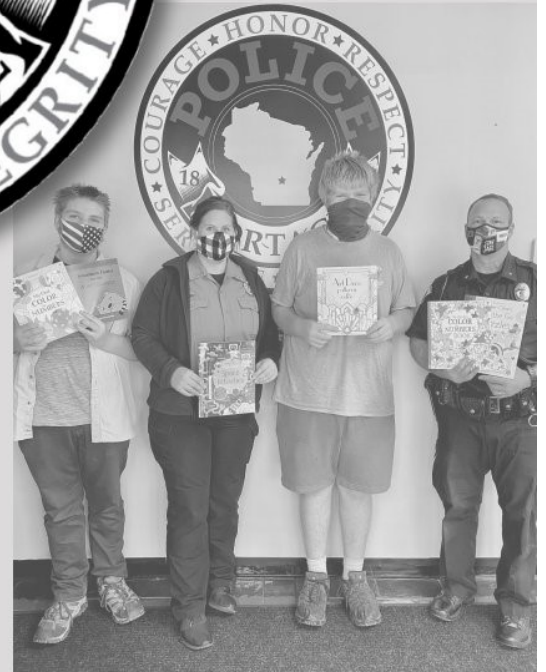


Portage Police Department 2020



Annual Report

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Chief’s Introduction.....3
- Assistant Chief’s Highlights & Challenges of 2020.....4
- Mission Statement, Vision Statement, & Values.....5
- Department Overview & 2020 Snapshot.....6
- Employee Roster.....7
- Retirements, Promotions, & New Hires.....8-9
- Epidemic Response.....10
- Community Involvement.....11
- 2019 Awards Ceremony.....12
- Trends & Comparisons.....13-15
 - Incidents
 - Overtime
 - Arrests
- Use of Force.....16
- Drug Enforcement.....17
- K9 Activity.....18
- School Resource Officer.....19
- Community Service Officers.....20
- Training.....21
- Equipment.....22
- Closing.....23

INTRODUCTION FROM CHIEF KEITH J. KLAFKE



Dear Community Members, Mayor, and City Council,

2020 has been a year like no other and our experiences at the Portage Police Department were no exception. After being promoted to Chief and restructuring the command staff in early 2020 we were excited to get started on our vision and community interactions. I thought the first annual awards ceremony was very successful though didn't realize that that would be the last organized event we would host for the public in 2020.

We were not immune to the challenges stemming from the coronavirus pandemic or civil unrest seen throughout our nation. This year presented many new challenges that we have not faced before, including a prison escape. Though reflecting on this year, we made great strides, found new ways to communicate, and I am proud of the members of this department as they adapted to the changes necessary to be efficient and stay connected to our community. Thank you for reading our 2020 Annual Report.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address: Portage Police Department
117 W. Pleasant St
Portage, WI 59301

Dispatch: (608) 742-2171

Office: (608) 742-2174

Website: www.portagewi.gov/police



HIGHLIGHTS & CHALLENGES OF 2020

FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF RICH HOEGE



Welcome to 2021! How long we have all waited to just get past the year 2020? Even with the pandemic looming over everything, 2020 was a good year. As we began 2020, I was promoted to Assistant Chief shortly after Chief Klafke was sworn in. This was the first in many dominos of positional changes. One of those dominos brought a first, when we hired Officer Jesse Sprague. He was the first person in over 30 years who was not already certified prior to hire. Jesse spent 2020 in field training and going to the academy. Jesse is very happy that 2021 brought what every new hire aspires to – solo patrol.

2020 also saw many things canceled including our 11th Citizens’ Police Academy. We are not scheduling one for 2021. We are hoping to resume in 2022.

Graduates of previous Citizens’ Academies have the opportunity to serve as Volunteers in Policing. Even through the pandemic, these faithful servants answered the call. As we were formulating the plans for Halloween 2020, we

knew we would need help keeping all the trick or treaters safe. The VIPS answered the call for help and we had a very safe Halloween.

Not only did our VIPS come when called upon, but our 6 school crossing guards helped keep the students safe while picking up lunch meals provided by the school in the spring. The crossing guards came back full-time this fall when school started. A shout out to the Portage District for doing their best to try and “normalize” an abnormal situation. With precautions and safety in mind, there were Friday night football games with a marching band halftime show.

One thing that was not normal during 2020 was our training. We normally attend a number of in-person hands-on trainings throughout a year. In 2020 we had to develop our skills on a video / virtual platform. It required ethernet splitters and laptop cameras. Along the way we have become more tech savvy and covered a number of training topics ranging from Fair and Impartial Policing to Implicit Bias.

Having been a Patrol Lieutenant for almost four years, I was somewhat familiar with the administrative aspects of the job, but I had never written a grant. Once the lock down happened, I got to chalk 2020 down as the year I learned how to write grants. We were awarded two grants. With the monies awarded, we were able to purchase two portable speed boards and a UVC light disinfecting machine.

Due to safety concerns our lobby was shut down to help minimize our employees’ exposure to the virus. With the lobby being shut down we reached out with a re-designed web page with more resources (<https://www.portagewi.gov/police/>). We also had to conduct our first application process virtually over Zoom interviews. Which brings us the start of 2021, with newly sworn Officer Austin Valenta.

As we begin 2021, I think we have to keep in mind how much we have overcome, how we have maintained family, friends, and community. The strength of our department and our city lies in our commitment to each other, to try to find a way. The innovation and caring that was so evident throughout 2020 I think became exemplified with drive by / drive thru celebrations, birthday parties, anniversaries, and even the graduation of our 2020 high school graduates. Stay Strong Portage!

MISSION STATEMENT

Protecting our community and its quality of life by delivering exceptional law enforcement services

VISION STATEMENT

To enhance our competency and confidence, thus strengthening our community's morale and trust



VALUES

Honor—Respect—Integrity—Service—Courage

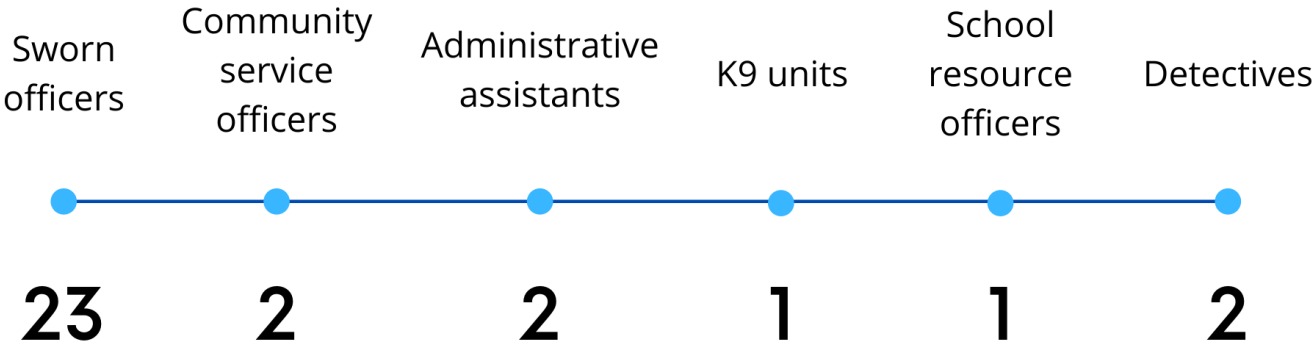
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Portage Police Department consists of 23 sworn officers, two community service officers, and two administrative assistants. We also have one K9 unit, two Detectives, and one School Resource Officer. The department operated within a budget of \$2,879,018.

The department experienced drastic changes in its organizational structure in 2020 due to Chief Kenneth Manthey retiring in late January after a 42-year career. This resulted in several internal promotions and the hiring of a new officer.



2020 SNAPSHOT



DEPARTMENT ROSTER

Chief of Police	Keith Klafke
Assistant Chief	Richard Hoege
Captain	Daniel Garrigan
Patrol Lieutenant	Robert Bagnall
Patrol Sergeant	Duaine Pixler
Patrol Sergeant	Eric Walters
Patrol Sergeant	Brian Fehd
Patrol Sergeant/K9	Benjamin Neumann & K9 Ares
Patrol Sergeant	Michael Schutz
Detective	Jason Stenberg
Detective	Peter Warning
Patrol Officer	Teresa Johnson
Patrol Officer	Anthony Brauner
Patrol Officer	William Charlebois
Patrol Officer	Dennis Pomeroy
Patrol Officer	Sarah Rueth
Patrol Officer	Brian Loewenhagen
Patrol Officer	Cameron Coronado
Patrol Officer	Heather Medina
Patrol Officer	Joshua Troth
Patrol Officer	Jesse Sprague
Patrol Officer	Austin Valenta
School Resource Officer	Katelyn Behling
Community Service Officer	Kevin Todryk
Community Service Officer	Nicole Lervik
Administrative Assistant	Zoey Jensen
Administrative Assistant	Casey Crary

RETIREMENTS & DEPARTURES



Chief Kenneth Manthey
1/31/2020



Officer Isaac Utecht
10/8/2020

PROMOTIONS



Chief
Keith Klafke
1/30/2020



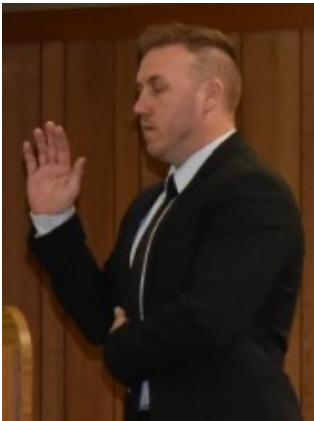
Assistant Chief
Richard Hoega
2/3/2020



Patrol Lieutenant
Robert Bagnall
3/2/2020



Captain
Daniel Garrigan
10/26/2020



Detective
Peter Warning
4/6/2020

ANNIVERSARIES

- Captain Daniel Garrigan—5 years
- Detective Peter Warning—5 years
- Officer William Charlebois—15 years
- Sergeant Brian Fehd—20 years

NEW HIRES

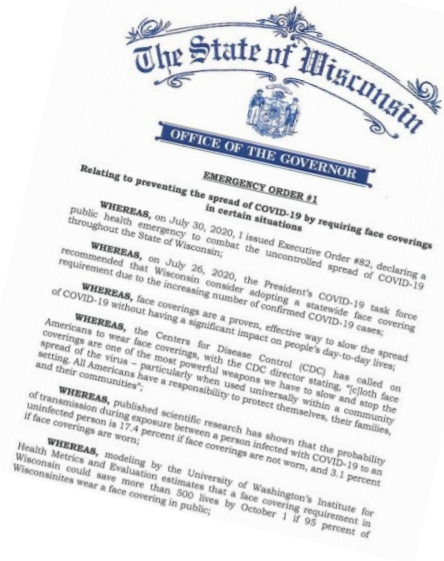


Administrative
Assistant
Casey Crary
8/17/2020



Officer
Jesse Sprague
3/30/2020

EPIDEMIC RESPONSE



From shutting down our lobby twice, minimizing contact with the community, and changing the way our officers engaged police services were just some of the ways the coronavirus affected the police department this past year. City department heads met weekly and sometimes daily as we navigated through our early response. With additional information we adapted while trying to protect our own employees with the necessary PPE and guidelines to continuing providing exceptional service. We did not have one positive case in our department until the fall of 2020. Officer who showed any symptoms were either sent home or told not to come in until cleared. Due to this protocol, we faced **243.75 hours of overtime** to backfill shift shortages.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Despite all of the lockdowns and restrictions, we remained connected to our community in a number of ways.

- Message in a Minute • Public Forums • Enforcement safety grants • Drug Take-Back • Halloween • Collection for Sleep in Heavenly Peace • St. Mary's Fundraiser • National Appreciation Day • K9 Golf Outing • Crossing Guard Kick-off Breakfast • Birthday Wishes • New teacher welcome videos • Open houses • Awareness Marches • Graduation • Summary Reports on social media • Business security meetings • Shop with a Cop • Celebration of Freedom Event



Several businesses and citizens showed their appreciation this year. Thank you for all your support.



2019 AWARDS CEREMONY

The police department hosted its first annual awards ceremony on March 6, 2020 recognizing the outstanding performance of our personnel as well as members of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office who assisted our department. The Awards Committee is responsible for vetting and approving nominations received and categorizing approved nominations. Citizens wishing to nominate an officer for an award are encouraged to visit our website to access the nomination form.

- ◇ **3 Citizen Awards**
- ◇ **1 Team Effort Award**
- ◇ **2 Distinguished Service Awards**
- ◇ **2 Lifesaving attempts**
- ◇ **2 Lifesaving awards**
- ◇ **1 Meritorious Service Award**
- ◇ **1 Medal of Bravery**



Awards Committee Members

Brian Loewenhagen
Michael Schutz
Kevin Todryk
Heather Medina
Teresa Johnson
Robert Bagnall
Ben Neumann
Sarah Rueth

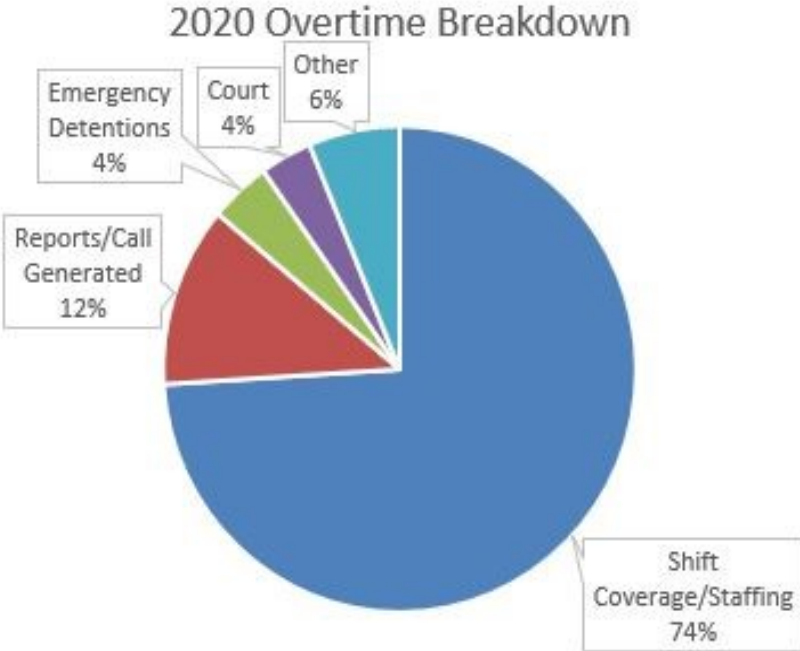
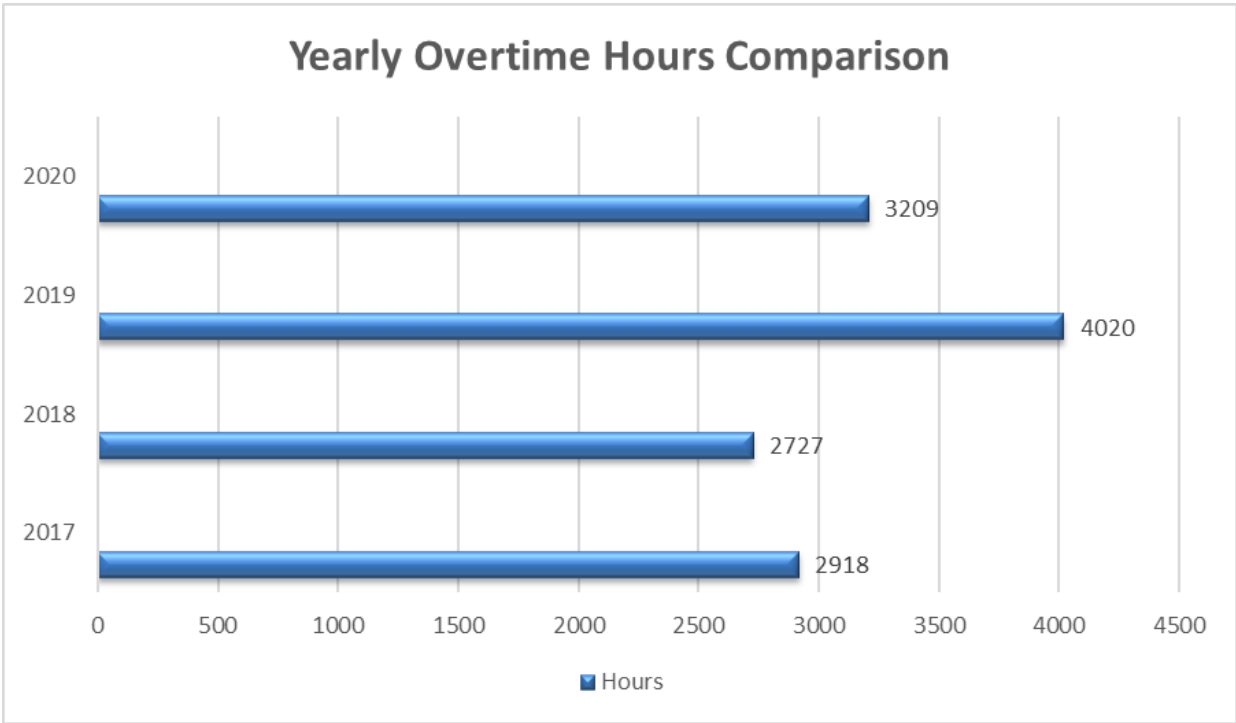
TRENDS & COMPARISONS

Incident Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change
VEHICLES						
Accidents	411	422	402	353	325	-18%
Traffic stops	3622	3068	3070	2908	2819	-10%
OWI arrests	155	139	166	120	133	-8%
PROPERTY CRIMES						
Vandalism/damage	80	90	63	130	81	-11%
Theft	184	162	127	143	160	+4%
Stolen vehicles	22	4	12	14	10	-23%
Burglaries	38	27	27	7	18	-25%
PERSONS CRIMES						
Homicide (inc. attempt)	2	0	1	0	1	+33%
Sex offenses	13	16	16	6	9	-29%
Assaults	135	172	124	97	107	-18%
OTHER						
Welfare checks	690	639	644	808	828	+19%
Mental commitments	54	44	39	42	36	-20%
Detox trips	9	22	11	5	11	-6%
Disorderly conduct	82	100	89	331	361	+140%

Note: Due to the adaptation of a new records management system in May 2019, some incident types were categorized differently and those numbers may not be exactly comparable. Additionally, “% Change” refers to the difference in the number of each incident type between the **four-year average (2016-2019) and 2020**.

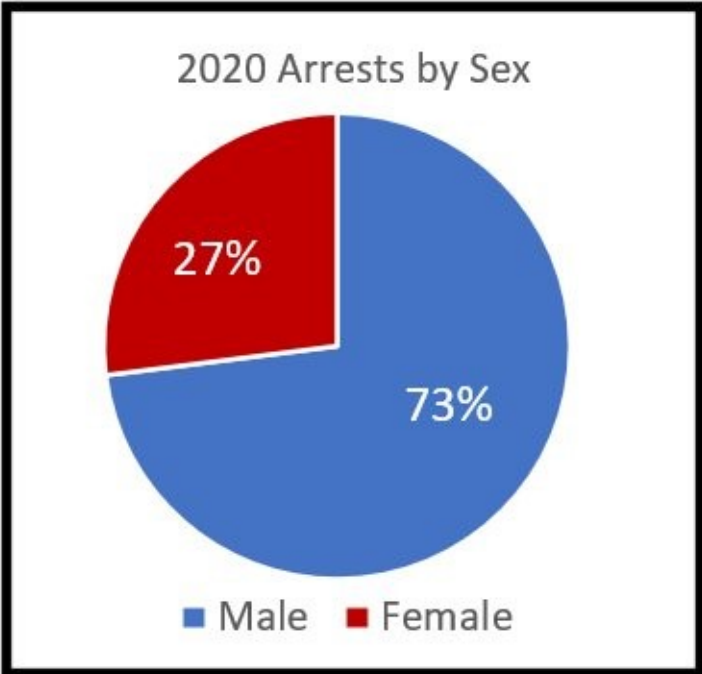
TRENDS & COMPARISONS

OVERTIME

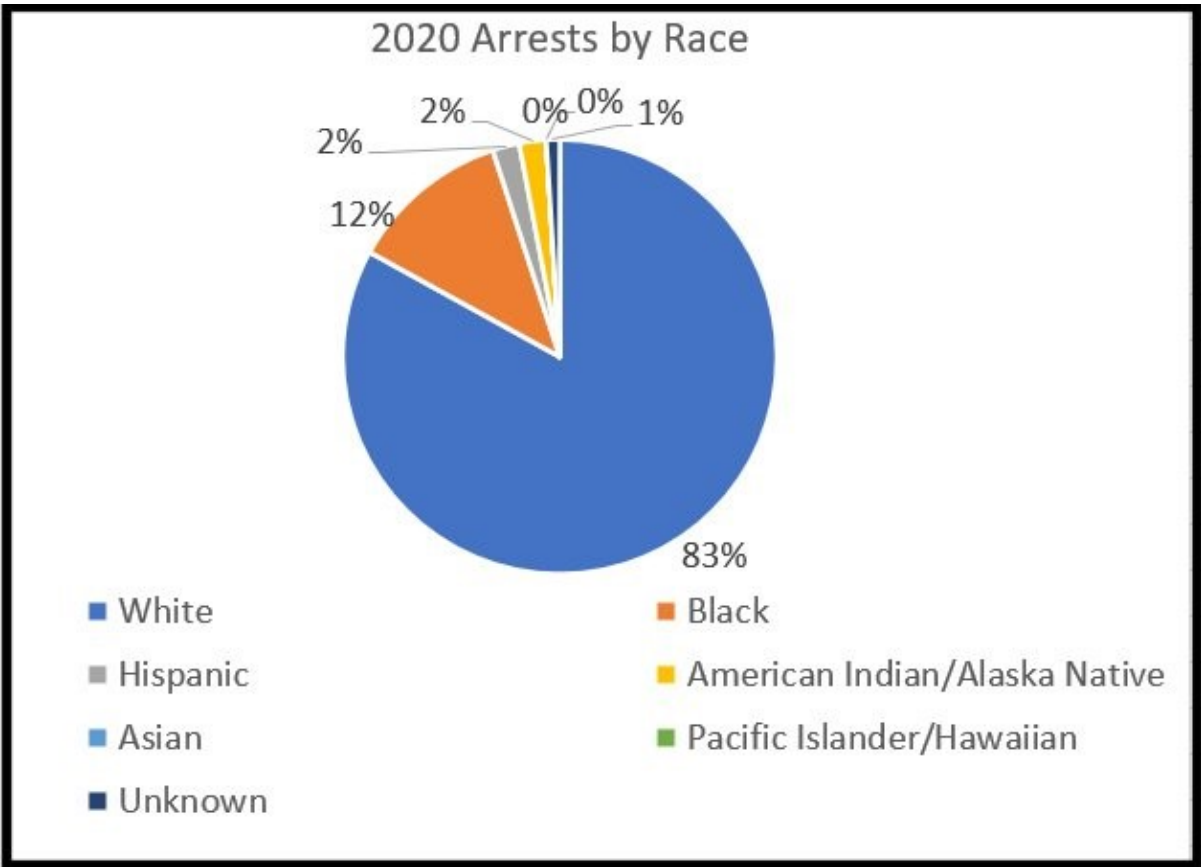


TRENDS & COMPARISONS

ARRESTS

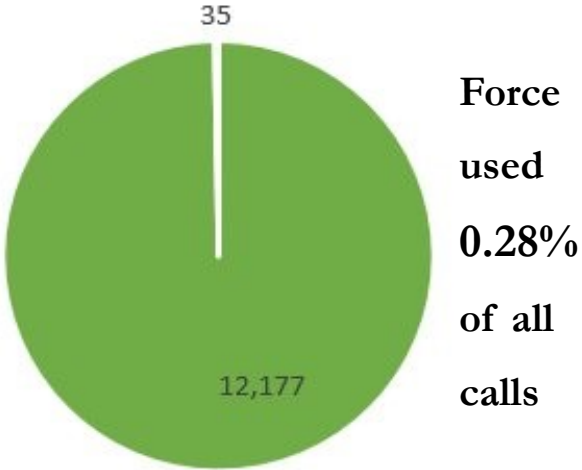


793 Total Arrests
On average an arrest is made every 6.5 calls.



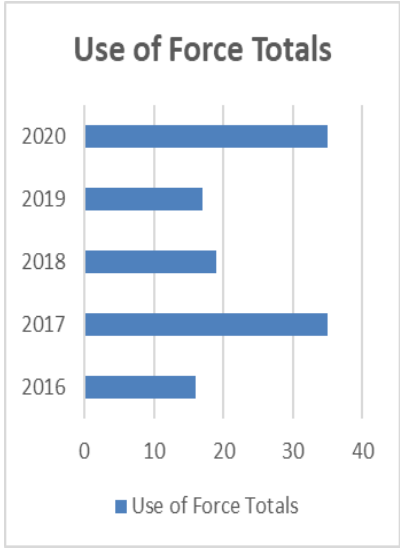
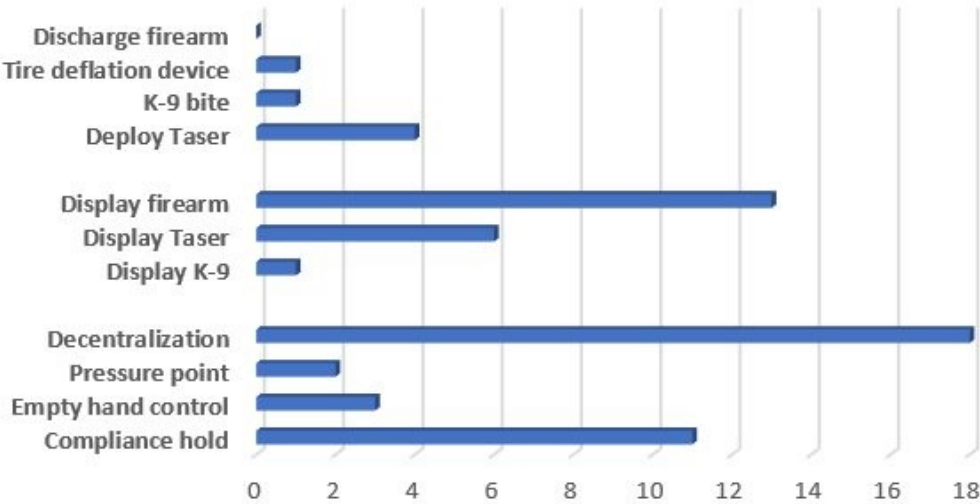
USE OF FORCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Portage Police Department documents and reviews all use of force incidents that are officers are involved in. Within our 35 use of force incidents, some had more than one application to gain control. As you see in our data graphs, our department has a very low use of force to call ratio, which is evident of effective training, communication, and the use of de-escalation tactics.

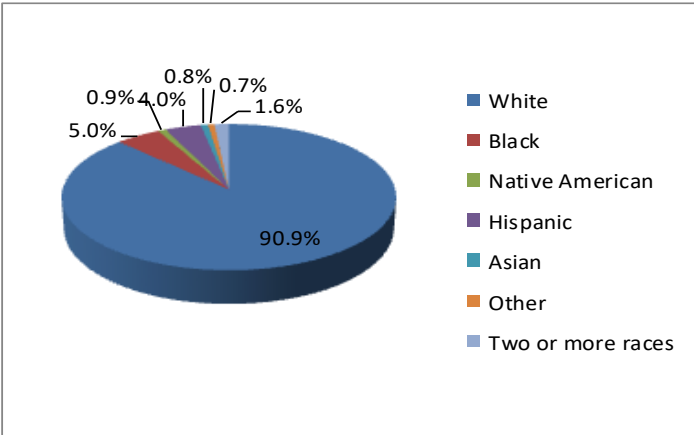
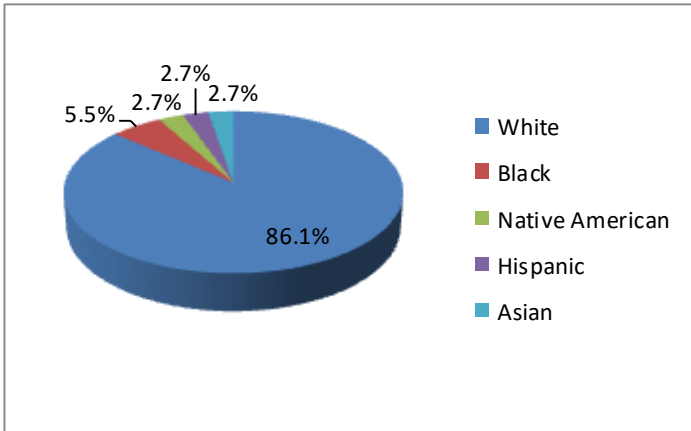


■ Calls for service ■ Calls involving use of force

Types of applications used in 2020



Use of Force Incidents by Suspect Race 2020 City of Portage Demographics (Census 2010)



DRUG ENFORCEMENT

SEARCH WARRANTS

SEARCH WARRANTS
7



ARRESTS

18



CONTRABAND SEIZED

- Fentanyl
- Methamphetamine
- Cocaine
- Marijuana
- Schedule II/III Narcotics
- Electronic Control Device
- Firearms
- Stolen Vehicle
- Paraphernalia



Total in 2020:
 ⇒ 118 drug complaints
 ⇒ 101 drug arrests
 ⇒ 38 drugged driving arrests

DRUG INTERDICTION

TRAFFIC STOPS
117

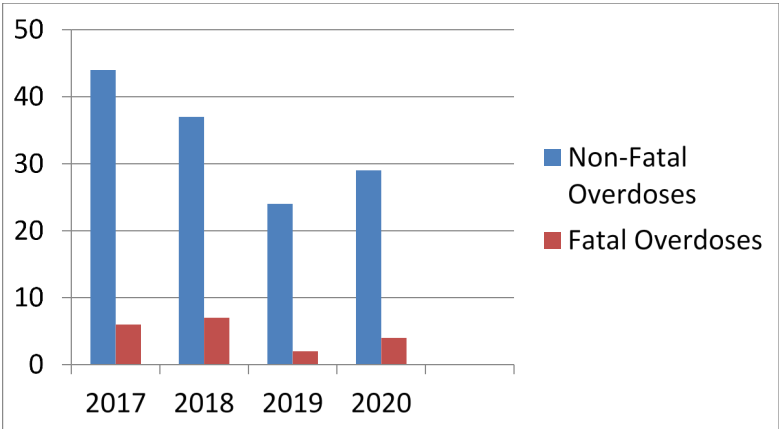


CITATIONS
46



CONTRABAND SEIZED

- MDMA
- Kratom
- Marijuana
- Drug paraphernalia
- Tobacco (minor)
- Alcohol (minor)

2020— 29 nonfatal overdoses/ 4 fatal

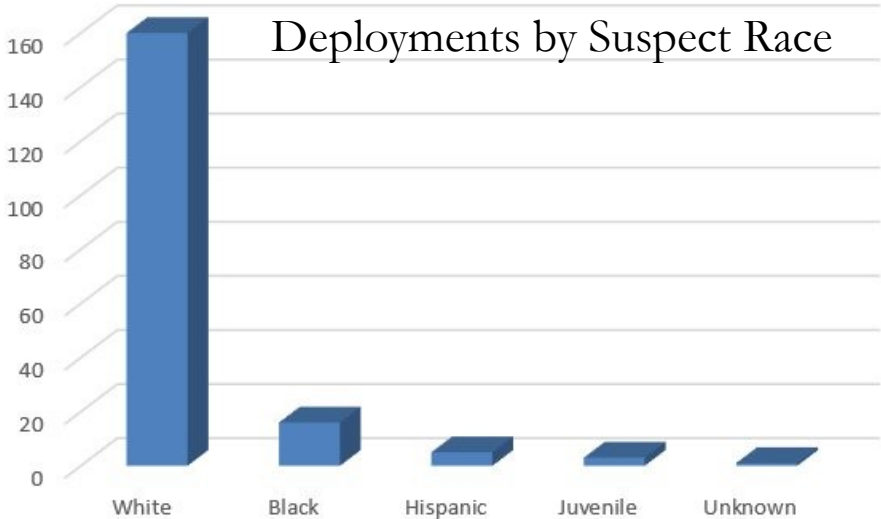
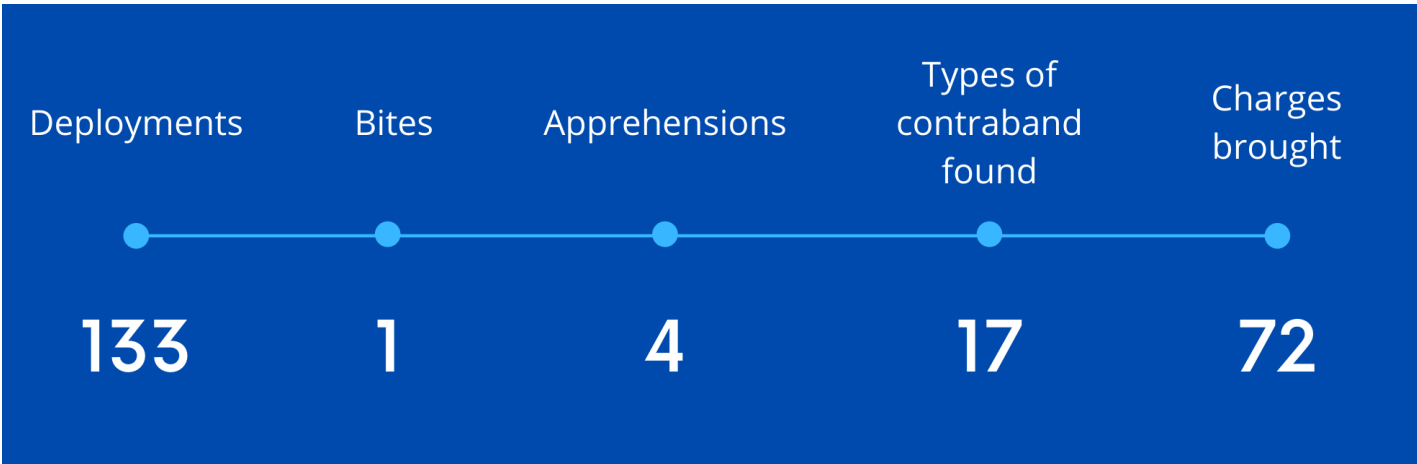
K9 ACTIVITY

Golf Outing



K9 Ares
Handler:
Sgt. Ben Neumann

Involvements



Note: Some deployments involve more than one suspect; therefore, these numbers are higher than the total number of deployments.

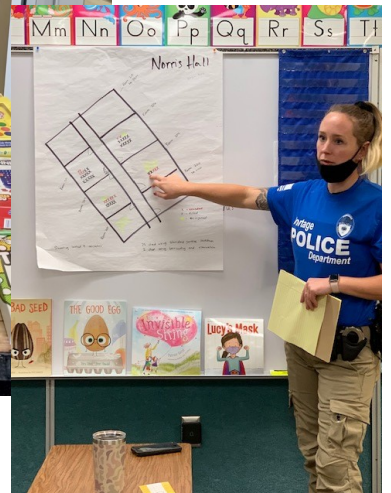
SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

In our second year, this program continues to be successful. The year started with Officer Peter Warning in this role. At the end of the school year, Officer Warning was honored to lead the Seniors' parades to the drive-thru Graduation Ceremony. Officer Kate Behling was then selected and assigned to this role starting the 2020-2021 school year. The call volume was much different than the previous year due to COVID but this has allowed for more interaction and presence in the elementary schools. This position is funded 66% by the Portage School District and 33% by the City of Portage. The Ad-Hoc evaluation committee reviews the activities of the SRO monitoring the success, needs, goals, and/or changes needed.



Goals of the SRO Program

- ◆ Increase School Safety
- ◆ Build Positive Relationships
- ◆ Relieve School-related workload on patrol officers
- ◆ Improve School Attendance



COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The police department has two full-time Community Service Officers, Kevin Todryk and Nicole Lervik.

Their primary role is to address quality of life issues or complaints and conduct ordinance enforcement. The CSOs have many internal operation responsibilities which include municipal court, data entry and report processing, property, training, and the liaison to the crossing guard program. They were heavily relied on this year assisting during a shortage in the Administrative staff.



Nature of Call	Total
Total Calls	699
Ordinance Violations	495
Lost and Found	32
Parking Violations	99
Miscellaneous Calls	73

TRAINING

Each year sworn officers in Wisconsin are required to have 24 hours of continued education and training to remain certified. This includes an annual state qualification course for firearms and a bi-annual emergency vehicle operations course. Due to COVID-19 many training events were delivered virtually. The police department is also fortunate to have many certified instructors which allows us to do a lot of in-house training.

The Portage Police Department hosts two in-service training events (spring and fall) as well as participates in the Columbia County in-service training. This year we certified all the officers in emergency vehicle operations including pursuits, and trained all of our staff on Implicit Bias/Fair and Impartial Policing. Our officers attend many specialized training courses based on leadership, certifications held, career interests, and community needs.



EQUIPMENT

With the goal of keeping our officers safe and efficient, comes new or updated equipment. Retired Chief Manthey's legacy was to equip our officers with ballistic shields, pictured below. These shields are in each of our marked squads.



With the assistance of a USDA grant written by City Administrator Shawn Murphy, the police department received new portable and mobile radios, and are completing the installation of a new radio communication tower on the northside of the city to enhance radio transmissions. The new equipment also means converting from analog to digital.

Due to our involvement in the DOT initiatives, we obtained an equipment grant during 2020. Working with Public Works Director Aaron Jahncke to secure additional funding, we were able to obtain two portable speed signs which can be moved around the city to address traffic /speed related concerns or provide traffic data for studies and/or improvements.



By the end of 2020, half of our squad fleet have been transitioned to hybrid vehicles. These Ford Police Interceptors (pictured on the next page) have increased our fuel efficiency by 90%, going from roughly 10mpg to 19mpg. This has also led to a reduction in our operational budget.

Thank you for reviewing our 2020 Annual Report. I have to thank Officer Sarah Rueth for helping prepare and design this report.

I look forward to the pandemic ending so we can once again be personally involved in the community events that make Portage so great.



Report Submitted by:

Chief Keith Klafke