

GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



13th Annual Grinnell Shop with a Cop



MISSION

To protect and serve the community of Grinnell, providing a peaceful and safe existence, free from fear and with democratic values applied equally to all citizens.

Dennis M. Reilly
Chief of Police

**GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA**

FROM: Dennis Reilly, Chief of Police

DATE: February 10, 2017

TO: Honorable Mayor Gordon Canfield
Honorable City Council
Russell L. Behrens, City Manager
P. Kay Cmelik, City Clerk
Citizens of the City of Grinnell
Members of the Grinnell Police Department

SUBJECT: Grinnell Police Department 2016 Annual Report

It is an extreme honor and privilege that I present to the citizens of Grinnell, the Grinnell governing body and members of the department the Grinnell Police Department's annual report. While reviewing this report, please keep in mind that the professional activities performed by this department would not be possible without the continued efforts of its members.

This report details the numerous activities of the department, and includes materials such as crime statistics and the initiatives that we utilize to deal with criminal activity. This report also provides an opportunity for the public to see the various roles that the Police Department plays, and what activities we are engaging in to protect the public while continually striving to maintain an open and professional relationship with the people that we serve.

This report will provide the reader with a summary of the following aspects and activities of the Grinnell Police Department: Current staffing levels and duties; Calls for Service and Investigations; Traffic Safety; Reserve Police Officers; Training; Crime Prevention and School Based Activities.

STAFFING:

The Grinnell Police Department is currently staffed with 17 full-time employees (15 sworn police officers and 2 civilian employees). We are also very privileged to have the services of three (3) Reserve Officers. Of the 15 sworn, there is one (1) Chief of Police, one (1) Captain, three (3) Sergeants and nine (9) Police Officers and one (1) Narcotics Investigator.

The following is an overview of our staffing assignments:

Chief – Chief Executive of the Grinnell Police Department who serves as the final department authority in all matters of policy, operations and discipline.

Captain- Represents the second highest level of command within the Police Department and falls under the immediate command and direction of the Chief of Police. The Captain is responsible for the administration and/or oversight of department operations, Internal Affairs, Public Information Officer, Quartermaster, training, scheduling, jail administration, Property & Evidence operations, and Special Events.

Sergeant (3)

- **(1) Dayshift** – In addition to being responsible for first line supervision of officers assigned to the day tour, the dayshift sergeant also serves as our Investigations Commander and arson investigator, Law Enforcement Intelligence Network liaison, Field Training Officer and Reserve Instructor.
- **(2) Nightshift** – In addition to our two night shift sergeants being responsible for first line supervision of officers assigned to the night tour, their collateral duties include: Field Training program coordination; Information Technology; Arson investigation; Reserve Officer program; Traffic; tobacco and alcoholic beverage compliance

Patrol Officers- Nine (9) assigned to 12-hour patrol shifts

- In addition to their primary responsibility of patrol operations, all patrol officers have collateral duties that include, but are not limited to: firearms training; defensive tactics; vehicle maintenance; vehicle nuisance abatement; Crime Prevention, community activities and school based programs, bike patrol and animal control coordination.

Criminal Investigator

- In addition to his responsibilities as a dayshift patrol officer, our criminal investigator is responsible for the investigation of criminal activity and the processing of crime scenes.

Narcotics Investigator

- Our narcotics investigator is assigned to the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement (M.I.N.E.) and is responsible for the investigation of narcotic activities, as well as other vice type activities.

Civilians (2)

- **Administrative Assistant** – Responsible for assisting department administration with numerous office management tasks, to include: accounts payable and receivables; payroll; time accrual tracking and correspondence. The Administrative Assistant is also responsible for: management of the Property & Evidence function; management of in-car and body worn camera video; public record requests; liaison with Poweshiek County courts and County Attorney office.
- **Dictation Clerk** – Responsible for various typing assignments, to include incident reports for officers, as well as computer data entry. The Dictation Clerk is also responsible for the management and submission of the Uniform Crime Report.

CALLS FOR SERVICE AND INVESTIGATIONS:

In 2016 we continued to experience criminal activity that requires a great deal of attention and expertise on the part of our officers. The statistical portion of this report was primarily generated from our records management system that is shared with the Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office. This system provides officers with access to department records while on patrol. This access includes the ability to: perform name and address searches, complete reports and review calls for service. This system has also provided the department with the opportunity to go virtually paperless as it relates to reports and documents associated with investigations.

In 2016 our officers responded to, or initiated, 12,323 calls for service, which is a 59% increase from 2015. These calls for service include, but are not limited to: reports of criminal activity; motor vehicle crashes; traffic enforcement; assists to other agencies; medical and fire emergencies; alarm activation responses, business and property checks and other service related functions. This increase in calls for service may likely be, at least partially, attributed to our officers documenting more of their activity

through the records management system, which was one of the goals of going with a system that was accessible to officers in their patrol cars.

Of the 12,323 calls for service in 2016, 1,448 of those resulted in case reports being filed and investigated. This is an increase of 15.7% from 2015 and 20.8% increase from 2014. As with the calls for service, the increase in cases may likely be partially attributable to our records management system. Unlike our previous records management system, the current system automatically creates a case based on certain call for service types, in particular allegations of crimes against persons and property crimes.

Last year the department handled 77 narcotics related investigations, which is a 10% increase from 2015. The average number of narcotic investigations over the last ten years is 77 cases. Of those 77 cases, 68 individuals were arrested for drug related offenses. In 2012 we lost federal funding through the Edward Byrne Justice Assistances Grants. This grant provided for the funding of 75% of salary and benefits for our officer assigned to the Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (MINE). The loss of this funding, coupled with a manpower shortage, resulted in the removal of our officer assigned to the task force.

In the spring of 2016 we assigned an officer back to M.I.N.E task Force, without any additional funding from outside sources, in order to resume a more focused effort to address narcotic activity, and in particular the distribution of narcotics. The M.I.N.E. officer initiated 16 criminal cases that resulted in 8 individuals being arrested for narcotic distribution type activities. A criminal case for narcotics distribution is often difficult to pursue, with the investigating officer being reliant upon a number of variables. While our initial efforts at addressing this type of activity was positive, there is more work for us to do. It should be noted that our M.I.N.E. officer also assisted with surveillance activities on a number of other criminal cases.

In 2016 the Grinnell Police Department also took steps to address prescription drug abuse and opioid addiction by acquiring a prescription drug box that is now located in the lobby of the Public Safety Building, and which is available during regular office hours. Across the country overdose deaths from heroin has reached epidemic proportions, and unfortunately Iowa is not immune from this. The use of Heroin, which is often cut with fentanyl or carfentanyl (potent opioids), is creating deadly consequences and affecting a wide range of population segments. Why a prescription drug box to address heroin overdoses? Often time's heroin users are abusers of prescription pain killers such as oxycodone or hydrocodone. For those who have valid prescription drugs in their homes, but no longer use them, the drop box provides an alternative to leaving the drugs in the home and risking the abuse of them by someone else. Since installing the box in late spring, we have collected approximately 75 pounds of prescription drugs. The surrendered drugs are then taken to a facility for incineration. Additional information on prescription drug abuse/opioid abuse and properly disposing of unused medication can be found at:

- http://www.iowa.gov/odcp/drug_information/prescript.html
- http://www.iowa.gov/odcp/drug_information/takebacks.html .
- <http://www.iowa.gov/odcp/docs/RX%20Brochure.pdf>

Domestic Violence continues to be a national problem, where it is estimated that a woman is assaulted in the United States every nine seconds and is the leading cause of injury to women. Grinnell continues to be not immune to this wave of violence, and the members of this department take an aggressive approach to this behavior, while working within the limits of the Iowa Domestic Abuse statute. In 2016 the Grinnell Police Department responded to approximately forty-nine (49) reports of Domestic Abuse,

which is a 21% decrease from 2015 and 22% increase from 2014. Over the last ten years, the Grinnell Police Department has averaged 91 responses per year to domestic violence allegations.

Addressing quality of life issues is of particular focus for the police department in order to maintain what we enjoy here in Grinnell. Included in those quality of life issues are reports of disturbances (fights; Neighbor disputes; Juvenile problems; Noise Complaints) and alcohol related events. In 2016 we responded to 356 disturbance and alcohol related calls for service. Often times the root cause of a disturbance is alcohol consumption or controlled substance use, so a prompt response is necessary to minimize the potential for these incidents to mushroom into something more serious, such as assaults, criminal mischief and harassment. In 2016 the Grinnell Police Department investigated 117 instances of assault, 98 harassment complaints and 92 criminal mischief incidents.

In 2016 the Grinnell Police Department responded to 242 reported thefts, an increase of 9.5%, while fraud investigations decreased from 71 to 46. Often times the reporting party of a fraud is referred to another agency since the offense did not take place in Grinnell. As it relates to thefts, more often than not thieves are nothing more than opportunists. While the likelihood of eliminating thefts is doubtful, the public can certainly help themselves from becoming a victim of theft by securing their homes and vehicles when not occupied, while also not leaving valuables out in plain view for all to see and remove. Instances of identity theft and deception schemes often take place by persons who are not in the United States, which makes investigation difficult. What is important for our residents to remember, especially our elderly who are often times targeted, is that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't true. We are also working with our retail partners to help prevent, or aggressively pursue, acts of retail theft.

In 2016 the Grinnell Police Department investigated 82 cases involving an accusation of burglary, which is the 10 year average. These burglaries are generally more attributed to vehicles, and commercial properties, then residential. The highest number of reported burglaries was 99 in 2000. As with most property crimes, burglary suspects are often times opportunists. The vast majority of burglary suspects are not looking for confrontation, but instead looking to slip in and out without detection. They look for indicators of an unoccupied residence, unlocked vehicle or vulnerabilities with a business, such as no lights on during the evening hours, news papers or mail not being taken in, cash being left in business registers, poor exterior lighting and possibly the lack of any video monitoring or alarm system. The burglar will also look for homes with overgrown bushes or poor lighting near entry points, which provides concealment. Leaving a residence, or vehicle, unlocked while unoccupied also does not help matters. The public plays an incredible role in property crime prevention and identification. When a resident or business owner observes something that looks out of the ordinary, they are encouraged to contact the police department. The members of the Grinnell Police Department would much rather investigate a suspicious person or vehicle, and determine that no criminal activity was taking place, instead of determining after the fact that someone had observed suspicious activity that turned out to be the suspect of a burglary or theft.

Aside from murder, which we were fortunate not to encounter in 2016, sexual abuse cases are probably the most significant crime against persons that an officer can be assigned to. In most instances, these crimes are committed by suspects who are known by the victim. In 2016 we investigated 13 cases of alleged sexual abuse, which is an increase of 1 from 2015. While it is difficult to determine a root cause for these acts, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified a number of risk factors that lead to sexual assault. These factors include risks associated with the individuals involved, relationship factors, as well as community and societal factors. Those interested in learning more about these risk factors can visit the CDC article online at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>.

In 2016 our officers assigned to criminal investigations handled 58 investigations that resulted in the clearance of 44 cases, or a 75.8% clearance rate. An additional 7 cases were classified as open-inactive, meaning that there were no further avenues of investigation available to either identify a suspect or gather enough evidence that rose to the level of probable cause to make an arrest. An additional 2 cases are still active and have been carried over into 2017. Since my arrival in Grinnell it has been my desire to transition our part-time investigator role in to more of a full-time function. This would enable the department to take more of a pro-active approach to criminal activity while relieving patrol officers from prolonged investigations.

There were 410 arrests in 2016, an increase of 5% from 2015. Of those arrested in 2016, 39 were juveniles, which is up from 27 in 2015. Among the charges levied against juveniles were alcohol offenses (Public Intoxication, Possession Under Legal Age), possession of a controlled substance, curfew, interference and theft.

In order to effectively deal with the more serious criminal conduct within our community, we make an effort to deal with the smaller problems before they become bigger ones. Methods such as community policing and intelligence led policing, coupled with aggressive enforcement efforts, are effective means of keeping the crime rate low. We also continue to reach out to the community to reinforce our need for their assistance in reducing crime.

TRAFFIC SAFETY:

In 2016, officers issued 767 citations (<1% increase from 2015) and 1,690 warnings (7% increase from 2015). The three E's of Traffic Safety are: Enforcement; Education; Engineering. By using a combination of citations and warnings, officers are educating motorists on matters of traffic safety while taking enforcement action by stopping the motorist and providing them an opportunity to take their own corrective action.

There was a 21.5% decrease in vehicle crashes causing property damage in 2016, with 161 occurring. Despite the decrease in property damage crashes, we experienced an increase (58%) in personal injury accidents with 19 taking place. We also experienced an increase in hit and run crashes, with 35 responses in 2016 as compared to 32 in 2015. There were no fatal crashes in 2016.

In an effort to address impaired and distracted driving, in 2016 we continued to receive grant funding from the Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Safety. This special Traffic Enforcement Program (s.T.E.P.) grant has been awarded to us for the past few years. It is used for overtime during traffic enforcement projects around the holidays and other events where there is likelihood of violations. It also provides for the purchase of equipment such as radar units or in-car video systems. In 2017 we will be purchasing a new in-car camera utilizing funds from this grant.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is estimated that 28 people per day die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes nationally. The CDC also reports that marijuana use is increasing and 13% of those drivers operating a vehicle at night, or on the weekend, have marijuana in their system. In 2016 403 fatalities took place on Iowa roads, which is up from 320 in 2015. Of the 403 fatalities, 30% were attributed to impaired driving crashes. In order to try and prevent these tragedies from occurring in Grinnell and the surrounding area, our officers are trained in the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers. In 2016 our officers made 29 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests, which is down from 45 in 2015.

There were 1,055 parking tickets issued in 2016, up from 867 in 2015. Parking violations can cause vision obstructions, jeopardize pedestrian safety (especially near schools and college campuses) and hamper snow removal efforts.

RESERVE POLICE OFFICERS:

In 2016 the Grinnell Police Reserve Unit was led by Ofc. Joe McMillen. We currently have 3 reserve officers and are reviewing a number of applications for the program, in the hope of increasing our numbers in 2017. Our reserve officers are mandated by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) to maintain their State of Iowa reserve certification, which requires a significant amount of training each year. Our reserves are required to provide a designated number of hours each month, while also assisting with the many events held in Grinnell during the year. We are always looking for qualified, dedicated and civic-minded individuals to join our reserve unit.

TRAINING:

Training of our entire staff remains a priority for the police department. There are mandatory training requirements put in place by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy to obtain, and maintain, police officer and instructor certifications. We continue to exceed those requirements. Captain Petersen coordinates the training of department members. We conduct both in-house training, by utilizing our own instructors and local expertise, as well as sending officers and civilian staff to training at remote sites. Since 2013 we have expanded our firearms training by conducting quarterly training. Officers engaged in both live fire and simulated exercises, which focus not only on their firearms proficiency, but also tactical skills as it relates to tactical entry and building searches. We also incorporate monthly internet based training, covering topics such as: mental health; sexual abuse; fair and impartial policing; de-escalation; Iowa law updates; workplace safety. Our in-service and internet based training accounted for over 1,400 hours of training for staff in 2016.

CRIME PREVENTION:

The Grinnell Police Department continues to work with the community in crime prevention programs and methods. It is critical to our operation that we foster and maintain relationships with our community and businesses. In 2016 Officer Mike Dickenson managed the crime prevention duty, with assistance from Officer Bryce Doane. As part of our continuing effort to work closely with the various groups and entities of the Grinnell community, we are also involved in many coalitions and committees, such as: Grinnell College Parking Committee; Poweshiek County Healthy Choices; Poweshiek County DVA/SAC Coalition; Grinnell Chamber of Commerce. The programs provided by the Grinnell Police Department included, but are not limited to: Citizen Police Academy, National Night Out, A.L.I.C.E. training, Camp 911. In 2016 the Grinnell Police Department presented at approximately 25 events, reaching out to approximately 500 people.

Officers also strive to have a presence in the schools as part of their patrol activities. Officers will regularly visit Grinnell schools, depending on call and investigation volume, in order to interact with students and staff. In 2016 officers spent approximately 100 hours in schools.

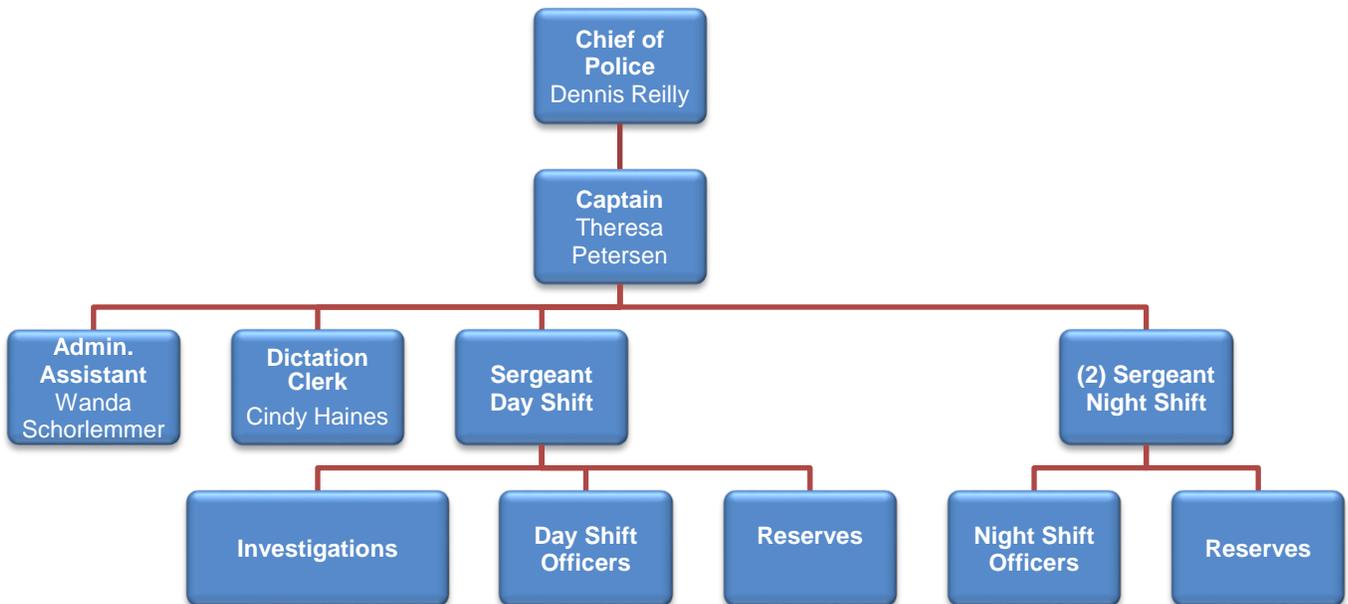
The Grinnell Police Department has a number of officers certified as A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) instructors. A.L.I.C.E. training was developed following the examination of school environment shootings, such as Columbine High School in 1999. This training provides students and educators in the school environment, as well as workers in an office environment, with options during an active shooter incident. In 2016 A.L.I.C.E. training was provided to a number of entities in Grinnell. Those interested in A.L.I.C.E training should contact Officer Dickenson. Class duration is flexible, from 2-4+ hours depending on scenarios.

ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND PROGRAMS

- Hosted Grinnell's 14th Annual National Night Out (NNO) program with the Grinnell Optimist Club. NNO is a police and community partnership that is designed to:
 - Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
 - Generate support for, and participation in, anti-crime programs
 - Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
 - Send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back
- Camp 911 was conducted in August, with community youth being presented with the various aspects of first responder services in Grinnell.
- Held the 13th annual Shop with a Cop program with many businesses, community members, and the Grinnell Chamber of Commerce as sponsors. This program helps deserving children enjoy their holidays, while also providing our officers with an opportunity to spend time with children of the community, which ultimately fosters improved relationships.
- Coordinated the 8th Citizen's Police Academy. This program provides community members with an opportunity to learn the many facets of law enforcement, and includes a ride-a-long with a Grinnell officer. Since 2012 we have increased our efforts to include the Grinnell College students as participants.
- During the course of the year Ofc. Dickenson provided robbery training to banks in Grinnell. This training has been previously provided to a number of banks located in Grinnell.
- Conducted periodic foot patrol operations in the downtown area, residential neighborhoods and at Grinnell College, promoting community interaction and deterring crime through high visibility.
- The nuisance animal enforcement effort continues to raise owner awareness with the goal of voluntary compliance of city animal laws. This assignment was coordinated by Ofc. Stuart Fricke. Enforcing the animal license requirement on a consistent basis keeps animals accounted for and encourages owners to be more responsible. We work closely with the Jasper County Animal Rescue League, who provides certified Animal Control Officers to assist with investigations while also responding to pick up stray dogs. In the fall of 2014 we adjusted our response to stray cats by only picking up those cats which appear to be sick or injured.
- The Grinnell Police Department is also responsible for the enforcement of the city's ordinance on nuisance vehicles. In 2016 53 vehicles were investigated for violation of the nuisance vehicle ordinance. Chapter 51 of the municipal code defines what a "Junk Vehicle" is. First time offenders are issued a warning, while repeat offenders are cited for each subsequent violation. As with our other enforcement efforts, the police department seeks voluntary compliance from our residents on the storage of vehicles.

- Facilitated many tours of the police and fire departments to various groups and individuals.
- We continue to work with the Poweshiek County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). Coordinator Trisha Rooda assists us with training, planning and resources during large scale incidents.

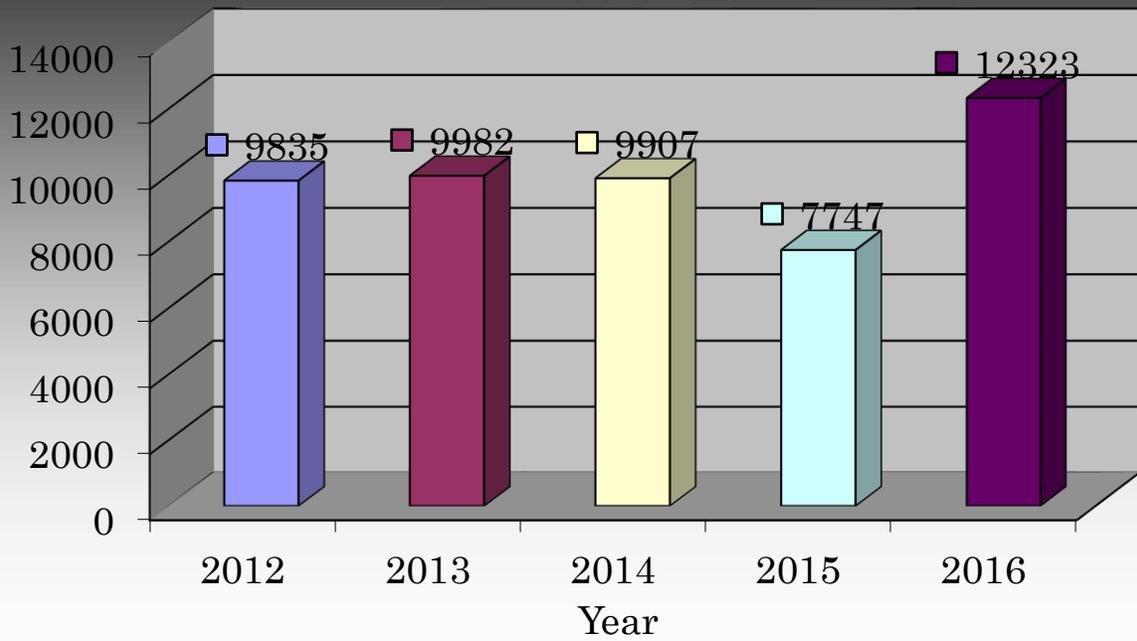
DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE DECEMBER - 2016



CALLS FOR SERVICE SUMMARY

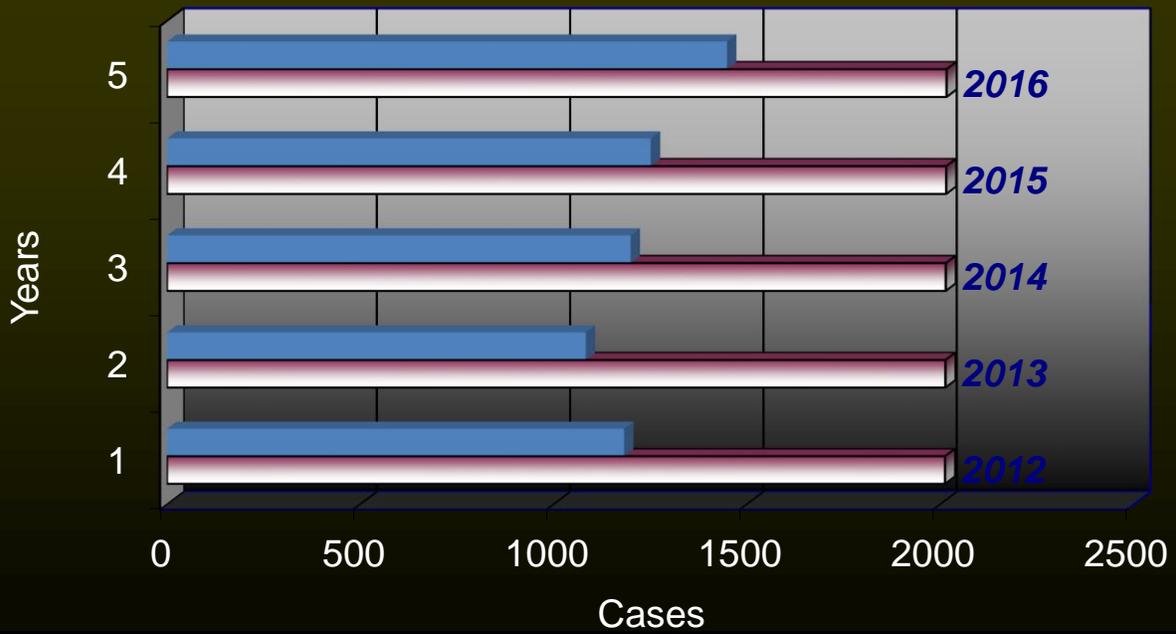
Patrol Activity	2015	2016	Difference	% Difference
<i>Calls for Service</i>	7747	12323	4576	59.1%
<i>Incident Reports</i>	1251	1448	197	15.7%
<i>Traffic Enforcement</i>	3231	3542	311	9.6%
<i>Motor Vehicle Crashes</i>	236	215	-21	-8.9%
<i>Arrests</i>	389	410	21	5.4%
Total Patrol Activity	12854	17938	5084	39.6%
<i>Controlled Substance Cases</i>	70	77	7	10%
<i>Assault/Harassment cases</i>	82	153	71	86.6%
<i>Burglary cases</i>	44	82	38	86.4%
<i>Sex Abuse cases</i>	12	13	1	8.3%
<i>Theft cases</i>	221	242	21	9.5%
<i>Domestic Abuse/Protection Order Violation calls</i>	62	49	-13	-21.0%
<i>Disturbance calls</i>	230	299	69	30.0%
<i>Alcohol Offense calls</i>	20	52	32	160%
<i>Animal Complaints</i>	224	216	-8	-3.6%
<i>Arson</i>	2	1	-1	-50.0%
<i>Robbery</i>	0	1	1	100.0%
<i>Fraud</i>	71	46	-25	-35.2%
Traffic Enforcement	2015	2016	Difference	% Difference
<i>Citations/Warnings</i>	2319	2454	135	5.8%
<i>OWI – Operating While Intox</i>	45	29	-16	-35.6%
<i>Parking Tickets</i>	867	1055	188	21.7%
Totals	3231	3538	307	9.5%
Motor Vehicle Crashes	2015	2016	Difference	% Difference
<i>Property Damage</i>	205	161	-44	-21.5%
<i>Personal Injury</i>	12	19	7	58.3%
<i>Hit and Run</i>	32	35	3	9.4%
Totals	249	215	-34	-13.7%
Other Activity	2015	2016	Difference	% Difference
<i>Business checks*</i>	1616	1804	188	11.6%
<i>Foot Patrol*</i>	93	367	274	294.6%
<i>School Check*</i>	219	462	243	111.0%

Total Calls for Service

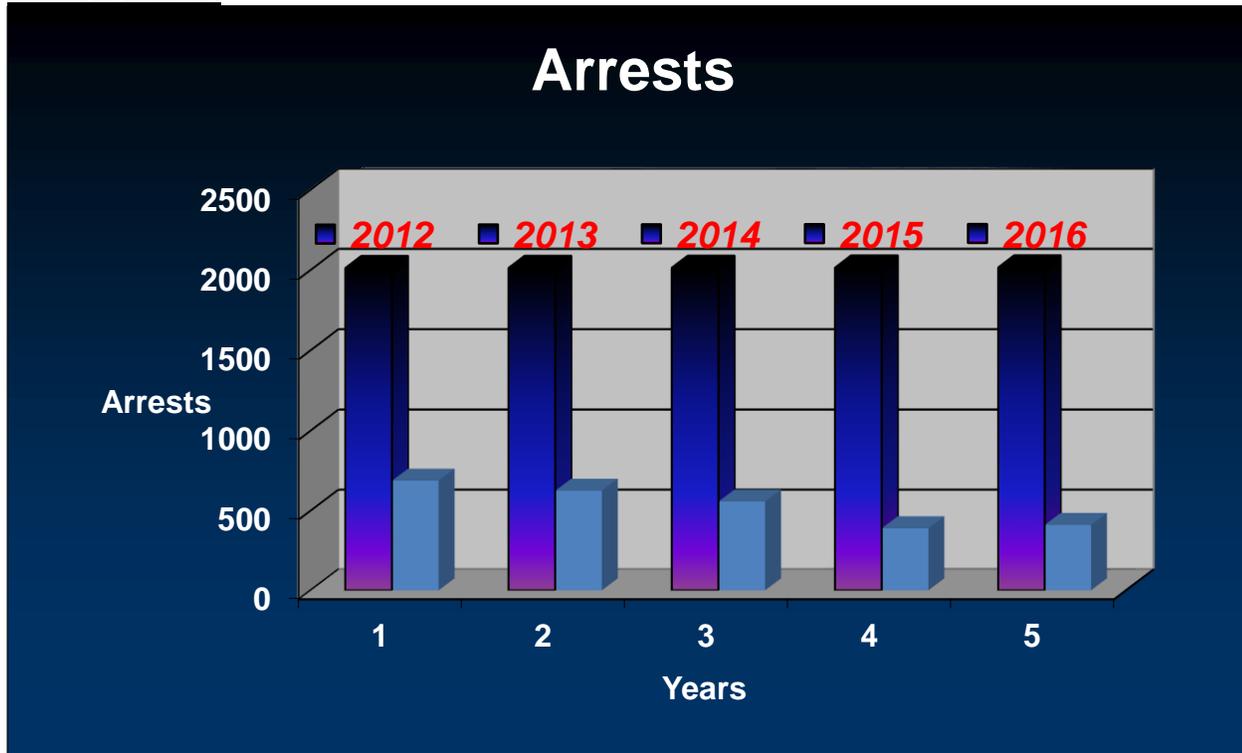


CASES INVESTIGATED - 5 YEAR COMPARISON

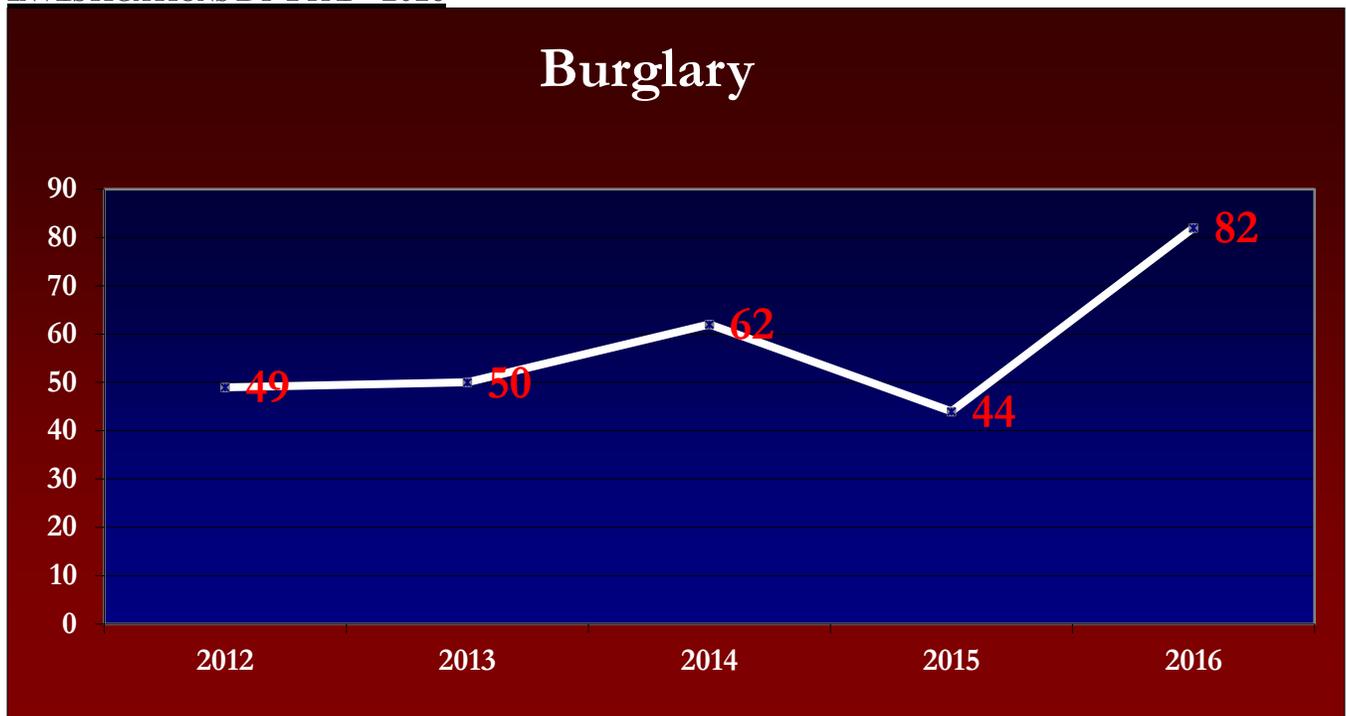
Cases Investigated



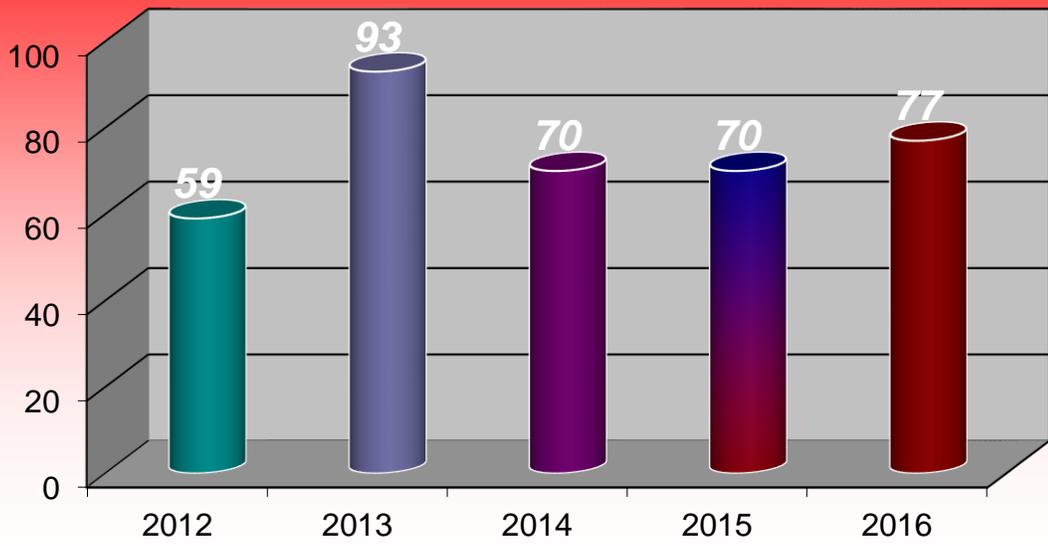
ARRESTS – 2016



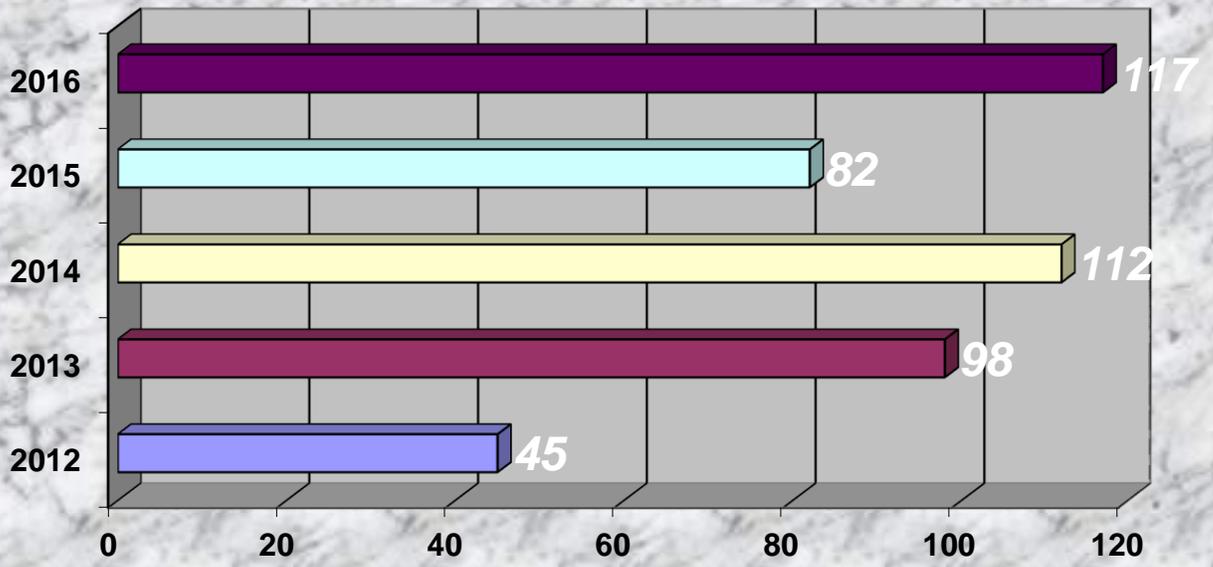
INVESTIGATIONS BY TYPE – 2016



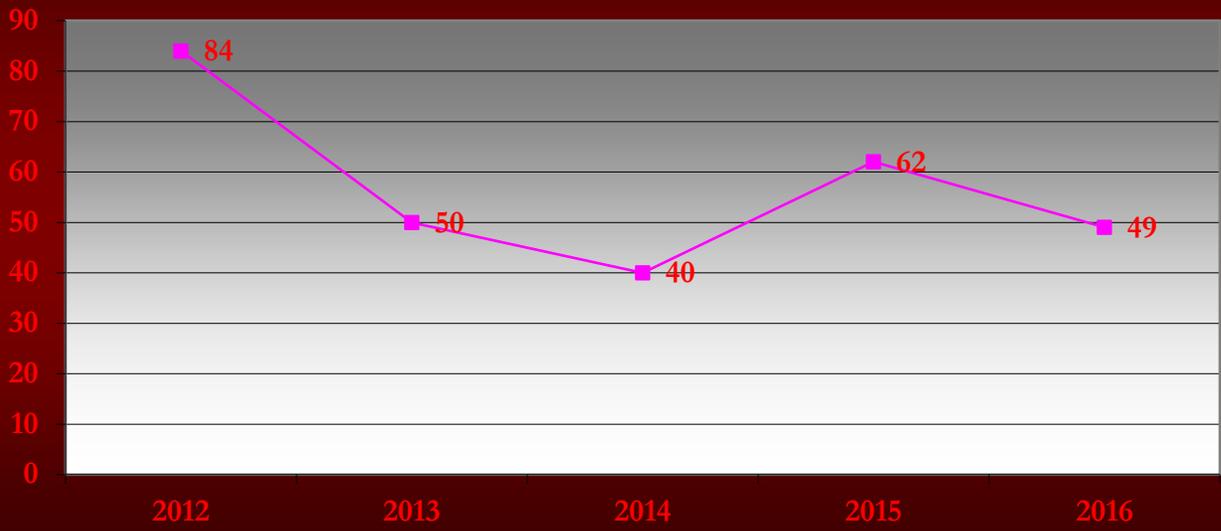
Controlled Substance Investigations



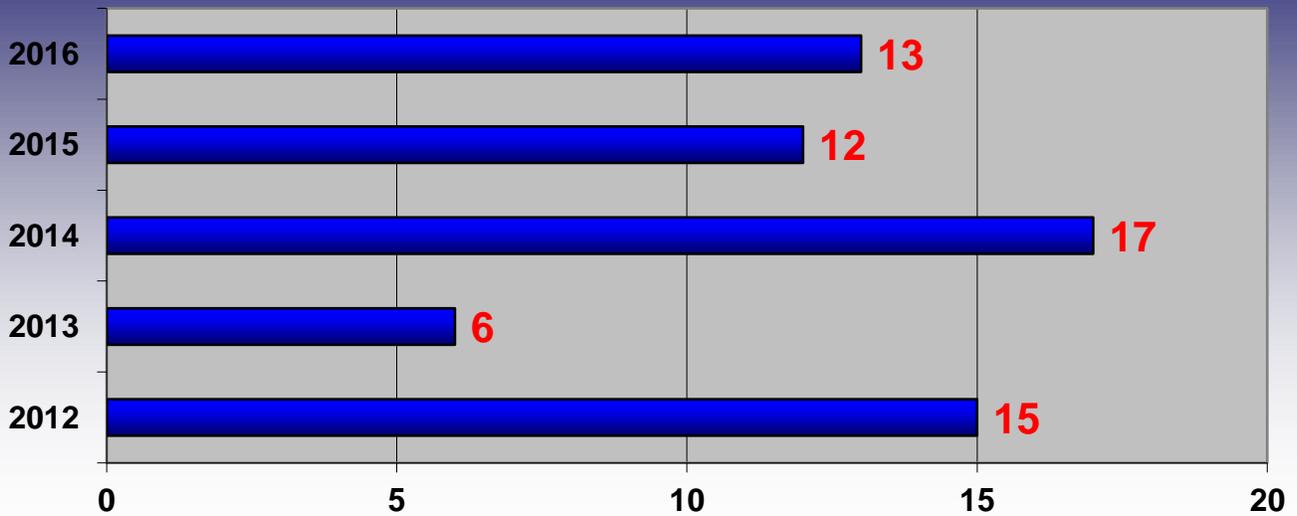
Assault Investigations



Domestic Violence Response



Sexual Abuse Cases



Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Reilly
Chief of Police