



2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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

 Wheeling, WV Police Department  @WheelingPolice



Wheeling Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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LETTER from the Chief

I hope you enjoy reviewing the many facets of the Wheeling Police Department's 2022 annual report and the transparent data demonstrating how we are doing. This year's report will be the 10th annual report during my tenure as the 54th Chief of Police of the historic WPD. I remain proud of our accomplishments and progress during those ten years, and 2022 was no exception.

Although experiencing a 13% increase in Group A crimes, we made significant gains by implementing our geographic and problem-led policing models. The commanders and staff responsible for leading our efforts based on crime trends and geographic boundaries have truly stepped up their games. The WPD spearheaded multiple operations during 2022, focusing on crime trends and working with the affected communities. In addition, our Investigations Division and Ohio Valley Drug Task Force completed several high-profile and impactful narcotics investigations. All of this work resulted in a significant reduction in narcotic overdoses and an even higher reduction in overdose deaths.



SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police

We continued to have challenges in 2022, such as achieving results despite staffing issues. This is a testament to the leadership and dedication of our sworn and civilian staff. We will continue to seek ways to improve upon attracting and retaining quality individuals who epitomize our core values. Other challenges were the narcotics scourge and vagrancy within our city. The 13% increase in Group A crimes can be directly attributed to this challenge, as those increases were reflected in our property crimes. We will continue to work with our partners to reduce drug use, homelessness, and the ever-increasing mental health crisis seen in our nation.

In the spring of 2022, the WPD rolled out its new UART (Drone) team. This project has been highly successful and will continue to be significant in our push to produce a professional product further.

Then in December, we debuted a new program with our valued partner Northwood Health Systems to aid those struggling with substance abuse and mental health disorders, as well as to assist in training our officers in Crisis Intervention.

Finally, looking forward, we will move to a new Police Headquarters located at 2115 Chapline Street – an absolute spectacle of professional policing. This, coupled with our assigned vehicle program, will hopefully positively impact our staffing woes and will certainly improve our ability to provide professional policing. Additionally, in 2023, we will continue to train our sworn staff in Crisis Intervention, reduce the number of outstanding warrants, create a downtown/crime watch program, implement wellness initiatives and continue to seek recruitment/retention initiatives.

The future is bright at the Wheeling Police Department. We thank you for your continued support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "S. Shawn Schwertfeger".

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

INTEGRITY

accountability

SERVICE

Core Values

LOYALTY

TEAMWORK

Courage

RESPECT

leadership

Professionalism

DEPARTMENT Personnel

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
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
Robert J. McConnell, Jr.

CORPORALS

Jason A. Chambers
Jason A. Martin
Ronald J. Faldowski
Bryan T. Wilson
Erick M. Burke
Robert C. Scott
Kevin A. Kuca
Carlie M. Haywood
Ryan J. Moore
William P. Castilow
John W. McKenzie
Robert W. Agostino
Gage C. Parker
Dean J. Redinger
Gerald T. Mitchell

PATROLMAN FIRST CLASS

Cody B. Schwertfeger
Brandon J. Hoehn
Brandon T. Stanley
Dylan J. Giusto
Shayne M. McAllister
Joshua A. Bolyard
Jacob P. Skinner
Robert M. Kovalyk
Brendan N. Ross
Zachary F. Stoneking
Colt P. Thomas
Blake A. Paxton
John T. Wolf
Cory R. Castilow
Cayden R. Hennen
Trevor A. Brough
Collin E. Jamison
Rebecca J. Tobiczyk
John C. Miller, Jr.
Christipher M. Cook

PATROLMAN

Jacob H. Auten
Howard J. Haglock, IV
Gabriel M. Damico
Patrick M. Ryan
Harrison R. Franks
Zachary D. Herron
Nolan C. Brough
Cory A. Rager
Tyler M. Davis
Christopher L. Birch

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Karen L. Grimes

CIVILIAN INTAKE COORDINATORS

Jennifer McGannon
L. Martin Haynes
Patricia Boniey
Grace Lontz

CRIME ANALYST

John R. Wroten

PARKING METER ATTENDANTS

Patricia L. Miller
Roy Johnson

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

Philip M. Stahl

STAFF SERVICES

Michael E. "Rick" Roxby,
Staff Associate
Sean M. Snyder,
Highway Safety Coordinator
Francine A. Catlett,
Data Coordinator

VICTIM ADVOCATE OFFICE

Brenda Steiniger
Samantha M. Baker

COMMAND Staff



R. SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police



DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM NOICE
Operations Bureau 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.

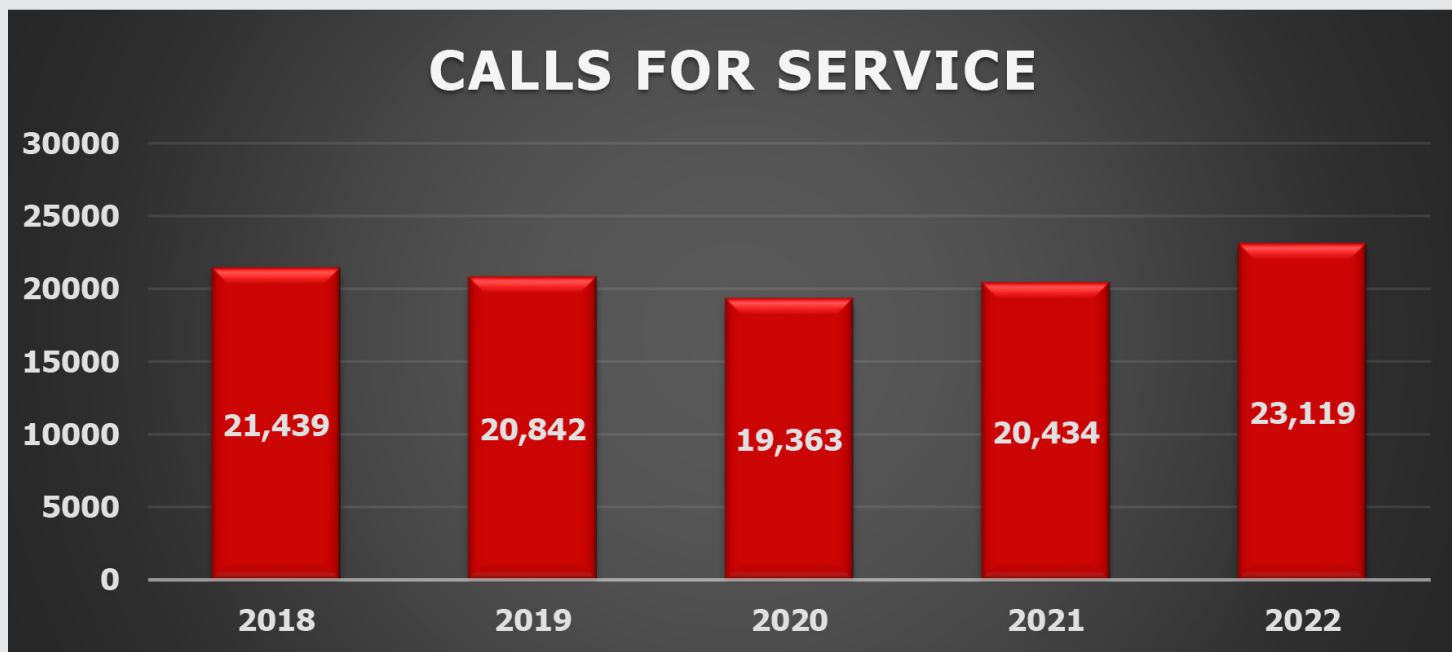
The patrol division consists of four shifts: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta. Alpha, Bravo and Charlie shifts are assigned to work an eight-hour schedule, rotating every eight weeks, from day shift (6 a.m.- 2 p.m.), afternoon shift (2 p.m.-10 p.m.), and midnight shift (10 p.m. – 6 a.m.). Delta works 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

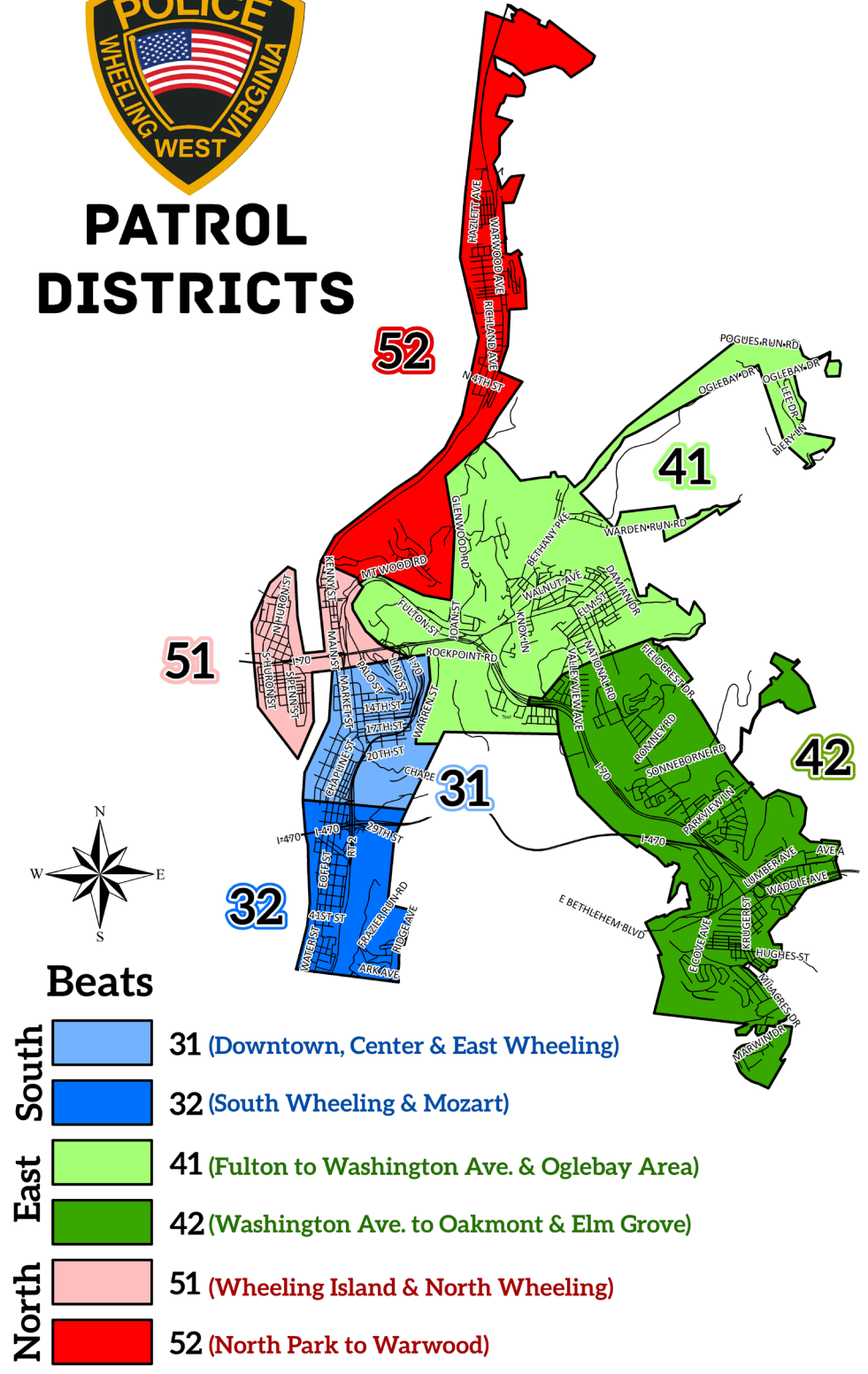
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TOTAL	21,439	20,842	19,363	20,434	23,119



Total calls for service were up 13%. This was primarily correlated with more officer-initiated activity, more nightly foot patrols, community policing and multiple selective enforcement operations that were conducted in 2022.



PATROL DISTRICTS



INVESTIGATIONS Division



Sgt. Rob Safreed



Sgt. Robert McConnell



Cpl. William Castilow



Cpl. Dean Redinger



Cpl. Robert Agostino

The Investigations Division – also known as the Detective Division – consists of four investigators and a supervisor. 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.

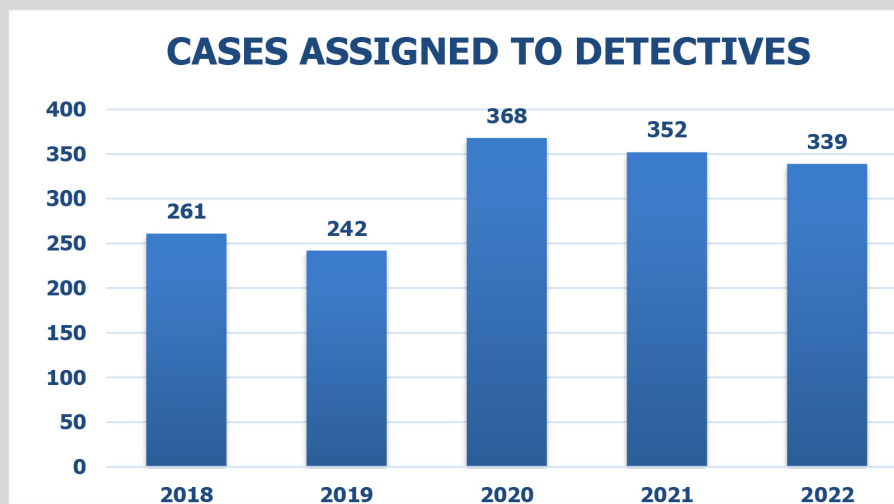
Additionally, WPD’s Investigations Division is an affiliate with the West Virginia Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (WVICAC). The task force participates in actively pursuing perpetrators involved with internet crimes against children as well as investigating crimes reported by individuals.

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

CASES

In 2022, the Investigations Division investigated 339 new cases, a slight decrease from the previous year. When looking at several years of cases, numbers are still up 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.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TOTAL	261	242	368	352	339



THE OHIO VALLEY DRUG TASK FORCE

Established in 1989, the Ohio Valley Drug Task Force investigates drug and violent crimes in the Ohio Valley area and consists of two Wheeling Police Officers, one Ohio County Sheriff's Deputy, and two West Virginia State Police Troopers. The OVDTF is housed in the Drug Enforcement Administration office in downtown Wheeling and works with local prosecutors' offices and U.S. Attorney's office to prosecute offenders.

DRUGS SEIZED in 2022:

Cocaine: 36,355.86 grams
Crack Cocaine: 126.18 grams
Heroin: 2,355.3 grams
Marijuana: 4,024.69 grams
Fentanyl: 1,480.11 grams
Methamphetamine: 10,920.35 grams
Psilocybin: 1,857.9 grams
MDMA: 4.33 grams
Rx Drugs: 264 Doses

Drug Buys: 66
Arrests: 39
Search Warrants: 34
Firearms Seized: 12
Agency Assists: 21
Currency Seized: \$513,421.50
Other Assets: \$301,320 (estimate)

VICTIM ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Established in 2020, the Victim Advocacy Program helps any person who becomes a victim of a crime. The two WPD advocates are the first line of 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.

267 Victim Encounters

Primary Victims: 218
Secondary Victims: 49

Assault: 14
Burglary: 2
Child Physical Abuse: 0
Child Sexual Abuse: 12
Death (Accidental): 1
Death (Natural): 3
Domestic Violence: 91
Domestic Violence (Strangulation): 7
Drug Overdose: 3
Family Disturbance: 7
Fraud: 1
Handle With Care Notifications: 65
Harassment: 22
Homicide: 1
Robbery: 4
Sexual Assault: 15
Stalking: 7
Suicide: 4
Theft: 1
Traffic Fatality: 3
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, Wheeling Police 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 2022, A TOTAL OF
65
HANDLE WITH CARE INCIDENTS
WERE REPORTED.

OFFICE OF Professional Standards

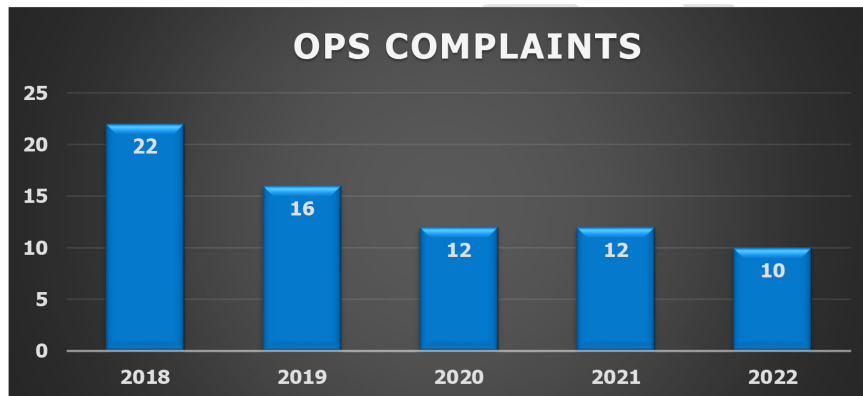
Created in 2012, the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) serves as an oversight on all citizen complaints to ensure that a complete and thorough investigation is conducted regarding complaints filed against Wheeling Police Officers.

The OPS 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 information regarding the investigation or its outcome.

OPS COMPLAINTS:

In 2022, the Office of Professional Standards received 10 complaint investigations – a continued downward trend the last several 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 10 complaints filed in 2022, 6 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:

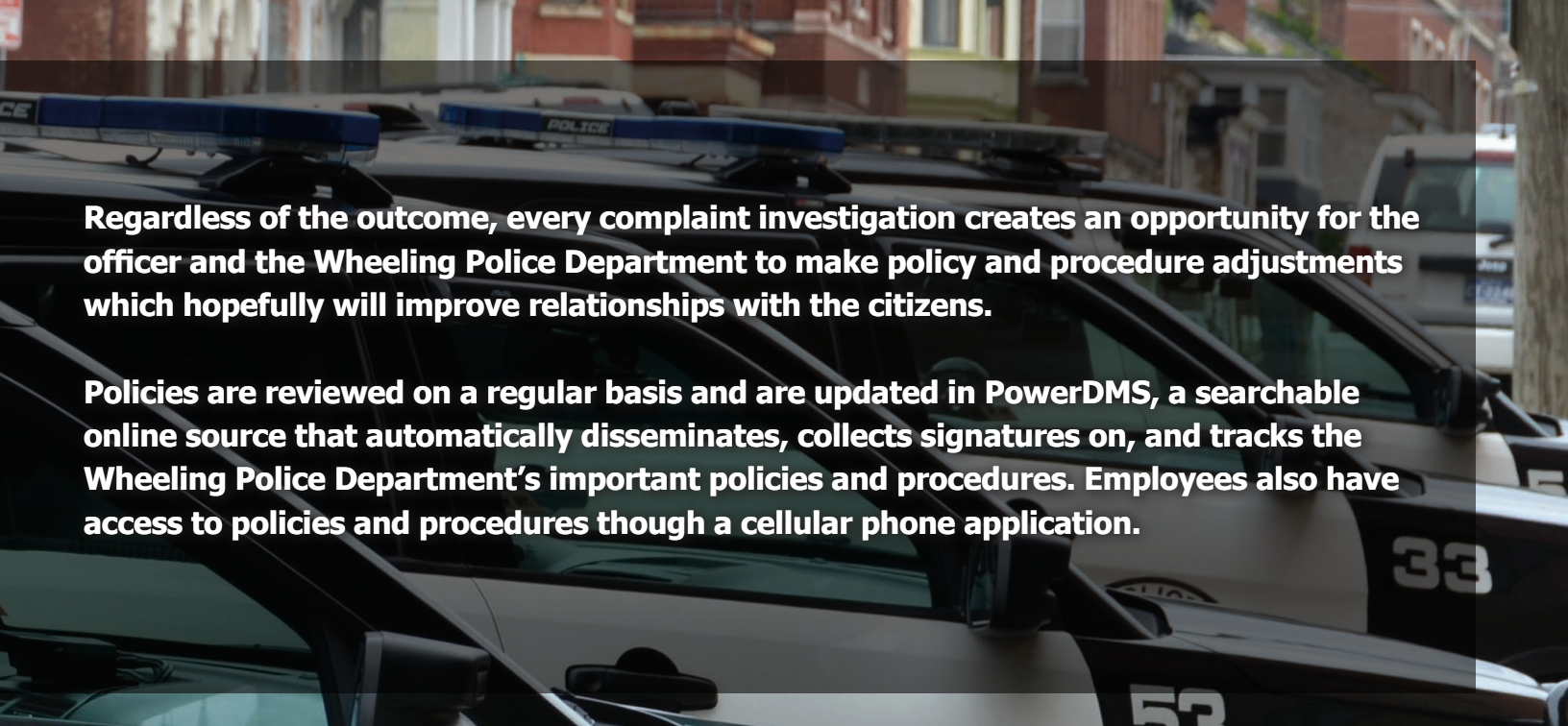
- 3 – Sustained
- 2 – Exonerated
- 1 – Unfounded

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS:

Of the remaining 4 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:

- 2 – Exonerated
- 1 – Sustained
- 1 – Educational



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.

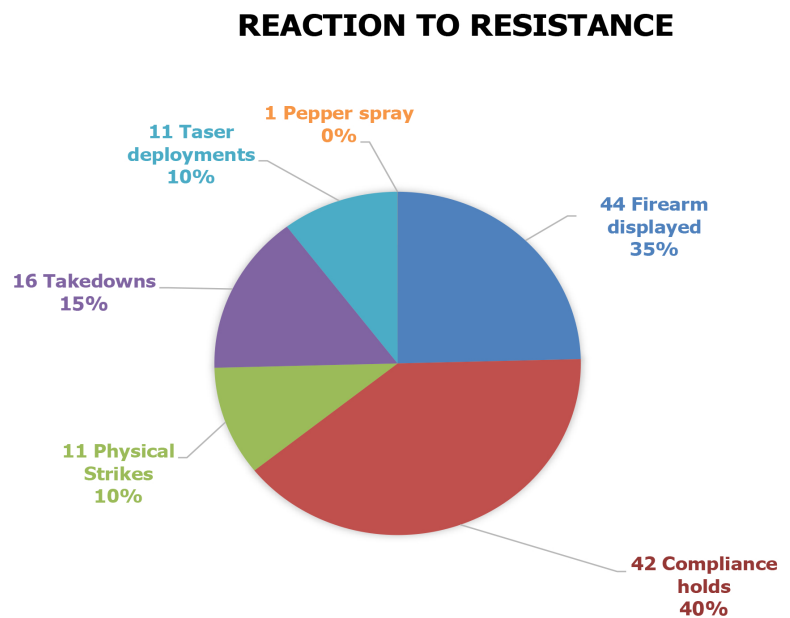
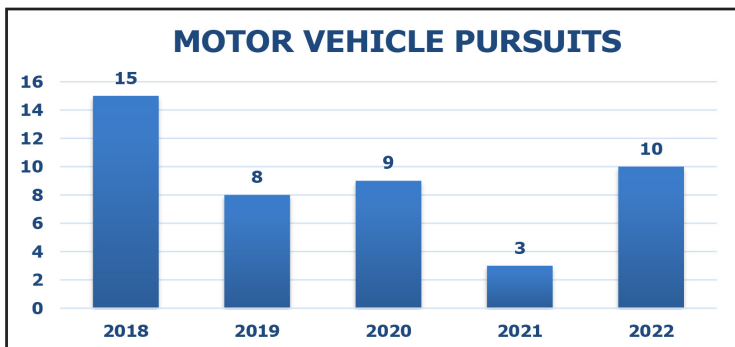
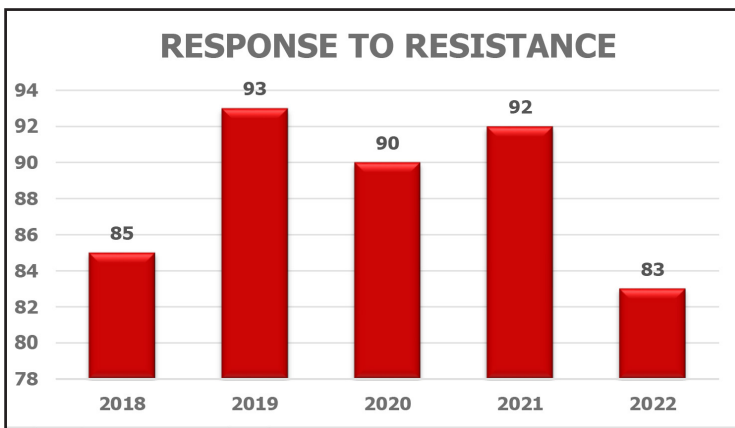
Policies are reviewed on a regular basis and are updated in PowerDMS, a searchable online source that automatically disseminates, collects signatures on, and tracks the Wheeling Police Department's important policies and procedures. Employees also have access to policies and procedures through a cellular 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 2022, 1,094 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 83 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 2022, WPD Officers trained for a total of

**4,858
HOURS**

Training Breakdown:

Mental Health Training: 80 hours

De-Escalation & Firearms Training: 1,695 hours

Supervisory Training: 1,092 hours

General Police Training: 1,991 hours



FIREARMS TRAINING

The Wheeling Police Department currently has three firearms instructors – Lt. Jonathan Stipetich, Sgt. 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 in order to be certified and become training officers. The department currently employs 14 certified field training officers.

**6
NEW
OFFICERS
TRAINED**

**4,000
TRAINING
HOURS
COMPLETED**

OFFICERS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ACADEMY IN 2022:



Harrison Franks



Gabe Damico, Christian Forsthye and
Cody McCormick

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 in the region.

2022 Report:

- **3 civil service tests took place in 2022**
- **19 background investigations conducted**
- **6 new officers hired**



Lt. Josh Sanders (center) became the third Wheeling Police Officer to graduate from the prestigious FBI National Academy (Session 284) in Quantico, Virginia, on December 8, 2022.

SPECIALIZED Units

SWAT TEAM

The Wheeling Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is made up of 15 officers and a WFD medic. 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 monthly. Each team member has received special training in using tools, equipment, and tactics beyond that of a patrol officer assigned to a beat.



In 2022, 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:

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

- Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger – Commander
- Cpl. Brent Ruby
- Cpl. Dean Redinger
- Cpl. Gerald Mitchell
- Cpl. William Castilow
- Pfc. Blake Paxton

K9 UNIT

The Wheeling Police Department's K9 Unit has served the department and city since 2003. Two 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. A third K9 – Ozzy, a German Shepherd, joined the force in 2021 and is trained in detecting explosives.



Cpl. Jason Martin & Ozzy

Cpl. John McKenzie & Jericho

Sgt. Jason Hupp & Zero

492.25
TRAINING HOURS

125
ARRESTS

133
K9 DEPLOYMENTS

Deployment Breakdown:

Building Search: 1
Evidence Search: 72
K9 as Backup: 43
Officer Protection: 7
Public Demonstrations: 4
Tracks: 6

Evidence Breakdown:

Currency: \$3,843
Meth: 3 lbs. 1oz.
Marijuana: 9 lbs. 2.7 oz.
Cocaine: 2 lbs. 5 oz.
Heroin: 3.9 grams
Fentanyl: 5 oz.
Drug paraphernalia: 17 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 CRT officers are certified traffic crash reconstructionist through the Institute of Police and Technology Management (IPTM).

The CRT was called out once in 2022 for a single vehicle fatality in August on Main Street in downtown.

The Crash Reconstruction team consists of Lt. Josh Sanders, Sgt. Doug Somerville, Cpl. John McKenzie, Cpl. Carlie Haywood and Pfc. Brandon Hoehn.



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. Sean Snyder serves as the Northern Regional Highway Safety Office Coordinator.

2022 Highway Safety Regional Highlights (includes other agencies in region 4):

- **Click It or Ticket** – 79 citations - 112.5 hours worked
- **Speed/Work Zone** – 877 citations - 762.25 hours worked
- **Target Red/Stop Signs** – 52 citations - 64 hours worked
- **Impaired Driving** – 33 arrests - 64 hours worked
- **Child Passenger Safety** – 173 car seats installed

UNMANNED AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE TEAM

In May 2022, Wheeling Police debuted its departmental drone and newest team, the UART – Unmanned Aerial Reconnaissance Team. The UART is comprised of four Wheeling Police officers and the department's crime analyst. WPD personnel have been trained and educated on FAA rules and regulations as well as general functionality of the drone, flying techniques, in-flight emergency situations, advanced ground school, and have been taught tactics through various scenarios. The drone is a DJI Matrice 300 and is equipped with a Zemuse H20T camera.

114 Flights were conducted in 2022. No reportable mishaps or accidents took place that needed to be reported to the FAA.



Team Members:

Cpl. Jason Martin - Flight OPS Manager / Pilot

Cpl. Jason Chambers - Pilot

Pfc. Brandon Hoehn - Pilot

Pfc. Scott Page - Pilot

Crime Analyst John Wroten - Pilot



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. Dylan Giusto – 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 2021-2022 school year:

419

**CLASSES/
PRESENTATIONS**

197

**EXTRA-
CURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

587

**PARENT
NOTIFICATIONS**

1,107

**ONE-ON-ONE
STUDENT
INTERACTIONS**



HONOR GUARD

The Wheeling Police Honor Guard consists of ten department members, tasked with providing ceremonial presentations at several events, including: State of the City Address, the annual Law Enforcement Memorial, annual Sept. 11 memorial ceremony, and the Fire/Police Department recognition ceremony and various other community events.

In addition to providing these presentations, the Honor Guard also is 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, Sgt. Robert McConnell, Cpl. Ryan Moore, Cpl. John McKenzie, Cpl. Gerald Mitchell, Pfc. Brandon Hoehn, Ptlm. Patrick Ryan



LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIAL MAY 18, 2022



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 23 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.

1,356
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

WPD NAVs: Tony Belon, Kathy Bonenberger, Janet Castilow, Catherine Coleman, Jason Coleman, Craig Collins, Zachary Cooper, Susan Downing, Kimberly Emery, Becky Gentle, Martin Imbroscio, Patricia Kettler, Jon Letzkus, Rhonda McCollough, Jackie McGlumphy, Tom Miller, Jody Miller, Julia Sheets, Susan Simpson, Carla Vessels, 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: Noah Carr, Navaeh Lilley, Jacob Plants, 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 Woodsdale – **Second Tuesday**
- Ward 6 Elm Grove – **Third Wednesday**

COMMUNITY Events

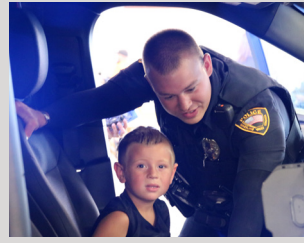
WHEELING HOSPITAL SAFETY TOWN



OPERATION TOY LIFT



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



COPS POPS & COMMUNITY



LOVE NOT HATE





PUBLIC SAFETY Ceremony

March 23, 2022



2022 DEPARTMENTAL NOTES

NEW OFFICER HIRES

Patrick Ryan, 1/3/2022
Harrison Franks, 1/24/2022
Zachary Herron, 6/20/2022
Nolan Brough, 6/20/2022
Cory Rager, 6/20/2022
Tyler Davis, 10/10/2022
Christopher Birch, 10/10/2022

PROMOTIONS

Sergeant

Sgt. Robert McConnell

Corporal

Cpl. Gage Parker
Cpl. Dean Redinger
Cpl. Gerald Mitchell

Patrolman First Class

Pfc. Colt Thomas
Pfc. Blake Paxton
Pfc. John Wolf
Pfc. Cory Castilow
Pfc. Cayden Hennen
Pfc. Trevor Brough
Pfc. Collin Jamison
Pfc. Rebecca Tobiczky
Pfc. John Miller
Pfc. Christopher Cook

DEPARTMENT RECOGNITION

Meritorious Performance

Sgt. Andrew Adams
Sgt. Robert Safreed
Cpl. Robert Agostino
Cpl. William Castilow
Cpl. Gerald Mitchell
Cpl. Dean Redinger
Pfc. Rebecca Tobiczky
Pfc. Cayden Hennen
Pfc. Shayne McAllister
Pfc. Brendan Ross
Pfc. Colt Thomas
Pfc. Ernest Wiseman
Crime Analyst John Wroten

Lifesaving

Sgt. Jason Hupp
Pfc. Jacob Skinner

Department Commendation

Pfc. Cayden Hennen
Pfc. Brendan Ross
Pfc. Jacob Skinner

Chief's Eagle Award

Sgt. Robert Safreed
Sgt. Jason Hupp
Pfc. Cayden Hennen
PIO Philip Stahl

Community Service Award

Lt. Joshua Sanders
Explorer Abigail Matusik

RETIREMENTS



Roberta Thompson, Staff Associate

Retired 4/29/2022
10 years of service

Sgt. David Drahos

Retired 1/28/2022
23 years of service

Cpl. Daniel Holmes

Retired 4/8/2022
21 years of service

Officer of the Quarter



1st – Pfc. Jacob Skinner



2nd – Sgt. Ben Young



3rd – Cpl. Dean Redinger



4th – Cpl. Ryan Moore

**2022
OFFICER
OF THE
YEAR**
Cpl. Ryan
Moore



WHEELING PD News



MARCH

Chief Schwertfeger addresses the local media discussing a homicide case on Wheeling Island. The department later released its factual findings to the public after an Ohio County Grand Jury met to discuss the case.

SPRING

WPD mourned the loss of two retired K9's. Ammo, who served from 2015–2020 died on April 16. Bella, who served from 2011-2019 and was the department's longest serving K9, died May 2.



Ammo



Bella



MAY

After years of planning, Wheeling Police debuted the department's new drone unit and discussed its many uses and opportunities in the interest of public safety.

JUNE

WPD, along with the Wheeling Fire Department and city/county agencies joined forces on June 14 in the Emergency Operations Center after a double derecho storm knocked power offline and caused significant property damage throughout the city.



WHEELING PD News

JUNE

Six new volunteers joined the department as Neighborhood Assistant Volunteers (NAVs). This is the first new class of volunteers to join in years.



AUGUST

The Crash Reconstruction Team investigated a single vehicle crash on the Main Street Bridge in downtown. Sadly, two fatalities occurred.



AUGUST

Chief Schwertfeger, along with patrol officers announced the results of a large South Wheeling Special Operation that netted 34 arrests.



DECEMBER

Wheeling Police and Northwood Health Systems announced a new crisis intervention partnership in hopes to reduce drug-related issues in the city.



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" offenses are generally more serious (homicide, robbery, sex crimes), and "Group B" offenses involve more nuisance, quality of life, property crimes and highway safety/traffic offenses.

Despite a 6% increase in arrests, "Group A" offenses were up 13%. Several categories, including property crimes (burglary and thefts) and drug offenses rose. Groupings that saw decreases were weapon offenses and vandalisms. "Group B" offenses were mostly unchanged from the prior year, with a slight decrease of 2%.

A category that saw the most significant increase in "Group A" were burglaries – up 61%. Those committing a burglary were mostly to vacant structures. Additionally, the criminals involved in these burglaries also were part of a theft or shoplifting incident which also saw a notable increase – 13%. Most thefts were bicycles, catalytic converters and outdoor items that were not secured or locked up, as well as copper and metal objects inside vacant structures.

Total calls for service were up 13%. This was primarily correlated with more officer-initiated activity, more nightly foot patrols, community policing and multiple selective enforcement operations that were conducted in 2022.

A positive trend statistically throughout 2022 was the considerable drop in overdoses and overdose-related deaths – a category that decreased by 60%. This was due mostly to a significant amount of drug arrests and seizures of illegal narcotics by WPD and the Ohio Valley Drug Task Force. Additionally, more education, awareness and treatment continue to play a key role.

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

GROUP A (more serious crimes)

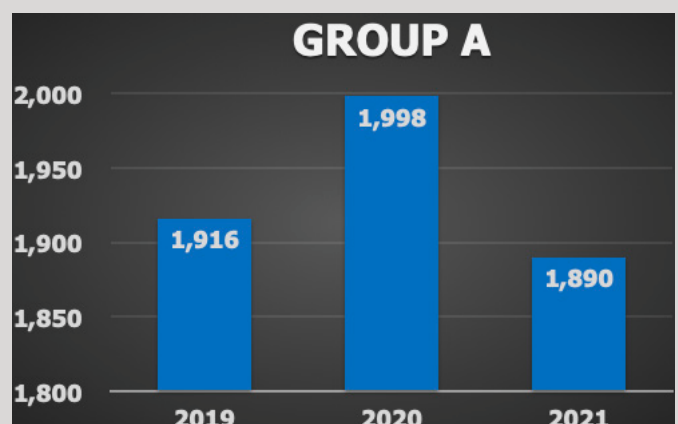
INCREASED 13%

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

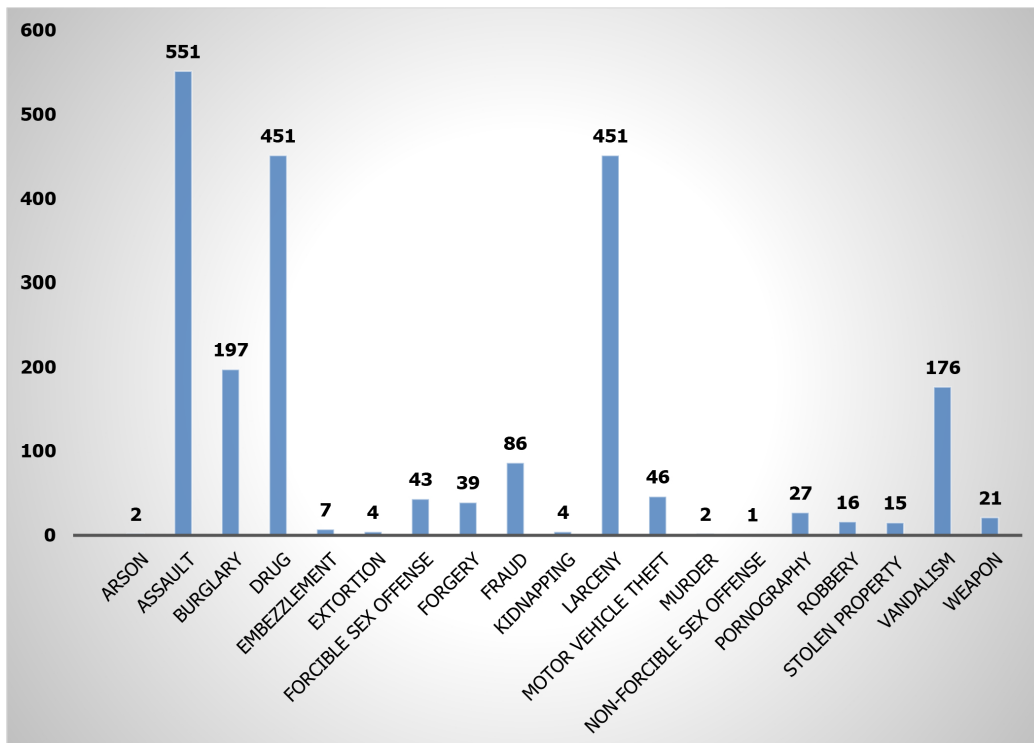
- Burglary (Up 61%)
- Drug Offenses (Up 17%)
- Larceny/Thefts (Up 13%)
- Fraud Cases (Up 10%)
- Assaults (Up 4%)

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

- Weapon Offenses (Down 42%)
- Vandalisms (Down 30%)

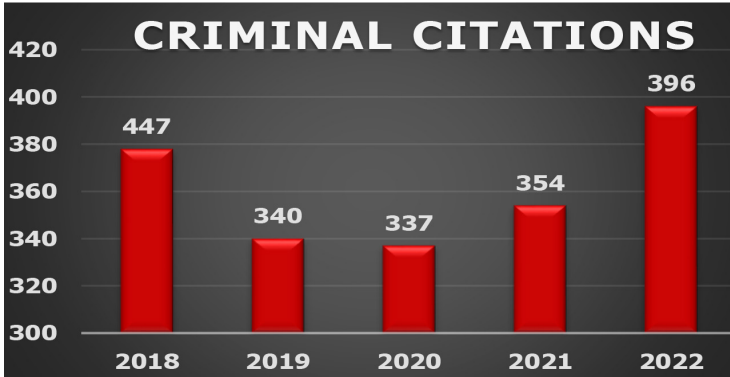
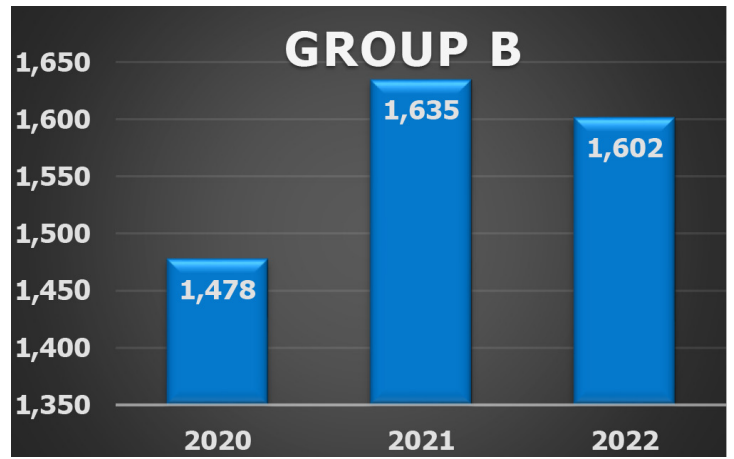


Group A Offenses	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ARSON	2	2	4	2	2
ASSAULT	536	577	557	528	551
BURGLARY	169	144	179	122	197
FORGERY	34	37	36	26	39
VANDALISM	214	175	224	183	176
DRUG OFFENSES	386	287	328	384	451
EMBEZZLEMENT	9	6	2	5	7
EXTORTION	0	2	0	4	4
FRAUD	106	70	62	78	86
MURDER	2	1	1	2	2
KIDNAPPING	8	7	6	7	4
LARCENY	458	455	417	397	451
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	37	46	44	33	46
PORNOGRAPHY	5	16	12	25	27
PROSTITUTION	12	4	7	3	0
ROBBERY	26	17	31	16	16
FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	29	28	45	38	43
NON-FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	0	2	2	1	1
STOLEN PROPERTY	18	18	9	7	15
WEAPON	14	19	32	29	21
TOTALS	2,065	1,914	1,998	1,890	2,139



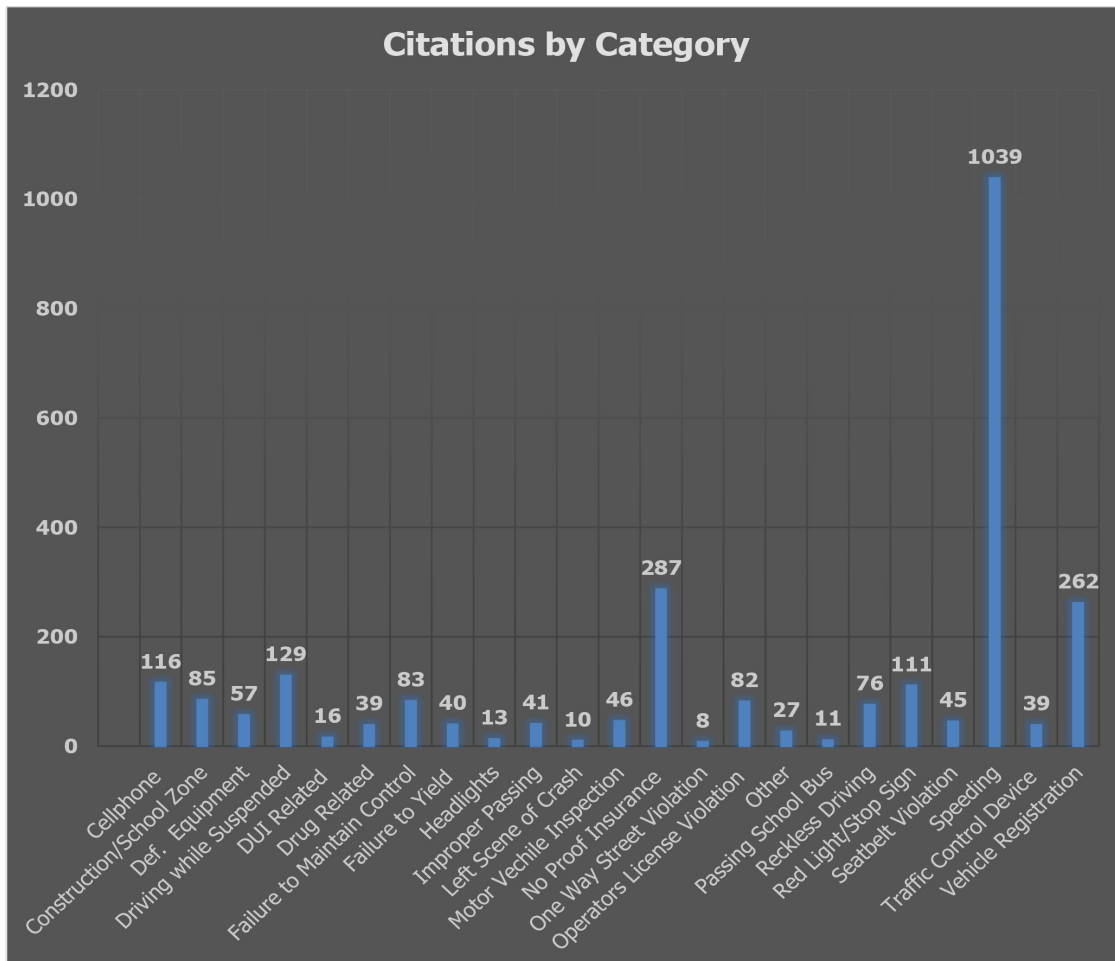
GROUP B (less serious crimes)
DECREASED 2%

Group B offenses were slightly down, and mostly unchanged from the previous year. DUI arrests also were down from the year before.

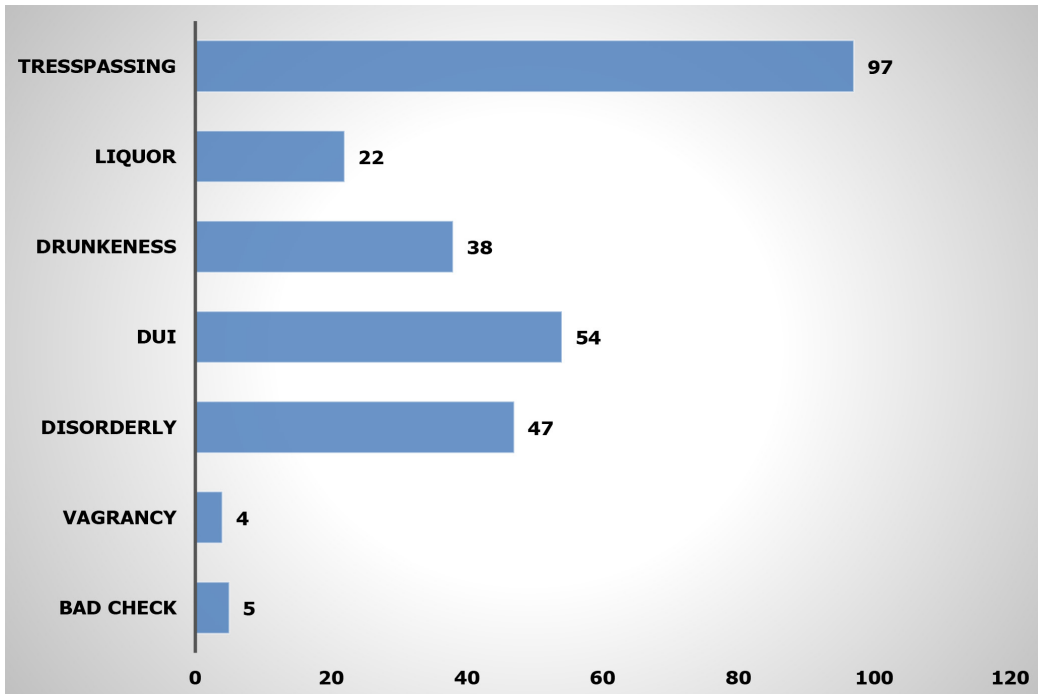


	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
CRIMINAL CITATIONS	378	340	337	354	396

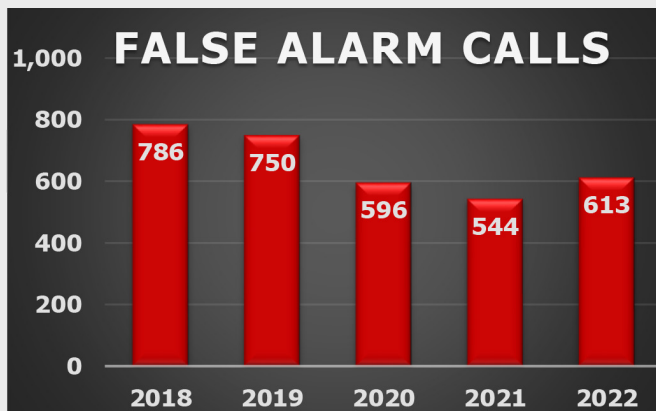
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
ARRESTS	1,119	1,044	950	1,020	1,098



Group B Offenses	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
BAD CHECK	4	4	3	2	5
VAGRANCY	7	14	11	5	4
DISORDERLY	60	50	28	42	47
DUI	99	84	64	78	54
DRUNKENNESS	59	38	27	49	38
LIQUOR	21	17	19	24	22
TRESPASSING	31	41	56	60	97
ALL OTHER	1,216	1,300	1,270	1,375	1,335
TOTALS	1,497	1,548	1,478	1,635	1,602



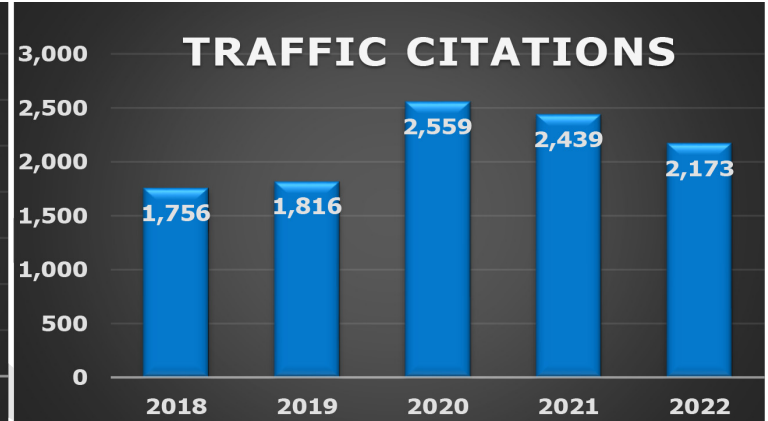
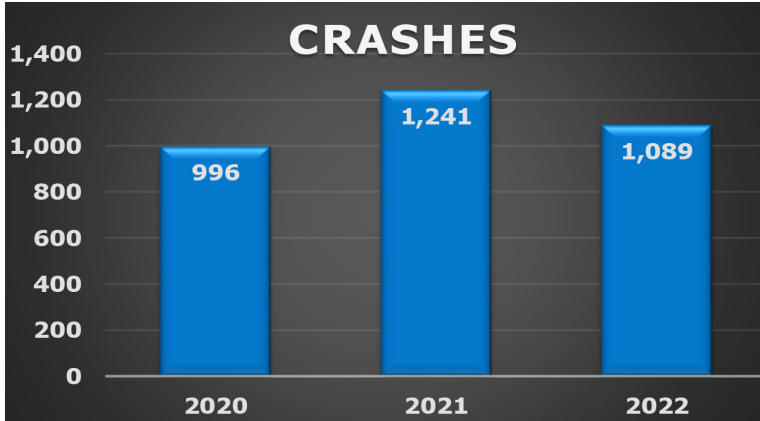
FALSE ALARM Reduction Program



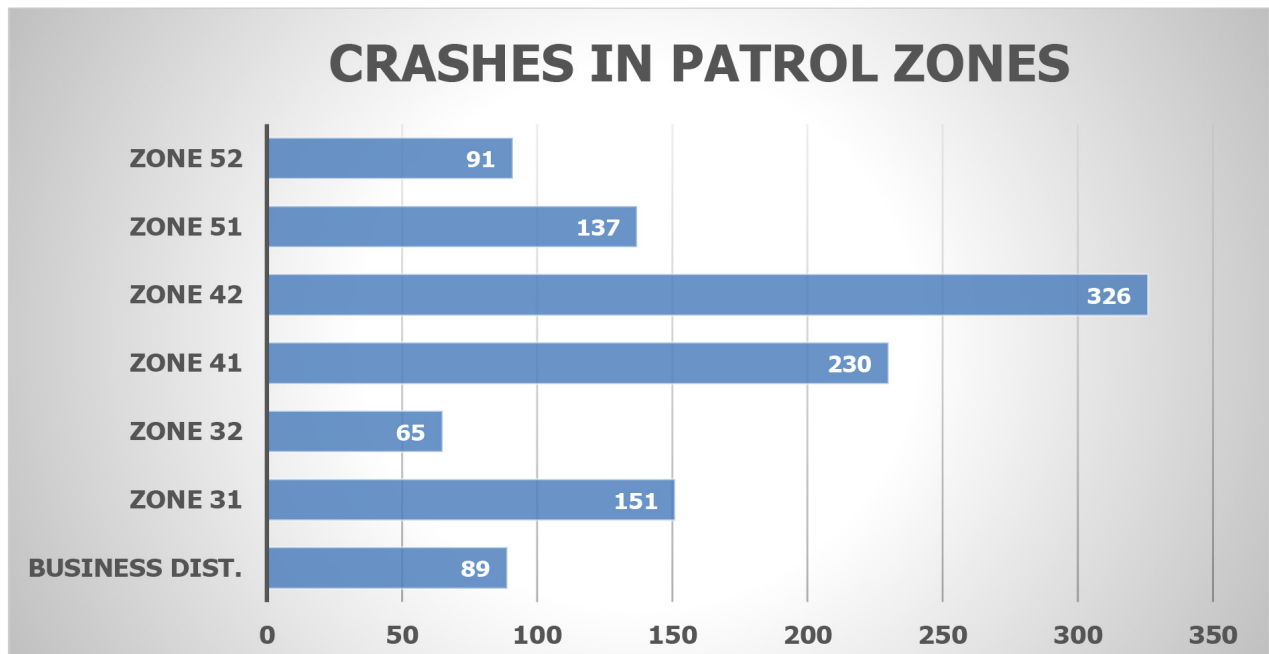
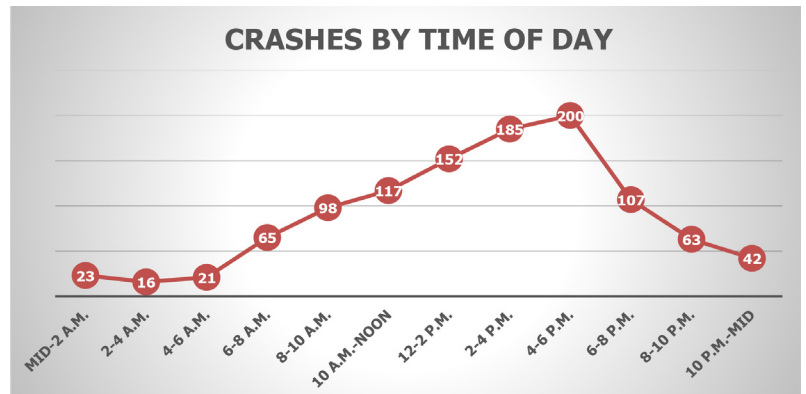
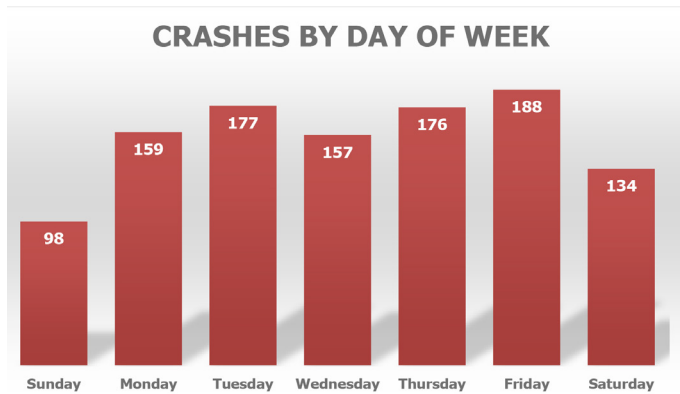
The False Alarm Reduction Program was implemented in 2016 with the goal to gradually decrease the number of false burglar alarms officers were responding in hopes to ease the burden on the patrol division. In the last year, the number of false alarms the department responded to from the previous year increased slightly by 12.6%. Despite the increase, alarm calls have overall decreased significantly since the program's inception. 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 issues fines related to a false call.

TRAFFIC Enforcement

Crashes decreased in 2022 thanks major roadway construction being completed, alleviating increased traffic on secondary roads. Traffic citations also were down 10%.



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	1,756	1,816	2,559	2,439	2,173



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.

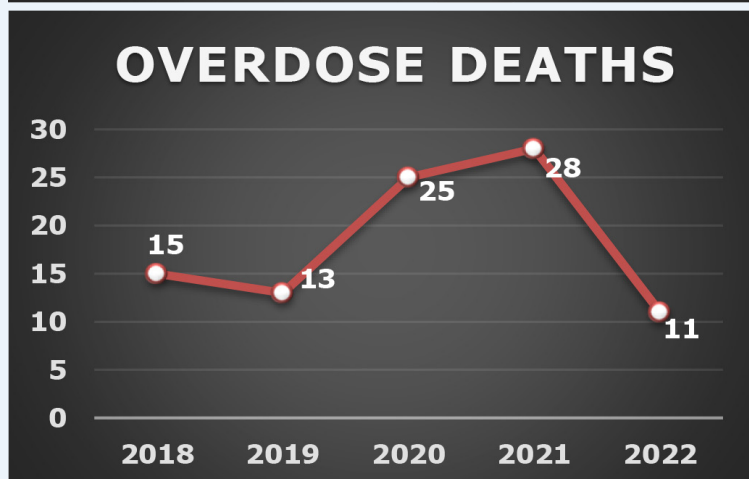
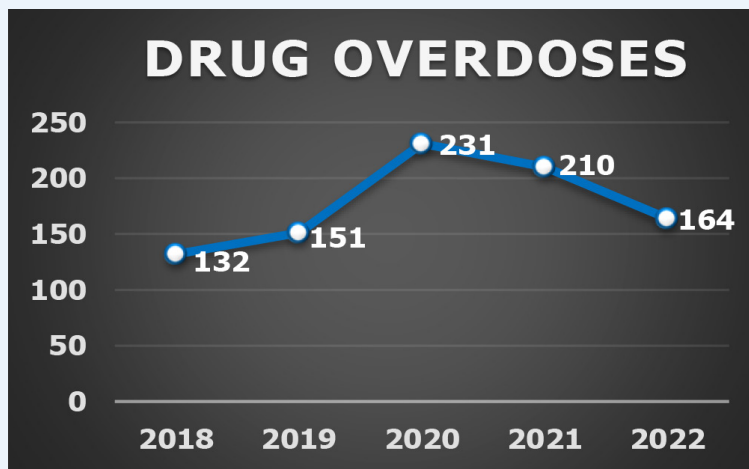
In 2022, WPD corresponded with the owners of 10 residences within the city whose property violated the Drug House Abatement ordinance.

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 decreased for the second year in a row, thanks to more awareness, education and partnering with various agencies to help those suffering from addiction. For the first time in years, overdose deaths were down significantly. Drug overdoses reflect on various types of illegal narcotics, and not just one certain type of drug.



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



2023 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 2022:

- Renovations/Construction Continued on New Police Facility in Center Wheeling
- Launched UART/Drone Team
- New Overdose/Mental Health Response Program with Northwood Health Systems

GOALS FOR 2023:

- Move Into New Police Facility (Spring 2023)
- Continued Launch of New Assigned Vehicle Program
- Approval of Evidence and Forensic Specialist Position
- Acquisition of Special Unit Vehicles
- Continue with Recruitment and Retention Initiatives
- Continued Highway Safety Initiatives
- Expand Investigations Role with OVDTF
- Improvements to Handle With Care Program
- Implement Wellness Program
- Increase the Percentage of Officers Trained in Crisis Intervention
- Reduction in Outstanding Warrants
- Reduction in Crime/Quality of Life Issues and Creation of Downtown Crime Watch Program

NEW WPD HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION





2022 ANNUAL REPORT

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 Wheeling, WV Police Department  @WheelingPolice