



COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

159 S. Ludington St.
Columbus, WI. 53925
920-623-5919 (Main)
920-623-5930 (Fax)

May 13, 2026

Mayor Hammer
Members of the Common Council
Columbus Police and Fire Commission

RE: POLICE DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY REPORT, APRIL 2026

Attached is the monthly report for the Columbus Police Department.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have questions.

Chief Dennis Weiner



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PERSONNEL

The department is not fully staffed. Current staffing as of May 13, 2026:

	Authorized by Budget	Actual
<u>Sworn Officers</u>		
Full-time sworn police positions:	10	10*
Patrol Officer Full time	6	3
Sergeant	1	1
Lieutenant	2	2
Chief	1	1

* includes 2 in the police academy until May 15

Clerical

Office Manager (full-time)	1	1
Public Safety Clerk (full-time)	1	0

Current Staff:

Name	Date of Hire
Chief Dennis Weiner	02/18/2008
Lieutenant Darrell Ward	09/18/2022
Lieutenant Michael Rosecky	12/30/2022
Sergeant Julia Knoll	01/03/2022
Officer Matt Dammen	01/03/2023
Officer Spencer Trevorrow	07/31/2023
Officer Madeline Kraus	04/28/2025
Officer Brandon Leipart	12/29/2025
Officer David Griscom	12/29/2025
Officer Andrew Collicott	03/30/2026
Administrative Manager Erika Kellar	02/04/1999
Police Clerk Alexa Johnson	05/28/2026



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PERSONNEL:

Officer Kraus successfully completed her 1 year probationary period as a police officer. She is now a regular employee of the department.

May 10 to May 16, 2026 is National Law Enforcement Officers weeks. State ceremonies are taking place at the Capitol in Madison by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Memorial and at the National Law Enforcement Memorial in Washington, DC. These ceremonies and events are to remember and honor those who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Officers Leipart and Griscom graduate from the Madison College Police Academy on May 15. They will begin their local training in the days following.

There was a change in start date. The new Police Clerk is starting on May 18, 2026.

EVENTS:

On April 25, 2026 the spring Drug Takeback drop off event for expired/unused/unneeded medications was held at the Columbus Police Department. We collected 29.6 lbs. during that event. An additional 194.6 lbs. were collected in our lobby drop box since the Fall 2025 takeback. That secure drop box in our lobby is accessible 24/7.

The week of April 12th was National Telecommunicators Week. Lieutenant Ward and I delivered some edible treats to the dispatch center to show our appreciation for all their efforts. Dispatchers are often overlooked as the vital, first link for people experiencing an emergency, needing assistance and coordinating all the tiers of response. They must remain calm, multi task on the radio, phone and computer while obtaining critical information and details during stressful conversations, for the first responders. The Columbia County dispatchers do an outstanding job and are a pleasure to work with.

TRAINING:

Sergeant Knoll attended a 3-day instructor level course for Vehicle Contacts. Instructor level training certifies her by the Department of Justice Training and Standards Bureau to teach in academies or at in-service.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT/CITATIONS:

During the month of October officers issued 102 traffic citations, 97 traffic warnings and 97 ordinance citations. The increase in traffic citations during April can be attributed to several officers working highway safety grant overtime during the month. Grant time must be on overtime and officers must be dedicated to traffic enforcement. Wages and benefits are fully reimbursed on a quarterly basis.

The speed trailer has been pulled out of storage, charged, and is already deployed in an area we had a request. Anyone with a request for it should contact the department. Requests are handled in the order they are received. We usually have the trailer in a location no more than 10-14 days before moving to the next.

At the end of March, the governor signed a bill that increased court costs \$10 per citation, for both traffic and municipal ordinance citations. The \$10 increase was specifically for the court cost component. The last citation increase was in 2017.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

An officer made a traffic stop and cited a person for Operating After Revocation-3rd offense, and Failure to Install an IID



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(ignition interlock device) in her vehicle. A few days later she left me a message and wanted a callback to file a complaint against the officer for his conduct and behavior during that stop and after. After watching the body camera footage and reviewing the GPS records of the squad, I called her back. She made numerous allegations of unprofessional conduct. When I told her I had body camera footage, including audio, that I had reviewed, as well as his GPS records and nothing she reported happened, she abruptly ended the call. I take all complaints very seriously. I also take malicious and false complaints just as serious and have a zero tolerance. She was cited for Obstructing an Officer for knowingly giving false information to a law enforcement officer in their official capacity. There is a criminal offense for Filing a False Complaint Against a Law Enforcement Officer, but felt an ordinance citation was appropriate for the circumstances.

An officer made a traffic stop for speeding. Signs of drug activity were noted by the officer and a search of the vehicle revealed drugs and a loaded Glock handgun, with an extended 40 round magazine. Most pistols hold from 9-17 rounds. It contained 30 bullets. The driver was arrested for Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Restricted Controlled Substance and the passenger was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon, and jailed.

We assisted the Columbia County Sheriff's Office taking 2 suspects into custody who had been communicating with an elderly rural resident. They were running a scam and were expecting her to deliver \$70,000 cash to them in the city. She had actually been scammed out of a large sum of cash, in the city, a short time prior to this. She was about to be victimized again. The delivery was coordinated to occur in the city. A traffic stop was conducted after they picked up a box from her. They were taken into custody without incident. They were from California and staying at the hotel in town. A search warrant was executed on their hotel room. Following this arrest, the initial and successful scammers (different people) were identified and arrested in Waukesha County.

The Fall River Police Department had a high-speed pursuit which the officer terminated. A few days later we received information this vehicle was in town, going down Waterloo Street. The vehicle was located a few minutes later, abandoned in Fireman's Park in an unusual place. The plate did not match the vehicle. A Sheriff's Department K9 was here in minutes, and we also utilized the Columbus Fire Department drone in an attempt to locate him but were unsuccessful. The neighboring department towed the vehicle and wrote a search warrant, which revealed drugs and drug paraphernalia. A suspect was also identified. The plate and vehicle came back to persons other than the suspect.

Columbus Police Department

Total CAD Calls Received, by Nature of Call

Nature of Call	Total Calls Received
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911 HANG UP	14
ACCIDENT PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	7
ACCIDENT WITH PERSONAL INJURY	1
ASSIST ANOTHER AGENCY	5
FIRE ALARM	2
MEDICAL ALARM	2
PANIC ALARM	1
AUTOMATIC LICENSE PLATE READE	3
ANIMAL COMPLAINTS	6
BOND VIOLATION	2
CITIZEN ASSIST	22
CIVIL PROPERTY DAMAGE	2
COMPLIANCE CHECKS	1
CONTROLLED	5
CONTROLLED BURN	1



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CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	2
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	5
DEATH INVESTIGATION	3
DISABLED VEHICLE	7
DOMESTIC ABUSE	1
DPW	1
DRIVING COMPLAINT	14
ELUDING	2
EMS CALL	23
ERT CALL	1
ERT TRAINING	1
EXTRA PATROL	11
GENERAL FIRE	1
FIRE GAS LEAK/CARBON MONOXIDE	1
UTILITIES FIRE	1
FLEET MAINTENANCE	2
FOOT PATROL	1
FRAUD	4
HARASSMENT	1
ROAD HAZARD	4
INTOXICATED PERSON	1
JUVENILE INCIDENT	3
LOST AND FOUND	3
MUTUAL AID	2
NOISE COMPLAINT	4
OUT WITH PERSON	5
OPEN DOOR	3
ORDINANCE VIOLATION	5
OWI	5
PARKING ENFORCMENT	8
PARKING VIOLATION	11
SECURITY	51
SEX OFFENSE	1
SLIDE OFF	1
STALKING	1
SUSPICIOUS	7
THEFT	2
THREAT	1
TIPS/LEADS	1
TRAFFIC CONTROL	2
TRAFFIC STOP	166
TRESPASS	1
TRO/INJ VIOL	1
UTILITIES	1
VEH LOCKOUT	1
VIOLATION OF PROBATION/PAROLE	1
WARRANT	9
WEAPONS VIOLATION	2
WEATHER	6
WELFARE	7

Total Calls: 472