



City of **Upper Arlington**



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Upper Arlington
POLICE DIVISION



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chief's Message	3
Agency Overview	5
By The Numbers	6
Operations Bureau	8
Staff & Investigative Bureau	10
Support Services Bureau	11
Training	12
Community Relations	13
Awards & Accomplishments	15
Promotions & New Hires	17
Statistics	18
Internal Affairs	20

MISSION STATEMENT

"In the spirit of partnership and service to the community, the Upper Arlington Police Division shall embody Integrity, Dedication, Compassion, and Excellence while working to protect the constitutional rights and freedoms for all and maintaining public trust in the law and those that uphold it."



We are very proud to share with you this 2023 annual report. Each year we face new challenges, and 2023 was no different. Our staff was reunited in our remodeled Police Headquarters at the Municipal Services Center, Chief Steve Farmer retired, and we added several new staff members to our team.

We moved into our new headquarters in the spring of 2023. The new building, while maintaining the same footprint, made improved use of the space, while modernizing the functionality and appearance. We appreciate the support we received from the City Manager's Office, the Upper Arlington community, and City Council in making this project successful.

Our sworn Crime Analyst retired in April of 2023 and was replaced by a civilian Crime Analyst, who hit the ground running and expanded the position to support police efforts to address crime and safety in Upper Arlington. Our Property Custodian position was also civilianized, filled by a retired officer, who also continues to serve as a reserve officer. In May, the division hired a new Professional Standards Coordinator to manage the division's accreditation efforts and division policy. Additionally, we were proud to onboard four new police officers.

At the Upper Arlington Police Division, our focus is always on serving our community. We continue to focus on the council-commissioned CPSM study recommendations. We made great strides in progress during 2023, including adding civilianized positions, reorganizing civilian staff duties, implementing a shift-review committee, and transitioning training file management to administrative staff in an electronic document management system. We continue to work to implement strategies to more efficiently and holistically manage employee field training, internal affairs investigations, and employee wellness.

As you review this report, you will see that the Upper Arlington Police Division, in partnership with our community, successfully kept the city safe for everyone. In 2023, the Police Division continued its partnership with the DEA taskforce, which seized over \$12 million in cocaine, \$38 million in marijuana, and \$184 million in methamphetamines. Robberies remained low at only 4 incidents for the year. Theft offenses were down from 376 to 310. Officer enforcement actions increased in all areas of arrest, including a 20% increase in adult arrests and a 35% increase in OVI arrests.

In early 2024, I was promoted to Chief of Police for the division, and I am honored to continue to serve this great city. My goals as your chief are to be directly involved in our community, maintain transparent operations, and keep our city safe. As always, we enjoy our partnership with such a great community and we appreciate your continued support. On behalf of the Upper Arlington Police Division, it is with great pride that I present the 2023 annual report. This report contains information concerning the division's organizational structure and statistical information highlighting some of our successes and activities throughout the year.

2023 COMMAND STAFF



Chief of Police
Steve Farmer
***Retired in February 2024*



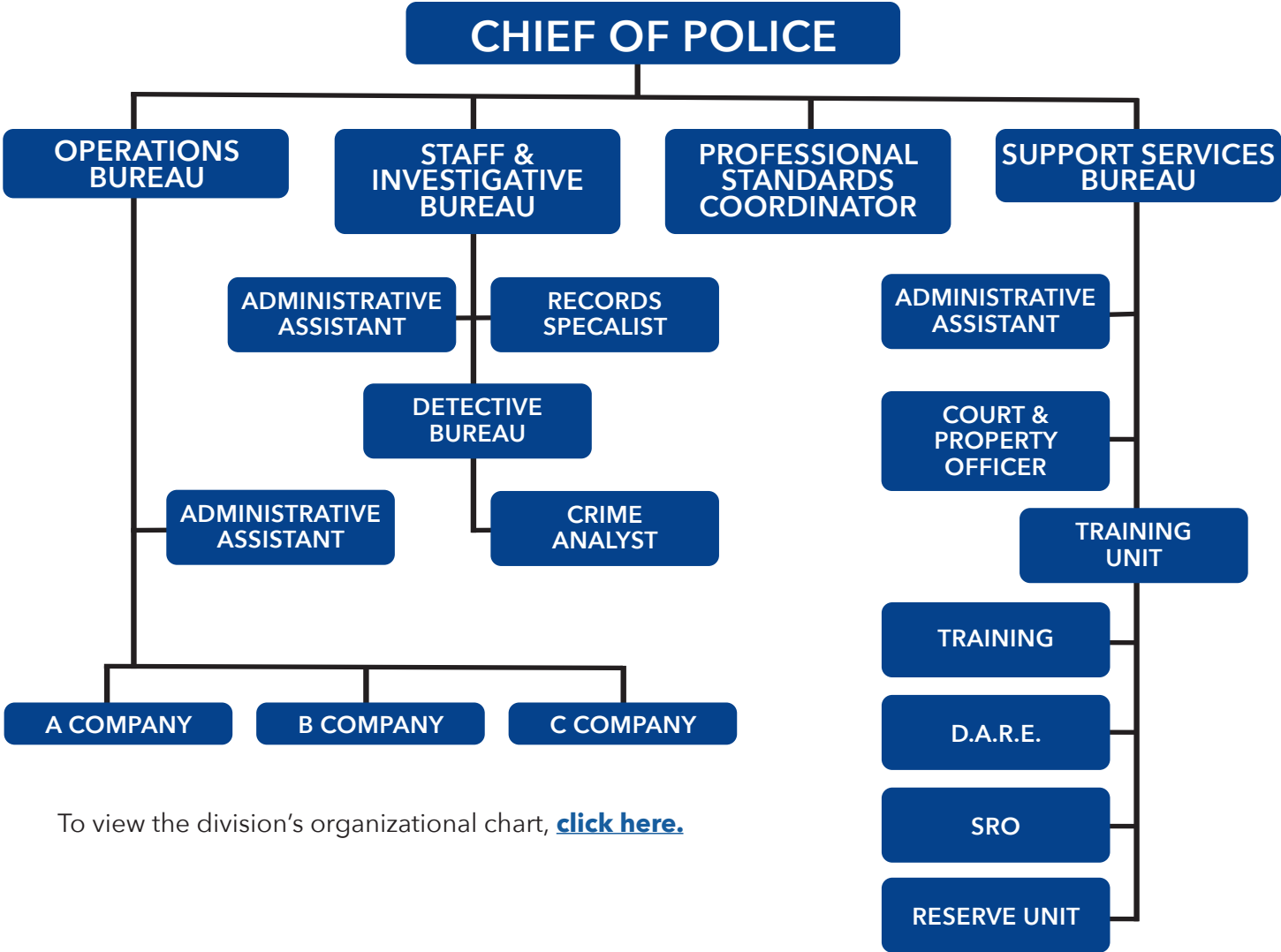
Operations Bureau
Lieutenant Branden Staiger



Staff & Investigative Bureau
Lieutenant Jason Messer



Support Services Bureau
Lieutenant Keith Hall
***Promoted to Chief in April 2024*



To view the division’s organizational chart, [click here.](#)

GENERAL

The Upper Arlington Police Division, located at 3600 Tremont Road (at the intersection of Tremont and Kenny Roads), provides 24-hour service and is an integral part of developing and maintaining a safe and secure community through the cooperative efforts of many departments and community organizations. The division proudly provides a wide range of police services and programs to residents, visitors and members of the business community.

STAFFING

The division is staffed by 53 sworn officers who are professionally trained and certified by the State of Ohio; and, by law, are also declared to be law enforcement officers of the State and conservators of the peace with the authority to arrest. In addition to sworn staff, there are six full-time and one part-time civilian staff members who provide other support to the division’s operations.

AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL	2020	2021	2022	2023
Full-Time Budgeted	57.0	58.0	59	59
Full-Time Equivalent	1.56	0.50	0.50	0.50
Total	58.16	58.5	59.5	59.5

*The City of Upper Arlington is an equal opportunity employer.

PROPERTY ROOM

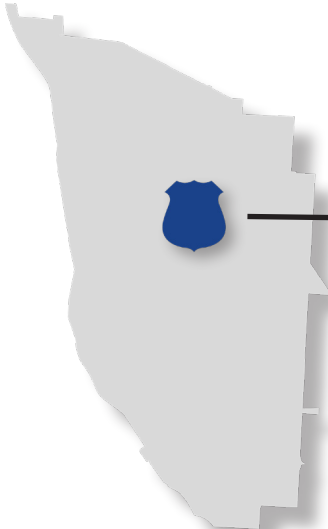
The property room is overseen by our property room custodian who ensures all items taken in by the Police Division are properly accounted for and that the division adheres to nationally accredited standards. Those principles are ensured by both a scheduled annual audit and unannounced audits of the evidence on hand. In 2023, no irregularities were found in any of these audits.

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

The Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC), a Division of the Dublin Police Department, provides 24-hour coverage for all emergency and non-emergency communications between the public and Police and Fire divisions.

HOLDING FACILITY

The Police Division operates a temporary and court holding facility which is audited and approved by the Ohio Bureau of Adult Detention and inspected by the Franklin County Health Department.



36,295

Population Served

9.82

Square Miles in Service Area

1927

Year Established

Police Headquarters

3600 Tremont Road, Upper Arlington

How to Reach Upper Arlington Police

Emergencies | Dial 911

Non-Emergencies | 614-459-2800

BY THE NUMBERS



8,689
Traffic Stops



378
Crash Reports



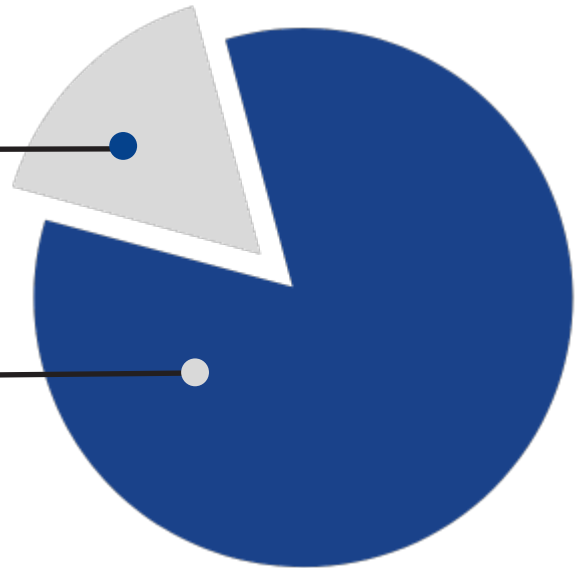
354
Cases Investigated

OPERATING BUDGET

\$10.74 Million budgeted by City Council for use by the Police Division

\$1.77 Million
Supplies and Services

\$8.96 Million
Personnel



40,405

Calls for service responded to in 2023 by the Upper Arlington Police Division



CALLS BY THE DAY OF WEEK

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5,251	5,572	5,850	5,914	6,204	6,179	5,435



197

Third Shift Open Door Calls



140

Impounded Vehicles



16

Field Interviews



OPERATIONS BUREAU



Lieutenant Branden Staiger

Patrol Officers | Patrol Sergeants | Special Events Planning

About the Bureau

The Patrol Section is divided into three, non-rotating shifts providing emergency and non-emergency law enforcement response including crash investigations, traffic control, and keeping the peace for citizens 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Twenty-seven officers are assigned across three shifts, each shift with two supervisory Patrol Sergeants. Logistical planning for special events is handled by the Operations Bureau Lieutenant.

2023 Highlights

- Officers responded to a home where an individual with a history of behavioral health issues and escalating family conflicts was armed and agitated. They provided support, helping him calm down, and eventually, he agreed to be transported to a hospital for medical assistance.
- Officers responded to a man threatening suicide who claimed to be armed at home with his children. They found him unarmed in the driveway and restrained him for safety. The children were unharmed, and a loaded shotgun was found in the kitchen.
- Officers stopped a driver for expired registration, who admitted to having marijuana in the vehicle. A search uncovered 432.5 grams of marijuana, paraphernalia, and drug trafficking materials. The suspect confessed to drug trafficking and provided phone access, revealing video evidence of drug sales.



Coffee with a Cop



Pumpkin Patrol

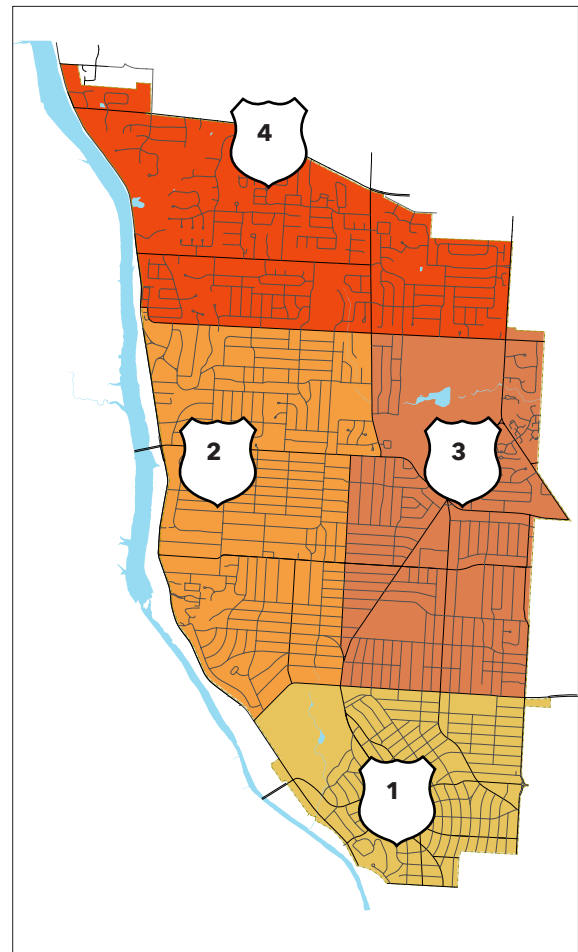
CITY OF UPPER ARLINGTON POLICE DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 1: Bordered by Lane Avenue to the north, 5th Avenue and King Avenue on the south, Riverside Drive on the west, and North Star Road on the east.

DISTRICT 2: Bordered by Lane Avenue to the south, McCoy Road to the north, Riverside Drive on the west, and Reed Road/Redding Road to the east.

DISTRICT 3: Bordered by Lane Avenue to the south, McCoy Road to the north, Reed Road/Redding Road on the west, and North Star Road to the east.

DISTRICT 4: Bordered by McCoy Road to the south, Riverside Drive to the west, Bethel Road/Henderson Road on the north, and Kenny Road to the east.





Lieutenant Jason Messer

Task Forces | Detective Unit | Crime Analysis | Records

About the Bureau

The Staff & Investigative Bureau Lieutenant oversees the Criminal Investigations Section (CIS), which includes crimes against persons, crimes against property, juvenile crimes and vice/narcotics/intelligence. Record specialists are responsible for central records function and compiling and maintaining various reports.

2023 Highlights

- A male suspect robbed a local bank where they stole \$75,000. Investigations revealed the suspects were also responsible for multiple bank robberies across the greater Columbus metro area, as well as other crimes such as motor vehicle thefts. The case was transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). One suspect was killed in a shootout with officers, while the other was apprehended in Chicago, attempting to flee the country.
- An elderly victim was scammed out of \$276,300 after clicking on a pop-up ad. Over multiple interactions, the scammers gained her trust by pretending to fix her computer issues. The victim withdrew several thousand dollars at a time and handed it to an unknown ride-share driver. This case is still unsolved and highlights the risks of serious financial fraud via confidence schemes.



SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU



Lieutenant Keith Hall

***Promoted to Chief of Police in April 2024*

**Accreditation | Training Unit | Community Relations Unit
Court Liaison Officer | Holding Facility | Property Room**

About the Bureau

The Support Services Bureau Lieutenant oversees the Professional Standards Coordinator who is responsible for maintaining the division's accredited status. The Training Unit plans, develops and conducts training programs and is responsible for overseeing the Reserve Program. The Community Relations Unit offers a variety of safety-related and crime prevention programming to the community. The holding facility is used to hold prisoners/detainees, and undergoes an annual state inspection. The property room provides a secure storage location for property and evidence. The Court Liaison Officer serves as Bailiff during Upper Arlington Mayor's Court and attends hearings in Franklin County courts on behalf of Upper Arlington police officers.

The division maintains accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The Police Division began the year with the Support Services Lieutenant as the Accreditation Manager of Record. The administrative staff who had previously assisted the bureau with accreditation activities was vacated in 2022 and those services were provided by a consultant from July 2022 to May 2023, when the Police Division hired a new Professional Standards Coordinator to oversee agency accreditation activities and Policy coordination. In November 2023, the division incurred its year 3 compliance review, in which no deficiencies were noted. This function was reorganized in 2024 and now reports directly to the Chief of Police.



TRAINING

The Upper Arlington Police Training Unit is comprised of one Sergeant and three ancillary cross-trained officers who assist the training Sergeant in specific areas of training. The Training Sergeant coordinates all required and elective training for both sworn and civilian personnel. In 2023, officers received pistol, shotgun, rifle, and non-lethal weapons training along with our annual firearm qualification at the indoor and outdoor shooting ranges. In addition, our training personnel provided joint training at the outdoor range with several other law enforcement agencies.

The Training Unit conducts in-service and roll-call training for officers in order to cover topics such as use-of-force, vehicle pursuits, administering Naloxone, our UA CARES Program, and training on interactions with emotionally disturbed or mentally ill individuals. Each quarter the Training Unit provides instruction on topics such as firearms, hazardous materials, use-of-force and non-lethal weapons, trauma-informed policing, and the practical application of force. Scenario-based training that incorporates de-escalation techniques and addresses implicit bias is also conducted each year.

TRAINING HOURS

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Hours Per Employee	85.72	42.33	94.91	100.1	72
TOTALS	5,229	2,540	5,948	6,206	4,730



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Police Division's Community Relations function is overseen by the Training Sergeant, who is the primary point of contact for crime prevention educational programs and training. The Training Sergeant works closely with patrol officers, the D.A.R.E. officer, school resource officers (SRO), and investigators to utilize and effectively deploy resources and information to members of the greater Upper Arlington community.

The Police Division has several different types of safety programs designed to meet the needs of all groups and demographics in the community. These programs include the Personal and Home Security Safety series, Safety Town, DARE, and Citizen's Police Academy. Additionally, there are several specialized programs for businesses and organizations in the community, which include Financial Institution Robbery Response procedures, workplace violence prevention programs, building security surveys, cyber-security, fraud awareness and prevention, and active threat training. Some of these programs are scheduled to run at set intervals while others are scheduled at the request of any business or community group.

ACTIVE THREAT TRAINING

This program enhances current security protocols at schools, businesses, organizations, churches, and government locations. By teaching students what to do, before, during, and after an active threat situation. Students learn how to recognize the pre-incident indicators of violence to prevent an incident. They learn what to do during an event to mitigate the loss of life and finally what to do after the event to help start the healing process.

CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY

The Police Division continues to maintain the Citizen Police Academy which gives residents an inside look at how police officers are selected, trained, and work in their community. This 10-week program exposes participants to a wide variety of topics from traffic stops, search and seizure law, use of force, etc.

D.A.R.E.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) is a drug prevention program presented to students in fifth and eighth grades. Seven elementary and two middle schools in Upper Arlington participate in the program, which teaches students about making good choices. This decision-making model is used to help students navigate the dangers of drugs and avoid substance abuse issues. The program also includes an anti-bullying section that leverages the same model to help students make good choices with respect to their classmates.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION ROBBERY PREVENTION TRAINING

The Upper Arlington Police Division offers free robbery prevention training to all financial institutions within the City. The Community Relations Officer coordinates with all bank branches throughout the City to discuss robbery prevention and safety. In addition, bank employees are advised of police policies on actual robberies and false alarms. This allows standardization of emergency procedures among the different organizations.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

HOME ALONE AND PERSONAL SAFETY

This personal safety and awareness course is taught to all ages. Students learn how to deal with safety issues at home, in public places, and while using the internet. Age appropriate skills are presented to increase students' awareness and confidence as they grow and mature.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME WATCH

The Neighborhood Crime Watch Program enlists the active participation of citizens to work with law enforcement to reduce crimes in their community. Citizens are trained by the Crime Prevention/Community Relations Officer on how to protect their property and themselves. These citizens act as the eyes and ears of the Police Division. The Upper Arlington Neighborhood Watch Program consists of numerous active Watch Groups.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COLLECTION UNIT

The Upper Arlington Police Division hosts two Prescription Drug Take Back Days annually at Fire Station #72 on Reed Road. Once all contributions are collected, they are transferred from our Division to the Detroit Field Office of the Drug Enforcement Agency.

SAFETY TOWN

Safety Town is a personal safety program designed to fit the needs of children ages five and six, and addresses common safety concerns voiced by parents. The summertime program, in partnership with Upper Arlington Parks & Recreation Department, focuses on topics that include the use of 9-1-1, fire safety, stranger safety, school bus safety, poison safety, animal safety, and water safety. Over 600 students attend this program that is hosted at Greensview Elementary School.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The School Resource Officer (SRO) program places officers in schools with the goal of providing security and forging relationships during non-crisis interactions. The SROs work with Upper Arlington school teachers and administrators establishing communication between the schools and the division. Part of this process involves investigating crimes that are committed during school hours and on school property. SROs also assist with planning, crime prevention programs, and overall school security. Most importantly, SROs are interacting with students on a daily basis, during periods of non-crisis, which allows officers and students to forge positive relationships.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Upper Arlington Police Division continues to use X, formerly known as Twitter, to publish information to citizens and local new outlets, disseminating safety information as quickly as possible and sharing updates about police services and programs.

YOUTH AND THE LAW

This program is taught in the seventh grade and focuses on helping youth make safe and responsible choices by understanding their rights and the laws in Upper Arlington.





AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Civilian of the Year
Laura Conaway



Officer of the Year
Detective Andy Wuertz
***Photo Unavailable Due to Sensitive Assignment*

AWARDS OF THE YEAR

Ace Award: Joseph Kelly

Exceptional Performance: Adam Ankrom, Emily Beard, Timothy Brandt, Mitchell Fowler, Jesse Hendershot, Alexander Mason, Bryan McKean, Jason Stansberry, Kyle Yoho

Meritorious Service Medal: Jason Stansberry

OVI Award: Adam Ankrom

Physical Fitness Award: Adam Ankrom, Todd Bartson, Emily Beard, Ryan Belleman, Brian Daron, Mitchell Fowler, John Greene, Jesse Hendershot, Daniel Jones, Kyle Kayser, Joseph Kelly, Harrison Levan, Joshua Luke, Ryan Martin, Jason Messer, Joshua Mullett, Matthew Petty, Mark Phillips, Zachary Sorosiak, Michele Sussi, Andy Wuertz, Nickolas Yocham

Police Chief's Commendations: Adam Ankrom, Emily Beard, Travis Goodman, Mitchell Fowler, Jesse Hendershot, Mark Phillips, Kyle Yoho, Daniel Zagaria, Citizen Police Academy Alumni Susan Scharenberg

Safe Driving Award: Todd Bartson, Daniel Jones, Jason Messer, Joshua Mullett, Brandon Rees, Branden Staiger

RETIREMENTS

Officer Ron Ewell | January 2023
**Remains with the Police Division as a part-time civilian Property Technician and reserve officer*

Officer Karena Wilka, Crime Analyst | April 2023

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

***Not all months will have an officer awarded if no nominations for commendation are completed.*



January
Adam Ankrom



January
Jovan Glass



February
Alexander Mason



March
Timothy Brandt



March
Jovan Glass



April
Kyle Yoho



June
Emily Beard



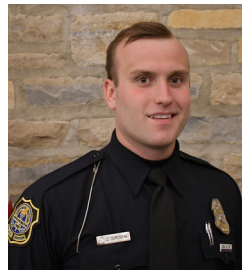
July
Christopher Bibler



July
Emmanuel Boamah



August
Timothy Brandt



September
Zachary Sorosiak



November
Daniel Zagaria



November
Jesse Hendershot



November
Mitchell Fowler



November
Kyle Yoho



November
Mark Phillips

PROMOTIONS



Sergeant Branden Staiger was promoted in March to Lieutenant



Officer Matthew Walker was promoted in March to Sergeant

NEW HIRES



Spencer O'Gara was hired in April as the Crime & Intelligence Analyst



Lynn Odenthal was hired in May as the Professional Standards Coordinator



Abigail Wenger was hired in August as a patrol officer



Mason Morris was hired in August as a patrol officer



Alexia Gorsuch was hired in December as a patrol officer



Ricardo Felix was hired in December as a patrol officer

USE OF FORCE

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Use of Force Incidents	0	3	4	7
Total Custodial Arrests	383	468	529	637
Weaponless Force	0	8	12	5
Strikes	0	0	0	0
Baton Restraints	0	0	0	0
Chemical Irritants	0	0	0	0
Taser	0	0	0	0
Baton Strikes	0	0	0	0
Deadly Force	0	0	0	0
Officers Involved	0	8	4	7
Types of Force Reported <i>*Can be multiple uses of force out of one use of incident</i>				
Use of Force by Suspect Gender				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Male	0	3	3	7
% Male	0	100	75	100
Female	0	0	1	0
% Female	0	0	25	0
Use of Force by Suspect Race				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
White	0	1	0	5
Black	0	2	1	2
Hispanic	0	0	3	0
Asian	0	0	0	0
Indian	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0
Use of Force by Suspect Age				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Under 18	0	0	0	1
18-25	0	1	1	1
26-30	0	0	1	1
31-35	0	0	0	1
36-40	0	1	0	0
41-45	0	0	1	0
46-50	0	1	1	1
50+	0	0	0	1

Injury to Suspect				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Minor Physical Injury	0	1	2	1
Serious Physical Injury	0	0	0	0
Claimed Injury	0	0	0	0
No Injury	0	2	2	5
Injury to Officers				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Minor Physical Injury	0	2	2	2
Serious Physical Injury	0	0	0	0
Claimed Injury	0	0	0	0
No Injury	0	6	8	5

NOTE: All instances of use of force undergo a thorough internal investigation—including a review of evidence, audio/video recordings and interviews with participants and witnesses—to ensure that measures taken by officers were objectively reasonable based on each situation.

Over a period of three years, instances of use of force represent 0.0002 percent of the division’s calls for service. For additional details, [click here](#) to view the division’s three-year Use of Force analysis.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION - COLUMBUS OFFICE TASK FORCE

Type of Drug	Preferred Unit of Measure	Drug Amount	Estimated Street Value	Drug Amount	Estimated Street Value
		2022	2022	2023	2023
Cocaine	grams	137,610	\$4,310,908.47	60,331.26	\$12,066,252
Crack	grams	N/A	N/A	55.29	\$11,058
Heroin	grams	12,720	\$574,676.88	1,765.70	\$353,140
Marijuana (processed)	pounds	1,387,220	\$6,865,833.50	952,370,368.90	\$38,094,814,756
Methamphetamine	grams	133,170	\$706,733.19	3,075,221.79	\$184,513,307.40
Fentanyl	grams	116,400	\$4,731,543.60	38,360.85	\$1,534,434
THC	unit doses	N/A	N/A	1,344	\$94,080
Psilocybin Mushrooms	grams	N/A	N/A	149.50	\$533.72
Prescription Medications	unit doses	N/A	N/A	3,106	N/A

	2022	2023
Seized Firearms	93	48

REPORTED OFFENSES

Part I Crime	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Arson	1	0	1	0	2
Aggravated Assault	1	0	3	5	3
Auto Theft	21	15	36	37	31
Burglary	59	47	33	25	29
Homicide	1	0	1	0	0
Rape	2	3	5	1	1
Robbery	8	8	10	4	4
Theft	369	327	264	376	310
TOTALS	462	400	353	448	380
Part II Crimes	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Assault	23	8	19	28	38
Criminal Damage/ Vandalism	58	68	33	57	60
Criminal Mischief	14	11	9	10	7
Domestic Dispute	37	39	37	22	32
Domestic Violence	18	11	10	10	13
Drug Abuse	58	125	167	170	119
Fraud/Forgery	205	202	264	296	133
Missing Person	5	14	14	7	10
Sex Offenses*	6	6	7	7	1
Telecommunications Harassment	26	27	23	12	36
TOTALS	450	511	583	619	449

*Not including rape

NOTE: Adjustments in data collection and analysis methods took effect for the Year 2019, due to the City's partnership with the Northwest Regional Emergency Communications Center (NRECC) for 911/dispatching services and the addition of a Crime Analyst position. As a result, some prior year data reflected in the division's annual reports differs from subsequent data analysis records produced by the division.

ARRESTS

	2021	2022	2023
Adult	468	529	637
Juvenile	59	22	48
OVI	108	70	109

ENFORCEMENT ACTION DEMOGRAPHICS

Race	Citations	%	Arrests*	%	Field Interviews	%	Warnings	%
White	1,450	59%	344	54%	15	94%	3,620	67%
Black	568	23%	266	42%	1	6%	1,212	23%
Hispanic	231	9%	20	3%	0	0%	172	3%
Asian/Pacific Islander	195	8%	7	1%	0	0%	286	5%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	10	1%
Unknown	28	1%	0	0%	0	0%	81	1%
TOTALS	2,472	100%	637	100%	16	100%	5,381	100%

*These numbers reflect individuals cited, not how many charges were filed.

TRAFFIC STATISTICS

Accident Summary	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Accident Total (a+b=c)					
a. Fatal	0	0	1	0	0
b. Personal Injury	65	50	53	66	67
c. Property Damage	382	308	277	278	311
d. Involving Juveniles	30	24	32	34	39
e. Pedestrians Injured	2	2	3	4	3
f. Private Property	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	43

For additional details, [click here](#) to view the division's **Bias-Based Review** analysis.

EXTERNAL COMPLAINTS

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Citizen Complaint	0	0	0	0
Sustained	0	0	0	0
Not Sustained	0	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	0	0
Exonerated	0	0	0	0

INTERNAL COMPLAINTS

	2020	2021	2022	2023
Directed Complaint	6	3	3	7
Sustained	3	2	1	1
Not Sustained	1	1	2	3
Unfounded	0	0	0	2
Exonerated	0	0	0	1