

QUARTERLY REPORT TO COUNCIL

Meeting Date: September 3, 2025
Prepared by: Matthew Smith
Department: Police
Reporting Period: September 2025
CC: City Administrator John Walsh



1. General Operations

There are currently five criminal trials scheduled for the months of September-November, 2025. These trials are related to Rape and Sexual Abuse Investigations that were investigated by the St. Helens Police Department in 2023 and 2024. Detectives are currently working collaboratively with the Columbia County District Attorney's Office in preparation for these upcoming trials.

Sgt. Jose Castilleja graduated from the FBI National Academy in June of 2025. This comprehensive training program is held in Quantico, Virginia and allows students to study a wide variety of topics related to Law Enforcement leadership and management.

St. Helens Police personnel competed "Crafting with a Cop" on June 12, 2025. This activity will become an ongoing partnership with St. Helens Recreation in order to enhance community engagement.

Officers also attended Coffee with a Cop at Avamere Retirement and Assisted Living Facility on June 13, 2025. St. Helens Police Officers brought doughnuts and coffee to the residents. The activity afforded Officers to introduce themselves to residents at the facility and answer their questions on police operations. This too will become an ongoing event at local care facilities to enhance community engagement.

St. Helens Police Officers assisted with the successful competition of the Kiwanis Parade on June 21, 2025. St. Helens Police personnel worked collaboratively with the local Kiwanis on developing and executing a traffic control plan which allowed for the successful completing of the parade. The St. Helens Police Department was assisted by the Columbia County Sheriff's Office during the event. St. Helens Police personnel have already met with parade organizers in preparation of the next parade, scheduled to occur in June of 2026.

St. Helens Police Officers also assisted with extra patrols for the July 4th celebration. Night shift Officers came in early for the event. No major issues were reported.

2. Staffing & Personnel

The St. Helens Police Department has successfully hired Payton Rue and Jennifer Stratton as Police Officers. They began their employment in August of 2025. Officer Rue began training at the Oregon State Police Academy on August 25, 2025. Officer Stratton is scheduled to attend the police academy in September of 2025.

The St. Helens Police Department, in coordination with the Human Resource Department, conducted additional interviews of Police Officer applicants on July 7, 2025. Three individuals

successfully completed the process and have accepted conditional job offers. The background investigations for these new applicants are ongoing.

Michelle Williams also joined the St. Helens Police Department in June of 2025. Mrs. Williams filled the vacant Police Records and Evidence position and has acclimated well in her in-house training program.

3. Projects & Initiatives

A. Ongoing Key Projects

- *Background Investigations for new Officers: Ongoing. These should be completed in the next 4-5 weeks.*
- *Field Training of new Officers: Officers Rue and Stratton should complete the police academy during the first quarter of 2026. They will then begin their field training with Field Training Officers. FTEP is structured to be 20 weeks in total. Based on this estimate, Officers Rue and Stratton should complete their field training on April/May, 2026.*

B. Upcoming Projects

- *Sergeant process: Now that Chief Smith and Lieutenant Treat have secured permanent appointments, two Sergeant positions are now open. In consultation with Human Resources, a process will be initiated shortly to fill one of these open positions.*

4. Upcoming Events & Important Dates

(Provide information on city-related events, meetings, and deadlines relevant to the department.)

- *The St. Helens Police Department has a plethora of trials scheduled over the next 3-4 months. Personnel, in particular Detectives, are preparing for these critical trials.*
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