

St. Helens Police Department

2020 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 2020 St. Helens Police Department Annual Report. This report contains a summary of the Department's accomplishments and highlights the employee's achievements for 2020. 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

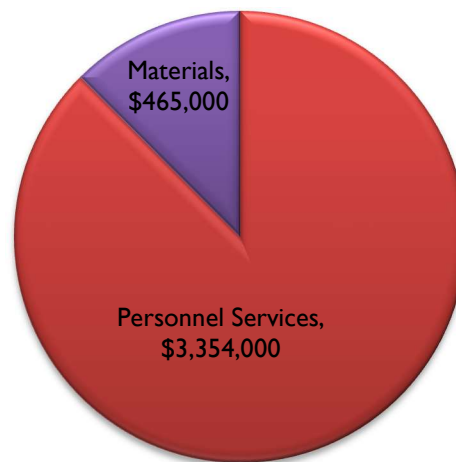
DEPARTMENT BUDGET

The following table compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2017-18 through 2020-21.

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Population	13,240	13,240	13,410	13,915*
Total Budget	\$2,776,820	\$3,059,500	\$3,505,000	\$3,819,000
Sworn Personnel	17	17	19	19
Non-Sworn Personnel	2.3	2.5	3	3
Department Personnel Total	19.3	19.5	22	23
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.28	1.28	1.42	1.37

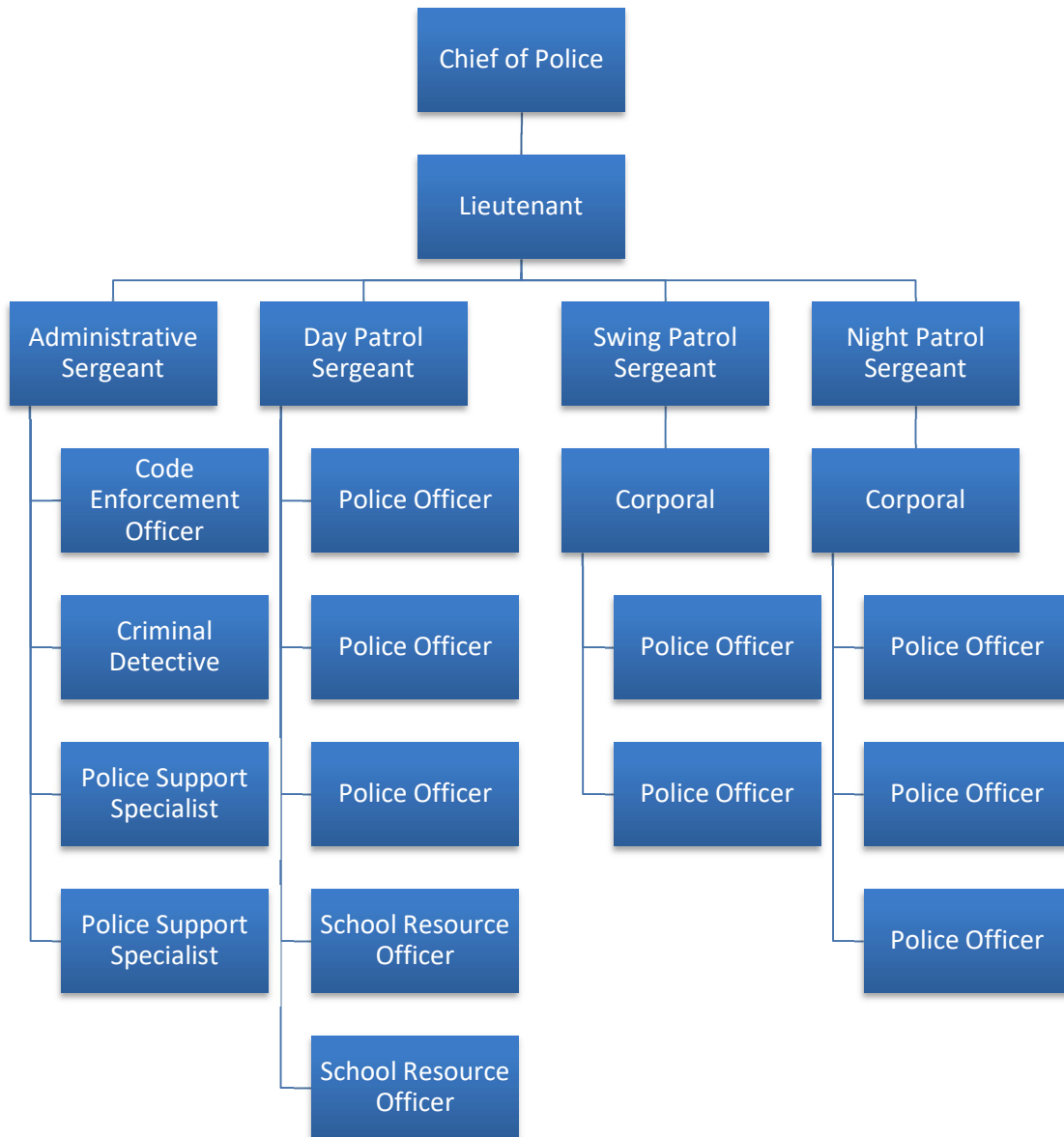
**2020 certified population estimate*

ADOPTED BUDGET FY 2020-21



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2019-20 is \$3,819,000.

2020 DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



2020 ITEMS OF INTEREST

COVID-19 Like the rest of the country and world, the St. Helens Police Department had to significantly adapt its operations at the start of 2020 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing state and federal mandates. The Department adopted policies to ensure the safety of officers and the community through mask-wearing, regular sanitation of equipment, social distancing, and other safety measures. State guidelines meant that the Department's regular community outreach events were put on hold. We followed the lead of Oregon State Police and the Governor's Office in encouraging community compliance with the safety rules through education rather than enforcement.

NEW POSITIONS – A Corporal position was added to the department structure to provide better oversight during patrol shifts, mentoring opportunities for staff, and a succession plan when supervisor and management positions open within the agency.

PROTESTS – The death of George Floyd while in police custody in May 2020 sparked national outrage and protests calling for police reform. As the seat of Columbia County, St. Helens was the center of its own share of protests throughout the summer and fall. The first Black Lives Matter protest was held in June 2020 in the Courthouse Plaza in downtown St. Helens. The St. Helens Police Department worked with partner agencies to safely staff the event, which remained peaceful with no arrests made. Officers continued to staff subsequent rallies and protests representing both sides of the issue held in various locations across town during the summer and fall.

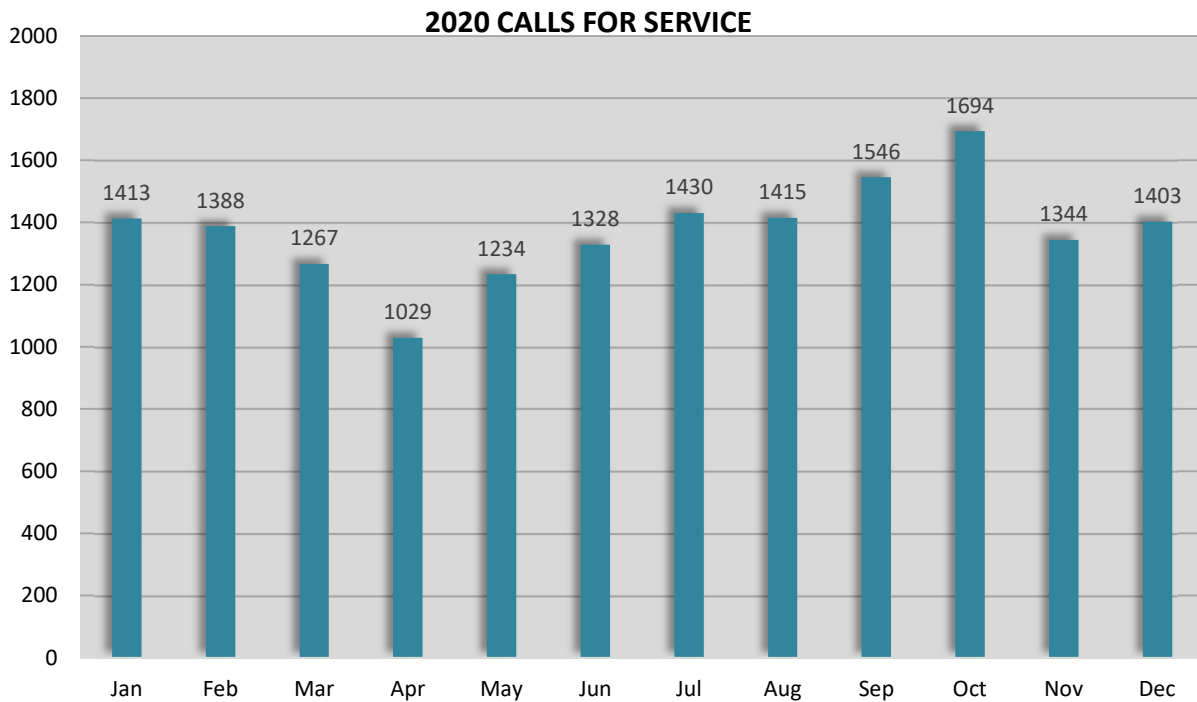
POLICY CHANGES – The St. Helens Police Department made several policy updates to make sure our policies matched policing best practices and state legislation updates. This include revamping our use of force policy in the wake of legislation reforms at the state level.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION – COVID-19 restrictions meant that the Senior Class of 2020 was not able to have a traditional high school graduation ceremony. In order to honor the hard work and accomplishments of the graduating class, the School District decided to hold a physical distanced in-person ceremony rather than only hosting a virtual event. St. Helens officers assisted with traffic control and closure of the Plaza Square in front of the Columbia County Courthouse while the Senior Class of 2020 participated in a drive-thru graduation ceremony on the Courthouse steps.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY PROJECT – The City embarked on a major project in 2020 to build a modern public safety facility in St. Helens. The current police station is 50 years old and has seen almost no changes to the original construction of the building. Having reached building capacity decades ago and now serving a population over double the size it was when the current station was built, the Police Department has worked closely with City Hall staff, City Councilors, and an Ad-Hoc Committee made up of community members to determine a building location, design, funding options, and launch a community outreach campaign. This project continues into 2021.

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.



The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **16,491** calls for service during the 2020 calendar year. Amid an international Coronavirus pandemic, St. Helens Police noted a 9.4 % decrease in calls for service over the previous year. March and April followed by November and December showed the greatest decrease, coinciding with the first and second public lock down orders. January and February, however, recorded higher calls for service than in 2019.

When a call for service is received by C-COM it is assigned a call type. Once again in 2020, next to officer-initiated traffic stops, “Suspicious Circumstances, Person, or Vehicle” continues to be the most common type of call for service. This statistic accentuates 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.

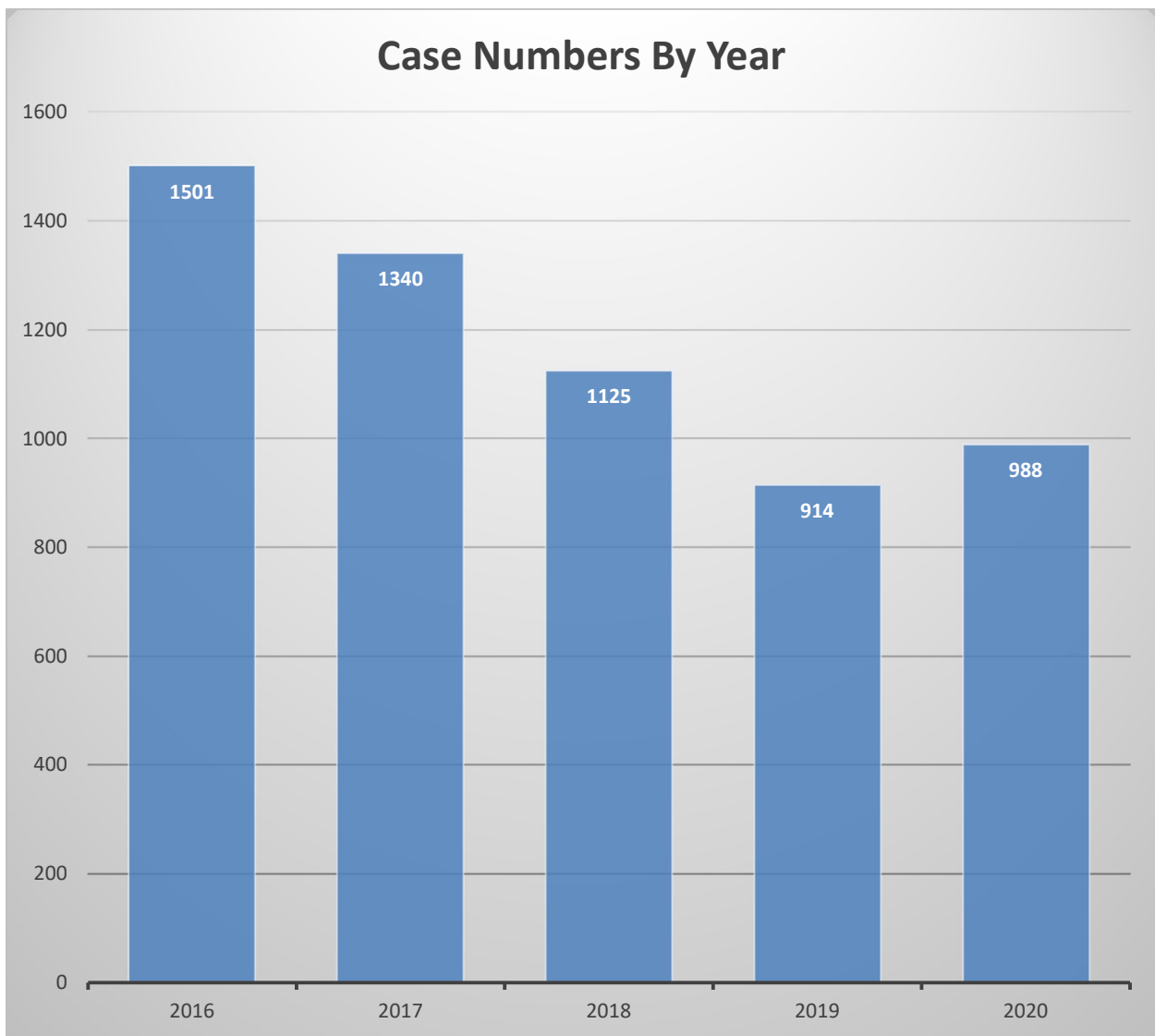
The table below details some of the most commonly used call types over the past five years. In March of 2018, C-COM made some changes to how call types are classified or grouped together. Asterisks (*) denote some notable changes in call types and therefore counts.

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Total Dispatched Incidents	15,534	16,852	17,953	18,207	16,491
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person or Vehicle)	1,726	1,866	1,500	1657	1792
Assist Public	979	759	831	806	1,132
Theft	498	431	412	369	367
Disturbance/Fight *	345	326	372*	290	319
Welfare Check	299	276	321	388	426
Domestic Violence	312	229	292	265	270
Juvenile Calls for Service **	29	24	284 **	247	258
Traffic Complaint	279	277	260	274	258
Alarm Silent/Audible	289	331	256	250	277
Harassment	193	159	252	291	324
Criminal Mischief	168	132	168	132	158
Traffic Accident	188	247	168	168	133
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	148	144	130	127	127
Abandoned 911/Hang up	161	91	123	93	76
Drug Activity	99	93	96	101	87
Hit and Run	89	102	89	81	73
Prowler	59	50	54	36	40
Assault	66	61	44	55	47
Burglary	84	43	43	39	42
Sex Crime	34	33	41	50	70
Death Investigation	12	9	11	18	25

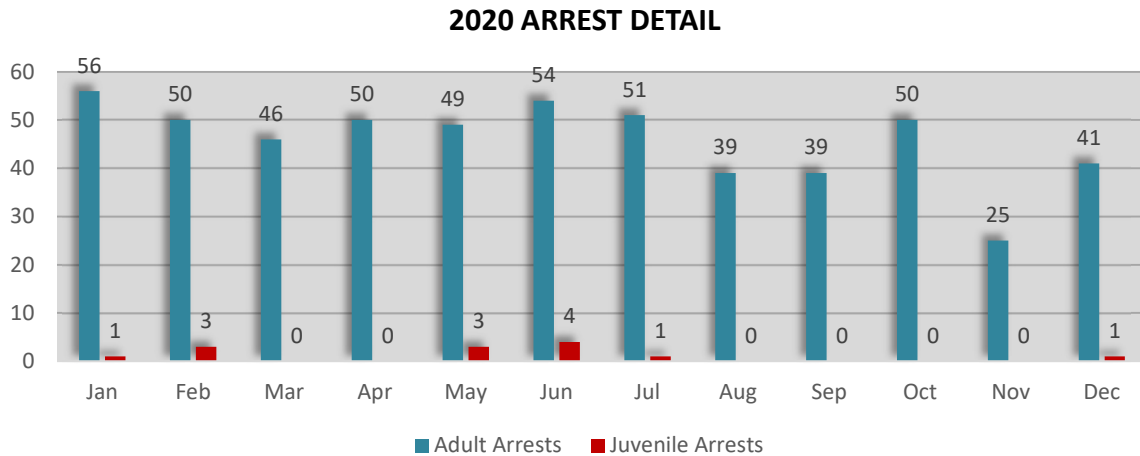
* In 2018, “Disturbance” and “Fight in Progress” were merged, and “Fight in Progress” was eliminated.

** 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 **988** case numbers in 2020. This was a 108% increase from the previous year, again while in the midst of a pandemic. 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.

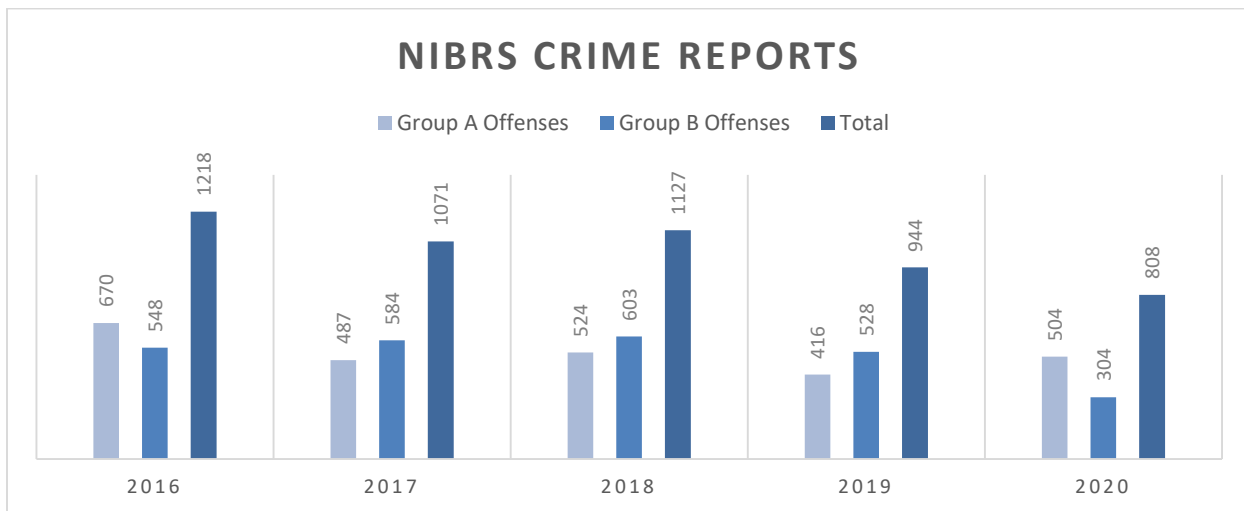


St. Helens police officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, the vast majority of these cases involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. During the 2020 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of 550 adult offenders. The following chart details 2020 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.

		2017	2018	2019	2020
Group A	Rape	4	8	7	9
	Robbery	1	1	3	0
	Assault Felony*	6	16	24	23
	Assault Misdemeanor	52	45	49	42
	Burglary	28	15	15	22
	Theft**	213	196	126	123
	Theft of Vehicle	22	16	13	29
	Vandalism	49	38	33	37
	Drug Offense	96	89	60	65
Group B	Warrants	266	195	221	203
	Disorderly Conduct	32	35	42	41
	DUII	102	100	48	55
	Trespassing	38	40	33	46

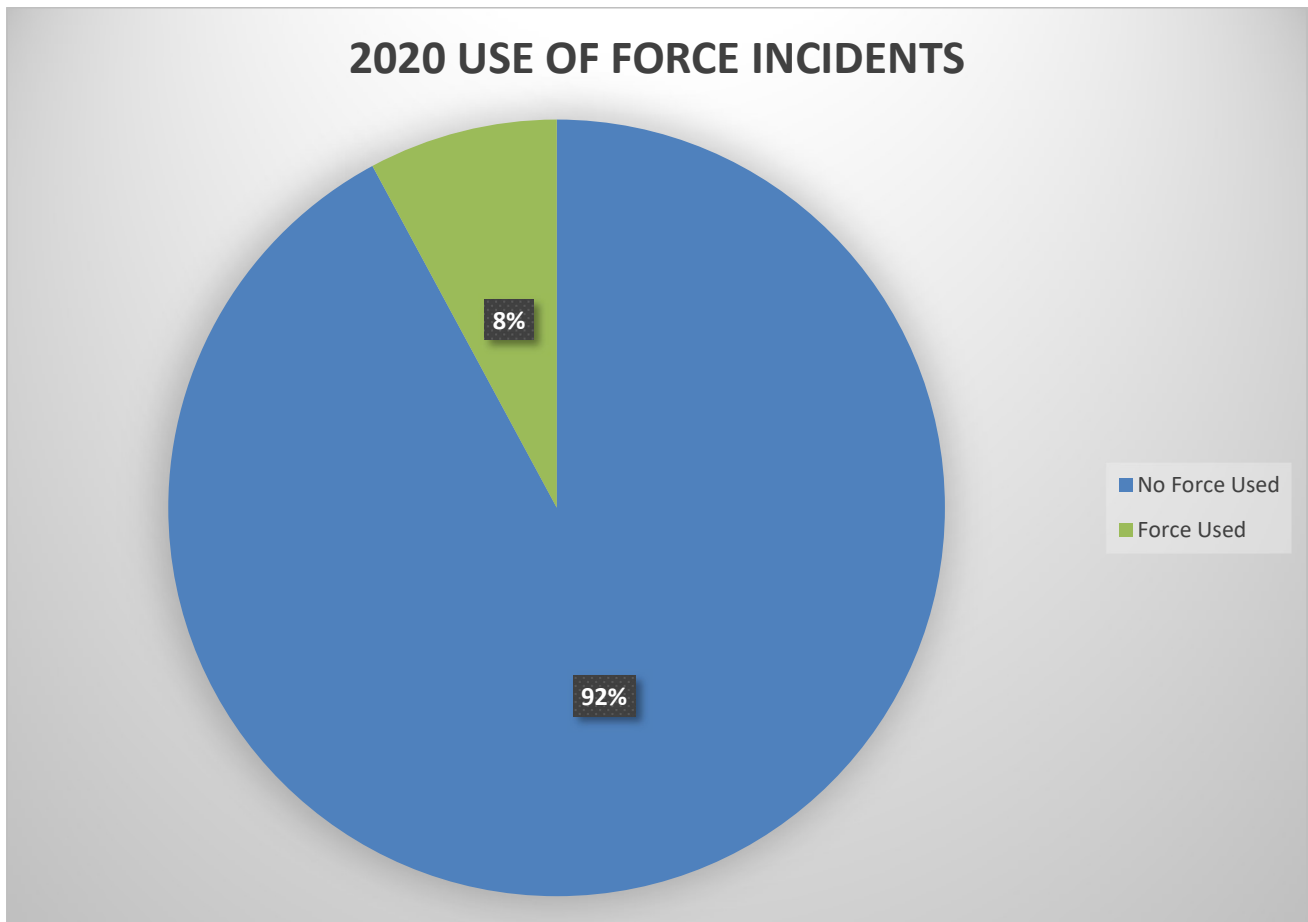
* Simple Assault Felony includes aggravated assault.

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

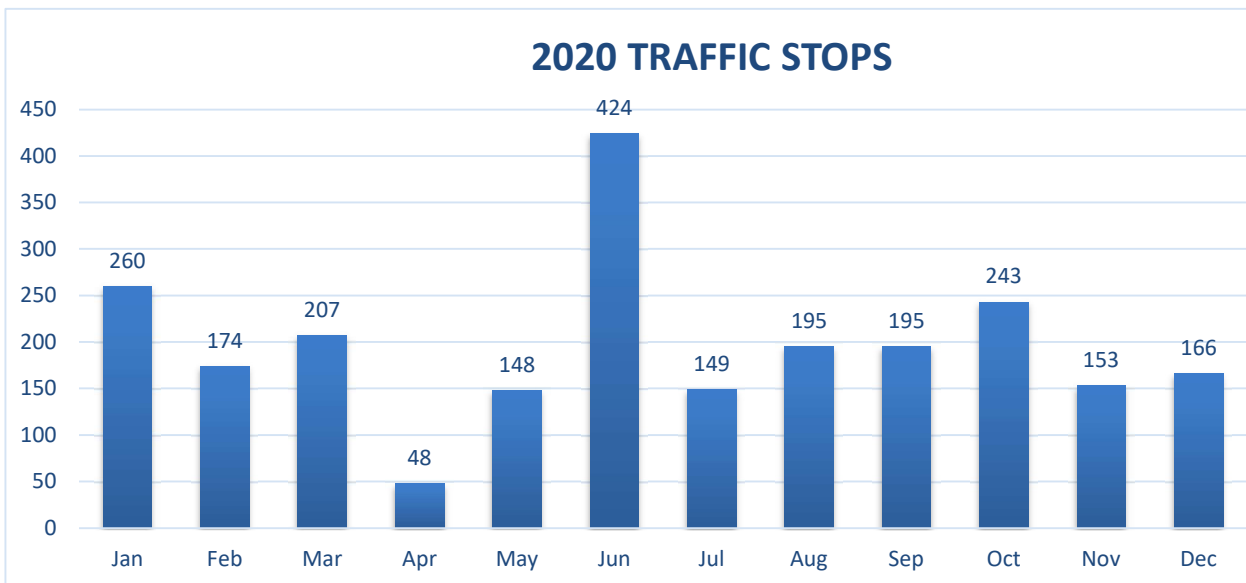
In a very small percentage of arrest incidents force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, Taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC) and other weapons, active counter strikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person.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

- During 2020, force was used in 43 of the 546 arrests, or 7.8% of the time.
- The most common type of force was Control Holds.

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.



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 **2,362** traffic stops and issued **589** citations during the 2020 calendar year. This translates to approximately 75% of all traffic stops resulted in warnings. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.



The most commonly issued citations entered into the St. Helens Municipal Court in 2020 include:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Violation of Speed Limit	109	98
Driving While Suspended	243	239
Driving Uninsured	192	52
Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants	40	55
No Operator's License	44	31
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	51	23



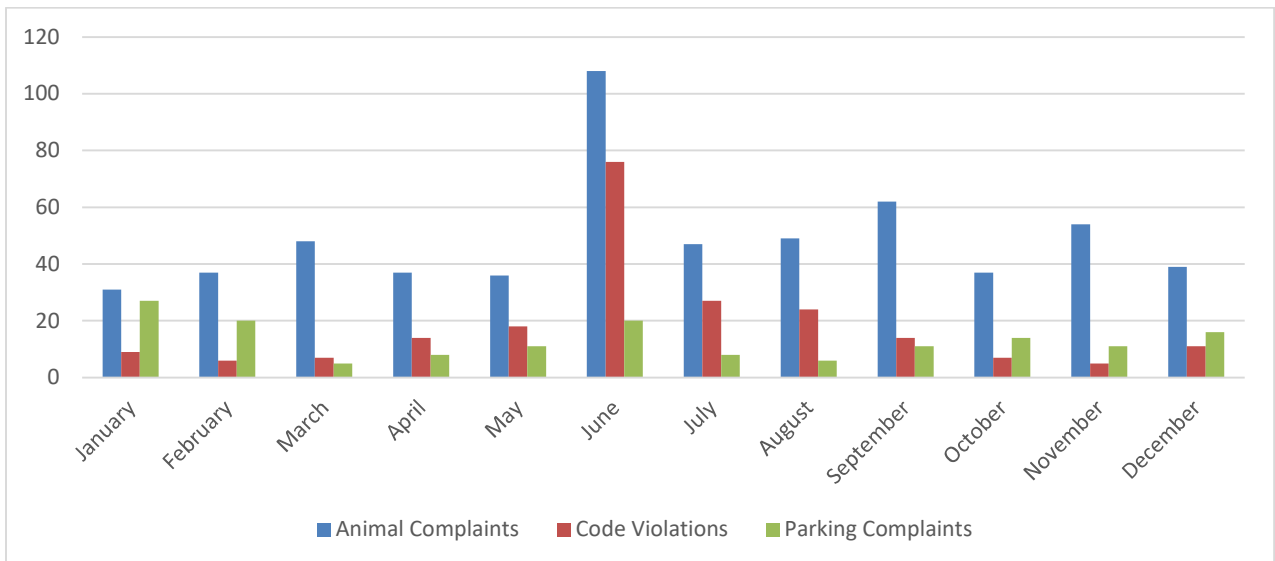
CODE ENFORCEMENT

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 2020, the Police Department responded to a total of 585 animal complaints. Officer Moreno also responded to, or initiated, 218 city code violations and 157 parking complaints this past year. Officer Moreno and sworn police officers continued to respond to citizen's concerns and during the pandemic, ensuring the safety of our community and livability within of St. Helens. Our Department continued to engage 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.

Due to COVID-19 closures of in-person learning for a portion of the 2019-2020 school year and all of the 2020-2021 school year in 2020, the School Resource Officers were assigned to patrol while distance learning was in place.

STAFF UPDATES

Despite COVID-19 having such far-reaching impacts, 2020 was a year that brought exciting changes for the St. Helens Police Department. The dedicated men and women of this Department evolved, reflected, and made new community connections.

PROMOTIONS



OFFICER DUSTIN KING was promoted to Corporal on July 1, 2020. This was a new rank created in the Department structure to provide better patrol shift oversight, increase mentoring opportunities, and create a succession plan within the Department. Corporal King was hired by the City in November 2015 as a patrol officer. He was promoted to Detective in April 2018 prior to his promotion to Corporal.

OFFICER MATT SMITH was hired as a patrol officer on July 20, 2020. He was quickly promoted to Detective on August 17, 2020, and then again to Corporal on December 14, 2020. Corporal Smith started his law enforcement career as a cadet and reserve for the Beaverton Police Department before he was hired by the Gervais Police Department in 2002 and then as a patrol officer at the City of Forest Grove Police Department in April 2003. He holds a supervisory police certification with DPSST which he earned in 2016. While at Forest Grove, he was awarded the OPOA Life Saving Award, FBI Director's Award of Excellence, OPOA Distinguished Service Award, Employee of the Year twice, Distinguished Service Medal, Medal of Valor, and Meritorious Service Medal.





OFFICER DOUG TREAT was hired as a patrol officer on July 20, 2020. He was promoted to Corporal on August 5, 2020, and to Sergeant on October 20, 2020. Sergeant Treat started his law enforcement career as a civil deputy for Multnomah County Sheriff's Department in 1994. He worked at the St. Helens Police Department from 1996 to 2002 as a patrol officer and narcotics detective before being hired with the Lake Oswego Police Department in 2002. While at Lake Oswego, he held the positions of patrol sergeant, traffic lieutenant, patrol lieutenant, and detective lieutenant. He is an NRA certified handgun and patrol rifle instructor and a member of the FBI National Academy, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors, and Oregon Peace Officers Association.

NEW HIRES

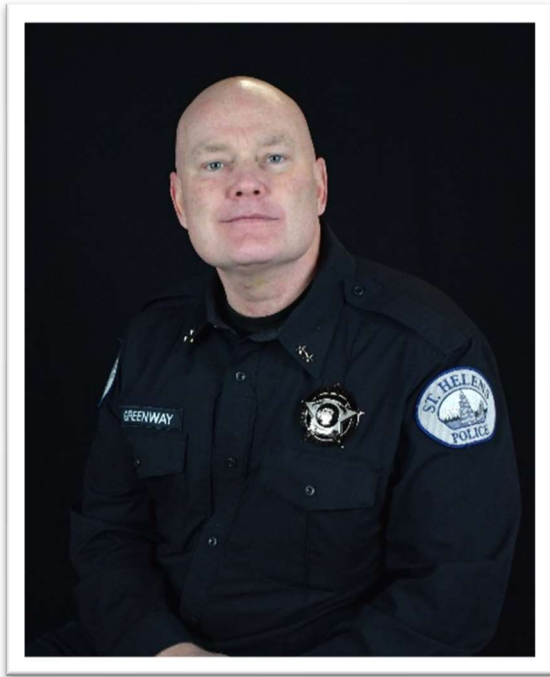


POLICE RECORDS SPECIALIST HAILEY HOLM was hired on October 26, 2020. She is a graduate of Scappoose High School and worked as a shelter aide in Washington County. She was hired as a Scappoose Police Administrator in 2010 before working as a patrol officer for the Department from 2018-2019.

POLICE RECORDS SPECIALIST PATI RUIZ was hired on November 9, 2020. She worked at the City of Chandler, Arizona as a police administrative specialist from 2005-2010 before moving to Oregon and working for the State of Oregon Medical Board as a licensing assistant. She served as a police records specialist for the City of Hillsboro from 2011-2013 and as a support enforcement agent with the Columbia County District Attorney's Office from 2013-2020.



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 Jose Castilleja
Serving St. Helens since August 6, 2007



Police Sergeant Evin Eustice
Serving St. Helens since August 2, 2016

Police Sergeant Douglas Treat
Serving St. Helens since July 20, 2020





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



Corporal Dustin King

Serving St. Helens since November 2, 2015



Corporal Matthew Smith

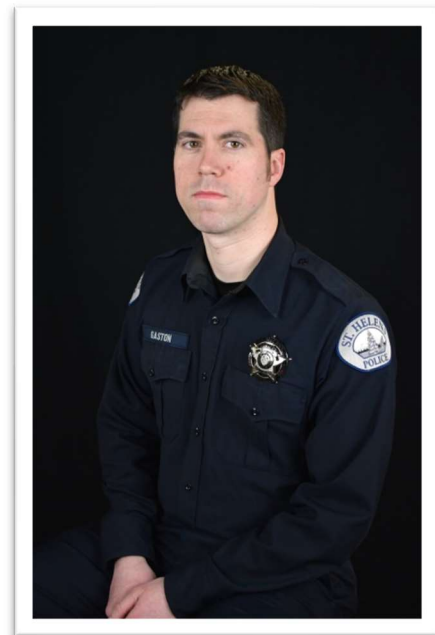
Serving St. Helens since July 20, 2020

Police Officer Matthew Molden
Serving St. Helens since October 21, 1999



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



Police Officer Adam Hartless

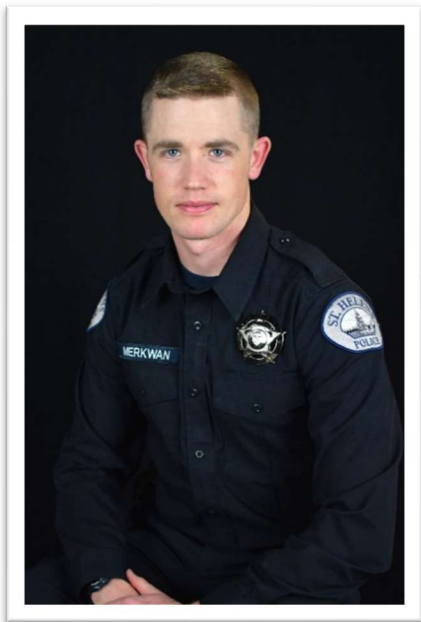
Serving St. Helens since April 3, 2017



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

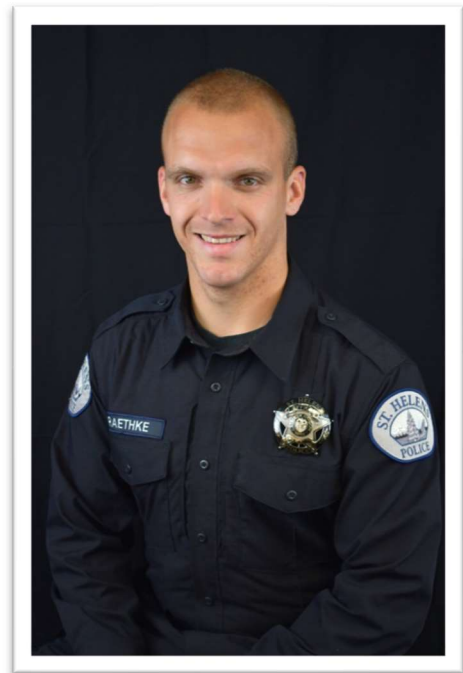
Police Officer Kolten Edwards
Serving St. Helens since November 5, 2018





Police Officer Terry Massey Jr.

Serving St. Helens since March 4, 2019



Police Officer Adam Raethke

Serving St. Helens since June 10, 2019



Code Enforcement Officer Marimar Moreno

Serving St. Helens since October 16, 2018



Police Records Specialist Hailey Holm

Serving St. Helens since October 26, 2020

Police Records Specialist Pati Ruiz

Serving St. Helens since November 9, 2020



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.

2020 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 King (Communications Officer)

