



Township of Monroe

County of Middlesex

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Technology Enhancements Promote Public Safety in Monroe

Monroe Police Adds “Modern License Plate Readers” to Prevent Crime

MONROE TOWNSHIP, N.J. – August 23, 2023 – Monroe Township has continually had the well-earned distinction of being among the safest towns in New Jersey, with one of the lowest crime rates.

One key reason is the township’s commitment to technology. Now, patrol officers have more tools at their disposal, as well as new ways to share critical information with partners in Middlesex County and state authorities.

This summer, 26 patrol cruisers were installed with in-car camera systems and automated license plate readers. This high-speed, computer-controlled technology automatically captures license plate numbers, and reviews them in real-time with state and regional databases.

The police department has also purchased 10 stationary cameras, which will be placed at different locations around the township to read license plates and inform the police of stolen cars, active warrants, and missing persons as they enter town or circulate within.

The importance of this license plate technology for Monroe residents:

- According to the International Association of Chiefs of Police, upwards of 70% of crime involves using a vehicle.
- In many cases, a license plate number is the best piece of evidence law enforcement can use to make an arrest.
- Stolen vehicles are often used to commit additional crimes. Alerting Monroe police when a stolen vehicle or known suspect enters a community can prevent crime before it happens.

As part of this latest upgrade to protect the public, the police department also has 72 body-worn cameras and associated equipment, as well as 72 non-lethal tasers with associated equipment, training tools and equipment.

“It comforts me to know that this state-of-the-art public safety equipment is being implemented in the best interest of the residents of Monroe,” Mayor Stephen Dalina said. “This is an important safety investment in our ongoing efforts to improve our equipment and technology, enhance crime prevention efforts and provide a stronger link with County and State law enforcement.”

Monroe Police Chief Michael J. Biennas said the newly installed equipment is designed to enhance his officers’ ability to apprehend criminals, prevent crime, provide corroborating evidence and ensure transparency.

“It also saves valuable time in processing vital police operations and allows for seamless communications with State and County authorities with whom we frequently collaborate,” the police chief added.

Under the 10-year program, in-car cameras and tasers will be replaced every five years for a total of 78 cameras and 216 tasers over the life of the agreement. Body worn cameras and charging docks also will be replaced every 2.5 years for a total of 360 cameras and 45 docks.

Biennas emphasized the need to plan for and replace vital equipment on a routine basis. “When it comes to the safety of our residents, we cannot rely on equipment that is past its prime,” the chief said. “The 10-year program is forward thinking, anticipates the changing dynamics of police operations and provides necessary equipment updates.”

The Monroe Township Police Department comprises 67 sworn officers. The department consists of a detective bureau, a juvenile/youth services bureau, a domestic unit, a traffic safety bureau and has an officer assigned to senior citizen crime prevention.

“On behalf of the entire department, I would like to thank Mayor Dalina and Township Council members for once again investing in the safety and security of our police force and all Monroe Township residents,” Biennas said.

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All media inquiries may be directed to the Monroe Township’s Public Information Officer Stacey Kennedy at 732-521-4400 or skennedy@monroetwp.com.