



# Maplewood Community Board on Police Annual Report

2023

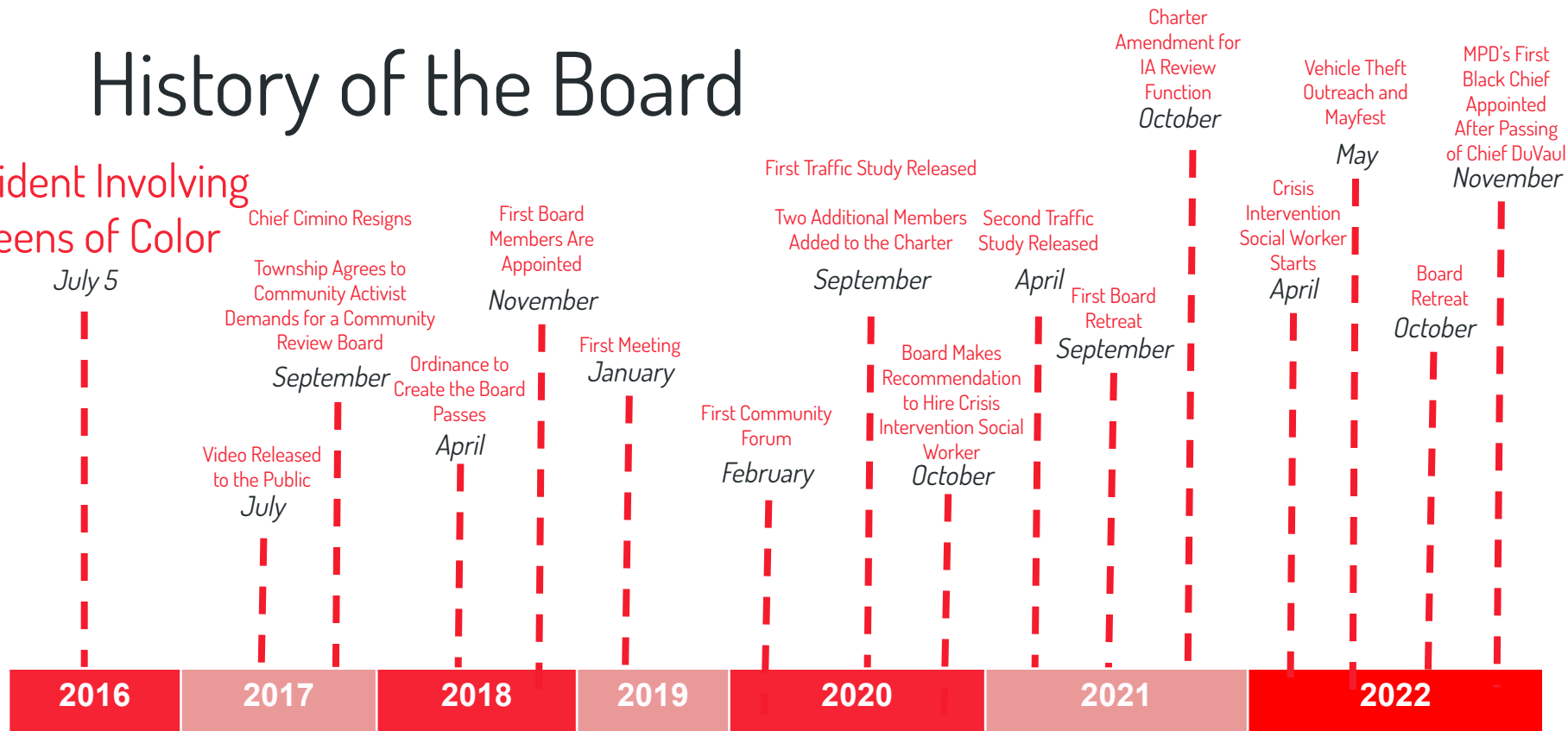
# Thank You

The Maplewood Community Board on Police was created to serve you, our community and those who visit us. Our most important goal is to ensure that we do just that—respond to our community's needs, questions, and vision.

We would love to hear from you. Please find us at our monthly meetings (visit the [township calendar](#) for the latest location and/or Zoom link) or email [mcbop@maplewoodnj.gov](mailto:mcbop@maplewoodnj.gov).

# History of the Board

## Incident Involving Teens of Color



# Meet the Board

## *Voting Members*

### Co-Chairs

Ayo Akinnuoye

Blue Chevigny

*SOMA Action Seat*

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### Members

Katrina Campbell

Alexis Karteron

Kasia Piekarz

Sarah Rothman

*SOMA Justice Seat*

[OPEN SEAT]

[OPEN SEAT]

*Community Coalition on Race Seat*

[OPEN SEAT]

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### Youth Member (Non-Voting)

[OPEN SEAT]

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## *Ex-Officio Members*

Dean Dafis

*Maplewood Township Mayor*

Victor De Luca

*Maplewood Township Committee Member*

Niheema Malloy

*Maplewood Township Deputy Chief of Police*

Gregg Shuster

*Acting Maplewood Township Business Administrator*

Bailey Barnett

*Maplewood Township Assistant Business Administrator*

Ian Grodman

*Board Attorney*

# Charter Overview

## What the Board Does

- Follows a formal process for meetings & work flow
- Research & recommend trainings to benefit the Maplewood Police Department
- Provide community education
- Review and suggest best practices on policies and programs
- Analyze and track data on the interactions between law enforcement and the community, and make training, policy, and or program recommendations based upon analysis
- Be a trusted avenue for the community
- Maintain strict confidentiality

## What the Board Does Not Do

- Make laws/rules (our role is to advise)
- Participate in personnel decisions or in open internal affairs investigations

<https://ecode360.com/33457911>

# 2022

## Objectives Deep Dive



- ✓ Civilian complaint function
- ✓ Social worker initiative
- ✓ Community outreach: 911 Calls PR Campaign
- ✓ Traffic
- ✓ Training

# Civilian Complaint Function

In 2022, the MCBOP worked with MPD to establish the procedures under which the Civilian Complaint Function would operate.

Participating Board Members also took part in required County Prosecutor trainings.

Investigations are starting in 2023.

## Purpose

Per NJ AG Directive, the MCBOP is able to review final Internal Affairs records. Our review happens after the department addresses the matter. Our work will focus on matters that involved a civilian and matters that rise to the level of major discipline.

The MCBOP has no power to change a decision made by MPD. Although the MCBOP's role is limited under the law, our hope is to recommend policies, protocols, and trainings to help avoid situations rising to the level of IA in the first place.

# Crisis Intervention Social Worker

In April 2022 Marthe Eustache MSW started as Maplewood Township's first crisis intervention social worker.

From April - December, she handled 153 cases, including responding to EDPs (Emotionally Disturbed Persons), wellness checks, assisting those with trauma related to being victim of a crime. She has also been creating connections with resources throughout the county to help her connect individuals and families to services.

Success of the initiative and documented demonstrated need led to Maplewood Township budgeting for a second part-time social worker for 2023.

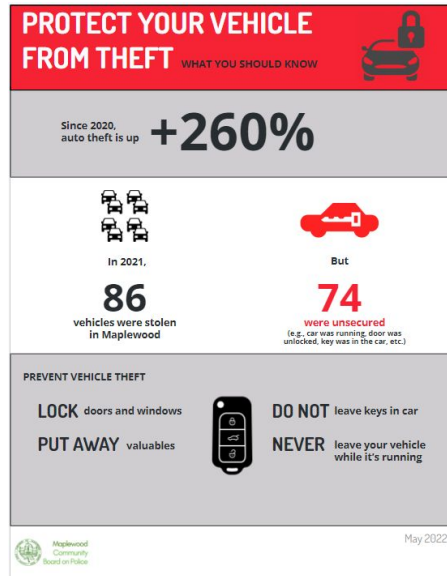
## Purpose

Assist community members who are repeatedly in contact with the police in finding stability through de-escalation and conflict resolution expertise, and connecting them to appropriate resources.



# Communications/Outreach

The MCBOP created several flyers that were used at Mayfest and other events to help facilitate conversations on car thefts and gun safety.



**KEEP YOUR GUNS SAFE** WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

**Lock Firearms AND Ammo**  
Ammunition and firearms should both be securely locked away

**Keep Guns Unloaded**  
Keep firearms unloaded particularly when they are stored  
*Gun locks add an additional level of safety*

**Separate Guns & Ammo**  
Separation of guns and ammunition reduces the risk of accidental injury and mortality by 85% among children

Keep your personal weapon safe:

Maplewood Police Department  
(1618 Springfield Ave.  
Maplewood, NJ 07040)  
offers **free gun locks**

Maplewood Community Board on Police May 2022

# Training

In 2022 the MCBOP identified several relevant trainings including a non-academy-led training on working with teens and autism training brought to the MCBOP by a community member.

The MCBOP also successfully helped the department advocate for a significant funding increase for training, specifically designed for training on working with teens but will more broadly be used to continue educating on crisis intervention, communication, and working with youth.

In 2023 the MCBOP will continue helping the department identify trainings that support community objectives as well as work with community groups to lead trainings on managing difficult community conversations.

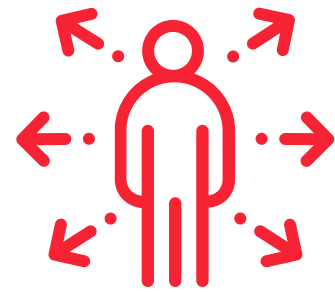
## Purpose

The MCBOP is committed to supporting the Maplewood Police Department and all residents and members of the Maplewood community by identifying trainings that improve police/youth interactions and reduce disproportionate minority contact.

# Looking Ahead

# 2023 Goals & Objectives

- ✓ **Civilian Complaint Review:** Initiate and optimize review process
- ✓ **Data Analysis:** Schools & teens, crime trends, suspicious persons, traffic, among others
- ✓ **Officer Training:** De-escalation, autism, working with youth, communication
- ✓ **Role of Police in Schools:** Continued dialog with school and township officials
- ✓ **Social Work Initiative:** Monitor and advise
- ✓ **Use of Force:** Continued review



# We Want to Hear From You!

**Board Meetings:** Usually held on the first Wednesday of the month at 730pm via Zoom and in person. Please come! Check the [Maplewood Township](#) calendar for meeting details.

**We'll Come to You!** We have met with the Borden Park and Hilton neighborhood associations, and we spoke at the Ethical Cultural Society. We're more than happy to meet with your group!

**Contact Us:** You can always get in touch with us via email at [mcbop@maplewoodnj.gov](mailto:mcbop@maplewoodnj.gov).

# Thank you!