



WESTFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT NJSACOP LEAP ANNUAL ACCREDITATION REPORT



Agency: Westfield Police Department

Report for Calendar Year: 2021

Section 1:

This section requires information from various tables from your agency’s final assessment report, which has been generated with your most recent onsite assessment and presented to the Commission which determines whether your agency should be accredited/reaccredited.

Agency Demographics:

Current Sworn Officers				
	Total #	Total %	Female #	Female %
Caucasian	50	88.17%	3	5.00%
African-American	2	3.25%	0	0.00%
Hispanic	6	4.92%	1	1.66%
Other	2	3.66%	0	0.00%
Total	60	100.00%	4	6.66%

Racially Influenced Policing Complaints:

Traffic Contacts	2,177
Field Contacts	33,361
Forfeitures	1

Use of Force:

Firearm	0
Conducted Energy Device	0
Less Lethal Ammunition	0
Tactical Baton	0
Oleoresin Capsicum	0
Canine Physical Contact	0
Weaponless Physical Force	9
Total Types of Force	9
Total Arrests Involving Reportable Force	4
Excessive Force Complaints	0
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	58

Personnel Actions:

Suspensions	0
Demotions	0
Resignations in Lieu of Termination	0
Terminations	0
Other (Verbal/Written Reprimands)	2
Total	2
Commendations	15

Sworn Officer Section Activity in the Past Year:

Race/Sex	Applications Received	Candidates Hired
White Male	29	4
White Female	6	1
African American Male	1	0
African American Female	2	0
Hispanic/Latino Male	5	0
Hispanic/Latino Female	4	0
Asian Male	2	0
Asian Female	0	0
Other Male	0	0
Other Female	0	0
Total	49	5

Promotions:

Race/Sex	Tested	Eligible After Testing	Promoted
White Male	0	0	0
White Female	0	0	0
African American Male	0	0	0
African American Female	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latino Male	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latino Female	0	0	0
Asian Male	0	0	0
Asian Female	0	0	0
Other Male	0	0	0
Other Female	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0

Pursuits:

Total Pursuits	7
Pursuits Terminated by Agency	7
Pursuits Policy Compliant	7
Pursuits Policy Non-Compliant	0
Crashes	
Police	0
Suspect	0
Third Party	0
Underlying Violation	
Traffic Offense	0
Indictable Crime	7
DP or PDP Offense	0

Internal Affairs Complaints – External Complaints:

	Sustained	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Exonerated	Admin. Closed	Pending Disposition	Total
Excessive Force							0
Improper Arrest							0
Improper Entry							0
Improper Search							0
Other Criminal Violation							0
Differential Treatment			2				2
Demeanor	2	1	4			1	8
Domestic Violence							0
Other Rule Violation					1		1
Total	2	1	6	0	1	1	11

Internal Affairs Complaints – Internal Complaints:

	Sustained	Not Sustained	Unfounded	Exonerated	Admin. Closed	Pending Disposition	Total
Excessive Force							0
Improper Arrest							0
Improper Entry							0
Improper Search							0
Other Criminal Violation							0
Differential Treatment						1	1
Demeanor							0
Domestic Violence							0
Other Rule Violation						2	2
Total	0	0	0	0	0	3	3

Section 2:

This section provides general information on your agency that will be beneficial to the assessors before your mock assessment and also to the assessors who come to your organization for the next on-site assessment.

Name of CEO for Organization: Chief Christopher Battiloro

Rank/Title of CEO: Chief of Police

Is this a new CEO from the last assessment or report? **Yes** **No**

Is your agency a Civil Service Commission jurisdiction? **Yes** **No**

Have you had any critical incidents during the calendar year? **Yes** **No**

If yes to any of the above, please provide a brief description below.

During the evening hours on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, and the morning hours on Thursday, September, 2, 2021, the Town of Westfield was severely impacted by the remnants of Hurricane Ida, which brought 7.3” of widespread rainfall in a 24-hour time period, including 4.46” in a single two-hour time period, and resulted in unprecedented extreme flash flooding.

In a 24-hour time period between Wednesday, September 1, 2021, and Thursday, September 2, 2021, the Westfield Police Department’s 9-1-1- Police-Fire-EMS Communications Center processed 632 emergency 9-1-1 telephone calls and 668 administrative telephone requests for public assistance, this for a total of 1,300 telephone calls. Additionally, 121 emergency calls for service were dispatched, resulting in the deployment of 167 resources.

Many street and roadways were rendered impassable and numerous vehicles were submerged in rapidly rising flood waters which rose above vehicles’ rooftops. The Westfield Police Department responded to and effected numerous rescues of persons trapped inside of these submerged vehicles. In many instances, members entered chest-high flood waters filled with floating debris and fought strong undercurrents to remove occupants and to carry or escort them to safety.

Those persons rescued were transported directly to a temporary reception center established by the Office of Emergency Management in the Westfield Municipal Building’s Community Room. A total of 17 persons (16 adults and 1 juvenile) sought temporary refuge there. Of those persons, several were treated immediately upon their arrival there by the Westfield Rescue Squad for exposure and other resulting injuries.

All persons present at the reception center were provided with blankets, water, and snacks. Some were even provided with dry clothing. Those persons who were unable to arrange for transportation home following the receding of flood waters were transported by members to their residences or to other places of their choosing, regardless of where that location was. This included locations well outside of Union County.

The reception center remained open until approximately 0200 hours on Thursday, September 2, 2021, when

the last persons present were transferred to a shelter at the Chisholm Community Center in Springfield, where they joined other members of their family who had been relocated there.

At least thirty (30) persons were killed in New Jersey by the remnants of Hurricane Ida, including five (5) persons in Union County. An additional person still remains missing. Many of these persons drowned in their submerged vehicles.

The extraordinary efforts of those personnel who were present for duty during the overnight hours on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, are to be commended. They operated under extremely difficult and dangerous conditions and at great risk to their own personal safety. Their actions undoubtedly saved numerous lives. By the authority of the Chief of Police, each was presented with the Westfield Police Department's Unit Citation Award, this for their commendable individual performance as members of an operating unit in a cited police action:

Were there any future performance issues for your agency that were addressed in your final report that were handled by your agency in this past calendar year?

Yes No

If yes to the above, please provide a brief description below.

The Chief of Police identified the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the agency's budget as an anticipated future need and/or concern. In 2020 and 2021, the Town of Westfield's municipal budget was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Town of Westfield passed a \$46.085 million municipal budget in 2020. It utilized \$4.5 million in surplus to offset that budget, leaving it with just over \$7 million in surplus. The Town's surplus stood at \$11.5 million on December 31, 2019.

Additionally, the Town reduced its capital spending by \$1.2 million (or 93%) in 2020 by eliminating or deferring many equipment purchases.

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic also resulted in significant reductions in revenue for the Town of Westfield, particularly in the areas of municipal court fines and parking permits, meters and pay stations.

The Westfield Police Department's 2020 budget was \$6.9 million. This represented a \$129,440 (or 16%) decrease in operating expenses from 2019. However, even with those cuts, the 2020 budget still provided for sixty-one (61) full-time, regular sworn officers. Entering 2021, though, two (2) of those sworn officer positions remained unfilled.

The Westfield Police Department's workload remains substantial. Over the last five (5) years (2016-2020), it has handled an average of 43,198 calls for service annually.

While the Town of Westfield's financial position is strong relative to many other municipalities, it is a great concern that new police hires and much needed equipment purchases will likely be deferred to a later date as a cost-cutting measure.

Despite the great financial uncertainty created by the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the Westfield Police Department was able to propose and secure a fully-funded \$7.3 million budget in 2021 (a 5.8% increase from the previous year) that provided for 61 sworn officer positions, and a \$7.92 million budget in 2022 (a 8.5% increase from the previous year) that provides for 62 sworn officer positions.

As of January 1, 2022, there were 63 sworn officers. As of the date of this report, there are 62 sworn officers, this due to a recent, unexpected resignation.

The Westfield Police Department was also able to propose and secure funding for \$40,000 worth of capital expenditures for equipment in 2022, which will include up to fifteen (15) stationary license plate recognition (LPR) cameras to combat Westfield’s continuing vehicle theft problem.

Additionally, in 2022, the Westfield Police Department will expand its body worn camera (BWC) program to include all sworn officers (not just uniformed patrol officers), upgrade its mobile video recorders (MVRs) to those that have LPR capabilities and expand the number of vehicles equipped with same, and introduce conductive energy devices (CEDs) to all of uniformed patrol field supervisors. This will all be funded by a grant from the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General and monies from its Municipal Law Enforcement Trust Account authorized for use by the Union County Prosecutor.

Despite very tough financial times, the Westfield Police Department has been able to successfully secure increased staffing and funding, which is absolutely essential to adequately provide for and ensure the safety and security of the community it serves.

PERSON COMPLETING REPORT:

SIGNED: _____ **DATE:** _____
Christopher Battiloro, Chief of Police