

SPRING LAKE PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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Mission

“TO SERVE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH HONOR, INTEGRITY AND SERVICE”

Message from Chief Josh Antoine

It is my privilege to present the Spring Lake Park Police Department's Annual Report for 2024. As you read through the following pages, please keep in mind that this report provides a general overview of our day-to-day operations over the past year. It is not a comprehensive account of everything the department has accomplished, but rather a snapshot of our ongoing efforts to serve the community.

The year 2024 brought significant changes for the department, most notably with the remodel of City Hall. As part of this project, the Police Department moved into a new, state-of-the-art space located at the front of the building, complete with its own dedicated entrance. This modern facility enhances our ability to serve the residents of Spring Lake Park and has already shown positive impacts in officer recruitment and retention. We are grateful for this new home and the opportunities it brings.

Throughout 2024, our officers remained committed to delivering high-quality service, guided by our core values of Honor, Integrity, and Service. We continued to focus on community outreach and ensuring the safety and security of our residents. Programs such as Coffee with a Cop, Heroes and Helpers, and several Special Olympics events allowed us to strengthen our connection with the community. More details on these efforts can be found in the Patrol Division report.

Spring Lake Park continues to maintain its small-town character, even as we are surrounded by larger metropolitan areas. Notably, our overall crime rate and call volume decreased in 2024, despite a slight increase in officer-initiated activity, including traffic stops and resident interactions. We believe this proactive approach plays a key role in crime deterrence and will continue to encourage these efforts during patrol shifts.

In addition, we introduced new technologies and tools designed to enhance safety for officers, community members, and offenders alike. Information on these advancements can also be found in the Patrol Division report. These innovations support our mission: "To serve, protect, and enhance the quality of life in our community through Honor, Integrity, and Service."

Thank you to our community for your continued trust and support of the Spring Lake Park Police Department in 2024 and in the years ahead. We are proud to serve you.

Lastly, I wish to thank our entire staff, City Administrator, Council Members and our community for their continued support of the Police Department.

Sincerely,

Joshua Antoine
Chief of Police



Patrol Division:

The patrol division consists of six patrol officers and one school resource officer lead by two sergeants allowing for 24-hour coverage for our residents. A majority of our contacts with residents come from calls for service. Our officers have handled the increase of calls for service from the previous year while also conducting self-initiated activities such as traffic stops, neighborhood patrols, and after-hours business checks.

The start of 2024 brought on the remodeling of City Hall and the Police Department. The patrol division continued the high level of commitment to our community while assisting with extra assignments in order to make the transition to the new police department as smooth as possible. The police department moved from the rear of the building to a new addition with front access, and all of this required the patrol division to assist with moving items and setting up the new office and work areas.

In late 2024, we had two new officers join our department, bringing our staff of sworn officers to 11. The department was given approval to add a 12th officer, and we are actively seeking to hire for that position. The additional officer will allow increased coverage on the schedule rotation while allowing all officers to focus on their own physical and mental health. Many studies have shown this is a critical benefit to each officer personally, as well as to increase their effectiveness as officers.

The patrol division has implemented a variety of new tools, and each one is increasingly important as our officers have the overall goal of safety for everybody, including the offenders. Two of these tools are new “less lethal” options when dealing with an uncooperative offender. In 2024, the patrol division started using the 40mm launcher. These propel large less-lethal munitions, with the objective of gaining compliance without resulting in a higher level of force. In early 2025, the department will implement PepperBall, which consists of small projectiles that are deployed similar to that of a paintball. These projectiles contain a chemical irritant, and officers can deploy the irritant at a safe

distance. The type of irritant also allows offenders to decontaminate more quickly than traditional pepper spray.

For the past couple of years, the department has been utilizing tools meant to enhance officer, community, and offender safety. One of these tools is a robot that can go up and down stairs, and allow the officers to view unknown areas without putting themselves in harm's way. The officers also have access to a pet microchip scanner. This scanner is used to reunite a lost pet with the owner in a timely fashion without the need of placing the pet on a hold. The patrol division also utilizes a mobile speed sign to help deter speeding in areas that we receive complaints.

Beginning in 2025, the patrol division will have a Traffic Safety/Patrol Officer position. This officer will assist in addressing neighborhood traffic complaints through the use of analysis, education, enforcement and follow up. This position will collaborate with fellow officers to help identify and prioritize locations that need attention. The patrol division will continue to participate in the department's "Selected, Intensified Traffic Enforcement" or "SITE" program along with the "Towards Zero Death" program, which is administered by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

During 2024, the patrol division continued our community outreach and education. We partnered with community groups and other agencies to help connect with our residents. Here are a few of the programs in which we participated:

- Participated with Special Olympics Minnesota for the Torch Run and Polar Plunge
- Assisted our Parks and Rec with Mature Drivers classes, Easter Egg hunt and Family Fall Fest, along with providing safety measures for Tower Days
- Met with our local Scouts groups
- Participated in Night to Unite block parties
- Partnered with SBM Fire for their Santa Parade and open house events
- Partnered with SLP School District on the Start Your Engines and Tower Days 5K Fun Run events

- Assisted SLP Lions with their Trunk or Treat event
- Partnered with neighboring agencies and school districts for the Heroes and Helpers events

Investigative Division:

The Spring Lake Park Police Department Investigations Unit is dedicated to serving our community and ensuring justice for crime victims by conducting thorough criminal investigations and empathetic victim communication. In 2024, our Investigator Tony Bennek, pursued our mission by performing investigations into various crimes against individuals and property.

Crimes against individuals encompassed armed robberies, aggravated assaults, criminal sexual assault, violation of protection orders, neglect of vulnerable adults, and child endangerment. Property-related offenses included fraud, property damage, burglary, motor vehicle theft, and retail theft, among others. Throughout the year, we delved into a total of 328 criminal cases and referrals from child and adult protection agencies, with 97 cases forwarded for charging consideration.

Beyond case investigations, Investigator Bennek assisted with managing evidence and property, squad car maintenance, oversaw civil forfeitures, and monitored our predatory offenders that reside in Spring Lake Park. In addition to our investigative responsibilities, Investigator Bennek provided crucial support to the patrol division. This involved responding to complex and resource-intensive calls and covering open shifts due to manpower shortages.

Records Tech Division:

Our Spring Lake Park Records Technician Division continued to provide a high level of customer service and efficiency in 2024. The Spring Lake Park Records Technician Division staffs the front police department window at the Spring Lake Park Police Department and provides phone support for citizens Monday-Friday. In addition to helping connect citizens to public safety services, our records unit achieved the following:

- Processed approximately 6000 police reports and supplement reports
- Filed approximately 980 citations
- Processed 60 permits to purchase firearms
- Completed 400 local records checks
- Processed 133 criminal history queries
- Processed 47 background checks for city employment and business licensing, and Parks & Rec.

Reserve Division:

The Spring Lake Park Police Department Reserve Unit provided many valuable volunteer hours to the department and the community in 2024. During the course of 2024, our Reserve Unit consisted of one reserve lieutenant who worked one hundred fifty-three hours in our community throughout the year. The reserve unit provided services that would normally take up a considerable amount of time of our officers. This allows officers to focus on other incidents in our community. Utilizing the 2024 Dollar Value of Volunteer Hours for the State of Minnesota, this equated to approximately \$5,555.43 in wages saved.

On behalf of the entire department, we thank Reserve Lieutenant Rob Schmidt for his service and dedication to the police department and our community.

Crime Statistics:

Summary of Index Crimes Submitted to the State for the 2024 National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS)

| <u>Group A</u> Crimes | Agency 2022 Totals | Agency 2023 Totals | Agency 2024 Totals |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Arson | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Assault Offenses | 118 | 126 | 117 |
| Bribery | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Burglary | 25 | 16 | 13 |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery | 11 | 16 | 5 |
| Destruction/Damage/Vandalism | 45 | 38 | 42 |
| Drug/Narcotic Violations | 21 | 13 | 5 |
| Drug Equipment Violations | 7 | 2 | 0 |
| Embezzlement | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Extortion/Blackmail | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Fraud Offenses | 49 | 40 | 35 |
| Gambling Offenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Homicide Offenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Human Trafficking Offenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kidnaping/Abduction | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Theft Offenses | 156 | 120 | 123 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 33 | 23 | 14 |
| Pornography/Obscene Material | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Prostitution Offenses | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Sex Offenses | 5 | 2 | 12 |
| Sex Offenses, Nonforcible | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stolen Property Offenses | 10 | 7 | 1 |
| Weapon Law Violations | 9 | 8 | 9 |
| Animal Cruelty | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Group A Totals = | 493 | 422 | 387 |

Crime Statistics:

Summary of Index Crimes Submitted to the State for the 2024 National Incident Based Reporting (NIBRS)

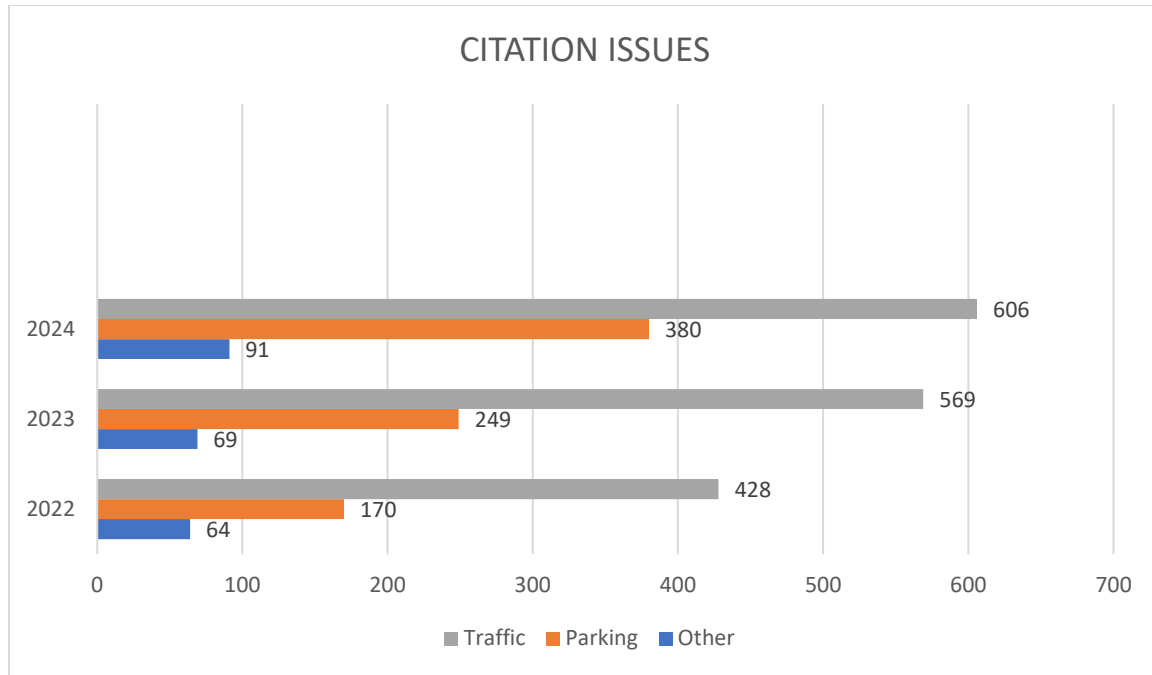
| Group B Crimes | Agency 2022 Totals | Agency 2023 Totals | Agency 2024 Totals |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bad Checks | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 64 | 78 | 25 |
| Driving Under the Influence | 26 | 25 | 43 |
| Drunkenness | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Family Offenses, Nonviolent | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Liquor Law Violations | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| Peeping Tom | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Trespass of Real Property | 15 | 17 | 7 |
| All other Offenses | <u>114</u> | <u>111</u> | <u>63</u> |
| Group B Totals = | 225 | 246 | 145 |

Non-reportable- 6,025

Traffic stops- 2,321

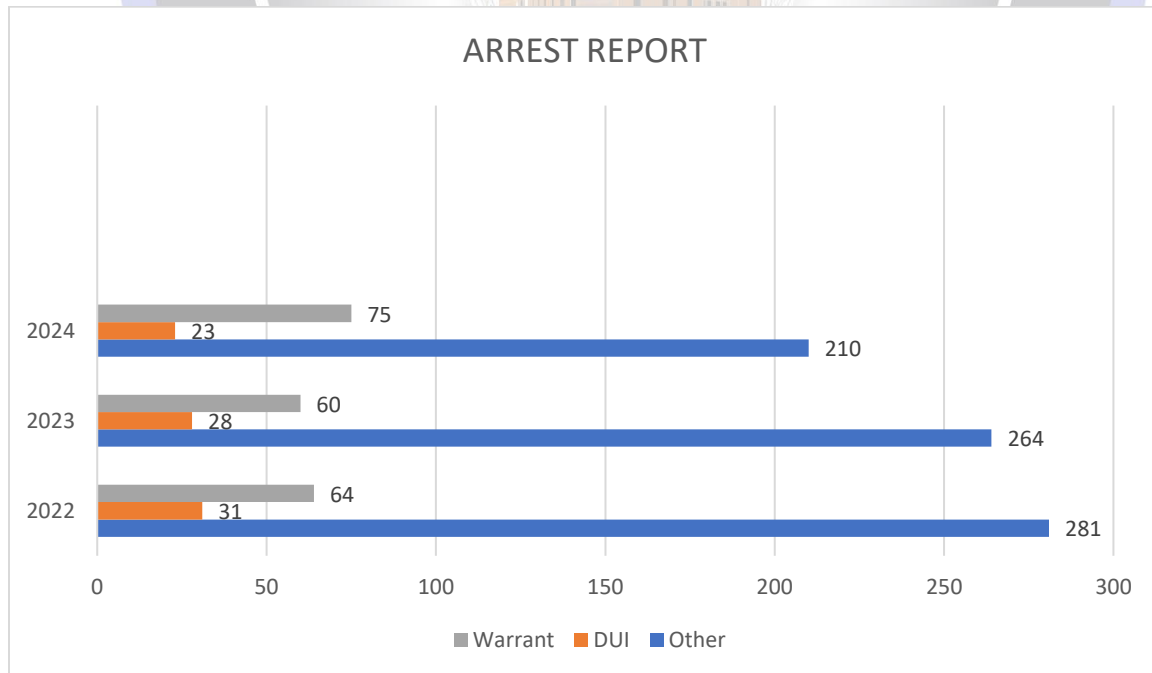
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Citations Issued:



Blue: Other Orange: Parking Grey: Traffic

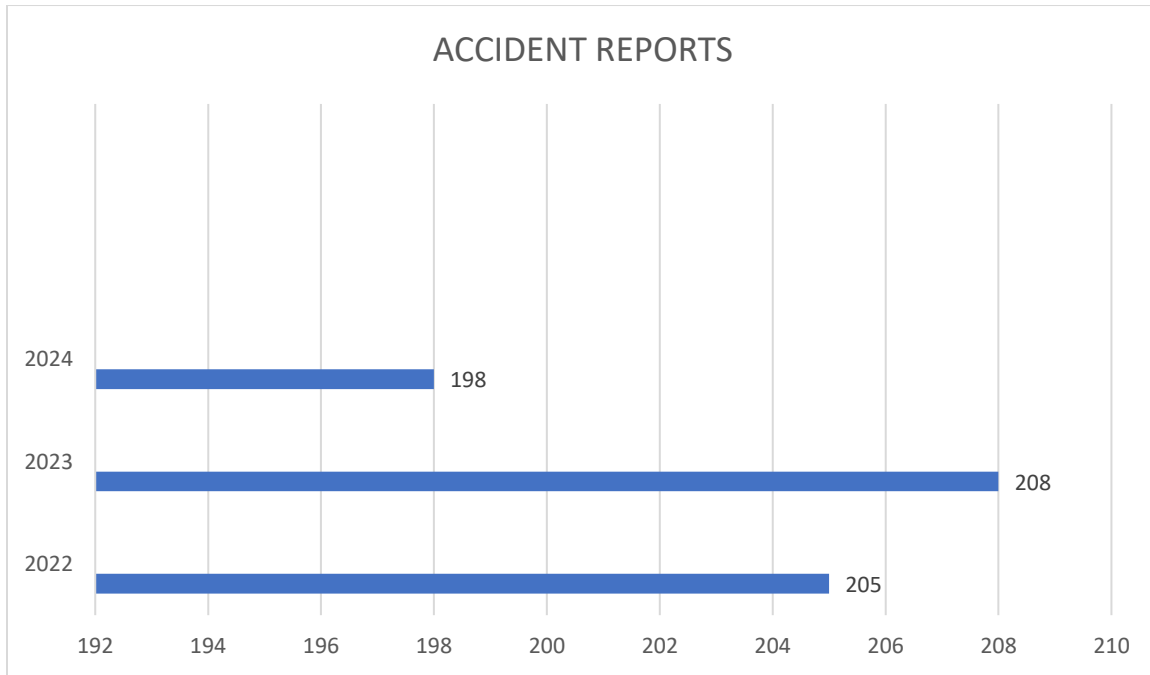
Arrest Reports:



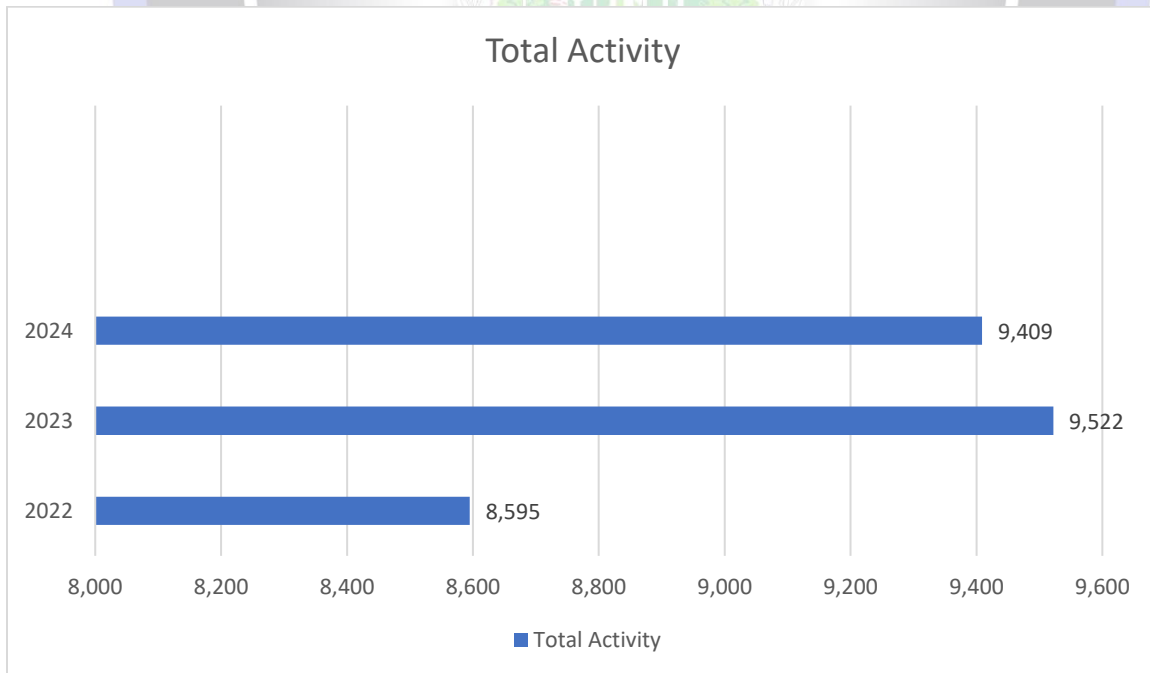
Blue: Other Orange: DUI Grey: Warrant

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Traffic Accidents:



Agency Total Activity:



Community Engagement



Polar Plunge for Special Olympics 2024

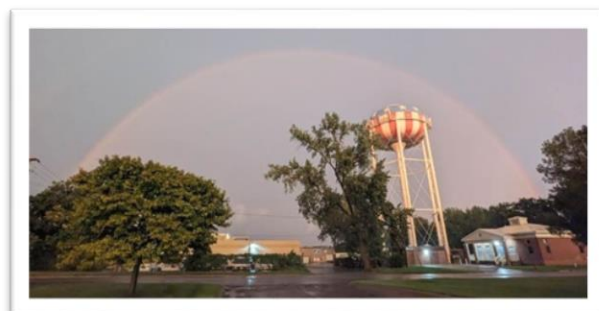
Career Fair at HCTC



Polar Plunge for Special Olympics 2024



LE Torch Run for Special Olympics 2024



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Night to Unite – Reco Lane Party



Tower Days Parade 2024



Night to Unite – Westwood Road Party



Tower Days Parade – Other Agencies Assist



Hy-Vee Event – May 2024



Heroes and Helpers 2024