

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

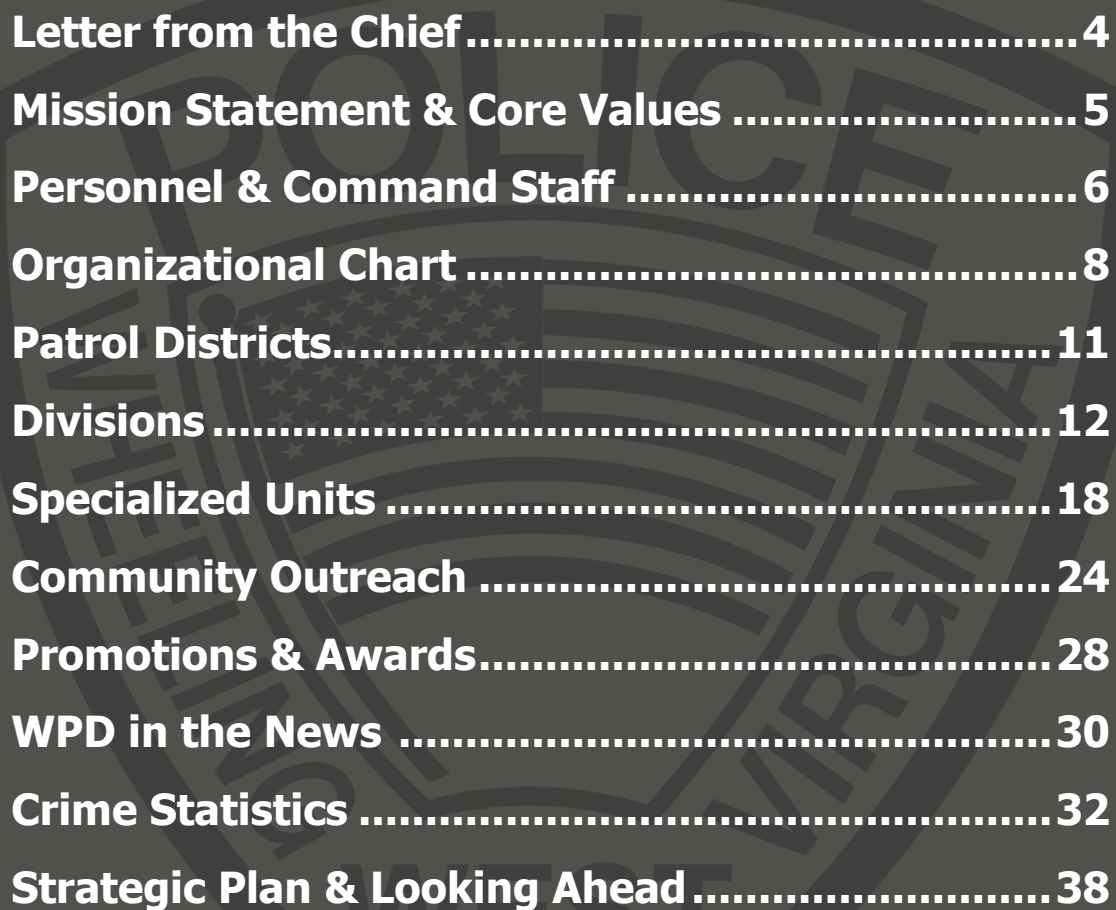
1500 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 | 304.234.3664 | wheelingwv.gov/police

 Wheeling, WV Police Department  @WheelingPolice



Wheeling Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



Letter from the Chief	4
Mission Statement & Core Values	5
Personnel & Command Staff	6
Organizational Chart	8
Patrol Districts.....	11
Divisions	12
Specialized Units	18
Community Outreach	24
Promotions & Awards.....	28
WPD in the News	30
Crime Statistics	32
Strategic Plan & Looking Ahead	38

LETTER from the Chief

I am pleased to present the 2021 annual report for the Wheeling Police Department. Each year it is an honor to review the efforts completed by all members of this historic department. It is equally important to share those facts with you. In 2021, department personnel combatted COVID-19 more than the previous year, but at the same time, witnessed some degree of a return to regular order.

In addition to working through this ongoing pandemic, our biggest challenge remains staffing. We maintained anywhere from 8-12 vacancies and several other positions were in various stages of training. This makes for extremely short staffing as well as it being very difficult to specialize and to be proactive. We continue to seek ways to improve our numbers and recognize that it is a national issue in law enforcement.

Despite the staffing woes in 2021, I am extremely proud of the amount of and quality work completed with a focus on crime trends. Several selective enforcement operations were completed in addition to a hyper-focus at the patrol level on crimes and high crime areas and trends. These efforts resulted in a reduction in Group A offenses by 5%. We were also able to end the year with a reduction in overdoses for the first time in five years.

Simultaneously in 2021, we met several other strategic initiatives such as breaking ground on a new police facility in Center Wheeling. This state-of-the-art police headquarters hopefully will be occupied by the WPD toward the end of 2022. We hope this new building, along with the recently approved assigned vehicle program, will combat our recruitment and retention issues.

Also in 2021, we witnessed the continued success of our new Victim Advocate Program, rolled out an online reporting program designed to receive information without tying up resources, and utilized our new TRIKKE program, a big hit with the community.

We are looking forward to 2022 being more successful as we continue our solid efforts on geographic and intelligence led policing, continue to seek ways to address an ever-increasing homeless community and the challenges that exist, improve interactions and direct services to those suffering from mental illness, re-focus our resources on highway safety measures, and develop new programs with our employees in mind.

Please enjoy reviewing the inner workings and results of the Wheeling Police Department and feel free to reach out to my office at any time. We value our citizens and appreciate your feedback and support.



SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police

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



DEPARTMENT Personnel

**names are listed by rank seniority as of 12/31/2021.*

CHIEF OF POLICE

R. Shawn Schwertfeger

DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

William M. Noice

Ken J. Prager

LIEUTENANTS

Joshua P. Sanders

Russell B. Campbell, Jr.

Jonathan M. Stipetich

Gust J. Kepreos

SERGEANTS

Sheldon P. LaCava

David M. Drahos

Richard A. Robbins, Jr.

Joshua R. Raddish

Greggory M. Harris

Daniel D. Finger

Douglas J. Howell

Marcus L. Narehood

Robert S. Safreed

Ryan M. Ferrell

Douglas R. Somerville

Andrew B. Adams

Brent J. Ruby

Jason A. Hupp

Benjamin J. Young

CORPORALS

Jason A. Chambers

Jason A. Martin

Robert J. McConnell, Jr.

Ronald J. Faldowski

Bryan T. Wilson

Erick M. Burke

Daniel P. Holmes

Robert C. Scott

Kevin A. Kuca

Bryan B. Hails

Carlie M. Haywood

Ryan J. Moore

William P. Castilow

John W. McKenzie

Robert W. Agostino

PATROLMAN FIRST CLASS

Gerald T. Mitchell

Cody B. Schwertfeger

Dean J. Redinger

Gage C. Parker

Brandon J. Hoehn

Brandon T. Stanley

Dylan J. Giusto

Shayne M. McAllister

Joshua A. Bolyard

Scott O. Page

Jacob P. Skinner

Robert M. Kovalyk

Brendan N. Ross

Zachary F. Stoneking

PATROLMAN

Colt P. Thomas

John T. Wolf

Blake A. Paxton

Cory R. Castilow

Ernest R. Wiseman

John C. Miller, Jr.

Cayden R. Hennen

Christipher M. Cook

Rebecca J. Haney

Collin E. Jamison

Trevor A. Brough

Jacob H. Auten

Howard J. Haglock, IV

Christian J. Forsythe

Cody S. McCormick

Gabriel M. Damico

Jacob L. Dziemnicki

Katarina M. Donzella

Christopher A. Flowers

Justin J. Fordyce

STAFF SERVICES

Karen L. Grimes,

Administrative Assistant

Roberta K. Thompson,

Staff Associate

Melissa N. Taylor,

Highway Safety Coordinator

Sean Snyder,

Assistant Highway

Safety Coordinator

Francine Catlett,

Data Coordinator

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Philip M. Stahl

CRIME ANALYST

John R. Wroten

CIVILIAN INTAKE COORDINATORS

Jennifer McGannon

L. Martin Haynes

Patricia Boniey

Michael E. Roxby

PARKING METER ATTENDANTS

Patricia L. Miller

Roy Johnson

VICTIM ADVOCATES OFFICE

Brenda Steiniger

Melinda D. Dobbs

COMMAND Staff



R. SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police



DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM NOICE
Patrol Operations Commander



DEPUTY CHIEF KEN PRAGER
Investigations Bureau Commander



LT. JONATHAN STIPETICH
South District &
Alpha Shift Commander



LT. GUST KEPREOS
East District &
Bravo Shift Commander



LT. RUSSELL CAMPBELL
North District &
Charlie Shift Commander



LT. JOSHUA SANDERS
Special Operations &
Traffic Commander



SGT. SHELDON LACAVAL
Delta Shift Commander



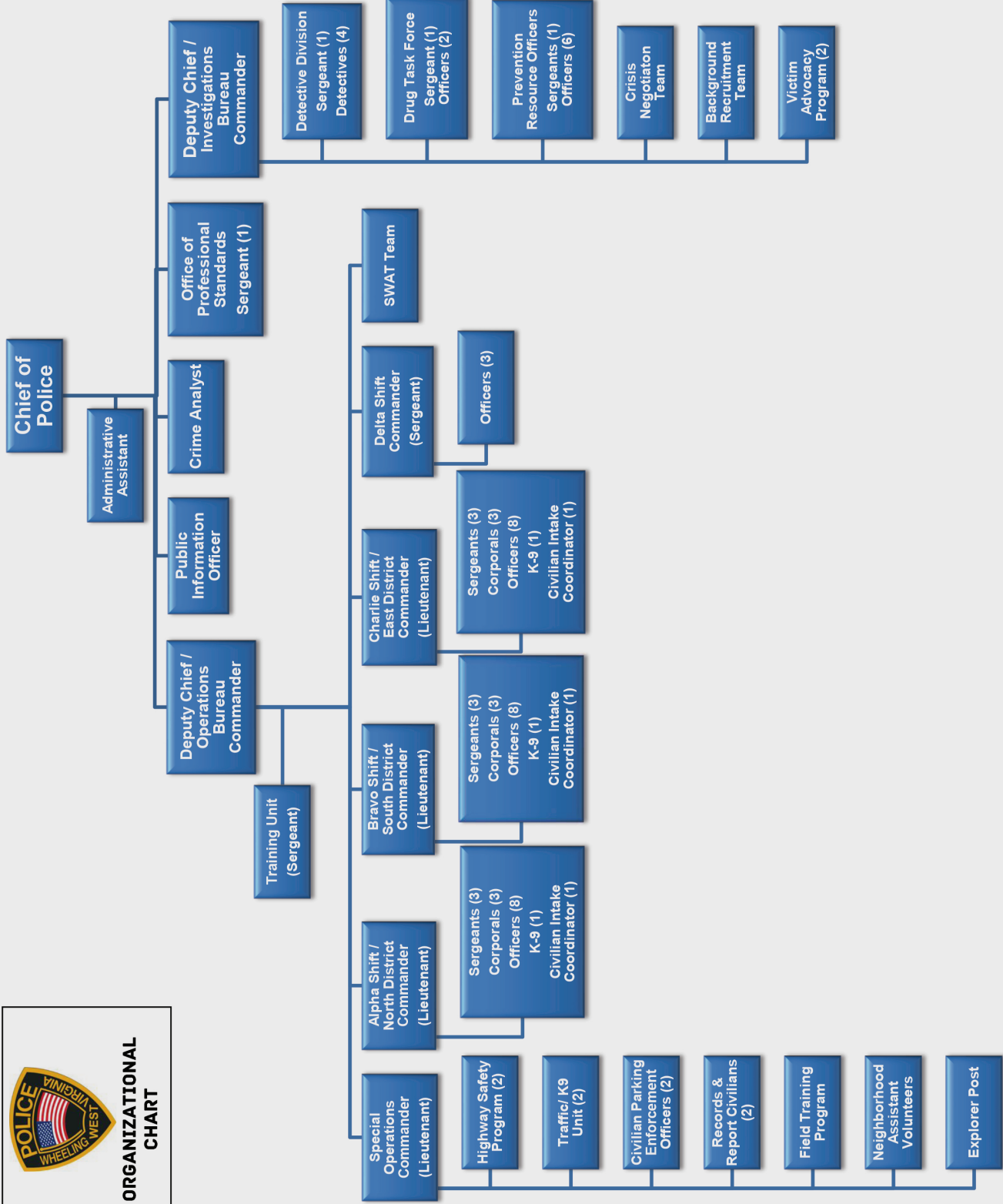
SGT. JOSH RADDISH
Office of Professional Standards



SGT. ROB SAFREED
Detective Division



SGT. DOUG HOWELL
Training & Fleet Manager





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 eight weeks, from day shift (6 a.m.- 2 p.m.), afternoon shift (2 p.m.-10 p.m.), and midnight shift (10 p.m. – 6 a.m.). Delta works a steady eight-hour night-turn shift of 8:30 p.m. – 4:30 a.m.

The division also has three K-9 handlers, all which are assigned to one of the main patrol shifts – Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. 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

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TOTAL	22,090	21,439	20,842	19,363	20,434



Total calls for service in 2021 were up 5%, the first increase in years. This is mainly due a more normalized year that saw increased traffic volume on area roadways, more officer-initiated calls, special policing operations and the return of community activities, festivals, and events.

INVESTIGATIONS Division



Pfc. Dean Redinger, Cpl. William Castilow, Sgt. Rob Safreed, Cpl. Robert McConnell, Cpl. Robert Agostino.

The Investigations Division – also known as the Detective Division – consists of four investigators and a supervisor. The detectives follow up on calls that require more than an initial report and are tasked with interviewing suspects, victims and witnesses as well as obtaining surveillance video and any forensic evidence.

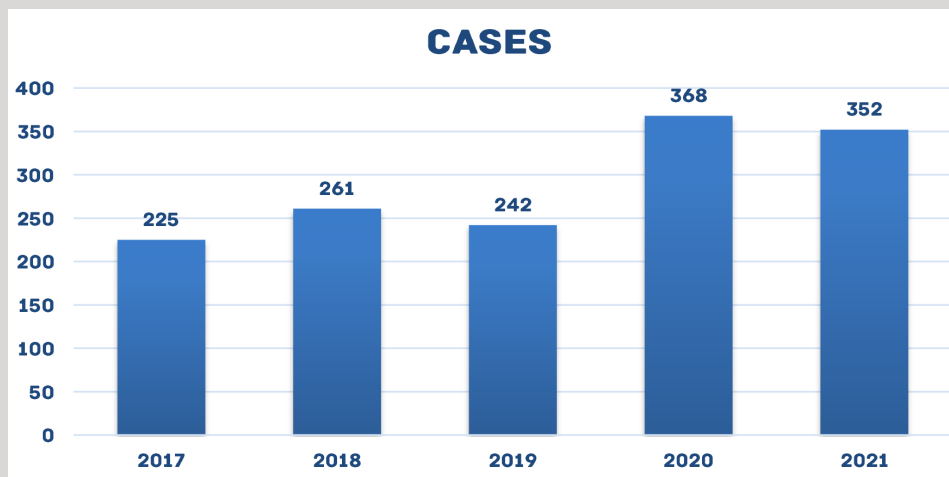
Additionally, WPD’s investigations division is an affiliate with the West Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (WVICAC). The task force participates in actively pursuing perpetrators involved with internet crimes against children as well as investigating crimes reported by individuals.

Sgt. Rob Safreed serves as investigations commander along with detectives Robert McConnell, Dean Redinger, William Castilow and Robert Agostino.

CASES

In 2021, the Investigations Division investigated 352 new cases. Although detectives are still investigating cases from prior years, new cases for 2021 saw a slight decrease of 4.5% from the previous year. Numbers are still up from years prior because of a change in the methodology used when assigning cases to detectives. This includes the investigation of more domestic related cases and several misdemeanor crimes.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TOTAL	225	261	242	368	352



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

VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Established in March 2020, the Victim Advocacy Program will help any person who becomes a victim of a crime. The two WPD advocates will be the first line for contact for any victim and will work to consistently stay in direct contact, so they are not left behind. The program works hand-in-hand with the WPD detective division.

366 Victim Encounters

Primary Victims: 310

Secondary Victims: 56

Assault: 22
Burglary: 3
Child Physical Abuse: 4
Child Sexual Abuse: 13
Death (Accidental): 22
Death (Natural): 1
Domestic Violence: 108
Domestic Violence (Strangulation): 9
Drug Overdose: 3
Family Disturbance: 1
Fraud: 2
Harassment: 39
Homicide: 7
Handle with Care notifications: 100
Kidnapping: 1
Missing Person: 1
Robbery: 1
Sexual Assault: 8
Stalking: 7
Suicide: 7
Theft: 1
Traffic Fatality: 2
Vandalism: 2
Violation of DVP: 2



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 the "Handle with Care" program, 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 2021, a total of 100 Handle with Care incidents were reported to the Wheeling Police Department.

OFFICE OF Professional Standards

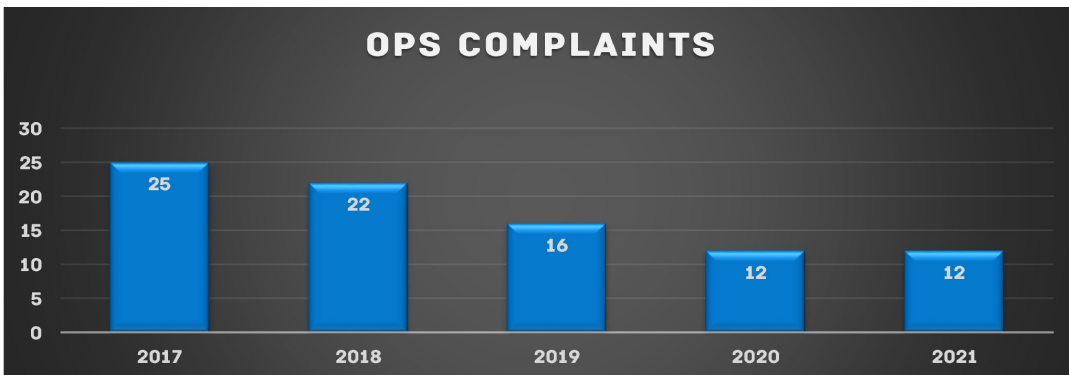
The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) was created in 2012 and serves as an oversight on all citizen complaints to ensure that a complete and thorough investigation is conducted regarding complaints filed against Wheeling Police Officers.

The OPS take 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

OPS COMPLAINTS:

In 2021, the Office of Professional Standards received 12 complaint investigations – a continued downward trend 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 12 complaints filed in 2021, 7 were classified as **Internal Investigations** and 5 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:

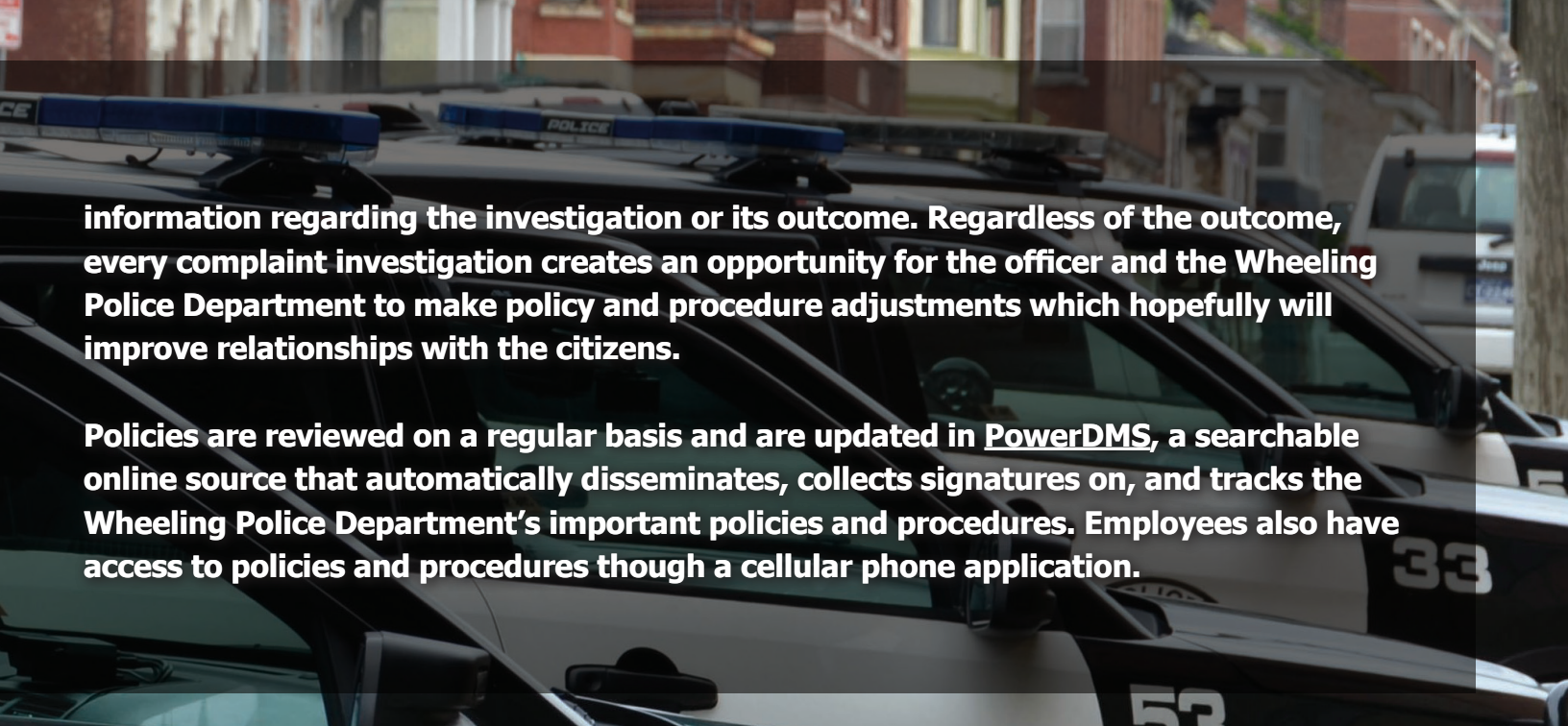
- 4 – Sustained
- 1 – Not Sustained
- 1 – Unfounded

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS:

Of the remaining 5 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.

FINDINGS:

- 1 – Exonerated
- 1 – Not Sustained
- 2 – Informational
- 1 – Referral (FBI)



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.

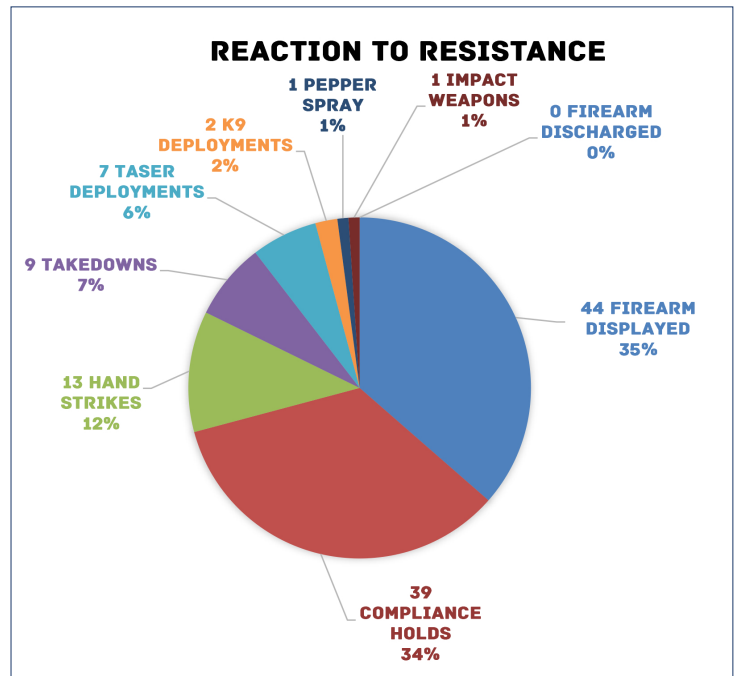
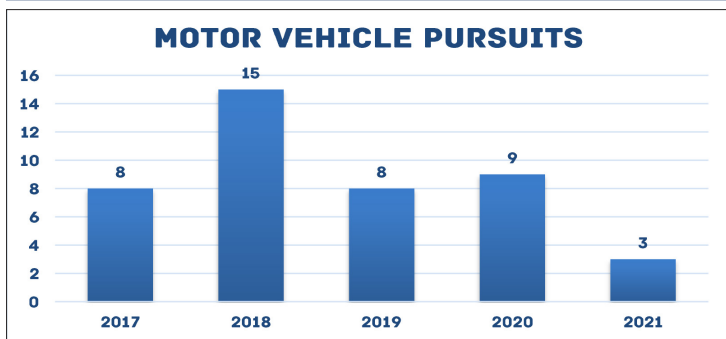
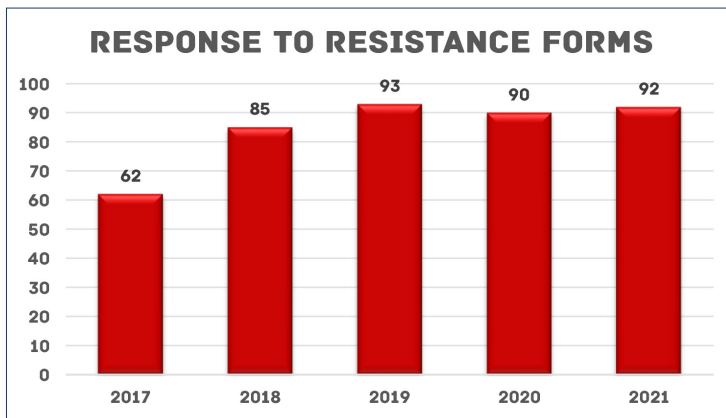
Policies are reviewed on a regular basis and are updated in PowerDMS, a searchable online source that automatically disseminates, collects signatures on, and tracks the Wheeling Police Department's important policies and procedures. Employees also have access to policies and procedures through a cellular phone application.

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 2021, 1,020 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 92 were subjected to some type of force by police.



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.

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 on 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 discipline.

In 2021, WPD Officers trained for a total of 4,417 hours.

Training Breakdown:

Mental Health Training: 724.5 hours

De-Escalation & Firearms Training: 903 hours

Supervisory Training: 590 hours

General Police Training: 1,930 hours



FIREARMS TRAINING

The Wheeling Police Department currently has three firearms instructors – **Lt. Jonathan Stipetich, Cpl. Robert McConnell and Cpl. Bryan Wilson**. The firearms instructors conduct bi-annual weapons qualifications and training with the weapons used by the department. Weapons qualifications are done twice a year, during daylight hours (spring) and during low light hours (fall). All officers are required to complete 16 hours of firearms training annually. Trainings also are comprised of several scenarios that are played out to enhance an officer's critical thinking skills.

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO) PROGRAM

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 2021, 10 new officers were trained under the Field Training Program. During the year, nearly 4,011 hours of field training was completed among the new hires.

OFFICERS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ACADEMY IN 2021:



Trevor Brough



Jacob Auten, Collin Jamison, Cayden Hennen



Rebecca Haney, John Miller, Christopher Cook

SPECIALIZED Units

SWAT

The Wheeling Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is made up of 15 officers and two 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 2021, the SWAT team was utilized **three** times, mostly to assist the Ohio Valley Drug Task Force with search warrants in various areas throughout the city.

SWAT TEAM MEMBERS:

- Sgt. Jonathan Stipetich – Commander
- Lt. Josh Sanders
- Sgt. Josh Raddish
- Sgt. Rob Safreed
- Sgt. Doug Somerville
- Cpl. Jason Chambers
- Cpl. R.J. Faldowski
- Cpl. Jason Martin
- Cpl. Robert McConnell
- Cpl. Bryan Wilson
- Cpl. John McKenzie
- Cpl. Ryan Moore
- Cpl. Robert Agostino
- Pfc. Gage Parker
- Pfc. Brandon Stanley
- Lt. Larry Koontz – WFD Medic
- Lt. Dennis VanKirk – WFD Medic



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.

Members:

- Cpl. Bryan Hails
- Cpl. Brent Ruby
- Cpl. William Castilow
- Pfc. Gerald Mitchell
- Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger
- PtIm. Ernie Wiseman

K9 UNIT

The Wheeling Police Department's K9 Unit has served the department and city since 2003. All K9s are Narcotic/Patrol dogs, which means they are trained to detect narcotics, track fleeing suspects, building searches, and officer protection. The illegal narcotics that the K9 Unit is trained to detect are Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin and MDMA. In April 2021, the K9 Unit retired Keeni, who served the department since 2014, and welcomed Ozzy, a 15-month-old German Shepherd in June.



K9 Leader: Cpl. Jason Martin & Ozzy

K9 Handlers: Sgt. Jason Hupp & Zero, Cpl. John McKenzie & Jericho



Sgt. Jason Hupp & Zero, Cpl. John McKenzie & Jericho, and Cpl. Jason Martin and Ozzy

- **Training Hours:** 893
- **Arrests:** 176
- **K9 Deployments:** 246

Deployment Breakdown:

Building Search: 11
Evidence Search: 74
K9 as Backup: 94
Officer Protection: 44
Public Demonstrations: 17
Tracks: 6

Evidence Breakdown:

Meth: 224.74 grams
Marijuana: 225.65 grams
Cocaine: 25.92 grams
Heroin : 45.79 grams
Fentanyl: 9.34 grams
Synthetic Cannabinoids: 10 grams
Psilocybin Mushrooms: 8.5 grams
THC Oil: 1 fl. oz
Drug paraphernalia: 44 items
Firearms: 1

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 twice in 2021 for a crash involving a fatality on I-470 East in April and a Wrong Way crash at the I-70 East Exit 2A off ramp in October.

The Crash Reconstruction Team consists of Lt. Josh Sanders and Sgt. Doug Somerville.



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.

2021 Highway Safety Regional Highlights (includes other agencies in region 4) Include:

- **Click It or Ticket** – 169 citations – 120 hours worked
- **Speed/work zone** – 866 citations – 680.25 hours worked
- **Target Red (red light/stop sign)** – 95 citations – 20 hours worked
- **DUI** – 48 arrests – 475.5 hours worked
- **Distracted Driving** – 215 citations – 188.5 hours worked
- **Child Passenger Safety** – 159 car seats installed

BICYCLE/TRIKKE UNIT

In 2021, WPD introduced two brand-new specialty vehicles that are unique to law enforcement and community policing. The Trikke Police Specialty Vehicles or simply "trikkes" are personal electric vehicles ready for police tasks when a typical police car is not the best option.

According to the manufacturer, Trikke Professional Mobility, the new specialty vehicles will extend an officer's traditional foot and bicycle range, call response speeds, and dramatically increases positive public engagement. Fast and eco-friendly, it outperforms cruisers for mobility purposes in crowded conditions and multi-terrain



scenarios. The trikke's can travel at a speed of 37 miles-per-hour and can last for roughly 30 miles or an eight-hour police shift. It also has a very quiet electric engine that allows officers be more alert of their surroundings.

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 team also attends several job and college fairs to recruit new officers.

Background and Recruitment Team Report:

- **WPD held civil service tests in May, September and November.**
- **14 Background investigations Conducted**
- **18 Passed Physical and Written Test**



PREVENTION RESOURCE OFFICERS

Prevention Resource Officers (PROs) address numerous issues regarding 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 to promote safety and preserve the learning process.

Wheeling Police Department's Prevention Resource Officers:

Sgt. Gregg Harris – Wheeling Middle School

Cpl. Jason Chambers – Triadelphia Middle School

Cpl. Kevin Kuca – Madison Elementary School

Cpl. Bryan Wilson – Woodsdale Elementary School & OCS Alternative Learning Center

Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger – Bridge Street Middle School

Pfc. Brandon Hoehn – Wheeling Park High School

Cpl. R.J. Faldowski – Campus Liaison Officer for West Virginia Northern Community College

For the 2020-2021 school year:

Total classes/presentations conducted: **137**

Total number of extra-curricular activities: **91**

Total number of parent notifications/contacts: **211**

Officers had one-on-one interactions with a total of **413 students** in the four Ohio County Middle Schools.



HONOR GUARD

The Wheeling Police Honor Guard consists of 11 department members, tasked with providing ceremonial presentations at several events, including: State of the City Address, the annual Law Enforcement Memorial, Debbie Green 5K race/walk, Annual 9/11 Ceremony, 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, Lt. Josh Sanders, Lt. Russell Campbell, Sgt. Doug Howell, Cpl. Robert McConnell, Cpl. Ryan Moore, Cpl. John McKenzie, Pfc. Gerald Mitchell, Pfc. Brandon Hoehn, Ptlm. Ernie Wiseman



LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL HELD ON MAY 10, 2021 AT WESBANCO ARENA



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

COMMUNITY Outreach



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, NAVs received an additional 40 hours of training. These volunteers assist officers in the field as well as perform administrative duties in the department.

Throughout 2021, NAVs volunteered a total of 288 hours of their time to the Wheeling Police Department.

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

EXPLORER POST NO. 1

The Wheeling Police Department's Explorer Post was created in 2019 and serves as a community outreach tool to educate youth interested in Law Enforcement. The program is an offset with the Boy Scouts of America's Explorer Program.

The Explorer Post serves as a gateway recruitment tool for the Wheeling Police Department as well as promoting respect for the law. Wheeling Police Officers give the explorer's opportunities to observe our function as Law Enforcement officers as well as our responsibilities to the community we serve.



EXPLORERS: Jacob Plants, Mia Hammons, Ian Joseph, Logan Joseph, Kiah Johnson, Abigail Matusik

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.



- Ward 1 Warwood – **Second Thursday**
- Ward 2 North Wheeling – **Third Thursday**
- Ward 2 Wheeling Island – **Fourth Tuesday**
- Ward 3 East Wheeling – **First Monday**
- Ward 3 South Wheeling – **Fourth Tuesday**
- Ward 4/5 Woodsdale – **Second Tuesday**
- Ward 6 Elm Grove – **Third Wednesday**

COMMUNITY Events

WHEELING HOSPITAL SAFETY TOWN



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



OPERATION TOY LIFT



COPS POPS & COMMUNITY





LOVE NOT HATE





EVENT AT THE WHEELING **WATERFRONT**

DATE JULY 10TH
2021 | **TIME** 11 AM TO
3 PM

2021 DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

RETIREMENTS



Carolyn Davis, Records Clerk
Retired 2/12/2021, 6 years of service

Sgt. Michael 'Rick' Roxby
Retired 6/11/2021, 20 years of service

Lt. Matthew Taylor
Retired 7/2/2021,
20 years of service

Lt. Micah Zinn
Retired 8/4/2021,
21 years of service

PROMOTIONS

Lieutenant

Lt. Jonathan Stipetich
Lt. Gust Kepreos

Sergeant

Sgt. Andrew Adams
Sgt. Brent Ruby
Sgt. Jason Hupp
Sgt. Ben Young

Corporal

Cpl. Ryan Moore
Cpl. William Castilow
Cpl. John McKenzie
Cpl. Robert Agostino

Patrolman First Class

Pfc. Robert Kovalyk
Pfc. Brenden Ross
Pfc. Jacob Skinner
Pfc. Zachary Stoneking

NEW OFFICER HIRES

Jacob Auten, 3/1/2021
Christian Forsythe, 6/3/2021
Howard Haglock, 6/14/2021
Cody McCormick, 8/23/2021
Gabriel Damico, 8/23/2021
Jacob Dziamniski, 8/23/2021
Christopher Flowers, 8/23/2021
Justin Fordyce, 11/29/2021

DEPARTMENT COMMENDATIONS

Meritorious Performance

Pfc. Michael Pasztor
Pfc. Scott Page

Lifesaving

Cpl. Ben Young
Cpl. William Castilow
Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger
Pfc. Brandon Stanley

Chief's Eagle Award

Pfc. Brandon Hoehn
Crime Analyst John Wroten

Medal of Merit

Sgt. Doug Somerville
Cpl. Jason Chambers
Cpl. Erick Burke
Cpl. Jason Martin
Cpl. Robert Agostino
Pfc. Dean Redinger
Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger
Ptlm. Blake Paxton



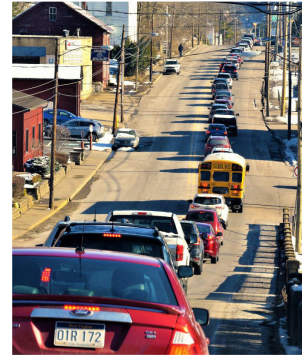
PUBLIC SAFETY Ceremony
June 17, 2021



WHEELING PD In The News

FEBRUARY

As part of phase II of the Interstate 70 Bridges project, WPD worked hand-in-hand with the WVDOT to close I-70 East at the Wheeling Tunnel. There were no major traffic issues over the 8-month closure.



APRIL

Both I-70 and I-470 East were closed as a result of a major three vehicle crash that resulted in a traffic fatality. Traffic was re-routed on US 40 and city streets for hours.

MAY/JUNE

The K9 Unit retired Keeni, who served WPD since 2014 and welcomed Ozzy, a 15-month-old German Shepherd to the force.



WHEELING PD In The News



JUNE

WPD along with the Ohio County Prosecutors Office held a joint news conference seeking information on a triple homicide that occurred in 2018. Months later, two arrests were made.



SUMMER

WPD launched its new Trikke Unit, just in time for summer events. The Trikke's were purchased by an anonymous donor.



JUNE

Police and Fire personnel responded to flash flooding in the Parkview area of the city after a mid-afternoon thunderstorm. No one was injured and crews were able to clean roadways rather fast.

SEPTEMBER

Police were called to a homicide scene in the Mozart area of the city Friday, Sept. 17. An arrest was made on scene.



SEPTEMBER

WPD investigated a shooting incident on 29th St. in South Wheeling on Sept. 20. The suspect involved was arrested overnight by police.



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 compliance with the state of West Virginia in reporting all required crime data.

The City of Wheeling's Police Department had a more 'regular' year in 2021 when compared to the year before. While the city continues to be a very safe place to live and work – overall, the data collected over the last year indicates slight improvements in certain categories, including the ongoing battle with illegal drug usage and other violent crimes.

Total calls for service were up 5%, the first increase in years. This is mainly due a more normalized year that saw increased traffic volume on area roadways, more officer-initiated calls, special policing operations and the return of community activities, festivals, and events. The most noted improvement throughout 2021 was less drug related overdoses, a decrease of 9% from the previous year, and the first noticeable reduction in roughly five years.

For specific crime related information, the data is divided into two areas – "Group A" offenses, which are generally more serious (homicide, robbery, sex crimes), and "Group B" offenses, which involve more nuisance, quality of life, property crimes and highway safety/traffic offenses.

"Group A" offenses (more serious crimes) went down 5%. Most areas, including assaults, burglary, robbery, vandalism, thefts and sexual related crimes dropped. Categories that saw increases were drug offenses, fraudulent related crimes/schemes, and child pornography cases.

"Group B" offenses (less serious crimes) were up roughly 10%. The fluctuation in numbers from the year prior is believed to be caused by a heavier focus on more nuisance related crimes, which in turn leads to lower "Group A"/serious crimes being committed.

(NOTE: Crime Stats numbers can change from previous publications because of pending cases and ongoing investigations. Numbers are updated to reflect the most accurate data each annual report).

GROUP A (serious crimes)

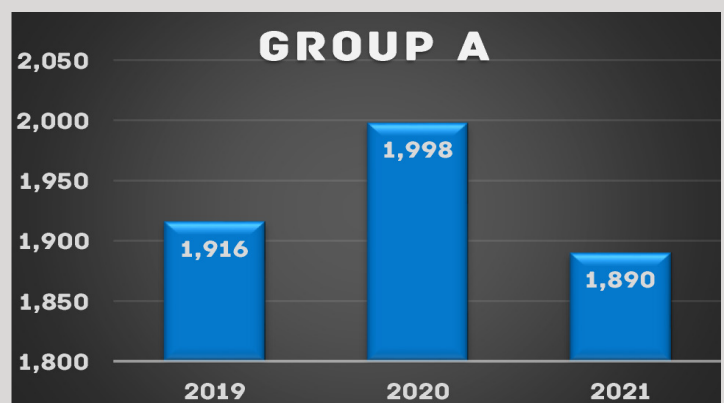
DECREASED 5%

Categories that **decreased** from the previous year were:

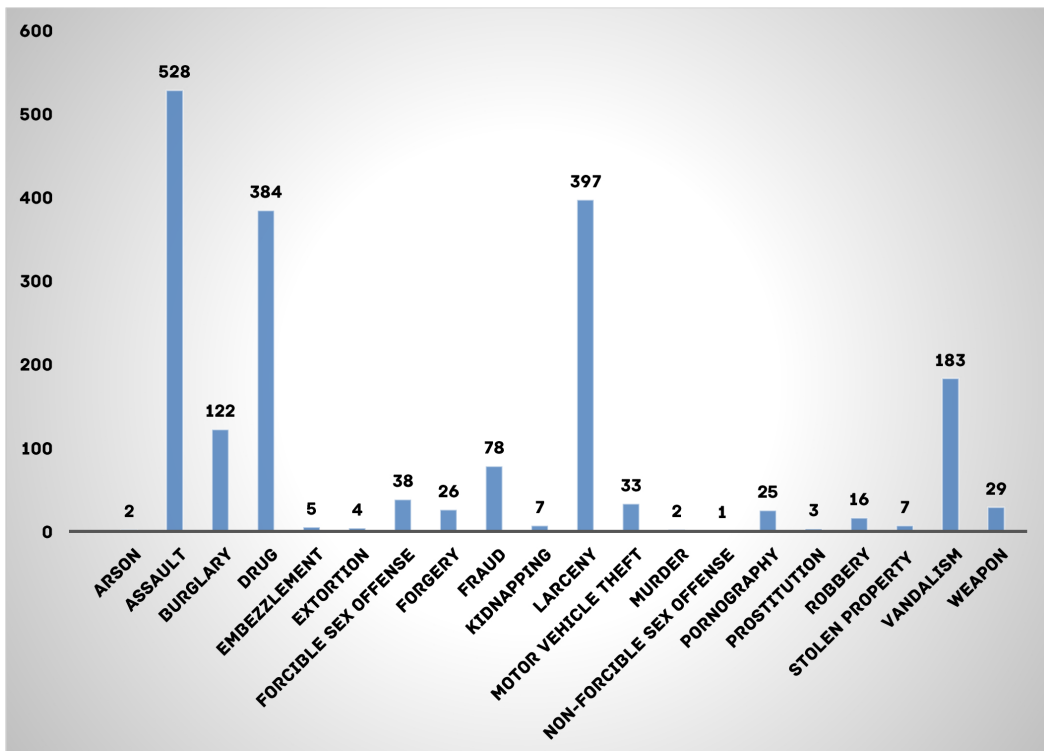
- Assaults (Down 5%)
- Burglary (Down 32%)
- Robbery (Down 48%)
- Vandalism (Down 18%)
- Larceny/Thefts (Down 5%)
- Sex Offenses (Down 25%)

Categories that **increased** from the previous year were:

- Drug Offenses (Up 17%)
- Fraud (Up 26%)
- Child pornography (Up 108%) **(NOTE: 12 in 2020 vs. 25 in 2021)**

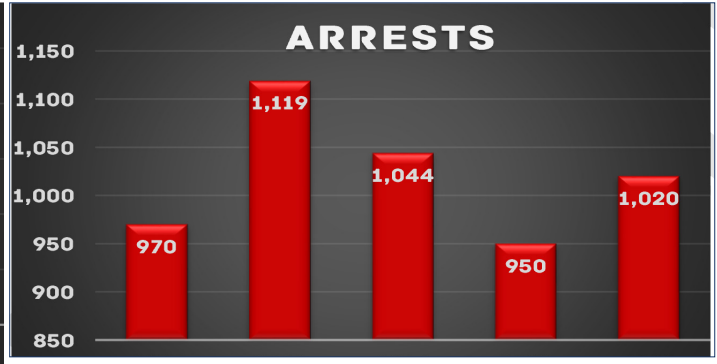


Group A Offenses	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ARSON	1	2	2	4	2
ASSAULT	599	536	577	557	528
BURGLARY	192	169	144	179	122
FORGERY	37	34	37	36	26
VANDALISM	213	214	175	224	183
DRUG OFFENSES	349	386	287	328	384
EMBEZZLEMENT	11	9	6	2	5
EXTORTION	1	0	2	0	4
FRAUD	86	106	70	62	78
MURDER	2	2	1	1	2
KIDNAPPING	6	8	7	6	7
LARCENY	531	458	455	417	397
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	15	37	46	44	33
PORNOGRAPHY	8	5	16	12	25
PROSTITUTION	4	12	4	7	3
ROBBERY	39	26	17	31	16
FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	40	29	28	45	38
NON-FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	1	0	2	2	1
STOLEN PROPERTY	18	18	18	9	7
WEAPON	22	14	19	32	29
TOTALS	2,175	2,065	1,914	1,998	1,890



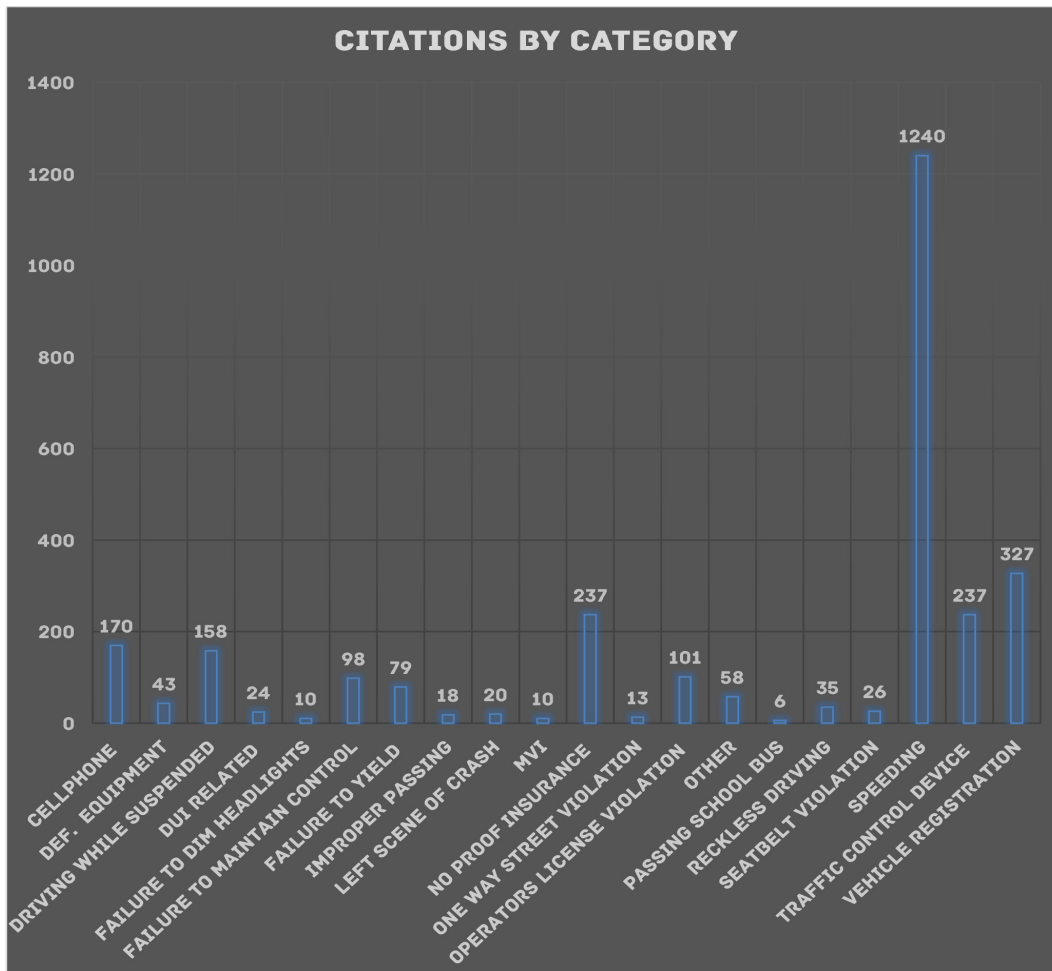
GROUP B (less serious crimes) **INCREASED 10%**

All Group B offenses went up from the previous year due to more proactive policing and focusing more attention on nuisance related complaints from the community. DUI enforcement also increased due to more activities and events from the previous year.

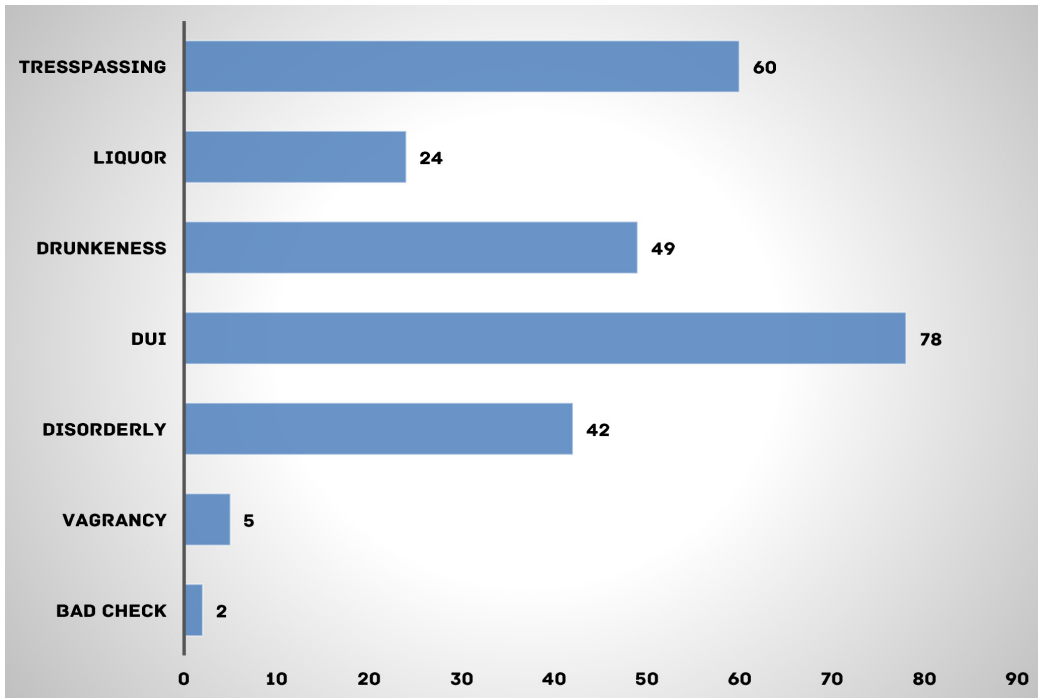


	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
CRIMINAL CITATIONS	447	378	340	337	354

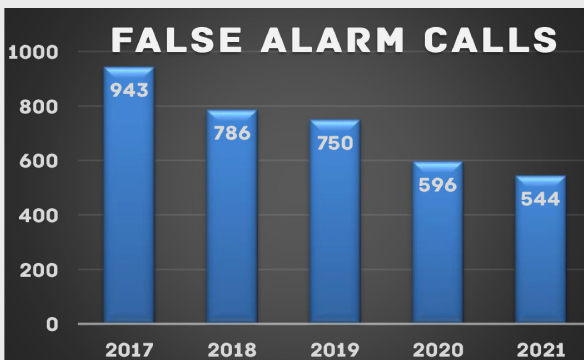
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
ARRESTS	970	1,119	1,044	950	1,020



Group B Offenses	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
BAD CHECK	4	4	4	3	2
VAGRANCY	14	7	14	11	5
DISORDERLY	37	60	50	28	42
DUI	51	99	84	64	78
DRUNKENNESS	39	59	38	27	49
LIQUOR	15	21	17	19	24
TRESPASSING	36	31	41	56	60
ALL OTHER	1,096	1,216	1,300	1,270	1,375
TOTALS	1,292	1,497	1,548	1,478	1,635



FALSE ALARM Reduction Program

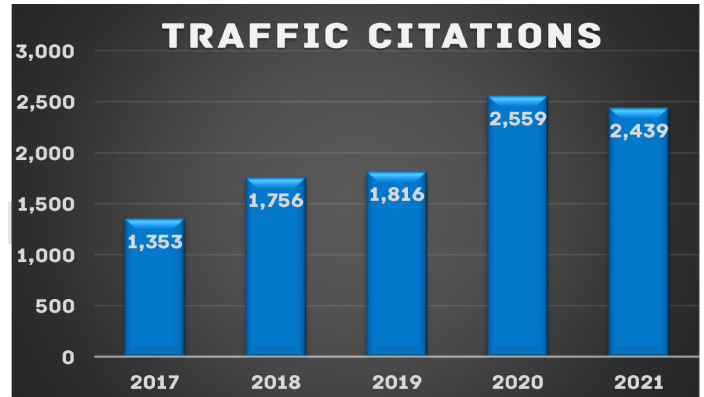
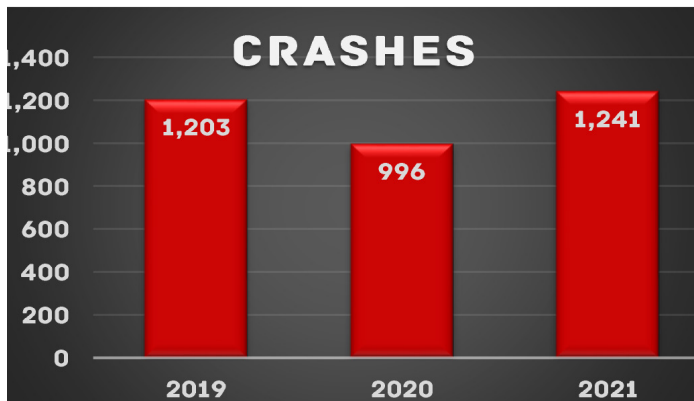


The False Alarm Reduction Program was implemented five years ago with the goal to gradually decrease the number of false burglar alarms officers were responding in hopes to ease the burden on the patrol division. In the last year, the number of false alarms the department responded to from the previous year continued to decline. From 2020 to 2021, alarm calls decreased by 20%. In the last five years, total a false alarm related calls have been reduced by 42%.

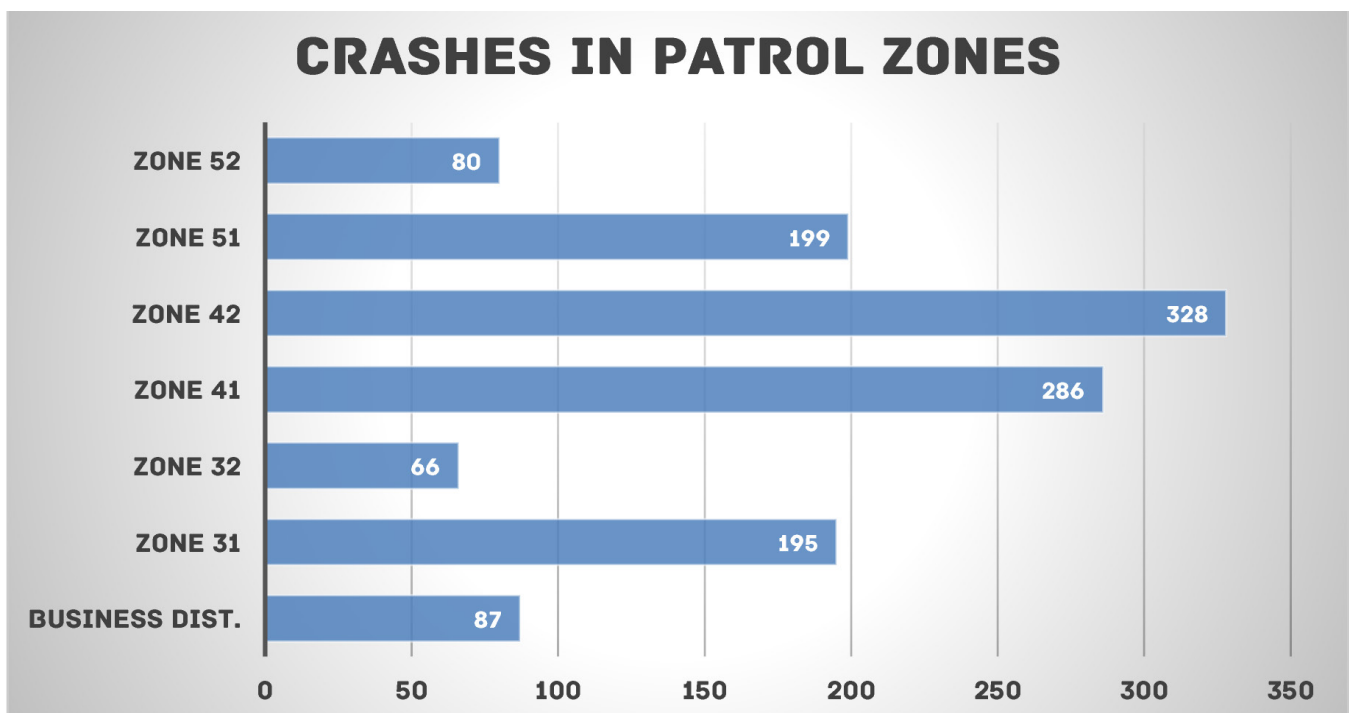
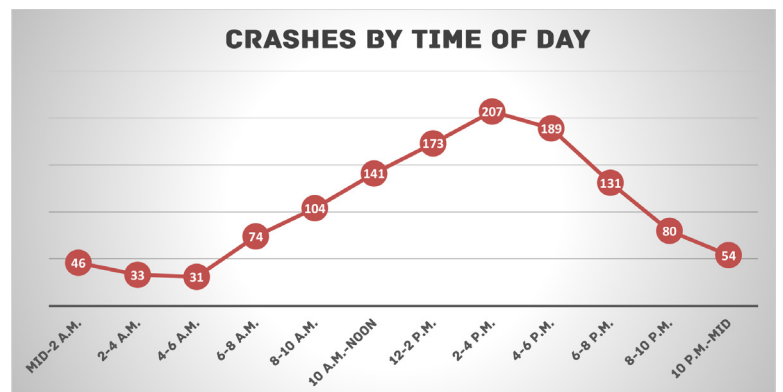
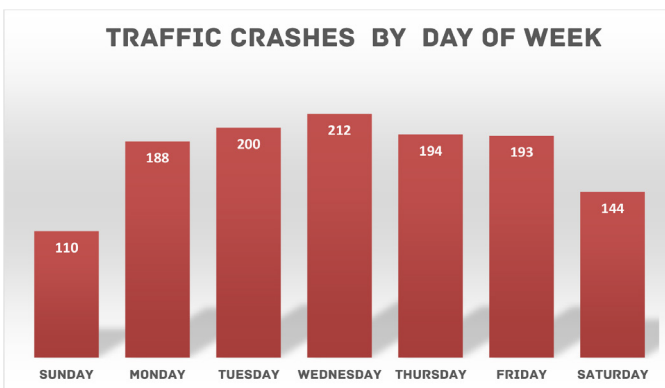
All burglar alarm users that live within the City of Wheeling must register their alarm systems with Cry Wolf Services – an outside agency that manages the database and all fines related to a false alarm call. There is NO FEE to register a burglar alarm system.

TRAFFIC Enforcement

More events and activities prompted the increase of travelers on area roadways in 2021. More crashes were reported in the city when comparing the previous two years. Traffic citations were down a little but were still on par from the previous year. Officers spent the majority of their time working traffic enforcement inside the I-70 construction zone.



	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	1,353	1,756	1,816	2,559	2,439



DRUG HOUSE Abatement

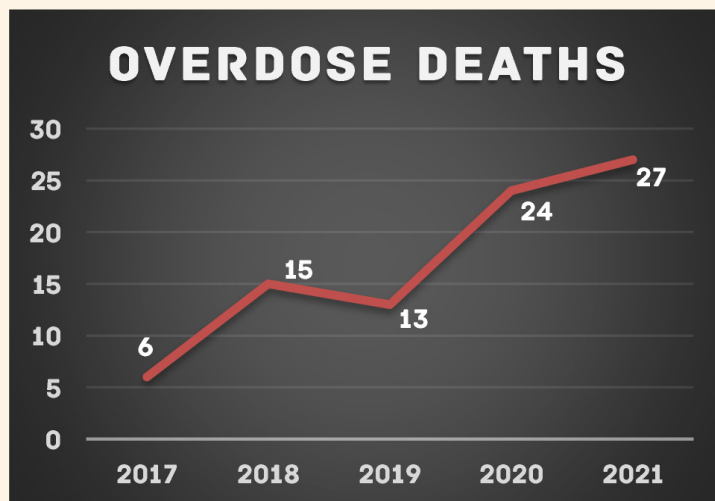
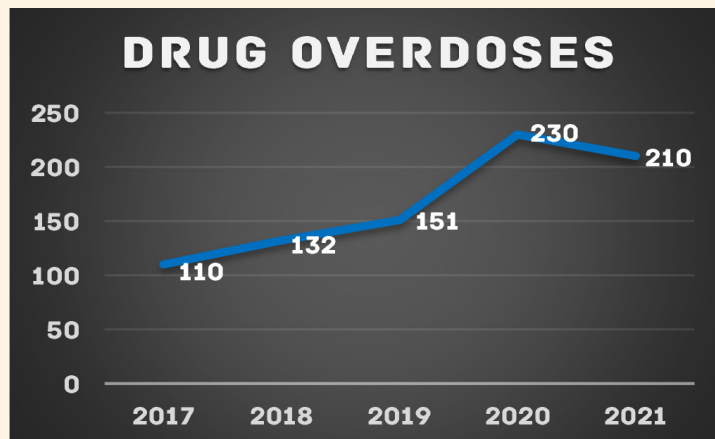
The Wheeling Police Department continues to enforce the city's drug house abatement ordinance by holding property owners and tenants accountable for illegal drug usage or other vice crimes, that are occurring with or around the real property. **A total of 14 property owners violated the ordinance and were summoned to the city's municipal court in 2021.** As a result of this police action and affirmation by the municipal court judge, all persons who rented and loitered at the property have been evicted or banned.

Enacted into law in July 2019, and enforced by the WPD beginning in the summer of 2020, the City of Wheeling now has an opportunity to abate these criminal issues. If there is documented evidence of either two misdemeanor vice crimes or a single felony regarding illegal drug activity in a twelve-month period, police will take the property owner to municipal court regarding the abatement.

Based on the municipal court's decision, the property owner may be ordered to evict the tenant, add security features, ban individuals from the property or force landlords to enhance screenings at their property for future rentals.

DRUG Overdoses

Drug-related overdoses went down for the first time in more than five years. In 2021, overdose related deaths increased slightly over the previous year, but seem to be leveling off based on previous data. Drug overdoses reflect on various types of illegal narcotics, and not just one certain type of drug. In addition to overdose related calls, WPD answered 286 medical calls with the Wheeling Fire Department.



Note: Overdose death numbers can change after annual statistics are released because of current pending cases with the state medical examiner's office

2022 STRATEGIC PLAN

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 2021:

- Online Crime Reporting Software
- Renovations/Construction Started on New Police Facility
- Launched New Trikke Unit
- Approved Assigned Vehicle Program
- Held "Pops, Cops and Community" Event
- Funding Approved for a Drone Program

GOALS FOR 2022:

- Move Into New Police Facility - Fall 2022
- Continued Launch Of New Assigned Vehicle Program
- Implementation of a Business/Downtown Crime Watch
- Officer/Employee Wellness Program
- Interdiction Initiatives
- WPD Drone Program





**NEW WHEELING POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY – SEPTEMBER 9, 2021
ANTICIPATED OPENING: FALL 2022**





2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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