



2022 ANNUAL REPORT
MOUNT PLEASANT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Message from the Chief of Police:

I welcome this opportunity to present the Mount Pleasant Police Department's 2022 annual report for your review. We hope that you find this report informative and insightful.

Early in 2021, the department began working to achieve accreditation through the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WILEAG). This is a rigorous agency accreditation program specifically tailored to the needs and capacities of law enforcement agencies since 1996, and has shown continuous growth in membership. Achieving accreditation status is a process whereby a law enforcement agency is evaluated on the existence of and its compliance with a prescribed set of over 250 standards. There are only 50 or so agencies out of nearly 525 statewide that have attained WILEAG accreditation. Accreditation serves to improve organizational performance, public trust, professionalism and legitimacy. Our goal was to achieve accreditation in 2022.

For three days in October 2022, assessors from WILEAG were on-site at the Mount Pleasant Police Department examining the department's policy and procedure, management, operation, and support service. On November 11, 2022 the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group granted the Mount Pleasant Police Department full accreditation status. The accreditation lasts three years, after which time the department is then subject to the re-accreditation process.

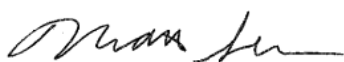
In addition to achieving accreditation, the Mount Pleasant Police Department continues to prioritize community partnerships as a way to enhance transparency and trust within the community we serve. For example, in 2022, we continued our partnership with Journey Church's Disaster Response Team to distribute food from our COP House, located at 2237 Mead Street. With the staggering rise in inflation, the food giveaways were very well attended and appreciated.

As in past years, we again participated in a large scale "active shooter" drill which included additional local law enforcement agencies as well as local fire departments, with the goal of preparing first responders to effectively handle such an incident. This training provides the opportunity to participate in real-life scenarios that better prepare us for the stresses of such a critical incident.

I am extremely proud of the brave men and women of the Mount Pleasant Police Department. This group of dedicated men and women work selflessly to ensure the Mount Pleasant community is a safe place to work, live, and play. From the first responding officers, to the detectives, command staff, and civilian employees, the goal is to provide a high-quality level of service.

Thank you for your interest in the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

Sincerely,



Matthew J. Soens
Chief of Police



Organizational Chart

CHIEF



Community Oriented Policing

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING (COP) contrasts with traditional policing strategies which were predominant in the late 20th century. It is a philosophy of full-service policing that is highly personal and meaningful to the neighborhood community it serves. The importance of a sustained proactive effort to build positive relationships with members of a diverse community through daily face to face contacts coupled with the use of social media. Officers on patrol are encouraged and given some latitude to solve problems and help others in unique ways. This practice assists in various areas such as; eliminating biases, building trust, garnering respect, increasing safety, reducing crime rates, and increasing transparency between the Police Department and the public we are sworn to protect.

Officers continue to be resilient in their efforts to maintain professional and productive relationships with community members. COP officers were especially effective in their ability to produce meaningful results.

One addition to communication methods is the use of social media. In 2022 we continued to be able to digitally share important and unfiltered information with a growing public audience through press releases, crime prevention tips, wanted suspects posts, positive community policing stories, our department initiatives, road closure announcements, and timely posts that contained relevant emergency information. Our police department Facebook page address is <https://www.facebook.com/mppdwi>. Please subscribe and be informed!

COP HOUSE

Prior to the construction of the COP house at 2237 Mead St. criminal and nuisance type activity in the Lakeside neighborhood was a drain on police services which required a response to calls for service from multiple officers. A properly operated COP house was designed to help reduce criminal activity and bring in needed services and opportunities to improve the quality of life for our Lakeside residents and overall community.

This year marked the eighth year of police officers working out of our COP House in Mount Pleasant. A total of seven different officers have been privileged to fill the needed role as a COP House Officer since the inception of the COP House. A pair of officers have worked together over the years to introduce new ideas and efforts that have made lasting positive imprints in the lives of our citizens. This endeavor has been an uplifting experience for the citizens, based on their feedback and their involvement in planned events and activities. Additionally, this has been as equally rewarding for the COP House officers! Officers Matthew Kwapil and Rachel Gardinier led many new COP initiatives while they served as COP house officers in 2022. They provided a safe environment for children and families. New partnerships were created. Ideas, needs, and deficiencies were identified. Many positive opportunities were implemented that benefited the neighborhood residents. Most importantly, parents and children felt safe in our Lakeside neighborhood as they interacted with officers daily, attended structured activities, or when children otherwise interacted with officers inside and outside of the COP House. Any criminal or nuisance activity observed was swiftly and appropriately addressed by COP officers.

A popular program- **Lakeside Community Health Fair** was held on September 17th, 2022. Various Health Care workers and programs were brought to the COP House and shared various booths to assist residents. Over 150 people attended this immense success to bring healthcare to those less fortunate. The residents were able to connect with over 20 healthcare programs and workers in a positive and safe environment where essential services were needed.

New or existing partnerships at the COP house this year include:

- **National Night Out** - Mount Pleasant Police C.O.P. Officers continue to hold one of county’s largest and finest National Night Out events.
- **Lakeside Community Health Fair**
- **Community Market and Resource Fair**
- **A.S.E. PROGRAM (AFTER SCHOOL EATS)** This is a branch of the KINGDOM BUILDERS CHURCH. Food is collected for approximately 15 children. The snacks are then stored and distributed from the COP house to children in the neighborhood.
- **Park high school work study program for students with disabilities** . Once a week, approximately six students and two teachers take a bus to the COP house and perform house cleaning assignments. They are also fed afterwards.
- **Lakeside Neighborhood Watch Group meetings- Monthly**
- **Crime Stoppers Meetings**
- **Manage community service hours for juvenile defendants of the Mount Pleasant Municipal Court**
- **Disaster Relief Team (DRT) through Journey Church** – This partnership provided monthly pop-up food pantries at the COP house. This effort received very warm welcomes from area residents!
- **Lakeside Beautification Days** (Partnership with DRT and MPPD Citizen’s Academy)
- **Easter Egg Hunt and summer programs** provided through our partnership with the MPPD Parks and Recreational Dept. summer drop-in program.
- **Habitat for Humanity** – New home construction in Lakeside neighborhood
- **Zoe Outreach Ministries** – Community Garden

SUMMARY OF C.O.P. LAKESIDE NEIGHBORHOOD & COMMUNITY INITIATIVES IN 2022

Community Garden	Habitat for Humanity	Lakeside Beautification	Shop with a COP
Drug Takeback days	Work Study Program	Christmas party	Project Blue Heart
Neighborhood Watch	4 th of July parade	After School Eats prog.	Fraud Prevention
DRT Pop-up food Pantries	Coffee with Champions	Mrs. Myer’s Reading Room	Community service hours
Social media posts	MPPD Tours	Crafts with COPS-Elderly	Turkey give-away
Halloween Party at COP House	COPS and Kids Fishing Clinic	Neighborhood revitalization efforts	Easter Egg Hunt
Crime Stoppers	National Night Out	Christmas Party	Clean-up Days
Community Market Days	Community Healthcare Fair	Pinewood Derby Event	Resource Fair

K-9 Officer Program

The Mount Pleasant Police Department was saddened to announce the passing of K9 Ares. He passed on October 9th unexpectedly due to a medical issue. K9 Ares worked from April 2015 until October 2022 and served the community proudly. In his time as K9, Ares located

pounds of illegal drugs, dangerous suspects, helped take guns off the streets and participated in dozens of K9 demonstrations for the community.

Currently we have one active K-9 working for our department. Officer Nicole Knierim, the first female K-9 handler in Racine County, was teamed up with Brutus, a German Shepard/Malinois mix. The team started their service together in 2014. K9s are certified in Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Building Searches, Area/Evidence Searches, and Criminal Apprehension. The types of Narcotics the K9s can detect are: Marijuana, Cocaine/Crack Cocaine, Methamphetamine, Ecstasy, and Heroin. The K9 Units attended various fundraisers and public demonstrations throughout the year as well.



A new K9 handler will be selected and will be attending a K9 Handler course at Shallow Creek K9, located in Pennsylvania. Stay tuned to the Mt Pleasant Social media accounts for who the new K9 for Mt Pleasant will be.

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

Police K-9s assist officers in reaching peaceful conclusions under dangerous conditions. Our department K-9s increase officer safety, thereby enhancing public safety.

The Mount Pleasant K-9 Unit assisted the following outside agencies during 2022: 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), FBI, and the Wisconsin DOC.



Statistics

K9 Stats and Illegal Substance Recovery (2018)	(2019)	(2020)	(2021)	(2022)	
Deployments	160	96	118	77	51
Drug Paraphernalia	14	17	20	5	4
Marijuana	1321.4g	530g	159.3g	2484.6g	130 g
Crack / Cocaine	29g	5.6g	16.4g	0g	1.9 g
Heroin	1.3g	0.8g	16.7g	46.5g	130 g
Meth	0g	3.8g	2g	0g	1.2 g
Fentanyl	N/A	N/A	27g	N/A	130 g
Apprehension Assists	9	4	2	1	2
Firearms	2	0	9	5	1
Vehicle Sniffs	114	79	98	48	40
Building / Yard searches	20	5	4	3	1
Tracks	2	3	1	1	0
School Searches	6	2	2	2	4
Prison Searches	2	1	5	5	1
Public Demonstrations	13	2	2	2	3

Records Department

Our records department is adjacent to the front lobby of the police department. It is open to the public, Monday-Friday 8a – 5p. This area is staffed with 4 full-time and 2 part-time records clerks to include and includes one support lead. In October of 2022 we lost one full-time clerk due to retirement. Karen Lawrence served with us admirably for 12 years. This vacancy was filled immediately by Shamel Shaw.

Police records clerks provide prompt customer service to the public, courts, district attorney's office, officers, and to other partner agencies. Their role is essential in the accomplishment of our goals and department mission.

Records Clerks have multiple responsibilities to include:

- Assisting the public at the front counter
- Receive payments
- Open records requests
- Redacting reports
- Assisting municipal court
- Typing reports
- Compile necessary paperwork for District Attorney's office
- Process electronic citations, crash reports, and other paperwork
- Alarm billing,
- Fingerprinting

The clerks also aid suspects and crime victims, on the phone or in person, with various requests. These can be emotional times for some individuals. Clerks have needed to show compassion, professionalism, and patience throughout the process.

RECORDS TOTALS – 2022

- 607 = Open records requests
- 929 = Number of vehicle crash reports processed
- 9,063 = Number of traffic and ordinance citations processed

Property Management

The property department oversees the electronic documentation and packaging of all property and evidence that is secured by the Mount Pleasant PD. This section is staffed by the records support lead (Property Manager) and two part time records employees. Seized or found property is eventually returned to the owner, destroyed, kept indefinitely. Any unclaimed property is sent to be auctioned.

Additional functions of the property department include: Ensure proper packaging of seized items, document the chain of custody for property, fulfill requests for digital evidence, manage impound inventory, and assist with property room audits.

PROPERTY TOTALS - 2022

- 2,136 = The number of evidence or other property items secured in our property room

Detective Bureau

The mission of the Detective Bureau is to identify, arrest and assist in the conviction of those individuals who engage in criminal activity. The Detective Bureau strives for professional excellence, dedication to duty, and the delivery of quality service to the public. The detectives maximize the use of all resources to solve crimes, track down and apprehend suspects, as well as to locate missing persons and recover and return stolen property to the rightful owners.

The Detective Bureau investigates crimes occurring in the Village of Mount Pleasant beyond the resources of the patrol division. Cases assigned to the Detective Bureau can take weeks, months and even years to complete. In 2022 the Detective Bureau's case load totaled 409 cases. These cases included death investigations, assaults, robberies, burglaries, thefts, frauds, crimes against children, and various others.

In addition to criminal investigations, the Detective Bureau is responsible for conducting pre-employment background checks, firearm traces, evidence transport to and from the crime lab, and asset seizure requests.

The Mount Pleasant Detective Bureau is staffed with a detective sergeant, five detectives and a temporary detective. The temporary detective position is a two-year assignment and is filled by a patrol officer. This assignment provides investigative assistance to the detectives and offers insight into the aspect of police investigations. One detective is currently assigned to the Greater Racine County Gang Task Force. This position investigates gang related crimes in the area.

In late 2022 the Mount Pleasant Detective Bureau was selected by the kNot Today Foundation to receive an Electronic Detection K9. An Electronic Detection K9 is commonly used during child exploitation cases. Kala, a Labrador Retriever will be joining the Mount Pleasant Detective Bureau in early 2023.

Probationary Officer Field Training Program



The Field Training program for the Mount Pleasant Police Department is a structured program that is designed to teach Probationary Officers how to provide the professional service in accordance with our department standards. This program also ensures officer and public safety throughout the training process. The risks, responsibilities, and expectations for newly hired officers have consistently increased over the years. These realities have resulted in additional training time and demands on the program. Due to the different learning styles of Probationary Officers, and various training methods, the program must remain flexible. The end goal of our Field Training Program is solo patrol entrustment.

The field training program identified skills needed that are not necessarily emphasized in the academy. Traditionally, newly hired officers first attend the basic 720-hour Police Academy. Upon successful completion, they return to the police department to begin on-the-job training. The Mount Pleasant Police Department has recognized that officer-safety skills need to be confirmed, and other technical skills provided prior to beginning the Field Training Program. A one-week transition course has been created to bridge the training gap between the Police Academy, and beginning the Field Training Program. This course covers multiple topics that include: departmental functions and policy, dispatch, department specialties (Community Oriented Policing, Police School Liaison, etc), a uniform tactics review (Firearms, Rifle, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Tactical Response), scenario training relative to the appropriate use of force, and several of the software programs utilized by patrol. This course provides Probationary Officers both an understanding of patrol operations in addition to their available resources.

The Field Training Program for the Mount Pleasant Police Department is based on the Field Training Associates model which emphasizes instruction, performance, regular feedback, documentation, and evaluation. This basic structure consists of three training phases, each lasting five weeks. Once the goals of each phase are complete, a recommendation is made by the Field Training Officer to proceed to the next phase. A supervisor with prior field training responsibilities then rides with the Probationary Officer, to confirm their progress. If the supervisor agrees with the recommendation, the Probationary Officer advances to the next phase. Once all three phases are complete, there is a two-week evaluation period conducted by the Primary Field Training Officer. The progress and overall performance are discussed with the Sergeant in charge of the program. If the Probationary Officer has satisfied all of the requirements, a solo patrol recommendation is made.

Throughout each training phase, the Probationary Officer is assigned a different Field Training Officer on a different shift, which has several benefits. First, it allows the Probationary Officer to draw on the experience from other officers. Second, it exposes the Probationary Officer to a variety of working environments, and calls for service. Third, it provides evaluations from the different perspectives of other trained officers.

The basic framework of the Field Training Program estimates 18 weeks of total training time. This estimate is based on an average Probationary Officer without any prior law enforcement experience. The training phases can be extended if necessary. In recent years, the law enforcement profession has seen an increase in lateral transfers from one agency to another. In this case, the duration of the training phases may be reduced.

Training

The State of Wisconsin mandates that police agencies provide training in accordance with the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB) requirements. The training calendar for the State of Wisconsin begins July 1st and runs through June 30th. We successfully completed all of the state-mandated training requirements for the 2022 training year, and we are on schedule for 2023.

The Mount Pleasant Police Department recognizes the importance of training beyond the LESB mandates. The quality of training has a direct impact on the services that we provide to our community, the safety of our officers, and their professional development. Our department approaches training demands through both internal and external training.

External Training

External training focuses on a balance between the current department needs and professional development for the future. Department personnel are trained in a variety of disciplines that are needed to provide both basic and advanced services. These disciplines include Evidence Technician, Field Training, Department Instructors for the Uniform Tactics (Professional Communication, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course, Vehicle Contacts, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Firearms/Rifle, Tactical Response, and Scenario Training), Glock /Rifle Armorer, Crisis Intervention, Crowd Control, and others. Officers are trained in these specialties, but occasionally assume other responsibilities or positions that

require they leave their patrol assignment. This can result in a void of the aforementioned specialties needed for patrol operations that must be filled.

The Mt. Pleasant Police Department also encourages career development through officer input. Officers frequently express an interest in a specific discipline, professional goal, or desired position. When practical, we seek out training to further develop these interests and skill sets.

The following list describes some of the external training within the last year:

- Crisis Intervention Team Training
- Ballistic Shield Instructor
- Developing the Patrol Investigator
- Evidence Processing for Patrol
- Biological and Trace Evidence
- Blood Stain Pattern Analysis
- White Collar Crime
- Financial Crimes
- Online Predator Investigations
- Social Media and Other Open Sources in Investigations
- Contractor Fraud
- Mental Wellness/Peer Support Training
- Leadership in Police Organizations
- High Risk Vehicle Contacts
- Instructor Development
- Field Training Officer
- Firearms and Rifle Instructor
- Managing Field Training
- Breath Examiner Specialist
- Motor Operator Training

Whether through departmental need, career advancement, or professional development, external training is necessary to provide for the professional obligations of the department.

Internal Training

Department Internal training builds upon the external training and focuses on the specific needs of the Mount Pleasant police department. The mandatory training that is required by the bureau of training and standards is conducted internally utilizing the department instructors. This provides an environment that allows the staff to address local needs as well as the generic subjects that are required annually for officer certification. This also includes the quarterly in-service training that allows input from the district attorney's office and the courts, in regards to legal updates and local court procedures. We also train with other local law enforcement agencies which requires our officers and staff to work alongside and directly with the other agencies that participate.

Other disciplines trained within the department include:

- Firearms qualification and tactical movement
- Emergency vehicle operation
- Defense and arrest tactics
- Professional communication skills

Technology

With the addition of body worn cameras and the arbitrator camera systems in each of the squads, along with the legal requirement to store evidence and interview videos along with a host of other data, we have increased the storage capability to an amount that was almost unheard of just a few years ago.

Computer software and programs are constantly being evaluated to determine if they are relevant, and if improvements to the police department's current systems are needed and being utilized.

- **Drones**

In order to participate in the drone program, the department requires that the officers become FAA Licensed drone pilots. All drone pilots are required to test and recertify in order to maintain their rating. This ensures an added layer of safety when the drone is deployed.

The drone is used to photograph and video serious crash scenes, searches when needed, and crime scene photography.

Incident Command / Active Shooter Training

In October of 2022 Mount Pleasant Police Department was gifted with the opportunity to utilize Racine Bible Church to create a realistic training event with the assistance of multiple agencies. This training event was one of the biggest training events organized this

year. Not only was this training necessary to establish skill sets for officers, but it was also intended to provide the highest quality of service to the community. During this three-day training event, officers from the Mount Pleasant and Caledonia Police Departments were confronted with realistic high stress situations. These situations included active shooter events, shoot don't shoot scenarios, and emergency medical aid, to name just a few.



With the assistance from volunteers within the community, we were able to have real life actors which created the most realistic training possible. The South Shore Fire Department also assisted by providing the law enforcement officers with medical training that they would need when encountered during real life events. All the departments involved were thankful for the opportunity to take part in this event.

Unfortunately, these encounters are occurring much too often throughout communities in today's society. These large-scale training events are a necessary to improve the quality of service. The Mount Pleasant Police Department looks forward to working together with other agencies in the future to enhance officer skills and to provide the best quality of service possible.



Indoor Firearms Range

In 2022, 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.



Fleet

The department has several different types of squad cars that are used. We currently have Dodge Chargers, Ford Explorers and we are phasing out the Chevy Tahoe's that make up our patrol fleet. We also use additional vehicles for administration, investigations and special assignments. Our specialty vehicles include motorcycles, a major crime scene unit, a utility-terrain vehicle and a pickup truck. They are used for COP events, major crimes scenes, undercover work and dignitary escorts.

Three new Ford Explorer squads were purchased as part of our squad replacement program. Two of the Explorers have hybrid engines which will decrease our fuel consumption and help with the overall budget. We continue to maintain our fleet and replace the squads based on the number of miles and the performance of the vehicle.



Motor Unit History

The Motorcycle (Motor) Unit started its patrol efforts in the Village of Mount Pleasant in 1996. The department leased two Harley Davidson Police Road King motorcycles from Racine Harley



Davidson which was located in the village. At that time the motors were used primarily for Community Policing efforts throughout the village. It allowed officers to connect with the community through a different approach other than a patrol car. While on the motorcycles, officers found that they were more approachable in the community and broke barriers often found with officers patrolling in the cars. The success of the motorcycles continued to grow allowing the unit to expand its focus to regular patrol.

Motor Unit Training

New Motor Officers will attend an average of 40-80 hours of basic training. The department uses the Northwestern University Police Motorcycle Operator Training standards. This training is designed to have the officer encounter several obstacles to handle the motorcycle in different situations. Unlike a basic motorcycle rider course, the training provides a more advance style of riding for the changing environment that a Motor Officer experiences while on patrol.

Also added in 2018 was Dignitary Escort Training involving several agencies in Racine County. Our motor unit was trained in the U.S. Parks Service (Washington DC) method now for several years. Their Motor Unit conducts escorts all over Washington DC and their methods have been adopted throughout the country as the preferred method for escorts. Conducting this multi



jurisdiction training has allowed the Motor Units in Racine County to provide a safe and effective way to conduct escorts. This method also has been found to reduce the need for additional resources from departments.

Motor Unit Fleet

The Motor Unit currently has three Harley Davidson motorcycles. Two of which are 2007 Road Kings which were the primary motorcycles for the department for many years. As a result of an aging fleet, the department purchased a new 2019 Harley Davidson Electra Glide. We expect this motor to last for many years and to provide our motor officers a safe and reliable motor to operate.



Citizen Police Academy

The Mount Pleasant Citizen Police Academy (CPA) is a twelve-week educational program designed to provide residents with an improved understanding of the Mount Pleasant Police Department and its role in the community. The course participants will hear presentations in over 20 different topics covering the many facets of the law enforcement profession. They also participate in several hands-on activities to see what officers may encounter while on patrol. In 2022, we hosted our seventh class with 18 residents from across the county. Each year improvements are made based on feedback from the previous years. In 2022, we added or expanded the topics of critical incident response and communication. We would like to thank Batten International Airport for their support of the program, and the use of their facility for several of our hands-on activities.

In 2022, the Mount Pleasant Department partnered with the Volunteer Center of Racine to hold the first annual Mount Pleasant Junior Police Academy. Over one week in June, 12 middle school aged students from across the county joined Mount Pleasant officers at the police department to learn about the law enforcement profession. The students participated in activities to include professional communication, evidence collection and processing, and drones. The feedback from the junior participants was overwhelmingly positive. We are looking to expand on this curriculum for the 2023 class to continue to develop interest in the law enforcement profession with our younger generation. We would like to thank the South Shore Fire Department, ATF, and RCSO SWAT for their time and interest in presenting their roles in local law enforcement.

Created in 2017, the Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association continues to support the department as well as the Village of Mount Pleasant. On an annual basis, the CPAA has been involved in numerous community oriented programs and activities to give back to the Mount Pleasant Community. In 2022, the alumni association was involved in the planning of the the

Village Trunk or Treat event. Members also volunteered during our multi jurisdictional critical incident response training at the Racine Bible Church.

Also, in 2022, the Mount Pleasant Police Department partnered with Racine County Emergency Management and the Volunteer Center of Racine to offer a CERT (community emergency response team) class for middle school age students from across the county. The CPAA was involved in planning and supervising the events and activities that took place during this week of Junior Police Academy training.

School Resource Officer (SRO)– Case High School



The goal of our School Resource Officer 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.

At the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year, Officer Eric Oertel began his third school year as the School Resource officer at Case High School. SRO Oertel has had many years of experience working with youth in different educational settings, and he continues to work closely with school administration, staff, and students to provide a safe and productive learning environment.

SRO Oertel is a member of the Case High School Equity Team, which focuses on equity for both the staff and student body. He also participates in the EDGE (Eliminating Drugs and Gangs through Education) Task Force. The goal of the EDGE team is to eliminate criminal activity that is committed by our kids through resources and intelligence.

During his first two years as SRO, Officer Oertel worked with Racine Unified School District (RUSD) personnel in developing a Protective Services Pathway at Case High School. The goal of this pathway is to generate interest in which to build a diverse pool of police officer applicants to fill positions within local departments. RUSD partnered with Gateway Technical College in developing the pathways curriculum. Students that successfully complete the pathway will earn college credits that can be applied to a criminal justice degree.

Prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year, Officer Oertel and Detective Justine Justman were selected by Gateway Technical College to instruct an Introduction to Criminology and Constitutional Law section at Case High School. The section quickly filled up with students interested in learning more about the law enforcement profession.

Peer Support & Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM)

The purpose of a Peer Support Team is to aid officers 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, also known as 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 to express any emotions and concerns they might have. Officers learn to recognize the different symptoms and reactions to stresses they might experience. The team members are prepared to help connect officers 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. 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. When requested by officers, a chaplain can be called out to assist with stressful and traumatic incidents or situations. The Mount Pleasant Police Department currently has one chaplain who is serving as a volunteer; Pastor Richard Rogers. Pastor Rogers tries his best to show up for each shift's roll call at least once a week.

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

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.*



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


Traffic Unit

The traffic unit was a new addition to the Mount Pleasant Police Department in 2022 and the Mission statement is as follows,

“In the spirit of protecting the motoring, non-motoring (pedestrians and bicyclists) and enforcing traffic laws within the Village of Mount Pleasant, it’s is the intent of this traffic enforcement unit to provide that service through general, directed and specific initiative driven traffic enforcement, to make the motorways, in the Village of Mount Pleasant, a safer place to drive, through traffic enforcement and accident prevention. At the forefront of this initiative is a customer service orientation with the Officers providing a professional, as well as personable experience to the motoring and non-motoring public.”

The year began with three officers assigned to the traffic unit. Due to staffing issues, the unit was temporarily reduced to one officer for the remainder of the year. While traffic enforcement is

the primary task for this unit, the shift commander could pull and use the traffic unit for road calls as needed. Listed below is a glimpse into the workload that was shouldered by the Traffic unit during the year.

- 
- Traffic Stops – 3,602
 - Traffic Citations – 4,080
 - Traffic Warnings – 977
 - Total Traffic Bond - \$512,441
 - Extra Attentions for traffic concerns – 228 (These were traffic related and generated throughout the year as citizen complaints and Officer generated)
 - OWI arrests – 14
 - Felony/Misdemeanor fresh arrest and warrants – 156
 - Total Bond for Fel/Misd arrests - \$761,397

Retirements



Captain Brian Smith
September 1990 - March 2022



Karen Lawrence-Records Clerk
October 2010 - October 2022

Resignations



Officer Alex Padilla
May 2018 – December 2022



Officer Mike Lodygowski
April 2018 - May 2022



Officer Melissa Crogg
January 2021 - April 2022

Promotions



Chris Paulson
Sergeant to Lieutenant



Frank Jaramillo
Officer to Sergeant

New Hires



Shamel Shaw
October 2022