

# Ridgeway Marshal's Office

208 Jarvis Street, Suite B Ridgeway, WI 53582  
Marshal Michael J. F. Gorham

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June 1, 2023,

To: Michele Casper, Village President  
Honorable Members, Board of Trustees  
Village of Ridgeway

Re: June Monthly Report

Esteemed Member,

I have attached the Data Collection Report for June 2023. I have also attached the Iowa County Ridgeway Calls Service Log as a reference.

I realize that most of you have many papers to review, so I will try to simplify the data. I encourage you to meet with me if you have specific questions, and I will address your concerns. I can speak more candidly and in-depth outside of a board meeting.

Next, I would like to know what information you may want. For example, I worked 24 Shifts in May, with 1 Shift on the traffic grant. There were 1,197 miles driven on the squad. The current mileage for the end of May 2023 is approximately 78,737.

Among of items of concern:

The Departmental Credit Card was compromised and was referred for investigation.

Neighbor's Tavern was cited for being open after hours. Generally, I was required to notify the governing Board in other municipalities due to a licensing condition.

Next, Generally, as a rule, I attempt to avoid advocating for ordinances, and I believe, as a general rule, unless there is a problem concerning the enforcement of an issue, I try to keep the two separate. In the past, I have rendered suggestions to the governing body concerning matters where I had experience or expertise. At the turn of the Century, 2000, I was heavily involved with combating Methamphetamine Abuse in Wisconsin. I testified on several laws due to my experience and expertise. As a result, I am also responsible for the law on the Illegal dumping of Methamphetamine Waste 961.573 (1).

What does this mean for you as a Board? I am charged with the enforcement of your ordinances. Last Month, I had a real issue with the ordinance governing "Burning." Ordinances are written to govern behavior or conditions. This ordinance needs to be cleaned up and rewritten. I suggest returning the \$5.00 that residents paid for campfires.

*"Partnership of Service and Protection"*

Office: 608-924-1030 (voicemail) 24 Hour Dispatch: 608-930-9500

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Next, in reviewing your Ordinances, I suggest you consider an ordinance addressing illegal dumping. There was an issue with dumping trash in the compost area. I located two subjects responsible and informed them they had to clean up the trash.

As a side note, there has been confusion about a public dumpster—this you may want to include in your discussion.

Further, your ordinances can be confusing and, in some places, contradictory, in my experience. First, the Village Attorney should draft the ordinance. Penalties for the Violations should be in the subsection in each Chapter. There should be a uniform bond schedule, which means the cost of the forfeiture or sometimes referred to as the "fine." I am fixing that; daily police work has hampered my efforts. From my experience, some firms specialize in codifying ordinances.

I would suggest you consider that enforcing an unconstitutional ordinance can cost the municipality a considerable amount in litigation.

Also, The Iowa County Sheriff's Office has donated one of their old in-car video car systems and compatible body-worn cameras. The current in-car video camera system does not work consistently. In modern police work, these tools are as necessary as our firearms.

The hold-up is that I need assistance from the manufacturer to get the software and instructions for this to work. If I am successful, I would like to install this in the squad.

This is the premise. However, I suggested replacing the squad in or around 2024/2025. I suspect a squad and changeover with new equipment will cost around \$55,000.00 to \$60,000.00. There are many variables in that guestimate. Therefore, I recommend pushing the squad replacement to the beginning of 2026. This would make the cost of the camera installation worth it now. This is provided the manufacturer will deal with us.

Also, as it is getting older, the squad has run into an issue. The arrow stick in the rear, which directs traffic, requires attention. The holder that keeps it in place fell apart. It needs to be replaced.

There is also some cosmetic damage on the A-pillar, which should be fixed. This would help in the resale. I have not looked into an estimate. I will attach photos so you better understand the situation.

As related to this matter, I would like the Board to start considering the future of the Ridgeway Marshal's Office. I am going to work on a community survey regarding service to our citizens as a measuring device.

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My overall concern is that while there is a need for a law enforcement officer in Ridgeway, I am concerned about whether there is enough tax base to support a law enforcement agency. Over the last five years, I can say without hesitation that I have used my resources to mitigate expenses. I suggest that my predecessor will not do what I did, "good or bad." I suggest you consider your expectations versus your agency's realities.

As two last items of note, Last year, I was asked to work at Dodgefest for security Saturday, August 8, 2022. There was a shortage of police in Iowa County, which is not an uncommon practice. I was not paid for the extra work. The Dodgefest Committee, I am told, sent a check. I am not entitled to the money under our current conditions.

However, in 2019 I worked security for the Valdez Trail, and the County reimbursed the Village. The week I worked security at the Courthouse, I came and worked in the Village afterward. Village Clerk Lori Phelan secured permission for the Board to pay me extra.

I was told that you, as a Board, will have to make these arrangements more permanent if I asked to assist again. I am not looking for more overtime, but there are times like last summer when I was asked to assist.

Currently, I am on a salary which I found was the best solution so as not to get into debated arguments regarding police overtime. My salary is based on a 36-hour work week. What you see in the payroll does not include how much I do "off the clock"- add an average of 8 more hours a week. Attorney Eileen Brownlee explained that salary is "work until the job is done." For reference, the previous administration received 2 hours of call-out pay for receiving calls while off duty. I was uncomfortable with this practice as I believe there was "abuse" in the past. To protect the Village, I choose a salary. My work is more like running a small family farm.

I apologize for the length of this letter. There were several things to go over. The last is the most important for me. I understand that the Village is moving to the Wisconsin Retirement System in 2024. Please give me a definitive response as soon as possible as this will affect my employment. Moving to WRS is good for the Village of Ridgeway to retain and attract qualified employees. However, it might have negative consequences for me. My caveat is in the adage, "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

////signed/////

Michael J. F. Gorham  
Village Marshal

*"Partnership of Service and Protection"*

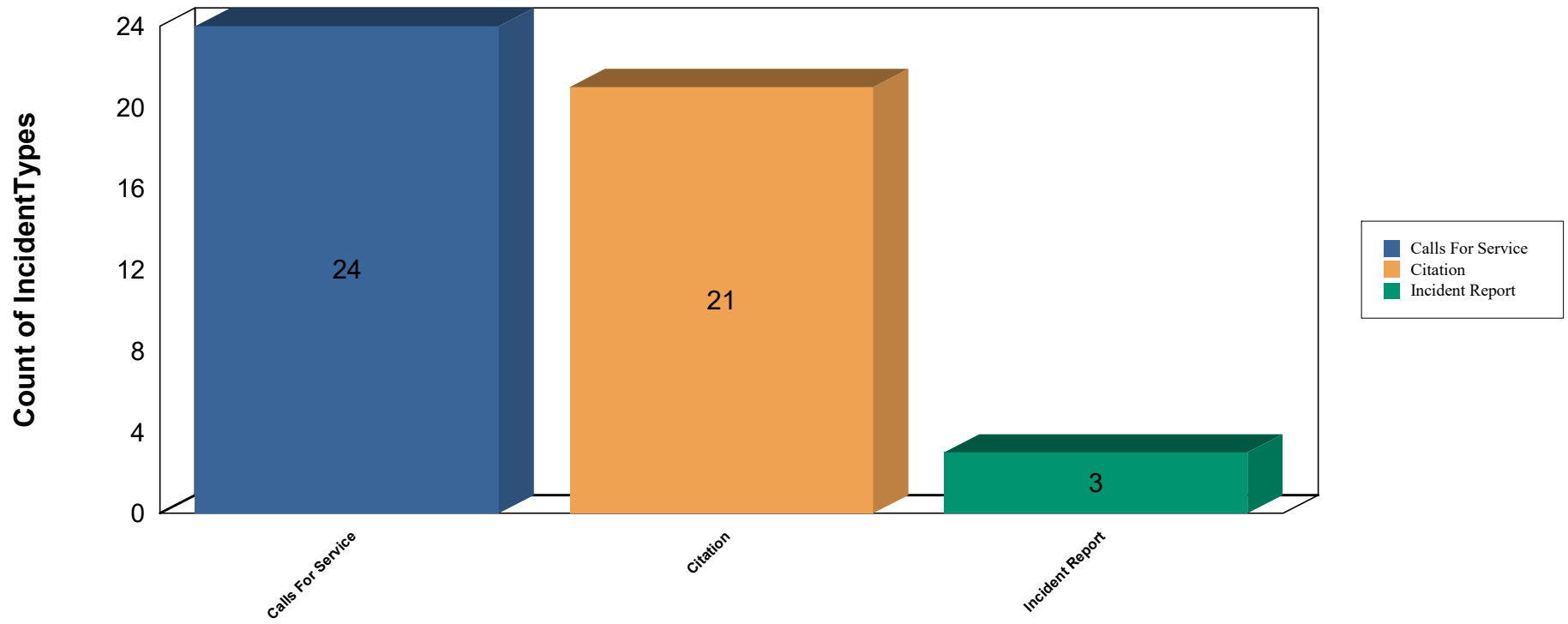
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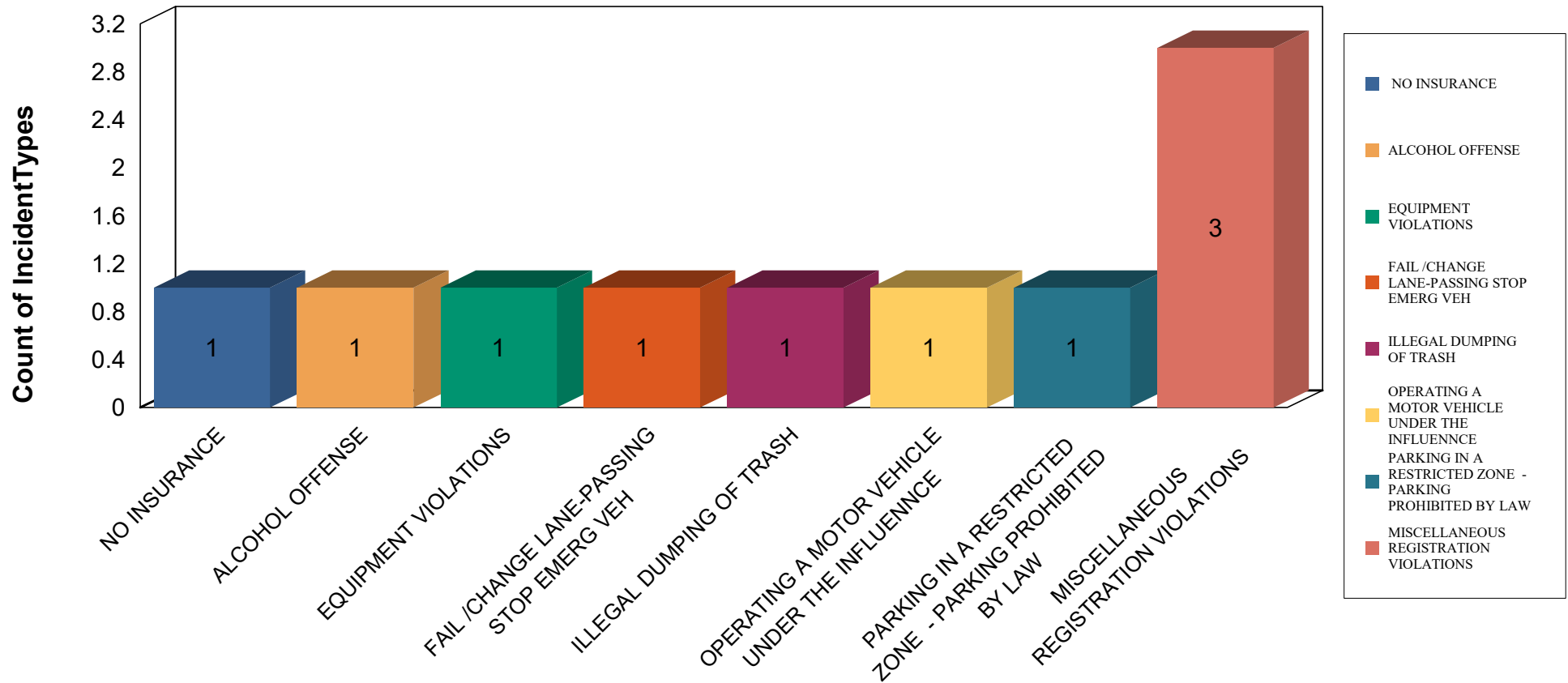
# Ridgeway Marshal's Office

MONTHLY Statistics from: 5/1/2023 12:00:00AM to 5/31/2023 11:59:00PM

## Count of Reports Completed



# Count of Incident Types

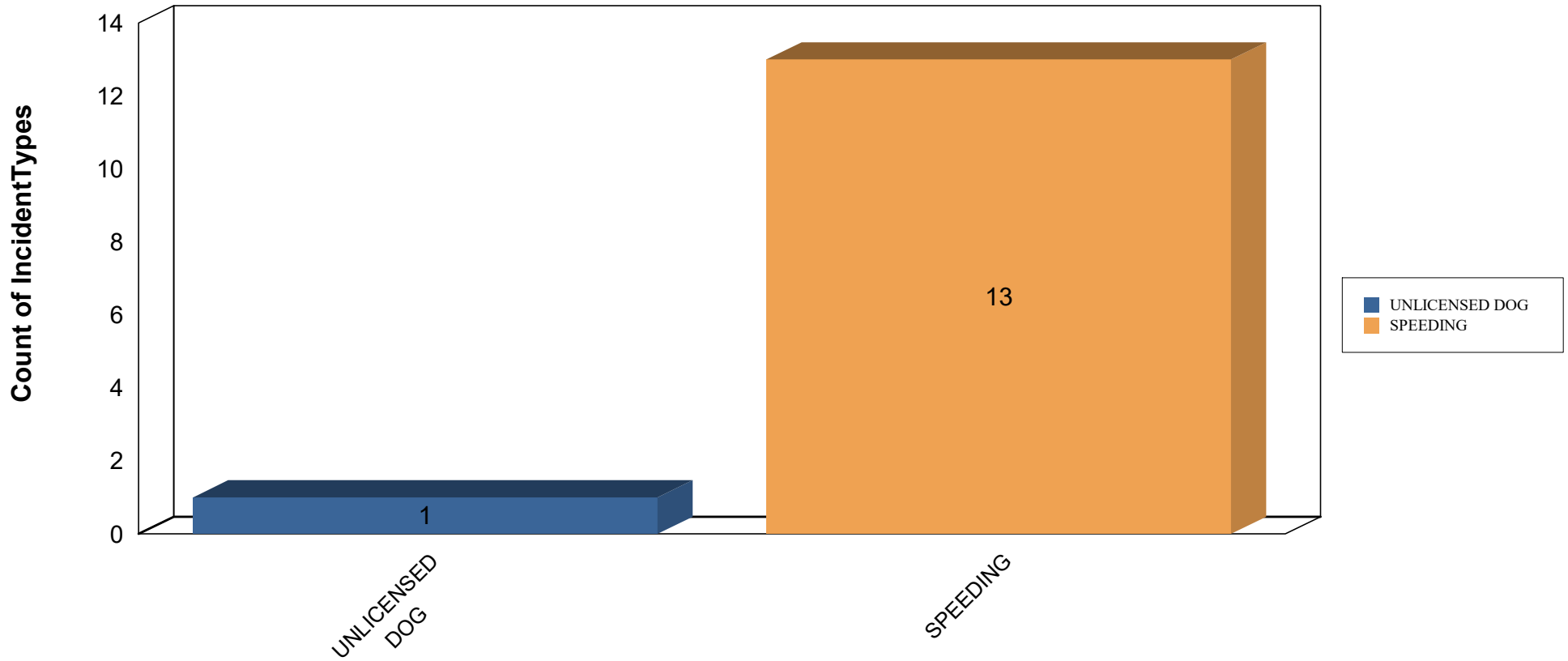


4.17% # of Reports: 1 Citation NO INSURANCE

4.17% # of Reports: 1 Citation ALCOHOL OFFENSE

4.17% # of Reports: 1 Citation EQUIPMENT VIOLATIONS

# Count of Incident Types

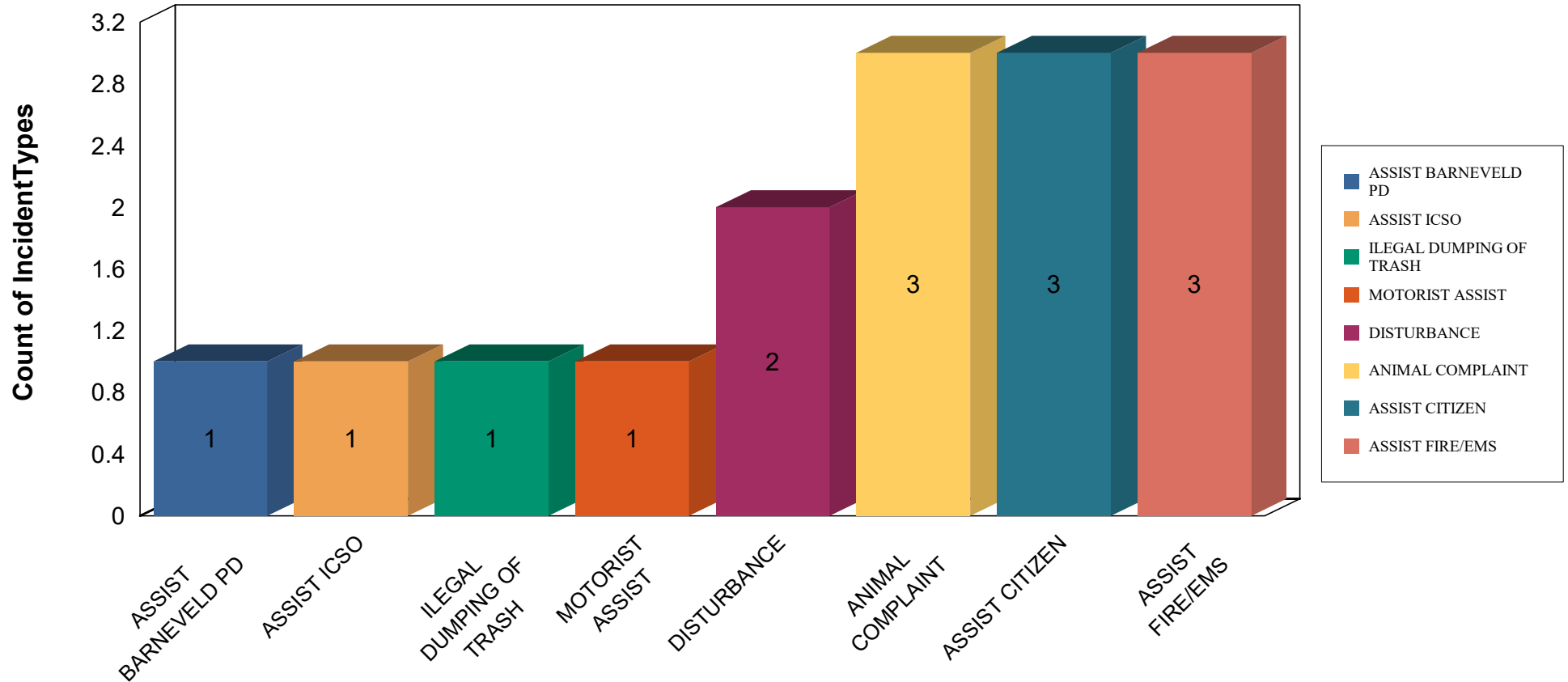


4.17% # of Reports: 1 Citation UNLICENSED DOG

54.17% # of Reports: 13 Citation SPEEDING

**Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 24 Total # of Reports: 21**

# Count of Incident Types

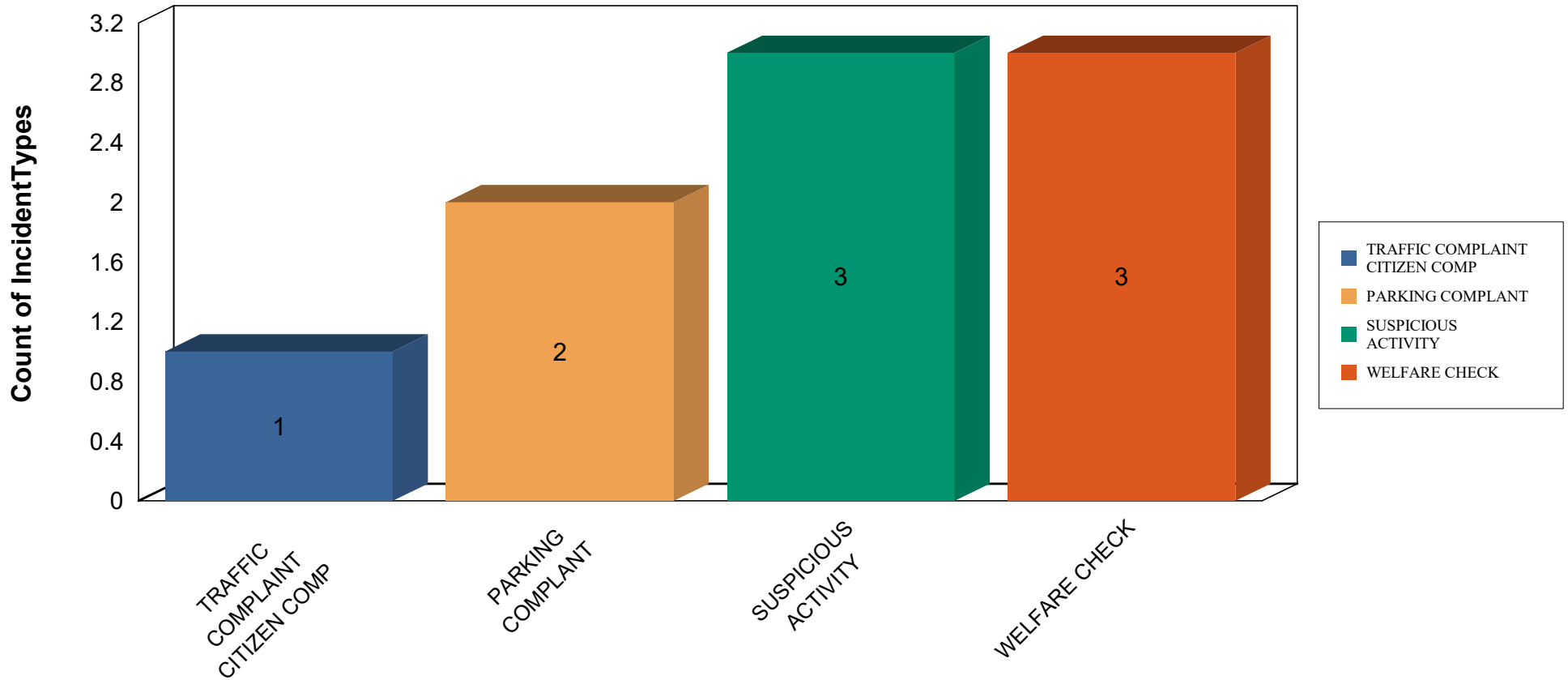


4.17% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST BARNEVELD PD

4.17% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST ICSO

4.17% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ILEGAL DUMPING OF TRASH

# Count of Incident Types

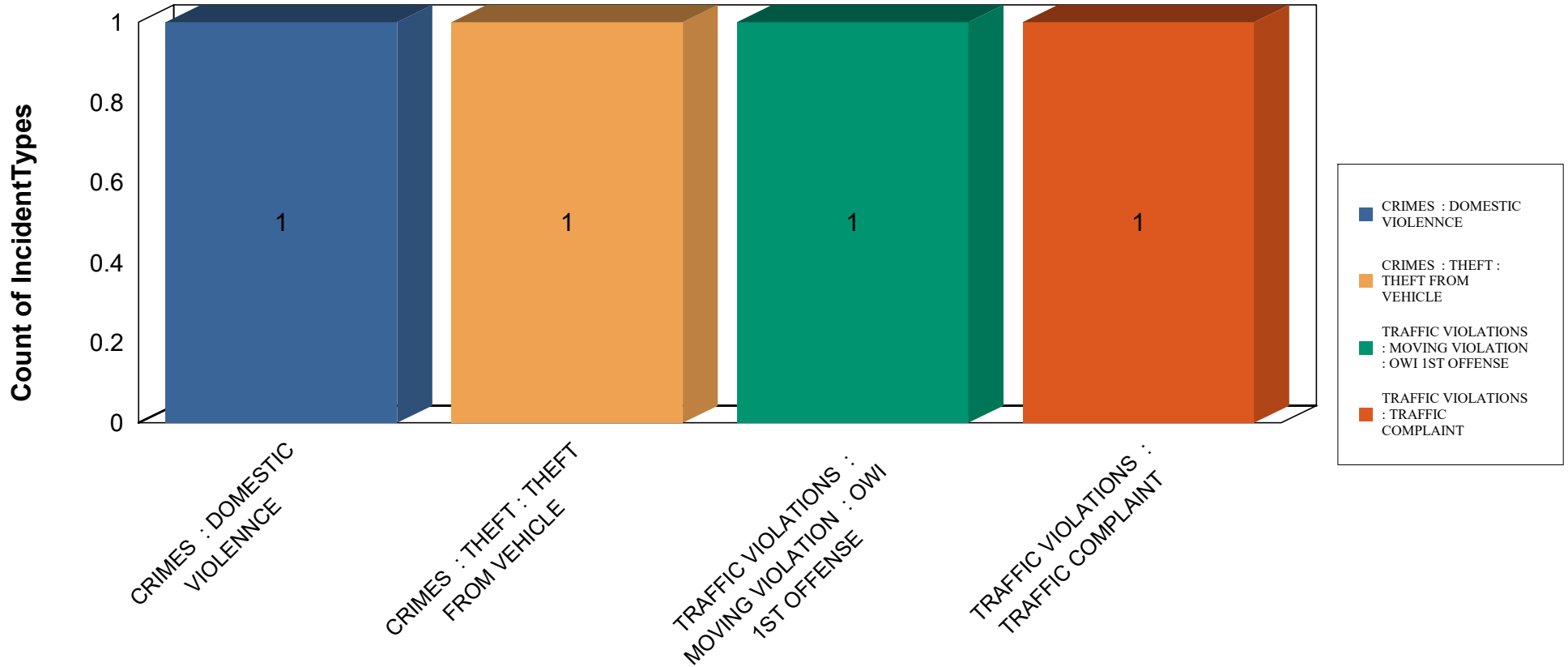


4.17% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service TRAFFIC COMPLAINT CITIZEN COMP

8.33% # of Reports: 2 Calls For Service PARKING COMPLAINT

12.50% # of Reports: 3 Calls For Service SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

# Count of Incident Types



25.00% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

25.00% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : THEFT : THEFT FROM VEHICLE

25.00% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS : MOVING VIOLATION : OWI 1ST OFFENSE