



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

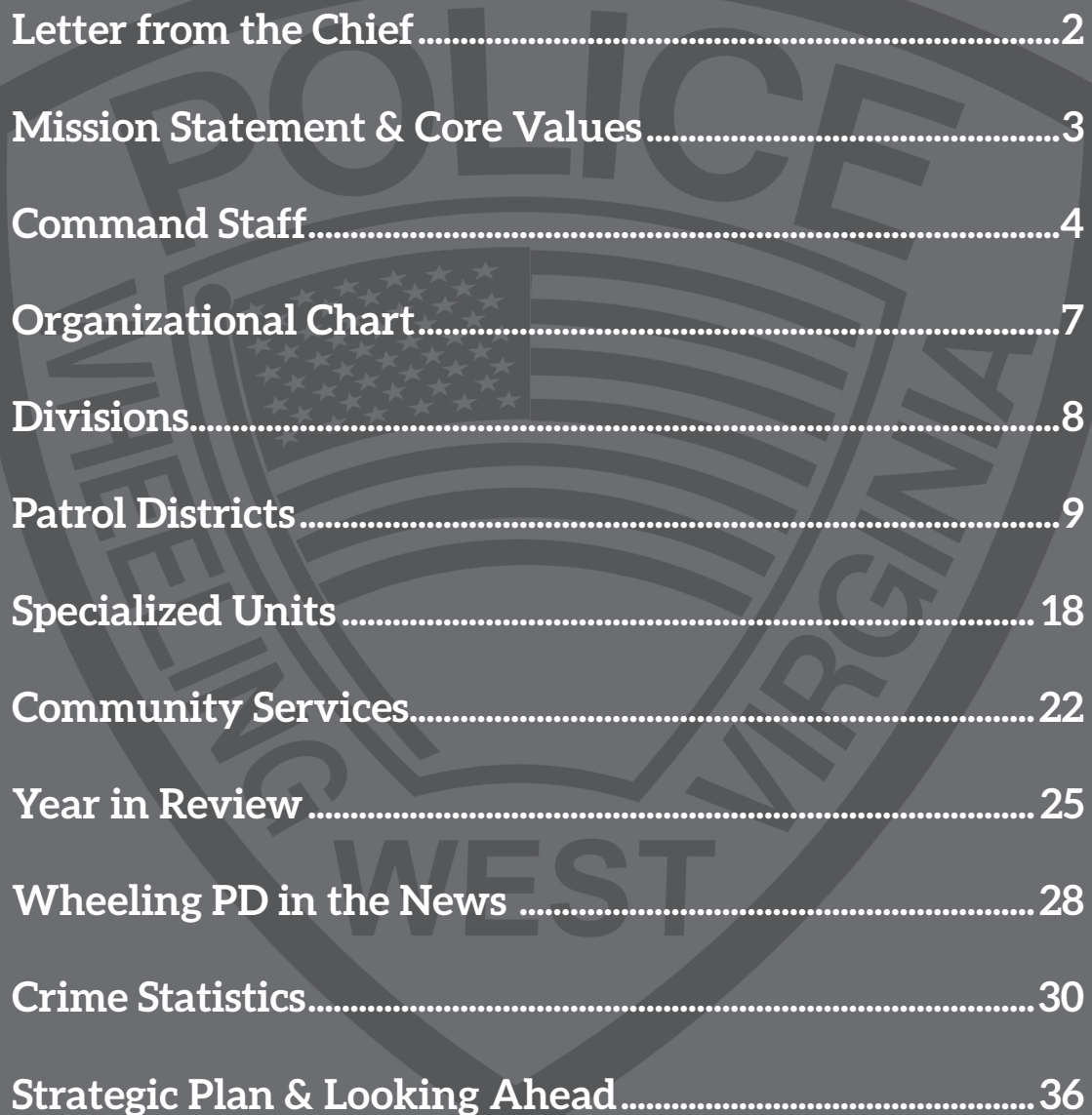
1500 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 | 304.234.3664 | wheelingwv.gov/police

 Wheeling, WV Police Department  @WheelingPolice



Wheeling Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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LETTER from the Chief



SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police

I am pleased to provide you access to the Wheeling Police Department through our 2019 annual report. This document requires many hours of work and contribution, all brought to fruition by our Public Information Officer, Philip Stahl. As I near completion of my seventh year of service at the helm of the Wheeling Police Department, I remain proud of the men and women, sworn and civilian, who make it what it is. A week does not go by that a citizen does not stop me to inform me of what a great job our men and women are doing and to acknowledge the improvements made over the last few years.

During 2019, we dealt with continued challenges such as staffing and recruitment. Illegal narcotics continue to plague our area and we observed yet another increase in overdoses in 2019. We experienced retirements in several key positions, and we hosted several new events in our city that taxed our resources, including the City's 250th Anniversary parade, an additional day to the Ogden Half-Marathon weekend and another Presidential Visit.

I am proud to report we handled it all and continue to excel. In 2019, our Group A offenses continued to decline, our False Alarm Reduction Program continues to reduce alarms, we enhanced our community events and added some new initiatives. We were awarded several grants and implemented the first Police Explorer program, Wheeling Police Explorer Post 1.

Looking forward into 2020 you will see key promotions begin to truly shape the future of the WPD. They include additional initiatives such as a Victim Advocacy Program, further enhancements in our Geo-Policing efforts, a new CrimeStoppers program, utilization of the Drug House Abatement ordinance, and creation of a new Evidence Unit. All of this will secure our mission while adhering to our core values.

I would like to congratulate our multiple award winners throughout the year: Officers Ryan Moore, Kevin Cowan and Cody Schwertfeger as our officers of the quarter; the Chief's Eagle Award presented to Corporal Ryan Ferrell and Officers Robert Agostino and Kevin Kuca; the Department Lifesaving Award presented to Officers John McKenzie and Corey Recinella and Corporal Jason Hupp; and many other awards and commendations. Finally, congratulations to our 2019 Officer of the Year, Corporal Jason Hupp.

I look forward to continuing on our tremendous success in 2020 as we strive to be the model law enforcement agency in the region.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'S. Shawn Schwertfeger'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chief Shawn Schwertfeger



MISSION Statement

The Wheeling Police Department is committed to enhancing the quality of life in and around the community by:

1. Building partnerships that will provide a safe and secure community through proactive and impartial enforcement
2. Honoring and enforcing the codified ordinances of the City of Wheeling, the code of the state of West Virginia and the United States Constitution
3. Maintaining a focus on fighting crime and the fear of crime
4. Continuing to strive to become the model law enforcement agency in the state of West Virginia.

CORE Values

INTEGRITY
LOYALTY
PROFESSIONALISM
COURAGE
RESPECT
ACCOUNTABILITY
TEAMWORK
LEADERSHIP
SERVICE

COMMAND Staff



DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIN KIMBALL

Patrol Operations Commander

Years of Service: 38
(Retired August 2019)



LIEUTENANT WILLIAM NOICE

Training and Fleeting Manager

Years of Service: 20



LIEUTENANT KEVIN KETTLER

Alpha Shift Commander

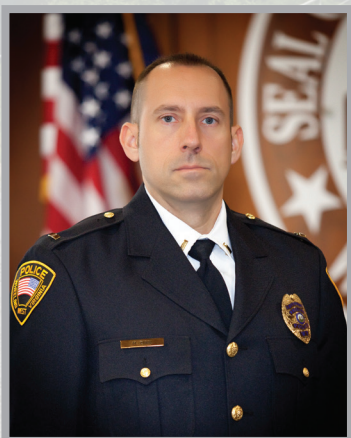
Years of Service: 17



LIEUTENANT MATTHEW TAYLOR

Alpha Shift Commander

Years of Service: 18
(Assumed Duties November 2019)



LIEUTENANT MICAH ZINN

Bravo Shift Commander

Years of Service: 19



LIEUTENANT KEN PRAGER

Charlie Shift Commander

Years of Service: 15

COMMAND Staff



SGT. GREGG MCKENZIE

Investigations Commander

Years of Service: 25
(Retired October 2019)



SGT. ROB SAFREED

Investigations Commander

Years of Service: 10
(Assumed Duties October 2019)



SGT. WILLIAM NOLAN

Office of Professional Standards

Years of Service: 28.5
(Retired July 2019)



SGT. JOSHUA RADDISH

Office of Professional Standards

Years of Service: 15
(Assumed Duties November 2019)



SGT. JOSHUA SANDERS

Special Operations & Traffic Commander

Years of Service: 14



SGT. SHELDON LACAVAL

Delta Shift Commander

Years of Service: 21

DEPARTMENT Personnel

*names are listed by rank seniority as of 12/31/2019.

CHIEF OF POLICE

R. Shawn Schwertfeger

DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

Vacant

LIEUTENANTS

Ken J. Prager
William M. Noice
Kevin C. Kettler
Micah L. Zinn
Matthew J. Taylor

SERGEANTS

Donald F. Miller
Sheldon P. LaCava
David M. Drahos
Michael E. Roxby
Gust J. Kepreos
Richard A. Robbins, Jr.
Ulrich B. Utt
Joshua P. Sanders
Russell B. Campbell, Jr.
Joshua R. Raddish
Greggory M. Harris
Jonathan M. Stipetich
Daniel D. Finger
Douglas J. Howell
Marcus L. Narehood
Robert S. Safreed
Ryan M. Ferrell

CORPORALS

Jason A. Chambers
Jason A. Martin
Robert J. McConnell, Jr.
Ronald J. Faldowski
Douglas R. Somerville
Sean M. Brantley
Brent J. Ruby
Bryan T. Wilson
Erick M. Burke
Daniel P. Holmes
Jason A. Hupp
Andrew B. Adams
Harry M. Myers, III
Benjamin J. Young
Robert C. Scott

PATROLMAN FIRST CLASS

Benjamin J. Young
Andrew B. Adams
Robert C. Scott
Harry M. Myers, III
Kevin A. Kuca
Carlie M. Haywood
Ryan J. Moore
William P. Castilow
Gerald T. Mitchell
Bryan B. Hails
Cody B. Schwertfeger
Robert W. Agostino
John W. McKenzie
Dean J. Redinger
Gage C. Parker
Brandon J. Hoehn
Brandon T. Stanley
Dylan J. Giusto
Korey J. Recinella
Shayne M. McAllister

PATROLMAN

Jacob P. Skinner
Jonathan Q. Wiles
Kevin T. Cowan
Joshua A. Bolyard
Michael M. Pasztor
Scott O. Page
Robert M. Kovalyk
Colt P. Thomas
Brendan N. Ross
Zachary F. Stoneking
John T. Wolf
Blake A. Paxton
Aspen J. D. Matlock

STAFF SERVICES

Karen L. Grimes, *Administrative Assistant*
Roberta K. Thompson, *Staff Associate*
Melissa N. Taylor, *Highway Safety*
Carolyn G. Davis, *Record Clerk*

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Philip M. Stahl

CRIME ANALYST

John R. Wroten

CIVILIAN INTAKE COORDINATORS

Alpha Shift: Jennifer McGannon
Bravo Shift: L. Martin Haynes
Charlie Shift: Francine Catlett
Floater/Fill-in: Patricia Boniey

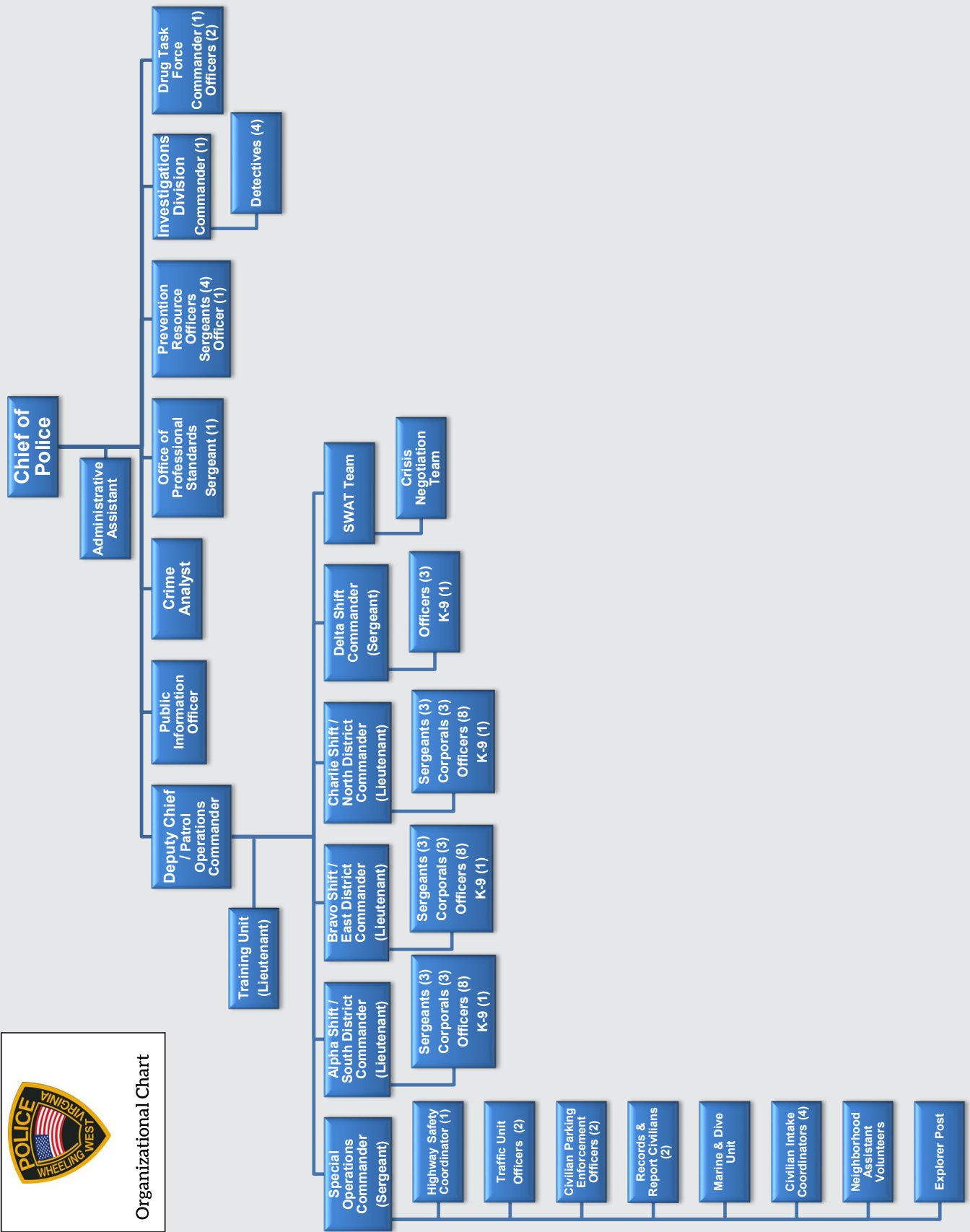
PARKING METER ATTENDANTS

Patricia L. Miller





Organizational Chart



PATROL Division



The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Wheeling Police Department. It is the most visible part of the department and receives the most interaction with the public.

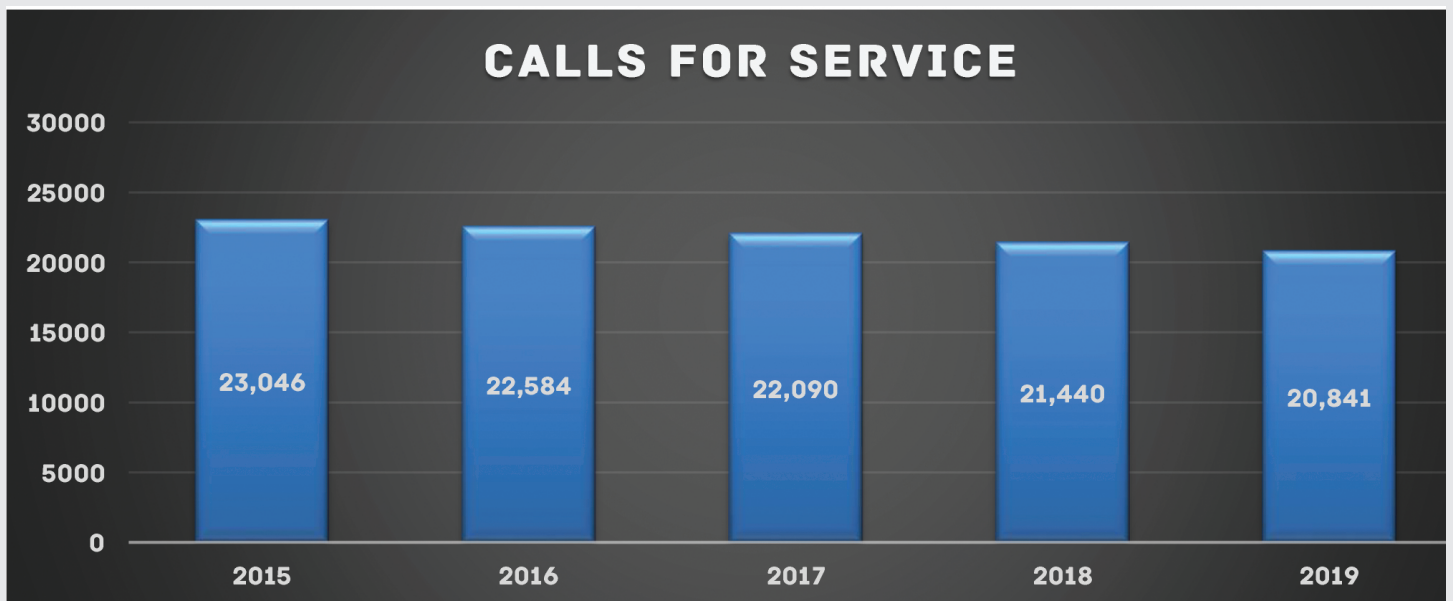
The patrol division consists of four shifts: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie shifts are assigned to work an eight-hour schedule rotating every three months. Delta shift works a steady eight-hour night-turn shift.

The division also has five K-9 handlers, four are assigned to the Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta patrol shifts. The fifth K-9 is the explosives detection K-9 and he is assigned to the traffic unit working the day turn hours when all schools and businesses are open.

The City of Wheeling is divided into three patrol districts that are monitored 24-hours a day, covering an area of 14-square miles.

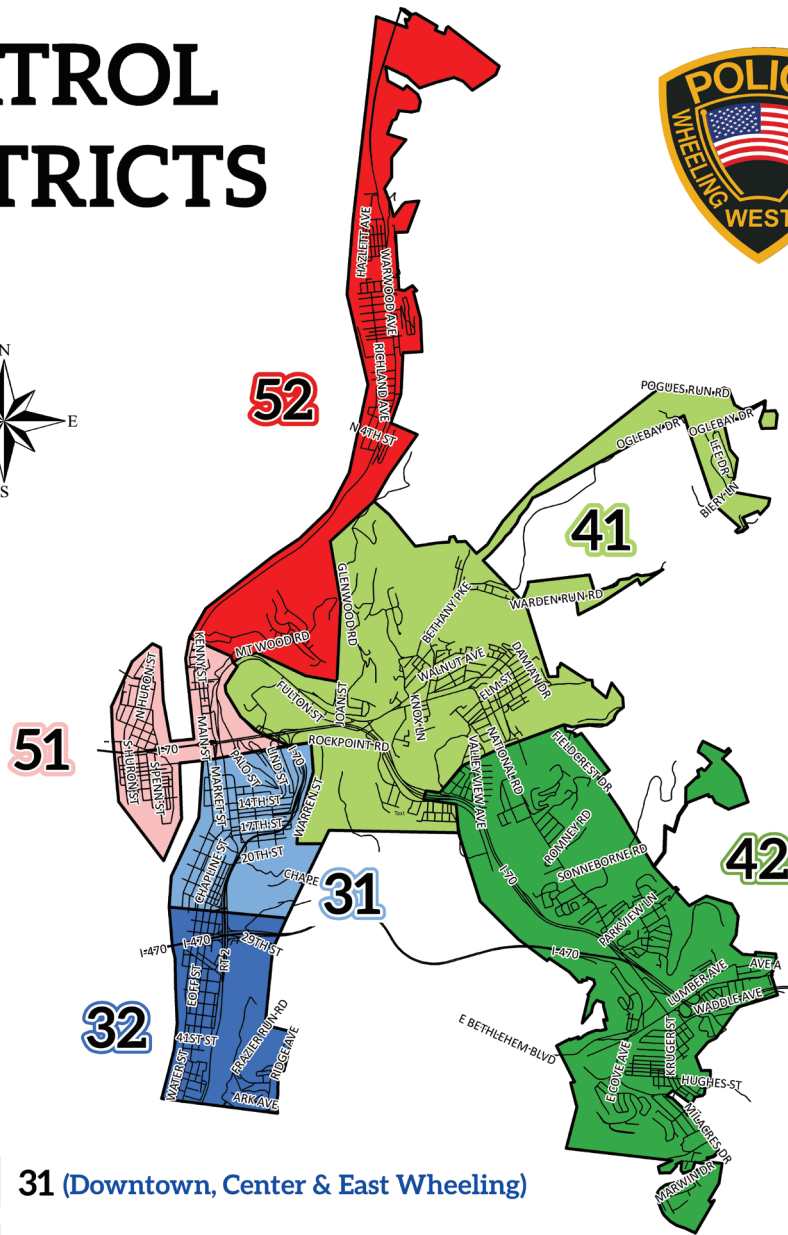
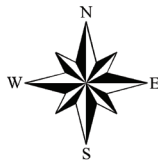
CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TOTAL	23,046	22,584	22,090	21,440	20,841



In 2019, the patrol division responded to 20,841 calls, down 3% from the previous year. Calls for Service have dropped roughly 10% the last five years. This is, in part, due to continued staff vacancies within the department and having less officer-initiated type calls.

PATROL DISTRICTS



- Beats**
- South**
 - 31 (Downtown, Center & East Wheeling)
 - 32 (South Wheeling & Mozart)
 - East**
 - 41 (Wheeling Hill to Washington Ave., Oglebay Area)
 - 42 (Washington Ave. to Oakmont & Elm Grove)
 - North**
 - 51 (Wheeling Island & North Wheeling)
 - 52 (North Park to Warwood)

INVESTIGATIONS Division



Sgt. Gregg McKenzie



Sgt. Rob Safreed



Sgt. Matt Taylor



Cpl. Ryan Ferrell



Cpl. Andy Adams

The investigations division consists of four investigators and a supervisor. The investigations division follows up on calls that require more than an initial report. The investigators are tasked with interviewing suspects, victims and witnesses as well as obtaining surveillance video and any forensic evidence.

Additionally, WPD's investigations division is an affiliate with the West Virginia Internet Crimes

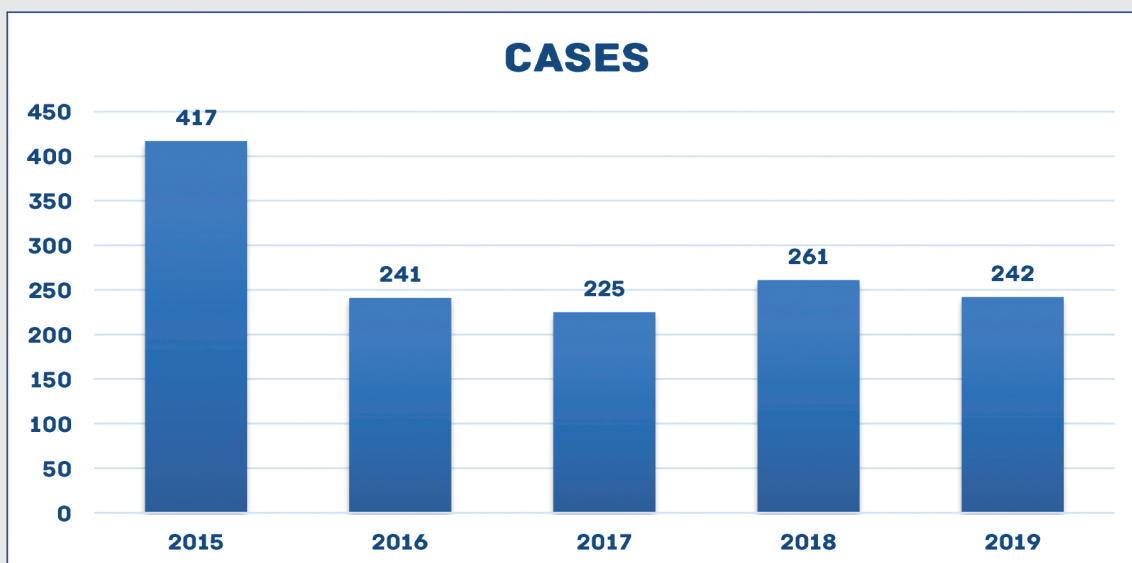
Against Children Task Force (WVICAC). The task force participates in actively pursuing perpetrators involved with internet crimes against children as well as investigating crimes reported by individuals.

Sgt. Gregg McKenzie, served as investigations commander until his retirement in October 2019. **Sgt. Rob Safreed** succeeded him and served along side **Sgt. Matt Taylor**, **Cpl. Ryan Ferrell** and **Cpl. Andy Adams**.

CASES

In 2019, the Detective Division of the Wheeling Police Department investigated 242 new cases. Although detectives are still investigating cases from prior years, there was a 3% decrease in new cases from the previous year.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TOTAL	417	241	225	261	242



THE OHIO VALLEY DRUG TASK FORCE

The Ohio Valley Drug Task Force investigates drug and violent crimes in the Ohio Valley area. The task force started in 1989 with three officers from the Wheeling Police Department working part time on drug investigations. At that time, it was called The Wheeling Drug Unit.

The task force has since evolved and now consists of three Wheeling Police Officers, one Ohio County Sheriff's Deputy, and one Trooper from the West Virginia State Police. The Ohio Valley Drug Task Force is housed in the Wheeling Drug Enforcement Administration Office where the task force and DEA work together and utilizes state of the art equipment to investigate drug crimes in the Ohio County Area.

Wheeling Police Officers assigned to the Drug Task force are:

Sgt. David Drahos, Commander; Cpl. Daniel Holmes; and Cpl. Erick Burke



HANDLE WITH CARE

Often, children are exposed to violence and trauma. Childhood exposure, without the right support, can be associated with the increased risk of emotional, behavioral and physical well-being issues.

In 2016, the Wheeling PD started a new program called "Handle with Care" where proper notification to the child's appropriate school or daycare will be notified privately when a traumatic incident occurred with that child. The school or daycare gets a notification to "handle the child with care." No other information on the specific case or incident that occurred will be released to protect the privacy of the child.

For 2019, a total of 74 Handle with Care incidents were reported to the Wheeling Police Department. A total of 136 children were impacted – an increase of 37% from the previous year.



OFFICE OF Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) serves as an oversight on all citizen complaints to ensure that a complete and thorough investigation is conducted regarding complaints filed against Wheeling Police Officers.

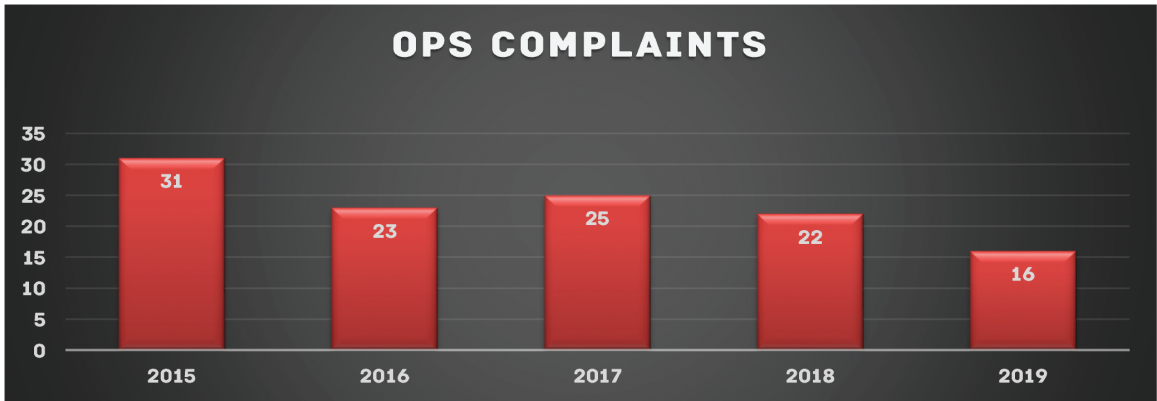
The OPS takes all complaints against department members seriously and every case is investigated thoroughly and is handled in compliance with established laws and internal policies.

Because internal investigations records are considered confidential by the State of West Virginia and the policies of the Wheeling Police Department, the OPS cannot provide information regarding the investigation or its outcome.

Regardless of the outcome, every complaint investigation creates an opportunity for the officer and the Wheeling Police Department to make policy and procedure adjustments which hopefully will improve relationships with the citizens.

OPS COMPLAINTS:

In 2019, the Office of Professional Standards received 16 complaint investigations – a continued downward trend of the last five years. This was accomplished by providing officers of the Wheeling Police Department with guidelines and knowledge to effectively conduct their job.



INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS:

Of the 16 complaints filed in 2019, four were classified as Internal Investigations and 12 as performance reviews. The OPS have several rulings that can be made from internal investigations. They include sustained, not sustained, exonerated, unfounded, voluntarily withdrew, informational, performance, training, and policy failure.

FINDINGS:

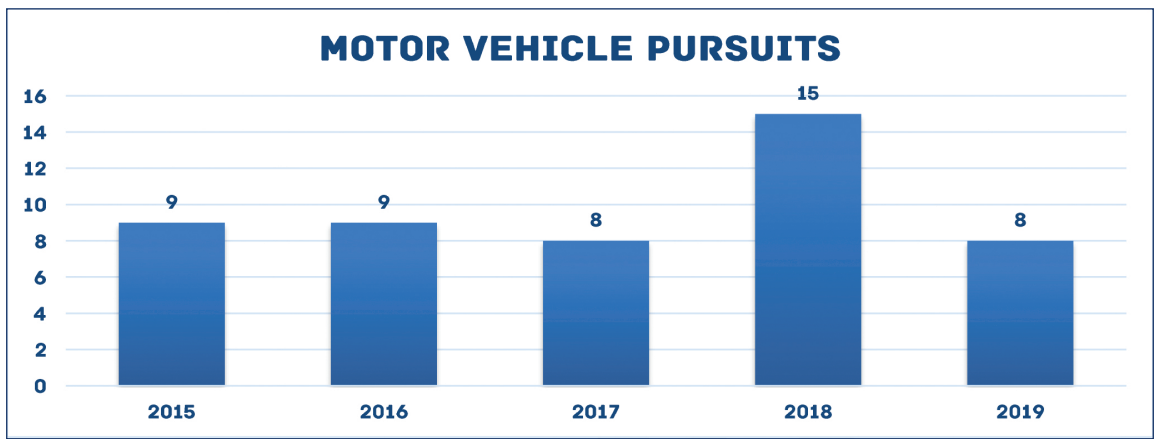
- 1 – Unfounded
- 1 – Complaint not accepted
- 1 – Not sustained
- 1 – Sustained

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS:

Of the remaining 12 complainant investigations handled by the OPS, all prompted a **Performance Review** - These types of complaints were mainly investigated by the officer/employee's shift supervisor or the OPS investigator. Of these Performance Reviews, each investigation was also issued a finding by the OPS investigator.

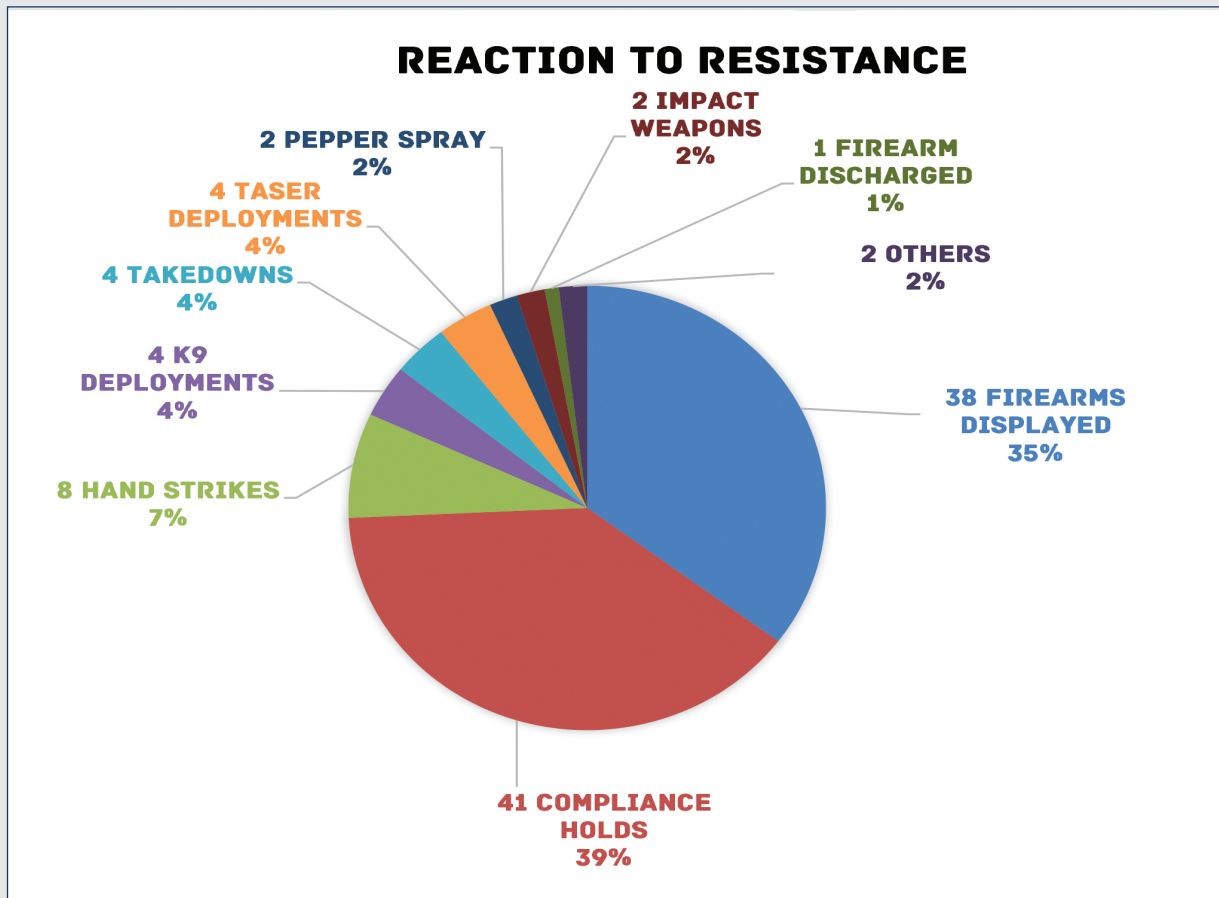
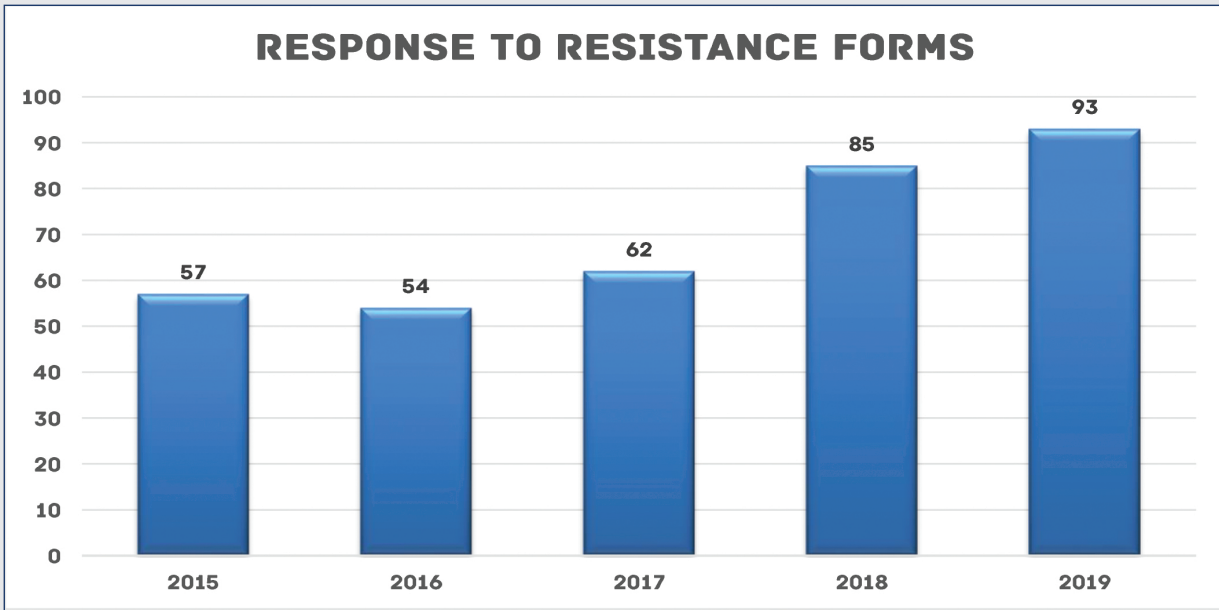
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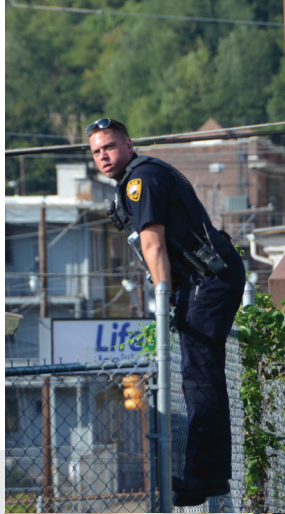
- 6 – Complaint not accepted
- 1 – Complainant satisfied
- 2 – Informational
- 1 – Sustained
- 2 – Performance



RESPONSE TO RESISTANCE:

One of the many duties the OPS tracks are Response to Resistance incidents that result in a written report filed by an officer who used some type of force on a person. In 2019, 1,015 people were placed under arrest by Wheeling PD. During these arrests, some sort of force was used to gain control of an arrestee or other subject. During the calendar year, a total of 93 (just 9%) were subjected to some type of force by police. The majority of the force used (74%) are mostly compliance holds and displaying a weapon (i.e.: felony traffic stop, building searches). This is mostly due to the enhanced reporting of use of force instances.





TRAINING Division

The Training Division keeps up-to-date on changes to officer training requirements per West Virginia State Law and ensures each officer meets or exceeds those training requirements each fiscal year.

In 2019, WPD Officers trained for a total of 2,384 hours.

- **72 out-of-town trainings**
- **45 local trainings**

Every Wheeling Police Officer must complete a minimum of 16 hours in-service or continuing education hours to remain certified as an active law enforcement officer. These training requirements vary depending the officer's rank and certain job duties. Supervisors have more training requirements to meet than patrol officers, and instructors must also maintain certification in their particular discipline.



FIREARMS TRAINING

The Wheeling Police Department currently has three firearms instructors assigned to it – **Sgt. Jonathan Stipetich, Cpl. Bobby McConnell and Cpl. Bryan Wilson**. The firearms instructors conduct bi-annual weapons qualifications and training with the weapons organic to the department. Weapons qualifications are done twice a year, once during daylight hours and once during low light hours. All officers are required to complete 16 hours of firearms training annually. In 2019, firearms training took place in both the spring and fall months.

THE NORTHERN REGIONAL HIGHWAY SAFETY OFFICE

The Northern Regional Highway Safety Office is located within the Wheeling Police Department and is part of the Governor's Highway Safety Program (GHSP). The GHSP is the lead agency for West Virginia's participation in federally mandated and funded highway safety improvement measures. The purpose of GHSP is to encourage, promote, and support safety throughout West Virginia.

Melissa Taylor serves as the Northern Regional Highway Safety Office Coordinator. Sean Snyder serves as assistant coordinator.



2019 Highway Safety Regional Highlights (includes other agencies in Region 4) Include:

- Click It or Ticket – **365 citations**
- Speed Enforcement – **737 citations**
- Target Red Enforcement – **99 in stop sign/red light citations**
- DUI Enforcement – **60 DUI arrests**
- Distracted Driving Enforcement – **156 cell phone/texting citations**
- Installed **251 child safety seats**

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO) PROGRAM

Throughout 2019, the Field Training Program was improved and updated with new training methods and standards.

Wheeling Police Officers are not only required to graduate from the West Virginia State Police Academy, they must also meet the requirements of the Wheeling Police Department's Field Training Program.

Trainees must complete a minimum of 16 weeks of training in the FTO program and are exposed to a comprehensive roster of police duties. They are trained in criminal law, traffic codes, accident investigation, processing crime scenes, community relations, domestic violence, emergency vehicle operation, and more.

Candidates must complete 24 hours of specialized training to become certified and become training officers. The department currently employs 14 certified field training officers.

In 2019, three new officers were trained under the new standards. During the year, nearly 6,300 hours of field training were completed.

2019 WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES



Colt P. Thomas, Robert M. Kovalyk and Michael Pasztor

SPECIALIZED Units

SWAT

The Wheeling Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is made up of **12 officers and 3 medics**. All team members complete an initial 40-hour basic SWAT school presented by a reputable training organization and recognized by the National Tactical Officers Association.

After successful completion of SWAT school, the team trains for varying missions on a monthly basis. Each team member has received special training in using tools, equipment and tactics beyond that of a patrol officer assigned to a beat.



In 2019, the SWAT team was not activated. The group does train at various areas in the city monthly.



SWAT Team Members:

Sgt. Jonathan Stipetich – Commander

Sgt. Josh Sanders

Sgt. Josh Raddish

Sgt. Rob Safreed

Cpl. Jason Chambers

Cpl. R.J. Faldowski

Cpl. Jason Martin

Cpl. Bobby McConnell

Cpl. Doug Somerville

Cpl. Bryan Wilson

Pfc. John McKenzie

Pfc. Ryan Moore

Pfc. Robert Agostino

Pfc. Gage Parker

Pfc. Brandon Stanley

Lt. Larry Koontz – WFD Medic

Lt. Eric Touvelle – WFD Medic

Fire Engineer Dennis VanKirk – WFD Medic



**Jericho &
Cpl. Sean Brantley**

**Bella &
Sgt. Doug Howell**

**Keeni &
Cpl. Jason Martin**

**Zero &
Cpl. Jason Hupp**

**Ammo &
Cpl. Harry Myers**

K9 UNIT

The Wheeling Police Department's K9 Unit was created in 2003. This year, two K9's retired from the force. Declan, WPD's first explosive detection dog retired in March, and Bella, WPD's longest serving K9 retired in December.



**Sgt. Doug Howell with
Bella
(retired December 2019)**



**Cpl. Garrett Pugh with
Declan
(retired March 2019)**

All K9s are Narcotic/Patrol, which means they are trained to detect narcotics, track fleeing suspects, building searches, and officer protection. The illegal narcotics that the K9s are trained to detect are: Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin and MDMA. K9 Declan, who retired in March 2019 after 6 years of service was trained to detect explosives in addition to helping with patrol.

- **Training Hours: 648**
- **K9's utilized: 269 times**
- **Arrests: 278**

HONOR GUARD

The Wheeling Police Honor Guard consists of 11 department members, tasked with providing ceremonial presentations at a number of events, including: State of the City Address, the annual Law Enforcement Memorial, Debbie Green 5K race/walk, Sternwheel Festival, and the Fire/Police Department recognition ceremonies.

In addition to providing these presentations, the Honor Guard is also tasked with providing services at the funerals of deceased active duty and retired department members.

WPD Honor Guard:

Sgt. Josh Raddish - Commander, Sgt. Josh Sanders, Sgt. Matt Taylor, Sgt. Russell Campbell, Sgt. Doug Howell, Cpl. Robert McConnell, Pfc. Gerald Mitchell, Pfc. Harry Myers, Pfc. Ryan Moore, Pfc. John McKenzie, Pfc. Brandon Hoehn



CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

The Wheeling Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Team (CRT) responds to all life-threatening or fatal vehicle crashes in the City of Wheeling. The Ohio County Sheriff's Office also can request the Wheeling PD's CRT to respond with their organization to crashes that occur inside Ohio County. The CRT officers are certified traffic crash reconstructionist through the Institute of Police and Technology Management (IPTM).

The CRT was called out four times in 2019.

BACKGROUND & RECRUITMENT TEAM

The Background and Recruitment Team conducts extensive background investigations on police applicants who are in the hiring process for the Wheeling Police Department. The team contacts references, prior and current employers, conducts criminal history checks, and more to ensure all police applicants meet the strict standards and core values of the Wheeling Police Department.

The Background and Recruitment Team conducted **16 background investigations in 2019**. The team also attended **two job fairs** to recruit new officers.

PREVENTION RESOURCE OFFICERS

Prevention Resource Officers (PROs) address numerous issues in regards to safety within their respective schools. PROs review, update and improve, where possible, the existing school's emergency response plans.

Officers teach approved safety education curriculum such as Drug Prevention, Conflict Resolution, Internet Safety, Being Responsible with Electronic Communications and other approved topics. Additionally, PRO's address disruptive and inappropriate student behaviors in order to promote safety and to preserve the learning process.

For the first half of the 2019-20 school year:

Classes/presentations: **110**

Extra-curricular activities: **105**

Parent notifications/contacts: **106**

Student one-on-one interactions: **334**



Sgt. Gust Kepreos
Triadelphia
Middle School

Sgt. Donald Miller
Bridge Street
Middle School

Sgt. Gregg Harris
Wheeling
Middle School

CRISIS NEGOTIATIONS TEAM (C.N.T.)

The Crisis Negotiation Team is comprised of eight members of the Wheeling Police Department. The C.N.T. is activated in instances where hostages have been taken, a subject is barricaded or if someone is suicidal. The C.N.T. also works hand in hand with the SWAT Team and is utilized on all SWAT activations.

Sgt. Matt Taylor – Commander

Sgt. Marcus Narehood
Cpl. Sean Brantley
Cpl. Brent Ruby
Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger
Pfc. Bryan Hails
Pfc. Gerald Mitchell
Pfc. William Castilow
Pfc. Korey Recinella

COMMUNITY Outreach



CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizens Police Academy is an 11-week program intended to foster relationships with the citizens of Wheeling in order to provide them with a working knowledge of the policies and limitations of the Wheeling Police Department. This program helps to increase the trust and confidence of our citizens in our ability to provide effective public safety and creates a better understanding between the citizens of Wheeling and the Wheeling Police Department through education.

The Wheeling P.D. conducted one Citizens Police Academy Class from March to May 2019. There was a total of 15 graduates in this class.

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANT VOLUNTEERS (NAVS)

The Wheeling Police Department Neighborhood Assistant Volunteers consists of 17 uniformed volunteers who are all graduates of the Citizens Police Academy. Upon being accepted to the NAV Program, and graduating from the Citizens Police Academy, NAV's received an additional 40 hours of training. These volunteers assist officers in the field as well as perform administrative duties in the department.



Throughout 2019, NAV's volunteered a total of 1,744 hours of their time to the Wheeling Police Department – 400 hours more than the previous year.

WPD NAVs: Mark Ackerman, Tony Belon, Janet Castilow, Craig Collins, Zachary Cooper, Susan Downing, Becky Gentle, Martin Imbroscio, Patricia Kettler, Jon Letzkus, Jackie McGlumphy, Tom Miller, Jody Miller, Julia Sheets, Rhonda Tysk, Stephanie Whipkey, Judy Winesburg, Julie Zogg.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAMS

Since 1997, the Neighborhood Watch Program has been in place in the city's 6 wards. The program serves a crime prevention program that enlists active participants of residents in cooperation with law enforcement to reduce crime, solve problems, and improve the quality of life in the area in which they live.

The Wheeling Police Department facilitates these programs by holding community meetings, special events, and providing educational training and communications. **A total of 71 meetings were held throughout the city in 2019.**



- Ward 1/Warwood – 10 meetings
- Ward 2/North Wheeling – 7 meetings
- Ward 2/Wheeling Island – 10 meetings
- Ward 3/East Wheeling – 12 meetings
- Ward 3/South Wheeling – 12 meetings
- Ward 4/Woodsdale – 11 meetings
- Ward 6/Elm Grove – 9 meetings

COMMUNITY EVENTS

JUNIOR POLICE AND FIRE ACADEMY



WHEELING HOSPITAL SAFETY TOWN



POPS WITH COPS & BIKE RODEO



THIRD ANNUAL OPERATION TOY LIFT



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT





Wheeling Police Department Officers Killed in the Line of Duty

- Joseph P. Brady – Sept. 27, 1868
- Joseph Glenn – Jan. 17, 1888
- Salavia C. “Lafe” Bowen – Dec. 26, 1902
- Henry Carl Seamon – Feb. 26, 1917
- Herman Henry Bartels – May 3, 1922
- Ray Melvin Lazear – Jan. 12, 1925
- Charles Ulrich “Bud” Brunhaus – Jan. 20, 1926
- James Robert Wolfe – Jan. 31, 1931
- James Reiter Bailey – Oct. 11, 1971

WPD’S LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL

was held May 15, 2019. In observance of National Peace Officer Memorial Week, the Wheeling Police Department holds a Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony at Heritage Port every year in May. During the ceremony, wreathes are laid to honor those officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. Each year, the fallen officers of the Wheeling Police Department are honored, as well as any West Virginia officer that lost their life in the previous year. This year’s Guest Speaker was Mel Blount, former Pittsburgh Steeler.



2019 DEPARTMENT HONOREES

Year In Review

RETIREMENTS



Sgt. Gregg McKenzie
10/11/2019, 25 years

Sgt. William Nolan, Jr.
7/19/2019, 28.5 years

Deputy Chief Martin Kimball
8/3/2019, 38 years

Cpl. Craig Howard (not pictured) 5/10/2019, 20.5 years

NEW OFFICER HIRES

- Robert Kovalyk
2/4/2019
- Colt Thomas
2/11/2019
- Brendan Ross
3/11/2019
- Zachary Stoneking
8/26/2019
- John 'J.T.' Wolf
12/2/2019
- Aspen Matlock
12/16/2019
- Blake Paxton
12/16/2019

PROMOTIONS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Lieutenant</p> <p>Lt. Matthew Taylor</p>
<p>Corporal</p> <p>Cpl. Jason Hupp
Cpl. Andrew Adams
Cpl. Harry Myers
Cpl. Ben Young
Cpl. Robert Scott</p> | <p>Sergeant</p> <p>Sgt. Rob Safreed
Sgt. Ryan Ferrell</p>
<p>Patrolman First Class</p> <p>Pfc. Gage Parker
Pfc. Brandon Hoehn
Pfc. Brandon Stanley
Pfc. Dylan Giusto
Pfc. Korey Recinella
Pfc. Shayne McAllister</p> |
|---|---|

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATIONS

MERITORIOUS PERFORMANCE

Lt. Micah Zinn
Sgt. Richard Robbins
Sgt. Doug Howell
Sgt. Jonathan Stipetich
Sgt. Josh Raddish
Sgt. Russ Campbell
Sgt. Rob Safreed
Cpl. Jason Martin & K9 Keeni
Cpl. Sean Brantley
Cpl. Brent Ruby
Cpl. Harry Myers
Pfc. Robert Scott
Pfc. Ryan Moore
Pfc. Kevin Kuca
Pfc. Bryan Hails
Pfc. Gerald Mitchell
Pfc. John McKenzie
Pfc. Brandon Hoehn
Pfc. Shayne McAllister
Ptlm. Michael Pasztor
Ptlm. Brendan Ross
Ptlm. Robert Kovalyk

MEDAL OF MERIT

Deputy Chief Martin Kimball
Lt. William Noice
Lt. Ken Prager
Sgt. Doug Howell
Sgt. Josh Sanders
Sgt. Jonathan Stipetich
Sgt. Richard Robbins
Sgt. Russ Campbell
Sgt. Marcus Narehood
Cpl. Jason Hupp
Cpl. Harry Myers
Pfc. Kevin Kuca
Pfc. Shayne McAllister
Judy Winesburg (WPD NAV)
Craig Collins (WPD NAV)
Tom Miller (WPD NAV)
Jody Miller (WPD NAV)
Jackie McGlumphy (WPD NAV)
Becky Gentle (WPD NAV)
Rhonda Tysk (WPD NAV)
Stephanie Whipkey (WPD NAV)
Susan Downing (WPD NAV)

COMMENDATION

Cpl. Jason Chambers
Pfc. John McKenzie
Pfc. Robert Agostino
Pfc. Korey Recinella
Ptlm. Kevin Cowan
Craig Collins (WPD NAV)

CHIEF'S EAGLE AWARD

Cpl. Ryan Ferrell
Pfc. Robert Agostino
Pfc. Kevin Kuca

DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION

Sisty Walsh

COMMUNITY APPRECIATION

Ginny Favede & Bengy Swanson
Phil Carl & Warwood Media
WV Division of Corrections

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Cpl. Sean Brantley
Pfc. Ryan Moore
Pfc. Gerald Mitchell

LIFESAVING

Pfc. John McKenzie
Pfc. Korey Recinella
Cpl. Jason Hupp



OFFICERS OF THE QUARTER



1st Quarter – Pfc. Ryan Moore



2nd Quarter – Ptlm. Kevin Cowan



3rd Quarter – Cpl. Jason Hupp



4th Quarter – Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger

2019 OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Cpl. Jason Hupp

WHEELING PD In The News

APRIL

The department graduated its first Explorer Post – a total of 11 youths participated in hopes to become law enforcement officers in the future.



JUNE

A man jumped into Big Wheeling Creek after fleeing from police in the Lenox neighborhood. Officers were able to capture him near Kroger.

JULY

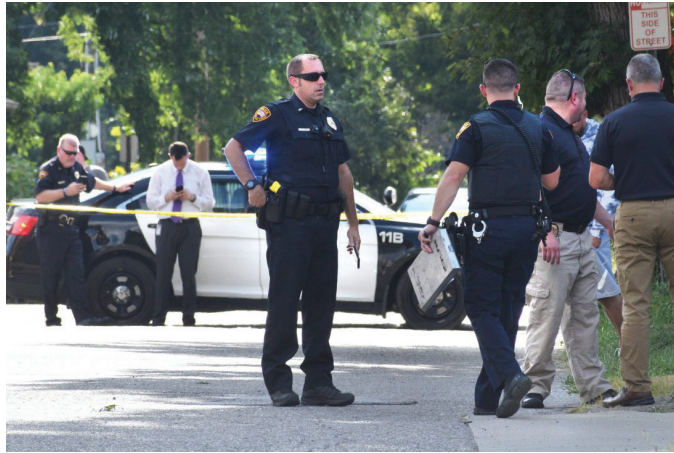
President Donald Trump paid a visit to Wheeling for a private fundraiser. Most of the department was utilized to protect the commander in chief.



WHEELING PD In The News

AUGUST

A Monday summer afternoon was interrupted by a homicide on Wheeling Island. Detectives acted quickly and were able to file charges and make an arrest within 48 hours.



OCTOBER

Construction work on I-70 created multiple traffic changes; A late afternoon shots fired incident in East Wheeling led to a foot chase and arrest; Weeks later, a Saturday afternoon deadly crash on I-470 shut down the interstate for hours.



NOVEMBER

A fatal pedestrian crash in Warwood restricted multiple roads in the city, creating a gridlock at times.





CRIME Statistics

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and the West Virginia Incident Based Reporting System collect information on each single incident and arrest within 22 crime categories composed of 46 offense types known as “Group A offenses.”

Group A offenses require an extensive amount of crime data collection. **Group B offenses** are also recorded but only collect arrest data for the offenses. The Wheeling Police Department is in compliance with the state of West Virginia in reporting all required crime data.

GROUP A (more serious offenses)

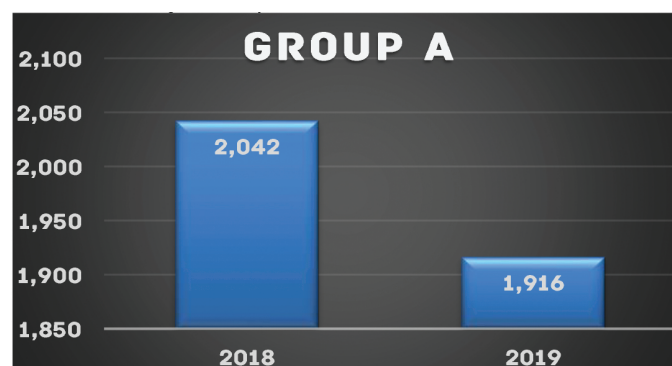
DECREASED by 6.5%

Group A categories that **decreased** from the previous year were:

- Vandalism (down 22%)
- Robbery (down 33%)
- Burglary (down 10%)
- Drug Related Calls (down 27%)

Group A categories that **increased** significantly:

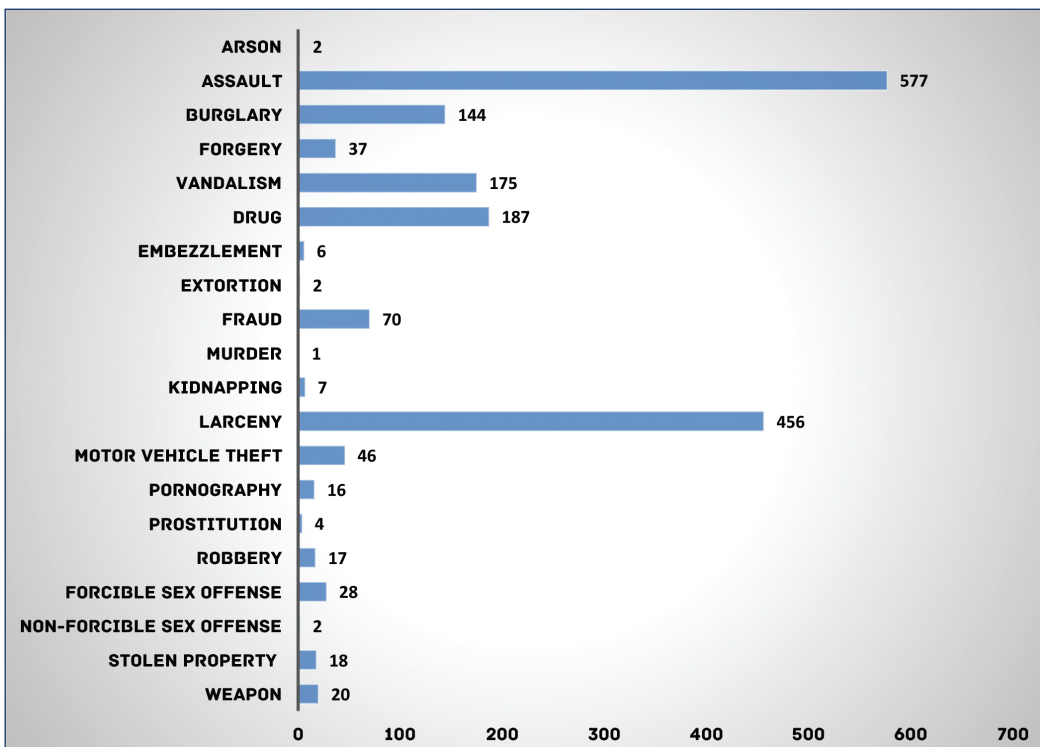
- Motor Vehicle Thefts by **24%**
(**46** cases in 2019 vs. **37** in 2018)
- Assaults by **7%**
(**577** in 2019 vs. **536** in 2018)



DOWN 6.5%

Group A Offenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
ARSON	1	1	1	2	2
ASSAULT	548	591	596	529	577
BURGLARY	210	215	189	168	144
FORGERY	25	26	37	33	37
VANDALISM	260	291	213	213	175
DRUG OFFENSES	201	209	384	381	287
EMBEZZLEMENT	4	7	10	9	6
EXTORTION	0	1	1	0	2
FRAUD	100	109	84	104	70
MURDER	2	1	2	1	1
KIDNAPPING	3	10	6	8	7
LARCENY	484	578	525	454	456
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	44	43	34	36	46
PORNOGRAPHY	2	7	7	5	16
PROSTITUTION	1	2	4	12	4
ROBBERY	35	39	39	26	17
FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	29	18	40	29	28
NON-FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	1	0	1	0	2
STOLEN PROPERTY	11	12	18	18	18
WEAPON	21	13	21	14	20
TOTALS	1,983	2,176	2,212	2,042	1,916

**Previous yearly crime numbers can alter depending on the outcome of the investigation.*

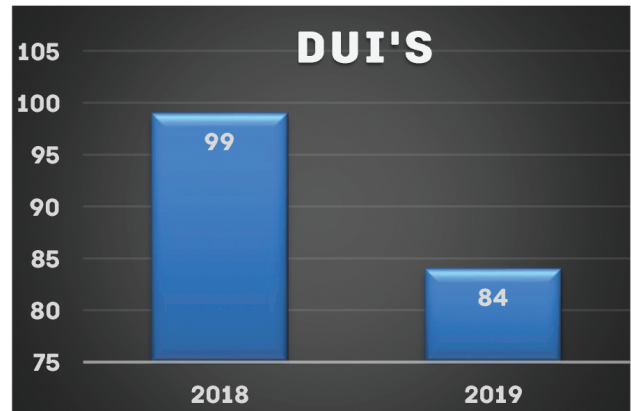


GROUP B (less serious offenses) **INCREASED by 4%**

Group B offenses increased slightly because of geographical policing and focusing on specific areas of crime in the city. Also, in 2019, officers continued to be visible and focus on impaired driving education. As a result, DUI arrests were down 15%.

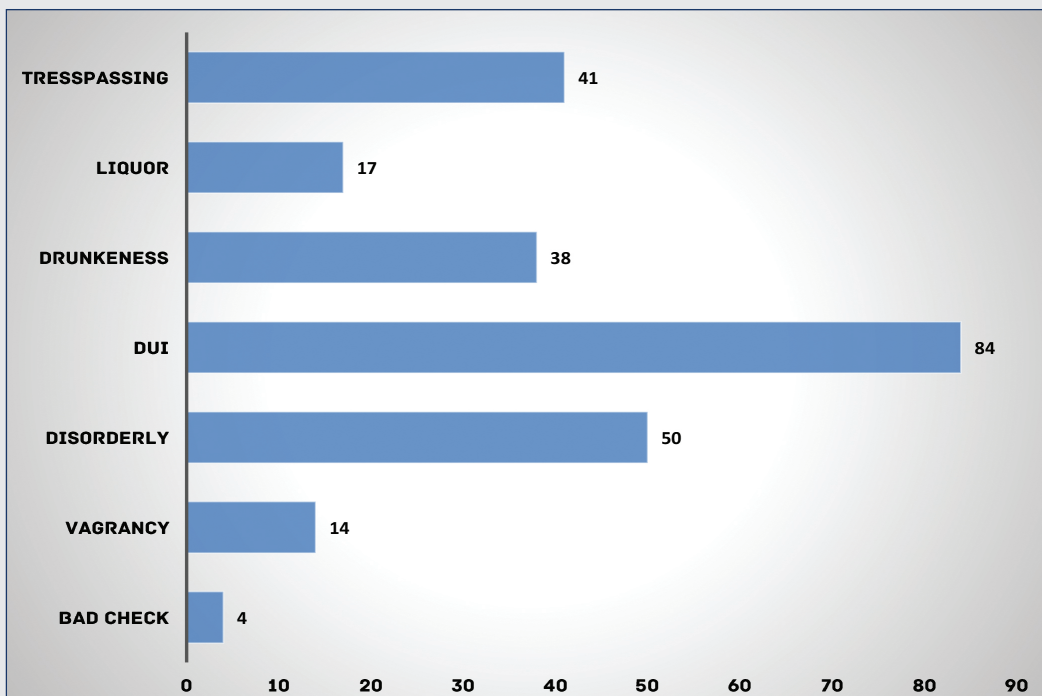


UP 4%



DOWN 15%

Group B Offenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
BAD CHECK	8	4	4	4	4
VAGRANCY	15	11	14	7	14
DISORDERLY	26	32	36	59	50
DUI	69	50	51	99	84
DRUNKENNESS	88	37	38	58	38
LIQUOR	33	8	15	21	17
TRESPASSING	25	27	36	31	41
ALL OTHER	1,283	1,347	1,063	1,199	1,292
TOTALS	1,547	1,347	1,257	1,478	1,540



FALSE ALARM Reduction Program

The False Alarm Reduction program was launched on Oct. 1, 2016, with a goal to reduce false alarm calls and ease the burden on the Wheeling Police Department's Patrol Division. Statistics in a one-year period show that 99-percent of all alarm calls are FALSE.

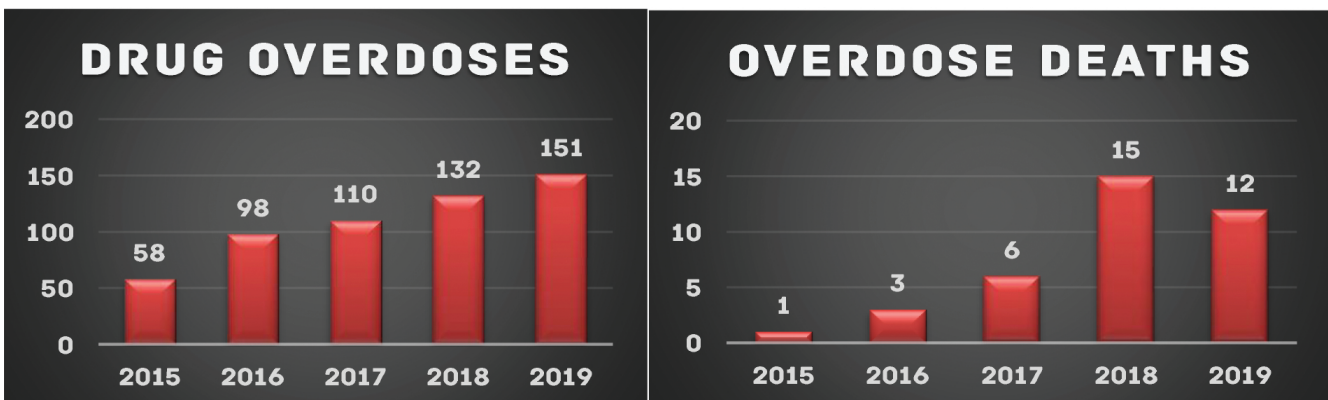
Overall, WPD responded to 750 false alarm calls in 2019, down 5% from the previous year. A total of 7 alarms, or less than 1% were found to be true burglaries/breaking and entering. Since the program's inception, false alarm calls have been reduced by 25%.

All burglar alarm users that live within the City of Wheeling must register their alarm systems with Cry Wolf Services – an outside agency that manages the database and all fines related to a false alarm call. There is NO FEE to register a burglar alarm system.



DRUG Overdoses

Drug-related overdoses have increased each of the last five years. In 2019, Overdose released deaths decreased for the first time in years – a total of 20% from 2018 to 2019. Overdoses were NOT just heroin related – but multiple types of narcotics. In addition to overdose calls, WPD responded to 85 medical calls to assist the Wheeling Fire Department.

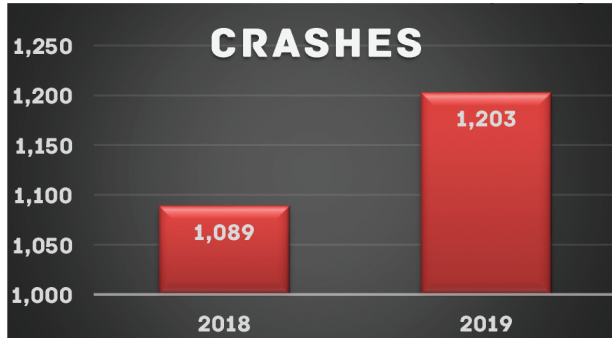


**previous overdose death numbers can change based on information provided by the West Virginia Medical Examiner's Office.*

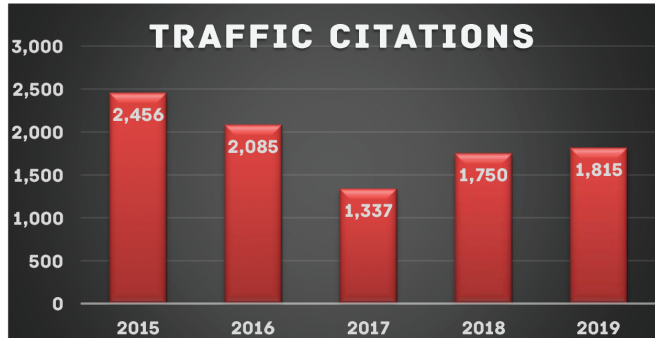
TRAFFIC Statistics

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT INCREASED by 3.7%

WPD continued its efforts to increase traffic enforcement throughout Wheeling in 2019, with a heavy emphasis on Interstate 70. Last year, there was a slight increase in crashes – mostly along I-70 in the fall months.

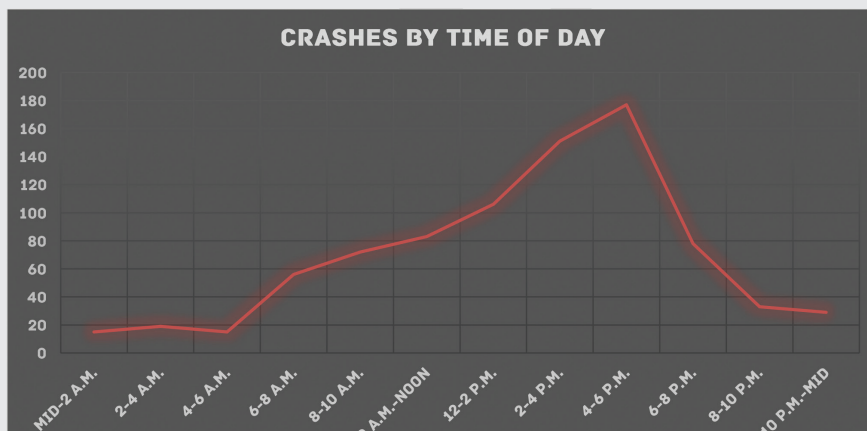
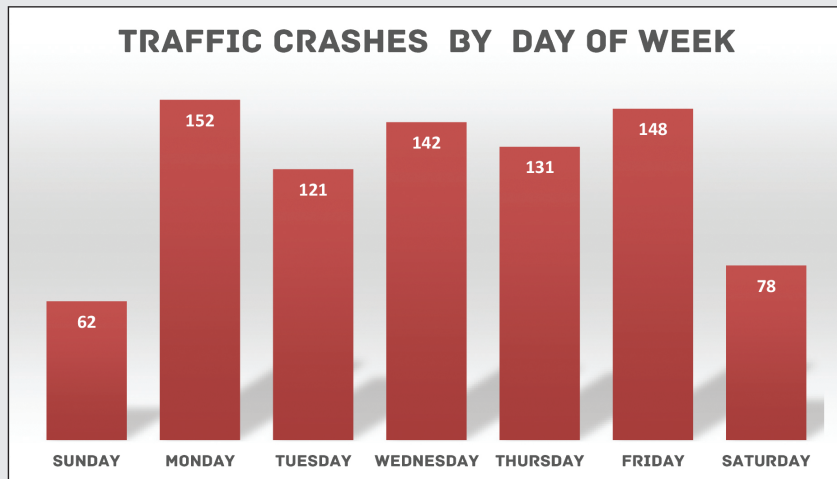


UP 10%

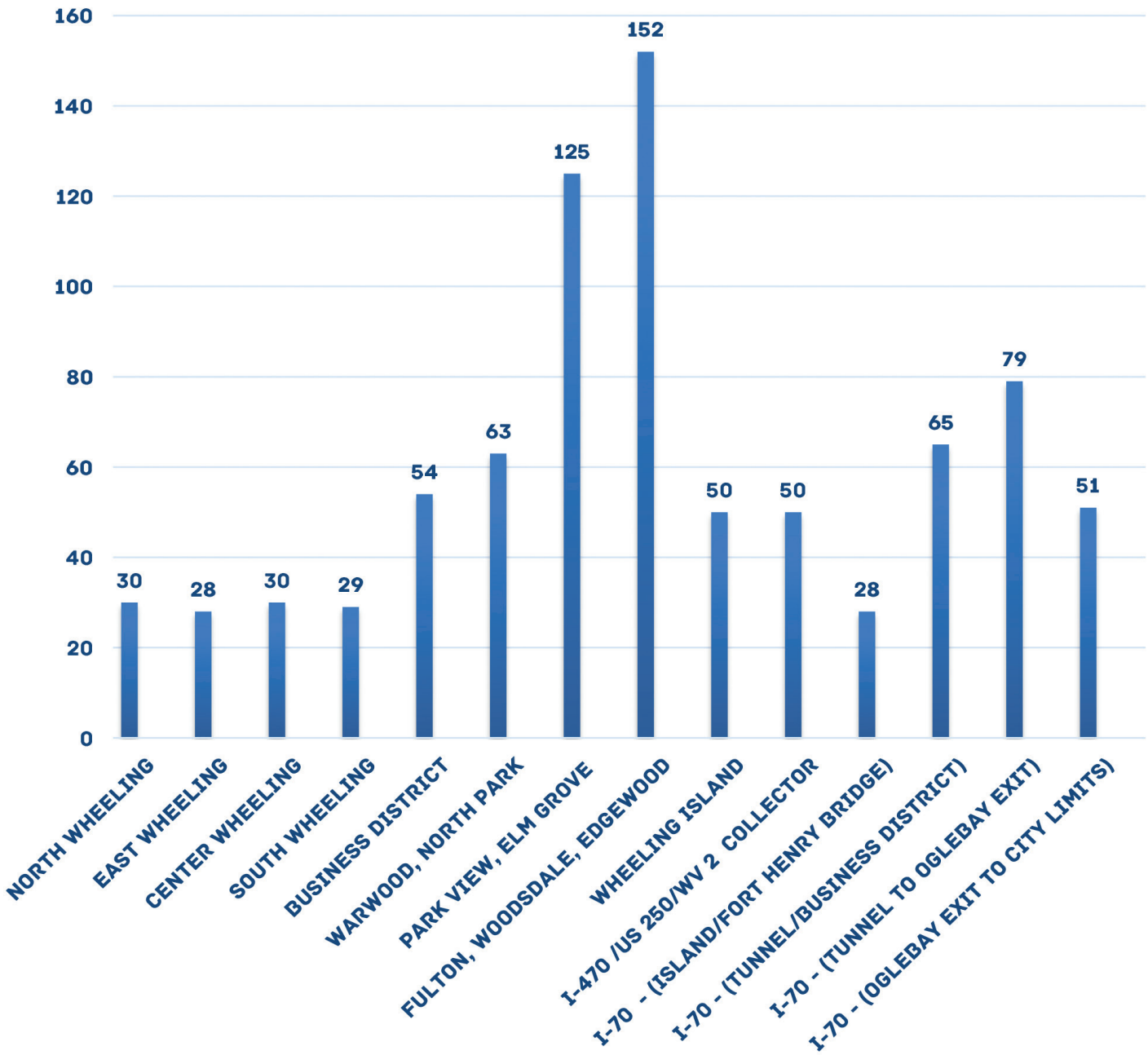


UP 3.7%

CITATIONS	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2,456	2,085	1,337	1,750	1,815
CRIMINAL CITATIONS	313	353	444	375	340



CRASH LOCATION BY ZONE



STRATEGIC PLANNING & Look Ahead

The Wheeling Police Department continues to implement the strategic planning process to guide the police department's organizational goals and the actions needed to achieve those goals. The strategic plan aides in guiding the budgeting process through several years, prioritizes training needs, and sets the tone for the direction of the agency. Departmental goals and directions have been identified through command staff meetings and internal/external assessments. The elements of the strategic planning process have been prioritized into five strategic directives:

1. **Reduce Crime and Enhance Public Safety**
2. **Enhance Community Outreach**
3. **Increase Efficiency**
4. **Emergency Preparedness**
5. **Occupational Safety and Wellness**

COMPLETED INITIATIVES IN 2019:

- Drug Overdose Program with Serenity Hills
- Created a Police Explorer Program
- Project Safe Neighborhoods/ Reduction in Gun Violence & Gun Incidents
- Creation of a Drug House Abatement Ordinance (Passed by City Council July 16, 2019)
- Progress on a New Police Facility
- Overdose Spike Alerts



GOALS FOR 2020:

- Victim Advocacy Program
- Crime Reporting Software
- Warrant Reduction
- Training Enhancements
- Continue to Reduce the Number of Crashes in the City
- Continued Focus on Impaired Driving
- Enhance Bicycle Patrol Hours
- Enhance Evidence Response / Creation of an Evidence Unit
- Enhance Community Policing Initiatives in Downtown







Wheeling Police Department
ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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