

WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT
2023



James L. Morehead
Chief of Police



West Chester Police Department

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lillian DeBaptiste, Mayor

FROM: James Morehead, Chief of Police

DATE: January 8, 2024

SUBJECT: Police Department Annual Report

On behalf of the West Chester Police Department, it is my privilege to present our department's 2023 Annual Report. The following pages will reflect the activity and services the Police Department has rendered to the citizens of our community(s) during the 2023 calendar year.

This document consists of two distinct parts this year:

- **SYNOPSIS** of the Police Department's annual report.
- **STATISTICAL SUMMARY** of the Police Department's annual report.

Each individual document is intended to be increasingly more detailed, providing as much specificity regarding the activities of the West Chester Police Department during the calendar year 2023 as is appropriate for the respective document. Complete copies of this document have been distributed to the Borough Manager, as well as the East Bradford Township Manager and may be viewed by citizens of West Chester Borough and East Bradford Township at the following locations:

West Chester Police Department 2023 Annual Report

- **Police Department**—Copies of the complete document are available for public inspection and review at the Administrative Office(s) of the West Chester Police Department during regular business hours.
- **Internet**—This document will be available on the Borough's web site at <http://www.west-chester.com>.

I truly hope you find this information in a format that is both useful to you and informative to the citizens of West Chester Borough.

I am confident and pleased with the professionalism, dedication, and accomplishments of our personnel. I believe they realize the work they do can at times be difficult, yet they remain constantly vigilant in their duties and responsibilities to serve this community. We are pleased with the accomplishments of our department over the past year and we look forward to another productive year in 2024.

It was my pleasure to serve as the Chief of Police of the West Chester Police Department during calendar year 2023. On behalf of the men and women of the West Chester Police Department, I would like to extend our most sincere thanks for your collective and individual confidence in our ability to serve our community(s). With your continued support and assistance, we look forward to continuing to improve the quality of life for all our citizens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Morehead

WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT SYNOPSIS

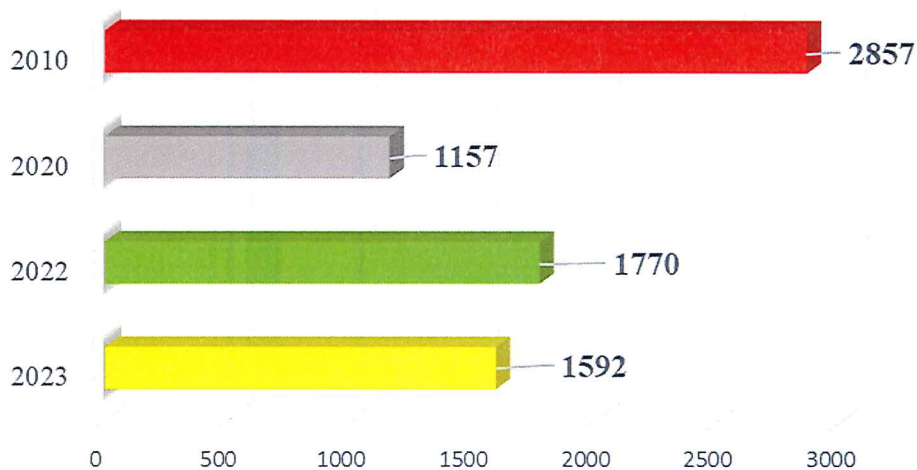
James L. Morehead
Chief of Police

WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

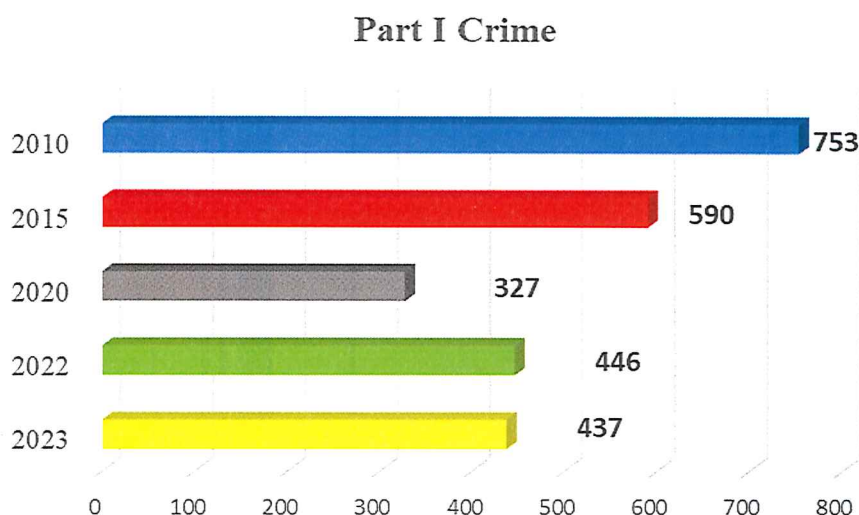
SYNOPSIS

The total amount of crime **decreased** approximately 10% overall during calendar year 2023 from 1,770 such crimes reported in 2022 to 1,592 such crimes reported during 2023.



Crime is classified, counted, and reported in two distinctly different categories. Statisticians and researchers know these categories as Part I crime and Part II crime. Part I crimes consist of those crimes that one may consider to be the most serious crimes affecting society and are comprised of a very specific subset of crimes that are routinely reported to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for comparison with other municipalities of similar size and demographics. Part II crimes, on the other hand, are defined as any crime other than Part I crimes and are generally considered being less serious crimes (a secondary level of crime). These "nuisance crimes" impact our quality of life.

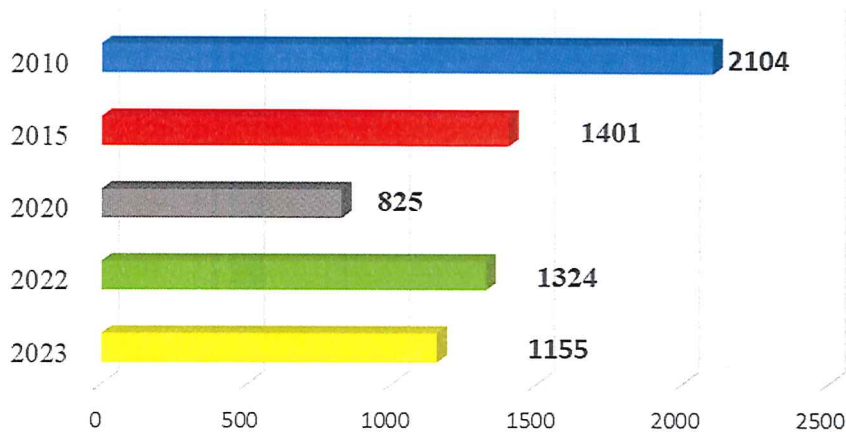
Part I (serious) crimes **decreased** approximately 2% overall during calendar year 2023 from 446 such crimes reported in 2022 to 437 such crimes reported during 2023. **Serious crime has been reduced 62% since the year 2000, but I must point out that Part I crime remains on the decline compared to pre-pandemic numbers.** This crime reduction should be significant to our varied citizenry. This is an important statistic for individuals considering moving their families and/or businesses into our community(s) as it is a statistic that can be compared nationwide against other municipalities of comparable size and demographics.



There were increases in the each of the reported Part 1 crimes of Rape (+250%), Robbery (+50%), Assault (+8%), Burglary (+16%), and there were 4 reported Arsons. There were no reported Homicides, and Thefts were down (-17%).

In 2023, the West Chester Police Department documented a 13% decrease in Part II crimes. During the calendar year 2023, the Department reported 1,155 Part II crimes in comparison to the 1,324 reported in 2022. The 2023 documentation of Part II crimes is more in-line with pre-pandemic numbers. Although this figure is not reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for comparison purposes, it is a statistic that affects the overall quality of life for those of us living and/or working in West Chester. This will be closely monitored in 2024.

Part II Crime



With the continuing success and popularity of our Business District, there continues to be a significant demand for police services. Overall, the Police Department documented an increase in calls for service of approximately 6% in 2023 compared to 2022, (including vehicle stops). As we have reported in the past, while there is a minimal amount of Part I crime in our Business District, there is an identifiable and significant demand for police services. There are reports of assaults and/or combative behavior in the early morning hours in the Central Business District. These behaviors and the associated crimes are directly attributed to alcohol consumption and the number of assaults reported to the Department in 2023. With the popularity of our business establishments and the influx of patrons from throughout the tri-state area as well as West Chester University, the demands continue to increase. These issues, coupled with varying and often related neighborhood issues, presented the largest challenge to our department and community over this period. As in prior years, alcohol consumption, pedestrian traffic and corridors, the density of residential properties as well as the current environmental conditions, community and neighborhood demographics and the institutional capacity of the Police Department to meet the increased demands of its citizenry will represent our continued challenge(s) as we move into 2024. The community should be as pleased as I am with the enforcement efforts and activity of its Police Department in meeting this complex challenge in 2024.

Traffic accidents reported to and investigated by the West Chester Police Department (with the subcategories of reportable accidents and non-reportable accidents) decreased by approximately 2% in 2023. There were two motor vehicle fatalities in 2023.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste of West Chester, the members of the West Chester Borough Council, and the Board of Supervisors and the Staff in East Bradford Township for their support of the Police Department. It is my privilege to present this synopsis of the West Chester Police Department's Annual Report for the calendar year 2023. I am sure everyone realizes that 2023 was again, no typical year, and that the borough and township activity is reflective of everything our officers were given to deal with. It is my sincere hope that this synopsis is both informative to you and useful to the various constituencies and individuals we are sworn and privileged to serve.



West Chester Police Department



2023 Personnel Assignments

TITLE	PERSONNEL
Administration	4
Chief of Police	1 (1)
Lieutenants	3 (3)
Patrol Division	34
Sergeants	5 (5)
Corporals	5 (5)
Patrolman	24 (24)
Detective Division	6
Detective Sergeant	1 (1)
Detective Corporal	1 (1)
Detectives	1 (1)
Narcotics Investigators	2 (2)
Juvenile Investigator	1 (1)
Support Staff	11
Civilian Dispatchers	7 (7)
Civilian Records Staff	2 (2)
Civilian Administrative Assistant	2 (2)

Key: # = Positions budgeted
 (#) = Positions filled



PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS

The 2023 personnel allotment for the West Chester Police Department was fifty-five (55) individuals. Of those, forty-four (44) are sworn personnel (Police Officers) and eleven (11) are support staff (non-sworn personnel). With respect to the sworn personnel, seventy-seven percent (77%) are assigned to the patrol function to respond to calls-for-service. Of the remaining twenty-three percent (23%), sixteen percent (16%) are assigned to the criminal investigative function and conduct follow-up investigations for those assigned to the patrol function to allow additional time to perform proactive patrols. Seven (7%) are the administrative staff of the Police Department, including the Chief of Police and three (3) Lieutenants, all of whom will, from time to time, respond to calls-for-service and/or provide assistance to those assigned to the criminal and patrol functions. The following is a statistical analysis of personnel assignments in the Police Department:

<u>Function</u>	<u>% of Sworn Staff</u>	<u>% of All Staff</u>
Patrol	77%	61%
Criminal Investigation	16%	13%
Administration	7%	6%
Support Staff	N/A	20%

When reviewing personnel assignments and distribution within the West Chester Police Department, it is important to consider the information in context. Several officers missed a major and/or significant amount of duty-time due to injury, leave, training or retirement. In 2023 The West Chester Police Department operated with as many as eight (6) officers absent from duty. The Department anticipates that it will be operating with at least four officers down for a portion of 2024.

WEST CHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 ANNUAL REPORT STATISTICAL SUMMARY

James L. Morehead
Chief of Police

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Executive Summary

General Statistics:

	% Change from 2022	Total - 2023
Calls for Service	+6%	39,707
Lobby Walk-Ins	- 7%	5,244
Reported Crime	-10%	1,592
Criminal Arrests	+17%	362
Criminal Summonses	-1.75%	1,066
Traffic Arrests	+37%	1,211
Traffic Warnings	+12.6%	491

Crime Statistics:

Overall Reported Crime	-10%	Down 178 crimes from 1,770 reported in 2022 to 1,592 in 2023.
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Part I Crimes - Total:	-2%	Down 9 crimes from 446 reported in 2022.
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Part I Crimes Defined as:

Murder	-	0 homicides in 2023.
Rape	+250%	Up 10 from 4 reported in 2022.
Robbery	+50%	Up 3 from 6 reported in 2022.
Assault	-5.8%	Down 10 from 172 in 2022.

	% Change from 2022	Total - 2023
Burglary	+16%	Up 9 from 37 to 43 in 2023.
Theft	-17%	Down 41 from 235 to 194 in 2023.
MV Theft	-15%	Down 2 from 13 to 11 in 2023.
Arson	+400%	Up 4 from 0 to 4 in 2023.
Part II Crimes - Total:	-13%	Down 169 crimes in 2023. From 1,324 to 1,155.
Part II Crimes Defined as: All other crimes		
Criminal Summonses	-1.75%	Down 19 from 1,085 to 1,066.
Liquor Law	-28%	Down 29 from 105 to 76.
Public Drunkenness	+8%	Up 22 from 272 to 294.
Disorderly Conduct	+65%	Down 22 from 34 to 56.
Noise Ordinance	-31%	Down 25 from 81 to 56.
Open Bottle	-56%	Down 104 from 187 to 83.
Public Indecency	-10%	Down 9 from 88 to 79.
All Other	+94%	Up 157 from 166 to 323.

% Change from 2022

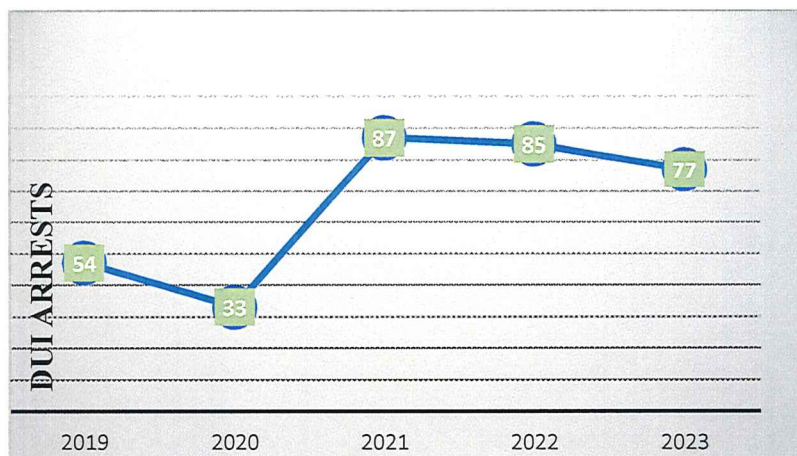
Total - 2023

Accident Statistics:

Overall Accidents	-1.5%	Down 10 from 680 to 670.
Non-Reportable	+26%	Up 93 from 356 to 449.
Reportable	-65%	Down 106 from 162 to 56.
Hit and Run	0%	Up 1 from 162 to 163.
Fatal	+100%	2 fatalities in 2023 - 1 fatality in 2022.

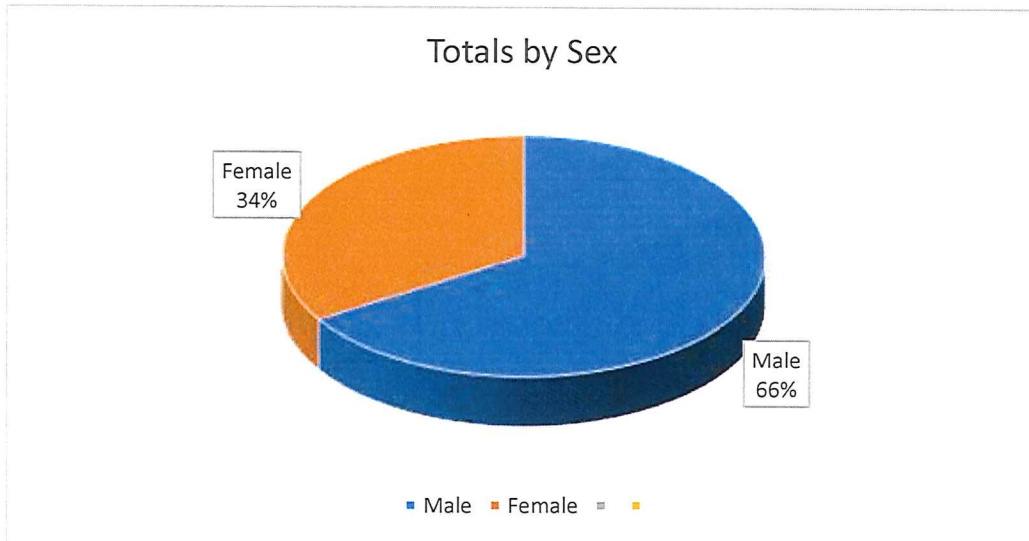
Traffic Statistics:

Traffic Arrests	+37%	Up 330 from 881 to 1,211.
Traffic Warnings	+13%	Up 55 from 436 to 491.
Verbal Warnings	+44%	Up 611 from 1,403 to 2,014.
Traffic Details	+4%	Up 38 from 893 to 931.
DUI	-9%	Down 8 from 85 to 77.

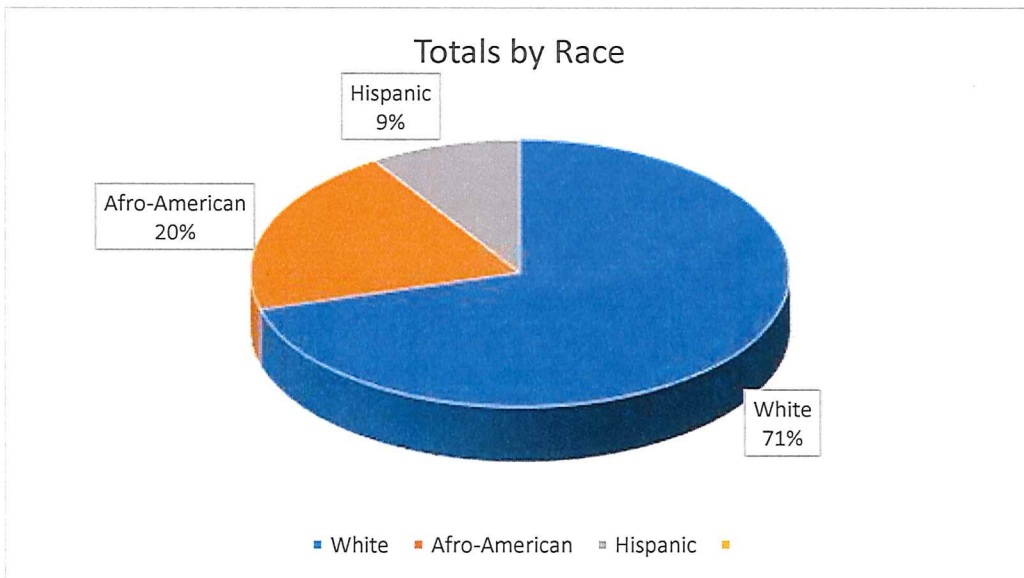


Traffic Stop Report 2023

Total Traffic Stops

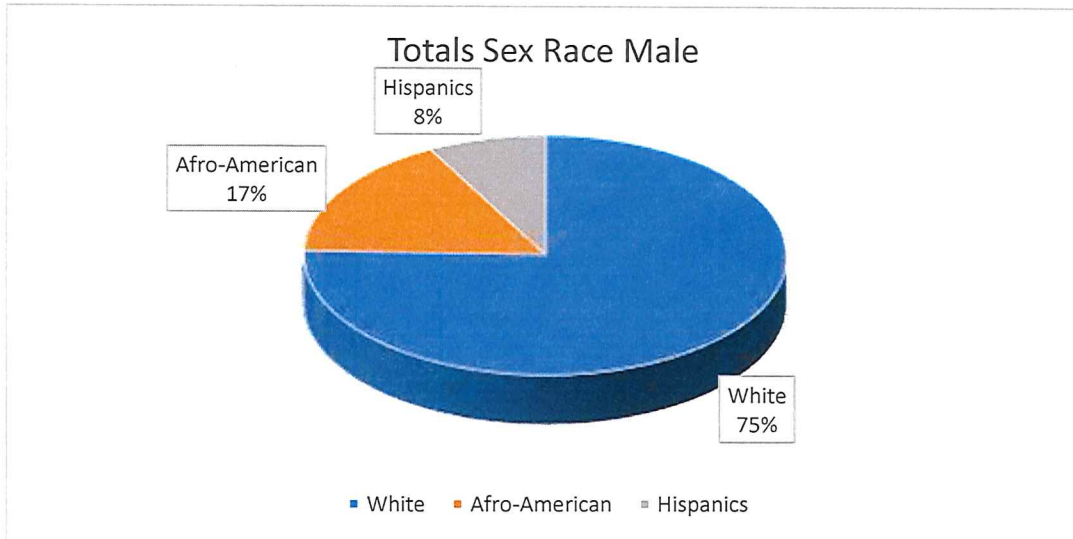


Traffic Stops by Race

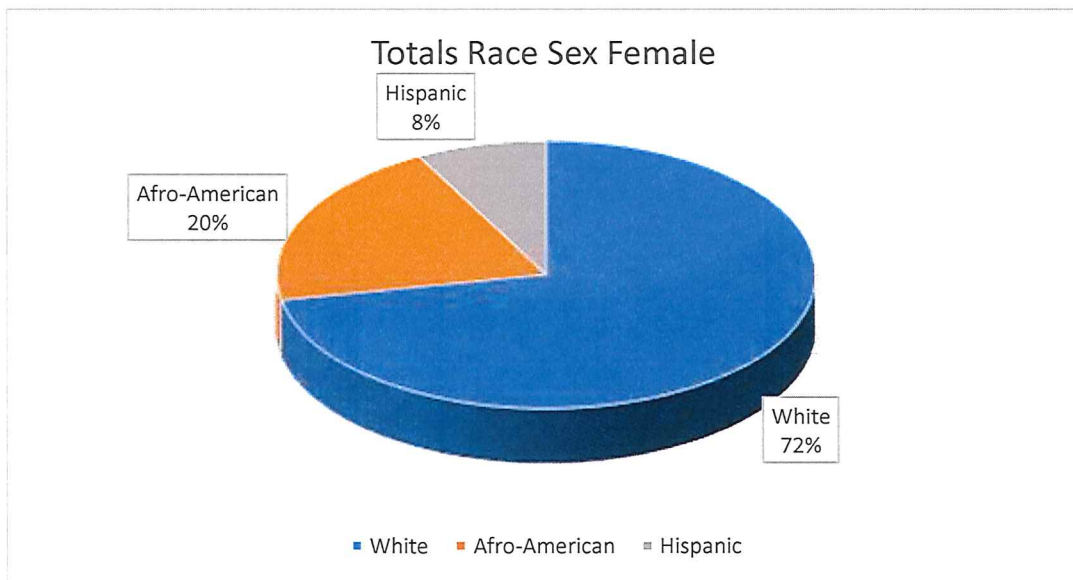


Traffic Stop Report 2023

Traffic Stops - Male / Race



Traffic Stops - Female / Race





West Chester Police Department



RETIREMENTS

The following Officers are to be recognized for their many years of service to the citizens West Chester.

	Years of Service	Years Served
None		

NEW OFFICERS

The following officers are welcomed as newly hired police officers in our community.

Ofc. Kyle Livesay	Sworn-In August 16, 2023
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OFFICER RESIGNATIONS

The following officers separated from the Police Department.

None



Perfect Attendance



The following Officers are to be congratulated:

Brad Bergey
Stanley Billie
Christopher Daly
Martin Deighan
Aaron Diefenderfer
Gerald DiNunzio
Jeffrey Ditz
Jason Francart
David Hammond
Andrew Hill
Micaela Hill
Robert M. Kuehn
Joshua Lee
Kyle Livesay *
Luis Lopez-Torres
Andrew McFarlane
Ryan McMillen
James Morehead
Harry O'Neill
Daniel Quinn
Matthew Simcox
Jordan Turner
Zachary Turner

The following civilian employees are to be congratulated:

Christopher Jones
David March
Michael Groff
Paul Widmayer