

GRINNELL POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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.

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

FROM: Michael A. McClelland, Chief of Police

DATE: March 19, 2021

TO: Honorable Mayor Dan Agnew
Honorable City Council
Russell L. Behrens, City Manager
Mrs. Ann Wingerter, City Clerk
Citizens of the City of Grinnell
Members of the Grinnell Police Department

SUBJECT: *Grinnell Police Department 2020 Annual Report*

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

STAFFING:

The Grinnell Police Department is currently staffed with **16 full-time members** (14 sworn police officers and 2 civilian staff members). In 2020 we experienced the retirement of Chief Dennis Reilly, after 8.5 years of dedicated service to the City of Grinnell, and Ofc. Fred Foreman who served our citizens as a police officer for over 20 years. In March Officer Matt Moore was promoted to the rank of Sergeant while Ofc. Ozzy Carrillo was hired and started his ILEA Basic Academy in January 2021.

A nationwide search was conducted, and with the assistance of the community, a new Chief was hired and welcomed in January of 2021, Chief Michael A. McClelland.

Just recently two conditional offers of employment were given to Jonathan Soubayi and Holly Coogler who will fill our two vacant officer slots, bringing us up to full authorized strength.

Of the 14 sworn members, staffing consists of: one (1) Chief of Police; one (1) Captain; three (3) Sergeants; eight (8) Patrol Officers; one (1) Narcotics Investigator.

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 our day tour, the dayshift sergeant also serves as our Crime Prevention Commander, Law Enforcement Intelligence Network Liaison, Fleet Maintenance, Traffic Safety, Arson investigation.
- **(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: Department training, to include field training program coordination; Criminal investigation; tobacco and alcoholic beverage compliance, and Investigations Commander.

Patrol Officers- Eight (8) 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

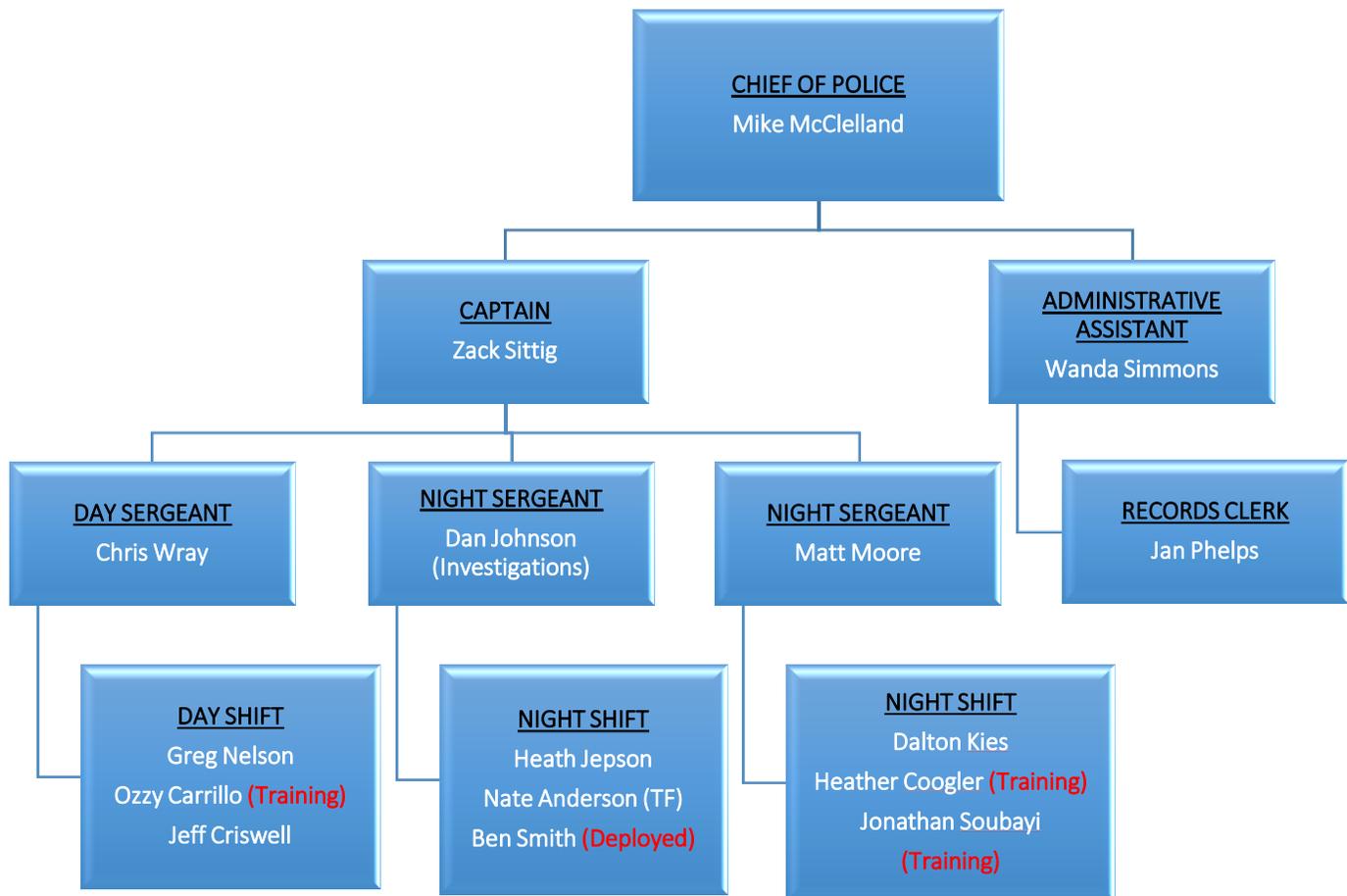
- In addition to their responsibilities as a dayshift patrol officer, our criminal investigator is responsible for the investigation of criminal activity and the processing of crime scenes.

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 related activity.

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.
- **Records Clerk** –Responsible for various records assignments as well as computer data entry. The Records Clerk is also responsible for: management and submission of our Uniform Crime Report; Grinnell Safety Committee representation; coordination of annual city safety training for the department; and Parking citation processing.



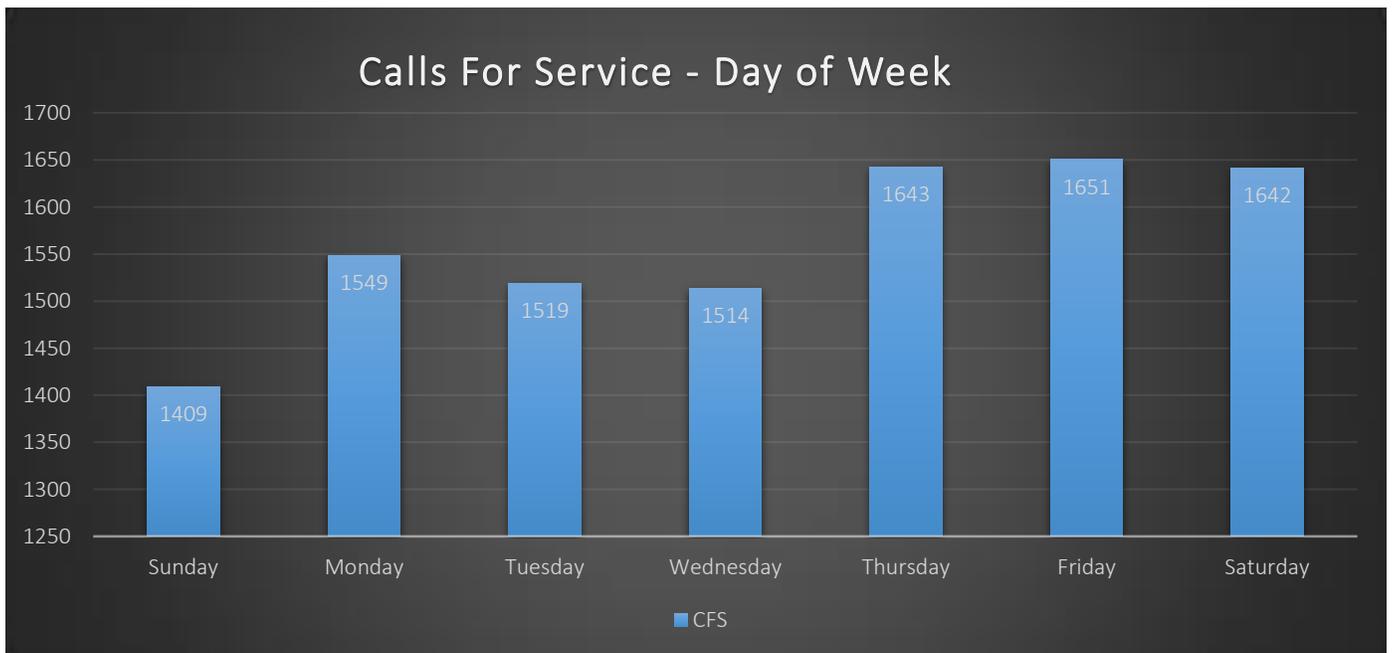
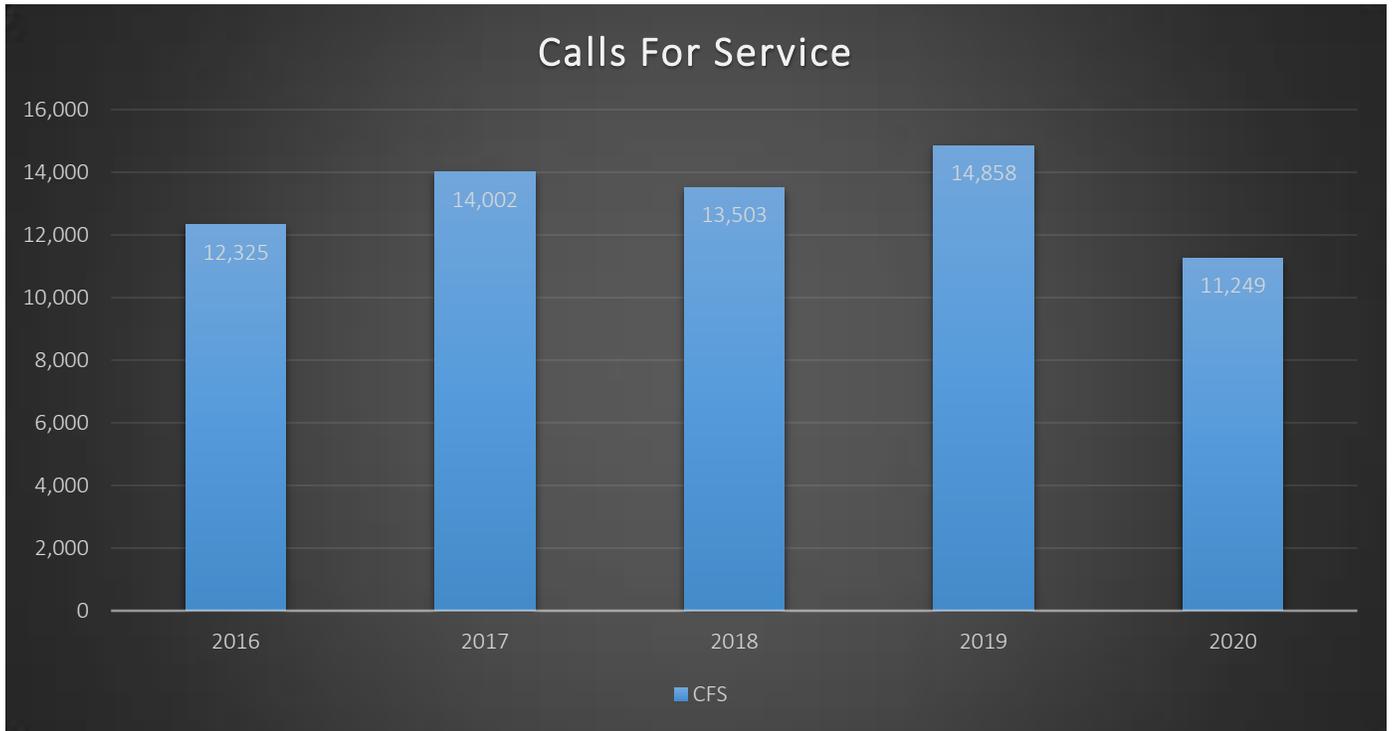
CALLS FOR SERVICE AND INVESTIGATIONS:

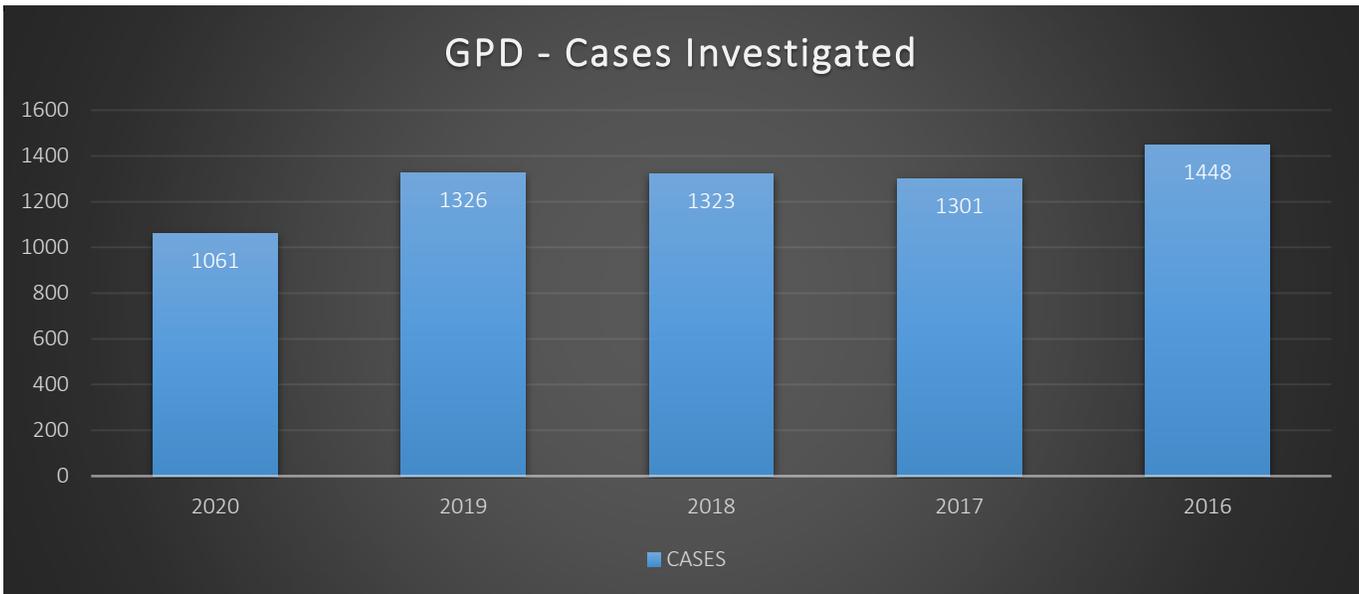
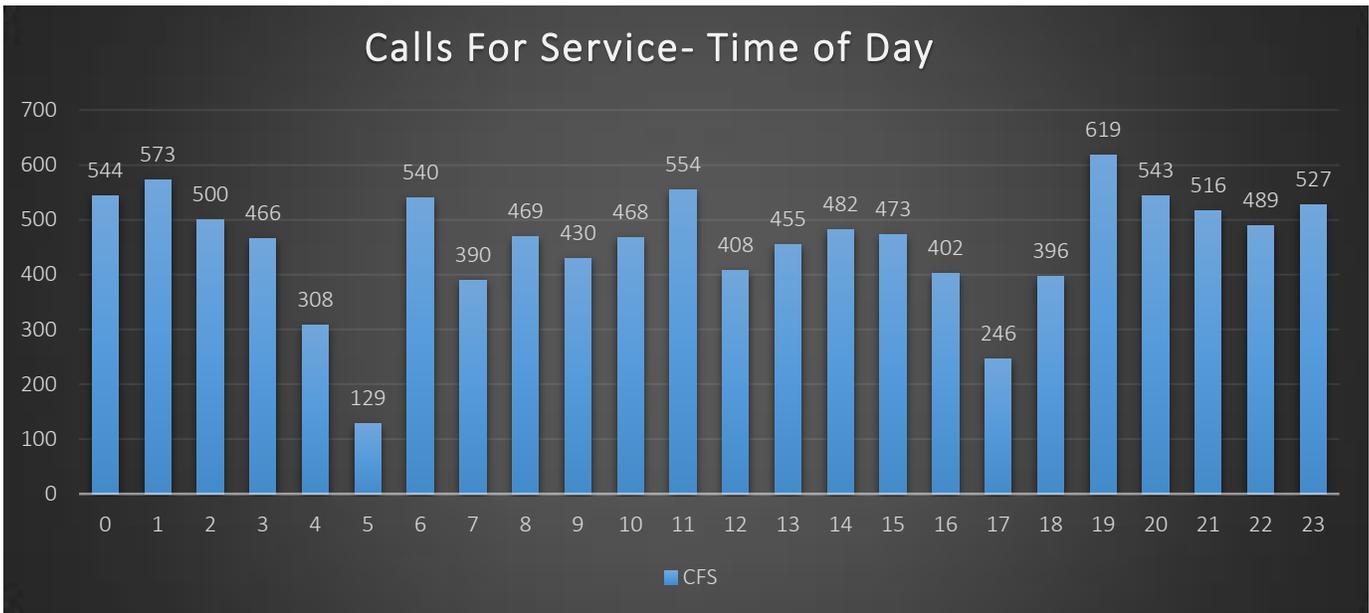
In 2020 we continued to experience criminal activity that requires a great deal of attention and expertise on the part of our officers. The statistical portion of this report was generated from our records management system. This system provides officers with access to department records while on patrol. This access includes the ability to: perform name and address history inquiries, complete reports and review calls for service, store statistical data for reporting. This system has also provided the department with the opportunity to go paperless as it relates to reports and documents associated with investigations.

It's important to note when reviewing the statistics presented in this report that 2020, while unique and challenging for our country, also presented unique and unforeseen challenges for Law Enforcement. Due too many of the health and safety restrictions that were put in place throughout the country and our state from Covid, our proactive enforcement, self-initiated investigations, and community engagement initiatives were drastically reduced. The information in this report will show that reduction. It is our hope that as restrictions are lifted and we can better ensure the health and safety of our officers and the public, we will be able to return to our "normal" patrol and community policing operations. Re-initiating a focus on those enforcement and engagement practices will allow our staff to best serve and engage our community as a Law Enforcement and Public Service entity.

In 2020 our officers responded to, or initiated, **11,249 calls for service**. This is a **25% decrease** from 2019 and 17% decrease from 2018. 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. It should be noted that these numbers are directly related to the robust records management system that we invested in, providing officers and the department with a more efficient method in documenting our activities.

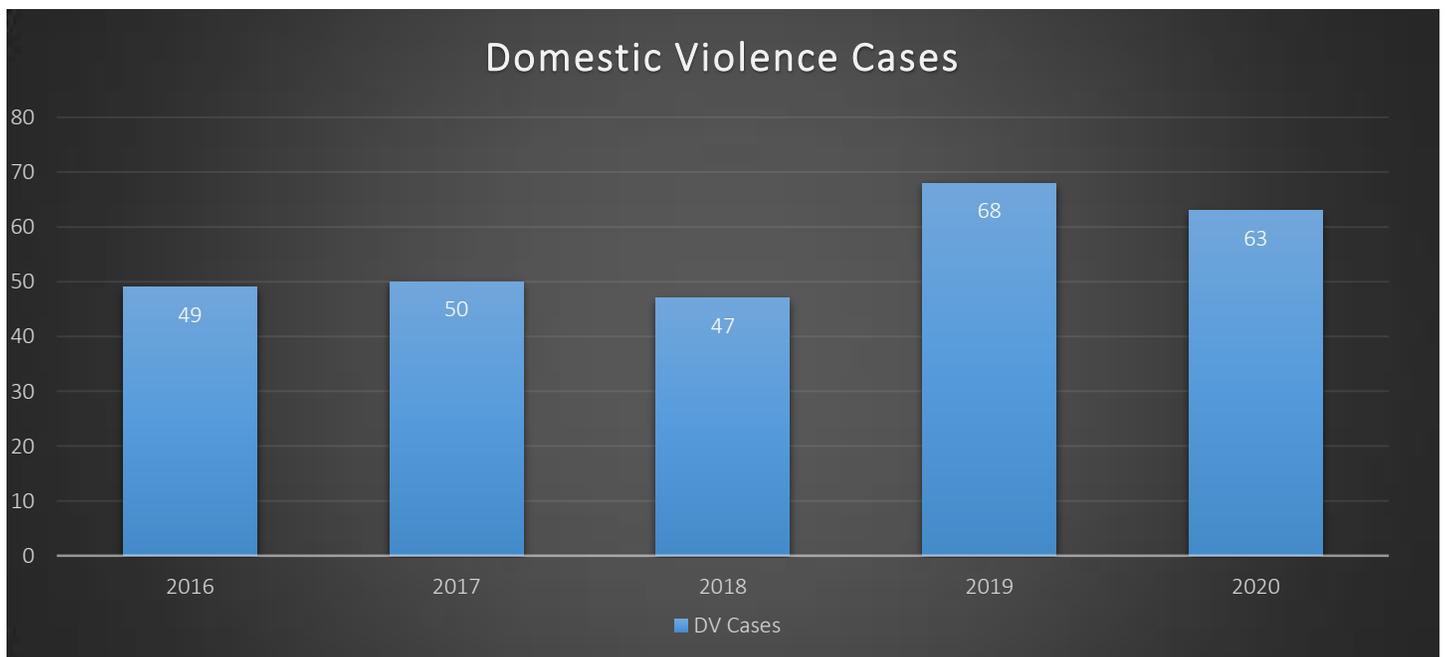
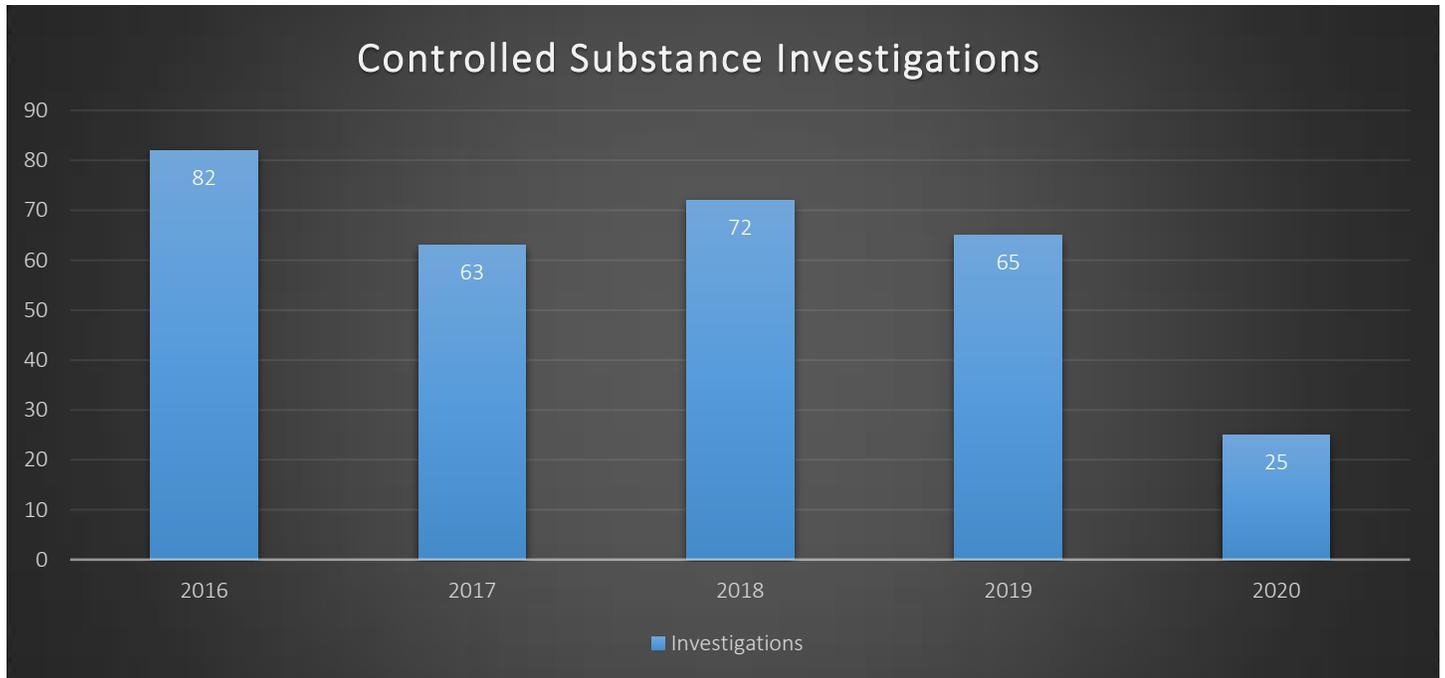




Of the 11,249 calls for service in 2020, 1,061 of those resulted in case reports being filed and investigated. This is a **decrease of 20% from 2019** and 19.5% from 2018. The 10-year average for cases handled by Grinnell officers is 1,175. Unlike our previous records management system, the current system automatically creates a case based on certain call for service types, in particular allegations of crimes against persons and property crime

In 2020 the Grinnell Police Department (**GPD**) handled 25 narcotics related investigations, which is a **62% decrease from 2019**. In the spring of 2016, we assigned an officer back to the 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. Not only did Covid impact our proactive enforcement, but staff shortages as well. Priorities of having patrol officers available to cover calls for service negated the ability of our assigned Investigator to perform Task Force duties.

In 2020 the M.I.N.E. officer investigated 10 criminal cases, which resulted in 5 individuals being arrested for narcotic distribution related activities. A criminal case for narcotics distribution is often difficult to pursue, with the investigating officer being reliant upon a number of dynamic variables. While our efforts at addressing this type of activity have been positive, there continues to be more work for us to do. We encourage residents, who have direct knowledge of narcotics activity, to contact Inv. Nate Anderson.

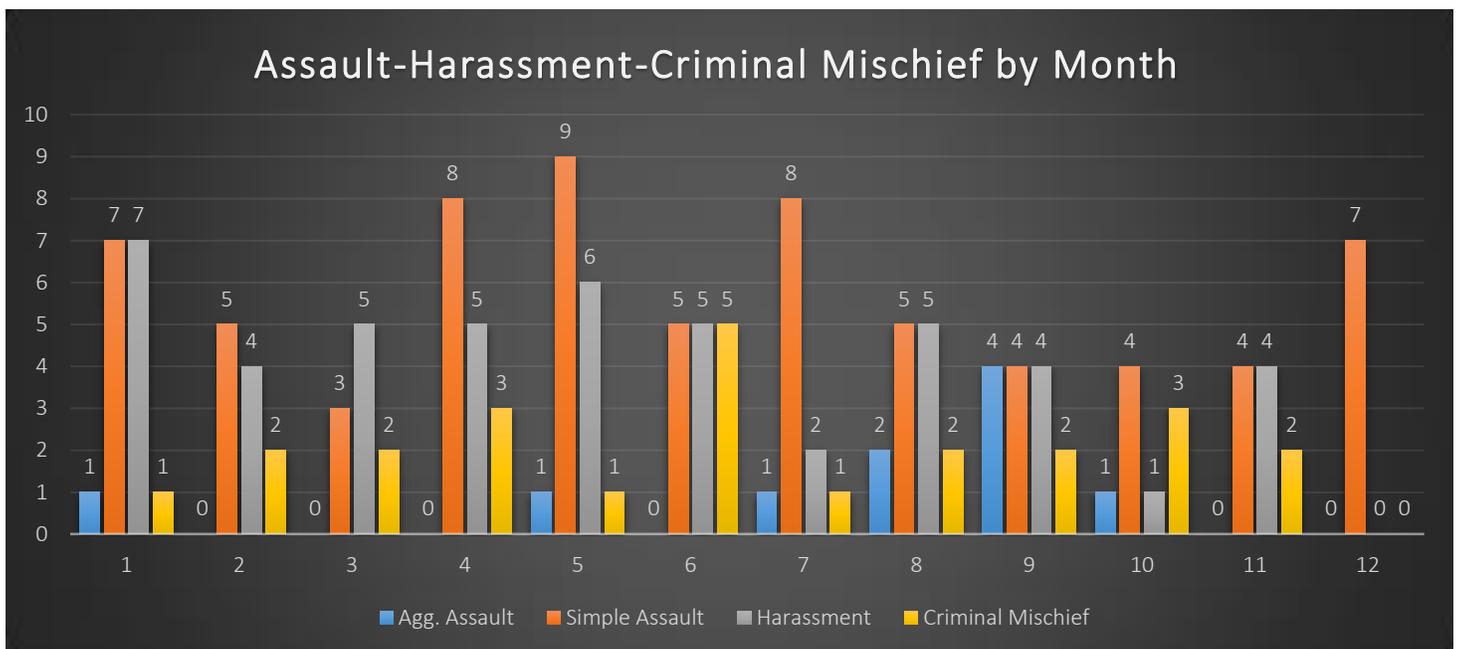


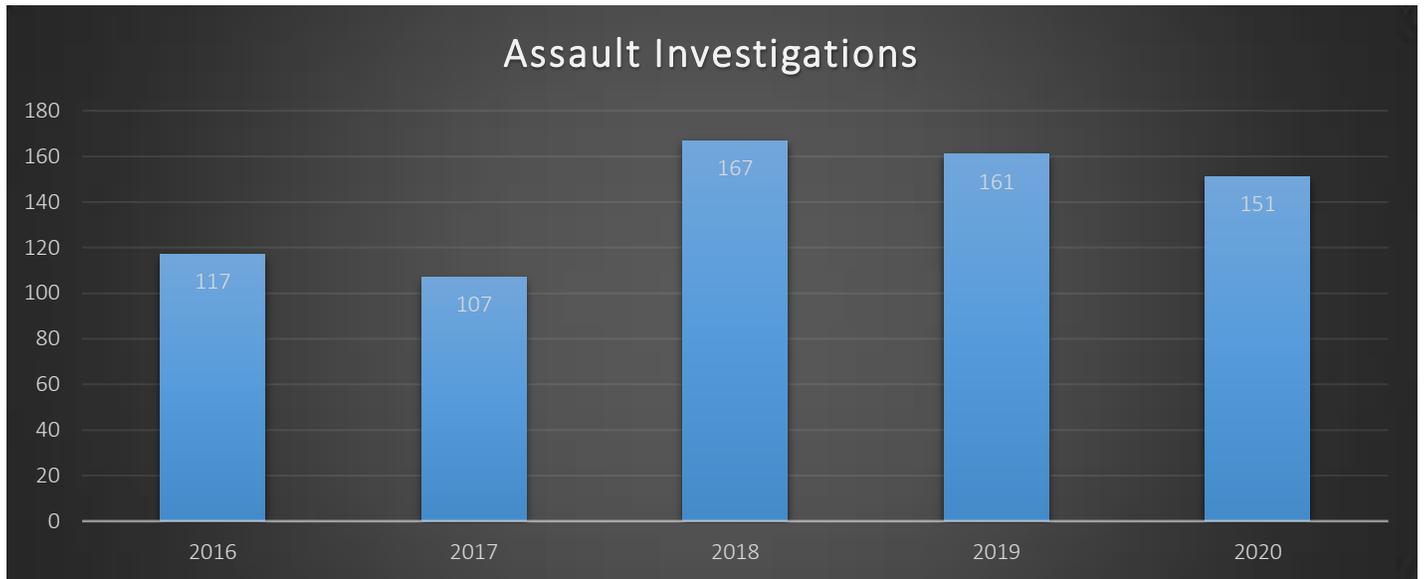
Domestic Violence continues to be a national problem, where it is estimated that, on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner. Grinnell continues to be not immune to this wave of violence, and the members of this department take an aggressive approach to this behavior, while working within the limits of the Iowa Domestic Abuse statute. In 2020 the GPD responded to approximately 63 reports of Domestic Abuse, which is a **7% decrease from 2019**, and 25 reports of a No Contact Order violation, which is a **25% decrease from 2019**. These investigations resulted in 29 arrests for domestic abuse and/or contact order violations. The GPD has averaged 65 responses to reported domestic violence incidents over the last 10 years.

For those who need further assistance with a domestic abuse situation, the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (<http://www.icadv.org>) is a tremendous resource. For those experiencing domestic abuse within the city of Grinnell, our officers are here 24/7 to render assistance and provide victims with resource information.

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; Trespassing; Fireworks) and alcohol related events. In 2020 we responded to 791 disturbance and alcohol related calls for service, a 1% decrease from 2019.

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 2020 the GPD investigated 151 instances of assault, 78 harassment complaints and 51 criminal mischief incidents. The GPD filed 35 criminal charges based off of these 280 incidents.



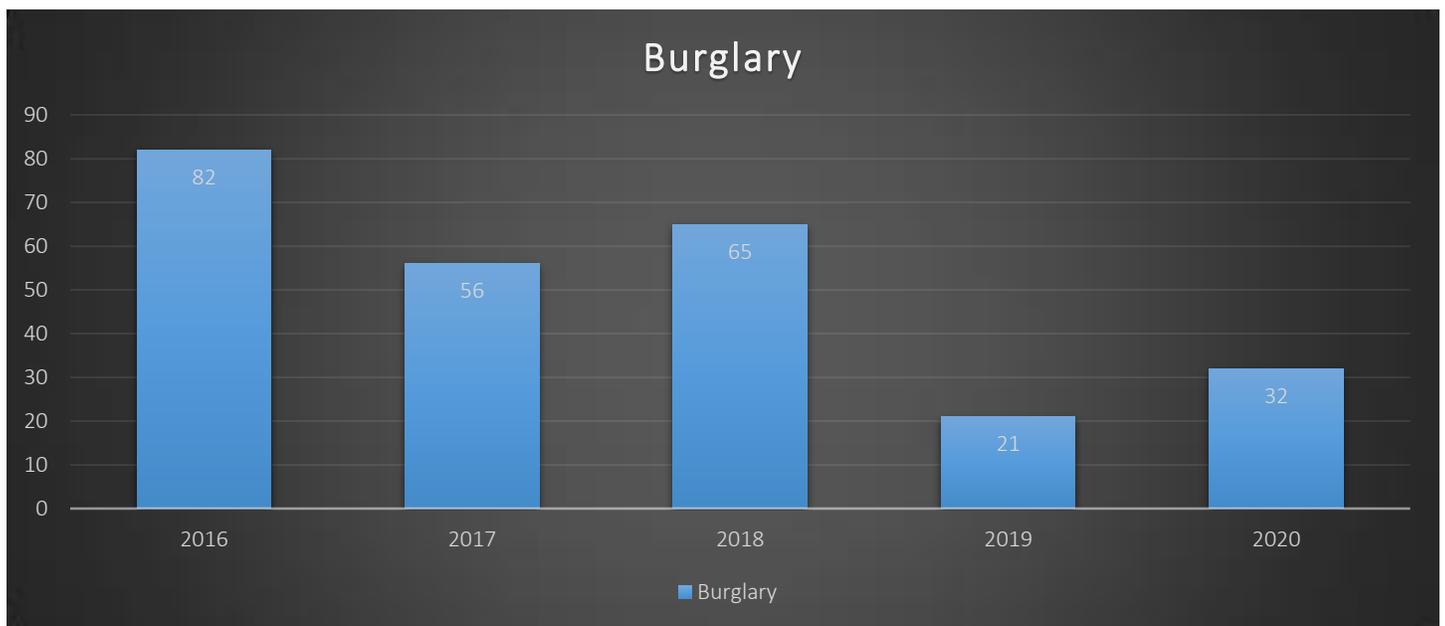


In 2020 the GPD responded to 161 reported thefts, a 7% decrease from 2019, while fraud investigations increased by 169% to 35. Often times the reporting party of a fraud is referred to another agency since the offense did not take place in Grinnell. As it relates to thefts, more often than not thieves are nothing more than opportunists. While the likelihood of eliminating theft is doubtful, the public can certainly minimize the risk of 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. Likewise, true when an entity makes phone contact demanding financial payment, further research is required. We are also working with our retail partners to help prevent, or aggressively pursue, acts of retail theft.



In 2020 the GPD investigated 32 cases involving an accusation of burglary, which is a 52% increase from 2019. Historically speaking these burglaries are generally more attributed to vehicle and commercial properties. 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 vehicles and valuables left in plain sight, or vulnerabilities with a business such as no lights on during the evening hours, newspapers 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 GPD 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.

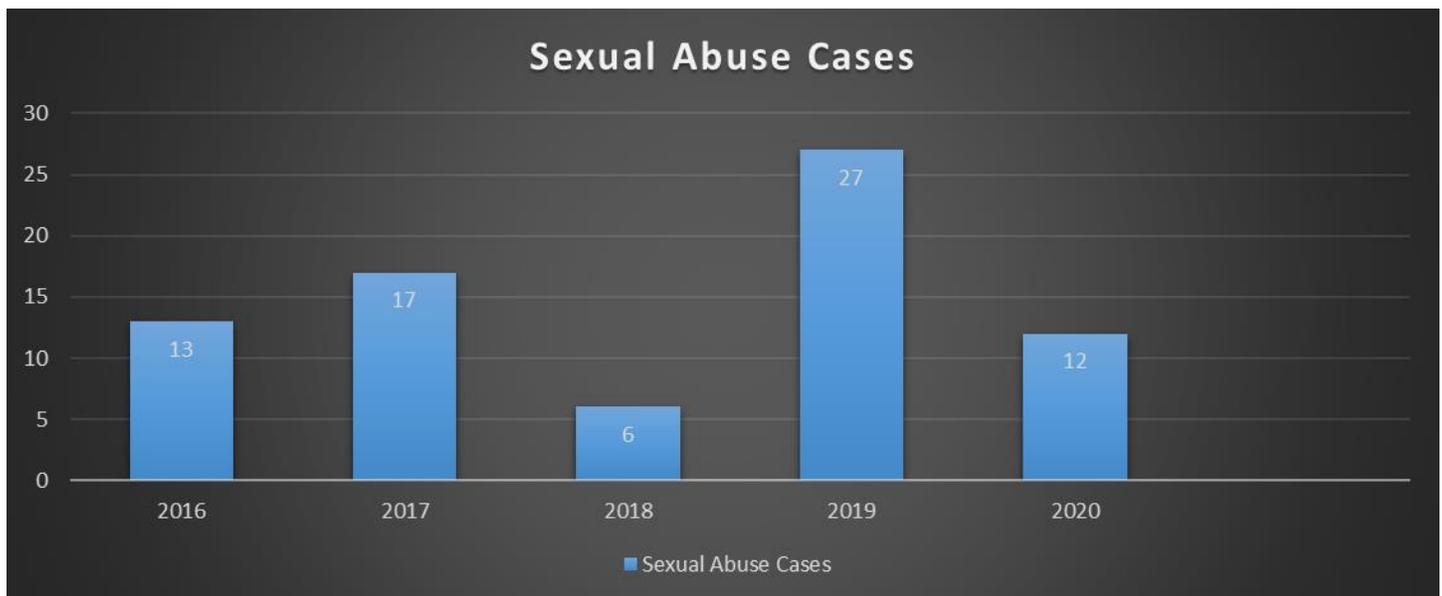


Aside from murder, sexual abuse cases are probably the most significant crime against person that an officer can be assigned to. In most instances these crimes, with 2020 being no exception, are committed by suspects who are known by the victim. In 2020 the GPD investigated 12 cases of alleged sexual abuse, which is a 55% decrease from 27 in 2019. A breakdown of the 12 investigation dispositions is as follows:

Arrest –1 Inactive - 2 Unfounded - 3 Exceptionally Cleared –6

Of these 12 cases, we encountered a number of instances where the victim was a juvenile and engaged in consensual intercourse. In these instances, the otherwise consensual act is considered sexual abuse because the victim has not reached the age of consent, which is generally 16, and the offending party is four or more years older than the “Victim”. The GPD encourages parents and guardians to have conversations with their children and educate them on such matters as age of consent. The Police Department is also working with the school district for information such as this to be included within appropriate curriculum.

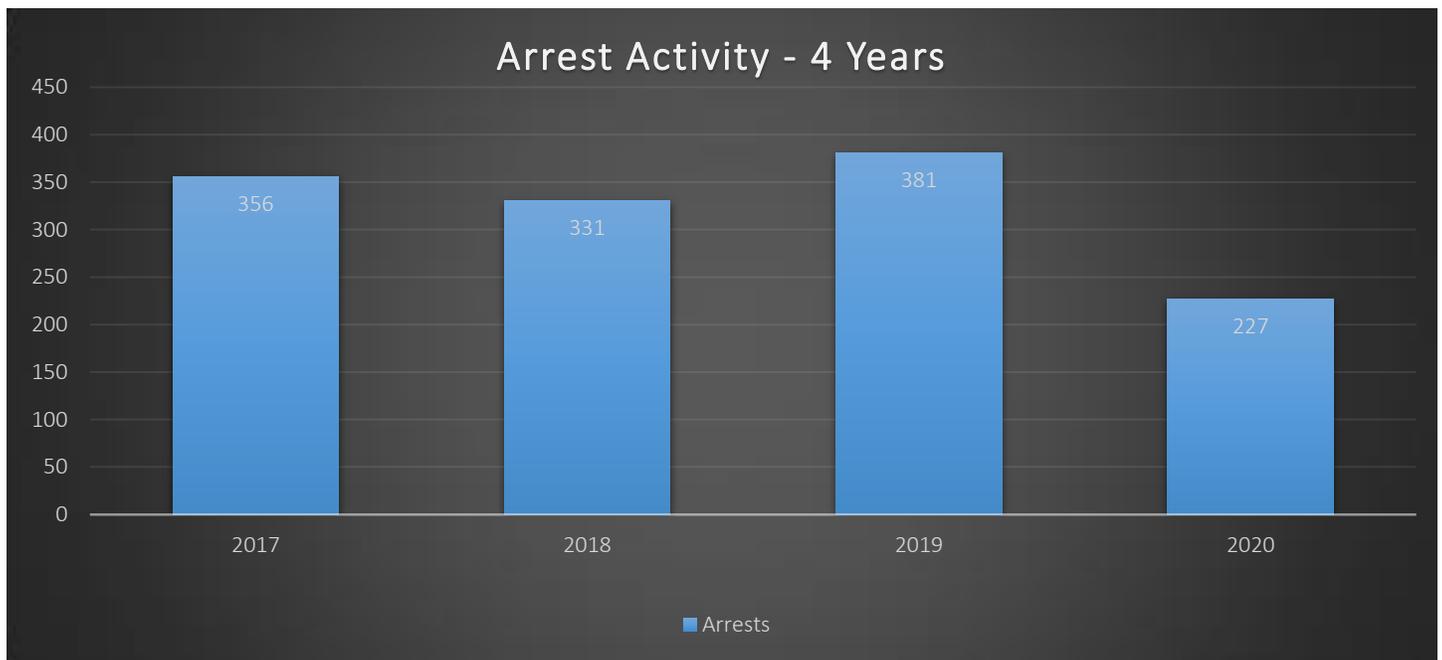
While it is difficult to determine a root cause for acts of sexual assault, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has identified a number of risk factors that lead to sexual assault. These factors include risks associated with the individuals involved, relationship factors, as well as community and societal 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 2020 Sgt. Dan Johnson was placed in charge of investigations, with Ofc. Ben Smith assigned as our criminal investigator. Our criminal investigators handled 38 investigations, in addition to those cases assigned to the investigator as part of their daily patrol function. This is a decrease of 21% from 2019. Of the 35 criminal investigations, 23 of those cases were cleared (66% clearance rate). An additional 12 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. This does not prevent the investigator from re-opening an investigation if information becomes available to identify a suspect and/or file charges. A vast majority of these open-inactive cases are related to property crimes.

In 2017 we began exploring the use of a case screening process, where weighted solvability factors are used to determine whether or not an investigation is followed up by an investigator. Our hope is at some point we will be able to transition our part-time criminal investigator role in to a full-time function. This would enable the department to take more of a pro-active approach to criminal activity while relieving officers assigned to patrol from prolonged investigations.

There were 227 arrests in 2020, a decrease of 40% from 2019. Of those arrested in 2020, 20 were juvenile referrals to the Juvenile Court Officer, which is a decrease from 34 in 2019. Among the charges levied against juveniles were alcohol possession violations, possession of a controlled substance and drug paraphernalia, assault 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 proactive 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.

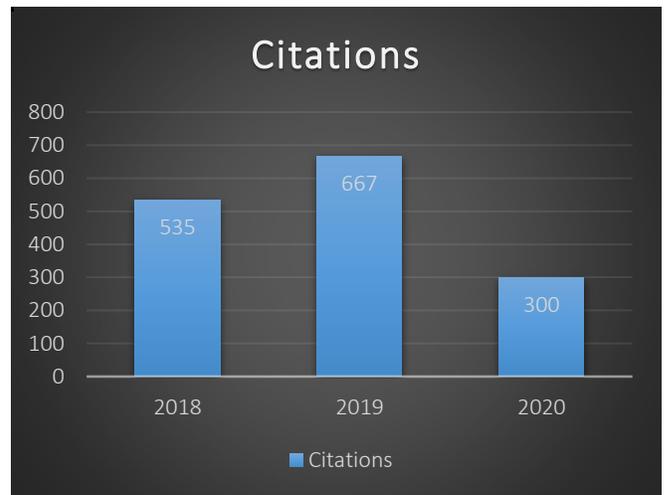
TRAFFIC SAFETY:

In 2020, GPD officers issued 300 citations (**55% decrease from 2019**) and 729 warnings (**a 55% decrease from 2018**). 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.

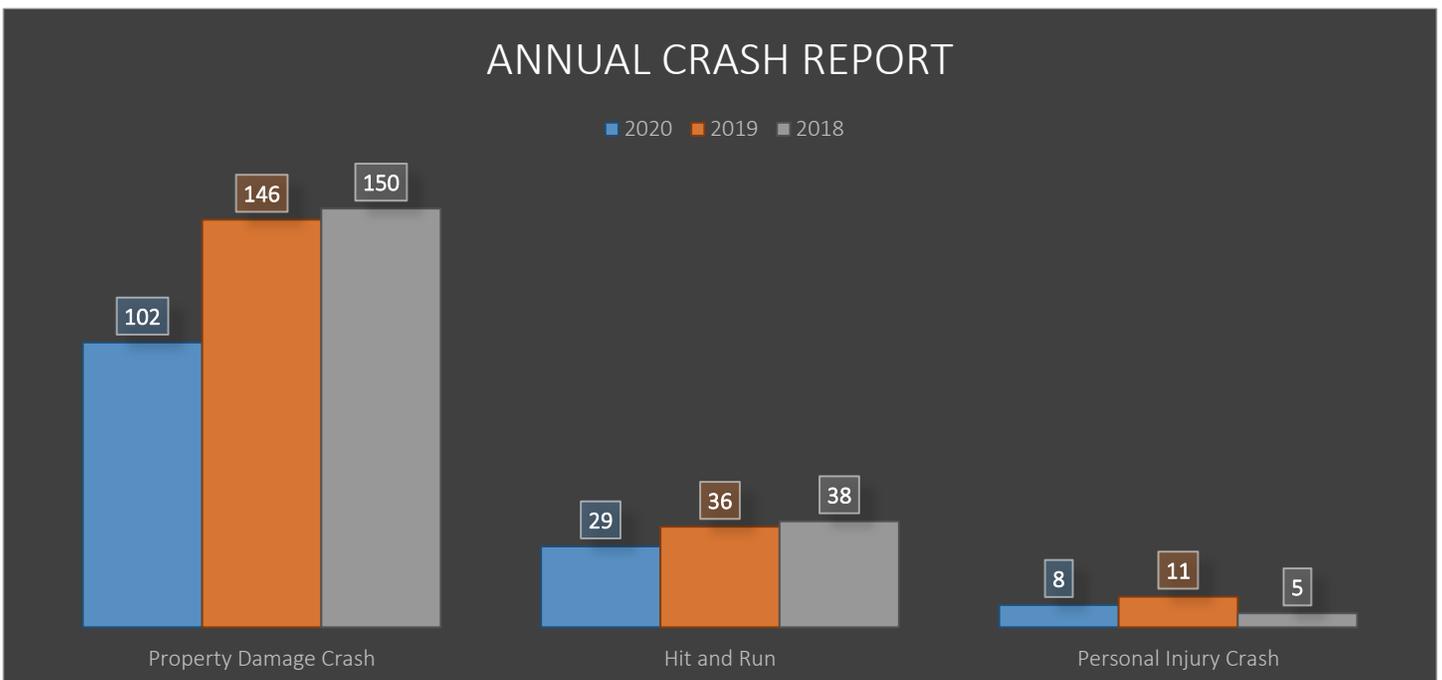
As evidenced by this data, the Grinnell Police Department seeks to educate motorists when possible by issuing warnings where appropriate. In addition to identifying the traffic violations that lead to a motor vehicle stop, officers will identify more serious violations after the traffic stop takes place. These more serious traffic violations include driver's operating a motor vehicle with a suspended, revoked or barred driving privilege. In 2020 approximately 55 drivers were identified as being suspended, revoked, or barred. An additional 187 instances of a vehicle being operated without proof of financial liability (No Insurance) took place as the result of a traffic stop or accident.

In 2018 the department began deploying a speed sign throughout the city, which not only alerts motorists to their speeds but also aids our traffic safety function in identifying speed issues in neighborhoods while also providing traffic counts where needed. Sgt. Chris Wray is in charge of the traffic safety function and can be contacted for traffic safety related concerns.

Based on traffic studies conducted, coupled with areas identified by our officers for being prone to moving violations, our officers will conduct stationary radar and special enforcement activities to address these moving violations. In 2020 officers conducted approximately 479 stationary radar details and 169 special enforcement details.



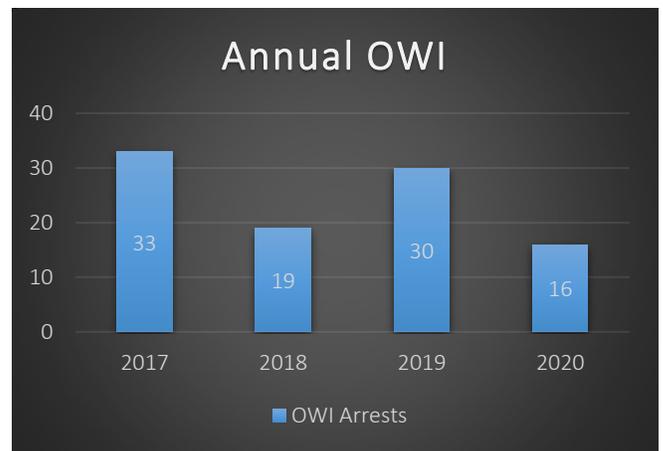
There was a 30% decrease in property damage crashes in 2020, with 102 occurring. We also experienced a decrease (27%) in personal injury accidents with 8 taking place. As well as 29 hit and run crashes in 2020, which is a 19% decrease from 2019.



In an effort to address impaired and distracted driving, in 2020 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 a number of years. It is used for overtime during traffic enforcement projects around the holidays and other events where there is the likelihood of violations. It also provides for the purchase of equipment such as radar units or in-car video systems.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), it is estimated that 29 people per day die in alcohol-impaired driving crashes nationally. NHTSA also reports that, while traffic deaths related to impaired driving has fallen by one third in the last 30 years, 10,000 people a year are killed in drunk-driving crashes. The Center for Disease Control (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 2020 **338** fatalities took place on Iowa roads, which is up from **336** in 2019. While comparison statistics for 2020 have yet to be completed, we do know that of the 336 fatalities that took place in 2019, 86 involved an alcohol impaired driver. Another 57 fatalities involved drivers impaired by drugs. In order to try and minimize these tragedies from occurring in Grinnell and the surrounding area, our officers are trained in the detection and apprehension of impaired drivers.



In 2020 our officers made 16 Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) arrests, which is down from 30 in 2019. The OWI offender is another example of a more serious offense being discovered off of that traffic contact for a moving or equipment violation.

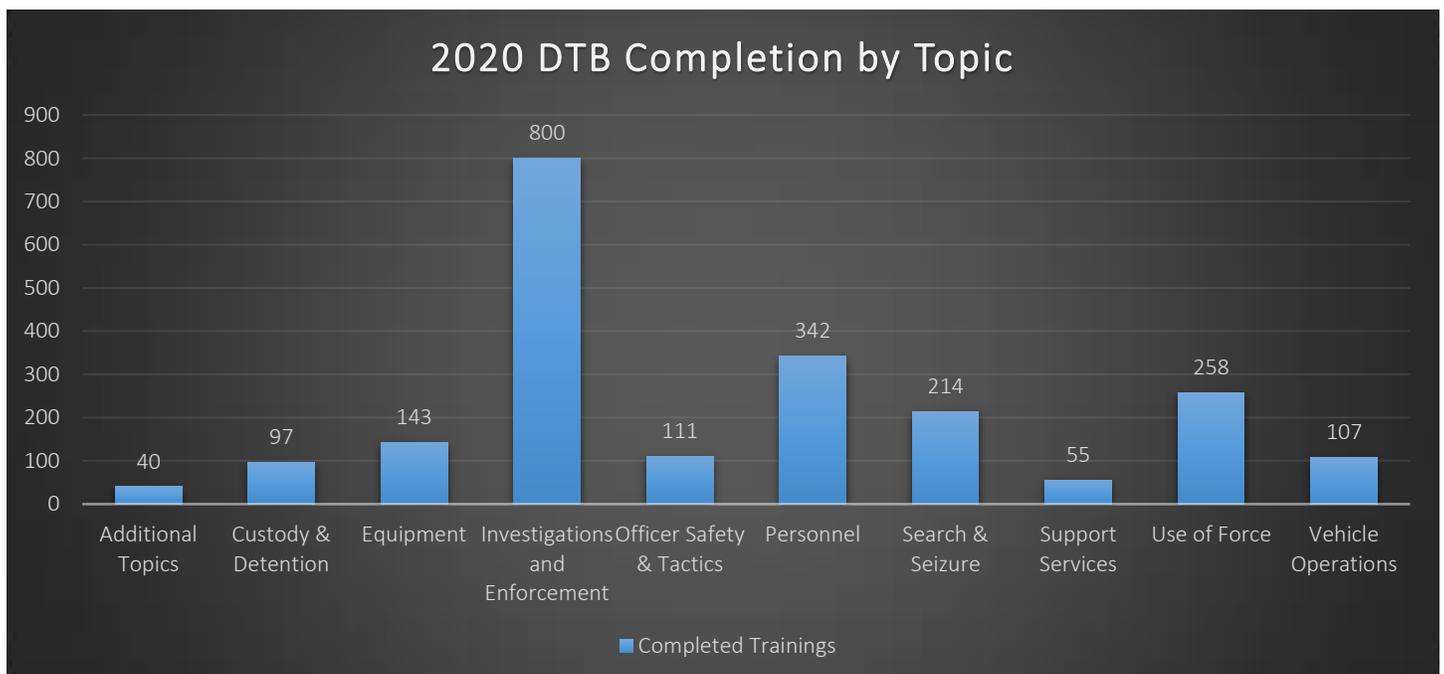


There were 622 parking citations issued in 2020, down from 1,414 in 2019. Parking violations can cause vision obstructions, jeopardize pedestrian safety (especially near schools, college campus and the downtown area) while also hampering snow removal efforts. Residents and visitors are encouraged to sign up for city notifications, such as when snow emergencies are declared.

TRAINING:

Training our personnel remains a priority for the police department. There are mandatory training requirements put in place by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in order to obtain, and maintain, police officer and instructor certifications. We continue to exceed those requirements by conducting both in-house training, utilizing our own instructors and local expertise, as well as sending officers and civilian staff to training at remote sites. For firearms training, GPD officers engage 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; implicit bias and de-escalation; Iowa law updates and workplace safety. Our in-service and internet-based training accounted for approximately 423 hours of training in 2020. This number is significantly decreased from 1,211hrs in 2019. This can be attributed to the pandemic, forcing many in-person and hands-on training sessions to be canceled for the year. This type of training is vital for law enforcement and is often difficult to present in an online format. We also experienced staffing issues in 2020 that prevented us from sending members to training due to lack of coverage for patrol. Lastly due to the pandemic, Derecho Storm, and Homicide investigation, our already reduced staff were stretched pretty thin and we've learned over the last several years that officer well-being is vital for health and safety on the job, and quite frankly it wasn't worth exhausting our staff even more to send them to additional trainings.

This training time does not include policy-based training, which was started in 2018. In the winter of 2017, the GPD completed a yearlong policy manual revision. The web-based policy manual currently used by the GPD, Lexipol, which is based on state and federal law along with industry best practices, incorporates Daily Training Bulletins (DTB) that officers are required to complete. Each DTB presents a scenario with a related policy question, followed by applicable policy review for the scenario and then a test question. In 2020 each officer reviewed approximately 2,167 individual DTB's, covering a variety of policy related topics.

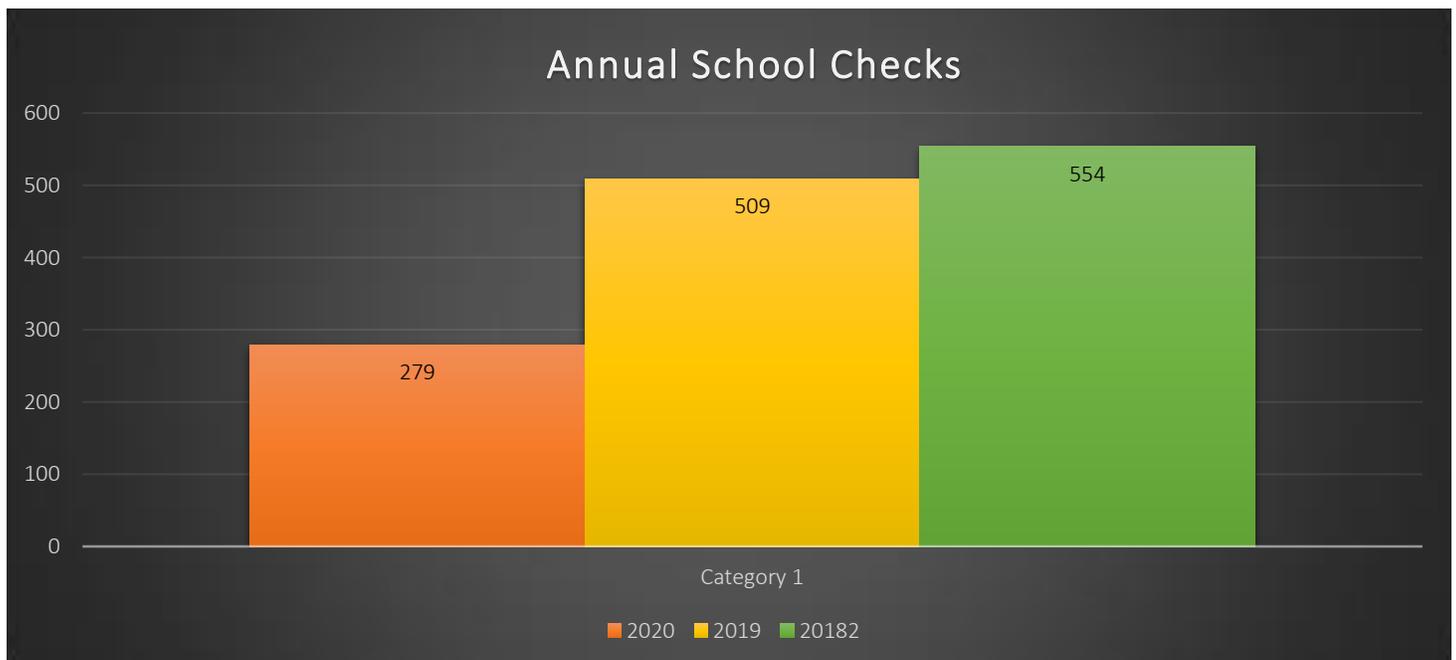


CRIME PREVENTION:

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 2020 Officer's Ben Smith (currently deployed with the Iowa National Guard), and Officer Jeff Criswell, managed the crime prevention duties. As part of our continuing effort to work closely with the various groups and entities of the Grinnell community, we are involved in many coalitions and committees, such as: Grinnell College Parking Committee; Poweshiek County Healthy Choices; Poweshiek County DVA/SAC Coalition; Poweshiek County Sexual Assault Team; Grinnell Chamber of Commerce, and The Poweshiek County Homeless Coalition. 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, Coffee with a Cop. In 2020 the Grinnell Police Department provided approximately 4.5 hours of presentations to approximately 115 participants. This number is significantly reduced from 2019 (75hrs & 1,575 participants) largely due to restrictions and health concerns from the COVID-19 Pandemic.

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 2020 patrol officers spent approximately 279 hours in the 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. Those interested in A.L.I.C.E training should contact Sgt. Chris Wray. Class duration is flexible, from 2-4+ hours depending on scenarios.



ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS AND PROGRAMS

- In 2020 the City of Grinnell experienced its first homicide in 21 years. This tragedy shook our community and our department to the core. In the wake of this tragedy our officers, along with members of the DCI, Jasper County Sheriff's Office, and Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office, overcame incredible adversity in order to quickly take the suspects into custody and restore a sense of security to our community.
- The 17th 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.
- 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. In 2020 the Grinnell Police Department responded to approximately 148 animal related calls for service. We work closely with the Animal Rescue League of Iowa who provides certified Animal Control Officers to assist with investigations. In 2020 we also began a partnership with the Poweshiek Animal League Shelter (PALS) with the handling of stray dogs in Grinnell.
- The Grinnell Police Department is also responsible for Nuisance Vehicle Enforcement. In 2020 13 vehicles were investigated for violation of the nuisance vehicle ordinance. First time offenders are issued a warning, while repeat offenders are generally cited for each subsequent violation.

MOVING FORWARD IN 2021:

It is an honor and privilege to be selected as Grinnell's new Police Chief. This past year has been a challenging one for all of us, starting with a threat of a virus in China, to a video of George Floyd being arrested, both events reverberated throughout the country. The events brought restricted freedoms, lockdowns, protests, riots and cries for social justice and police reform. I immediately realized after being sworn in as the new Chief that a normal transition period wasn't going to happen. I had to accept and embrace the criticisms of our profession, begin rebuilding trust with the community, prioritize strategies, and develop goals on how we will be moving forward as a police department serving its citizens.

Community Policing: This is more than just walking a patrol area and participating in community events. Community Policing is a collaboration with our community partners on public health, education, mental health, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, and other programs not traditionally part of the criminal justice system. We have to find ways to come together, pool our resources and tackle these difficult issues.

Recruiting and Retention: In order to be successful, we must first find the right people and keep the good ones we have. Attracting new recruits and keeping our veteran officers working for a small rural police department is incredibly difficult, especially as most choose to work in better staffed, better paid urban areas. At the beginning of 2021 GPD was fortunate enough to gain three new officers to our force, Ofc. Ozzy Carrillo, Ofc. Holly Coogler, and Ofc. Jonathan Soubayi. These three new officers not only bring diversity into our ranks, but different points of view and experiences to share. We are very fortunate to have them on our team.

Policies and Training: I will continue to look at our current policies, procedures and training. De-escalation, implicit bias, systemic racism, procedural justice, peer intervention, mental illness, and crowd control all became the hot topics of the past year for police. We will have to find ways to conduct this training although it will cause considerable budget shortfalls and create staffing problems for us. Technology will definitely help, but additional resources from within the community will need to be identified and brought to the table. Crisis Intervention Training for my officers is a high priority for me.

Accountability and Transparency: I need to ensure my officers understand the policies and laws that govern their conduct. It's not enough to have solid use of force policies unless the officers understand it, what they can and cannot do. I will hold my officers accountable for their misconduct by a progressive disciplinary model that is fair, timely, consistent, and providing due process. Sharing data is an important function of our department. I will continue to release reports such as this one, along with our annual Bias based policing report, which shows our demographic engagements with the community.

Officer Wellness and Support: Mental health and wellness of our officers, and their families, is a top priority for me. The psychological and emotional consequences from performing their duties cannot be overlooked and they need to feel the commitment and support of the community they serve. We need to ensure our officers are physically, mentally and spiritual capable of doing their best each and every day.

The challenges of the past year were difficult but we showed during times like these we are always willing to come together and persevere for each other. As you can see, a common theme in my goals above is community engagement. I look forward to serving the community of Grinnell in the years to come and making the upcoming year one of our best.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michael A. McClelland
Chief of Police

Meet Chief McClelland

Chief Michael “Mac” McClelland is an Iowa native, born in Des Moines, Iowa where he graduated from East High School in 1986. Chief Mac began his law enforcement career after high school, enlisting in the United States Army, serving as a Military Police officer at Ft. Dix, New Jersey. In 1990 he returned home joining the Iowa Army National Guard and was quickly deployed to support combat operations for Operation Desert Storm, performing POW duties. Chief Mac attended Grand View University and Drake University’s R.O.T.C. program, where he attained his B.S. in Criminal Justice and his commission as an Army Reserve Officer in 1996.



After graduation Chief Mac took a position with the Aurora Police Department, Aurora, Colorado, serving 24 years in numerous positions and duties; *Patrol, FTO, Traffic, Patrol Sergeant, Police Area Representative/ Foot Patrol Sergeant, Traffic Investigations Sergeant, Lieutenant/Watch Commander, Traffic Section Commander, Honor Guard Commander, Awards Board Chairman, Training Section Commander, Investigative Support Section Commander and Force Review Board member.*



Chief Mac continued his military service in the Iowa and Colorado Army National Guard, deploying to combat in 2003-2004 for Operation Iraqi Freedom, and again in 2010-2011 to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. Chief Mac retired from military service in 2012 at the rank of Major.

Chief McClelland has been married to his wife Mindy, also an Iowa native from Charles City, Iowa, since 1997. They have three children Mikey, Max and MacKenzie.