

Wadsworth Police Department

Annual Report 2024

DANIEL CHAFIN, CHIEF OF POLICE
MATTHEW HISCOCK, PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR

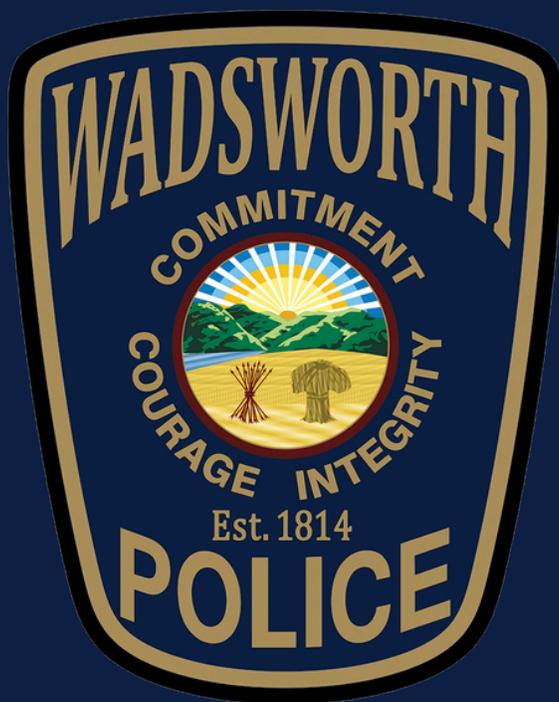


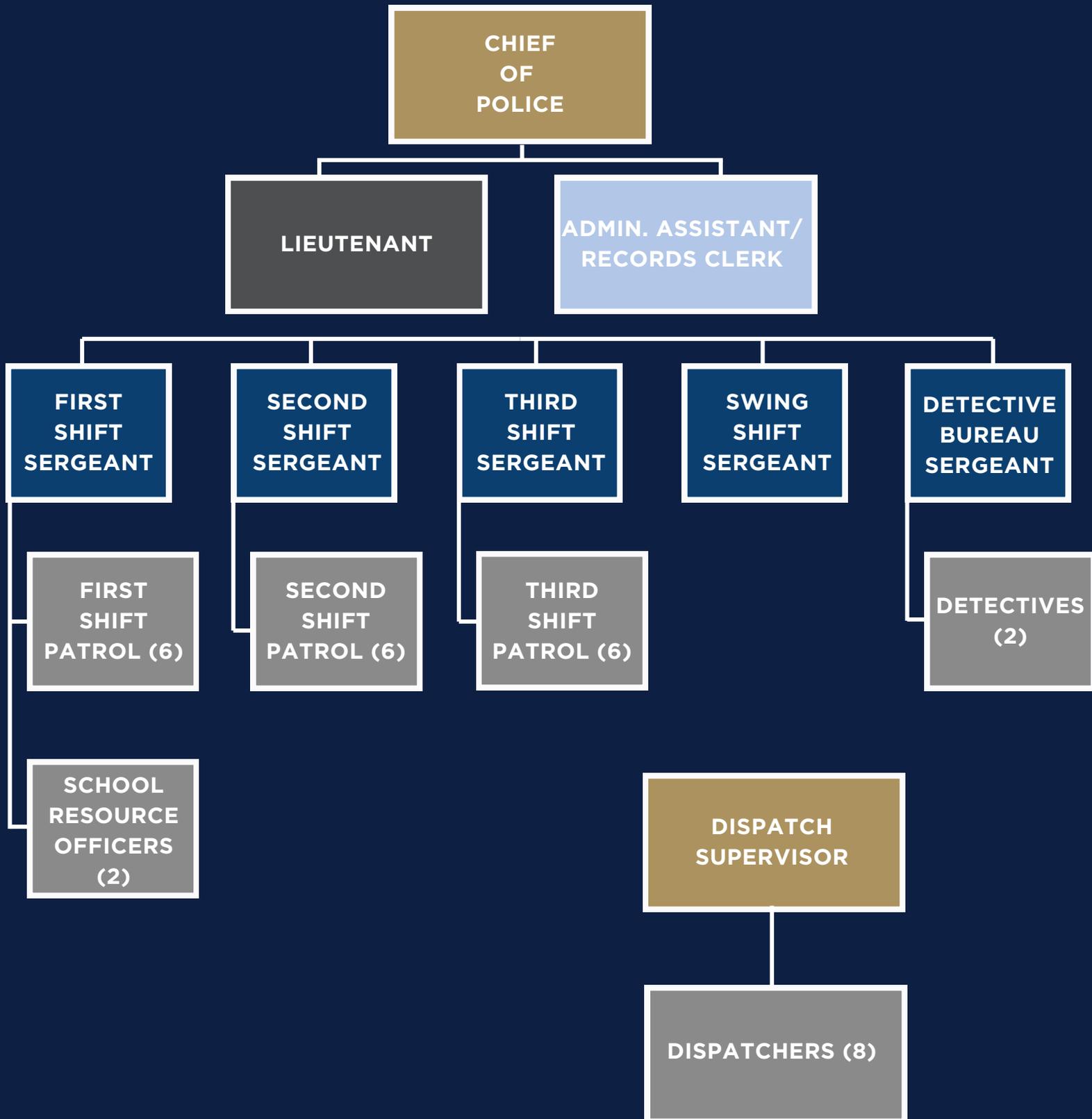
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RANK	NAME	DATE OF HIRE
Chief of Police	Daniel Chafin	February 1, 2010
Lieutenant	David Dorland	January 10, 1994
Sergeant	Michael Patterson	December 8, 2003
Sergeant	Dawn Schismenos	April 29, 2002
Sergant	Seth Petit	February 21, 2011
Sergeant	Kyle Haas	March 21, 2011
Sergeant	Vivian Feke	January 27, 2017
Dispatch Supervisor	Katy Cindia	June 8, 2009
Patrol Officer	Katie Sipos	December 15, 2000
Patrol Officer	James Walser	January 2, 2001
Patrol Officer	Andrew Blubaugh	January 9, 2003
Detective/Patrol Officer	Adam Innocenti	September 2, 2008
Patrol Officer	Daniel Shonk	August 10, 2009
Detective	James Allenby	January 2, 2013
Detective/Patrol Officer	Dakota Lamielle	May 3, 2016
Patrol Officer	Benjamin Smith	March 27, 2018
Patrol Officer	Cody Seiler	January 7, 2019
Patrol Officer	Nathan Ball	April 1, 2019
Patrol Officer	Corey McFadden	May 6, 2019
Patrol Officer	Rachel Durbin	February 10, 2020
Patrol Officer	Luke Yehnert	July 23, 2020
Patrol Officer	Chris Hardy	March 21, 2022
Patrol Officer	Zachary West	September 5, 2022
Patrol Officer	Cory Potter	September 26, 2022
Patrol Officer	Zachary Mettler	February 6, 2023
Patrol Officer	Anthony Merlene	May 1, 2023
Patrol Officer	Marc Gramley	January 3, 2024
Patrol Officer	Josh Amburgey	January 8, 2024
Patrol Officer	Grant Rospert	February 5, 2024
Patrol Officer	Lilly Postlethwait	May 28, 2024
Patrol Officer	Cory Bolling	August 12, 2024
Communications Officer	Brian Dodge	May 20, 1998
Communications Officer	Wendy Emrick	May 26, 1999
Communications Officer	Heidi Sonntag	February 14, 2005
Communications Officer	Richard Brown	September , 2016
Communications Officer	Julie Bennett	December 12, 2016
Communications Officer	Brandy Crall	August 3, 2021
Communications Officer	Jessica Smith	October 23, 2023
Communications Officer	Oceiana Bond	June 12, 2024
Admin. Assistant/Records	Jennifer Neforos	August 7, 2023
Auxiliary Patrol Officer	Melissa Blubaugh	April 2, 2019

PERSONNEL STRUCTURE



PERSONNEL CHANGES

NEW HIRES



MARC GRAMLEY 1/3/24



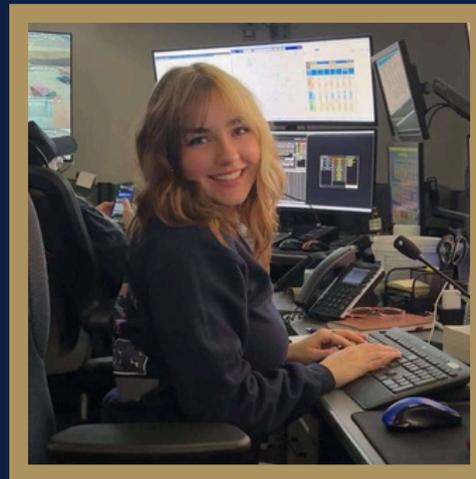
JOSHUA AMBURGEY 1/8/24



GRANT ROSPERT 2/5/24



LILLY POSTLETHWAIT 5/28/24



OCEIANA BOND 6/12/24



CORY BOLLING 8/12/24

PERSONNEL CHANGES

RETIREMENTS

Patrol Officer Matt Markley retired from the Wadsworth Police Department after 20 years of dedicated service. Officer Markley's last official day was Sunday, June 30th, 2024.

Prior to joining our department, he served in the US Air Force and then started his law enforcement career at the Beavercreek Police Department. Officer Markley began his career at the Wadsworth Police Department in 2004.

During his time on patrol, he became a certified field training officer and took on the important responsibility of training new officers for a career in law enforcement. Officer Markley

was an active patrol officer and a member of the Medina County SWAT Team, bike patrol, and was the Wadsworth FOP Lodge 45 President for many years.

Officer Markley was named 'Officer of the Year' in 2010, and then went on to join the Detective Bureau from 2011-2021. He is known widely through the department as an incredible interviewer, and had the ability to build rapport and connect with anyone. As a veteran detective, Officer Markley's investigative efforts were key to uncovering truths in several homicide investigations which led to successful prosecutions.

Officer Markley spearheaded large community events such as 'National Night Out' and our Cops and Kids program. He also took part in the Medina County Police Activity League (MCPAL). These events required a large amount of coordination with the community and other departments, and always ran smoothly due to his contributions.

He will be greatly missed by the Wadsworth Police Department.



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Members of the Wadsworth Police Department frequently participate in community-oriented events while on duty, in a volunteer capacity, and as members of the Wadsworth Fraternal Order of Police. WPD is always excited to participate in these events!



**WPD ATTENDS
BIRTHDAY PARTY**

- Feeding Medina County**
- Drug Take Back Day**
- Total Solar Eclipse**
- Coffee with a Cop**
- Memorial Day Parade**
- Andy Hontert Memorial Softball Game**
- Main Street First Friday Events**
- Safety Forces Camp**
- Blue Tip Parade and Festival**
- Torch Run for Special Olympics**
- Downtown Wadsworth Fireworks**
- Safety Town**
- Taste of Wadsworth**
- Summer Concert Series**
- Balloons Over Wadsworth**
- Scare on the Square**
- Soprema Senior Center Expo**
- Candlelight Walk**
- Veterans Day Parade**
- Cops & Kids**



**SAFETY FORCES
FIRST FRIDAY**



FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT SETUP (EVENT RAINED OUT)



SAFETY FORCES CAMP



ANDY HONTERT MEMORIAL SOFTBALL GAME



LEMONADE STAND



COFFEE WITH A COP



FIREWORKS

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



CRISIS DOG VISITS



SAFETY FORCES CAMP



CAREER CENTER DISPATCH PRESENTATION



ANIMAL RESCUE



PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION



FOP TABLE FIRST FRIDAY



POLICE WEEK

COMMUNITY RELATIONS



COPS & KIDS



In 2024, the Wadsworth Police Department partnered with Wadsworth Fire/EMS, the Rittman Police Department, and the Doylestown Police Department to take 62 children shopping for the Cops & Kids program. WPD is extremely grateful for everyone who purchased raffle tickets during our fundraising for this event. We would also like to thank the Wadsworth Eagles Aerie 2117, Target, the Wadsworth American Legion Post 170, the Blue Tip Committee, Durbin Flooring, and WrenchWorks Truck & Auto Care for their extremely generous monetary donations. Additionally, we would like to thank Water Main Grille for providing breakfast for all of our children and volunteers.



K9 PROGRAM



K9 Zoro brought in his 9th birthday in 2024 and was celebrated accordingly! Zoro and handler Sgt. Petit were integral parts of our department’s community relations and attended events such as the Safety Forces First Friday event and Safety Forces Camp. Additionally, Sgt. Petit and Zoro represented WPD at the funeral of Euclid Officer Jacob Derbin. Sgt. Petit and Zoro continue to assist with tracking, criminal apprehension, and evidence location.



WPD was also presented with an extremely generous check for \$27,000 from the Wadsworth Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2117. This will allow WPD to purchase the next K9, provide the necessary equipment, and train the next K9 officer.



In 2024, WPD selected their next K9 handler, Officer Zach West. Officer West has been with the department since 2022 and is expected to begin his training in April of 2025.

SCHOOL RESOURCE



OFFICERS

The Wadsworth School Resource Officer program has continued to be extremely successful since its inception in 2013. The SROs work closely with school principals, counselors, teachers, and other staff. They are called upon to perform a variety of duties in their roles including collaboration with all law enforcement, security, education, and crime prevention. They are involved in recommending and implementing safety enhancements to school infrastructure and security policies. Additionally, our SROs organize and participate in community events including Safety Forces Camp, Safety Town, and Cops & Kids.

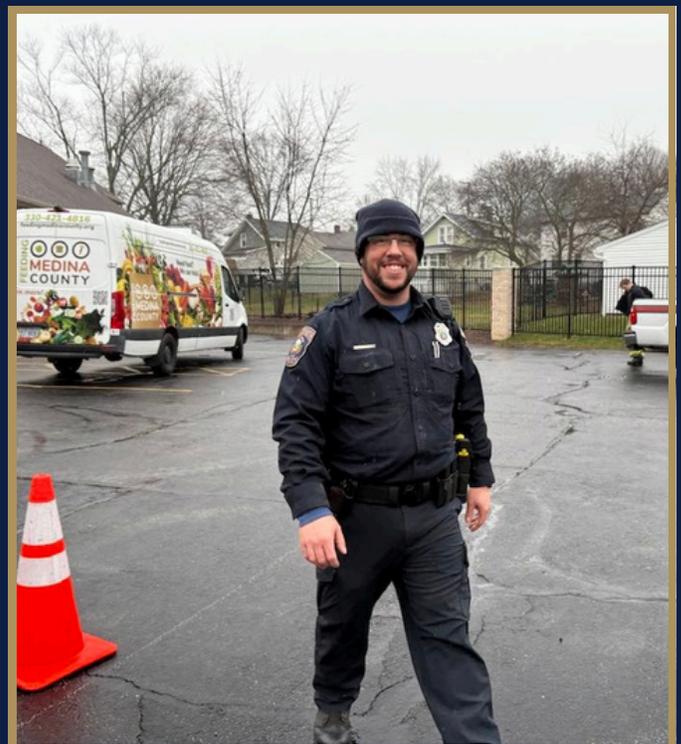
This year, Officer Shonk returned to the patrol division and Officer Ball began his role as an SRO.



SRO SMITH AT COPS & KIDS



SRO BALL'S FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL



SRO SHONK AT FEEDING MEDINA CO.

SWAT



The Wadsworth Police Department currently has four officers assigned to the Medina County SWAT team: Sgt. Kyle Haas, Ptl. Andrew Blubaugh, Det. James Allenby, and Ptl. Luke Yehnert. Officer Blubaugh was named Assistant Commander of the team. Officer Yehnert and Det. Allenby were selected to be on the sniper team. Additionally, Officer Rachel Durbin joined the team as a crisis negotiator. Officer Durbin, Ptl. Yehnert, and Det. Allenby all completed a week-long basic SWAT course and Officer Durbin also completed a week-long FBI negotiator course. The SWAT team trained every month in 2024. SWAT trainings often consist of a combination of training scenarios. Some of the training areas covered included combat casualty care, building searches, force-on-force training, review of use of force case law, executing search warrants, barricades, open area searches, range training, physical fitness training, less lethal device training and testing, team breaching and window breaking, negotiations, drone and robot use, utilizing a K-9 with SWAT, hostage rescue and officer rescues. Additionally, the team continues to expand their low light training and use of night vision devices.

The Medina County SWAT team was involved in two notable incidents in 2024:

On January 31, 2024, the SWAT team conducted a complex arrest and search warrant stemming from a robbery and kidnapping report. The incident required SWAT to break into two teams: one in Cleveland and one in Medina County. One team located two known suspects in Cleveland and conducted a vehicle take down to arrest them. Believing there to be another suspect in Medina Co., the second team simultaneously secured the home where the original crime had occurred, ensuring no other suspects were there and securing evidence.

On November 11, 2024, the SWAT team responded with multiple other agencies to an Amber Alert hostage incident where a 7-year-old girl was being held at gunpoint by her father in a vehicle. A State Highway Patrol sniper eliminated the threat and members of the SWAT team rushed the vehicle, got the girl to safety, and secured the scene.

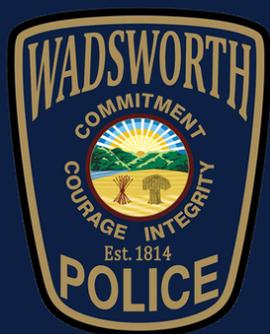
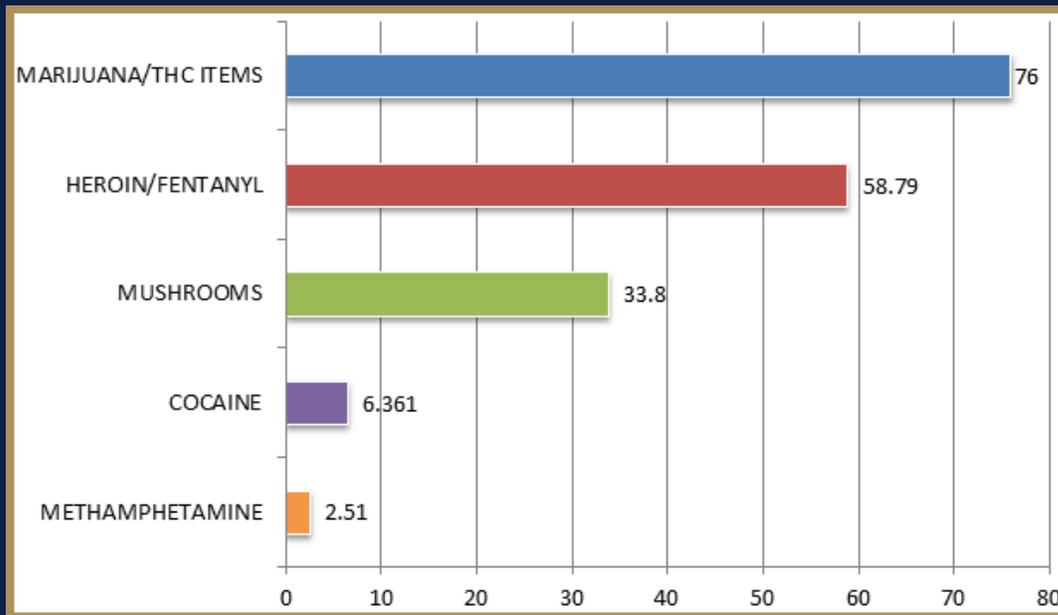


DRUG TRENDS - DTF

The Wadsworth Police Department works collaboratively with the Medina County Drug Task Force (MCDF) to investigate drug related activity within the City of Wadsworth. In 2024, the MCDF had a total of 25 cases in the City of Wadsworth resulting in 25 felony level charges. They were also able to seize a variety of drugs being trafficked as a result of these investigations.

Along with investigating drug related activity, the MCDF also collects unused medications throughout the county as a part of the DUMP (Dispose of Unused Medications Properly) program. One of the DUMP box receptacles is located within the Wadsworth City Hall building and is monitored and handled directly by the Wadsworth Police Department. The Wadsworth Police Department also participated in Drug Take Back days last year which were advertised to the public and allowed citizens the opportunity to drive through the Police Department parking lot and dispose of any unused medications. In our drop event in October, over 30 pounds of prescription medications were collected at WPD.

2024 DRUG SEIZURES (in grams)



YEAR	OD CASES	OD VICTIMS	OD DEATHS
2014	23	23	4
2015	42	42	6
2016	67	68	5
2017	49	49	6
2018	21	22	3
2019	17	17	2
2020	25	25	5
2021	19	19	3
2022	13	14	0
2023	19	19	5
2024	9	9	2



In 2024, there were a total of 9 overdose investigations conducted by the Wadsworth Police Department. Of those cases, 2 resulted in deaths. The number of overdoses in 2024 dropped significantly from the prior year and continues to trend lower as it has for the past 10 years.

MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER CHARGED WITH SEX OFFENSE

In March of 2024, WPD received a report from a WCS student who stated that a Wadsworth Middle School teacher had touched her inappropriately at a school dance. The case was referred to the detective bureau who began an extensive investigation. The detective bureau was able to execute a search warrant for the suspect's home and phone. The detective bureau had to coordinate several interviews with the victim and witnesses through the Child Advocacy Center. Additionally, they were able to gain evidence through multiple subpoenas to phone and app service providers. In addition to gaining evidence to support the victim's claims, detectives were also able to prove that the suspect had deleted evidence after being informed he was under investigation. The suspect was ultimately convicted of Sexual Imposition (a second degree misdemeanor) and Tampering with Evidence (a third degree felony). He was sentenced to 30 days in jail, 5 years probation, and will be required to register as a Sexually Oriented Offender.

JUVENILE CHARGED WITH INDUCING PANIC

In September of 2024, WPD investigated a report of a juvenile who had made concerning comments about taking a gun to the Wadsworth Middle School. Officers immediately conducted a welfare check on the suspect and were able to get parental consent to search his phone. Officers found disturbing content on the phone that caused concern that the threat was legitimate. Officers and detectives conducted multiple follow-ups and interviews with students and parents and were able to conduct an arrest of the juvenile the following day on a charge of Inducing Panic (a second degree felony). The charge was eventually reduced to a first degree misdemeanor. Detectives and officers were diligent in cooperating with the Juvenile Detention Center, Juvenile Prosecutor's Office, and other agencies like the FBI to ensure the risk was mitigated and the juvenile suspect was able to get the help he needs. This case highlighted the importance of the continued cooperation between WPD and Wadsworth City Schools.

FRAUD RING UNCOVERED

In September of 2024, WPD received a call from the Wadsworth branch of the Medina Co. Credit Union that someone was trying to make a withdrawal with a fraudulent ID card. The suspects were located and through investigation it was found they had also executed this fraud at the Brunswick branch, the Wayne Co. Community Federal Credit Union, GenFed location in Akron, as well as banks in California and Alabama. The detective bureau reviewed jail calls and reviewed subpoena results from Avis car rental and United Airlines. WPD was able to successfully bring charges of Identity Fraud, Attempted Theft from a Protected Class, Attempted Grand Theft, and Engaging in a Pattern of Corrupt Activity.

MAJOR CASE INVESTIGATIONS

SUBJECT CHARGED IN OVERDOSE DEATH

In March of 2024, WPD responded to a report of an unresponsive female. Although life-saving measures were attempted, the female was eventually pronounced deceased. Officers located a folded dollar bill with blue powder along with a rolled up bill on the night stand next to the bed. The detective bureau responded to the scene and began investigation on the case. Detectives collected evidence and began to interview the victim's family members who were able to provide further information about the victim. Detectives continued their investigations by doing an extraction of the victim's phone and issuing subpoenas to social media companies. Through the results of this investigation, detectives were able to identify a suspect who was believed to have provided the victim with methamphetamine, xylazine, and fentanyl. Detectives presented the case to the Grand Jury and an indictment was filed. The defendant pleaded guilty to a charge of Attempted Corrupting Another with Drugs (a third degree felony) and was sentenced to a prison term of no less than 30 months.

TWO SUBJECTS AWAITING TRIAL IN OVERDOSE CASE

In August of 2024, WPD responded to a report of an unresponsive male. The male was pronounced dead by Wadsworth EMS. The victim's father was on scene and reported he had thought his son had overdosed as he had overdosed multiple times in the past. Officers located a needle on the floor next to the victim as well as a plastic bag with a gray/brown powder inside of it and other drug-related items on the coffee table. The investigation was given to the detective bureau for follow-up. Detectives worked with the Ohio Narcotics Intelligence Center to do a phone extract of the victim's cell phone. Through that extraction, detectives were able to identify an individual who had likely delivered heroin to the victim's residence. They were also able to determine the suspect had been with another individual at the time of the delivery. Through interviews with multiple subjects, detectives were able to identify the second person who had delivered heroin to the victim. Detectives executed a search warrant on the second suspect's phone and were able to obtain location data for the suspects which corresponded with the established timeline of events. Detectives presented the case to the Grand Jury and indictments were filed. Both suspects were charged with Corrupting Another with Drugs (a second degree felony) and are set to stand trial in the near future.

2024 MAJOR PROJECTS



WPD has been able to continue receiving First Responder Wellness Services provided by Alternative Paths due to a grant from OEMA. This allows police personnel to meet with a mental health clinician for wellness checks to help manage stress, understand the impact of vicarious trauma, develop resiliency strategies, and other wellness activities.



WPD has been able to secure funding through the State Violent Crime Reduction Grant Program to extend our Flock Safety Camera program. We currently utilize 12 cameras and will have the opportunity to secure more. Additionally, we have set up a collaborative board to expand our community reach.



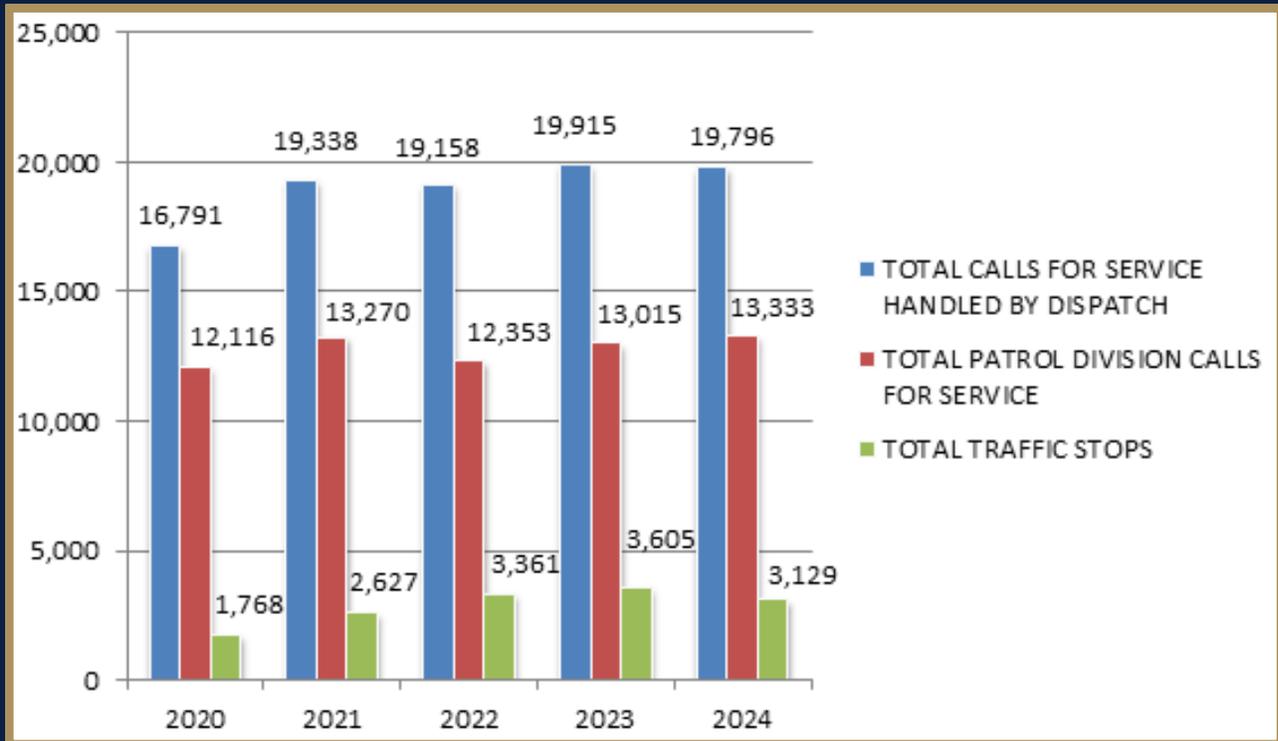
In 2024, WPD was able to make multiple updates to our fleet of vehicles. We were able to secure our second hybrid patrol SUV in Car 23 and we hope to add more hybrid vehicles in the future. The hybrid vehicles provide a benefit in savings on fuel costs and environmental merits. They also have other benefits such as a quiet operation to provide a tactical advantage.



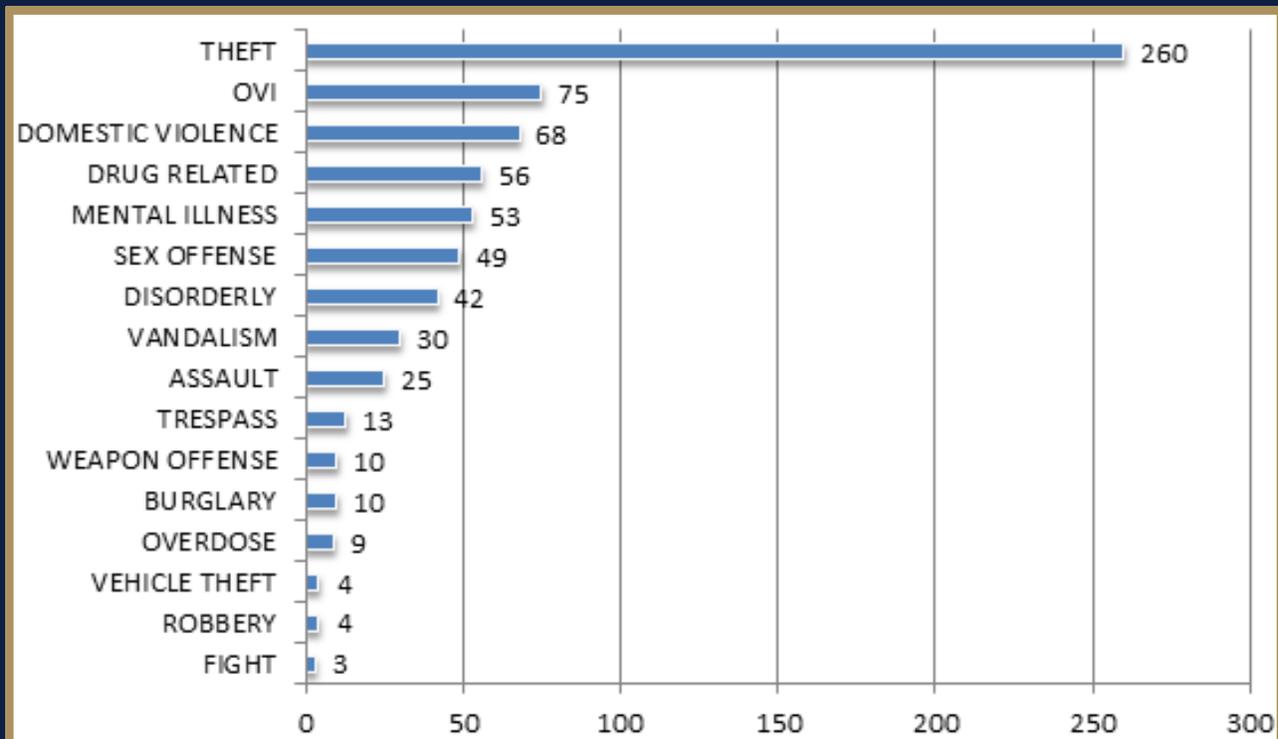
WPD began utilizing its own drone in 2024. We currently have two drone pilots who each underwent a 40 hour training course and obtained their Part 107 FAA Remote Pilot License. Our drone is utilized both by our department and surrounding jurisdictions to locate missing people, fleeing subjects, surveillance, and other activities.

2024 STATISTICS

FIVE YEAR CALLS FOR SERVICE COMPARISON

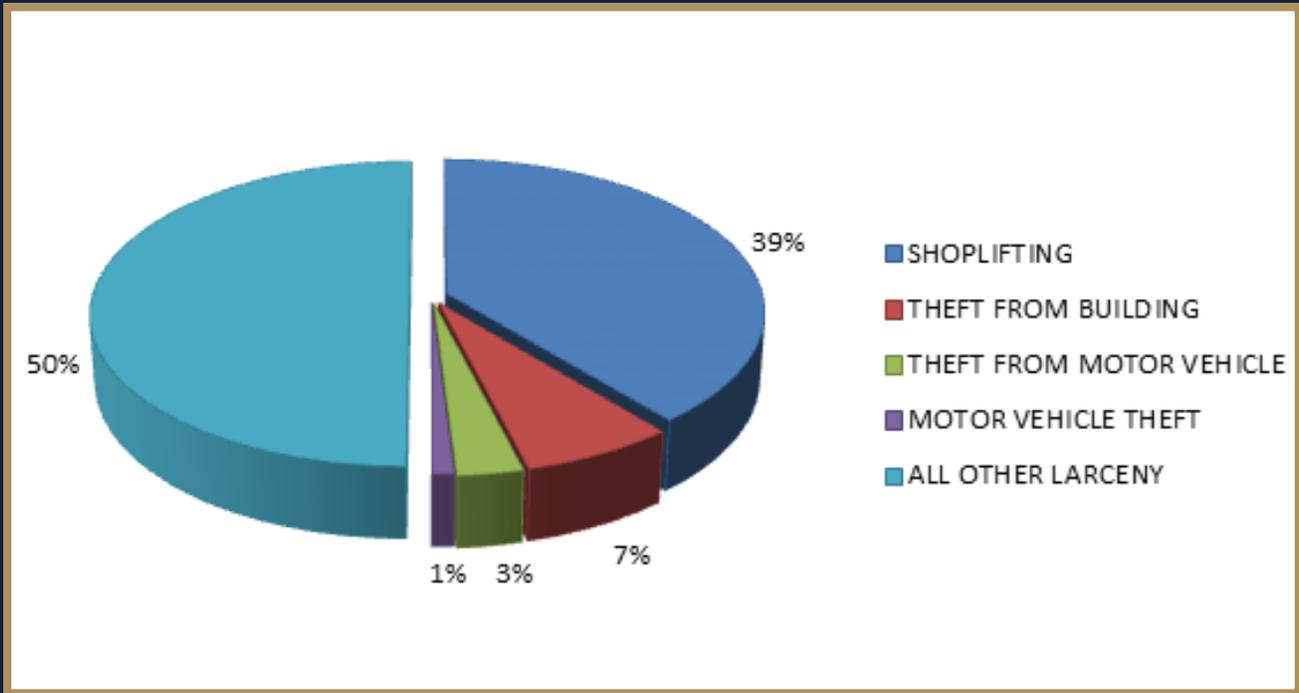


2024 CRIMINAL INCIDENTS INVESTIGATED

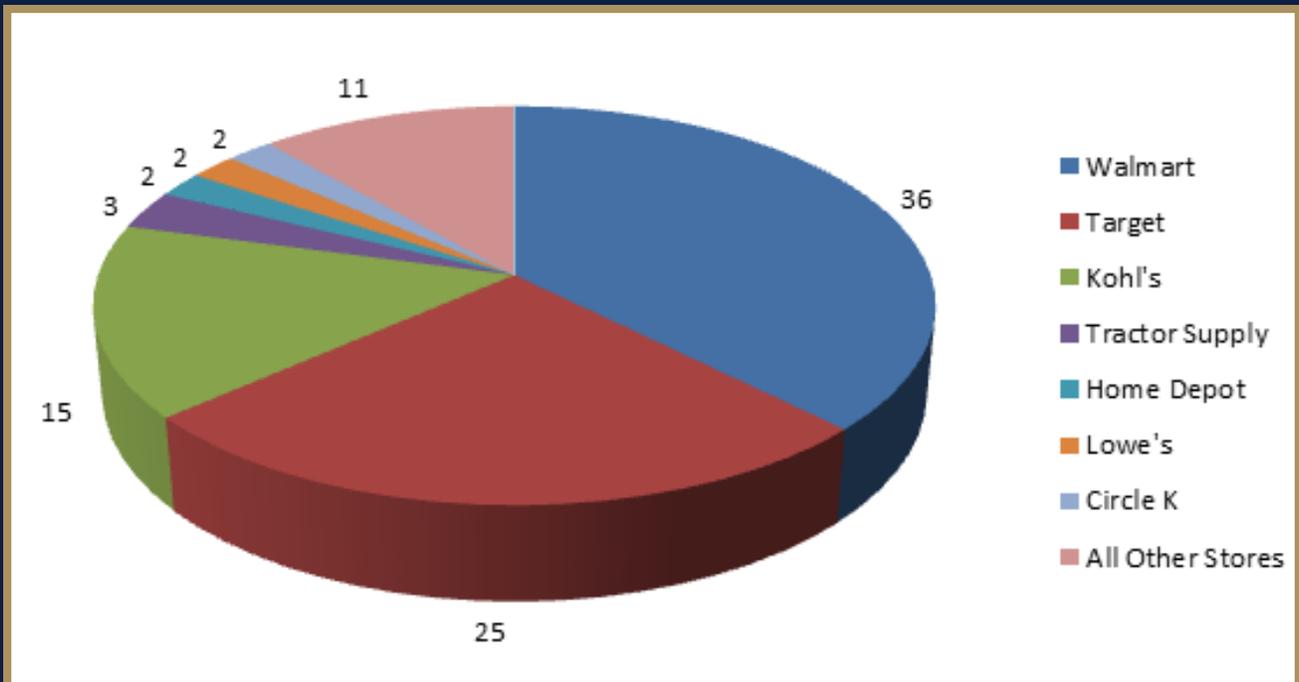


2024 STATISTICS

2024 THEFT BY LARCENY TYPE

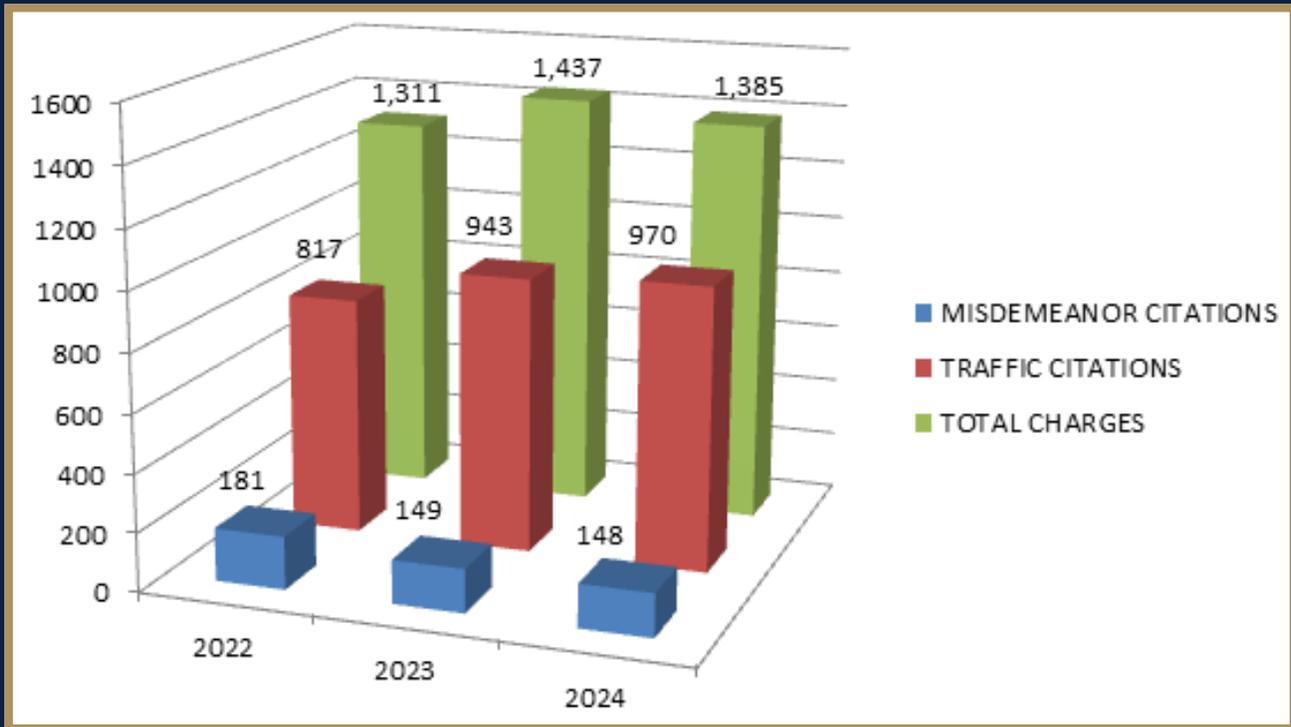


2024 SHOPLIFTING REPORTS BY STORE

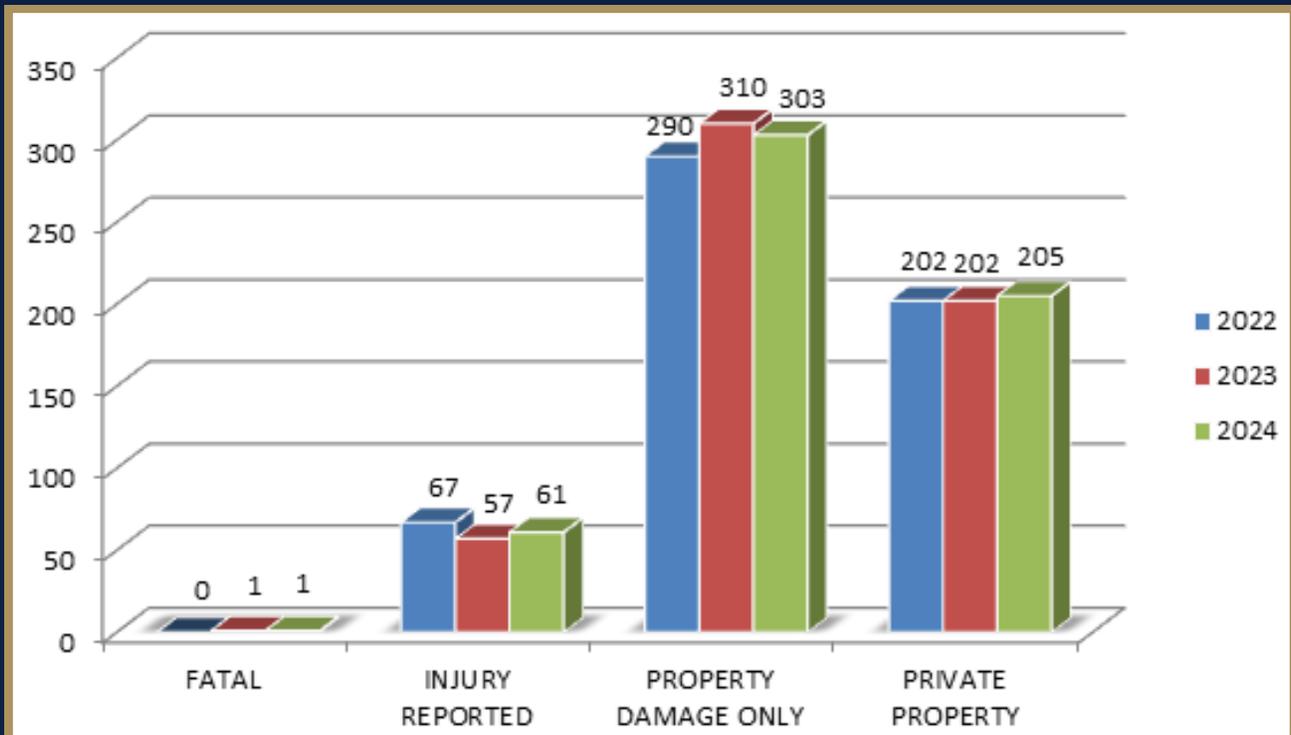


2024 STATISTICS

3 YEAR TRAFFIC AND MISDEMEANOR CITATIONS WITH TOTAL CHARGES



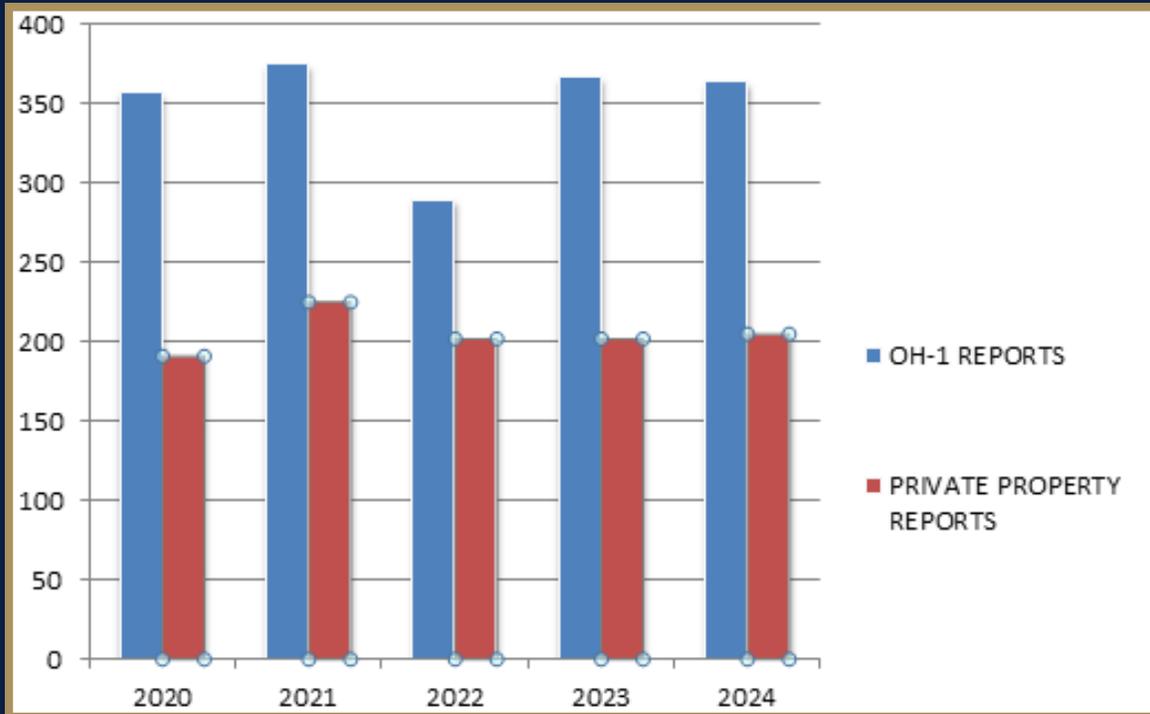
3 YEAR TRAFFIC CRASH TOTAL COMPARISON



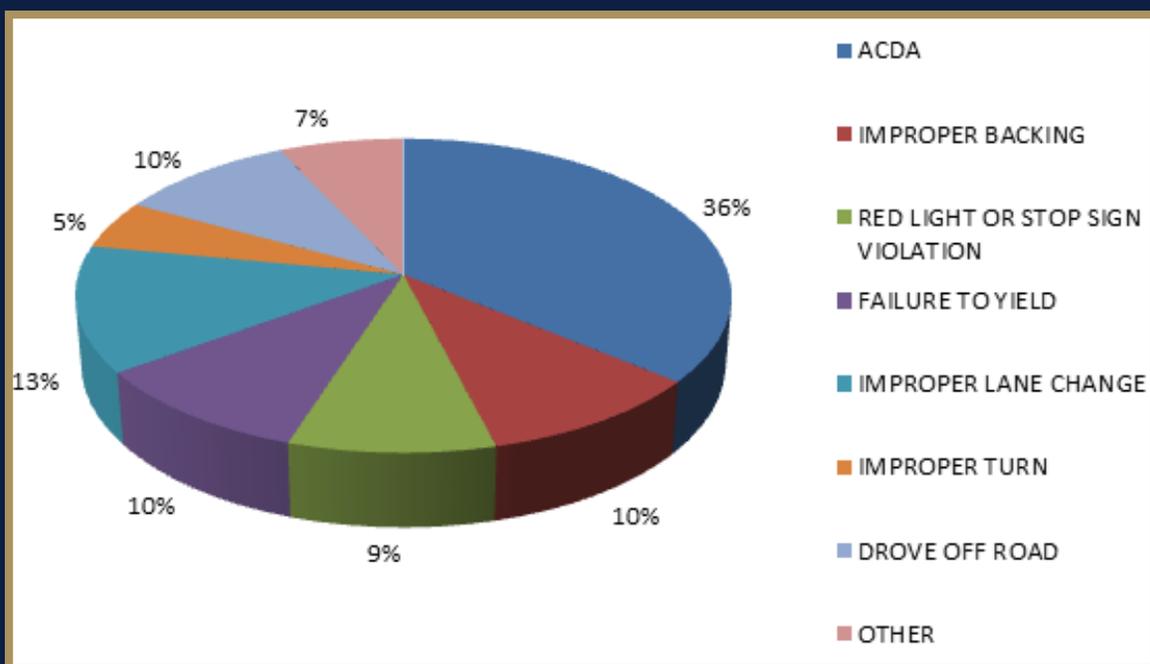
*NOTE: ALL LISTED FATAL ACCIDENTS OCCURRED IN WPD'S JURISDICTION BUT WERE HANDLED BY THE OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

2024 STATISTICS

FIVE YEAR TRAFFIC CRASH COMPARISON

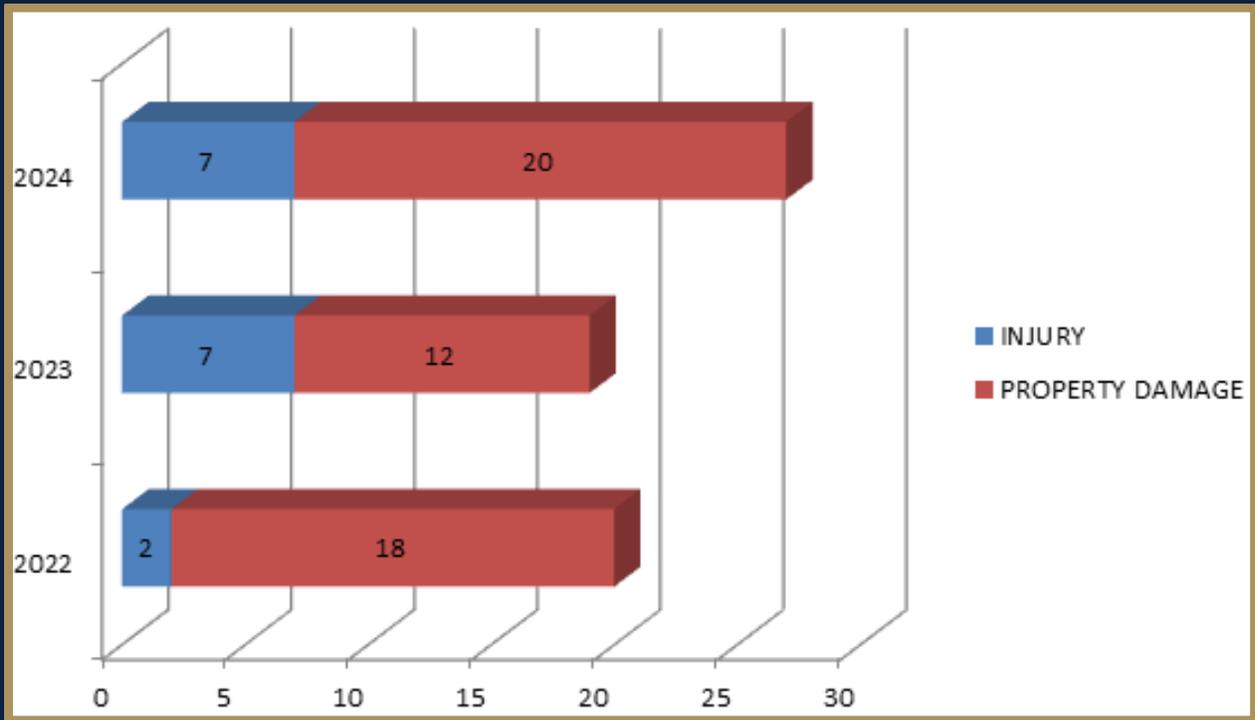


2024 TOP CONTRIBUTING CIRCUMSTANCES FOR TRAFFIC CRASHES

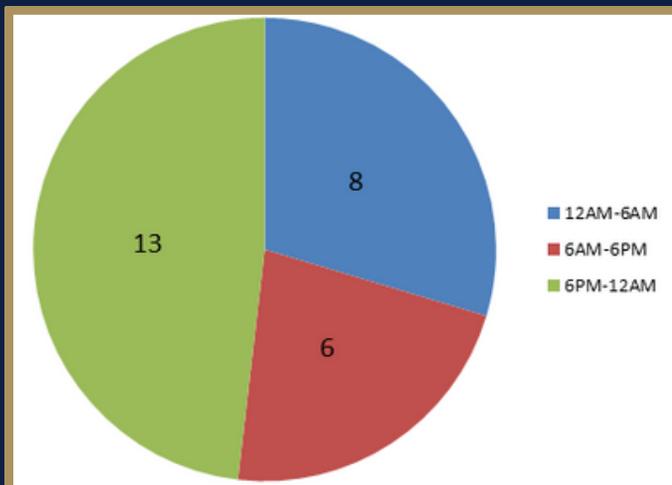


2024 STATISTICS

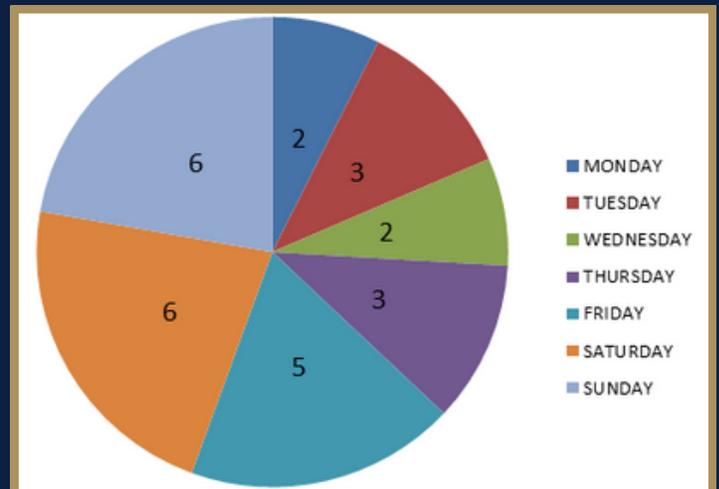
3 YEAR DRUG/ALCOHOL RELATED TRAFFIC CRASHES



ALCOHOL CRASHES BY TIME OF DAY

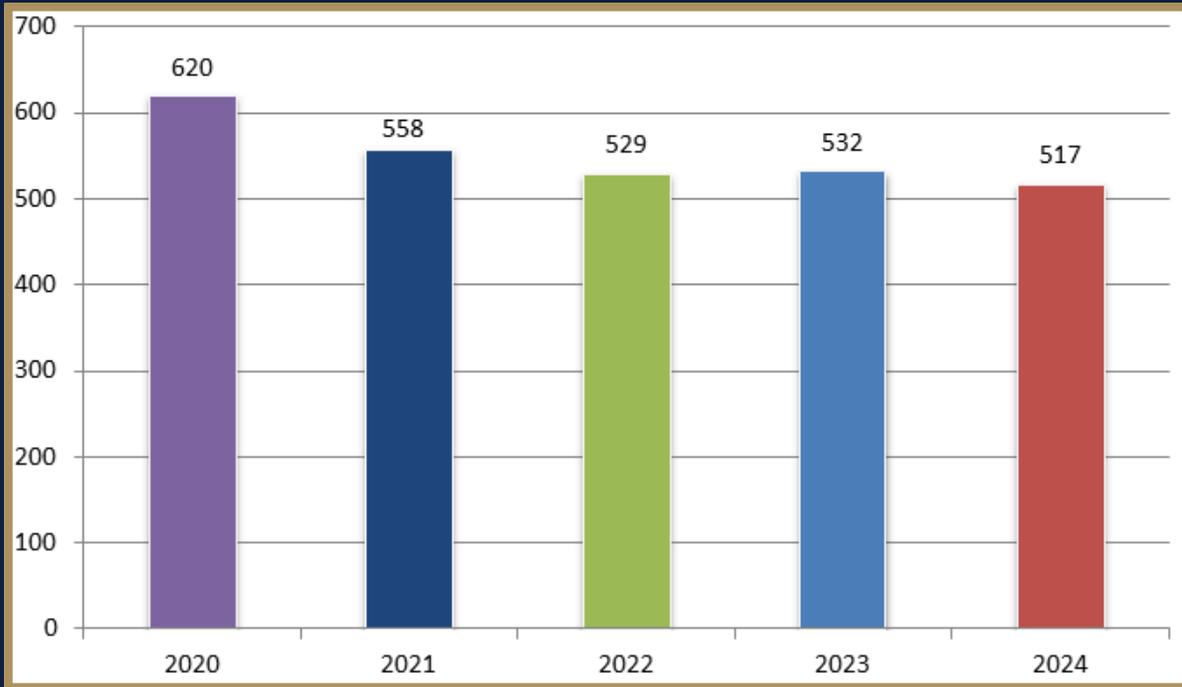


ALCOHOL CRASHES BY DAY OF WEEK

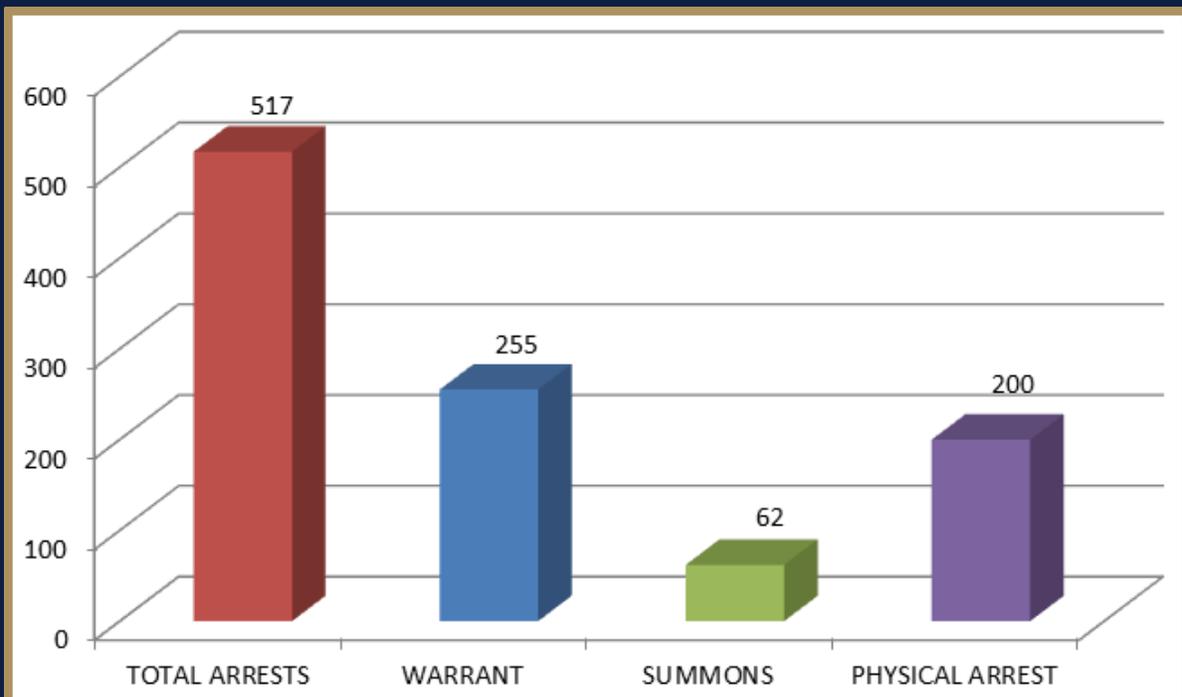


2024 STATISTICS

5 YEAR ARREST COMPARISON

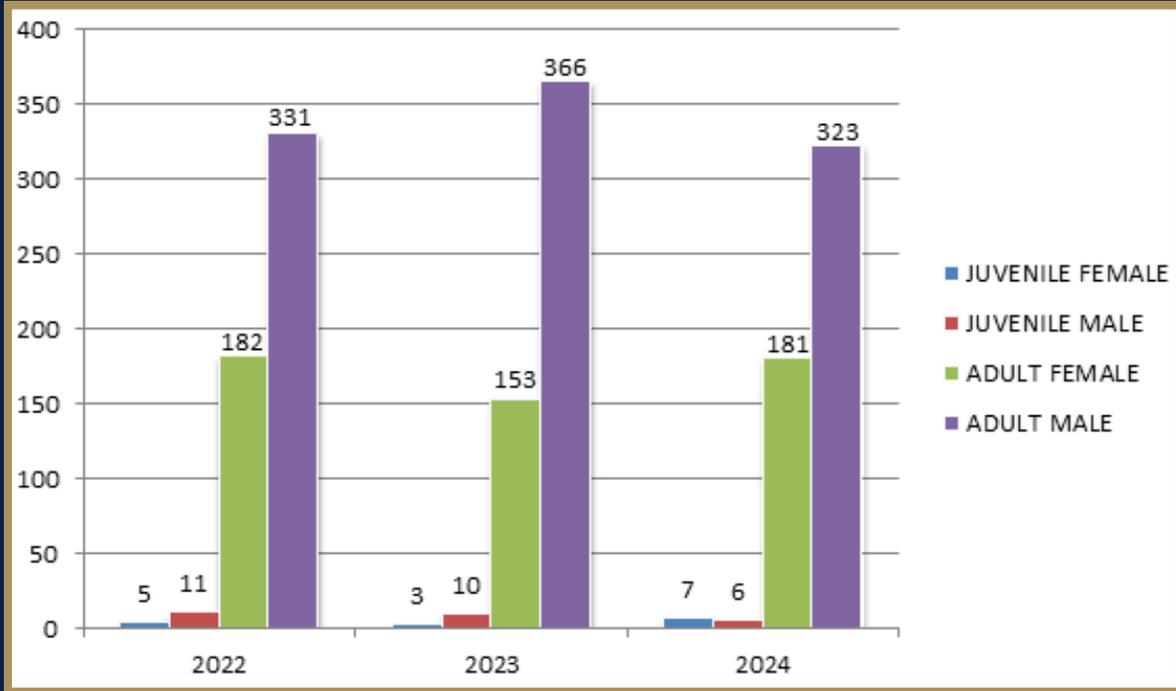


ARRESTS BY ARREST TYPE

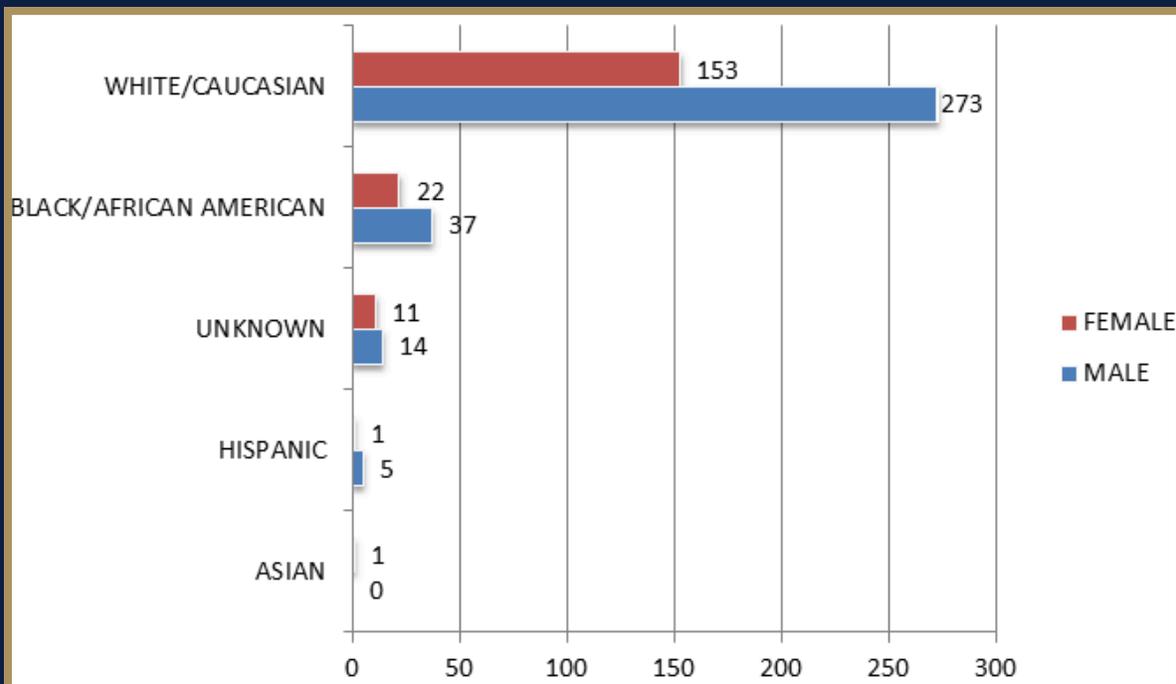


2024 STATISTICS

3 YEAR ARRESTEE COMPARISON

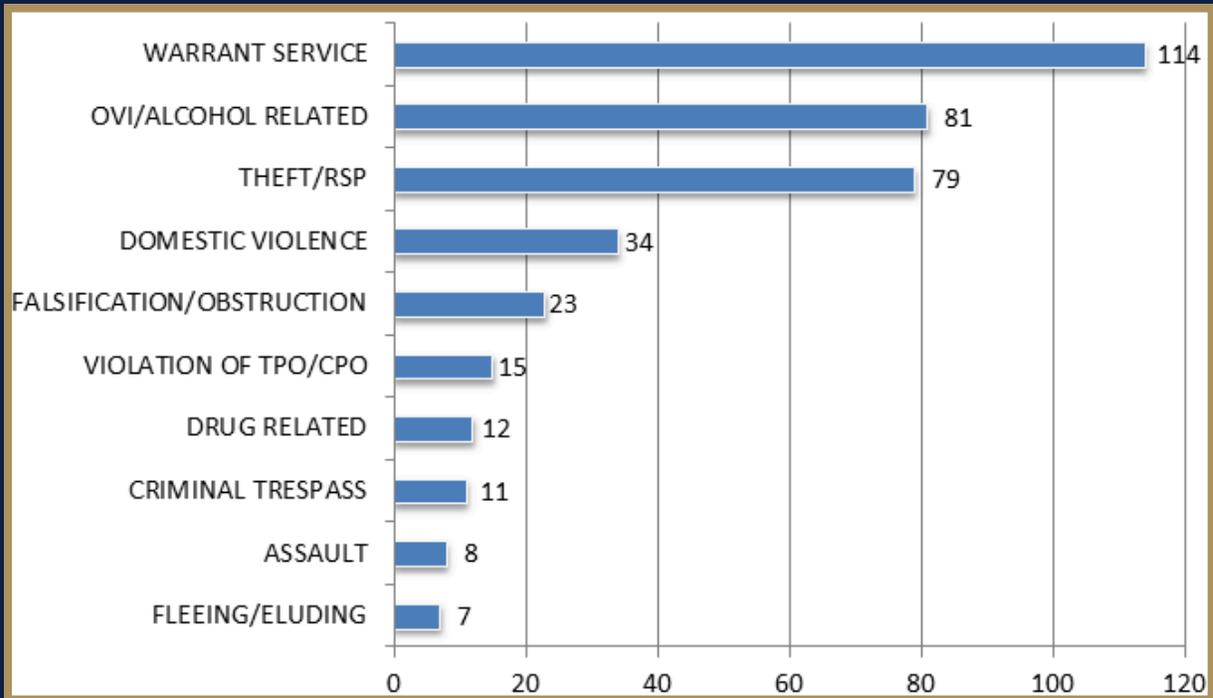


ARREST TOTALS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

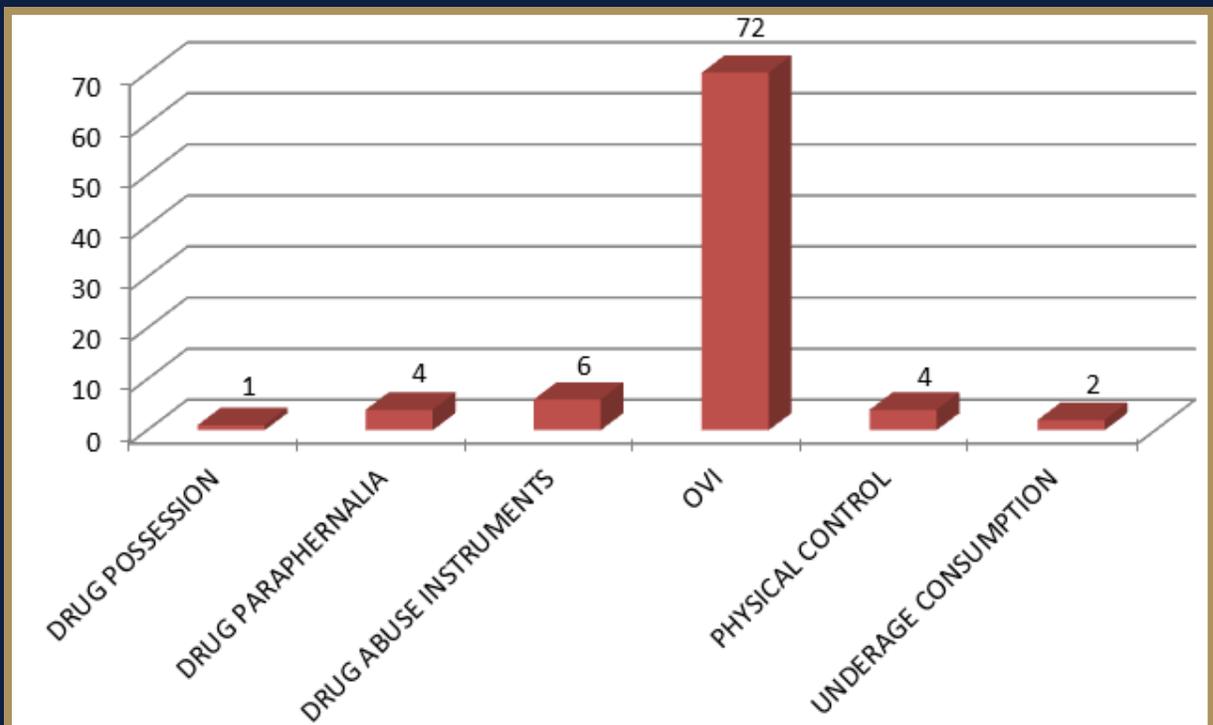


2024 STATISTICS

TOP ARREST CHARGES



ARREST BREAKDOWN OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG CHARGES



2024 STATISTICS

USE OF FORCE STATISTICS

A use of force incident is defined as an incident when a law enforcement officer uses any empty hand technique on a person, uses a less than lethal weapon or other object used as a less than lethal weapon on a person, discharges a firearm at or in the direction of a person, or uses any other lethal weapon or object used as a lethal weapon. Empty hand techniques may include, but are not limited to grabs, holds, joint locks, strikes, or other restraint measures. They do not include standard handcuffing procedures on a compliant person.

TOTAL USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS: 14 TOTAL SUBJECTS INVOLVED: 14

INVOLVED SUBJECTS

MALE	12
FEMALE	2
ADULT	13
JUVENILE	1

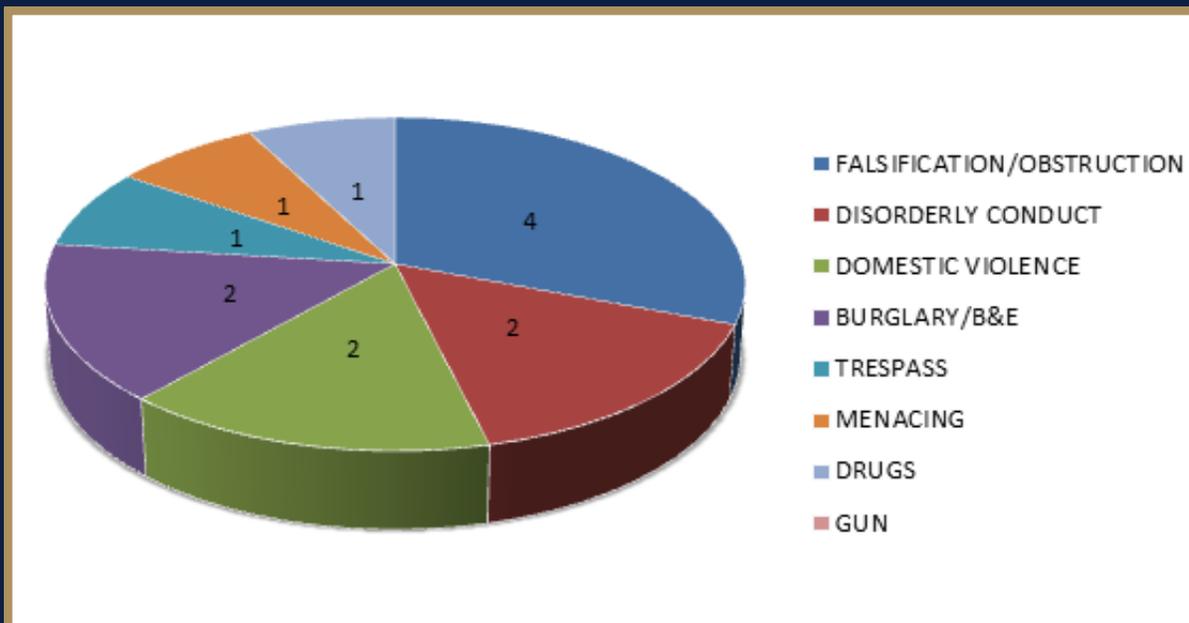
BREAKDOWN BY RACE

WHITE	13
BLACK	1
UNKNOWN	0

BREAKDOWN BY AGE

12-17 YEARS	1
18-25 YEARS	2
26-29 YEARS	6
40-59 YEARS	5

TYPE OF INCIDENT IN WHICH A USE OF FORCE WAS REPORTED



2024 TRAINING

DEPARTMENT HOSTED TRAINING

OVI REFRESHER - Officers participated in an OVI refresher course given by our Drug Recognition Experts that focused on pre-arrest screening tests.

REFLEX TRAINING - Officers attended this training and recertification for use of the Reflex Presidia Gel Spray. Unlike OC spray, this non-aerosol gel allows for more precise application and allows for more rapid relief.

DEFENSIVE TACTICS - Officers attended several sessions of this training by Ptl. Blubaugh, Ptl. Ball, and Ptl. Yehnert which reviewed handcuffing techniques and pain compliance.

TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE - Officers attended this training given by Ptl. Blubaugh and Fire/Medic Personnel which covers how to give life-saving treatment from point of injury to a higher level of care.

LEGALLY CONFIDENT - TACTICALLY CONFIDENT - WPD hosted this training held by Objectively Reasonable which covered up-to-date legal and tactical information. These particular updates included new laws around adult cannabis use and domestic violence.

CANINE LEGAL UPDATE - WPD hosted this class given by Objectively Reasonable which provided up-to-date legal information for canine officers.

OUTSIDE TRAINING CLASSES ATTENDED

Tactical Combat Casualty Care	Pursuit Operations
Reflex Training and Recertification	Patrol Fundamentals
Pursuit Supervision	Police Urban Mountain Biking
Constitutional Use of Force	Behavioral Threat Assessment and Threat Management
Medina Co. Active Killer Training	Autism and First Responders
ARIDE	Equus Therapy
Trauma Informed Response to Persons in Crisis	SWAT Urban Training
Use of Force Investigations	Medicolegal Death Investigation
Active Killer Response	Advanced Cannabis Impairment
OSROA Conference	Law Enforcement Response to Suicidal Subjects: Legal Realities and Options
OTOA Conference	Supervisor Leadership Institute
Below 100	SRO Basic Training
Criminal Interdiction Seminar	Advanced Search and Seizure
OIS/Critical Incident & Employee Rights	Cleveland Missing and Northeast Ohio
Gracie Survival Tactics	Amber Alert Conference
Resilience and Response	Basic Crash Investigations
Active Shooter Conference	

2024 TRAINING



CANINE LEGAL UPDATE



LEGALLY CONFIDENT - TACTICALLY CONFIDENT



WADSWORTH DISPATCH

Wadsworth Emergency Dispatch handles police calls for the City of Wadsworth and Fire/EMS calls for the City of Wadsworth and Wadsworth Township. The dispatch center is a 911 answering point within Medina County. The department is made up of 1 dispatch supervisor and 8 full-time dispatchers. In the next year, they hope to add to their staffing.

This year, our Dispatch Center participated in a highly successful Open House that allowed members of the public to have quiet entry into the center to observe the new location housed inside the Wadsworth Fire Station 1 on College St.

In 2024, the Wadsworth Emergency Dispatch Center received a total of 44,266 phone calls.



The dispatchers take great pride in the essential duties they perform and in the services they provide to the Police, Fire and EMS, and the community.



WADSWORTH DISPATCH

The Wadsworth Emergency Dispatch Center handles 911 calls, non-emergency line calls, officer initiated activity, social media posts or messages, and in-person calls to the police lobby. The Dispatch Center is a vital part of our department and they work behind the scenes to provide necessary support to all first responders. Dispatchers are the initial contact the public has with our department and they are a critical component of the Wadsworth Police Department.

WPD dispatchers are all EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatch) certified. EMD is an advanced form of dispatch communications based on specific medical training. As EMDs, they initiate and coordinate the necessary emergency response for callers seeking medical assistance. They are able to provide medical assistance to callers over the phone until help arrives on scene.

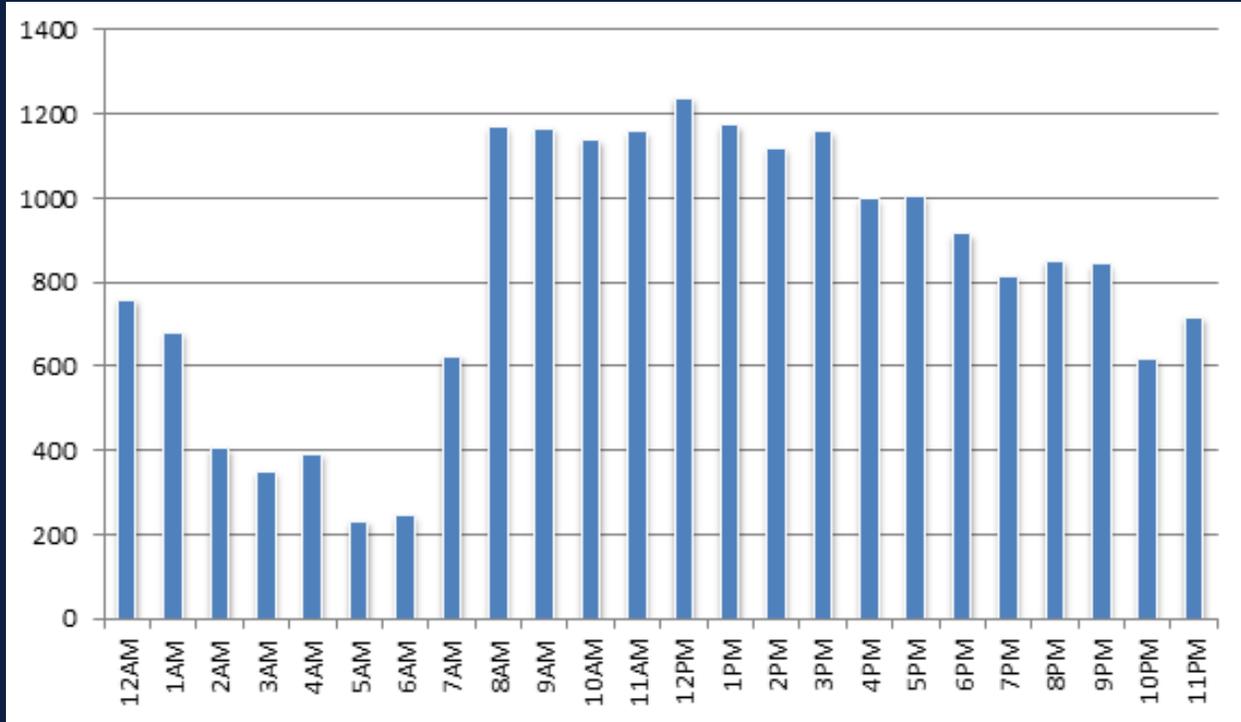


There are many additional duties that dispatchers are responsible for handling aside from answering all emergency and non-emergency calls, police/fire/EMS radio traffic and CAD entries.

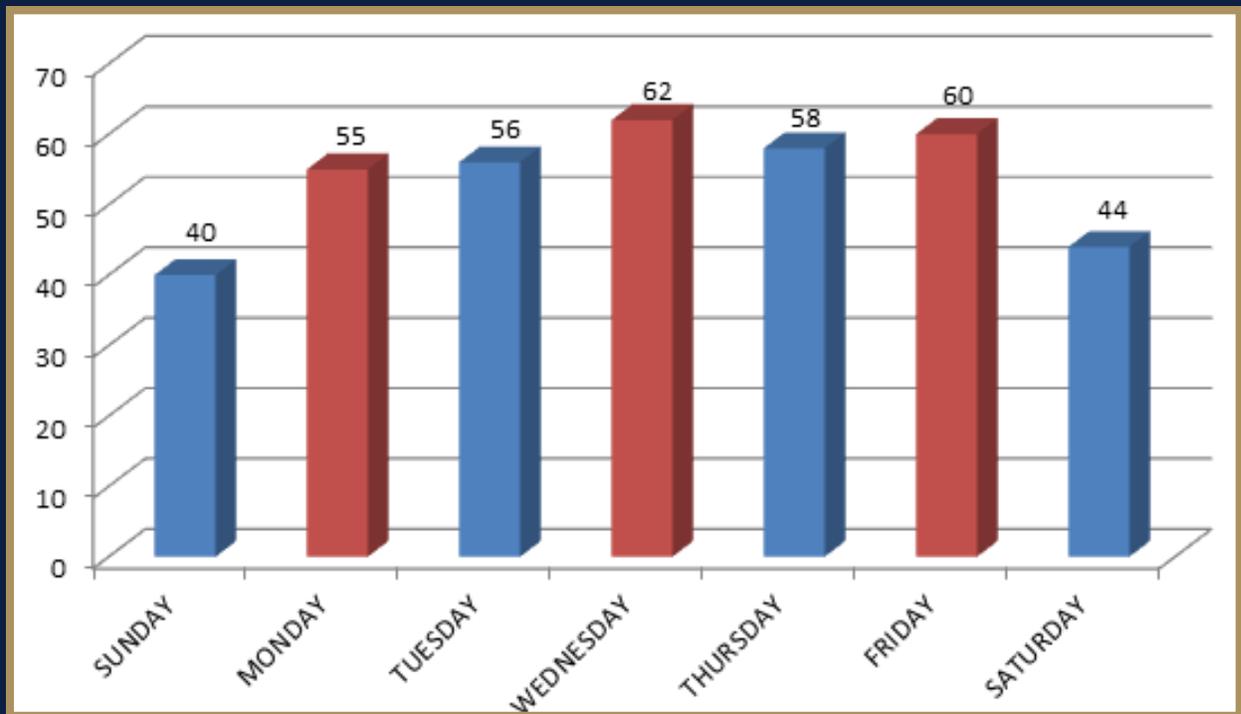
LEADS SEARCHES AND CCH CHECKS	AMBER ALERT ACTIVATION / REQUESTS	BOND PAYMENTS AND PROCESSING	POLICE/CITY/ COURT/SCHOOL CAMERA MONITORING
TRAFFIC CITATION ENTRY IN RMS	SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES/ MONITORING	EMERGENCY WARNING SYSTEM	VEHICLE IMMOBILIZATION PAPERWORK
AFTER HOURS COURT TICKET PAYMENTS	PROTECTION ORDER / WARRANT ENTRY	WEATHER NOTIFICATION - WENS	EMERGENCY SNOW PARKING BANS
IMPOUNDED VEHICLE RELEASES	MISSING PERSON ENTRIES / CELL PHONE PINGS	ADDITIONAL COURT RELATED PAPERWORK	PARKING AND WARNING CITE ENTRIES

DISPATCH STATISTICS

TOTAL COMPUTER-AIDED DISPATCH ENTRIES BY HOUR OF THE DAY



AVERAGE NUMBER OF CAD ENTRIES PER DAY



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2024 OFFICER OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

Each month, WPD Sergeants nominate an officer based on performance in their activity, specific actions on a call or incident, or additional factors such as community outreach, positive impacts within the department or excellent work ethic. The Officer of the Month is then decided by the Sergeants, Lieutenant and the Chief of Police.

Ptl. Rachel Durbin - January

Ptl. Durbin had a very active January. She was tied for the highest number of arrests and had the highest number of incident reports in January. Ptl. Durbin was able to gain a confession on a difficult B&E case and conducted diligent follow-ups to secure charges. Ptl. Durbin also volunteered for special programs whenever needed.



Ptl. Chris Hardy - February

Ptl. Hardy completed six complex reports in the month of February. Additionally, he was able to make 22 traffic stops and write 4 citations. Ptl. Hardy was able to use these traffic stops to obtain further drug charges by observing behavior of the vehicle occupants. Additionally, Ptl. Hardy was able to engage with a suicidal subject and get him safely to the hospital without incident.

Ptl. Adam Innocenti - March

Ptl. Innocenti was a vital asset for the detective bureau by completing 5 background investigations. These investigations are time-intensive and require a great deal of organization and attention to detail. In addition to this work, Ptl. Innocenti also handled 57 calls for service, made 31 traffic stops, issued 3 traffic citations and 7 parking citations, and made a felony arrest.



Det. James Allenby - April

Det. Allenby resolved 2 very noteworthy cases in the month of April. The first involved a Wadsworth Middle School teacher who was charged with multiple counts of sexual imposition. The second case involved possession of child pornography. In addition to these difficult cases, Det. Allenby had several extra duties that he completed regularly.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



Det. Dakota Lamielle - May

Det. Lamielle brought several cases to closure this month. Det. Lamielle handled a difficult to navigate sex offense case involving developmentally delayed individuals. He also was able to close an overdose death that resulted in felony charges. Det. Lamielle also worked diligently on a child abuse case that required viewing hundreds of hours of in-home video and documenting what occurred.

Ptl. Marc Gramley - June

Ptl. Gramley performed a lot of self-initiated activity in the month of June and also worked several in-depth cases. Ptl. Gramley's self-initiated traffic stops resulted in two felony drug seizures and a felony arrest. This stop also resulted in a felony arrest. Ptl. Gramley shows eagerness to seek out the criminal element as shown by the time he spends on patrol, security checks, and investigation of suspicious persons and vehicles.



Ptl. Zach West - July

Ptl. West had 21 traffic stops, 5 misdemeanor arrests, 1 felony arrest, and 17 traffic citations in the month of July. Additionally, he completed 1 accident report and 4 incident reports. Ptl. West was able to successfully charge a subject who had been abusing his wife despite the victim being hesitant to admit this. Ptl. West also calmly handled a pursuit which resulted in the driver being arrested and a loaded handgun being found inside his vehicle.



Ptl. Dan Shonk - August

Ptl. Shonk made 19 traffic stops with 9 traffic citations, had 2 felony arrests, completed 2 accident reports, and finished 6 incident reports (3 of which were for deceased individuals) in the month of August. Ptl. Shonk was able to gather extensive evidence for a felony theft case and was also able to successfully locate a female driver who had a warrant for her arrest.



AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Ptl. Rachel Durbin - September

Ptl. Durbin had an excellent month in September. She was the primary FTO for an officer in training and assisted him in completing 20 traffic stops with 8 traffic cites, 4 arrests, 5 accident reports, 16 incident reports, and 107 calls for service. Ptl. Durbin was able to coordinate the search for a felony subject who fled and was ultimately apprehended. She was also able to successfully investigate a robbery that had turned out to be planned by the victim.



Ptl. Ben Smith - October

Ptl. Smith worked diligently as one of our School Resource Officers this month by completing six well-documented incident reports involving WCS students. Ptl. Smith consistently collaborates and builds relationships within the school system. He has also worked hard to impact safety trainings for the schools and created 'See Something, Say Something' posters which highlight an A.L.I.C.E. concept.

Det. James Allenby - November

In November, Det. Allenby again resolved multiple in-depth cases. Det. Allenby worked multiple cases received from the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force as well as several other sex offense cases. Det. Allenby also handled a suicide case as well as an overdose case where a confession was gained from a subject involved in providing drugs to the victim.



Ptl. Marc Gramley - December

Ptl. Gramley demonstrated exceptional performance in December despite the frigid temperatures and subsequent decreased call volume. Ptl. Gramley was able to complete a traffic stop on a vehicle where narcotics were later found. He was also able to locate narcotics on an arrestee who was being arrested on a warrant. Additionally, Ptl. Gramley was able to solve a hit/skip crash and establish enough probable cause to charge the offender.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2024 OFFICER OF THE YEAR DETECTIVE JAMES ALLENBY



A 12 year veteran of the force, Det. Allenby is assigned to the Detective Bureau where he is responsible for some of the department's most serious cases. Detective Allenby is a skilled investigator whose relentless determination and impressive work ethic make him an invaluable member of the team. Over the years, Detective Allenby has developed a reputation within the department for his incredible ability to solve crime. His dedication to the citizens of Wadsworth and to the Wadsworth Police Department is unmatched!

In addition to the Detective Bureau, Det. Allenby serves as a Sniper on the Medina County SWAT Team. He is a certified Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), a CVSA examiner, a cell phone forensics analyst, and a member of the bike patrol.

Detective Allenby is a strong advocate for his co-workers, and has served as the patrol division's OPBA representative. He is President of the Wadsworth FOP Lodge 45 and helps manage the department's off duty jobs.

Detective Allenby always maintains a positive attitude, has the highest degree of professionalism, and exhibits exceptional interpersonal skills. He collaborates frequently with other agencies in Medina County and connects victims with resources and other necessary assistance. He can effectively relate to victims, suspects, and others involved in his investigations. Detective Allenby regularly responds in the middle of the night, outside of his normal shift hours, to assist other officers on important cases.

Det. Allenby was selected as the department's 'Officer of the Month' in April and November, and received a majority of votes from his peers and supervisors to be awarded 'Officer of the Year' for 2024. He was also selected as Officer of the Year in 2021. The WPD is grateful to have Detective Allenby not only as a detective, but as a wonderful mentor and selfless friend. We appreciate everything that he has done for the WPD and for the City of Wadsworth. Congratulations to Detective Allenby, and thank you for your service!

AWARDS & RECOGNITION



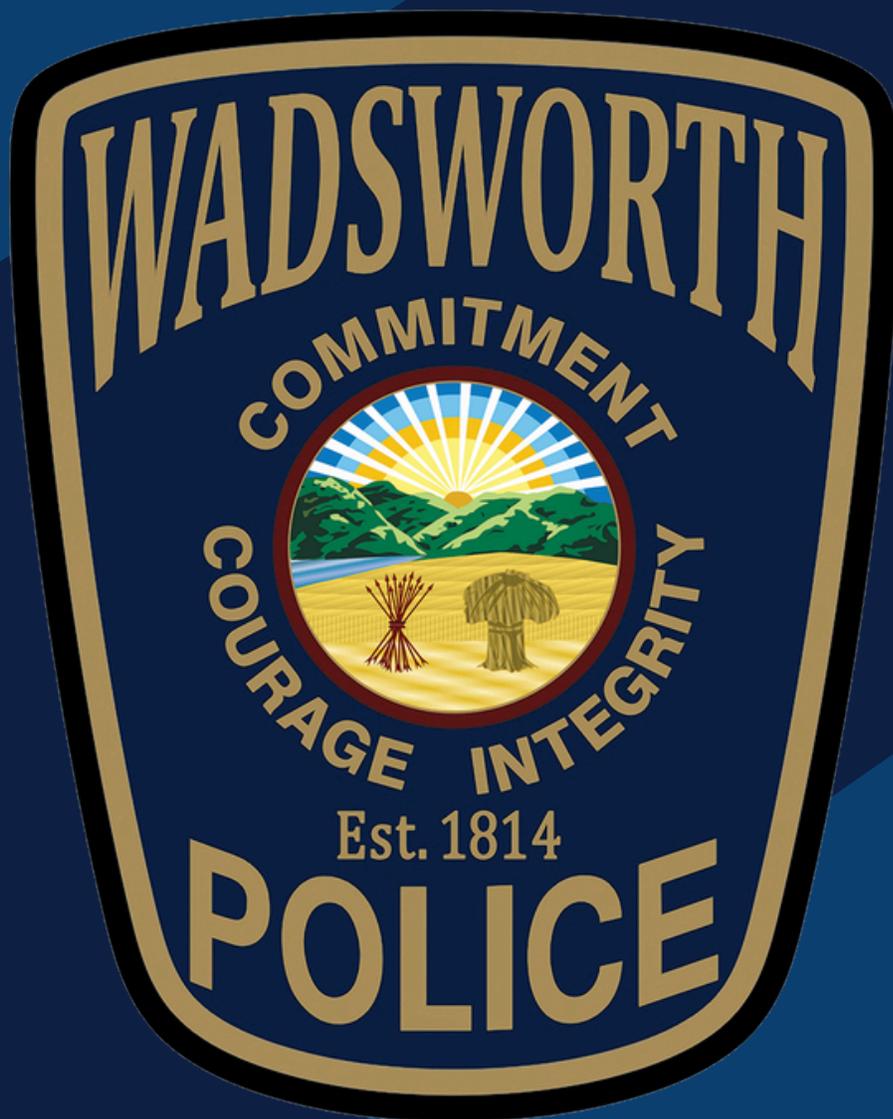
2024 Safe Communities Awards Ptl. Adam Innocenti and Ptl. Luke Yehnert

Ptl. Innocenti was awarded the Click It or Ticket Traffic Enforcement Award and Ptl. Yehnert received the OVI Enforcement Award by the Medina County safe Communities Coalition. Both officers have made tremendous efforts in 2024 to ensure Wadsworth is a safe community. They have gone above and beyond in their duties as patrol officers and that hard work has not gone unnoticed. We are proud of their hard work and dedication and thank them for their tireless service!

2024 Departmental Blue Award Ptl. Andrew Blubaugh

Ptl. Blubaugh received this commendation for his quick action and life-saving efforts when responding to a call in October of 2024. Ptl. Blubaugh responded to a call where an elderly male was suffering from a possible heart attack. Ptl. Blubaugh immediately assessed the scene and the victim. Ptl. Blubaugh ensured there was a clear spot for EMS. Upon EMS arrival, Ptl. Blubaugh was able to give medical personnel a detailed account of what he had found. Ptl. Blubaugh also assisted EMS by giving chest compressions while they were setting up. EMS later credited Ptl. Blubaugh, stating his efforts gave the victim the best chance of survival.





2024