



St. Helens Police Department Semi- Annual Report

October 2021



Public Safety

Our Mission

The mission of the St. Helens Police Department is to work with all citizens to make our city a place where people live safely and to promote individual responsibility and community commitment.

Our Values

Professionalism: Through strong leadership and continuous training we will strive to serve as role models for the community.

Integrity: Our actions will demonstrate the highest ethical standards, and we will accept full responsibility for our actions.



GOAL #1: FOSTER AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE THAT RESPONDS TO COMMUNITY NEEDS.



GOAL #3: CONTINUE TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE A PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT THAT PROMOTES LIVABILITY AND SAFETY FOR THE COMMUNITY.



GOAL #5: REVIEW, SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENT LONG-TERM PLANS THAT IDENTIFY THE COMMUNITY'S PREFERRED VISION AND SUSTAINABLE REVENUES.



Police Personnel

Your Police Department by the numbers:

- 20 Sworn Officers
 - 1 Police Chief
 - 1 Lieutenant
 - 4 Sergeants
 - 1 Corporal
 - 2 Detective
 - 11 Patrol Officers
- 3 Non-Sworn Personnel
 - 1 Code Enforcement Officer
 - 2 Police Support Specialists





GOAL #1

Foster an effective and efficient organizational structure that responds to community needs.

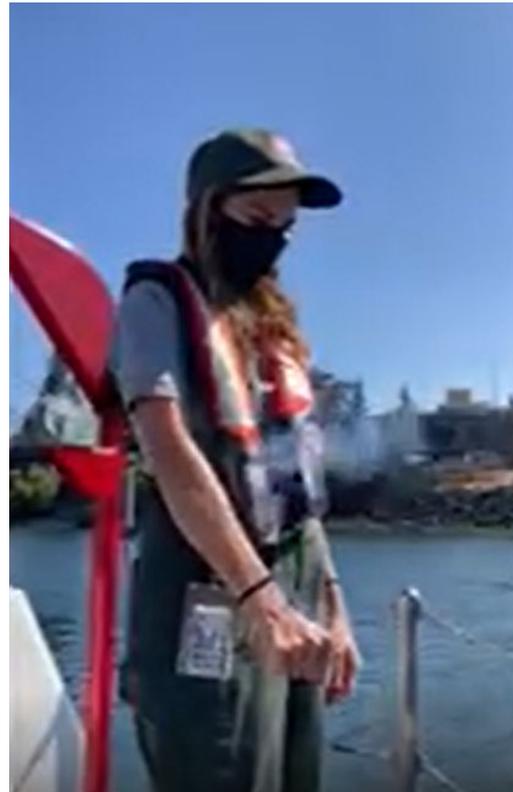
- **Sand Island and Dock Enforcement**
 - Contacted CIS for liability and best practice guidance
 - Desist all law enforcement response over water until training/equipment plan and policy manual addressed
 - City of St. Helens is only municipality that manages an island in Oregon
 - Update job descriptions to include water response
 - Union negotiable and voluntary
 - Training requirements
 - 40 hours/officer
 - Pool access – swim test in full gear and waterborne defensive tactics
 - 2-year training schedule to cover all assigned officers



GOAL #1

Foster an effective and efficient organizational structure that responds to community needs.

- **Sand Island and Dock Enforcement**
 - Training malfunction video





GOAL #1

Foster an effective and efficient organizational structure that responds to community needs.

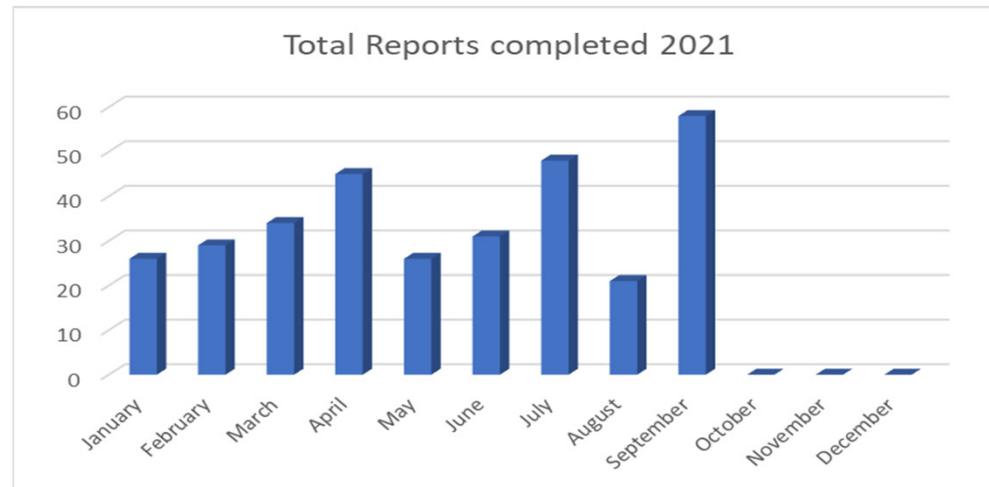
- **Sand Island and Dock Enforcement**
 - Equipment requirements
 - PFDs (\$2k)
 - Boat (\$70k)
 - Storage (\$1,200/year)
 - Maintenance (\$1k)
 - Training equipment (\$1k)
 - Current liaison with St. Helens Municipal Court to issue citations



GOAL #3

Continue to support and enhance a physical environment that promotes livability and safety for the community.

- **Police K-9 Program**
 - Ryder to retire Summer 2022
 - \$25k for replacement, training, and equipment
- **Current Staffing/Call Volume**
 - Investigations
 - 318 total reports as of September 25, 2021





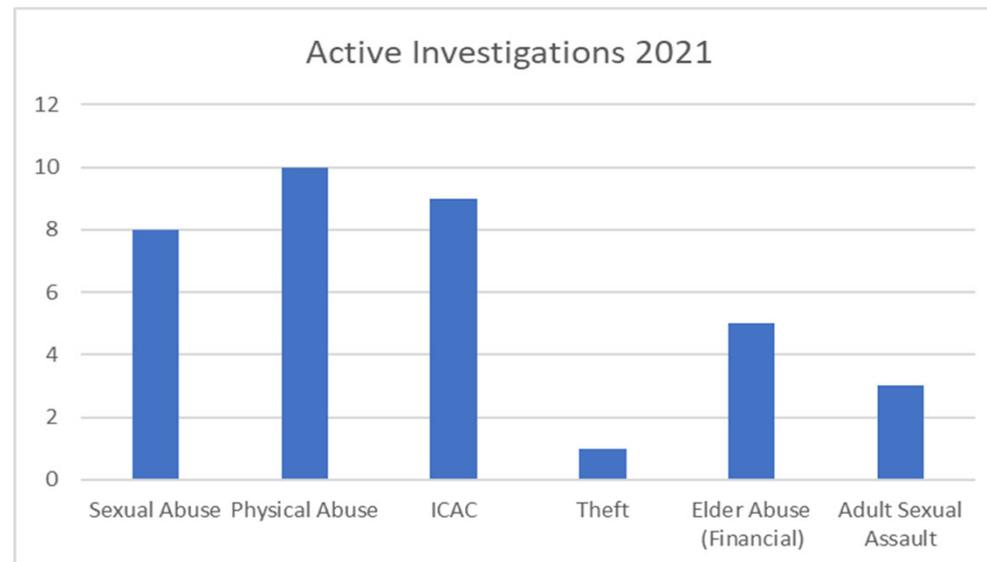
GOAL #3

Continue to support and enhance a physical environment that promotes livability and safety for the community.

- **Current Staffing/Call Volume**

- Investigations

- Average of 1.28 new criminal investigative cases per day
- 36 active investigations for 2 detectives
 - Best practices is 8 active cases per officer





GOAL #3

Continue to support and enhance a physical environment that promotes livability and safety for the community.

- **Current Staffing/Call Volume**
 - Investigations
 - Reviewed and completed work on 159 Department of Human Services cross reports (child physical and sexual abuse) as of September 2021. A total of 84 police reports were completed from these referrals.
 - Assist patrol in complex calls for service as needed (e.g. felony calls, death investigations, domestic violence, sexual assault)
 - Internet Crimes Against Children Referrals
 - Nine referrals. Five are active investigations.
 - 26 search warrants as of September 25, 2021. Resulted in the seizure of approximately 500,000 to 1,000,000 images of child pornography, the recovery of stolen property, bank statements related to financial elder abuse, and digital devices that were suspected of being used in the distribution and possession of child pornography.



GOAL #3

Continue to support and enhance a physical environment that promotes livability and safety for the community.

- **Current Staffing/Call Volume**
 - Patrol
 - 12,982 calls for service to date (January – September 2021)
 - Up almost 1,000 calls from last year at this same time
 - Averages 44.6 calls for service per day
 - School Resource Officers
 - Based on call volume of patrol and investigations, one SRO reclassified to investigations and one reassigned to patrol



GOAL #5

Review, support, and implement long-term plans that identify community's preferred vision and sustainable revenues.

- **Public Safety Facility**
 - Initial approval of PSF project and funding has occurred
 - Up next is awarding bid for design and planning (scheduled for approval at 10/6/21 Council meeting)
 - Tentative project completion date of December 2023



GOAL #5

Review, support, and implement long-term plans that identify community's preferred vision and sustainable revenues.

- **Succession Plan**

- Six sworn officers eligible to retire in 2023 (4 supervisors)
- It takes on average 52 weeks (1 year) from the time we advertise for a vacant position until the new hire has graduated from the police academy and field training and can work independently as a full-fledged officer.
- On average, one out of four new hires do not become certified police officers
- Based on projected attrition and with no new hires:
 - No court security
 - No Council security
 - No return of SROs
 - Reassign detectives to patrol
 - No 24/7 police patrol
 - Impacts to training and certification
 - Increased attrition/burnout due to officer fatigue



GOAL #5

Review, support, and implement long-term plans that identify community's preferred vision and sustainable revenues.

- **Succession Plan**
 - Planning for the unanticipated
 - Currently, SHPD has two officers on light duty and two officers in the military (deployment, training leaves). This led to a recent training being canceled just to fully staff the road
 - Based on 2012 staffing study when St. Helens population was at 12,883, the recommended staffing level for SHPD was 27 sworn officers. This is 7 more than current staffing levels in 2021.
 - In recent years, SHPD has been tasked with security for major community and tourism events. Combined with new housing developments under construction and more complex calls for service, SHPD currently has insufficient staffing levels to address community needs.
 - Based on hiring and training timelines, recommend over-hiring two officers per year to reach recommended staffing levels and plan for upcoming retirements