



2025

Point Pleasant Beach Police Department

Year End Report





BOROUGH OF POINT PLEASANT BEACH

Inter-Office Correspondence

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Chief Robert J. Kowalewski
Date: January 27, 2026
Subject: Point Pleasant Beach Police Department Year End Report 2025

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

On behalf of the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department, I am pleased to present the 2025 Year End Report. This report highlights the dedication and professionalism of our highly trained members and their ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. Transparency remains a priority, and this report provides insight into who we are, what we do, and how we serve the community through continued policy development, initiatives, and community policing programs.

The Department remains a state-accredited agency through the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police, reflecting our commitment to excellence. In preparation for re-accreditation in 2026, we continue to update policies and provide comprehensive training. Our 2025 goals focused on improving traffic, pedestrian, bicycle, and e-bike safety through coordinate enforcement efforts supported by state, county, and local partnerships and grant funding. Community policing initiatives including Coffee with a Cop, the Bike Safety Rodeo, Operation Chill and Community Policing Patrols, further strengthened our relationships with residents, schools, and local businesses.

In 2025, the Department underwent personnel changes with the addition of five new officers. Command staff proactively adjusted the organizational and supervisory structure to maintain effective leadership and uninterrupted service. We remain committed to recruiting, promoting, and training officers to the highest law enforcement standard. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Mayor and Council for their continued support, and to our sworn and civilian personnel for their professionalism and dedication. As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the work we have done to keep our community safe and look forward to continuing to work together in the year ahead.

Respectfully,

Robert J. Kowalewski
Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

The Point Pleasant Beach Police Department is currently staffed by 25 full-time police officers, four full-time civilian dispatchers, and two full-time civilian personnel. During the summer months the PPBPD adds to the ranks between 75 to 100 personnel which includes Class II Police Officers, Class I Police Officers, (Special Law Enforcement Officers-SLEO), Parking Enforcement Officers and part-time Communication Operators, who work within the sub-station on the boardwalk.

One officer is permanently reassigned to the State Police Benevolent Office in Woodbridge, NJ, holding the position of President of the State PBA.

The PPBPD is broken down into 3 divisions: Administration, Investigations/ Professional Standards and Patrol. The Chief of Police has overall authority and responsibility, including areas such as budgeting, planning, training and policy development.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department is to provide professional police services to the public in order to maintain order and protect life and property. We will identify and solve problems by forming partnerships with the citizens of our community to enhance the quality of life for our citizens and visitors.

We Protect and Serve Through Our Core Beliefs:

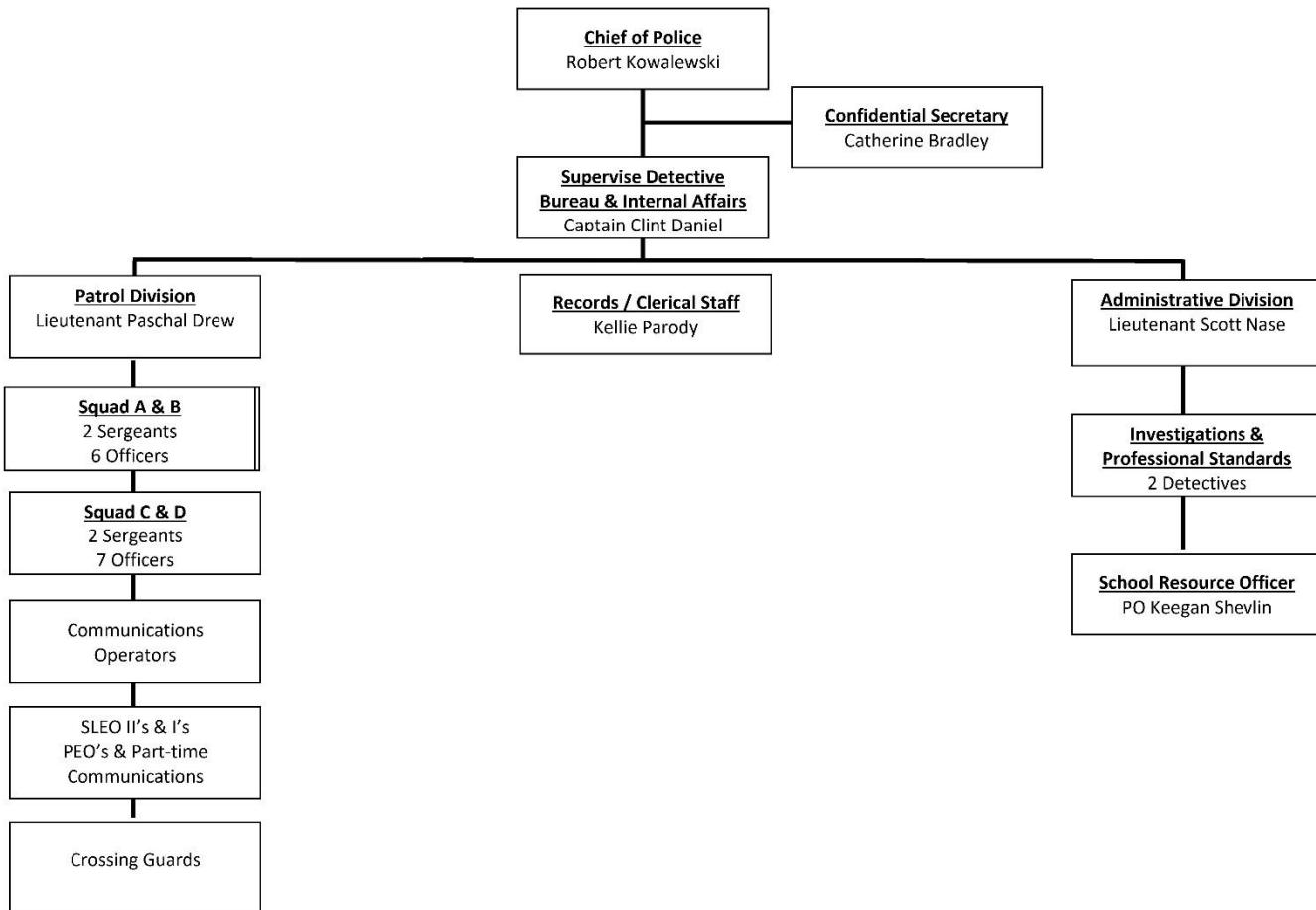
Integrity: We are dedicated to maintaining the highest moral and ethical standards, through the principles of pride, honesty, trust, and courage.

Service: We are committed to developing well-trained, highly motivated and courteous employees to serve our community and organization with pride and professionalism.

Honor: We are accountable for our professional and personal behavior. We will always be mindful of the privilege we have been given to serve the citizens of this community.

We will accomplish our goal to protect and serve the community with confidence and resolution even in the face of temptation or adversity.

POINT PLEASANT BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT
TABLE OF ORGANIZATION



YEAR IN REVIEW

2025 New Police Officer Hires

In 2025, the Police Department experienced several retirements, resulting in the appointment of new officers. The department welcomed Officers Luke Ray, Maddox Samaritano, Jack Coppolino, Jack Akins, and Justin Skeete to full-time positions. Each of these officers previously served the department as Class II Officers prior to their full-time appointments. They have adjusted well to their new roles as Patrol Officers and are doing a great job.

2025 Promotions

Bryan Benites to Sergeant

An Accredited Agency

In our efforts to maintain the highest standard of professionalism, the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department has sought and successfully achieved accreditation status in October 2023. To maintain our accreditation, the department regularly submits standards and proofs for review by law enforcement leaders selected by the New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police (NJSACOP). Lt. Scott Nase serves as our Accreditation Manager and demonstrates strong dedication to this ongoing and demanding process. Accreditation provides a proven foundation for effective management, training, accountability, and decision-making, with re-verification required every three years. This ongoing commitment assures the community that the department consistently meets recognized professional standards while delivering the highest level of service and integrity.

Training

The Point Pleasant Beach Police Department remains committed to providing officers and staff with the highest quality of training available. In accordance with state mandated Police Training Commission (PTC) licensing requirements, officers must meet uniform professional standards and complete ongoing training to both obtain and maintain certification. During the past year, all officers completed annual Defensive Tactics training, semi-annual Firearms training, and Active Shooter training. Additionally, Sergeant Garcia participated in Simunition training, a program widely recognized as global leader in realistic, non-lethal training systems. These programs represent just a few highlights of the extensive training our officers completed this year, in addition to all required mandated training.

Drone Unit

The Police Department launched a new drone operations program this year, with trained drone pilots Detective McCormack, Officers Levan, Gant, and Rilho. The drone has been used for event sweeps, including the Breast Cancer Walk and Christmas Tree Lighting, as well as monitoring the Boardwalk and Beach. The drone has also been instrumental in emergency responses, helping locate a lost 8-year-old on July 5 (27 minutes), a non-verbal autistic boy on July 13 (26 minutes), and assisting the Point Borough Police in finding a missing elderly woman with dementia on July 18. On November 5, the drone located a boat in distress after a flare was shot off and relayed critical information to the Coast Guard and State Marine Police, maintaining a visual on the vessel until USCG arrival. The drone program represents a significant step forward in modernizing the Department and enhancing public safety.

Recruitment

Over the past few years, recruitment and selection have become a year-round priority, and this remained a focus in 2025. Thanks to our lead recruiting officer, Lieutenant Paschal Drew, the department has maintained full staffing of Special Officers for the 2025 and 2026 summer seasons. Lt. Drew oversees the entire process, from initial applications and background investigations to interview, Academy enrollment, orientation and training. To meet the evolving hiring needs, the department has officers attend college job fairs, streamlined the hiring process, and refined how candidates are targeted.

Project Medicine Drop

The Police Department installed a permanent Medication Drop Box in the main lobby. This drug drop box allows residents to dispose of unused and expired medications anonymously, quickly, and easily—seven days a week, 365 days a year. Project Medicine Drop is an important component in the effort to halt the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs. We maintain custody of the deposited drugs and dispose of them according to our normal procedures for custody and destruction of controlled dangerous substances.

COMMUNITY POLICING

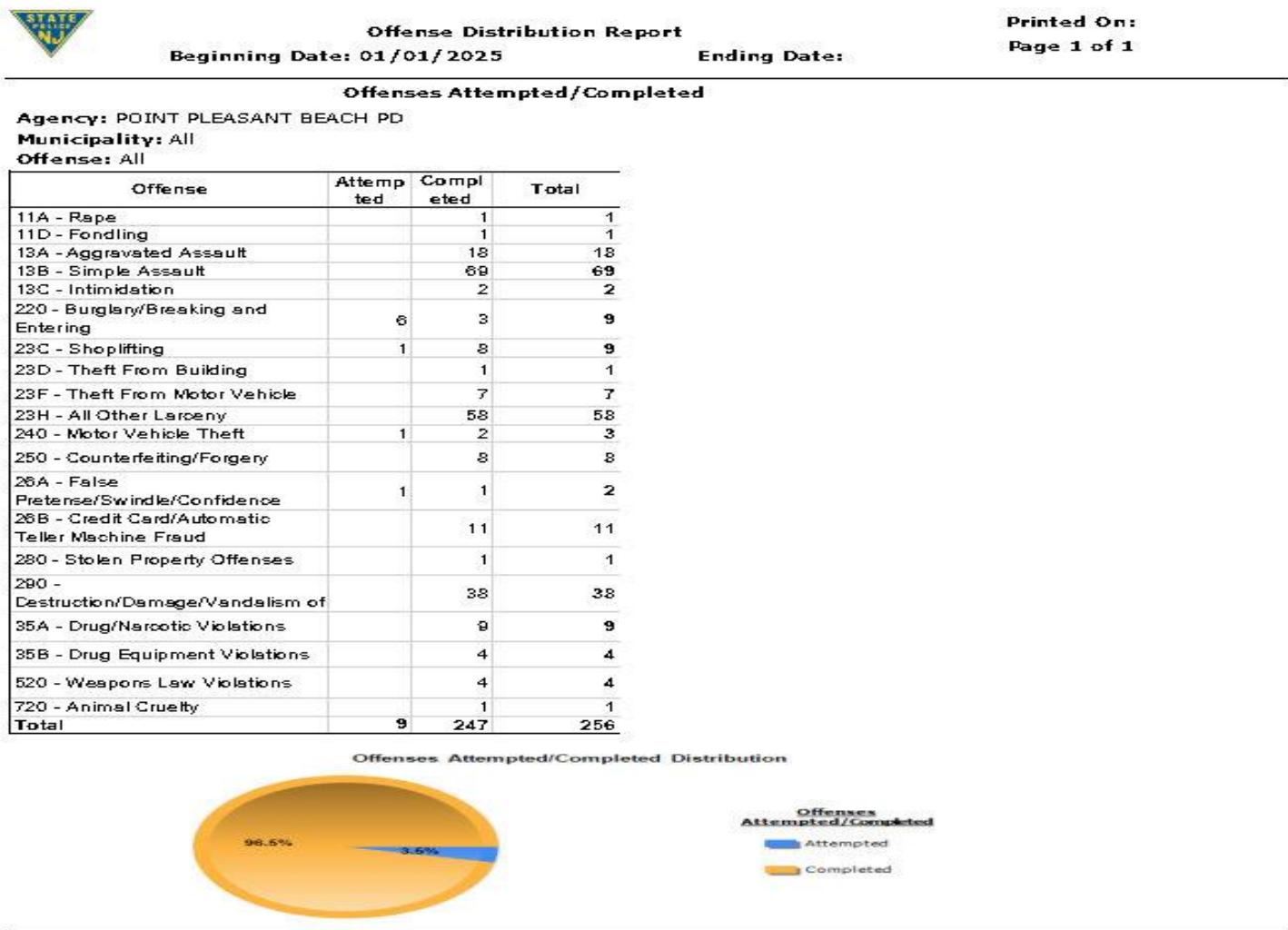
- **Coffee with a Cop:** The Police Department hosted a Coffee with a Cop event at The Little Point Bookshop's Coffee Bar. This program invites community members to visit a local coffee shop and enjoy a casual, one-on-one conversation with our officers, building positive relationships with those we serve. Due to the event's past success, we have our next event booked with The Divi Tree in February 2026.
- **E-Bike and Bike Safety Initiative:** In 2023 the Police Department launched a bike safety initiative. This initiative grew significantly over the past few years, doubling its impact. Officers conducted hundreds of bike stops when a violation was observed. The officers explained the violation to the operators and provided them with English and Spanish brochures on bike/E-bike laws and safety, and in some cases a summons. The initiative will continue moving forward, as addressing bike safety and hazards remains a priority in Point Pleasant Beach.
- **“Point Beach Bike Bash” Bike Safety Rodeo:** In May, the Police Department hosted The Point Beach Bike Bash in the Silver Lake Parking Lot, a community-focused day of fun and safety. The event welcomed over 100 local children and their families, with support from over 25 local businesses and organizations that volunteered their service and contributed to prizes and gift bags. Officers set up a Bike Safety course, assisted with bike repairs, educated children about the importance of helmets and provided new helmets to children in need of one. Participants enjoyed a BMX stunt show, prizes, food, games, bounce house, and ice cream. We are excited to plan our next bike rodeo in May and aim to make the event even bigger and better.

- **Operation Chill:** In September our Police Department started off the school year with “Operation Chill” a program that rewards students with 7-11 Free Slurpee coupons for wearing bike helmets, doing good deeds, and participating in school safety programs. Our School Resource Officers also encouraged bicycle safety by providing Antrim students with free bike helmets for those that did not have one or are in need of a new helmet.
- **Certified Child Safety Seat Inspections:** Sergeant Benites and Detective Latshaw conducted Child Safety Seat Inspections for residents by appointment and at township events this year.
- **Operation Outreach:** The Point Pleasant Beach Police Department is committed to all residents of this town, including the ones that may be up in age and are living alone. To give these residents, their families, and their friend’s peace of mind, the police department has a program called, “Operation Outreach.” This program requires the resident to contact our agency on a daily basis and essentially, “check in”, to advise they are well.
- **Ocean County Special Needs Registry:** The Police Department participated in the Special Needs Registry Program. This program was created to help police officers and other emergency personnel better assist residents with special needs in the event of an emergency by providing first responders with the vital information regarding the registrant.
- **House Security Checks:** Due to the large number of secondary homes or, “snowbirds”, that live in Point Pleasant Beach, the Police Department has a program in place where we will conduct daily house checks while residents and homeowners are away. Homeowners can visit our website www.pointpleasantbeachpolice.org to fill out the form online or they can come down to the Police Department and fill out a form with the dates they will be away and other important contact information, and their home(s) is checked daily.

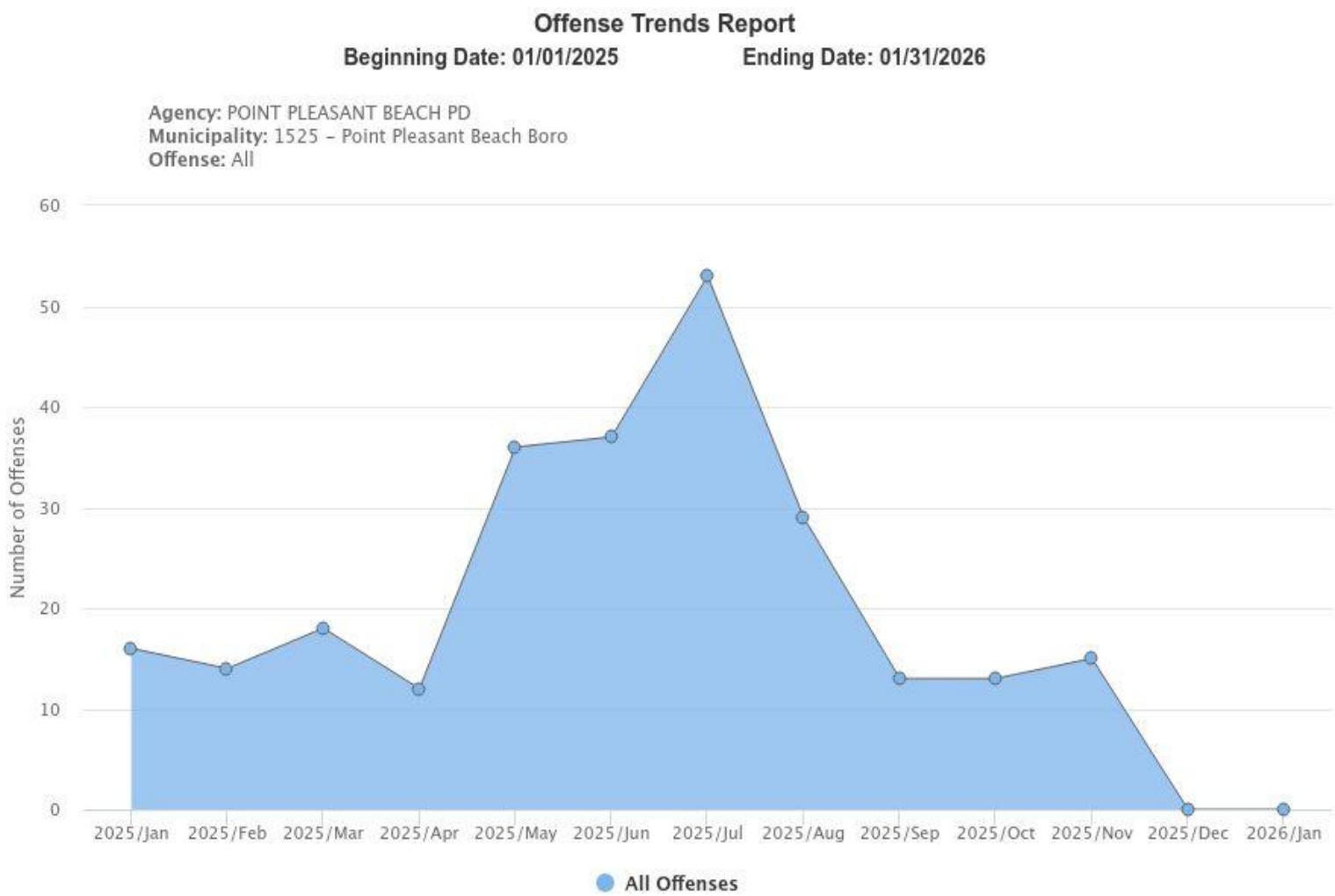
2025 National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

The Point Pleasant Beach Police Department reports all crime data through the National Incident Based Reporting System or NIBRS introduced by the FBI in 2021. Since then, the FBI has mandated that all law enforcement agencies across the country transition to NIBRS to improve the overall quality, accuracy and timeliness of crime data collected. The information collected through NIBRS helps the FBI identify nationwide patterns of crime. NIBRS collects data from 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. An overview of the NIBRS crimes in this report (graph #1) shows the 256 offenses that were reported to our Police Department. Overall, the offense trends over the years follow the same pattern, as illustrated in graph #2, showing that the summer is our busiest time of year.

Graph #1



Graph #2



2025 Department Statistics

In the statistical data detailed in the following pages you will see that all areas of service receive our attention, and we focus our resources as effectively as possible on the activities that we feel affect the quality of life in our community.

In Graph #3 “Police Activity Report” you will see a two-year comparison of calls for service, parking summons, and Boro Ordinance Violations to combat the quality-of-life violations in Point Pleasant Beach. Graph #4 is a finite list of all Boro Ordinances issued in 2025.

Graph #3

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT	2024	2025	% =/-
Total Calls for Service	32,521	33,940	4.36%
First Aid	1,011	1,083	7.12%
Security Checks	12,448	12,510	0.50%
Special Events	78	74	-5.13%
Discovery/OPRA Request	431	447	3.71%
Firearms Permits	152	77	-49.34%
Borough Ordinances	2,442	3,000	22.85%
Arrests	350	398	13.71%
Motor Vehicle Accidents	450	439	-2.44%
Bike Stops	409	266	-34.96%
Parking Summons	9,630	8,972	-6.83%
Motor Vehicle Stops	3,396	3,830	12.78%
Traffic Citations	1,555	1,802	15.88%

Graph #4

Boro Ordinance Totals 2025		
Violation	Description	Total
13-26	Construction Hours	2
14-4.1	Parking on Easement	1
3-10	Construction of Streets/Sidewalk	1
3-12	Bicycle Regulations	6
3-14	Undressing/Sleeping in MV	51
3-18	Drinking in Public	1240
3-19.2	Interference with Police	44
3-21	Urinating in Public	364
3-29	Misbehaving	54
3-3	Loitering	34
3-39	Smoking Prohibited	973
3-4	Littering	28
3-43	Pedestrian Violations	171
4-5	Minor Misstating Age/Poss. Alc.	2
5-2.1	Soliciting w/out Permit	1
9-9D	Vehicles Prohibited on Beach	1
BH 3-1	Board of Health-Noise Nuisance	11
7-6	Dog Violations	16
	Totals	3000

In 2025 the Point Pleasant Beach Police Department made 398 arrests that resulted in 510 criminal charges. Graph # 5 is a detailed overview of the criminal charges resulting from our investigations bureau and patrol division.

Graph #5

POLICE ARRESTS - 2025

