community partnership focused on safety and crime prevention.

The City of Summit also welcomes numerous travelers and commuters throughout the year who take advantage of the City's New Jersey Transit Train Station, New Jersey Transit Bus Routes, and the many other available forms of mass transit. The City's close proximity to several major metropolitan areas also attracts commuters who enjoy the ease of access and services which Summit provides. The Police Department recognizes that this large "commuter population" presents unique public safety concerns and seeks to continually address security in and around the City's major transportation hubs.

The Community Policing Unit has implemented the following initiatives to ensure that all people who live, work, study, play, and travel in Summit enjoy their time spent in the City:

🏠 ***Residential Security Surveys***

🏢 ***Commercial Security Surveys***

🚗 ***Transportation and Commuter Relations Services***

### **Residential Security Surveys / Assessments**



City Residents who wish to consult with an Officer from the Community Policing Unit in regard to their home’s safety and security are encouraged to contact the Unit to schedule an at-home Security Survey conducted by the Unit’s staff of Home Security Assessment Officers certified by American Crime Prevention Institute. The Unit provides residents with a complete and detailed survey of their home and their property which serves to highlight areas where additional preparedness for emergency situations is needed.

Officers also work with residents to discuss dynamic response strategies based in the most advanced law enforcement techniques for ensuring that their family is protected against crime and potential threats. This service, offered free of charge, helps to further the strong partnership between the Police Department and residential communities.

### **Commercial Security Surveys / Assessments**

Business – both small and large – thrives in the dynamic commercial environment offered by the City of Summit. The Police Department works closely with business owners to safeguard this welcoming environment for consumers and employees. The Community Policing Unit is available for consultation in order to assess a business’ safety and security preparedness as well as work with business owners to develop sound emergency response strategies. Surveys are conducted by the Unit’s staff of nationally certified Crime Prevention Practitioners (CPP).

### **Transportation and Commuter Relation Services**

The Police Department recognizes that a large number of commuters utilize the many different public transportation methods offered throughout the City, especially the New Jersey Transit Train Station and transportation hubs located near the Central Business District. In order to facilitate a secure traveling environment and ensure commuters are able to freely travel to their destinations, the Community Policing Unit conducts frequent targeted security patrols of major transportation areas, including the Train Station. The Unit also enjoys a strong working relationship with the New Jersey Transit Police Department. Through this partnership, the Police Department is able to ensure a welcoming atmosphere for all who make Summit a destination during their travels.



## **Patrol Bureau Support Services**

The outreach efforts of the Community Policing Unit serve to advance the Department's continually evolving relationship with the Summit Community. By facilitating programs which help to build trust and friendship between the Officers which protect the City and citizens who work and live within its borders, the Summit Police Department is able to provide the highest level of professional law enforcement services.

The Community Policing Unit also works closely with other Units within the Police Department, including the Patrol Bureau. The Unit frequently shares important information gathered from its close interaction with the community. This information sharing relationship allows the Patrol Bureau to take advantage the Community Policing Unit's community interaction in order to proactively address public safety concerns.

Additionally, Officers from the Community Policing Unit are always available to support the Patrol Bureau in providing additional personnel to cover the duty roster, provide court security, aerial support via drone, and respond to calls for service.

The close working relationship shared between the Community Policing Unit and the Patrol Bureau is indicative of the Police Department's continuing commitment to utilize all available police resources in order to efficiently and effectively protect the City and its residents.

Patrol Support Services provided by the Community Policing Unit include:

- 🛡️ ***Duty Roster Coverage***
- 🛡️ ***School Traffic Post Coverage***
- 🛡️ ***Patrol Service Call Response***
- 🛡️ ***Backup Units for Patrol Response***
- 🛡️ ***Police Escorts***
- 🛡️ ***UAS / Drone Response***

## Summit Police UAS Unit

New to the Summit Police Department in 2024 was the addition of Summit Police Drone Unit. Operating from the Community Services Bureau, this Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Unit was introduced in 2024 for the purpose of assisting first responder units on the ground with aerial support. The Summit Police Drone Unit consists of four active FAA Certified Pilots and is overseen by Captain Ryan Peters.

The use of drone technology in law enforcement includes, but are not limited to:

- 🏆 *Missing Persons*
- 🏆 *Suspects at Large*
- 🏆 *Aerial Fire Support*
- 🏆 *Hazardous Material Incidents*
- 🏆 *Storm Damage Assessment*