

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY 2023

Upper Dublin Police Department
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<https://www.upperdublin.net/departments/police/>



COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT

Activities & Events:

- Chief Wheatley and Sgt. Judge attended a community engagement meeting that was held in the North Hills community of Upper Dublin Township.
- Chief Wheatley attended the annual MLK scholarship breakfast hosted by American Legion Post 769 at Normandy Farm in Blue Bell. In addition, Chief Wheatley also attended the Upper Dublin School District's MLK Day of Service event held at Upper Dublin High School.
- Cpl. Madrak attended a Day of Service at Sparks Park that was sponsored by the Upper Dublin Parks & Recreation Department.
- Ofc. Thomas provided a tour of the Upper Dublin Police Department to a cub scout troop from Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School.
- Sgt. Judge and Cpl. Madrak attended numerous meetings concerning Fire & Ice Festival, the Citizens Police Academy, and Junior Police Academy.

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and granted Premier Agency status in 2020



INVESTIGATIONS

Detective Unit & Patrol Division

On Saturday, December 31, 2022, Upper Dublin Police Officers were dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to an abandoned vehicle report in the parking lot of the Walnut Avenue Community Center for North Hills. Upon arrival, it was determined that the white GMC Terrain was stolen out of Norristown on December 27th. In addition, two individuals who were in the vehicle upon police arrival fled into a nearby residence. The two males eventually came out of the house and admitted their involvement. Felony charges were filed by Ofc. Devlin.

On Wednesday, January 4, 2023, Ofc. Ferrara was dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to Upper Dublin High School for a theft report. Several students had cash taken and their credit cards compromised during their gym class. A suspect was identified and is currently in communication with the police.

On Thursday, January 5, 2023, Upper Dublin Police Officers were dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to the area of Highland Avenue and the Route 309 N/B exit ramp for a vehicle accident with injuries. A vehicle crossed over Highland Avenue from the exit ramp, crashed through a fence, and landed in a ditch adjacent to Route 309. Ofc. Ferrara conducted the investigation and arrested the operator for DUI.

On Thursday, January 5, 2023, Ofc. Spotts conducted a vehicle stop in the area of East Butler Pike and Cavendish Drive in the Ambler section of Upper Dublin Township. Initially, this vehicle stop was made for equipment violations of the headlight out and illegal window tint. Upon investigation, it was found that the vehicle registration plate was expired, and the driver was driving under suspension. In addition, the driver exhibited signs of being under the influence of alcohol and later failed to complete Standardized Field Sobriety Tests. The driver was placed under arrest, processed, and released. A Preliminary Hearing is pending.

On Friday, January 6, 2023, Sgt. Nick conducted a vehicle stop in the area of 520 Virginia Drive, in the Fort Washington section of Upper Dublin Township on a blue Hyundai Sonata that was displaying a counterfeit New Jersey temporary registration. The vehicle was determined to be stolen and the driver was under the influence of marijuana. Detectives assisted in contacting the owner of the vehicle and Abington Police Officer Da Cunha provided Portuguese translation services which aided in the return of the vehicle. The incident is still under investigation and charges are pending.

On Thursday, January 12, 2023, Upper Dublin Police Officers were dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to a report of a disturbance in the area of Welsh Road and Dresher Road in the Dresher section of Upper Dublin Township. Prior to Ofc. Pratt's arrival, Detective Gallen arrived at the location and determined that a road rage incident took place. Officer Pratt cited a defendant for harassment following a road rage incident in which the defendant slapped another motorist.

On Thursday, January 12, 2022, Preliminary Hearings were held at District Court 38-1-10 that pertained to a number of Upper Dublin Police Department cases. They were as follows:

- Sgt. Nick attended the preliminary hearing for stalking and harassment charges filed in relation to a Protection from Abuse Order violation. The defendant waived the hearing and the case is being forwarded to the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.
- Ofc. Carruthers attended the hearing for harassment charges that were filed in 2022, the defendant plead guilty to summary harassment.
- Ofc. Pratt attended the preliminary hearing that involved felony shoplifting. The defendant waived the hearing and the case is being forwarded to the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office.

**Proudly Serving the Upper Dublin Township Community
since 1928**



On Monday, January 16, 2023, Ofc. Petaccio was dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to the 300 block of Randolph Avenue for the report of a stolen vehicle. It was subsequently determined that this stolen vehicle was later involved in a theft from motor vehicles in neighboring jurisdictions and has led police on several pursuits. Further intelligence gained from the Philadelphia Police Department resulted in a crime bulletin being distributed to law enforcement agencies throughout southeastern Pennsylvania with possible actors. The vehicle was later recovered in Philadelphia with at least one individual being arrested. The case was turned over to the Detective Unit for further investigation.

On Friday, January 20, 2023, Sgt. Rowland, the shift supervisor, was contacted by Montgomery County Juvenile Probation for a report of a male cutting off his juvenile probation order ankle monitor and jumping out of the window of his residence. Upon arrival to the area around the male's residence, he was located by police and apprehended following a foot pursuit. The male was immediately transported to the Montgomery Youth Center in Norristown. Additional charges are pending against the male.

On Saturday, January 21, 2023, Ofc. Miller was dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to the Upper Dublin Police Department for a walk-in who sought to report a Protection from Abuse Order violation. Due to the documentation that was provided by the victim, Ofc. Miller filed an arrest warrant for the defendant.

On Sunday, January 22, 2023, Upper Dublin Police Officers were dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to a vehicle crash at Highland Avenue and Route 309, in the Fort Washington section of Upper Dublin Township. While enroute, Upper Dublin Police Officers were advised that the vehicle driver, a male, fled from the scene on foot. Upon investigation, it was determined that the vehicle was found to be stolen out of the City of Philadelphia. The male was later located by Upper Dublin Police Officers and was placed under arrest by Ofc. Borgmann for receiving stolen property. Search Warrants were applied for and authorized, and the investigation is continuing.

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, Upper Dublin Police Officers were dispatched by the Montgomery County Communications Center to Upper Dublin High School for a report of unwanted persons within the building. Upon investigation, it was determined that the males were not in fact

students at the high school and had no legitimate reason to be in the building. The males were identified and removed by Upper Dublin Police Officers. The case was turned over to the Detective Unit for further investigation.

On Friday, January 27, 2023, Upper Dublin Police Officers were notified of a delayed report of a robbery that took place within the North Hills section of Upper Dublin Township. Upon investigation, the victim claimed that an unknown male entered her vehicle while she was sitting in the back seat. That male demanded her property and then fled from the scene. This case was assigned to the Detective Unit and is an active investigation.

On Sunday, January 29, 2023, Upper Dublin Police Officers were dispatched to the 1100 block of Market Street, in the Dresher section of Upper Dublin Township, for a reported burglary. The victim arrived home to find her apartment door damaged and the interior ransacked. The on-call detective was notified, responded, and immediately began an investigation, which is on-going.

Criminal charges and any discussion thereof, are merely allegations and all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

TRAINING

All Upper Dublin Police Officers were tasked with completing an online Axon Academy Taser Annual Operator Update Training & Axon Academy Taser 7 Energy Weapon Training. This training is required due to the police department transitioning to the new Taser 7 this year.

Cpl. Pimm attended the FBI- Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI-LEEDA) Supervisor Leadership Institute at Abington Township Training Annex on January 16-20, 2023. This is Part 1 of 3 police supervisor classes taught by FBI-LEEDA.

Ofc. Haggar attended the winter training conference installment of the Pennsylvania Association of Arson Investigators in State College, PA. Topics included: The Mechanics of Interviewing, Detecting Deception, and Conducting Successful Interrogations, Fire Investigator Health and Safety: Saving Lives Through Best Practices, and The Use of Open-Source Intelligence in Fire Investigations.

Ready to Protect, Proud to Serve



STATISTICS

Table 1. Department-Wide Activity for the Month of January

Type of Activity	Totals
Calls for Service	1,609
Investigative and Supplemental Reports	463
Crash Reports	50
Directed Patrols	254
Foot Patrols	53
Vehicle Stops	136
Premise Checks	130
Premise Checks – Schools	53
Premise Checks – Vacant	9

Table 2. Community Response Unit Activity for the Month of January

Type of Activity	Totals
Bridge/HUB Program Referrals	0
Traffic Complaints	2
Traffic Survey	2

The Upper Dublin Township Police Department is guided by the philosophy of Professionalism, Integrity, and Community Policing. Our greatest asset is our personnel; our greatest strength is our partnership with our community.





Upper Dublin Township Police Department

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Daniel P. Wade
Deputy Chief of Police

Francis X. Wheatley
Chief of Police

Darren S. Nyce
Lieutenant

Open Letter to the Residents of Upper Dublin Township

Once again, our nation witnessed another horrific act of violence at the hands of police officers that resulted in a needless death. Tyre Nichols was a man, a son and more importantly a valued human being. The unnecessary escalation of violence by these police officers and the failure of any of the officers to intervene and render aid are reprehensible.

The prompt internal investigation by the Memphis Police Department and the subsequent dismissal of all the officers involved along with the swift approval and filing of murder charges by the District Attorney's office was appropriate and justified. As police officers, we take an oath of office and have a duty and responsibility to protect and serve the community. The actions by these officers were not only a betrayal of the oath taken to protect the community but also a betrayal to the profession and those who serve and protect their community daily with dignity, honor and respect.

His death must stand as another reminder of the need for more oversight and responsibility within law enforcement. This incident showcases a systematic failure of accountability that still exists within some law enforcement agencies in the country. While this lack of accountability is still a factor, it should not diminish the strides taken by law enforcement agencies to update policies and increase training of personnel in use of force tactics, de-escalation methods, implicit bias, cultural diversity, mental health awareness and duty intervene.

Sadly, the unjust killing of Mr. Nichols once again highlights the concerns expressed by our minority community members. These fears are real and justified based on the long history of documented police violence towards members of the community. Law enforcement professionals must acknowledge these concerns and continue to proactively work with the communities they serve to rebuild trust.

As the Chief of Police of the Upper Dublin Township Police Department and the President of the Montgomery County Police Chiefs Association, I can ensure you that law enforcement executives in this county stand united on maintaining the highest standards of police accountability and training and understand the importance of maintaining our local relationships

with community leaders and community engagement in addressing policing issues and concerns that arise in our local jurisdictions.

Moving forward, the Upper Dublin Township Police Department will continue working with community leaders, religious centers, and schools to address community concerns about law enforcement practices through our regular community engagement and outreach programs.

Lastly, we encourage anyone who has concerns about a police interaction in Upper Dublin Township to please reach the police department through the township's online complaint form (<https://www.upperdublin.net/departments/police/citizen-complaint-form/>) or in person at police station located at 520 Virginia Drive Fort Washington, PA 19034. All complaints will be promptly investigated.

Respectfully on behalf of the Command Staff,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis X. Wheatley". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "F" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Francis X. Wheatley
Chief of Police

A photograph of a community engagement meeting held in a school cafeteria. The room is filled with people of various ages, including children and adults, seated at long tables. In the foreground, several children are seen from behind, looking towards the front of the room. A man in a dark t-shirt and khaki pants stands with his back to the camera, looking towards the front. At the front of the room, a woman in a light-colored shirt is standing and speaking to the group. The room has a drop ceiling with fluorescent lights and a red carpet. There are framed pictures on the walls and a large window in the background.

North Hills Community Engagement

A partnership between the Upper Dublin Police
Department & Upper Dublin School District

Food and Toy Collection & Donation

- Matthew D'Ambrosio, who is a senior and National Honors Society member, at Upper Dublin High School, completed his community service project by collecting food and toys during the holiday season. He partnered with the Upper Dublin Police Department for this project and provided the police with a significant number of donated items. The police department will be distributing these items to various service organizations within the Upper Dublin community.



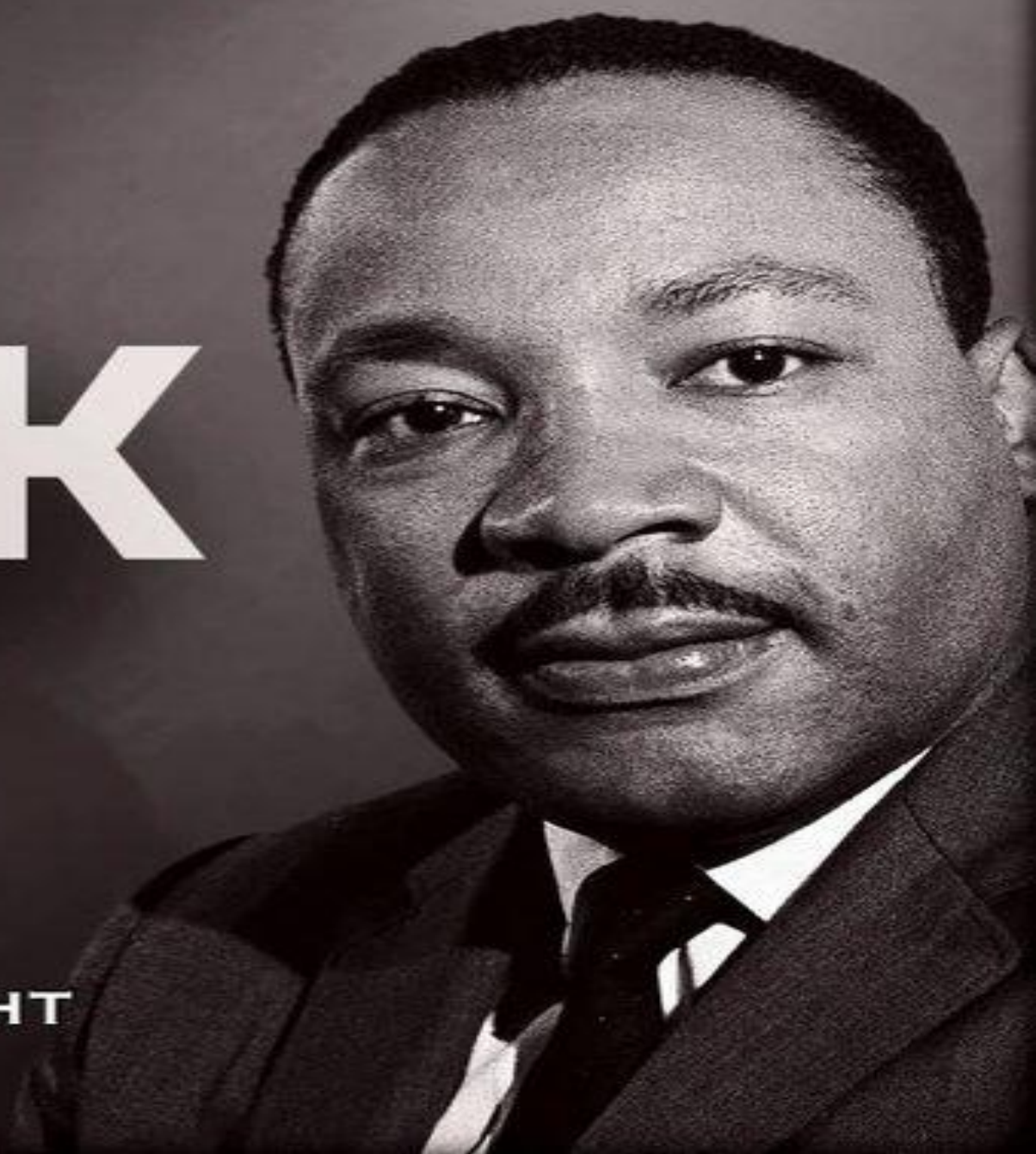


Community Donation

- Jarrettown United Methodist Church donated more than 10 plush teddy bears in sealed bags that can be kept in patrol vehicles and be provided to children who are in stressful situations



MILK DAY



“THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT
TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT.”