



Mercer Island
Police Department

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

MISSION



The Mission of the Mercer Island Police Department is to contribute to Mercer Island's reputation as a safe, friendly, economically thriving community in which to live, work, learn, play, and visit.



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

VALUES

- Our role is to provide police services to the community. Our work is honorable and important.
- Every person in the Department is a leader.
- Every person in the Department is important to its success.
- Every person in the Department has talent, skills, and knowledge to contribute to public service.
- Every person in the Department wants to do a good job. They are willing to work hard to achieve goals because each wants to be successful.
- Every person deserves to be treated with respect and dignity due them as human beings and to be accepted as a person who has something to contribute.
- Every person has a right to have an opinion and to have it heard and respected.
- Every person in the Department tries to assist people to make life in this community a good experience.
- Every person in the Department is employed by the people of the community and is entrusted with equipment and responsibilities to provide a safe environment.
- We value Mercer Island, its history, its traditions, its future, its residents, its surroundings, and its way of life.
- We value the United States of America, our Constitution, the rule of law, and our freedom.



MISSION, VISION, VALUES

VISION

- Provide quality police services.
- Be open and responsive to individuals and groups.
- Recognize the importance of communication.
- Select and train professional personnel.
- Make efficient use of human and technical resources.
- Be aware of new methods and adopt the most useful.
- Cooperate with other local governments.
- Develop and maintain a Department plan.
- Assure resident participation in Department planning.
- Develop leaders within the Department.



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2024 HIGHLIGHTS

TRANSITIONED DEPARTMENT TO NEW TEMPORARY FACILITIES

After evacuating City Hall in April 2023 due to the discovery of asbestos and subsequently moving from the Community Center to Luther Burbank Admin Building, the Department moved into its current temporary facilities in November 2024 while more permanent solutions are found.



ONBOARDED & TRAINED SEVERAL NEW DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

The year saw several retirements and position changes, which opened the door for new officers and personnel.

BROUGHT BACK CITY-HOSTED NNO EVENT

2024 saw the return of a City-wide National Night Out (NNO) event. The community turned out to meet the new Police Chief, Officers, NORCOM Operators, learn about emergency preparedness, and more.



2024 HIGHLIGHTS

ADDRESSED RISING E-BIKE USE & SAFETY CONCERN

Leadership led a cross-department effort to address rising e-bike use and safety concerns through a public information campaign, school assembly, and City Code review to strengthen enforcement and improve safety.



MANAGED MULTIPLE EMERGENCIES

Between April's main water transmission line leak and the November bomb cyclone, the Department and City successfully continued all operations while under a declared local emergency for 6 months of 2024.



2024 WORK PLAN ITEMS

Prepare for the opening of new Light Rail station, to include response protocols and pedestrian and vehicles safety considerations.

Continue the Interlocal Agreements for Marine Patrol Services with Hunts Point, Medina, Renton, Bellevue, and Yarrow Point. Track time and resources spent in each marine jurisdiction to inform the cost allocation model the City utilizes to charge contract cities. Work with the Finance Department to complete an overhead cost analysis to inform updates to the Interlocal Agreements.

Collaborate with public safety partners to acquire and implement the Puget Sound Emergency Radio Network (PSERN) for public safety communications.

Proactively combat crimes through crime prevention and education programs, by leveraging social media outreach and rigorous investigation efforts.

Continue the Community Academy, Coffee with a Cop, Paws on Patrol, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and National Night Out. Support the Parks and Recreation Department through participation in community-wide special events.



These are highlighted work plan items. For the full list of MIPD work plan items, see the 2023-2024 Biennial Budget at www.mercerisland.gov/budget



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Department participates in community events as well as hosting events to engage with the community and share crime prevention tips and information. This is a sampling of the engagement opportunities the Department participated in:

- National Night Out
- Coffee with a Cop
- School and Community Presentations
- Summer Celebration
- Town Center Trick or Treat
- Senior Resource Fair
- MISD New Student Night



EMPLOYMENT STATS

Mercer Island Police Department

Commissioned Staff: 33 Civilian Staff: 4.5

Total Employees: 38.5 Mercer Island Population: 24,750

Recruitment, Hiring, and Retention

The Department continues to hire and maintain a diverse staff that complement our communities' demographics. In 2024, MIPD hired six people to fill police officer or support staff positions. MIPD is well known for its open and inclusive work culture, which has translated to successful recruitment, hiring, and retention. Those hired in 2024 speak to that commitment to diversity and community representation.

Background Investigations

The Department conducted hiring processes for multiple officers and civilian positions in 2024. Candidates successful in the initial hiring steps are moved into a background investigation which is managed out of our Personnel and Training Office. Select department members are trained to assist with these investigations and conduct them while balancing other assigned duties. Candidates are evaluated in terms of integrity, credibility, dependability, learning ability, personal sensitivity, judgment, drug use history, driving record, and other mandated standards.

New Police Officers

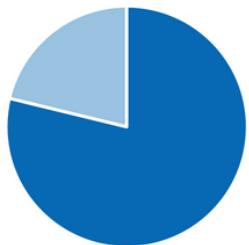
- Bonagofski, Luke
- Johnson, Shannon
- Larios, Carlos
- Sutter, Chris
- Udodik, Marina

New Support Staff

- Scinkovec, Andrea
- Stewart, Taylor

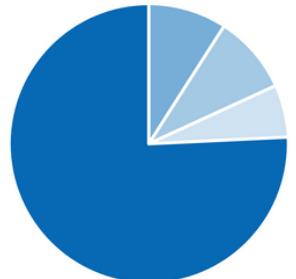
SWORN OFFICERS

■ Male ■ Female



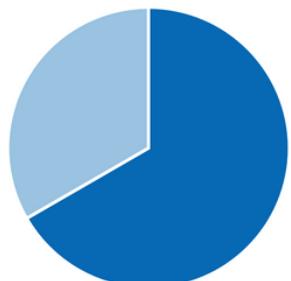
SWORN OFFICERS

■ Black ■ Asian ■ Hispanic ■ White



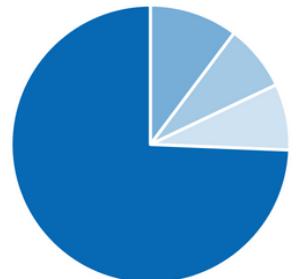
ALL POSITIONS

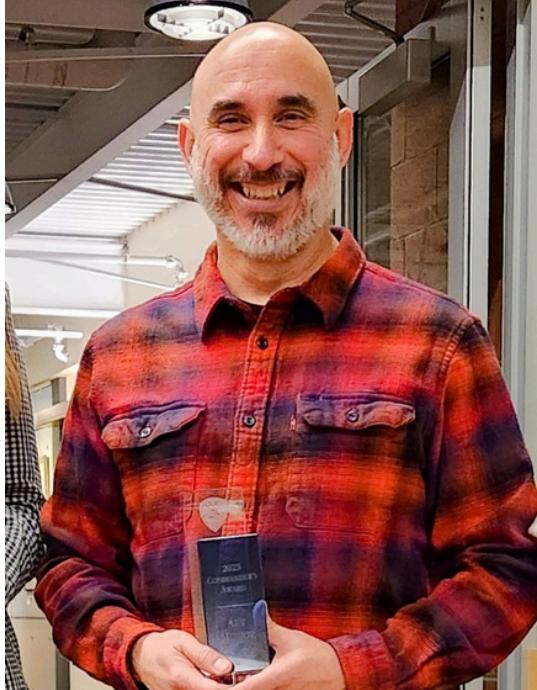
■ Male ■ Female



ALL POSITIONS

■ Black ■ Asian ■ Hispanic ■ White





PATROL OPERATIONS

The Mercer Island Police Department's Patrol Unit is the critical division responsible for ensuring public safety and maintaining law and order within the City of Mercer Island. Comprised of uniformed officers, the unit operates 24/7 and is often the first point of contact for emergency situations and community interactions. Patrol focuses on community concerns related to traffic, criminal activity, and safety concerns.

Patrol officers respond to calls for service, conduct proactive patrols to deter and detect criminal activity, enforce traffic laws, and aid residents in need. They play a vital role in crime prevention, community engagement, and rapid response to incidents, contributing to the overall well-being of the Mercer Island community.



PATROL OPERATIONS

In 2024, the Patrol section responded to approximately 13,000 calls for service. It is staffed by four patrol sergeants, and fifteen police officers. The response time for emergency calls for police is outstanding, with the average response being less than six minutes.

The Island's crime index, a measure of the crime rate per thousand citizens, is one of the lowest in the state and the nation.

Mercer Island is a community that does not experience a high rate of serious crimes such as robberies, homicide, and assaults. During 2024, Mercer Island police officers issued 910 citations, made 188 arrests, and investigated 192 traffic accidents.

All new officers start their career in the Patrol section. Patrol officers are able to receive specialized training in areas such as field training for new officers and traffic accident investigation. Later, they may move to assignments in the Investigations Unit, School Resource Officer, and Marine Patrol. Additionally, the Department has many specialized units in which officers may participate while continuing their work as patrol officers including Dive Team, Special Operations Team, Bicycle Patrol, Crime Prevention, and Advanced Collision Investigation.

Typically, each officer is trained for several other assignments in addition to their patrol work. This is how the Department can provide such a high level of service to the community with a limited number of officers.

PATROL BY THE NUMBERS

- 15 Police Officers
- 4 Sergeants
- 24/7/365 operations
- 13,000 calls for service
- <6 minute response time
- 910 citations issued
- 188 arrests made
- 192 traffic accident investigations



TRAFFIC STATS

Police officers conduct traffic enforcement for several key reasons that directly support public safety, crime prevention, and community well-being:

1. Promote Public Safety

Traffic enforcement is primarily aimed at **reducing collisions, injuries, and fatalities** on the road. Officers help prevent crashes and protect motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians by addressing dangerous driving behaviors such as:

- Speeding
- Running red lights or stop signs
- Distracted or impaired driving
- Aggressive or reckless driving

2. Prevent Serious Injuries and Fatalities

Statistically, strict enforcement of traffic laws correlates with **lower rates of fatal accidents**. DUI emphasis, speed enforcement, and seatbelt checks help reduce the severity and frequency of crashes.

3. Detect and Deter Criminal Activity

Many arrests for felony crimes begin with a routine traffic stop. It's a critical tool in proactive policing. Traffic stops can uncover:

- Stolen vehicles
- Illegal weapons
- Drugs or contraband
- Wanted suspects or fugitives

4. Encourage Voluntary Compliance with Laws

Consistent traffic enforcement reinforces the expectation that drivers must follow the law. Over time, this builds a **culture of compliance**, where drivers are more likely to obey traffic laws even without a visible police presence.



TRAFFIC STATS

5. Address Quality of Life Concerns

In residential areas, speeding or reckless driving can endanger children and families. Traffic enforcement helps respond to community concerns and improves neighborhood livability.

6. Educational Opportunity

Enforcement also serves an educational tool. Many interactions lead to warnings or advice rather than citations. These encounters help inform drivers about:

- New traffic laws
- Safe driving habits
- The consequences of dangerous behavior

7. Support Broader Crime Reduction Strategies

High-visibility traffic enforcement can act as a deterrent to broader criminal behavior and is often part of data-driven strategies like:

- Hot-spot policing
- DUI task forces
- Traffic safety grants (e.g. from NHTSA)

Traffic enforcement is not just about writing tickets — it's about saving lives, deterring crime, and fostering safe communities.



TRAFFIC STATS

Collisions						
	2022	2023	2024	Low	High	Avg
Total Collisions	134	152	192	134	192	159
Ticket Summary						
	2022	2023	2024	Low	High	Avg
Infraction - traffic	452	776	399	399	776	542
Infraction - non-traffic	14	5	5	5	14	8
Criminal - traffic	97	192	170	97	192	153
Criminal - non-traffic	55	31	57	31	57	48
Parking	322	421	279	279	421	341
Total Citations	940	1425	910	910	1,425	1,092
Self-Initiated Field Activity (SIFA)						
	2022	2023	2024	Low	High	Avg
Total SIFA	5779	6563	7003	5,779	7,003	6,448
Traffic Stops						
	2022	2023	2024	Low	High	Avg
Total Traffic Stops	3316	3816	3284	3,284	3,816	3,472



CRIME REPORTING - SERIOUS OFFENSES

The Mercer Island Police Department is required to report to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) about each individual criminal incident officers encounter. This incident-based reporting system is used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes and is managed by the FBI. The broad scope of information collected in NIBRS serves to greatly improve the nation's understanding of crime and public safety.

NIBRS captures detailed data about the characteristics of criminal incidents, including:

- A broad array of offenses.
- Types and amount of property lost.
- Demographic information about victims, offenders, and persons arrested.
- What type of weapon, if any, was used in the incident.

NIBRS data more accurately reflect the types of crime addressed by police agencies. They are broken down into the following categories:

	Specific Offenses
Crimes Against Persons	Murder, Rape, Aggravated Assault, etc.
Crimes Against Property	Burglary, Larceny-Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft
Crimes Against Society	Drug/Narcotic Violations, Weapons Law Violations



CRIME REPORTING - SERIOUS OFFENSES

2024 NIBRS Data for Mercer Island:

Aggravated Assault	3
Arson	0
Auto Theft	26
Burglary	52
Drug Violation	0
Forcible Sex Offense	1
Fraud	82
Kidnapping	1

Larceny	273
Manslaughter	0
Murder/Non-Neg Homicide	1
Protection Order Violation	8
Robbery	4
Simple Assault/Provoking	30
Weapons Violation	1

Larceny: Theft 1st, 2nd and 3rd degree, mail theft, vehicle prowls



CRIME REPORTING - SERIOUS OFFENSES

NIBRS Three Year Comparison for Mercer Island:

Offense	2022	2023	2024	Low	High	Avg
Aggravated Assault	10	10	3	3	10	8
Arson	-	-	-	-	-	-
Auto Theft	42	23	26	23	42	30
Burglary	57	39	52	39	57	49
Drug Violation	11	2	-	-	11	4
Forcible Sex Offense	3	-	1	-	3	1
Fraud	82	59	82	59	82	74
Kidnapping	1	-	1	-	1	1
Larceny	345	230	273	230	345	283
Manslaughter	-	-	-	-	-	-
Murder/Non-Neg Homicide	2	-	1	-	2	1
Protection Order Violation	19	10	8	8	19	12
Robbery	5	5	4	4	5	5
Simple Assault/Provoking	30	28	30	28	30	29
Weapons Violation	5	2	1	1	5	3



INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Mercer Island Police Department Criminal Investigations Unit manages and investigates criminal cases by collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses, and collaborating with patrol operations and regional and national law enforcement agencies, with the goals of solving crimes, apprehending suspects, and ensuring community safety and justice. The unit is staffed with one detective sergeant and two general detectives.

Detectives are assigned cases that originate from a patrol response that requires additional follow-up or investigation. Often these cases require the application of a search warrant to further the case.



INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

In 2024, one hundred and eighty cases were assigned to MIPD detectives for additional follow-up and comprised the following crimes:

Aggravated assault	4	Rape - forcible	1
Burglary/breaking and entering	27	Robbery	3
Counterfeiting/forgery	9	Simple assault	3
Destruction/damage/vandalism	30	Stolen property offense (receiving, etc.)	3
Driving under the influence	3	Theft - pocket-picking	1
Fondling - forcible (child)	1	Theft - shoplifting	13
Fraud - impersonation	14	Theft - from building	12
Identity Theft	29	Theft - from motor vehicle	21
Intimidation	4	Theft - all other	67
Kidnapping/abduction	2	Trespass of real property	1
Motor vehicle theft	10	Violation of protection/no contact orders	3
Murder/non-negligent manslaughter	1	All other offenses	6
Pornography/obscene material	2	Not reportable	7
Prostitution	2		

As the complexity of cases increase, so does the time it takes to investigate the crime. As investigators work through cases, the goal is to identify the suspect or suspects, make arrests as possible, and submit the case to the prosecuting attorney's office, who then determines if charges will be filed.



INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL PROGRAMS: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

In simplest terms, investigators either submit the case for filing, inactivate the case due to lack of evidence, or close the case entirely - otherwise known as clearance rates.

There are two types of case clearance (per FBI NIBRS standards):

1. Cleared by Arrest

A case is cleared by arrest when at least one person is arrested, charged with the offense, and turned over to the court for prosecution.

2. Cleared by Exceptional Means

This applies when law enforcement has identified the offender, gathered enough evidence to support an arrest, charge, and prosecution, identified the offender's exact location, and/but can't make an arrest due to reasons beyond their control.

These are the clearance rates for Mercer Island in 2024:

Offense Description	Attempted	Completed	Clearances by Arrest	Clearances by Exceptional Means	Percent Clearances
Aggravated Assault		4	3		75
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	7	45	1		1.92
Counterfeiting/Forgery	3	9			



Offense Description	Attempted	Completed	Clearances by Arrest	Clearances by Exceptional Means	Percent Clearances
Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud	1	1			
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property		147	6		4.08
Extortion/Blackmail	1	2			
Hacking/Computer Invasion		2			
Identity Theft	2	54	1		1.79
Impersonation	4	21			
Intimidation		8			
Kidnapping/Abduction		1			
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	26			
Pocket Picking		1			
Pornography/Obscene Material		3			
Prostitution		2			
Purse Snatching		2			
Rape		1			
Robbery		4	1		25
Shoplifting		43	18		41.86
Simple Assault		35	22		62.86
Stolen Property Offenses		3	1		33.33
Theft From Building		12			
Theft From Motor Vehicle	11	61	1		1.39
Theft Of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	2	7			
All Other Larceny	3	127	4		3.08
Violation Of No Contact or Protection Orders		9			
Weapon Law Violations		1			

MARINE PATROL

The mission of Marine Patrol is the promotion of boating safety and the protection of life and property in the waters surrounding Mercer Island. The cities of Bellevue, Renton, Medina, as well as the towns of Hunts Point and Yarrow Point contract with the City of Mercer Island for their maritime law enforcement.

Marine Patrol has 22 officers trained to operate the three vessels in its fleet. These officers have all attended the Basic Marine Law Enforcement Academy and have continued their training since graduating through various courses, including:

- Boat Search and Rescue
- Boating Under the Influence Detection
- Marine Collision Investigation
- Marine Emergency Vessel Operator Course



MARINE PATROL

The Marine Patrol unit achieves their mission by providing regular boat patrols of the lake and surrounding shoreline, enforcing state and local laws, answering calls for assistance, giving emergency medical aid, investigating water-related accidents, and educating the public in safe boating practices.

Boating Education

The Marine Patrol unit promotes boating safety and education in all facets of their work: boating enforcement contacts, educational literature, boating safety inspections, public presentations, and special events.

The ability to make direct one-on-one contact with the boating public is a great benefit in terms of promoting boating safety. With an emphasis on boating education before enforcement, MIPD personnel have a wide range of tools to offer the boating public.

By maintaining close working relationships with other boating/marine safety organizations, Marine Patrol has helped to promote marine laws and safety rules throughout the entire state.

Mercer Island's boating program is mandated by the Washington State Parks and Recreation commission to provide boating education to the public. We meet this requirement through the following:

- Boating Safety Classes
- Boating Safety Literature
- Appearances at Public Events
- Community Water Safety Presentations
- Media Presentations



MARINE PATROL STATS

Marine Patrol by the Numbers

- 660 Unit hours patrolling or responding to emergency calls on Lake Washington.
 - 1,358 Officer hours spent on the water patrolling or responding to calls.
 - 68 hours conducting ramp inspections prior to vessels entering the water, ensuring each had necessary safety gear.
- 204 vessel safety inspections.
- 562 calls for service:
 - 237 vessel stops
 - 105 people/vessel assists
 - 68 logs removed due to navigational hazard
 - 22 search and rescue calls.
- 35 “No Wake” buoys replaced throughout managed jurisdictions.



RECORDS & EVIDENCE

The Mercer Island Police Department Records and Evidence Units are responsible for a range of crucial tasks.

The Evidence Unit ensures the proper storage, management, security, and documentation of all evidence and other property collected by officers. This includes cataloging, storing, and maintaining a chain of custody for all items, as well as facilitating the retrieval and release of property.

The Records Unit plays a critical role in maintaining accurate and organized records that support investigations and the overall departmental operations. The Records Unit processes concealed pistol license applications according to state and federal law, processes protection orders and warrants from the court, reviews all police records for accuracy to ensure compliance with federal crime reporting standards, and assists the public including processing all public records requests for the Police Department.

RECORDS BY THE NUMBERS

- 659 Public records requests
- 137 Concealed pistol licenses processed
- 986 Officer generated case reports
- 3,174 Pieces of evidence managed
- 19 Firearms destroyed



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The mission of Mercer Island Emergency Management is to prepare for, respond to, and recover from local and regional incidents, and to prepare Mercer Islanders to be self-sufficient for 7-14 days following a major disaster. A wide range of classes, training, and certifications are offered to the community to achieve these goals.

Declared Local Emergencies

In 2024, the City made two local emergency declarations - the first in April for the SPU water main transmission link leak, neighborhood evacuation, and water conservation and the second in November for the bomb cyclone windstorm and power outage. In total, the City operated under a declared local emergency for six months of the year (165 days).



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Emergency Plan Updates

Two major emergency management plans were due to be updated by the end of 2024 - the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and the Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). Both were successfully completed and submitted to the state and FEMA, respectively, and received high marks. These plans will be due for an update again in five years.

Managing Volunteer Corps

A major component of the emergency management program are the volunteers. In 2024, there were 179 trained volunteers on the emergency management roster, 59 of which were badged volunteers (have undergone background checks and additional training). Throughout the year, 58 unique volunteers participated in at least one emergency management training, outreach event, deployment, or other event - many of these volunteers participated in more than one event.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

- 15 Training, event, meeting, and deployment opportunities.
- 58 Volunteers participated in at least one event.
- 4 New events added to the calendar including two Stop the Bleed classes.
- 23 Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduates.
- 27 Volunteers participated in the annual volunteer exercise.
- 5 Preparedness presentations provided to the community.



TRAINING

The Mercer Island Police Department believes quality training is a foundation for developing officers who exercise authority with professionalism and humility.

Entry-level officers attend the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission's Basic Law Enforcement Academy (BLEA) which is comprised of 720-hour program including criminal law, criminal procedures, arrest tactics, de-escalation, crisis intervention, and patrol tactics. Upon graduation, these candidates become certified Washington State Peace Officers and return to MIPD for additional training and orientation.



TRAINING

Following BLEA, these new officers complete about 600 hours in the Field Training Program, assigned to certified officers who guide them in the tradecraft. Training officers evaluate their performance and prepare them before they are assigned to work as a solo patrol officer.

As patrol officers, training continues through in-service instruction in all facets of Law Enforcement including legal updates, ethical and equitable patrol tactics, de-escalation, crisis intervention, specialized training, and professional development. Based on their professional goals and departmental needs, officers receive instruction in career development and leadership.



DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART

Mercer Island Police Department 2024

