

**City of Grosse Pointe Woods**  
**Department of Public Safety**  
**Annual Report**  
**2023**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## *Preface - Director's Letter*

Mission Statement	1
Introduction	2
Department Personnel	3
Organization Chart	4
Total Incidents	5
Index Crimes Breakdown	6
Non-Index Crimes Breakdown	7
Index & Non-Index Crimes Totals	8
Crime & Arrest Totals	9
Moving & Meter Violations	10
Traffic & Pedestrian Accidents	11
Department Training	12
Fire Operations	13
Emergency Medical Services	14
Detective Bureau	15
Special Response Team	16
Auxiliary Unit	17
Crossing Guards	18
Promotions	19
Honors & Awards	20
New Hires	21
Retirements / School Resource Officer	22
Public Safety Open House	23-24
Community Events	25 -26
Police Officer's Prayer	27





# CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



John G. Kosanke, Director  
20025 Mack Plaza  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236-2397

March 1, 2024

Dear Mayor and City Council:

On behalf of the members of the Department of Public Safety, I am proud to present the Annual Report for 2023 showing the crime statistics of the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety. The information contained in this report reflects the combined efforts of all department members who have worked together to make the City of Grosse Pointe Woods a safe and welcoming community.

In an effort to continuously improve the services delivered to the community, the department was involved in several projects throughout the year. One major endeavor focused on making an effort to alleviate substance abuse and potentially save lives. No community is immune to the growing drug abuse problem. Our community was stunned when three young adults in their twenties were found dead on June 10<sup>th</sup> as a result of using cocaine laced with fentanyl. Two of the victims were sisters.

In response to the tragic deaths, city and community leaders organized a Narcan training event in the Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center on June 26, 2023. Around 100 people were in attendance. Free Narcan kits were made available to our residents along with training on how to use them. Narcan (naloxone) is a nasal spray which can quickly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. Symptoms of an overdose include falling asleep or unconsciousness, constricted pupils, choking or gurgling noises, going limp, slow or weak breathing, and cold, clammy, or discolored skin. Narcan kits continue to be available in our department at no charge to members of the community.

Our department also entered into an agreement with the Hope Not Handcuffs program, which has been adopted by over 130 Michigan police departments and community partners and over 60 New York locations. Launched in 2017 by the Families Against Narcotics, the initiative is a solution for individuals seeking help with drug and alcohol addictions. Such individuals are now able to come into our Public Safety lobby and ask for help without the fear of being arrested (for misdemeanors and non-violent offenses) or for possession of drugs. Upon completion of a records check, an officer or dispatcher will contact the Families Against Narcotics call center who will send over one of 600 volunteer Angels to the department to assist the individual seeking help with getting into a treatment program. If a volunteer Angel is not available, the individual will be assisted over the phone. The program was used by someone needing assistance within one month.

A special town hall meeting titled “Hope in the Midst of the Opioid Crisis” was held at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial on August 9, 2023 where I was a panel speaker along with Dawn Ison, the U.S. Attorney from the Department of Justice, a special agent from the Drug Enforcement Administration, a representative from Families Against Narcotics, the Executive Director from HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas) and Grosse Pointe Director of Public Safety John Alcorn.

The City of Grosse Pointe Woods opted in to accept nationwide opioid litigation settlements in April 2023. The settlements were reached over years of negotiations with pharmaceutical distributors. The primary use of funding is for the education of law enforcement professionals regarding the appropriate practices and precautions to use when dealing with fentanyl or other drugs.

Our department’s main focus is to ensure the safety and well-being of the residents and business of the community by fighting crime. Our officers responded to close to 9,800 calls for service in 2023, an 18% increase from the prior year. A 3% increase in overall crime was seen as the total of both Index and Non-Index crimes rose from 496 to 511. Larceny was once again the highest Index crime reported with an increase in incidents from 110 to 120. Auto thefts went up from 28 to 34, of which 9 vehicles were stolen from the Ascension St. John parking lot. The statistics for Criminal Sexual Conduct cases doubled from 4 to 8.

We are pleased to report a decrease in burglaries from 14 to 11 incidents while robbery statistics remained the same with 4 cases reported. In March, two suspects were arrested in less than an hour after robbing a local bank on Mack Avenue. Consistent with prior years, no arsons were reported. On a sad note, one criminal homicide took place in October in a domestic violence incident.

A significant decrease was seen in the Non-Index crime of Damage to Property which went down to 29 from 44. Other Assaults were the second highest Non-Index crime reported with an increase from 34 to 47 crimes. A decrease was also seen in Intimidation/Stalking Incidents which changed from 19 to 15 cases. Fraud incidents were the highest Non-Index crime reported with an increase from 88 to 97. Remaining the same as the prior year were the Non-Index crimes of D.U.I., Narcotics, and Weapons with statistics of 11, 1, and 3 respectively.

Also of note was an increase in Sex Offenses from 2 cases in the prior year to 6 in 2023. Retail Fraud also increased by one incident from 12 to 13. A significant decrease was seen in Public Peace which went down to 27 from 38 the prior year.

A change in the criminal justice system has caused certain crimes to no longer be considered arrestable offenses. Violations requiring court appearances are issued instead.

The number of ambulance runs requiring advanced life support increased dramatically by 48% from 400 to 659 runs. Total ambulance runs decreased from 1,440 to 1,385. The City’s contract for ambulance service with Medstar was approved by City Council in June for a six-year renewal.

Working together with other departments is a vital part of our efforts to keep our cities safe. An Automatic Aid Agreement between all the Grosse Pointe Departments and Harper Woods was approved by City Council with the intent of augmenting, not replacing, the existing Mutual Aid Agreement. The Automatic Aid agreement is in effect 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is critical to the response time for fire services.

The department continued to be impacted by the departure of Building Department personnel. Code Enforcement Officer Debbie Reed, whose primary duty is serving as our Animal Control Officer, has taken on the additional responsibilities of enforcing lawn and blight violations. Vacant homes can become a magnet for thieves. Debbie has been a valued member of our team for over 25 years and we appreciate the extra effort she is making.

Office space used by former Building Officials have been converted into a new interview room and an office shared by Public Safety and the City Clerk's department. The interview room provides privacy for officers interviewing victims of crime who previously had to discuss sensitive cases in the public lobby. The shared office space is used by our FTO (Field Training Officer) when not in use as an Absent Voter office during election times.

Another building improvement project was the renovation of the locker room used by officers. The project included asbestos abatement, floor coating, electrical work, new lockers, and door installation.

The doors in our Apparatus Bay were repaired at the end of the year. Replacement of two exhaust pipe hoses in our fire truck was done in the spring to prevent harmful fumes from escaping when the truck is in use.

Major purchases in 2023 included two Chevrolet Tahoes to be used as patrol vehicles, two gun lockers, three in-car computers, TASER cartridges, and headsets for the dispatchers. One of the patrol vehicles being replaced had a cracked engine block and was no longer running.

Technological improvements included implementing the Rapid SOS platform to our Dispatch department, moving our 911 system into the digital era. This system provides medical data and accurate location to our dispatchers from connected devices. It is reliable during outages and natural disasters.

An extensive 911 recording project was completed at the beginning of 2023 and a Next-Generation (NG) 911 system was implemented in the fall. This system allows the department to collect, analyze, and act upon critical information as it happens. Audio from all formats is automatically transcribed into the searchable system.

An ongoing application process with FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Company) was closed out by our department in the summer of 2023 for the rain event which took place during the dates of June 25-26, 2021. Approximately seven to eight inches of rain fell in a time period of less than 19 hours, resulting in flooding throughout the city. The city received \$88,620.68 for expenses incurred for building repairs and debris removal.

The department was involved in various community events throughout the year including the annual Public Safety Open House on October 8 and the Chene-Trombley Park re-opening dedication ceremony on October 21, during which the ladder truck and a scout car were on display. Safety Town, a summer program designed for children to learn about fire, police, and medical safety, was another well-attended event. Opportunities to go inside a smoke house and learn how to safely exit a home were presented both during the Open House and at the Safety Town event.

With Fraud continually being our highest ranking Non-Index crime, it is of the utmost importance for everyone to be knowledgeable on how to protect themselves from Identity Theft. A presentation on the subject was given by myself to Soroptimist International of Grosse Pointe members on November 8, 2023. Information included warnings about sending gift cards in response to online requests and how to safely use Facebook Marketplace to sell items. Attendees were cautioned against giving out personal phone numbers or credit information. Guests at the Senior Holiday Social at the Assumption Cultural Center on December 8 were also educated about safety during a “Crimes Against Seniors” presentation that I gave at the event.

Training to keep up on ever-changing technology and equipment continues to be a priority in our department. With the continued violence taking place in the world in which we live, department members study and examine past active shooter events, law enforcement response to critical incidents, and immediate bleeding control techniques during Active Shooter training sessions. In addition to this department training, Lieutenant Detective Keith Waszak and I participated in a table-top forum with Ascension Health during which hospital staff and emergency service personnel discussed operations and actions which would be necessary if an incident were to occur.

The department was pleased to add three new officers to the staff in 2023. As it has become increasingly difficult for all Law Enforcement agencies to recruit fully trained candidates, we have sponsored two of these officers to attend Fire Academies and one to attend the Police Academy.

We have applied for a funding opportunity from the MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program and the Wayne County fire training program cover tuition costs for the Police and Fire Academies. These programs can afford us the ability to hire new recruits in need of training without burdening the city with an economic strain.

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards program will cover up to \$24,000.00 per recruit for academy costs and salaries while attending an academy. Funding for this program is available on a first-come first-serve basis until September 30, 2026, or until funds are exhausted, whichever comes first.

The Wayne County program receives funding from the State of Michigan’s tax on fireworks sales to apply to fire training. As the state funds are divided by population, Wayne County gets a large majority due to its size. The funds are generally used to cover the costs of tuition for the fire academy.

The department also welcomed one new full-time dispatcher and one part-time parking attendant. Although none of our five new employees has a significant amount of work experience in Law Enforcement, with the exception of one new officer with prior experience as an officer at Wayne State University, we believe that each one of them will be a good fit for the department. Our new officer Mitchell Hendrix has already proved that he is an excellent choice as he was awarded the MCOLES Outstanding Performance award upon his graduation from the Macomb Police Academy.

The department currently has four full-time dispatchers and has received Council approval to replace an opening for a part-time position with a full-time position. Funding for the full-time position will come from the 911 revenue received from the Conference of Eastern Wayne and prior year reserves. Dispatch coverage is essential for the department and having an additional full-time dispatcher on staff will eliminate a large amount of overtime created when a dispatcher is on vacation, ill, or otherwise unable to report for duty.

Department veteran Sergeant Anthony Chalut retired in 2023 after over 25 years of service, which included twenty years in the Detective Bureau where he solved numerous cases until his appointment as a Sergeant in 2020.

The opening created by Sergeant Chalut's departure resulted in the promotion of Officer Kyle Seidel to the rank of Sergeant in December 2023. Sergeant Seidel has been a hard-working member of the department for over twenty years and his promotion is well-deserved. He has always presented himself as someone who truly cares about the residents he works for and the people he works with.

The city entered into a cooperative agreement with the Grosse Pointe Public School System for a full-time Public Safety Officer to be assigned to the school district for the time period of August 1, 2023 through July 31, 2026. The officer is trained for the School Resource Officer (SRO) duties and does not enforce discipline while at the school. When school is not in session or events are not taking place, the officer resumes his regular departmental duties. Officer Jeffry Martel was selected for the SRO assignment.

Our Auxiliary Officers and Crossing Guards continue to provide valuable service to the department. The entire city was saddened with news of the sudden death of Crossing Guard Theodore Colborn, who was still an active member of the crossing guard team. Mr. Colborn served the community for over twenty years and was well-known throughout the community. He passed away on his birthday in October 2023.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Mayor Arthur Bryant and members of Council for their continued support in helping to turn the department's aspirations for improvement into a reality. In addition, I would like to thank City Administrator Frank Schulte and Assistant City Administrator Susan Como for their support and guidance.

I would also like to thank the members of our Public Safety Department for their hard work and dedication and to Chaplain Matthew Swiatek for providing his guidance to them. The assistance and help provided by members of other departments within the city is also appreciated.

As we move into the future in 2024, my top priority will continue to be the safety and well-being of members of the community. I welcome suggestions from residents and business owners for improvements that can be made or for alerting us about problems which need resolutions. I will continue to work to the best of my ability to make this department the best that it can be.

Respectfully yours,

*John G. Kosanke*

John G. Kosanke, Director of Public Safety

# MISSION STATEMENT



*The Mission of the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety is to continually strive to improve the safety and quality of life within our community. This will be accomplished through a broad based combination of traditional and innovative police, fire and emergency medical services while always protecting constitutional and basic human rights. All members of the Department will at all times stand accountable for their conduct.*



# INTRODUCTION



**Director of Public Safety John G. Kosanke**

Each year, the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety prepares an annual report of crime statistics for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Report (UCR). This data is compiled from offenses reported to the Department of Public Safety, monthly police reports, and individual crime incident reports.

The primary objective of this Annual Report is to provide a reliable set of criminal justice statistics for police administration, operations, and management. The localized study of crime data enables personnel to assess the influence of crime in areas, neighborhoods, and with people. Similarly, crime statistics permit analysis among neighboring jurisdictions and with those of similar populations and other characteristics. A broad examination of the crime data allows individuals to view the nature and movement of crime, underlying changes, and fluctuations throughout the City of Grosse Pointe Woods, the State of Michigan, and the United States.

The Department of Public Safety is committed to improving the reliability and validity of our crime reporting data. We are attempting to achieve this goal by a study and analysis of major crime indexes and understanding the impact of classification revisions mandated by the State. As a result, some offense categories have decreased, while others have increased. Our efforts are to provide a reporting system that will be more accurate, valid, reliable, and compatible with State and Federal standards.



# DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

As of 12-31-2023

## Director of Public Safety

*John G. Kosanke*

### Chaplain

*Pastor Matthew Swiatek*

### Lieutenants

*Brian Conigliaro*

*James Lefurgey*

### Lieutenant/DB Commander

*Keith Waszak*

### Sergeants

*Mark Agnetti*

*Darrell Fisher*

*Walter Galat*

*Joseph Provost, Jr.*

*Kyle Seidel*

*Brian Urban*

### Public Safety Officers

*Steven Calabro*

*Douglas Copple*

*Trent Dara*

*David Empson*

*Duncan Gill*

*Eugene Gunnery*

*Joseph Hazuka*

*Mitchell Hendrix*

*Anthony Hojnacki*

*Neal Kapoor*

*Timothy Livingston*

*Christian Media*

*Martin Mitchell*

*Matthew Muzia*

*Jarod Smith*

*Dennis Walker*

### Detectives

*Miles Adams*

*Ryan Schroerlucke*

### School Resource Officer

*Jeffry Martel*

### Communications Dispatchers - Full-Time

*Scott DeLisle*

*Kristen Morano*

*Shelby Webb*

### Confidential Administrative Assistant

*Claudette Darga*

### Code Enforcement

*Debbie Reed*

### Parking Enforcement - Part-Time

*Debra Fox*

*Chelsea Phillips*

### Records Department - Full-Time

*Darlene Jepson*

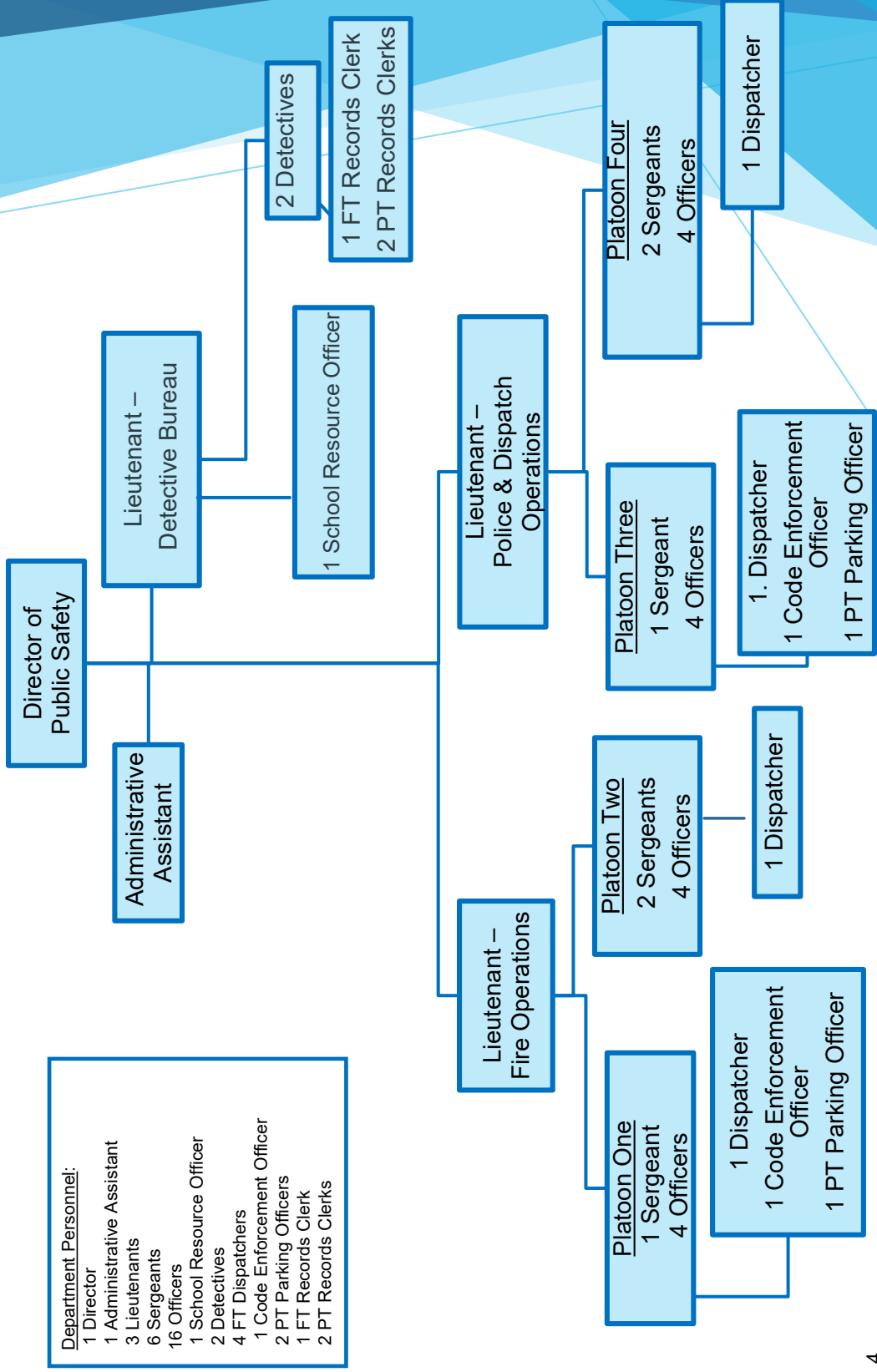
### Records Department - Part-Time

*Kim Rupinski*

*Tina Verbeke*



# City of Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Public Safety Organization Chart 2023

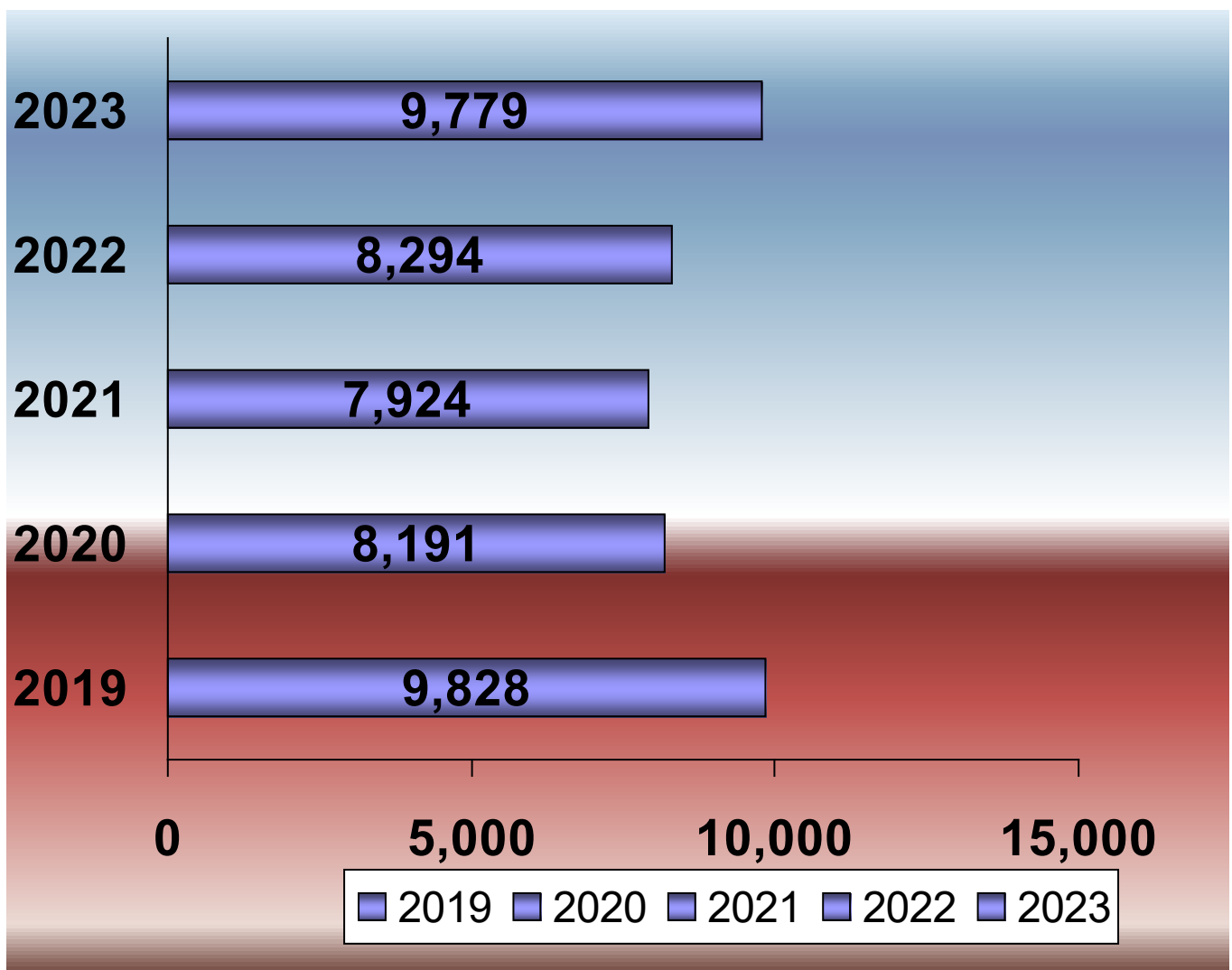


# TOTAL INCIDENTS 2019 - 2023

Since the utilization of CLEMIS, the department has been able to successfully capture a wide magnitude of crime statistics. This valuable resource continues to enhance department operations with its ease of use and impressive capabilities.

**The department responded to 9,779 calls for service in 2023.**

**The five-year average is 8,803 calls for service.**



# INDEX CRIMES BREAKDOWN

The National Crime Index is composed of selected offenses used to gauge fluctuations in the overall volume and rate of crime reported to law enforcement. Index Crimes are considered to be the most serious of all crimes reported.

## These include the violent crimes of:

- **Aggravated Assault**
- **Arson**
- **Auto Theft**
- **Burglary**
- **Criminal Homicide**
- **Criminal Sexual Conduct**
- **Larceny - Theft**
- **Robbery**

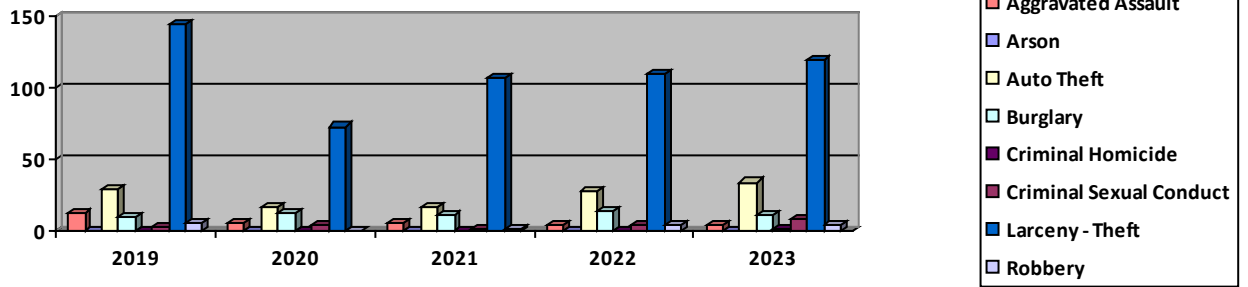
# NON-INDEX CRIMES BREAKDOWN

Non-Index offenses encompass all other reportable classifications outside those defined as Index Offenses. Only arrest data involving the Non-Index offenses are reported to the FBI.

## These include the crimes of:

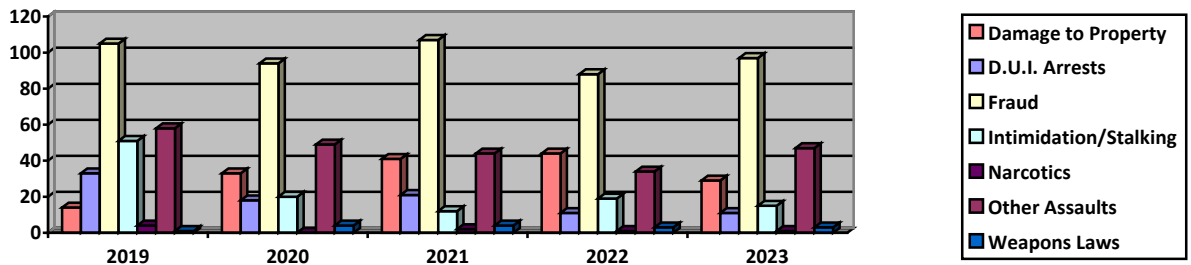
- **Curfew and Loitering Laws (persons under 18)**
- **Damage to Property**
- **Disorderly Conduct**
- **Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol**
- **Drug Abuse Violations**
- **Drunkenness**
- **Embezzlement**
- **Forgery and Counterfeiting**
- **Fraud**
- **Gambling**
- **Liquor Laws**
- **Offenses Against the Family and Children**
- **Other Assaults**
- **Prostitution and Commercialized Vice**
- **Runaways (persons under 18)**
- **Sex Offenses**
- **Stolen Property: Buying, Receiving, Possessing**
- **Weapons: Carrying, Possessing, etc...**
- **All Other Offenses**

# INDEX CRIMES TOTALS



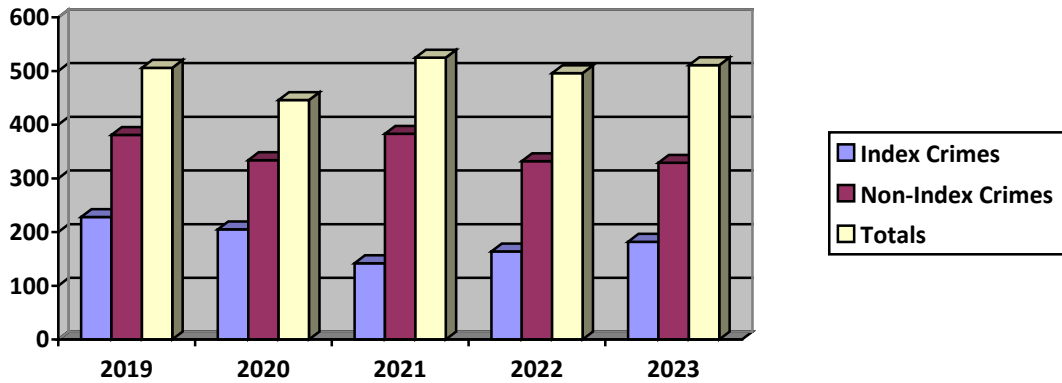
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Aggravated Assault	12	6	5	4	4
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Auto Theft	29	17	17	28	34
Burglary	10	12	11	14	11
Criminal Homicide	0	0	0	0	1
Criminal Sexual Conduct	3	4	1	4	8
Larceny - Theft	145	73	107	110	120
Robbery	6	0	1	4	4

# NON - INDEX CRIMES TOTALS



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Damage to Property	14	33	41	44	29
D.U.I. Arrests	33	18	21	11	11
Fraud	105	94	107	88	97
Intimidation/Stalking	51	20	12	19	15
Narcotics	4	0	2	1	1
Other Assaults	58	49	44	34	47
Weapons Laws	1	4	2	3	3

# CRIME TOTALS 2019 - 2023



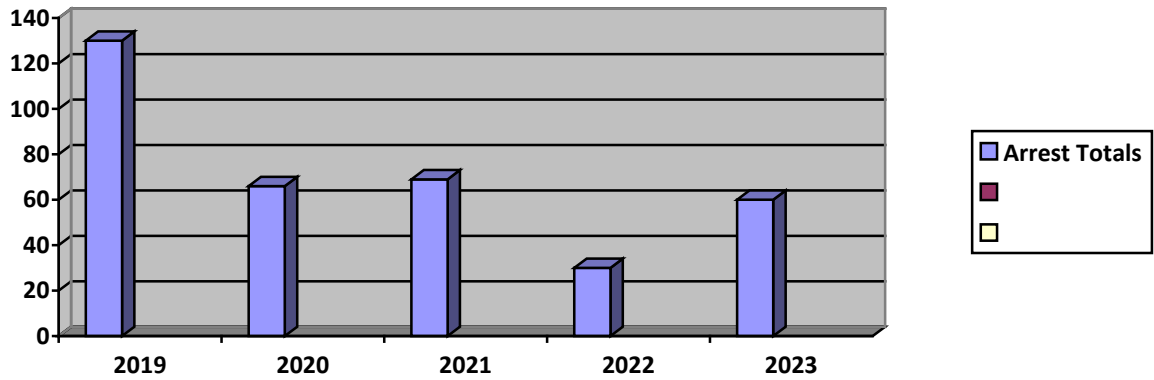
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Index Crimes	205	112	142	164	182
Non-Index Crimes	381	334	383	332	329
Totals	586	446	525	496	511

The 511 Index and Non-Index crimes reported in 2023 represents a 3 % increase from the 496 crimes reported in 2022. The five-year average is 513 Index and Non-Index crimes.

# ARREST TOTALS 2019 - 2023

The five-year average is 94 arrests per year.

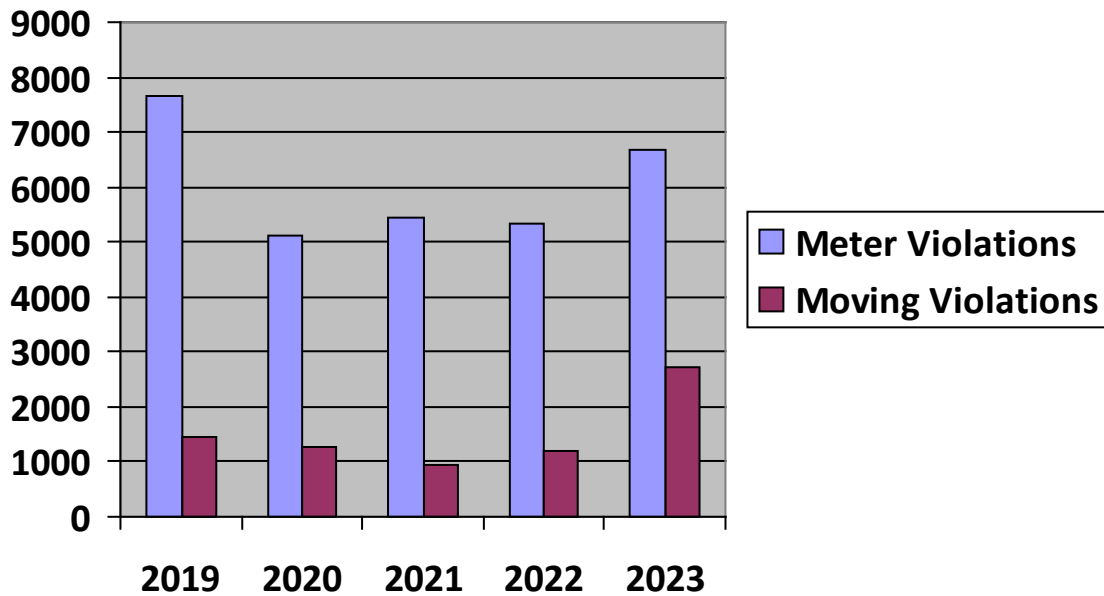
Arrests increased from last year by 100 %.



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Arrest Totals	130	66	69	30	60

# MOVING AND METER VIOLATIONS

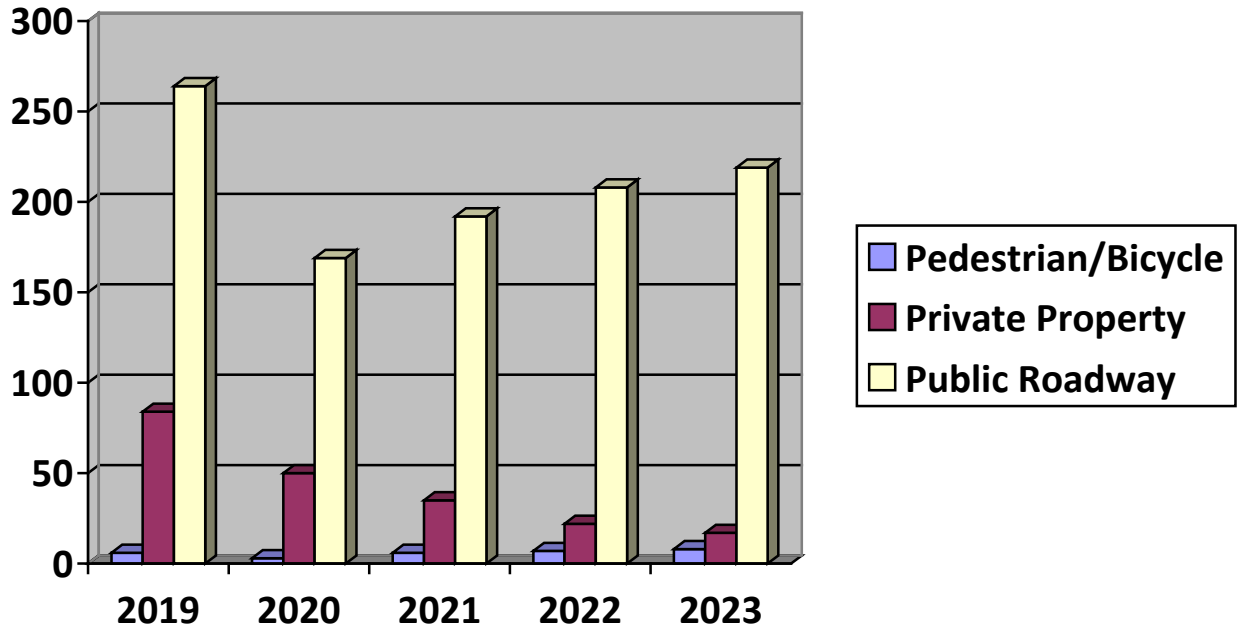
Using computers, updated radars, preliminary breath instruments, and mobile fingerprint readers in the patrol vehicles, the Public Safety Department continues to enforce traffic violations in the most effective manner possible.



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Meter Violations	7,674	5,101	5,456	5,348	6,681
Moving Violations	1,461	1,273	958	1,215	2,720

# TRAFFIC AND PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS

The statistics below include figures for private property accidents. The State of Michigan, for reporting purposes, does not include or record private property accidents. These types of accident reports are taken as a courtesy to citizens.



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Pedestrian/Bicycle	6	3	6	7	8
Private Property	84	50	35	22	17
Public Roadway	264	169	192	208	219
<b>Total Accidents</b>	<b>354</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>244</b>

**There were no fatalities in 2023.**



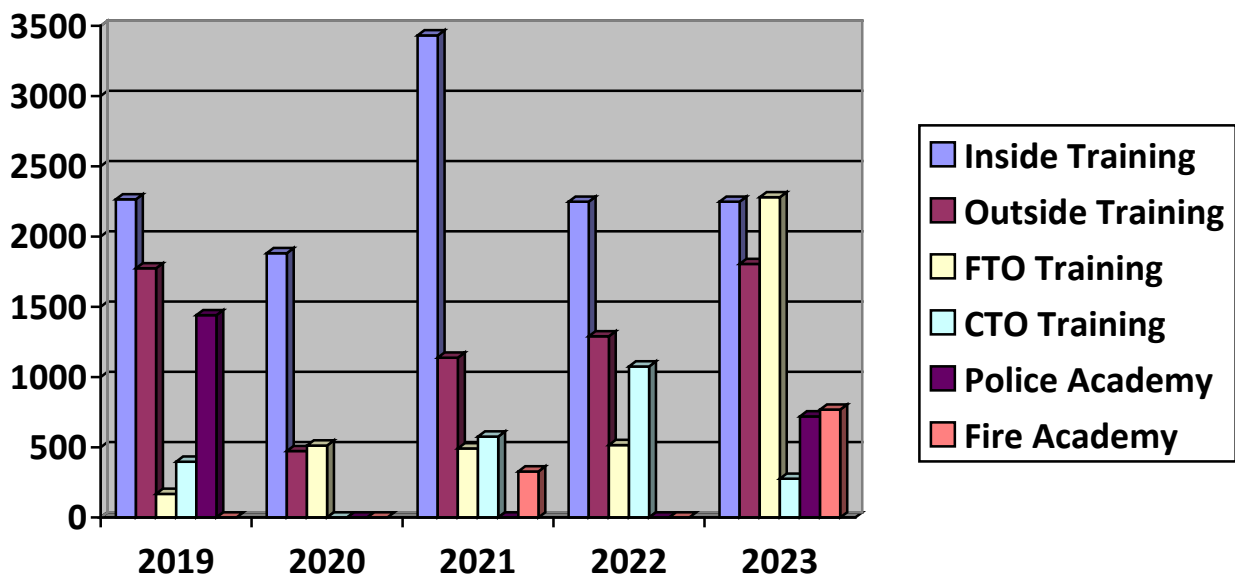
# DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Members of the department work diligently with specialized rescue tools and fire equipment to train in preparation of any impending emergency. They also train to keep abreast of new technology, updated equipment, and changing laws. Members of the department attended 1,805 hours of Police and Fire training courses at local colleges and other training facilities in 2023 and participated in 2,248 hours of in-house training.

Two new officers were sponsored by the department to attend fire academies at Macomb and Schoolcraft where they spent 768 combined hours in training. Another new officer was sponsored by the department to attend the Macomb Police Academy where he trained for 720 hours.

In addition, 2,280 hours were spent on FTO (Field Officer training) for the three new officers hired in 2023 and 276 hours were spent training one new Dispatcher (CTO training).

The grand total of all department training in 2023 was 8,097 hours, a 58% increase from the 5,129 total hours in 2022. The department values training and encourages employees to grasp the opportunity whenever possible to continually grow in knowledge.



# FIRE OPERATIONS

Our officers perform dual duties involving both police and fire and are quick to respond in either type of emergency situation. In addition to twelve residential dwelling fires in Grosse Pointe Woods, our firemen also responded to one business fire, two vehicle fires, and four outdoor brush/dumpster fires. Mutual aid was received on four of the twelve residential dwelling fires.

Included in the fire runs total are eight gas leak runs, seventeen power line down runs, and sixteen electrical incident runs.

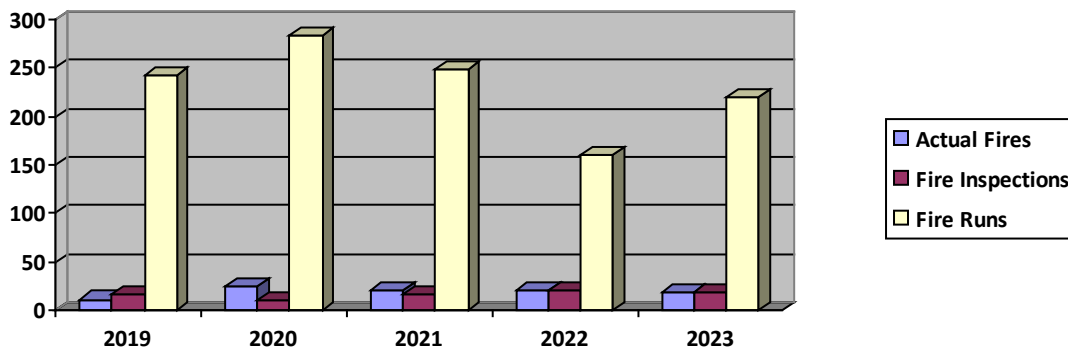
The department assisted with mutual aid on six residential fires in Harper Woods and one business fire in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The department has two certified fire inspectors who are primarily assigned to road patrol duties.



All totals listed below are estimated.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Actual Fires	11	24	21	20	19
Fire Inspections	17	10	16	21	18
Fire Loss	\$73,600	\$366,150	\$1,255,000	\$413,400	\$51,910
Fire Runs	243	284	249	161	220



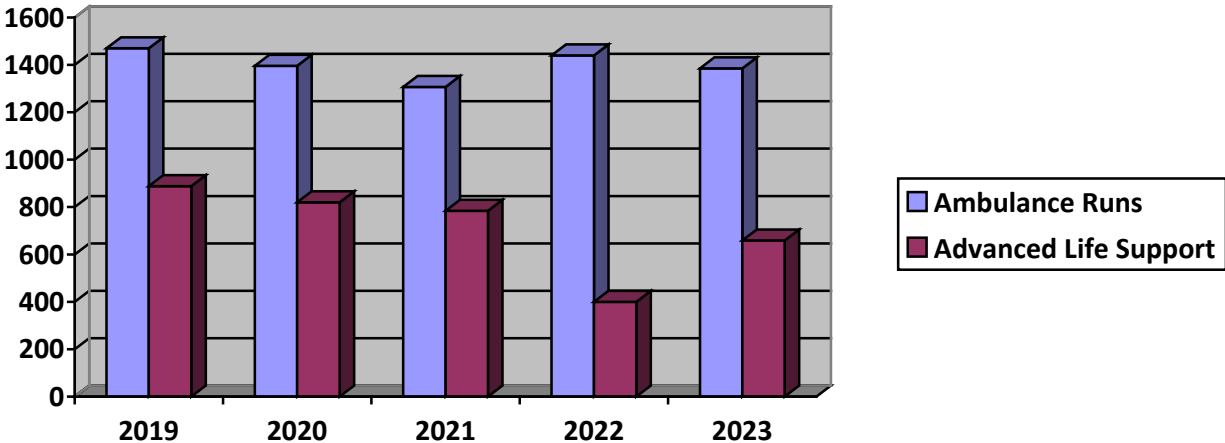
**There were no fatalities or serious injuries resulting from the 19 actual fires in 2023.**

# EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Public Safety officers respond to every ambulance run. All of our patrol vehicles are equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators.

With enhanced technology and equipment, the paramedics from Medstar can begin advanced lifesaving procedures and transmit reports to area hospitals before the patient arrives.

The 1,385 ambulance runs in 2023 represents a 4% decrease from the 1,440 runs in 2022. The total number of runs includes 555 runs which were cancelled en route, at the scene, or refused by the patient. The 659 runs involving advanced life support represents a significant increase of 65% from the 400 advanced life support runs in 2022.



	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Ambulance Runs	1,470	1,396	1,307	1,440	1,385
Adv. Life Support	888	820	784	400	659
% Adv. Life Support	60%	59%	60%	27%	48%

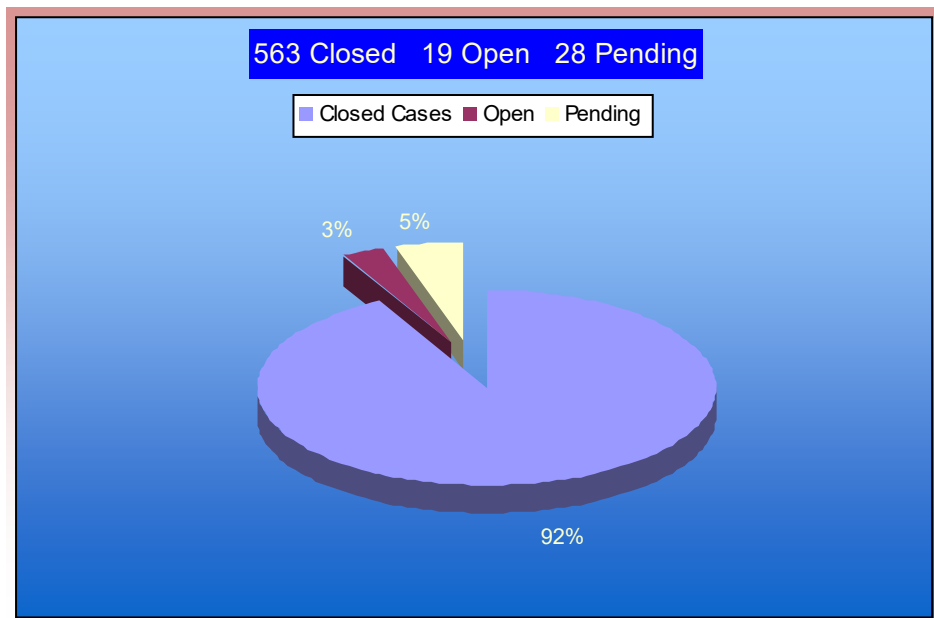
# DETECTIVE BUREAU

The Detective Bureau is the Criminal Investigation Unit for the Department. The detectives assigned to this unit are responsible for investigating all crimes committed against persons or property in the community. They are on-call 24-hours a day to respond to a crime scene. All detectives receive specialized training to develop and enhance their investigative skills including attending legal update training and meetings with detective bureaus from neighboring jurisdictions. The Detective Bureau is also responsible for monitoring businesses that possess a Michigan liquor license to ensure compliance with Michigan liquor laws.

The Grosse Pointe Woods Detective Bureau, which operates under the supervision of Lieutenant Detective Bureau Commander Keith Waszak, consists of seasoned detectives Ryan Schroerlucke and Miles Adams. The detectives are responsible for investigating crimes, collecting and preserving evidence, identifying perpetrators, interviewing witnesses, interrogating suspects, and preparing cases for successful prosecution.

In addition to criminal investigations, Detective Adams also served as the department's Youth Officer by overseeing crimes and violations by persons under the age of seventeen. Detective Adams was a direct liaison with school administrators, teachers, and students and maintained an additional office in Grosse Pointe North High School until Officer Jeffry Martel was appointed to the newly created position of School Resource Officer for the Public School System at the end of August, 2023. Officer Martel also assumed responsibility for overseeing the crossing guards.

Detective Adams's additional duties include responsibility for the Traffic Safety programs, for which he conducts traffic and speed studies, and investigates traffic-related incidents. He also remains as the liaison for the private schools located in Grosse Pointe Woods.



Summary of Case Assignments

**92% of the 610 criminal cases assigned to the Detective Bureau in 2023 are closed.**

# SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)



The Special Response Team (SRT) is a specially trained law enforcement team currently comprised of 10 members of the five Grosse Pointe area departments and Harper Woods. The team responded to several potentially dangerous situations in 2023 under the leadership of Grosse Pointe Shores Lieutenant Tony Spina until Grosse Pointe Farms Sergeant Timothy Harris assumed temporary leadership of the team in December. The SRT executes search and arrest warrants, intervenes in hostage situations, works on counter-terrorism missions, provides perimeter security for high-profile events, and provides assistance in other high-risk situations. The SRT team was activated thirteen times in 2023, which proved to be one of their most action-packed years ever.

The first activation took place in February when the team was activated for a domestic situation in Grosse Pointe Shores involving a long gun. The suspect was taken into custody and several guns were safely secured. The team was sent to Detroit in March for a warrant involving theft and fraud.

Two activations took place in April, with the first one involving forced entry into a Harper Woods home after a shooting victim arrived at a local hospital. Although the suspect was unable to be located for that incident, an armed suspect was taken into custody later that month after an assault in Grosse Pointe Park.

The team assisted with a drug warrant in Eastpointe in June. Later that month, the team was activated to Detroit twice for warrants involving fraud, and theft. A stolen vehicle was recovered in the second incident. The SRT also assisted with a breaking and entering warrant in Detroit in October and a theft warrant in St. Clair Shores in November.

A suspect was taken into custody at a traffic stop in November after a report of shots fired in a Harper Woods residence. A crowd inside the home were escorted out one by one and secured, after which several weapons were found inside.

The year ended with two more activations in December, one for a stolen property warrant in Detroit and the other for a confirmed shooting in Harper Woods. A search was made inside the Harper Woods residence, which contained a vicious dog.

The team responded to the activations despite multiple challenges with a shortage of staffing and equipment. The team was under-staffed for the majority of its training sessions and call-outs due to staffing shortages in all departments involved. As a result of the team's staffing shortage, one of its armored vehicles was relocated to another department. The other vehicle is in need of replacement.

The SRT team completed over 150 hours of training per officer in 2022, with an additional 96 hours completed by the two snipers on the team. The team attended the annual Ohio Tactical Officers Association Conference in Sandusky, Ohio, the Michigan Tactical Officers conference, and the annual week-long training at a military facility near Grayling, Michigan. SRT members Duncan Gill and Neal Kapoor are able to pass on valuable training techniques learned at these conferences to their fellow Grosse Pointe Woods officers.



# AUXILIARY UNIT



Pictured above from left to right in the back row are Auxiliary Captain Charles Thomas and Auxiliary Officers Allen Herfi, John Sabol, Anthony Wimbush, and Joseph Shalla. Pictured from left to right in the front row are Auxiliary Officer Ryan Allemon, Squad Leader Evan Allemon and Auxiliary Officer Jose Carrion. Not pictured are Squad Leader Mark Higgins and Auxiliary Officer Patrick Kyc.

The Police Auxiliary Unit is a vital resource for the department. Not only do they assist officers at community events such as the Public Safety Open House, but they also provide assistance at fire scenes, perform fire hose testing protocols, and perform other essential duties. The role of an Auxiliary Officer is to assist and supplement our officers in the prevention of crime, protection of life and property, disaster operations, suppression of criminal activity, and preservation of peace. The auxiliary officers are an indispensable part of our community and their help is greatly appreciated.

Under the leadership of department liaison Sergeant Joseph Provost, the Auxiliary Unit underwent 88 hours of training and devoted 481 hours of service to the City of Grosse Pointe Woods in 2023.

At the end of 2022, the Police Auxiliary Unit consisted of Captain Charles Thomas, Squad Leaders Evan Allemon and Mark Higgins, and Auxiliary Officers Ryan Allemon, Jose Carrion, Allen Herfi, Patrick Kyc, John Sabol, Joseph Shalla, and Anthony Wimbush.

# CROSSING GUARDS

The parents of our community depend upon our Crossing Guard team for the safety of their children when walking or riding a bicycle on their route to school or home. No matter what the weather is, our team of dedicated guards is ready to guide and protect our children. We are deeply appreciative of their efforts.



**In Memoriam: Crossing Guard Theodore Colborn – 1940 – 2023**  
The City of Grosse Pointe Woods was deeply saddened on the sudden passing of Theodore Colborn, a beloved crossing guard who served the community for over twenty years.



At the end of 2023, the Crossing Guard team consisted of: Kenneth Carter, Maureen Carter, Frank and Renee Dicristofaro, Kathleen Guertin, Nicole Guswiler, Karen Kaled, Roger Lanyon, Dana Linsdeau, Charlotte Monaghan, Mary Moore, Carol Naumann, Catherine Nicolia-Staples, Jean Segodnia, and Paul Siewert.

# PROMOTIONS



Pictured above with Mayor Arthur Bryant, City Council members, and Director John G. Kosanke are newly appointed Sergeant Kyle Seidel, his wife Jessica, and their two children Jolene and Sawyer.

Kyle Seidel received a well-deserved promotion to the rank of Sergeant on December 1, 2023 after twenty years of devoted service to the department. His career includes a temporary two-year assignment to the Detective Bureau from 2020 to 2022.

Sergeant Seidel is a beloved member of the department known for his kindness, good-natured personality, and willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty. An example of his hard work was described in the 2012 Meritorious Service award he received for initiating surveillance on a home invasion suspect without receiving any direction to do so.

In 2017, Sergeant Seidel received two Department Commendations, the first of which was for taking it upon himself without request from a supervisor to do research in which he found active warrants for a Larceny from Auto suspect who was believed to be roaming the streets. It was Sergeant Seidel who initiated a traffic stop for this individual, which resulted in the discovery of drugs, jewelry, and auto parts inside the vehicle. The second Department Commendation received that year was for his outstanding work as an Evidence Technician which culminated in the arrest and conviction of an individual wanted for several serious crimes.

In addition to his departmental duties, Sergeant Seidel has gathered employees from the department to participate in a Christmas event called Moonbeams for Sweet Dreams where everyone involved shined a flashlight into the hospital windows at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak. As a very humble person, Sergeant Seidel does not give himself enough credit for his outstanding achievements but we realize just how valuable he is to the department and we congratulate him on his new role as a team leader.



# HONORS & AWARDS



Pictured above from right to left are Officers Jarod Smith, Martin Mitchell, and David Empson and Director John G. Kosanke.

Honors were bestowed upon Sergeant Walter Galat, Officers David Empson, Martin Mitchell, and Jarod Smith at the annual Respect for Law Program held at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club on May 3, 2023. Sergeant Galat and the three officers were recognized for their efforts in saving the life of an elderly resident at The Rivers in February 2022. Upon arrival at the scene, they immediately initiated CPR to the man who had stopped breathing. The patient regained his pulse after twenty minutes of lifesaving efforts by both the officers and Medstar medics.



Crossing Guard Maureen Carter, pictured above left, was also recognized at the event for her brave actions in May 2022 when she remained standing in an intersection when a careless driver was in the area. Her actions prevented schoolchildren, a child on a bicycle, and a man walking his dog from being hit.

New officer Mitchell Hendrix, pictured above right, was presented with the MCOLES Outstanding Performance Award upon his graduation from the Macomb Police Academy on May 12, 2023. The award is presented to an outstanding trainee based on his knowledge, skills, communication, leadership, and demeanor.

# NEW HIRES

The department gained five new employees in 2023 – three Public Safety Officers, one full-time Dispatcher and one Parking Enforcement Officer.



The department welcomed new officer Trent Dara (pictured in the middle of the top row with Director Kusanke) and new officers Mitchell Hendrix (pictured above left) and Christian Media (pictured above right with Director Kusanke) in 2023. The department sponsored both Officers Dara and Media to attend fire academies and also sponsored Officer Hendrix to attend the police academy. Officer Dara came to us with experience as a Wayne State University police officer and Officer Hendrix served as a combat medic in the U.S. Army. Officer Media is beginning his career in Law Enforcement with us.

Former audio-visual technician Chelsea Phillips joined our staff as a part-time parking attendant in May 2024 and substitute teacher Shelby Webb began training with the department as a dispatcher in November 2023. The enthusiasm and effervescent personalities of these two new hires will help them achieve a positive representation for the department.

We wish all five of our new employees the best of luck in their new positions.



# RETIREMENTS

One member of the department retired in 2023.



After over 25 and a half years of service, Sergeant Anthony Chalut retired from the department in 2023. Shortly after Sergeant Chalut began his career with the department, he received a Department Citation for a situation involving an armed suicidal gunman.

Prior to his appointment as a sergeant in 2020, Chalut had been a part of the Detective Bureau for twenty years where he solved numerous cases. In 2011, he received a certificate of recognition from the FBI for a joint law enforcement operation.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

New position created in 2023



The City of Grosse Pointe Woods entered into a cooperative agreement with the Grosse Pointe Public School System in July 2023 for a full-time Public Safety Officer to be assigned to the school district. In addition to maintaining an office at Grosse Pointe North, the officer also is responsible for the Crossing Guards. During the months when school is not in session or events are not taking place, the officer is assigned to department duties. Officer Jeffry Martel, pictured above, was appointed to this position.

# PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE



The beautiful weather on Sunday, October 8, 2023 helped to attract a significant crowd to the annual Public Safety Open House. The event gave attendees the opportunity to interact with Public Safety personnel and learn valuable safety tips. Public Safety Director John G. Kosanke was on hand to welcome the public to the event.

Special presentations were made by the Medstar EMS crew who demonstrated the process of transporting patients into their ambulance, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Unit and their special guest, Coastie the robot. A display of the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team (SRT) armored vehicle was presented by Grosse Pointe Farms Officer Jeff Vandemark, Grosse Pointe Woods Officer Neal Kapoor, and Harper Woods Officer Al Natheer.

The return appearance of the Harper Woods K-9 team of Officer Steven Johnson and his partner Kaiser once again proved to be one of the most popular attractions.

Special thanks go to event organizer Sergeant Joseph Provost, Auxiliary Officers Jose Carrion, Patrick Kyc and John Sabol, Sergeant Walter Galat, Detective Ryan Schroerlucke, and Public Safety Officers Steven Calabro, Trent Dara, David Empson, and Mitchell Hendrix. The hard work and efforts of Harper Woods Officer Eddie Tujaka in bringing the Smoke House to the event were greatly appreciated. The event was photographed by Public Safety Administrative Assistant Claudette Darga and Parks and Recreation Director Nicole Gerhart.





# PUBLIC SAFETY OPEN HOUSE





# COMMUNITY EVENTS



Pictured on the top at the Safety Town event are Officer Dennis Walker (left) and Officer Mitchell Hendrix (right).

Members of the Grosse Pointe Woods Department of Safety are pictured above together with members of the Knights of Columbus.

*Knights of Columbus photo credit: Grosse Pointe News Photographer Renee Landyut*

Actively participating in community events is important to the department. The department presents an annual summer program called “Safety Town” to educate young children on topics such as fire prevention and pedestrian safety.

Department members were thanked for their service and treated to lunches for all four platoons by members of the St. Paul on the Lake Knights of Columbus in June 2024. Knights member John Ricci described Public Safety Officers as heroes for the work they do in the community.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS



The department was honored to accommodate a request made by the family of retired Detroit Fire Chief Peter Reyes to visit the home of his niece and nephew on August 6, 2023, to celebrate the retired World War II veteran's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday. Having been a member of the Detroit Fire Department for 38 years, Mr. Reyes was thrilled by the arrival of Officer Martin Mitchell on the Engine-One fire truck. A large crowd of relatives was present.

*Photo credits: Grosse Pointe Woods resident Patricia Ellis*



# POLICE OFFICER'S PRAYER

