



St. Helens Police Department

2016 Annual Report

The mission of the St. Helens Police Department is to work with all citizens to make our city a place where people live safely, and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

This 2016 Annual Report demonstrates just some of the outstanding work performed by the men and women of the St. Helens Police Department. We hope that you find the statistical data and highlights of this past year interesting and informative.



Chief Terry Moss

The police officers serving this community deserve a tremendous amount of gratitude. It is through their dedication and service that we are able to live, work and play in a safe community. Their work is even more impressive when you consider that we operate every day with the same number of police officers the City of St. Helens employed in the 1980s. The budget that we operate under is still smaller than the budget we used in 2008.

In 2016, officers from this department responded to over 15,000 calls for service. This represents a 25% increase over the call volume from 10 years ago. This kind of pressure can be expected to increase our response time and diminish our capacity to serve. This becomes evident when you see that the number of traffic stops is down over previous years, but the number of traffic complaints has increased. But our officers work very hard and are incredibly diligent in their efforts. Like you, I appreciate the work they do and I am very proud of them.

2016 was unique to the Police Department as we unveiled a new county-wide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. Working with our law enforcement partners and Columbia Community Mental Health we began a data collection program and continued to train our police officers in the concepts of CIT. This collaborative approach will lead to fewer arrests, fewer hospitalizations, fewer injuries, and a safer community for all.

2016 also brought about the restoration of our K-9 Police Officer program. Ryder, a purebred German Shepherd became one of the newest members of the Department. He and his partner, Officer Brent Thompson, will have a significant impact on public safety. We see tremendous benefit in this addition and welcome him aboard.

I'll close by thanking you for your interest in the St. Helens Police Department. Your support is important to us and very much appreciated.

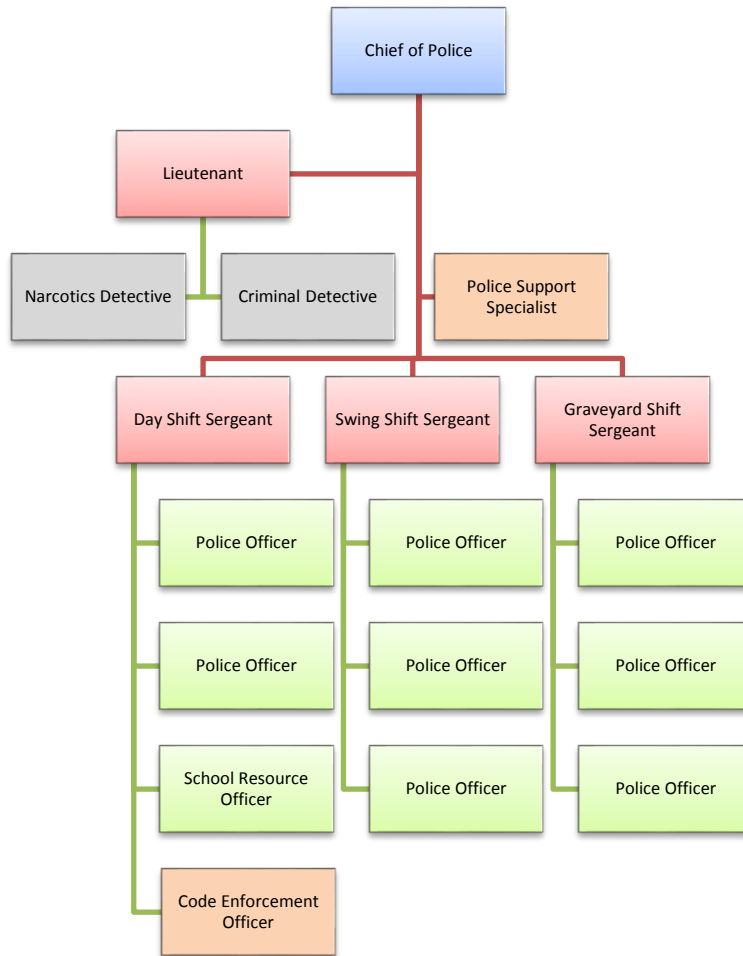
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Moss". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Terry Moss
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

The current structure of the St. Helens Police Department includes a management team of the Chief of Police, Lieutenant and three (3) Sergeants. Three police officers are assigned to each shift. When the department is fully staffed, there are two detectives that will report to the Lieutenant.



The model described above assumes that all of the allocated positions are filled and that no officers are involved in the Field Training Evaluation Program (FTEP). During 2016, the Department struggled to maintain all of the positions and as a result, the model was never fully realized. For only a brief period in the summer of 2016 were all 16 positions filled. Currently the roles of Criminal and Narcotics detectives remain unfilled. 2017 will begin with open application processes and an attempt to fill the vacant positions.

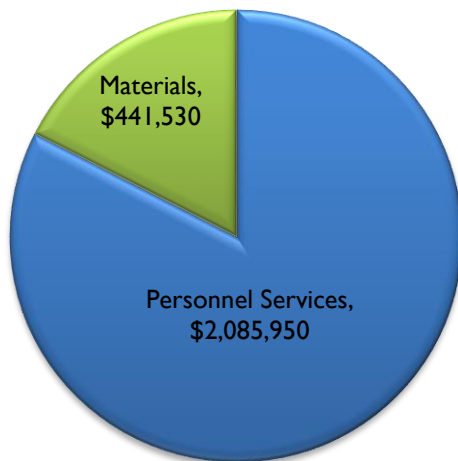
DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following chart compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2008-09 and 2016-17.

	2008	2016
Population	12,325	13,158*
Total Budget	\$2,571,539	\$2,527,480
Sworn Personnel	20	16
Non-Sworn Personnel	4	2.3
Department Personnel Total	24	18.3
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.62	1.21

**July 1, 2015 population estimate*

ADOPTED BUDGET FY 2015-16



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2016-17 is \$2,527,480.

2016 ITEMS OF INTEREST



Two local teenage males were charged in a series of tire slashing cases. Between January 9 and January 10, 2016, 23 incidents were reported to the St. Helens Police Department.

On February 24, 2016, Charles Hegele was arrested and charged with First Degree Theft after he admitted to taking a World War II Memorial Cannon from McCormick Park. That case is still pending with a trial scheduled for Spring 2017.



On April 7, 2016, Kevin Hawkins was arrested and charged with the murder of his wife April Hawkins. On November 9, 2014, St. Helens police officers responded to the report of a death at 135 Thomas Park Court. April Dawn Hawkins, a 36 year-old-female, was found deceased in her home by members of her family. It was initially reported that Mrs. Hawkins suffered from some serious complications from a recent medical procedure. Toxicology reports from the Oregon State Medical Examiner's office suggested an "intentional overdose." Investigators combed over forensic evidence and eventually pieced together a set of facts that demonstrate that Mrs. Hawkin's husband, 48 year-old Kevin Lea Hawkins, was responsible for her death.

In the afternoon of May 26, 2016, a man came home to find a burglar inside of his house at 125 S. 16th Street. He struggled with the burglar and was assaulted. The suspect was described as a white male, approximately 30 years of age, wearing a gray cap, gray sweatshirt, blue jeans, black gloves and carrying a black backpack or bag. The St. Helens Police Department followed up on a number of leads but has not been successful in identifying the suspect.



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POLICE RECORDS

The Records Division provides essential support to the officers of the St. Helens Police Department, the administration and other criminal justice agencies. As our sole Police Records Specialist, Malinda Duran takes great pride in providing excellent customer service to the community we serve. She is responsible for all aspects of our police records and serves as our Law Enforcement Data Systems (LEDS) Representative and Accreditation Manager. Malinda was nominated once again for the title of 2016 City of St. Helens Employee of the Year.

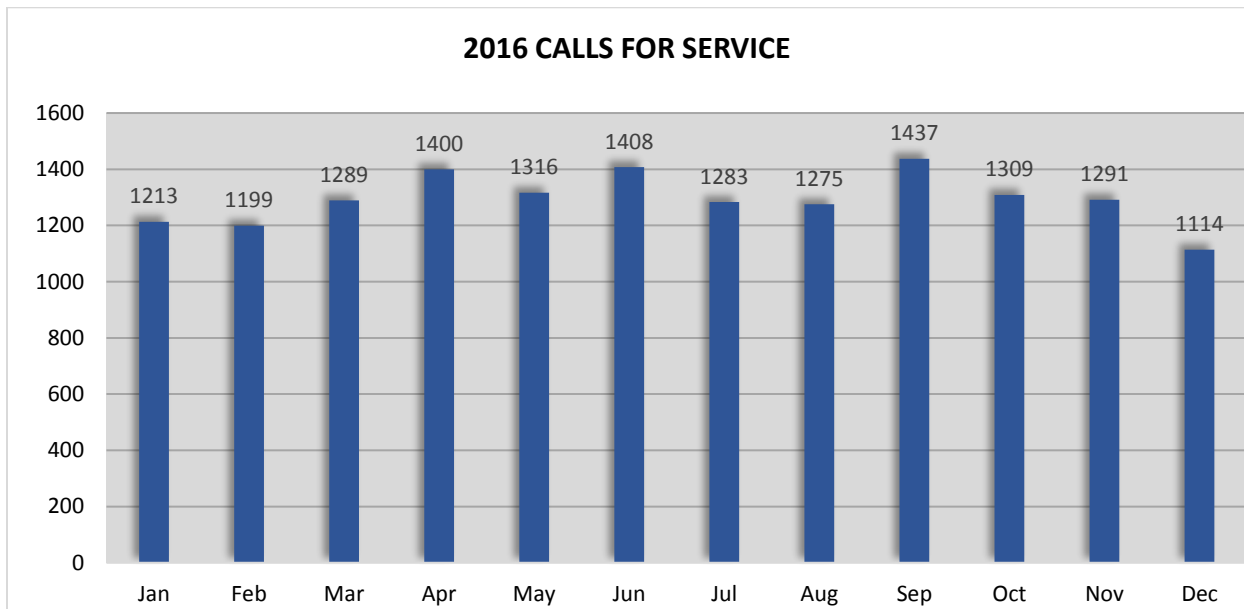


The St. Helens Police Department is a member of the Regional Justice Information Network (RegJIN) Records Management System. This system continues to be regional in scope as it provides a depository for crime related information that is entered and shared by 43 agencies from five counties and two states.

Late in 2016, the St. Helens Police Department became a member of the Regional Automated Property Information (RAPID) database. Supported by a new City ordinance that requires same-day reporting of transactions involving pawnbrokers or second hand dealers, this system allows police officers to review the data and quickly identify and recover stolen property. The program is hosted by the Portland Police Bureau and widely shared throughout the State of Oregon. Measured by the recovery of stolen property and the identification of a theft suspect, the St. Helens Police Department has already seen success with the program.

ST. HELENS POLICE STATISTICS

The St. Helens Police Department receives dispatch services from the Columbia 911 Communications District (C-COM). A “call for service” is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched or an incident is found by an officer. The following graph details the total calls for service as documented by C-COM each month during the calendar year.

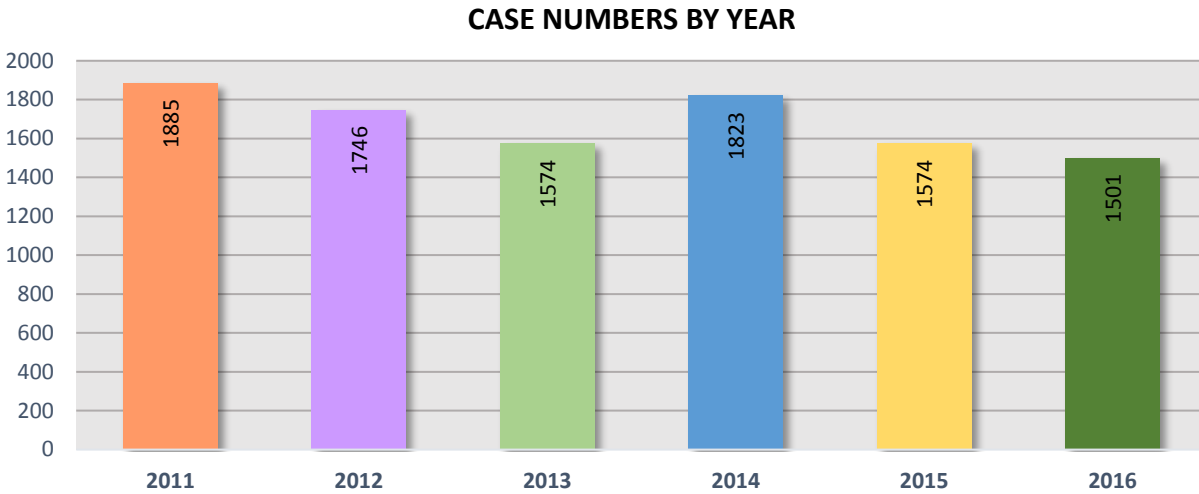


The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **15,534** dispatch activities during the 2016 calendar year. It is important to remember that not all activities are documented by C-COM. Some of our activity comes from walk-in traffic at the Police Department or through referrals from our fellow public agencies like the Department of Human Services, the Amani Center or the St. Helens School District. While those activities may generate a police report, those activities are not recorded by C-COM for statistical purposes.

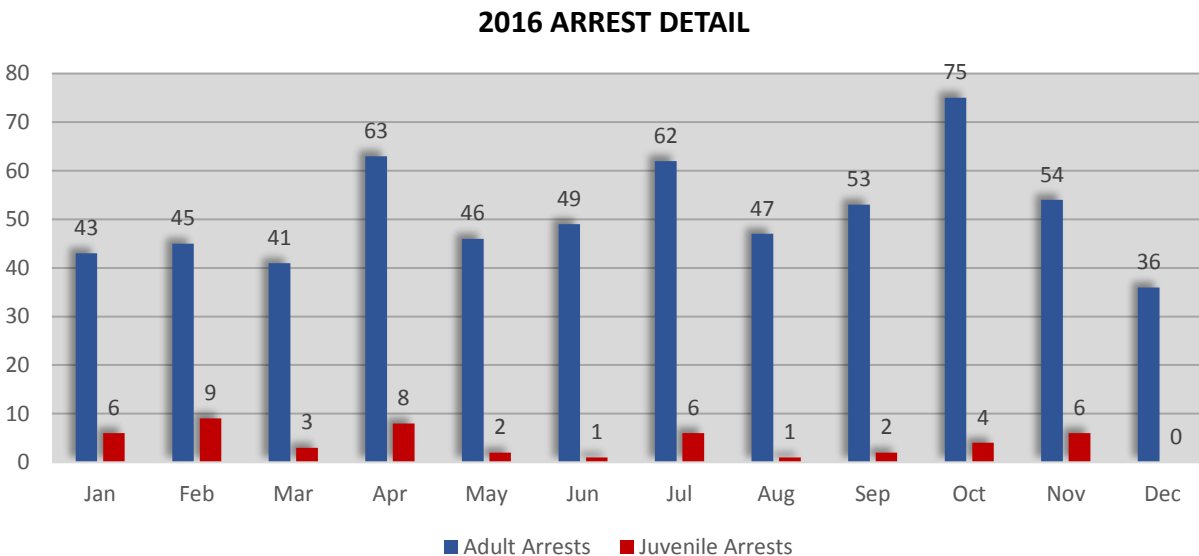
When a call for service is document by C-COM, it is assigned to one of 96 different call types. The table below details a few of the most interesting or commonly used call types over the past five years.

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total Dispatched Incidents	15166	15051	17262	16643	15534
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)	1355	1510	1708	1620	1726
Assist Public	832	981	1124	1012	979
Theft	467	422	453	451	498
Domestic Violence	255	254	279	275	312
Disturbance	220	244	304	360	345
Welfare Check	143	215	243	288	299
Harassment	213	205	207	196	193
Alarm Silent/Audible	173	160	227	266	289
Criminal Mischief	184	160	176	154	168
Traffic Complaint	146	136	197	241	279
Traffic Accident	128	121	154	192	188
Drug Activity	82	111	98	91	99
Abandoned 911/Hang up	140	105	93	110	161
Burglary	85	88	90	80	84
Hit and Run	78	83	67	92	89
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	108	79	107	113	148
Assault	71	74	58	51	66
Prowler	45	56	78	79	59
Fight in Progress	49	43	35	27	56
Sex Crime	38	35	23	29	34
Juvenile Abuse	18	22	23	14	29
Death Investigation	16	19	10	8	12

Not every call for service generates a police report. In fact, the majority of our calls for service are handled informally without any administrative action taken. When an officer is required to write a police report, the report is assigned a case number and filed in our records bureau. The following graph details the number of case numbers used during the past six calendar years.



St. Helens police officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, the vast majority involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. During the 2016 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of 614 adult and 48 juvenile offenders. The following chart details arrests that occurred during the last calendar year.

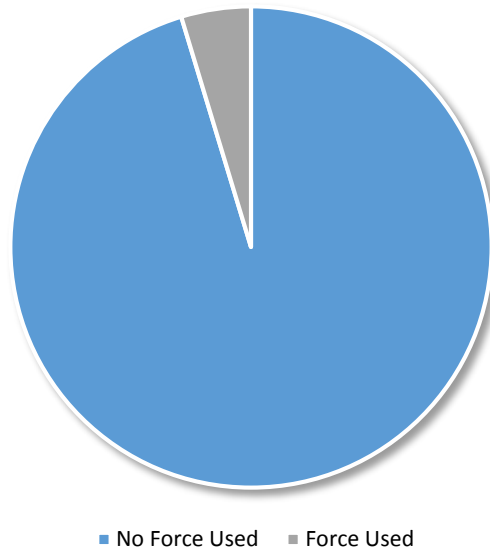


In a very small percentage of arrest incidents, force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, Taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC) and other weapons, active counter strikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person. Use of force does not include mere presence, verbal commands, passive contact or routine handcuffing techniques.

- During 2016, force was used in **31** of the **662** arrests or just 4.6% of the time.
- Not one of these incidents resulted in a use of force complaint.
- No officers or suspects were seriously injured.
- The most common use of force was the pointing of a firearm or Taser.
- The Taser was deployed just three times in 2016.

These low numbers are a testament to the officers, their training, and their ability to work at a very high level in difficult situations.

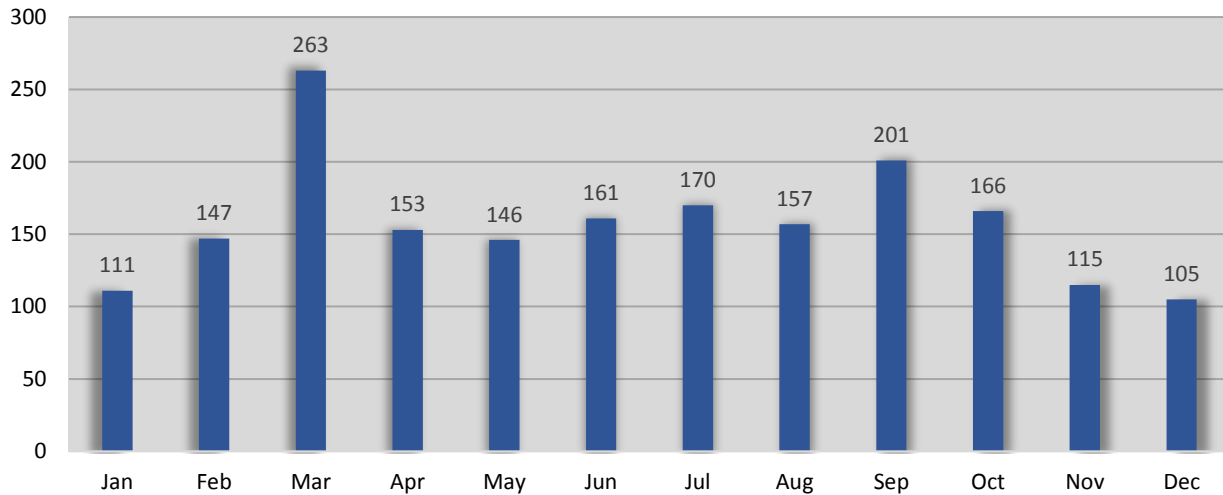
2016 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS





In addition to calls for service, officers from the St. Helens Police Department are actively engaged in traffic enforcement. The focus of our traffic enforcement efforts are not based on issuing citations, instead it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **2,048** traffic stops and issued **584** citations during the 2016 calendar year. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.

2016 TRAFFIC STOPS



The most commonly issued citations in 2016 include:

- Violation of Speed Limit- 53
- Driving While Suspended- 167
- Driving Uninsured- 140
- Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants- 54
- No Operators License- 41
- Failure to Obey a Traffic Control Device- 21
- Reckless Driving -21
- Careless Driving- 15

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM

In September 2015, the St. Helens Police Department secured a grant from the Bureau of Justice Assistance that would allow for the development of a countywide Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program. In April 2016, the Police Department worked with Columbia Community Mental Health (CCMH) and the Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc., (GOBHI) to present a 40-hour CIT training class to a group of police officers, sheriff's deputies and probation officers.



The grant also allowed for the creation of a full-time CIT Program Coordinator position. In a cooperative agreement with CCMH, Stacey Spencer was hired to fill that role. She became instrumental in the presentation of a weeklong CIT training program in October that hosted 30 officers from around the Portland metropolitan area. She is working on another class scheduled for the spring 2017 and continues to act as a liaison between police officers and the CCMH Mobile Crisis Unit. Her efforts are critical as the number of calls involving persons in a mental health crisis continue to climb. The number of suicide related calls in the City of St. Helens has nearly doubled since 2013.

CODE ENFORCEMENT

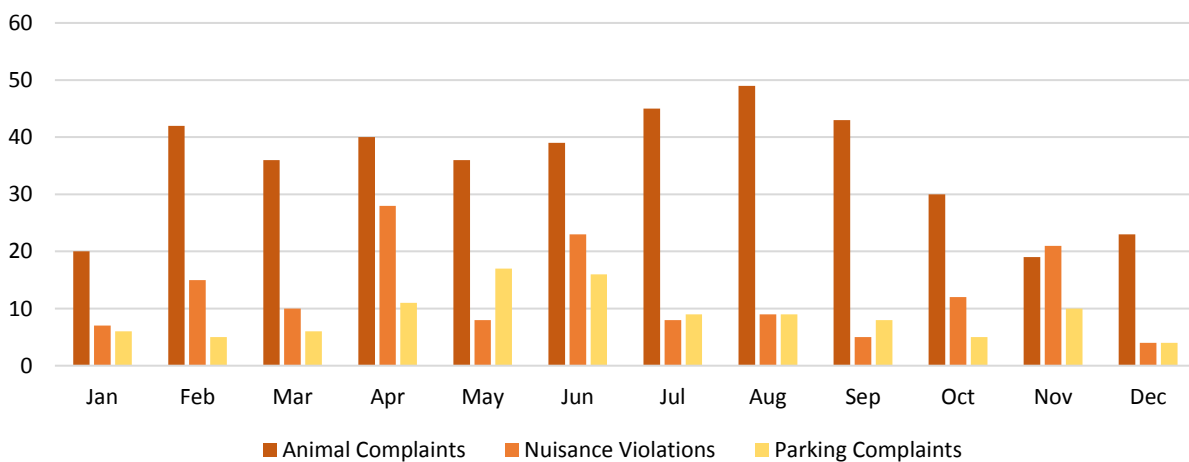


The Code Enforcement Officer responds to complaints that are related to the enforcement of City codes including animal control issues and nuisance violations like garbage, noxious weeds and parking complaints. That position was cut from the Police Department budget in 2012. In July 2015, the Code Enforcement Officer position was partially restored and provided for services just two days a week. In July 2016, a full-time code enforcement officer position was funded by the City Council and the Budget Committee. In

a cooperative effort between Code Enforcement Officer Jamin Coy and City Building Official Bob Johnston, a number of long-term nuisances were identified and efforts are underway to clean up the properties and address code violations. Jamin Coy was also nominated for the title of 2016 City of St. Helens Employee of the Year.

The response to nuisance complaints usually begins with an attempt to gain voluntary compliance with City codes. When those efforts fail, a citation can be issued and a nuisance abatement process can begin. The Police Department responded to a total of 422 animal complaints, 150 nuisance complaints and 106 parking complaints during the 2016 calendar year.

2016 CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY



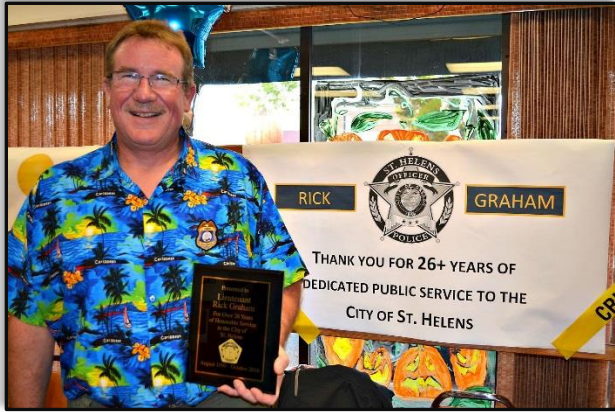
STAFF UPDATE



On February 19, 2016, Officers Jamin Coy and Dylan Gaston graduated from the 16-week basic police academy at the Oregon Department of Public Safety Standards and Training in Salem, Oregon.

At the July 20, 2016, St. Helens City Council Regular Session, St. Helens Police Officer Evin Eustice and Reserve Office Abbie Hanson took their oaths of office.





In October 2016, Lieutenant Rick Graham retired after 26 years of service to the St. Helens Police Department.

In December 2016, Officer Brent Thompson and K-9 Officer Ryder successfully completed a 10-week training program and met all of the standards established by the Oregon Police Canine Officers Association. K-9 Ryder replaces K-9 Lycos, who retired after a number of health related issues two years ago.



In December 2015, Sergeant Joseph Hogue graduated from the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. This highly regarded 10-week program is considered one of the most elite law enforcement training programs in the country. Sgt. Hogue was able to explore law enforcement leadership and to share best practices with others from across the country and around the world.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The St. Helens Police Department continues in its tradition of community involvement by sharing its staff in a number of ways that support other groups and charitable organizations.



On March 25, 2016, the St. Helens Police Department hosted “Coffee with a Cop” at Starbucks. Citizens were invited to enjoy a free cup of coffee and meet the Police Department.

In the spring of 2016, the St. Helens Police Department and Columbia River Fire and Rescue completed another Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training program. Conducted annually over the past 10 years, this training event has provided over 200 local citizens with the skills and equipment necessary to stay safe in the event of a disaster. On May 6, 2016, 17 more citizens were added to that list.



On April 23, 2016, officers from the St. Helens Police Department participated in “The Battle of the Badges.” This donkey basketball game pitted local law enforcement officers against a group of firefighters in a benefit for the St. Helens Kiwanis Club and the Community Emergency Planning Association (CEPA).



On June 19, 2016, Officer Kate Welter participated along with other staff members in the 2016 Kiwanis Parade during the St. Helens River Festival.



On July 6, 2016, officers from the St. Helens Police Department joined officers from around Columbia County to carry the Flame of Hope torch in the Law Enforcement Torch Run. As Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement officers and Special Olympics Athletes carried the “Flame of Hope” across Oregon ahead of the 2016 Summer State Games.



In September 2016, the St. Helens Police Department held a large pizza party at SunShine Pizza to celebrate youth who were issued citations for performing acts of good behavior. The citation program was part of a Police Department campaign to recognize good deeds performed by St. Helens youth.



In October 2016, the St. Helens Police Department participated in the annual Halloweentown Scarecrow Contest. Our entry was worthy of a second place trophy.





On December 10, 2016, the St. Helens Police Department held its 13th annual Donut Day. During Donut Day, citizens are invited to the Police Department where they can trade canned food for Krispy Kreme donuts.

This year, the event featured live music and a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. After trading 3,600 donuts, we were very pleased to present the Columbia Pacific Food Bank with over \$2,484 in cash and 3,237 pounds of canned food.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members of the St. Helens Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank our City leaders and the citizens of this community for their continued support. The relationships shared by this Department are vital to our efforts of preventing crime and to our mission of creating a safe community.

2016 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Randy Peterson

CITY COUNCILORS

Doug Morten (Council President)

Keith Locke (Police Commissioner)

Susan Conn

Ginny Carlson

CITY OF ST. HELENS STAFF

John Walsh (City Administrator)

Crystal Farnsworth (Communications Officer)

