

City of Powell Police Department

2016 Annual Report



Gary L. Vest
Chief of Police

Police Department

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Powell Police Department to safeguard persons and property through preparedness and vigilance. The department holds true to a community policing philosophy. Its members shall continually strive for excellence in service, training, and professional development.

Core Values

Our core values are honesty, integrity, dependability, service to others before self, and a genuine desire to pursue what is right and good.

Message from the Chief

The Powell Police Department is dedicated to providing the highest quality of service to the citizens of Powell. Powell police officers work closely with residents and businesses to identify and respond appropriately to the demands of this growing community.



Gary L. Vest, Chief of Police

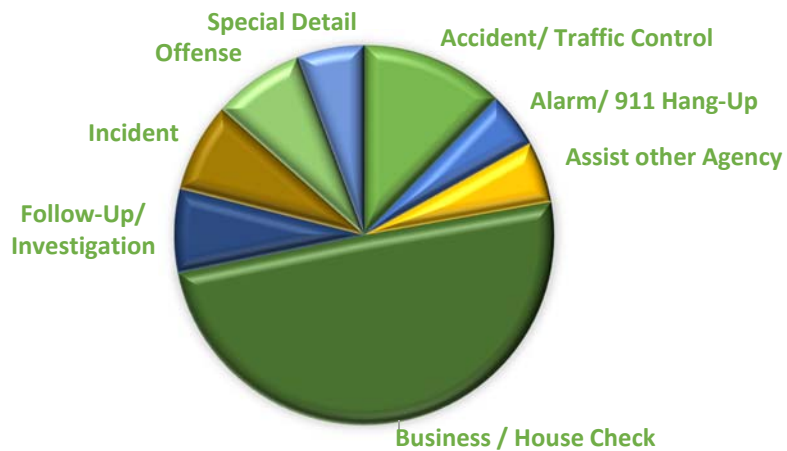
Statistics

	Description	2016	2015	Change
A	Calls for Service	19,128	17,673	8.2%
B	Dispatched Calls	5,638	5,380	4.8%
C	Police Reports	1,276	1,383	-7.7%
D	Adult Arrests	123	133	-7.5%
E	Juvenile Arrests	27	10	170.0%
F	Traffic Stops	1,124	1,213	-7.3%
G	Traffic Citations	219	274	-20.1%
H	Traffic Crashes	170	183	-7.1%
I	False Alarms	370	352	5.1%
J	House Watches	439	440	-0.2%
K	Preventative Patrols	1,221	883	38.3%
L	Stacked Calls	192	235	-18.3%

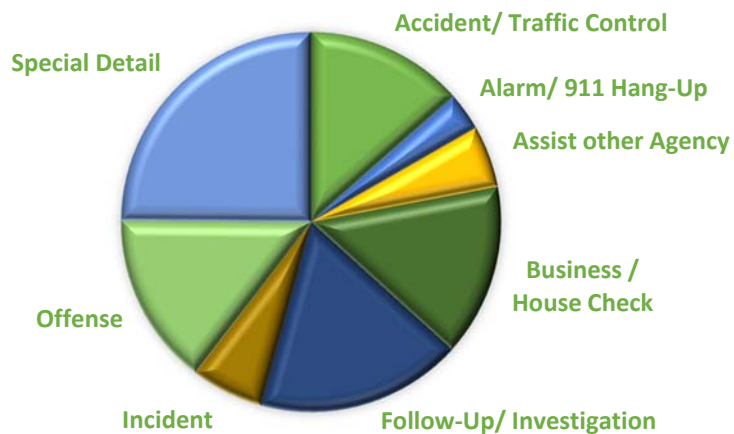
- A: All activity generated by officers as well as all citizen requests for police response.
- B: Excludes officer-initiated calls.
- C: Offense and incident reports, traffic crashes, arrests, citations, false alarms.
- E: One underage drinking party accounted for eight of the juvenile arrests in 2016.
- G: Includes citations written after traffic stops and traffic crashes.
- H: Includes public and private property crashes.

Nature of Calls

NUMBER OF CALLS BY NATURE



TIME ON CALLS BY NATURE



Crime Statistics

Description	2015	2014	2013
Murder	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	2	0	0
Aggravated Assault	4	3	2
Total Violent Crime	6	3	2
Burglary/B&E	17	23	17
Larceny Theft	63	99	78
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	5	2
Total Property Crime	80	127	97

*Source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System
2016 numbers are not available yet.*



There were 60 thefts from motor vehicles in Powell in 2016, most from unlocked cars parked in driveways.

Notable Cases

Sex Offense | A former Powell business owner pled guilty to charges that he had sex with his underage employees after supplying them with alcohol and drugs. Dan Kitsos was sentenced to six years in prison, five years post-release control, and a \$10,000 fine. He will be classified as a Tier III sex offender.



Burglaries | Edward Green pled guilty to several counts of burglary and attempted burglary after he was arrested in July along with a 17-year-old male. The break-ins occurred overnight while residents slept on Ascot Court, Coldwater Drive, and Gediz Drive. Sentencing

will be in January.

Big Cat | This photograph sparked rumors of a mountain lion, puma or wild cat loose in Powell. It turned out to be a big tabby cat.



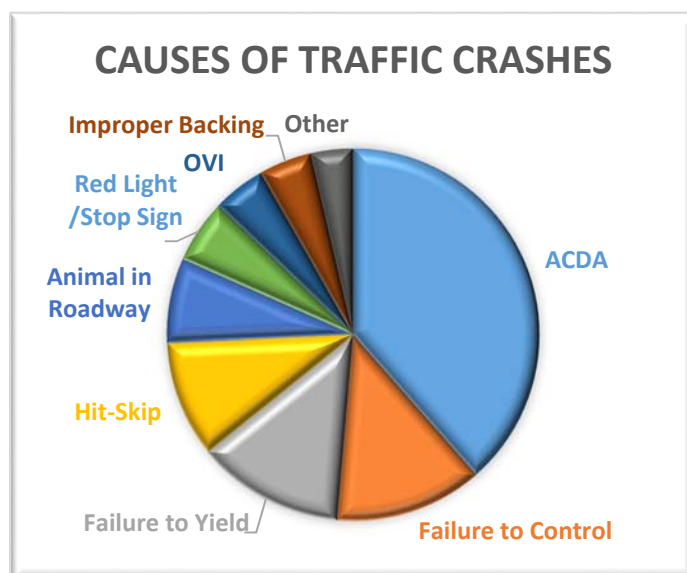
Traffic Crashes

The Powell Police Department took 170 traffic crash reports in 2016 (on public and private property). This represented a decrease of 7.1% from 2015. The most accident-prone roadways were also our busiest roadways: Sawmill Parkway, State Route 750, and Liberty Street.

There were no fatal crashes in 2016. Injury accidents accounted for 17.6% of all traffic crashes reported in 2016.



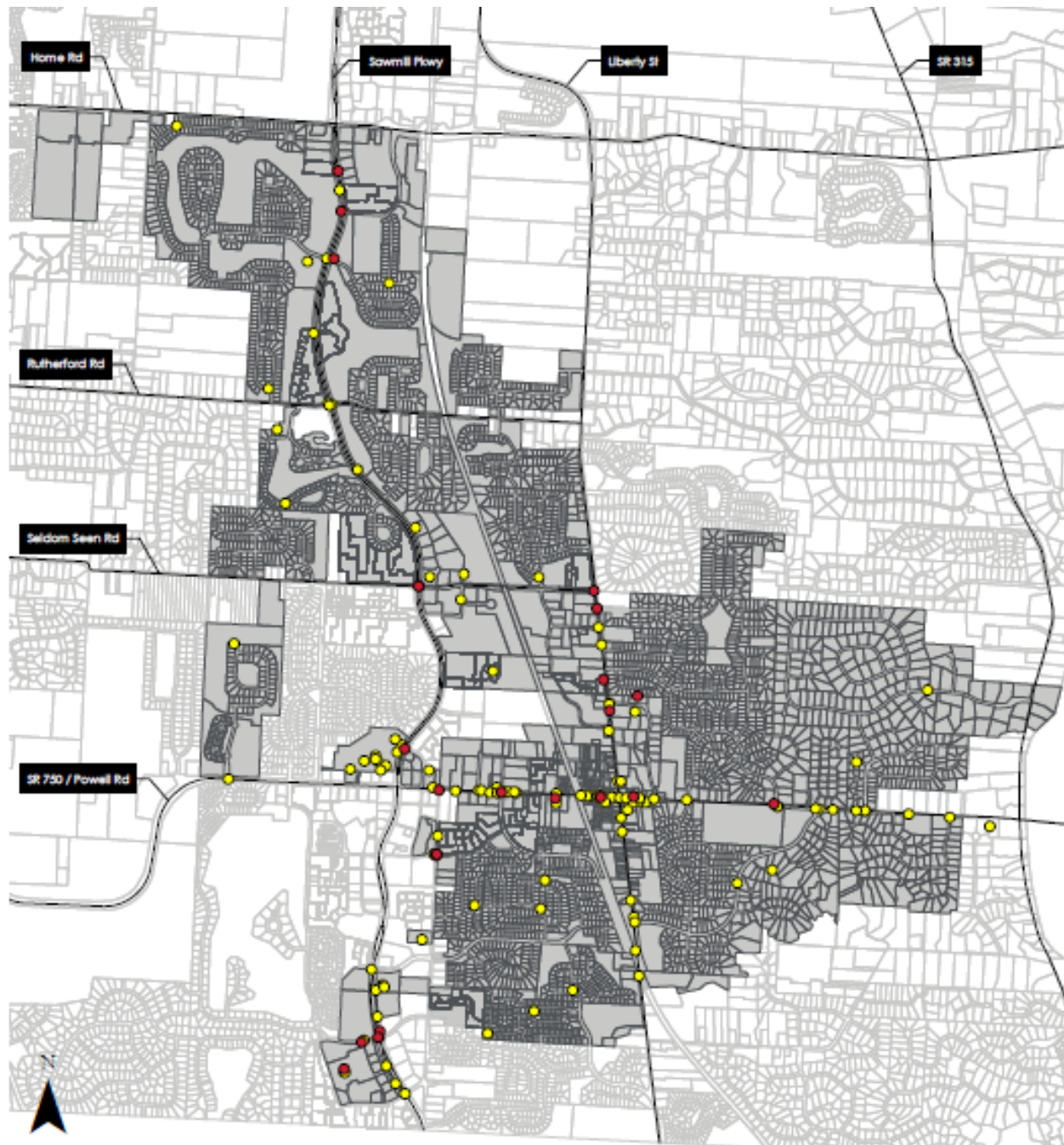
The main cause of crashes handled by the Powell Police is vehicles following too closely and thus not having enough time to stop once traffic begins to slow on these main routes.



Reducing traffic crashes in the City of Powell continues to be one of the priority goals of the Powell Police Department.

Officers watch for vehicles in these high-crash zones that are following too closely, speeding, or otherwise driving recklessly.

2016 Crashes



Red – Injury
Yellow – Property Damage

Map by Powell Development Dept.

Patrol

Patrol officers are first responders to all police-related calls for service. They must have the skills, knowledge, and ability to handle virtually every aspect of police work, including emergency and routine calls for service, traffic crashes, and criminal investigations. They are tasked with drug enforcement, enforcing state and local laws, and making contact with the public. They solve problems, write reports, testify in court, and actively promote crime prevention and reduction strategies.



The Patrol Division consists of three shifts, each supervised by a sergeant. The sergeants report to the Deputy Chief, who reports to the Chief of Police. The sergeants oversee day-to-day operations and implement the goals and objectives of the Powell Police Department as a whole, as well as the duties

assigned specifically to their particular shifts.

For first shift, this most often means traffic enforcement, business checks, and administrative duties.

Second shift officers also perform traffic enforcement and are usually the friendly faces seen at children's Scout meetings and homeowner association meetings.

Third shift is the driving force behind our agency's Preventative Patrol program, checking for open garage doors, unlocked businesses, and other behaviors that raise the risk of crime. Together, the three shifts provide a seamless approach to community policing.

Investigations

The Detective Bureau is comprised of two detectives supervised by Deputy Chief Hrytzik. Detectives Darren Smith and Ryan Pentz process crime scenes, interview witnesses, contact outside jurisdictions, write reports, work closely with prosecutors' offices, and testify in courts in Delaware and Franklin counties. They are the liaison with the Grand Jury.



Detective Smith is assigned to the Cyber Crimes Task Force that includes members from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and other surrounding agencies. Detective Pentz is assigned to the Human Trafficking Task force. Both detectives are also part of the Central Ohio Investigative Network (COIN) and

the Central Ohio Child Abduction and Response Team (CART).

The bureau manages criminal intelligence information, conducts employee backgrounds, processes crime scenes, and stores collected evidence and photographs.

Detectives investigate both violent and property crimes. Investigations are reviewed and assigned a priority based on the seriousness of the offense and/or the solvability of the crime. Some crimes may take months, even years, to fully investigate and prosecute. Detectives assigned to investigate these crimes have developed an advanced level of expertise by attending specialized training and from years of experience working complex cases.



Training



Powell Police Officers, Detectives, Clerks, and Supervisors are required to attend certain key training classes throughout the year to keep their skills sharp and up to date. These include DT (Defensive Tactics), Firearms Re-qualifications, CPR and First Aid Certification, Active Shooter, All Hazard Training, Ethics, and Legal Updates.

In addition to their mandated training, department employees are encouraged to seek additional training

which benefits their job functions. Such training not only benefits the employee, but also the agency and the community as a whole.

The department completed **1,818.75 hours** of training in 2016.



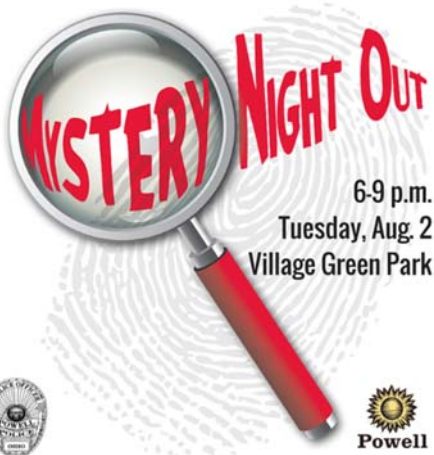
Department Events



Click It or Ticket | From May 23 to June 5, Powell Police participated in the Delaware County Annual Click-it-or-Ticket campaign. This program has been the cornerstone of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's efforts to get Americans to buckle up.

Memorial

Day Parade | The Memorial Day parade stepped off with more than 60 units. Olentangy Liberty and Olentangy High School bands performed, and numerous local veterans rode with the Street Elite Corvette Club and other vehicles. After the parade, city officials conducted a brief ceremony honoring those who died while serving in the military. Jerred Phillips from Summit for Soldiers delivered the keynote address. Two new bricks were dedicated.



Mystery Night Out | About 100 teams followed the clues around town to find the stolen firefighter's helmet and boots. Jets supplied free pizza, and a DJ entertained crowds at Village Green Park. Various Delaware County safety and welfare agencies staffed information booths. Dozens of prizes were awarded to successful teams.

Community Bonfire | A fall family favorite returned to Village Green Park on October 15, 2016. At the 20th annual Community Bonfire, residents enjoyed free hot dogs, donut holes, cider and marshmallows, to the backdrop of a roaring bonfire. The Buckeye football game was projected on a large screen. Chief Vest and Liberty Township Fire Battalion Chief Reardon and retired Fire Chief Bernans hosted the event.



Veterans Day |

Powell Police

Department hosted the eighth annual Veterans Day celebration November 11, 2016. Marine Staff Sergeant Tom Storey from Hope for Heroes delivered the keynote address. Village Academy supplied the music and a patriotic reading. Chief dedicated four new bricks in the Greater Powell Veterans Memorial.

Coffee with a Cop | In a time when open communication and trust between a police department and the community they serve is

paramount, officers created this event in order to break down barriers and encourage dialogue. Every third Tuesday, officers met with citizens for a cup of coffee and conversation at a local venue. These events have no agenda by design and simply allow citizens to either voice concerns or ask questions from their police department.



Shop with a Cop | Seventy-four law-enforcement officers, led by the Delaware County Sheriff's Office, volunteered to help needy children, 12 and under, shop for clothing and toys at Meijer. The children were nominated for the event by counselors, principals and teachers. Meijer donated the merchandise.



*Detective Darren Smith
(left).*



Officer Ben Boruchowitz.

Citizens Police Academy

The Powell Police Department hosted its eighth Citizens Police Academy in 2016. This 10-week program, which is free and open to all, aims to educate the public about the role of law enforcement in our community. The classes meet once a week for three hours a week, and at least one four-hour ride-



along with police officers is encouraged.

The program includes training on traffic stops, crime prevention, criminal law, firearms, media, and crime scene investigation. The instructors are drawn from Powell's patrol officers, sergeants, and detectives.

At the conclusion of the

program, graduates receive a certificate of completion and an invitation to join the Powell Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association. Members of the association volunteer their time helping with various Police Department projects and activities.



New Officers



Our first new officer of 2016, **Matt Cook**, comes to Powell from the Piqua Police Department where he was a patrol officer, tactical team member, a field training officer, an evidence technician, an accident investigator, and an officer in charge. He has been in law enforcement for eight years.

Matt graduated from Rhodes State with a Criminal Justice degree. Matt spent eight years with the Army Reserve which included a 16 month deployment in Iraq. Matt lives in Worthington with his wife and two daughters. Matt says he is "excited to be a part of the Powell Police Department and is loving living in the Columbus area."



Our second new officer of 2016, **Dimitri Tuzin**, was born in Minsk, Belarus. His family immigrated to the United States when he was 9 and he is bi-lingual in English and Russian. He and his family live in Powell. Dimitri is the first Powell officer to graduate from Olentangy Liberty High School. He attended OSU before graduating from Columbus

State Community College Police Academy. Dimitri has always aspired to become a police officer and says, "I am overjoyed to be working within this great community in an amazing department with great co-workers."

CALEA Accreditation



In March, the Powell Police Department expects to receive accreditation for the sixth time from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Officer Scott Sanford led the accreditation process, although all agency staff participated.

The department underwent a Gold Standard assessment in October of

2016. According to the assessment report:

"The team found the Powell Police Department to be well prepared, hospitable and exhibiting the highest levels of professionalism one would expect of a CALEA accredited agency.

Each member of the agency was well versed in agency directives and CALEA standards.

The assessment team concurred that the accreditation standards are woven into the professional fabric of the Powell Police Department. A review of statistical data only goes to prove the observations and conclusions by the team.

From the Chief down to the newest member of the organization, the dedication to the people and businesses of the City of Powell is the highest priority. Through direct law enforcement service in the field, good stewardship of resources and involvement in community civic ventures, the city should be very proud of its police force."

Awards & Recognition

Officer A. Wilt was named Officer of the Year for the heart she put into her role with the Citizens Police Academy, Mystery Night Out and Coffee with a Cop.



Officer Waymire received a Letter of Recognition for his impromptu shop-with-a-cop moment with a young admirer in Target.

Sergeant Roach received a Letter of Recognition for assisting a homeless person above and beyond the call of duty.

Officer Hiltz received a Letter of Recognition for assisting a homeless person above and beyond the call of duty.

Goals & Objectives

Traffic safety in the City of Powell remains the top priority for the Patrol division in 2017. We will use social media to keep the community informed of traffic conditions and focused enforcement efforts.

In addition, the agency is committed to the following goals:

- Begin the first phase of implementing body cameras and new cruiser video systems.
- Perform an audit of internal reports to review the necessity for each report. Determine what reports the Records Management System (RMS) can produce to avoid duplication of effort.
- Recruit a new officer to begin in summer of 2017.



Reserved parking for public exchanges was implemented in 2016.