



**CITY OF WATERVLIET, NEW YORK
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

2-15TH ST.
WATERVLIET, NY 12189

JOSEPH L. CENTANNI
CHIEF OF POLICE



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I am pleased to present the Watervliet Police Department's (WPD) 2022 Annual Report. This report highlights many of our department's efforts to engage and support the community and showcases our commitment to make Watervliet one of the safest cities in New York.

The details included in this report emphasize our diligent efforts to reduce crime, improve police programs and increase community outreach to uphold our department's value statement of *Integrity, Professionalism & Community*.

I cannot overstate how proud I am of our members' hard work and commitment to the neighborhoods we serve. They routinely deliver professional service and demonstrate great effort that often goes unnoticed but has a direct, positive and lasting impact on our community.

Moving forward, the department will regularly evaluate and analyze national and local trends to ensure the highest level of service and continue Watervliet's strong reputation. I encourage you to view our website at www.watervlietpolice.com, or our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram pages to follow the daily activities of the WPD.

In closing, I would like to thank Mayor Charles Patricelli, General Manager Joseph LaCivita and the Watervliet City Council for their support. Lastly, I am grateful to the entire Watervliet community for their partnership and continued encouragement. We look forward to building on the positive relationships established and to serving our citizens in 2023.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph L. Centanni".

Joseph L. Centanni
Chief of Police



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2022 Annual Report

Calls for Service

The department responded to 23,119 calls for service. This is a 23% increase from 2021.

Arrests

The department made 741 arrests. This is a 21% increase from 2021.

Traffic Enforcement

Motor vehicle stops serve many purposes including increased traffic safety, reduced crashes, positive interactions with motorists, and most importantly, reinforce the department's commitment to ensure a safe community with an active patrol division. The department conducted 6,015 motor vehicle stops in 2022. This is a 34% increase from 2021.

In addition, the department increased Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) and Driving While Ability Impaired (DWAI) enforcement. Specifically, they made 47 DWI arrests and 10 DWAI arrests. This is a 292% and 400% increase from 2021.

Critical Incident Investigations

The department investigated several critical incidents during 2022. A few of them included:

- A homicide which resulted in the arrest and recovery of the firearm used within minutes of the offense.
- Several "scam" investigations that targeted the most vulnerable people in our community. The department made multiple arrests while recovering and returning several thousand dollars to the victims.
- An arrest for the arson of an occupied multi-dwelling residence.

Firearms Recovery

I cannot overstate how difficult and dangerous it is to secure guns from criminals. The department seized **19 total firearms in 2022** including the acquisition of 11 unlawfully possessed firearms through officer-initiated actions. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a credit to the commitment our members have to keeping our city safe.



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Newly Implemented Department Programs

Domestic Violence Investigator

The department, in partnership with Equinox was one of 39 police agencies in the Country that was awarded a \$500,000 grant to concentrate on domestic violence issues in our community. The funding will be utilized to add an additional investigator that will focus on domestic violence incidents, teaching prevention programs and victim services initiatives.

Body Worn Cameras

Body worn cameras offer the ability to view police activity from a unique perspective which aids in identifying many training, recognition and feedback opportunities. In addition, they increase transparency, accountability and trust which further enhance the department's partnership with the Waterbury community.

The department has recorded approximately 14,000 videos since the program was implemented in June 2022. Many have been useful in training officers and the prosecution of various cases.

Drone Support Unit (DSU)

The DSU assists with crime scene analysis, accident reconstruction and disaster recovery, along with various other helpful applications.

Several officers received training and passed the required Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) pilot's license exam.

Drug Recognition Expert (DRE)

The department added a DRE. These officers receive extensive training that has been approved by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). DREs are experts in observing indicators of impairment within many drug categories (other than alcohol).

Selection to the program is highly competitive. There are 350 certified DREs in NYS out of approximately 70,000 police officers and the WPD has two of them.



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Discovery Coordinator

This civilian position was added and serves as a liaison between the department and the district attorney's office to handle the increased demands related to court preparation and due diligence.

New Hires

Officer Philip Milano was appointed on June 13, 2022.

Promotions

Officer Mathieu Cusson was promoted to sergeant on December 9, 2022.
Officer Thomas Szczepanski was promoted to sergeant on December 9, 2022.

Retirement

Sergeant Christopher Toleman retired on March 21, 2022.

Other 2022 Highlights

The department implemented several new initiatives in 2022. Some of them included:

- Technology enhancements including license plate readers, street cameras and administrative programs.
- New and modified policies and procedures that have professionalized our agency, both internally and externally.
- Participation in several shared community events including Coffee with a Cop, Prescription Drug Drop-Off and Fire and Ice which have further strengthened the department's partnership with the neighborhoods we serve.
- The department increased prevention, education and enforcement of maltreatment of animal cases. This resulted in the removal and safe placement of many needy animals, in addition to criminal prosecution of offenders.



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Goals for 2023

As we look ahead, we're excited for the implementation of several exciting initiatives in 2023 which support the growth and vision of our agency and reflect our community-first standards.

Some department goals for 2023:

- The creation of shared service agreements with other police agencies that will assist the department with expert response to various types of incidents.
- Enhanced firearms training and equipment.
- Additional license plate readers and street cameras to assist in many types of investigations.
- Implementing the community-based Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program which is designed to address the complex and difficult situations surrounding low-level offenders that are drug addicted or suffering from mental health issues and poverty.
- Complete the department's initial accreditation through the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Council. It will provide formal, independent recognition of expectations of quality in the field.