

MEDINA POLICE DEPARTMENT

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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



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St.
Medina, Ohio
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330-725-7777
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Mayor Hanwell and Members of Council,

As 2021 becomes the past, we continue to manage the impacts of the COVID-19 virus. Despite challenges the pandemic has created, the Medina Police Department maintains its integrity in offering service-oriented policing to the City of Medina and Lafayette Township. Additionally, in 2021, the police department sustained ongoing development of innovative programs that will benefit the community for years to come.

Early in the year, the police department launched an unmanned aerial vehicle (drone) program. The ability to deploy a drone has proven itself to be very beneficial in various situations. The drone was used to assist the Medina Fire Department in identifying hot areas within structure fires, providing added safety for firefighters. The drone has also been used in the apprehension of individuals fleeing police.

Our report management system was enhanced in 2021 to allow for computer-generated crash reports, resulting in a streamlined process for completing and submitting crash reports to the Ohio Department of Public Safety. Mobile citation capabilities are being developed and will soon permit the electronic submission of citations to the Medina Municipal Court.

The communications center received a much-needed upgrade in 2021. The many computer monitors used for video monitoring were replaced with a "video wall." This integration allows all video feed to be viewed in one location and enables our communications operators ease of monitoring both the security cameras and the reporting management system information.

Our officers continued to be recognized for their outstanding work in the community. Officer Crooks was recognized by the Medina VFW Post as "Lawman of the Year." His investigatory work on a case, which led to the identification and apprehension of two burglary suspects, raised him to the level of this award. Officer Crooks along with Officer Hughes were both recognized by the Medina County Safe Communities for their diligent efforts in traffic and OVI enforcement.

I expect, in 2022, the continued attention to the development of additional technological advancements and operational enhancements which will assist the police department in providing an elevated service to the community. We also plan to maintain attentive action to our service-oriented policing to the community.

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The Medina Police Department strives each day to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors to the City of Medina.

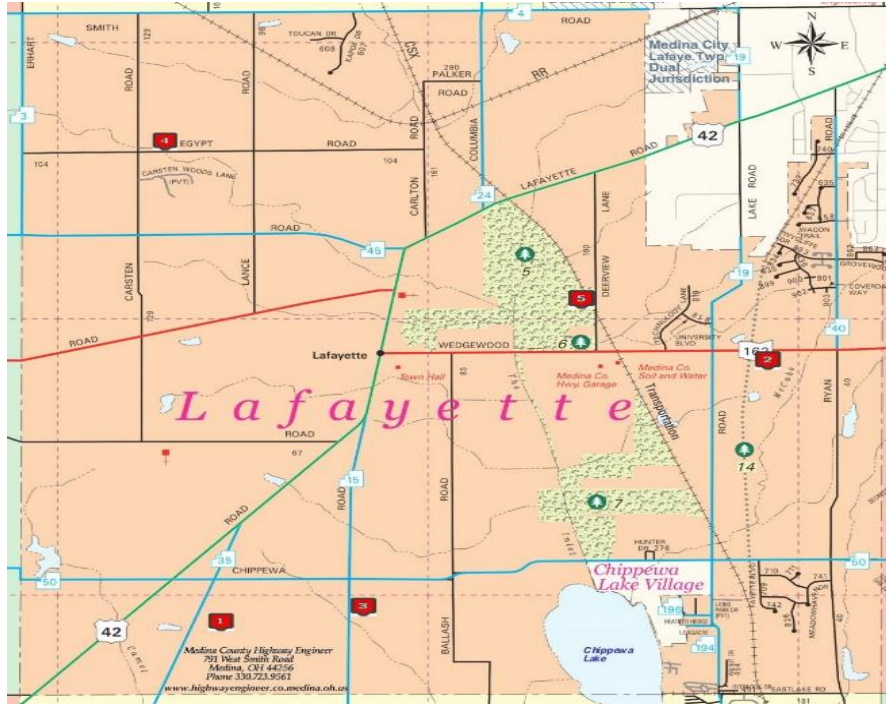
Wishing all continued safety, growth, and wellness.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward R. Kinney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E".

Edward R. Kinney
Chief of Police

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
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
Jeffrey Smith	Detective	2014

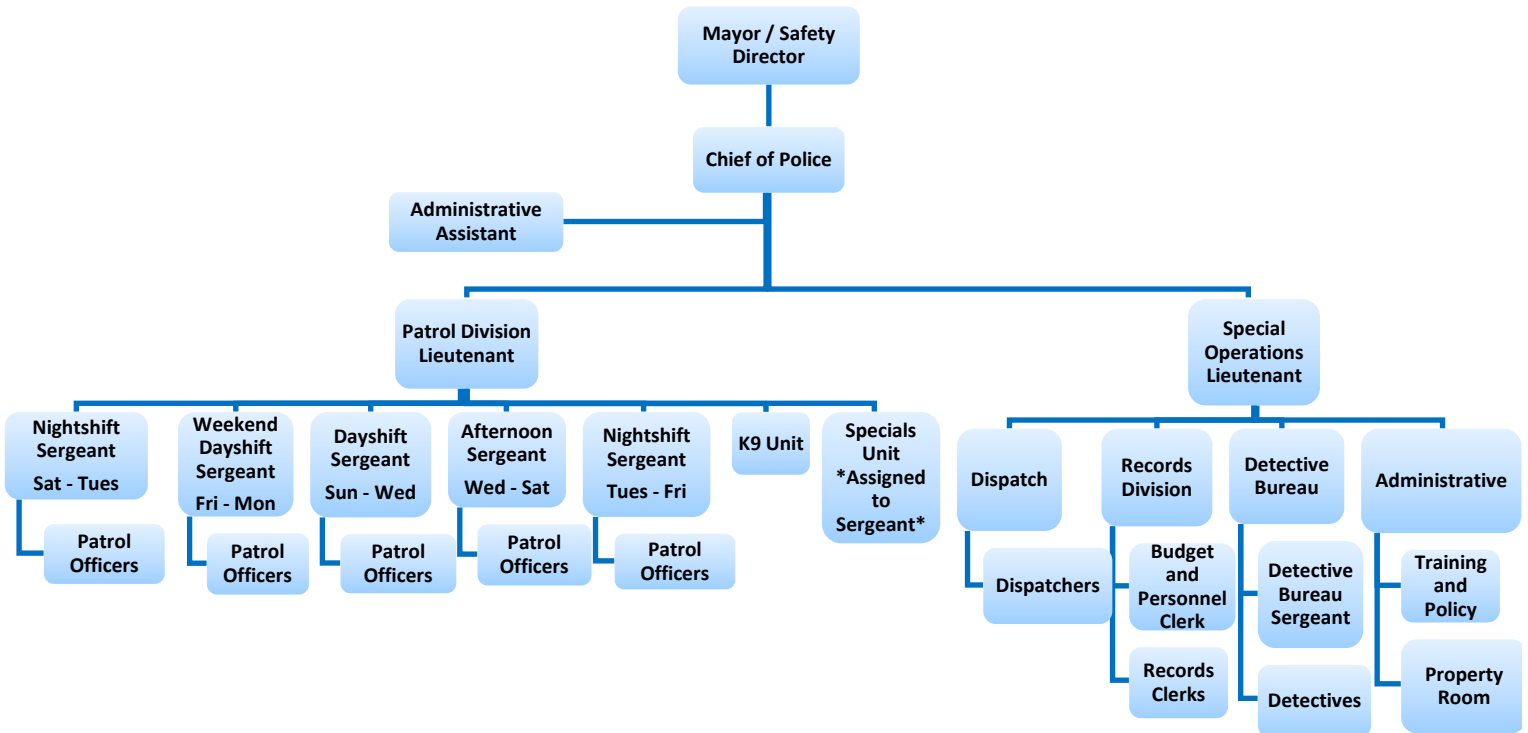
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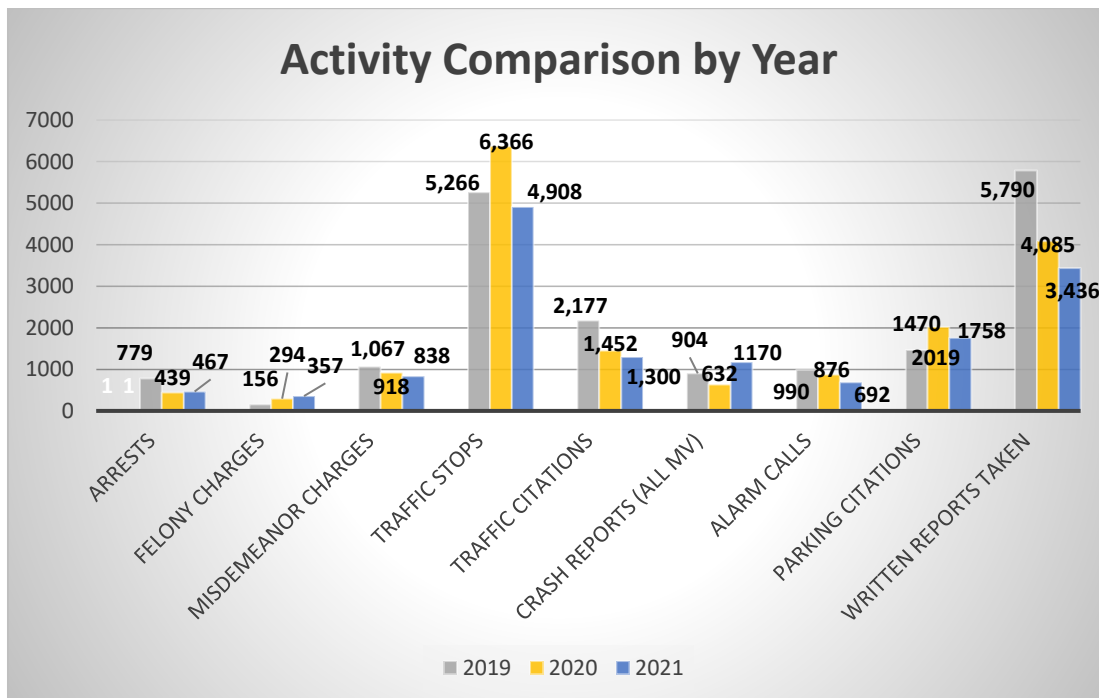
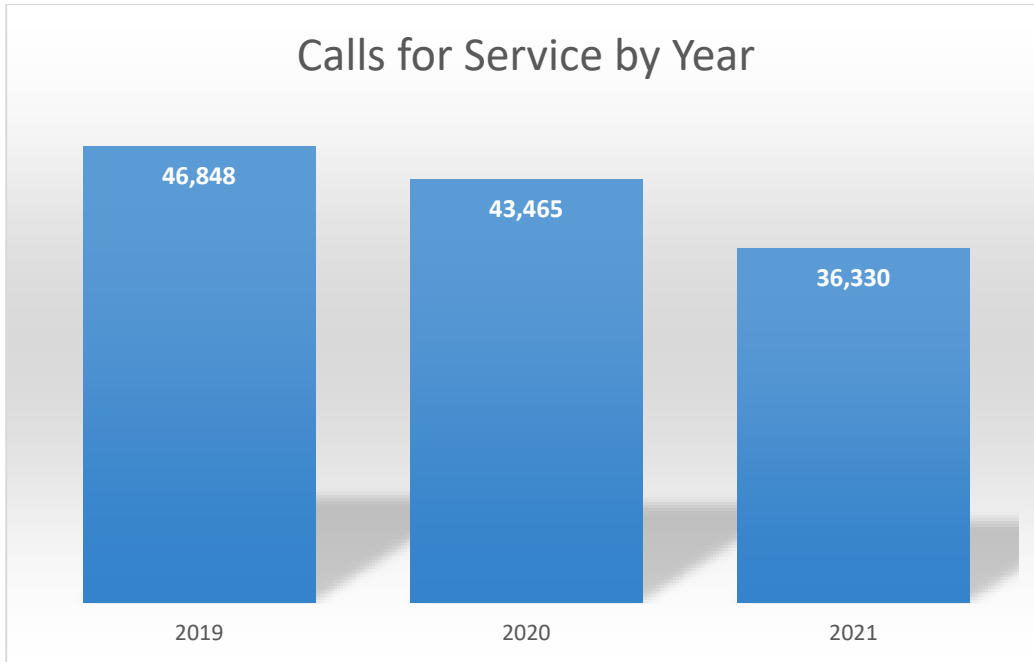
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Michael English	Detective	2015
Erica Anderson	Officer	2015
Andrew Dziak	Officer	2016
Raven Ory	Officer/SRO	2017
Vincent Piccoli	Officer	2018
Christopher Wade	Officer	2018
Evan Scherer	Officer	2018
Joseph Calabrese	Officer	2018
Tyler Hughes	Officer	2019
Matthew Witthuhn	Officer	2019
Tyler Howell	Officer	2021
Lauren Brooks	Officer	2021
Ian Baker	Officer	2021
Patty Miller	Dispatcher	1999
Denise Indovina	Dispatcher	2001
Andrew Demczyk	Dispatcher	2013
Crystal Vance	Dispatcher	2015
Calvin Undercoffer	Dispatcher	2017
Sarah McCullough	Dispatcher	2017
Kali Bainbridge Rodriguez	Dispatcher	2017
Vanessa Craiu	Dispatcher	2020
Natalie Santivaschi	Administrative Assistant	2011
Lyndie Gillihan	Records	2013
Monica Juka	Records	2014
Jeanne Masters	Records	2015
William Pavlick	Parking Attendant	2018

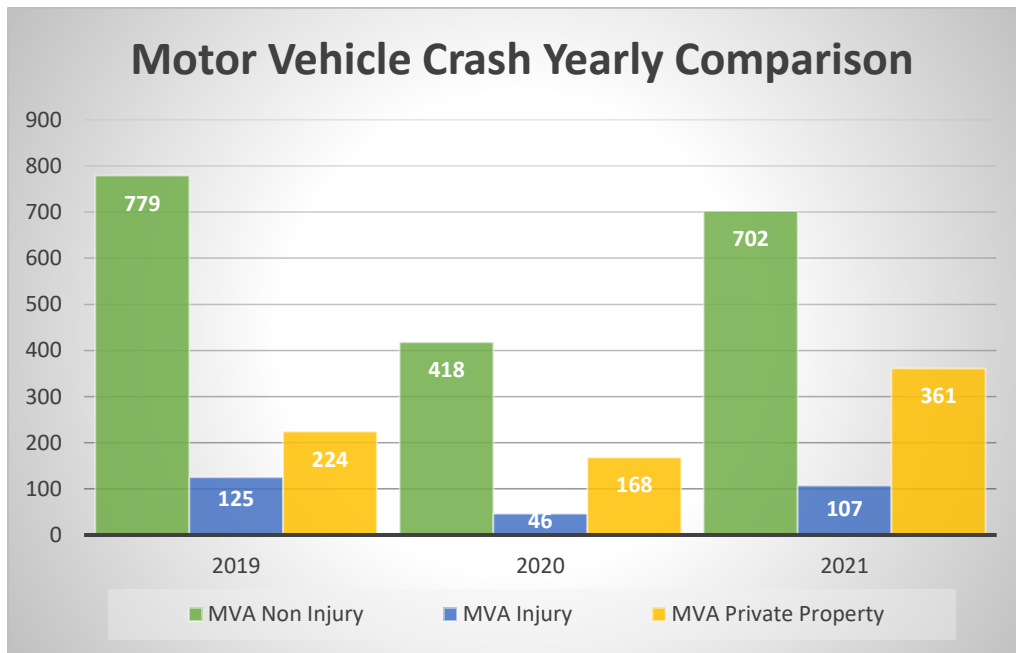
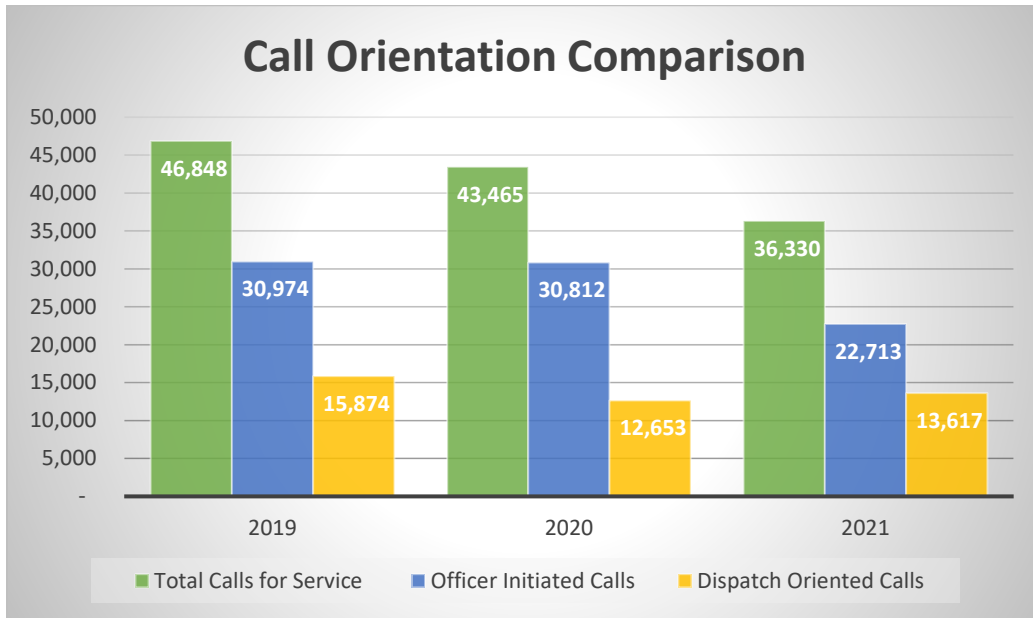
Organizational Chart



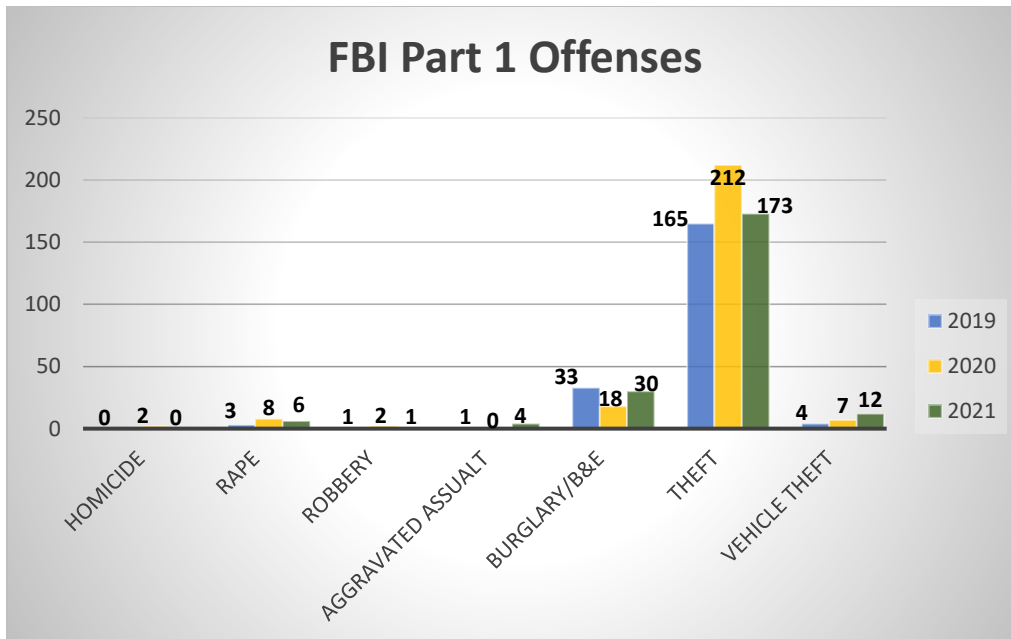
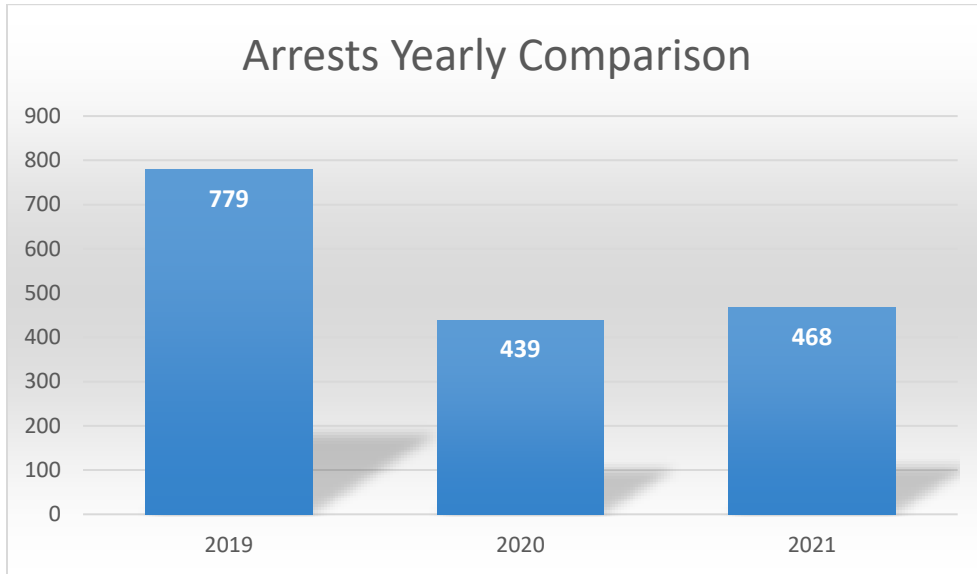
Department Statistics

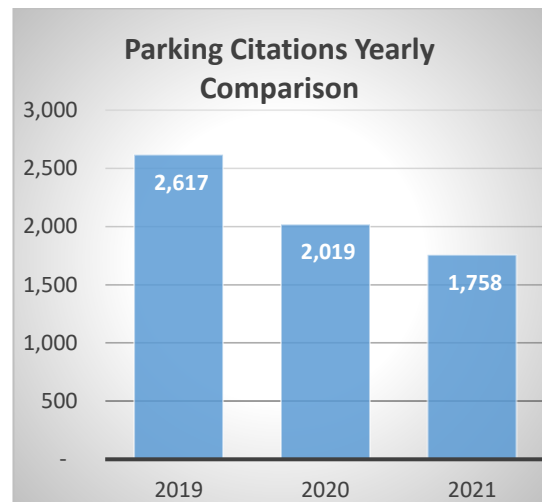
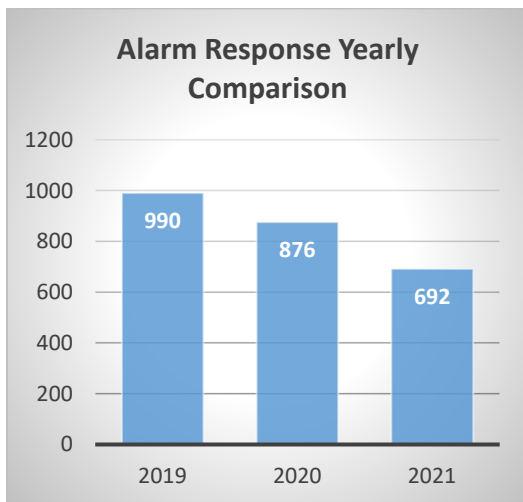
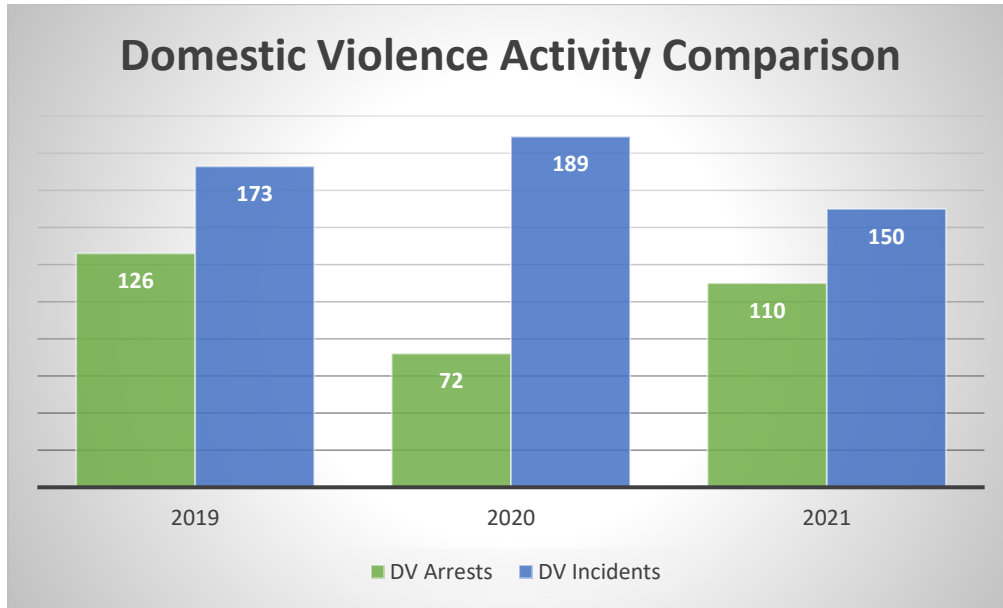


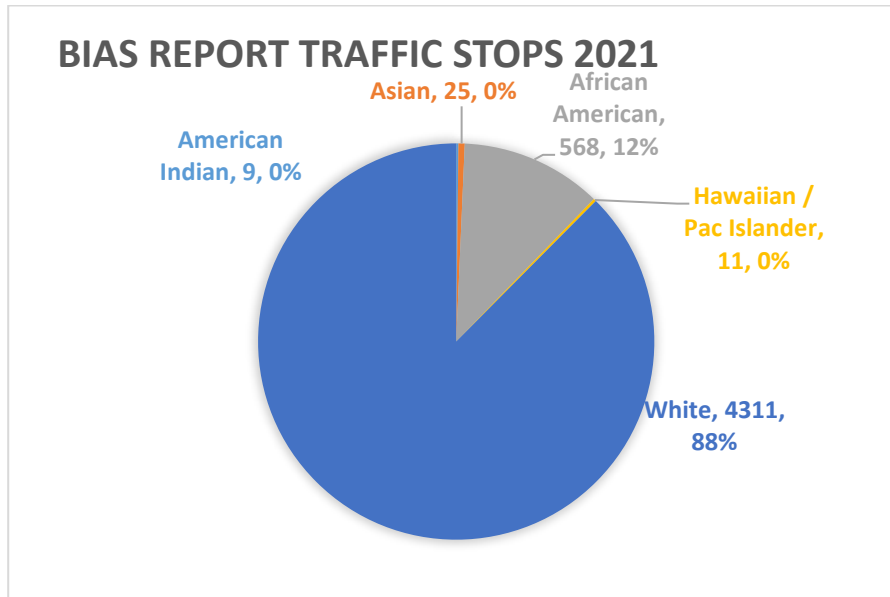
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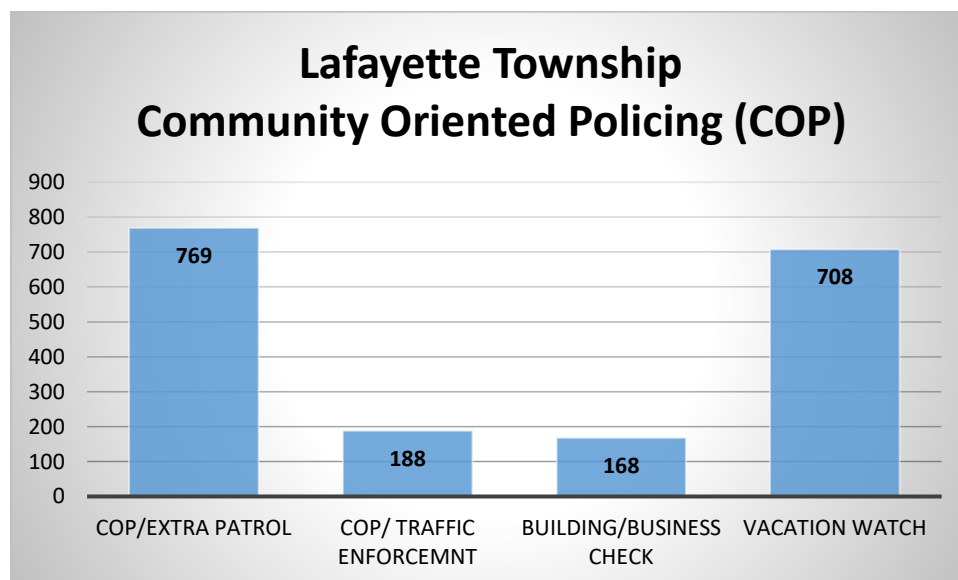






Lafayette Township Police Service –

Medina Police Department provides contractual police services to Lafayette Township. MPD officers responded to over 3,000 calls for service originating 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 full-time officers and is commanded by Lieutenant Scott Marcum.

In 2021 the Medina Police Department focused on training in de-escalation. Each officer attended a course on de-escalating volatile situations and trained in using stop sticks for a safe alternative to ceasing vehicle pursuits. Additionally, officers completed training in pursuit policy, use force policy, taser policy, firearms, bike patrol, interview and interrogation techniques, drones, leadership, supervision, dynamics of encounters with citizens, and critical incident team training.



Three new officers joined our force in 2021. Officer Lauren Brooks, Ian Baker, and Tyler Howell were all hired. Officer Lauren Brooks attended the Stark State Police Academy. Officer Ian Baker came to us after working four years with Elyria PD. In December, both Officer Brooks and Baker successfully completed their field training and began working road patrol.



Officer Tyler Howell was also hired and is enrolled in basic training at the Cuyahoga Community College Police Academy. Tyler is expected to graduate and begin field training in February of 2022. We were fortunate to find three outstanding candidates within a very competitive police recruiting job market.



Community events returned in 2021 after the activity pause due to COVID in 2020. Officers transitioned back to community engagements and demonstrations. Some of the events officers attended include; National Night Out, various job fairs and block parties, Halloween events, Candle Light Walk, Kids Day on the Square, Visit from Santa, Shop with a Cop, and many other community events.

Officers are looking forward to additional community involvement in 2022.

Vehicle Pursuits Review –

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 critical factors to the successful conclusion of a pursuit are self-discipline and sound professional judgment. An officer's 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 seven vehicle pursuit incidents in 2021. All seven pursuits were reviewed. The corresponding incident report, evidence, and video footage were collected and analyzed. Five of the seven vehicle pursuit incidents were compliant with our Policy Manual, 314 VEHICLE PURSUITS.

One officer was issued a letter of reprimand for failing to communicate speeds and reckless driving during a vehicle pursuit. Another officer was given a verbal reprimand for failing to use a siren at the beginning of the pursuit.

Use of Force Review –

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

The Medina Police Department used force in twenty-four incidents in 2021. All twenty-four incidents were reviewed. Similar 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. Twenty-three of the twenty-four incidents complied with Medina Police Policy 300.4 REPORTING THE USE OF FORCE.

In one incident, an officer was issued a letter of reprimand for his conduct toward the public. The supervisor on scene at this incident received a letter of reprimand for failing to supervise and intervene.

The twenty-four use of force incidents in 2021 are represented in the following demographics by race and sex; 11 White Males, 3 White Females, 10 Black Males.

K9 Deployments –

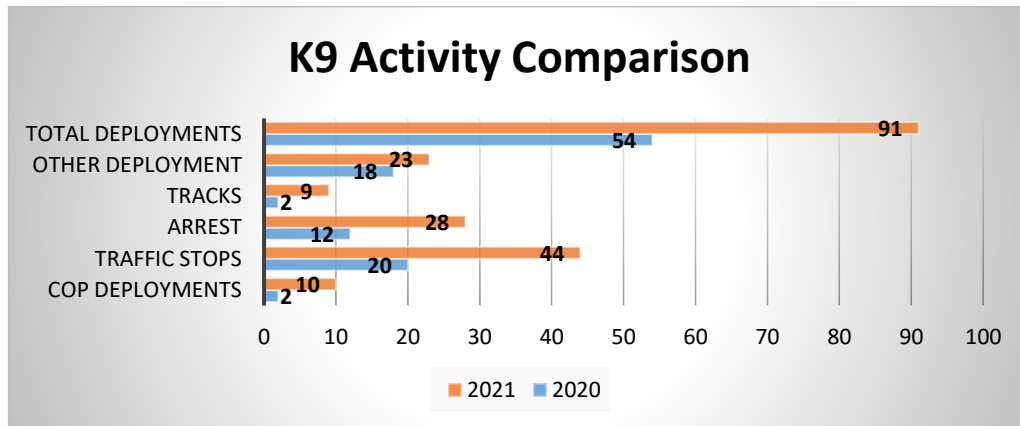


In 2021 canine deployments increased from the previous year. The K9 team was deployed to several community-oriented events; however, community events deployments remained lower in 2021 due to COVID-19.

Interdepartmental deployments of the K9 team increased, as well, in 2021. Nero assisted a multitude of agencies in addition to the load he incurs from Medina Police Department. Nero assisted Brunswick PD, Medina County Sheriff's Office, Seville PD, Lodi PD, and even Homeland Security with arrests this past year. The collaborative efforts exerted both in manpower and resources within the City of Medina, and surrounding communities exemplified solidarity, which paved the way for great outcomes.

Nero was involved with several notable cases this year. He assisted in the seizure of approximately 450 doses(1.1kg) of fentanyl/heroin pressed pills and various other drugs and

paraphernalia. His successful tracking led to multiple arrests. He tracked a suspect involved in a vehicle theft fleeing officers, and he tracked two suspects apprehended for breaking and entering. Furthermore, Nero assisted in locating two juveniles (9 y/o and 6 y/o) that wandered away from the residence.



School Resource Officers-



The Medina Police Department now provides three full-time School Resource Officers (SRO) that work collaboratively with the Medina City School District. Under the command of Lieutenant Dave Birckbichler, SRO Nicholas MacLarren is assigned to Medina Senior High School, SRO Al Roland is assigned to A.I. Root Middle School, and SRO Raven Ory is housed at Claggett Middle School. These SRO's primarily ensure a safe and positive learning environment for students, staff, facilities, and the community. The SRO's role is based on a triad concept; law enforcement, teacher, and informed counselor.



Each SRO is responsible for any calls for service occurring within their respective school in their law enforcement role. They also collaborate with other agencies such as the Medina County Health Department and Medina County Job and Family Services. The SRO's serve as liaisons between the youth and law enforcement by establishing relationships in a non-

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confrontational environment. As counselors, School Resource Officers 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, Roland, and Ory recognize the



importance of mentoring youth at risk. They work diligently to build rapport with students at risk and take extra time to provide guidance to those students with special needs. In 2021 Officer Ory completed 80 hours of training to become certified as a D.A.R.E. instructor. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program is the world's most comprehensive drug prevention curricula. Officer Ory teaches the concepts of D.A.R.E. to 5th-grade students within the Medina City

Schools. The effective multicultural curriculum includes subject matter revolving around bullying, internet & social media safety, vaping, and negative effects of all types of drug use. Officer Ory engages the students in scenario-based activities and encourages the development of positive and effective decision-making skills.

As teachers, our SRO's lead and participate in after-school activities to build positive relationships. Our SRO's lead many youth programs such as "ROADWISE"; a teenage awareness driving program using driving simulators to promote safe driving habits. In conjunction with the American Automobile Association and during driver safety month, our SRO's provide students and staff with vehicle safety checks. They also teach concepts of the "Sober Truth Program," intending to reduce the use of alcohol in our youth. SRO's teach applicable self-defense strategies and basic safety awareness through the "Campus Awareness Training" (CAT) to graduating females transitioning to college campus life. Also among the SRO schedule are various activities and programs such as "See Something/Say Something" presentations, Bike to School, Shop with a Cop, Special Olympics, dances, rallies, and assemblies. They are active participants in the Medina County Police Activities League.

While the primary goal of our School Resource Officers is to provide safety, they also play an integral 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 that is comprised of numerous county agencies. SWAT team members attended the following team trainings in 2021:

January – Medina County SWAT Medics trained on Combat Casualty Care

February – Force on Force and Scenario Role Play

March – Use of Force Case Law, barricades, hostage and officer rescue

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April – Open area searches with drone team, range
May – Physical fitness, less-lethal usage (test administered, all passed the 80% standard), on-site of a vacant house for team breaching and window breaking
June – Range, use of medical gear, force on force scenario training at vacant houses
July – Team scenario's, throw phone use
August – Scenarios, force on force at MK Airsoft
September - Two-day training in Uhrichsville, OH, flat range, medical and live fire in the shoothouse
October – Various scenarios with force on force
November – Range, open area searches utilizing drones
December – Vehicle, bus assaults

SWAT Team Activations in 2020 –

February 5 – Bank St. Village of Lodi – Search warrant arrest for a case involving drug possession and sexual abuse of a minor. SWAT secured the minor on-site, and the suspect was arrested. Suspect was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

April 8 – Montville Twp – Search warrant. Two subjects were detained.

May 12, - City of Medina – Barricaded subject threatening to kill law enforcement officers. After several hours the subject exited the residence and was taken into custody.

May 22 – Lodi Road, Harrisville Twp – Search warrant arrest. Male threatened wife, as she attempted to flee he discharged a weapon at her. Subject was intoxicated. Subject exited residence without incident.

July 21 – Forrest Lake Drive, Montville Twp – Male exited home and threatened Roto-Rooter workers with a handgun. He refused to exit the home. SWAT made entry by use of the drone and robot. He was observed hiding in a basement closet, subject was taken into custody without incident.

August 9 – Wilbur Road – Barricaded subject after a probate order was executed from the County Prosecutor. After hours on scene and the subject refusing to exit SWAT was activated. The SWAT drone operator located the subject. The subject surrendered and was transported to the hospital for a mental health evaluation.

October 21 – City of Brunswick – Barricaded male inside vehicle. The male had sold crystal methamphetamine to an undercover agent. The Brunswick operator of the SWAT team arrived with the M-Wrap, and the suspect exited his vehicle prior to SWAT team arrival on scene.

December 30 – City of Wadsworth - Arrest warrant involving domestic violence and several outstanding felony warrants. The suspect was said to be armed with an AR-15 and claiming he would not be taken to jail alive. SWAT eventually entered the residence after hours of

attempting to call him out, drones losing connection in the home and the battery of the robot expiring. Suspect was located in a hidden crawlspace and arrested without incident.

Community Outreach -

Shop with a Cop-

Despite limitations indicative of our time, we witnessed the return of the traditional Shop with a Cop program in 2021. The community showed earnest support with an outpour of donations that funds this beloved event. The Medina Police Department was represented by ten departmental members and hosted eighteen children. The Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #204 supports this county-wide event and rallies many county law enforcement organizations together. Law enforcement members from around the county accompany less fortunate children through a day of festive holiday activities, including a visit from Santa, breakfast, lunch, transport in a lights and siren vehicle parade, and shopping at Walmart. We are thankful for the generosity of our community. We are also grateful for the officers and Medina Police staff that offer their time and energy to this event and various collaborative organizations that provide volunteer support.



Juvenile Diversion-

The Medina Police Department participates in the Medina County Juvenile Traffic Diversion Program. A program offered to all first-time juvenile traffic offenders ages 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. Medina Police referred 68 juveniles to the program in 2021, with 64 of them completing the program.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

Detective Bureau -

Sergeant Brett McNabb supervises the detective bureau. Three officers are assigned as detectives to the bureau. Detectives rotate through a weekly on-call schedule throughout the year. The detective bureau is responsible for investigating felony and misdemeanor cases and completing 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 court proceedings.



In 2021, 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 collaborated with the United States Secret Service, which made them eligible for advanced training related to forensic examination of phones and mobile devices. The detectives subsequently completed a forensic examination of 30 phones, and the examinations provided significant evidence in numerous criminal investigations.

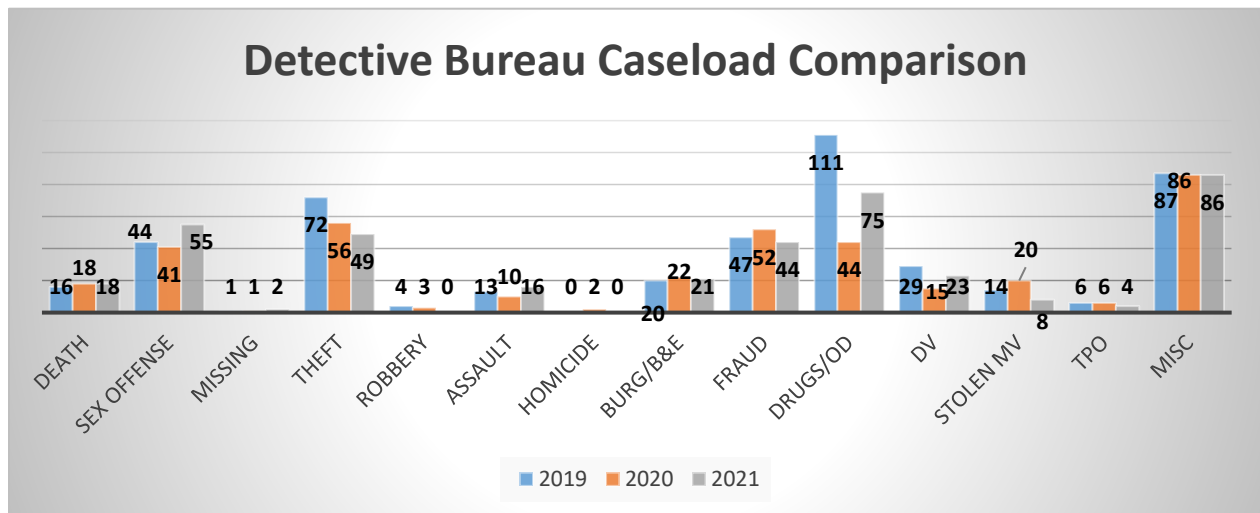
In 2021, MPD launched an Unmanned Aerial Systems or drone program. One detective is tasked with leading the program. He is responsible for maintaining equipment, training requirements, and deployments. He, one additional detective, one patrol sergeant, and two additional patrol officers obtained FAA certifications to fly drones for law enforcement

purposes. 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 25 search warrants, performed 212 hours of surveillance, and made 12 arrests.

Detectives are assigned to the Child Abduction Response Team or CART, a county-wide, multi-jurisdictional team. The detectives assigned to the team regularly participate in training and scenarios specific to investigations involving missing or abducted children and at-risk adults. In line with the MPD's community-oriented policing tradition, detectives collaborated with community partners to offer training. Medina City Schools sent a high school senior to shadow members of the Detective Bureau as part of their CEO Shadowing program. Various aspects of the job were taught to include writing search warrants and processing crime scenes. Detectives also gave a presentation on our Unmanned Aerial Systems program to the Medina Co. Junior Leadership class.



The Detective Bureau was forwarded 443 cases in 2021. Cases are triaged prior to assignment, which prioritizes solvable cases with actionable leads or evidence over cases with a low probability of being solved. More than 100 cases were presented to the grand jury resulting in over 124 felony charges. More than 75 search warrants were obtained, along with countless requests for grand jury subpoenas. Detectives also filed more than 50 juvenile charges.



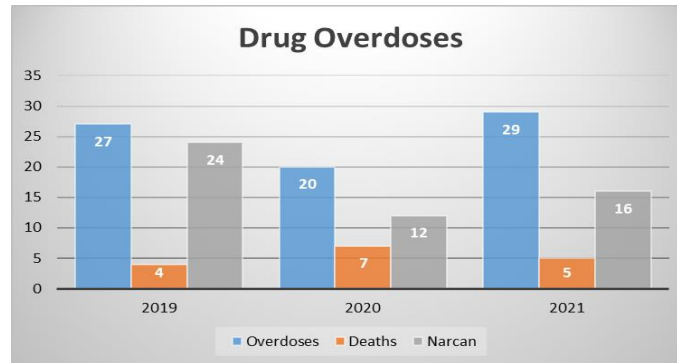
Opioid Information -

Overdose investigations increased in 2021 compared to 2020. Medina Police Department investigated twenty reports of an overdose, and Medina officers deployed

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Naloxone sixteen times to aid lifesaving measures of an overdosing person. Five deaths occurred due to an opioid-related overdose in 2021.

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



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 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. In addition to the preservation of property and evidence, the property officer handles testing submissions, tends to inquiries regarding property, and organizes the annual property auction. Support may be provided by Records department personnel and intermittent volunteers when necessary and sustainable.



Property Room Activity 2021

	<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>2021</u>	1161	494	203	1081	1421	65
<u>2020</u>	1061	342	156	1505	1664	44
<u>2019</u>	1217	497	219	949	955	49

Dispatch/Communications -

In totality, The Medina Police Department Communications Center provides dispatch services for five agencies. Dispatch and phone services are provided to the Medina Police and the Medina City Fire Department. Three other agencies contract our dispatch service; Montville Police Department, Medina Township Police Department, and the Cleveland Clinic's Life Support Team. Additionally, the Communication Center serves as a point of contact for all City services outside regular business hours since the communication center operates 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

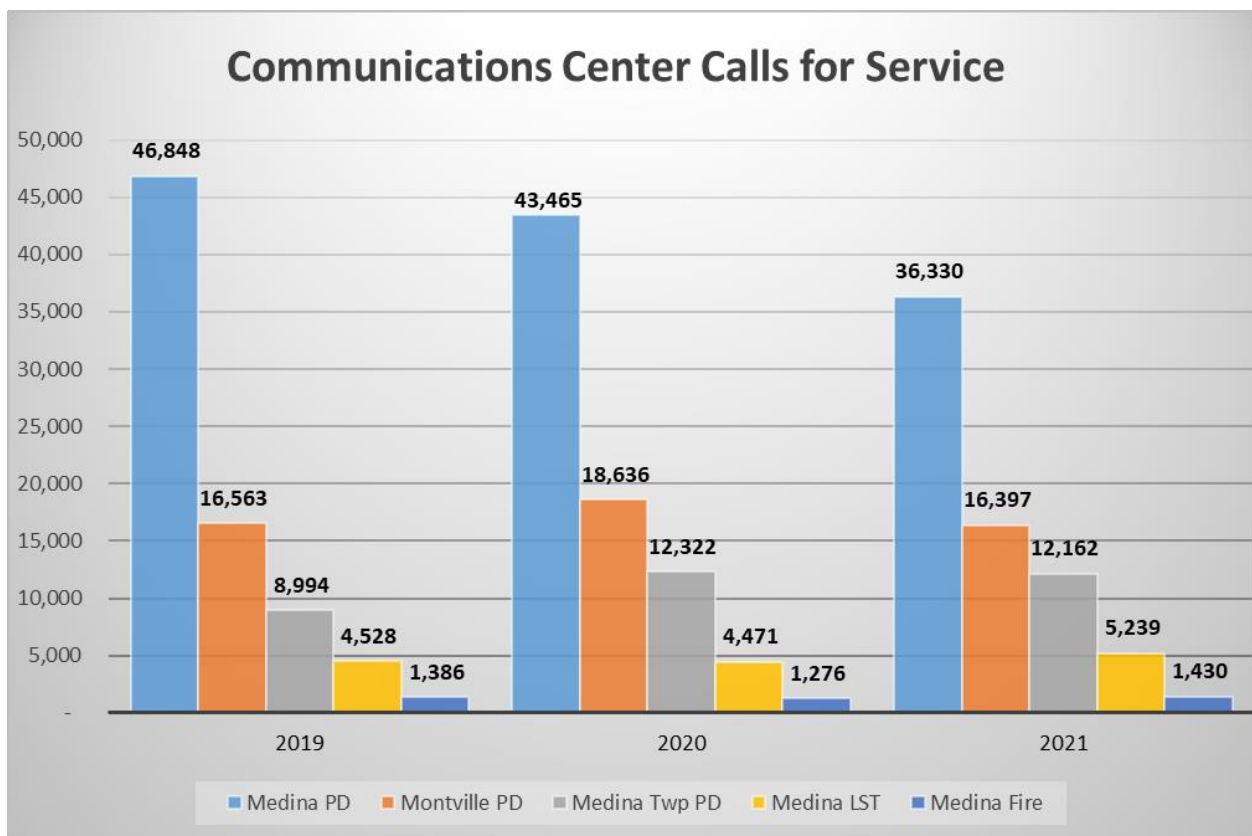


In 2021 the Communications Center staff handled 68,319 Calls for Service (CFS) to include all five agencies served. They also handled 8,558 9-1-1 calls and processed 83,097 calls on the non-emergency phone line. Our communication operators answered 75% of 9-1-1 calls in less than 3 seconds, and 98.7% of 9-1-1 calls were answered under 10 seconds which significantly exceeds the standard set by NENA 2.2.1 established at 90% within 15 seconds and 95% within 20 seconds.

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Several major upgrades were completed in the Communications Center in 2021. The inclusion of both the Harris and Marcs radio systems allows us to have complete interoperability with every first responder agency in Medina County. A video wall was installed that places all incoming feeds to a centralized location allowing the communications operators efficiency in assisting responders. Also updated in 2021 was the voice recorder to an internet-based system that integrates into our CAD system.

We expect to continue upgrades to the communications center into 2022. The current radio hardware, which was state of the art in 2007 when it was installed, is now outdated and no longer supported in either hardware or technical support. Research has begun on the replacement of this obsolete equipment, with completion expected in 2022.



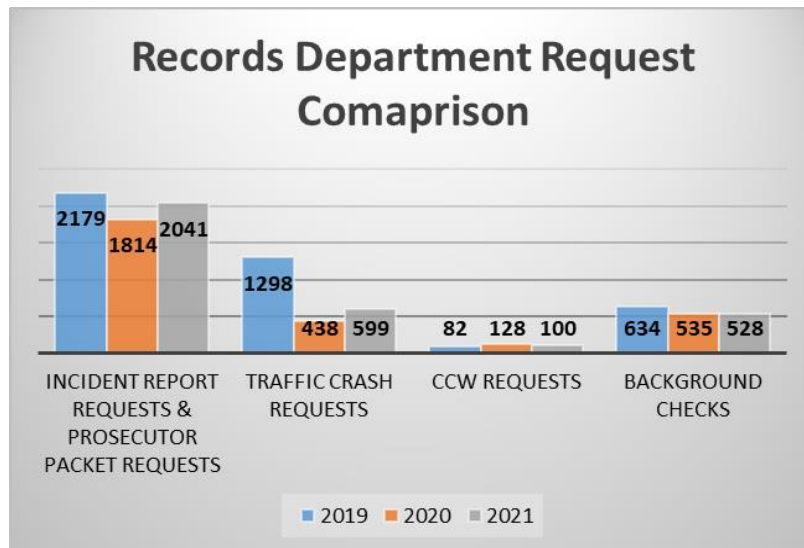
Records Department –

The Records Division employs one full-time and three part-time employees under the supervision of Lieutenant Dave Birckbichler. Records staff serve as an integral point of support to all divisions of the Medina Police Department and the many agencies with which we collaborate and to the public.



All police records, including many forms of citations, car and body camera video, and electronic recordings such as radio communication and 911 calls, are processed, stored, and distributed 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 follow the department retention schedule. They organize, file, store, and prepare 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 source of general information. The records division is an essential entity in disseminating documents throughout the judicial system and 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 consisted of 21 members in 2021. Eleven members were 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, 202 members volunteered nearly 3000 hours to the community and 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.

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 2022.

