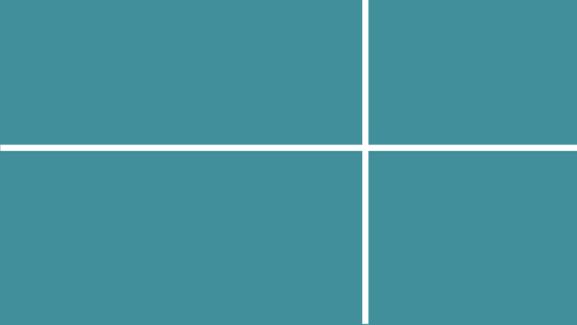




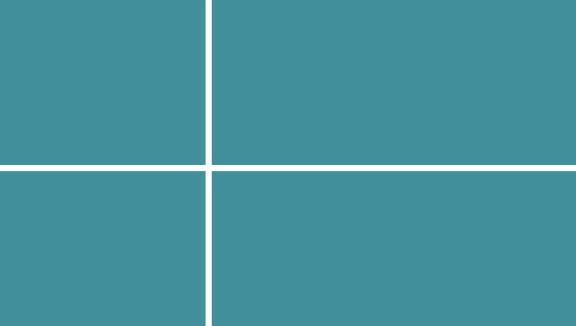
ANNUAL REPORT 2020

**WINNETKA POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

MARC HORNSTEIN, CHIEF OF POLICE



The Mission of the Winnetka Police
Department is to protect life and property;
Preserve a peaceful community;
Prevent, detect and investigate crimes;
Justly enforce laws;
And protect the rights of all citizens.



CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF	3
COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE	4
POLICING: A NATIONAL CONVERSATION	5
STAFFING AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	6
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW	7
CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS	9
EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS	10
REGIONAL COOPERATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS	11
OFFICERS' MAILBOX	13
2020 CRIME STATISTICS	14

2020 proved to be a challenging year for everyone. Core services for public safety can never be taken for granted. When the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality, we became laser focused on taking steps to ensure police services would not only be uninterrupted but would also remain at the high level we pride ourselves on providing to the community. In public safety, one never knows when a challenging event may occur. The most effective way to prepare for the worst-case scenario is to ensure resources are in place before an incident occurs. The Winnetka Police Department strives to be forward thinking. As a result, while some public safety organizations were struggling to find personal protective equipment (PPE) at the beginning of the pandemic, we had enough supplies on hand to provide our officers who could in turn respond to calls with the confidence they had enough protection to effectively perform their duties.



While COVID-19 was the theme of the year, it did not stop us from accomplishing our goals. We created and implemented our first ever Business Liaison Officer position to help support the business community. In furtherance to our commitment of professional policing, we adopted the Shared Principles developed by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This initiative was further supported in the form of a resolution by the Village Council. We maintained our commitment to using emerging technologies by fully implementing an electronic vehicle crash reporting platform and developing a digital solution for the issuance of local citations. We completed construction of our first-floor building space repurposing which included the creation of an office for the department social worker.

Many communities across the country experienced protests and civil unrest over the summer. Winnetka experienced one event where a large gathering of citizens exercised their First Amendment rights. I am proud to say our officers helped facilitate a safe environment for all attendees during the peaceful event.

As we continue to navigate through the pandemic, the men and women of the Winnetka Police Department remain committed to serving the community with professionalism, empathy, and humility. We continually strive to always renew the trust the community has in us as public servants.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



COVID-19

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

The Winnetka Police Department made significant operational changes to improve workplace safety during 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included several “firsts” for the department, such as implementing a telework policy for senior staff members and investigators, and having officers take reports over the phone rather than in-person. Other changes included:

- Installing temperature monitoring stations at building entry points.
- Practicing social distancing in the lunchroom and shared workspaces.
- Assigning officers to specific vehicles and decontaminating vehicles after each use.
- Wearing N95 masks and protective eyewear for all arrests, entry into private residences, and engaging with the public.
- Reducing the number of staff present for daily roll call to maintain social distance.

The department also made the difficult decision to temporarily suspend certain services to help limit the potential for exposure. This included the suspension of:

- The department internship program
- Citizen ride-alongs
- Car seat installation services
- Fingerprinting services

Despite the hardships the pandemic brought, our department members rose to the challenge and continued to provide the highest level of service to the community. Officers sought opportunities to provide encouragement and levity by participating in the following:

- Coordinating with the library to record a virtual “Story Time with a Police Officer.”
- Recording a virtual Bike Safety video in lieu of the annual Bike Rodeo.
- Creating “Workout with WPD” videos that could be done at home with no equipment.
- “Face Timing” with kids to wish them happy birthday.

Adoption of Shared Principles by Winnetka Police Department

POLICING: A NATIONAL CONVERSATION

In the early summer of 2020, the spotlight shone directly on the policing profession after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis at the hands of a police officer was captured on video. The officer's actions were appalling and unconscionable, and they were not a reflection of the professional policing that occurs in our community. We take pride in the relationship we have with all members of our community. We police in a way that demonstrates authority but restraint; strength but compassion; command but self-control.

As the national conversation regarding police reform grew louder, we made a choice to look inward at our own practices and procedures. Where do we excel and where can we do better? We found we have a lot to be proud of: we have the highest standards in our recruitment and selection process for our officers; we provide the best training for our officers, including de-escalation techniques, mental health awareness, proper use of force, and cultural competency; we have a supervisor on duty 24/7 to ensure department policies are followed; we encourage those with concerns about an incident or officer to voice them so we can review and respond accordingly.

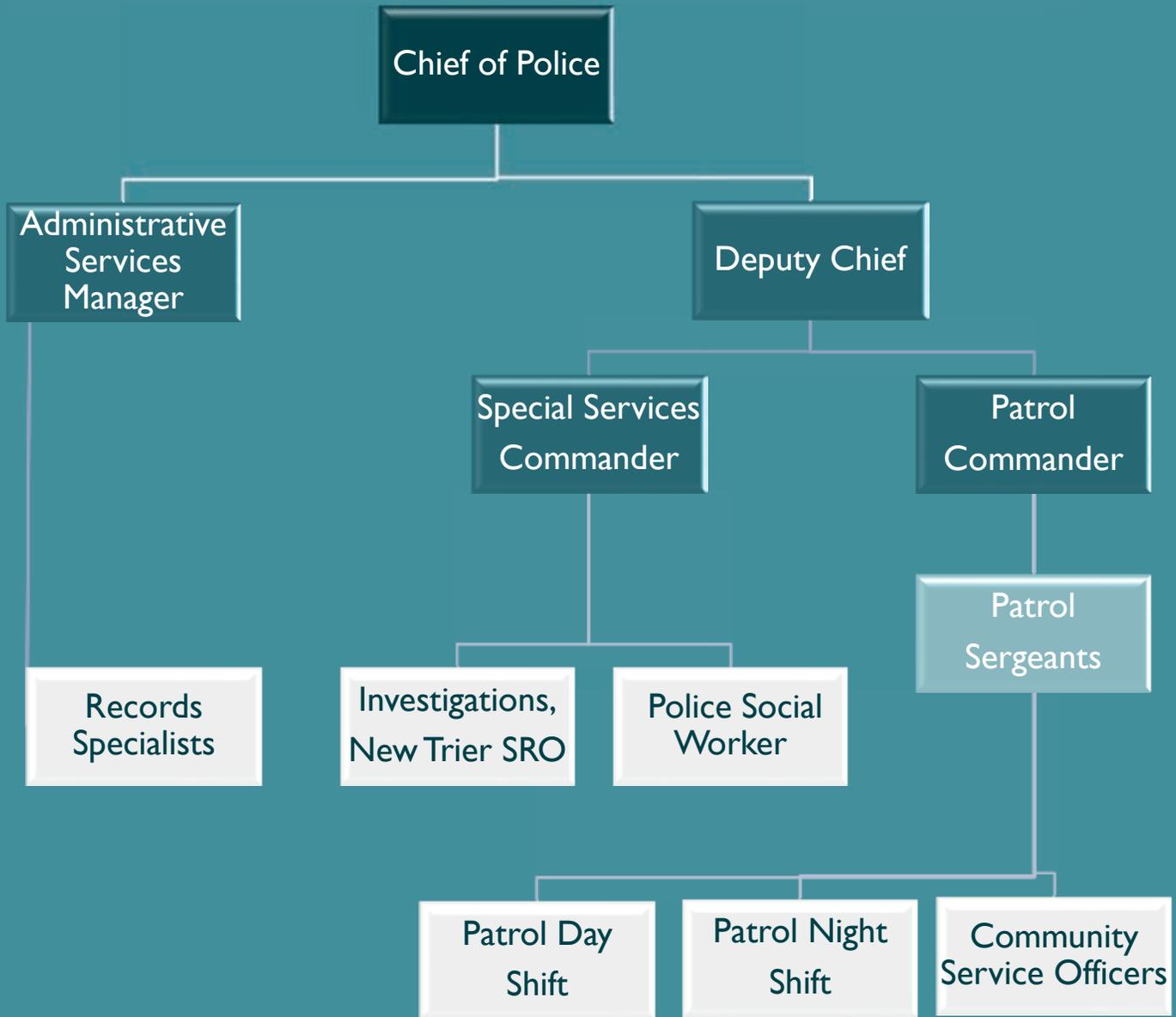
We also saw where we could do more. We chose to publicly acknowledge our commitment to building trust between law enforcement and the community and defending the civil rights of all citizens. In July 2020, we adopted the Shared Principles designed by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). We also identified a mental health resource who met with both our sworn and non-sworn staff to address stress management issues and provide resources officers could turn to if they desired.



During the summer, protests began occurring throughout the country as a call for police reform. In some cases, what started as peaceful protests became violent. In Winnetka, we managed a large-scale peaceful protest by two groups exercising their First Amendment rights. The events demonstrated that it is possible to have our voices heard while being good stewards of the community. We were honored to see so many people come together with a message of unity and peace.

The national conversation continues, and we are glad to be a part of it. We are committed to always doing better.

STAFFING & ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Winnetka Police Department is comprised of 38 employees who serve in both full and part-time capacities.

The department employs 28 sworn officers, including the Chief of Police, who are responsible for enforcing local and state laws throughout the community.

In addition to the sworn officers, the police department includes 10 civilian staff members who are responsible for all non-law enforcement duties, including administration, record keeping, parking enforcement, and social services.

In 2020, the Winnetka Police Department responded to 19,792 calls for service. For detailed information regarding crimes, arrests, and citations, refer to the chart on page 18.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the most publicly visible unit of the department. The division is led by the Patrol Commander who oversees 5 sergeants and 16 uniformed patrol officers. Sergeants and police officers work 12-hour shifts and regularly rotate between day and night shift. The Patrol Division is responsible for self-initiated field activity such as traffic enforcement and premises checks, as well as responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. This includes traffic crashes, burglaries, disputes, and suspicious activity.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is comprised of two Investigators, a School Resource Officer (SRO), and is led by the Special Services Commander. It is the responsibility of this division to conduct complex criminal investigations that require more time and involvement than the common calls for service handled by patrol. These cases include identity thefts, burglaries, death investigations, and more. Additional responsibilities include conducting inspections of liquor vendors, identifying emerging crime trends, and participating in task forces such as NORTAF Burglary and NORTAF Major Crimes.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division is staffed by two full-time and one part-time Records Specialist, who are overseen by the Administrative Services Manager. This division is the primary customer service hub of the department. Records Specialists assist all police department visitors and non-emergency callers by appropriately answering questions or directing them to proper staff. This division is responsible for maintaining all police records, including cases, arrests, traffic crashes, and citations/warnings. They also process expungements, Freedom of Information requests, false alarm invoices, and administrative adjudication requests.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Winnetka Police Department employs two full-time and three part-time Community Service Officers (CSOs). They primarily work during the day and are tasked with handling a variety of non-crime related calls for service, including parking enforcement, animal control, and school crossings.

POLICE SOCIAL WORKER

The Winnetka Police Department has a part-time in-house social worker. The social worker provides advice and resources to citizens during times of crisis or when expertise is needed beyond that which a police officer can provide.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

Since 1992, the police department has assigned a School Resource Officer to New Trier High School. The SRO serves as a liaison between the school and police and primarily investigates crimes that occur on school grounds. The SRO also conducts educational presentations to students.



BUSINESS LIAISON OFFICER

The Business Liaison Officer assignment was created in 2020 to provide business owners a point of contact in the police department. This officer visits local businesses regularly to address business owners' concerns and ensure they are aware of crime trends in the area that could affect them.

EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN UNIT

The department currently has 12 members trained as evidence technicians (ETs). All members of this unit are required to complete a basic ET course prior to appointment. They continue with advanced specialized training including photography and fingerprint development and recovery.

YOUTH INVESTIGATIONS

Our officers regularly interact with juveniles through juvenile-in-crisis complaints, child abuse allegations, or criminal investigations. Such cases require the expertise of trained officers who are knowledgeable about juvenile law. The department had eight certified juvenile officers in 2020.

CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY

PROGRAMS

The Winnetka Police Department is committed to assisting residents with crime prevention and safety. To assist in these efforts, the police department offers the following services to residents:

626

The number of house watches performed by officers in 2020.

When a resident is absent from the home, they can contact the police department to add their residence to the vacation watch list. Officers periodically walk the exterior of the home to ensure it appears secure.

665

The number of burglar alarms officers responded to in 2020.

The police department encourages residents to utilize their burglar alarms as residences are often burglarized when a functioning alarm has not been set. Patrol officers respond to all alarms, even though most ultimately prove to be false.

731

The number of C.O.R.E. Cards written by officers in 2020.

C.O.R.E. stands for "Crime Opportunity Reduction Education." These cards notify residents of criminal opportunities involving their property. Officers often leave C.O.R.E. cards at residences, businesses, or on vehicles when they see vulnerable property.

7,608

The number of special watches and checks performed by officers in 2020.

Patrol officers utilize the special watch database daily to familiarize themselves with traffic concerns, special patrol needs, community events, and parking issues. Officers add information regarding recent crimes to ensure all department members are aware.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

RETIREMENTS

2020 brought with it the retirement of several long-serving employees: Sergeant Mirek Kiec, Police Officer Patrick Colleran, Community Service Officer Maria Tom, and Records Specialist Jeff Perchess. We wish them all happiness and health for many years to come.



PROMOTIONS

The department was honored to promote Officer Lukasz Walaszek to Sergeant in January 2020. Sergeants are the department's first line supervisors who are responsible for directing, supervising, and evaluating patrol officers and serve as the watch commander when on shift.



NEW HIRES

The department welcomed a new Records Specialist during 2020: Kim Hodge. Records Specialists begin their career with six months of onboarding and training with veteran Records Specialists and the Administrative Services Manager. During this time, they learn department policies and procedures before being assigned their own areas of responsibility.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System



The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) is a statewide law enforcement mutual aid system established after September 11th, 2001. ILEAS provides support through manpower and equipment when a law enforcement agency has exceeded its own capabilities.

Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS)



NIPAS is a coalition of agencies who provide mutual aid to one another in the event of an emergency. NIPAS is divided into two teams: Emergency Services Team (EST) and Mobile Field Force (MFF). The Winnetka Police Department is an active member of NIPAS and provides an officer to serve on each team. The EST is comprised of personnel who are trained in special weapons and tactics for hostage & barricade incidents, high-risk warrant service, major crime scene searches, and other tactical incidents. The MFF provides crowd control for public demonstrations, civil disturbances, and other events involving large crowds. Both teams train on a regular basis throughout the year. In 2020, EST responded to 59 call outs and MFF responded to 159 requests for service, an all-time high for the unit.

NORTAF Violent Crimes Task Force



In 1997, thirteen north shore suburbs formulated the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force to assist member communities with significant criminal investigations that exceed an agency's resources. The recently renamed "Violent Crimes Task Force," investigates homicides, kidnapping, and critical school violence incidents. Each member department supplies personnel, expertise, equipment, and support. In addition to responding to call-outs, this unit participates in training to enhance the skill level of all personnel. The task force consists of administrative and support personnel, investigative personnel, and forensic specialists. NORTAF Violent Crimes Task Force had four activations during 2020.

NORTAF Major Crash Assistance Team



The NORTAF Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) was developed to assist member agencies with the investigation of fatal or near-fatal motor vehicle crashes. MCAT provides a rapid response and professional crash investigation for all major crashes in the NORTAF communities. Winnetka currently has two officers assigned to MCAT as crash investigators. MCAT had 10 activations during 2020, 7 of which were for fatal crashes.

NORTAF Burglary Task Force



The Burglary Task Force is responsible for investigating burglary patterns throughout the member communities. The task force is activated when any of the thirteen member agencies observe a residential or commercial burglary pattern occurring in their area. The Winnetka Police Department currently has two officers assigned to this task force. In 2020, the Burglary Task Force had five activations.

Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Academy



The Winnetka Police Department is a member of the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) which provides a cooperative approach to emergency preparedness and response. Located in Glenview, NIPSTA currently has thirty-three member agencies that enjoy a year-round curriculum. For police members, NIPSTA provides training in a wide array of subjects including tactical driving, forensics, and tactical scenario-based training.

Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory



The Winnetka Police Department is a member of the nationally accredited Northeastern Illinois Crime Laboratory (NIRCL). NIRCL offers a wide variety of analysis including: Forensic Biology (DNA), Chemistry, Fingerprint and Footwear Analysis, Toxicology, and more. Partnering with NIRCL enables the Winnetka Police Department to have crime scene evidence processed and analyzed in a timely manner.

02-11-2020

"We moved in December and seem to have an absentee neighbor who has an active alarm system. Anyway, Michelle Garner stopped at our house and visited with the kids in the front yard which was above and beyond. They all loved the attention and her questions."

12-12-2020

"Dear Officer Hobbs,
I wish to thank you so much for delivering my lost purse. You were beyond the call of duty. You gave me a new hope about our world. May you be blessed this holiday."

10-30-2020

"My son loves seeing the crossing guards each morning on the way to drop his big sister off at school. This Halloween he's dressing up as a crossing guard and wanted to wear his costume when we went to school so the "real" crossing guard could see it. Not only did CSO Fokin see his costume, he made my son's dream come true by letting him help stop real traffic. Thank you so much for making a 3-year old's dream come true."

06-22-2020

"I had a traffic stop with one of your officers by the name of Marcin Beskur. I want to first start off by saying how impressed I was by the respect and courteousness of your officer. During my interaction with Officer Beskur, in my opinion he exhibited signs of discretion and character I feel all police officers should practice. In the face of my transgression, your officer did nothing but show me that it is possible to not only serve and protect the community, but also to provide guidance and learning opportunities so that I am prepared not to make the same mistake twice."

06-26-2020

"I can't thank Officer Taylor enough for her help. She truly went above and beyond for us. She was not only very helpful throughout, but I was especially impressed (and pleasantly surprised) at how she followed up with us on multiple occasions. And Sergeant Larson and Sergeant Tyson were incredibly willing to help out by calling other departments and working to help me with my case. They never made me feel that this situation was "my problem" – they showed they were committed to helping our family in any way they could."

01-27-2020

"First I want to praise Officer Jernigan for his thorough and informative interview process when we came to the station. He was great with my daughter with special needs, to get as many details as possible in a very non-stressful nor scary way for her."

03-26-2020

"I would like to take a moment to thank you for allowing one of your men, Jorge Gonzalez, to speak to my son for his high school forensic science project. Jorge was incredibly helpful and kind and I appreciated him making himself available despite everything going on in our community and world. The town of Winnetka is incredibly fortunate to have such a great group taking care of us."

08-14-2020

"Thank you to Anne Marie and Gina who work in the Winnetka Police Department's records department and went out of their way to find needed information. They could not have been nicer or more efficient and helpful. Thank you both for caring!"

OFFICERS' MAILBOX

WINNETKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crimes, Arrests, Citations and Activities, 2018 - 2020

PART I OFFENSES	REPORTED		
	2020	2019	2018
Aggravated Battery	3	1	1
Forcible Rape	1	0	2
Murder	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0
Arson	0	0	0
Burglary	12	13	15
Larceny- Theft	92	63	85
Motor Vehicle Theft	17	3	7
TOTAL Part I Offenses	125	80	110

PART II OFFENSES	REPORTED		
	2020	2019	2018
Battery	9	7	1
Criminal Damage to Property	38	37	43
Disorderly Conduct	19	16	20
Domestic Trouble	7	16	8
Fraud and Identity Theft	264	73	59
Sex Offenses	0	0	0
TOTAL Part II Offenses	337	149	131

COMMON CALLS FOR SERVICE	REPORTED		
	2020	2019	2018
Total Calls for Service	19,792	22,102	22,959
Burglar Alarms	665	923	964
Fire Department Assist	253	430	385
Motorist Assist	137	184	176
Noise / Other Disturbance	275	183	181
Parking Complaint	281	379	347
Suspicious Incident	594	529	583
PARKING	2020	2019	2018
Total Parking Citations	1,631	4,914	5,009

ARRESTS & CITATIONS	REPORTED		
	2020	2019	2018
TOTAL Custodial Arrests	199	88	75
TOTAL Ordinance Citations	190	197	215
OFFENSE TYPES			
Animal Violations	11	27	29
Battery	7	3	1
Burglary	0	0	1
Cannabis Violations	49	67	76
Criminal Damage to Property	14	0	2
Disorderly Conduct / Harassment	3	2	12
Domestic Battery / Violation O.P.	5	7	2
DUI	17	6	9
Excessive Speed	132*	-	-
Hit and Run	0	1	1
Liquor Offenses	5	14	13
No Valid D.L. / Suspended D.L.	13	32	24
Other Agency Warrant Arrests	6	5	6
Other Drug Violations	3	5	3
Public Nuisance	76	60	71
Theft	13	12	12
Trespass	17	6	1
Other Arrests & Citations	18	38	27

TRAFFIC	REPORTED		
	2020	2019	2018
Traffic Citations	759	1,074	1,013
Traffic Warnings	1,057	2,025	1,983
TOTAL Traffic Citations/Warnings	1,816	3,099	2,996
Injury Traffic Crashes	21	35	40
Non-Injury Traffic Crashes	180	305	302
TOTAL Traffic Crashes	201	340	342

OTHER DEPARTMENT SERVICES	REPORTED		
	2020	2019	2018
House Watch	626	1,195	1,482
Directed Traffic Assignments	1,994	1,725	1,827
Special Watches and Checks	7,608	7,887	7,701
Crime Prevention Cards	731	923	988

*Excessive speed was previously counted in "Other Arrests and Citations"



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