

CITY OF WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

2021 WASHINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF

Chief of Police Jim Lester / Lieutenant Lyle Hansen / Lieutenant Shamus Altenhofen

Sergeant Jason Chalupa / Sergeant Ben Altenhofen / Investigator Brian VanWilligen / Officer-K-9 Handler Eric Kephart

Officer Seth Adam / Officer Tanner Lavelly / Officer Chris Raymer / Officer Ethan Hansen

Administrative Assistant Rhonda Hill / P-T Admin. Assistant Melanie Huschka / P-T Admin. Assistant Jamie Mayer

Part-Time Officers: Zach Haworth / Eddie Cardenas / Nolan Burke / Brett Johnson / Jayse Horning

Message from the Chief

It is my honor and pleasure to present the 2021 Washington Police Department Annual Report.



Jim Lester
Chief of Police

This document demonstrates the hard work, dedication and professionalism exhibited by the members of the WPD throughout 2021. It is my hope this report will offer our community a perspective of what the department does throughout the year.

While adjusting to the changing Pandemic requirements and the different strains of the COVID virus causing some staffing issues in 2021; the department experienced record numbers of calls for service and reportable incidents, while also working through the frustration of changes to reporting mandates and adjusted on-the-fly their reporting requirements and processes.

The City Council approved our five-year Strategic Plan in early 2021 and even with increased activity we were successful in meeting most of the goals outlined for our first year; including officer involvement in community events, a comprehensive inventory and review of seized property, system changes and training related to new UCR/NIBRS requirements, and a staff analysis indicating the need for additional patrol officers, including City Council approval to hire an additional officer in January 2022.

You will find in the statistical portion of this report that our violent crime numbers are down for 2021, but overall crimes against persons did increase. We believe the increases can be attributed to continued stressors caused by the COVID Pandemic along with the successful work done by officers in partnership with the advocates of both the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) and the Rape Victim Advocacy Program (RVAP) in demonstrating to the community we are committed and responsive to the survivors and families who report these types of crimes.

We continue to promote our Community Camera Program and look forward to introducing some new programs in 2022 in hopes of curbing the high number of motor vehicle burglary reports we received in 2021.

The ever-changing challenges of law enforcement may not get easier, but we will be stronger and more successful in our endeavors because of the work we accomplish as a team and the tremendous support we receive throughout the year from our community and elected officials.

I am proud of the Washington Police Department team for all the work that they do, and we look forward to serving the community in the years to come.

Respectfully,

Jim Lester

Jim Lester
Chief of Police

The Police Department

Patrol

Patrol Officers are the most visible members of the Police Department. Officers work rotating 12-hour shifts providing law enforcement coverage throughout the community 24 / 7 / 365.

Patrol Officers are responsible for responding to calls for service as well as self-initiated activity for traffic violations and public safety concerns observed while patrolling the city. In addition, to business and residential patrols, officers are encouraged to visit local schools and community events during their shifts.

The Patrol Officer is often the first on scene and the first contact a citizen or victim has with the Police Department. Officers assess the incident, identify persons, provide emergency assistance as needed, secure evidence as necessary, gather information, investigate, and make arrests as needed. Officers are required to file written reports for most incidents.

Patrol Officers include K-9 Handler Officer Eric Kephart, Officer Seth Adam, Officer Aaron Kephart, Officer Tanner Lavelly, Officer Chris Raymer and Officer Ethan Hansen. The Police Department also has assistance from ILEA certified part-time officers: Officer Zach Haworth, Officer Eddie Cardenas, Officer Brett Johnson, Officer Nolan Burke and Officer Jayse Horning.

Investigations

Investigator Brian VanWilligen focuses mostly on major crimes including sexual assaults, child abuse, domestic violence, and financial crimes. In addition, Investigator VanWilligen assists with case follow-up as needed for cases initiated by patrol officers, coordinating with the County Attorney's Office, providing assistance to other agencies and works closely with victim advocates from DVIP and RVAP.

The Investigator assists with crime scene processing, death investigations, search warrant preparation, evidence management and patrol duties when necessary.

The Investigations Division works closely with the Washington County Sexual Assault Response Team and the Iowa Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (ICAC). Utilizing equipment provided by the ICAC Task Force Investigator VanWilligen can assist with investigations involving cellular phones. The DataPilot was utilized to extract data from seven devices for criminal cases in 2021.

In 2021, Investigator VanWilligen completed the 80-hour Iowa Law Enforcement Intelligence Network certification along with more than 40 hours of specialized Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) and Trauma Informed Sexual Assault Response training.

Administration

The Police Department administrative team processes the hundreds of incident and arrest reports generated by the Patrol Officers and Investigator each year. In addition, this team manages the renewal of golf cart/UTV permits, parking tickets, records requests, criminal complaint and citation processing, and walk-up window traffic.

Administrative Assistant Rhonda Hill leads the office administrative team, and she is assisted by two part-time assistants, Jamie Mayer and Melanie Huschka.

The Police Command Staff, consisting of Chief Jim Lester, Lieutenant Lyle Hansen, Lieutenant Shamus Altenhofen, Sergeant Jason Chalupa and Sergeant Benjamin Altenhofen, are also part of the administration team with duties that include report reviews, scheduling, equipment and patrol unit maintenance and acquisition, evidence and property management, training records, policy development, budget planning and management, and ensure compliance with various programs and agreements. In addition to the duties listed, the Command Staff are also part of patrol and investigations.

Honoring One of Our Own

Washington Police Department City Marshal Aaron Bailey. End of Watch: June 25, 1930



Marshal
Aaron Bailey

Marshal Aaron Bailey and Washington County Sheriff William Sweet were shot and killed after arresting a man who had stolen a car from Ottumwa.

While the suspect was in custody at the county courthouse, he suddenly produced a .38 caliber revolver and opened fire killing both Marshal Bailey and Sheriff Sweet.

The suspect remained at large for four years, before being shot and killed by members of the Chicago Police Department.

We honor Marshal Bailey's service and sacrifice to the citizens of Washington.

In honor of the 90th Anniversary of Marshal Bailey's End of Watch a memorial plaque was placed in the lobby of the Police Department in 2021.

Specialty Training & Teams

A well-trained and experienced team of law enforcement officers serves the community. The members of the Police Department have over 150 years of combined public safety experience with a wide range of specialty training and involvement with specialized teams.

The Police Department has certified instructors in the following areas:

- Defensive Tactics
- Taser
- Firearms
- Rifle
- Less lethal munitions
- Simunitions
- CPR
- Crisis Intervention Training (C.I.T.)
- ALICE (Alert. Lockdown. Inform. Counter. Escape.)
- SFST (Standardized Field Sobriety Testing)

Along with certified instructors, the department is also fortunate to have officers trained in the following specialty areas:

- Drug Recognition Expert
- Law Enforcement Intelligence Network (LEIN)
- Narcotics Investigations
- Clandestine Lab Investigations
- Field Training Officer
- Certified Sniper/Spotter
- Ballistic Shield
- Domestic Abuse Investigations
- Child Abuse Investigations
- Sexual Assault Investigations
- Crime Scene Photography
- Evidence / Property Management
- Internet Crimes Against Children Investigations
- DataPilot cell phone extractions
- Glock Armorer
- Rifle Armorer
- Shotgun Armorer
- SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)

Drug Recognition Expert

Investigator VanWilligen is the Department's Drug Recognition Expert (DRE). He is specially trained in identifying and classifying individuals into various categories of drug use including Central Nervous System Stimulants (Methamphetamine), Cannabis and Central Nervous System Depressants (Prescription Medications).

In 2021, the DRE was activated five times for drug impaired drivers.

Narcotics Investigations

The Police Department had incidents that involved 61 drug offenses and 45 drug paraphernalia offenses in 2021. In addition, the following types of controlled substances were seized by officers during 2021: Marijuana, Methamphetamine, Cocaine and Prescription Drugs.

Lieutenant Altenhofen also completed a 40-hour Clandestine Lab certification course.

K-9 Team

The Washington Police Department K-9 Team logged over 200 hours of training during 2021.



Officer Eric Kephart and K-9 Dex

The K-9 Team participates in monthly training and annual certification trials to maintain proficiency in narcotics detection, article/person search and officer protection.

Officer Eric Kephart and K-9 Dex had eight deployments in 2021. On five of the deployments drugs and/or drug paraphernalia were found. The other three deployments, Dex did not alert and there were no illegal substances recovered.

The K-9 Team not only assists in Washington, but also provided assistance to the Washington County Sheriff's Office and

the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office during 2021.

The K-9 Team trains with teams from ten other regional law enforcement agencies twice each month. The regional training group also assisted with searches at both the Washington Middle School and High School in 2021.

The K-9 Team general operating expenses are paid with funds received through grants and donations from members of the community.

SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics)

The Washington Police Department SWAT Team is led by Team Leader Sgt. Jason Chalupa and Assistant Team Leader Lt. Shamus Altenhofen. SWAT officers are recruited, selected, trained, equipped, and assigned to resolve critical incidents involving a threat to public safety which would otherwise exceed the capabilities of traditional law enforcement first responders.

Team members must be dedicated, physically fit, have sound tactics and possess the ability to make good decisions under stress. Team members must complete and pass an annual physical strength and agility test, as well as pass firearms qualifications above what is required by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

2021 SWAT Activity

Training Days: 11

Training Hours: 42.5

Deployments: 1

Deployment Hours: 4

The team participated in joint training sessions with the Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Fairfield Police/Jefferson County Sheriff's Office.

The team was activated twice to assist with barricaded subjects in bordering counties, but both times were disregarded before responding. Two team members deployed to assist Washington County Sheriff's Office team with narcotics search warrants in Burlington.

Training topics for the year included distraction devices, less lethal shotgun, 40mm launcher/gas, ballistic shield, MRAP familiarization, room clearing, team movement, low light, slow and deliberate entry, breach and clear, breach and hold, single and multi-officer response to active shooter, multi-agency response, multi-team communications, shoot/no shoot, barricades, hostage rescue and scenarios with live role players.

Lt. Altenhofen completed a SWAT Team Leader Development course, Sgt. Chalupa completed a Low-Light Instructor course and Officer Lavelly completed Ballistic Shield training.

Training

In addition to the specialty training hours listed separately, members of the Washington Police Department completed more than 360 hours of training, including monthly online training utilizing Police Legal Sciences and training provided through the City's insurance provider, ICAP.

Training topics in 2021 included: De-escalation, Implicit Bias, Diverse Communities, Bias Prevention, Hazardous Materials, Hazard Communication, CPR, Officer Mental Health Awareness, Taser recertification, firearms recertification, Case Law updates, and County Attorney training on SART, OWI & Domestic Violence.

Community Engagement

Working with and participating in community events is important for the Washington Police Department. During 2021 members of the department participated in and provided programs and tours to many different community groups and service clubs along with participating in many community events.



Beginning top left: Investigator VanWilligen and Sgt. Altenhofen conduct field sobriety test demonstrations with members of the Leadership Washington class wearing Fatal Vision goggles that simulate different levels of intoxication; Sgt. Chalupa, Officer Raymer and Sgt. Altenhofen assist kids with activities at a Kirkwood Kids Camp; Officer Hansen and Lt. Altenhofen pose with future officers during the Washington Y's Halloween Trunk or Treat; Lt. Altenhofen and Sgt. Altenhofen hand out coloring books and Junior Police Officer badges to visitors at WCHC's Kidz Fest; Officer Raymer, Sgt. Altenhofen, Investigator VanWilligen, Sgt. Chalupa and Officer Hansen teamed up to win the inaugural law enforcement challenge of the KeWash Half Marathon 5K race by out-running members of the Washington County Sheriff's Office; kids enjoyed placing their hand prints on a marked patrol unit during the Chamber's Touch-a-Truck event; and Officer Adam and Lt. Altenhofen participate in an activity with kids attending a Kirkwood kids camp event.

New AEDs

The Police Department received seven new AEDs thanks to a statewide grant from the Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Emergency and Trauma Services. The new AEDs allow for the entire department fleet to be equipped with these life savings devices.



2021 Activity

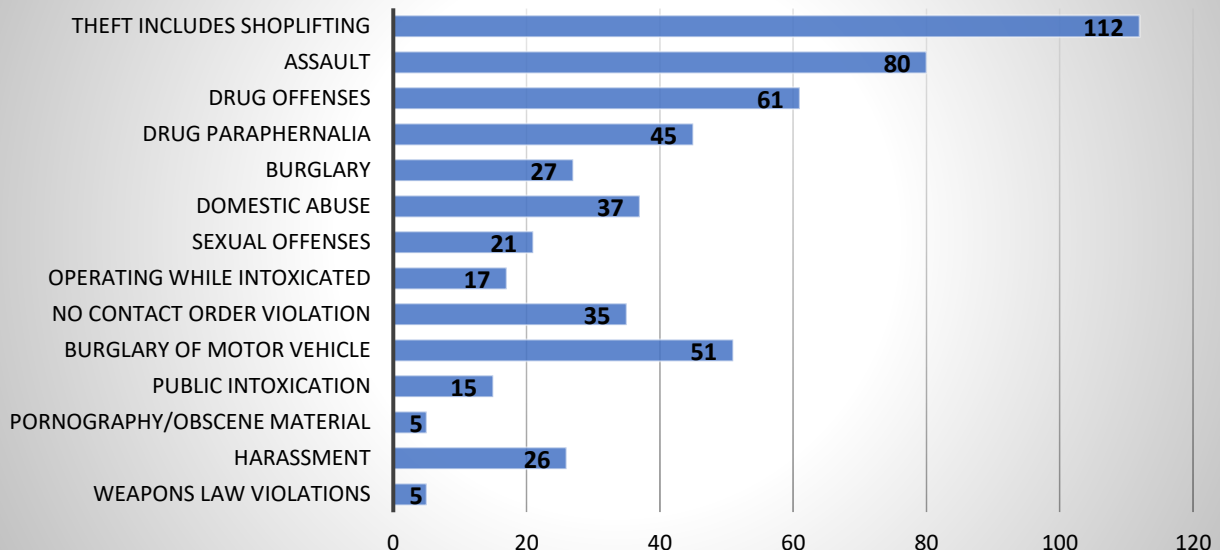
This chart indicates a summary of the activity the Police Department responded to during 2021. Calls for service were at an all-time high of 5,256 for the year.

Calls for service numbers do not always include requests to return phone calls, alarms, instances where officers are approached while on patrol for minor issues or requests for assistance from other agencies such as probation / parole checks.

2021 Activity Summary

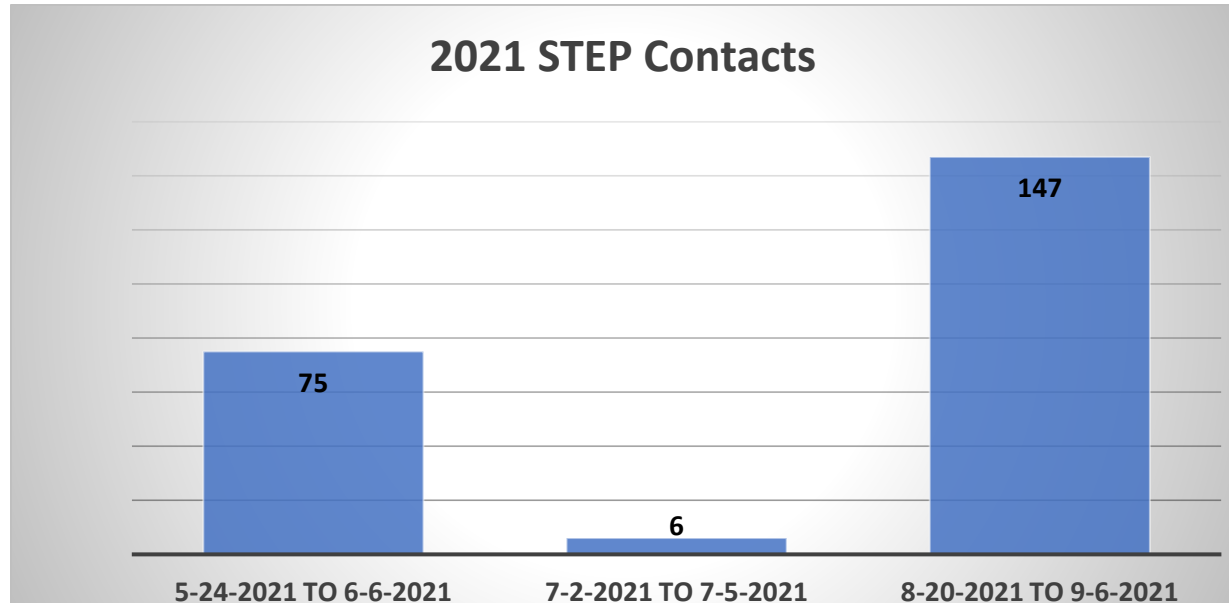
Citations / Warnings	606
Traffic Stops	691
Traffic Accidents	189
Parking Tickets	103
Vehicle Unlocks	375
Arrest Warrants Served	118
Search Warrants Served	10
Calls for Service	5256
Animal Calls	327
Mental Health Responses / Suicidal Subjects	184
Arrests	391
Reportable Incidents	676
Reportable Offenses	775

2021 Offenses



Governor’s Traffic Safety Bureau – Special Traffic Enforcement Program

The Police Department participated in three STEP Waves during 2021. In addition to the special traffic enforcement during these periods, we also receive grant funding for the purchase of equipment.



This chart indicates the number of contacts officers had during each of the STEP Waves in 2021.

In addition to the participation in three STEP wave projects, the Police Department also participated in a joint project on Highway 218, working with the Washington County Sheriff’s Office, Washington County Conservation, Iowa State Patrol, and Iowa DNR.

Motor Vehicle Accidents - 2021

Total Motor Vehicle Accidents Reported to WPD	189
State DOT Reported Accidents	82
Property Damage State Reported	65
Minor or Suspected Injury State Reported	16
Fatality State Reported	1
Total Vehicles in State Reports	154
Total Occupants in State Reports	176
Total Property Damage in State Reports	\$447,200.00

Accidents that do not result in personal injury or have combined property damage of more than \$1,500 are not reported to the State Department of Transportation (DOT).

Crime Reporting – Statistical Data

Iowa Code requires law enforcement agencies to report public offenses or delinquent acts that are reported in their jurisdictions. The UCR program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management. The data is used across the country for varied research and planning purposes.

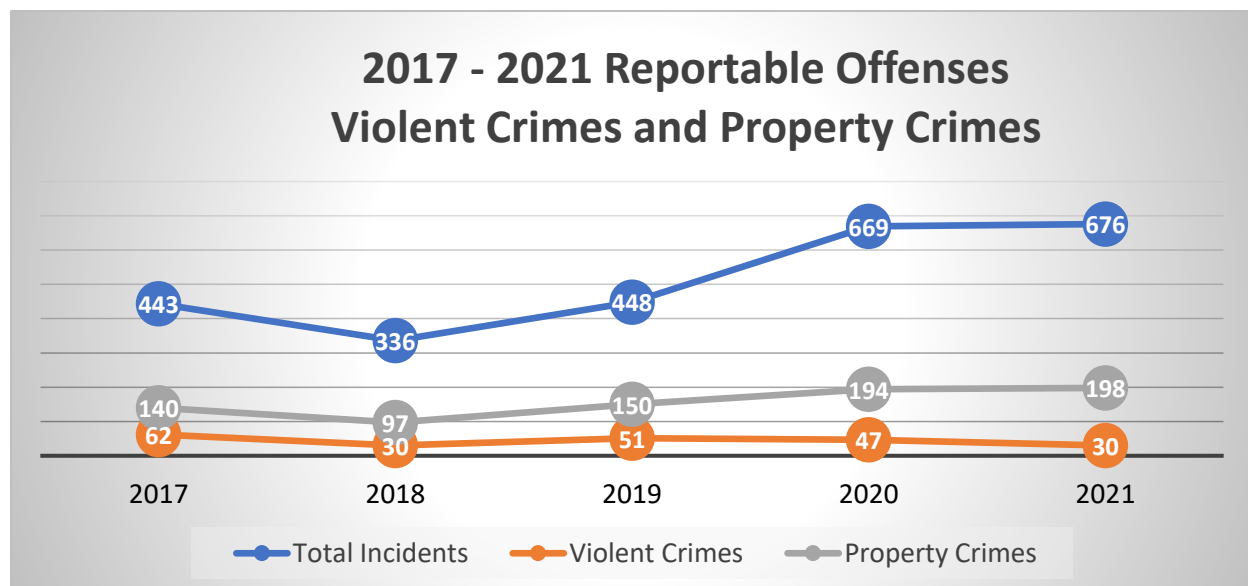
In 2021, the State of Iowa made major changes to their UCR Program reporting system, requiring updates to our Records Management System along with a review and modification of our own reporting standards and requirements. One of the major changes involve the classification and coordination of Iowa criminal statutes to align with the definitions of the FBI's UCR reporting codes. This was especially important when it comes to the reporting of violent crimes and property crimes.

The UCR Program uses the National Incident Based Report System (NIBRS) to assist agencies in accurately reporting data on each incident and arrest within their jurisdiction. Using NIBRS, law enforcement agencies report data on each offense and arrest within 24 offense categories made up of 52 specific crimes called Group A offenses. Agencies only report arrest data for an additional 10 Group B offense categories.

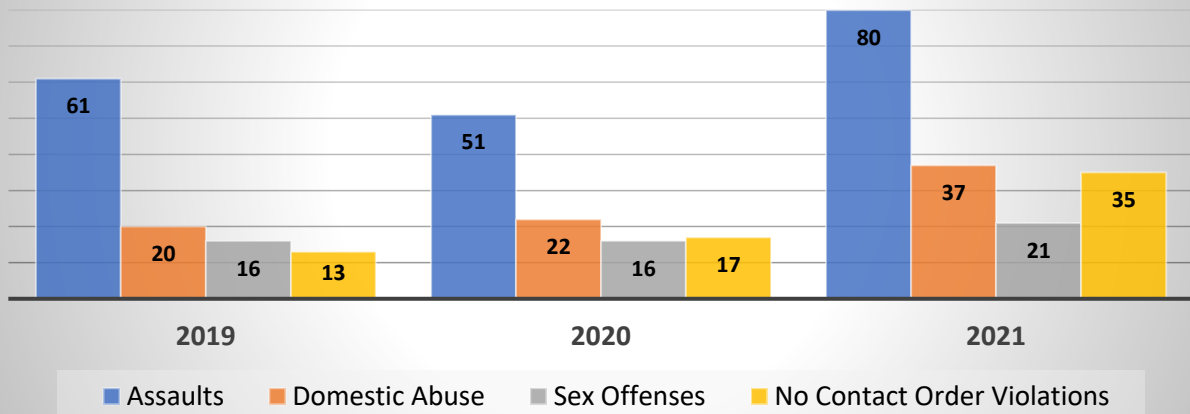
In the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, violent crime is composed of four offenses: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Violent crimes are defined in the UCR Program as those offenses which involve force or threat of force. Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. The property crime category includes arson because the offense involves the destruction of property; however, arson victims may be subjected to force.

Iowa rules require that agencies submit data with less than 4% error-rate to receive and maintain state certification. The Washington Police Department met this threshold and received certification for data submitted in 2021.

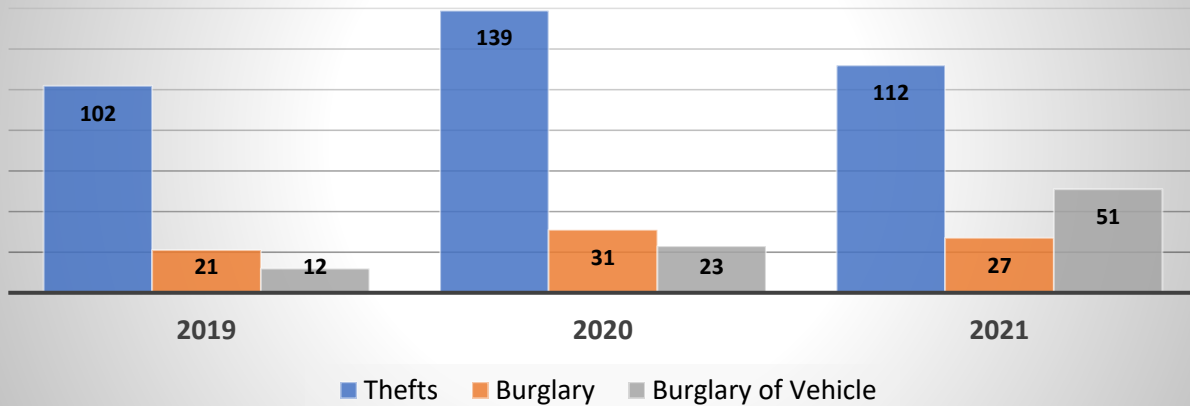
The following tables / charts contain data from our local Records Management System.



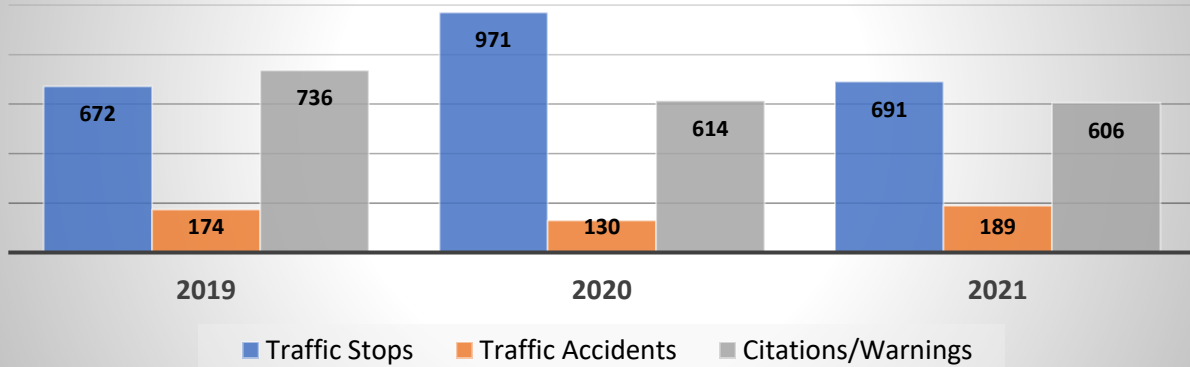
Crimes Against Persons



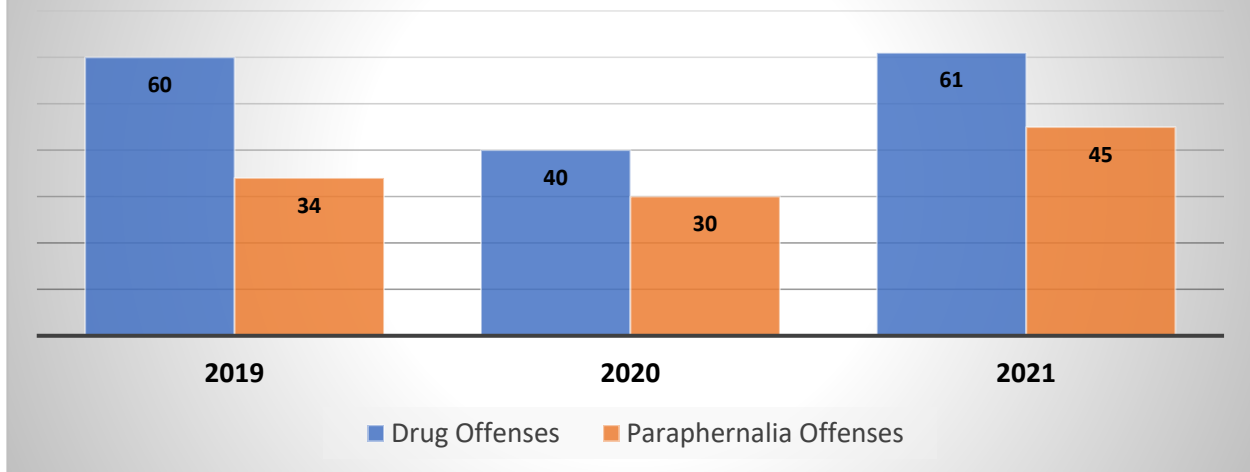
Property Crimes



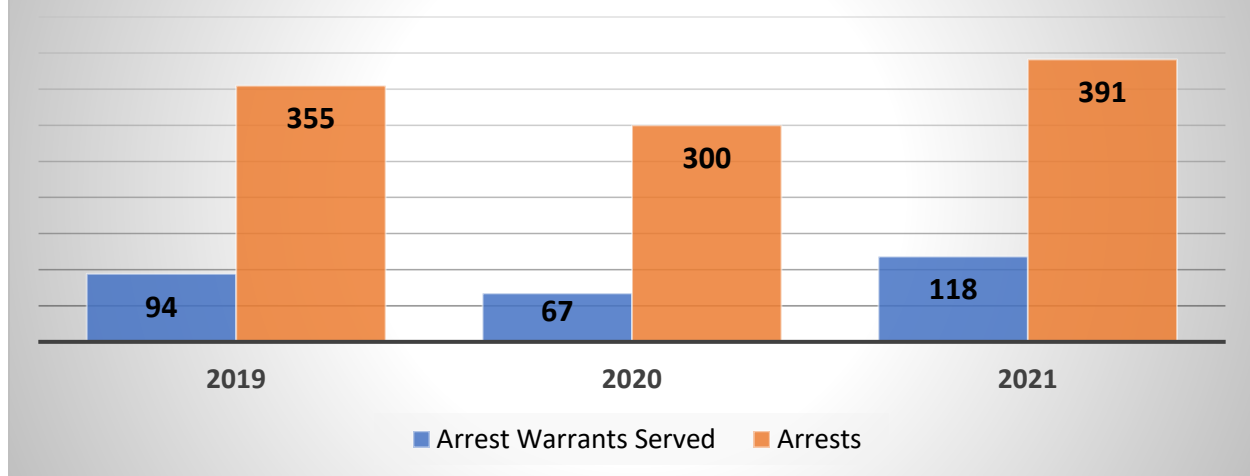
Traffic Related



Drug Offenses



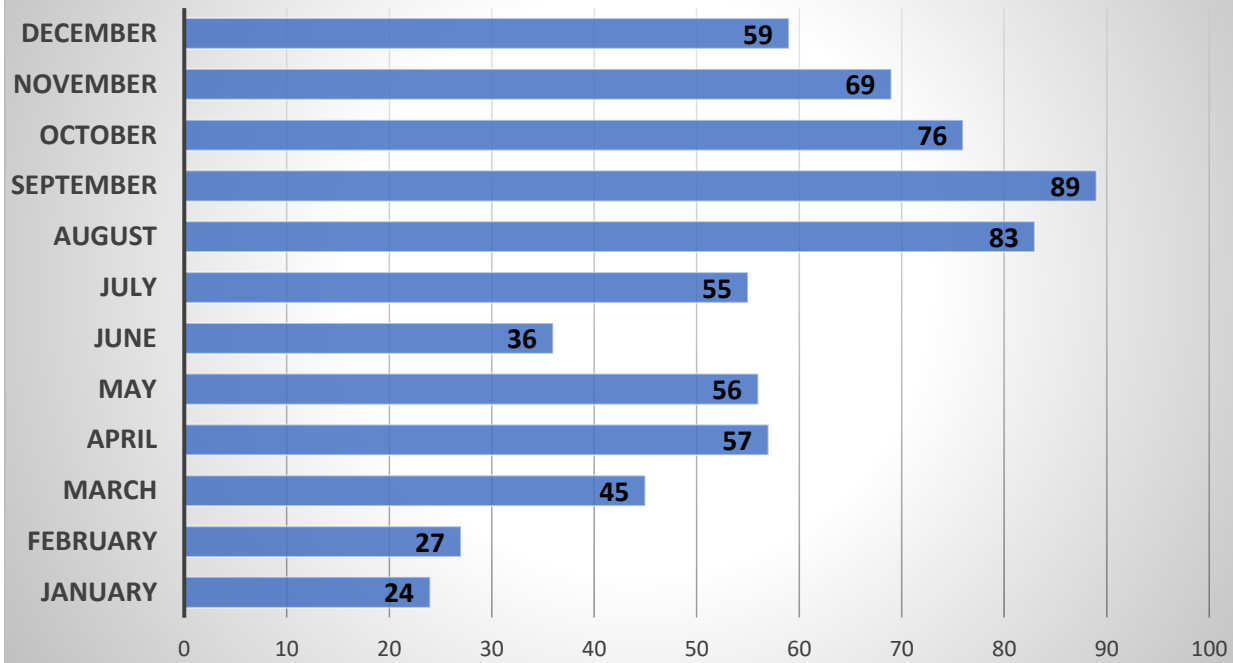
Arrests



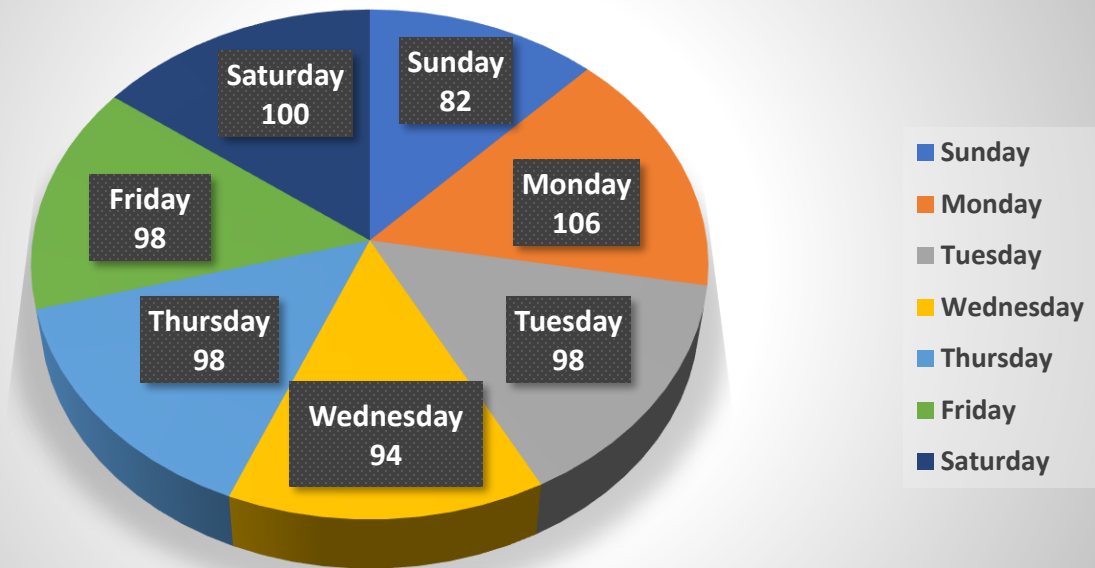
Evidence & Property

Total Items on-site	405
2021 Evidence Items	103
Assault related items (Includes Sexual Assault)	38
Drug Related Items	140
Returned DCI submissions on-site	134
Evidence Items Destroyed in 2021	176 packages

2021 Incidents by Month



2021 Incidents by Day of Week



2021 Awards

Officer of the Year: Sergeant Benjamin Altenhofen

The Washington Police Department is proud to announce that Sergeant Benjamin Altenhofen has been recognized as the department's Officer of the Year for 2021.



Sergeant
Benjamin Altenhofen

Sergeant Altenhofen has been a member of the Washington Police Department since December 2015. He is an ILEA certified Defensive Tactics Instructor, Field Training Officer and an A.L.I.C.E. Instructor. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2020.

Sergeant Altenhofen has specialized training in evidence and property management and since the transition to our new facility in the fall of 2020 has been responsible for the *behind-the-scenes* organization and development of our seized and recovered evidence and property management program.

This work has included the inventory, categorizing, review and auditing of the over 400 items currently in our custody. In addition, Sergeant Altenhofen coordinates with the County Attorney's Office to provide for the timely return and/or destruction of evidence or property after the final disposition of criminal cases.

Sgt. Altenhofen's supervision and dedication in the development and organization of the department's evidence procedures is vital in the successful prosecution of criminal cases.

Commendations: Sergeant Benjamin Altenhofen & Officer Ethan Hansen



Sergeant
Benjamin Altenhofen

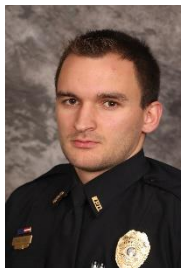
In the early morning hours of January 4, 2021, while working the over-night shift, Sergeant Benjamin Altenhofen and Officer Ethan Hansen responded to a home explosion.

Upon arrival, officers found an occupied residence had been destroyed by an explosion and areas of the home were on fire.

The officers, with assistance of bystanders, provided aid to an injured teenager and without regard for their own safety, worked to locate and rescue a victim trapped in the rubble, and assisted in getting the victim to waiting paramedics to provide care and transport for life-threatening injuries.

Sgt. Altenhofen and Officer Hansen are commended for their quick action and care provided to the victims of this tragic event.

Their swift and professional actions, in this dangerous situation, demonstrate their distinct pattern of community service and valor.



Officer
Ethan Hansen