

St. Helens Police Department

2019 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



On behalf of the St. Helens Police Department, I am pleased to submit the 2019 St. Helens Police Department Annual Report. This report contains a summary of the Department's accomplishments and highlights the employee's achievements for 2019. The St. Helens Police Department strives to provide excellent police service each day and is constantly evolving to meet these efforts.

Our staff is committed to providing our community with the highest level of support, both professionally and personally. We believe in our staff and providing them with the necessary tools to respond to emergencies, solve problems, and be good community members.

The St. Helens Police Department works hard to provide the highest standard of law enforcement and customer service to its citizens. We strive to build the best police force possible. We believe we have put together a proactive, community-oriented force. We want sworn and non-sworn staff made up of individuals who are not just members of the Police Department, but also represent our diverse community. We believe that our officers are part of our community and interacting with our community improves the livability for every citizen.

We are fortunate in St. Helens to serve an incredible community, and we are privileged to have a unique bond with the citizens we serve. I would like to thank the citizens and visitors of St. Helens, and especially the men and women of the St. Helens Police Department, for making St. Helens one of the greatest places to live, work, play, and visit.

Respectfully,

Chief Brian Greenway

St. Helens Police Department

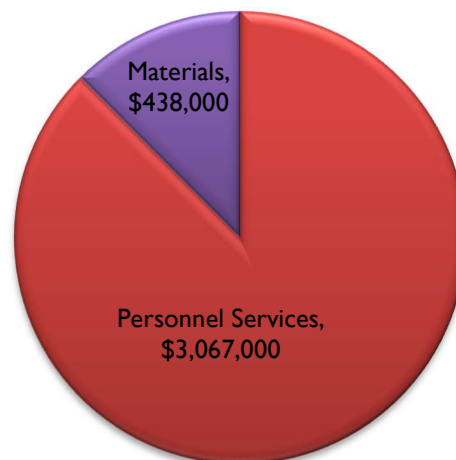
DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following table compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2016-17 through 2019-20.

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Population	13,158	13,240	13,240	13,410*
Total Budget	\$2,527,480	\$2,776,820	\$3,059,500	\$3,505,000
Sworn Personnel	16	17	17	19
Non-Sworn Personnel	2.3	2.3	2.5	3
Department Personnel	18.36	19.3	19.5	22
Total Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.21	1.28	1.28	1.42

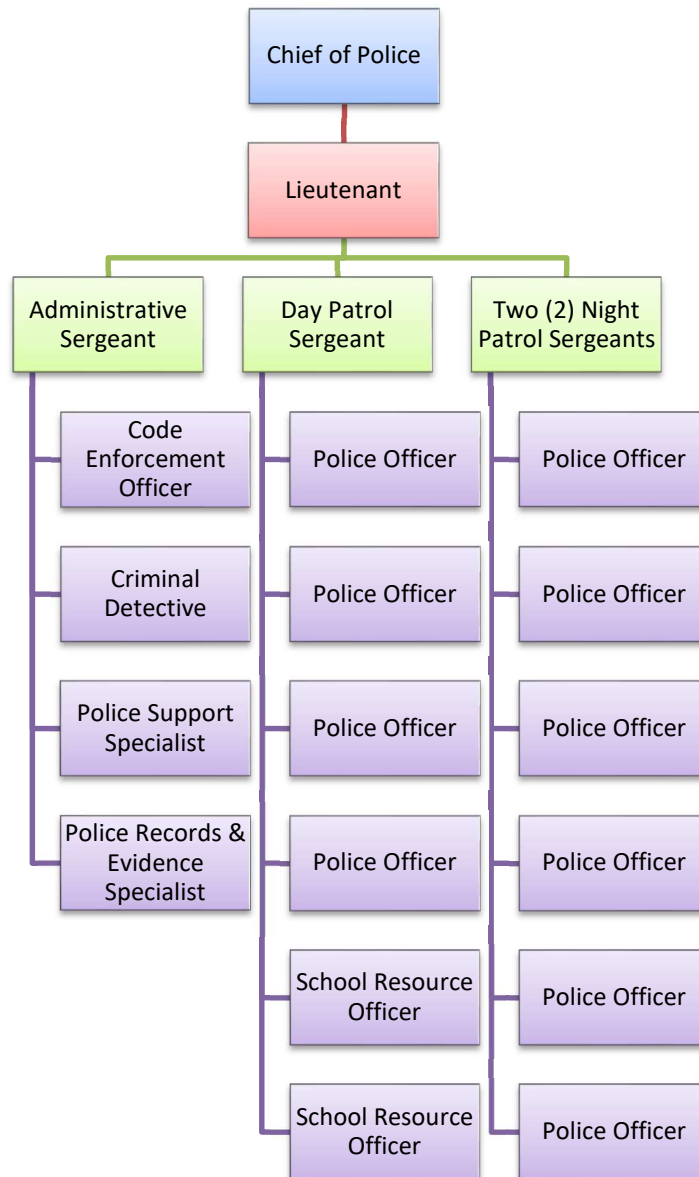
**2019 population estimate*

ADOPTED BUDGET FY 2019-20



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2019-20 is \$3,505,000.

2019 DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



2019 ITEMS OF INTEREST

FIRST THURSDAY is a community engagement program launched by the Department during 2018. In 2019, it consisted of monthly meetings on the first Thursday of each month. In 2020, the Department



is hosting First Thursday **quarterly** at 7 p.m. in the Columbia Center Auditorium at 375 S. 18th Street. A new topic is presented at each meeting by a police officer or police staff related to community safety, crime prevention, police services, or seasonal-specific safety information. After a brief presentation, participants have the opportunity to ask St. Helens officers questions, find out what’s happening in St. Helens neighborhoods, and discuss any topics of concern with fellow community members and police.

The goal of First Thursday is to bring the St. Helens community and local law enforcement together for meaningful conversation about the community. The meetings are an opportunity to make connections in the community, not just between police officers and residents, but also between neighbors.



2019 TOPICS:

January: Emergency Response in St. Helens Schools	July: Cancelled
February: Opioid Overdoses & Narcan Program	August: Reserve Program
March: Drug Recognition	September: C-Com Emergency Dispatch
April: Amani Center & Child Abuse Resources	October: School Resource Officers
May: K-9 Program	November: Cancelled
June: Officer Interactions	December: St. Helens Community Emergency Response Team

HALLOWEENTOWN - October is an exciting and demanding time for the City of St. Helens and the Police Department. Spirited events ranging the entire month take place in historic St. Helens. The Spirit of Halloweentown Parade features local musicians, artists, and community organizations. In 2019, the parade drew an estimated crowd of 7,500 visitors on one night alone!



Travelers from all over the world descend on our Columbia River town for the annual Spirit of Halloweentown celebrations. It is estimated that the month of October brought a total of 35,000 visitors to our streets, parks, and local businesses. The Police Department was effective in providing a safe environment for our visitors and our community.



FIFTH ANNUAL RESERVE ACADEMY - In 2019, the St. Helens Police Department hosted our fifth annual Reserve Academy. The Academy is an intensive 22-week training program that teaches individuals the skills and knowledge needed to become a reserve police officer with the St. Helens Police Department. It runs from January to June. The class started with four (4) participants and graduated four (4) reserves on June 21, 2019. Everardo Medina Atristain, Christopher Burgess, Yao Chang, and Brandilee Schwark graduated as St. Helens PD reserves.



The Reserve Academy covers many of the same topics and training that full-time police officers receive from their required police academy training conducted by the State of Oregon. Successful applicants to the St. Helens reserve program learn about criminal law, report writing, crime scene investigation, radio procedures, first aid, drug enforcement, traffic stops, and building searches among numerous other topics that a police officer will encounter in their day-to-day work.

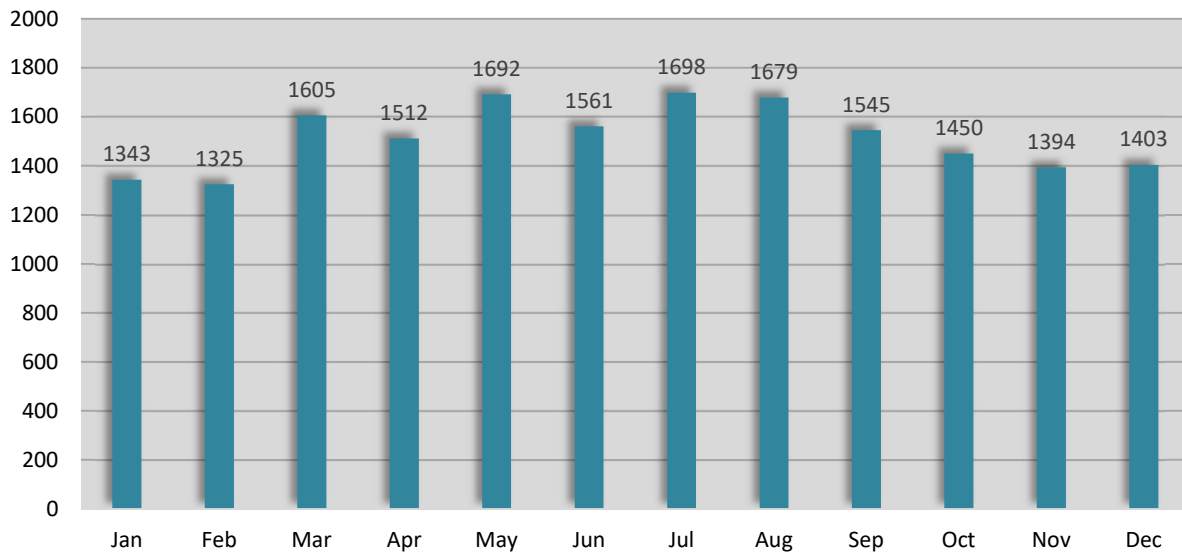
The Reserve Academy is an ideal opportunity for individuals interested in a career in law enforcement to gain hands-on experience and see if police work is truly a good fit for their life. Serving as a reserve police officer is also a meaningful way for people to volunteer their time in the community.



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 and the officer initiates a call. The following graph details the total calls for service as documented by C-COM each month during the calendar year.

2019 CALLS FOR SERVICE



The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **18,207** calls for service during the 2019 calendar year. This represents a **1.4% increase** over the number of calls received during the 2018 calendar year.

When a call for service is received by C-COM it is assigned a call type. Once again in 2019, next to officer-initiated traffic stops, “Suspicious Circumstances, Person, or Vehicle” is the most common type of call for service. This statistic speaks to the proactive work of our officers who self-initiate this call type when they see something out of the ordinary. It also lends to the positive relationship the community has with our Department and the citizenry’s readiness to engage with our services.

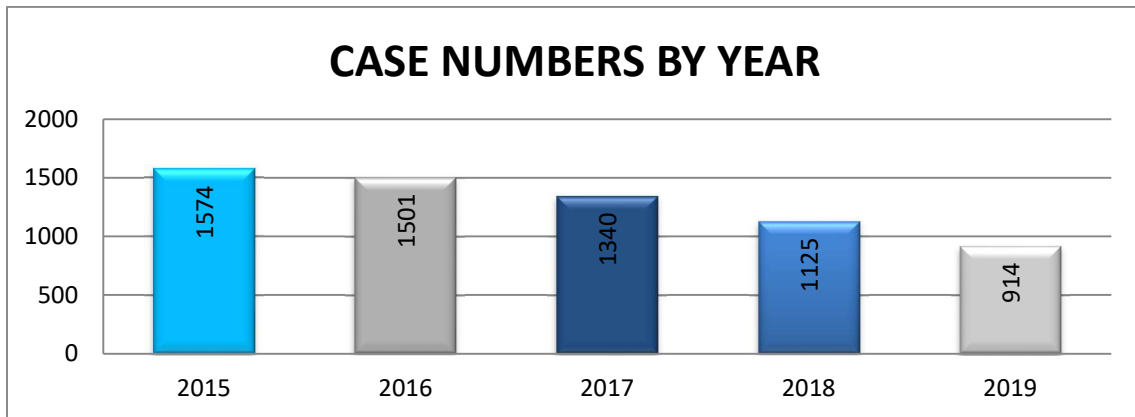
The table below details some of the most commonly used call types over the past five years. In March 2018, C-COM made changes to how call types are classified or grouped together. Asterisks (*) denote some notable changes in call types and, therefore, counts.

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Total Dispatched Incidents	16,643	15,534	16,852	17,953	18,207
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)	1,620	1,726	1,866	1,500	1657
Assist Public	1,012	979	759	831	806
Theft	451	498	431	412	369
Disturbance/Fight *	360	345	326	372*	290
Welfare Check	288	299	276	321	388
Domestic Violence	275	312	229	292	265
Juvenile Calls for Service **	14	29	24	284 **	247
Traffic Complaint	241	279	277	260	274
Alarm Silent/Audible	266	289	331	256	250
Harassment	196	193	159	252	291
Criminal Mischief	154	168	132	168	132
Traffic Accident	192	188	247	168	168
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	113	148	144	130	127
Abandoned 911/Hang up	110	161	91	123	93
Drug Activity	91	99	93	96	101
Hit and Run	92	89	102	89	81
Prowler	79	59	50	54	36
Assault	51	66	61	44	55
Burglary	80	84	43	43	39
Sex Crime	29	34	33	41	50
Death Investigation	8	12	9	11	18

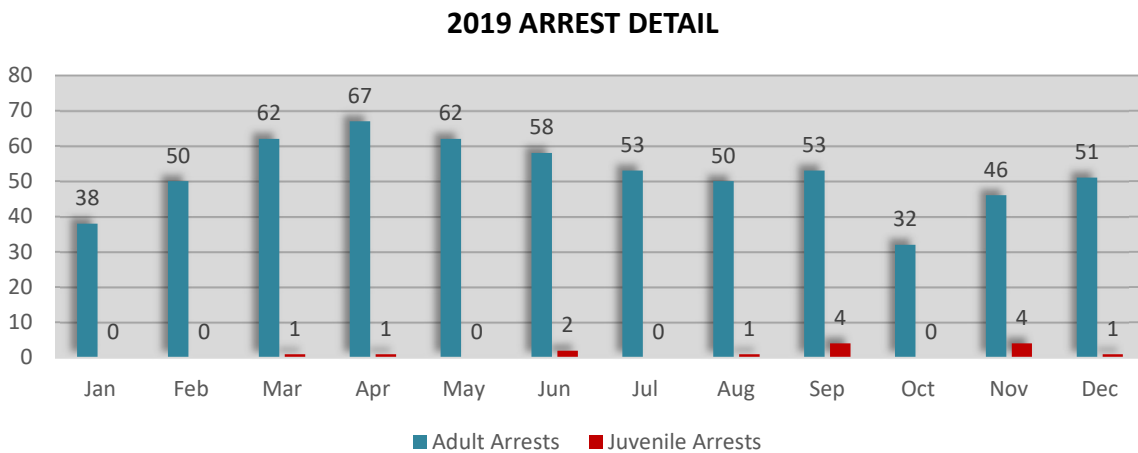
* In 2018, “Disturbance” and “Fight in Progress” were merged, and “Fight in Progress” was eliminated.

** In 2018, Juvenile-involved calls for service have been changed to include four different previous types: “Juvenile Problem,” “Juvenile Custody Dispute,” “Juvenile Missing,” and “Juvenile Runaway,” thus the number since 2018 reflects all four (4) call types, and does not necessarily represent a trend of increased juvenile-involved calls.

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 it is necessary to write a police report, the report is assigned a case number. The St. Helens Police Department used **914** case numbers in 2019. The following graph details the number of case numbers used during the past five (5) calendar years. One reason for the decrease in case numbers is that new technology and updated policy have been used to improve processes regarding motor vehicle collisions. Officers can digitally record the necessary DMV reporting information in the field and clear a scene without having to return to a desk to write a formal report. This change has empowered officers to be more proactive and available to the public during their shifts. By the table on the previous page you can see that total number of calls our officers handled for 2019 was the highest of the past 5 years.

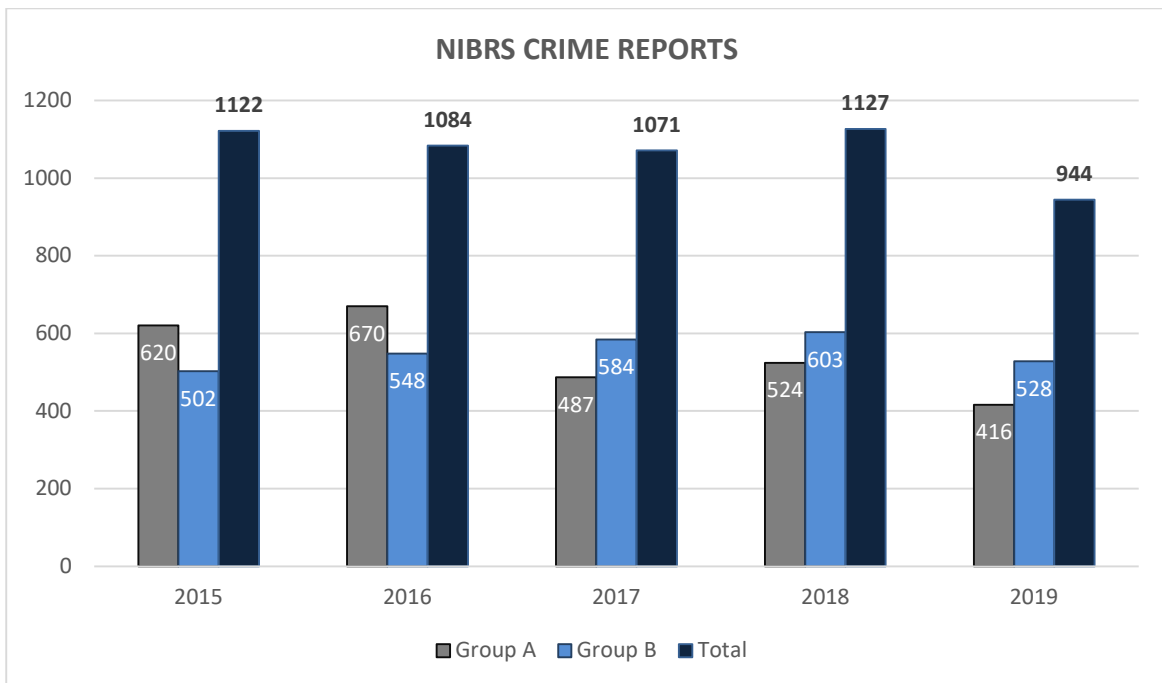


St. Helens police officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, the vast majority of these cases involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. During the 2019 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of **622** adult offenders. The following chart details 2019 arrests by month.



The St. Helens Police Department submits all crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) of the FBI. NIBRS is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 city, university and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on offenses reported or known. Through NIBRS, the Police Department reports data on each offense within 52 specific crimes identified as Group A offenses, and 10 other categories identified as Group B offenses.

The following chart details the total number of Group A and Group B offenses that have occurred in St. Helens over the past five (5) calendar years.



Our Department receives this data from the Regional Justice Information Network (RegJIN). RegJIN is a multi-agency shared Records Management System designed to provide a common platform for police reports to increase collaboration between regional law enforcement agencies. As part of our agency's contract with RegJIN, they collect and report our NIBRS-relevant data to the FBI, and we in turn look at those numbers as part of our annual, statistical self-analysis.

To evaluate the data in more detail, it may be helpful to see just a few of the offense categories and compare the numbers with data collected over the past three (3) years.

		<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Group A	Rape	10	4	8	7
	Robbery	4	1	1	3
	Assault Felony*	1	6	16	24
	Assault Misdemeanor	49	52	45	49
	Burglary	45	28	15	15
	Theft**	302	213	196	126
	Theft of Vehicle	28	22	16	13
	Vandalism	122	49	38	33
Drug Offense	96	96	89	60	
Group B	Warrants	226	266	195	221
	Disorderly Conduct	27	32	35	42
	DUII	82	102	100	48
	Trespassing	42	38	40	33

* Simple Assault Felony includes aggravated assault.

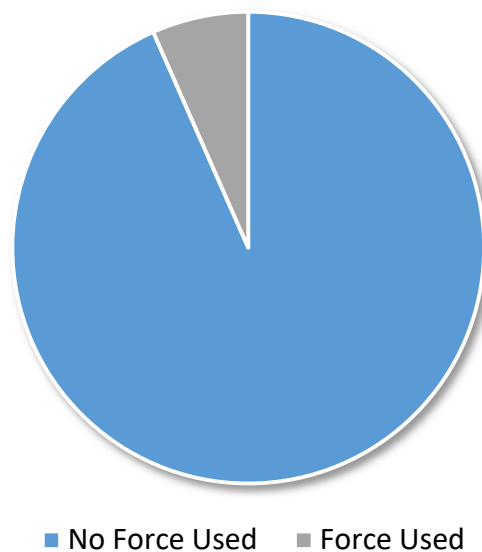
** Theft includes several types of larcenies, theft of services, and shoplifting.

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 2019, force was used in 42 of the 636 arrests, or 6.6% of the time.
- The most common type of force was Take Downs.
- The Taser was not deployed during 2019.

The St. Helens Police Department prides itself on its expert de-escalation training and field implementation. These techniques allow officers to avoid the use of force in complicated and tense situations.

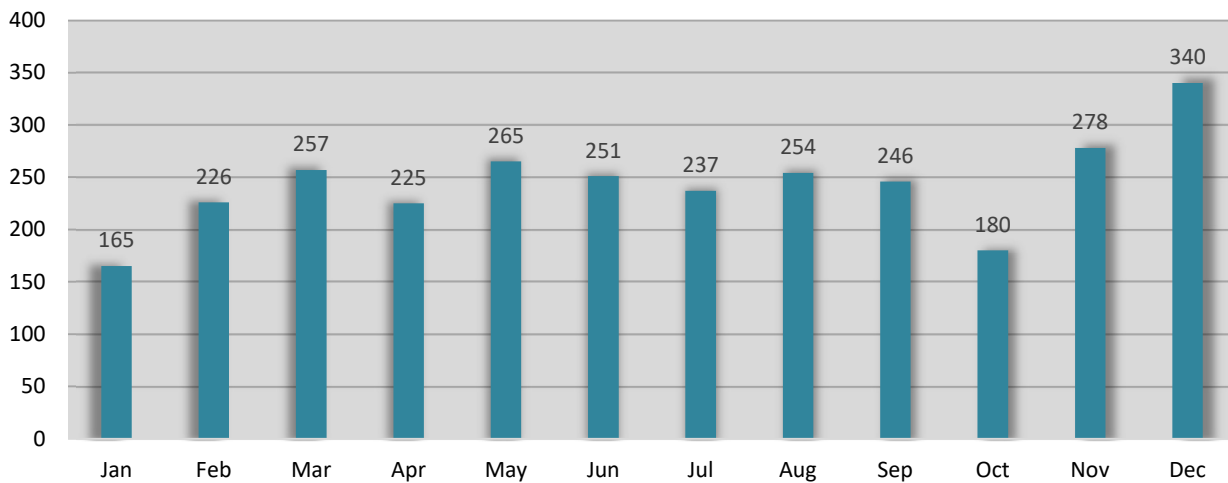
2019 USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS



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 is not based on issuing citations; rather, it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **2,924** traffic stops and issued **860** citations during the 2019 calendar year. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.



2019 TRAFFIC STOPS



The most commonly issued citations entered into the St. Helens Municipal Court in 2019 include:

	2018	2019
Violation of Speed Limit	69	109
Driving While Suspended	277	243
Driving Uninsured	193	192
Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants	77	40
No Operator's License	62	44
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	28	51
Reckless Driving	24	28
Careless Driving	12	18
Failure to Use a Safety Belt	12	28



CODE ENFORCEMENT

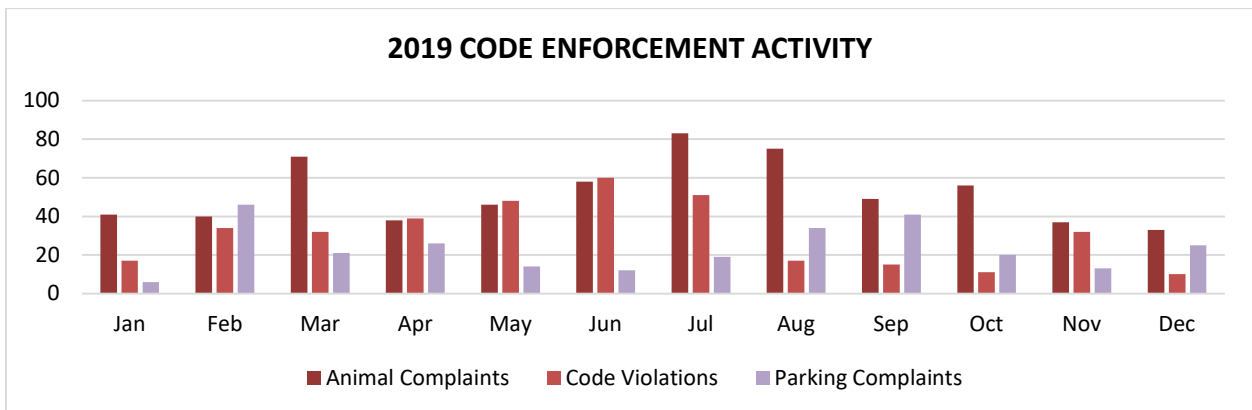
Our Code Enforcement Officer responds to complaints that are related to the enforcement of City codes including animal control issues and nuisance violations like garbage, noxious weeds, and parking complaints.



In 2019, the Police Department responded to a total of 627 animal complaints. This represents a 6.4% decrease in activity compared to the 2018 calendar year. Officer Moreno also responded to, or initiated, 366 city code violations. This is a 109% increase from 2018. The Department saw an increase in parking complaints as we responded to 277 this past year. This is a 100% increase from the previous year. The increase in city code violations and parking complaints can be attributed to

the proactive work of Code Enforcement Officer Moreno and sworn police officers. Our Department engages the community on a daily basis and not just in emergency or enforcement situations.

The following chart details the code enforcement activity over the past year.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The St. Helens Police Department, in cooperation with the St. Helens School District, is committed to providing area schools with a safe learning environment. This goal is the reason behind our School Resource Officer program.



The School Resource Officer program is a nationally accepted program involving the placement of a law enforcement officer within the educational environment.

Officers Jeremy Howell and Dylan Gaston are assigned to the schools within the St. Helens School District. Officer Howell serves as the school resource officer for the St. Helens High School, McBride Elementary School, and Columbia City Elementary School. Officer Gaston serves as the school resource officer for the St. Helens Middle School, Plymouth High School, and Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

In addition to being an active, high-profile law enforcement officer, school resource officers are a resource for students, parents, teachers, and administration regarding law enforcement related issues. While there is an expectation of enforcement by the school resource officer, it takes only a portion of the officer's time. The majority of their work is in the area of prevention.

On any given day you might find a school resource officer giving presentations in a classroom or meeting and talking to students in the hallways. You might also find them at athletic events and school lunches. Working hand-in-hand with the principal in each school, our school resource officers work hard to find solutions to problems affecting today's school-age children.

STAFF UPDATES

2019 was another invigorating year that brought changes for the St. Helens Police Department. The dedicated men and women of this Department evolved, reflected, and made new community connections.

PROMOTIONS



Officer Jon Eggers was promoted to sergeant on July 1, 2019. Sgt. Eggers is a St. Helens High School graduate. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years as a tow gunner and sergeant of the guard. While in the Marines, he was a squad leader of an anti-tank assault team, sergeant of the guard for a strategic weapons compound, and a squad leader for 20 Marine riflemen. After being honorably discharged in 1996, Sgt. Eggers returned to the Columbia County area and worked in construction. He was accepted into the Multnomah County Reserve Officer Academy in 1998. He graduated Basic Police Academy as the Victor G. Atiyeh Award recipient for displaying exceptional professionalism, exemplary attitude, and outstanding achievement in leadership, academics, health & fitness, and survival skills. Sgt. Eggers was hired as a police officer at the St. Helens Police Department in September 1999. Over his career he has received multiple life-saving awards and served as the Department's K-9 handler since 2003, working with the Department's last three police canines: K-9 Bosco, K-9 Lykos, and K-9 Ryder.



Officer Gaston graduated high school in Hillsboro, Oregon, then attended Arizona State University where he received a bachelor's degree in Justice Studies and a master's in Criminal Justice. He worked as a records specialist at Washington County Sheriff's Office and as a court clerk at the Oregon Department of Justice. Officer Gaston graduated from the St. Helens Police Department Reserve Academy and served as a reserve officer before he was hired as a full-time officer in June 2015. In 2019, he was promoted to the position of School Resource Officer. He has an office located at the St. Helens Middle School and serves at the Middle School, Plymouth High School, and Lewis and Clark Elementary School.

Tia Sharp joined the Department in September of 2018 as a part-time Police Records Specialist and in 2019 was promoted to full-time to take on additional Evidence Technician responsibilities.

Tia graduated from St. Helens High School, Portland Community College, and then Portland State University with a bachelor's degree in Spanish. She speaks English, Spanish, and Russian. She has a professional background in business and social work program management, and an academic background in civic engagement.



NEW HIRES



Officer Terry Massey Jr. was sworn in at the March 6, 2019, St. Helens City Council meeting. Officer Massey graduated from Scappoose High School and is a St. Helens resident who has raised his family here. Terry comes from the business world, owning and operating several local businesses. He graduated from the St. Helens Police Reserve Academy in June 2018. He volunteered over 300 hours of on-duty service to our Department as a reserve officer.

Officer Adam Raethke was ceremonially sworn in at the St. Helens City Council's June 19, 2020, meeting. Officer Raethke comes to us as a lateral officer from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. He was hired at the jail as a Corrections Deputy in February 2017 and transferred to patrol as a CCSO Enforcement Deputy in December 2017. He has his basic police officer certification and basic corrections officer certification through DPSST, and is a certified medico-legal death investigator. Raethke graduated from Scappoose High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps from November 2012 to November 2016. He was an Engineer Equipment Mechanic, served as a non-commissioned officer, and trained in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.





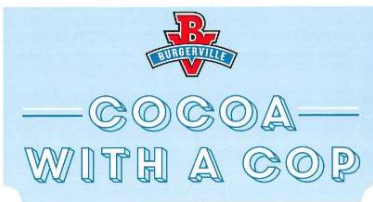
Officer Collin Brehm was hired with the St. Helens Police Department on October 28, 2019. He is an Oregon State University graduate. Before starting his career in law enforcement, Officer Brehm was a resident volunteer firefighter with the Corvallis Fire Department from 2011 to 2014. He was hired as an on-call Corrections Deputy with the Benton County Sheriff's Office in 2014 and then accepted a full-time position at the Columbia County Sheriff's Office as an Enforcement Deputy in December 2014. In 2017, he was named the Deputy of the Year by the Sheriff's Office.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The St. Helens Police Department continues its tradition of community involvement by sharing its staff in a number of ways that support other groups and charitable organizations. In 2019, officers engaged the community through a long list of events.



COCOA WITH A COP - In February, the Police Department hosted “Cocoa with a Cop” at the St. Helens Burgerville. Modeled after the popular “Coffee with a Cop” events, “Cocoa with a Cop” provides a unique opportunity for community members, particularly children, to meet with police officers, to ask questions and enjoy a hot cup of cocoa in a relaxed setting.



CITIZENS DAY IN THE PARK - In June, the City held the third annual Citizens Day in the Park at McCormick Park in St. Helens. The day is about disconnecting from technology and getting outside to meet your neighbors and enjoy the City's biggest park. The day includes a car show, free barbeque, music, lawn games, and booths from various community organizations.



TRUNK OR TREAT-

On Halloween, the Police Department hosted a “Trunk-or-Treat” Cruise-In in front of the Department. Trunk-or-Treat provides a safe and friendly environment for families to enjoy Halloween fun at the local police station. Local businesses, community organizations, and individuals set up car trunks and booths and pass



out candy to trick-or-treaters and/or offer activities in which children may participate and learn about programs available to them in the community.

This year’s Trunk-or-Treat hosted uncounted citizens and children for spooky, fun, and engaging holiday activities.



TRUNK OR TREAT Cruise In
Hosted by the St. Helens Police Department



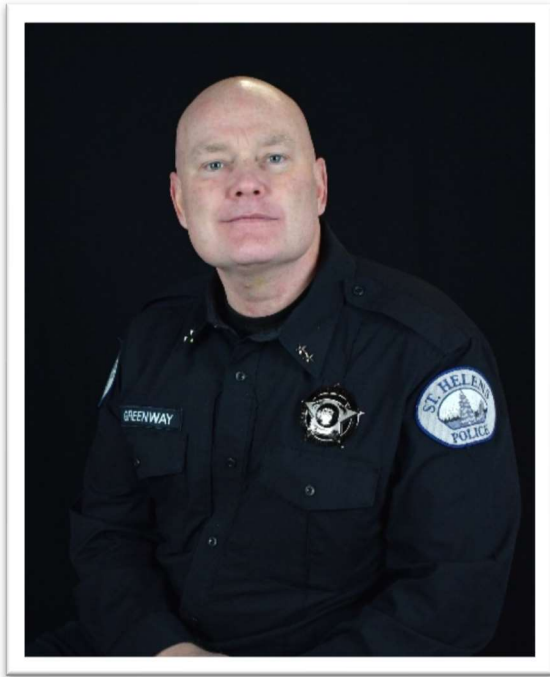
DONUT DAY - Donut Day is an annual tradition at the Police Department that allows people to trade their canned and non-perishable food items or cash for fresh Krispy Kreme donuts. The fundraiser was hosted at the St. Helens Recreation Center this year, and several other Columbia County law enforcement agencies host their own Donut Day event on the same day. The St. Helens event includes other family activities, such as the opportunity to take holiday pictures with Officer Claus and Mrs. Claus, live music performed throughout the day by local musicians and groups, a live broadcast onsite by KOHI AM 1600, and free coffee and cocoa courtesy of Dutch Bros.



Donut Day has become one of the largest single-day food collection events for the Columbia Pacific Food Bank. In 2019, the St. Helens Police Department's 17th Annual Donut Day collected 2,370 pounds of food and \$2,100 in cash. Over 17 years of Donut Days, the Department has collected over 52,000+ pounds of food and over \$42,000 in cash donations.



DEPARTMENT MEMBERS



Chief of Police Brian Greenway

Serving St. Helens since August 13, 2018



Police Lieutenant Joe Hogue

Serving St. Helens since September 1, 1998



Police Sergeant Matthew Molden

Serving St. Helens since October 21, 1999



Police Sergeant Jose Castilleja

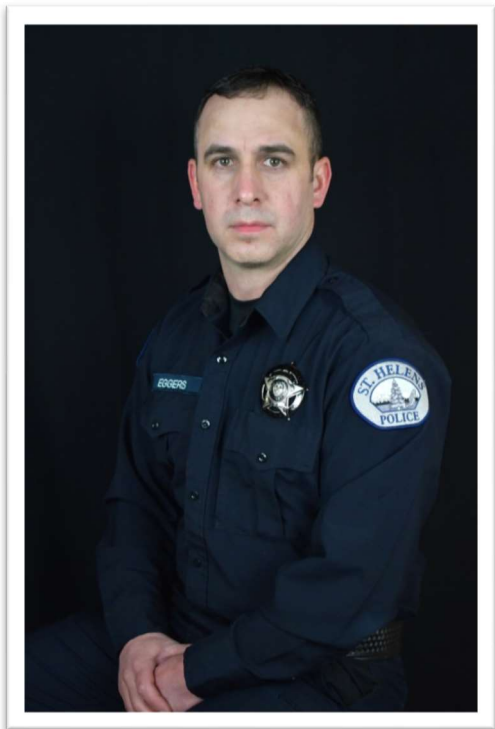
Serving St. Helens since August 6, 2007



Police Sergeant Evin Eustice

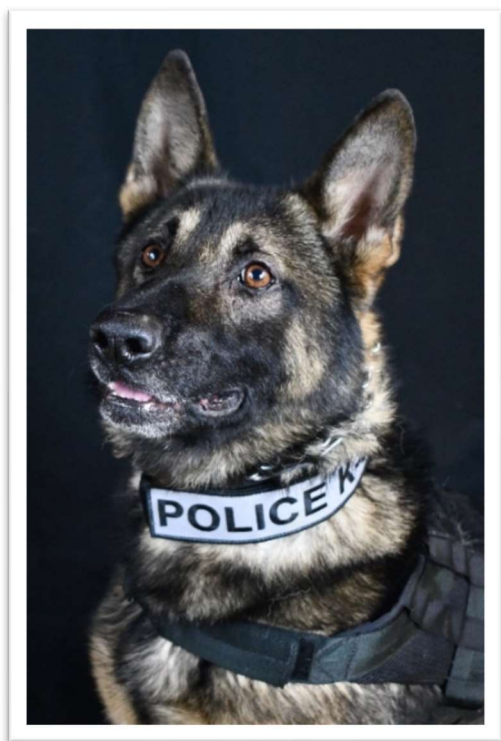
Serving St. Helens since August 2, 2016

City of St. Helens Employee of the Year Award Recipient 2019



Police Sergeant Jon Eggers, K-9 Handler

Serving St. Helens since September 13, 1999



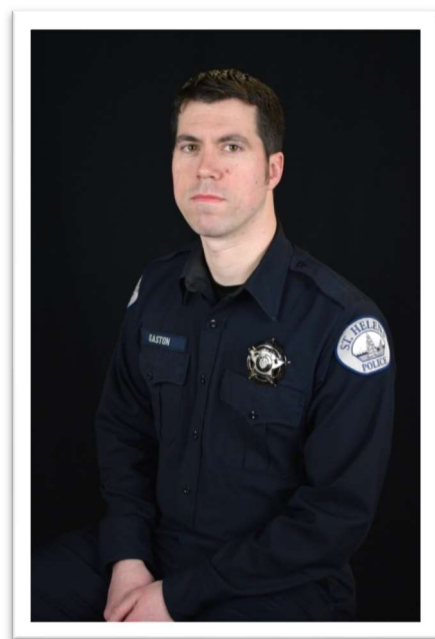
Police K-9 Officer Ryder

Serving St. Helens since August 23, 2016



School Resource Officer Jeremy Howell

Serving St. Helens since October 3, 2004



School Resource Officer Dylan Gaston

Serving St. Helens since June 3, 2015



Police Officer Jamin Coy

Serving St. Helens since July 15, 2015



Criminal Detective Dustin King

Serving St. Helens since November 2, 2015



Police Officer Sean Leudke

Serving St. Helens since February 22, 2017



Police Officer Adam Hartless

Serving St. Helens since April 3, 2017



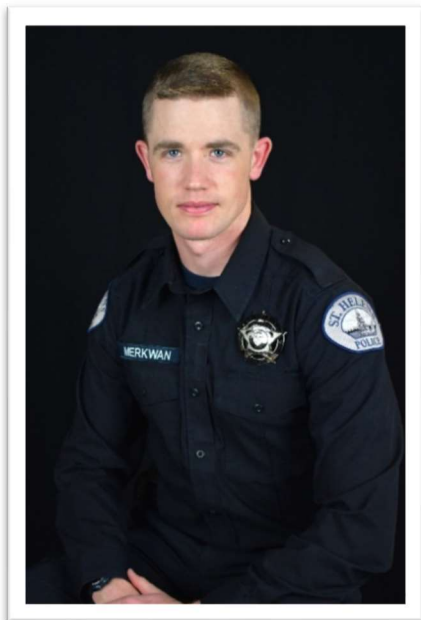
Police Officer Anthony Boswell

Serving St. Helens since April 10, 2017



Police Officer Bryan Cutright

Serving St. Helens since February 7, 2018



Police Officer Elijah Merkwan

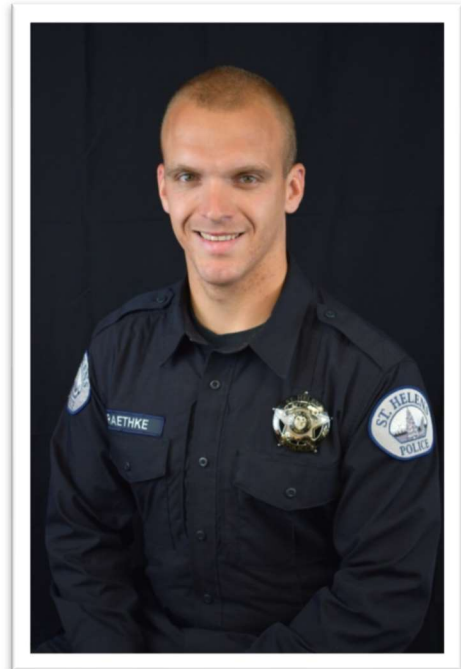
Serving St. Helens since April 18, 2018

Police Officer Kolten Edwards
Serving St. Helens since November 5, 2018



Police Officer Terry Massey Jr.
Serving St. Helens since March 4, 2019

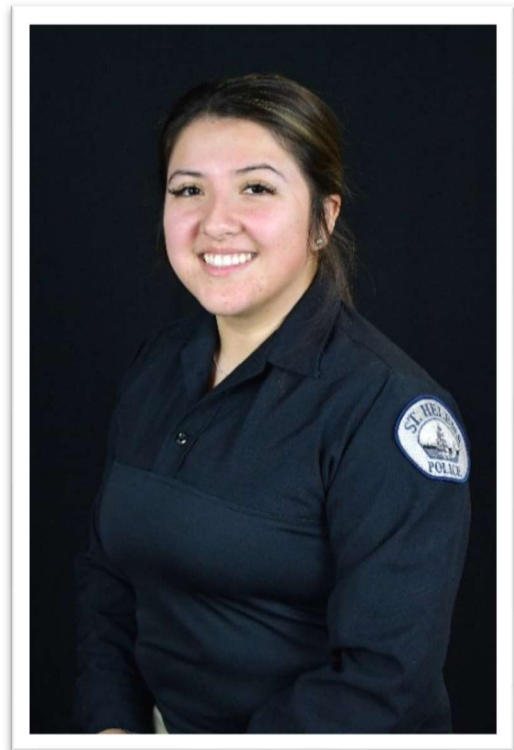
Police Officer Adam Raethke
Serving St. Helens since June 10, 2019





Police Officer Collin Brehm

Serving St. Helens since October 28, 2019



Code Enforcement Officer Marimar Moreno

Serving St. Helens since October 16, 2018



Police Support Specialist Malinda Duran
Serving St. Helens since January 5, 2004



Police Records & Evidence Specialist Tia Sharp
Serving St. Helens since September 5, 2018

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.

2019 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Rick Scholl

CITY COUNCILORS

Doug Morten (Council President)

Keith Locke (Police Commissioner)

Ginny Carlson

Stephen R. Topaz

CITY OF ST. HELENS STAFF

John Walsh (City Administrator)

Crystal Farnsworth (Communications Officer)

