



# Public Safety Committee

## Meeting Minutes

July 13, 2026

Mayor Primmer called the meeting to order at 6:15pm. Councilor Duron was present and Councilor Barron was excused. Staff in attendance included: City Manager Byron Smith, Chief Jason Edmiston, Operations Captain Scott Clark, Administrative Captain Robert Guerrero, Patrol Lieutenant Chris Martin, Communications Manager Amanda Hartsteen, Patrol Sergeants Doug Gill and Jarrod Flatau, School Resource/Patrol Officer Derrick Williams, Chaplain Terry Cummings, and Patrol Officers Deena Josue, Edward Martinez, and Cody Sherman, and City Recorder Lilly Alarcon-Strong.

### **Introductions & HPD Personnel Update**

Hermiston's Police Department (HPD) Chief Jason Edmiston introduced members of HPD who were in the audience and stated Officer Cade MacInnes has been hired and will start with HPD on July 16<sup>th</sup>; Officer Cade has been an officer since 2021 and comes from Turner, Oregon. HPD is now in very competitive positions due to the benefits offered by the city which yielded several lateral applicants for one position, which is a very good thing for the department and City as a whole.

### **Building Renovations/Usage Update**

Chief Edmiston stated since moving back into the renovated station, the HPD Team has been busy hosting trainings and meetings, including two sessions of a Proactive Behavioral Health trainer from Florida that were well attended by employees and spouses/significant others; as well as hosting regional intel meetings, an Intoxilyzer 8000 training course, several internal meetings, and a city department head meeting. Roll call meetings are also held every Tuesday at 9:30am which allows staff on duty to meet and discuss weekly goals. The newly renovated space is very much appreciated by the staff.

### **2nd Quarter (2026) Activity Report**

Chief Edmiston reviewed the 2nd Quarter Activity Report (attached). Information was provided to include a decrease in the following: Total crime is down 20% from last year, this includes 23% reduction in violent crime from last year, a 25% deduction in property crime from the 10-year average, and burglaries at 56% and Larcenies at 21% down from the 10-year average.

With an increase in staffing also equates with an increase in several other categories to include: Officer-initiated activity at 47% from last year and 147% increase over the 10-year average, traffic at 100% from the 10-year average, total arrests are up 22% over the 10-year average, and total citations are up 19% from last year and 54% from the 10-year average.

### **4<sup>th</sup> of July 12-Hour Activity**

Chief Edmiston read from an Observed Activity Report as written by Sergeant Gill, stating Sergeant Gill's Team responded to 129 calls for service in a 12-hour period. This included 61 fireworks-related complaints, 2 domestic incidents, a missing child call, 6 emergency 911 calls, 2 motor vehicle crashes, 1 DUII arrest, 4 dog-related calls, and numerous other miscellaneous calls, and seized an incredible number of illegal fireworks. The next morning the fire department assisted Corporal Miears with properly destroying the illegal fireworks in a safe manner as HPD has limited storage options for explosive materials.



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### Code Enforcement Update

Captain Guerrero gave Code Enforcement Updates to include:

- Code Enforcement returned to HPD from the Planning Department in late December and CEO Jake Best was officially released the first week of January 2026, where he and CEO met daily to discuss issues he is seeing and plan for action to address them.
- CEO Best attended the Oregon Code Enforcement Association spring conference in April where he was able to network and gain valuable information, ideas, and safety procedures from code enforcement officers/officials from around the State.
- CEO Best has recently adjusted his shift so that he works several hours during the weekend to address issues that occur during this time frame.
- CEO Best has a great working relationship with the officers at the HPD and his willingness to work shoulder to shoulder with patrol has not gone unrecognized, stating during a weekly meeting, officers voiced their appreciation for the work he is doing and how thankful they were that he had come in and started addressing the issues that took them away from proactively performing their own duties.
- While CEO's Best end goal is the visible and responsive enforcement of city code, he has also spent time educating the public about livability and nuisance issues affecting our city. He continues to meet mobile vendors regarding licensing and code violations, which was one of the reasons he adjusted his shift.
- CEO Best continues to address some well-known problem areas throughout the city, making a minimum of weekly visits and taking appropriate enforcement action. Some of these issues, while seeming obvious, have differing layers of complexity and related legal barriers, but he continues to make contact and document his findings so that once we are able to take more extensive action, we will have the background to move forward.
- Regarding Chickens: CEO Best has been dealing with roaming chickens for several weeks. One of the unforeseen issues this highlighted was the lack of facilities willing and able to take them if captured. We were able to solve this a couple of weeks ago and hope this gives us a route to offer those who have realized their chickens have "flown the coop" and are too much to manage in the city.
- CEO Best has also fielded multiple complaints or inquiries regarding construction in different parts of the city.
- Though not always able to take any enforcement action, he addresses the public and those making reports with courtesy and promptness and HPD has had a couple of notes come into the department from complainants, letting us know they appreciated the work he has done.
- Complaints at 125 W. Cherry: The current resident had been in and out of prison but is now actively trespassing people from this property and is having other agencies assist him with this plan; he has also agreed to clean the property with assistance from HPD with a dumpster being delivered on Monday 7/13.
- Statistics: Since January 1, 2026, the following enforcement activity has been conducted:
  - Cases Completed: 26- Cases are pulled when citations are issued or for Impounded Vehicles and Graffiti
  - Incidents Generated: 539- Incidents are generated by calls or notifications from the public or initiated by CEO Best himself.



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### **Past/Upcoming Events**

- National Night Out – Tuesday, August 4th
- Umatilla County Fair Parade - Saturday, August 8th
- Umatilla County Fair – Wednesday, August 12th through Saturday, August 15th

### **Municipal Court Update**

Court Administrator Jillian Viles presented information (attached) regarding: Traffic Violation processes and statistics, as well as website updates that allow the public to do everything online that they could do if they came in-person, including signing paperwork, attach photos and other documents, and more. The new site has been very useful to the public and successful and allows staff to be more efficient. The Municipal Court is also working with the HPD to add QR codes on citations “e-cites” so the public can do everything online instead of having to appear in-person. E-cites is expected to dramatically decrease the Failures-to-Appear warrants issued.

Mayor Primmer commented on what a great service these items will provide to the public and asked that the departments consider sending out information regarding the new available tools but also warning of potential scammers as well.

### **Questions, Comments, Concerns**

Mayor Primmer thanked the Police Department for all the work they are doing and stated he is proud to be affiliated with the City’s Police Department as he constantly hears good things about HPD.

### **Public Comment**

Bethany Adair, Hermiston resident- spoke regarding the dangers of children under the age of 16 operating electric scooters stating the scooters can operate at a high velocity and children not wearing helmets or obeying traffic rules. Recently children in her neighborhood operating electric scooters were stuck by a vehicle as the children were going very fast and ran a stop sign. HPD was called and officers arrived on scene, but this situation could have been fatal. Mrs. Adair asked that HPD work with elementary and middle schools to educate and enforce current laws or not allow scooters to be used to and from school.

### **Adjournment**

There was no other business, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:51pm.

# HERMISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



## Mission Statement

*Without fear or favor and in partnership with our diverse community, we will create and maintain a safe environment with the reduction of crime through problem-oriented and community-based policing strategies. The quality of life for those we serve takes precedent over our individual needs.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> QUARTER ACTIVITY REPORT

2026

| <u>Incident Type</u>  | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | 2020       | 2021       | 2022       | 2023       | 2024       | 2025       | Avg        | Normal Range   | 2026       | % Change Avg-'26 | % Change '25-'26 |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------------|
| Homicide              | 1          | 1          | 0          | 2          | 2          | 0          | 1          | 0          | 6          | 1          | -1-4           | 0          | -100%            | -100%            |
| Rape                  | 1          | 5          | 3          | 4          | 5          | 3          | 2          | 8          | 2          | 4          | 0-2            | 2          | -50%             | 0%               |
| Robbery               | 1          | 5          | 4          | 5          | 4          | 4          | 3          | 2          | 3          | 3          | 3-4            | 3          | 0%               | 0%               |
| Aggravated Assault    | 16         | 20         | 12         | 8          | 7          | 19         | 18         | 10         | 15         | 14         | 9-19           | 15         | 7%               | 0%               |
| Burglary              | 25         | 51         | 39         | 26         | 36         | 22         | 22         | 11         | 13         | 27         | 18-36          | 12         | -56%             | -8%              |
| Larceny               | 167        | 228        | 226        | 148        | 171        | 263        | 313        | 322        | 235        | 230        | 175-285        | 182        | -21%             | -23%             |
| Auto Theft            | 23         | 21         | 22         | 17         | 14         | 25         | 25         | 13         | 13         | 19         | 13-25          | 15         | -21%             | 15%              |
| Arson                 | 1          | 0          | 1          | 4          | 2          | 0          | 3          | 5          | 0          | 2          | 0-4            | 1          | -50%             | 100%             |
| <b>TOTAL</b>          | <b>235</b> | <b>331</b> | <b>307</b> | <b>214</b> | <b>241</b> | <b>336</b> | <b>387</b> | <b>371</b> | <b>287</b> | <b>301</b> | <b>247-355</b> | <b>230</b> | <b>-24%</b>      | <b>-20%</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL VIOLENT</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>31</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>19</b>  | <b>18</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>24</b>  | <b>20</b>  | <b>26</b>  | <b>22</b>  | <b>19-26</b>   | <b>20</b>  | <b>-9%</b>       | <b>-23%</b>      |
| <b>TOTAL PROPERTY</b> | <b>216</b> | <b>300</b> | <b>288</b> | <b>195</b> | <b>223</b> | <b>310</b> | <b>363</b> | <b>351</b> | <b>261</b> | <b>279</b> | <b>225-332</b> | <b>210</b> | <b>-25%</b>      | <b>-20%</b>      |

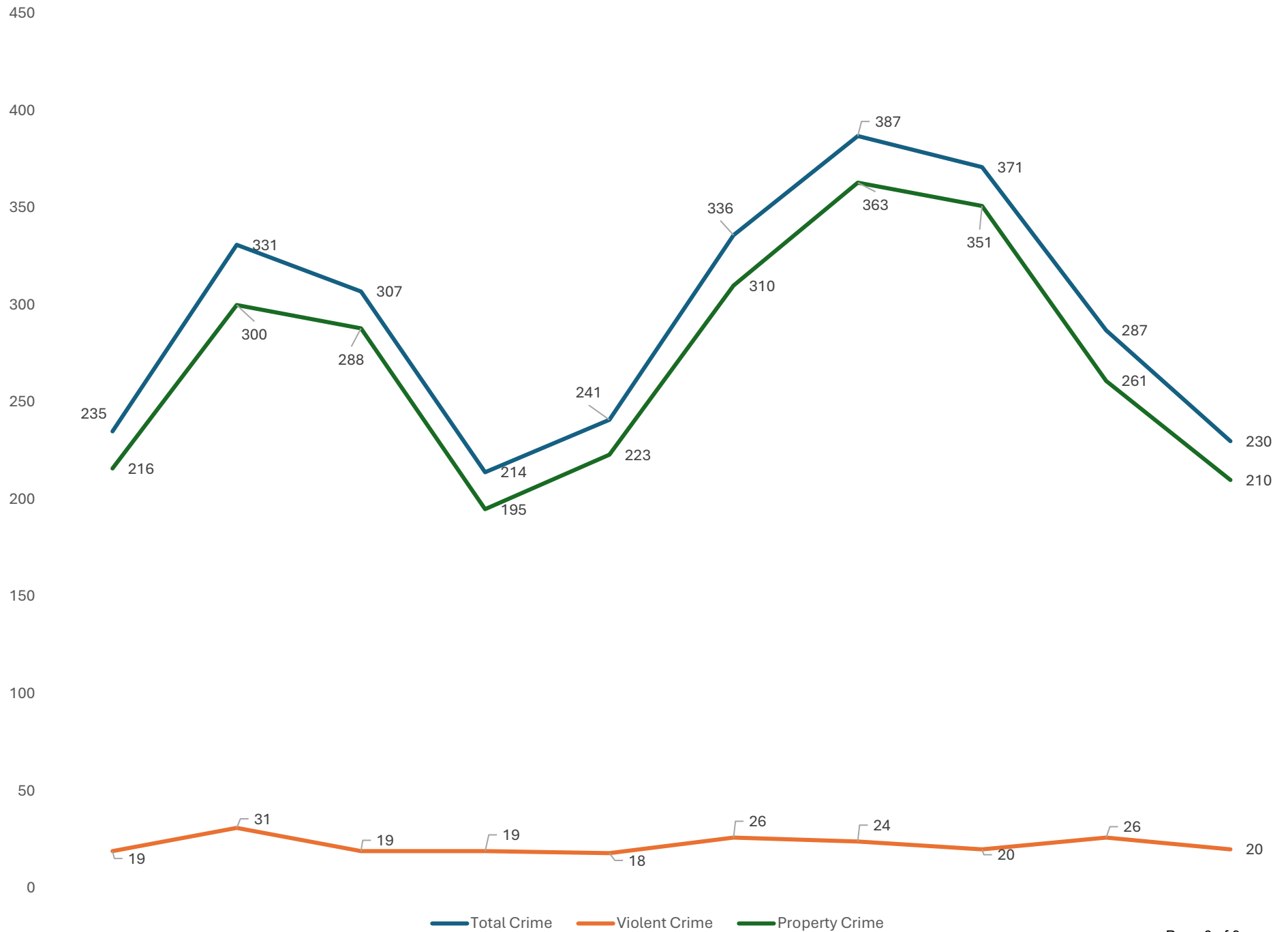
|                   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>POPULATION</b> | 17345 | 17520 | 17730 | 17985 | 18200 | 18775 | 19354 | 19696 | 19973 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

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| 20322 |
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## Hermiston Police Department 2017-2026 Crime Stats

January through June 10-year Trends

## Hermiston Crime 10-Years



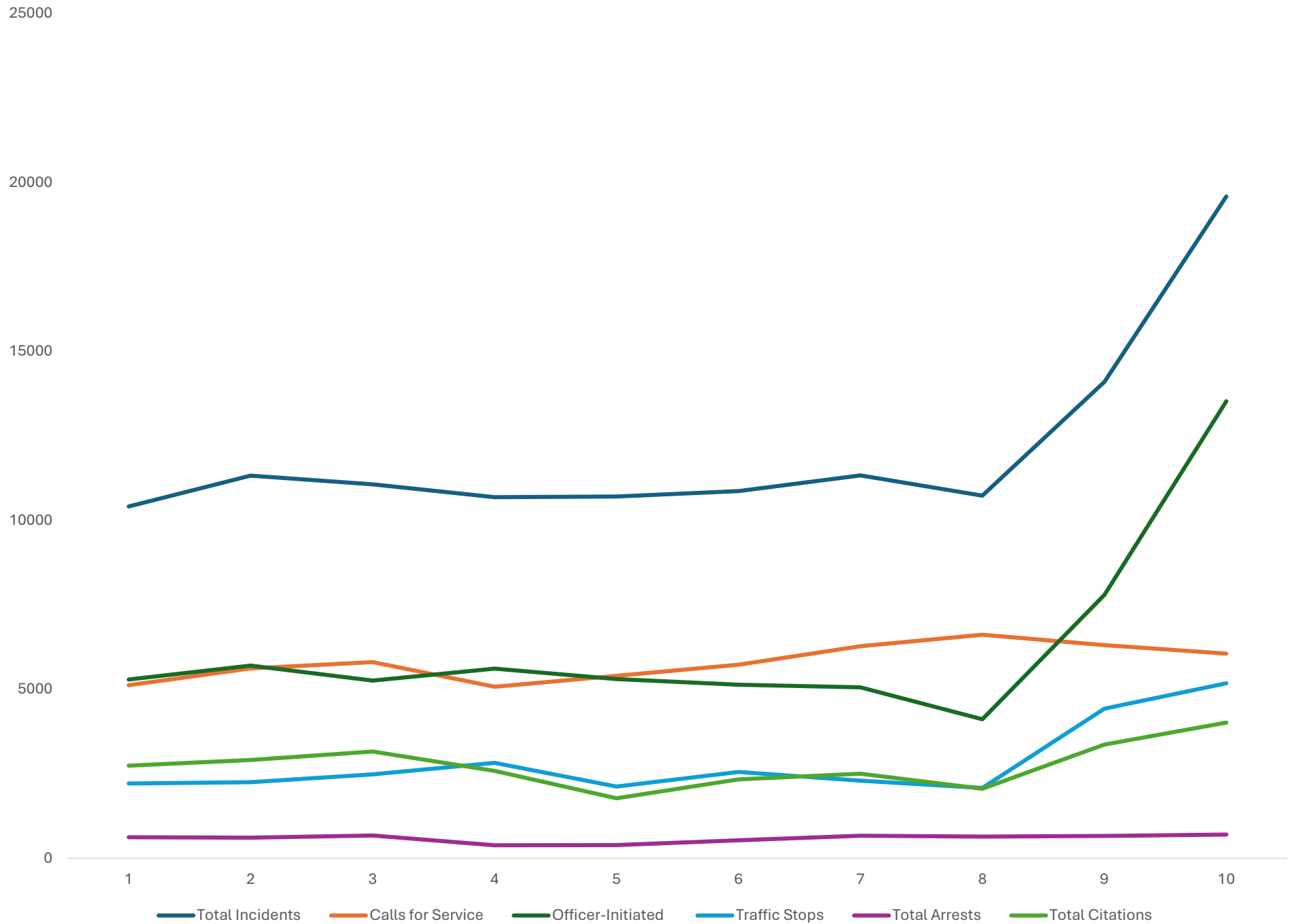
## Hermiston Police Department 2017-2026 Patrol Stats - January through June

| <u>Incident Type</u>                  | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> | <u>2019</u> | <u>2020</u> | <u>2021</u> | <u>2022</u> | <u>2023</u> | <u>2024</u> | <u>2025</u> | <u>Avg</u> | <u>Normal Range</u> | <u>2026</u> | <u>% Change<br/>Avg-'26</u> | <u>% Change<br/>'25-'26</u> |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Total Incidents</b>                | 10412       | 11326       | 11067       | 10686       | 10704       | 10864       | 11332       | 10730       | 14099       | 11247      | 9950-12543          | 19584       | 74%                         | 39%                         |
| <b>Calls for Service</b>              | 5124        | 5620        | 5809        | 5076        | 5400        | 5728        | 6273        | 6616        | 6306        | 5772       | 5334-6211           | 6059        | 5%                          | -4%                         |
| <b>Officer Initiated<br/>Activity</b> | 5288        | 5706        | 5258        | 5610        | 5304        | 5136        | 5059        | 4114        | 7793        | 5474       | 4246-6702           | 13525       | 147%                        | 74%                         |
| <b>Traffic Stops</b>                  | 2211        | 2249        | 2484        | 2825        | 2126        | 2553        | 2299        | 2081        | 4428        | 2584       | 1703-3465           | 5179        | 100%                        | 17%                         |
| <b>Case<br/>Investigations</b>        | 1496        | 1648        | 1678        | 1118        | 1235        | 1438        | 1655        | 1518        | 1386        | 1464       | 1324-1603           | 1485        | 1%                          | 7%                          |
| <b>Total Arrests</b>                  | 622         | 608         | 674         | 385         | 389         | 531         | 665         | 643         | 662         | 575        | 469-682             | 702         | 22%                         | 6%                          |
| <b>Misdemeanor<br/>Arrests</b>        | 437         | 437         | 495         | 249         | 284         | 405         | 507         | 515         | 543         | 430        | 335-526             | 565         | 31%                         | 4%                          |
| <b>Felony Arrests</b>                 | 185         | 171         | 179         | 136         | 105         | 126         | 158         | 128         | 119         | 145        | 128-163             | 137         | -6%                         | 15%                         |
| <b>Total Citations</b>                | 2738        | 2909        | 3158        | 2589        | 1776        | 2335        | 2506        | 2060        | 3365        | 2604       | 2065-3143           | 4016        | 54%                         | 19%                         |

|                   |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>POPULATION</b> | 17345 | 17520 | 17730 | 17985 | 18200 | 18775 | 19354 | 19696 | 19973 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

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## Hermiston PD Patrol Stats 10-years



# Public Safety Committee July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

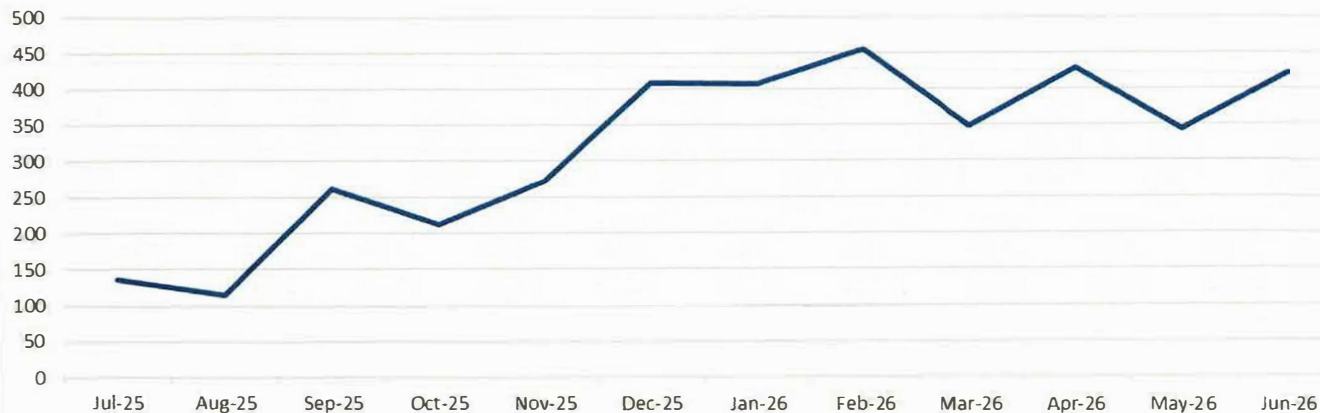


**Municipal  
Court**

Traffic Violations FY 25



Traffic Violations FY26



**Traffic Offenses**

|       | Monthly Average | Total Offenses |
|-------|-----------------|----------------|
| FY 22 | 190             | 2274           |
| FY 23 | 125             | 1507           |
| FY 24 | 118             | 1418           |
| FY 25 | 262             | 3153           |
| FY 26 | 316             | 3803           |

2400 offenses for the first 6 months of 2026 calendar year.