

# WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

## ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF MICHAEL MARKS



# Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania Bureau of Police

Year organized..... 1905  
Total Proposed General Fund Budget (FY25) .....\$8,611,646

Personnel.....\$6,615,812  
Supplies .....\$873,484  
Services .....\$612,000  
Capital Reserve Fund Purchases .....\$510,350

Sworn Personnel ..... (As of 12/31/2025)  
Chief ..... 1  
Deputy Chief..... 1  
Lieutenant ..... 3  
Sergeant..... 10  
CID Sergeant.....5  
Officer ..... 29  
TOTAL SWORN..... 49

Civilian Personnel.....5

TOTAL EMPLOYEES.....54

Estimated Population (per Census Bureau) .....29,173

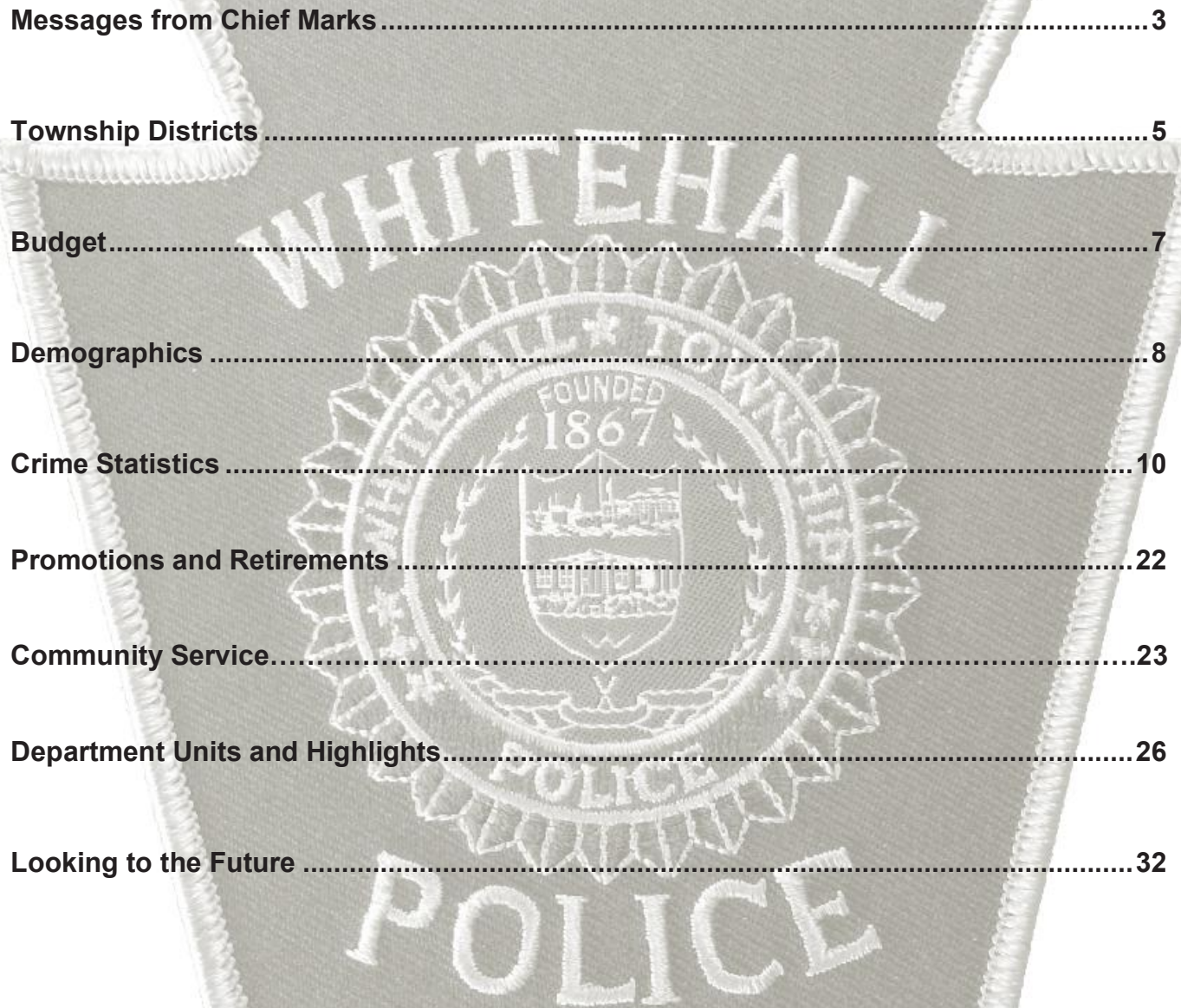
Percentage of sworn assigned to: .....  
Patrol ..... 75%  
Investigative ..... 10%  
Administrative.....14%

Motorcycles ..... 2  
Marked vehicles ..... 16  
Unmarked vehicles ..... 10

Specialized Teams.....  
MERT Operators..... 5  
Bicycle-certified Officers..... 4  
Crisis Intervention Team Officers ..... 1  
School Resource Officers..... 2  
Field Training Officers ..... 10  
Hostage Negotiators ..... 1  
Honor Guard Members..... 5  
Accident Reconstruction Officers.....4  
CART Members.....9

Emergency 911 Calls Received .....21,990  
Total Civilian Contacts.....22,542  
Total Criminal Reports Taken.....15,948  
Percentage of Part 1 Cases Cleared.....52.48%  
Total Traffic Stops.....7,256  
Total Arrest .....773  
Total Summary Arrests.....266



A large, light-colored police badge is centered in the background. It is a shield-shaped badge with a serrated border. The top of the badge features the word "WHITEHALL" in an arch. The bottom features the word "POLICE" in an inverted arch. In the center is a circular seal with a star at the top, the text "WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP" around the perimeter, and "FOUNDED 1867" in the middle. Inside the seal is a small illustration of a town scene.

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## Mission Statement



*It is the mission of the Whitehall Township Bureau of Police to protect the lives and property of the people we serve, to maintain order, to reduce the prevalence and fear of crime, and to enhance public safety while working with the diverse populations to improve their quality of life. We realize that the Police alone cannot regulate crime, but must act in unison with the community in order to achieve our goals. Our mandate is to do so with highest degree of honor and integrity, while at all times conducting ourselves with the utmost ethical standards to maintain public confidence.*

## Vision Statement

*It is the vision of Whitehall Township Bureau of Police to, as closely as possible, attain a township free from crime and public disorder.*



## Core Values

**Service to Our Community**  
**Reverence for the Law**  
**Quality through Continuous Improvement**  
**and Training**  
**Integrity in Every Aspect of Our Job**  
**Respect for All People**  
**Commitment to Leadership**

## Message from the Chief of Police

On behalf of the Whitehall Township Police Department (WPD), I am honored to present the 2025 Annual Report, marking my tenth year as your Chief of Police. This report highlights the significant achievements and progress made by the department over the past year.

In 2024, the Whitehall Police Department made a commitment to reduce violent crime in the township. The key components of our strategy were the removal of criminals, drugs, and weapons from the streets. Through proactive policing, along with dedicated criminal investigations, a significant 7.7% reduction in Part I violent crime occurred in 2024. With this same strategy in place, I am pleased to announce that the township has further reduced Part 1 violent crime by another 10.7% in 2025. With the great work that our officers have done over the past two years, violent crime has been **reduced by 18.4%**. I cannot thank the employees of the police department enough for their dedicated efforts towards making Whitehall a safer place to live, work, conduct business, shop, and travel through.



From time to time, I hear statements that Whitehall is not the same as it used to be. I tend to agree with the statement but it comes from a different viewpoint. In the mid 2000's, the township averaged 34 armed robberies per year. For the past two years, it averaged 6. In the mid 2000's, the township averaged 120 burglaries a year. For the past two years, it averaged 40. The department was able to clear an astonishing 51% of the burglaries reported in 2025. The next highest total prior to 2024 was 33% cleared in 2003. Also, in the mid 2000's, the department averaged 3,200 traffic stops. For the past two years, the department averaged 6,629 traffic enforcements. The dedication of the men and women who wear the uniform with pride is readily apparent. Their commitment to the department's vision statement of, to as closely as possible, attain a township free from crime and public disorder, is at the forefront of their daily tours of duty. I am proud to serve alongside these great people who continue to make a difference.

In 2026, the county will see a complete overhaul of the emergency services dispatch system. This upgrade will allow for better, safer communications across the emergency service spectrum. The department will continue to focus on training the officers to be the best that they can be. We will be continuing our mental health initiatives, our de-escalation training in partnership with Lehigh County Forensic Services for the eight straight year, our use of force training to increase officer safety, while minimizing risk and overenforcement.

This annual report provides an overview of the great work accomplished by the men and women of the Whitehall Police Department in 2025. In 2026, the Whitehall Police Department will continue to operate at a high level and provide the best possible service to public. With three vacancies still left to fill in our ranks, we hope to accomplish that task and have a fully staffed department for the first time in well over a decade. If you know someone that is looking for a fulfilling career that focuses on helping others, please direct them to [lehighcountypolicetest.com](http://lehighcountypolicetest.com), applications will be accepted soon.

It has truly been an honor to serve as your Chief of Police for the past ten years and overall, since 1999. Whitehall Township has one of the best police departments in the state, and I am proud to be a part of it. The officers who serve our community are dedicated to making Whitehall a great place to live, work, shop, and commute through. The future of this township is bright.

The number of dedicated individuals that work across all of the township's bureaus is truly an amazing thing to behold. In a time where the narrative is to easily disparage others on social media platforms and believe that there is waste and corruption hiding behind every door, Whitehall Township continues to provide the best possible services with some of the lowest millage rates in the Lehigh Valley (please see the Lehigh and Northampton County 2026 millage rate sheets for the actual comparison). Be proud of our community. Help your neighbors when you can. And if you see something, please say something.

We continue to be guided by our Core Values:

- Service to Our Community
- Reverence for the Law
- Quality through Continuous Improvement and Training
- Integrity in Every Aspect of Our Job
- Respect for All People
- Commitment to Leadership

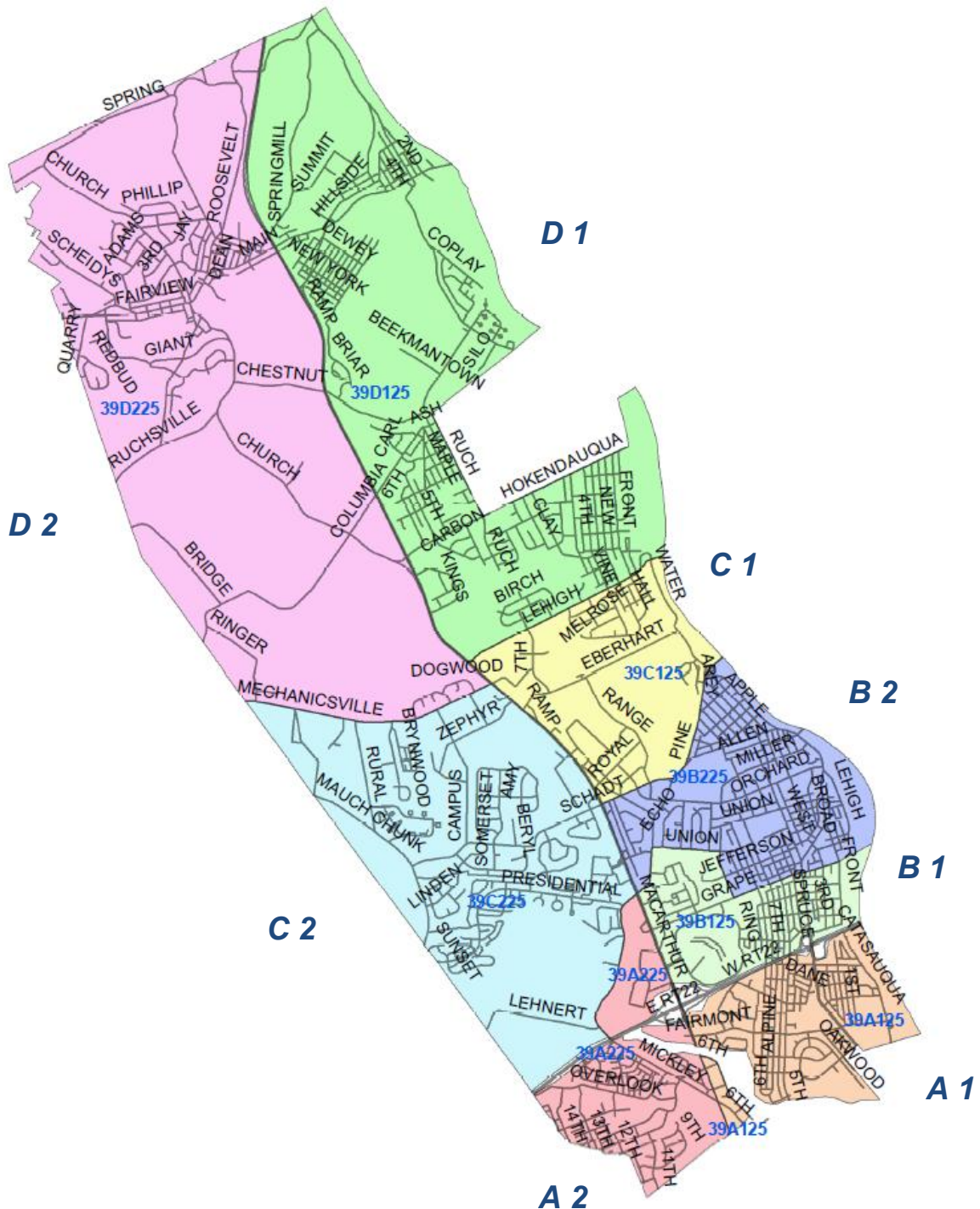
Sincerely,

Michael J. Marks  
Chief of Police



# Township Districts

The four districts divide the nearly 12.8 square miles which comprise Whitehall Township. Each of these districts have different demographics, economic composition, neighborhood identification, and distinct opportunities for improvement. Patrol officers consistently strive to serve the needs of each community or neighborhood.



## Township Districts



The Whitehall Township Police Patrol Division is comprised of four patrol zones and approximately 75% of the sworn staffing of the Department. Each zone serves a separate and distinct part of Whitehall Township. A district is the “Southern End” of the Township, B District is traditionally referred to as “the Mall district,” C District consists of the neighborhoods South of Lehigh Street and the neighborhoods around the school campus,” D District is the “North End” of the township and includes the villages of Hokendauqua, Stiles, Egypt and Cementon.

From October of 2024 to October of 2025, according to Lehigh County Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) data, patrol officers responded to

21,990 dispatched calls for service, created 780 self-initiated calls for service, and conducted 7,256 traffic stops (19% increase from 2024) across the four patrol districts. That averages 80 “runs” per day across the four districts.

The primary function of a patrol officer is to deter, detect, and stop crime. However, responding on calls for service and patrolling the streets is not all patrol officers accomplish. Patrol officers also fill temporary assignments in other bureaus to cross train and augment special projects. Patrol officers comprise the majority of the resources used during events such as events on the Rails to Trails; traffic control for funerals and other gatherings, as needed. Patrol Officers also participate in specialized units such as the Lehigh County Municipal Emergency Response Team (MERT), crime scene processing, Lehigh County Accident Reconstruction, Project Lifesaver, Blue Guardian and many others.

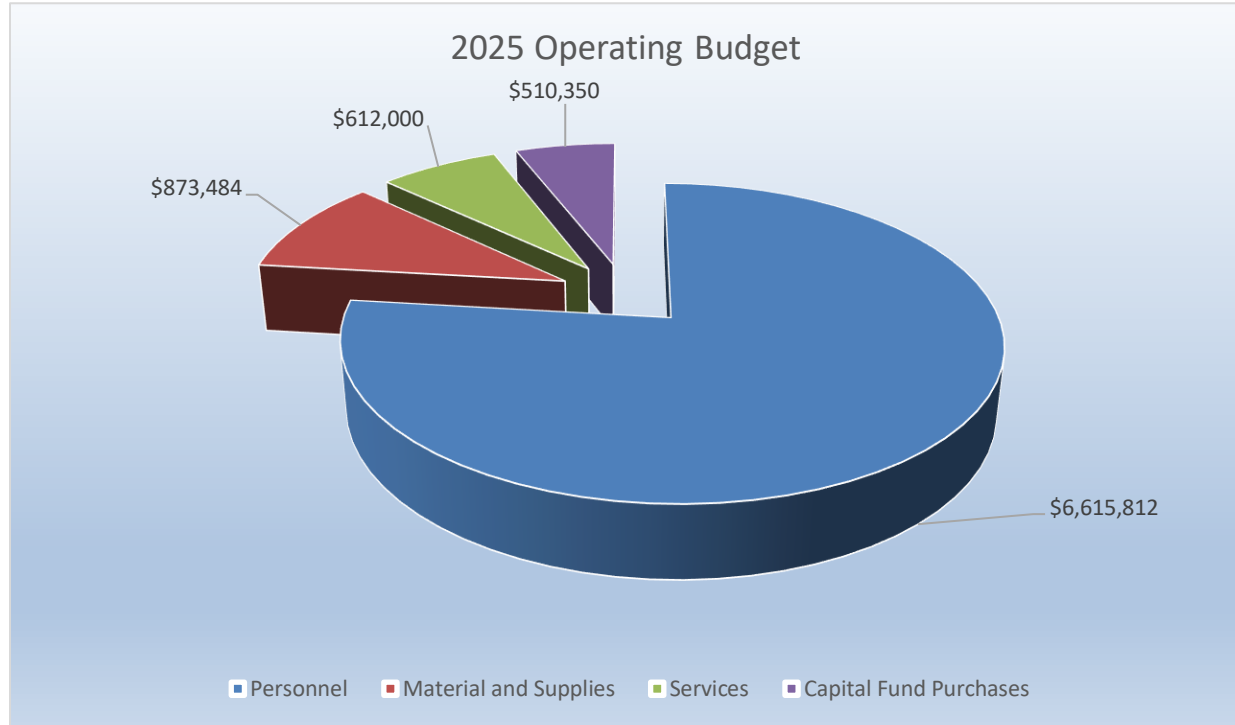


Patrol officers are the most visible and recognizable face of the Whitehall Police Department. Our officers represent various beliefs, faiths, backgrounds, upbringings, and ethnicities; together they work toward the common goal of protecting the citizens of Whitehall Township.



# Budget

## 2025 Operating Budget (Actual)

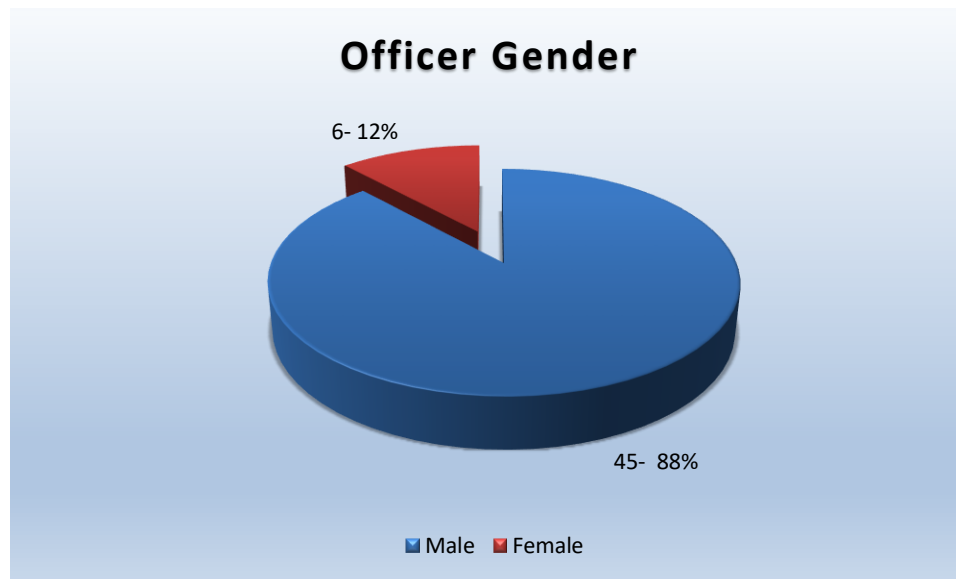


Budget	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Personnel	\$5,120,000	\$5,575,587	\$6,083,537	\$6,253,000	\$6,615,812
Material and Supplies	\$580,000	\$791,200	\$838,650	\$850,404	\$873,484
Services	\$470,000	\$470,000	\$590,000	\$614,000	\$612,000
Capital Fund Purchases	\$356,000	\$226,400	\$714,199*	\$590,900	\$510,350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,526,000</b>	<b>\$7,063,187</b>	<b>\$8,152,289</b>	<b>\$8,308,304</b>	<b>\$8,611,646</b>

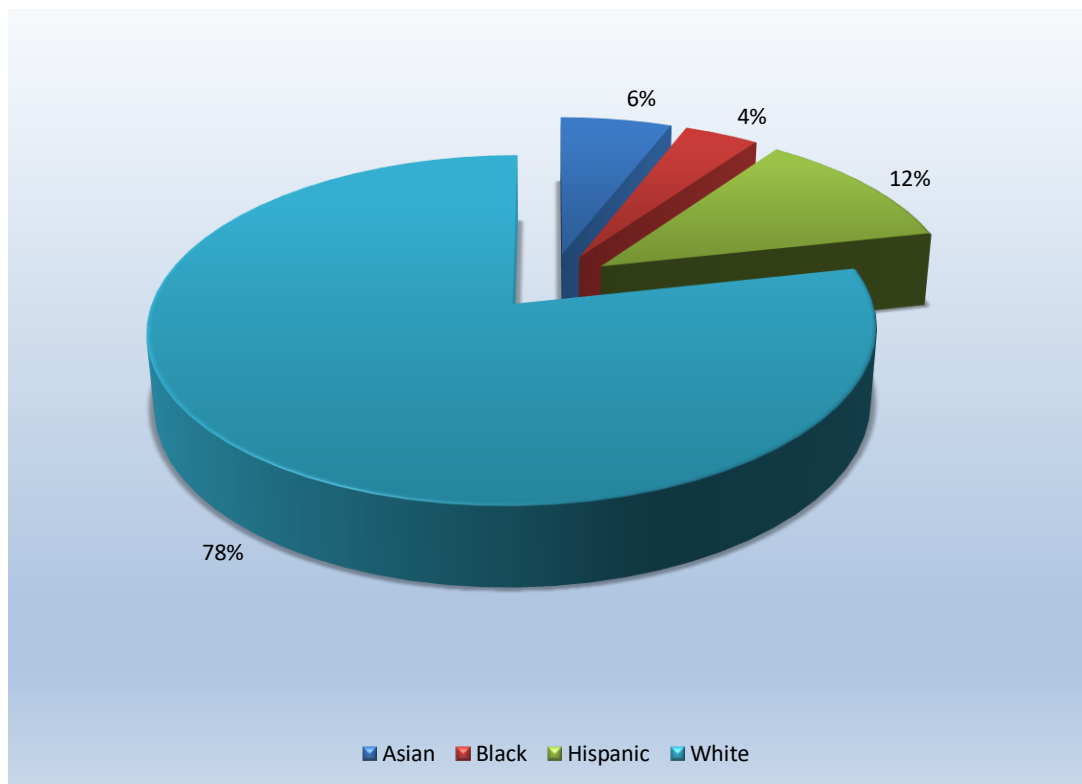


\*Includes approximately \$263,000 in grants that were received from the state and reimbursed back to the township.

## Sworn Personnel



## Officer Demographics



### Sworn Officers Per 1000 Population

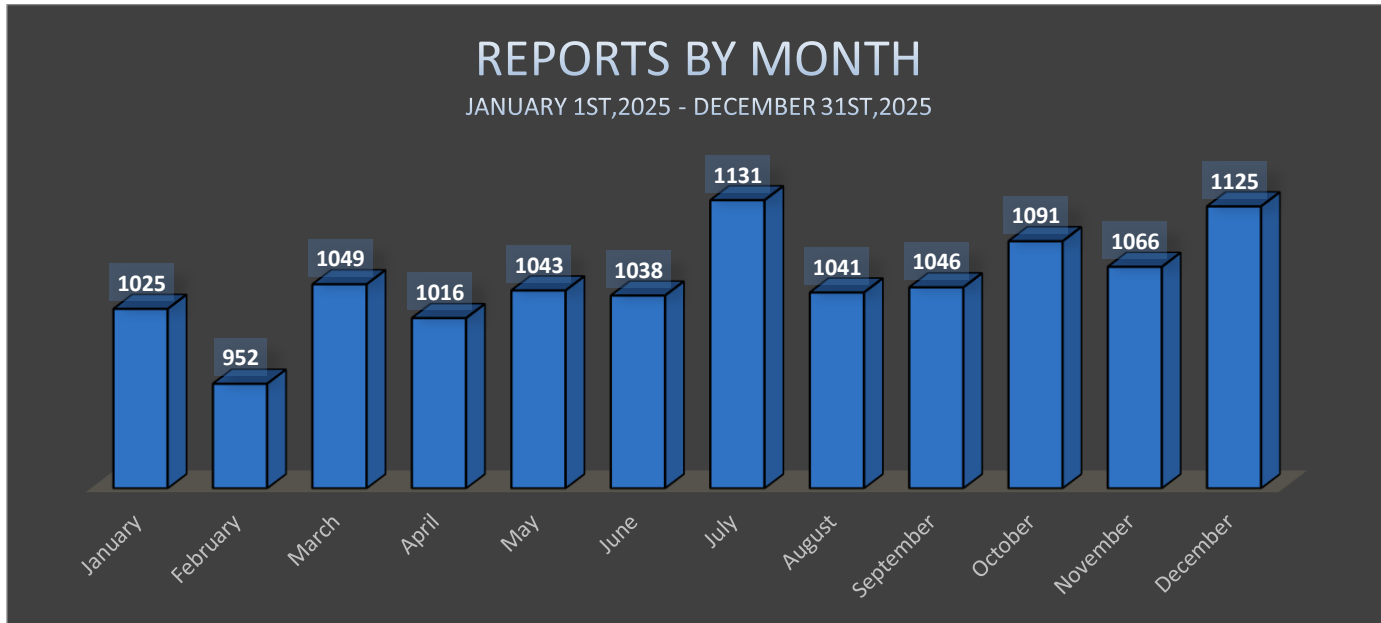


	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sworn Personnel	52	48	46	44	44	43	45	45	42
Whitehall Township Estimated Population	26,978	27,054	26,808	27,008	27,095	27,093	27,220	27,248	27,351
Sworn Per 1000 Population	1.93	1.77	1.72	1.63	1.62	1.59	1.65	1.65	1.54
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Sworn Personnel	43	44	45	47	46	45	43	46	49
Whitehall Township Estimated Population	27,513	27,714	27,404	27,714	29,173	29,173	29,173	29,173	29,271
Sworn Per 1000 Population	1.56	1.59	1.64	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.7	1.79

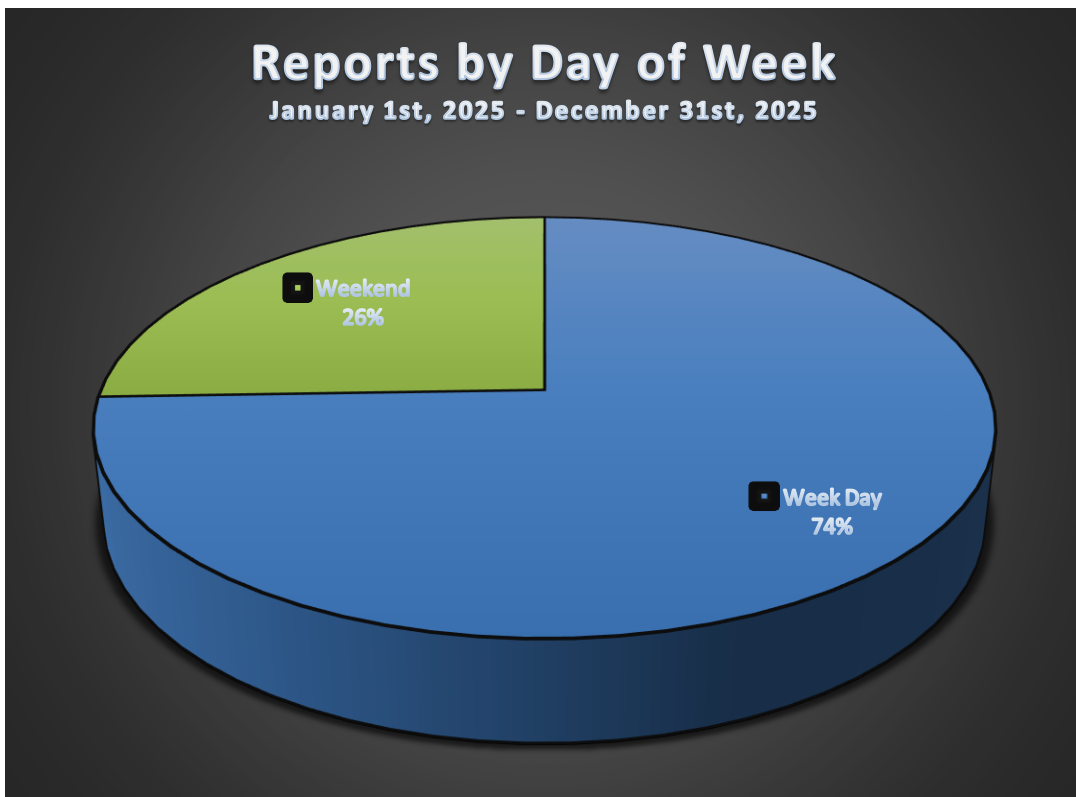
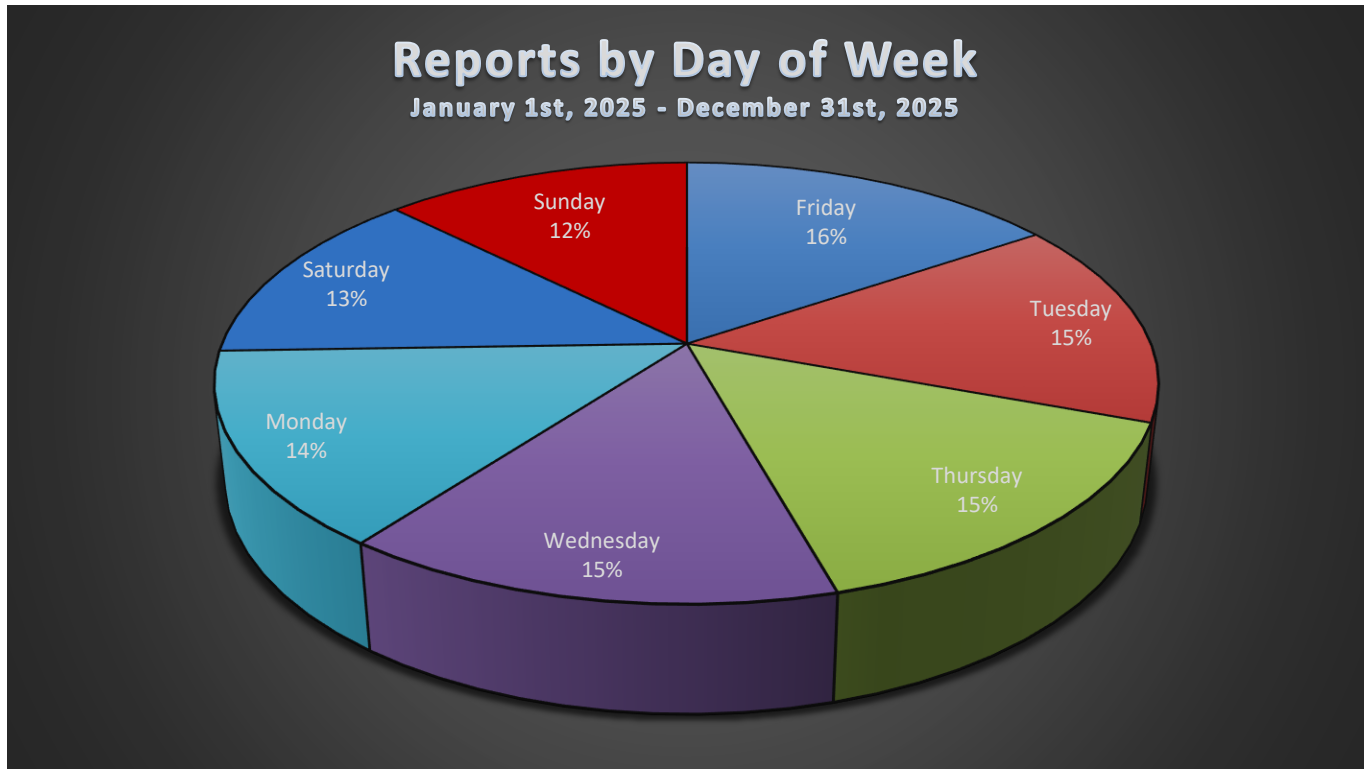


# Crime Statistics

## Incident Frequency by Month

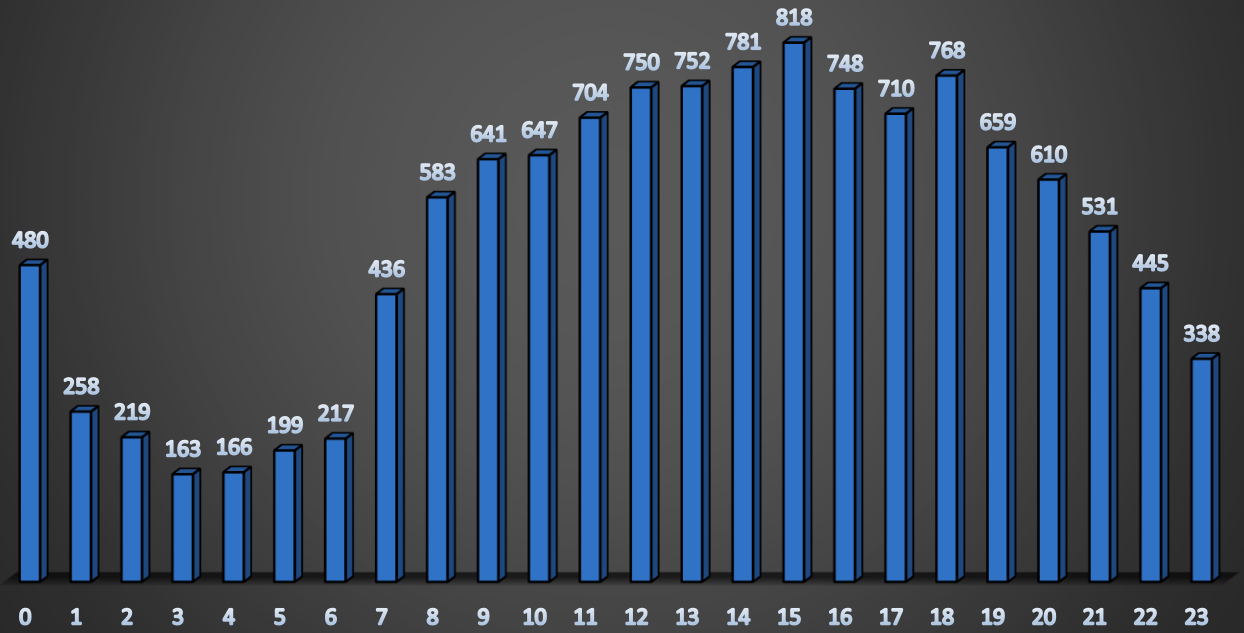


## Incidents by Day of the Week



## Incident Frequency by Hour of the Day

### Reports by Hour January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025

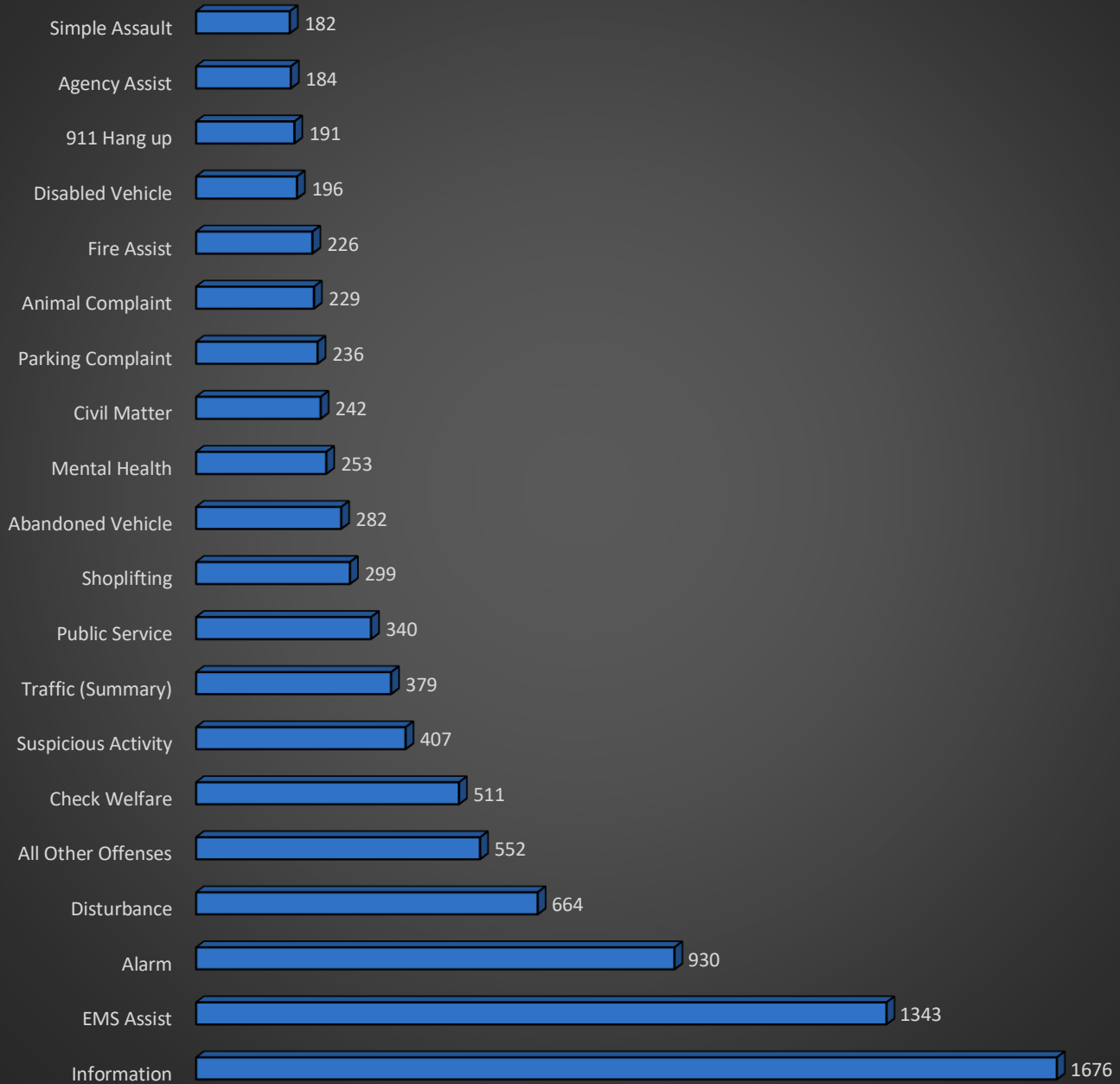




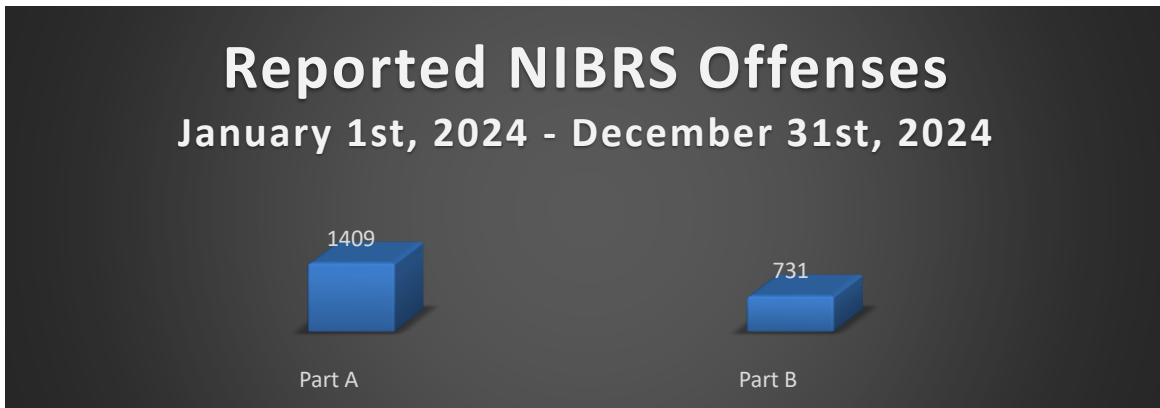
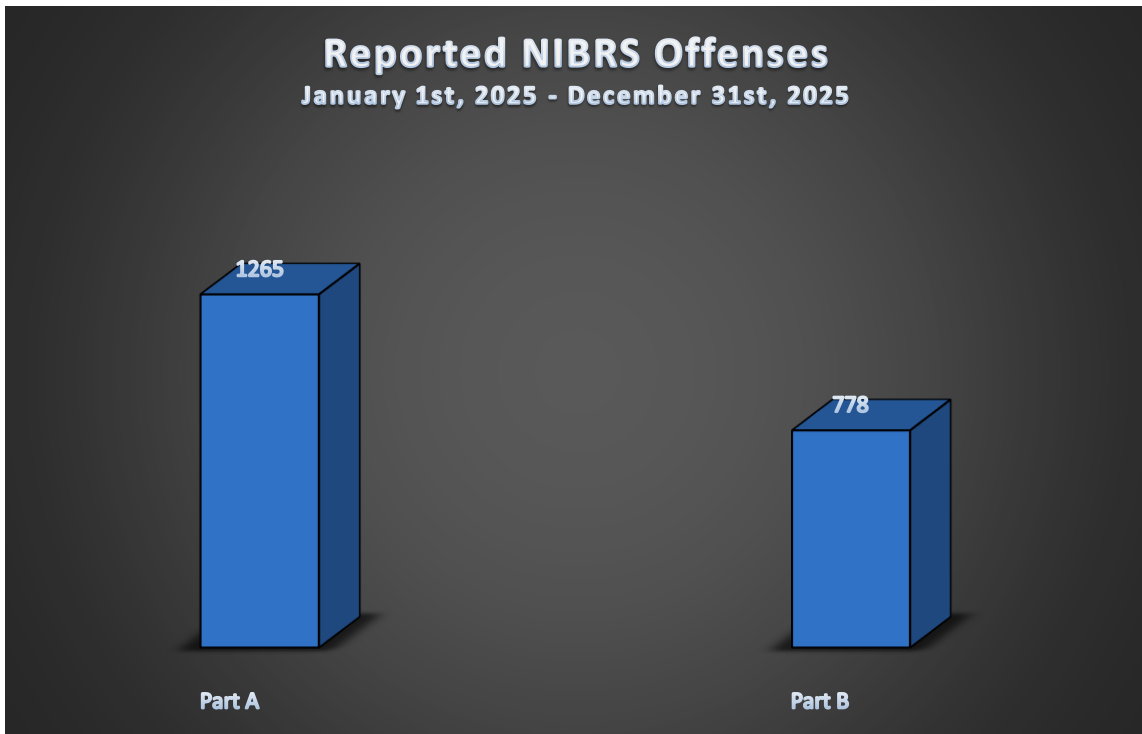
## Top 20 Incident Frequency by Type

### Top 20 Offense/Incident Reports

January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025

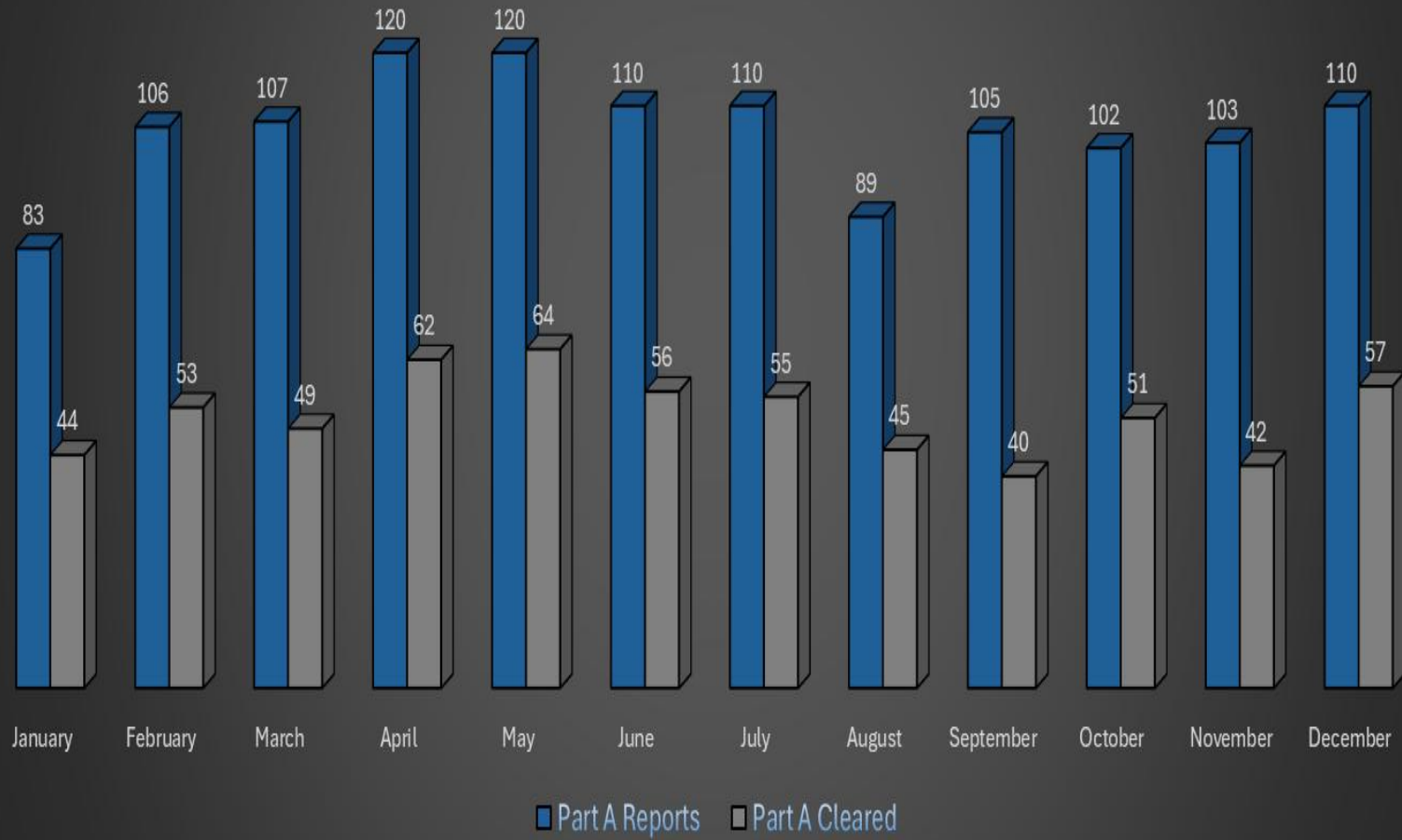


## Part 1 and Part 2 Offenses



## Cleared Part A Offenses

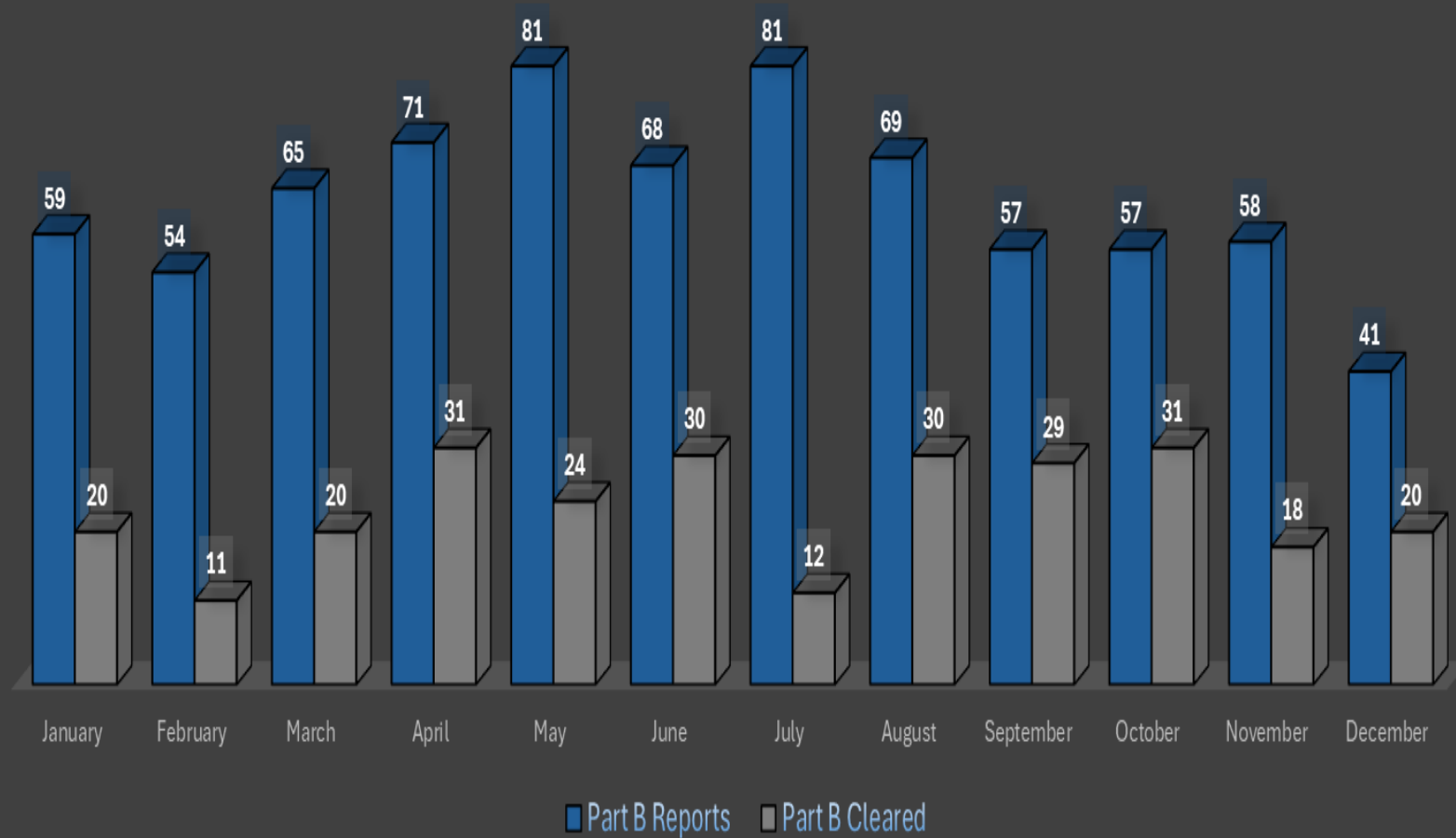
January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025





## CLEARED PART B OFFENSES

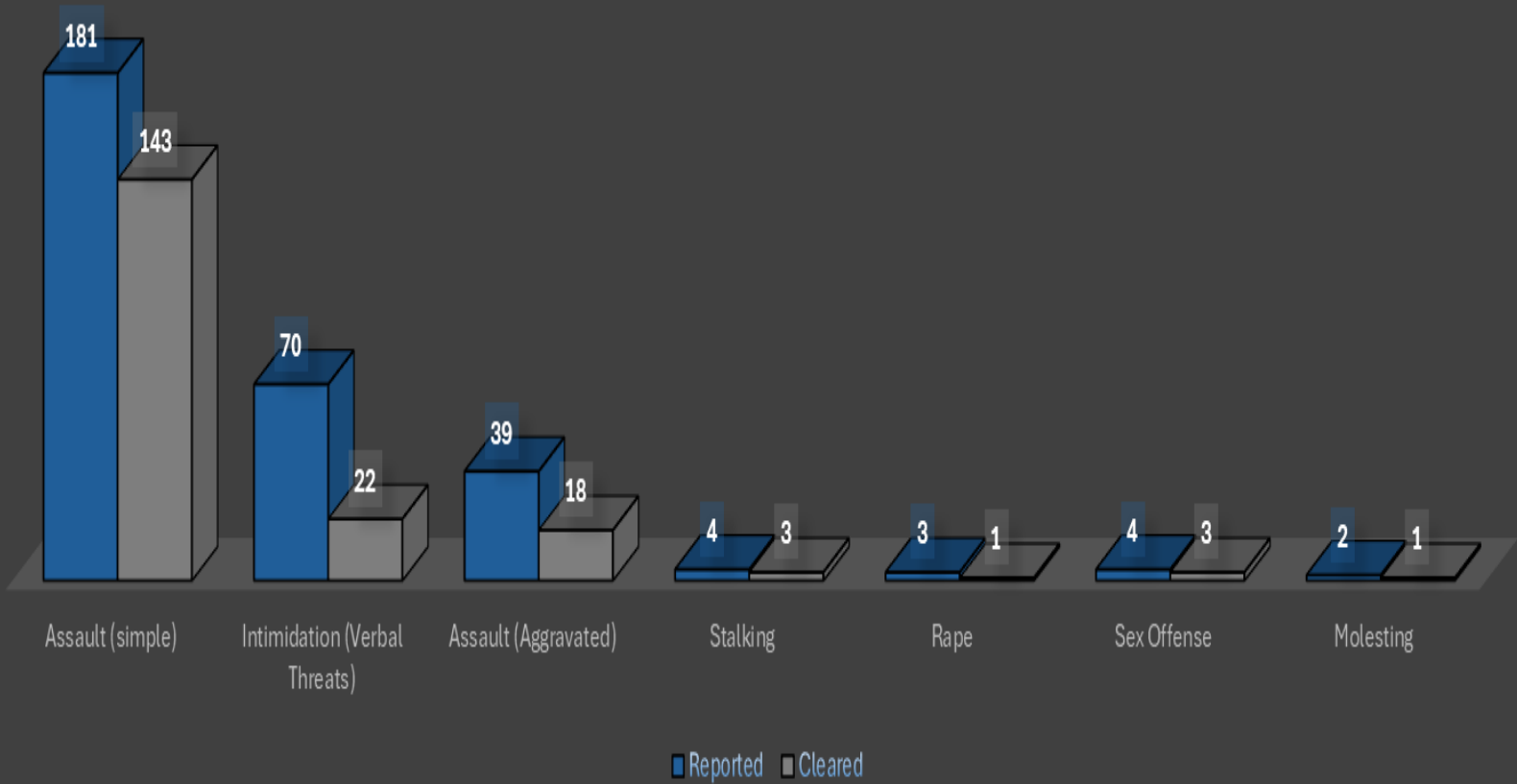
JANUARY 1ST, 2025 - DECEMBER 31ST, 2025



Part II Offenses (Non-Violent) and Clearances

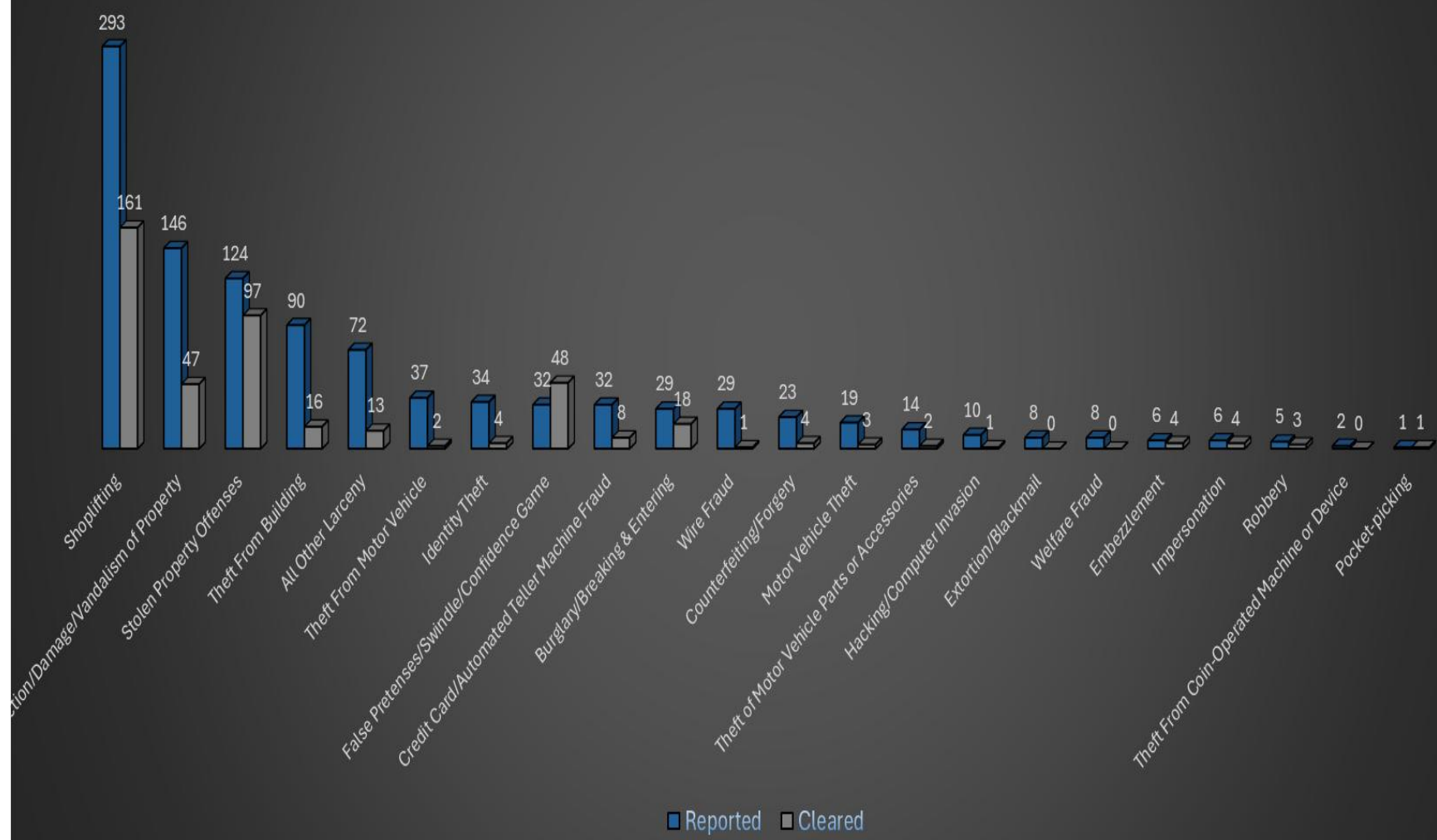
# CRIMES AGAINST PERSON

JANUARY 1ST, 2025 - DECEMBER 31ST, 2025



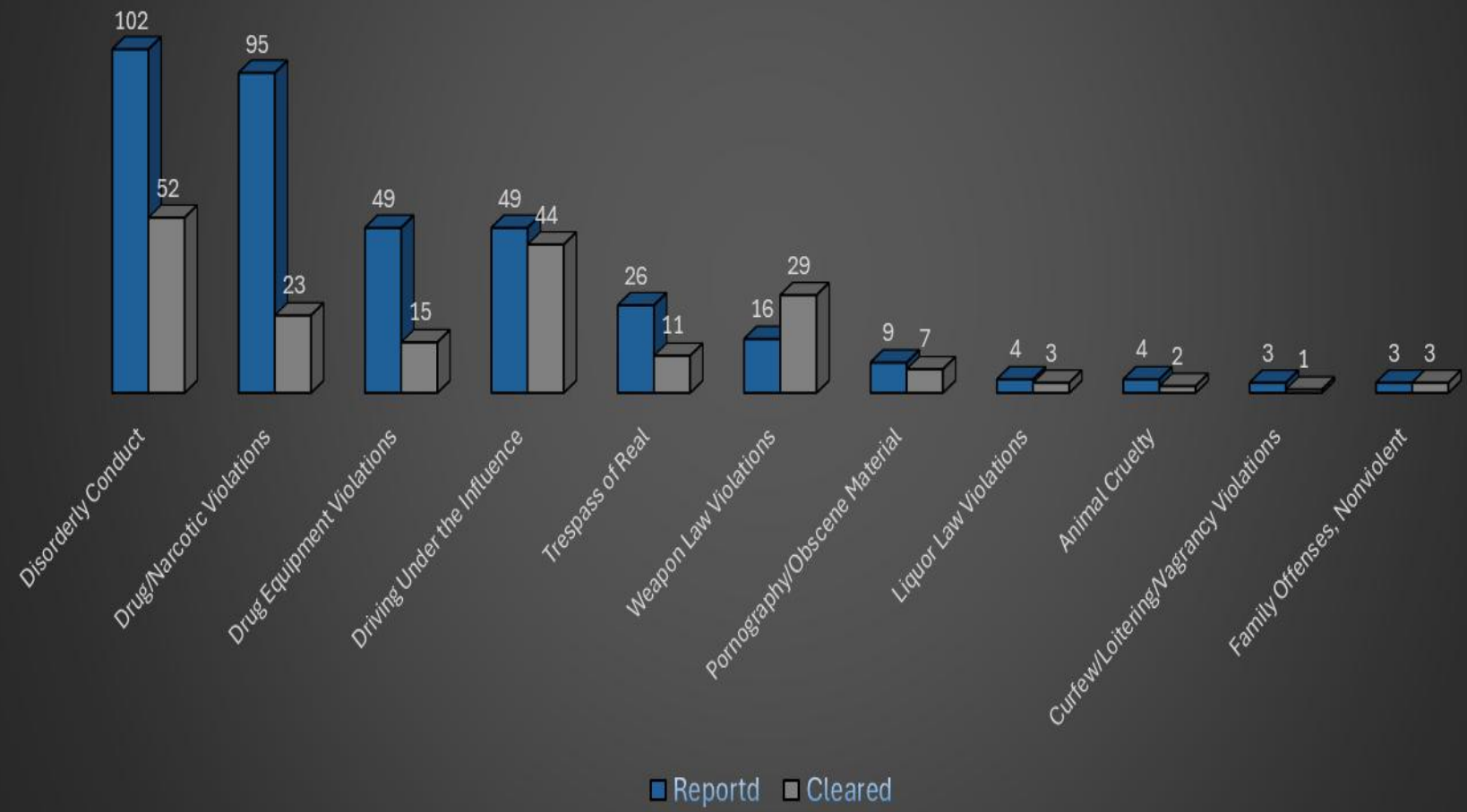
# Crimes Against Property

January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025



# Crimes Against Society

January 1st, 2025 - December 31st, 2025





## Use of Force Reporting

In 2020, the Whitehall Township Police Department started compiling detailed reports on use of force (UOF) statistics. Technological advancements are revolutionizing police operations, allowing for better tracking and monitoring of information, and addressing significant trends and outliers. To enhance our Department and services, we are committed to implementing systems that measure results, improve efficiency, and ensure accountability.

By analyzing the statistics in this report, we aim to identify areas where outdated or ineffective UOF policies and training can be improved, and where innovative practices can be introduced. Our core value, Quality Through Continuous Improvement and Training, drives us to achieve the highest quality in all aspects of our work and to proactively seek new and better ways to connect with and serve the community.

This report is a vital tool for self-assessment and sharing information with the public. We are also dedicated to learning from the broader law enforcement community by sharing knowledge and best practices. Honest self-examination is essential to align our methods with current community expectations and needs.

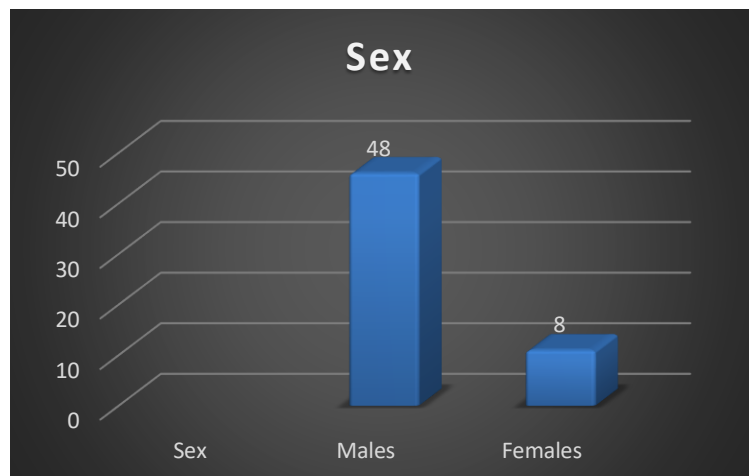
The Whitehall Township Police Department continues to be a leader and model in crime reduction, prevention programs, and evolving performance management approaches.

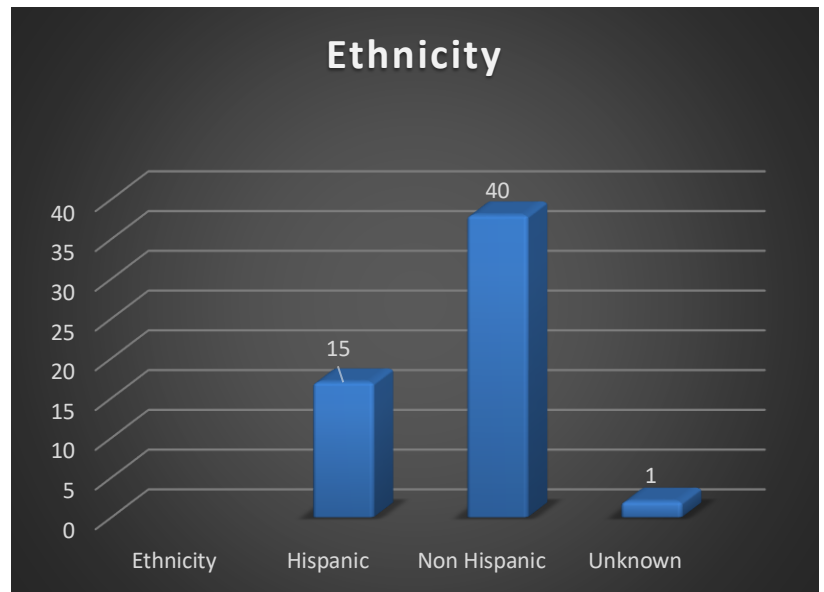
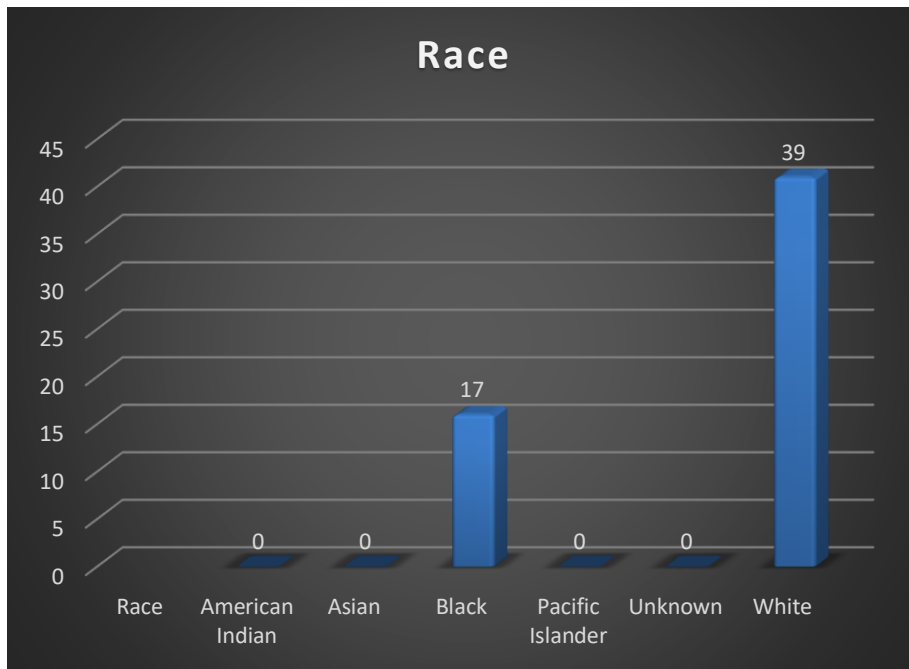
In 2025, of the 22,552 Civilian contacts, only 56 encounters resulted in some level of force being used. In 4 of the 56 incidents, the suspect was armed with a weapon. 17 out of the 56 incidents involved a mental health related call for service (out of a total 253 mental health calls). 4 out of the 56 incidents resulted in the suspect being injured. Out of the four incidents the following injuries were reported: 1 bruise, 3 minor injuries treated and released at a hospital.

Type of Call Officer Responded To That Involved Use of Force	
Retail Theft	11
Mental Health	9
Simple Assault	6
Agg Assault	4
Agency Assist	4
Disturbance	4
Public Drunk	3
EMS	3
Public Drunk	3
Disorderly Conduct	2
DUI	2
Wanted Person	1
Stolen Vehicle	1
Theft	1
Trespass	1
Armed Person	1
Narcotics	1

### Suspect's Reported Action(s)

Attempted Escape	34
Compliant	1
Non Compliant	26
Passive Resistant	24
Active Aggression	13
Unknown	2
Intimidation	22





Type of Force Used by Officer	
Verbal	49
Muscling/Control Lock	16
Muscling	25
Control Lock	0
Pressure Points	3
Hand Strike	1
Leg Strike	0
OC	0
Baton	0
CEW	0
Firearm	1
Firearm Low Ready	6
CEW (only pointed)	7

## Promotions and Retirements

### Promotions - 5

Lieutenant Leah Van Note	1/5/2025
Lieutenant Mark Schwendeman	1/5/2025
Sergeant Alexander Reinik	1/5/2025
Sergeant Michael Godfrey	3/30/2025
Sergeant Michael Slivka	9/14/2025

### Retirements/Resigned - 4

Rank/Title & Name	Date of Hire	Date of Retirement	Years of Service
Lieutenant Gregory Bealer	12/9/96	1/24/25	29
Officer Christopher Flynn	2/15/00	2/28/25	25
Lieutenant Jeffrey Bruchak	5/11/00	5/11/25	25
Admin Assistant Deborah Hil	6/9/80	1/31/26	45

The retirement cycle slowed down for the Whitehall Police Department in 2025. Overall, the agency only celebrated the retirements of three officers and one administrative assistant this past month. While these Officers will be greatly missed, we wish them well in their retirements.



Greg Bealer started his career with the Whitehall Police Department on the morning of December 9, 1996. Greg was a member of the Whitehall Police team that will be remembered for the many different improvements that he was either a part of, or spearheaded. For the eight years that he worked as a patrol officer, Greg became a member of the Whitehall Police Bike Patrol unit, where he took to the community aspects of policing. In 2001, Greg volunteered to be a Field Training Officer for the department. Greg was promoted to Corporal on September 20, 2004. Subsequently, Greg was promoted to Sergeant on November 30, 2008. On September 14, 2015, Greg Bealer was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assigned as the commander of the Patrol Division. In this position, Greg would come to lead many new initiatives such as being the overall FTO Commander, the Whitehall Emergency Management Agency Liaison, he was the first officer to be in charge of the department's social media initiatives, he was the first Active

Shooter Instructor, he formed the Whitehall Police Honor Guard and also implemented Project Lifesaver in the township. On a personal side, Greg loves riding his bicycle throughout the countryside with his friends. This passion brought him to volunteer for the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope foundation. Every police memorial week, Greg and volunteers from across the nation ride their bikes into Washington D.C. to raise money for the survivors of officers who fell in the line of duty and to honor their service and sacrifice. Greg also loves to travel and has visited many places across America and the world Greg wore the badge with pride, and it showed in his dedication to the department and the township that we serve. Lieutenant Greg Bealer has received four meritorious service commendations and three life-saving awards during his twenty-eight-year career. This is part of the legacy that Greg Bealer will leave behind here at Whitehall.



Christopher Flynn started his first shift at the Whitehall Police Department on the morning of February 15th, 2000. Chris would spend the next twenty-five years patrolling the streets of Whitehall Township. Chris came to Whitehall and bought with him a distinct desire to serve and give back to the community he adopted as his own. Officer Flynn was assigned many different tasks over his career at the Whitehall Police Department. Chris was a dependable Field Training Officer, and he was responsible for training several of the officers in this department. Chris also served on the warrant unit and was a member of the Bicycle Patrol Unit. Chris was also a member of the Whitehall Township Police Bargaining Unit board. Officer Flynn was a police officer who did not shy away from difficult assignments or investigations. Chris's focus has always been keeping the motoring public safe, and he was extremely adept at taking DUIs off the streets. Officer Flynn received 2 Meritorious Service Stars and 1 Life Saving Medals, along

with numerous commendations. As a Field Training Officer, Chris cared about the people he trained and imparted his knowledge on them. Chris took his job seriously and was an officer that you could always count on when situations were at their worst. He can be proud that he did his job with the same exuberance and dedication throughout all of his years of service from the first day until his last.



Jeffrey Bruchak started his career with the Whitehall Police Department on the morning of May 11, 2000. Jeff was a member of the Whitehall Police team that could be counted on to do whatever was necessary to accomplish the mission. Officer Bruchak volunteered to be on the Bike Patrol Unit for the department. In April of 2006, Jeff volunteered for the Whitehall Police Emergency Response Team. Jeff continued on his upwards path through the department when he was transferred to the detective position with the Lehigh County Auto Theft Task Force on December 30, 2007. The unit and Jeff received many accolades and commendations during their years together. Jeff was promoted to Corporal Detective on March 13, 2016. Jeff continued to lead from the front and was just as persistent investigating Whitehall crime as he was with auto thefts. On February 2nd of 2020, Jeff was promoted to Sergeant Detective and continued to

operate at a high level. Jeff conducted numerous high-profile investigations and did so with a dedication that was beyond reproach. Jeff was promoted to Lieutenant on June 12th, 2022. Jeff took this opportunity to modernize the Criminal Investigations Division. The Division was staffed with all young investigators and Jeff was able to teach and mold them into a unit that was dedicated and more than capable of solving any crime reported in the township. His guidance, his resolve, his knowledge, his personality, and his empathy will be hard to replace. Jeff set a high standard for future leaders to live up to. Jeffrey Bruchak has received four Meritorious Service Commendations and one Lifesaving Medal during his twenty-five-year career. This is the legacy that Jeff Bruchak will leave behind here at Whitehall. Every officer that he has worked with will knowingly or unknowingly pass along the knowledge and lessons that Jeff provided them during the early part of their careers. Jeff did his job to the best of his ability for the entire length of his career. Quite simply, Jeff loved being a cop, and I think he loved being an investigator just a little bit more.



Administrative Assistant Deborah "Debbie" Hill started as a dispatcher with the Whitehall Township Police on June 9, 1980. She went from dispatching Whitehall officers to being the face of the department at the walk-up window. Deb went on to become the Criminal Investigation secretary where she assisted detectives with many different clerical duties throughout her years assigned to that division. In June of 2007, Debbie became the Administrative Assistant for the police department. Deb served in that roll up until her retirement day. She was responsible for many different administrative assignments that kept the department running on a daily basis. She could always be counted on for being diligent, dependable, personable, and conscience of the responsibility that we have to the taxpayers of Whitehall. Deb was a valued member of the Whitehall team, and she will be sorely missed here. Her generational knowledge of the township and the department will never be truly replaced. The township cannot thank her enough for her years of dedicated service to the

citizens and the police department.

## Community Service

### No Shave November

For the eighth year in a row, the Whitehall Police Department participated in No Shave November. This fundraiser assists with provided assistance to those in need. The Whitehall Police Department has chosen HUGS for Pediatric Cancer Warriors foundation for its charitable donations. The foundation provides comfort measures for the families of Pediatric Hospice.

Multiple families in need were assisted over the holidays when needs were identified by HUGS for Pediatric Cancer Warriors staff members that the struggling families could not purchase necessary items for their families. The officers facilitated delivery of Christmas gift cards and other necessities to help families struggling with providing care for their child, while still providing for their family.







## Blue Guardian

For the past seven years, the Whitehall Police have partnered with the Lehigh County District Attorney's Office, who helped to establish the Blue Guardian Program, together with Lehigh County Drug and Alcohol and the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Center. Blue Guardian is a program whereby people who have been revived through the use of naloxone receive a visit at their home within 72 hours by a police officer and a Certified Recovery Specialist (CRS). The objectives of Blue Guardian are to help people into treatment and to increase awareness of resources available to combat addiction.

## Youth Interaction



Beginning on a limited basis in 2021, the Whitehall Police School Resources Officers conducted a youth police academy to provide an insight into the world of policing. The program was a success and moved from a joint venture with the South Whitehall Police Department to an individual program hosted solely by Whitehall Police. With the assistance of many different officers from within our agency, we were able to have a very successful program in 2025. Our agency provided a group of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders with a law enforcement experience and instruction. The students were exposed to presentations on police operations, crime scene processing, SWAT operations, and several other areas of the day-to-day

operations in our departments. Building on their success in 2025, Officers Christman and Carter are expecting to host once again host the advanced academy for 2026 and add a program with high school aged students interested in a career in law enforcement. This will build on the basic instruction provided previously and focus more on targeting youth that are close to graduation and looking towards a career in law enforcement.

These programs could not be possible without the great assistance that we receive from multiple different agencies such as the Lehigh County District Attorney Office, the Lehigh County Judicial Bench, the Municipal Emergency Response Team, the South Whitehall Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, and the Pennsylvania State Police.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program continues to assist students and provide on campus security at the school district. Our SROs were able to divert **forty-seven (47)** juveniles into the juvenile justice panel (Impact Project) for alternate penalties as a result of minor crimes that were committed. Officers Christman and Carter are dedicated to improving the quality of life for our juvenile population in Whitehall Township. These officers are ever present at the vast majority of school district events that occur after hours on the campus.

In 2026, Officer Gilmore will once again represent our department at the Pennsylvania State Police Camp Cadet. This worthwhile experience is a youth educational program designed to provide campers with a firsthand look at law enforcement programs. This camp was developed to challenge students mentally and physically.





# Department Units and Highlights

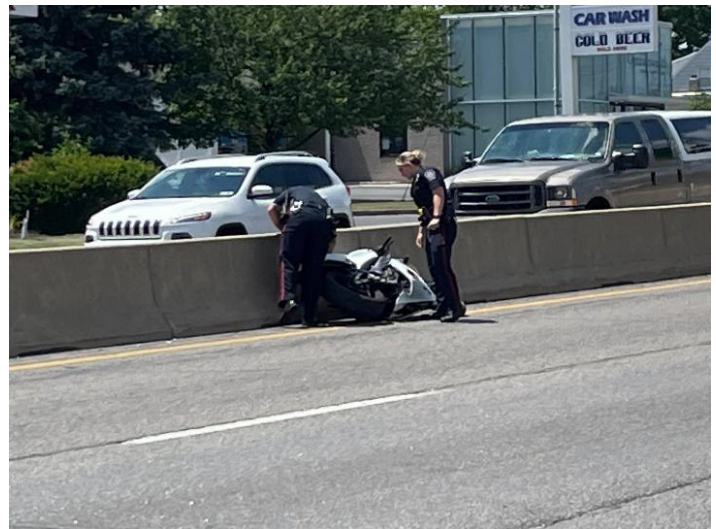
## Crime Scene Processing Unit

The Crime Scene Processing Unit (CSPU) responded to 33 incidents in 2025. In many of these incidents, members of the unit were able to locate and document crucial pieces of evidence that assisted with the prosecution of offenders for a variety of crimes. The members of the unit volunteer for this assignment in addition to their normal patrol functions. Several personnel assigned to the unit also receive extensive training and maintain several certifications in order to have a thorough understanding of computer and cellular hardware and software. The specialized training that is required, allows these officers to be court designated experts in their field.



## Traffic Services

Through the course of their shifts, Whitehall Police Officers patrol approximately 162 miles of roadway within Whitehall Township. While staffing levels and necessitated the temporary suspension of the traffic unit, patrol officers continue to conduct enforcement when their time is not allocated to calls for service, arrests, and court proceedings. In 2025, the agency issued 2,417 traffic citations, 4,140 written warnings, and 699 parking tickets. The officers strike the delicate balance between zero tolerance enforcement and providing warnings to motoring public, which concern minor violations of the traffic laws. The department also deploys officers on the Lehigh County Crash Accident Reconstruction Team (CART). These highly trained officers provide valuable investigative services when serious or fatal accidents occur across Lehigh County Police jurisdictions.



# Department Units and Highlights

## Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division assigned 444 cases amongst the four detectives and one supervisor. The CID made 51 arrests (20 pending warrant service) and cleared an additional 211 cases by exception. The Criminal Investigations Division maintained their **overall clearance rate for investigations to 63%** for 2025. This was once again, the **highest clearance rate in Lehigh County for investigations**. In addition to the cases that they were assigned, the detectives were also tasked with background investigations for entry-level police candidates. In 2025, CID conducted twenty-one (21) background investigations, in addition to their assigned cases.

In 2025, CID investigated several serious incidents that occurred in the township. Some of the arrests that were made included:



### Significant Investigations for 2025

1. The second arrest for this year stemmed from December's homicide investigation that occurred at Loco Hot Deals and was the third arrest for this case. Due to the Detective's dedication and hard work, the wife of the victim was arrested for solicitation to commit homicide.
2. A theft of a package from a delivery service truck. The package stolen contained a large number of electronic devices to be delivered to a store within the mall. Utilizing license plate readers, video surveillance and previous reports of the same type of incident occurring, the assigned Detective was able to identify the involved individual and they were arrested. The total amount of the stolen items was over \$7,000.
3. Whitehall Police took a report of an elderly victim who was scammed out of a large amount of money due to a spam email the victim received about a billing issue. At some point he was also instructed to purchase a large amount of gold and meet with an unknown individual to deliver the gold as part of a payment he owed as well. The victim did this on two separate occasions before reporting the incident to Whitehall Police. The assigned Detective utilized license plate readers, video surveillance and the assistance of Homeland Security to identify the suspect. Homeland Security was able to assist with the tracking of the bitcoin money and take the suspect into custody with their assistance, as the suspect resides out of state. The approximate amount the victim was scammed out of was over \$650,000. Charges were approved and the suspect was arrested for 6 Felony charges where he is currently awaiting extradition back to Pennsylvania.
4. Whitehall Police responded to a check the welfare of a resident and discovered the residence had been forced open. Through surveillance videos, plate readers, witness and victim statements, the assigned Detective was able to identify the suspect. Charges were filed and a warrant requested for Burglary (felony 1st degree), Criminal Trespass (felony 2nd degree), Theft (misdemeanor 2nd degree) and Criminal mischief (misdemeanor 3rd degree).
5. Whitehall Police responded to a local business for a report of an attempted robbery. The store employee reported a male entered the business, implying he had a gun and demanded money from him and a customer. The male was also involved in multiple robberies in the city of Allentown the



## Department Units and Highlights

same night and with the assistance of Allentown Police Department and through interviews of the male suspect's associate, the assigned Detective was able to positively identify the male. The male was charged with 1 count of Robbery, graded as a Felony 1 and a warrant was requested.

6. Whitehall Police took a report of a burglary at a local business where forced entry was discovered but nothing was missing. With the assistance of multiple out of state agencies, the male was identified and was discovered to be involved in similar burglaries all along the East coast. The assigned Detective interviewed the male, who is currently incarcerated in Delaware, where he admitted to the burglary in our Township. The male was charged with 1 count of Burglary, graded as a Felony 2 and 1 count of Criminal Trespass, graded as a Felony 2. He is currently awaiting extradition to Lehigh County to answer to these charges.
7. During the course of a 5-day span, Whitehall Police responded to 2 local pizza shops who had been burglarized along with 3 additional local businesses where an actor had attempted to burglarize the businesses as their windows and/or doors had been smashed with a rock. Video surveillance from these businesses revealed the same actor to be responsible for all 5 reports listed above. The assigned Detective learned that our actor was also responsible for other burglaries in the City of Allentown and Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) jurisdictions where the same method of entry and items taken matched our actor and incidents. The Pennsylvania State Police developed a name for this actor. On two different occasions, the Detective division conducted undercover surveillance throughout the Township in an attempt to apprehend this actor. During one of those occasions, the Detective Division located the male walking in the Township and were able to take him into custody, without incident, for the active warrant from PSP. The Detective division interviewed the male where he admitted to all 5 incidents within our Township. The male was charged and arrested with the following: 3 counts of Burglary, graded as a Felony 2; 1 count of attempted Burglary, graded as a Felony 2, 1 count of Criminal Mischief, graded as a Misdemeanor 2 and 4 counts of Criminal Mischief, graded as a Misdemeanor 3.
8. Whitehall Police responded to a local business for a reported robbery where the victim was punched and slapped multiple times, threatened with a knife and choked. The victim reported their cell phone, cash, cash card and identification card were all stolen by the defendant who fled the scene. Patrol Officers were able to identify a suspect who admitted to the robbery and assault of the victim. License plate readers assisted in the identification of the suspect and Cellebrite was used to extract the victim and suspect's phones. The defendant was charged with robbery.
9. Due to multiple incidents involving organized retail thefts at a local retail business that have continued to occur, the Detective division conducted undercover surveillance at this local retailer, outside of their normal working hours. During one of these undercover surveillance details, one of the Detectives witnessed a retail theft occur inside this retail store. When the actors tried to flee the store, the Detective attempted to apprehend them at the exit, identifying as a Whitehall Police Officer and requesting they go back into the store. The actors refused, with one fleeing on foot and the other resisting the Detective as they attempted to detain them. This actor assaulted the Detective by hitting them repeatedly in the head and face and dragging them across the parking lot until the actor got to her getaway vehicle and fled.

## Department Units and Highlights

Through follow up, video surveillance, license plate readers, the assistance of multiple agencies and the dedication and devotion of CID to this investigation, the Detective division was able to identify the actor. The actor was apprehended in Maryland, through the assistance of state fugitive task forces from both Pennsylvania and Maryland and was brought back to Lehigh County where she remains in Lehigh County Prison. The actor was charged with a litany of theft related charges in addition to the aggravated assault on the detective.

10. Over the course of several months between August and November of 2024, Whitehall Police took several burglary reports to local businesses during the overnight hours. These burglaries were also similar to several other neighboring jurisdictions in both Lehigh and Northampton counties. These scenes were processed with DNA samples taken from the scene and evidence. While awaiting DNA results, a suspect was developed, utilizing the license plate readers, as well as information from other jurisdictions. Once the DNA results came back, they matched the suspect that had been developed and that had been charged in other neighboring jurisdictions. The approximate value taken from all of these incidents was over \$2,600 and the total damage/replacement costs was estimated to be \$3,700. The suspect is currently incarcerated in Lehigh County and was charged with the following: (4 Counts) Burglary, graded as Felony 2A
11. Whitehall Police took a report from a mother who reported her juvenile daughter disclosed to her that a neighbor/family friend had inappropriately touched her numerous times between the ages of 4 and 9. The juvenile participated in a forensic interview where additional details were disclosed. The assigned Detective conducted a lengthy investigation with cooperation from the juvenile's family and the Lehigh County District Attorney's office. The suspect was charged with: Endangering the Welfare of Children, graded as a Felony 2, Indecent Assault, graded as a Felony 3, Corruption of Minors, graded as a Felony 3.
12. Whitehall Police responded to a theft that occurred at a jewelry store located inside the mall. The store reported that a male had asked to see 4 sets of diamond earrings. Upon placing the items on the counter, the male fled the store, with the earrings valued at almost \$40,000. The assigned Detective was able to identify the male suspect who was also a suspect in similar cases in New York state. The male suspect was arrested in New York for incidents there and admitted to the theft at our store. The male is currently incarcerated in New York, awaiting extradition to Lehigh County to answer to the charges for this incident. He was charged with: Retail Theft, graded as a Felony 3
13. Whitehall Police took a report of a fraud where the victim was contacted by an unknown person saying that they were a winner of the 'Reader's Digest Sweepstakes' for 2.5 million dollars. The victim was told they needed to pay for the taxes prior to receiving the winnings and wrote two different checks for these taxes. These checks were then mailed. One of the checks was in the amount of \$17,000 and was cashed at an unknown location, signed by the recipient, the victim had made the check out to. The assigned Detective executed a search warrant on the financial institution that cashed the check where bank account information and Atm video surveillance was obtained. The Detective was able to make a positive identification on the male in the ATM video as the name on the account and check that the victim had wrote the check out to. An arrest warrant was issued, and the male was subsequently taken into custody in New York State where he is currently awaiting extradition to Lehigh County for the following charges pertaining to this case: Theft by Deception, graded as a Felony 3, Receiving Stolen Property, graded as a Felony 3.

## Department Units and Highlights

14. Whitehall Police were dispatched to a local restaurant for a burglary in progress. An employee was inside the closed business and heard the glass to the front door break and a male enter the restaurant where he attempted to steal money from the cash register. The male was unsuccessful with taking anything from the business as the employee closed the door to the office he was in, causing the male to flee the restaurant and leave in a vehicle. Through video surveillance, license plate readers and investigative resources, the assigned Detective was able to identify the male who resides out of state. The male was arrested by another out of state agency for an unrelated incident and the assigned Detective interviewed him where he admitted to the burglary. The male was charged with: Criminal Mischief, graded as a Misdemeanor 3, Burglary, graded as a Felony 2.
15. Whitehall Police were dispatched to a local business establishment for a burglar alarm. Upon arrival, responding units discovered a rear window had been broken and after clearing the business, the employees reported \$1600 missing from the cash register. Utilizing license plate readers with the video surveillance obtained, they were able to identify the vehicle and the suspect. The suspect was located in the Township where he was interviewed, and he ultimately admitted to the burglary. The male was charged with: Burglary, graded as a Felony 2, Criminal Trespass, graded as a Felony 2, Theft, graded as a Misdemeanor 1A.
16. Whitehall Police were contacted by another agency regarding two females who were at a local hospital stating they had been raped by the male who brought them to the hospital. Detectives were contacted and responded to the hospital to speak with the females about what happened where it was discovered that just one of the females was reporting to have been raped, with the other one witnessing it. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the females were not honest with their original statements and after a second interview, admitted they made up the story and no crime had occurred. The females were each charged with: (1 count) False Reports, graded as a M2.
17. Whitehall Police responded to a local restaurant for a theft of a purse, with approximately \$2,466 worth of valuables and money inside. The victim reported she left her purse on a chair inside the restaurant and upon returning to the restaurant a short time later, the purse was gone and had not been turned in. The assigned Detective was able to review video from the restaurant which showed a female pick up the purse, after the victim had left, and immediately exited the restaurant. Through plate readers and assistance from Allentown PD, the Detective was able to positively identify the female suspect. The female was charged with the following: Theft of Misplaced Property, graded as a Misdemeanor 1.

# Department Units and Highlights

## Administration Division

The Administrative Division continues to be the support function of the police department. The division is comprised of the Chief of Police, Deputy Chief, Administrative Lieutenant, Administrative Sergeant, the Administrative Secretary, Crimes Record Clerk, two Criminal Investigations Secretaries, and one Police Service Aide. The support function of the division comes in many different forms such as records retention and dissemination, court scheduling, accreditation program, technology development, training, internal investigations, and the budgetary process.

The training for police personnel is a very important part of the administrative functions for the department. Training our police officers to provide the best service for the community is one of the top priorities for the township. In addition to the mandatory sixteen hours of training that is required by the state, the Whitehall Police Department strives to go above and beyond that minimum requirement. Even with staffing shortages, Whitehall Police Officers and staff were able to attend 56 different trainings on various topics to continue their education.

The Whitehall Police Department also trains well above the minimum requirement for firearms proficiency, which is set at one qualification per year by the state. The department has mandated three days of not just firearms proficiency, but now includes a complete use of force review every year. The officers engage in realistic scenarios that challenge their decision-making skills in order to bolster their knowledge and confidence while on duty.



## Plans for 2026...



### Accreditation

The Whitehall Police Department anticipates successfully obtaining accreditation through the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association. Accreditation is a progressive and time-proven way of helping institutions evaluate and improve their overall performance. The cornerstone of this strategy lies in the promulgation of standards containing a clear statement of professional objectives. Participating administrators then conduct a thorough analysis to determine how existing operations can be adapted to meet these objectives. When the procedures are in place, a team of independent professionals is assigned to verify that all applicable standards have been successfully implemented. The process culminates with a decision by an authoritative body that the institution is worthy of accreditation.



### Youth Services

The Whitehall Police Department will once again be partnering with the South Whitehall Police Department to share resources for each agency's youth police academy this coming summer. Fifth and sixth graders from the Parkland and Whitehall School Districts will be able to participate in this program that gives insight into the daily activities of a police officer. The students will see officer demonstrations, learn about fingerprinting and what to look for at crime scenes. At the end of the program, the students will also be certified in first aid and CPR.

### Hiring

With the three (3) officers who retired during 2025, the department currently has three (3) vacancies. The agency continues to be proactive with hiring through the Lehigh County Chiefs Consortium hiring test, which will begin the 2026 testing cycle in spring of 2026.

### New Radio System

Lehigh County will be completing the replacement of the antiquated radio system used by police, fire, and EMS in the first half of 2026. The new digital system will allow for better coverage and enhanced safety for all of our first responders. The Whitehall Police Department has created a savings account over the past four budget years in order to pay for the anticipated portable and in car radios that will be needed for the new system.



