Elsmere Bureau of Police

2025 Annual Report

In Memoriam to

Lt. Gregg Shelton

March 14, 2005 - March 18, 2025

Chief Laura M. Giles

Elsmere Bureau of Police

2025

Highlighted Events

Table of Contents

Section 1	Organization Chart
Section 2	2025 Highlighted Events
Section 3	Calls for Service: By Classification
Section 4	Call Volume Analysis by Date & Time
Section 5	Fleet
Section 6	Training
Section 7	Grants
Section 8	Departmental Improvements/Challenges
Section 9	Community Affairs/Police Photos

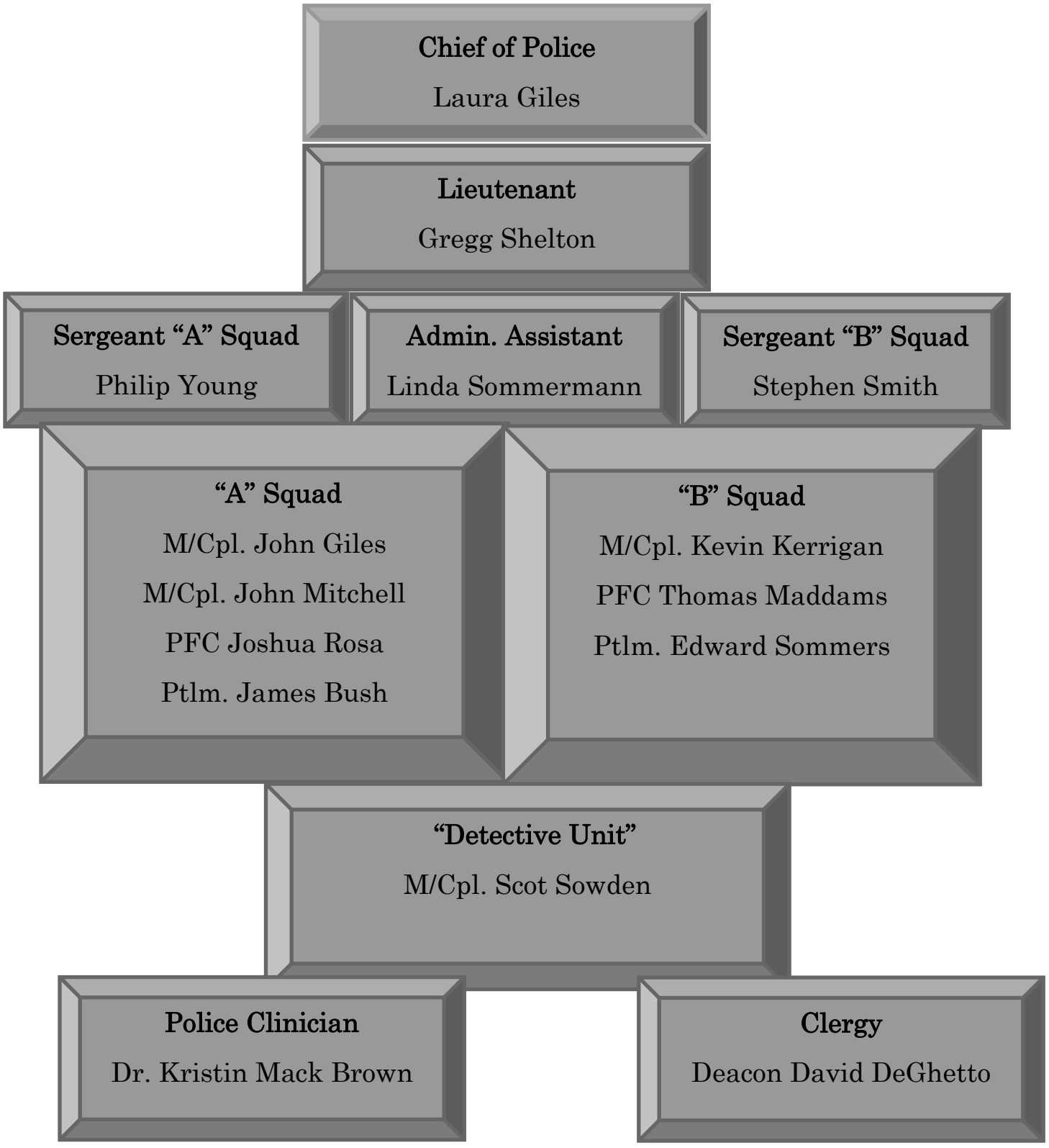
Section 1

2025 Organizational Chart

Elsmere Bureau of Police

2025

Organization Chart



Section 2

2025 Highlighted Events

2024 Law Enforcement Fatalities Report Reveals Law Enforcement Deaths Increased

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund releases 2024 year-end fatalities report depicting fatalities increased 25% over 2023.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (January 7, 2025) –The number of law enforcement professionals nationwide who died in the line of duty in 2024 increased 25% compared to the previous year, according to preliminary data provided by the **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF)**, the leading authority on officer fatalities. As reported in their official ***2024 End-of-Year Preliminary Law Enforcement Officers Fatalities Report*****, the NLEOMF data shows** that 147 federal, state, county, municipal, military, tribal, and campus officers have died in the line of duty in 2024, representing a 25% increase compared to the 118 officers who died in the line of duty in 2023.
The leading cause of these line-of-duty deaths for police officers in 2024 was gunfire, and the largest increase over 2023 resulted from traffic-related incidents, both underscoring the growing risks faced by law enforcement officers in the line of duty. Using and reporting on this data allows us to highlight the continuing dangers faced by our law enforcement professionals, particularly the number of officers who are shot and killed each year.

Firearms-Related Fatalities

Firearms-related fatalities claimed the lives of 52 officers in 2024, which represents a 13% increase from the 46 officers killed by gunfire in 2023 and was the leading cause of death.

Of the 52 firearms fatalities:

9 were killed during traffic enforcement

8 were attempting to make an arrest

8 were killed serving warrants/civil papers or an eviction

6 were investigating suspicious persons or circumstances

5 were ambushed

4 were handling domestic disturbance calls

4 were killed during tactical encounters

3 were killed in accidental/inadvertent shooting

2 were investigating disturbance calls

2 were off-duty robbery intervention

1 was a vehicle pursuit

Traffic-Related Fatalities

Traffic-related fatalities increased 48% with 46 deaths in 2024, compared to 31 deaths in 2023. There were 29 fatal crashes in 2024 (automobile/motorcycle) compared to the 23 fatal crashes in 2023. “Struck-by” fatalities, defined as an officer struck outside of their patrol vehicle, went from 8 in 2023 to 17 in 2024, a 113% increase.

Traffic-Related Fatalities

Traffic-related fatalities increased 48% with 46 deaths in 2024, compared to 31 deaths in 2023. There were 29 fatal crashes in 2024 (automobile/motorcycle) compared to the 23 fatal crashes in 2023. “Struck-by” fatalities, defined as an officer struck outside of their patrol vehicle, went from 8 in 2023 to 17 in 2024, a 113% increase.

Of the 46 traffic-related deaths:

25 were automobile crashes

4 were motorcycle crashes

17 were struck-by fatalities

Other Causes and Fatalities

The ‘other’ category includes long-term illnesses related to the September 11th terror attacks, acute medical events brought on by extreme and/or stressful events experienced on-duty, and a variety of rare yet significant fatal incidents.
Of the 49 ‘Other Causes’ deaths in 2024:

35 were fatal medical events

4 officers drowned

4 officers were beaten to death

2 died in aircraft crashes

2 officers were stabbed to death

Carjacking @ Wawa

On April 14, 2025, at approximately 8:50 pm, two unidentified suspects, both wearing black masks, black jackets, blue jeans, and white shoes, exited a black Volvo sedan in the parking lot of the Wawa located at 915 New Road, and pulled a female occupant from her vehicle and fled northbound.

Suspect 1 approached the driver's side door, while Suspect 2 approached the passenger's side. Both suspects simultaneously opened the vehicle's doors. Suspect 2 entered the vehicle, pushing the victim out.

The vehicle was later located and recovered at 100 Dock Street, Wilmington.

Last night there was a carjacking at the Wawa. There was no weapon displayed but the victim was pulled from the vehicle by two black males wearing masks. LPR cameras had picked up the stolen vehicle in the area of I-95 S/B. The vehicle was later recovered unoccupied in the City of Wilmington.

Delaware Law Enforcement Memorial

May 7, 2025:

On May 7, 2025, Chief Giles, Sgt. Young and Det. Sowden attended the annual Law Enforcement Memorial at Legislative Hall in Dover. This year they honored the passing of Lt. Gregg Shelton.

Update from April 14, 2025, Carjacking @ WaWa

On May 17, 2025, Det. Sowden was able to identify the two suspects from the carjacking that took place at the WaWa (915 New Road). The one suspect was a juvenile and has been apprehended and arraigned on the below changes. He was incarcerated in juvenile detention center on $51,000 Cash Bail.

Robbery 1st Degree-Victim 65 or Older

Wearing a Disguise During the Commission of a Felony

Theft Under $1,500-Victim 65 or Older

Theft of a Motor Vehicle

Conspiracy 2nd Degree

Offensive Touching

Warrants are pending for the adult suspect; Leslie McGuire (b/m 18 yrs. old) for the same charges the juvenile was charged with.

Burglary Arrest

May 26, 2025:

On May 26, 2025, Elsmere officers responded to the 900 Block of Baltimore Avenue for a report of a burglary. The investigation revealed that two juvenile suspects kicked in the door of the residence while the victim was not home. Both suspects removed various electronics and other collectible items. The suspects attempted to get rid of the evidence by dumping it in bushes in the rear alley of 100 Block of Linden Avenue. Officers were able to recover all of the items from the burglary.

Both were arraigned by Magistrate Court 11 and issued a total of $4,500 unsecured bond. No contact orders were issued for the defendants to have no contact

June 9, 2025:

On June 9, 2025, the Elsmere Bureau of Police cleared out the overflow room that was filed with old bikes to the Urban Bike Project. This organization fixes bikes and provides them to under-privileged children.

Donation of Bikes – Urban Bike Project

Lateral New Hire – Ptlm. James Bush

On May 9, 2025, Ptlm. James Bush was hired. Ptlm. Bush graduated from the Delaware State Police Academy in 2020 and worked for Dover PD. Ptlm. Bush then went to work for Perryville Maryland PD before getting hired by Elsmere PD. Congratulations!

Tier 2 Sex Offender

June 22, 2025:

On Sunday, June 22, 2025, at 11:30 pm Def. John CLEAVER (52) was arrested for consuming alcohol the bus stop in front of the liquor store at 1 Sanders Rd. Def. CLEAVER was arrested because he been given a warning previously for the same violation. Def. CLEAVER is a homeless Tier 2 Sex Offender that has been loitering around Elsmere for several months. He was issued as Criminal Summons and released.

Suspect Arrested on Drug and Weapons Charges

July 3, 2025:

On July 3, 2025, with the assistance of the New Castle County Police Department, the Elsmere Police executed a search warrant in the 1200 block of Dover Avenue after a month-long drug investigation. As a result of the search warrant, David Rodgers, 30, of Elsmere was charged with Possession of a Firearm by a Person Prohibited, Possession With Intent to Deliver Illegal Narcotics, Possession of a Tier 1 Quantity of Narcotics, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia Other Than for Personal Use, and three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. Rodgers was issued a bail of $5,858 secured bond and was committed to the Howard R. Young Correctional Institution.

Hit & Run Suspect Apprehended

July 19, 2025:

On Saturday, July 19, 2025, at approximately 02:20 hours officers located a red Cadillac sedan with front end damage traveling on s/b on Maple Avenue. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle, identified the driver as Jonathan Villalobos and noticed blood on his clothing and laceration to his eye. During the stop it was learned that Delaware State Police were currently on scene of an assault that had just occurred behind Prices Corner Shopping Center. Further investigation revealed that Villalobos assaulted numerous subjects and then used his vehicle to strike several cars and one pedestrian before fleeing the scene. Villalobos was turned over to DSP and was charged with 4 counts of Criminal Mischief over $1000, Reckless Endangering 2nd degree, and DUI Under 21 Years Old.

Elsmere Officers at Tutor Time

July 15, 2025:

On Tuesday, July 15, 2025, Sgt. Young and M/Cpl. Mitchell stopped by Tutor Time on Limestone Road to go over safety tips with the children. The children explored the police vehicles and the officer's vests. The children and officers had a great time during their visit.

Elsmere Police Department Received Their Re-Accreditation

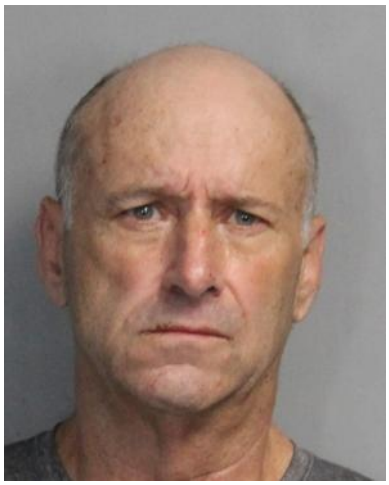
July 23, 2025:

On July 23, the Elsmere Police Department received their first re-accreditation from the Delaware Police Accreditation Commission (POST). In the photo from L-R (M/Cpl. Mitchell, John Feehan, Secretary Bushweller, Chief Giles, Director Moriarty and Det. Sowden.

Drug Possession

September 3, 2025:

On 09/03/205 at approximately 08:40 P.M., Elsmere Police officer was patrolling the 200 block of New Rd, when the officer observed a white Ford pick-up truck parked and actively running. Contact was made with the driver who was identified as Duane Fry, 65, of the unit block of Canzonet Drive. The driver upon observing the officer's presence attempted to dispose of evidence by smoking suspected crack cocaine and ingesting same. Duane Fry was placed into custody as a result. A search of his vehicle revealed 22 blue oval pills identified as benzodiazepine. Duane Fry was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia not related to personal use, Possess, consume a controlled counterfeit substance and consuming control drug, drug paraphernalia and obstruction of justice. Duane Fry was arraigned by Justice of the Peace Court 11 and released on a $4000.00 unsecured bail.



Update: April 2024 Shooting In Vilone Village

Defendant JoJo Appenzeller pleaded guilty to Assault 1st, Reckless Endangering 1st, and PFBPP regarding the April 2024 shooting that took place in Vilone Village. Sentencing in this case is still pending.

Armed Robbery – Sunoco

September 18, 2025:

On September 18, 2025, at 2149 hours officers responded to the Sunoco at 1500 Kirkwood Highway for the report of an armed robbery. A male suspect wearing all black entered the store and displayed a knife demanding USC. Suspect then hopped the counter and cleaned out two of the registers and removed cash from the register. A K-9 track was unsuccessful and New Castle County Evidence Detection Unit processed the scene. At this time no weapon has been recovered, and the Victim was not injured.

September 11, 2025:

Law Enforcement "Thank You" Ride (Lt. Gregg Shelton)

Stapler A.A. Golf Tournament for Lt. Gregg Shelton

September 12, 2025:

Theft of MV's

October 8, 2025:

On October 8, 2025, officers responded to Vilone Village for two individuals (pictured below) for walking around trying door handles.

October 26, 2025:

Vehicle Theft Suspects

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, Chief Giles received an email from a resident capturing three individuals attempting to make entry into several vehicles. Chief Giles passed this information and photo on to patrol. On Sunday, October 26, 2025, officers were able to arrest three juveniles for a theft of a motor vehicle from Filbert Avenue.

Several days later, one of the juveniles is a suspect in another stolen vehicle in the area. Warrants are pending for that juvenile.

Attempted Motor Vehicle Break-In's

October 28, 2025:

In the early morning hours of October 28, 2025, a lone male suspect wearing white hooded sweatshirt with the hood up, white back pack with gray or white pants, black and white sneakers with black gloves was observed on video surveillance footage trying several vehicle car doors in the rear alley of the 1300 block of Maple Avenue. The male was able to gain access to one vehicle but did not appear to take anything from the vehicle.

Stolen Motor Vehicle – Maple Avenue

October 31, 2025:

Just after midnight, officers were dispatched to a motor vehicle theft that took place in the rear of Maple Avenue. The Victim advised he started his vehicle and while he was out of the car, two white males approached and one entered the driver seat and stolen his vehicle.

Shortly after 2 am, Wilmington Police Department had found the stolen vehicle and pursued same at which time the stolen vehicle crashed and flipped. The two suspects were taken into custody. M/Cpl. Giles did respond to Christiana Hospital and the suspects were identified as Dustin and David Giles. The Victim was positively able to identify Dustin Giles as the suspect who entered the driver seat of the vehicle. Both suspects were hospitalized and warrants are pending

Community Awareness

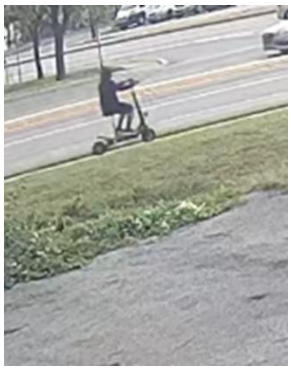
November 3, 2025:

The Elsmere Police recently has seen an increase in vehicle thefts and vehicle break in's the past two months. Vehicles that are being specifically targeted are Kia type vehicles. We are asking the public to make sure that you secure all personal belongings in your residence and make sure to lock your vehicle doors. Also, please do not leave a spare key inside of your vehicle as suspects will specifically look for unlocked vehicles with spare keys inside. Residents are asked to report any suspicious persons or activity by calling 911. If you have any questions or information about the recent increase in vehicle thefts and break in's, you are asked to contact Detective John Mitchell of the Elsmere Police Department at (302) 998-1173 extension number 211 or by email john.mitchell@cj.state.de.us.

Indecent Exposure Suspect

November 20, 2025:

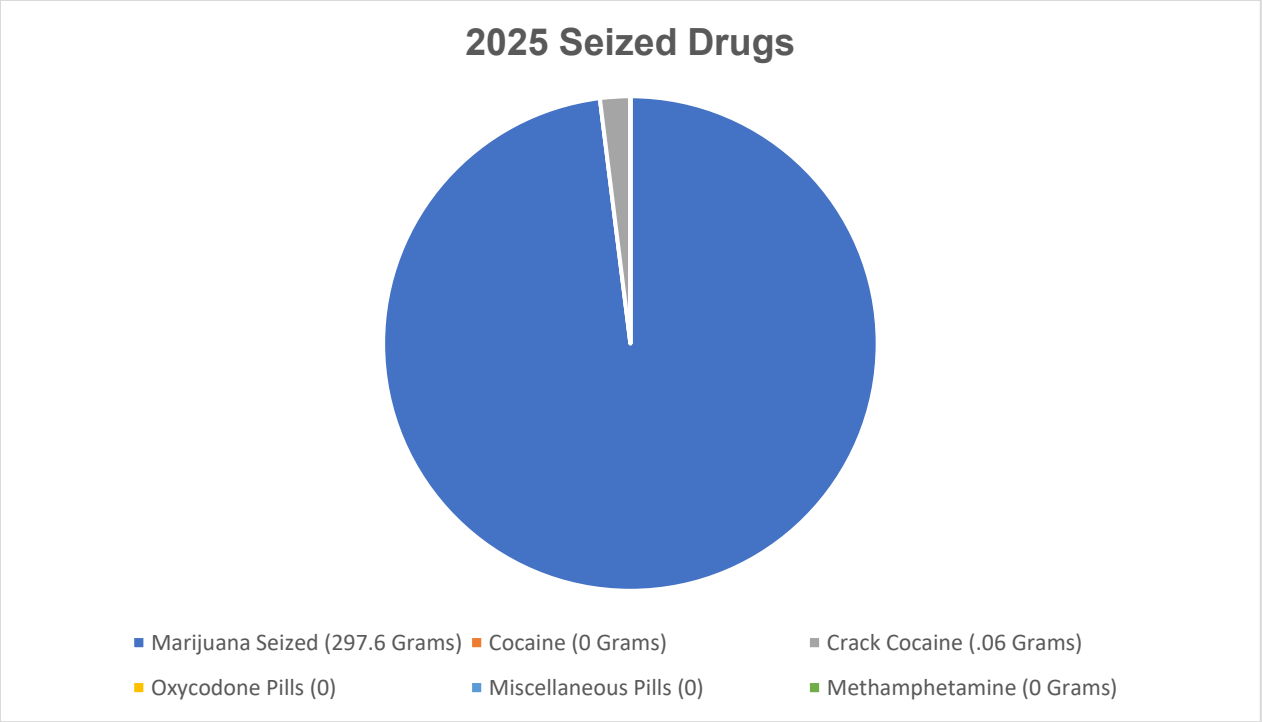
Elsmere PD and New Castle County PD are conducting a joint investigation into an indecent exposure incident that occurred at the base of the Rt. 100 Viaduct back in September. NCCPD is investigating another incident that occurred over by St. Elizabeths High School. The suspect description as a male unknown race with a possible accent in his twenty or thirties, wearing all black clothing, black ski mask, black glasses, and black gloves. In both incidents, the suspect attempts to grab or get the victims attention.

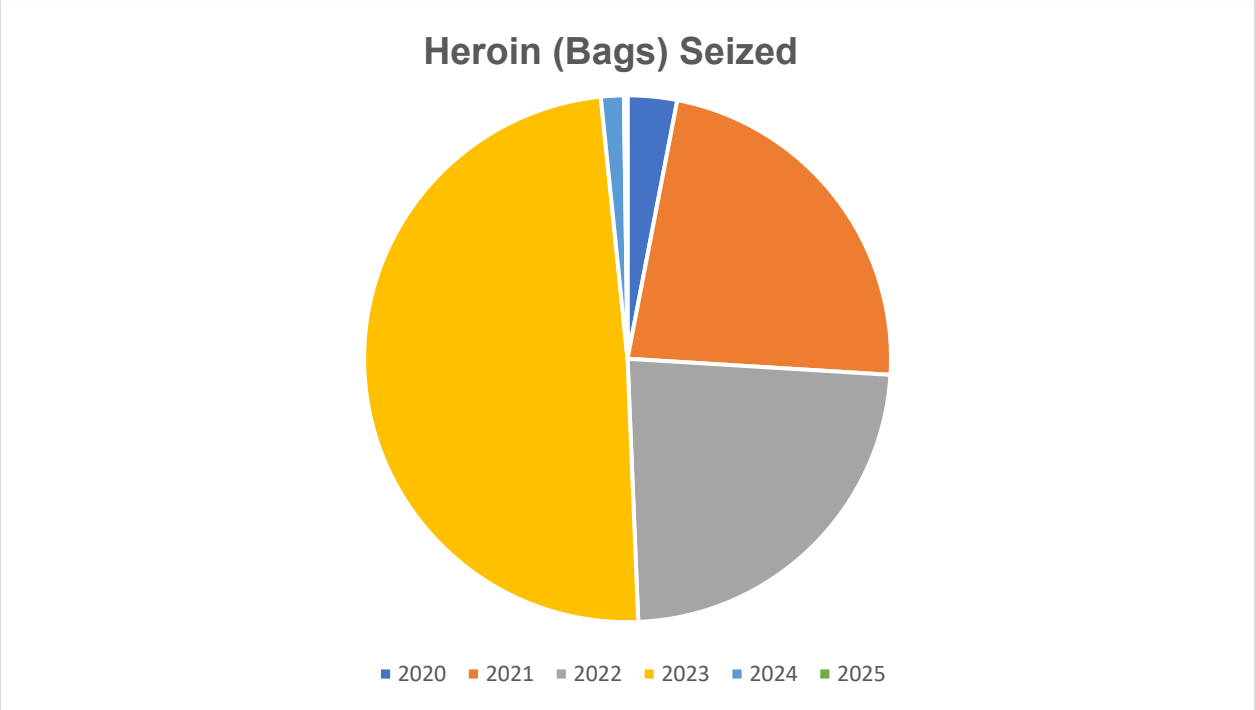


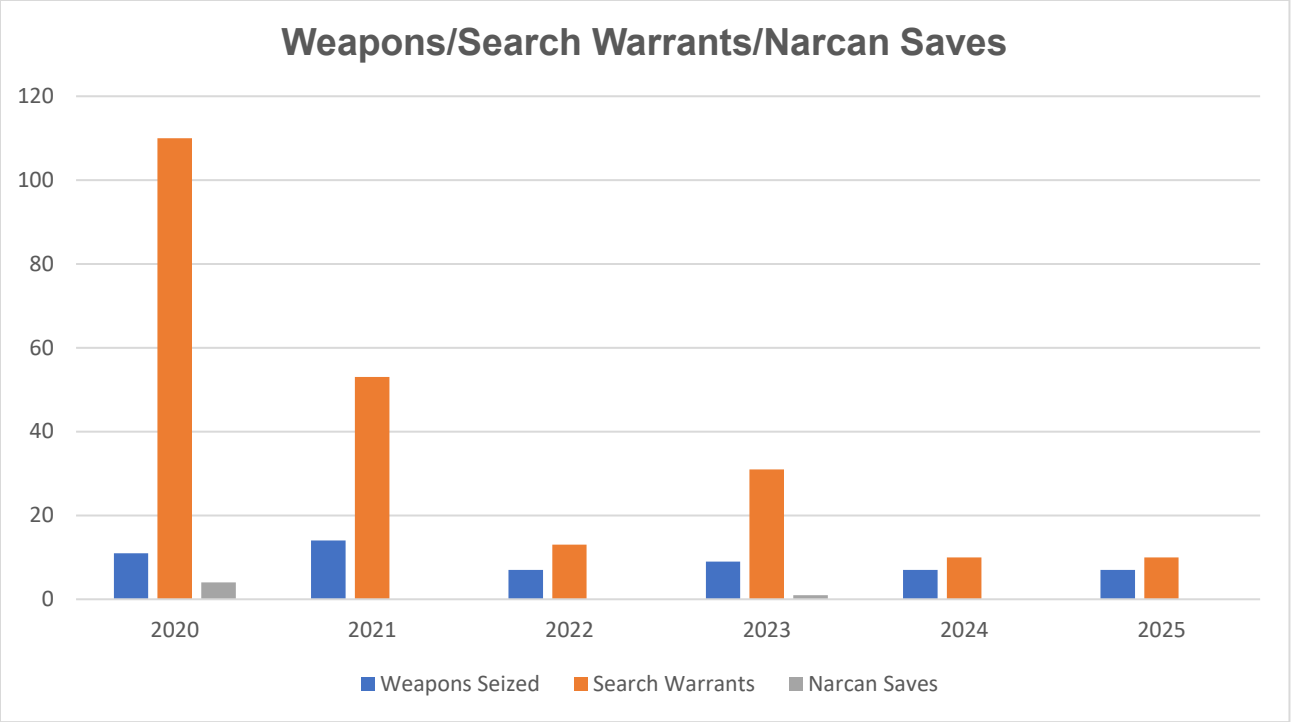
Promotion of Philip Young to Lieutenant

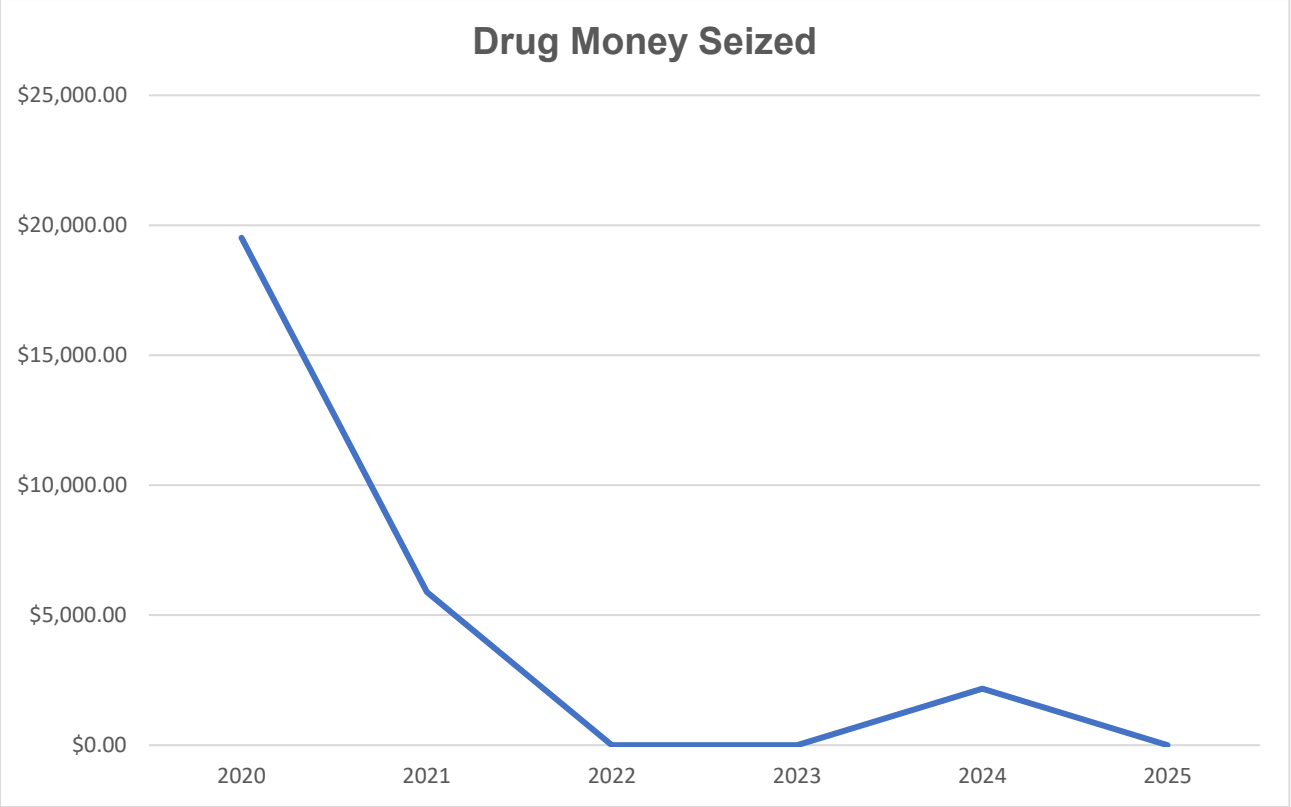
December 8, 2025:

On Monday, December 8, 2025, Chief Giles promoted Sgt. Philip Young to the rank of lieutenant. Lt. Young is a 17-year veteran of the Elsmere Bureau of Police. Lt. Young started his career with the New Castle County Police in January 2022. Lt. Young will bring a wealth of experience to the administrative staff and the department looks forward to his new ideas and valued support.


2025 Seized Drugs
Marijuana Seized (297.6 Grams)
Cocaine (0 Grams)
Crack Cocaine (.06 Grams)
Oxycodone Pills (0)
Miscellaneous Pills (0)
Methamphetamine (0 Grams)


Heroin (Bags) Seized
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025


Weapons/Search Warrants/Narcan Saves
120
100
80
60
40
20
0
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
Weapons Seized
Search Warrants
Narcan Saves


Drug Money Seized
$25,000.00
$20,000.00
$15,000.00
$10,000.00
$5,000.00
$0.00
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025

Section 3

Calls for Service by Classification

Row Labels	Count of ORI
911D Hangup Call	2
911D Land Line	2
911D Open Line	1
Abandoned Vehicle	30
Abuse/Neglect	6
Abuse/Neglect - In Progress	2
Accident Departmental	1
Accident PD	101
Accident PD H/R	52
Accident PI	27
Accident PI H/R	4
Accident Unknown	20
Accident Unknown H/R	4
Accidental Emergency Activation	1
Added Information	43
Alarm Burglary	166
Alarm Holdup/Panic	8
Alarm Vehicle	3
Animal Incident	8
Animal w/Danger	7
Assault	6
Assault - In Progress	6
Assault - Just Occurred	10
Assault w/Weapon - In Progress	1
Assault w/Weapon - Just Occ'd	1
Assist Fire/EMS	88
Assist Other Agency	44
Barking Dog	6
BOLO Local	1
Booking	19
Burglary	8
Burglary - In Progress	12
Burglary - Just Occ'd	1
Carjacking - In Progress	1
Carjacking - Just Occ'd	2
Check on the Welfare	169
Civil Matter	22
CPR in Progress	7
Criminal mischief	31
Criminal Mischief - In Progress	3

Criminal Mischief - Just Occ'd	6
Custody dispute	7
Cutting/Stabbing	1
Death Investigation	15
Death Notification	1
Disabled vehicle	51
Disorderly group	7
Disorderly person	110
Dog Bite	2
Domestic	13
Domestic - In Progress	202
Domestic - Just Occ'd	16
Domestic Verbal	1
Domestic w/Weapons - In Progress	12
Domestic w/Weapons - Just Occ'd	4
Drug Violation	16
Drunk/Intoxication	10
DUI	6
Fight - In Progress	17
Fight w/Weapons - In Progress	2
Fire - Citizen Assist	2
Fire - Outside Fire	1
Fire - Structure Fire	3
Fireworks	6
Follow Up	81
Found person	8
Fraud	35
Fraud - In Progress	1
Fugitive	12
Gun Violation	10
Harassment	16
Harassment - In Progress	7
Harassment - Just Occ'd	6
Homicide	1
Indecent Exposure	2
Injured Person	1
Kidnapping - In Progress	1
Locked in Vehicle	1
Lost/stolen tag	5
Loud Music/Party	95
Medical - Assault	1

Medical - Falls	1
Medical - Psychiatric	1
Megans Law	8
Mental patient	9
Mental Patient Transport	2
Mental Patient Violent	16
Miscellaneous Invest	74
Missing Person	7
Missing Person Special	11
Noise Complaint	56
NULL	6
Open door or window	1
Overdose	1
Overdose - In Progress	24
Parking Violation	62
Pay Job/Special Duty	13
Pedestrian Stop	21
Person Screaming	3
Person with Gun	2
Person with Weapon	1
PFA Service	5
Prevent Breech of Peace	92
Private Investigator	1
Processing	1
Property check	88
Property found	11
Public Relations/Assist	59
Pursuit	3
Rape	4
Relay/Transport	14
Resisting Arrest	10
Return of Missing Person	3
Robbery - In Progress	1
Robbery - Just Occ'd	2
Robbery w/Weapons - In Progress	1
Robbery w/Weapons - Just Occ'd	2
Sexual Offenses	1
Shooting	1
Shooting - Just Occ'd	1
Shoplifting	35
Shots fired	2

Strange Phone Call	1
Suicidal Person	2
Suicidal Person - In Progress	23
Suicidal Person w/Weapons - In Progress	3
Surveillance	1
Suspicious noise	1
Suspicious person	72
Suspicious vehicle	75
TAC	1
Terroristic Threatening	8
Terroristic Threatening - In Progress	8
Terroristic Threatening - Just Occ'd	10
Terroristic Threatening by Phone	1
Terroristic Threatening Weapons	6
Theft	34
Theft - In Progress	35
Theft - Just Occ'd	39
Theft from Vehicle	24
Traffic service	14
Traffic Violation	41
Trespass	6
Trespass - In Progress	45
Trespass - Just Occ'd	4
Turfing	1
Unauthorized Use	5
Unknown	41
Vehicle Fire	6
Vehicle Recovered	11
Vehicle Stolen	26
Vehicle Stop	765
Vehicle Tow	1
Violation of No Contact Order	7
Violation of PFA	1
Warrant Attempt	8
Weapon Relinquishment	1

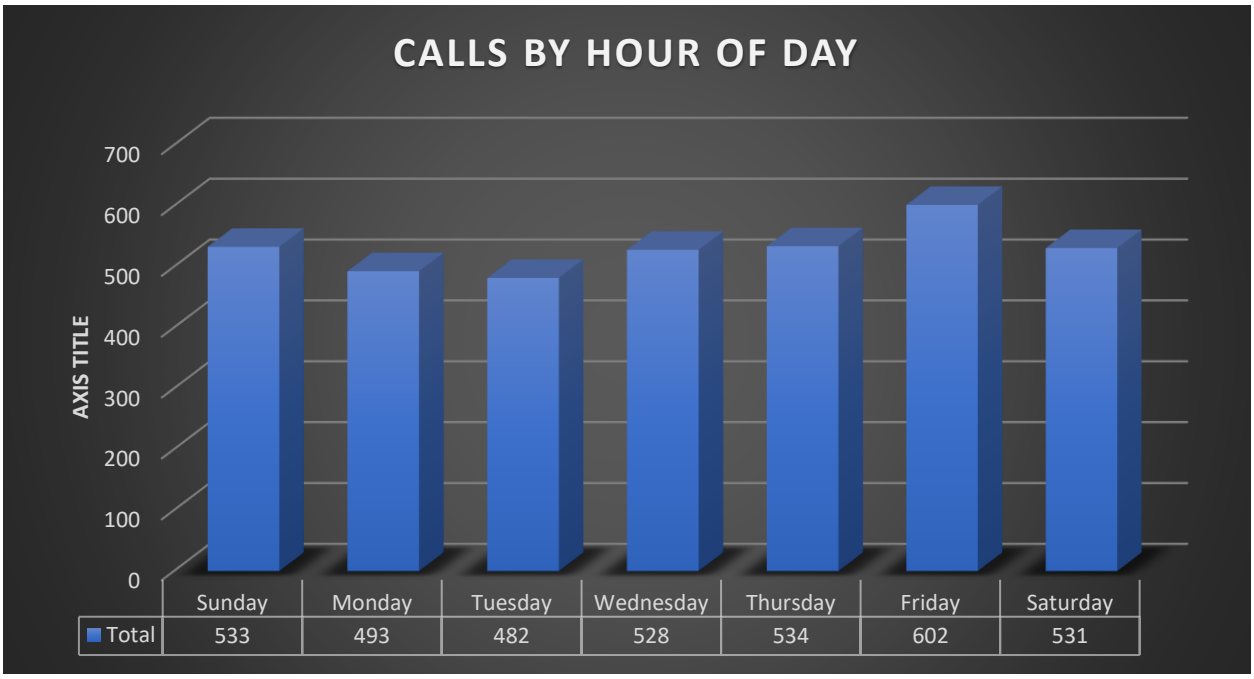
Grand Total	**3703**

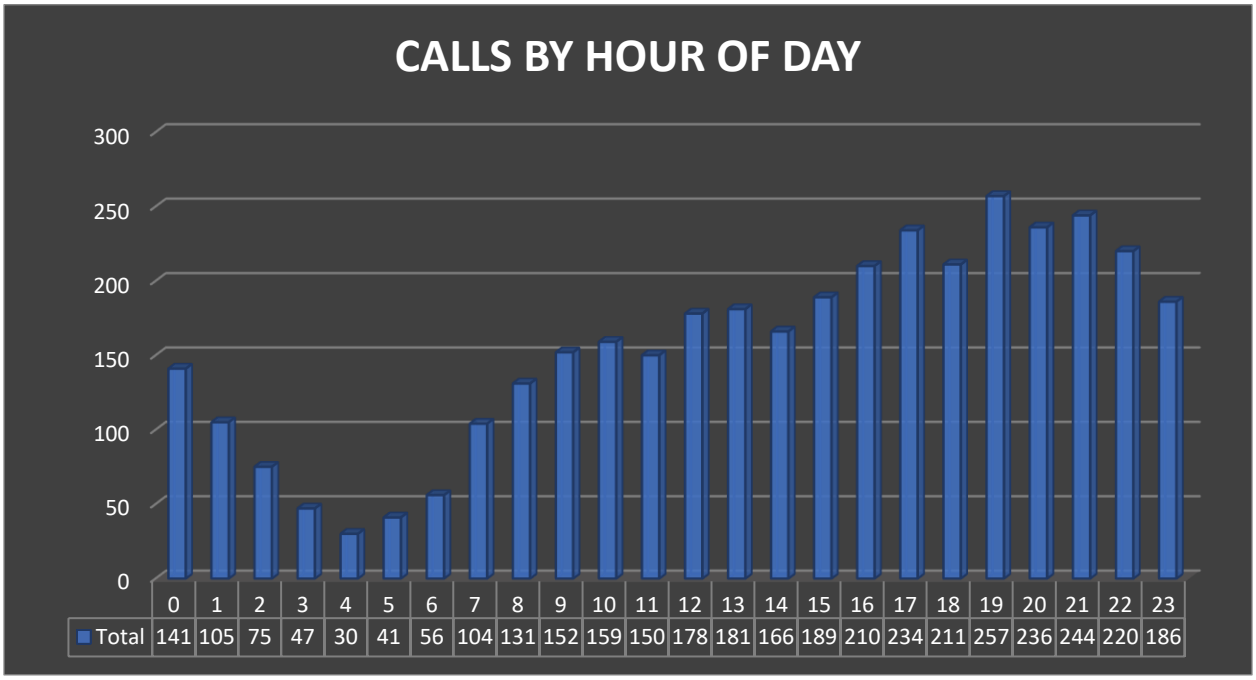
Section 4

Call Volume Analysis

By

Date & Time


CALLS BY HOUR OF DAY
AXIS TITLE
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Total
533
493
482
528
534
602
531


CALLS BY HOUR OF DAY
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
Total
141 105 75 47 30 41 56 104 131 152 159 150 178 181 166 189 210 234 211 257 236 244 220 186

Section 5

2025

Police Fleet

2025 Police Fleet

35-1 2020 Ford Explorer (Hybrid)

Mileage: 47,447

Idle Mileage: 73,722 TOTAL MILEAGE = 121,169

35-2 2021 Ford Explored

Mileage: 40,776

Idle Mileage: 313,269 TOTAL MILEAGE = 354,045

35-3 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe

Mileage: 63,940

Idle Mileage: 174,207 TOTAL MILEAGE = 238,147

35-4 2021 Ford Explorer

Mileage: 48,821

Idle Mileage: 316,965 TOTAL MILEAGE = 365,786

35-5 2026 Chevrolet Tahoe

Mileage: **New Vehicle 2026**

Idle Mileage: **N/A** TOTAL MILEGE = **N/A**

35-6 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe

Mileage: 57,623

Idle Mileage: 322,344 TOTAL MILEAGE = 369,967

2025 Police Fleet

35-7 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe

Mileage: 8,710

Idle Mileage: 81,477 TOTAL MILEAGE = 90,187

35-8 2017 Ford Explored

Mileage: 80,574

Idle Mileage: 651,189 TOTAL MILEAGE = 731,763

35-9 2011 Harley Davidson M/C - **SOLD**

Mileage: **N/A**

Idle Mileage: **N/A** TOTAL MILEAGE = **N/A**

35-10 2022 Ford F-150 P/U Truck

Mileage: 22,403

Idle Mileage: 93,720 TOTAL MILEAGE = 116,123

35-11 2022 Chevrolet Malibu

Mileage: 11,020

Idle Mileage: N/A TOTAL MILEAGE = 11,020

35-12 2024 Chevrolet Tahoe

Mileage: 10,948

Idle Mileage: N/A TOTAL MILEAGE = 10,948

Section 6

Training

2025 Training

ASP Training – Recertification

Criminal Justice Association – Admin., TAC & LASO Training

CPR/AED Training

Delaware Police Chief's Conference

Delaware Recruitment Training

DPAC Accreditation Managers Training

Gathering Evidence - Today's Communication Technologies

Hometown Security Conference

IACP Conference

Intoxilyzer 9000 Training

Legal Updates

NIGP Conference

Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command

O2X-Optiminzing Human Performance

OHS Smart/Simple Training

Range Qualifications (Spring and Fall)

TASER Re-Certification (All Officers)

TASER Instructor Re-Certification Training

2025 Training Hours

- Chief Laura Giles 35 Hrs.
- Sgt. Philip Young 24 Hrs.
- Sgt. Stephen Smith 32 Hrs.
- Det. Scot Sowden 36 Hrs.
- M/Cpl. Kevin Kerrigan 32 Hrs.
- M/Cpl. John Mitchell 24.5 Hrs.
- M/Cpl. John Giles 40 Hrs.
- M/Cpl. Andrew Davis* 29.5 Hrs.
- PFC. Thomas Maddams 40 Hrs.
- Ptlm. James Bush** 21 Hrs.
- Ptlm. Earl McCloskey (Part-Time) 72 Hrs.

* Hired September 1, 2025

** Hired June 9, 2025

Administrative Staff

Linda Sommermann 12 Hrs.

Section 7

Grants

2025 Yearly Grant Report

Total Grant Funding Received

$599,977.36

Byrne Grant - $6,300.00

Grant received from the Criminal Justice Council

Byrne Grant - $23,698.00

Funds not used by other departments

Combat Violent Crimes - $29,703.04

Additional Officer Patrols to reduce Violent Crimes

COSSIP (Opioids Grant) - $483,996 Per Year

Police Clinician & Impact Life (ended 12/31/25)

EDIE - $4,200.97

Office of Highway Safety – $27,275.81

SALLE - $5,274.58

SLEAF - $4,280.00

State of Delaware Legislature - $15,248.96

Body Worn Cameras & Cloud Storage

Section 8

Departmental Improvements

&

Challenges

Departmental Improvements/Challenges (2025)

Improvements

Collective Bargaining Agreement

Stalker Speed Trailer

New Office Furniture (Lt's, Det's & Admin's Offices)

New Patrol Room Cubicles

New Carpeting throughout the station

Prisoner Holding Cell

Challenges

Recruitment

Retention

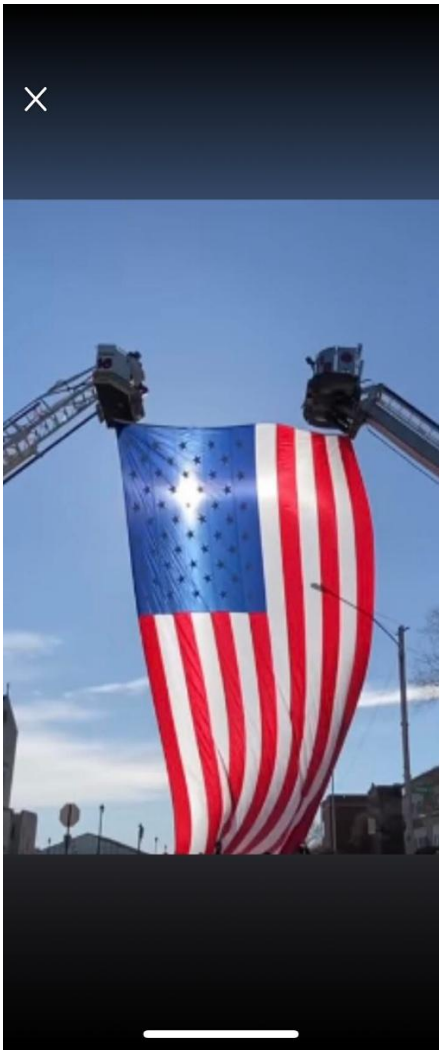
Old Vehicles

Section 9

Community Affairs/Police Photo Community Affairs

POLICE
PUBLIC SAFETY
BUILDING

POLICE
PUBLIC SAFETY
BUILDING



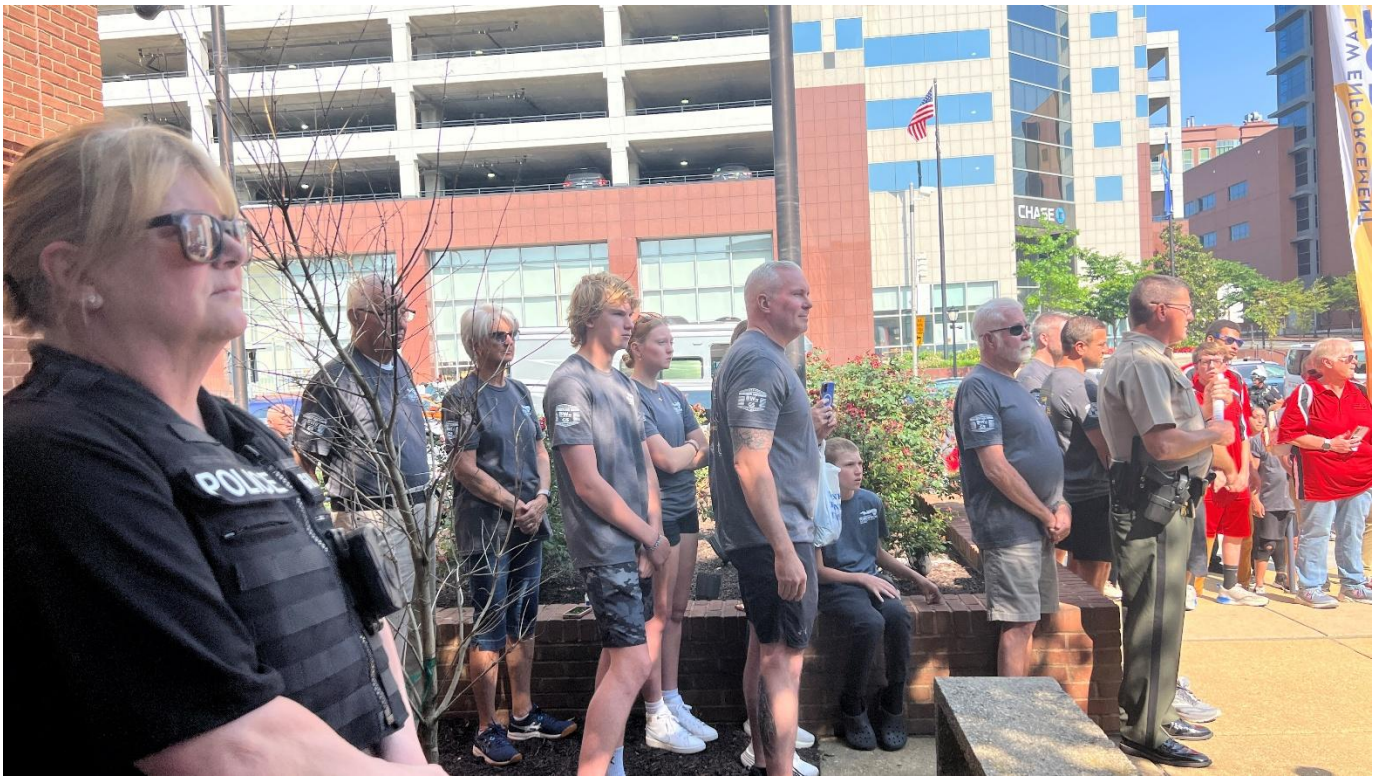
DELAWARE BLUE HENS

POLICE

THE TOWN OF ELSMERE
INCORPORATED MARCH 9TH 1939

POLICE
KERRIDAN
POLICE

S/CPL
ANDREA LAWS
LIEUTENANT
GREGG SHELTON
MAJOR
MICHAEL DOWNS
SERGEANT
BARRY WHEATLEY
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE
POLICE


POLICE
CHASE

WELCOME TO THE
LIBRARY
POLICE
BOWDEN
POLICE