

Ridgeway Marshal's Office

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

May 5, 2023,

To: The Village Board of Trustees

From: Marshal, Michael Gorham

Re: Monthly Report April 2023 (January through April 2023 Statistics)

Esteemed Members,

Enclosed is the monthly report for April 2023. I have attached the Statistics for January through April 2023.

Shifts Worked in April 2023: approximately 25, with some being split shifts. (2 were Traffic Grants)

Hours: 168.50 with 21.50 Hours on Traffic Grant

Mileage: 861 Miles (Current Miles on Squad)

April Activity

- 4 Incident Reports (**Incident Reports are criminal events, traffic crashes, or significant enough events to have a paper copy backup.**)
 - 21 Calls For Service (**Calls for Service are Events documented in 1 to 3 Paragraphs and stored digitally, such as barking dogs, welfare checks, etc. They require less documentation.**)
 - 25 Warnings/ Citations (**Traffic Violations, Ordinance Violations, events that are enforcement driven**)
 - **The ratio of Warning to Citations: 21:4**
-

Since the beginning of 2023.

16 Cases since the start of 2023

17 Cases at this time in 2022

57 Calls For Service since the start of 2023

64 Calls for Service in 2022 at this time last year

62 Citations since the start of 2023

43 Citations in 2022 at this time last year

"Partnership of Service and Protection"

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

marshal@ridgewaywi.gov

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- **The ratio of Warning to Citations: 47:26 2023 1st quarter**
The ratio of Warning to Citations 34:13 2022 1st quarter

See attached Logs

Calls of Interest- 04/14/2023, During Traffic Enforcement Safety Grant- Vehicle was stopped on equipment violation. Of the three occupants, none had a valid driver's license. Two had warrants. One subject was a registered sex offender who was failing his probation conditions. He was revoked and resentence to prison. This is the second individual that the agency has come into contact with. The prior one was on February 14, 2023, where we later assisted the US Marshal's Office after the subject's incarceration.

MATTERS OF INTEREST

I had requested that these two items be placed on the agenda for consideration. However, after speaking with Village President Casper, it was determined that these matters be sent to Public Works/Public Safety Committee.

The first issue concerns the driveway into what is sometimes called "The Green." Both entrances are private property. The property to the east belongs to Michael Larson, who owns and operates a commercial business. I have had a couple of meetings with Mr. Larson to discuss his security concerns. There are some issues in which he enjoys the right to protect his property through signage and fencing. There are two other issues that the Village may be able to address.

- One issue is two post signage on the right of way notifying the public that this is a private drive.
- The other issue is more of an indirect issue, and that would require events held in the Village to require security for events. While this issue is borne out of my conversations with Mr. Larson, I feel there is merit to having this discussion. It places considerable stress on one officer to simultaneously cover the Village and the event. I believe this is a worthwhile discussion in our continuous world of hostility and risk management. Most municipalities require organizers of events to secure security, not to overburden local public safety.

I have corresponded with Mr. Larson and believe his intentions of a joint resolution are sincere if we cooperate. (Copies available upon request).

The next issue arose after reviewing the Burn Permit Ordinance after an event. Upon reviewing the updated Burn Permit Ordinance, there is language in the ordinance that needs to be addressed. Further, the Village Clerk's Office assumed the management of the permits. While I understand this was done to provide accessibility to the citizens, I have these concerns retrospectively.

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- First is the liability of issuing the permit. Do we inspect the area to ensure safeguards are met? Do we have vicarious liability if we give a permit and the actor engages in reckless behavior? I assumed that this was why it was a Fire Department function. Maybe with brush and trash, there should be a shared responsibility between the Fire Department and the Village Clerk's Office.
- Second, This is more of a personal observation and is rooted in my libertarian philosophy of government. It is essential to have our residents have a burn permit to have a campfire at their residences. Maybe some guidance regulated safety concerns so citizens can enjoy a campfire without requiring a permit.

As of right now, the process is ceremonial. I am suggesting this matter be set for discussion.

Of one final item, I was criticized recently by a citizen for the slow nature of completing a task. Should any of you have a question concerning this? This is my explanation. Since November of 2022, I have signed approximately 13 criminal complaints. Ridgeway has been the (4th) busiest municipality in the last several months. Dodgeville, Mineral Point, and Arena are busier but have more resources.

Over the last several months, This investigation of the "Swatting" Event has been labor intensive, as I have had to work through many issues with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Encountering several roadblocks, I have returned to trying to work through Iowa County Social Services and the District Attorney's Office. I believe this was important as the citizens of Ridgeway were all victims.

This was followed by a motor vehicle crash that involved a 9th Offense OWI. Several challenges required writing subpoenas and warrants. It has been a lengthy process, and there are court proceedings to prepare for.

The winter months were challenging, with traffic crashes and winter events.

In the first part of 2023, the issues on Grove Street became labor-intensive, attempting to address one part of the Village's issues with fentanyl. I am now providing at-risk populations with Narcan.

We assisted the County with a homicide in January. This mutual cooperation is critical as Iowa County and Arena Police have been instrumental in assisting me with addressing the Grove Street problems.

As noted earlier in this report, I worked with the US Marshal's Office as we arrested a registered sex offender, disrupting the February Board Meeting.

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In March 2023, in dealing with a subject that seemed to frighten the community because of underlying mental health issues and a propensity for violence was arrested. In the course of the arrest, the subject resisted injuring my shoulder and subsequently spit at me. It is my moral imperative to stand between a person like this and the community. Again, these incidents require time to type, file, and prepare for court.

The challenges of investigating crimes here required me to attend the detective school in March. It was not in my original plan for 2023, but events required it. This was combined with Iowa County only having two assigned detectives. Lafayette has four and is a much smaller and slower county. It would help if you communicated this matter to your County Board Members.

There are unique challenges to Ridgeway. Our proximity to Madison and USH 18/151 creates growth and commerce opportunities and places the community at elevated risk.

In wrapping up, before my tenure, one officer worked approximately 32 hours, and approximately three to four officers worked an additional 16 to 24 hours.

There was a plan in place initially to provide me with administrative assistance. That plan has been altered.

I have spoken with Village President Casper regarding some concerns. Having tired, overworked police officers is a liability.

As a caveat to my dissertation, the events of the last six months are unique. I stand by my statement that Ridgeway is a safe and sound community. While exiting the pandemic has created some social and mental health issues, citizens are more likely now to be combative or argumentative during arrests. There is a greater propensity towards violence, pursuits are increasing for matters of a criminal nature, and Ridgeway is a great place to raise and family. What has made us successful is working together to address issues.

In conversations, encourage citizens to work out their difference through interpersonal communication and not take to social media. It inflames tensions and creates division. Our strength is in our sense of community.

As with all things, this storm shall pass. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Should you have any questions, please get in touch with my office.

Respectfully Submitted,

////signed/////

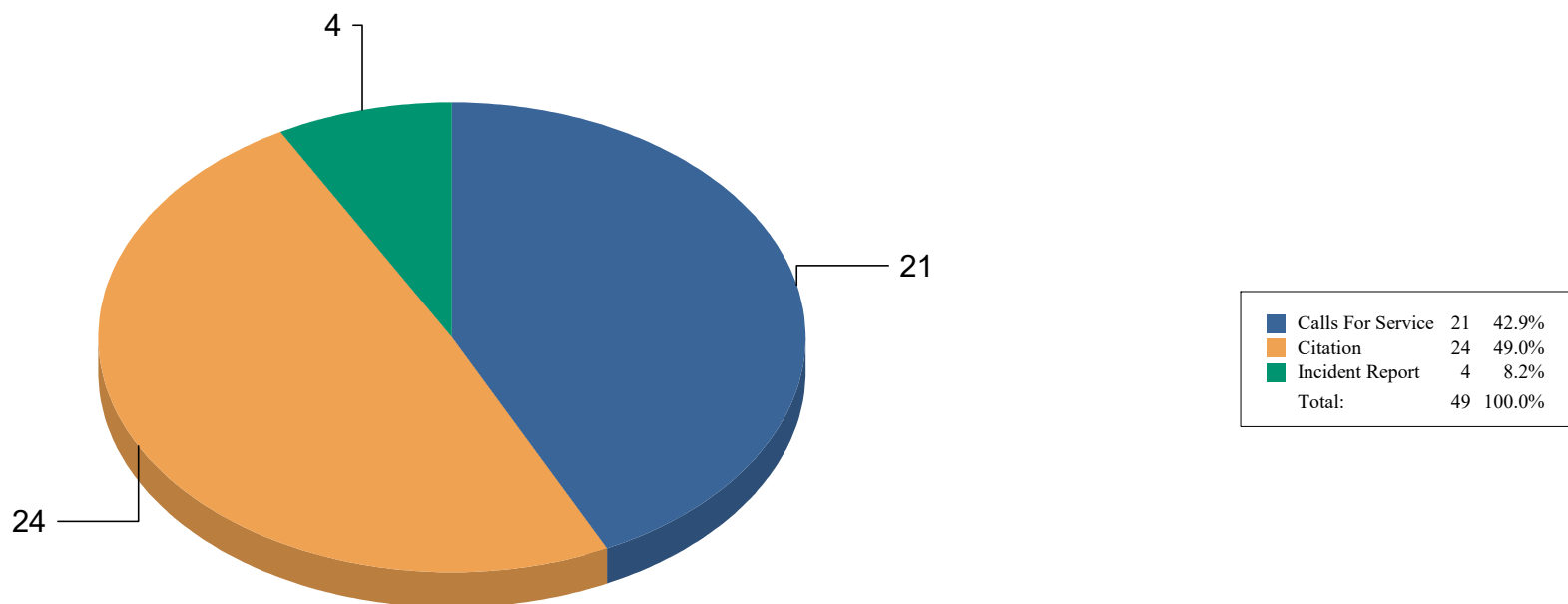
Michael J Gorham
Village Marshal #715

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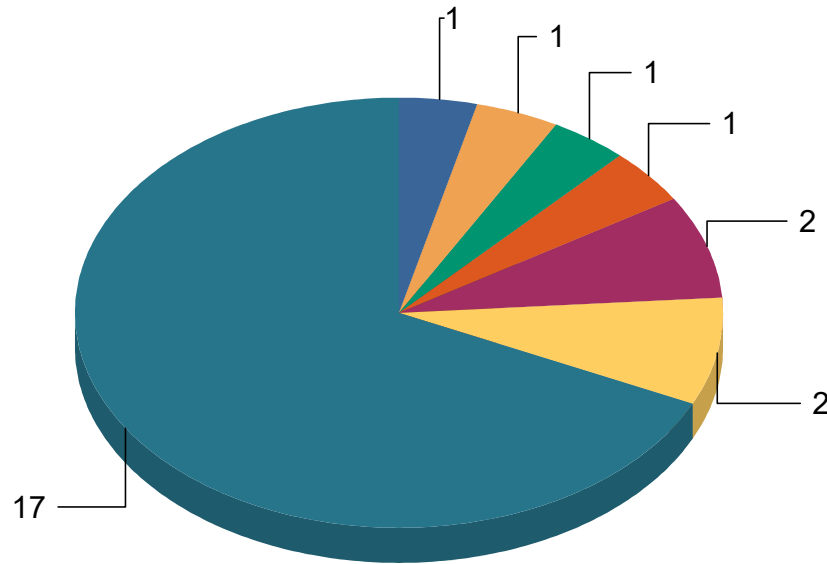
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Count of Reports Completed



Count of Incident Types



DOG RUNNING AT LARGE - DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE	1	4.0%
FAIL /CHANGE LANE-PASSING STOP EMERG VEH	1	4.0%
NON REGISTRATION - UNREGISRTE D VEHICLE	1	4.0%
PARKING ON THE CURB	1	4.0%
AGAINST TRAFFIC - AGAINST TRAFFIC	2	8.0%
MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS	2	8.0%
SPEEDING	17	68.0%
Total:	25	100.0%

4.00% # of Reports: 1 Citation DOG RUNNING AT LARGE - DOGS RUNNING AT LARGE

4.00% # of Reports: 1 Citation FAIL /CHANGE LANE-PASSING STOP EMERG VEH

4.00% # of Reports: 1 Citation NON REGISTRATION - UNREGISRTE D VEHICLE

4.00% # of Reports: 1 Citation PARKING ON THE CURB

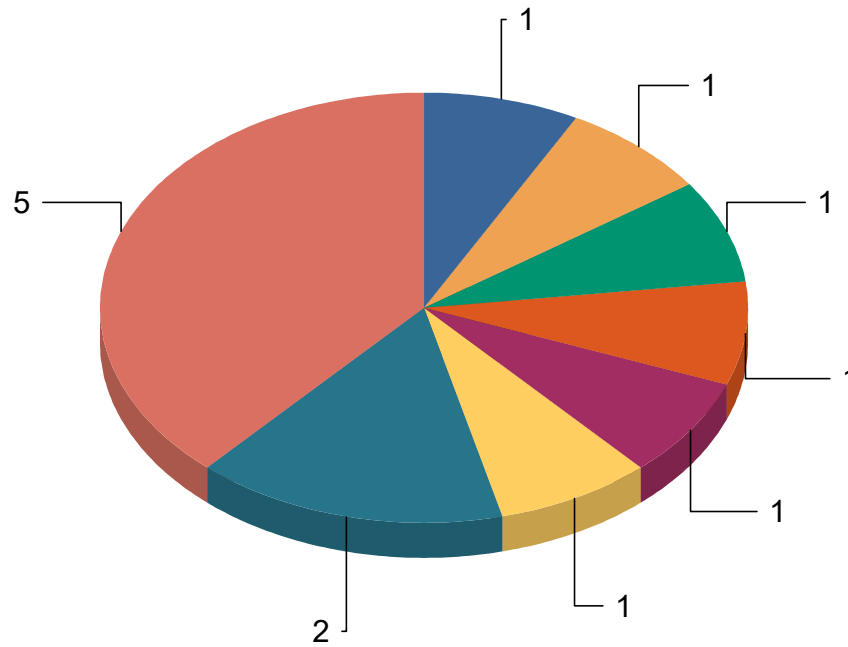
8.00% # of Reports: 2 Citation AGAINST TRAFFIC - AGAINST TRAFFIC

8.00% # of Reports: 2 Citation MISCELLANEOUS REGISTRATION VIOLATIONS

68.00% # of Reports: 17 Citation SPEEDING

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 25 Total # of Reports: 24

Count of Incident Types



ANIMAL COMPLAINT	1	7.7%
ASSIST BARNEVELD PD	1	7.7%
ASSIST CITIZEN	1	7.7%
ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AG	1	7.7%
DRUG / NARCOTICS OFFENSES	1	7.7%
NOISE COMPLAINT	1	7.7%
ASSIST ICSO	2	15.4%
ASSIST FIRE/EMS	5	38.5%
Total:	13	100.0%

4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ANIMAL COMPLAINT

4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST BARNEVELD PD

4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST CITIZEN

4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AG

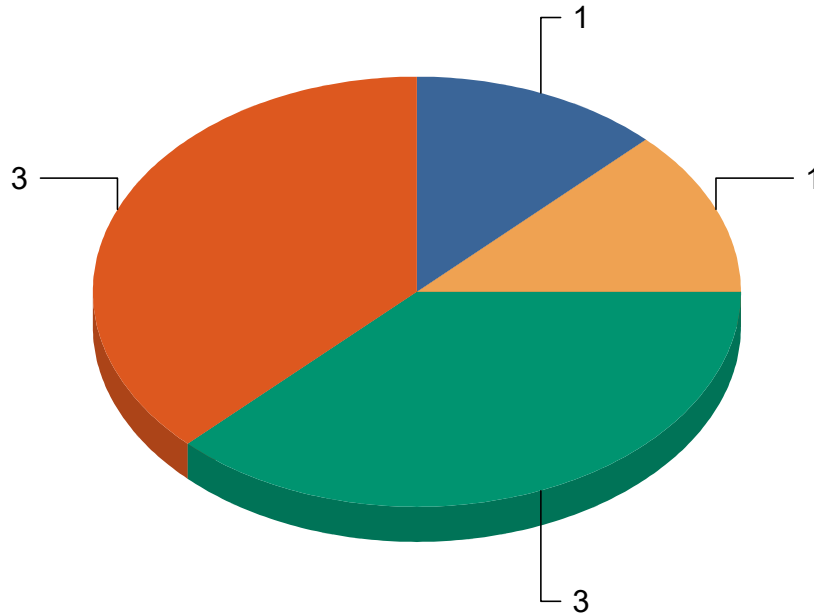
4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service DRUG / NARCOTICS OFFENSES

4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service NOISE COMPLAINT

9.52% # of Reports: 2 Calls For Service ASSIST ICSSO

23.81% # of Reports: 5 Calls For Service ASSIST FIRE/EMS

Count of Incident Types



OPEN RECORDS REQUEST	1	12.5%
WELFARE CHECK	1	12.5%
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	3	37.5%
TRAFFIC COMPLAINT CITIZEN COMP	3	37.5%
Total:	8	100.0%

4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service OPEN RECORDS REQUEST

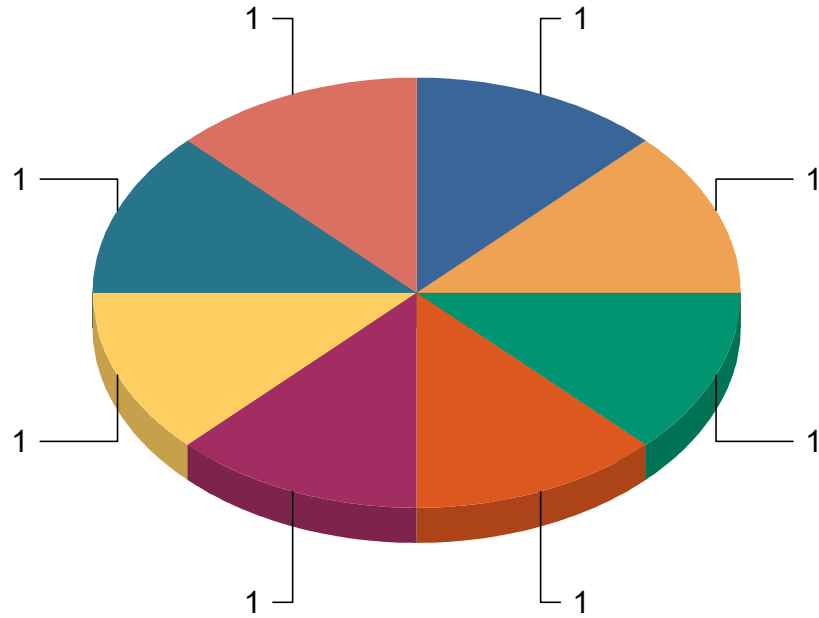
4.76% # of Reports: 1 Calls For Service WELFARE CHECK

14.29% # of Reports: 3 Calls For Service SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

14.29% # of Reports: 3 Calls For Service TRAFFIC COMPLAINT CITIZEN COMP

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

Count of Incident Types



ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY : ASSIST DOC PROBATION PAROLE	1	12.5%
ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY : ASSIST IOWA COUNTY SHERIFF	1	12.5%
CRIMES : BAILJUMPING	1	12.5%
CRIMES : OBSTRUCTION AN OFFICER	1	12.5%
DRUG CRIMES : POESSESION OF DRUG PARAPHERNAILA	1	12.5%
SERVICE CALL : FOUND PROPERTY	1	12.5%
TRAFFIC OFFENSE : TRAFFIC CRASHES : CRASH PROPERTY DAMAGE	1	12.5%
TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS : CRIMINAL TRAFFIC : IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE VIOLATIONS	1	12.5%
Total:	8	100.0%

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY : ASSIST DOC PROBATION PAROLE

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report ASSIST OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY : ASSIST IOWA COUNTY SHERIFF

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : BAILJUMPING

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report CRIMES : OBSTRUCTION AN OFFICER

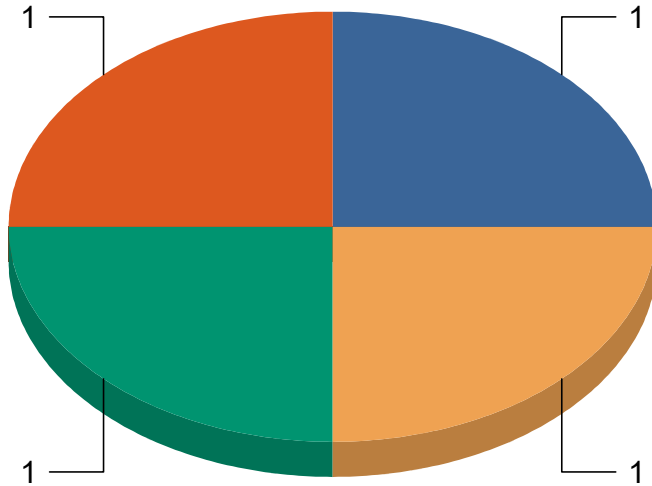
8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report DRUG CRIMES : POESSESION OF DRUG PARAPHERNAILA

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report SERVICE CALL : FOUND PROPERTY

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report TRAFFIC OFFENSE : TRAFFIC CRASHES : CRASH PROPERTY DAMAGE

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS : CRIMINAL TRAFFIC : IGNITION INTERLOCK DEVICE VIOLATIONS

Count of Incident Types



TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS : CRIMINAL TRAFFIC : OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION ALCOHOL RELATED	1	25.0%
WARRANTS	1	25.0%
WARRANTS : WARRANTS FELONY	1	25.0%
WARRANTS : WARRANTS MISDEMEANOR	1	25.0%
Total:	4	100.0%

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS : CRIMINAL TRAFFIC : OPERATING AFTER REVOCATION ALCOHOL RELATED

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report WARRANTS

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report WARRANTS : WARRANTS FELONY

8.33% # of Reports: 1 Incident Report WARRANTS : WARRANTS MISDEMEANOR

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 12 Total # of Reports: 4

Grand Total: 100.00% Total # of Incident Types Reported: 58