

2024

ELIZABETH POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT



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Message from the Chief

I am pleased to present the 2024 Elizabeth Police Department Annual Report. This report is a glimpse of the extraordinary work done by the members of the Elizabeth Police Department. Additionally, this report will provide some insight into strategic initiatives the police department will be focusing on in the future. Despite facing staffing shortages, the officers of the Elizabeth Police Department demonstrated resiliency and worked tirelessly to overcome these challenges.

I'm honored and humbled by the privilege of leading the professionals who make up the Elizabeth Police Department. I also take great pride in outlining some of the highlights of the remarkable accomplishments of the Elizabeth Police Department. Daily we strive to commit ourselves and actions to continuously build our partnership with the community. We take pleasure in serving the community and earning the community's trust. As a community rooted in rural values and rural character, it is crucial for the Elizabeth Police Department to maintain this partnership earning the respect of our community in all that we do. Together, we have taken considerable steps to enhance public safety and to strengthen the bond in the police community relationship in the Town of Elizabeth.

As Our community grows, there will be challenges and opportunities. The Elizabeth Police Department will face these challenges and continue moving forward in providing professional police services. We will embrace the opportunities in further strengthening our police community relationship in our commitment to deliver exceptional police service, building a healthy work environment, and making the lives better of those we serve.

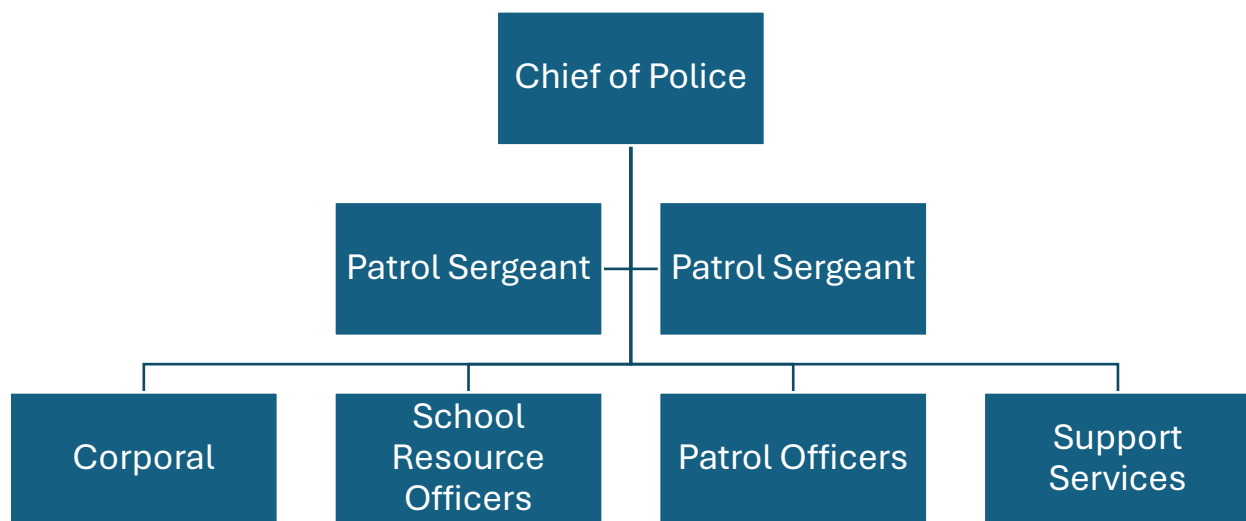
On behalf of the Town of Elizabeth Police Department, I offer my deepest and sincerest gratitude to all members of the Elizabeth Police Department, and to our community for their support and partnership. Working together we make the Town of Elizabeth a great place to live and work.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffery R. Engel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffery R. Engel

Organizational Chart



The Elizabeth Police Department has Multiple Divisions:

- Chief of Police (1)
- Patrol Sergeants (2)
- Patrol Corporal (1)
- Patrol Officers (5)
- School Resource Officers (1)
- Victim Advocates (4)
- K9 Officer (1)
- Records Department (1)
- Community Services Officer (1)
- Reserve Officers (4)

2024 New Officers:

In 2024 The Elizabeth Police Department swore in two (2) Police Officers:

Officer Josh Hunter: Officer Hunter was sworn in on March 12, 2024. Officer Hunter completed a Field Training Program and is currently assigned to Patrol. Make sure you say “hi” when you see them around town!



Officer Mike Sammauro: Officer Mike Sammauro was sworn in on April 09, 2024. Officer Sammauro completed a Field Training Program and is currently assigned to patrol. Make sure you say “hi” when you see them around town!



Patrol Division

Overview:

The Patrol Division has the largest number of employees in the Elizabeth Police Department. The Police Officers at the Elizabeth Police Department respond to emergent and non-emergent calls for service, proactive traffic enforcement and engaging the community to reduce crime and problem solve. All Officers at the Elizabeth Police Department enter as a Field Training Officer (FTO) program until they are recognized as a solo Police Officer. Some of the special assignments and responsibilities are listed below.

School Resource Officer: The Elizabeth Police Department is partnered with the Elizabeth School District and has two (2) full-time School Resource Officers assigned to schools within the district. School Resource Officers at the Elizabeth Police Department value school safety, fostering trust and building relationships with students to have a lasting impact.

K-9 Unit: The Elizabeth Police Department is comprised of K-9 Handler Frank Hurst. Frank has two (2) sworn in K-9's and assists agencies around the nation. Frank has a Belgian Malinois (Bob) and a Blood Hound (Carlene) that he utilizes for drug detection and tracking.

Bike Patrol: The Elizabeth Police Department has E-bikes that are operated by certified Officers to proactively patrol parks and trail systems and are utilized during special events in the Town of Elizabeth.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT): The Elbert County Sheriff's Office SWAT team is a multi-jurisdictional team that is comprised of commissioned Elbert County Deputies and Elizabeth Police Officers.

Motorcycle unit: The Motorcycle Unit's primary responsibility is traffic enforcement within the Town of Elizabeth. The Motorcycle Officers are certified operators and are used for special events and visibility in the Town of Elizabeth.

Peer Support: The Elizabeth Police Department has a peer support program that supports Officers who would benefit from resources.

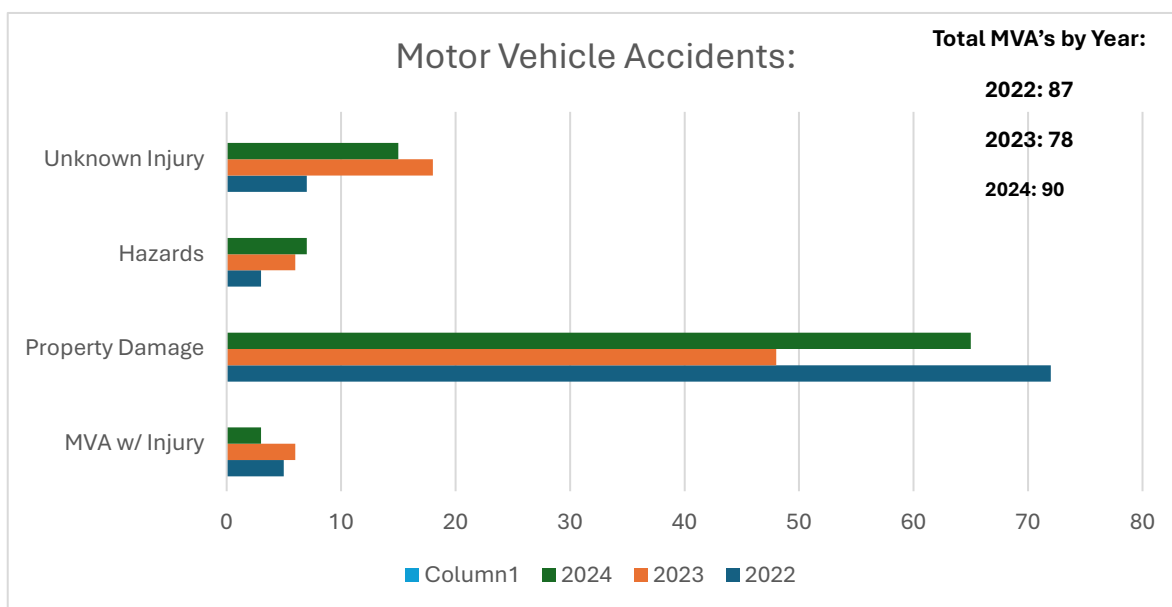
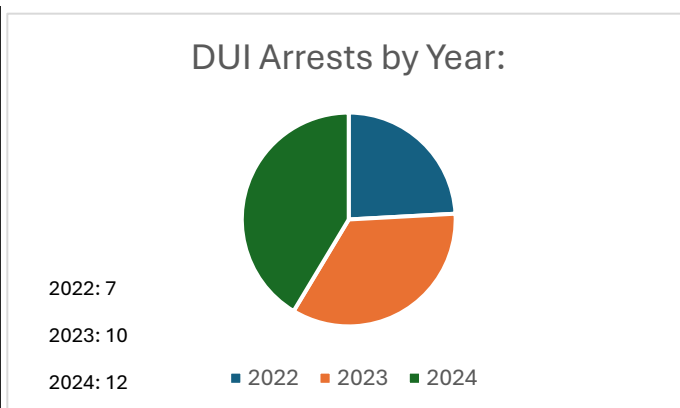
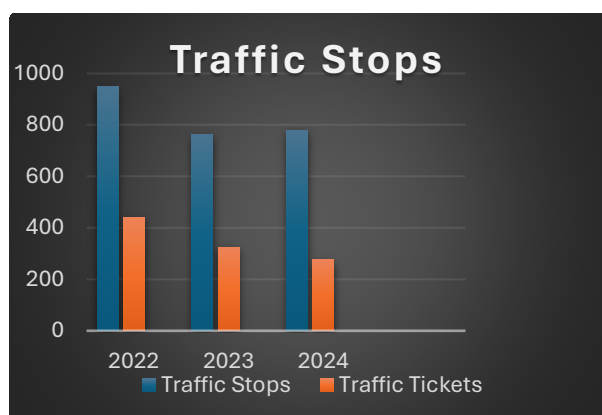
Reserve Officers: The Elizabeth Police Department reserve program is comprised of fully POST certified Officers that volunteer their time and give back to their community. Reserve Officers hold the same training, and responsibilities as a full time Police Officer.

Traffic Division

The Elizabeth Police Department strives to have a Town that operates motor vehicles safely and get to their destination. Officer's respond to Motor Vehicle Crashes, Traffic Complaints, Motorist Assists to ensure public safety.

Officers also perform proactive traffic enforcement in identified areas of concern. Citizens of the Town of Elizabeth report driving in areas of concern and the Elizabeth Police Department actively seeks to make all areas of the Town of Elizabeth safe.

Below are the statistics for Traffic related offenses:



Traffic Division

The Elizabeth Police Department utilizes Grant opportunities from the State of Colorado for ensuring safe roads in the Town of Elizabeth. In 2024, The Elizabeth Police Department received funding for both the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) and Click-it or Ticket (CIOT) grant. Below are some statistics for both of those programs.

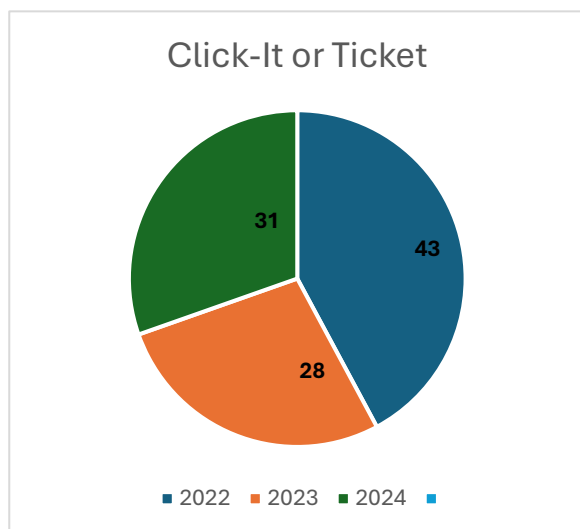
High Visibility Enforcement:

The High Visibility Enforcement grant is used to focus on detecting and enforcing drivers who are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs while operating a motor vehicle. The Elizabeth Police Department takes seriously drivers who drive under the influence and are dedicated to saving lives by getting these drivers off the roadway.

Click-It or Ticket:

The Elizabeth Police Department uses the click-it or ticket grant to ensure drivers are wearing their seatbelt in the vehicle. This enforcement also includes front passengers, and child restraint laws. The Elizabeth Police Department is dedicated to making sure drivers, passengers and children are safe. The number one way to stay safe and minimize injury if involved in a motor vehicle accident is to be properly restrained using a seatbelt.

Below are statistics:



HVE is a new grant being utilized by the Elizabeth Police Department.

- 2023/2024 there were 83 Traffic Stops made targeting DUI Drivers.

School Resource Officer:

The Elizabeth Police Department partners closely with the Elizabeth School District to enhance school safety and foster positive relationships within the school community. A dedicated School Resource Officer (SRO) is assigned to Elizabeth High School and Elizabeth Middle School, serving as a law enforcement resource embedded within the schools.

SROs focus on maintaining a safe and secure learning environment while building strong connections with students, staff, and families. They respond to and provide support during crisis situations, with all Elizabeth Police Department SROs being Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) to assist with mental health crises.

Beyond enforcement, SROs play an active role in education, delivering programs on internet safety, traffic awareness, drug prevention, and anti-bullying. They collaborate with administrators, teachers, counselors, parents, and security personnel to implement proactive, student-centered safety strategies.

In partnership with the school district, the SRO contributes to developing and executing safety protocols, security drills, and emergency procedures. This collaborative approach ensures a secure and supportive environment where students can thrive academically without fear or disruption.



Investigations Division

The Elizabeth Police Department does not currently have a full-time Investigations Division. Officers at the Elizabeth Police Department are required to respond to the calls for service, conduct a preliminary investigation, and file all cases with the District Attorney's Office or the Town of Elizabeth Municipal Court for prosecution.

Some of the responsibilities include search warrants, arrest warrants, felony filling paperwork, Municipal Summons, County Summons and all other applicable paperwork to file a case.

The investigations division is responsible for:

Identifying, locating, interviewing, and arresting criminal suspects

Interviewing victims and witnesses

Locating, identifying, preserving, and packaging evidence

Recovering stolen property

Victim Advocacy Unit

Elizabeth Police Department Victim Services Unit

The Elizabeth Police Department Victim Services Unit is dedicated to providing the highest quality of support to victims of crime and tragedy. Our team offers immediate crisis intervention and emotional support, ensuring that victims are aware of their rights under Colorado law. We assist victims and survivors through the criminal justice system, providing long-term support services and referrals within our community. Available 24/7, our unit is committed to treating all victims with fairness, respect, and dignity, helping them navigate through challenging times. Some key services they provide are immediate **Crisis Intervention, Emotional Support, Victim Rights Information, Support Services, and Referrals to Community Resources.**

VICTIM ADVOCATE PROGRAM	
Year 2024 Clients Served	33
Year 2023 Clients Served	19

Citizen Welfare Check Program

Elizabeth Police Department is also pleased to share that during this state fiscal year, Officer Stephen Herbel created a Citizen Welfare Check. In collaboration with our Officers and the Victim Service Unit, our department is dedicated to our citizens, and we want to ensure you know we are here to serve. Because our vulnerable citizens can sometimes become lonely and scared, this program offers a sense of security by allowing one of our officers or advocates to come by and provide a check-in. The goal of our program is to regularly connect with the most vulnerable populations to make sure they are doing well and safe, as well as to help identify any needs they may have. There is no charge for the program, and it's available to any senior citizen over 65 years old or any disabled individual living alone.

For further information on our programs, please get in touch with the Victim Service Unit at 303-646-4664.

Citizen Welfare Check	
Year 2024 Clients Served	1

Evidence Technicians

Officers of the Elizabeth Police Department's Evidence are responsible for the identification, collection, processing, and proper packaging of evidence. Departmental Evidence Technicians are the "quality control" of the evidence having the responsibility of ensuring packaging standards are correct, the evidence is properly documented, correctly stored, and chain of custody maintained.

The Elizabeth Police Department Evidence Technicians are full-time members of the Elizabeth Police Department but serve an ancillary position as evidence custodians. The technicians consist of a civilian employee, one officer, and overseen by a Sergeant.

Evidence Technician Mandy Donatelli, also the police department's Records Manager, is responsible and oversees the administrative function of the evidence submission, release, and destruction process. Evidence Technician Daisy Tucker, a Patrol Officer, ensures evidence is recorded in the records management system along with being properly categorized and stored in the department's evidence room. Sergeant Allen provides supervisor oversight for the evidence technicians.

Each Evidence Technician and supervisor have attended a Property and Evidence Management course and engage in on-going education in advance concepts of evidence management maintaining current standards and practice of evidence collection, processing, and management.

In 2024, Evidence Technicians collected and categorized 154 pieces of evidence, a 57% increase from the previous year (2023).



Community Services Division

The Community Services Division of the Elizabeth Police Department oversees code compliance and animal control services for the Town of Elizabeth. By working closely with homeowners and businesses, the division provides information and education on the Town of Elizabeth Municipal Code, helping to maintain a safe, clean, and thriving community.

The Community Service Officer (CSO) is responsible for investigating municipal code violations, including land-use concerns, property accumulation, refuse hazards, parking violations, and abandoned vehicles which may pose health and safety risks. Additionally, the division plays a vital role in investigating cases of municipal code violations involving animals, animal neglect and cruelty, ensuring the well-being of animals within the community.

Specially trained, the Community Service Officer, can respond to animal and municipal code related calls for service. At times, the Community Service Officer may assist officers of the Elizabeth Police Department with traffic control and other support in non-emergency events. While trained in municipal code and animal welfare investigations, the Community Service Officer also trains with the officers of the Elizabeth Police Department.

In 2024, the Community Service Officer received over 80 hours of training, becoming a certified Animal Control Officer. Additionally, the Community Service Officer received additional training in Casualty care, Self-defense techniques, Practical Search and Seizure, Use of less lethal munitions, Ethics, Certified in use of Taser, and Crisis Intervention Training (CIT).



Records Division

The records division is the face of the Elizabeth Police Department and is often the first person to greet the public while at the police department.

The records division is responsible for maintaining and distributing criminal justice records, written or recorded, by the Elizabeth police department. Criminal justice records maintained by the Elizabeth police department include Body Worn Cameras (BWC), traffic crash reports, criminal reports, incident reports, and traffic citations.

Once a report is received by the Elizabeth Police Department, the report or other criminal justice record is submitted to the records division, the record is entered into the records management system (RMS). Records are distributed to the district court, municipal court, law enforcement agencies, or other stakeholders.

The Elizabeth Police Department participates in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS is the crime counting system used to quantify criminal events within the Town of Elizabeth. Using the crime reports submitted to records, the information contained within the report is codified to comply with NIBRS reporting requirements.

The records division is responsible for records requests in accordance with the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA). When an open records request is received and is available to the public, the records division reviews the criminal justice record and redacts the report in accordance with Colorado Criminal Justice Records Laws.



Training Division

Training remains a top priority for the Elizabeth Police Department, ensuring that officers are well-prepared to serve the community effectively. The Operations Sergeant oversees departmental training, with support from the Administrative Sergeant, who ensures all training is properly documented and reported to Colorado POST.

Departmental training falls into two primary categories: in-service training and outside training.

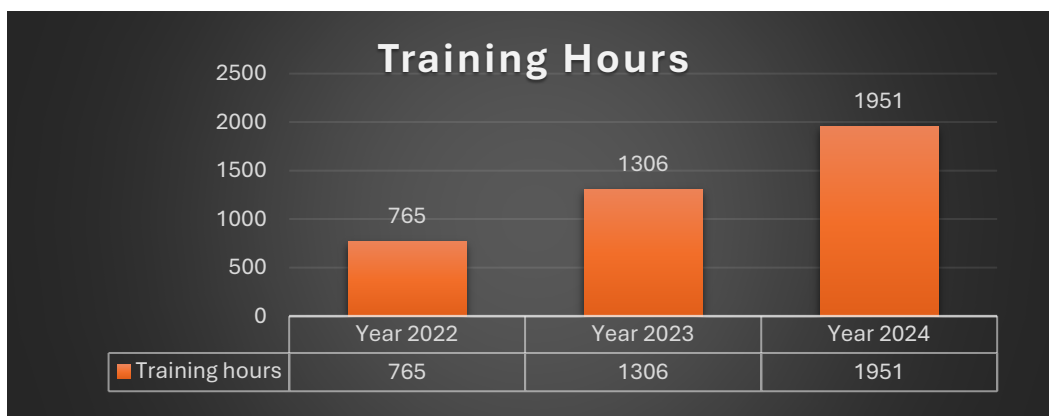
- **In-Service Training:** Conducted internally, in-service training focuses on perishable skills, critical decision-making, and legal accountability. It is designed to enhance officer preparedness, increase effectiveness, strengthen teamwork, and ensure compliance with legal standards.
- **Outside Training:** Specialized courses led by subject matter experts help officers develop advanced technical skills and expand their knowledge in key areas of law enforcement.

Training Highlights from 2024

Officers participated in a variety of specialized training programs, including:

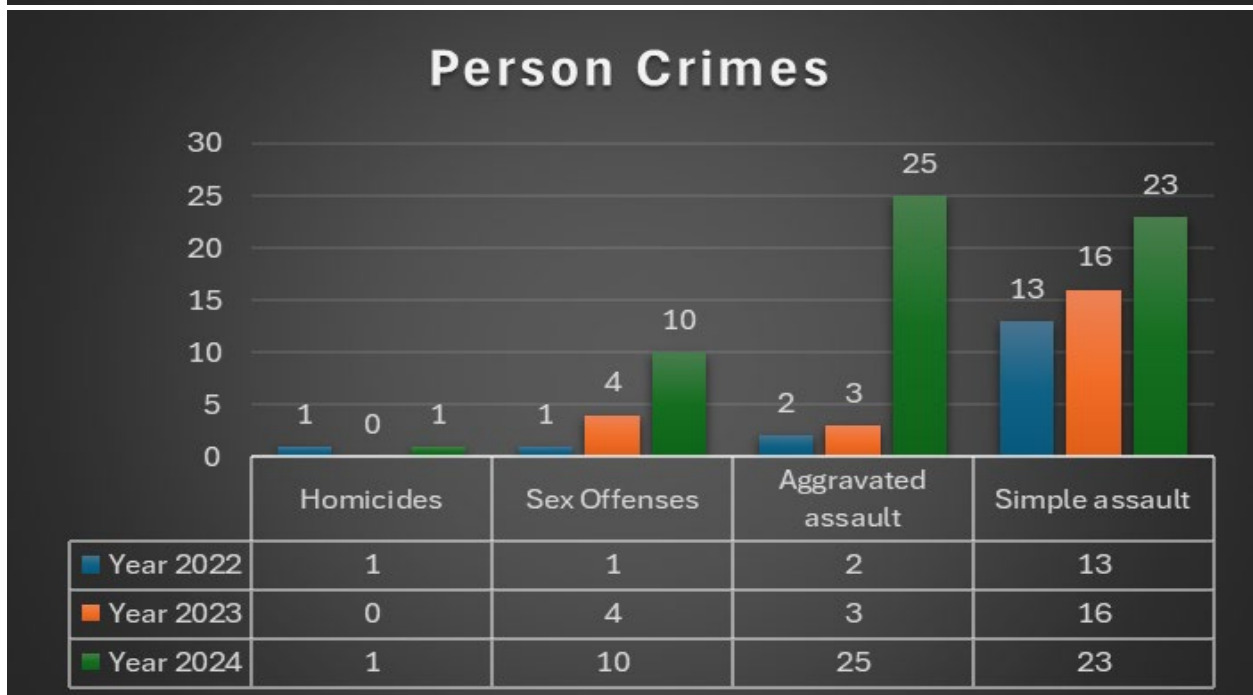
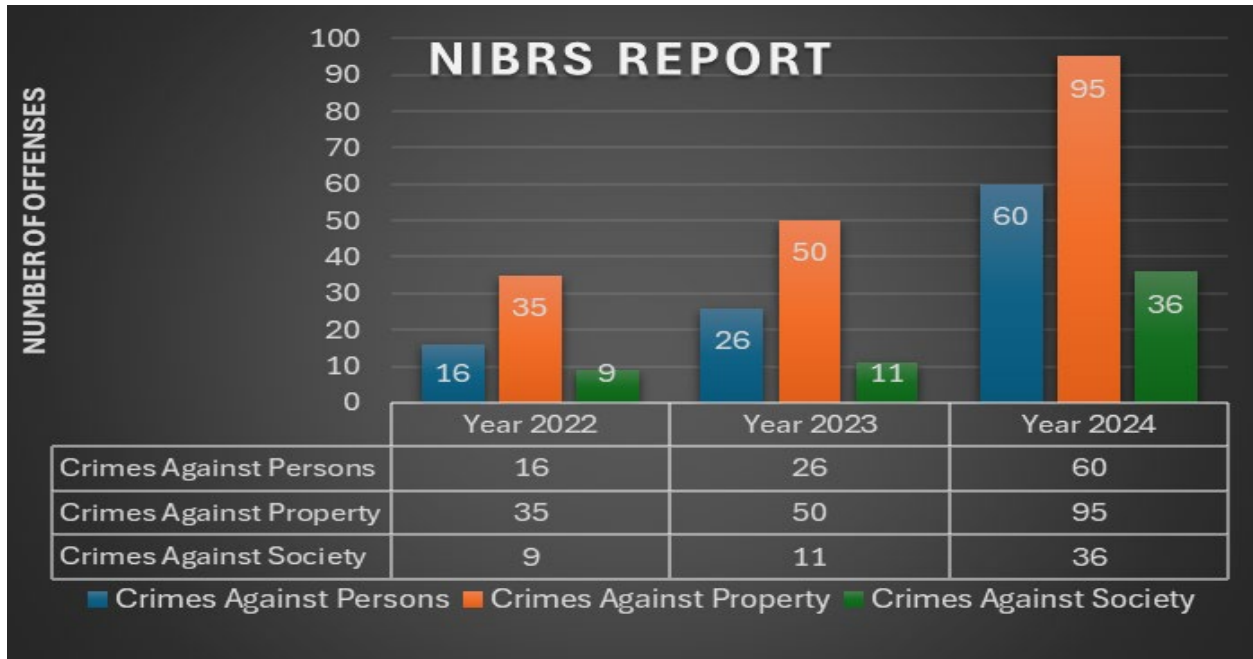
- Krav Maga Instructor Course
- Leadership in Police Organizations
- Basic SWAT School
- 23rd Judicial District Critical Incident Response Team/Child Abduction Response Team Training.
- Animal Protection and Animal Control Academy
- International Association of Property and Evidence Technician Course
- Joint Active Threat Response Training with Douglas County Sheriff's Office
- New Detectives Academy

These training opportunities equip officers with the skills and knowledge necessary to handle complex situations, improve public safety, and uphold the highest standards of law enforcement.

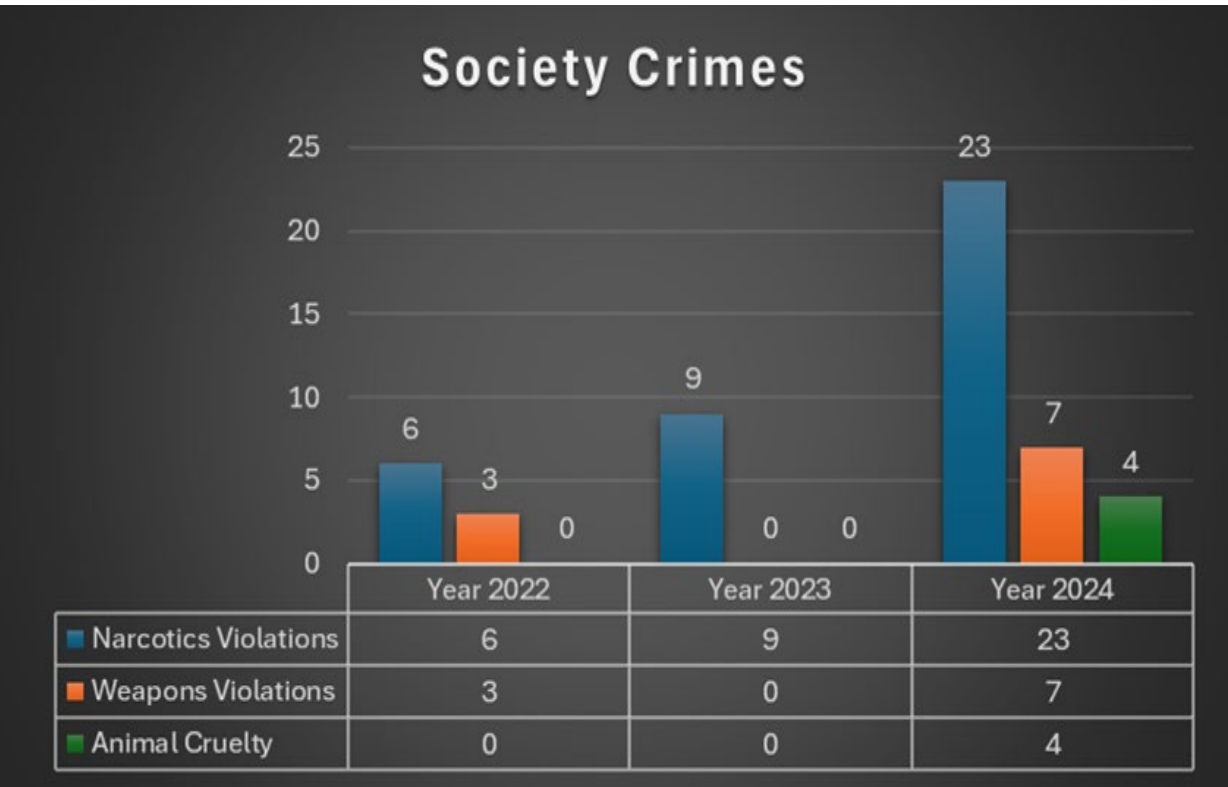


2024 NIBRS Report

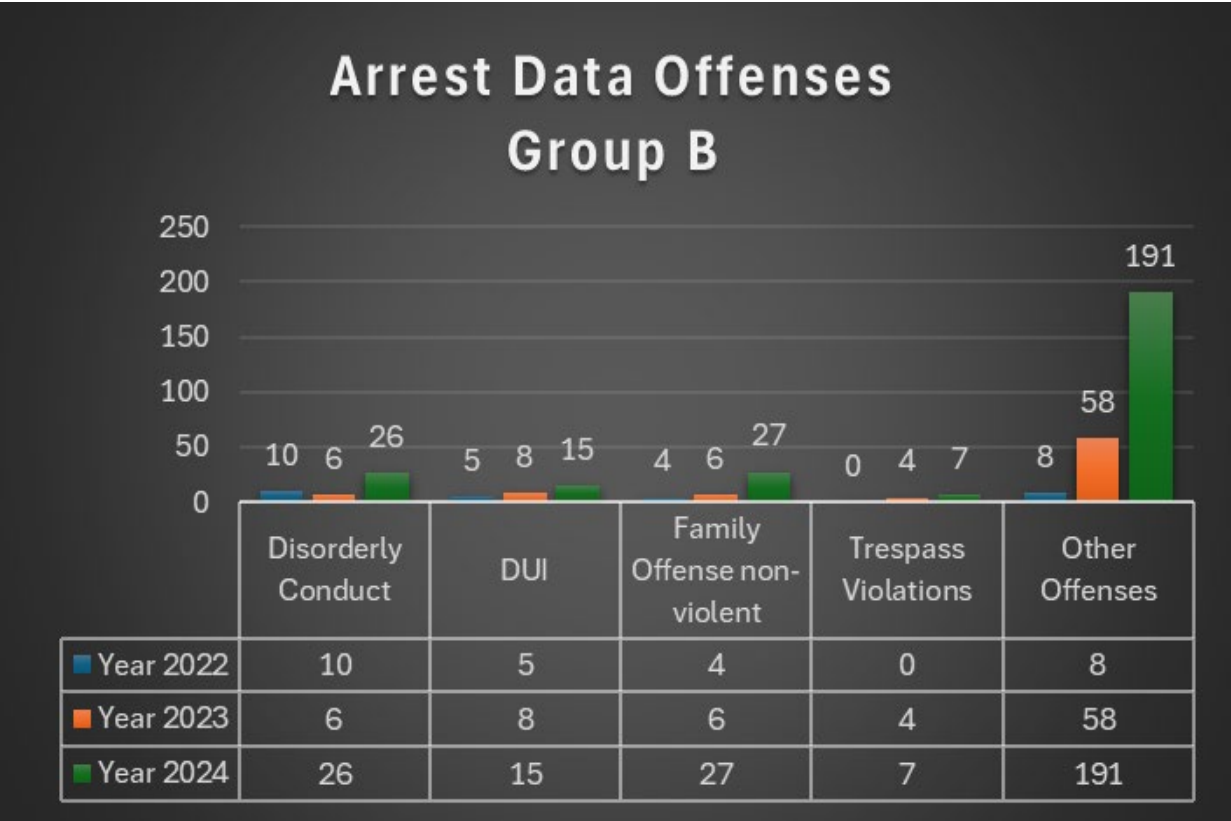
The Elizabeth Police Department is an annual participant in the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in reporting crime to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). As a priority for the Elizabeth Police Department, NIBRS provides crime statistics that promote informed police strategies to reduce crime.



2024 NIBRS Report



2024 NIBRS Report



Town of Elizabeth Events

Eliza-bash: Eliza-bash is an event held on Mainstreet on the weekend of the Elizabeth Stampede in June. There is a large parade, tons of vendors, where you can shop, eat and have a fun time!

Friday Night Markets: Friday Night Markets are a fun event held at the Running Creek Park for 10 Fridays starting in July and ending in August. The Friday markets are on Fridays from 5:00PM – 9:00PM and have live music, food vendors, where the community can come together and socialize.

Movie Night: The Town of Elizabeth hosts a movie night where you and your family can come and watch a movie in the park.

Harvest Festival: In October the Harvest Festival is held on Mainstreet where local vendors can set up tents and your kids can trick or treat, shop and have a fun time!

Protectors of Elizabeth: The Protectors of Elizabeth event is held to show appreciation for your local Law Enforcement, Fire Department, State Patrol and Sheriff's Office. It also is a chili cookoff event where you can enter to prove your chili recipe is the best out there!

Ice Cream Socials: The board of trustees host multiple ice cream socials at parks around the Town of Elizabeth in the Summer! It is a wonderful time to mingle with your board members, see what is up and coming and enjoy a cold treat on a hot day.

Mayors Tree Lighting: In December, the Mayor's Tree Lighting is held on Mainstreet. This event hosts Santa, craft stations, hot chocolate and much more. At the end of the event the Christmas Tree is lit to start off the holiday season.