



# **RICHMOND HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **2019 ANNUAL REPORT**



*Striving to be the gold standard of policing*

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## A Message from the Chief

In 2019 we saw significant changes to staffing, our service model and mindset and the overall culture for the Richmond Heights Division of Police. Sadly, we experienced the loss of one of the members of our Auxiliary unit, Sergeant Thomas Jones, as he passed away early in the year.

Already a long-established high functioning police organization, the agency put a premium focus on enhanced customer service, a deeper commitment to the principles of community policing, officer self-actualization and youth and school outreach.

A strong department-wide focus was placed on community policing which included the re-establishment of the bike patrol unit. We also resumed the community block watch program that emphasized not only crime prevention but added a beautification initiative. Community Policing Initiative (CPI) forms were designed to act as a friendly warning for infractions and/or as a safety notification.

Our Facebook page continues to be very active in communicating with our community on a variety of topics and items of interest and/or fun. We also began a fundraising initiative to obtain a new police K-9 for the department. Community support was tremendous and resulted in the purchase and training of a K-9 team in 2020.

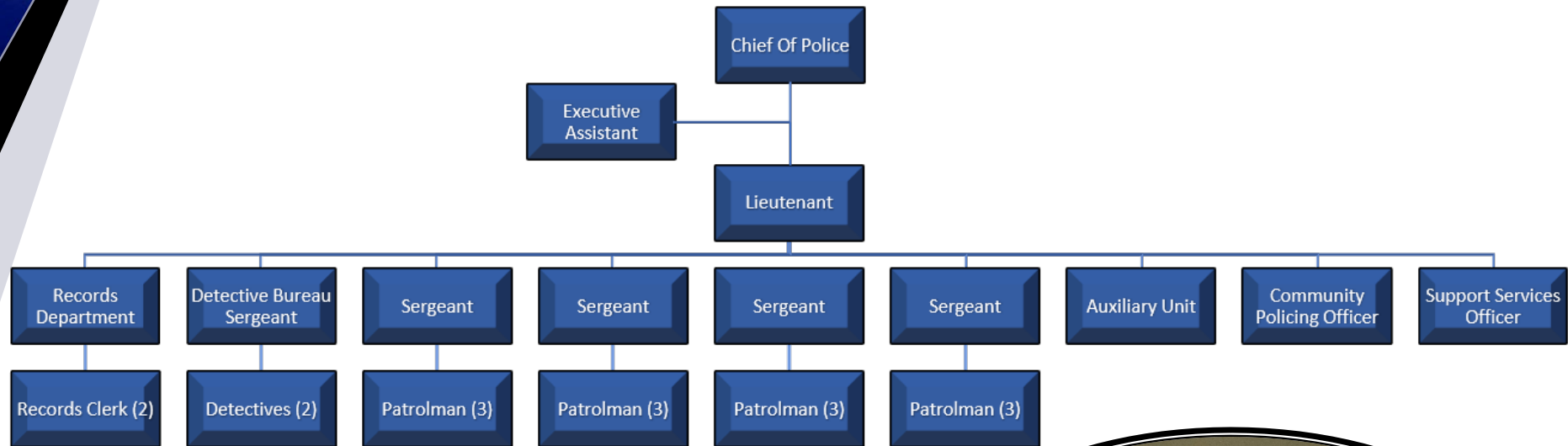
Youth outreach, particularly within our schools, was a principal effort with the goal of building bridges of trust with our young customers and their families. We started an annual art competition at the high school, a tutoring program, a Teen Ambassador Club and a We Tip our Badge for Academic Excellence program. Cop Scouts, a new youth outreach program geared towards boy and girls between the ages of 9 and 12 was implemented. This is a unique and original program that teaches children life skills.

Crime prevention and enforcing laws are critical in our mission. This year we added a Detective to the regional Suburban Police Anti-Crime Network (SPAN) Drug Enforcement Unit and another Detective to a Federal Violent Crimes Task Force. Developing personnel to their fullest potential is a primary focus within our agency as *our goal is to provide a self-actualization experience for EVERY member of this department.*

In closing, I earnestly believe the Richmond Heights Division of Police has the personnel in place and the vision to be a national model of excellence and is the reason I strongly promote the theme "Striving to the Gold Standard of Policing" for our agency.

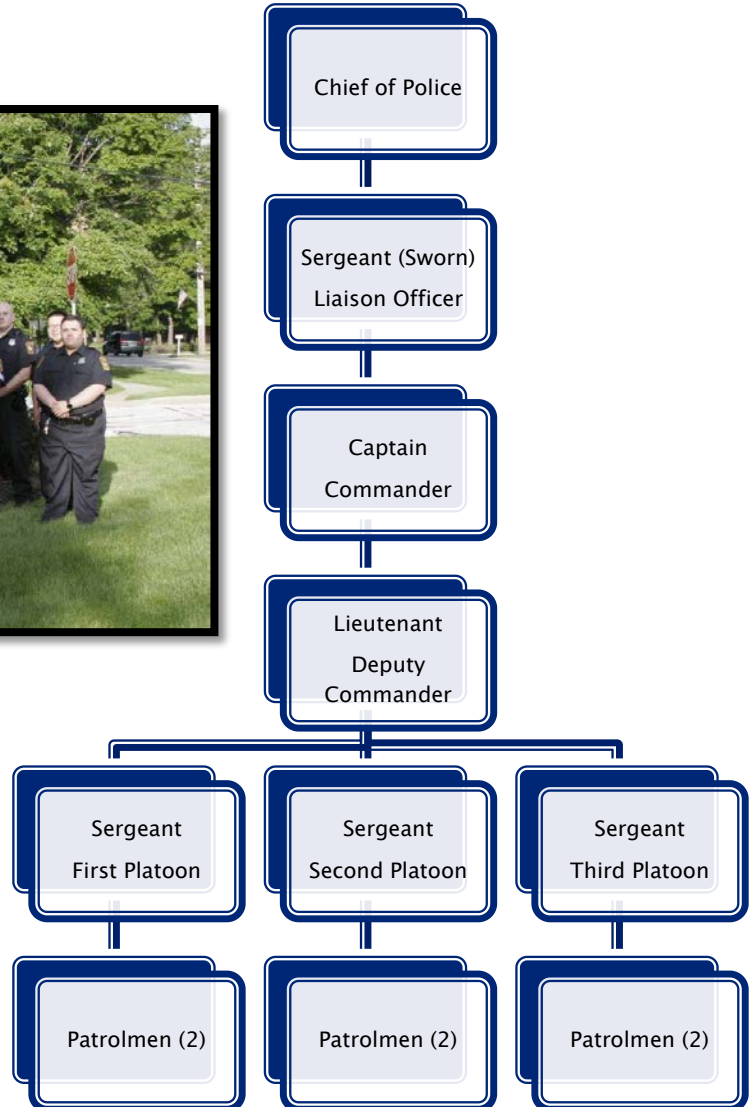
*Chief Tom Wetzel*

# Richmond Heights Police Department



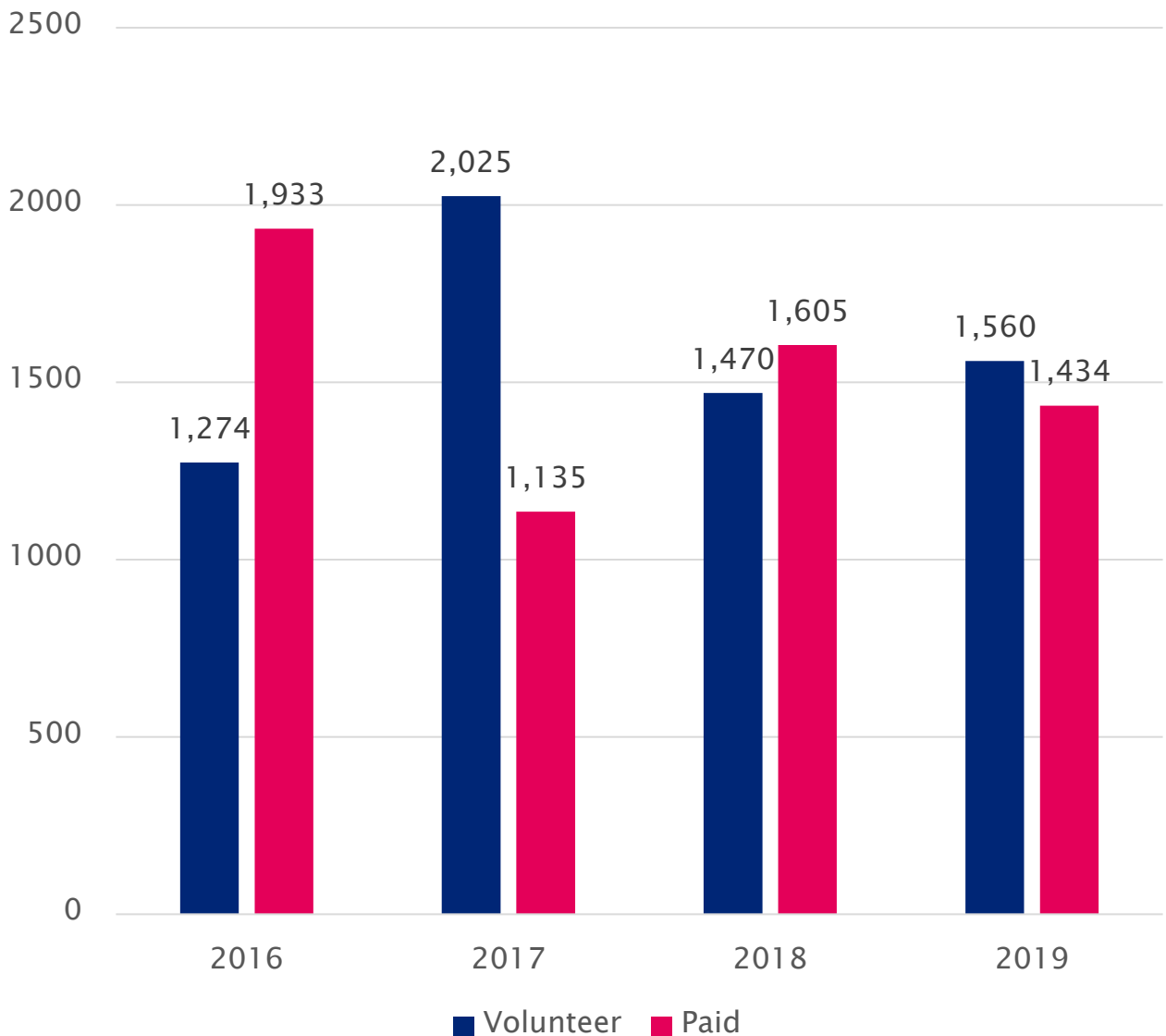
# Auxiliary Police Unit

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





# Community Policing



Unsecured Bicycle



Uncut Grass

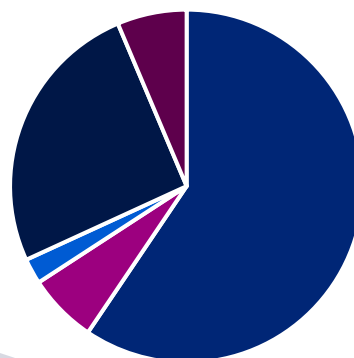


Open Garage at Night

The year 2019 saw a deeper commitment to the principles of Community Policing and Community Outreach, particularly to our young people and their families. We re-activated the bike patrol and reestablished a community block watch program that emphasizes crime prevention along with a beautification initiative. An officer was assigned as a community policing specialist whose work included free security analyses for homes and businesses. We also designed community policing initiative (CPI) forms which can act as a friendly warning for infractions and/or as a safety notification. In 2019, our officers collectively wrote 471 CPI forms.



## CPI Forms



- Traffic
- Parking
- Quality of Life
- Security
- Beautification

# Community Policing

Members of our department participated in a variety of events throughout the year, resulting in an outreach of over 1,400 people. These efforts included safety presentations, self-defense and awareness presentations, National Night Out and playing dodgeball with students from the Elementary School. Our agency also started providing free home and business security analysis assessments. This service helps provide our customers with useful safety recommendations to “target harden” their residences and businesses and prevent crime.





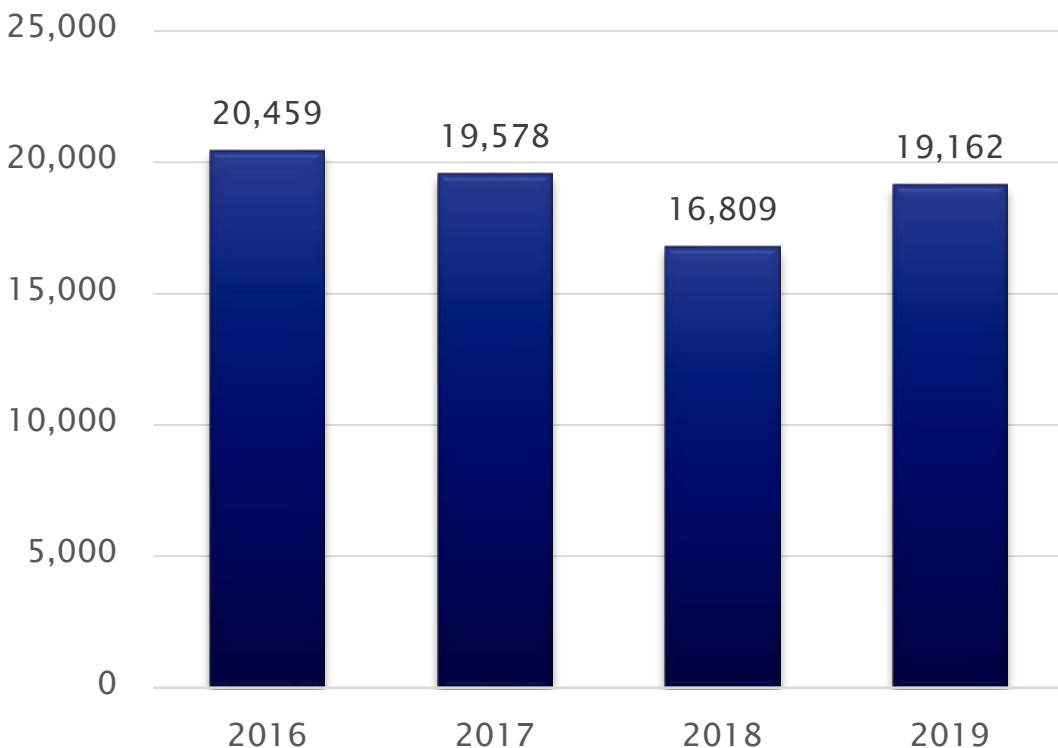
# Youth Outreach

Youth outreach, particularly within our schools, is a primary effort, with the goal of building bridges of trust with our young residents. We started an annual art competition at the high school, a tutoring program, a Teen Ambassador Club and a We Tip our Badge for Academic Excellence program. Cop Scouts, which is led by two of our officers, is a new youth outreach program geared toward boys and girls aged 9 to 12, teaching them life skills.



# Calls for Service

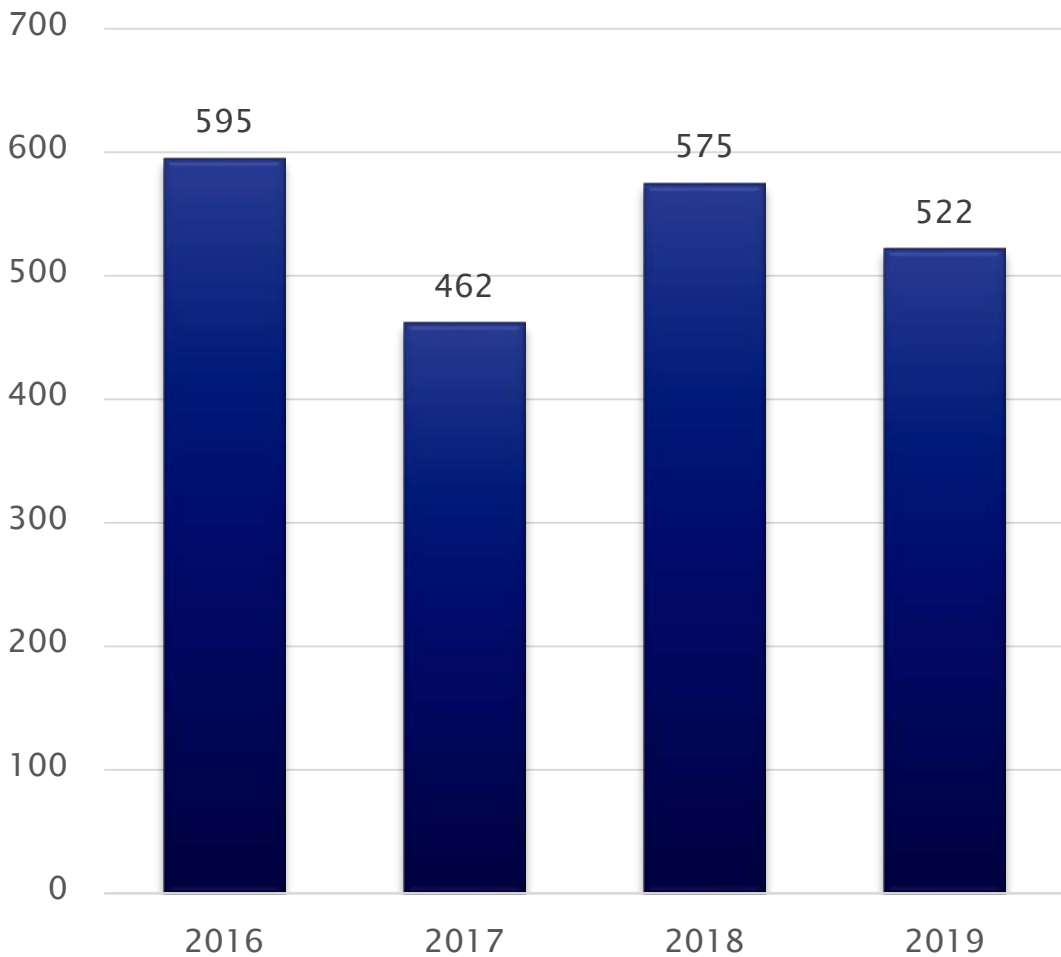
There were 19,162 calls for service in 2019 as compared to 16,809 in 2018. Each time an officer conducts a check or business walk through; it creates a call for service. The obvious purpose for this tactic is to increase officer visibility and to reduce crime.



# Overall Crime

<u>Crimes</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Homicide	1	0	3	2
Rape	1	0	4	3
Robbery	21	17	16	11
Assault (Aggravated)	13	9	9	6
Burglary	59	37	46	34
Attempted Burglary	3	5	1	5
Larceny	167	141	134	135
Auto Theft	40	28	25	35
Assault	24	12	30	27
Arson	0	0	2	3
Forgery	4	5	1	3
Fraud	70	52	68	92
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0
Receiving Stolen Property	10	8	7	5
Vandalism / Criminal Damage	74	47	53	35
Illegal Use of Weapons	5	2	5	9
Prostitution	0	0	0	0
Other Sex Offenses	7	3	11	11
Drugs	28	29	39	45
Gambling	0	0	0	0
Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence	25	27	35	35
State Liquor Law Violation	3	12	21	4
Public Intoxication	10	6	12	5
Disorderly Conduct	33	22	38	17
Total	595	462	575	522

# Overall Crime

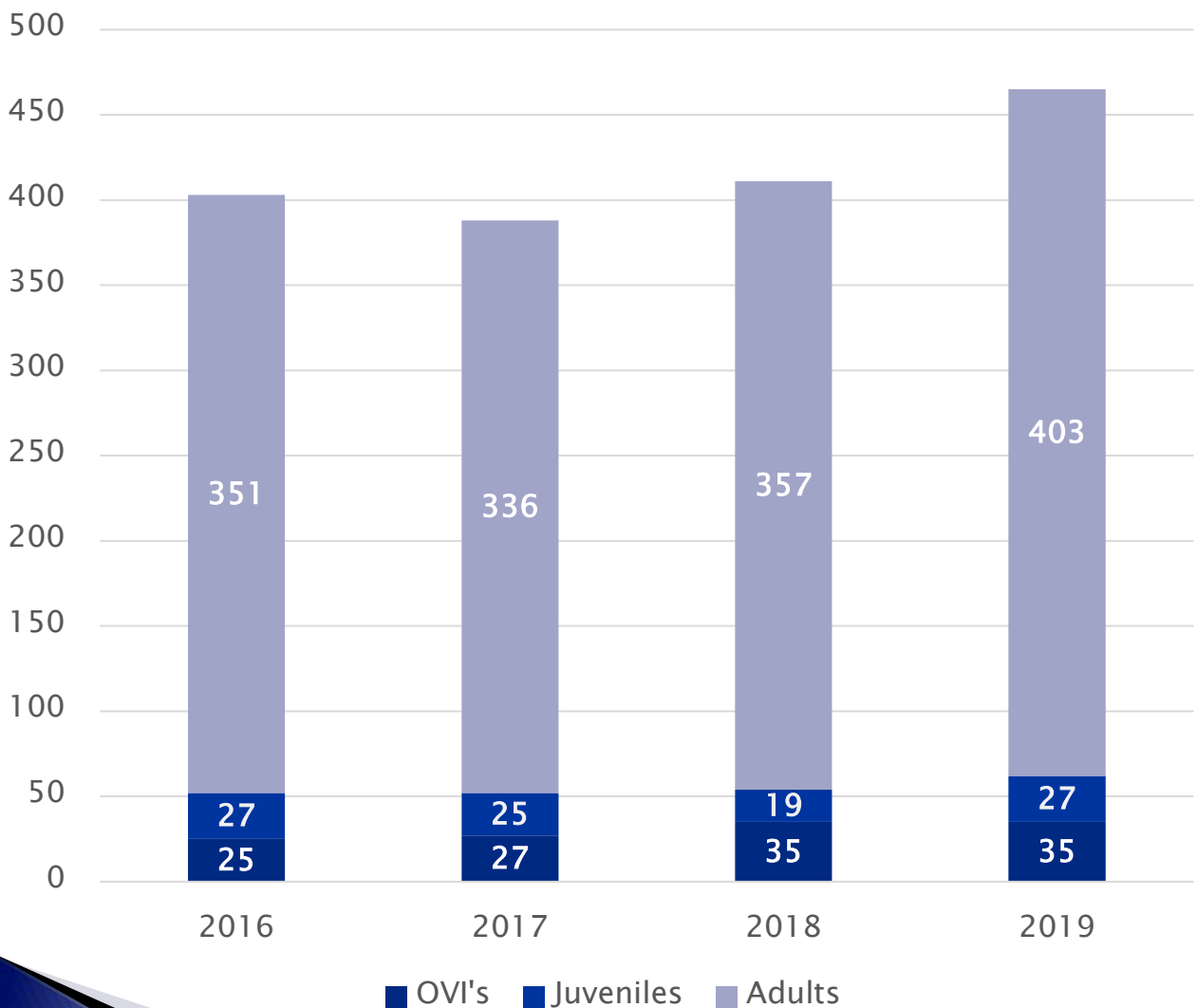


# Arrests

**Adult Arrests:** Total number of adult arrests in 2019 was 403 compared to 357 in 2018.

**Juvenile Arrests:** Total number juvenile arrests in 2019 was 27 compared to 29 in 2018.

**OVI Arrests:** Total of OVI arrests in 2019 was 35 which was identical to 2018.

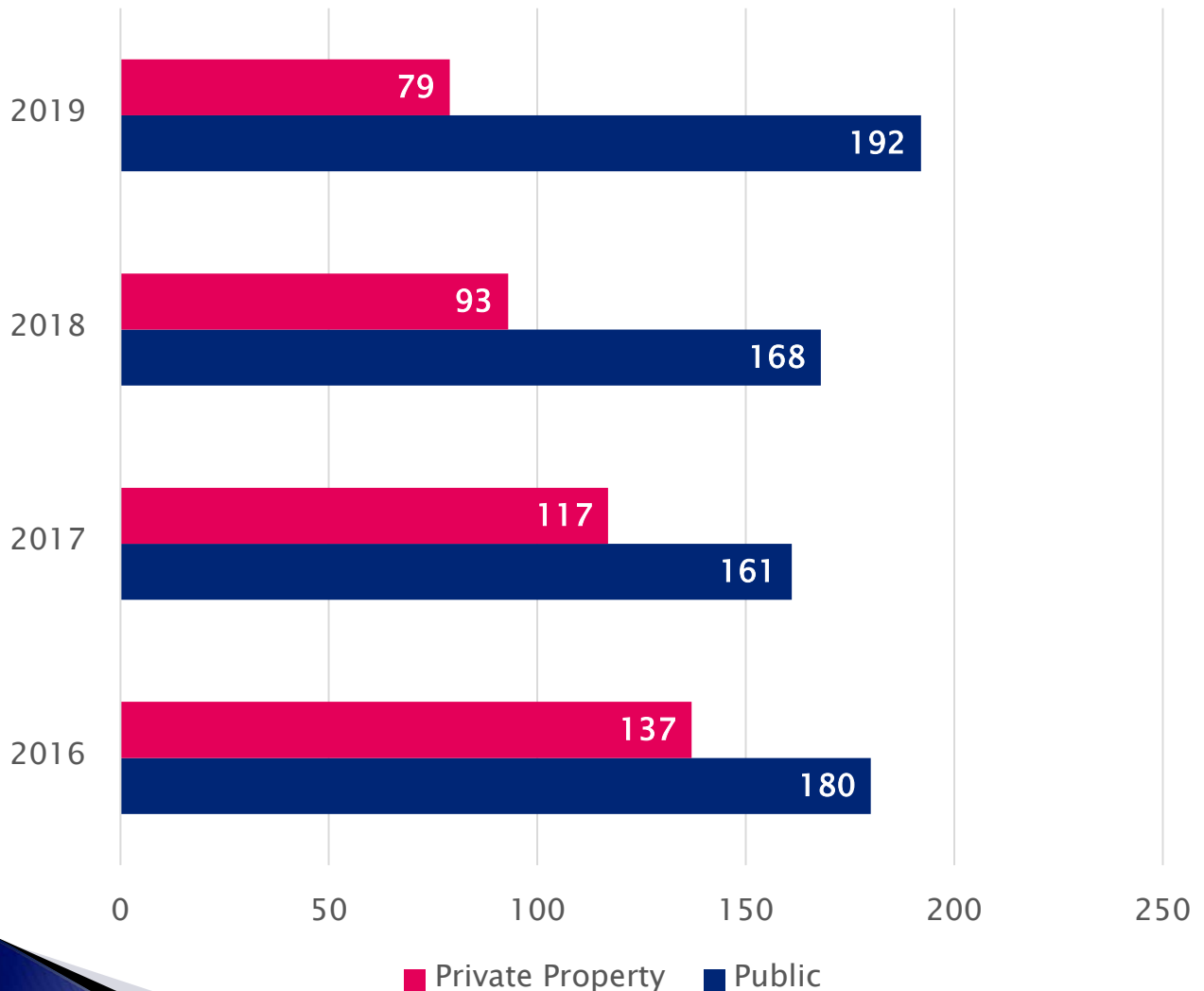




# Accidents

Private property accidents decreased from 93 in 2018 to 79 in 2019.

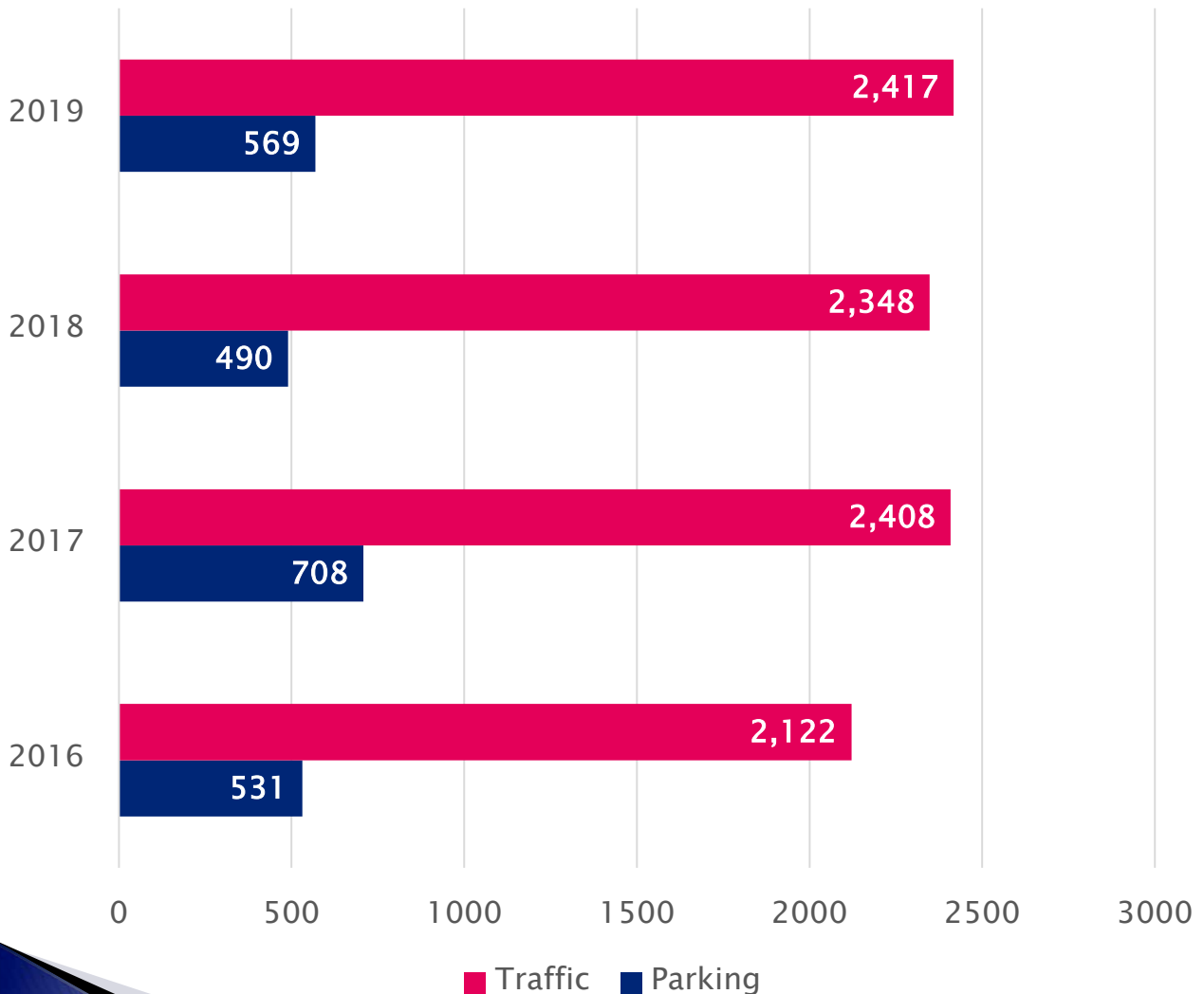
Public accidents increased from 168 in 2018 to 192 in 2019.



# Traffic Enforcement

Traffic enforcement increased from 2,348 in 2018 to 2,417 in 2019.

Parking citations increased from 490 in 2018 to 569 in 2019.



# Juvenile Diversion Program

It is my honor and privilege, once again, to submit the following statistics for the 2019 Community Juvenile Diversion Program for Richmond Heights.

Timothy Sterkel continued hearing cases as our magistrate for the program. It is his seventh year now hearing cases for the Richmond Heights Community Diversion Program. Patrolman Jonathan Ross assisted as a Juvenile Diversion Officer while Detective Sergeant Porter continues to sign the complaints for the court.

As opposed to many past years, we only conducted one hearing with Magistrate Sterkel during the year. An offer was extended to nine juveniles to participate in the program. Of the nine, two participated in the diversion program since the other seven failed to either show up at a diversion hearing or did not wish to be heard by Magistrate Sterkel. As of December 31, 2019, an audit was conducted and one hundred-thirteen (115) juveniles since 2008 will have successfully completed their requirements.

Forty (40) hours of community service were ordered by Magistrate Timothy Sterkel for the two juveniles in the program during the year. The juveniles were criminally charged with the following offenses: Obstructing Official Business and Disorderly Conduct. Community service has yet to be completed by the two juveniles in its entirety and they have been given an extension.

A \$25 participation fee is required to enroll in the program. \$25 was received from the participants for the year. Cuyahoga County provided \$100 per month to fund the program placing \$800 in our account through August when our fiscal review was completed by county administration, and still awaiting a \$400 stipend to end the year out. Carryover from 2018 was \$5,694.66 making \$6,894.66 available for the year. It should be noted that many juveniles have not been referred to the diversion program for some time now for various reasons such as not being eligible for prior offenses, or offenses being of a violent nature.

Material expenses for the year 2019 were as follows:

Manpower expenses:	\$733.17
Auxiliary Officers:	0 hours (no community service in Richmond Heights)
Police officers:	8.5 hours (diversion hearings and paperwork)
Equipment:	\$0
Training conference:	\$325

*Submitted by Denise R. DeBiase  
CLEE, Lieutenant RHPD*

# Training

The professional development of personnel through formal training was a primary focus in 2019. Police officers collectively attended over 60 different courses of instruction, with a significant number of them at no cost to the agency. The various courses of instruction included grant writing, performance leadership, counter ambush and Marcy's Law Victims' Rights. 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 to potential use of force.

All officers also received training on sexual harassment awareness, medical marijuana, and social media. Our department also had outside instructors provide training at our station for such topics as a Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) update, officer wellness (provided by Cliff Kime and Jim Purcell), and Cuyahoga County Data Warehouse familiarization.

Our agency also conducted in-house training in firearms and defensive tactics. We re-purposed an inactive jail day room into a padded defensive tactics training room using donated wrestling pads and mats from the high school. Officers will annually re-qualify on their handguns and re-certify in the use of an electronic control device.

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.*

# 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; one (1) officer on the Traffic Unit; and one (1) assigned to the Drug Enforcement Unit.





# General Statistics

## Mutual Aid

- Number of mutual aid engagements = 24

## Internal Affairs

- Number of internal affairs investigations = 3
- Number of internal affairs investigations that were substantiated = 1

## Use of Force

- Number of incidents involving the use of force = 11

## Records

- Number of records disposals = 1

## Jail Stats

- Total number of Bookings = 403
- Daily Average number of Inmates = 4.35
- Average Length of Confinement = 2.29 days
- Prisoner Characteristics
  - Felony = 48
  - Misdemeanor = 355
  - Male = 285
  - Female = 118

