

St. Helens Police Department

2023 Annual Report



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.



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



On behalf of the St. Helens Police Department, I am pleased to submit the 2023 St. Helens Police Department Annual Report. This report contains a summary of the Department's accomplishments and highlights the employee's achievements for 2023. The St. Helens Police Department strives to provide excellent police service each day and is constantly evolving to meet these efforts.

Our staff is committed to providing our community with the highest level of support, both professionally and personally. We believe in our staff and providing them with the necessary tools to respond to emergencies, solve problems, and be good community members.

The St. Helens Police Department works hard to provide the highest standard of law enforcement and customer service to its citizens.

We strive to build the best police force possible. We believe we have put together a proactive, community-oriented force. We want sworn and non-sworn staff made up of individuals who are not just members of the Police Department but also represent our diverse community. We believe that our officers are part of our community and interacting with our community improves the livability of every citizen.

We are fortunate in St. Helens to serve an incredible community, and we are privileged to have a unique bond with the citizens we serve. I would like to thank the citizens and visitors of St. Helens, and especially the men and women of the St. Helens Police Department, for making St. Helens one of the greatest places to live, work, play, and visit.

Respectfully,

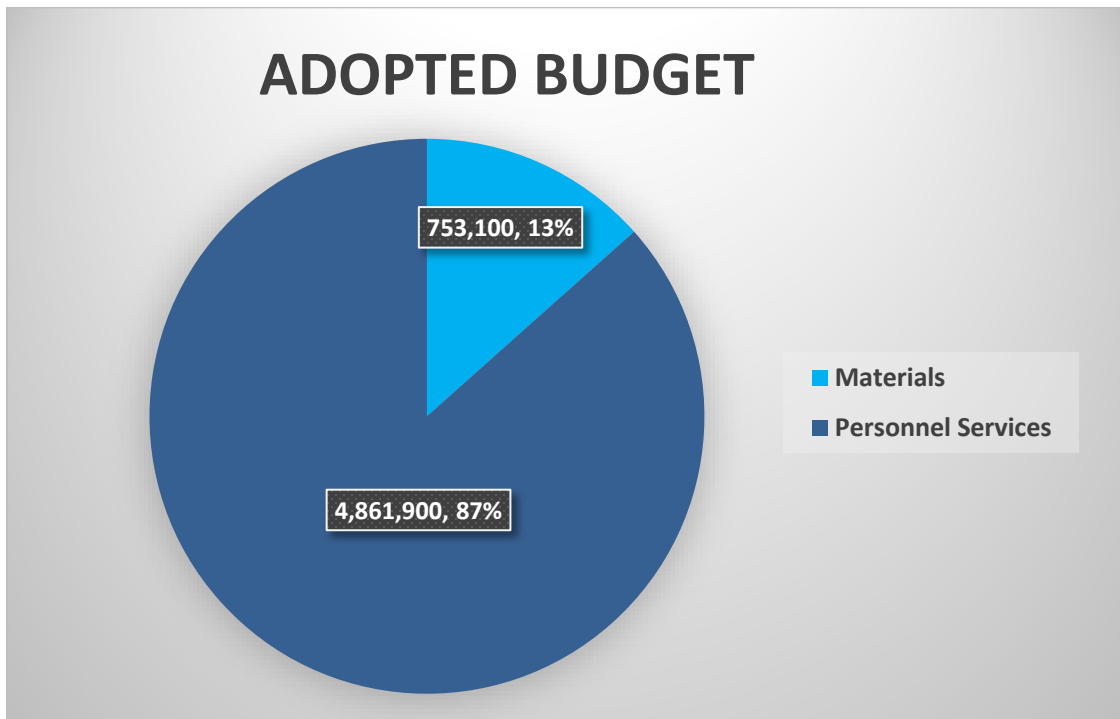
Chief Brian Greenway

St. Helens Police Department

DEPARTMENT BUDGET

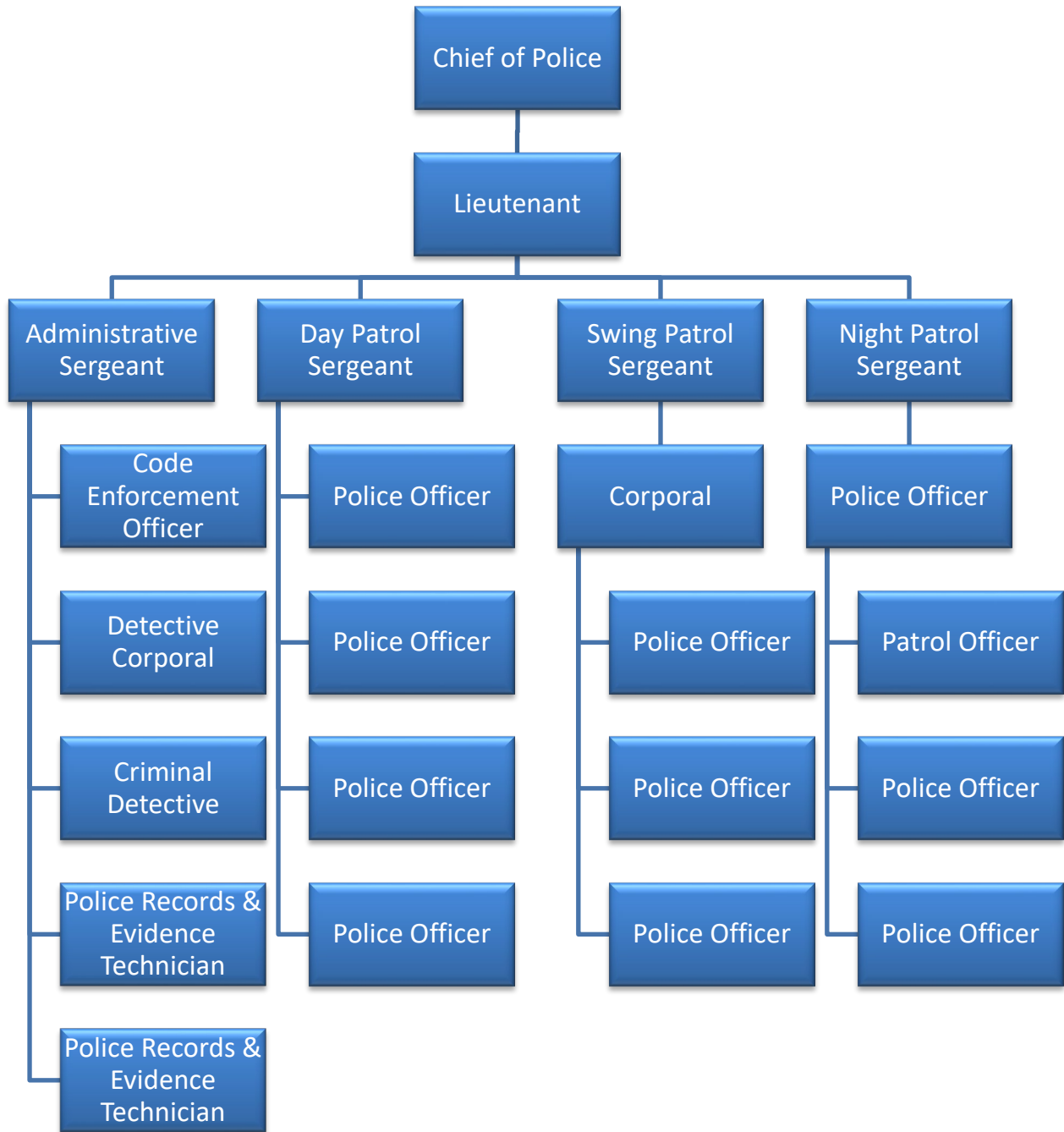
The following table compares the size of the St. Helens Police Department and its budget between fiscal years 2020-21 through 2023-24.

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Population	13,915	14,560	14,371	14,892
Total Budget	\$3,819,000	\$4,302,000	\$5,200,000	\$5,709,000
Sworn Personnel	20	20	22	21
Non-Sworn Personnel	3	3	3	3
Department Personnel Total	23	23	25	24
Officers Per Thousand Residents	1.37	1.37	1.74	1.37



The total budget for the St. Helens Police Department during FY 2023-24 is \$5,709,000

2023 DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



2023 ITEMS OF INTEREST

COMMUNITY EVENTS –

CITIZENS DAY IN THE PARK – June 24, 2023, St. Helens Police Department hosted a booth at McCormick Park. There were games, activities, a car show, food, and music to be enjoyed. This event is put on each year by the city of St Helens, and we are happy to be apart of it to engage with our citizens.



PARTNERSHIP WITH ST HELENS SCHOOL DISTRICT – Officer's stopped by St Helens Schools for Career Days introducing themselves and teaching them about what it's like to serve as a police officer. Officers from the St Helens Police Department also engaged with many students through the year within their classrooms. We even had students visit our station on a field trip!



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION – Foot patrols were conducted at the City’s Independence Day celebration and fireworks show.



CIVIL WAR 2023 – Our Officers attended the St Helens VS Scappoose High School football game at Scappoose High School and assisted the Scappoose Police Department with handing out over 1,500 FREE Doughnuts.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT – St Helens Police Department joined agencies from across the county at the Columbia County Sheriff’s Office for National Night Out. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.



IN THE KNOW –

PROSECUTION OF ADAM FLEMING –

March 17, 2023 – The Columbia County District Attorney’s Office has completed its prosecution of Adam Fleming, having secured a guilty jury verdict on 20 counts on December 8, 2022, and securing a sentence of over 46 years on March 17.

According to court filings, on July 2, 2019, the defendant’s friend and roommate received information that the defendant had sexually abused his 8-year-old daughter. When the girl’s father confronted Fleming about the abuse, Fleming pulled out a pistol and shot him three times as he ran upstairs to protect his daughter who was in her bedroom. Fleming also shot a second roommate in the shoulder as he tried to escape Fleming out the front door. When the girl’s father regained consciousness, he asked his daughter to call 911 for him and the police transported him to the hospital. During a subsequent interview with police, the girl reported that the defendant had abused her earlier in the year and told her not to tell anyone. Eight days later the defendant was arrested in a homeless camp in Sacramento, California.

The subsequent trial was handled by Columbia County Chief Deputy District Attorney Kristen Hoffmeyer and Deputy District Attorney Mihnea Moga and resulted in convictions for two counts of Attempted Murder, two counts of Tampering with a Witness, Sodomy in the First Degree, and Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, among others. Columbia County Circuit Court Presiding Judge Michael Clarke imposed the state’s requested 46-year sentence, which constitutes the legal maximum for his crimes.

“We are comforted by the fact that Mr. Fleming is somewhere where he can no longer victimize anyone, and this couldn’t have happened without the bravery of his 8-year-old victim and her family,” said Columbia County Chief Deputy Hoffmeyer. “The professionalism and diligence of the St. Helens Police Department resulted in this outcome that will protect the community from Mr. Fleming for 46 years,” added District Attorney Auxier.



OFFICER OF THE YEAR – Patrol Officer Luke Marshall was selected as the St. Helens Police Department’s Officer of the Year. Officer Marshall is described by his peers as humble, hardworking, and proactive. He was recognized for his conduct on two separate occasions in 2023, with one incident involving a sexual assault in progress that he discovered on duty. Officer Marshall not only managed to conduct an outstanding investigation, but he also ensured that the victim received emergency medical treatment. Officer Marshall’s professionalism and dedication reflect the St. Helens Police Department’s continued commitment to providing the best possible police service to our community.

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION – Patrol Officer Brandon Haflich graduated from the Oregon Police academy on September 15, 2023.



K-9'S

Please join us in welcoming a new canine team to our department: St. Helens Officer Bryan Cutright and canine Jax. The pair were certified by the Oregon Police Canine Association on September 26, 2023, to begin working as a canine team. Jax is a two-and-a-half-year-old Belgian Malinois that was purchased by the St. Helens Police Department from Adlerhorst International, LLC, in California. Jax's handler, St. Helens Officer Bryan Cutright, is new to police canine work. Officer Cutright went through a 10-week mandatory academy in April 2023 to be able to work with police canines. After Jax arrived in St. Helens, the police dog also had to receive certification before Officer Cutright and Jax could officially begin working as a team. "A police canine team can perform specialized tasks that aren't possible for an officer on foot," said Officer Cutright. "Canines are faster, can track by scent, and can travel through thick brush and small spaces that would be difficult for an officer to do." Police canines can also be used as a voluntary compliance tool. "Suspects are sometimes more willing to surrender when they see that a police canine is on the scene," said St. Helens Police Chief Brian Greenway. "This keeps our officers and the suspect safe since it reduces use-of-force situations." Jax will be used as an apprehension and tracking dog.



He is replacing former St. Helens police canine Ryder. Ryder, a purebred German Shepherd, was retired on September 26, 2023, the same day that Jax was certified to begin work. Ryder joined the St. Helens Police Department in August 2016 and was handled by Sgt. Jon Eggers. As a team, they successfully tracked and apprehended suspects for the St. Helens Police Department and assisted other agencies when needed. Ryder retires from the police force at almost nine years old, having served St. Helens for seven years. He will spend his retirement as a family pet with his handler.





FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY ASSOCIATES AWARD – St. Helens Police Lieutenant Joe Hogue was presented with the FBI National Academy Associates Award – Oregon Chapter, by the Portland FBI Office ON October 27, 2023. The award recognizes graduates of the prestigious FBI National Academy who demonstrate the values the FBI promotes daily within their workforce. Lieutenant Hogue serves as the president of the Oregon Chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates Board and continues to be instrumental in ensuring the Oregon Chapter maintains partnerships between federal, state, and local agencies.

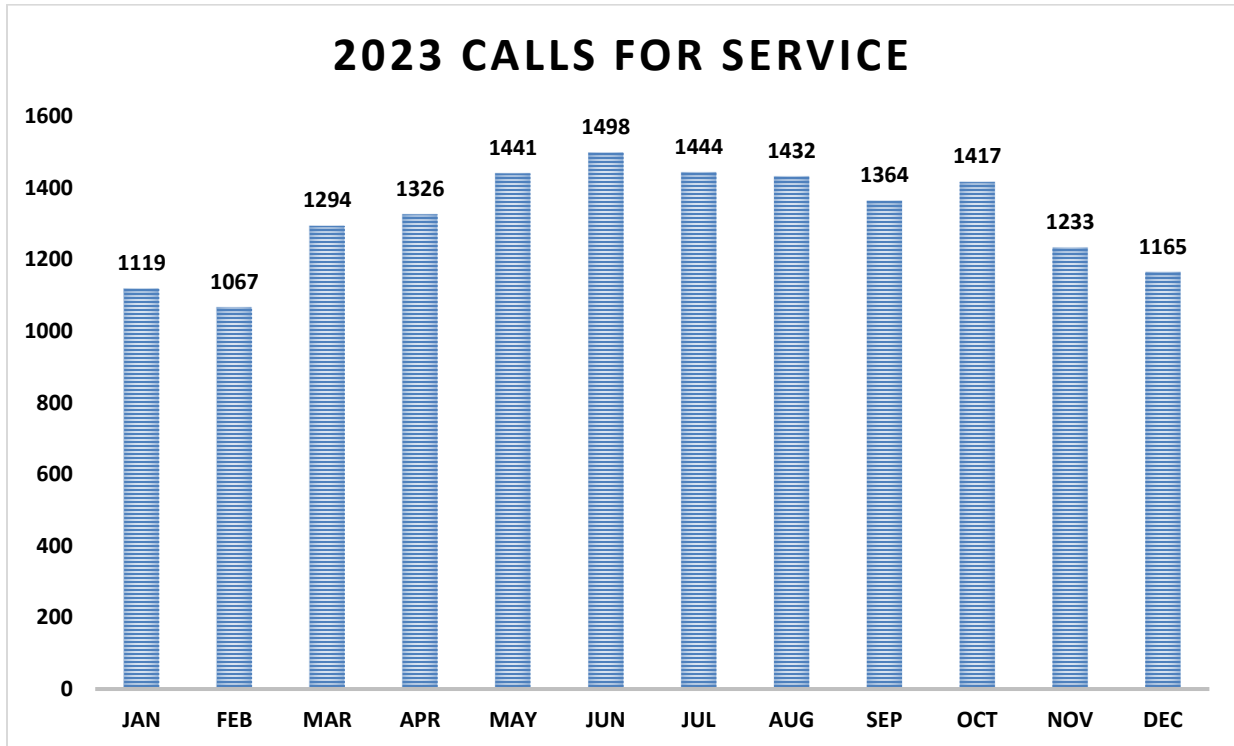
NATHAN RHADARMER – St. Helens Police Department search warrant, arrest in Scappoose leads to seizure of 562 fentanyl pills, 27.3 grams of powder fentanyl, 9.2 grams of methamphetamine, and \$1,863.36 in cash. In August 2023, the St. Helens Police Department received a tip regarding an individual that had been dealing substantial quantities of fentanyl in St. Helens. St. Helens officers and detectives began an investigation and identified the suspect as 45-year-old Nathan Rhoadarmer.



On September 3, 2023, the Columbia 911 Communications District received a call regarding drug activity at 51551 Columbia River Highway, Scappoose. A Scappoose Police Department sergeant responded to the location and identified one of the individuals as Nathan Rhoadarmer. St. Helens officers responded to the location and executed a search warrant on Rhoadarmer's vehicle which led to Rhoadarmer's arrest. Rhoadarmer was lodged at the Columbia County Jail for Possession of a Controlled Substance, Manufacture of a Controlled Substance, and Delivery of a Controlled Substance for both fentanyl and methamphetamine. The search of Rhoadarmer's vehicle resulted in the seizure of 562 fentanyl pills, 27.3 grams of powder fentanyl, 9.2 grams of methamphetamine, and \$1,863.36 in cash.

ST. HELENS POLICE STATISTICS

The St. Helens Police Department receives dispatch services from the Columbia 911 Communications District (C-COM). A “call for service” is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched, or an incident is found by an officer and the officer initiates a call. The following graph details the total calls for service as documented by C-COM each month during the calendar year.



The St. Helens Police Department recorded a total of **15,800** calls for service during the 2023 calendar year. St. Helens Police noted a small decrease in calls for service over the previous year. January and May showed the greatest decrease, while June and July recorded higher calls for service than in 2022.

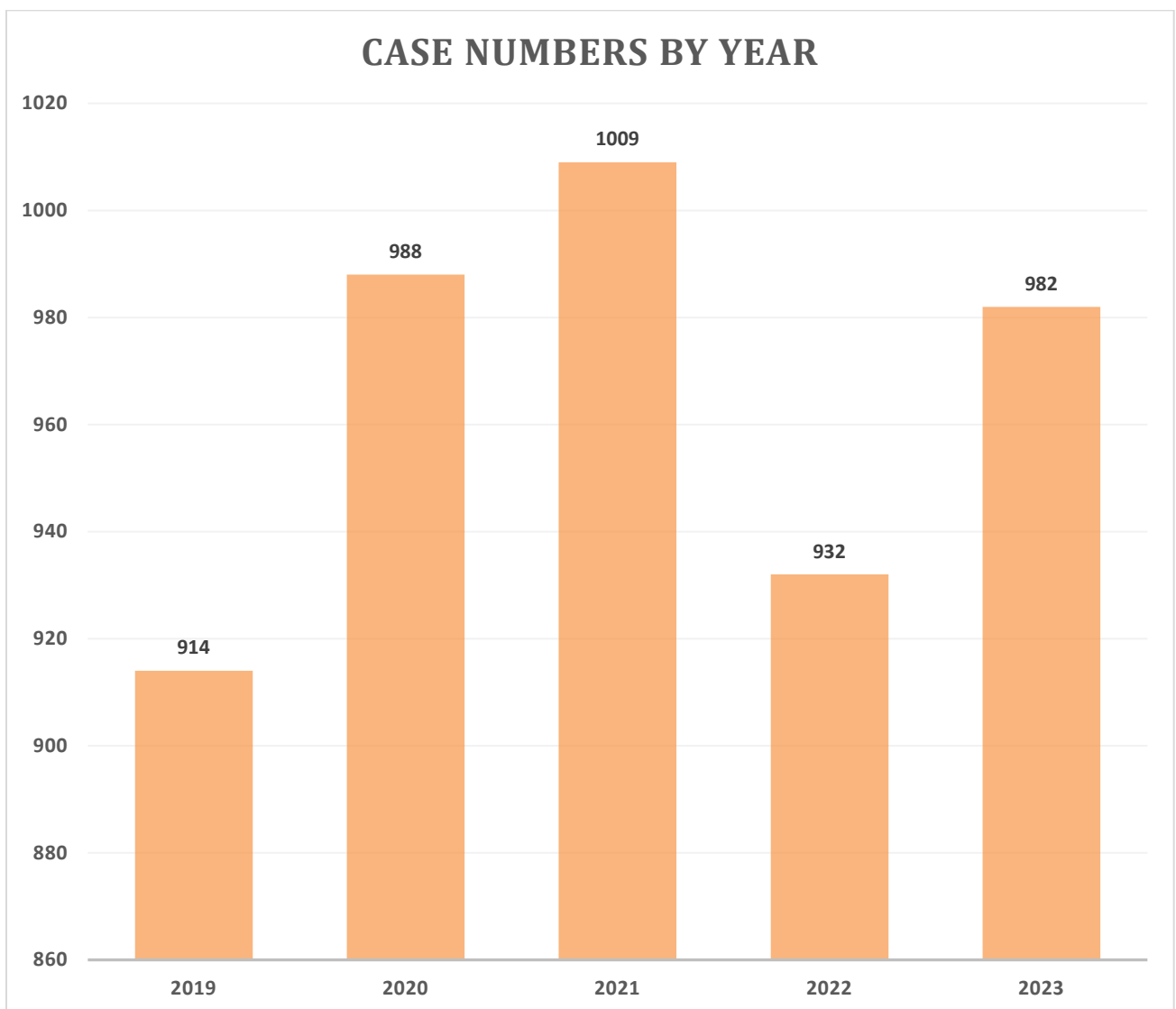
When a call for service is received by C-COM it is assigned a call type. Once again in 2023, next to officer-initiated traffic stops, “Suspicious Circumstances, Person, or Vehicle” continues to be the most common type of call for service. This statistic accentuates the proactive work of our officers who self-initiate this call type when they see something out of the ordinary. It also lends to the positive relationship the community has with our department and the citizenry’s readiness to engage with our services.

The table below details some of the most used call types over the past five years.

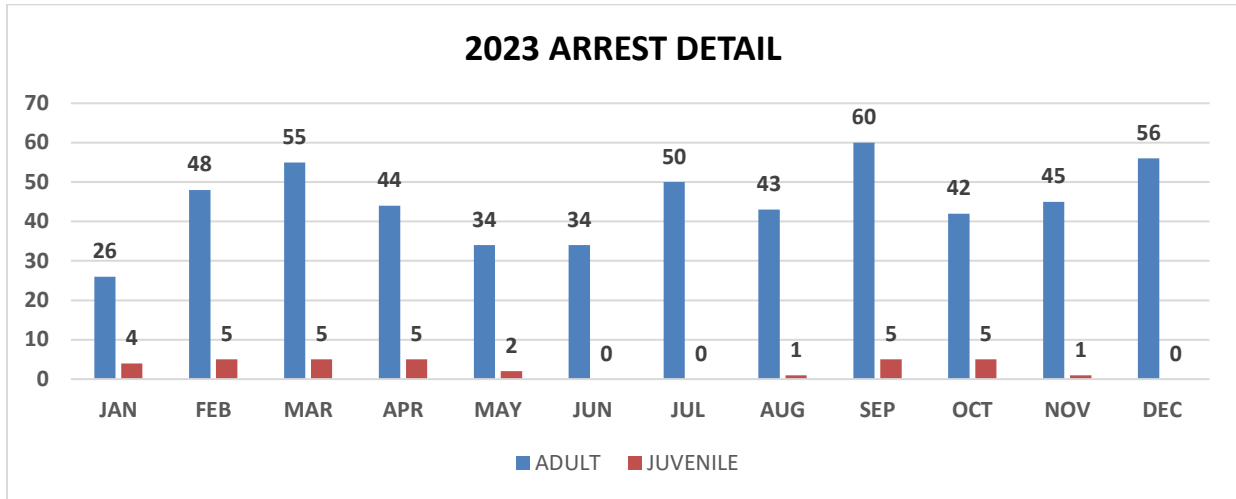
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Total Dispatched Incidents	18,207	16,941	17,131	15,967	15,800
Suspicious (Circumstances, Person, or Vehicle)	1,657	1,792	1,595	1,609	1,573
Assist Public	806	1,132	1,243	1,101	1,332
Theft	369	367	376	366	332
Disturbance/Fight	290	319	279	214	209
Welfare Check	388	426	392	412	483
Domestic Violence	265	270	268	270	343
Juvenile Calls for Service	247	258	225	255	327
Traffic Complaint	274	258	284	304	262
Alarm Silent/Audible	250	277	308	452	667
Harassment	291	324	344	344	306
Criminal Mischief	132	158	118	135	143
Traffic Accident	168	133	152	133	151
Suicide (Threat or Attempt)	127	127	102	102	157
Abandoned 911/Hang up	93	76	74	151	185
Drug Activity	101	87	53	57	82
Hit and Run	81	73	86	76	77
Prowler	36	40	41	47	52
Assault	55	47	50	62	49
Burglary	39	42	50	39	53
Sex Crime	50	70	47	54	53
Death Investigation	18	25	14	22	22

Not every call for service generates a police report. In fact, most of our calls for service are handled informally without any administrative action being taken. When it is necessary to write a police report, the report is assigned a case number. The St. Helens Police Department used **982** case numbers in 2023. The following graph details the number of case numbers used during the past five (5) calendar years.

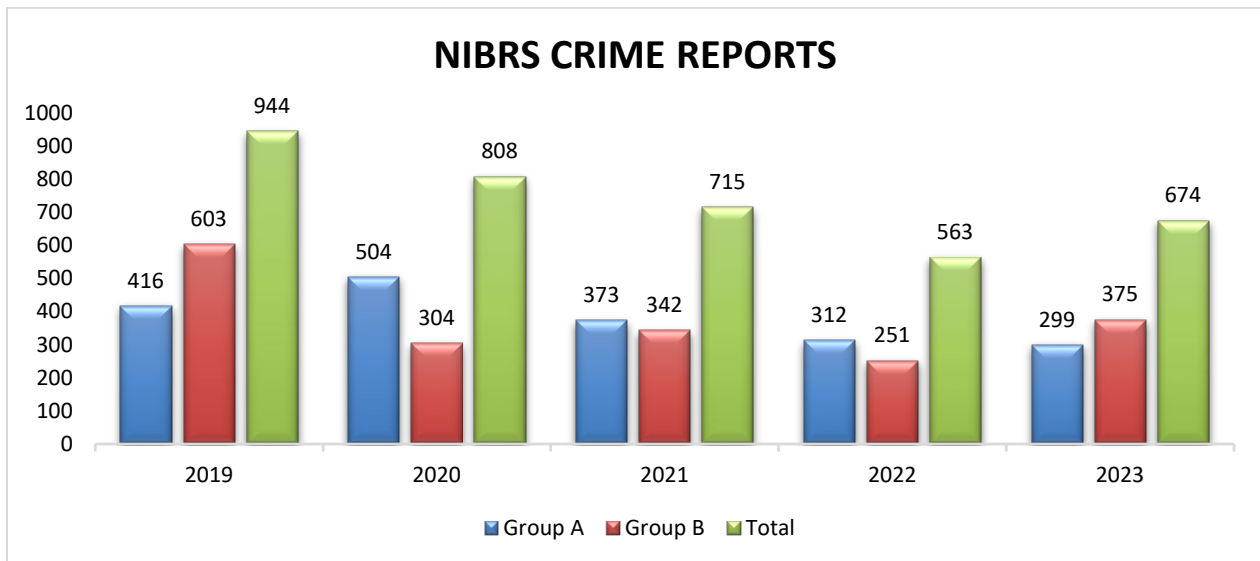
One reason for the decrease in case numbers is that new technology and updated policies have been used to improve processes regarding motor vehicle collisions. Officers can digitally record the necessary DMV reporting information in the field and clear a scene without having to return to a desk to write a formal report. This change has empowered officers to be more proactive and available to the public during their shifts.



St. Helens police officers are also responsible for arresting criminal suspects. Many of these suspects are arrested as part of a criminal investigation, while others are the subject of outstanding arrest warrants. In some cases, involving juvenile arrests, the suspect is taken into physical custody; however, most of these cases involve a simple referral to the Columbia County Juvenile Department. During the 2023 calendar year, the St. Helens Police Department was responsible for the arrest of 537 adult offenders and 33 juvenile offenders. The following chart details 2023 arrests by month.



The St. Helens Police Department submits all crime data to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) of the FBI. NIBRS is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 city, university, and college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies voluntarily reporting data on offenses reported or known. Through NIBRS, the Police Department reports data on each offense within 52 specific crimes identified as Group A offenses, and 10 other categories identified as Group B offenses.



Our department receives this data from the Regional Justice Information Network (RegJIN). RegJIN is a multi-agency shared Records Management System designed to provide a common platform for police reports to increase collaboration between regional law enforcement agencies. As part of our agency's contract with RegJIN they collect and report our NIBRS relevant data to the FBI, and we in turn look at those numbers as part of our annual statistical self-analysis.

To evaluate the data in more detail, it may be helpful to see just a few of the offense categories and compare the numbers with data collected over the past four (4) years.

		2020	2021	2022	2023
Group A	Rape	9	6	2	9
	Robbery	0	3	1	3
	Assault Felony*	23	18	33	29
	Assault Misdemeanor	42	53	57	66
	Burglary	22	32	35	24
	Theft**	123	119	90	104
	Theft of Vehicle	29	37	37	18
	Vandalism	37	33	32	32
	Drug Offense***	65	22	16	14
Group B	Warrants	203	221	188	217
	Disorderly Conduct	41	34	30	36
	DUII	55	63	104	79
	Trespassing	46	56	46	43

* Simple Assault Felony includes aggravated assault.

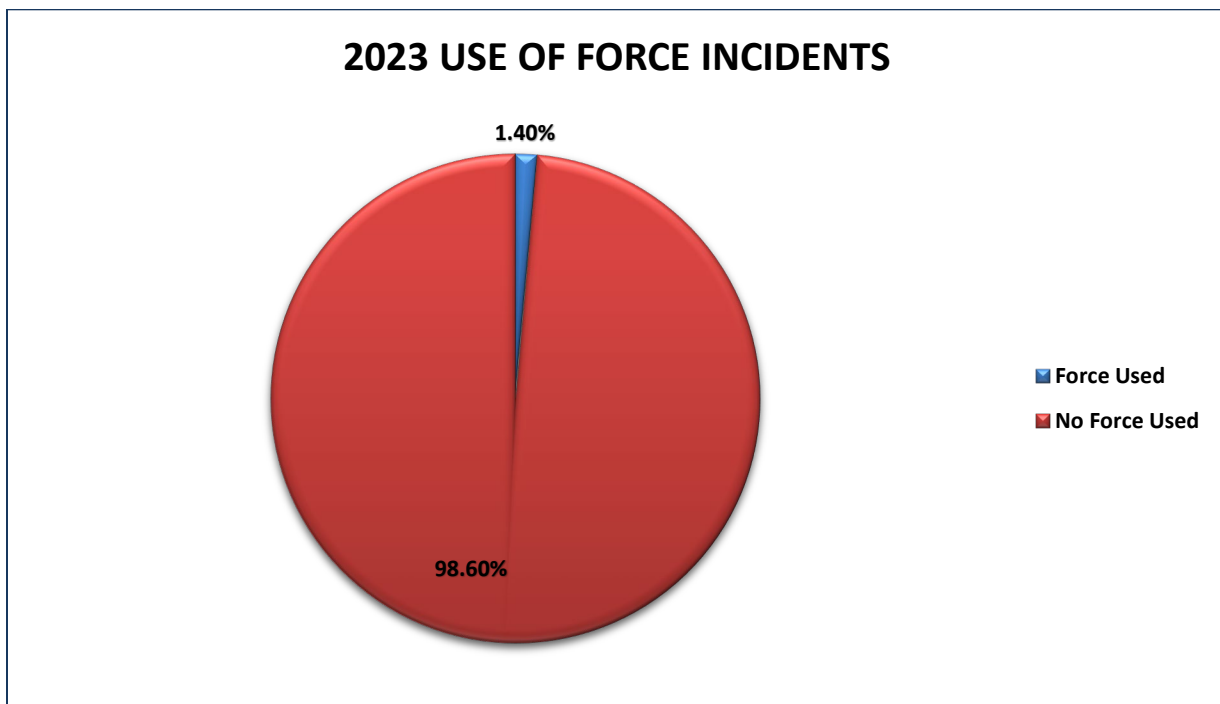
** Theft includes several types of larcenies, theft of services, and shoplifting.

*** Oregon Measure 110 was passed in November 2020 which decriminalized the personal possession of illegal drugs, thus greatly decreasing the number of drug offense charges in 2021.

In a very small percentage of arrest incidents force is used to effect the arrest. For reporting purposes, physical force is defined as any use of a firearm, taser, oleoresin capsicum spray (OC), other weapons, active counterstrikes, or other physical force applied on a combative or resistive person. Use of force does not include mere presence, verbal commands, passive contact, or routine handcuffing techniques.

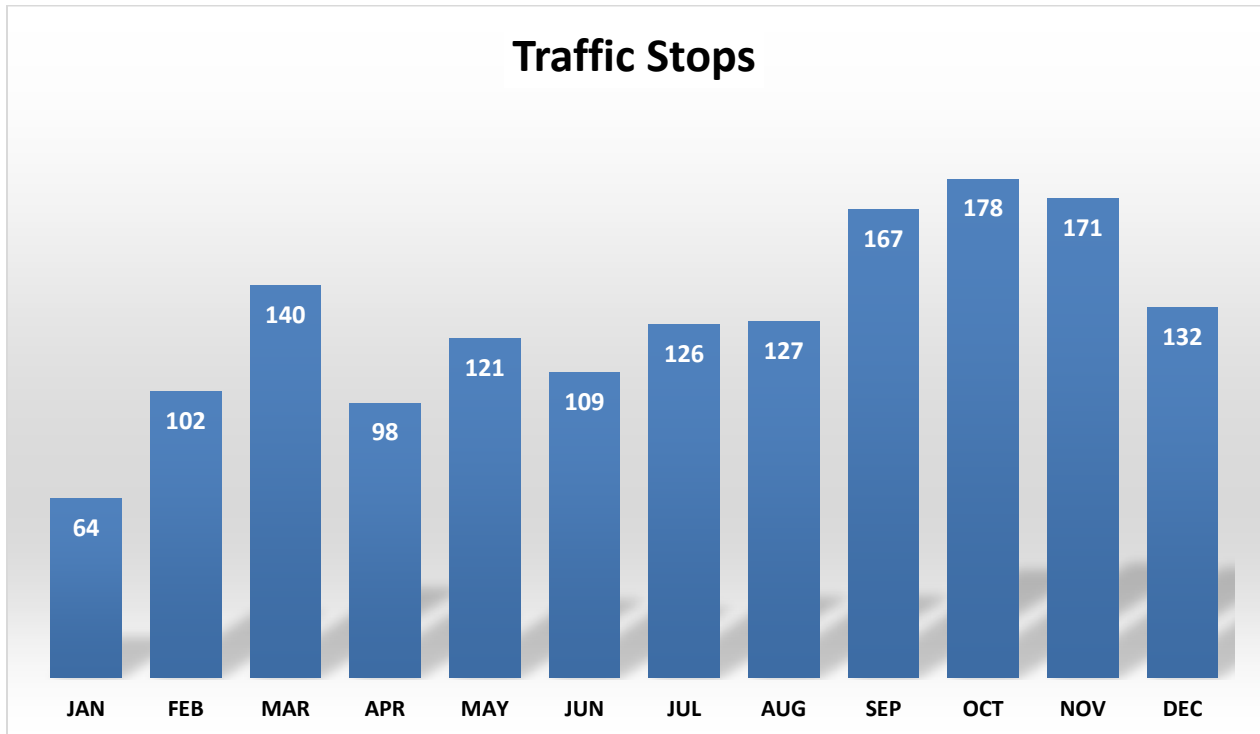
- During 2023, force was used in 8 of the 570 arrests, or 1.4% of the time.
- The most common type of force was Takedowns.

The St. Helens Police Department prides itself on its expert de-escalation training and field implementation. These techniques allow officers to avoid the use of force in complicated and tense situations.



In addition to calls for service, officers from the St. Helens Police Department are actively engaged in traffic enforcement. The focus of our traffic enforcement efforts is not based on issuing citations; rather it is aimed at changing or modifying unsafe driving behavior. The St. Helens Police Department conducted **1,535** traffic stops and issued **255** citations during the 2023 calendar year. This translates to approximately 83% of all traffic stops resulting in warnings. The following graph details the number of traffic stops each month over the past year.

2023 Traffic Stops Data



The most issued citations entered into the St. Helens Municipal Court in 2023 include:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Violation of Speed Limit	32	21
Driving While Suspended	175	114
Driving Uninsured	56	53
Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants	106	79
No Operator's License	16	12
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	14	7

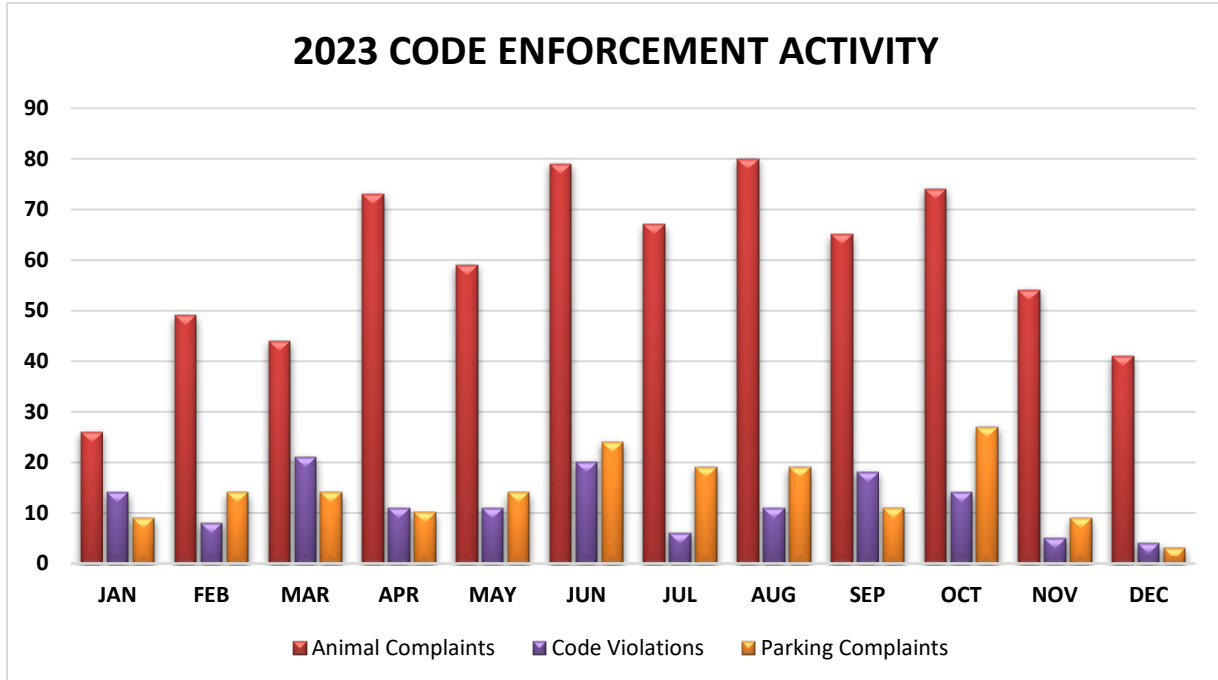
CODE ENFORCEMENT



Our Code Enforcement Officer responds to complaints that are related to the enforcement of City codes including animal control issues and nuisance violations like garbage, noxious weeds, and parking complaints.



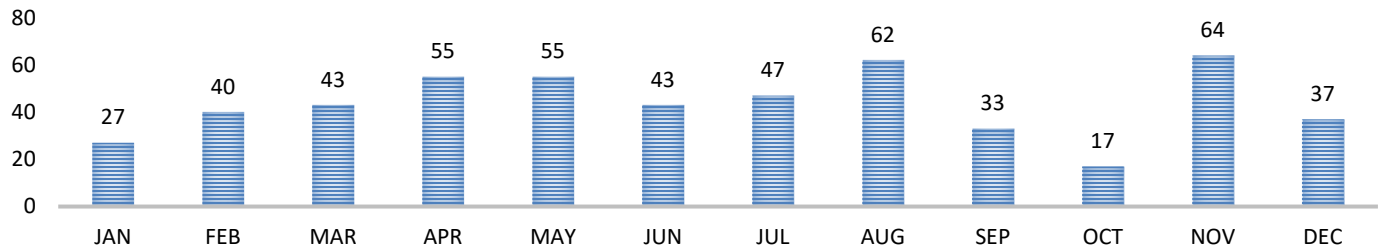
In 2023, the Police Department responded to a total of 711 animal complaints. Code Enforcement also responded to or initiated 143 city code violations and 173 parking complaints this past year. Code Enforcement and sworn police officers continue to respond to citizens' concerns ensuring the safety of our community and livability within St. Helens. Our department continues to engage the community daily and not just in emergency or enforcement situations.



INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

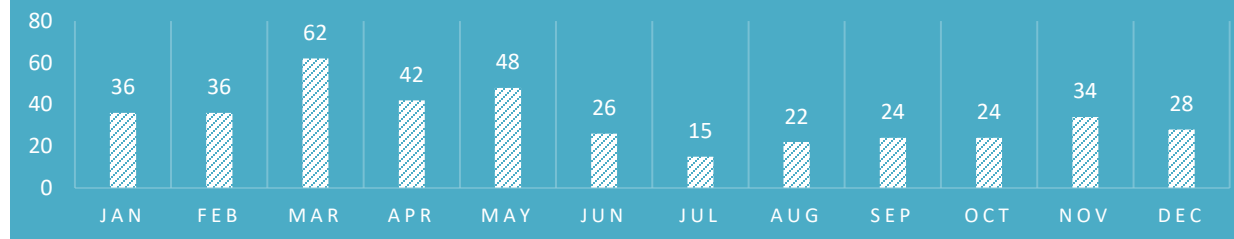
The St. Helens Police Department Investigations Unit has completed a total of 523 total reports in 2023. These reports did not include the review of 397 Department of Human Service Child Abuse reports, which were sent to the St. Helens Police Department in 2023.

2023 TOTAL REPORTS WRITTEN



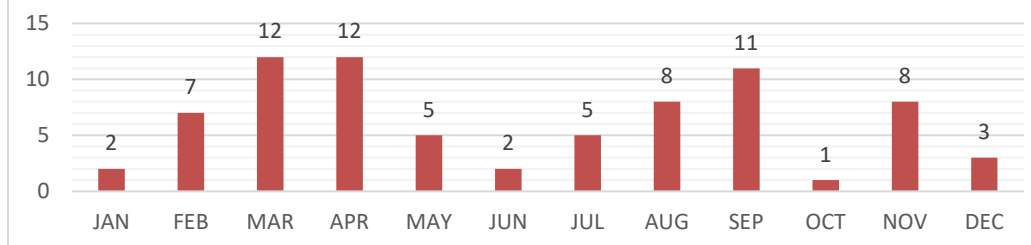
St. Helens Police Detectives review all child abuse reports that are forwarded to the St. Helens Police Department.

CHILD ABUSE REPORTS 2023



St. Helens Police Detectives have completed 76 Search Warrants in 2023. These Search Warrants have resulted in the seizure of child pornography, the recovery of stolen property, bank statements related to financial elder abuse, cellular telephone GPS data, and digital devices that were suspected of being used in the distribution and possession of child pornography.

2023 SEARCH WARRANTS



NEW HIRES



Officer Johnathon Sprinzl was hired as an entry level Police Officer on May 16, 2023.

Officer Jonathon Anderson was hired as an entry level Police Officer on May 16, 2023.



DEPARTMENT MEMBERS



Chief of Police Brian Greenway

Serving St. Helens since August 13, 2018

Police Lieutenant Joe Hogue
Serving St. Helens since September 1, 1998





Police Sergeant Jose Castilleja

Serving St. Helens since August 6, 2007



Police Sergeant Evin Eustice

Serving St. Helens since August 2, 2016



Police Sergeant Jon Eggers

Serving St. Helens since September 13, 1999



Police Sergeant Doug Treat

Serving St. Helens since July 20, 2020



Police Sergeant Matt Smith

Serving St. Helens since July 20, 2020



Patrol Officer Dylan Gaston

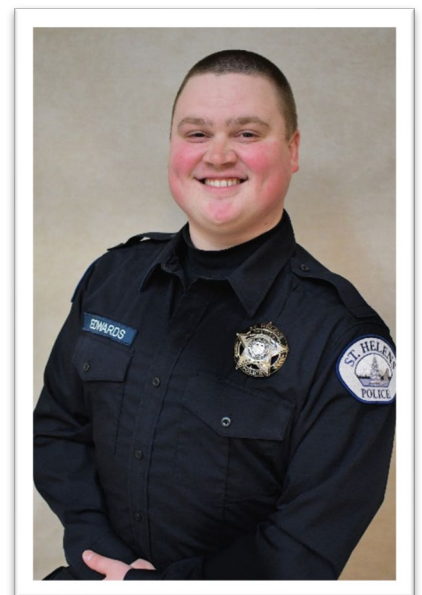
Serving St. Helens since June 3, 2015

Patrol Officer Jamin Coy
Serving St. Helens since July 15, 2015



Patrol Officer Bryan Cutright
Serving St. Helens since February 7, 2018

Patrol Officer Kolten Edwards
Serving St. Helens since November 5, 2018





Patrol Officer Brandon Haflich

Serving St. Helens since November 28, 2022



Patrol Officer Adam Hartless

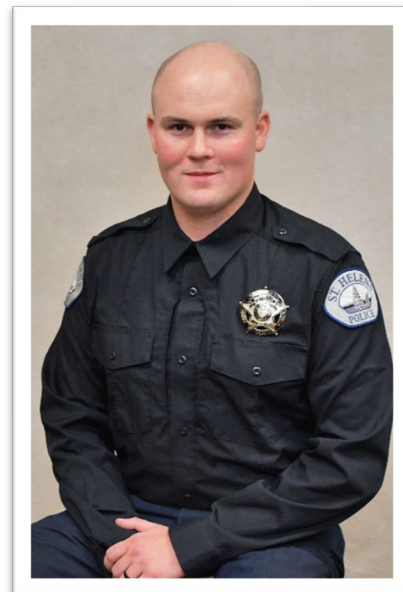
Serving St. Helens since April 3, 2017



Patrol Officer Jeremy Howell

Serving St. Helens since October 3, 2004

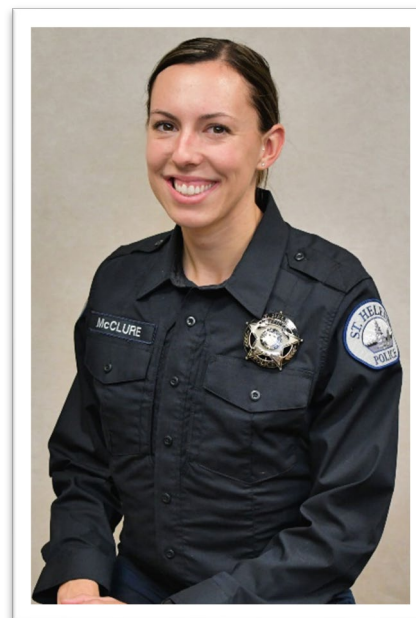
Patrol Officer Luke Marshall
Serving St. Helens since June 30, 2021

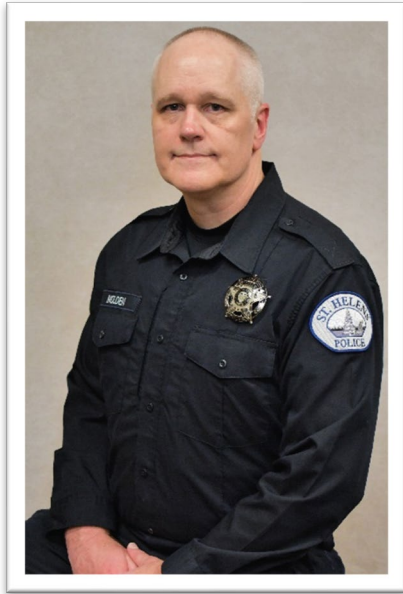


Patrol Officer Terry Massey, Jr.
Serving St. Helens since March 4, 2019



Patrol Officer McKenzie McClure
Serving St. Helens since June 30, 2021





Patrol Officer Matthew Molden

Serving St. Helens since October 21, 1999



Patrol Officer Adam Raethke

Serving St. Helens since June 10, 2019

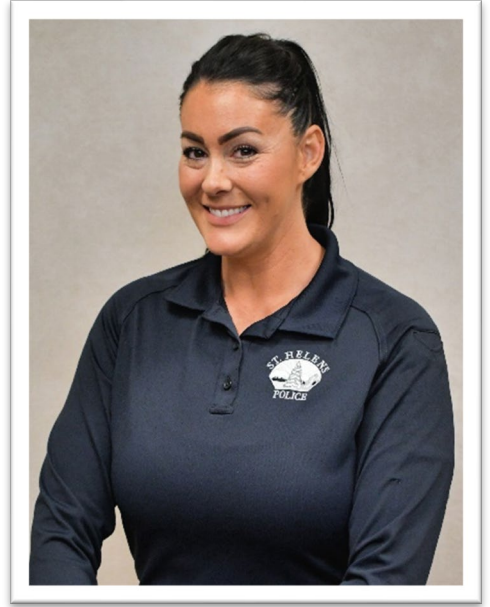


Code Enforcement Officer Everardo Medina

Serving St. Helens since September 1, 2022

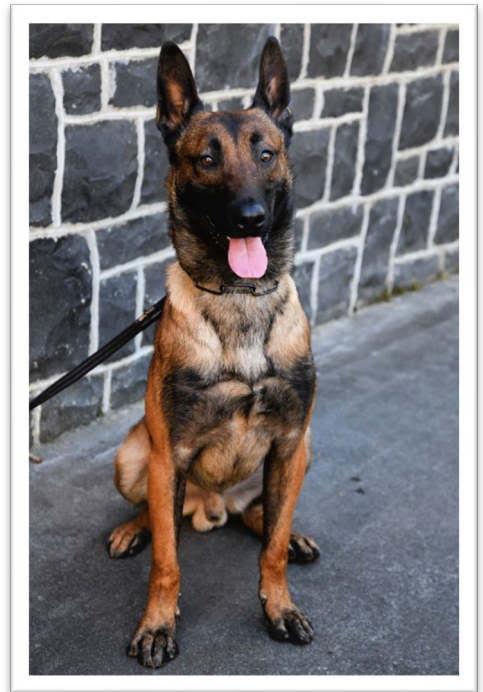
Police Records & Evidence Specialist Hailey Holm

Serving St. Helens since October 26, 2020



Police Records & Evidence Specialist Pati Ruiz

Serving St. Helens since November 9, 2020



Police K-9 Jax

Serving St. Helens since August 2023

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The members of the St. Helens Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank our city leaders and the citizens of this community for their continued support. The relationships shared by this Department are vital to our efforts to prevent crime and to our mission of creating a safe community.

2022 ELECTED OFFICIALS

MAYOR

Rick Scholl

CITY COUNCILORS

Jessica Chilton (Council President)

Mark Gundersen

Russell Hubbard

Brandon Sundeen

CITY OF ST. HELENS STAFF

John Walsh (City Administrator)

Crystal King (Communications Officer)

