



2020 Annual Report



City of Powell Police Department

Stephen Hrytzik
Chief of Police

Message from the Chief



Welcome to the Powell Police Department's 2020 Annual Report.

What a year! As I finish my first full year serving as your Chief, I reflect back on one of the most trying years for our country. The global pandemic hit us hard, and we were affected by the national concern with the administration of justice by some law enforcement agencies.

The Powell community cares about the future we are building for our children. That was never more evident than the support given to one local young woman who wanted to exercise her constitutional

right to peacefully protest. The police department worked with organizers, including residents and local business owners, to help plan a demonstration that allowed over 700 participants to walk through Village Green Park and our downtown area safely. The event ended with a rally in the park where I was given the opportunity to address the participants. Everyone was respectful and listened to the experiences and concerns of our community members.

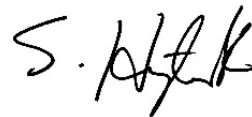
As a result of this experience, I created an advisory group composed of residents to help me understand the needs of our diverse community and ways the police department can make a positive impact.

The police department is extremely appreciative of the support and encouragement from the Powell community, and we also thank those who question us. We grow and improve only if we are challenged or we challenge ourselves.

During the fall, the department was evaluated by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) for our sixth re-accreditation. We received the final report and look forward to our virtual commission hearing in March 2021.

In 2020, we appointed our first Community Oriented Policing officer, a position that will further enhance our relations with the Powell community.

Yours in service,



Stephen Hrytzik
Chief of Police



Mission and Values

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.



Officer Audrey Wilt gave a belt display and presented information on Women's Situational Awareness at Pinot's Palette in October.

COVID-19

The department acted early to procure the necessary supplies for cleaning, disinfecting, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Employees and visitors still take their temperature before entering the station. Schedules were adjusted to minimize the risk of exposure. Most training and Community Engagement activities were canceled, postponed, or conducted virtually.

The police lobby remained open, but residents were encouraged to contact us by phone or email. Fingerprinting and notary services were suspended. We continued to process applications for peddler permits as we are required by

law, but



Detectives suit up to process a COVID-19 scene.



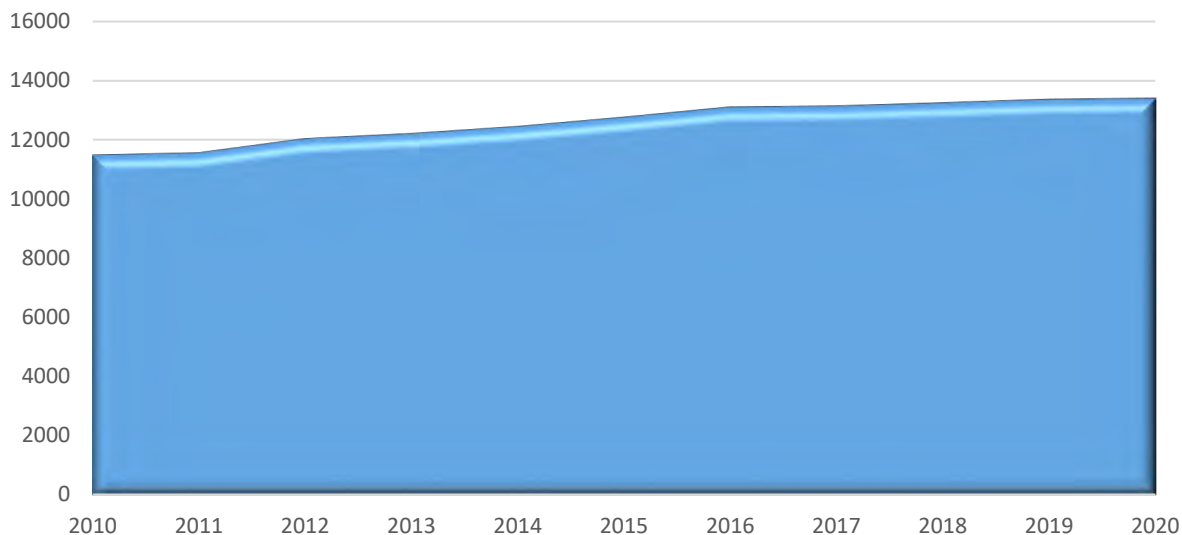
applications were down from 86 last year to 39 in 2020. Applicants answered health screening questions and had their temperature checked.

We offer Well-Being House Checks to residents who are senior citizens, live alone, or have medical conditions preventing them from leaving home. We can assist in picking up medications or groceries.

Each person must check their temperature before entering the station.

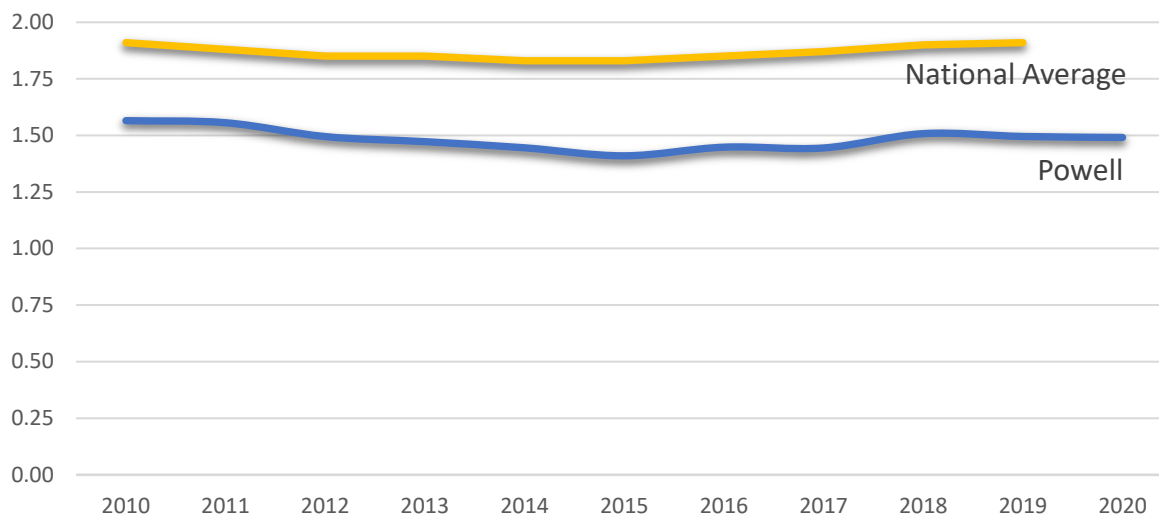
Demographics

POPULATION GROWTH
City of Powell

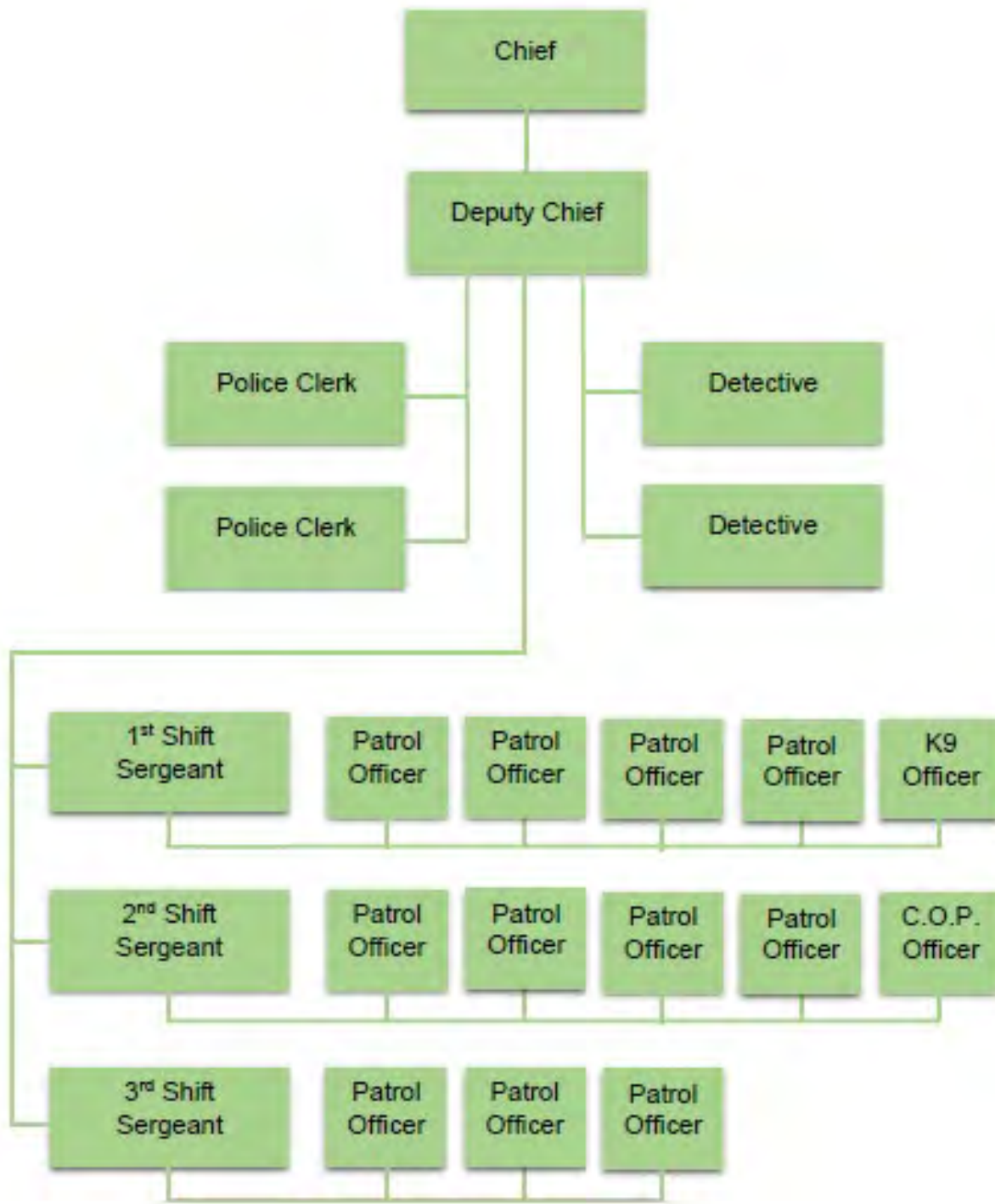


SWORN OFFICERS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

The national average for cities Powell's size is **1.9** officers per thousand residents.



Organization



Budget

The 2020 budget was **\$3,378,890**. This represents an increase of four percent from 2019. The City of Powell Police Department strives to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

Personnel Costs include salaries and overtime, pensions, and insurance. One employee, a patrol officer, was added in 2020.

Operating Expenses include gasoline, uniforms and gear, training, rents, cruiser maintenance, equipment maintenance, cell phones, accreditation, office supplies and miscellaneous. This category includes a number of software licenses such as LEADS and Power DMS.

Capital includes miscellaneous equipment and cruisers.



Transition to the new WatchGuard V300 body worn camera system will begin soon and will take 18 months.



Newest addition to the Bike Patrol fleet.

Statistics

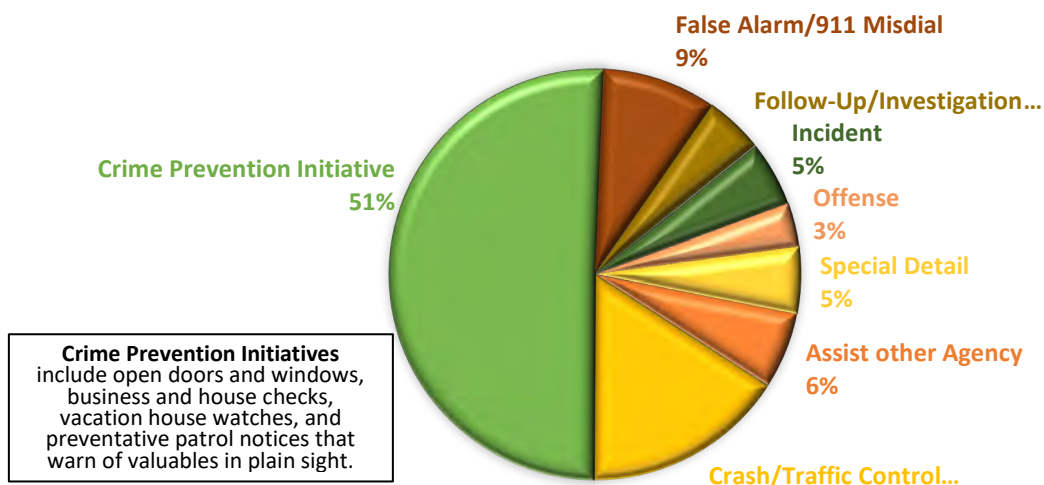
	Description	2020	2019	Change
a	Calls for Service	20,140	23,714	-15.1%
b	Dispatched Calls	4,883	5,408	-9.7%
c	Police Reports	842	1,204	-30.1%
d	Adult Arrests	106	85	24.7%
e	Juvenile Arrests	35	10	250.0%
f	Traffic Stops	1,537	1,983	-22.5%
g	Traffic Citations	172	298	-42.3%
h	Traffic Crashes	137	146	-6.2%
i	False Alarms	378	339	11.5%
j	House Watches	164	431	-61.9%
k	Preventative Patrols	2,280	2,136	6.7%
l	Stacked Calls	219	244	-10.2%

NOTES

- a: All activity generated by officers as well as all citizen requests for police response. Down significantly due to COVID-19.
- b: Excludes officer-initiated calls.
- c: Offense and incident reports, traffic crashes, arrests and citations.
- e: Several underage drinking parties.
- g: Includes citations written after traffic stops and traffic crashes.
- h: Includes public and private property crashes.
- j: Fewer residents traveled, so fewer house watches were needed.
- l: When there are stacked calls, the caller must wait for an officer to finish another call.

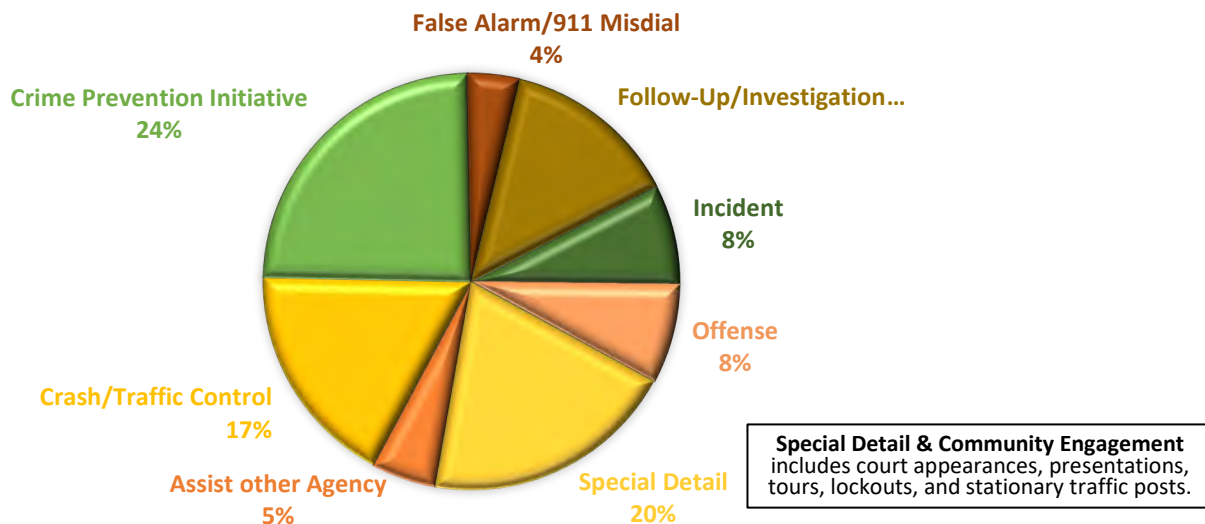
Nature of Calls

NUMBER OF CALLS BY NATURE



About half of our calls were business or house checks which are initiated by officers as crime prevention measures.

TIME ON CALLS BY NATURE

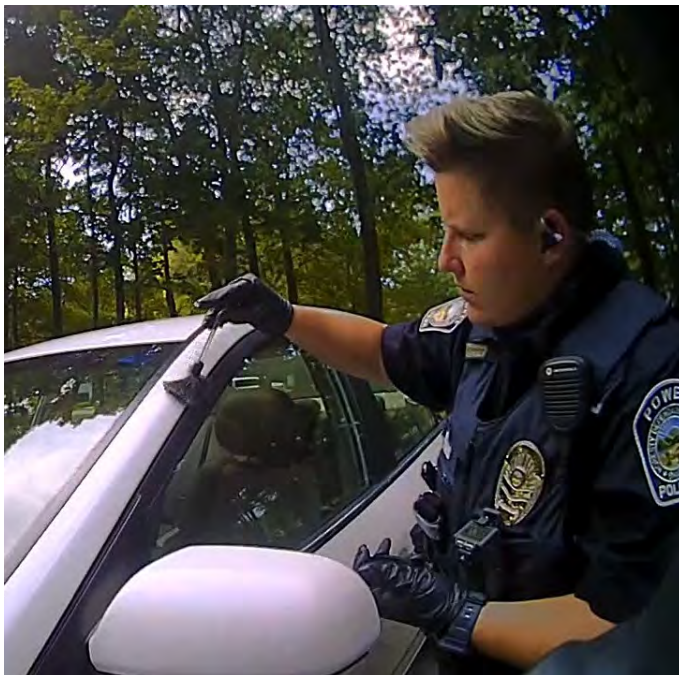


Crime Prevention calls accounted for 20% of our officers' time. False alarms and 911 hang-up calls took 4% of time.

Crime Statistics

Description	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	2	3	2	0
Robbery	0	0	2	2	0
Aggravated Assault	0	0	1	2	0
Total Violent Crime	0	2	6	6	0
Burglary/B&E	18	8	16	12	24
Larceny Theft	68	80	102	98	97
Motor Vehicle Theft	6	2	3	1	2
Total Property Crime	92	90	121	111	123

Source: Ohio Incident-Based Reporting System (OIBRS)



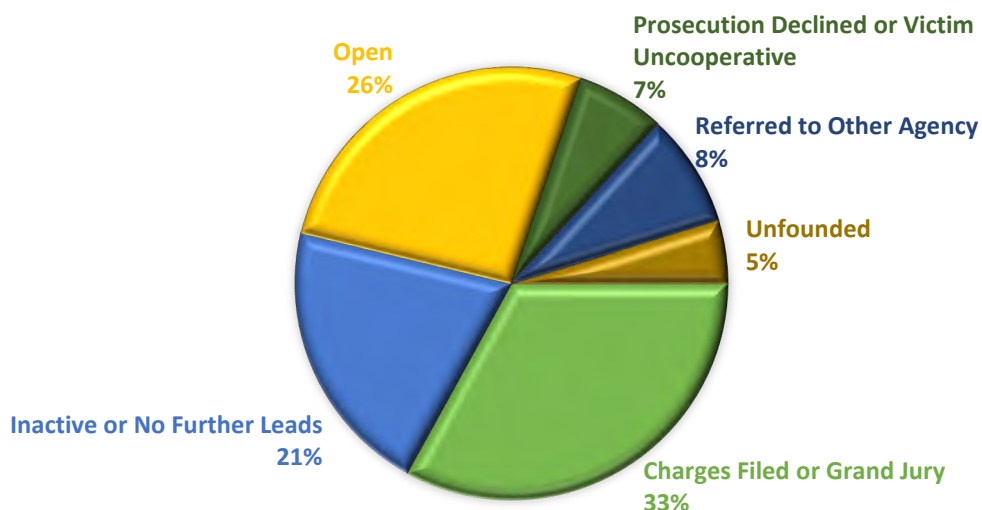
There were **18** thefts from motor vehicles in Powell in 2020, a decrease from 2019.

Most were from unlocked cars parked in driveways or along the street with valuables left in plain sight.

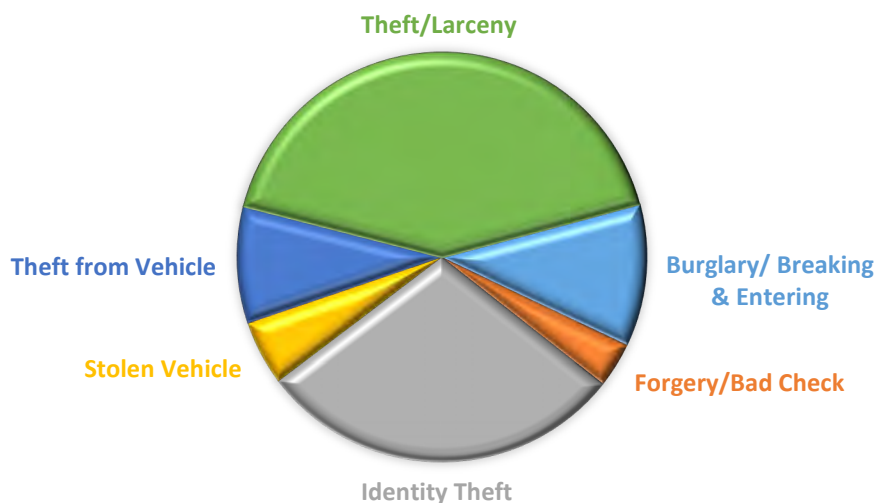
Felonies & Thefts

There were **83** cases involving 106 felonies in 2020. Cases with no further leads may be reopened if new information comes to light.

OUTCOME OF 2020 FELONIES



TYPES OF THEFT IN 2020 (Felony & Misdemeanor)



Traffic Crashes

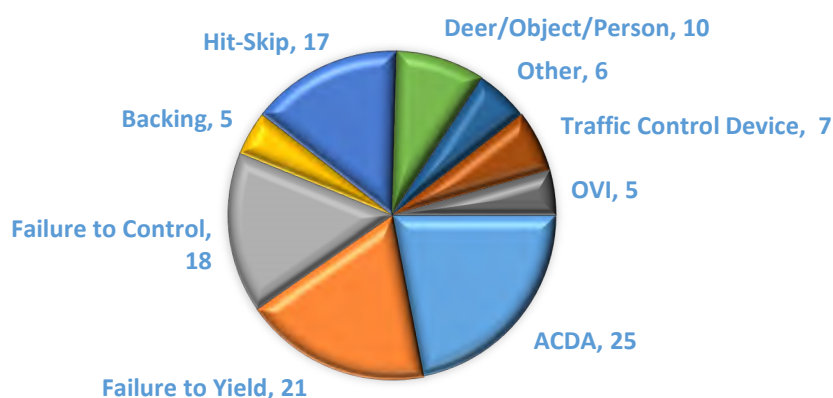
The Powell Police Department took **137** traffic crash reports in 2020 (on public and private property), fewer than 2019. There were 25 injury crashes including one fatal crash. That driver was not wearing a seat belt and was ejected from the car on impact.



A common cause of preventable crashes is **Assured Clear Distance Ahead** (ACDA) - vehicles following too closely and thus not having enough time to stop once traffic begins to slow on these main routes.

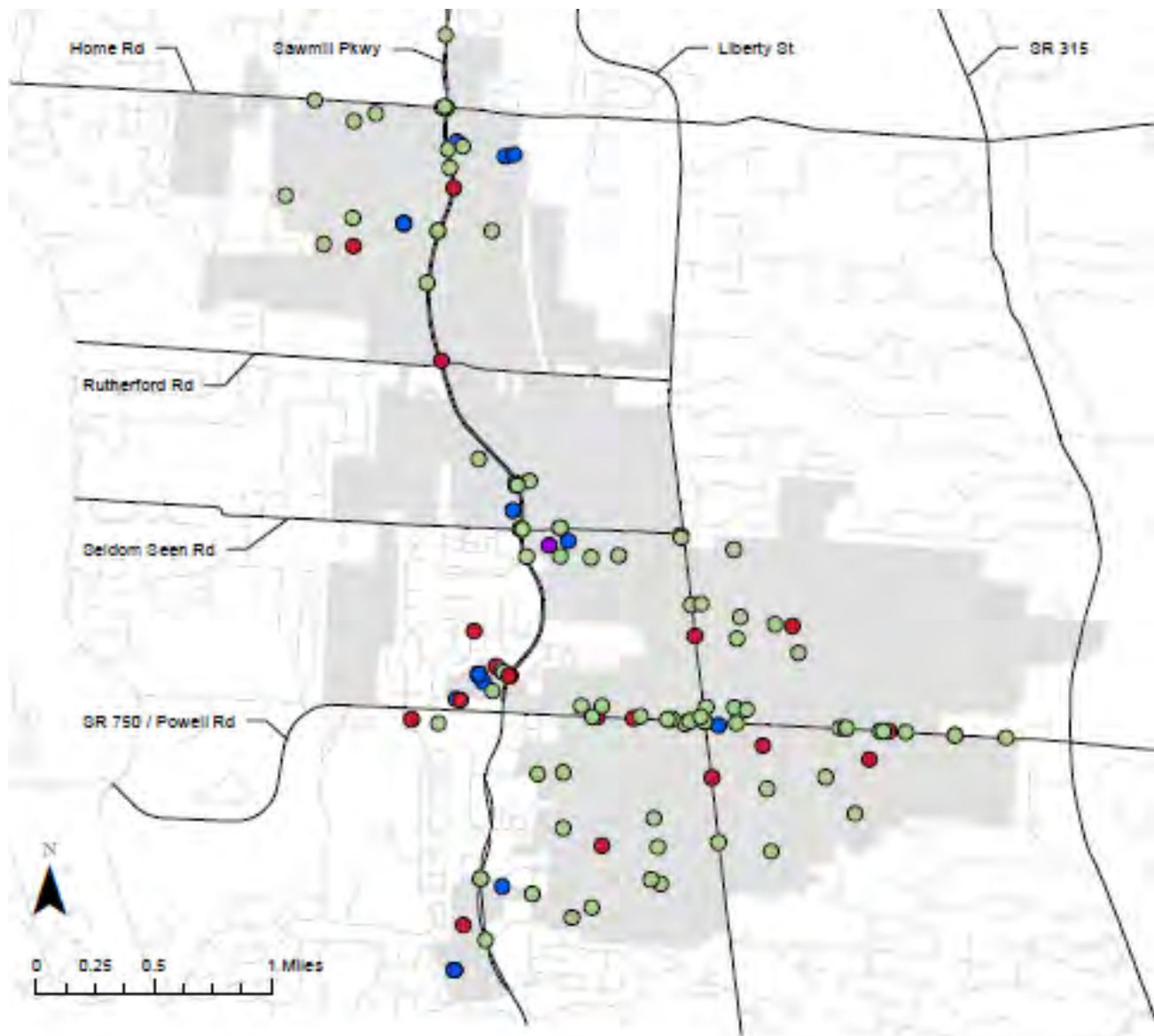
Reducing traffic crashes in the City of Powell continues to be one of the top priorities of the Powell Police Department.

CAUSES OF 2020 CRASHES



The most accident-prone roadways were also our busiest roadways: Sawmill Parkway, State Route 750, and Liberty Street. Officers watch for vehicles in these high-crash zones that are following too closely, speeding, or otherwise driving recklessly.

2020 Crashes



2020 Crash Type

- INJURY
- INJURY & PRIVATE PROPERTY
- PRIVATE PROPERTY
- PROPERTY DAMAGE

Map by Powell Development Department

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 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 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 Sergeant Andy Lucas, 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. They report to Sergeant Ben Boruchowitz.

Third shift, reporting to Sergeant Scott Roach, 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.

Patrol issued a record **2,280** Preventative Patrol Notices in 2020.

Investigations

The Detective Bureau is comprised of two detectives supervised by Deputy Chief Ron Sallows. 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 Investigation (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).

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.



Notable Cases

Domestic Violence | Todd Maxey served prison time for domestic violence, and his ex-wife secured a protection order against him. Once out on parole, he began contacting her through social media. Detective Pentz got a warrant for his arrest, and he was picked up in Mentor, Ohio. Maxey was indicted on charges of violating a protection order, intimidation and menacing by stalking. He pled guilty to two of the charges and received a sentence of two years in prison plus additional time for the parole violations.

Theft | In February, police began receiving reports of missing jewelry and credit cards from an assisted living facility. Detectives viewed video of a suspect using the credit cards. The suspect was identified as Kristen Ramunas, a recent hire at the facility.

Detectives discovered she had pawned several pieces of jewelry around Columbus. Some property was recovered, but much of it had already been melted down. Detectives interviewed the suspect and secured an admission of guilt. Ms. Ramunas was indicted on 10 felony charges of burglary, theft and identity fraud. She pled guilty and was sentenced to 4.5 years in prison.



Theft | Police took reports of customers who bought used cars from a local dealership but never received their titles. Working with the Attorney General's Office, detectives identified more than 60 victims.

Detectives secured and executed a search warrant for the dealership. Documents revealed that the owner of the dealership sold cars he had not paid for yet. The owner was indicted on seven counts of theft and prohibited acts involving certificates of title. He will be tried later in 2021.

Training

The department completed **1,190** hours of training in 2020. This does not include the many hours K9 Axel and his handler spent training.



Powell Police Officers, Detectives, Supervisors, and Clerks 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. The administrative and command staff studied important developments in public records law. In addition to their mandated training, department employees are encouraged to seek additional specialized training which benefits their job functions.



Officer Heading experiences the Taser as part of her training.

Use of Force

The Powell Police Department carefully tracks all uses of force by the agency. Each use of force was reviewed by all three sergeants, Deputy Chief and Chief and found to be reasonable. There were six use of force incidents in 2020 involving 10 individuals. No suspects or officers were injured in any of the incidents.

GENDER	USE OF FORCE
Male	9
Female	1

AGE	USE OF FORCE
Juvenile (under 18)	3
Adult (18-65)	7
Senior (65+)	0
Unknown	0

RACE	USE OF FORCE
White	5
Black	5
Asian	0
American Indian	0
Pacific Islander	0
Other	0

TYPE OF FORCE	INCIDENTS*
Hands-on	3
Taser	0
Display of Taser	2
Baton	0
OC (spray)	0
Display of Firearm	2
Discharge of Firearm	0

**Two types of force were used in one incident.*

Accreditation



Since 2002, the Powell Police Department has been accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

In 2017, the agency received Advanced Meritorious Accreditation with Excellence. This award certifies that the

Powell Police Department has “fully demonstrated its voluntary commitment to law enforcement excellence by living up to a body of standards deemed essential to the protection of the life, health and safety and rights of the citizens it services, and exemplified the best professional practices in the conduct of its responsibilities.”

The agency participated in a virtual On-Site Assessment October 12-14, 2020. Areas of focus were Patrol and the drone program; Investigations; All Hazards; and Records (with emphasis on body-camera video). Officer Scott Sanford, Accreditation Manager, expects the final report and re-accreditation in March 2021.

The CALEA team from left to right: Officer Scott Sanford, Sergeant Ben Boruchowitz, Officer Alex Hale, and Clerk Patti Mills (not pictured).



Community Oriented Policing



The Powell Police Department created a Community Oriented Policing (C.O.P.) position to educate the public about the department, maintain or increase public confidence and trust in law enforcement, decrease fear of crime, listen to and address citizen concerns, and implement community programs together with community members to solve problems. Officer Audrey Wilt was selected to fill this new position.

Officer Wilt started her career in criminal justice as a 911 Operator and Dispatcher in 2005 with the Mansfield Police Department. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Addictions Studies. She completed the Ohio State Highway Patrol Basic Police Academy and began working as a

patrol officer with the Mansfield Police Department in 2007. She is now working on a Master's in Criminal Justice from the University of Cincinnati.

In 2009, Audrey was hired by Powell as a patrol officer. She is an Evidence Technician, LEADS TAC, radKIDS Instructor, RAD Women Instructor, Ohio Crime Prevention Specialist, and Child Passenger Safety Seat Technician. She was awarded Officer of the Year in 2015. She joined the Delaware County Crisis Negotiator Team in 2019.

Officer Wilt coordinates the Citizens Police Academy and Mystery Night Out. She helped bring newer programs such as Late Skate and Helpers and Heroes to Powell, as well as participating in community favorite programs like Safety Camp and Touch-A-Truck. Audrey is very excited to continue to grow the Powell Police Department's community outreach in her new position.



Car Seats | Officer Audrey Wilt installed 33 child safety car seats in 2020.

Citizens Police Academy | The twelfth Citizens Police Academy had to be canceled after only two classes due to COVID-19. This program, which is free and open to all, aims to educate the public about the role of law

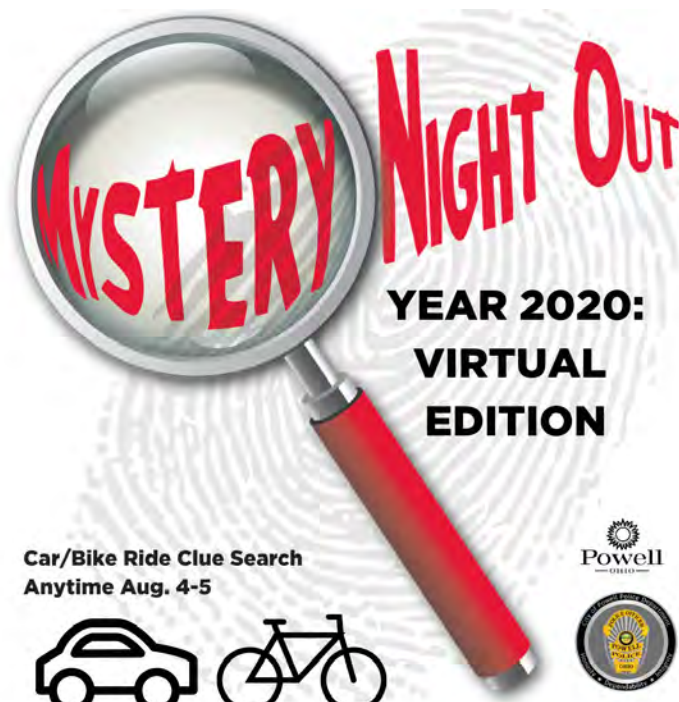
enforcement in our community. The classes meet weekly for ten weeks, and a four-hour ride-along with police officers is encouraged.



Click It or Ticket | Powell Police participated in the Delaware County Annual Click-it-or-Ticket campaign in November. This program is the cornerstone of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's efforts to get Americans to buckle up.



Protest | Several hundred people gathered on June 2, 2020 in Village Green Park for a protest against police brutality throughout the country. Chief Hrytzik and Officer Audrey Wilt participated in the peaceful event.



Mystery Night Out | Mystery Night Out looked very different this year, as the scavenger hunt went virtual! More than 70 teams searched for clues by driving, biking or walking around town.

Mystery Night Out is held in conjunction with National Night Out Against Crime. National Association of Town Watch (NATW) launched the initiative in 1984 to promote involvement in crime prevention, police-community

partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.

Heroes and Helpers | On December 9, 2020, Powell and Dublin police shopped at Target for 33 children. The event was supported by the Powell PD No-Shave November event, Dublin Bridges, the Dublin CPAAA, our PCPAAA and Target. Sergeant Ben Boruchowitz is pictured here with a young friend.

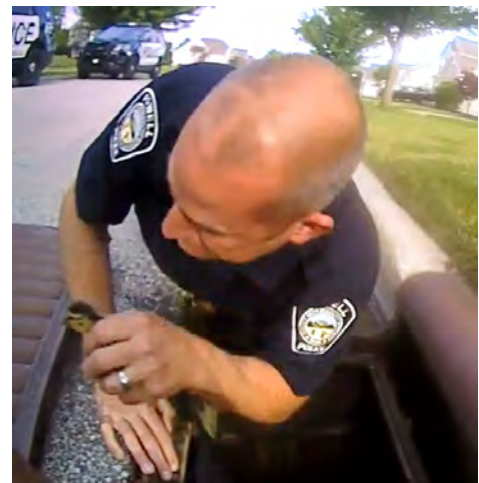


Operation Santa's Sleigh | On December 23, 2020, Detective Darren Smith, Officer Audrey Wilt, Santa, and many other agencies visited Nationwide Children's Hospital in a cruiser parade.

Tyler Run Elementary Boo Thru | Families decorated their cars to show off their best Halloween Spirit and drove through the Tyler Run Halloween Road for a bag of treats at the end.

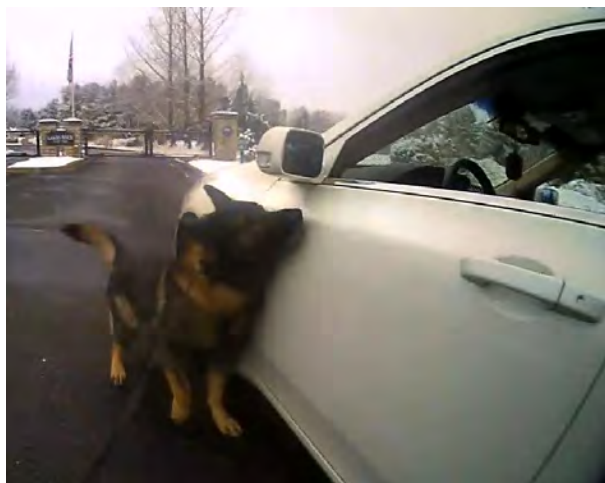


Officers help a motorist with a flat tire.



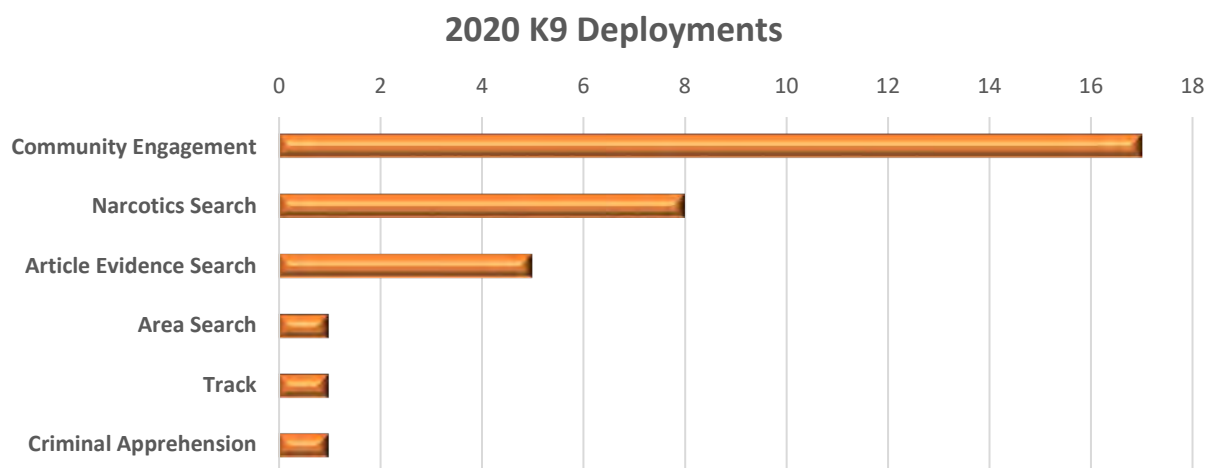
Officer Scott Sanford and Sergeant Andy Lucas rescue a family of ducklings from a storm sewer.

K9 Axel



Due to the pandemic, the number of K9 deployments were down from previous years. Handler, Officer Jason Latiolais used the time to conduct more community engagements, many at Olentangy Liberty High School.

K9 Axel conducts a narcotics sniff on a car in December.



Officer Latiolais and Axel trained for over 150 hours in 2020. Many of their deployments are for neighboring police agencies.

K9 Axel turned eight which brings him close to retirement age.



Promoted to Deputy Chief



In January, Ron Sallows was promoted to serve as the Powell Police Department's new Deputy Chief of Police.

Sallows has been a member of the Powell Police Department since 1999. He started his career in law enforcement as a police officer at the Medical College of Ohio Police Department in Toledo. In 1999, the Powell Police Department hired Sallows as a patrol officer. He was promoted to sergeant in 2005.

He recently graduated from the University of Phoenix, with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration. Sallows is a graduate of the 253rd Session of

the FBI National Academy, Police Executive Leadership College Class 56 and the Supervisor Training and Education Program. He has received numerous awards for outstanding performance in the line of duty.

"Ron has served in our Police Department for nearly 21 years," said Chief Stephen Hrytzik. "We look forward to having Ron as Deputy Chief in our agency. He brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in law enforcement and will continue to drive our community policing philosophy."

"As Deputy Chief, I will continue to serve the City as I have for the past 21 years and will focus on continuing to provide excellent service to the community by solving problems, networking with residents and businesses, keeping response times low, and encouraging the professional development of police department employees," said Deputy Chief Sallows.

Promoted to Sergeant



Ben Boruchowitz was sworn in as the City's newest police sergeant in April. Ben earned a Bachelor of Science in Sociology from Brigham Young University in 2002. He was hired by the Powell Police Department as a patrol officer in May of 2004.

During his career as a patrol officer, Ben has taken on numerous leadership roles and assignments. He is a field-training officer and a member of the agency's accreditation team responsible for ensuring our policies are in compliance with CALEA standards. Officer Boruchowitz was recognized for these efforts in 2017 when he

received the agency's Meritorious Service Award. Ben is fluent in Spanish and provides regular language assistance to both local and federal law enforcement partners. Sergeant Boruchowitz is the Intelligence Liaison Officer with the Department of Homeland Security. He belongs to the Ohio Crime Prevention Association and is certified as a Crime Prevention Officer. He is certified by the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy as a Master Evidence Technician and Master Criminal Investigator. Ben received a Lifesaving Award in 2009 and he was awarded the agency's Officer of the Year recognition in 2013.

As a Patrol Sergeant, Ben will continue to act as a leader within the police department and work to continually find better ways to serve the residents of Powell through active community policing efforts.

New Hire



Officer Kaylyn Heading was hired in January, completed the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy, and started as a patrol officer in August.

Officer Heading is a Hilliard, Ohio native and a graduate of Hilliard Davidson High School. Softball was her early passion and it took her to the University of Rio Grande where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Communications. She was a four year starting catcher for the Red Storm. After college she moved back to Hilliard and began her professional career as a dispatcher with the Delaware County 911 center.

Early into her career, she was afforded the opportunity to ride along with the Powell Police department. Officer Heading said, "I was immediately drawn to the department and their commitment to community policing." She worked closely with Powell during her nine years as a dispatcher, and she feels "extremely honored and humbled to have the opportunity to join the team as an officer."

Officer Heading married her college sweetheart Annette in March of 2017. Annette is a cosmetologist in Powell with her own hair studio. During down time they enjoy relaxing with their two dogs, Bevo and Sunni. They love to cruise and spend time in Murrells Inlet, SC with family.

New Hire



Officer Sarah Convery joined the department in June. Officer Convery, a Youngstown native, graduated from the police academy and holds a Bachelor's degree in General Studies from Youngstown State University. She worked as a Zoning Enforcement Officer for the township of Boardman, Ohio. Most recently, she worked two years as a police officer at Minerva Park Police Department in central Ohio.

Officer Convery became interested in working for Powell because of the residents. "I always felt welcome and comfortable in the area, and that meant a lot to me since my family lives farther away.

Nothing better than feeling at home!"

Officer Convery looks forward to receiving Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and continuing to build a stronger rapport with the community.

Officer Convery lives in Columbus with her two dogs, Ares and Athena. In her free time she enjoys CrossFit, spending time with family, and reading.

The addition of Officer Convery brings the agency to its authorized strength of 20 sworn officers (including Chief and Deputy Chief) and two civilians.

2019 Awards

The 2019 staff meeting held on October 7, 2020. The delay was due to COVID-19. The following awards were presented:



Detective Darren Smith was awarded 2019 Officer of the Year for his willingness to help throughout the department, the Light Ohio Blue project, representing the agency at funerals, and his work following up with the Brandon Ivy murder case.

Lifesaving Awards were earned by Officers Josh Waymire and Ken Hiltz (below). They negotiated at length with a

young man who stood on the edge of a bridge threatening to jump. When the man began to slip, officers sprang forward and pulled him onto the bridge at the risk of their own safety.

Officer Ken Hiltz was recognized for 25 years of service. Officer Jason Latiolais, Detective Ryan Pentz and Officer Fred Hart were recognized for 20 years of service. Sergeant Scott Roach and Clerk Patti Mills were recognized for 15 years of service.

Officer Audrey Wilt received a Letter of Recognition for skillfully de-escalating a traffic stop with an intoxicated individual. Clerk Rebecca Wenden received a Letter of Recognition for rebranding the agency's paperwork. Officer Audrey Wilt was recognized for 10 years of safe driving.



2020 Awards

The 2020 staff meeting was held on February 17, 2021.

Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Alex Hale for 2020. Hale had an excellent year, and he performed at an exemplary level across many performance categories. He led the agency in traffic stops, made quality arrests for OVI and drugs, and led second shift officers in preventative patrols and business checks. Officer Hale also requested to take on additional case assignments so that he could improve his investigative skills.

More importantly, Officer Hale demonstrated strong problem-solving skills and community policing buy-in, which were shown when the department received several citizen compliments and social media posts praising his engagement with the community.

Officer Hale was interested in learning more about the accreditation process, so he volunteered to join the accreditation team. He also volunteered to become a drone pilot with the department's new drone program. During the 2020 accreditation virtual on-site, Ofc. Hale flew a drone inside the police building to provide a virtual tour for assessors since they could not be here in person. The assessors noted this technology to be cutting edge since they had not seen this done before inside a building.

Despite Officer Hale's short tenure with the agency, he has proven to be a valuable asset to the force.



Chief Stephen Hrytzik, Officer Alex Hale and Sergeant Andy Lucas

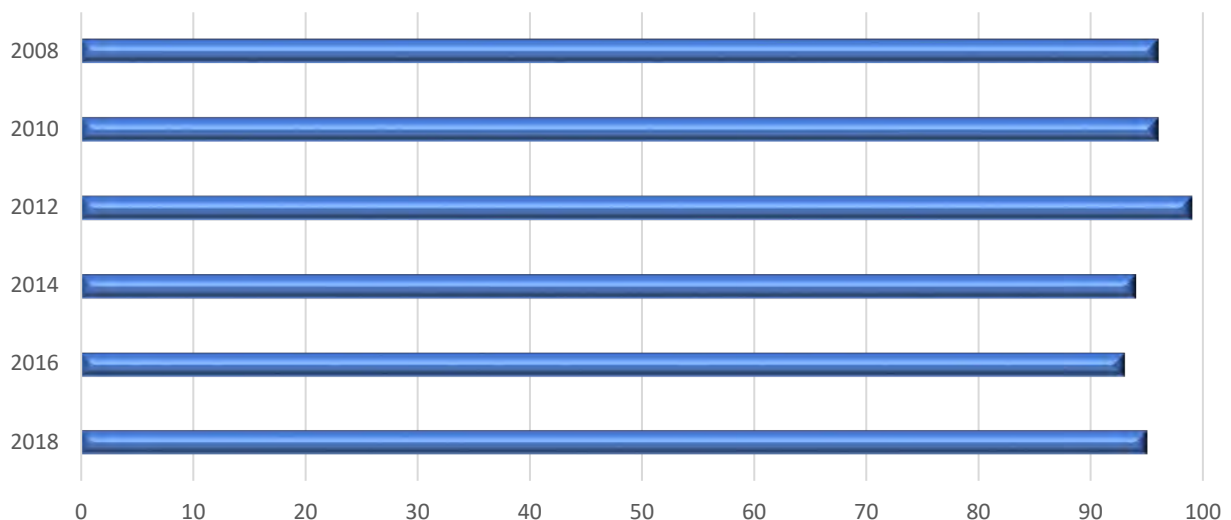
Community Survey

**WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSION OF THE
POWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE?**
No respondents rated the department fair or poor in 2020.



This is consistent with past surveys of community attitudes.

**HOW SATISFIED ARE YOU WITH
THE POWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT?**
Percent responding somewhat or very satisfied



Goals & Objectives

2020 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. **Update the police department's Five-Year Plan.** This was completed in the first quarter.
2. **Promote a Deputy Chief and Sergeant, and hire a replacement officer.** This was achieved by the end of the second quarter.
3. **Implement a new Records Management System.** This was not accomplished in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2021 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES



Planning

We will update the five-year plan, including a review of projected and completed annexations with an eye to the impact on safety services. In line with this, we will study the impact of crime and traffic issues in the areas surrounding Powell. Additionally, we expect to complete succession planning for Chief, Deputy Chief and Sergeants, an important goal of the current five-year plan.



Community Oriented Policing

With the assignment of a Community Oriented Policing (COP) officer in 2020, we can begin a comprehensive review of our community programs – focusing on new program ideas, revising existing programs, welcoming back old programs and eliminating outdated programs.



Records Management System

Throughout 2021, we will be working with other county agencies to transfer all data, train employees, and troubleshoot the new Tyler Technologies system. The plan is to go live in the fall of 2021. Since we are part of the county-wide system, there will be no additional charge to Powell for the new system.



Patrol

Response time has suffered slightly due to our COVID-19 protocols. Once officers are vaccinated, we expect to keep more patrol officers on the street, reducing response time.



New Evaluation System

We are drafting a new evaluation system to be implemented in 2022. It will be based on more qualitative factors, rather than the quantitative measures used now.