



St. Helens Police Department Semi- Annual Report

November 2023



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.





Detectives

Detective Investigations Data

- To date, in 2023, the St. Helens Police Department Investigations Unit completed a total of 405 criminal investigation reports.
- To date, in 2023, the St. Helens Police Department Investigations Unit investigated 311 Child Abuse Referrals. (On average one new child abuse referral every day comes into the investigations unit)



Detectives

Detective Investigations Data

- To date in 2023: 10 SHSD Threat Assessments Completed
- To date in 2023: 64 Executed Search Warrants (5 in progress) a 35% increase from last year.



Detectives

On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at approximately 4:30 p.m., St. Helens Police Department officers and detectives arrested Keegan Gollehon, 26, of Vancouver, Washington on an outstanding arrest warrant.

Gollehon's arrest caps a two-month investigation that began in July 2023 when a victim reported that she was sexually assaulted by Gollehon.

Detectives learned of a second victim and an additional investigation was initiated. The cases were presented to a Columbia County Grand Jury on August 24, 2023. Gollehon was indicted on three counts of Rape I, one count of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, and one count of Strangulation.

After the indictment, detectives lured Gollehon to St. Helens where he was arrested. Gollehon was lodged at the Columbia County Jail on the outstanding arrest warrant."



Detectives

On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, Kurtis Austin, 32, of St. Helens pleaded guilty to multiple sexual charges against a minor in a Columbia County courtroom. The guilty plea stems from a five-month investigation by St. Helens police detectives after receiving information that Austin reportedly had sexual contact with a 17-year-old minor in the St. Helens area. Austin was arrested on February 6, 2023.

After his arrest, St. Helens detectives executed search warrants and located multiple child pornography images of the 17-year-old victim in Austin's possession. The Columbia County District Attorney's Office presented the case to a grand jury, and Austin was indicted on multiple charges. Austin pled guilty on May 3 to Attempted Using a Child in Display of Sexually Explicit Conduct, Encouraging Child Sexual Abuse 2, two counts of Sexual Abuse 3, Unlawful Delivery of Marijuana, and Furnishing Alcohol to a Minor.

Austin was sentenced to 190 days in jail and 36 months of probation. His probation includes conditions that he registers as a sex offender, has no contact with minors or be where minors congregate, and that he undergoes sex offender treatment. If he does not comply with the terms of his probation, the court has the option to send Austin to prison for up to three years.



Detectives

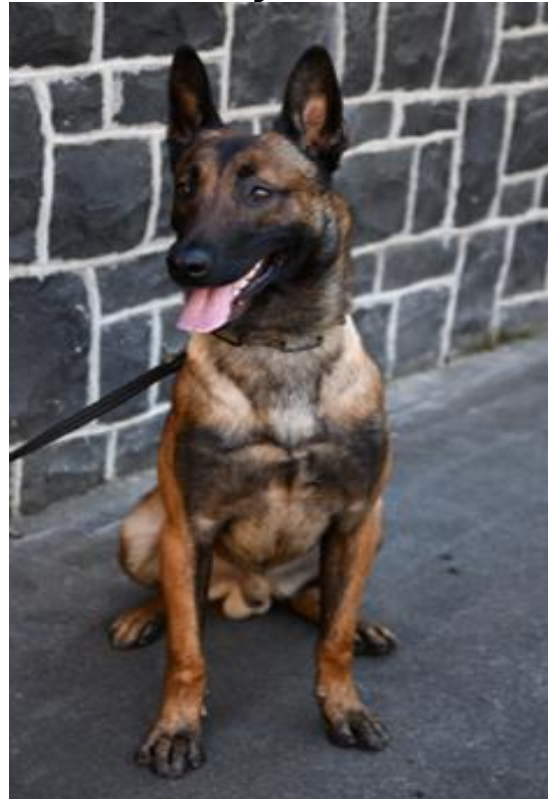
- Detectives are continuing to investigate the disappearance of Terry Shinaver, a St. Helens community member who disappeared in May of 2021. Over the last several years, Detectives Gaston and Smith have conducted numerous interviews, collected a litany of physical and digital evidence, and executed multiple Search Warrants, and this investigation is continuing to this day.
- Detectives are deeply concerned regarding the nature of Mr. Shinaver's disappearance, and their investigation has spanned three states and has included multiple state and federal law enforcement agencies. The St. Helens Police Department is deeply committed to this investigation and has remained in regular contact with Mr. Shinaver's family.



K9

St. Helens Officer Bryan Cutright and police canine Jax (below) were certified by the Oregon Police Canine Association on September 26, 2023, to begin working as a canine team.

K9 is a valuable tool for police work. An assailant armed with a knife refused to comply and aggressively began walking toward officers. Jax was able to convince the suspect to surrender and the suspect was safely taken into custody.





Notable Events



In August 2023, the St. Helens Police Department began an investigation into an individual who had been dealing substantial quantities of fentanyl in St. Helens. The suspect was arrested, and a large quantity of fentanyl was removed from our community.



Community Partnerships

- St. Helens School District Career Day
- St Helens School District Annual Back to School Staff Fair
- Recreation Center Partnership Movies in the Park



Community Partnerships

- June 2023 Citizens Day in the Park





- June 2023 Lewis and Clark Elementary School





Community
Partnerships

- City of St. Helens 4th of July Celebration





Community Partnerships

- August 2023 National Night Out





Community Partnerships

- October 2023 SHPD vs SPD (7-Mile War)

