



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



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

 Wheeling, WV Police Department  @WheelingPolice

**IN MEMORY OF PATROLMAN CASSIE JOHNSON
CHARLESTON, WV POLICE DEPARTMENT
END OF WATCH: DECEMBER 3, 2020**



**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

Wheeling Police Department

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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LETTER from the Chief



SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police

Once again, I am pleased to present the Wheeling Police Department's Annual Report. The year 2020 – what can anyone say? This was a challenging time for each of us personally and in the law enforcement profession. Regardless of the events that took place during these 12 months, I am always proud of the resiliency of the WPD and of our great community. I am sure some degree of normalcy will be on its way to us all.

This report is a great way to inform the public on the inner workings and successes of the Wheeling Police Department. Each year as I review the report completed, mostly by our Public Information Officer, I experience great pride in the work of our sworn officers, civilian staff and volunteers.

In 2020, COVID-19 presented the largest challenge. Avoiding illness and staying healthy, while continuing to provide excellent public service to our citizens and visitors, was accomplished in most cases. Although we had several officers contract the virus, we were never completely decimated as some organizations were. Our robust community programs took a significant hit as we were unable to meet safely, and several enforcement efforts were curtailed.

On a more positive note, we learned quite a bit on how to deal with a pandemic and witnessed another successful coming together of a variety of organizations. Nationally, we witnessed significant civil unrest and some anti-police sentiment, however, no significant situations visited the Wheeling area, and we are proud of our partnerships and support from the community and the many organizations who represent all factions of our citizens.

Although things were different, we still managed to complete some significant initiatives and projects. The Wheeling Police Department's Victim Advocate Program kicked off in March, two new Deputy Chiefs were sworn in during the calendar year, and a new successful Crimestoppers initiative was launched. Plans for a new police headquarters facility are nearing completion in Center Wheeling, and lastly, we were able to lower the number of motor vehicle crashes within the city to below 1,000 for the first time in years, despite ongoing I-70 construction. The year concluded with our fourth annual Operation Toy Lift, which helps hundreds of Ohio Valley children during the Christmas season. All of this a testament to our professional staff and the support of our community.

Some struggles continued in 2020, particularly with the sale and use of illegal narcotics. Despite a significant rise in drug arrests, we experienced our highest year ever of drug overdoses and deaths. This could be partially blamed on stress involved with the pandemic and resources not being available to those who were overdosing. That coupled with a continued rise in supply and demand for illegal drugs such as heroin, fentanyl and methamphetamine. Along that vein, our Group A offenses saw a 3.8% increase, the first time in a few years.

In addition to looking forward to some degree of normalcy, the WPD is also looking forward to some new initiatives through our strategic plan for 2021. Items such as a new online reporting program, expansion of our traffic unit and more targeted enforcement efforts, an assigned vehicle program, a drone program, a new downtown/business crime watch group, and a new community initiative called 'Pops with Cops.'

Please enjoy your review of this annual report and as always, please provide feedback and reach out to WPD at any time. The Wheeling Police Department very much values your 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.

CORE Values

INTEGRITY

LOYALTY

PROFESSIONALISM

COURAGE

RESPECT

ACCOUNTABILITY

TEAMWORK

LEADERSHIP

SERVICE

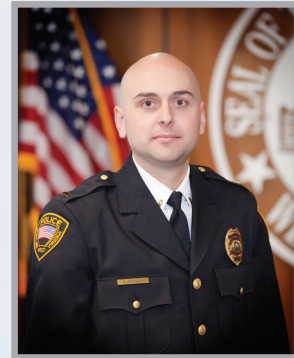
COMMAND Staff



SHAWN SCHWERTFEGER
Chief of Police



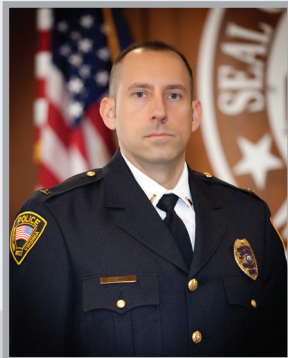
DEPUTY CHIEF WILLIAM NOICE
Patrol Operations Commander



DEPUTY CHIEF KEN PRAGER
Investigations Bureau Commander



LT. MATTHEW TAYLOR
South District &
Alpha Shift Commander



LT. MICAH ZINN
East District &
Bravo Shift Commander



LT. RUSSELL CAMPBELL
North District &
Charlie Shift Commander



LT. JOSHUA SANDERS
Special Operations &
Traffic Commander



SGT. SHELDON LACAVA
Delta Shift Commander



SGT. JOSHUA RADDISH
Office of Professional Standards



SGT. ROB SAFREED
Detective Division



SGT. DOUG HOWELL
Training / Staff Services

DEPARTMENT Personnel

**names are listed by rank seniority as of 12/31/2020.*

CHIEF OF POLICE

R. Shawn Schwertfeger

DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

William M. Noice

Ken J. Prager

LIEUTENANTS

Micah L. Zinn

Matthew J. Taylor

Joshua P. Sanders

Russell B. Campbell, Jr.

SERGEANTS

Sheldon P. LaCava

David M. Drahos

Michael E. Roxby

Gust J. Kepreos

Richard A. Robbins, 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

Sean M. Brantley

Douglas R. Somerville

CORPORALS

Jason A. Chambers

Jason A. Martin

Robert J. McConnell, Jr.

Ronald J. Faldowski

Brent J. Ruby

Bryan T. Wilson

Erick M. Burke

Daniel P. Holmes

Jason A. Hupp

Andrew B. Adams

Benjamin J. Young

Robert C. Scott

Kevin A. Kuca

Bryan B. Hails

Carlie M. Haywood

PATROLMAN FIRST CLASS

Ryan J. Moore

William P. Castilow

Gerald T. Mitchell

Cody B. Schwertfeger

Robert W. Agostino

John W. McKenzie

Dean J. Redinger

Gage C. Parker

Brandon J. Hoehn

Brandon T. Stanley

Dylan J. Giusto

Shayne M. McAllister

Jonathan Q. Wiles

Joshua A. Bolyard

Kevin T. Cowan

PATROLMAN

Jacob P. Skinner

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

Cory R. Castilow

Ernest R. Wiseman

Corey H. Collette

Garrison C. Wolfe

John C. Miller, Jr.

Cayden R. Hennen

Christipher M. Cook

Rebecca J. Haney

Collin E. Jamison

Trevor A. Brough

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

Jennifer McGannon

L. Martin Haynes

Patricia Boniey

PARKING METER ATTENDANTS

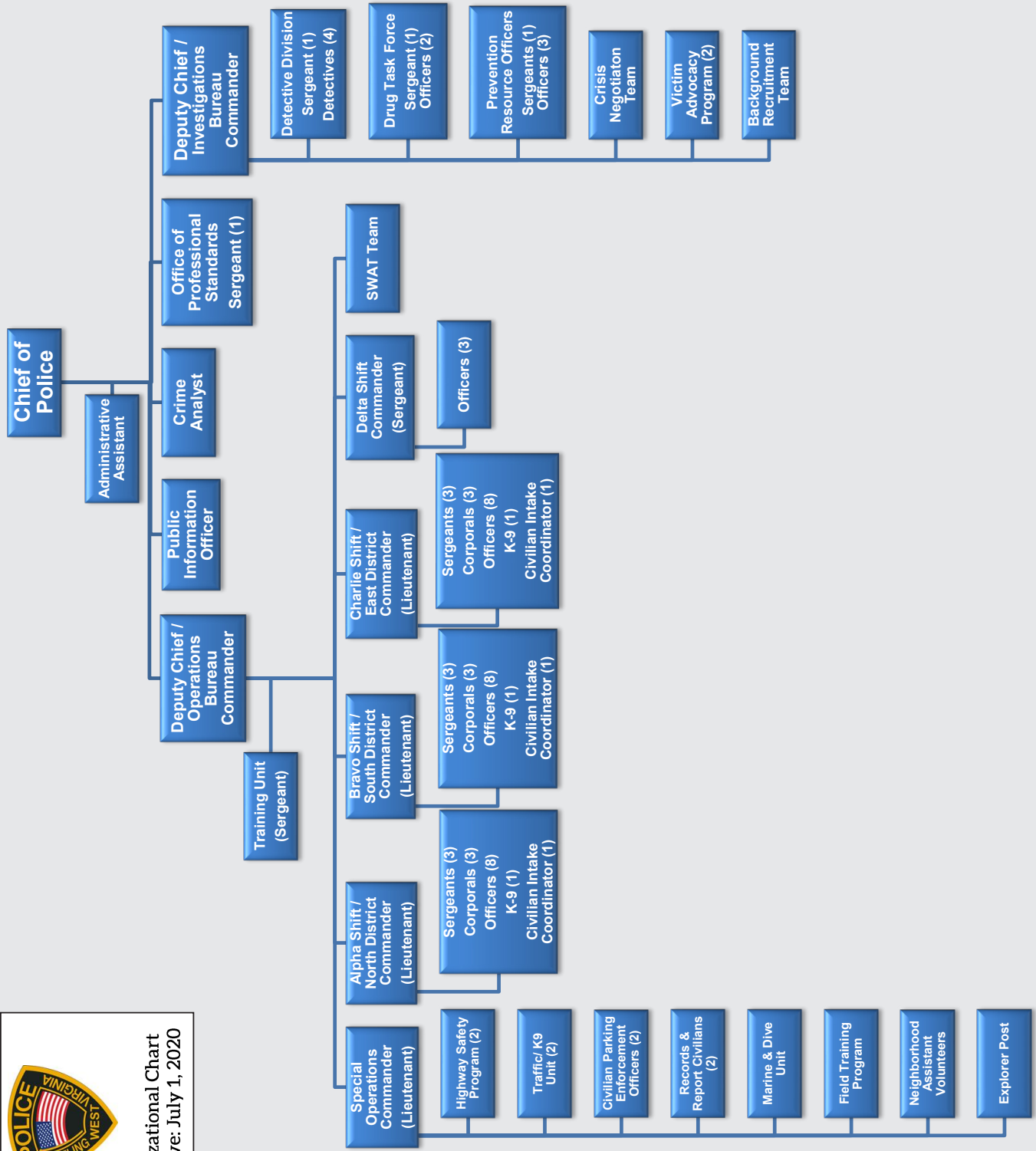
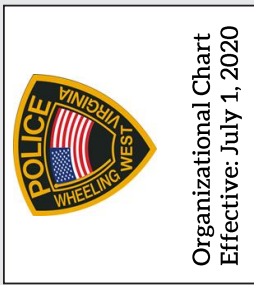
Patricia L. Miller

Roy Johnson

VICTIM ADVOCATES OFFICE

Brenda Steiniger

Patricia M. Flanigan





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. 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.

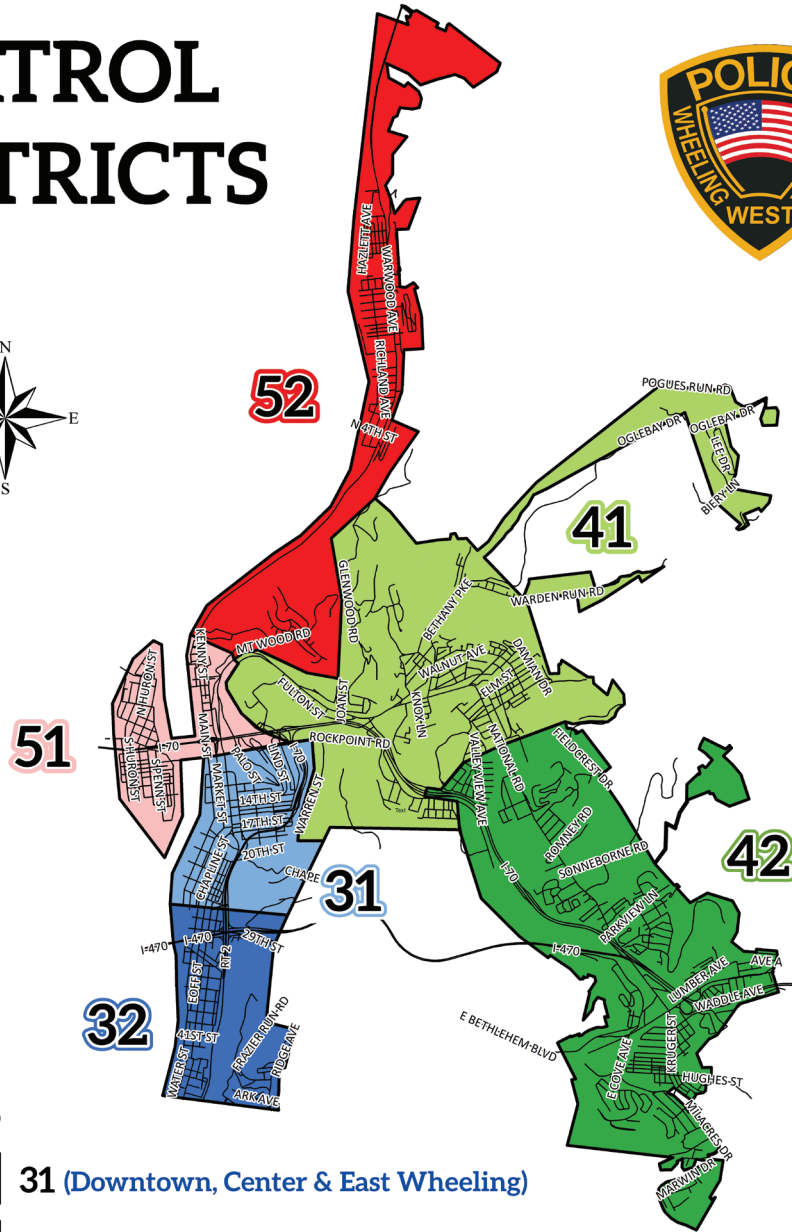
CALLS FOR SERVICE

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TOTAL	22,584	22,090	21,440	20,841	19,363









In 2020, the patrol division responded to 19,363 calls, down 7%, the biggest decrease in years. This is largely due to the nationwide shutdown in the spring. Call volume dropped below average levels, as schools and businesses closed, and most public gatherings were halted. Most people stayed home through this time, which also contributed to the nearly non-existent traffic volume.

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



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

The investigations division consists of five 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

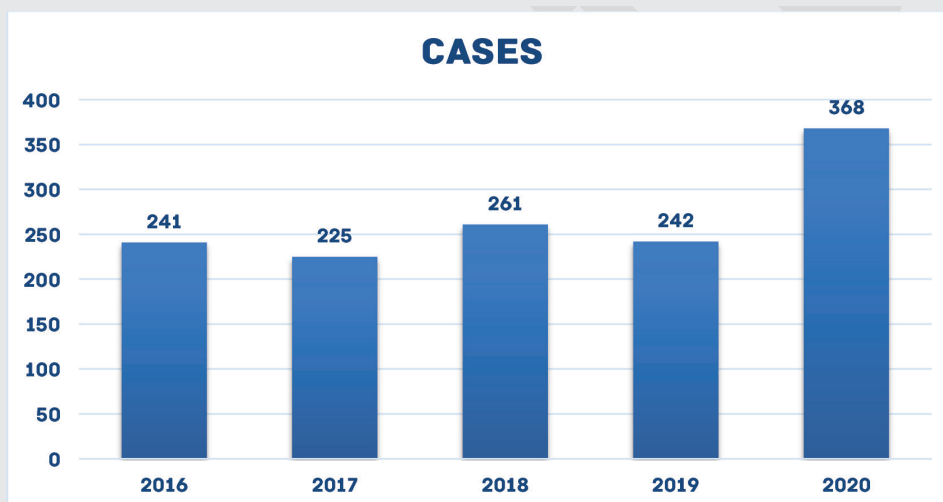
Against Children Task Force (WVICAC). The task force participates in actively pursuing perpetrators involved with internet crimes against children as well as investigating crimes reported by individuals.

Sgt. Rob Safreed served as investigations commander along with detectives **Andy Adams, Robert McConnell, Dean Redinger, William Castilow and Robert Agostino.**

CASES

In 2020, the Detective Division of the Wheeling Police Department investigated 368 new cases. Although detectives are still investigating cases from prior years, new cases for 2020 increased significantly from the previous year because of a change in the methodology used when assigning cases to detectives. This includes the investigation of more domestic-related cases and misdemeanor crimes.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TOTAL	241	225	261	242	368



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.

260 Victim Encounters

Primary Victims: 214

Secondary Victims: 46

Adult Molested as Child: 2

Assault: 12

Burglary: 8

Child Physical Abuse: 1

Child Sexual Abuse: 10

Death (Accidental): 18

Death (Natural): 2

Domestic Violence: 82

Domestic Violence (Strangulation): 4

Family Disturbance: 4

Harassment: 17

Homicide: 1

Handle with Care notifications: 52

Missing Person: 1

Prowler: 1

Robbery: 16

Sexual Assault: 15

Stalking: 2

Suicide: 2

Theft: 5

Traffic Fatality: 1

Violation of DVP: 2

Other: 13



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 2020, a total of 52 Handle with Care incidents were reported to the Wheeling Police Department. A total of 94 children were impacted.

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.

OPS COMPLAINTS:

In 2020, 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 2020, three were classified as Internal Investigations and 9 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:

2 – Sustained
1 – Voluntary Withdraw

PERFORMANCE REVIEWS:

Of the remaining 9 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 – Sustained
2 – Unfounded
5 – Exonerated

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.

IMPLEMENTED IN 2020: The Office of Professional Standards introduced a Policy and Procedure Management software called PowerDMS in 2020.

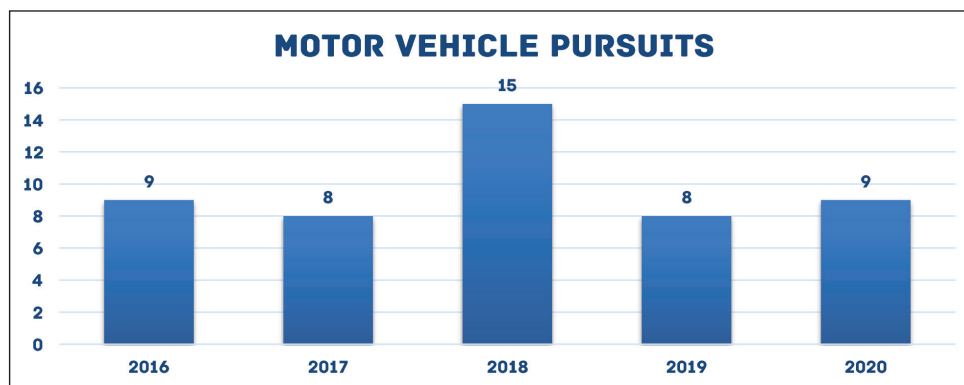
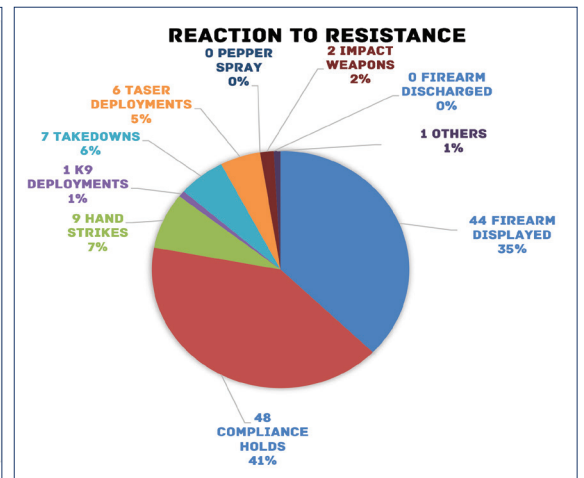
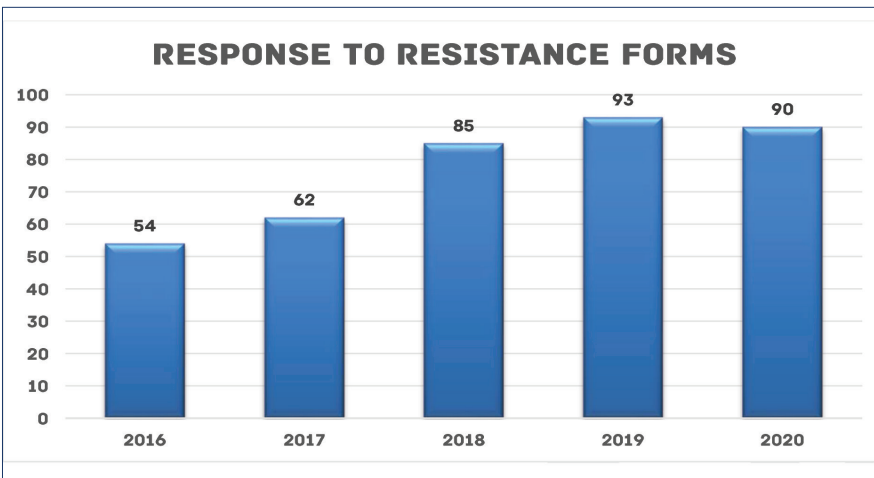
PowerDMS condenses cabinets full of paper into a single, searchable online source that automatically disseminates, collects signatures on, and tracks the Wheeling Police Department's important policies and procedures. Employees also have access to policies and procedures through a cellular phone application.

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 2020, 931 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 90 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.

Several out-of-town and in-person trainings were canceled or postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Most trainings were virtual. Tactical trainings were mostly conducted outside.

In 2020, WPD Officers trained for a total of 1,064 hours.



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 2020, firearms training took place in both the spring and fall months.

FIELD TRAINING OFFICER (FTO) PROGRAM

Throughout 2020, the Field Training Program adjusted to allow officers to learn both in-person and virtually.

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 2020, 6 new officers were trained under the new standards. During the year, nearly 6,300 hours of field training were completed.

OFFICERS WHO GRADUATED FROM THE WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE ACADEMY IN 2020



John Wolf



Zachary Stoneking



Cory Castilow, Garrison Wolfe, Blake Paxton, Aspen Matlock

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 2020, the SWAT team was utilized **seven** times throughout the city. Most notably with the Ohio Valley Drug Task Force and the civil unrest in the United States between May 31-June 2, 2020.

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. Bobby McConnell
Cpl. Bryan Wilson
Pfc. John McKenzie
Pfc. Ryan Moore
Pfc. 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.

Lt. Matt Taylor – Commander

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



Pfc. John McKenzie & Jericho, Cpl. Jason Martin (K9 Leader), and Keeni and Cpl. Jason Hupp & Zero
**Note: Sgt. Sean Brantley served as a K9 Handler with Jericho from Jan-May 2020*

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.

- **Training Hours: 612**
- **K9's utilized: 222**
- **Arrests: 213**
- **Total Drug Finds: 126**

Percentage of Drug Finds for 2020:

- 35.11% Marijuana
- 17.56% Methamphetamine
- 14.50% Drug Paraphernalia
- 9.92% Crack cocaine
- 3.05% Alprazolam
- 3.05% Heroin
- 2.29% Fentanyl
- 1.53% Buprenorphine
- 1.53% Suboxone
- 1.53% Gabapentin
- 1.53% Ecstasy
- 0.76% Oxycodone
- 0.76% Klonopin
- 0.76% Cocaine
- 0.76% MDMA





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.

2020 Highway Safety Regional Highlights (includes other agencies in region 4) Include:

- **Click It or Ticket** – 55 citations – 59 hours worked
- **Speed/Work Zone** – 906 citations – 655 hours worked
- **Target Red (red light/stop sign)** – 9 citations – 23 hours worked
- **DUI** – 35 arrests – 446.5 hours worked
- **Distracted Driving** – 45 citations – 42.5 hours worked
- **Child Passenger Safety** – 155 car seats installed



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 reconstructionists through the Institute of Police and Technology Management (IPTM).

The CRT was called out four times in 2020. Two of these investigations were fatalities.

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

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, PROs address disruptive and inappropriate student behaviors to promote safety and preserve the learning process.

For the first half of the 2020-21 school year:

Classes/presentations conducted by the PROs: **79**

Total number of extra-curricular activities: **31**

Total number of parent notifications/contacts: **71**

Officers had one-on-one interactions with a total of **201 students** in the four Ohio County Middle Schools.

***These numbers do not reflect a full, normalized school year. Schools were closed for the second part of the fall semester because of rising COVID-19 case numbers.**



(2020-21 school year)

Cpl. Jason Chambers – Triadelphia Middle School

Sgt. Gregg Harris – Wheeling Middle School

Pfc. Cody Schwertfeger - Bridge Street Middle School



(2019-20 school year)

Sgt. Gust Kepreos – Triadelphia Middle School

Sgt. Donald Miller – Bridge Street Middle School



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

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, 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, Lt. Matt Taylor, Lt. Josh Sanders, Lt. Russell Campbell, Sgt. Doug Howell, Cpl. Robert McConnell, Pfc. Gerald Mitchell, Pfc. Ryan Moore, Pfc. John McKenzie, Pfc. Brandon Hoehn

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 usually attends several job and college fairs to recruit new officers, but most were not held because of COVID-19. The team is led by Cpl. Jason Martin.

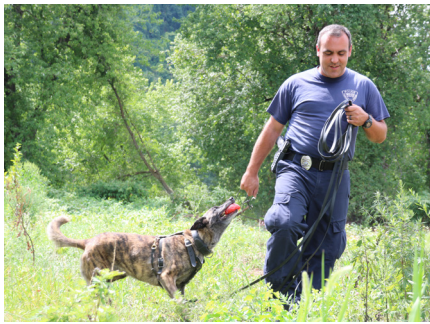
2020 Background and Recruitment Team Report:

130 Police Applications

22 Attended Late-Spring Agility Test

18 Passed Physical & Written Test

16 Background Investigations Conducted



COMMUNITY Outreach

Several Community Events were canceled because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, including: Law Enforcement Memorial, Citizens Police Academy, Wheeling Hospital Safety Town, Bike Rodeo, Ogden Half Marathon, Heritage Port Events and National Night Out. Wheeling Police, along with several community partners, including the Belmont County Sheriff's Office held its fourth annual Operation Toy Lift at the Ohio Valley Mall in December.



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. The post was re-chartered in 2020 by the Boy Scouts of America.

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 2020, NAVs volunteered a total of 335 hours of their time to the Wheeling Police Department.

WPD NAVs: Mark Ackerman, 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.

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.

Neighborhood Watch meetings were held in January and February of 2020 and were canceled after mid-March 2020.



- 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

PITTSBURGH PIRATES CARAVAN – JANUARY 2020



STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS – FEBRUARY 2020



POPS COPS AND COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT – SEPTEMBER 2020



THIRD ANNUAL OPERATION TOY LIFT – DECEMBER 2020



2020 DEPARTMENT HONOREES

Year In Review

RETIREMENTS



Sgt. Donald Miller
Retired 8/3/2020, 26 years of service

Sgt. Ulrich Utt
Retired 3/9/2020, 21.5 years of service

OFFICERS OF THE QUARTER

1st Quarter – Pfc. Joshua Bolyard

2nd Quarter – Cpl. Erick Burke

3rd Quarter – No Officer Selected

4th Quarter – Pfc. Robert Agostino



2020 OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Patrolman First Class
Robert Scott**

NEW OFFICER HIRES

Cory Castilow, 3/2/2020

Ernest Wiseman, 4/6/2020

Garrison Wolfe, 4/6/2020

John Miller, 11/2/2020

Cayden Hennen, 11/2/2020

Christipher Cook, 11/2/2020

Rebecca Haney, 11/2/2020

Trevor Brough, 11/30/2020

Collin Jamison, 11/30/2020

PROMOTIONS

Lieutenant

Lt. Russell B. Campbell, Jr.

Lt. Joshua P. Sanders

Sergeant

Sgt. Sean M. Brantley

Sgt. Douglas R. Somerville

Corporal

Cpl. Kevin A. Kuca

Cpl. Bryan B. Hails

Cpl. Carlie M. Haywood

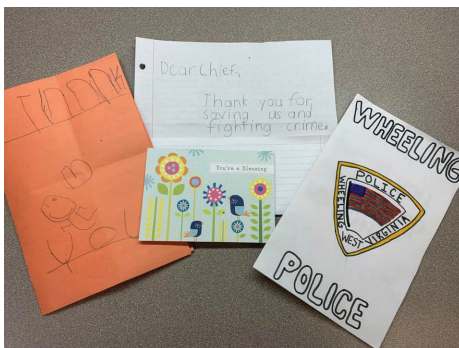
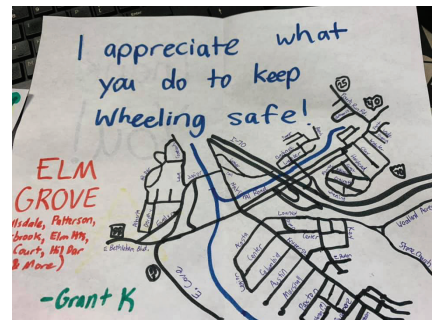
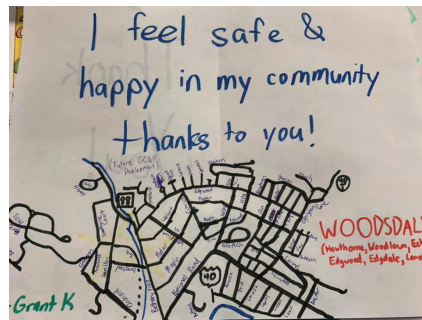
Patrolman First Class

Pfc. Jonathan Q. Wiles

Pfc. Joshua A. Bolyard

Pfc. Kevin T. Cowan

THANK YOU, WHEELING, For Your Continued Support!



WHEELING PD In The News



FEBRUARY

Chief Schwertfeger appointed William Noice as its new Deputy Chief of Police. Noice assumed his role Feb. 17 and will oversee the department's operations, including the patrol division.



FEBRUARY

WPD was out in full force for the beginning of a 3 year bridge replacement project along I-70. The Westbound lanes were closed for 9 months with little to no traffic issues.

MARCH

Police and the Emergency Management Agency met to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic and the area's first drive-thru testing clinic at Wheeling Park.



MARCH

The department launched its new Victim Advocacy Program and hired Brenda Steiniger and later Patricia Flanigan to serve in their respective roles.



WHEELING PD In The News



JUNE

After several days of national civil unrest, WPD worked with community leaders to ensure the city was safe and free of any potential violence.

JUNE

Police detectives investigated homicide in the city's east district on Edgington Lane. An arrest was made in 48-hours.



JULY

Chief Schwertfeger appoints Ken Prager as the department's second Deputy Chief of Police. Prager assumed his role July 1 and will oversee the department's investigations division, prevention resource officers, victim advocacy program and drug task force.

AUGUST

A series of late summer storms prompted an emergency closure of the I-70 Westbound detour route after a rockslide on Wheeling Hill. Several areas experienced minor flooding that evening.



SEPTEMBER

Chief Schwertfeger and the Belmont County Sheriff's Office announced a new regional crime tip program called "Crime Stoppers Upper Ohio Valley." The new initiative allows citizens to provide anonymous information about criminal activity to help keep their neighborhoods and cities safe.

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 experienced a very different year in 2020. While the city continues to be a very safe place to live and work – several changes and unforeseen trends took place with the types of calls officers were summoned to, because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall calls for service were down by 7%, the biggest decrease in years. This is largely due to the nationwide shutdown in the spring. Call volume dropped below average levels, as schools and businesses closed, and most public gatherings were halted. Most people stayed home through this time, which also contributed to the nearly non-existent traffic volume.

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) were up slightly, however, "Group B" (less serious crimes) were down, the first in several years. The fluctuation in numbers is believed to be indirectly caused by the COVID-19 health crisis and staffing issues within the department. WPD was unable to get several new members trained and certified because of the state's academy being canceled in the spring and later delayed.

In other categories, traffic enforcement was up, mostly because of the I-70 bridges project. A continued area of concern is the ongoing nationwide opioid epidemic. Overdose related calls and deaths were at a five-year high.

GROUP A (more serious offenses)

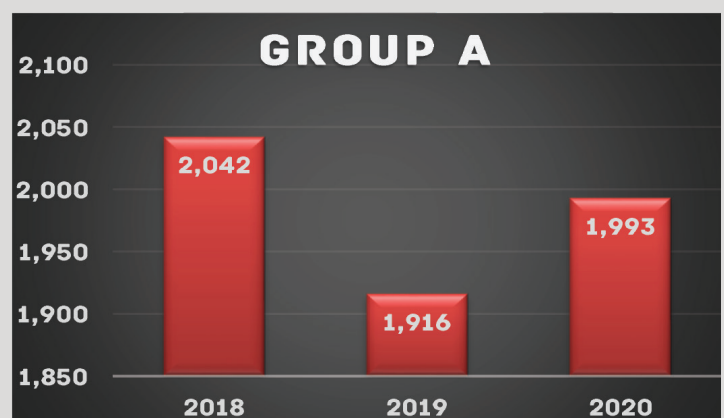
INCREASED by 3.8%

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

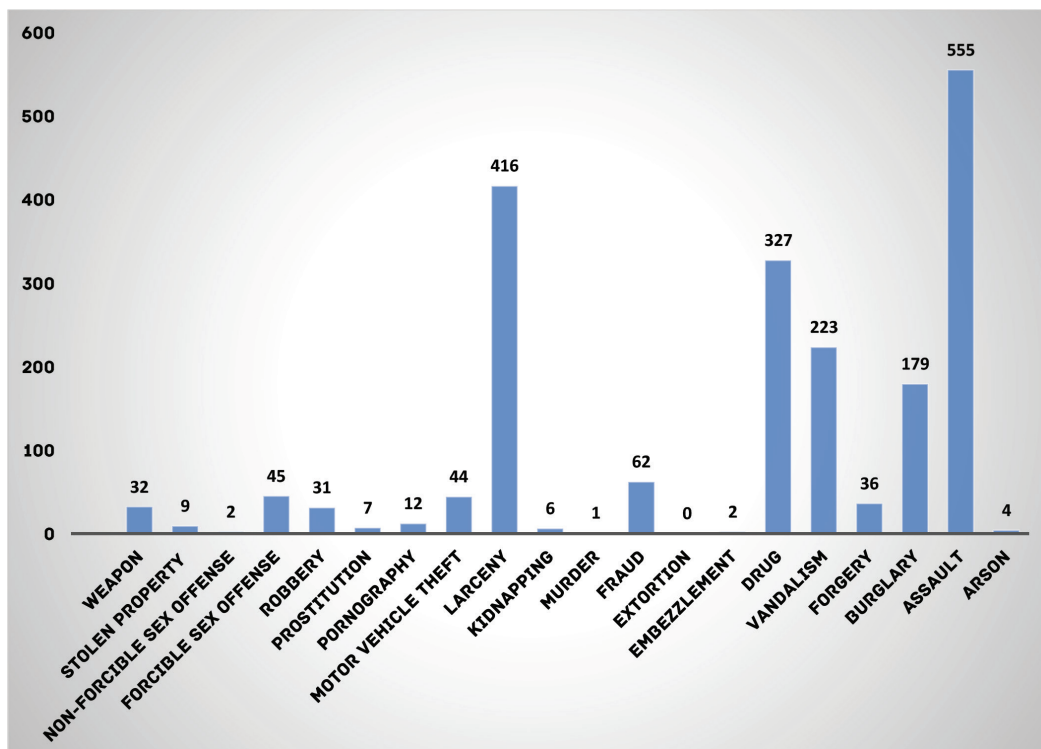
- Assaults (Down 3.5%)
- Fraud (Down 11%)
- Larceny/Thefts (Down 8.5%)

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

- Burglary (Up 23%)
- Robbery (Up 82%) **Note: 31 in 2020 vs. 17 in 2019**
- Sex Offenses (Up 61%)
- Vandalism (Up 27%)
- Drug Offenses (Up 14%)

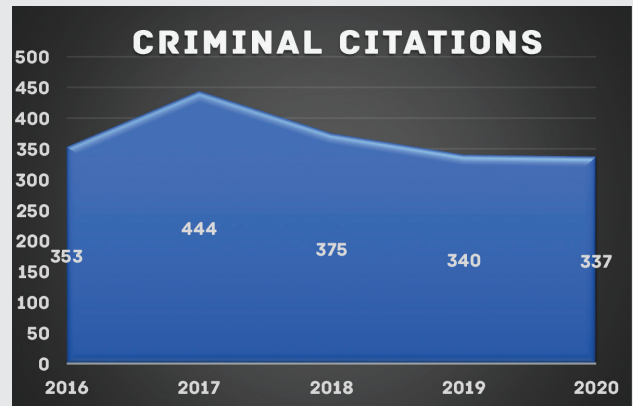
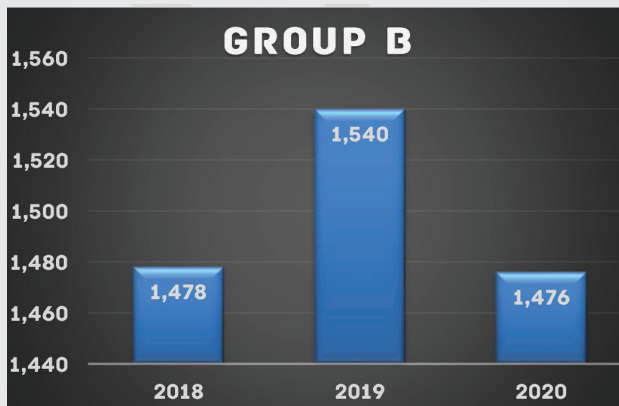


Group A Offenses	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ARSON	1	1	2	2	4
ASSAULT	591	596	529	577	555
BURGLARY	215	189	168	144	179
FORGERY	26	37	33	37	36
VANDALISM	291	213	213	175	223
DRUG OFFENSES	209	384	381	287	327
EMBEZZLEMENT	7	10	9	6	2
EXTORTION	1	1	0	2	0
FRAUD	109	84	104	70	62
MURDER	1	2	1	1	1
KIDNAPPING	10	6	8	7	6
LARCENY	578	525	454	456	416
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	43	34	36	46	44
PORNOGRAPHY	7	7	5	16	12
PROSTITUTION	2	4	12	4	7
ROBBERY	39	39	26	17	31
FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	18	40	29	28	45
NON-FORCIBLE SEX OFFENSE	0	1	0	2	2
STOLEN PROPERTY	12	18	18	18	9
WEAPON	13	21	14	20	32
TOTALS	2,176	2,212	2,042	1,916	1,993



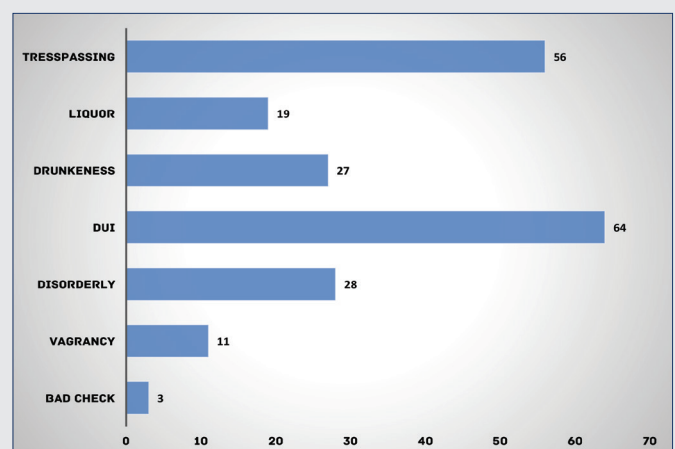
GROUP B (less serious offenses) **INCREASED by 4.6%**

All Group B offenses decreased slightly. With most public gathering, events and businesses closed, these numbers were slightly down compared to the previous year.



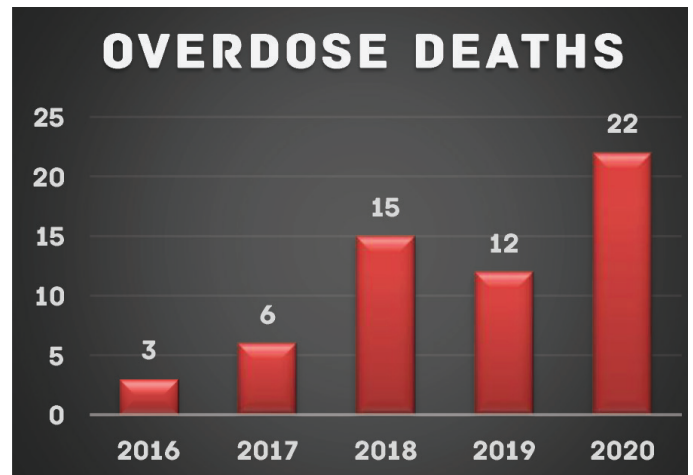
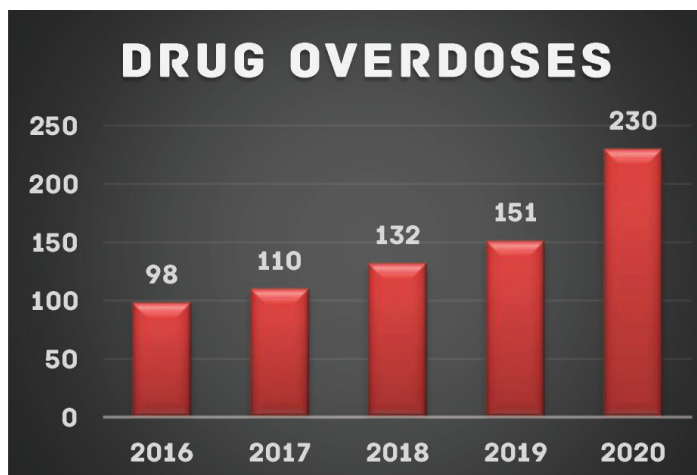
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
CRIMINAL CITATIONS	353	444	375	340	337

Group B Offenses	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
BAD CHECK	4	4	4	4	3
VAGRANCY	11	14	7	14	11
DISORDERLY	32	36	59	50	28
DUI	50	51	99	84	64
DRUNKENNESS	37	38	58	38	27
LIQUOR	8	15	21	17	19
TRESPASSING	27	36	31	41	56
ALL OTHER	1,347	1,063	1,199	1,292	1,268
TOTALS	1,347	1,257	1,478	1,540	1,476



DRUG Overdoses

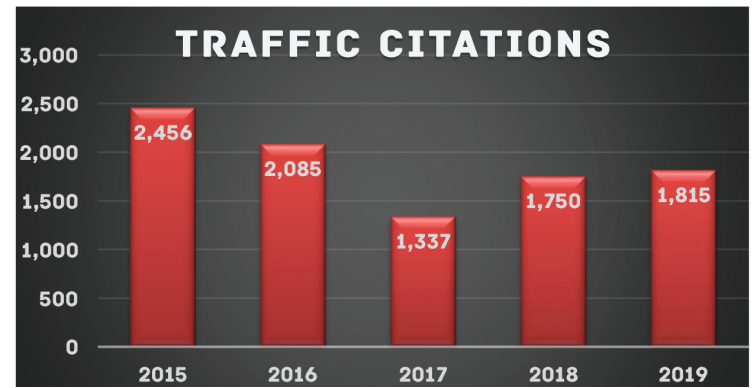
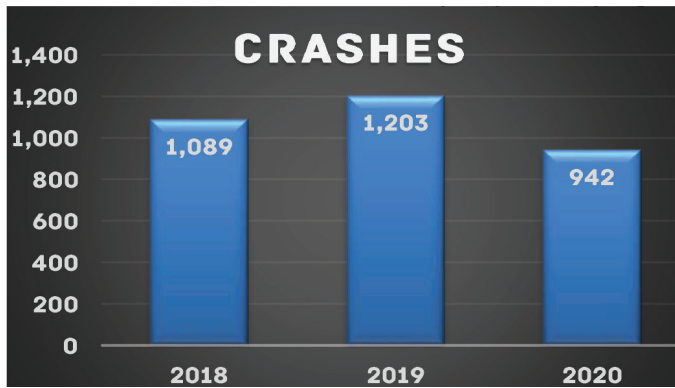
Drug-related overdoses have increased each of the last four years. In 2020, overdose related deaths also increased significantly over the previous year – up 69%. Drug overdoses were not just heroin related, but multiple types of narcotics. In addition to overdose related calls, WPD answered 214 medical calls with the Wheeling Fire Department.



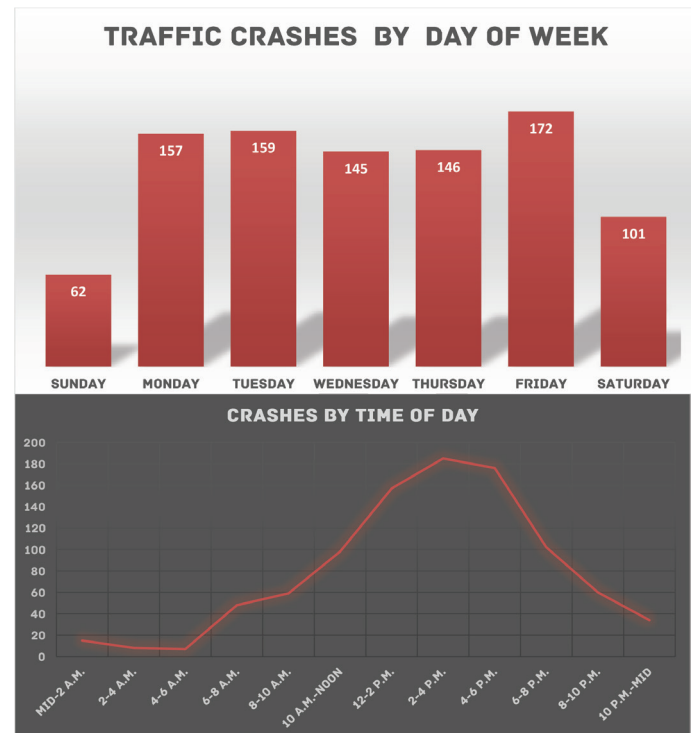
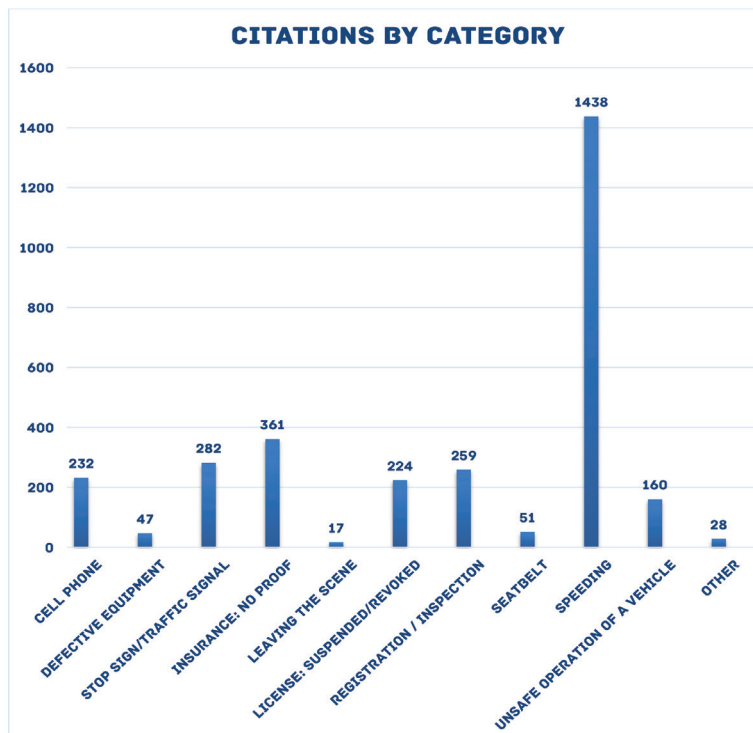
**previous overdose death numbers can change based on information provided by the West Virginia Medical Examiner's Office.*

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT **INCREASED by 41%**

WPD continued to up its efforts to increase traffic enforcement, especially along the Interstate 70 corridor in 2020. Last year, there was a 17% decrease in crashes, mostly believed to be contributed to people staying at home during the spring shutdown.



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
TRAFFIC CITATIONS	2,085	1,337	1,750	1,815	2,558



FALSE ALARM Reduction Program



The False Alarm Reduction Program was implemented in October 2016 with the goal to gradually decrease the number of false burglar alarms police were responding to 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 decreased by 20%. In the last four years, the alarm count has steadily declined overall by 36%. **A total of 3 alarms, or less than 1% were found to be true burglaries/ breaking and entering.**

2021 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 2020:

- Launched new Victim Advocacy Program (March 2020)
- Crime Mapping Software (July 2020)
- Continued to Reduce the Number of Crashes in the City
- Launch of Online Video Series "Friendly Neighborhood Traffic Cop" (Fall 2020)
- Secured location for new headquarters at the former OVMC Valley Professional Center
- Launched new Crimestoppers Community Reporting with Belmont County Sheriff's Office

GOALS FOR 2021:

- Online Police Reporting
- Assigned Vehicle Program
- WPD Drone Program
- Evidence Technician Unit
- Trikke Community Policing Initiative
- Expand Traffic Unit
- Downtown/Business Crime Watch Program
- Pops with Cops Community Event
- Prisoner Transport Van





NEW WHEELING POLICE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
2115 Chapline Street

Renovation to begin in 2021



2020

ANNUAL REPORT

1500 Chapline Street, Wheeling, WV 26003 | 304.234.3664 | [wheelingwv.gov/police](https://www.wheelingwv.gov/police)

 Wheeling, WV Police Department  @WheelingPolice