



# Chatham Borough Police Department

## PRESS RELEASE



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Dear residents, business owners, and visitors,

As we approach the November 8<sup>th</sup> midterm election cycle, there have been recent articles, posts, and opinion letters writing about endorsements and the activities within the Borough, most specifically as it relates to the interests and incidents involving the police department. As a consequence of these writings, I feel compelled to reply.

You should know that as long as I have been serving in Chatham Borough, the police department has remained neutral when it comes to endorsing political candidates and will continue to refrain from endorsing candidates for office, in contrast to a recent letter to the editor implying that specific local candidates received the support or endorsement of “local law enforcement.” Police department personnel, from top to bottom, focus on one thing: serving the members of this community, directly and through cooperation with whomever sits on the dais representing the Borough’s governing body. In parallel, it is the community who appoints the local governing body with whom we are always committed to working with. I am delighted to report that the police department has had a positive and productive working relationship with the governing body for all of my years here, regardless of the political persuasion represented in the Borough’s Council chambers.

Moreover, I have seen other various incendiary writings that describe a generalized “substantial rise” in “property crime” within Chatham Borough and would like to share with you the actual historical and current data; clearly depicting an overall downward trend in nearly all categories of property and violent crime, most specifically stolen motor vehicles. It should also be noted, our data tells us that stolen vehicles are a genuine crime of opportunity that are preventable. Similar to the Xenon headlight thefts of the early 2000s, the rash of auto burglaries in 2015, or spate of bicycle thefts in 2019, we stamp down these crime waves with genuine community policing partnerships and synergistic police/community strategies.

In January of 2022, Chatham Borough’s six stolen vehicles represented approximately 22% of the County’s total stolen vehicles; however, in large part to our Lock It or Lose It instant alert campaign, today that number rests at 7.41%. To further illustrate the point, 95% of every stolen vehicle (53) from 2019 – present were **unlocked** with **keys inside**, sometimes parked with the engine running, despite our repeated pleas to lock doors and remove keys. Only three (5%) of the 56 stolen vehicle victims from 2019 – present reported using their vehicle alarm system.

Said another way, if the 42 vehicles stolen in Chatham Borough from August 2020 – present were locked with the keys removed, we would have **ZERO** stolen vehicles. Disappointingly, we have met with multiple residents who have experienced more than one stolen vehicle in the past two years from the same household, doors unlocked and keys inside. I must underscore that this is a **crime of opportunity** and residents must continue to partner with us and assist in eliminating the opportunity. We will manage the rest! Clearly you heeded our warnings, and congratulations to the residents are in order, as your efforts to remove keys and lock vehicle doors are having the meaningful effect of markedly lowering the pace of stolen vehicles in the Borough.

As you view our newly published crime stats (attached below), which will be broadcasted on a semiannual basis, please note that these contain our in-house stats and not the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reported (UCR) data, which I, and the general law enforcement community, find woefully inadequate. Our stats are updated regularly and audited periodically for accuracy. I urge readers to avoid the pitfalls of comparing municipalities based solely on crime data of any type, especially the data released by my office, or against using percentages when making comparisons involving small numbers or data sets of a particular measured category. This often provokes

unwarranted fear and is frankly inciteful. To that point, the FBI Uniform Crime Report manual developed the "Proper Use" document that explains the following as it relates to crime data submitted to the State and FBI:

"These incomplete analyses have often created misleading perceptions which adversely affect geographic entities and their residents. For this reason, the FBI has a longstanding policy against ranking participating law enforcement agencies on the basis of crime data alone."

"Data users should not rank locales because there are many factors that cause the nature and type of crime to vary from place to place. UCR statistics include only jurisdictional population figures along with reported crime, clearance, or arrest data. Rankings ignore the uniqueness of each locale."

"When providing/using agency-oriented statistics, the FBI cautions and, in fact, strongly discourages, data users against using rankings to evaluate locales or the effectiveness of their law enforcement agencies."

Perspective is everything, so keep that in mind as you view our data and know that this data is prepared and used to help us identify trends, deploy equipment and personnel more effectively, prepare budgets, and assess police operations in a constructive manner. As the analytics change, as they often do, so too will our police strategies.

Lastly, I would like to **reemphasize** recent developments and the earnest and outstanding past & current efforts by all personnel within the police department to reduce stolen motor vehicles in our community...enhancing and improving the operations of the police department. Some examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Lock-it or Lose-it campaign
- Instant alerts by text & phone (42 total alerts to-date)
- Stationary license plate readers (LPRs) purchased and installed
- Mobile LPR installed and deployed
- Additional stationary LPRs to go online shortly
- Officer hiring to increase the department's table of organization
- Reassigning personnel to the Detective Bureau
- Overtime details to locate open garage doors and unlocked cars
- Repeated public safety announcements
- Data driven special enforcement campaigns and directed patrols
- Decoy car deployments
- Overtime details
- Task force participation with the Morris County Prosecutor's Office, Morris County Sheriff's Office, and local police partners
- Newly developed Southeast Morris Auto Theft Task Force
- Multiple community group meetings
- Repeated Council meeting presentations
- Published stolen vehicle data
- Recovery investigations (44 since 2019)
- Six arrests and prosecutions since 2019.

In closing, while Chatham Borough has never been fully free of criminality or property thefts, it overall remains the **safe and idyllic community** it was when I joined the department over 20 years ago. I hope the recent articles, posts, letters to the editor, or instant alerts from the police department create awareness in the community...not fear and hysteria!

I will be announcing an upcoming Coffee with a Cop event for later November so we can join together for constructive dialogue over a cup of coffee (donuts too) and discuss current trends or police stats. I hope you will join us, but in the meantime, please continue to do your part to help the brave, compassionate, and well-trained officers of the Chatham Borough Police Department...**remove your keys, lock your doors, and close garage doors!**

Brian K. Gibbons  
Chief of Police



# Chatham Borough Police Department



## Police CFS & Crime Statistics

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Sex Offenses</b>											
Sex Offense All Others		3	4	5	5	4	2	2			25
Sex Offender Registration		5	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	14
<b>Grand</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>

### Sex Offense % Change (Multiple Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type			-37.50%	20.00%	0.00%	-16.67%	-20.00%	-25.00%	-66.67%	0.00%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Assaults</b>											
Assault/Simple		13	12	12	9	2	11	7	4	7	77
Threats		1	2			4	3	1	3		14
Fight		1			1					1	3
Aggravated Assault On Leo				2							2
Aggravated Assault - Other Dangerous Weap		1			1						2
Aggravated Assault - Knife										1	1
Aggravated Assault Hands And Feet							1				1
<b>Grand</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>100</b>

### Assaults % Change (Multiple Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type			-12.50%	0.00%	-21.43%	-45.45%	150.00%	-46.67%	-12.50%	28.57%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2016	2017	2020	Grand
<b>Robberies</b>						
Robbery/Strongarm/Bank		1				1
Robbery / Firearm / Commercial			1			1
Robbery/Strongarm/Comm.					1	1
Robbery / Firearm / Other Misc.				1		1
Robbery / Knife / Bank		1				1
<b>Grand</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>

### Robberies % Change (Multiple Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2016	2017	2020	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type			-50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand
<b>Weapon Offenses</b>									
Weapons-Use/Firearms			1			1		1	3
Weapons-Poss/Knife		1				1	1		3
Weapons Offense / Other		1				1		1	3
Weapons-Sale/Firearms				1			1		2
Weapons-Poss/Firearms		1		1					2
Weapons-Poss/Explosives					1				1
Weapons-Manuf/Explosives						1			1
<b>Grand</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Weapons % Change</b>	(Multiple Items)								

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Grand
			-66.67%	100.00%	-50.00%	300.00%	-50.00%	0.00%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Residence Burglaries</b>											
Burglary Force Res Nite		1								1	2
Burglary Force Res Day		1		1	1						3
Burglary Attempt Force Res Day					1		1			1	3
Burglary No Force Res Unk		1		1			1	1		1	5
Burglary Attempt Force Res Unk		3	1	1			1				6
Burglary Force Res Unkn		2	2		1	1	1	1			8
Burglary No Force Res Nite		4	1	2			1			1	9
Burglary No Force Res Day		1	2	1	2	1	1		1	1	10
<b>Grand</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Residence Burglary % Change</b>	(Multiple Items)										

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
			-54%	0%	-17%	-60%	200%	-67%	-50%	400%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Non-Residence Burglaries</b>											
Burglary Attempt Force Non Res Day							1	1	3	2	7
Burglary Attempt Force Non Res Nite				1	6			1	1	4	13
Burglary Attempt Force Non Res Unk		1		2					1		4
Burglary Force Non Res Day		1	1	3	3	1				2	11
Burglary Force Non Res Nite		1	1	1		2		2	1	2	10
Burglary Force Non Res Unkn		1			1			1			3
Burglary No Force Non Res Day		1	5			1	6	2	3	12	30
Burglary No Force Non Res Nite		3	52	14	9	9	43	25	13	14	182
Burglary No Force Non Res Unk		2	1		2	1	3		1	1	11
<b>Grand</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>271</b>
<b>Non-Residence Burglary % Change</b>	(Multiple Items)										

Count of Non-Residential Burglaries	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
			500.00%	-65.00%	0.00%	-33.33%	278.57%	-39.62%	-28.13%	60.87%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Thefts</b>											
Theft \$50- Pocket Picking		1									1
Theft \$50- From Autos				1							1
Theft \$50- From Bldg.			1	1							2
Theft \$50-200 Auto Parts							1	1			2
Theft \$200 + Auto Parts And Accessories		3									3
Theft \$50-200 From Bldg.		1			1		1				3
Theft \$50-200 Bicycles		2			1	1					4
Theft \$50- Shoplifting					1	1	2	1	1		6
Theft \$50- Auto Parts		1		2	2			1		1	7
Theft \$50-200 Shoplifting		1	1	3			1	3	1		10
Theft \$200 + From Building		1	2	2	2	1	2		1		11
Fraud - Identity Theft					1			1	2	7	11
Theft \$200 + Shoplifting		1	2	1			2	2	5	1	14
Theft \$50- All Others		6	4	11	2		2	6	4	3	38
Theft \$50-200 All Other		7	4	3	5	3	4	4	7	5	42
Theft \$200 + Bicycle		7	8	1	2	7	14	5	2	4	50
Theft \$200 + All Others		25	16	10	19	15	7	12	6	10	120
<b>Grand</b>		56  38  35  36  28  36  36  29  32									326

**Theft % Change** (Multiple Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		-32.14%	-7.89%	2.86%	-22.22%	28.57%	0.00%	-19.44%	10.34%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>MV Thefts</b>										
Mv Theft-Auto Driveway		4	3	1	3	2	6	12	10	41
Mv Theft-Auto Res. Area				2			2	3		7
Mv Theft-Auto Other Lots		1		1		1		3	1	7
Mv Theft-Auto Shopping Ct									6	6
Mv Theft-Auto Used Car Lt					1	5				6
Mv Theft-Auto Comm Area			1					1	3	5
<b>Grand</b>		5  4  4  4  8  8  19  20								72

**MV Theft % Change** (Multiple Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		-20.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	137.50%	5.26%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Column Labels	2020	Grand
<b>Arson</b>			
Arson		3	3
<b>Grand</b>		3	3

Count of Agency Call Type	Colu	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Frauds</b>											
Fraud All Others		40	46	39	34	46	46	52	49	36	388
Fraud Credit Cards		4	3	1	1	1	1	5	9	2	27
Fraud Bad Checks		2	2	4	2	1	3	1			15
Fraud - Identity Theft					1			1	2	7	11
Counterfeiting		2		2							4
Computer Crimes					1						1
<b>Grand</b>		48  51  46  39  48  50  59  60  45									446

**Frauds % Change** (Multiple Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		6.25%	-9.80%	-15.22%	23.08%	4.17%	18.00%	1.69%	-25.00%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Animal Complaints</b>											
Animal Complaints All		177	107	124	158	146	152	155	142	152	1313
Animal Bites		7	11	6	2	1	5	3	1	7	43
Lost / Found / Stray Animals		1	1	1	2	7	5	4	1	10	32
Barking Dog/Animal Noise		1	1	1	2	1	4	3	3	1	17
Bear Sighting / Complaint				5	1						6
Disposal Of Injured Animal					1	1			1		3
<b>Grand</b>		<b>186</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>1414</b>

**Animal % Change** (Multipl Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		100.00%	64.52%	114.17%	121.17%	93.98%	106.41%	99.40%	89.70%	114.86%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Missing Persons</b>											
Missing Person-Juv-Male		3	2	5	1	2	1	3		2	19
Missing Person Adult Male		4	4		2	2		4		1	17
Missing Person Adult Female		2	1		3	3		1	2	1	13
Missing Person-Juv Female			2		1	2	1	1	3		10
Runaway-Incorrig-Male Juvenile		1	2								4
<b>Grand</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>63</b>

**Missing Person % Change** (Multipl Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		10.00%	-54.55%	40.00%	28.57%	-77.78%	350.00%	-44.44%	0.00%		

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Mental Health</b>											
Emotionally Disturbed Person (E		10	18	24	21	43	36	16	27	26	221
Attempted Suicides		2	2		2	6	3	2	1	3	21
Overdose		1	1	2	3	4	1	1		2	15
Suicides		1			1				1	1	4
Runaway-Incorrig-Male Juvenile		1	2								4
Atra - Alcohol Treatment And Rehabilitation Act								1		2	3
Suspicious Deaths					1						1
Doctor Duty To Warn - Edp							1				1
<b>Grand</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>270</b>

**Mental Health % Change** (Multipl Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		53.33%	13.04%	7.69%	89.29%	-22.64%	-51.22%	45.00%	20.69%		

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>CDS Offenses</b>											
Cds Poss-Marijuana/Hashish Narc		8	4	5	4	1	1	1			24
Overdose		1	1	2	3	4	1	1		2	15
Cds Drug Laws Paraphenalia		3	1	2	1	2		2	1		12
Cds Use-Marijuana/Hashish Narc		1			2	4			2		9
Cds Poss-Opium/Cocaine/Deriv Narcotic D			3				1	1		1	6
Cds Sale-Opium/Cocaine/Deriv Narcotic		1			1	1					3
Cds Sale-Marij/Hashish Narcotic		1				1		1			3
Cds Use-Opium/Cocaine/Deriv Narcotic Dr			2								2
Cds Manuf-Marij/Hashish Narcotic Drug Laws				1							1
Cds Poss-Synth Narcotics Narcot		1									1
<b>Grand</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>76</b>

**CDS % Change** (Multipl Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
			-31.25%	-9.09%	10.00%	18.18%	-76.92%	100.00%	-50.00%	0.00%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Alcohol Offenses</b>											
Dwi-Alcohol/Under Infl		7	8	12	4	7	12	5	4	1	60
Liquor-Poss/Juv		4	2	3	6		1			1	17
Liquor-Other/Juv		2	3	5	2	1	1	1			15
Liquor License Invest		1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	10
Liquor-Poss/Adult					1						1
Liquor-Poss/All Other						1					1
<b>Grand</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>118</b>

**Alcohol Offense % Change** (Multipl Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
			-12.50%	64.29%	-17.39%	-36.84%	33.33%	-50.00%	-37.50%	0.00%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
<b>Disorderly Offenses</b>											
Disorderly Conduct / Harassmen		52	50	48	61	56	60	42	48	73	490
Noise Complaint		24	21	28	48	31	45	81	67	54	399
Dispute		21	26	21	25	30	26	30	28	28	235
Disorderly Persons / Noise All Oi		12	10	6	8	2	1	4	2	4	49
<b>Grand</b>		<b>109</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>1173</b>

**Disorderly % Change** (Multipl Items)

Count of Agency Call Type	Column	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
			-1.83%	-3.74%	37.86%	-16.20%	10.92%	18.94%	-7.64%	9.66%	

Count of Agency Call Type	Column									
<b>Suspicious Activity</b>	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Suspicious Person General Police	190	152	160	129	107	120	84	75	85	1102
Suspicious Activity	38	38	40	35	36	33	48	67	52	387
Suspicious Auto General Police	18	23	20	23	15	15	9	8	18	149
Suspicious Activity Cds Related	4		4	1			1			10
Suspicious Deaths				1						1
<b>Grand</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1649</b>

**Suspicious % Change** (Multiple Items)

	Column									
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Grand
Count of Agency Call Type		-14.80%	5.16%	-15.63%	-16.40%	6.33%	-15.48%	5.63%	3.33%	