



Criminal Investigations Unit Notable Incidents 2017

This year the Criminal Investigations Unit conducted investigations into one thousand four hundred and thirty two cases (1,432). Those investigations led to one hundred and thirty one adult arrests and 17 juvenile arrests for misdemeanor or felony charges.

Starting in the fall of 2016 and continuing into the winter of 2017 The Sunrise Senior Living Center located at 3300 Darby Rd was experiencing an increased amount of frauds and thefts. These crimes were specifically targeting the elderly residents at that location. Investigation by Detective Johnson and Detective Hufnal resulted in the arrest of three separate individuals for committing multiple crimes against the elderly residents.

During the early part of January 2017, three burglaries were reported in the Chatham Park Section of Haverford Township. The Detective Division developed a suspect and surveillance was set up in the area. Detective Goodman located the suspect while conducting that surveillance and he was taken into custody. A subsequent investigation and interview by Detective Johnson and Sgt. Reynolds resulted in the suspect being charged with the three burglaries. Video footage provided by one of the victim's in this case provided valuable assistance during the investigation. The suspect is currently incarcerated in State Prison.

In February 2017 Detective Stephen Laughlin investigated a child kidnapping case that crossed into another country. On Friday February 17th, members of the Haverford Township Police Department responded to an apartment in the Township to check the well being of the resident. The resident had not been to her place of employment for a week and was unable to be contacted by her employer. A check of the residence found that the resident and her two juvenile sons, a seven year old and thirteen year old were not at home. It was determined that neither of the sons had attended their respective schools since Friday 02/10/2017. The resident was entered into NCIC as a Missing Person along with her two sons.

During the course of the investigation conducted by Detective Laughlin, it was determined that on 02/20/2017 the biological father of one of the boys had reported his son as a Missing Person to Maple Shade (NJ) Police Department after not being able to make contact with the child's mother. The father reportedly feared that the mother had fled to her native Brazil with his son thus violating a custody order signed in the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia County. An extensive investigation by Detective Laughlin with assistance from Kevin McShane, Agent in Charge at the Newtown Square, PA office of the FBI found that the mother along with her two sons traveled to Brazil on 02/14/2017 in violation of the custody order. Stephanie Wills, Deputy District Attorney in Delaware County, did approve the filing of criminal charges against the mother and a Warrant of Arrest was approved for Kidnapping of a Minor (a felony) and related offenses.

One major incident of note last year was the Murder of a Narberth resident who was in the 2300 block of Haverford Road visiting a friend in July 2017. Officers of the police department responded to a report of a gunshot victim in that area. Upon arrival officers provided medical attention to the victim who was unresponsive on the ground. The victim was transported to Lankenau Medical Center where he was pronounced deceased. Haverford Township Police

Detective Thomas Long began a criminal investigation as the lead detective along with Detective Michael Jay from Delaware County Criminal Investigation Division. Detective Long was able to link the suspect in this case to a shooting that occurred in the City of Philadelphia earlier in the evening. Through diligent police work and a tip from a resident the detectives were able to identify the suspect. The suspect was tracked to the State of Georgia and apprehended for his crimes on August 22, 2017. The suspect was returned to Delaware County and charged with Murder and related offenses. He will be tried by the Delaware County District Attorney's Office.

In late November 2017, the Detective Division investigated a pair of knife-point robberies of pedestrians along the Eagle Road corridor. Det. Matthew Hufnal led this investigation and worked closely with Lower Merion Police, Upper Darby Police and Pennsylvania State Police. In both instances, the victims were threatened with a knife and forced to turn over their valuables. A male suspect and his female driver/accomplice were identified and arrested within 10 days for these incidents.

In 2017 the Criminal Investigations Unit of the Detective Division also conducted numerous other tasks and activities. One of these tasks included conducting background checks for Governmental Agencies such as the United States Armed Forces, various Federal, State and Local agencies. Another service provided by the unit to residents was fingerprinting as part of their pre-employment fingerprinting requirements with Federal Agencies, Child Care Centers, Law Schools, Doctor, Nurse and Securities & Exchange licensing. Additionally the unit also served various court instruments such as: Search Warrants, Consent Searches, Court Orders and Subpoenas to obtain or locate Weapons, Recordings, Phone Records, Bank Records and evidence in Burglary, Robbery, Fraud, Theft, Sex Offenses and Drug related crimes. The service of these instruments resulted in multiple arrests and the recovery of property, cash, drugs and firearms.