

MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*Edward R. Kinney Chief of Police
Dennis Hanwell Mayor*



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MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Integrity ★ *Service* ★ *Community*

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Mayor Hanwell and Members of Council,

Using the term “difficult” may be an understatement in describing the year 2020 for citizens of our community, The Nation and the Medina Police Department. The year started like any other, with hope and steadfastness; however, impending troubles soon came to rise and quick adaption was necessary.

The US Secretary of Health and Human Services declared the COVID-19 virus a public health emergency on January 31, 2020. Subsequently, President Trump declared a national emergency. On March 9, 2020, Governor DeWine declared a state of emergency for Ohio and issued orders to limit exposure to and stop the spread of the virus. In order to limit exposure to officers, The Medina Police Department responded to what was thought of as a temporary problem, with adjustments to our operation. Officers and staff began regimented and thorough sanitization of workspaces and police vehicles and officers began handling non-emergency calls over the phone, when appropriate. This new reality became a stark contrast to our standard, “community engagement” model of operation.

As if a pandemic in full swing was not enough, a tornado ravaged the central area of the city on the evening of April 7, 2020. The tornado caused severe structural damage to several residences throughout the city; some were destroyed. Our safety services performed admirably that evening by executing life saving measures to extricate a man who had been trapped in his collapsed house. Officers and Fire Fighters freed the man from the rubble using a fallen door. The man, suffering from substantial injury, was transported to Medina Hospital where he eventually recovered from his injuries.

Memorial Day weekend sparked the “summer of protest”. The Nation watched in dismay as a video circulated the globe showing a police officer pressing his knee into the neck of George Floyd, ultimately resulting in his death. Outrage and condemnation were swift. We witnessed cities across the United States begin to burn with fury, and rioting continuing for well over a month in several cities. The first weekend in June carried with it five protests and demonstrations to the Medina Square. The Medina Police Department was hurled into the adverse position of reassuring the business owners of the square their safety and protection while providing the same measures for citizens wishing to exercise their first amendment rights of speech and assembly. In conjunction with our law enforcement partners around the county a response plan was formulated and executed that provided peacefulness on both fronts. As expected, all five events concluded without violence or property destruction. Police Chiefs from around the County attended these events with the intentions of being accessible and receptive; listening to protesters, engaging in discussions, and sharing ideas. Furthermore, this community engagement generated partnerships with the minority community giving rise to valuable conversations of reform and police legitimacy. I attended several community meetings in which I discovered that questions regarding police department policies and practices in general and relative to our department were prevalent and at the forefront of

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interest. Consequently, I saw an opportunity to share information on these topics, as well as, remain accessible to answer questions from the community. Mayor Hanwell and I participated in two televised community roundtable discussions highlighting policing in our community and in The Nation. Pastor Ruffin of the Second Baptist Church initiated and facilitated these discussions. Pastor Ruffin has championed an effort locally to unify our community, and I have committed to an enduring partnership with him to provide a better community for ALL residents.

On March 5, 2020, two of our officers were awarded the Acts of Courage Award by the American Red Cross for their heroic efforts in saving two lives during an apartment fire. Officers Matthew Martincin and Christopher Deeks responded to an apartment fire on Birch Hill Drive in the early morning hours of June 12, 2019. Upon arrival, the officers discovered two occupants trapped in a second-floor bedroom. The officers, thinking quickly, removed a ladder from a vehicle parked near-by. The officers safely evacuated the two occupants through the window using the ladder. Incidents such as this reinforce our ongoing collaboration and training programs with the Medina Fire Department.

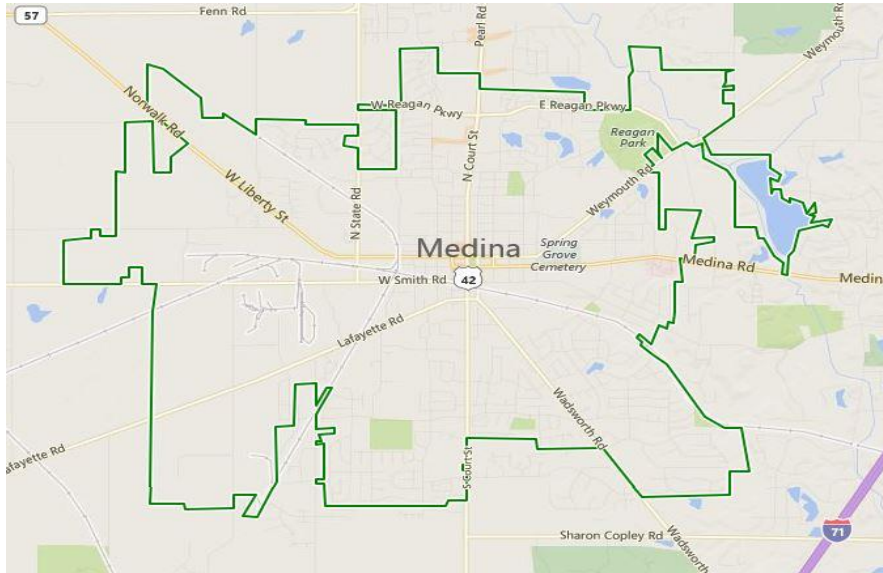
Withstanding the challenges of our time, our officers, dispatchers and staff continue to serve a beleaguered community efficiently and honorably. The entire Medina Police Department will rise to maintain our strong commitment to community oriented service to Medina and Lafayette Township residents into 2021 and beyond.

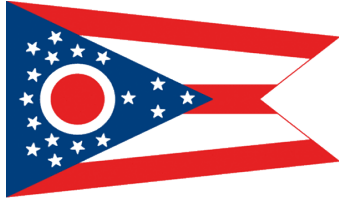

Respectfully submitted,



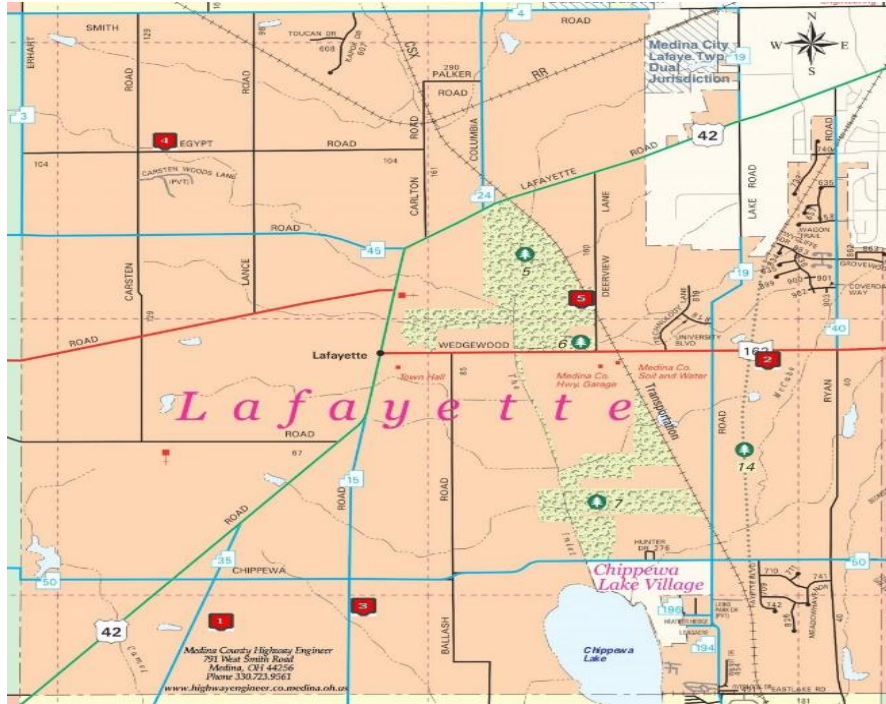
Edward R. Kinney
Chief of Police

City Profile



| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>City Motto</p> <p>Preserving the Past. Forging the Future.</p> | <p>Ohio Flag</p>  | <p>City Logo</p>  |
| <p>2020 Estimated City Population</p> <p>26,095</p> | <p>Founded</p> <p>1808</p> | <p>Incorporated</p> <p>1835 Village 1952 City</p> |
| <p>Square Miles</p> <p>11.6</p> | <p>Second Largest city in Medina County</p> | <p>Fifty-eighth most populated city in Ohio</p> |
| <p>Transportation Assets</p> <p>Rail Airport</p> | <p>Estimated Medina County Population</p> <p>179,746</p> | <p>School District Enrollment</p> <p>6,847</p> |

Lafayette Township Profile



| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Lafayette Township Population</p> <p>5,825</p> | <p>Square miles</p> <p>22.9</p> | <p>Borders</p> <p>Southwest side of the City of Medina</p> |
| <p>Largest natural lake in Ohio</p> <p>Chippewa Lake</p> | <p>Technology Park</p> <p>Medina County University Center University of Akron</p> | <p>Settled</p> <p>1820</p> |

Staff Roster

| Name | Assignment | Hire Date |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Edward Kinney | Chief of Police | 1997 |
| David Birckbichler | Lieutenant | 1995 |
| Scott Marcum | Lieutenant | 2000 |
| Nathan Simpson | Sergeant | 2003 |
| Brett McNabb | Sergeant | 1998 |
| Darin Zarembo | Sergeant | 1995 |
| Patrick Sloan | Sergeant | 2003 |
| Sara Lynn | Sergeant | 2005 |
| Bryan Wagner | Sergeant | 2003 |
| Joshua Wilson | Sergeant | 2008 |
| Kirk Vozar | Officer | 1989 |
| Daryn Winebrenner | Officer | 1995 |
| Dan Warner | Officer | 1995 |
| Todd Grice | Officer | 1996 |
| Al Roland | Officer/SRO | 2005 |
| Matthew Martincin | Officer | 2005 |
| Kelly Moran | Officer | 2007 |
| Christopher Brink | Officer | 2008 |
| James Tighe | Officer | 2009 |
| Mathew Fitz | Detective | 2012 |
| Gregory Habrat | Officer/Property | 2012 |
| James Terwilliger | Officer | 2013 |
| Nicholas MacLarren | Officer/SRO | 2013 |
| Michael Lyon | Officer/K9 | 2013 |
| Derek Crooks | Officer | 2014 |
| Michael Wovna | Officer | 2014 |
| Christopher Deeks | Officer | 2014 |

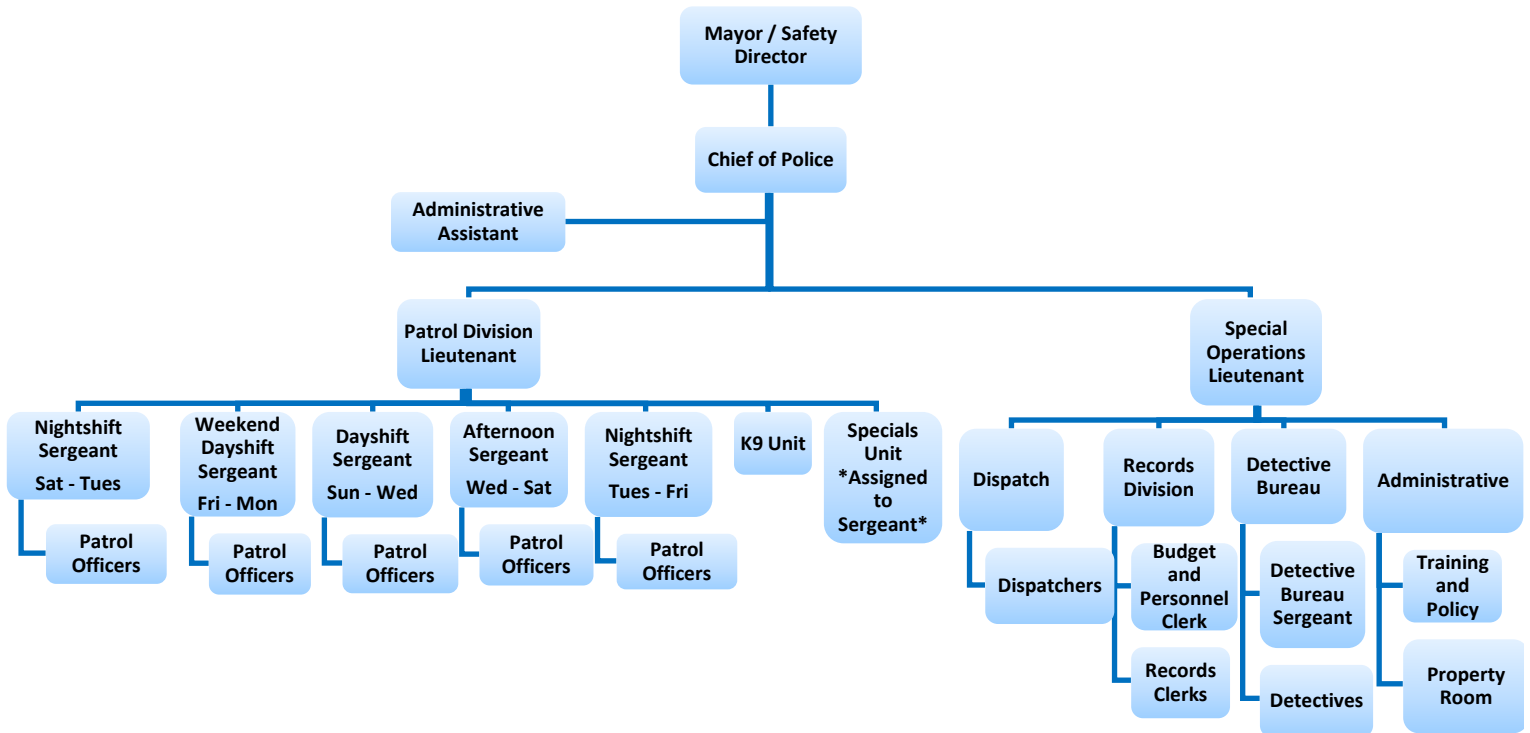
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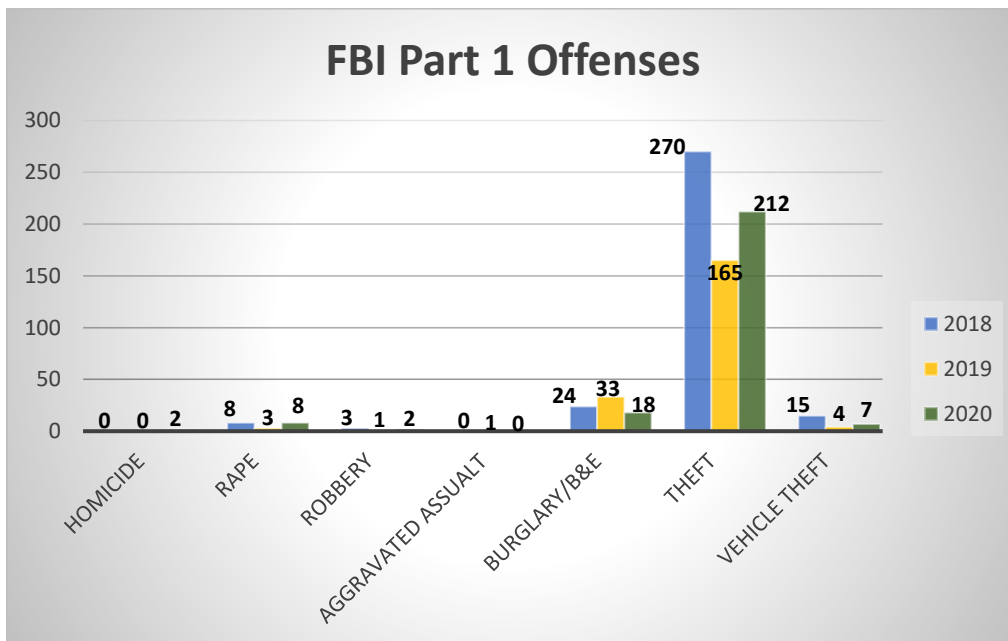
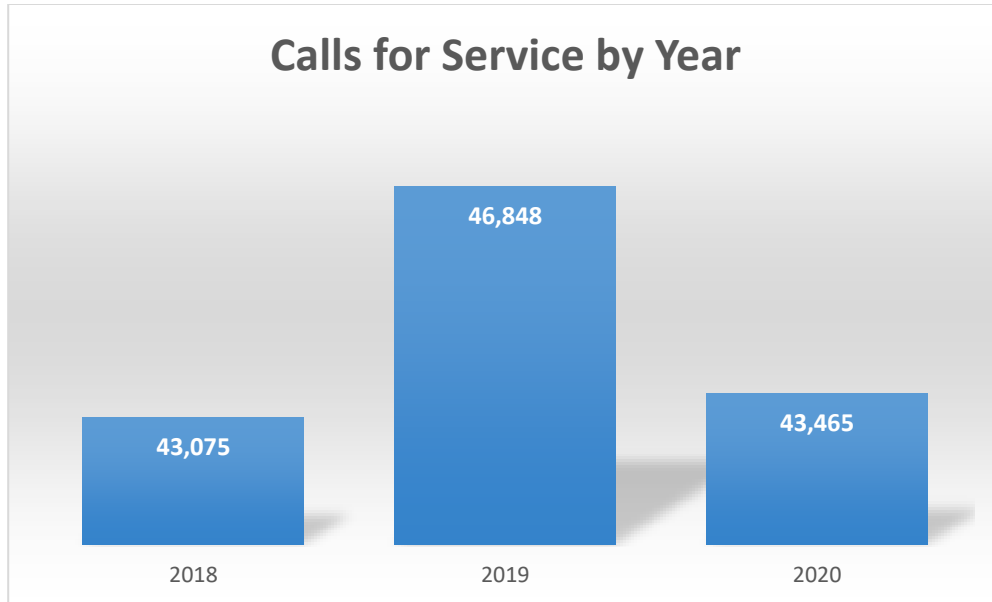
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| | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------|
| Jeffrey Smith | Detective | 2014 |
| Michael English | Detective | 2015 |
| Erica Anderson | Officer | 2015 |
| Andrew Dziak | Officer | 2016 |
| Raven Ory | Officer | 2017 |
| Vincent Piccoli | Officer | 2018 |
| Christopher Wade | Officer | 2018 |
| Evan Scherer | Officer | 2018 |
| Joseph Calabrese | Officer | 2018 |
| Tyler Hughes | Officer | 2019 |
| Xavier Payton | Officer | 2019 |
| Matthew Witthuhn | Officer | 2019 |
| | | |
| Patty Miller | Dispatcher | 1999 |
| Denise Indovina | Dispatcher | 2001 |
| Andrew Demczyk | Dispatcher | 2013 |
| David McGurk | Dispatcher | 2013 |
| Crystal Vance | Dispatcher | 2015 |
| Calvin Undercoffer | Dispatcher | 2017 |
| Sarah McCullough | Dispatcher | 2017 |
| Kali Bainbridge Rodriguez | Dispatcher | 2017 |
| Kelly Oyler | Dispatcher | 2017 |
| Vanessa Craiu | Dispatcher | 2020 |
| | | |
| Natalie Santivasci | Administrative Assistant | 2011 |
| Lyndie Gillihan | Records | 2013 |
| Monica Juka | Records | 2014 |
| Jeanne Masters | Records | 2015 |
| William Pavlick | Parking Attendant | 2018 |

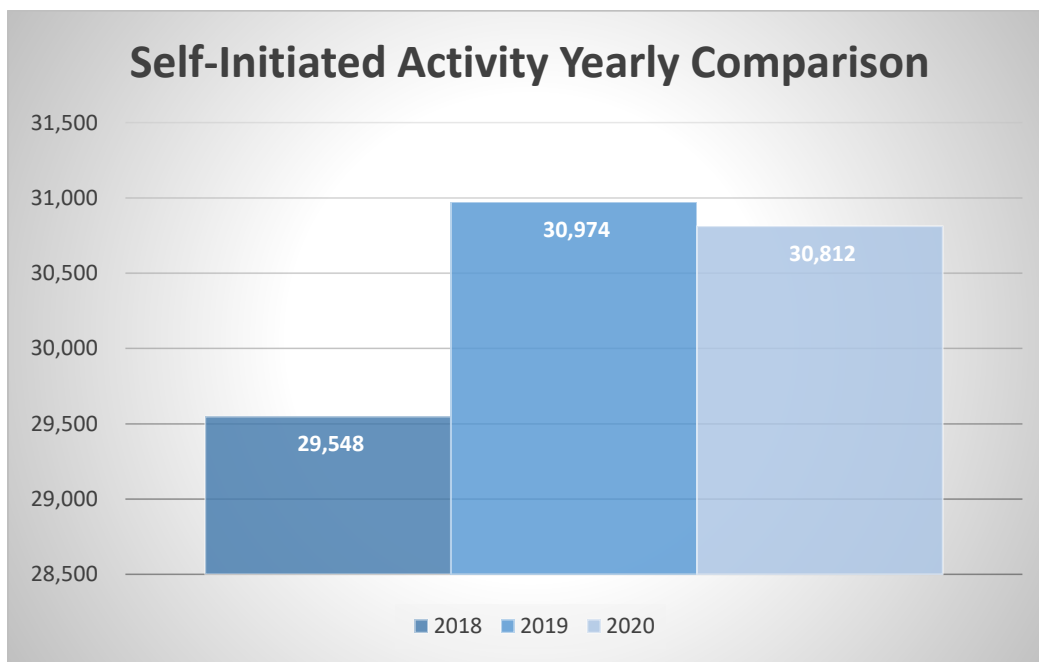
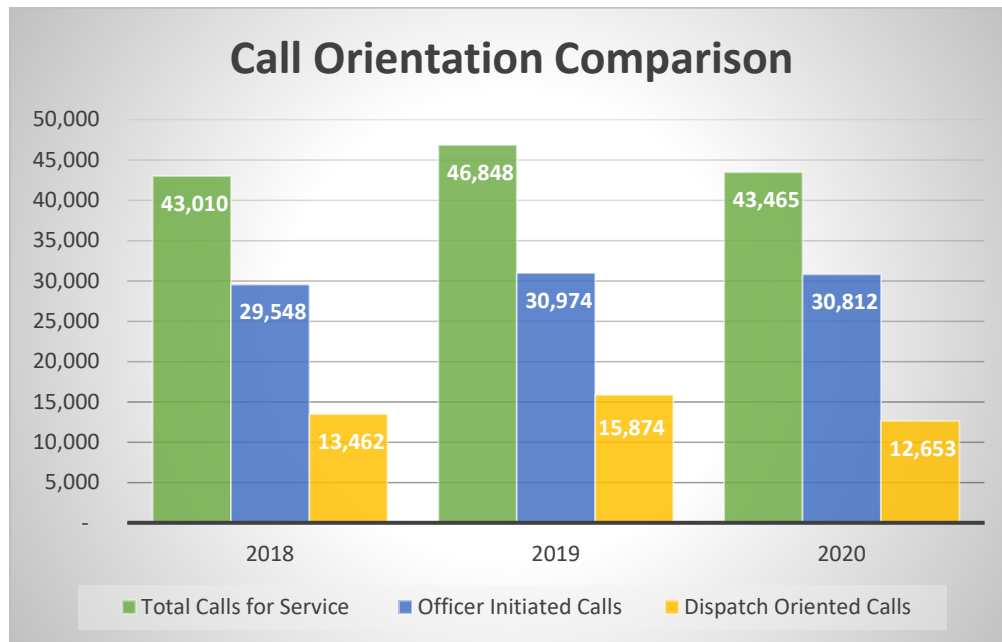
Organizational Chart



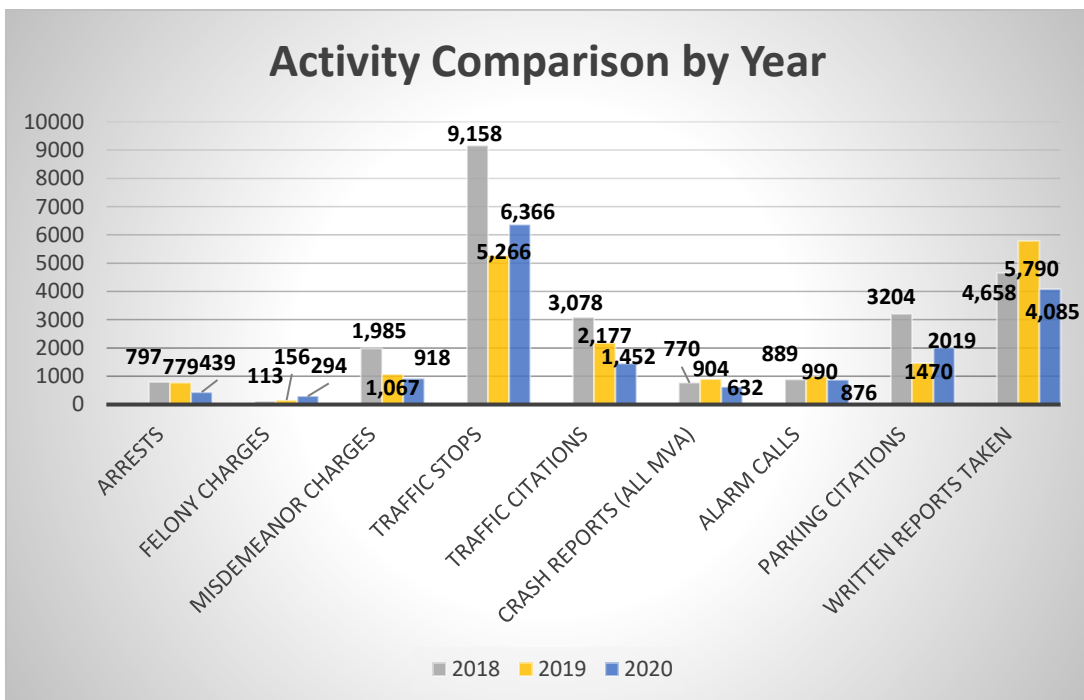
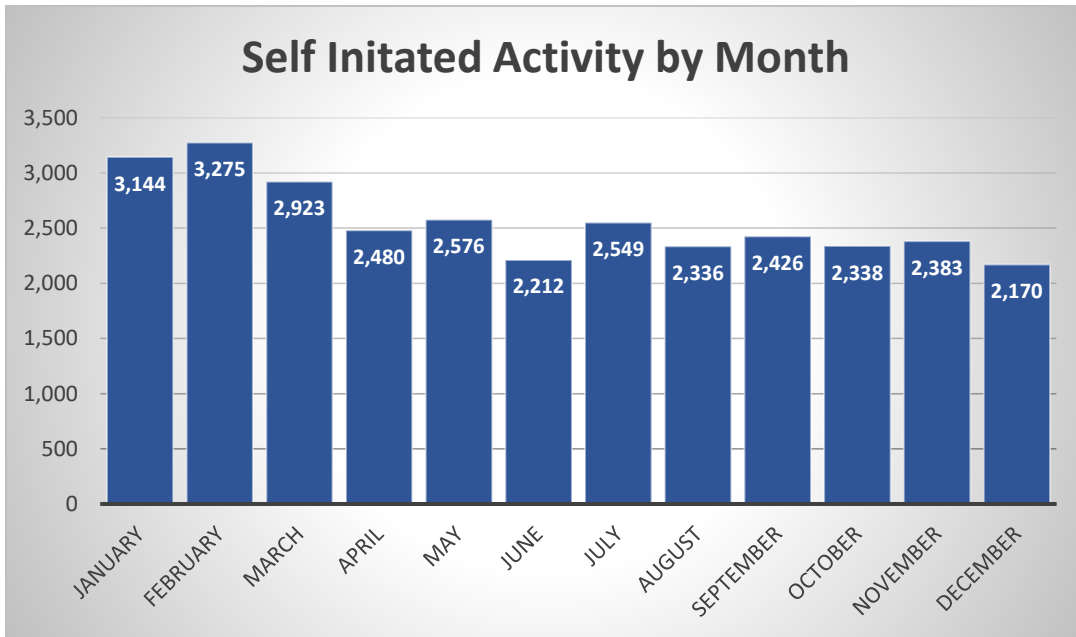
Department Statistics

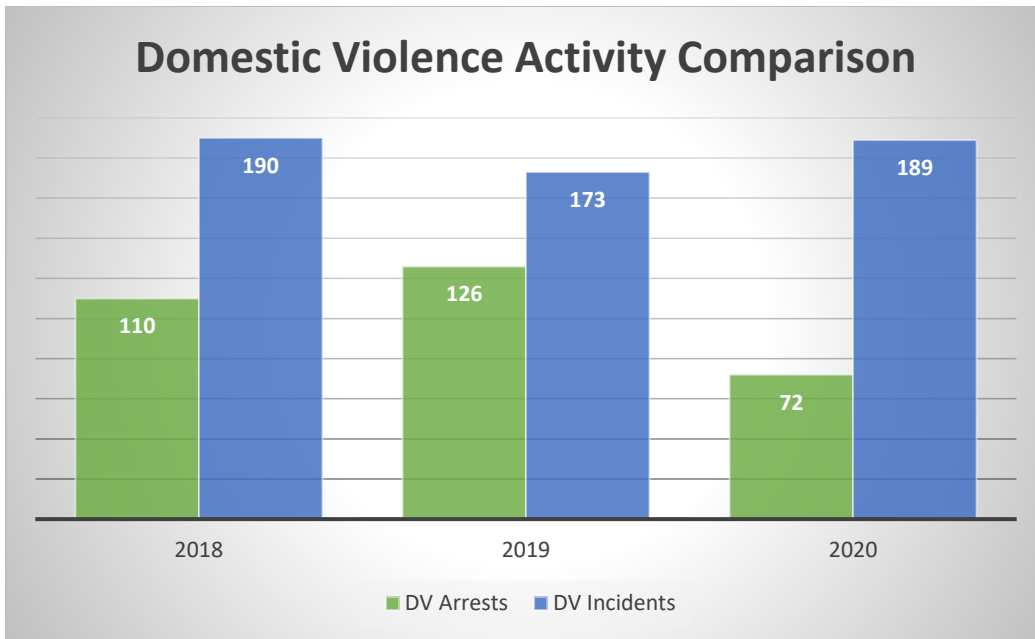
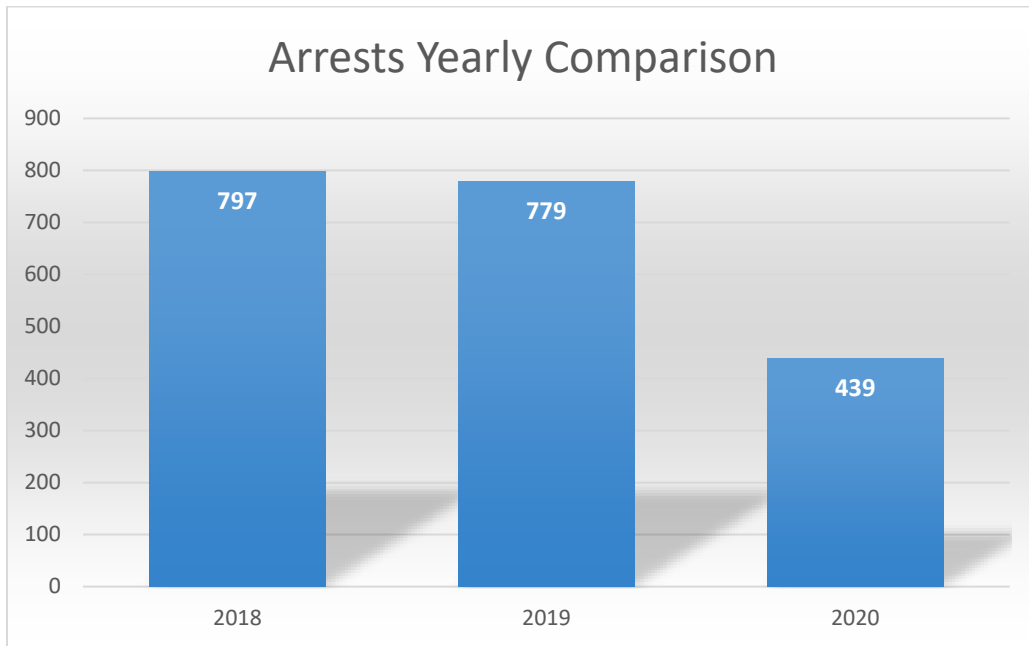


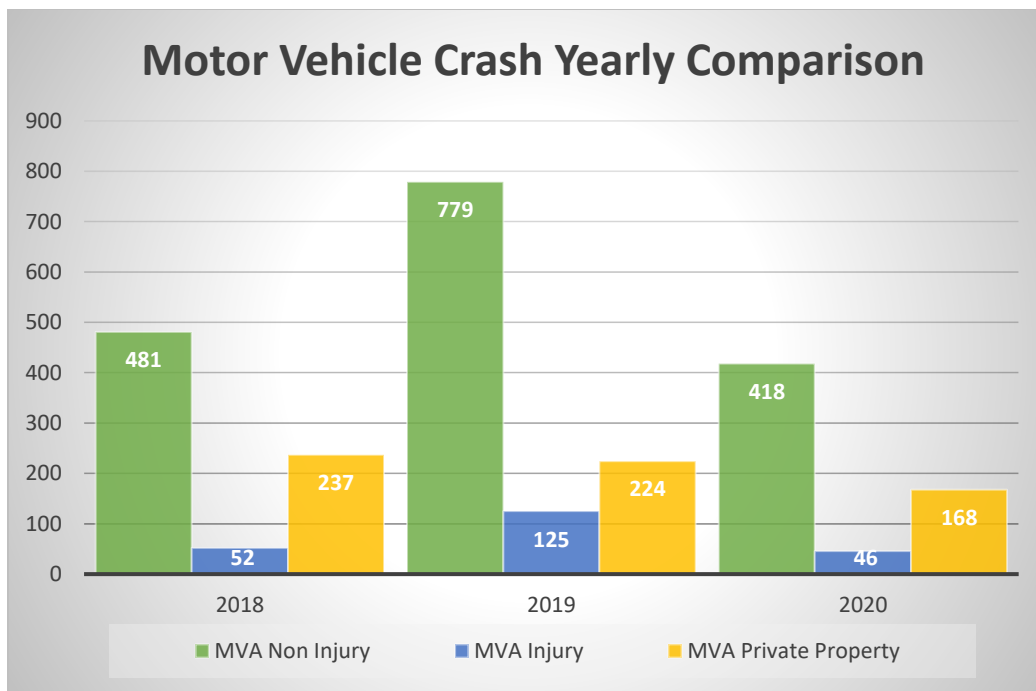
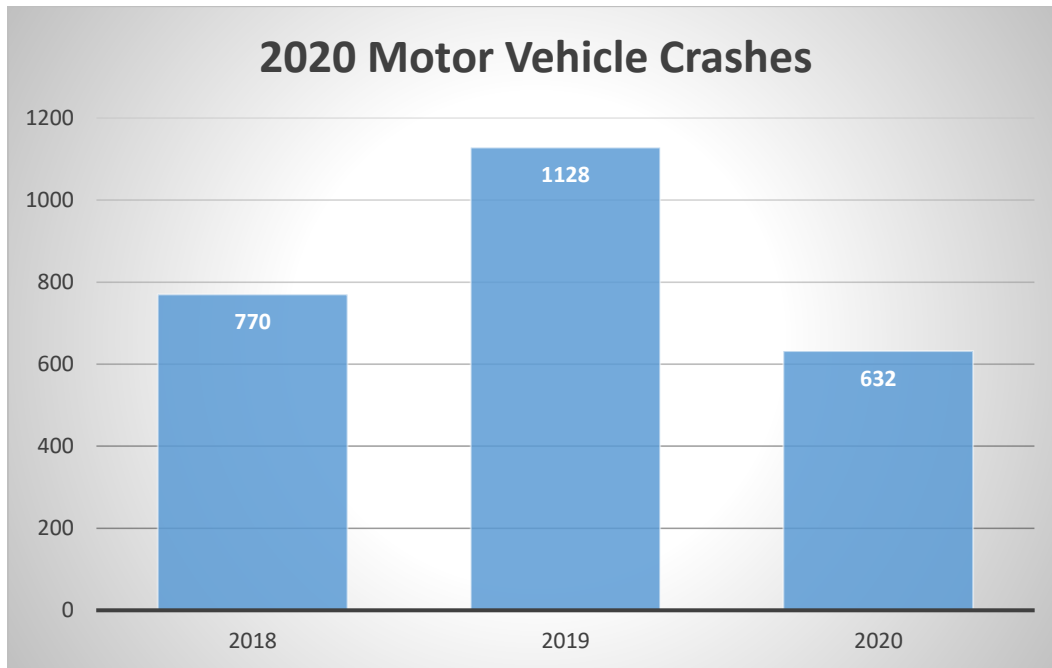
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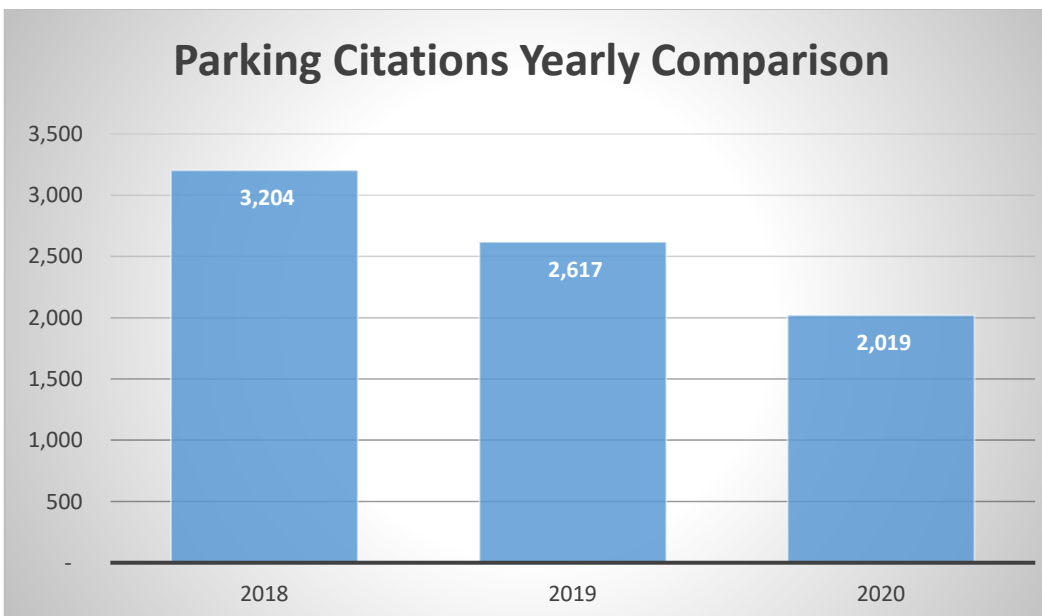
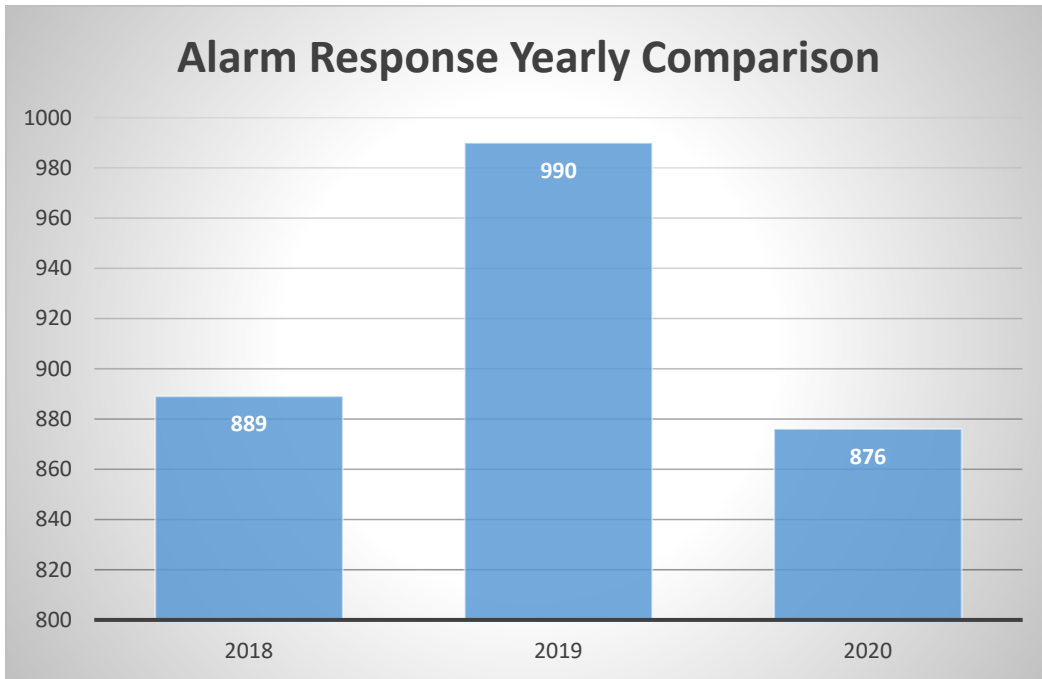


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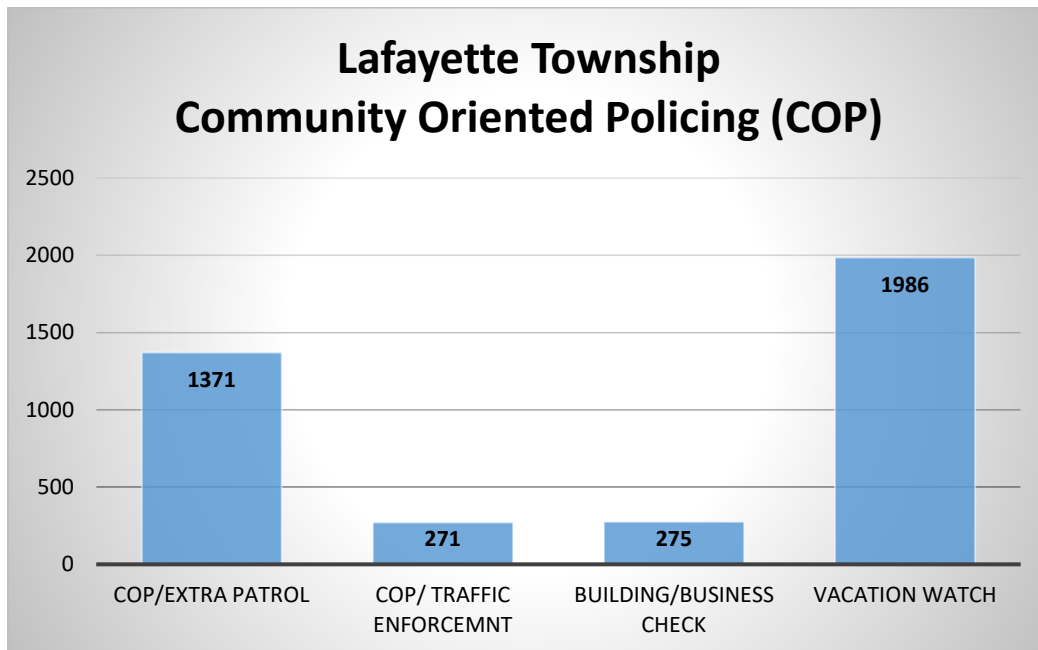






Lafayette Township Police Service –

Medina Police Department provides contractual police services to Lafayette Township. In 2020 over six thousand of the total number of the MPD calls for service originated in Lafayette Township. A glimpse of activity highlighting Community Oriented Policing is reflected in the chart below.



Patrol Division

The uniformed patrol division is the first to represent the Medina Police Department, the City of Medina and Lafayette Township in response to citizen requests for service. The patrol division is also responsible for carrying out initial crime scene investigations, traffic enforcement, motor vehicle accident investigations and assisting on LST and fire calls. The patrol division consists of 38 fulltime officers and is commanded by Lieutenant Scott Marcum.

In 2020 officers learned to police at a distance, which is in strong contrast to our community oriented policing philosophy. Officers worked diligently to keep a social distance and wear a mask at all times, they began handling non-emergency calls by phone, and kept to stringent vehicle cleansing. Unlike previous years, officers were called upon to mediate situations involving masks and curfews. This year presented many challenges for our patrol division and has proven to be a learning experience for the entire community.

In response to the conditions of our time, officers were trained in civil unrest and de-escalation techniques. Countless hours were expended in planning and training for planned protests on and around the square. The entire police department staff worked through the weekend of protests in early June and many officers were forced to work overtime to cover citizen calls for service while the remaining force contributed to police representation at the protests. We are proud to claim that no arrests or violent incidents occurred in the three days of protests in early June.

As we head into 2021 officers look forward to transitioning back to our community oriented policing model, but will rise to meet the higher standards and expectations initiated by the circumstances of 2020.

Accountability

Discipline –

The Medina police Department strives to hold our officers to a high level of accountability. Our department had one incident of discipline in 2020. An officer received a written reprimand for not using lights and siren while responding to an emergency call for service. There were no issues involving dishonesty or criminal activity.

Pursuits –

Deciding whether to pursue a motor vehicle is a critical decision that must be made quickly and under difficult and unpredictable circumstances.

Officers must remember that the most important factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are self-discipline and sound professional judgement. An officers' conduct during the

course of a pursuit must be objectively reasonable; that is to say, “what a reasonable officer would do under the circumstances”.

The Medina Police Department had five vehicle pursuit incidents in 2020. All five pursuits were reviewed. The corresponding incident report, video footage and any evidence was collected and analyzed.

All five vehicle pursuit incidents were in compliance with Medina Police Department Policy Manual, 314 VEHICLE PURSUITS.

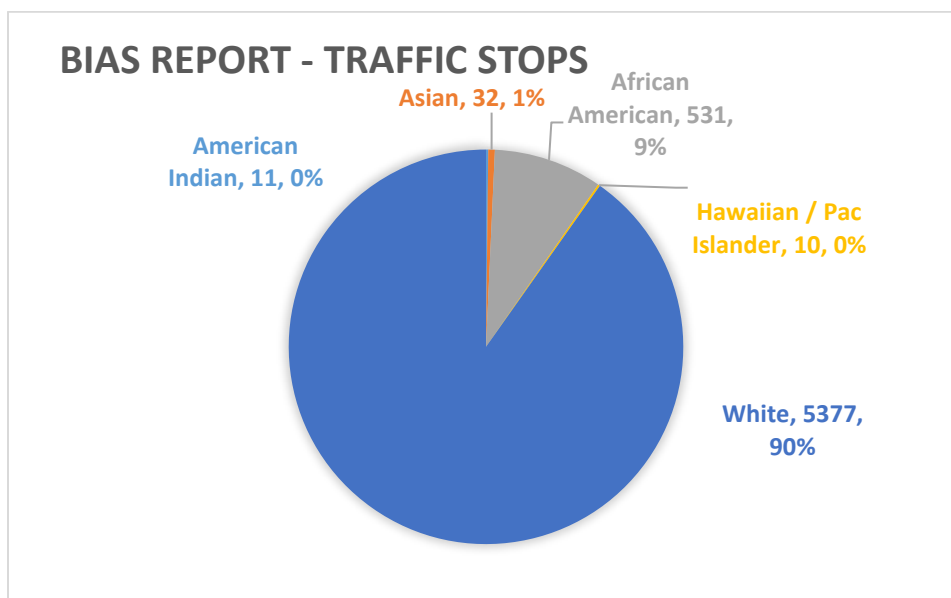
Use of Force –

The Medina Police Department recognizes and respects the value of all human life and dignity without prejudice to anyone. Vesting officers with the authority to use reasonable force and to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation and a careful balancing of all interests.

The Medina Police Department had eleven Use of Force incidents in 2020. All eleven use of force incident were reviewed. Similarly to the review of Vehicle Pursuits the process includes analyzing corresponding incident reports, use of force reports, video coverage and all evidence to determine compliance. Ten of the eleven incidents complied with Medina Police Policy 300.4 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE.

In one incident an officer was issued a letter of reinstruction on the TASER policy and procedure.

The eleven use of force incidents in 2020 are represented in the following demographics by race and sex; 8 White Males, 2 White Females, 1 Black Female.



K9 Stats –

Canine Deployments reduced during the course of 2020 due to COVID-19 protocols. Community oriented events involving the Canine team were cancelled and the usual “pop-up” community engagement activities were suspended in order to mitigate risk of spreading the virus. Traffic enforcement was also reduced due to COVID-19 protocol, which effected the number of requests for the Canine team, however, Nero did add valuable assistance to the Medina Police Department with two successful tracks and maintain his effectiveness as a resistance deterrent.

The decreased need for Canine team assistance allowed additional time for Officer Lyon and Nero to train on a regular basis. This additional training helped fine-tune Nero’s skills and maintain his abilities to prepare for return to a high volume of deployments. Officer Lyon and Nero are looking forward to 2021 with hopes of returning to their full capacity.

Officer Lyon and Nero were deployed 54 times in 2020 with two successful trackings, they made 20 traffic stops, and 12 arrests.

School Resource Officers-



The Medina Police Department provides two full-time School Resource Officers (SRO) that work within Medina City School District. Working under the command of Lieutenant Dave Birckbichler, SRO Nicholas MacLarren is assigned to Medina Senior High School and SRO Al Roland divides his time between A.I. Root and Claggett middle schools. The SRO’s have the

primary responsibility of maintaining a safe and positive learning environment for students and staff.

These school resource officers are responsible for any incidents that occur within the respective school(s) they cover. Occasionally, they collaborate with outside agencies such as the Medina County Health Department and Medina County Job and Family Services. Second to safety, our SRO’s serve as a liaison between students and the Medina Police Department patrol staff by establishing a non-confrontational environment.

Our SRO’s work with the faculty and administrators to uphold school policies and procedures. They maintain a close working relationship with school counselors, social workers, psychologists, nurses, and teachers to assist students in building positive relationships. Officers



MacLarren and Roland recognize the importance of mentoring youth at risk. They work diligently to build rapport with students, and take extra time to provide guidance to those students with special needs.

These two officers embrace a comprehensive approach to student wellness and school community by assisting with after school activities and county wide youth activities with Medina Community Police Activities League. Officer Roland plans and organizes Medina Police Department's involvement in the Shop with a Cop program, and both SRO's attended the event.

While the primary goal of our School Resource Officers is to provide safety, they also play an integrative role in uniting law enforcement, youth, faculty, and community on a foundation of understanding and cooperation.

SWAT-

Medina Police Department provides three officers to the dedication of the Medina County SWAT team which is comprised of numerous county agencies. Our SWAT team members attended the following SWAT Team trainings:

January – Use of Force Legal Update, building clearing, range

February - Tactical Combat Casualty Care, Defensive Tactics

March – No training due to COVID-19

April – Residential building clearing / force on force

May – Range

June – Riot / crowd control

July – Case Law Update, yearly distraction device certification, force on force scenarios

August – Open area searches with drone team and K9's

September - Two day training at Tactical Defense Training in Uhrichsville, OH, range,
Shoot house

October – Search warrant scouting, briefing and execution, vehicle assaults / takedowns

November – Combined training with summit County SWAT, bus assaults, large scale
Active shooter scenario at Tinkin Company in Canton

December – Range, vehicle takedowns, open area searches at night

SWAT Team Activations in 2020

March 3rd - 126 N East, Medina- – Patrol responded for a welfare check and the subject pointed a handgun at them from inside the residence. The subject eventually surrendered to negotiators and was taken into custody by SWAT.

March 25th – 4072 E. Smith Rd, Montville Twp - a man barricaded himself inside his pick up truck and blacked out all the windows with paint. The male fired several shots from inside the vehicle. The male eventually surrendered to negotiators and was taken into custody by SWAT.

March 31, - Brunswick - SWAT executed an arrest warrant on a subject who made threats to government employees in Medina. The male was arrested without incident.

June 6 & 7 – Medina Square - SWAT was staged for protests. SWAT intervention was not needed.

August 6 – 605 Lafayette, Medina – SWAT called out for double homicide. SWAT team cleared the residence, finding two deceased subjects. SWAT was later deployed to West Salem for a large area search for the suspect. The suspect was eventually located and arrested by Wayne County deputies.

November 23 – 156 Heatherhedge, Chippewa Lake – Male fired multiple rounds inside and outside his residence and threatened to shoot deputies. The suspect eventually exited his house and was arrested by SWAT.

Community Outreach -

Shop with a Cop-

The Medina community sustained strong support for the Shop with a Cop program in 2020. The Shop with a Cop event prevailed despite the restrictions indicative of our time. The Medina Police Department was represented by fifteen departmental members and hosted seventeen children. The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #204 hosted a drive-thru celebration that would continue to spread the spirit of Christmas. Members of agencies from around the county lined the route offering flare, music, goodies, smiles, waves, and cheering. Mr. & Mrs. Clause ended the experience by presenting the wish list gift and a jubilant HOHOHO! The Medina Police Department is happy to be a part of this event and the goodness it cultivates. We are thankful for the generosity of our community for the outpouring of donations and support.

Juvenile Diversion-

The Medina Police Department participates in the Medina County Juvenile Traffic Diversion Program. A program administered by the Montville Police Department offered to all first time juvenile traffic offenders 16 or 17 years old. The one day class provides an alternative to the Juvenile Court system for an initial offense. A three hour class is offered at Medina High School and is taught by police officers who utilize driving simulators and hands-on driving exercises in a controlled environment to enhance the classroom portion. Participation requires a fee of \$50 which covers the administrative costs. Upon completion of the program, neither the juvenile nor their parent(s) need to appear in court and the citation is not reported. Thus the juvenile's driving record remains clear.

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Social Media Presence-

Social media is used by the Medina Police Department to establish a bond with the community. Facebook allows the police department to communicate out to the community regarding department updates, crime help and information relative to our community. Facebook followers rose in 2020 to 19,586. Stay in touch and remain up to date with the most current department information and community offerings via our Facebook page in 2021.

DetectiveBureau

The officers assigned to the Detective Bureau investigate felony and misdemeanor cases and complete pre-employment background investigations. Most cases originate with the Patrol



Division and are forwarded to the detective bureau for additional investigation. Detectives are responsible for managing cases throughout the investigative process and through court proceedings.

The Detective Bureau is generally staffed by one supervisor and three detectives. Detectives rotate through a weekly on-call schedule throughout the year.

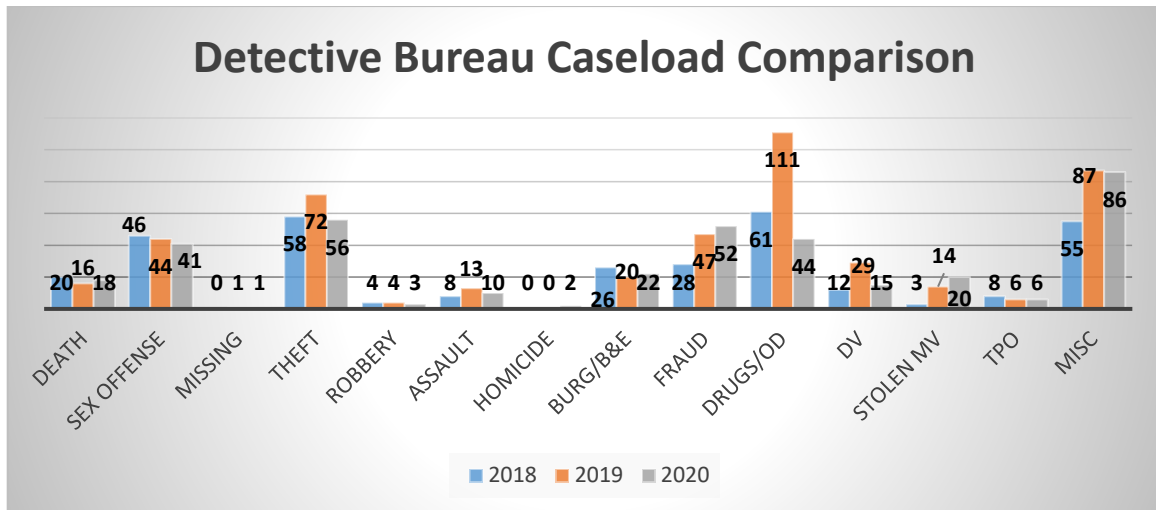
In 2020, Medina PD detectives worked closely with and collaborated with multiple local, state and federal agencies. On a daily basis, detectives work with municipal and county prosecutors, social workers from Medina County Job and Family Services, local probation officers and state parole officials.

Detectives are assigned to the Child Abduction Response Team (CART) which is a county wide, multi-jurisdictional team. The detectives assigned to this team participate in training and scenarios specific to investigations involving missing or abducted children and at-risk adults. Detectives are also working with a multi-county, multi-jurisdictional auto theft taskforce.

A detective is currently assigned to work as a liaison with the Medina County Drug Taskforce. Working in that capacity, the detective assisted with over 30 investigations, obtained 5 search warrants, performed 145 hours of surveillance and made 10 arrests

In 2020, 422 cases were forwarded to the Detective Bureau. Cases are triaged prior to being assigned which allows detectives to prioritize solvable cases with actionable leads or evidence over cases with a low probability of being solved. More than 104 cases were presented to the grand jury resulting in over 105 felony charges. More than 50 search warrants were obtained along with countless requests for grand jury subpoenas. Detectives also filed 45 juvenile charges.

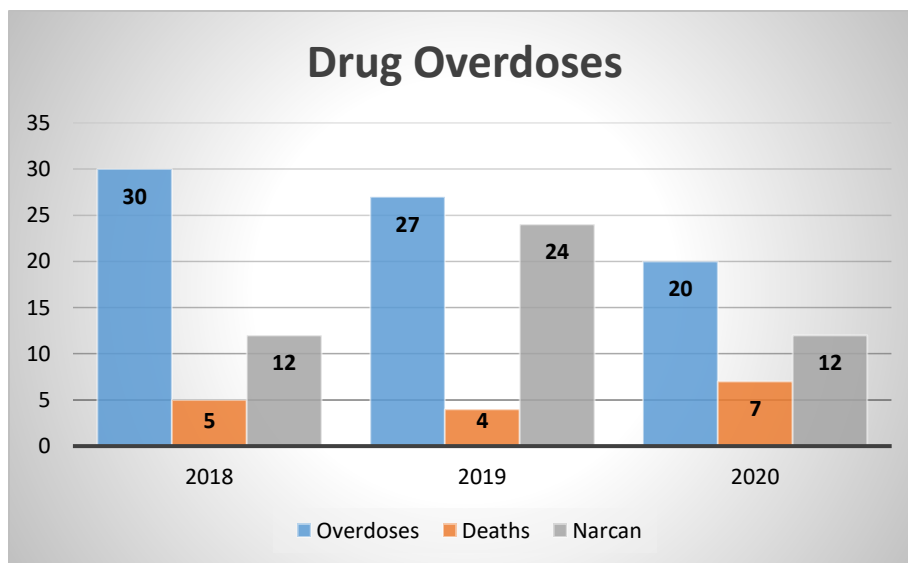




Opioid Information

Overdose investigations declined in 2020 compared to 2019. Medina Police Department investigated twenty reports of an overdose. Medina officers deployed Naloxone twelve times to aid lifesaving measures of an overdosing person. Seven deaths occurred due to an opioid related overdose in 2020.

Working In line with the Good Samaritan Law Medina Police Department served six immunity letters to persons that overdosed advising them of their duties in seeking immunity.



Communications

The Medina Police Department Communications Center, commanded by Lieutenant Dave Birckbichler provides dispatch and telephone services for Medina Police and the Medina City Fire Department, and contractual dispatch services to the Montville Police Department, Medina Township Police Department and the Cleveland Clinic's Life Support Team. Additionally, the Communication Center serves as the point of contact for all City services outside regular business hours since it operates 24 hours every day of the year.



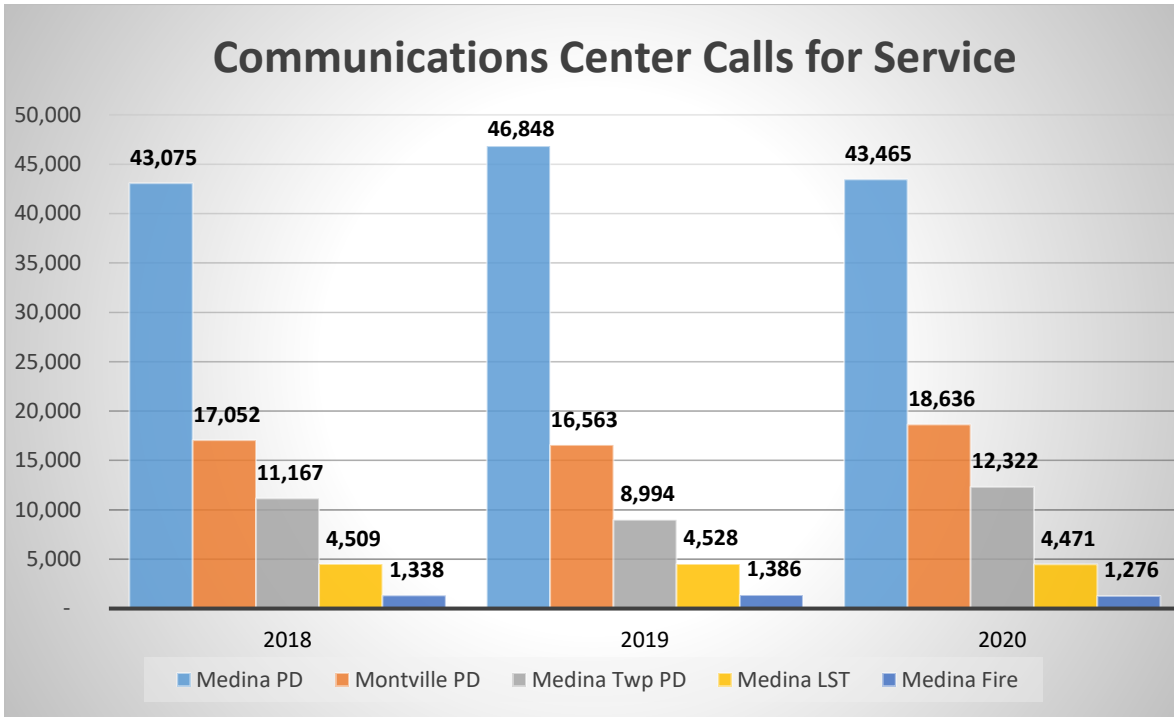
Currently, ten full-time personnel are authorized and assigned to the communications center which puts the Communication Center in line with the Ohio Revised Code (Sections 5507.1.05) mandated minimum requirement of two tele communicators to be on duty and available to receive and process calls at all times.

In 2020 the Communications Center was equipped with a second radio system to the existing Harris structure allowing interoperability to reach outside Medina County. The incorporation of the MARCS radio platform has greatly enriched the Medina Police Departments range of communication and provides increased collaboration with, not only Medina County public safety agencies, but, also agencies of neighboring counties.

A new recording system for radio and telephone communication was also added to enhance capabilities. Continued onward progress will be a catalyst for future improvements to include an increased video capabilities and replacing end-of-life radio equipment.

In 2020 the Medina Police Department Communication Center received and handled 418,426 telephone and radio calls. The following graph displays an analysis of calls for service by each of the agencies the Communications Center supports.

At the leading edge of public safety, the First-First Responders continue to improve their skills as technology is upgraded to best serve the residents and visitors of the City of Medina, Lafayette Township, Medina Township and Montville Township.



Property / Evidence

Daily maintenance of the Medina Police Department’s Property/Evidence Room involves the collection, preservation, storage, security and disposition of evidence and other property. Evidence is maintained only as long as necessary for use in any pending investigation or prosecution. Non-evidentiary property is maintained only until it can be returned to its rightful owner or otherwise be disposed of in accordance with the law.

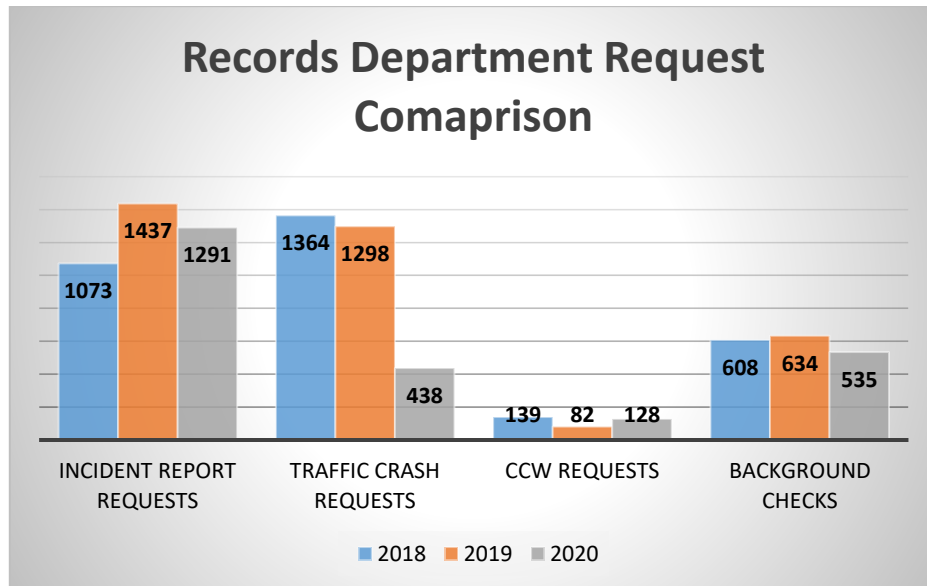
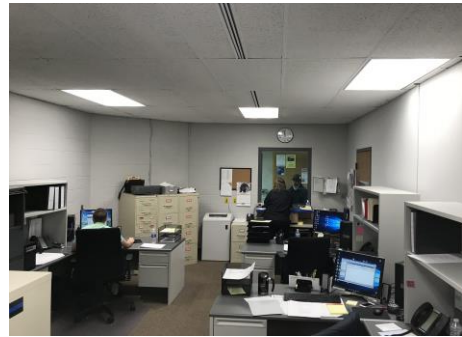
The Property Room is managed by a part-time officer under the command of Lieutenant Dave Birckbichler. The officer devotes 29 hours a week to the department’s continuous flow of property and evidence. Support may be provided by Records department personnel and intermittent volunteers when necessary and sustainable.

Property Room Activity 2020

| | <u>Property Received</u> | <u>Narcotics</u> | <u>BCI Lab Submissions</u> | <u>Items Destroyed</u> | <u>Items Forfeited</u> | <u>Items Auctioned</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>2020</u> | 1061 | 342 | 156 | 1505 | 1664 | 44 |
| <u>2019</u> | 1217 | 497 | 219 | 949 | 955 | 49 |
| <u>2018</u> | 1176 | 467 | 216 | 1348 | 1368 | 94 |

Records Division

The Records Division employs one full-time and three part-time employees, under the supervision of Lieutenant Dave Birckbichler. Records staff serve as a support to all the divisions of the Medina Police Department, to many collaborating agencies and to the public. All police records, to include many forms of citations, car and body camera video, electronic recordings such as, radio communication and 911 calls are all processed, stored and disseminated by the Records Staff. In addition, records personnel assist in state mandated reporting of accidents, towed vehicle tracking, domestic violence reporting, maintenance of parking violations, false-alarm notifications and vacation watch tracking. Records staff keep to the department retention schedule by organizing, filing storing and preparing all forms of records for destruction. They assist the public daily by fulfilling public records requests, issuing solicitor registration licenses, issuing bicycle licenses, and as a vast source of general information. The records division is an essential entity in communicating and processing records throughout the judicial system and in meeting the needs of the public.



Police Specials Unit



The Medina Police Department “Specials Unit” was established in April of 1958. At that time, nine members of the community formed the volunteer unit to assist and supplement the Medina Police Department. Over the years, the unit has grown and evolved, but one aspect remains the same; the members of the unit continue to donate thousands of volunteer hours to the community and the police department. Our Special’s Unit is consisted of 22 members in 2020. Eleven members being OPOTC state certified and held to the same standards for training as a full-time officer. The remaining nine non-certified members are not required to complete the training, but many choose to do so. All members are regularly trained to handle

medical emergencies.

Collectively, in 2020 members volunteered over 1,500 hours to the community and to MPD. Hours are accumulated by attending monthly meetings, fulfilling training requirements, riding with officers, working paid details and most importantly, working volunteer details. The Specials Unit provides security and traffic control at most community and school events. This year’s events were more sparse but, included protests and demonstrations on and around the square. Many of these events could not be held without the presence of Specials Unit volunteers. The members of the Special’s Unit will continue their long dedicated history of serving the community into 2021.

