

PORTAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021



ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF KEITH J. KLAFKE



Dear Community Members, Mayor, and City Council,

In 2021, The Portage Police Department celebrated many achievements while facing continued challenges of Covid related incidents and staffing shortages. If I could sum up 2021 with one word it would be PERSONNEL. Our staff faced long shifts due to shift shortages and vacancies the majority of the year. I am very proud of the commitment and resiliency of our current staff to continue to provide exceptional service to the Portage area. Above that, we exceeded one of our goals this year which was to reconnect to the community after the unprecedented obstacles of 2020. We instilled new community events this year which were a huge success. Please see pages 14-15 highlight those events.

The department seen many changes including the adoption of a new policy and procedures curriculum to stay current with legislation as well as provide our officers with Wisconsin-based best-practice policies. This was a daunting task that is still being integrated.

I hope this annual report is informative but also provides reassurance that our agency is very professional, transparent, and overall committed to excellence.

- Chief Keith J. Klafke

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ENHANCING OUR DEPARTMENT FROM ASSISTANT CHIEF RICH HOEGE



2021 was certainly a year that highlighted the dedication and service orientation of our staff. Showcase videos from each officer are being offered for viewing on our social media. From the outside looking in it was business as usual. On the inside, every single member of the department was pulling together covering open shifts, helping each other out and donating time to make our many community outreaches a success. The individual sacrifice of each of the officers is huge, working nights, weekends, holidays, being late or entirely missing family events. I am humbled that the everyday dedication and service of each of our officers did not go unnoticed. Many individuals, organizations, and businesses reached out over the year with notes, cards, and an occasional treat helping to encourage the officers and making sure they each knew their sacrifices are appreciated.

We struggled in 2021 with supply chain issues like everyone else did. From PPE equipment to police equipment. We are still attempting to get items for honor guard team so they can be uniform in appearance and project the professionalism each of the officers possesses. On our Facebook page, you can look back to the short video in May we did to honor those officers across our nation who have been killed in the line of duty. I was very proud of our honor guard team for pulling the video together on short notice right before police week in May.

As part of updating our appearance, in early 2021 we updated the front of the police department with new signage.

Recently the pd redesigned the department shoulder patch. Being sensitive to our past as a department and a city we retained some features and incorporated new ones. The yellow patch is one that has been worn with distinction and pride for many years by officers of the Portage Police Department. The blue one was designed with help from our current officers, and we hope will serve as a symbol for our department and the city for many years to come.



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

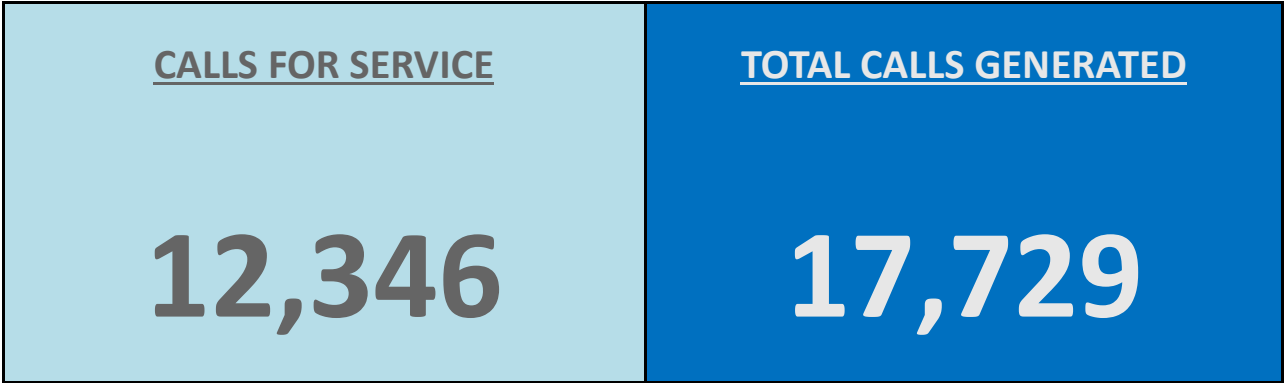
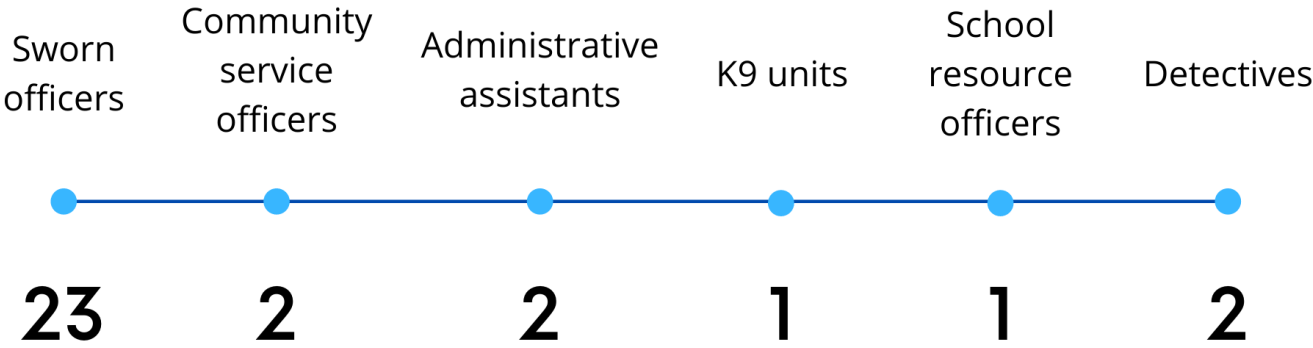
DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

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 \$2,897,332.

This year brought a facelift to the front entrance of the police department. We are able to change the color of the lighting to honor special law enforcement dates.



2021 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 (retired December 5, 2021)
Patrol Officer	William Charlebois
Patrol Officer	Dennis Pomeroy
Patrol Officer	Sarah Rueth
Patrol Officer	Brian Loewenhagen (resigned April 30, 2021)
Patrol Officer	Cameron Coronado
Patrol Officer	Heather Medina
Patrol Officer	Joshua Troth
Patrol Officer	Jesse Sprague
Patrol Officer	Austin Valenta
Patrol Officer	Alexander Royse (hired August 27, 2021)
Patrol Officer	Alexandra Platt (hired August 10, 2021/resigned 12/6/2021)
Patrol Officer	Jacob Kubelt (hired November 29, 2021)
School Resource Officer	Katelyn Behling
Community Service Officer	Kevin Todryk
Community Service Officer	Nicole Lervik (resigned June 2, 2021)
Community Service Officer	Kaylee Ramirez (hired August 9, 2021)
Administrative Assistant	Zoey Jensen (resigned April 30, 2021)
Administrative Assistant	Casey Crary
Administrative Assistant	Jennifer Eberle (hired April 14, 2021)

RETIREMENTS & DEPARTURES



Anthony (AJ) Brauner Badge #20
AJ started at the Portage Police Department on January 20, 2003. He was assigned to dayshift patrol with specialized training as a Humane Officer and in Crisis Intervention.
AJ retired on December 5, 2021. Thank you for your 19 years of service.



Officer Brian Loewenhagen

Brian was hired on February 20, 2017 and was Badge #22.
Brian resigned on April 30, 2021 to join the Columbia County Sheriff's Office.



CSO Nicole Lervik

Nicole was hired on October 1, 2018 and resigned on June 2, 2021.



Admin Assistant Zoey Jensen

Zoey was hired on May 19, 2019 and resigned on April 30, 2021.



Officer Alexandra Platt

Ali was hired on August 10, 2021 and resigned on December 6, 2021



ANNIVERSARIES

- Chief Keith Klafke—————20 years
- Assistant Chief Richard Hoege————5 years
- Lieutenant Robert Bagnall—————25 years
- Sgt. Ben Neumann—————10 years

NEW HIRES

Kaylee Ramirez

Hiring Date: August 9, 2021



Jennifer Eberle

Hiring Date: April 14, 2021



Alexander Royce

Hiring Date: August 27, 2021



Jacob Kubelt

Hiring Date: November 29, 2021



IN MEMORANDUM

Sherry L. Newell (1/21/1947—2/27/2021)

Our sympathy goes out to the family, friends, and past coworkers of one of our own, Sherry Newell. Sherry passed on Saturday, February 27, 2021. Sherry was a dedicated Dispatcher with the Portage Police Department for 32 years, retiring in 2011. The picture shown below was from her 30-year celebration in 2009. Sherry will be truly missed by her extended Pd family as she was one of our guardian angels. Sherry arrived early before every midnight shift to pray for the safety of the officers. Sherry will be remembered by her signature gift which was a crocheted blanket for every officer's newborn. The officers will be wearing mourning bands this week to honor Sherry. Rest in Peace.



William J. Tierney (12/26/1927—11/28/2021)



Bill Tierney's career in law enforcement spanned over 50 years in Columbia County. Bill was a Sergeant for the Columbia County Sheriff's Department, Lodi Police Chief, and a Detective Captain and Assistant Chief for Portage Police Department retiring in 1989. Thank you for your service to the Portage Area and in our armed forces. In return, you were gifted with many years of retirement to enjoy your family and friends. You will be truly missed.

2021 Goals and Objectives

Goal #1: Update the Policy and Procedures Manual

The Portage Police Department entered into an agreement with Custom Service Information LLC (CSI) to adopt Wisconsin based best-practice policy and procedures. This will be implemented over the course of 2021 and disseminated to the officers by electronic and written formats.

Response: We are still in the process of transitioning to our new policies. There have been many changes this year in legislation requiring several updates to certain policies. The process of disseminating the information to staff, which is electronic and tracked, has been a major upgrade as well. This will be completed in 2022 with future modifications ongoing.

Goal #2: Establish an Honor Guard Program

The Portage Police department recognizes the important to honor our profession and be able to present at ceremonies. The department will organize a team, equip, and train with the intent to be a recognized Honor Guard within the State of Wisconsin. This team will represent the department at local ceremonies.

Response: The Honor Guard program is up and running and as envisioned and they have represented the police department at several ceremonies and events.

Goal #3: Reconnect with the Community

2020 presented many challenges and physically closed our entrance to the public. This included all in-person meeting and scheduled events. The police department seeks to reconnect with the public in several ways this year once it is safe to do so. The police department will host a kid's safety day, open house, 911 20yr anniversary ceremony, and return to in-person meeting with community stakeholders and public forums. On an officer level, the goal is to have each officer seeking volunteerism, a civic organization, or be involved in a community event outside of their normal work shift.

Response: We met and exceeded our goal to reconnect to the community. The Kid's safety day was well attended and will be back again in 2021. This provided an opportunity to interact with kids providing safety lessons as well as play games. The water balloon fight was epic! We then hosted National Night Out in which many organizations participated ending the night with a movie in the park. The 20th 911 anniversary was a somber event which highlighted the partnership we have with area first Responders, the school district, and the community. The open house was again well attended which included many demonstrations by both the fire and police department as well as our firearm safety course on the range. To honor our officers and allow our community to know our officers better, each officer will be doing a showcase video which is viewable on our facebook page. We are about halfway through our staff at this time.

2021 Goals and Objectives Con't

Goal #4: Maintaining Excellent Hiring and Retention practices

To be viewed as a Professional Police Department with high standards which will provide opportunity and growth to existing employees and become a desired agency to work for. With a reduction in qualified applicants and an abundance of current vacancies around the state, it is imperative to recruit qualified applicants that seek a department that will meet their needs. This is done through advertising, spotlighting officers and the good work they do, quality training and opportunities, having competitive pay and benefits and a positive work environment.

Response: It continue to be a challenge to find the right applicants to answer the calling of law enforcement and then retain quality employees. The police department revamped the hiring process, adopted recruiting videos, and will sponsor applicants in the academy. Additionally, we made some great advancements with the WPPA union contract to stay competitive and offer many benefits to new and existing employees.

Goal #5: Establish a Peer Support Program

Recognizing that being a public servant who responds to emergency situations is not only stressful or potentially life-threatening, it is imperative that we provide support to our own and have protocols in place to assist each other in the times of need.

Response: We are in the final stages of incorporating this program in both the fire and police department. We have drafted the policy and have sent two members to become trained to run this program. This will be finalized in 2022.

Goal #6 Institute less-lethal option (Beanbag munitions)

To provide multiple options to deescalate a situation, the department will train, equip, and have available less lethal shotguns in each of the marked patrol squads.

Response: Each squad has been outfitted with a less lethal (beanbag) shotgun and have trained all members of the police department on the appropriate use of this tool.

Goal #7 Establish Patrol Protocols for Severe Weather.

Our current practice spreads out our resources throughout the city though does not provide consistent direction for officer placement and readily available shelter. Procedures will be adopted and practiced.

Response: A policy was adopted to direct officers to certain locations during severe weather events and to readily available shelters. This increased our accountability of staff and their whereabouts if standard communication channels fail.

2022 Goals and Objectives

Re: The Portage Police Department **Goals** and Objectives for 2022.

Goal #1: Enhancing and expanding the K9 Program

The Portage Police Department has successfully incorporated a K9 unit in 2015. Replacement considerations need to be address for the current K9 which has been in service for 7 years. To reduce downtime and to manage the demands of the k9 program, the department will look to incorporate a second K9 unit.

Goal #2: Increase Sworn staffing

The Portage Police department has not increased its patrol sworn staffing in 20 years. The department did acquire another position , School Resource Officer, in 2019. The demand and complexity have led to the need to hire additional sworn staff to mänge call volume, absorb shortages, and to address the needs of our community with adequate shift staff levels. This would allow for specialized assignments to focus on specific enforcement i.e. drugs.

Goal #3: Install and utilize camera systems in in specific locations

In 2021 with the assistance of Parks and Rec, we met with potential security camera vendors to address issues including vandalism and disturbances at key locations within the city. The intent is to install live-feed cameras at Silver Lake Beach, Goodyear Park, and one location downtown to assist in prevention and enforcement. With funding secured in 2021, we plan to start the installation in 2022.

Goal #4 Incorporate New department patch

The Portage Police Department designed a new department patch in 2021 and we will be looking to transition all uniforms and material to incorporate the new patch by March 1, 2022.

Goal #5: Establish a Peer Support Program

Recognizing that being a public servant who responds to emergency situations is not only stressful or potentially life-threatening, it is imperative that we provide support to our own and have protocols in place to assist each other in the times of need and other first responders in our area. This started as a 2021 goal in which we were able to get the foundation of the program started. In early 2022 we will be sending members to training and have this program available.

Goal #6: Increasing Proactive Enforcement and Investigations

In 2021 we experienced less proactive enforcement due to reduced staff, call volume demand, and field training obligations. In 2022 we will emphasize the proactive approach to increase traffic enforcement and investigations to deter crime.

Goal #7: Update Current Department Duty Handgun

With our current issued handguns being 10 years old, the department will evaluate new firearms to outfit our department.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Below is a list of committees and organizations our department represents:

Boys and Girls Club
Kiwanis Club
Optimists
Elks Club
Triad
PARCC
Overdose fatal review team
Child death review team
Sexual assault response team
Community Sex Offender Notification Team
Courthouse security Committee
Crimestoppers
Regional CART
Drug Court
Highway Safety Committee
Portage School Board
High School Football
HS Basketball
HS Baseball

HS Softball
Youth Football
Youth Baseball
Youth Basketball
United Way
River Haven
Columbia County Dive Team
PAA
High School Trap Team
Kinship
Columbia County Police Association
Portage Emergency Planning Committee
Portage Safety Committee
ED2R
Citizen's Police Academy
Salvation army.
Crisis Intervention
Domestic abuse Coordination Committee



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT CON'T

Was a joy it was to see some of the protocols relax which allowed the city to bring back many of the annual events from previous years. This also brought back assignments and training for our volunteer group called the **Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS)**



- ◆ 13 COMMUNITY EVENTS
- ◆ 56 VOLUNTEER SHIFTS WORKED

Thank you Crossing Guards !!!

Our adult crossing guards ensure our students arrive and leave school safely everyday. These dedicated members are stationed at five locations throughout the city.



Crossing Guards

- Judy Taylor
- Mary Lehman
- Tabitha Feenstra
- Jerry McCullick
- Connie Frain
- Tammie Web
- Substitutes
- Kevin Webb
- Robert Weishoff

INTRODUCING SGT. BLUE

We welcomed Sgt. Blue to the police force this year and he put many smiles on faces at many events throughout the year. Sgt. Blue is our mascot that was named by the community at National Night Out.

He was very busy !!



Honor Guard Program

The Honor Guard program was enacted this year under the direction of Assistant Chief Richard Hoege. I am very proud of the officers that took on this additional responsibility. This allows the department to join other Honor Guards, perform at various special events, honor officers from this agency or another, as well as display another level of professionalism.



2021 AWARDS CEREMONY

The police department hosted its second annual awards ceremony on May 25, 2021 recognizing the outstanding performance of our personnel, other agencies, and citizens in our community. 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.

- ◇ 5 Citizen Awards
- ◇ 7 Team Effort Awards
- ◇ 3 Lifesaving attempts
- ◇ 4 Lifesaving awards
- ◇ 4 Distinguished Service
- ◇ 1 Medal of Valor



Awards Committee Members

Jesse Sprague-Chair
Richard Hoege
Michael Schutz
Kevin Todryk
Teresa Johnson
Robert Bagnall
Ben Neumann
Sarah Rueth

2021 MAJOR INCIDENTS

- ⇒ Arrest of attempted homicide suspect utilizing multi-jurisdictional resources.
- ⇒ Ice Rescue of a child on the Wisconsin River.
- ⇒ LaTolteca Burglary– Arrestee was wanted for multiple burglaries in other states.
- ⇒ Two officers bit by resistive subject- One officer requiring multiple surgeries.
- ⇒ High School Sexual Assault of a student and arrest of teacher.
- ⇒ Fatal pedestrian accident on CTH CX.
- ⇒ Fatal motorcycle accident on W. Cook St.
- ⇒ Fatal drug overdose at the Ridge Motor Inn resulting in homicide charges.
- ⇒ Suspect arrested on multiple stolen vehicles within the City of Portage.
- ⇒ 11 Stolen vehicles located at a dealership in Portage.

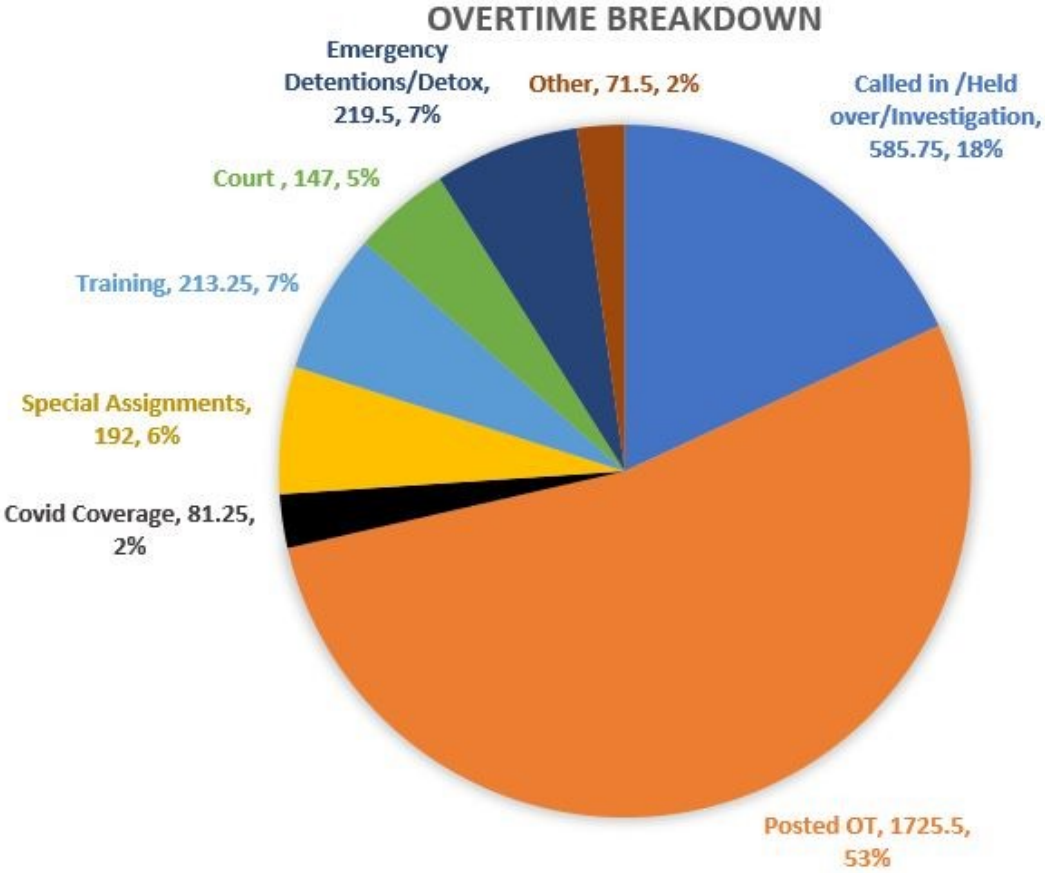
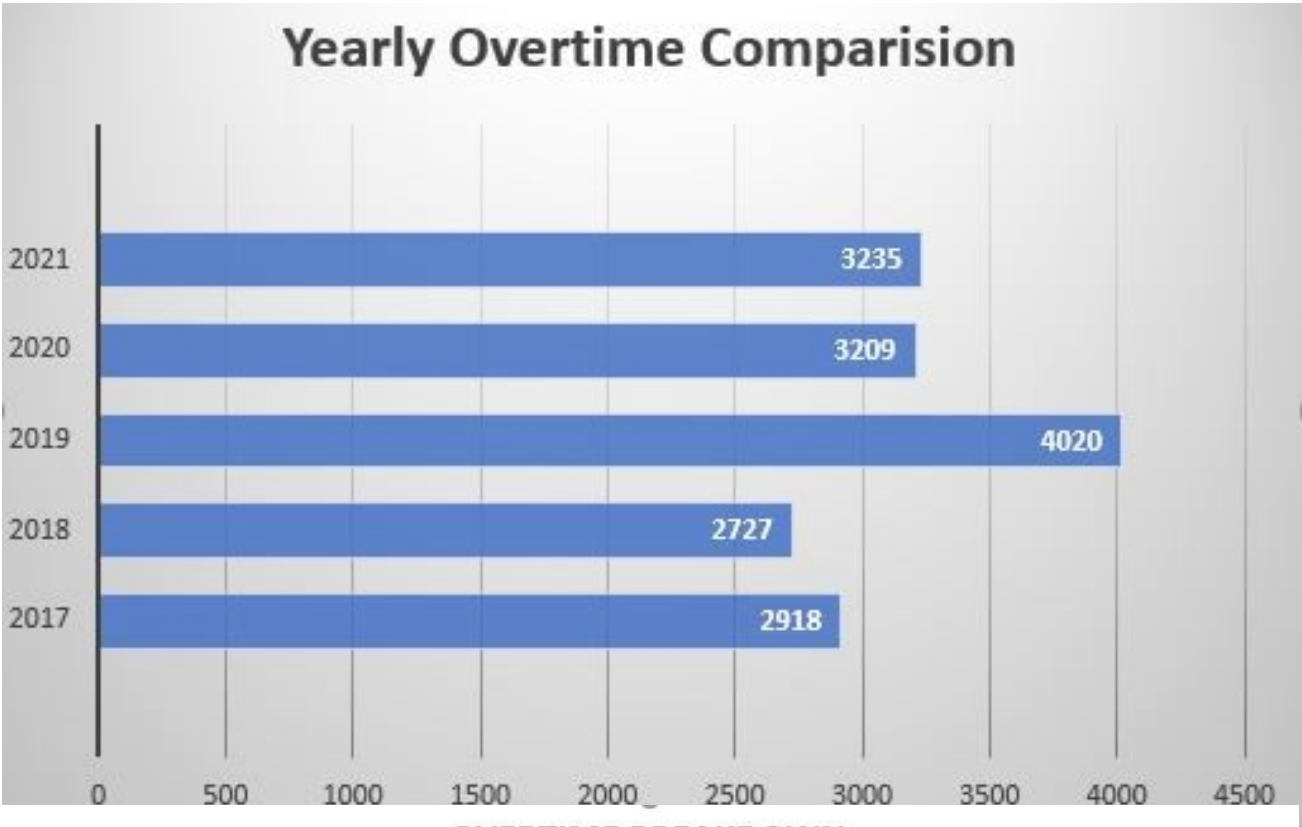
TRENDS & COMPARISONS

Incident Type	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 Vs. 2020	4yr Ave Vs. 2021
VEHICLES							
Accidents	422	402	353	325	346 (3 fatal)	+ 6%	- 8%
Traffic stops	3068	3070	2908	2819	2457	- 12%	- 17%
OWI arrests	139	166	120	133	83	- 37%	- 40%
PROPERTY CRIMES							
Vandalism/damage	90	63	130	81	121	+ 49%	+ 33%
Theft	162	127	143	160	251	+ 56%	+ 69%
Stolen vehicles	4	12	14	10	33	+ 230%	+ 230%
Burglaries	27	27	7	18	22	+ 22%	+ 11%
PERSONS CRIMES							
Homicide (inc. attempt)	0	1	0	1	0	- 100%	- 100%
Sex offenses	16	16	6	9	14	+ 55%	+ 19%
Battery				78	78	0%	
Domestic Incidents				107	150	+ 40%	
OTHER							
Welfare checks	639	644	808	828	858	+ 4%	+17%
Mental commitments	44	39	42	36	28	- 22%	- 30%
Detox trips	22	11	5	11	8	- 27%	- 34%
Disorderly conduct	100	89	331	361	359	+ .5%	+63%

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 (2017-2020) and 2021**.

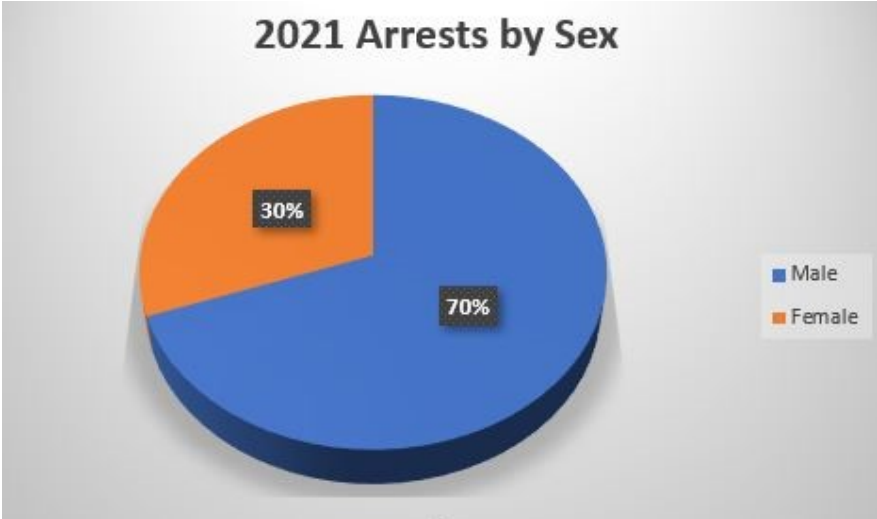
TRENDS & COMPARISONS

OVERTIME



TRENDS & COMPARISONS

ARRESTS



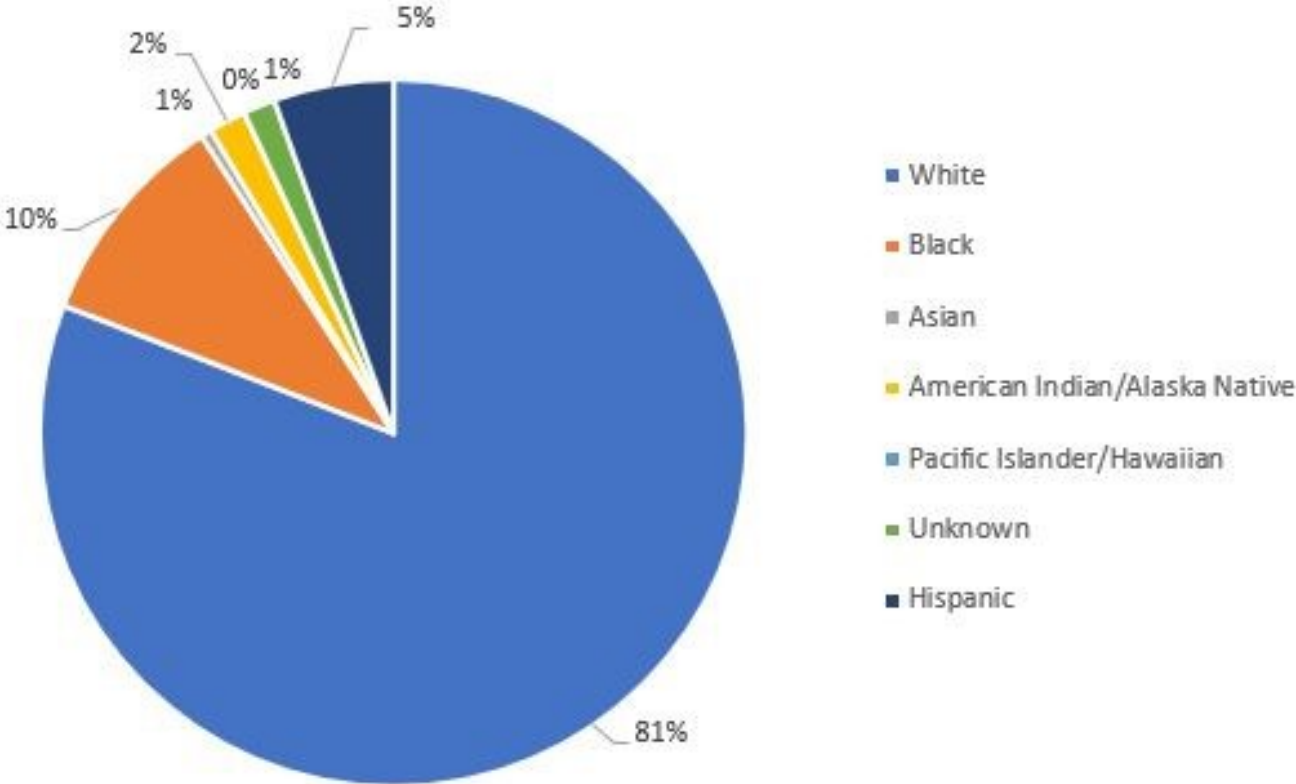
2020- 793 Total Arrests

2021- 827 Total Arrests

575 Male

252 Female

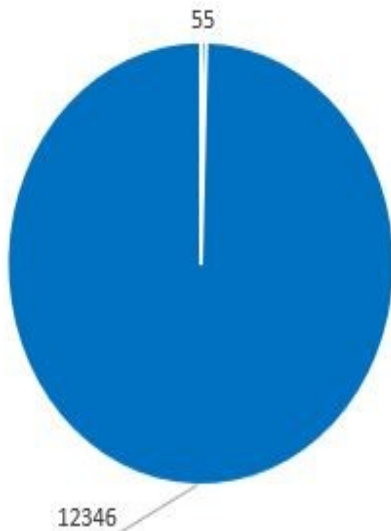
2021 Arrests by Race



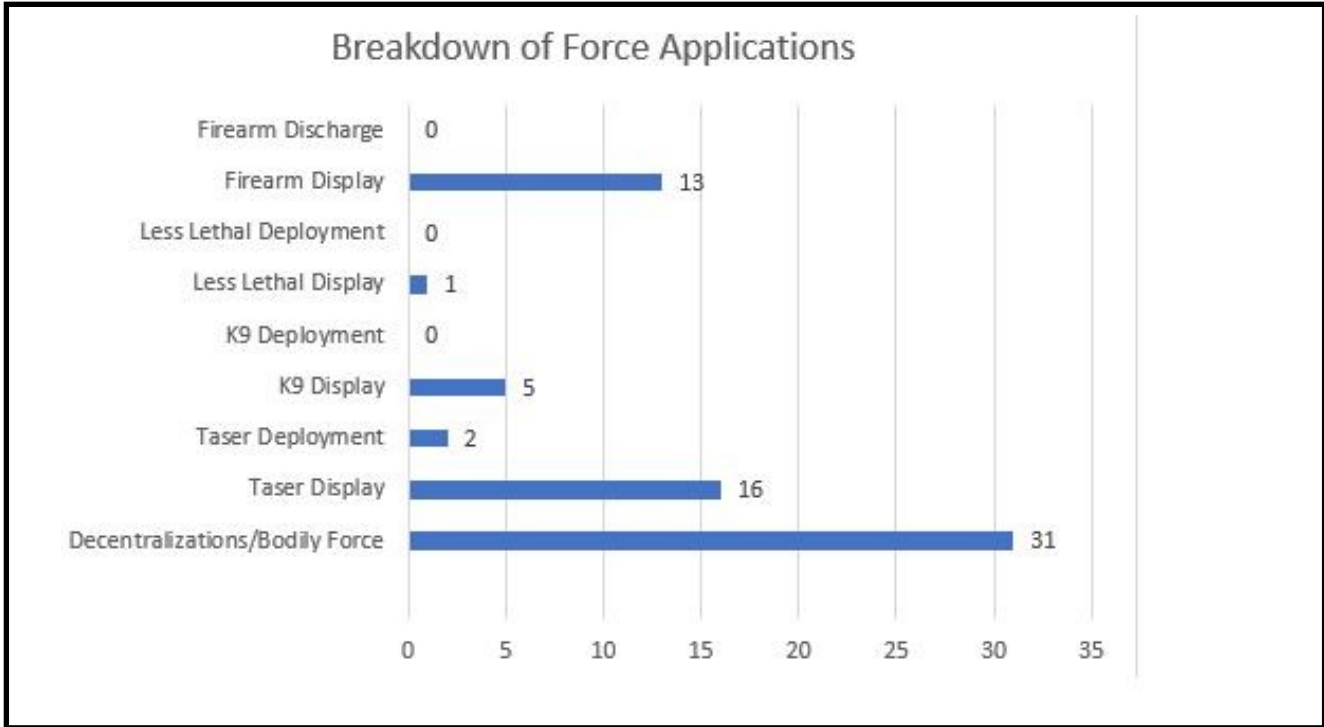
USE OF FORCE ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

The Portage Police Department documents and reviews all use of force incidents. This year we saw an increase in use of force incidents with a total of 55 incidents. 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.

Use of Force Incidents vs. Service Calls

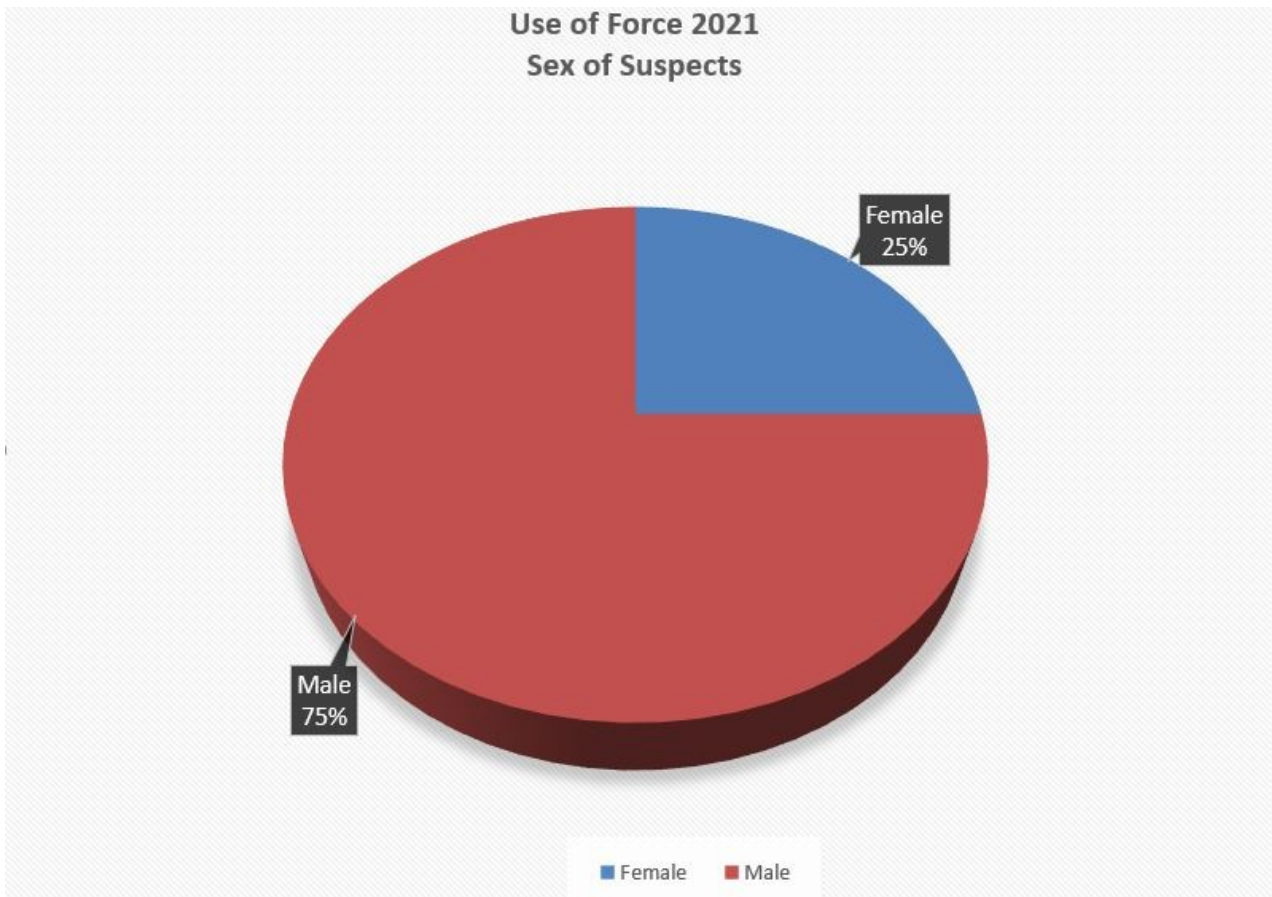
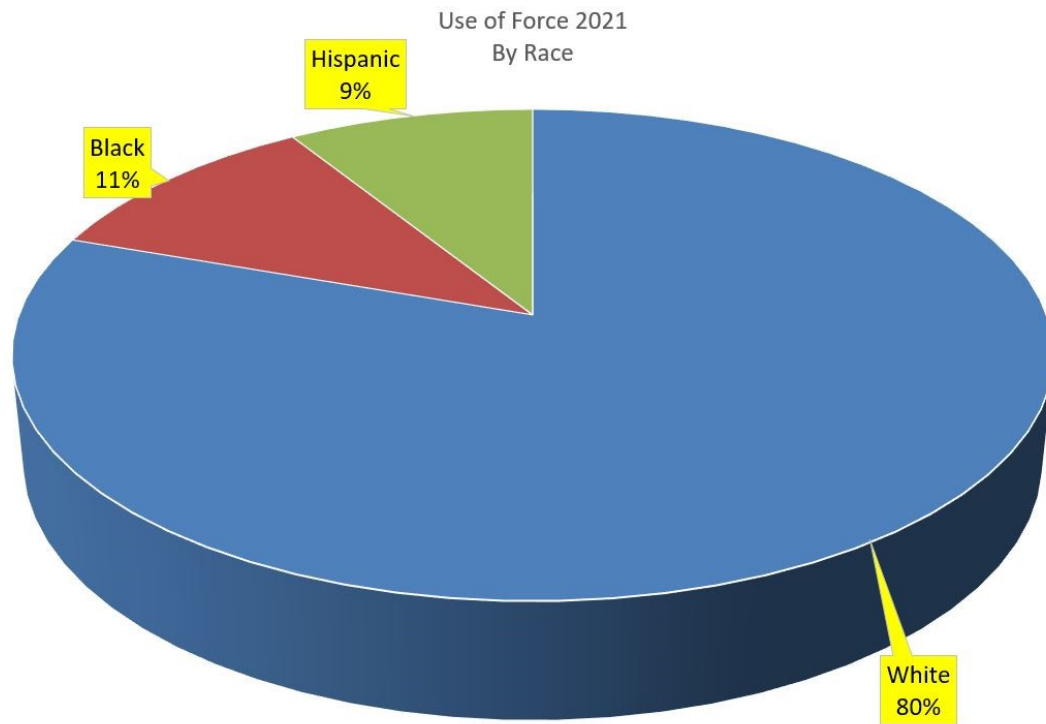


Force Used in .4% of All Service Calls



The department experienced a 57% increase in Use of Force Incidents compared to 2020.

Use of Force Continued



DRUG ENFORCEMENT/IMPACT

SEARCH WARRANTS

3
WARRANTS EXECUTED

4
SUBJECTS ARRESTED

SEIZED ITEMS:
 Methamphetamines
 Drug paraphernalia
 Stolen prescription medications
 Counterfeit Currency

Total in 2021
 ⇒ 163 Drug Complaints
 ⇒ 119 Drug Related Arrests

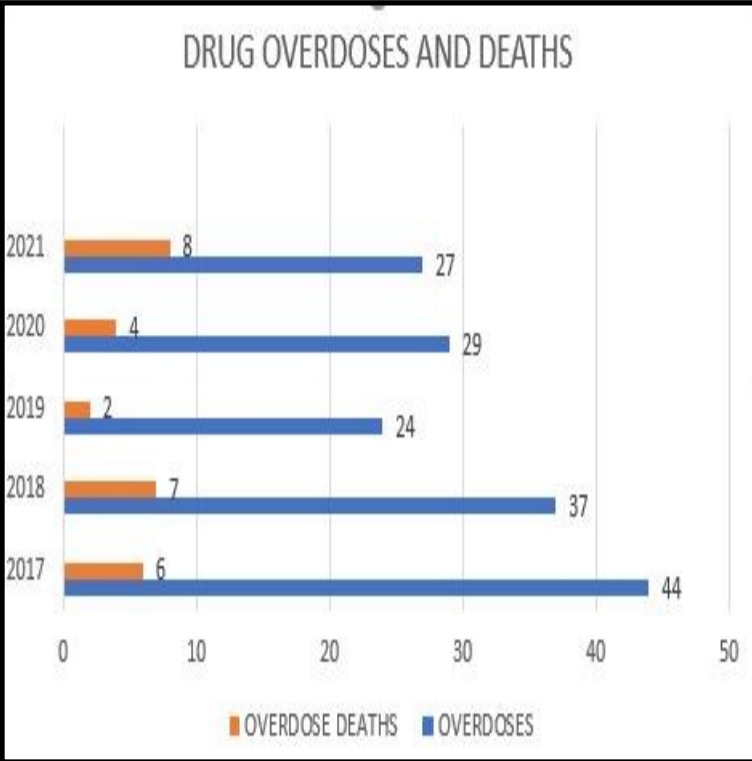
DRUG INTERDICTION

82
TRAFFIC STOPS

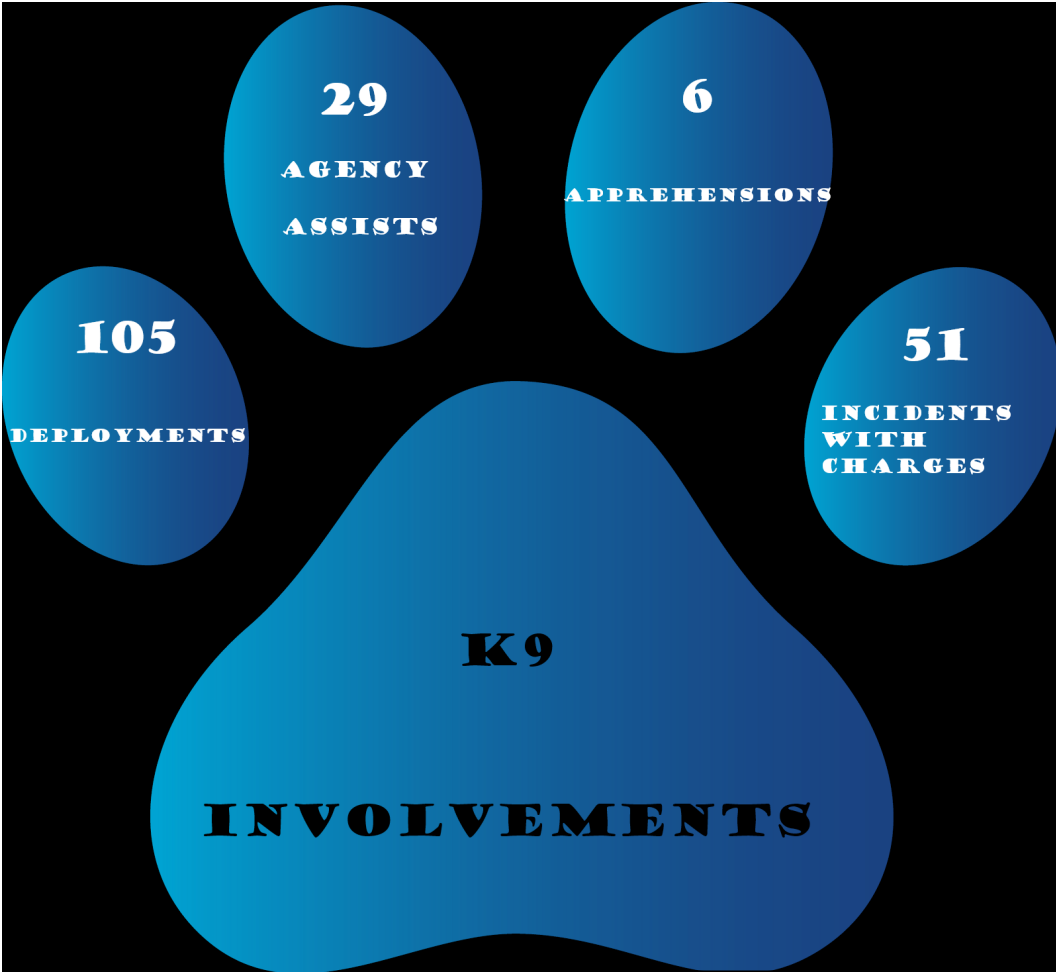
30
K9 DEPLOYMENTS

11
TOTAL ARRESTS

28
CITATIONS ISSUED



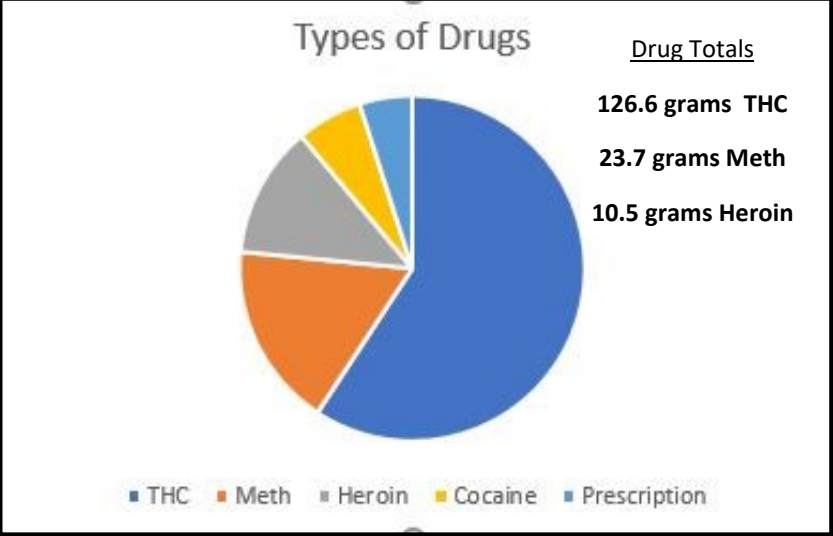
K9 ACTIVITY



- GOLF OUTING**
- 6th Annual
 - \$16,980 dollars raised
 - 28 total teams



K9 Ares
Handler:
Sgt. Ben Neumann

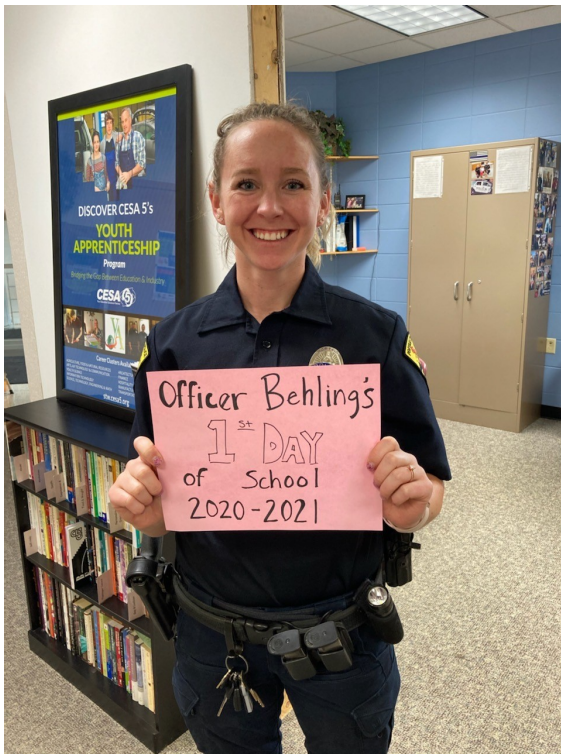


- ⇒ **7 Community Events**
- ⇒ **13 Tracks/Searches**

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

In our third year, this program continues to evolve, first adjusting to the pandemic and virtual learning and now adjusting back to full operations under different school administration. SRO Kate Behling had a very busy year where call volume increased tremendously and adjusting her schedule to be at school related programs and sporting events. 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.



⇒ 76 TRUANCY CITATIONS ISSUED

⇒ 69 JUVENILE INCIDENTS

⇒ 391* TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

* Not all 391 service calls were school related.

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 Kaylee Ramirez.

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 (lost and found), training, and the liaison to the crossing guard program.



<u>Nature of Call</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total Calls	523
Ordinance Violations	238
Lost and Found	53
Parking Violations	176
Miscellaneous Calls	56



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. Additionally, our K9 unit must train 8 hours per month to remain certified. The department converted to less-lethal shotguns which are installed in each of the squads. Each officer was trained in the appropriate use and guidelines for deployment.

Training Highlights

- Jesse Sprague was trained as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE).
- 8 Officers attended active shooter training in Milwaukee
- 2 Officers became less lethal instructors
- 2 attended Supervisor school
- 2 attended ICS 300.
- Hosted an Interview and Interrogation Course
- 1 Critical Incident/Peer Support certification



EQUIPMENT/UPGRADES

With the goal of keeping our officers safe, Assistant Chief Rich Hoege wrote a grant to purchase a UVC decontamination machine to allow us to purify the air inside the police department as well as inside our squads.



The Police department acquired portable CO (carbon Monoxide) detectors to help with scene safety and reduce potential CO gas exposure.



With grant assistance from our insurance company, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, officers were able to purchase load-bearing vests to reduce the equipment weight on the duty belt and transfer the weight onto the vest. Studies have shown that wearing a load bearing vest reduces the stress and injuries to the officer's back.

Through a grant, the department purchased a new handheld laser/lidar device called the Prolaser 4 for speed enforcement.



The police garage was outfitted with optical door safety sensors to reduce potential injury and damage to the squads.

With the assistance of the Columbia County Sheriff's Office a License Plate Reader Camera has been installed in the City of Portage providing incredible technology and data.

Thank you to our Portage Community!!

Let's continue working together to keep
Portage great!



Report Submitted by:

Chief Keith Klafke