



2020 ANNUAL REPORT
MOUNT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT



Table of Contents

Message from the Chief of Police	3
Organizational Chart.....	4
Community Oriented Policing	5
K-9 Officer Program.....	8
Records – Evidence Department	9
Records Clerks/Support Staff	9
Evidence/Property Section	10
Technology.....	11
Drones.....	11
Detective Bureau	12
School Resource Officer – J. I. Case High School	13
New Officer Field Training	14
Training	15
Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP)	15
In-Service Training	16
Mount Pleasant Firearms Range	16
Traffic Enforcement Grants.....	17
Citizens Police Academy	17
Honor Guard.....	18
Disturbance Response Unit (DRU) Civil Disturbance Team.....	19
Peer Support & Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)	20
Police Chaplain Program	20
Mount Pleasant Police Department Chaplain Duties.....	21
Motor Units	22
Calls for Service:	23
Traffic Enforcement:	23
Special Events:.....	23
Escorts:	23
Fleet Maintenance	24
New Police Officers	24
Promotions	25
Retirements/Resignations.....	25



Message from the Chief of Police

We present this 2020 Mount Pleasant Police Department annual report for your review. The goal of this report is to provide the public with access to information about our department; to include departmental changes, challenges, and accomplishments throughout the previous year.

Although 2020 did provide unique challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the department was able to continue patrol operations with limited interruption. Our Community Oriented Policing activities were forced to adapt to the various safety concerns as they related to social distancing and the potential spread of COVID-19 to our citizens and staff. Many of our planned activities were cancelled and/or postponed. Our



ever-popular Citizen's Police Academy was cancelled; however, we hope to continue with the Citizen's Academy in the fall of 2021 as long as the conditions are suitable for safe participation.

Our Community Oriented Policing philosophy continues to influence our goals and objectives. While some community activities needed to be cancelled, many others continued in an altered state to ensure safety. In a year in which police and community relations were stressed throughout the United States, it was very apparent how valuable community policing is with building trusting relationships with the people we serve.

In 2020 we saw the purchase and distribution of body-worn cameras for all sworn personnel to demonstrate the commitment to transparency while providing added protection to our officers and citizens. In addition, our body-worn camera policy was updated to reflect the expectations we have for ourselves, as well as the expectations from the community.

While 2020 undoubtedly brought unique challenges, I am very proud of the men and women of this department for forging ahead during difficult times. Their commitment and dedication are what puts the Mount Pleasant Police Department at the forefront of law enforcement.

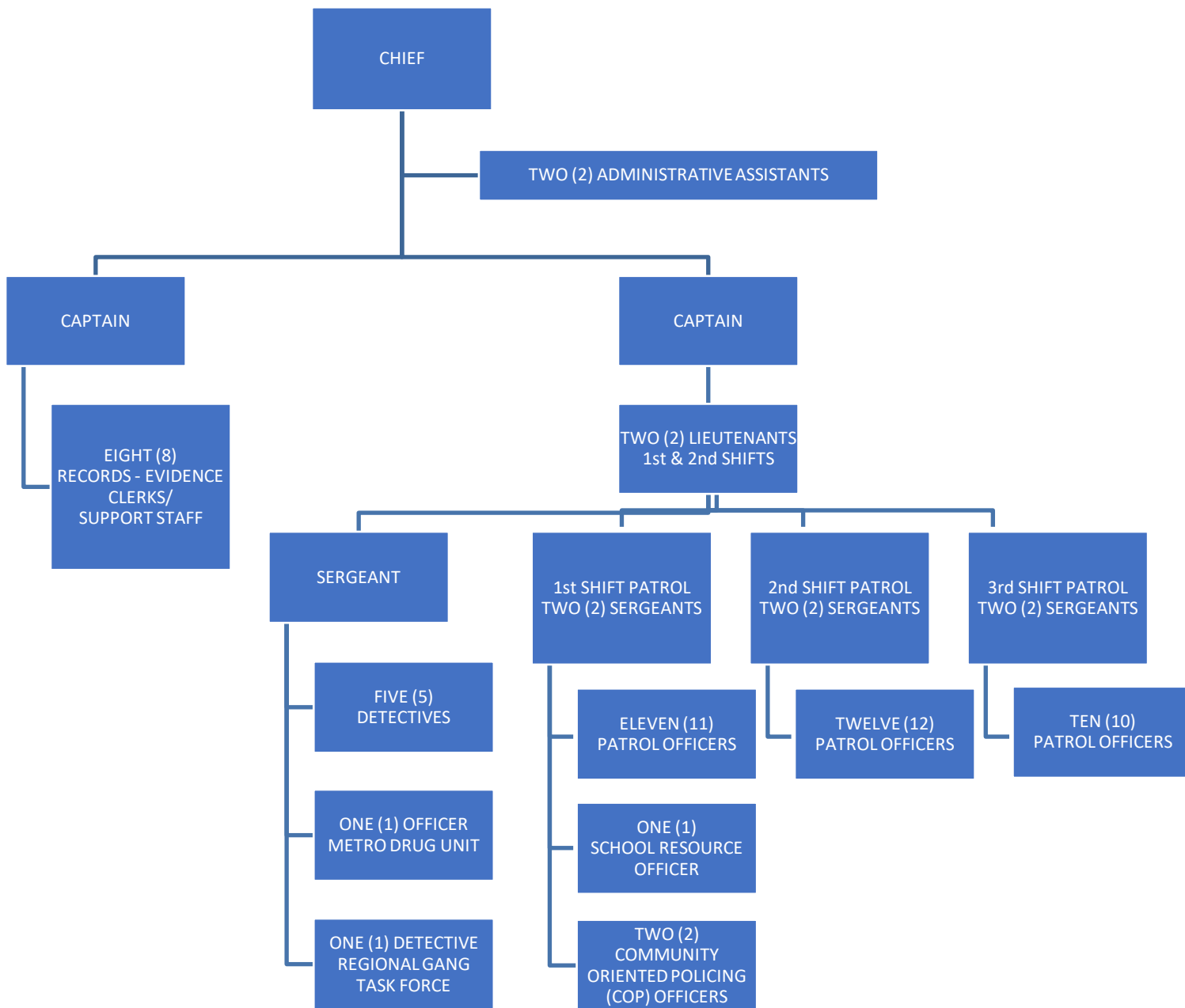
Wishing you a safe and healthy 2021.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Soens



Organizational Chart





Community Oriented Policing

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING (COP) is a sustained effort to create a positive and productive partnership between law enforcement and members of the public. All officers of the Mount Pleasant Police Department are conditioned from the beginning of their careers to embrace a community policing philosophy. To encourage this, personnel are given latitude in coming up with solutions to problems they encounter in their beat areas or when assisting citizens. Communications via social media and press releases allow our department to share unfiltered information (e.g. crime prevention tips, wanted suspects, positive police interactions) and efficiently respond to questions from citizens.



Police interactions with children and families backed with sincerity, compassion, and genuine intentions, ensure that officers build legitimacy in our policing efforts and trust with the public we are sworn to protect. COVID-19 did add some challenges to our ability to engage the public safely. However, our COP officers excelled at overcoming this challenge. Early in the year COP partnered with the South Shore Fire Department and conducted “Birthday Drive-Bys,” with emergency lights

and sirens, at the request of Mount Pleasant residents. This effort was well received as people had less social interaction and were quarantining in their homes.

Additionally, COP officers quickly follow up with concerns from residents and find ways to help families feel safe, secure and appreciated. COP officers host several events throughout the year in order to create opportunities for positive neighborhood interactions. Some examples include: Shop with a Cop during the Christmas holiday, Stuff the squad, Neighborhood Watch meetings, mentorship initiatives, delivery of flowers, food or other gifts, and sponsorship of other village-wide initiatives (See table on Page 8 for a more robust list).





The Mount Pleasant Police Department's COP House is located at 2237 Mead Street. Prior to the construction of the COP house in 2015, the Lakeside neighborhood required more frequent police services when compared with other similar sized and populated areas in the village. This area of our community was often ridden with criminal activity, building code violations, graffiti, and many times required a multiple officer response to police calls for service. A properly operated COP house is meant to help reduce criminal activity and ordinance violations, while bringing in needed services and opportunities that benefit the lives of the area residents.



In year 2020, the two officers assigned to the COP House were Rachel Gardinier and Matt Kwapil. This house continues to serve as a permanent base for COP operations in the Lakeside neighborhood and throughout the Village. It provides a safe environment for children and families, as well as our service partners. COP officers work staggering shifts at the COP house to maximize police exposure and effectiveness. Our mission is to build meaningful relationships with neighborhood residents in order to identify opportunities that would help improve their quality of life and trust with our police department. Officers have taken an active role to quickly address nuisance properties and criminal activity. We select partnerships with public and private organizations that we believe will help us achieve our goals for the Lakeside neighborhood. The needs of the community are constantly evaluated and our response is adjusted accordingly.

Over the previous six years as a direct result of our collaborative effort between police and residents along with enforcement and program efforts, criminal activity was minimized, nuisance properties were identified, and the small number of the properties in the Lakeside neighborhood that generated the majority of the police calls for service have been cleaned up. The majority of the neighborhood residents have come to embrace the regular police presence and respect our shared initiatives.



A significant amount of energy, as it pertains to community policing, was directed at improving the aesthetics of the neighborhood and a feeling of neighborhood ownership. This effort is known as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). In order to improve the feeling of safety for area residents, COP officers collaborated with the village's highway department, building inspectors,



health department and COP house program partners including SC Johnson.



Some examples of CPTED include: raising of abandoned and dilapidated houses, improved business practices, neighborhood litter cleanup efforts, the assessment and enforcement of unhealthy or unsafe living conditions, and steady pressure was placed on landlords to make improvements to their properties. Additionally, in 2015, Seater Construction donated land and SC Johnson paid for the construction of a park/playground in the 2200 block of Mead St. known as Polzin Park. Habitat for Humanity homes were constructed on land that was vacant or was the location of raised homes. This improvement made home ownership more affordable for several families.



The majority of the COP House program expenses are covered by donations, grants, and fundraising efforts. Only a small portion of the overall costs are covered by village taxpayers. A generous grant from SC Johnson funded the cost of the house, park and one of our community policing officer positions.



Mrs. Myers' Reading Room

Mrs. Myer's Reading Room is a popular reading improvement program that provides an important service to our Lakeside neighborhood children. A structured environment, along with dedicated and engaging teachers, help children to improve their MAP scores significantly. Through a grant from SC Johnson this service was provided in 2020 and will again be provided at the COP house in 2021. Children attend classes at the COP house weekly for a total of 38 weeks throughout the year. Studies have shown a strong connection between early low literacy skills and our country's exploding incarceration rates. Therefore, we value this partnership for the good it does for each child, and for our community through a reduction in criminal behavior and increased interactions with families. Officers act as mentors and liaisons to Racine Unified schools, families, and the reading program, in order



to ensure the needs of children and families are being identified and addressed appropriately. In 2020, officers again partnered with local restaurant owners who chose to donate food for the children two days a week. We determined that offering food positively contributes to the learning process and positive engagements.





Lakeside COP House

- Community Garden
- 4th of July Parade
- Birthday Drive-Bys
- Christmas Party
- Community Service Hours
- COP House Playbook
- Crime Stoppers
- Daily Interactions
- Drug Takeback Days
- Flower Basket Distribution
- Food/Gift Delivery
- FREE Flu Shots
- Fundraiser for Lakeside Family
- Girl's Inc.
- Halloween Party at Jellystone
- Lunch with a COP
- Mrs. Myer's Reading Room
- National Night Out
- Neighborhood Revitalization Efforts
- Neighborhood Watch
- Outdoor Fire Pit

K-9 Officer Program

Currently we have two active K-9 officers working for our department. Officer Nicole Knierim, the first female K-9 handler in Racine County, is teamed up with Brutus, a German Shepard/Malinois mix. The team started their service together in 2014. We also have K-9 Ares, a Belgian Malinois who is partnered with Sergeant Eric Giese. Their service began in 2015. Both K-9 officers are certified in Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Building Searches, Area/Evidence Searches and Criminal Apprehension. The types of narcotics the K-9 officers can detect are: Marijuana, Cocaine/Crack Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Ecstasy and Heroin. In addition, the K-9 Units attended various fundraisers and public demonstrations throughout the year.

Due to the special capabilities of our K-9 teams, they are regularly called upon to respond to burglaries in progress, robberies, open doors, alarms, narcotics in progress, fleeing suspects, dangerous wanted parties and calls involving weapons.

Our department's K-9's increased and enhanced Officer safety in 2020 by assisting Officers in reaching peaceful conclusions under dangerous conditions. Also, the Mount Pleasant K-9 Unit assisted the following outside agencies; Racine Police Department, Sturtevant Police Department, Caledonia Police Department, Racine County Sheriff's Office, Kenosha Police Department, Kenosha County Sheriff's Office, Wisconsin State Patrol, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Waterford Police Department.





2020 K-9 Stats & Illegal Substance Recovery

	2018	2019	2020
Deployments	160	96	118
Drug Paraphernalia	14	17	20
Marijuana	1321.4g	530g	159.3g
Crack / Cocaine	29g	5.6g	16.4g
Heroin	1.3g	0.8g	16.7g
Meth	0g	3.8g	2g
Fentanyl	N/A	N/A	27g
Street Value of Drugs Seized	\$29,588	\$6,403	\$12,094
Apprehension Assists	9	4	2
Firearms	2	0	9
Vehicle Sniffs	114	79	98
Building / Yard searches	20	5	4
Tracks	2	3	1
School Searches	6	2	2
Prison Searches	2	1	5
Public Demonstrations	13	2	2



K-9 photo credits thanks to Wolf Within Photography.

Records – Evidence Department

Records Clerks/Support Staff

Our Records/Evidence Custodial Staff are often the first contact the public has when entering our building as they staff the front windows and are the face of the police department within the building.

They assist customers with open records requests, taking payments and directing them to the correct people within the department or courts. They often deal with victims of crimes, traffic crashes, ordinance or traffic violators who have been cited/arrested and later have questions or concerns.

Behind the scenes, the clerks are typing police reports, entering warrant and other data, compiling reports for the District Attorney’s Office and addressing the numerous Open Records requests. Our clerks are also essential with the work they do in the E-TRACS program to



download and process officers' electronic citations, which are then submitted to the state and to our local courts. This is essential for our accurate Traffic and Data Collection Program. This also involves the TRACS Electronic Accident reporting system, which allows those involved in a crash to access the report for themselves and their insurance companies. Crash reports are available online through the State of Wisconsin as well as Carfax. Both online services provide a similar service for the same cost when someone wants to retrieve an accident report and can do it from a computer.

Evidence/Property Section

The Evidence/Property Section works diligently to store secured evidence and to fulfill record requests from defense attorneys and the District Attorney's Office. They also manage the Drug Drop box, which has become very popular for the public to have a safe and efficient way to dispose of old and/or unused prescriptions. The Evidence Custodian assists officers with court room testimony by providing secure evidence for officers to use in court cases. The members of our support staff are a vital part of our organization and provide a very important service to the police department and the community. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the department and caused a reduction in some of the police/clerk activity levels.

There have been a few personnel changes that have taken place in 2020 within the Police Civilian/Staff Support. Andy Yust decided it was time to enjoy retirement after a long career at the Mount Pleasant Police Department as an officer and then as the department's Evidence Custodian for many years.

Jeff Brandt who is our Clerk Lead took over as the department's Evidence Custodian with the retirement of Andy Yust. Dawn Knitter came back on a part-time basis after retiring the previous year to assist Mr. Brandt with his new responsibilities/duties. With Jeff Brandt taking on other responsibilities we needed to fill the position of a police clerk.

Applications were submitted and several interviews took place. April Cruz was offered the clerk position and accepted. She brings a host of experience as she was previously employed by the Racine Police Department for several years and most recently the Racine County Communications Center.

Records Year in Review

- Over 752 open records requests in 2020 (2019 had 900; and, nearly 600 in 2018).
- 954 Accidents processed in 2020 (2019 had 1,152; and, 1,098 in 2018).
- 7,126 Citations processed in the 2020 (8,792 in 2019; and, 8,985 in 2018).
- 2,442 Property reports created in 2020 (2,716 in 2019; and, 2,523 in 2018).
- 2,446 Items entered in to evidence in 2020 (Over 4,200 in 2019; and, 5,000 in 2018).



Technology

The Mount Pleasant Police Department has been on the forefront of technology and has implemented some of the newest technological tools. The department continues to incorporate GTAC tablets as mobile computers.

In 2020, the department outfitted all sworn personnel with a Panasonic Arbitrator Body Worn Camera (BWC). In 2007, the department started outfitting all patrol squads with Arbitrator 360 in-squad cameras systems. The new Panasonic BWC's work in conjunction with the in-squad cameras. At the beginning of the patrol shifts, officers synchronize their BWC's with the in-squad system so the cameras share the same activation triggers. If any one of the in-squad camera triggers are activated, the officer's BWC activates automatically. When an officer manually activates their BWC, the in-squad camera also activates if it is in range. This feature allows officers to focus on the situation at hand instead of remembering to activate the camera. Since implementing the new Squad and BWC camera policy in August of 2020, the department has collected and stored over 20 terabytes of data. We produce and store over 1100 videos a week on average. The department has also been able to greatly reduce the time it takes to process open records requests by purchasing Panasonic Web Publisher software. This program allows our records clerks to email electronic links that can be used to view photos and videos associated with open records requests.

Drones

The Mount Pleasant Police Department has several operators specially trained to operate the department's drone. In 2020, the drone was utilized on multiple occasions to assist with

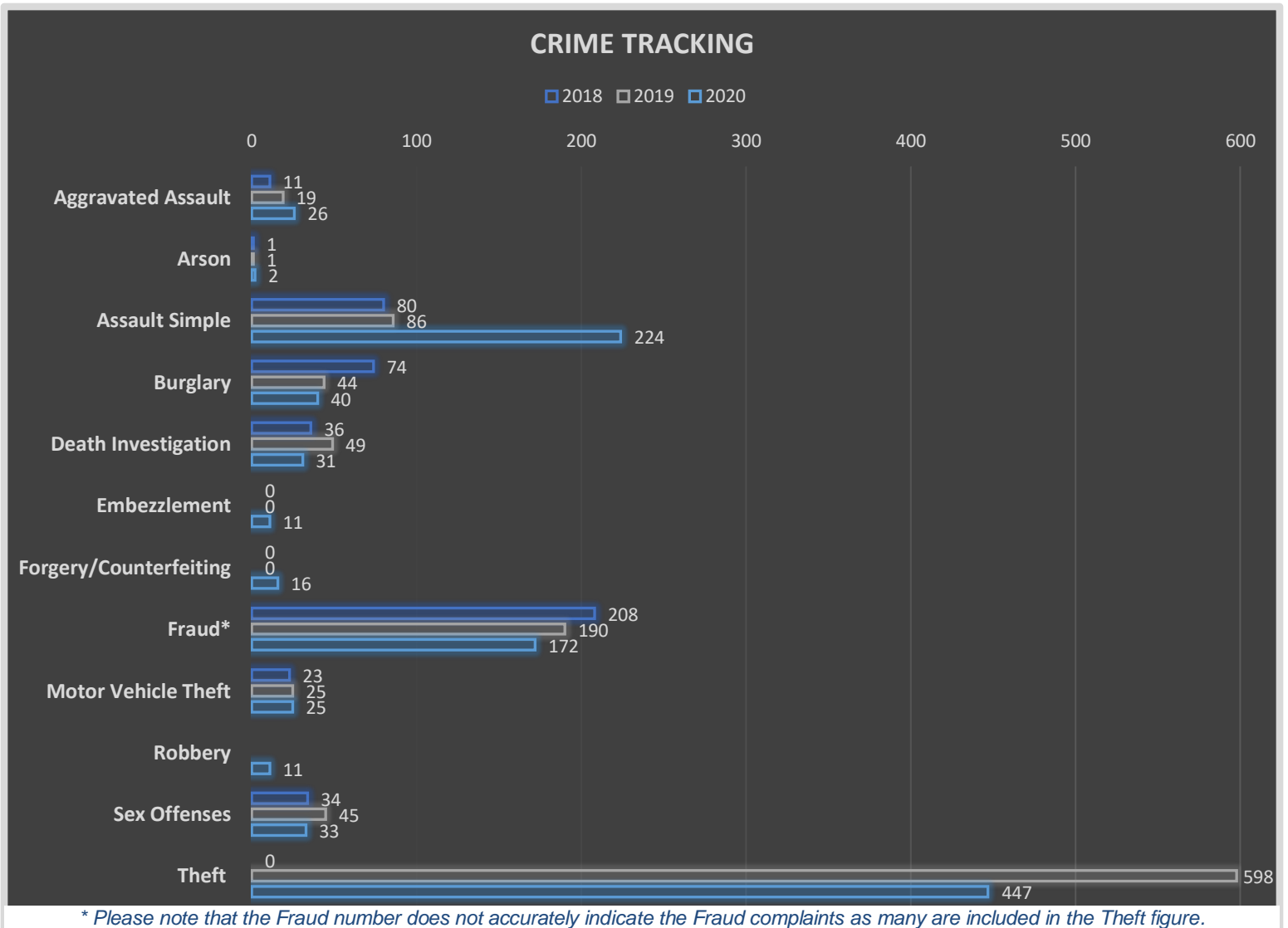


searches, photograph crash scenes, and capture regular and infrared photographs and videos of other events.



Detective Bureau

In 2020, the Mount Pleasant Police Department's Detective Bureau was staffed with five full-time detectives and one temporary detective assignment which is filled by a patrol officer. The temporary position provides valuable insight for the officer as well as providing investigative assistance to the detectives. One of the detectives actively participates in the Greater Racine County Gang Task Force. This position has proven valuable in successfully investigating gang related crimes in the area. Although the crime statistics have remained relatively consistent, there has been an increase in theft by fraud complaints utilizing telephone and internet methods. Because of the type of crime, investigating them requires an entirely different approach and has increased the time it takes to investigate. The legal procedures and challenges regarding the recovery of data and records have become more complex and time consuming thus causing increased work effort on cases requiring data retrieval.





School Resource Officer – J. I. Case High School

Nearly 30 years ago, the Mount Pleasant Police Department started our School Resource Officer program. The goal of our SRO program is to provide a safe learning environment, provide valuable resources to school staff members, foster positive relationships with students and develop strategies to resolve problems that affect our youth with the goal of protecting all children so they can reach their fullest potential.



At the start of the 2019-2020 school year, Officer Eric Oertel began his assignment as the School Resource officer at Case High School. Officer Oertel has had many years of experience working with youth in different settings. He is excited to work closely with school administration, staff and students to provide a safe and productive learning environment.

In March of 2020, the Racine Unified School District closed all schools to in-person learning as the COVID-19 pandemic took hold in the United States. What was originally thought to be a two-week closure extended into the remainder of the school year. In the fall of 2020, with virtual learning still in place, Officer Oertel returned to Case High School to assist school personnel with home visits, address truancy concerns, and participate in virtual learning. Officer Oertel was also available to all students seeking advice or counseling pertaining to a wide range of topics or concerns by the students and staff.

In the fall, SRO Oertel had the opportunity to work with the Renaissance School and Evergreen Academy. This involved meeting with and speaking to the staff, student body and then participating in a Q & A session with the classrooms at Renaissance School. SRO Oertel is one of the founding members of the Case High School Equity Team, which is the first of its kind in the district. The team focuses on equity for both the staff and student body alike. He also participates in a newly formed program focused on Eliminating Drugs and Gangs through Education called the EDGE Task Force. This is comprised of community members, principals, SROs, KUSD Liaison employees, Probation and Parole supervisors, various youth program leaders, political figures, and others. The goal of this team is to eliminate major youth criminal activity by pooling together resources and intelligence.





New Officer Field Training

The Mount Pleasant Police Department uses a Field Training program that sets a training and evaluation standard for our newly hired Officers. Upon completion of the basic 720-hour Police Academy, the Probationary Officer (PO) returns to the department for continued on-the-job training. This period of formal on-the-job training, coaching, and performance assessment is designed to ensure officer and public safety, while teaching the Probationary Officer how to provide professional service.

The Field Training Program for the Mount Pleasant Police Department is based off of the Field Training Associates philosophy. This program consists of three phases, each lasting five weeks, followed by a shadow and evaluation period. The goal is to prepare the Probationary Officer for solo patrol.



The Probationary Officer is assigned a different Field Training Officer (FTO) during each phase. The Field Training Officers are responsible for documenting all daily activity and instruction through a Daily Observation Report. At the conclusion of each shift, the FTO and Probationary Officer review the report. Unanswered questions and/or additional training points are covered during this important discussion.

During the first training phase, the PO is assigned a primary FTO who is not only an instructor, but a mentor. The primary Field Training Officer is responsible for teaching the basic responsibilities and expectations of the Mount Pleasant Police Department. During this first of three training phases, the primary FTO shoulders the majority of the workload, in addition to the teaching responsibilities. After this initial five-week period, the primary FTO makes the recommendation for advancement to the second phase, if appropriate.

During the second and third phases, the workload distribution begins to change. The Probationary Officer now assumes up to fifty percent of the workload during the second phase, and the majority of the responsibilities during the third phase. The Field Training Officers for phases two and three continue to maintain daily documentation of the PO's activity and training.

PO exposure to three different training officers serves two purposes. First, the Probationary Officer is able to draw on the different strengths and experiences provided by different instructors. Second, it provides the department with evaluations from several different perspectives. The three Field Training Officers are typically on different shifts which affords the PO exposure to a multitude of working environments.



After the third training phase is completed, the Probationary Officer returns to the primary FTO for a two-week shadow and evaluation period. During the evaluation period, the Probationary Officer operates as a solo patrol squad. The Field Training Officer continues to monitor and document the activity. This allows the PO to demonstrate their capability to assume solo patrol responsibilities.

Upon successful completion, the Primary Field Training Officer and Field Training Supervisor discuss the progress of the training. Once the Probationary Officer has demonstrated that they can safely and professionally perform the required patrol functions, the Officer is released to solo patrol. This past year, three Probationary Officers successfully completed the Field Training Program and are now on solo patrol.

Training

Due to the many COVID-19 safety restrictions, several in-house and off-site trainings in 2020 were cancelled and/or postponed. However, we did take advantage of the on-line (Virtual) training offered by several of the training vendors. In addition, class sizes were reduced in adherence to social distancing and other safety requirements.

It is our goal to have MPPD personnel receive the most relevant and up to date training available. This is essential in order to keep pace with technological developments, maintain skill sets, develop officer strengths, improve effectiveness and reduce liability. In 2020, we continued to utilize our shooting range with one on one officer firearms instruction while on-duty.

Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP)

All patrol officers and command staff attended eight (8) hours of Implicit Bias Training through Fair and Impartial Policing, LLC. The training was conducted at the Mount Pleasant Police Department in March of 2020. During that time approximately two-thirds of the department participated until the training was postponed due to COVID-19. The training resumed in December and all other personnel were trained. The FIP Training applies the modern science of bias to policing while training officers on the effect of unconscious bias. It teaches them to recognize bias and the skills needed to reduce and manage those biases. The curricula addressed all types of biases and explained how they can shape our thoughts and actions when dealing with people.



In-Service Training

During 2020 the department held its third annual in-service training. This is the third session in the department's history. Instruction focused on:

- Body camera policy, review and operation
- Report writing
- Vehicle pursuits

In addition, officers attended the following off-site trainings:

- Community Policing
- Conflict Communication
- Trauma Informed Care
- Leadership
- Real Colors
- School Resource Officer
- Social Media
- Narcotics Investigations
- Civil Disturbance
- Evidence Processing
- Honor Guard
- Interview & Interrogation
- K-9
- Intoximeter Operation
- Opioid Death Investigations
- Search Warrants
- Field Training Officer Refresher
- Defense and Arrest Tactics Instructor (D.A.A.T.)
- Firearms (rifle and hand gun) at Outdoor Range
- Public Records Law
- Investigative Training
- Marijuana Update

Mount Pleasant Firearms Range

In 2020, the Mount Pleasant Firearms range was used by seven different local law enforcement agencies with an estimated 250,000+ rounds fired. The firearms range provides local agencies a year-round location in which officers can be trained in an environment that is



healthy and safe. Trainers have utilized the open concept to create movement and reaction scenarios that would not be possible in a public range, or in an outside environment in which weather might present limitations. As anticipated, the range has become self-supporting from a budgetary standpoint. Range fees charged to outside agencies cover the maintenance costs.



Traffic Enforcement Grants

In 2020, the Mount Pleasant Police Department along with other law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Wisconsin have come together to participate in several different traffic enforcement initiatives like Operation Stay Sober, Get Pulled Over, and Click it or Ticket. These traffic enforcement initiatives are designed to be a tool in educating the public in some of the dangers facing motorists.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department is hosting all Bureau of Transportation Safety (BOTS) grant funding for all law enforcement agencies east of Interstate 94. During deployments, a zero-tolerance policy was adopted for unrestrained occupants and operators under the influence in all traffic stops. Both grants allow us the financial resources to assign additional officers to areas and intersections where the traffic accident rates are higher or where there are numerous traffic safety concerns. By participating in both of these grants, the department has an additional 1000+ hours of traffic enforcement within the Village of Mount Pleasant.

Citizens Police Academy

The Citizen's Police Academy (CPA) is an educational program designed to provide the residents of Mount Pleasant, and Racine County, a better understanding of the Mount Pleasant Police Department as an organization, and its role in the community. Participants gain knowledge of the many facets of the law enforcement profession to include recruitment/hiring, training, laws and regulations, officer wellness, and community-oriented policing. One of our main goals of the academy is to develop a partnership between the citizens of the community and their local law enforcement agency.

In the fall of 2020, the department would have hosted its sixth Citizen's Police Academy class. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, the class was cancelled with hopes of continuing in 2021. The organizers of the citizen's academy have taken this opportunity to update the curriculum and develop new topics to present in future classes.

Created in 2017, the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association continues to support the police department along with the Village of Mount Pleasant. On a yearly basis, the CPAA has been involved in Mount Pleasant Day, numerous COP House organized events, as well as the first ever Cotton Tail Trail Easter Egg Hunt and Ghost and Goblins Trunk-or-Treat held on the Mount Pleasant village campus. In 2020, these events were also cancelled or postponed for the safety of everyone involved.



The CPAA partnered with the Lakeside COP House in funding a new program called Project Blue Heart. This much-needed program provides essential resources for people in need. Officers encounter individuals and/or families that need food, gas money, or a place to stay for the night. Project Blue Heart will provide the needed resources to assist in helping these residents, and non-residents, get home, fed, or a warm and safe place to stay for the night.

Honor Guard

The Mount Pleasant Police Department's Honor Guard team represents the police profession with honor and dignity when called upon to perform its duties. The duties and functions range from funerals, parades, ceremonies, charitable causes or other special events.

In 2020, the Honor Guard was presented with many challenges due to COVID-19 which led to the cancellation or downsizing of most National Police Week events in Racine County and throughout the country. The Team continues to train and is prepared for events that require its important function of rendering honors and representation.



Honor Guard Members

Nicholas Bjelajac

Nicole Knierem

Benjamin Mieloszyk

Phillip Patek

Jared Smetana

Team Leader

Sergeant Dale Swart

Commander

Sergeant Jason Vaccaro



Disturbance Response Unit (DRU) Civil Disturbance Team

In 2020, the Mount Pleasant Police Department Civil Disturbance Team changed its name to the Disturbance Response Unit or DRU. It also increased its size to 18 officers. The MPPD DRU Team is one component of a larger contingent of teams within the larger Racine County Civil Disturbance Operations Initiative with multiple agencies. The team was prepared to assist with the Democratic National Convention, but this was canceled as an in-person event due to COVID-19.

The team was deployed for an entire week due to events in the City of Kenosha. Officers successfully deployed to the extremely violent event which resulted in massive amounts of property damage, building loss and fires to various businesses. The events ended in multiple arrests and large crowds eventually dispersing which allowed the city to start to recover. The team was fortunate to have all personnel deploy into the violent areas and return to the Village of Mount Pleasant without any injuries.

When deployed, the DRU maintained a visible peaceful presence and was ready to enforce quality of life issues to those involved, as well as the interests of the community.

Allowing citizens to peacefully gather and demonstrate their freedoms without violence remains an important main focus when the team is deployed. All of the deployments to date have been successful in the accomplishment of the overall mission.

The Mount Pleasant DRU Team remains ready alongside additional elements from other agencies to ensure the highest level of service to the Village of Mount Pleasant and the residents of Racine County.





Peer Support & Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

The purpose of a Peer Support Team is to aid an officer during times of both professional and personal crisis through the use of specially-trained volunteer officers within the department. Left untreated, the effects of trauma, depression, anxiety, and marital discord can be career and/or life threatening. Many times, a police officer may be more likely to seek help through a peer versus someone not affiliated or familiar with the challenges of law enforcement.

Our Peer Support Team Members have been trained in Critical Incident Stress Management, or CISM. CISM is an intervention protocol developed specifically for dealing with traumatic events. It is a formal, highly structured and professionally recognized process for helping those involved in a critical incident.

During a CISM debrief, officers are encouraged to share their experiences, as well as express emotions and concerns. Officers learn to recognize the different symptoms and reactions to stresses that they might experience. The team members are prepared to help in connecting the officer with professional resources if needed. This is a confidential, voluntary and educational process, sometimes called 'psychological first aid'.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department currently has nine Peer Support Members. In 2019 the PEER support team consisted of six members. In addition, we have two additional officers scheduled for training to become PEER support officers in 2021.

During this unique and challenging year, peer support members were used for several "diffusions" related to various incidents. A diffusion is similar to debrief, however it is more informal in nature.

Police Chaplain Program

The Chaplain Program has a direct correlation with the Peer Support and Officer Wellness programs. The idea is to provide a different look and approach to the mental well-being of the officers at MPPD. The department utilizes two volunteer chaplains. When requested by officers, a chaplain can be called out to a scene to assist with stressful and traumatic incidents or situations. The Mount Pleasant Police Department currently has two chaplains who are serving as volunteers; Pastors Richard Rogers and Pastor Joseph Pipes.

Our Chaplains are offered the opportunity to receive formalized training, assist with difficult death notifications and visit roll calls to offer support.



Pastor Rogers has been a pastor for 32 years and has served the greater Racine community for 20 years.



Pastor Pipes has been a pastor for eight years and has spent the entire time serving the greater Racine community.

Mount Pleasant Police Department Chaplain Duties

- Assist in making notification to the family of officers who have been seriously injured or killed.
- Respond to the hospital or home of the officer's family.
- Provide counseling and support for officers and their families.
- Assist officers in the diffusion of a conflict or incident, when requested.
- Respond to natural and accidental deaths, suicides and attempted suicides, family disturbances, or any other incident that in the judgment of the Shift Commander or Supervisor will aid in accomplishing the mission of MPPD.
- Fostering familiarity with the role of law enforcement in the community.
- Assisting with death notifications to the victim's family.

**This list is not all encompassing.*



Motor Units

The Mount Pleasant Police Department was scheduled to send a Motor Officer to Washington DC in May for National Police Week to support the City of Racine Police Department in honoring Officer John Hetland who was killed in 2019 while attempting to stop an armed robbery in progress. Officer Hetland was being honored at the National Law Enforcement Memorial where Motor Officers from around the country attend National Police Week and provide escorts to participants that attend to honor fallen officers. This is one of the greatest honors that a Motor Officer can be called upon to participate in. However, due to the pandemic, the event was canceled and those being honored in 2020 were done so virtually.



While 2020 was also an election year, COVID-19 caused the cancellation of many campaign events that require motor escorts and assistance. Milwaukee was planning to host the 2020 National Democratic Convention which would have required our motor unit to assist with escorts to and from this event. The motor unit did participate and assist with escorts for presidential candidates Trump and Biden within a week of each other.





The Motor Unit uses four categories to track its activity throughout the year. These categories include the following: Calls for Service, Traffic Enforcement, Special Events and Escorts.

Calls for Service:

Motor Officers are assigned to patrol areas throughout the Village. Motor Officers will respond to calls for service just like officers assigned in patrol cars. These calls are either assigned by dispatch or officer initiated, however they do not include traffic enforcement calls.

Total Calls for Service:

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
221	177	250	316

Traffic Enforcement:

This category is for traffic stops that are made by a Motor Officer while on patrol in a squad and on a motorcycle. This reflects a total number of stops that resulted in either a warning or citation.

Total Number of Traffic Stops:

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
79	70	119	209

Special Events:

During the year our unit will attend safety fairs, block parties and other community-based events that are not patrol related. This allows for us to engage the public in a positive manner while promoting public safety.

Total Number of Special Events:

<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
10	8	9	7

Escorts:

Motorcycles have been found to be a very valuable tool to use when escorting dignitaries or other motorcades. Unlike a regular squad, the motorcycle has the ability to move through traffic and to address hazards more efficiently. Our unit receives annual training on updated escort methods and techniques.

Total Number of Escorts:

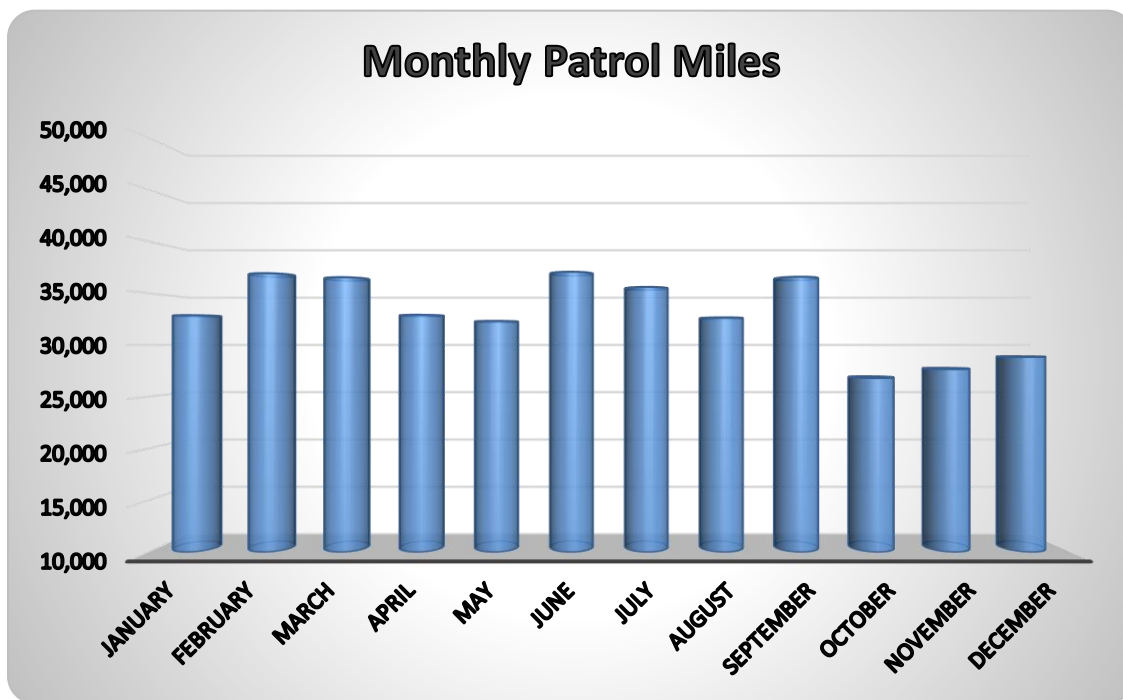
<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Data	4	13	3
Incomplete			



Fleet Maintenance

The department has several different types of squad cars that are used. We currently have Dodge Chargers and Chevy Tahoes that make up our patrol fleet. In addition, we use additional vehicles for administration, investigations and special assignments. We also have specialty vehicles to include motorcycles, a major crime scene unit, a utility-terrain vehicle and a pickup truck which are used for COP events, major crimes scenes, undercover work and dignitary escorts.

Three new squads were purchased as part of our squad replacement program. Two new Dodge Chargers were purchased for the Patrol Division and a third squad car was reassigned from a specialty unit and placed into the Patrol Division. We continue to maintain our fleet and replace the squads based on the number of miles and the performance of the vehicle. This year the patrol division put on 396,661 miles, with an average of 3,306 miles/month/vehicle.



**Graph shows miles driven by squads in the Patrol Division only.*

New Police Officers

There were no patrol officers hired in 2020.



Promotions

- **Kirk Riffel:** From Second Shift Patrol to Detective.



Retirements/Resignations

Andy Yust

Evidence/Property Custodian

Sept 2011 – July 2020

Andy Yust was a retired police officer from the Mount Pleasant Police Department. In September of 2011 he began civilian employment with MPPD as the Evidence/Property Custodian. After serving in this role for almost nine years, Andy again retired in July of 2020. Andy was instrumental in maintaining and organizing the large volume of property and evidence that is entered into the property room.

