



RICHMOND HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Striving to be the gold standard of policing

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A Message from the Chief

Our police department has a vision to be a national model of excellence and we regularly promote the theme “Striving to be the Gold Standard.” In 2020, we came closer to being that national standard. Our youth outreach efforts continued in earnest and our agency was recognized by the Ohio Association of Chiefs of Police as the July Agency of the Month in their “Sharing Ohio’s Best” program. Also, the Ohio Attorney General David Yost highlighted our department’s youth outreach efforts in their 2021 Winter “On the Job Criminal Justice Update” newsletter. This newsletter has an extensive statewide outreach and our hope is that other agencies will follow our lead.

In 2020, we surveyed our community about our service and 76% rated it as excellent and 16% as good. We also surveyed the parents of our school children and when queried on the current level of trust with the students, 25% rated it as very good and 55% as good.

We hired 2 part time police officers and 1 records clerk. We also added an auxiliary police officer. We started a new Chaplain program and added 4 chaplains from our Richmond Heights community. After a lot of fundraising, we were able to add a new K-9 named Bolt. Five of our police officers were recognized for completing 25 years of service with our agency. They were Officer Marc Davis, Detective Steve Molle, Sergeant Rick Olexa, Sergeant Todd Leisure, and Lieutenant Denise DeBiase. We also recognized two Auxiliary Police Officers for 30 years of service. They were Lieutenant Gary Janikovics and Captain Mark Hoageson.

Three important pieces of safety legislation were passed during 2020. One was about cell phone use while driving, another involved prohibiting vape devices for juveniles, and one involving securing firearms.

We redesigned our cruiser logo for a more minimalist, modern look. A Public Safety Recruitment program was developed with the Fire Department. This collaborative pilot program will try to attract good candidates for police officers and firefighters/paramedics and build diversity within both agencies.

A community policing culture continues to take shape within our organization. In February we co-sponsored a skate with a cop event with the Euclid Police Department. It was a fun experience that attracted close to 200 participants per the ice rink staff. We also had three Coffee with a Cop events. Our social media outreach has been valuable in building familiarity and trust within our community.

A major challenge in 2020 was our response to the Covid-19 pandemic. A cleaner work environment and the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) along with changes to our service model were some of our responses to help protect our personnel and our customers. We began taking complaints over the phone and initiated an on-line reporting option for certain types of calls.

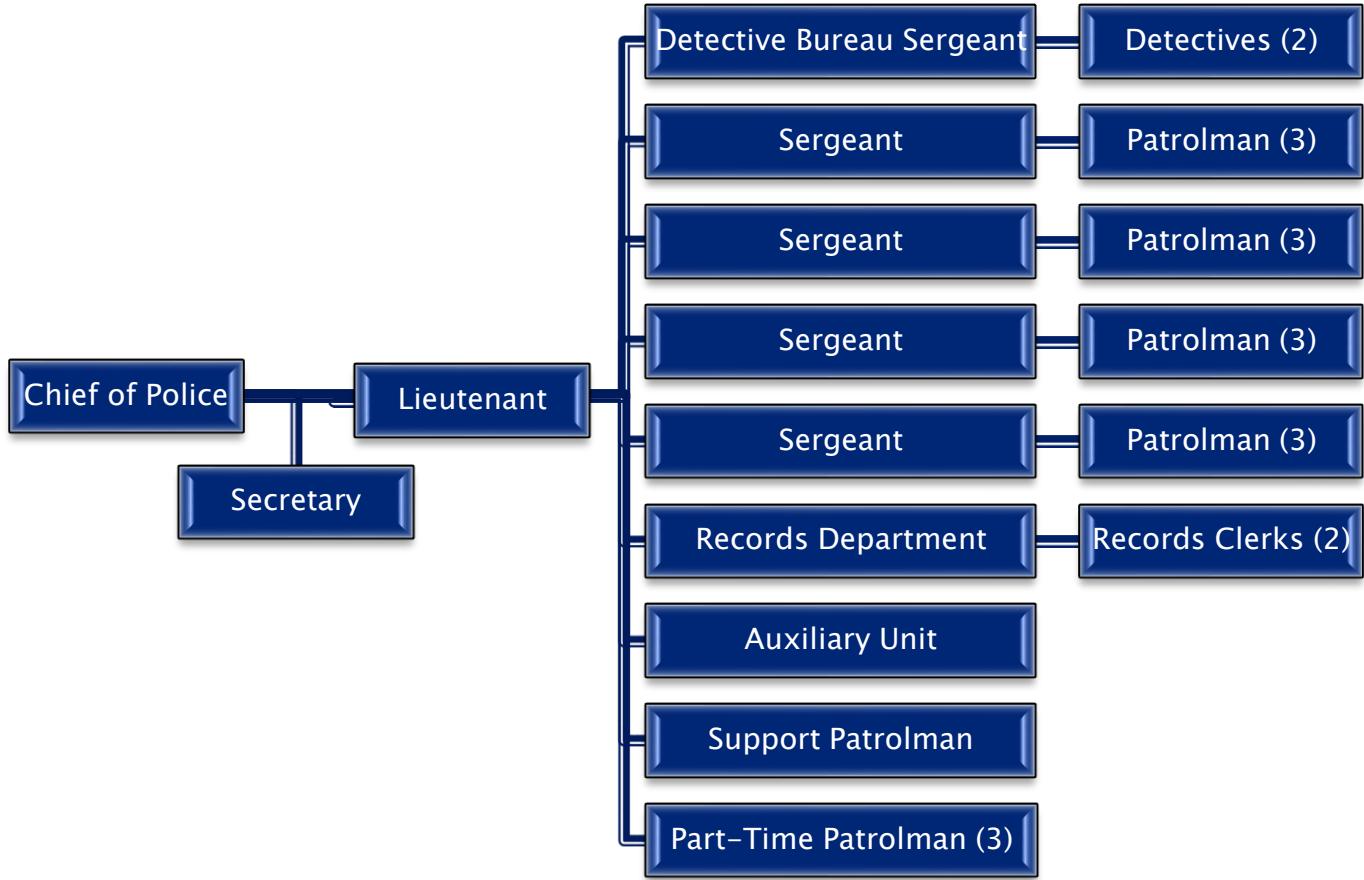
A special highlight during 2020 occurred on November 11 when Officer Jonathan Ross helped deliver a baby. It received national and international attention as the story was covered in Columbia.

Building stronger bridges of trust with those we serve and the self-actualization of our personnel will be a primary focus in 2021. I believe our vision and efforts will provide a national blueprint for excellence as we strive to be Gold Standard of American Policing.

Chief Thomas Wetzel

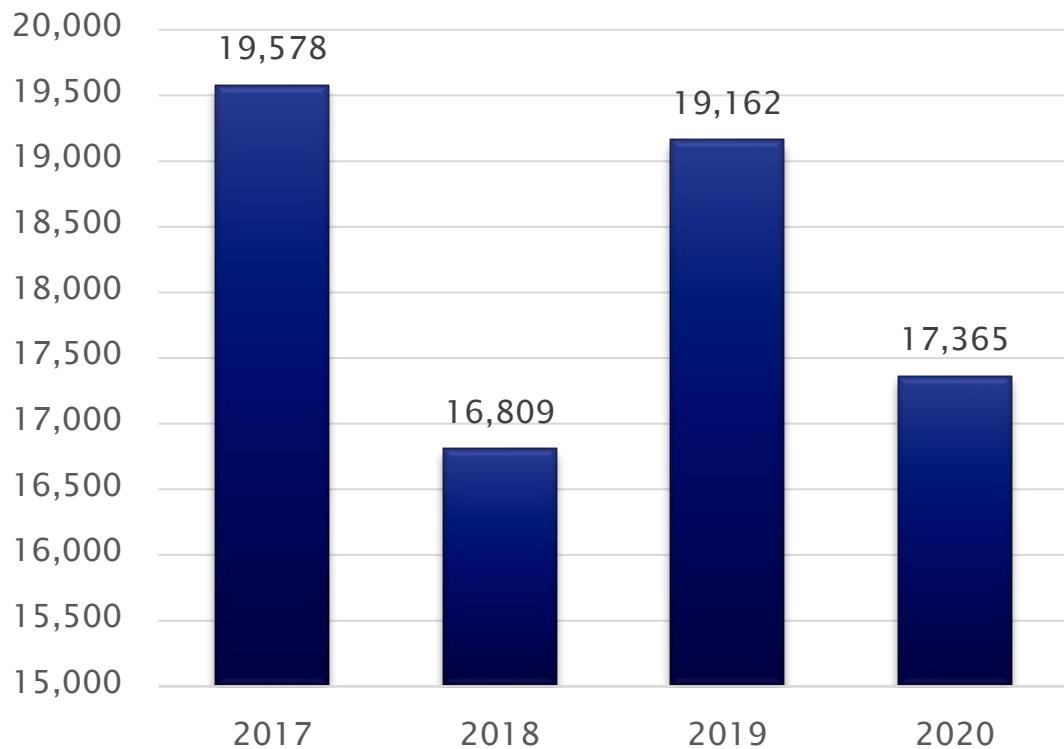


Organizational Chart



Calls for Service

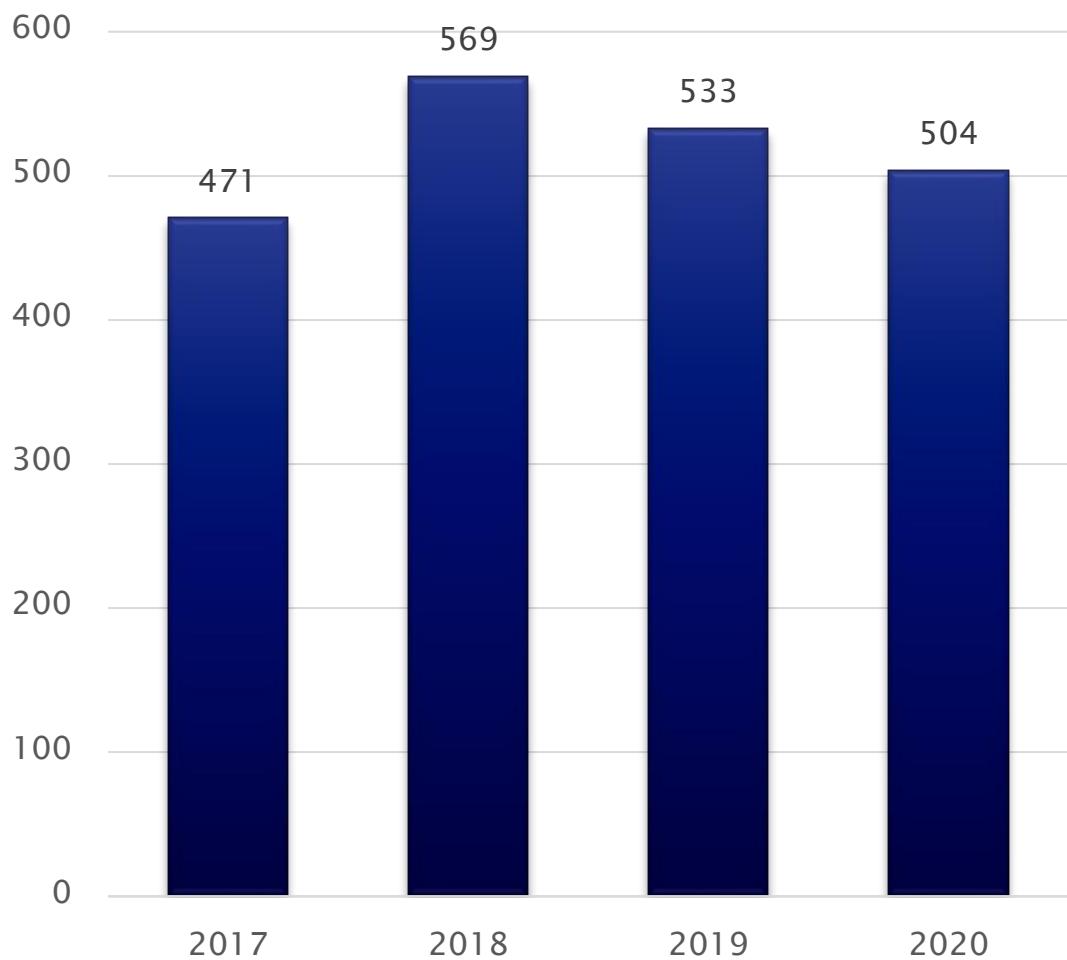
There were 17,365 calls for service in 2020 as compared to 19,162 in 2019. Each time dispatch receives a call for an officer to respond to an incident a call for service is generated.



Overall Crime

<u>Crimes</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Homicide	0	3	2	1
Rape	0	4	3	3
Robbery	17	16	11	5
Assault (Aggravated)	9	9	6	10
Burglary	37	46	34	16
Attempted Burglary	5	1	5	2
Larceny	141	134	135	124
Auto Theft	28	25	35	30
Assault	12	30	27	31
Arson	0	2	3	2
Forgery	5	1	3	3
Fraud	52	68	92	61
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0
Receiving Stolen Property	8	7	5	10
Vandalism / Criminal Damage	52	58	38	63
Illegal Use of Weapons	6	9	17	24
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Other Sex Offenses	3	11	11	7
Drugs	29	39	45	45
Gambling	0	0	0	0
Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence	27	35	35	26
State Liquor Law Violation	12	21	4	20
Public Intoxication	6	12	5	2
Disorderly Conduct	22	38	17	19
Total	471	569	533	504

Overall Crime

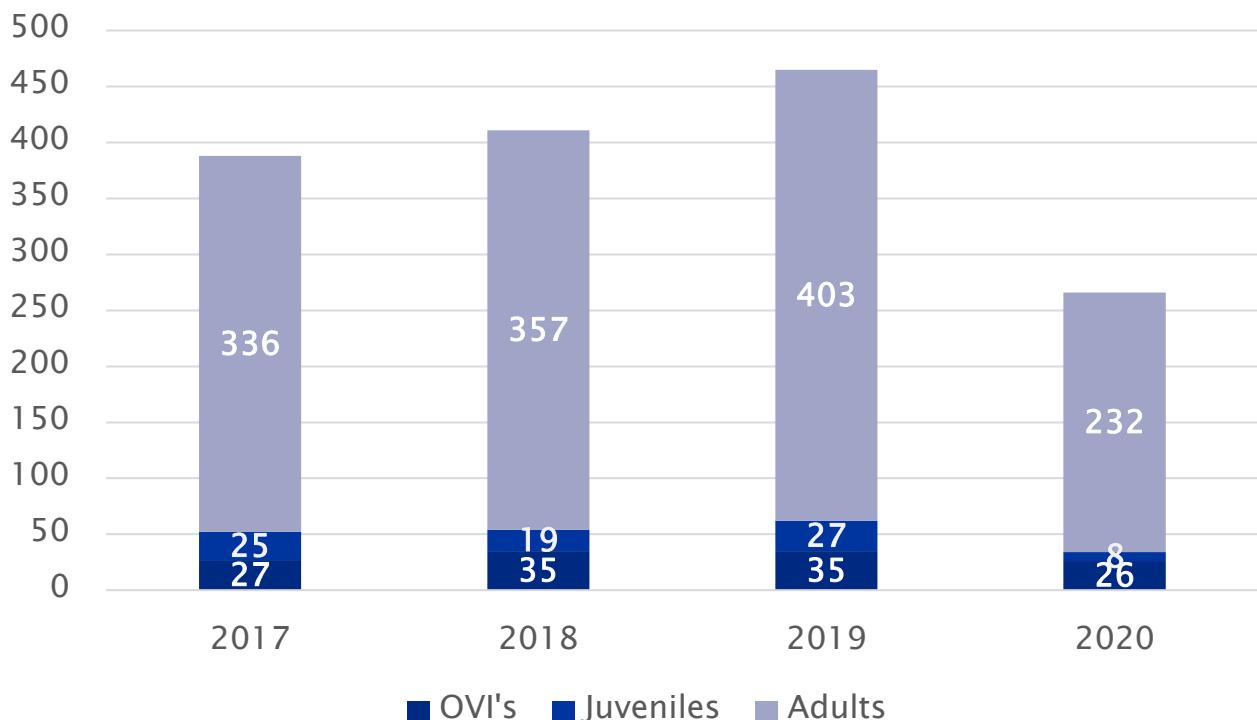


Arrests

Adult Arrests: Total number of adult arrests in 2020 was 232 compared to 403 in 2019.

Juvenile Arrests: Total number juvenile arrests in 2020 was 8 compared to 27 in 2019.

OVIs Arrests: Total of OVIs arrests in 2020 was 26 compared to 35 in 2019.



Jail Statistics

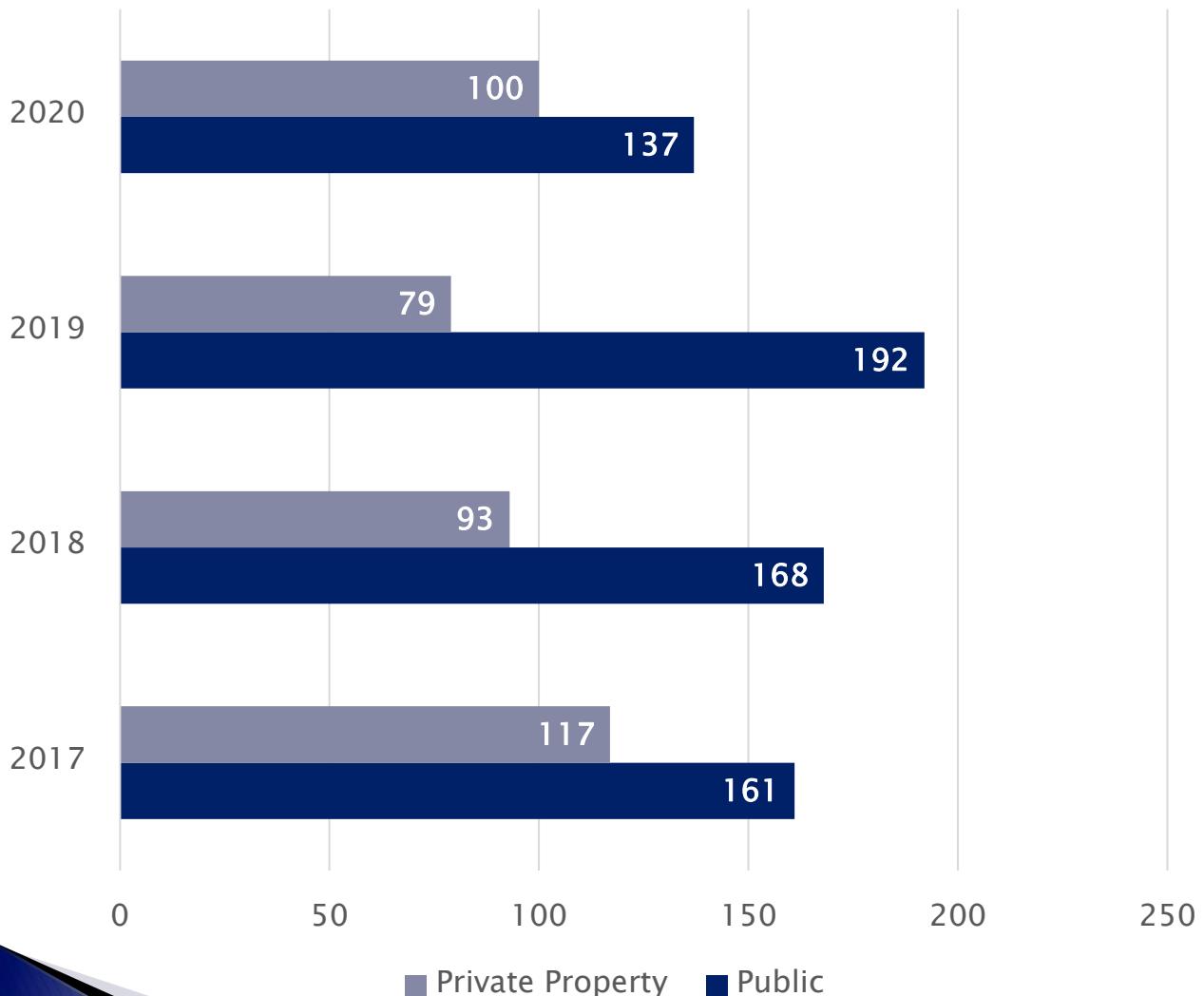
- Daily Average number of Inmates = 2.7
- Average Length of Confinement = 2.5 days

- Inmate Characteristics
 - Felony = 32
 - Misdemeanor = 200
 - Male = 168
 - Female = 64

Accidents

Private property accidents increased from 79 in 2019 to 100 in 2020.

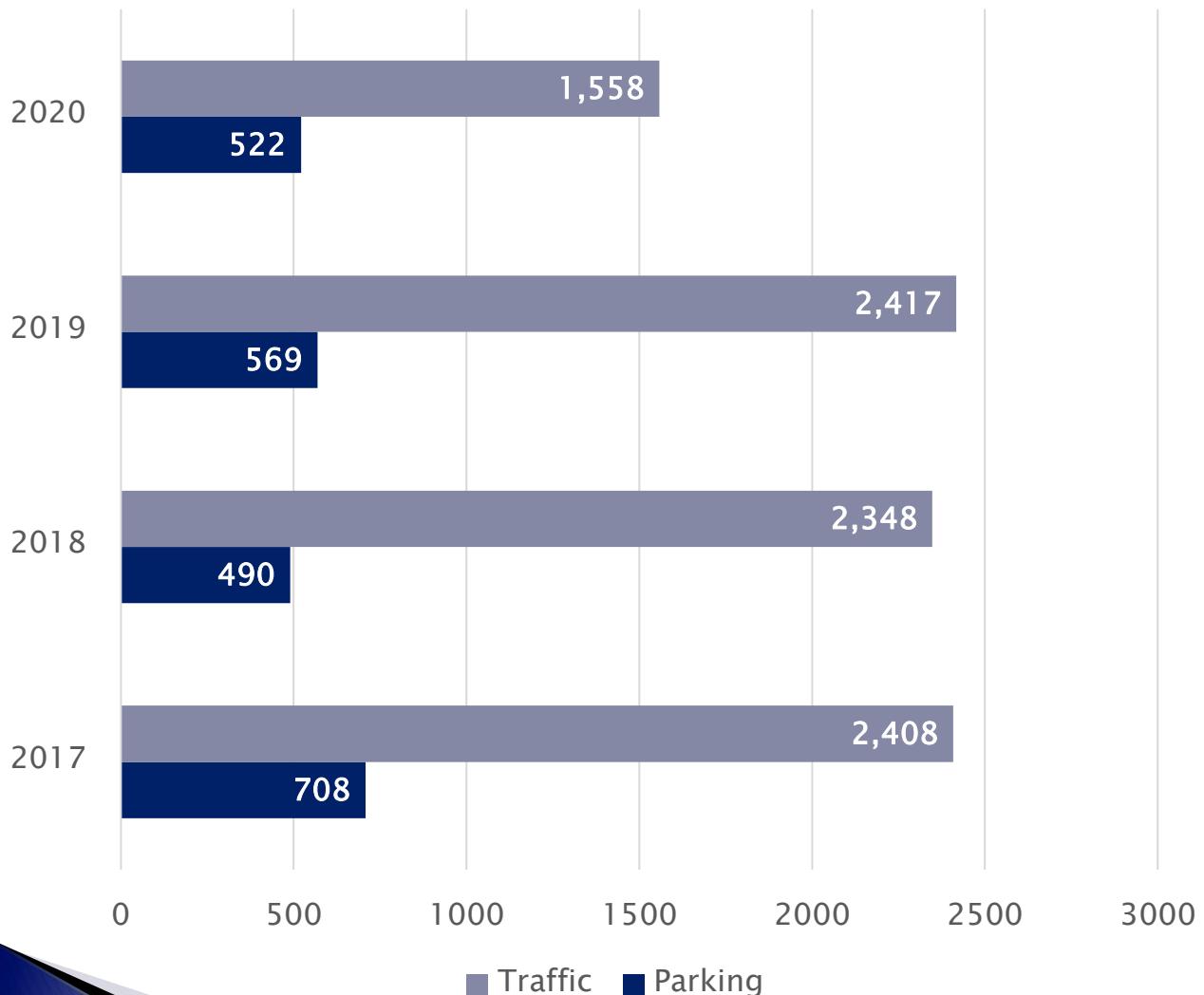
Public accidents decreased from 192 in 2019 to 137 in 2020.



Traffic Enforcement

Written citations decreased from 2,417 in 2019 to 1,508 in 2020.

Parking citations decreased from 569 in 2019 to 522 in 2020.



Detective Bureau

The Richmond Heights Detective Bureau is comprised of three detectives who have nearly 75 years of law enforcement experience. A Detective Sergeant is the commander of the Detective Bureau with two other officers who have been appointed as Detectives. The detectives do not specialize in one specific type of crime or investigative work as they are considered generalists. "Generalists" with a great deal of experience and training in all major types of crimes to include Murder, Rape, Robbery, Burglary, Assault, and Theft.

The Detective Bureau supports the Patrol Division as they follow-up on cases, collect evidence, submit evidence to a lab for analysis, and assist with the prosecution of individuals at the local (Lyndhurst Municipal Court), state (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas and Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court) and federal (US District Court) levels.

In 2020, the Detective Bureau completed and filed charges against individuals in over (50) felony cases with the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and handled/managed more than (400) items in the RHPD property room.

Detective Sergeant Porter



S.P.A.N.

Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network

The Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network is facilitated by the regional efforts which include the cities of Highland Heights, Lyndhurst, Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village and Richmond Heights.

SPAN is made up of five (5) specialized units, a Special Weapons and Tactics Unit, a Bomb Disposal Unit, a Crisis Intervention/Negotiation Unit, a Traffic Unit and a Drug Enforcement Unit.

The Richmond Heights Police Department has two (2) officers assigned to the Special Weapons and Tactics Unit; two (2) officers on the Bomb Disposal Unit; two (2) officers assigned to the Crisis Intervention Unit; two (2) officers on the Traffic Unit; and one (1) assigned to the Drug Enforcement Unit.



K-9 Unit

In 2020 RHPD put together a group effort that consisted of a lot of hard work from multiple officers to raise the funds for a K9 unit. Officer Jonathan Ross was selected as the handler and on 2/3/20 K9 Bolt was selected as the newest K9 for RHPD. Ptl. Ross and K9 Bolt attended a six week training course (240+ hours) at Shallow Creek Kennels in Pennsylvania. Ptl. Ross and K9 Bolt are certified through the North American Police Work Dog Association (NAPWDA) and the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy (OPOTA). Ptl. Ross and K9 Bolt train a minimum of 16 hours a month with a large group which consists of multiple K9 teams from surrounding jurisdictions. In 2020 Ptl. Ross and K9 Bolt completed approximately 357 total hours of training.

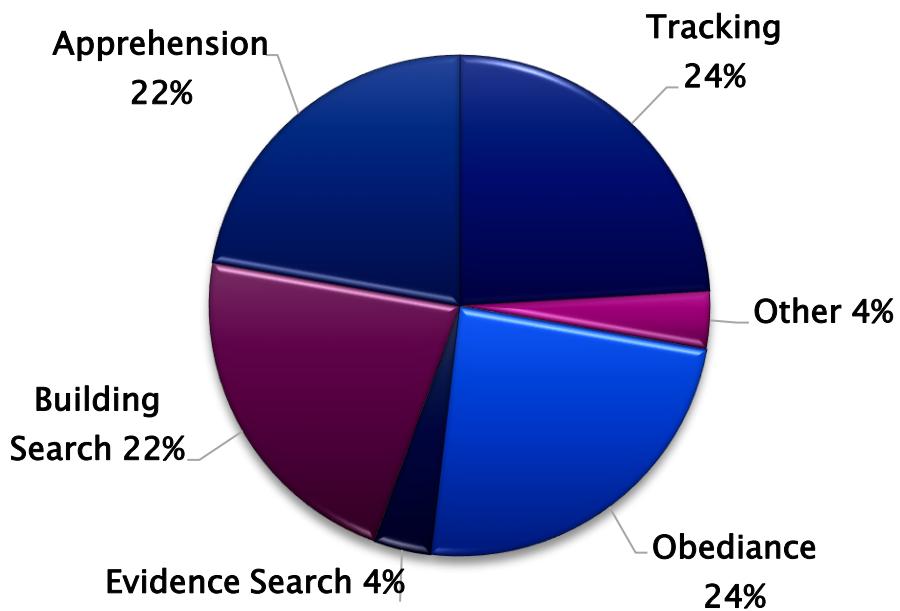
K9 Bolt was deployed a total of 13 times in 2020. Ptl. Ross and K9 Bolt were requested by four other agencies for mutual aid. K9 Bolt was deployed for tracking and multiple narcotic sniffs. K9 Bolt assisted with locating methamphetamine, cocaine and other drug paraphernalia.

Ptl. Ross and K9 Bolt had the opportunity to interact with multiple Richmond Heights residents throughout the year. K9 Bolt was introduced to students at the Richmond Heights Elementary School via ZOOM. We look forward to continued success in 2021.



K-9 Unit Training

Patrol Training Exercise Types



Training

The professional development of personnel through formal training continued to be a primary focus in 2020. Police officers attended a variety of instruction with some at no cost to the agency. All police officers received use of force policy review training, to include a written test for Patrol Officers and Detectives. This important training provides supervisors an opportunity to present possible scenarios to officers and discuss appropriate responses. The instructional lesson plan also directs that supervisors should discuss de-escalation and its application. All officers also received Bias free policing training.

Some of the training our officers attended included tactical breathing, harassment/discrimination, professional traffic stops, implicit bias, cultural awareness, and civil disturbance/field force overview. Our defensive tactics instructor provided training on a legal update and stabilization considerations regarding the use of force.

Our agency also conducted in-house training in firearms, Taser, Pepper Spray and defensive tactics. Officers will annually re-qualify on their handguns and re-certify in the use of an electronic control device.

Our agency hosted training classes at our Kiwanis Lodge which included “Applied Leadership Principles,” “First Line Supervision,” and “Building Mutual respect and community trust.”

By providing enriching training opportunities for our personnel as well as assigning them new and challenging responsibilities that fit their interests, we intend to help our personnel reach their fullest professional potential *as we strive for EVERY member to achieve a self-actualization experience while employed with this agency.*



Juvenile Diversion Program

It is my honor and privilege to submit the following statistics for the 2020 Community Juvenile Diversion Program for Richmond Heights.

Wesley Dumas was selected as our new magistrate for the program, replacing previous magistrate Timothy Sterkel. Patrolman Jonathan Ross assisted as a Juvenile Diversion Officer while Detective Sergeant Darren Porter continues to be the department's liaison with Juvenile Court. Sgt. Greg Patterson was selected as the new supervisor of the unit, replacing Lt. Denise DeBiase.

An offer was extended to one juvenile to participate in the program in 2020. The juvenile agreed to participate in the program and completed the necessary requirements, including writing an apology letter emphasizing changes they will make in their life to aid them in making better decisions in the future. The juvenile was criminally charged with the following offense(s): Curfew Violation.

There were no hearings held in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions and lack of juveniles charged with crimes/referred to the program.

A \$25 participation fee is required to enroll in the program. \$25 was received from the single participant for the year, however it was not collected until January 2021, therefore it will not show up until the 2021 report. Cuyahoga County provided \$100 per month to fund the program placing \$1200 in our account through December 2020. Carryover from 2019 was \$6,894.66, making \$8,094.66 in the account at the end of 2020.

Material expenses for the year 2020 were as follows:

Manpower expenses: \$775.00

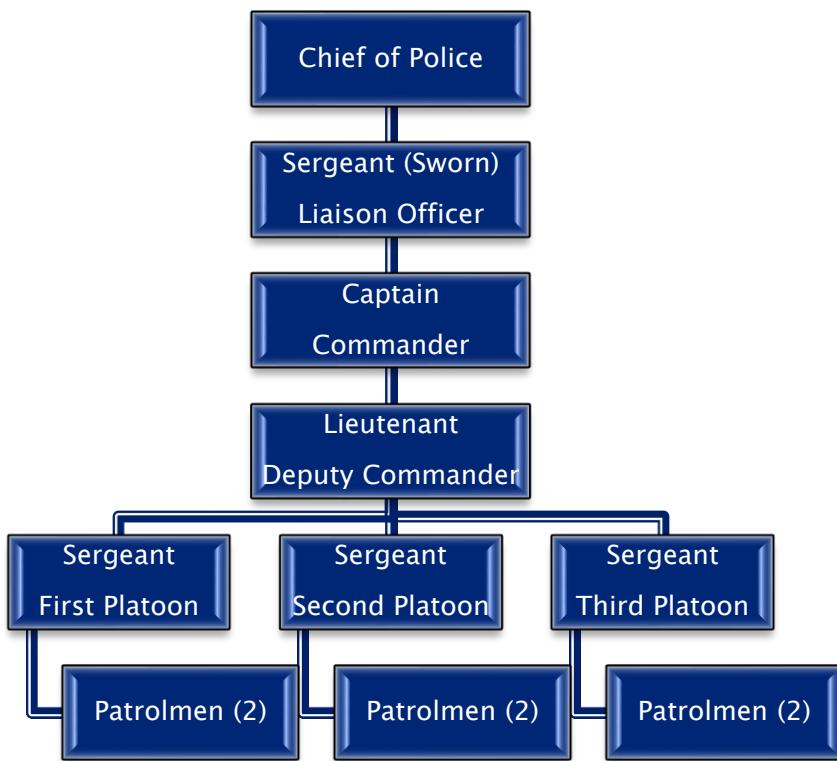
Auxiliary Officers: 0 hours (no community service in Richmond Heights)

Equipment: \$0

Submitted by Greg Patterson, Sergeant RHPD

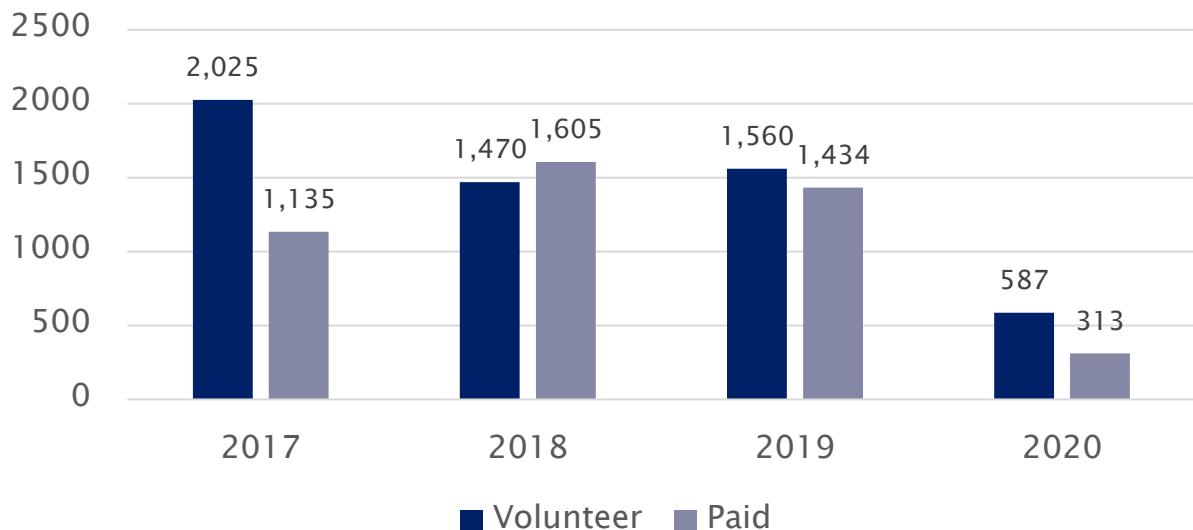
Auxiliary Police Unit

The Dedicated members of the Richmond Heights Police Auxiliary Unit assist with many aspects within the Police Department including road patrols, special attentions, park patrols, the lodge and security details.



Auxiliary Police Unit

Auxiliary Hours



Our Auxiliary Police Unit conducted two really fun community policing events. Two cruisers were decorated in a Halloween theme and driven around the city while kids trick or treated. During the Christmas season, a cruiser was decorated with a Christmas theme and Christmas carols/songs were played over the loud speaker while it was driven around town. Auxiliary Police Captain Mark Hoageson organized both events which were positively received.



Community Policing

Although the health pandemic put a strain on our community policing efforts, we were still able to do a lot. We co-sponsored a Skate with a Cop event with the Euclid Police Department on February 2, 2020 at the Euclid Ice Ring. It was organized by Officer Jim McVey who was able to get the support of a local professional hockey team which had their coach and some of the players participate. The event received positive media attention and allowed for friendly interactions between police officers and ice skaters.



We had three Coffee with a Cop events at the following locations: 444 Park, the Richmond Medical Center, and Greenwood Farms. Our Senior Academy extended into 2020 and was nearly completed until the pandemic caused us to cancel the last class. Our police officers had sponsored a youth basketball team that was coached by one of our officers.

Community Policing

A child bike helmet Public Safety Announcement (PSA) was filmed in the city park with the cooperation of area children and their parents. It was posted on our social media to promote bike safety for kids. The Cop Scouts program continued to have a positive impact with young people and we hope it can develop into a national program one day. In December, Sam Johnson, a resident, donated 17 drones for the program.

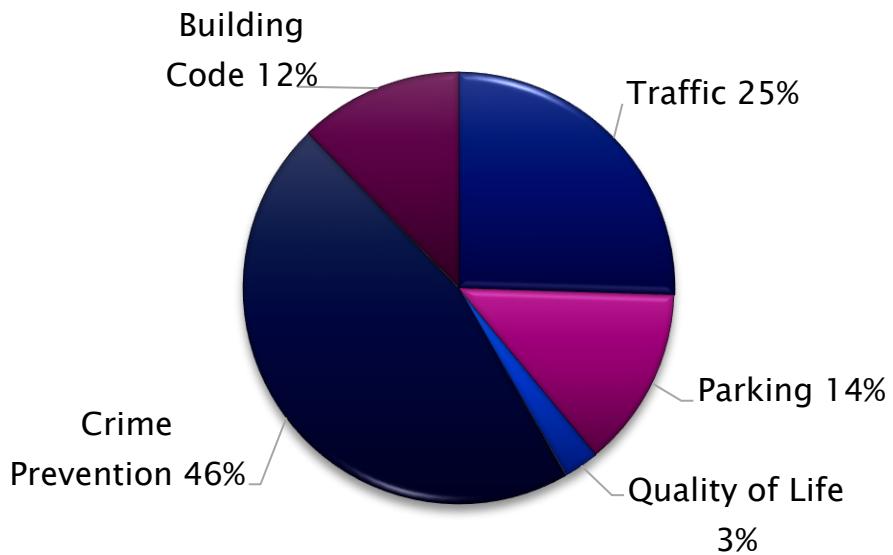


The Teen Ambassador Club formed by Lieutenant DeBisase is to develop young leaders who can act as community ambassadors that promote all the good things happening within the police department and the city as a whole. It helps to develop future community leaders and strengthen community policing relationships with students and their families. It allows students to learn about their public servants within the City of Richmond Heights and includes all departments, including council members, courts, and ancillary groups such as the Kiwanis and Senior Clubs and providing opportunities to interact with them.

Community Policing Initiative

Community Policing Initiative (CPI) forms are used to address a variety of matters such as notifying residents that they left their garage door open overnight or they can be used as warning citations. In 2020, our officers issued 302 CPI forms.

2020 CPI Forms



Uncut Grass



Open Garage at Night



Unsecured Bicycle

Community Outreach Highlights



Youth Basketball League



Tutoring at the school



No Shave November Donation
to The Gathering Place



Storytime on Facebook



We Tip Our Badge to You for
Academic Excellence Award



Meet and Greet with K-9 Bolt

Striving to be the Gold Standard of Policing

