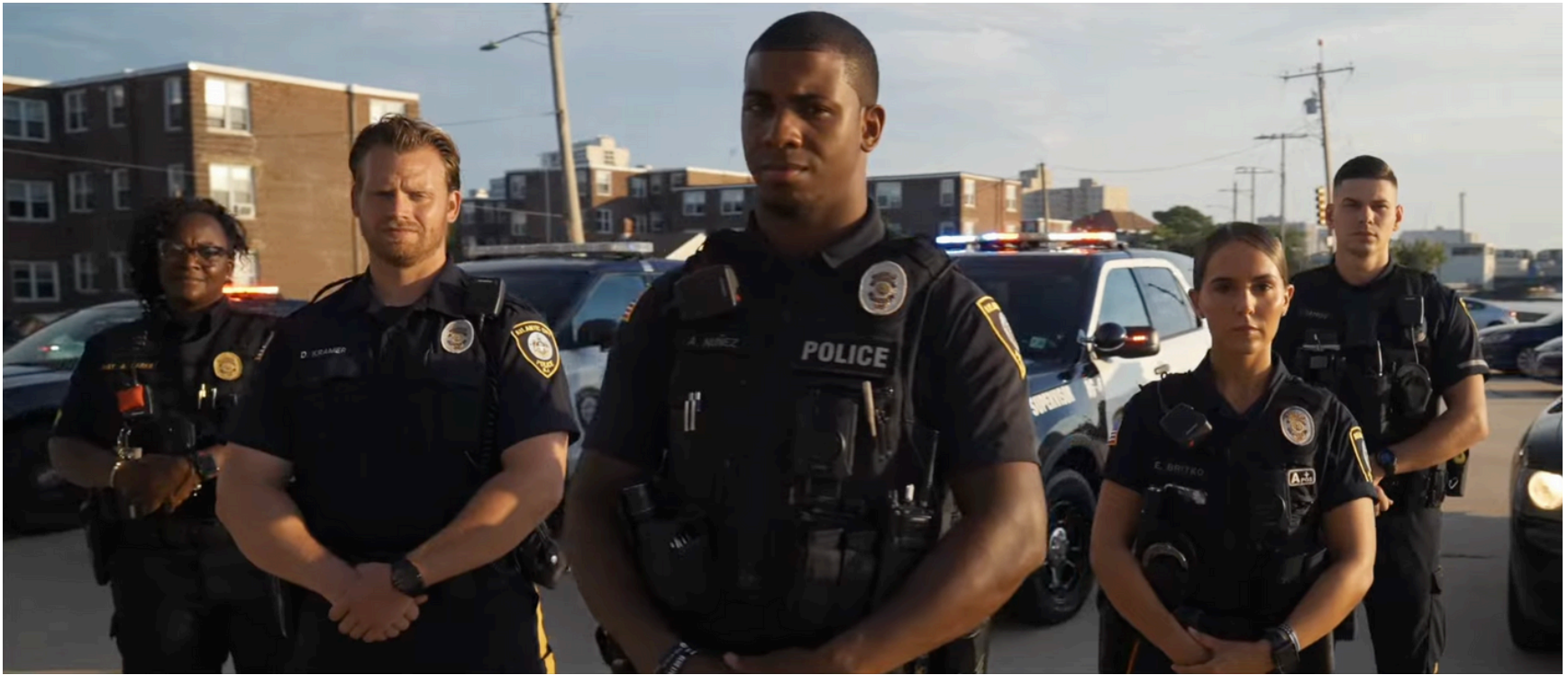


The Chelsea Insider

CONNECTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD TO PUBLIC SAFETY

May 2024 Edition | Serving residents of Atlantic City from Texas Avenue to Annapolis Avenue



The Atlantic City Police Department proudly protects and serves our diverse community.

IN THIS EDITION...

Is Atlantic City safe? Depends on who you ask.

Based on Chelsea EDC public safety surveys, perceptions are relative. One thing, however, is certain: There are committed people working hard to improve public safety in Atlantic City. The task is monumental. In 2023 there were a staggering 146,964 calls for service (up 29% from 2022).

Chelsea EDC believes public safety is not just a police problem and we advocate for a community approach. Such as encouraging people to speak up if they see a crime or suspicious activity. Also, it is every property owner's responsibility to maintain their property since blight attracts crime. In addition, too often the police are the first responders to at-risk individuals in need, even if a crime is not being committed. This edition of the Chelsea Insider is focused on the Atlantic City Police Department (ACPD): the people, the statistics, the

opportunities, and the partnership between ACPD and Chelsea EDC.

Our most impactful program is hiring two detail (off-duty) officers for two shifts per week. Hiring extra officers allows the Chelsea public safety team to direct the officers' efforts, resulting in more than 225 summons and 20 arrests in the last year and a half. The community has noticed, and we hope to capture and measure the improvement in our upcoming 2024 public safety community survey.

In alignment with Focus Area 5 (Career Pathways) of the Chelsea 10-Year Plan, we are also using this edition to promote employment opportunities within the ACPD. We are proud of Atlantic City residents who have become police officers, creating a more diverse and committed force.

As Chelsea EDC embarks on its second annual public safety opinion survey, stay tuned to hear the community's answer to "Is Atlantic City safe?"

STATS & FACTS

Overall, all crime decreased by 20% in 2023.

The heavy workload for ACPD does not stop at the 146,964 calls for service. It also includes:

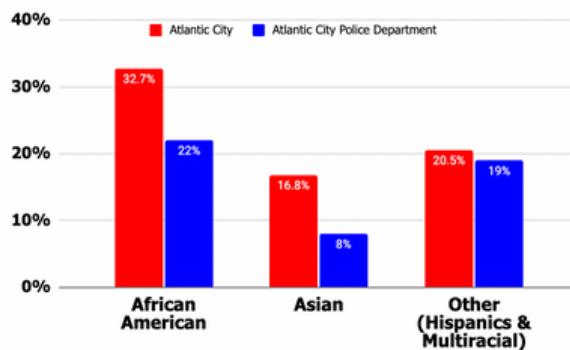
- Arrests more than doubled from 2,009 in 2022 to 4,195 in 2023
- The number of firearms confiscated increased slightly from 157 in 2022 to 168 in 2023.
- Homicides remained constant at seven for both years.
- Shooting incidents (non-homicide) decreased by 53%, from 103 to 48.
- Non-homicide incidents, where someone was shot, decreased 29% from 31 in 2022 to 22 in 2023.
- The total number of people shot also decreased (31%), from 39 in 2022 to 27 in 2023.

Despite this significant reduction in crime, if you do an internet search for the phrase "Is Atlantic City safe?" it is unlikely that you would choose to visit.

The crime rate in Atlantic City, as reported in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) issued by the FBI, is based solely on the city's year-round resident population of approximately 39,000. However, those results ignore the significant number of visitors and non-resident workers in the city on any given day. For instance, there were approximately 24 million visitor trips last year. There were an average of 65,000 daily visitors. Coupled with an estimated 20,000 non-resident workers, the actual population at risk of crime in Atlantic City is closer to 124,000. That is according to Tony Marino, a Cornell University-trained sociologist.

If the more accurate 124,000 population number was used, the crime rate in Atlantic City would be one-third lower than what is currently reported by the UCR.

Also, the public wants to know if crimes are randomly committed on another person. The answer from the police department is that for major crimes, including homicide, the victim and suspect often are associated with each other. In fact, the individuals involved many times are both suspects and victims.



ACPD has also introduced efforts within the community to bridge the diversity gap. Programs like the Junior Police Academy, Police Explorers, and the Citizens Academy have been great tools to recruit diverse citizens as well as to help residents better understand police procedures during calls for service.

Notable in the history of the ACPD is the inclusion of women among their ranks. A historic marker near the Public Safety Building at Iowa and Atlantic Avenues honors Officer Margaret "Maggie" Creswell, the first female officer in Atlantic City and the State of New Jersey – and the first African American female officer. The department currently stands at 13% female and is working to increase that number.

Social media has been another great tool for recruitment as ACPD works to offer videos related to hiring and training. Scan the QR code to visit ACPD's YouTube Channel.



ACPD REFLECTS THE COMMUNITY

The Atlantic City Police Department is increasingly successful at improving its diversity to better reflect the community. Current recruitment and hiring practices focus on inclusivity of age, gender, and ethnicity.

According to the most recent U.S. Census, Atlantic City's population is 21.4% Caucasian, 32.7% African American, 16.7% Asian, and 20.5% Other (Hispanic & Multiracial). Currently, the police department's full-time officers are 51% Caucasian, 22% African American, 8% Asian, and 19% Hispanic (see graph above).



Clayton G. Graham Public Safety Building 2715 Atlantic Avenue

SPOTLIGHT

Meet Officer Bao Pham, a dedicated member of the ACPD who embodies the spirit of service and community. Officer Pham has been a Chelsea resident ever since his family immigrated to the United States from Vietnam in 2009. He is a proud graduate of both Sovereign Avenue School and Atlantic City High School. He later went to Stockton University, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. Upon graduation, he immediately became a Special Law Enforcement Officer II (SLEO II) with the ACPD. Being an SLEO II gave Officer Pham excellent hands-on policing experience.



Chelsea Resident Officer Bao Pham, ACHS '18 and Stockton '22

Thanks to a \$3,750,000 Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Hiring Grant recently awarded to the ACPD, Officer Pham transitioned to full-time employment with the department. He now proudly patrols the very streets in the Chelsea neighborhood he grew up on and continues to call home. Officer Pham's career goal is to become a detective, leveraging his experiences and expertise to solve complex cases and ensure justice prevails in a safer Atlantic City. Officer Pham is a shining example of commitment, integrity, and compassion. As he continues to serve and protect, Officer Bao Pham is a testament to the rich culture and diversity of the Chelsea neighborhood.

Career Opportunities in the City of Atlantic City


tip 411



HELP FIGHT CRIME.
Send an anonymous tip to Atlantic City Police. Text keyword ACPD to 847411, add a space, type in your tip information, and hit send.



DOWNLOAD FREE
ACPD Tip app
for iPhone or Android
tip 411



A service of
Atlantic City Police Department



ATLANTIC CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW!



SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER CLASS II

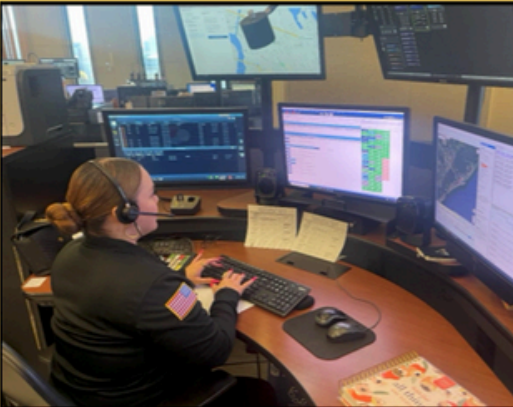
Minimum Requirements

- Must be a resident of New Jersey.
- Must be a citizen of the United States.
- Must be at least 18 years of age.
- Must possess a valid NJ Driver's License.
- Must be able to read, write, and speak the English language.
- Must have a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Tentative academy date- **December, 2024**

APPLY ONLINE AT:
ACNJ.GOV
Click- Careers

911 DISPATCHER

Will You Answer The Call?



BENEFITS:

- Starting at \$35,000
- Paid vacation, personal, and sick leave
- Health Insurance including vision and dental
- Free life insurance policy
- NJ retirement pension
- Continuous training opportunities

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS


- Must be 18 years of age
- U.S. Citizen
- High School Diploma or G.E.D.
- Good moral character
- No felony arrests
- Must accurately type 35 words per minute
- Must pass Critical pre-employment testing.
- Must pass psychological testing

The Atlantic City Police & Fire Communications Bureau is seeking highly motivated individuals who are eager to work in a city and department that prides itself on professionalism and community support. The Atlantic City Police & Fire Communications Bureau is a progressive agency that provides its dispatchers with the best equipment, training, and tools necessary to do the job.

CERTIFICATION & TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: No experience necessary. All required certifications obtained throughout the course of training

Earn while you learn --- paid training program includes an extensive 8 week classroom & on the job training.

Scan to Apply



Current ACPD Opportunities:

- Law Enforcement Officer
- Special Law Enforcement Officer II
- Police Aide
- Public Safety Telecommunicator (911)
- Parking Enforcement Officer
- School Traffic Guard
- Clerk 1 (Police-Civilian)

More career opportunities listed at www.GovernmentJobs.com/careers/atlanticcity

Business Spotlight

REFRESH & INDULGE: CLEO'S CORNER TREATS!

Energize your day with a great cup of coffee. Hot or cold, Cleo's Corner has lots of refreshing options to choose from. Their menu boasts premium ice cream – both hard and soft serve – as well as water ice, along with pastries, smoothies, coffee, and quick bites all year round. Cleo's can be found at the corner of Montpelier and Arctic Avenues, right across from Sovereign Avenue School. They are open 7 days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For almost 60 years, there has been an ice cream parlor at this location. Sara Catrickes, with more than 40 years of business ownership behind her including 10 years operating an ice cream parlor, opened her take on this corner classic in Chelsea in June of 2023. Although the shop is small, Sara plans to add enclosed outdoor seating soon.

Sara, her daughter, and her pet poodle are all familiar faces at Cleo's and they take pride in being friendly, pet-friendly, and staff-friendly. "It is a privilege to work in this neighborhood, and we look forward to continuing to serve the community," she commented.

"Cleo's Corner is accommodating, efficient, and delicious," notes Anh Pham, Data Analyst at Chelsea EDC. "They were a huge hit when they catered Chelsea's EDC's Waste Bin Upgrade Event with freshly made hot chocolate and coffee, along with scrumptious pastries."

Be sure to follow them on Instagram (@CleosCornerAC) and Facebook (Cleo's Corner).



Cleo's Corner located at 26 N. Montpelier Avenue

Chelsea EDC is a non-profit organization established in 2019 to increase economic opportunity in the Chelsea neighborhood of Atlantic City. Since then, we have been asking what would make the neighborhood better. Your answers make up 44 strategies outlined in the Chelsea 10-year Plan. In 2021, we started putting the Plan's strategies into action through exciting community events, impactful beautification and public safety programs, significant grants for homebuyers and businesses, local business marketing and promotion, and connecting residents with career opportunities. We hope you noticed our work and even participated in our programs!

For more information, www.ChelseaEDC.org/Plan

MAJOR FUNDERS



Fulton Bank



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.CHELSEAEDC.ORG/THECHELSEAINSIDER
TO LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK OF THE NEWSLETTER!

YOU CAN ALSO FIND THE SPANISH AND ENGLISH DIGITAL
VERSIONS OR LISTEN TO OUR PODCAST.

