

LAKEWOOD

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A WASPC-accredited agency



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

"Making a Difference"

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chief

3

About Lakewood Police Department

4

Policing By the Numbers

5

New Programs

10

Making Community Connections

11

Divisions

13

Professional Standards

19

New Hires and Recognition

23

LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



In 2019 we saw a year of innovation, community connections, and crime reduction in Lakewood.

As promised at the end of 2018, we continued with our bike patrol and retail theft emphases and achieved a reduction in property crimes to historically low levels. While we are pleased with the progress we've made in this area, we will continue to work hard to reduce these numbers even further in 2020.

Our primary focus in 2019 was on our community partnerships and connections. In the spring, we held an art contest for elementary kids in the Clover Park School District and the winners' drawings were laser printed to the side of our four new motorcycles.

We proudly went to each school and took photos with the winners and the motorcycles that showcase their artwork. If you see one of these motorcycles around town, look closely

and you'll find the drawings.

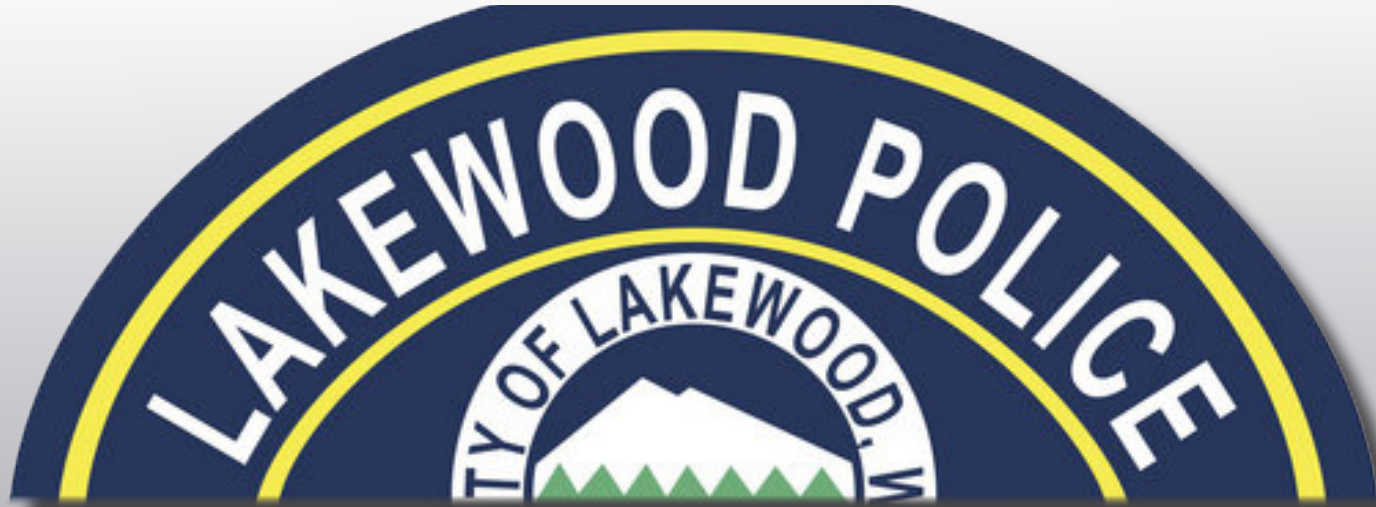
We also partnered with the school district to implement the Police Chief's Commendation Award for students. We developed these awards to recognize students who demonstrate the same values we have at the police department. Values like integrity, teamwork, dedication, and respect are seen throughout the halls of our schools and we are honored to be able to recognize them.

Also new this year was our Citizens' Academy. This was an opportunity for community members to meet over a series of days to learn more about the department and police work in general. By all accounts this was a rousing success and we expect to see another one in 2020.

November of 2019 also marked 10 years since the loss of our four officers in 2009. We recognized the somber anniversary with a respectful ceremony at the Blue Steele Coffee shop where the tragedy occurred. We continue to hold our annual food and blood drives in their honor and this year collected roughly 17,000 pounds of food and \$18,000 for the Emergency Food Network. We also had 45 blood donations for Bloodworks Northwest. Without a doubt, the generosity of our community in the names of our four fallen officers saved many lives.

As always, it has been my honor to work with the men and women of the Lakewood Police Department and it is gratifying to know the difference we made in the lives of the citizens of Lakewood.





ABOUT LPD

Lakewood's 21st Century department consists of 99 commissioned police officers, three Community Service Officers, three Court Compliance Officers, two Animal Control Officers and eight civilian support staff. The Lakewood Police Department is one of the largest departments in the State of Washington. To successfully counter crime challenges, the Department operates a large array of programs and employs modern technology to expand its reach and efficiency.

Lakewood offers all of the services and opportunities of "big" departments while maintaining focus on employee development and commitment to citizens. The result is a department that is flexible and efficient and best able to meet the needs of the city which boasts a diverse community of nearly 60,000 people, and that also serves as the host city to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, which with its population of 210,000 active users is the fourth-largest military installation in the nation.

Our Mission:

- Protect life and property
- Reduce crime
- Build better communities
- Respect and protect individual rights
- Enforce the laws of Lakewood and the State of Washington to achieve the greatest gains from limited resources.

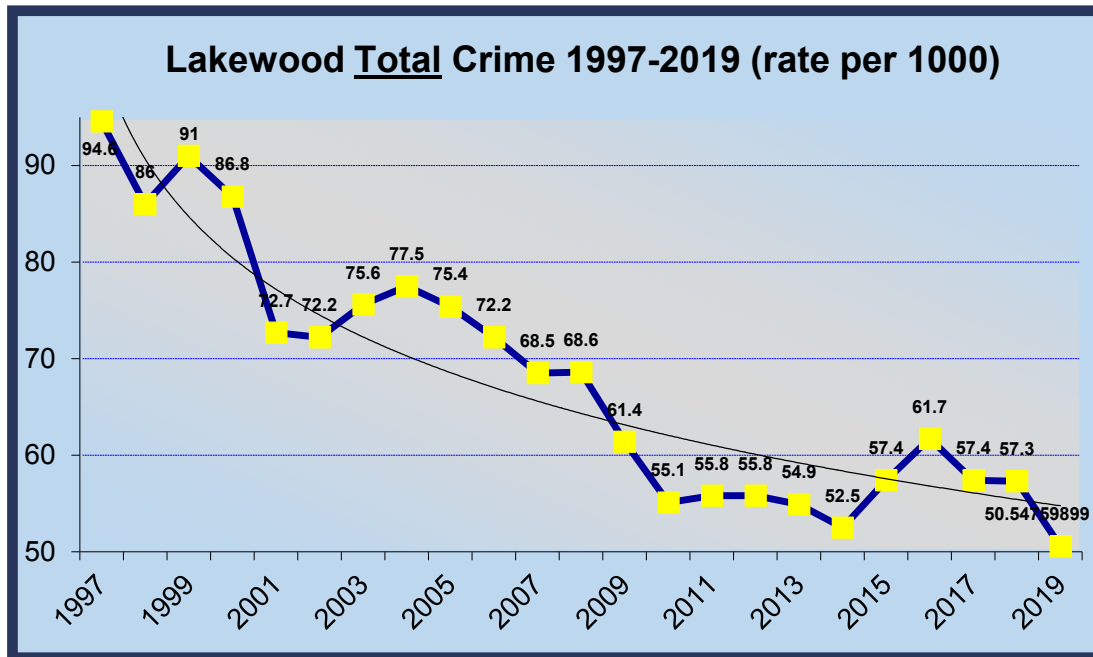
Our Core Values:

- Integrity
- Dedication
- Teamwork
- Courage
- Competence
- Respect



The first two "homes" of the Lakewood Police Department were the old Pierce County Sheriff's Office on 112th Street (top) and some rooms on the first and second floor of the Lakewood City Hall (bottom).

POLICING BY THE NUMBERS



Since incorporation, Lakewood has seen a precipitous drop in its overall crime rate.

From 1997 to 2019 overall crime in the city declined by 46 percent. Cityhood followed by establishment of the Lakewood Police Department are significant contributors to this decline.

In 2019 Lakewood saw its largest decline among property crimes, which went down 14.6 percent from a year prior.

The city's overall crime rate also went down, dropping just over 7 percent from 2018.

A number of factors contributed to the large drop in property crimes, including a dedicated effort by the police department to

target retail theft, as well as stepped up bicycle patrols throughout Lakewood Towne Center during the busy holiday shopping season. The improved economy was also likely a factor.

The two most common property crimes reported in Lakewood in 2019 were shoplifting and theft from motor vehicles. These incidents were largely concentrated around Lakewood's primary shopping areas and apartment complexes where numerous vehicles are parked outside in close proximity to each other.

In response, the department will step up public education in 2020 to remind people about the importance of always locking a vehicle and not

leaving any belongings inside a car – whether they contain valuables or not.

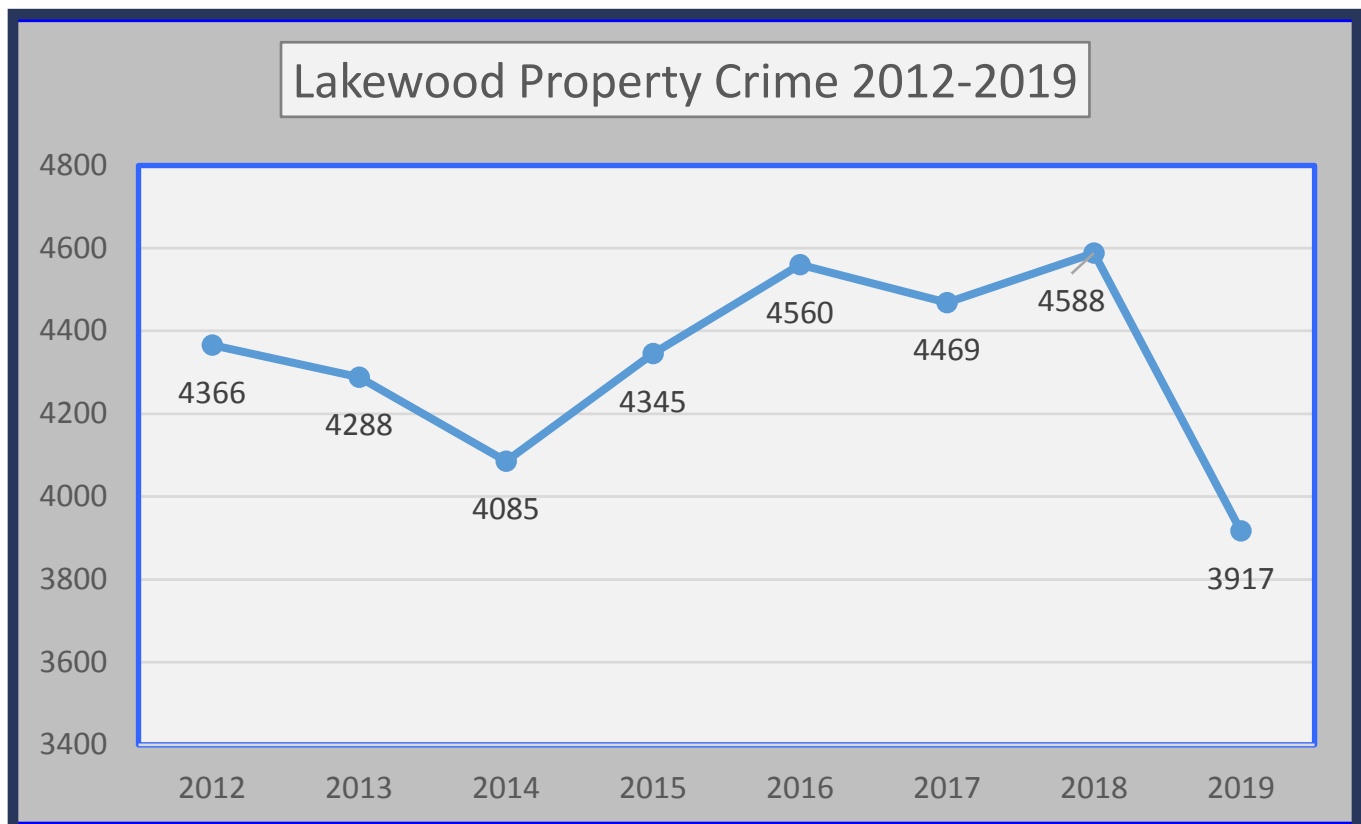
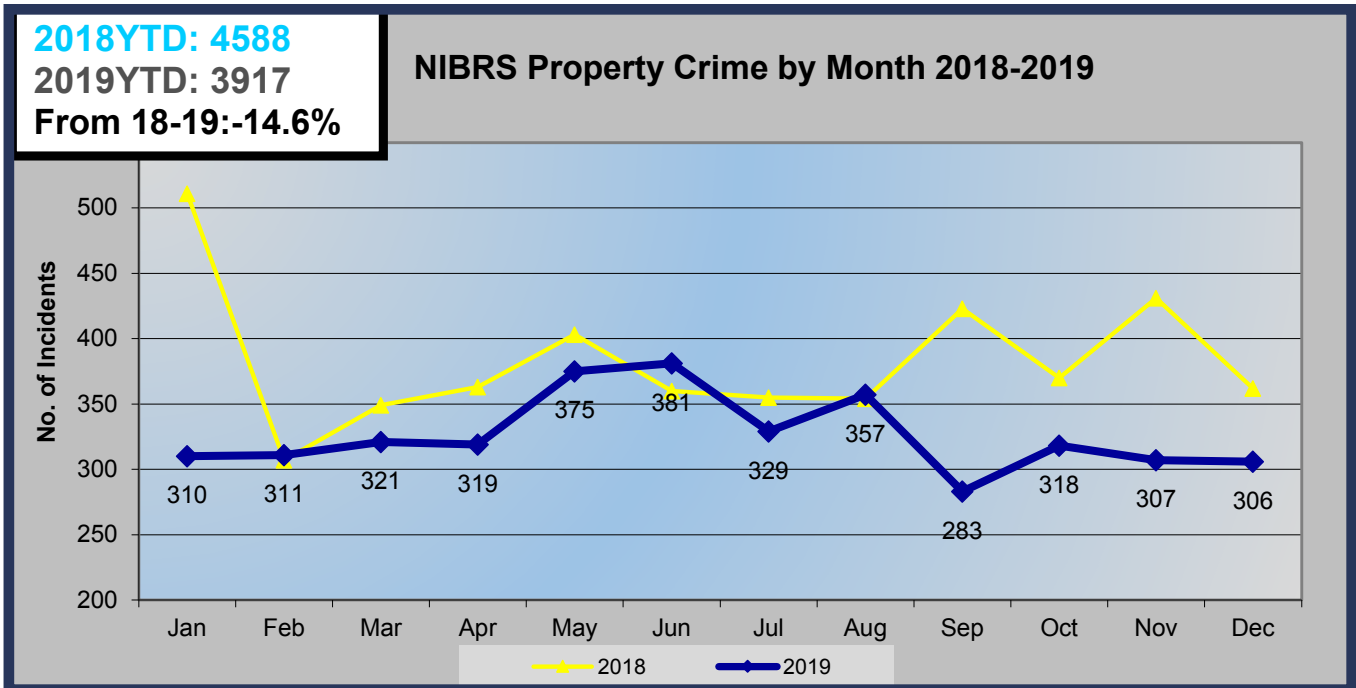
How does Lakewood compare to other cities?

While it is hard to make "apple to apple" comparisons due to different crime reporting statistics and population changes – Lakewood's population has remained relatively flat while other jurisdictions have grown significantly – Lakewood is "in the middle of the road," according to Police Chief Mike Zaro.

"We're less than Tacoma, Puyallup and Fife," Zaro said referring to 2019 property crime rates. "We're on a really good path and all the things we have done over the years have helped to get us here."

POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

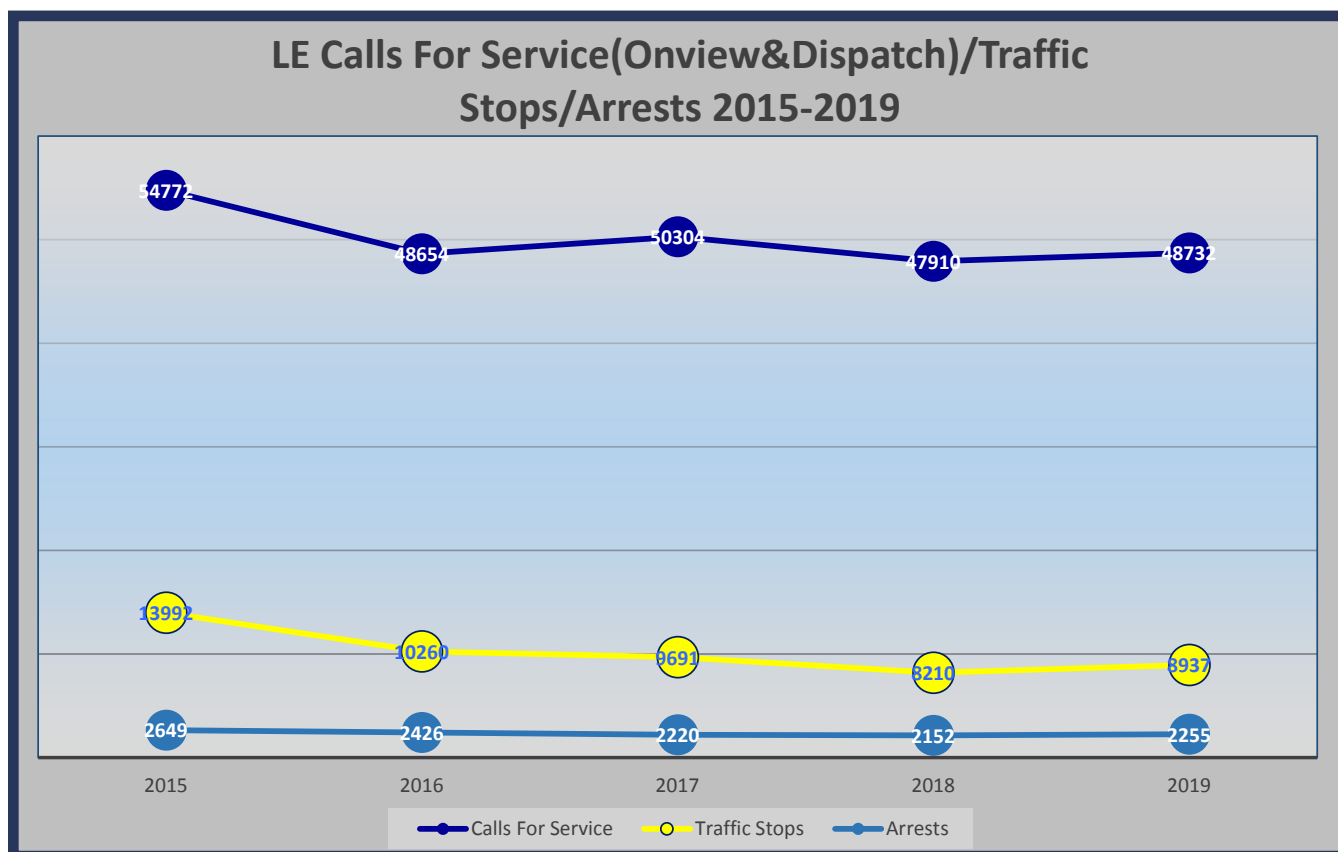
Lakewood property crimes dropped 14.6% in 2019



POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

The total number of calls for service are a combination of calls initiated by citizens calling 911 or the South Sound 911 non-emergency line. Officers also initiate them for things like traffic stops.

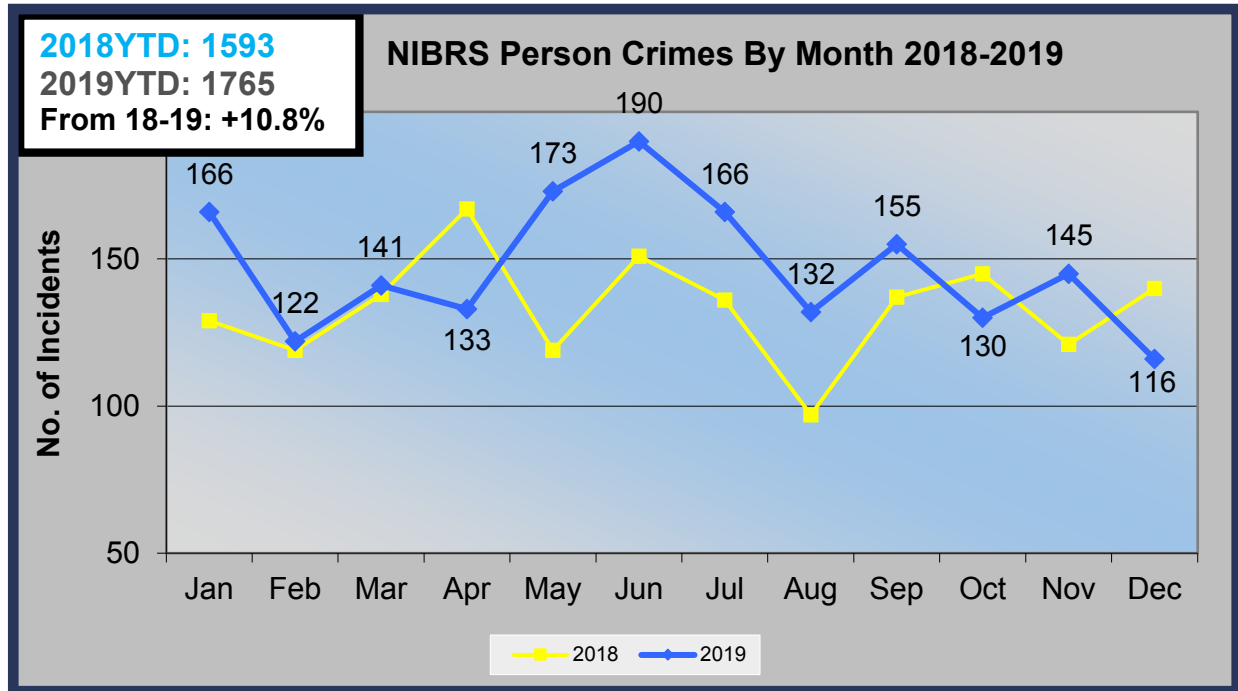
Total calls for service in 2019 increased a little from 2018, but the percentage of calls requiring arrests has remained relatively consistent over the years.



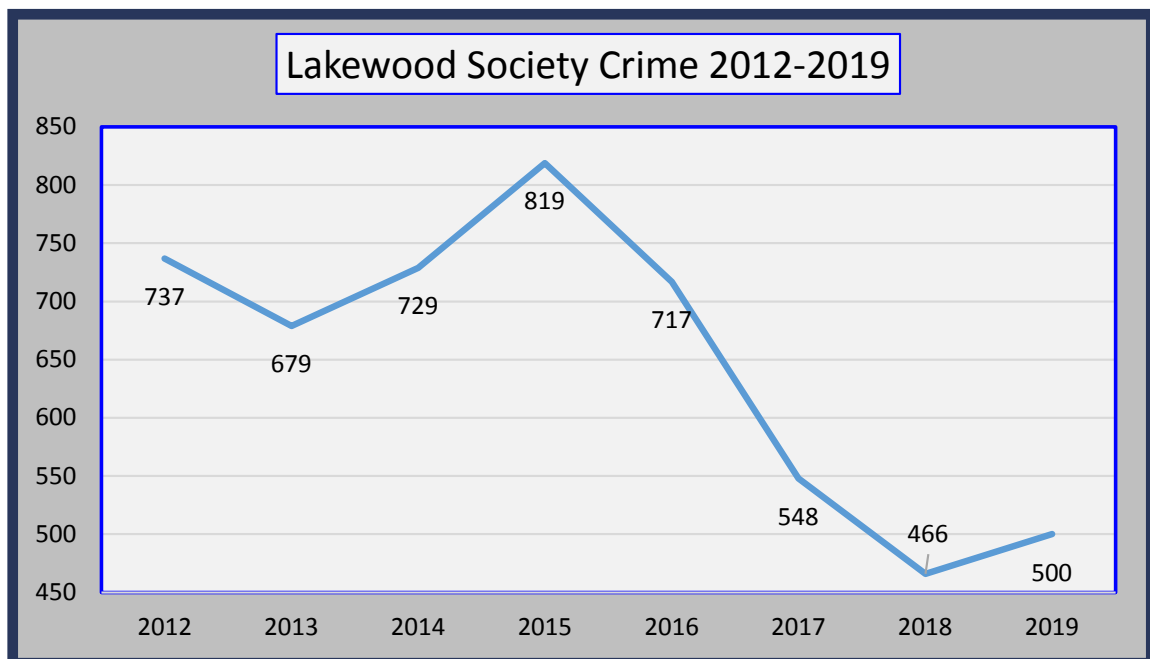
*Calls for service include dispatched and officer initiated activities. This number does not include formatted calls that were canceled prior to an officer being dispatched.

POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

Crime rates are divided into three general categories: Person Crimes, Property Crimes and Society Crimes. Person crimes include physical or sexual assault and murder. Property crimes include theft, burglary or vandalism. Society Crimes involve narcotics, prostitution, or other vice-related incidents.



*National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. Local, state and federal agencies generate NIBRS data from their records management systems.



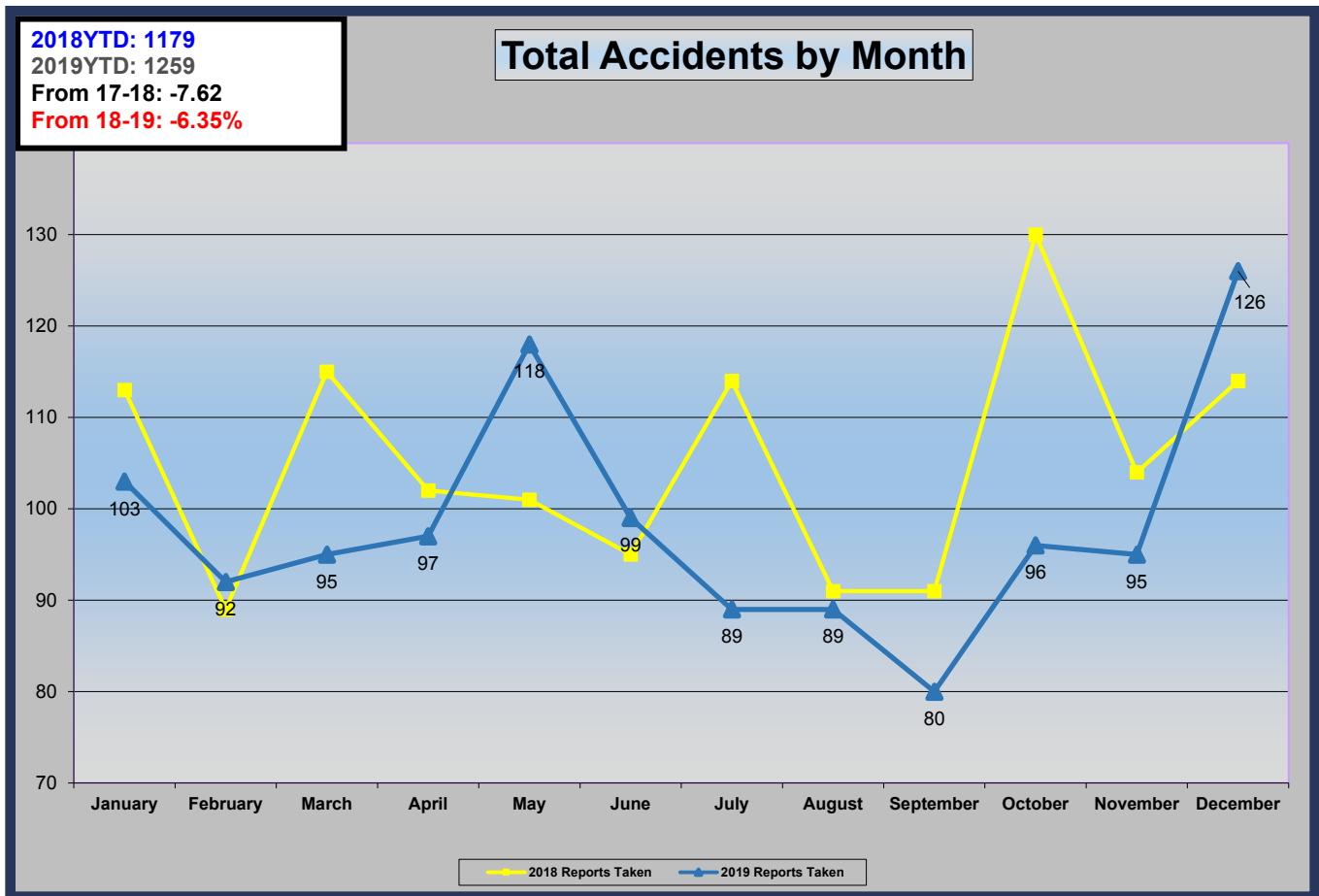
POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

In 2019 the Lakewood Police Department's traffic division conducted two speed emphasis patrols one in the spring and one in the winter.

The purpose of the patrols were to slow drivers down in areas of the city where frequent speeding occurs. The two locations selected for the patrols came from a combination of sources, including reports by residents to MyLakewood311 complaining of speeders, traffic patrol officer observations and proximity to neighborhood schools.

As a result of the speed emphasis police made contact with 1,425 vehicles to educate drivers. Officers issued 1,409 infractions/citations and 236 warnings.

They also contacted six people who had warrants and arrested them and made two driving under the influence arrests.





NEW PROGRAMS

Citizens Academy

In the fall of 2019 the Lakewood Police Department offered its first annual Citizens Academy, providing an opportunity for residents to learn about police work from the inside.

Through this eight-week course residents met once a week from September to October at the Lakewood police station. They had the opportunity to learn from Lakewood police officers and department leadership, received interactive training from police officers and had direct access to police detectives and command staff to ask questions about operations.

Topics ranged from investigations, forensics, child interviews and use of body cameras, to emergency preparedness/emergency management, responding to mass causality incidents and community policing. There were also two Saturday sessions dedicated to teaching some of the driving and firearms training officers receive.

The program was so successful it will be held again in 2020.

Strengthening school district partnership



In 2019 the Lakewood Police Department and Clover Park School District strengthened its partnership in multiple ways, including through a solicitation to student artists to submit artwork to adorn four new department motorcycles, and through community building exercises within CPSD's middle schools.

More than 100 entries were submitted for the art contest. The entries were hung in the hallways of the CPSD Student Services Center for the public to vote for their favorite. The top four pictures were then transferred by Larsen Sign Co. to the motorcycles. The finished product is amazing – the children's drawings were perfectly placed on the bikes and look like they were drawn on the motorcycles.

Chief Zaro and CPSD Superintendent Ron Banner visited the four winners at their respective elementary schools to congratulate them and show them their artwork on the motorcycles.

In the fall members of the police department met with selected students from Lochburn and Hudtloff middle schools alongside the district's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Specialist who facilitated a conversation between the two groups. The purpose of the meeting was to offer the chance for "real talk" between Lakewood youth and police officers. Both sides shared what is important to them, while also establishing a healthy relationship.

The department and district, along with the Lakewood Multicultural Coalition, intend to continue these community building exercises in 2020 expanding to other schools in the district.





MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Coffee with a Cop



After its success in 2018, the department again held its popular Coffee with a Cop event in 2019.

Using feedback from the first year, department leadership elected to offer two opportunities for the community to come together: In the morning and in the evening for those who were unable to attend the morning meet up. This also allowed more police officers to attend, based on shift availability.

Both times saw good attendance and offered residents the chance to meet with police and other department personnel to talk about what matters most to them in the community.

Cocoa with a Cop

In December 2019 Chief Zaro opened the doors of the Lakewood police station for children and families to join him and Lakewood police officers for “Cocoa with a Cop”.

In its second year, the event was again a big hit among some of Lakewood’s youngest residents.

Children sipped on hot chocolate and ate cake pops provided by Starbucks. They were given goodie bags with stickers and coloring books, had the chance to tour the station, met and petted K9 Rock -- who was easily the most popular officer at the event -- and outside they were able to climb through police vehicles and sit on top of a police motorcycle.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Each year the Lakewood Police Department participates in this national event focused on bringing communities and neighbors together and creating a positive relationship with law enforcement.

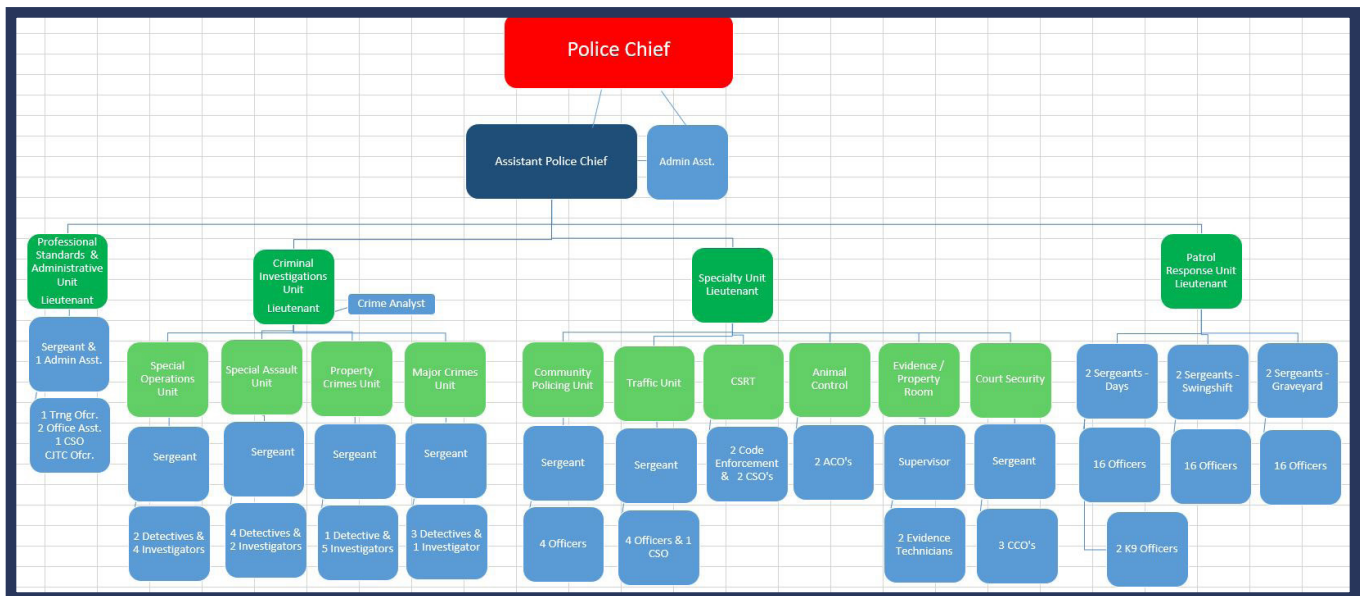


LAKEWOOD POLICE DIVISIONS

The Lakewood Police Chief heads the Lakewood Police Department. Next in line is the assistant chief. Below the assistant chief are four lieutenants who oversee the department's four units. Below the lieutenants are sergeants and from there the various officers are assigned.

Those department's four units are:

- Professional Standards and Administrative
- Criminal Investigations
- Specialty
- Patrol Response



UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM



Lakewood police added unmanned aircraft system, or drones, to its toolbox to help with day-to-day business including traffic investigations, missing persons reports, locating fleeing suspects, conducting search warrants, assisting other agencies and more.

As part of the program requirement the department is open and transparent about its use of the unmanned aerial devices, posting monthly usage reports to the city website and sharing information with the public about how and when the devices are used.

LPD Drone Usage 2019

20: Training/maintenance/admin flights

11: Filming missions for city departments

9: Agency Assists

7: Crime scene investigation flights

6: Search and rescue

4: Collision investigation

4: Incident management flights

3: Police operations





PROPERTY/EVIDENCE ROOM

The Property/Evidence Room is an imperative part of the police department and consists of one Evidence Supervisor, one Evidence Technician and one Evidence Custodian.

They hold, preserve and document all of the evidence that is collected from crime scenes. They provide the evidence to courts when it is needed for trial. They also assist in finding the rightful owners of property that is recovered from solved crimes such as burglaries and car prowls and make sure it gets back to the rightful owner.

5,470 pieces of evidence collected in 2019

LAKEWOOD FRONT DESK

In 2019 police station front desk staff took:

- **11,917 phone calls**
- **7,416 walk-ins**
- **776 reports**



K-9 UNIT



2019 K9 Unit Stats

22 Captures

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTACT TEAM

In 2019

- Responded to 531 separate episodes of care.
- Saw 188 new admissions to behavioral health resources.
- Readmitted 108 people to programs for further treatment.



MARINE SERVICES UNIT

The Marine Services Unit (MSU) provides services to the area lakes. The department maintains a large boat on American Lake, as well as a rigid inflatable boat on a trailer and two jet skis. The diversity in marine fleet allows officers to respond quickly to all the different sized lakes in the city.

Officers patrol and provide rescue/recovery services to numerous waterfront homes, businesses, beaches, marinas and parks that are used by thousands of visitors and residents alike all year long. They are also part of the Metro Dive Team.



363 Total officer on-water patrol hours

465 Total citations/warnings

325 Total written vessel inspections

1 Search and rescue/recovery case

BICYCLE PATROL

Bike Patrol Highlights

17 Community Events

60 Calls for service originally dispatched to patrol

152 Self-initiated calls for service

19 Arrests

2,200 Citizen contacts

1,882 Miles pedaled

655 Hours of saddle time



ANIMAL CONTROL

Animal Control is staffed by two full time officers who work with the communities of Lakewood, Steilacoom and DuPont. They work with citizens to promote responsible pet ownership, control pet disease and public safety through education, service and enforcement.

1,010 Service requests

147 Impounds

162 Tickets

8 Potentially Dangerous Dogs



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The four divisions within the Criminal Investigations unit include:

- Forensic Services
- Major Crimes
- Property Crimes/Robbery Unit
- Special Assault
- Special Operations

2019 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT CASELOAD

Forensic Services:

- **413** assignments | **402** assignments cleared

Major Crimes:

- **247** cases assigned | **165** cases cleared

Property Crimes/Robbery Unit:

- **342** cases assigned | **222** cases cleared

Special Assault:

- **401** Cases assigned
- **325** Child Protective Services referrals
- **326** Adult Protective Services referrals
- **322** Face-to-face sex offender residence verifications
- **8** Referrals from Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Special Operations:

- **62** Search warrants
- **33** Guns seized
- **\$100,000+** Cash seized
- **25.5** Drugs seized by pound



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Professional Standards Section consists of one lieutenant, one sergeant, one training officer and one administrative assistant. This division handles citizen complaints, conducts internal, hiring and background investigations and oversees training and department administrative functions. It also periodically evaluates the operation of the department for changes in policy, training and equipment and maintains the Department Manual of Standards.

Several programs utilized by the Professional Standards Section assist in creating administrative reports used in the evaluation of use of force, pursuits, collisions, awards and citizen praise. Two of these programs are Blue Team and IAPro.

Officers complete an internal administrative report for a use of force, firearms discharge, pursuit, or vehicle collision. The completed report is forwarded through the chain of command and reviewed to determine if the officer's actions were within policy. These reports are also periodically analyzed for trends and improvements in training and equipment.

Citizen praise and award recommendations are also processed using the same system. If a letter or email of praise is received for a member of the department, the letter can be scanned into a report and forwarded through the chain of command. Similarly, recommending someone for an award can also be done in this system.



Lieutenant
Chris Lawler



Sergeant
Jeremy Prater

2019 TRAINING HOURS

In 2019 officers participated in a total of 1,370 hours of in-service and additional training.

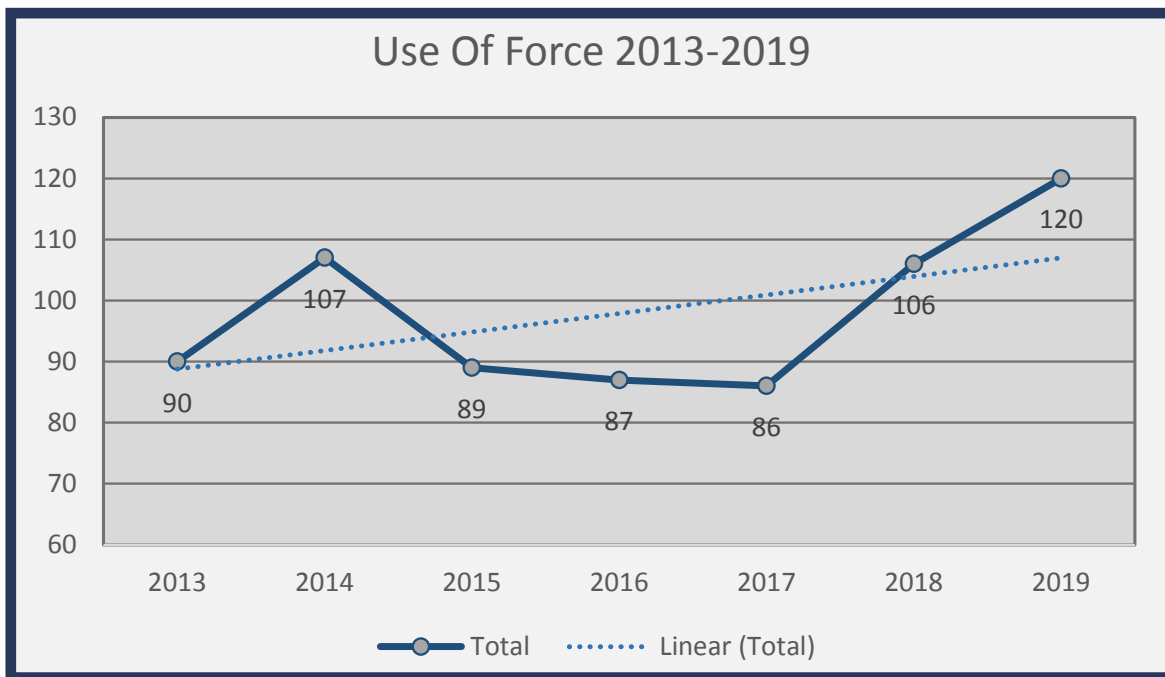
2019 USE OF FORCE

Every time an officer has to use force on a call they are required by the department to report it. That includes use of a tool like a Taser or baton, or anytime physical force is needed to subdue a suspect, or anytime there is visible injury or complaint of pain. The department goal is to report what any citizen watching an interaction would consider a use of force.

Officers are also encouraged to err on the side of over reporting to make sure even the slightest use of force is captured. There was a slight increase of uses of force over the last couple of years, but the amount of force officers use compared to the number of arrests and calls they handle on a daily basis is very low.

Use of Force Reports 2015 - 2019

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	% Change from 2018
Total	89	87	86	106	120	13.21 %



The threshold for a use of force report:

- Any use of physical strength, skill, or pain compliance techniques that result in a visible injury or complaint of injury.
- Any use of physical strikes.
- Any use of a less lethal weapon as described in Standard 1.3.4 (e.g. Taser, baton, pepper spray, etc.).
- Any discharge of a firearm—except during departmental training or off-duty recreation.
- Any time multiple officers are required to overcome resistance.



2019 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 2019 the Professional Standards Section conducted 10 internal investigations.

2019 internal investigation breakdown

Between the 10 investigations in 2019 there were 21 allegations:

- Three of which were exonerated;
- Six were unfounded
- Six were sustained;
- Six were not sustained

Definitions:

Exonerated: The incident did occur but the conduct or performance of the employee was found to be lawful and proper.

Sustained: The allegation is supported by sufficient evidence to justify a reasonable conclusion that the alleged misconduct occurred.

Not Sustained: There is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation(s).

Unfounded: The investigation revealed that the incident or allegation(s) did not occur.

Standards Failure: The standards were followed, but resulted in undesired results. A finding of Standards Failure should result in a reassessment of the Standard by the Chain of Command Staff, with consideration given to changing the Standard or modifying or expanding training.



2019 OFFICER-INVOLVED COLLISIONS

A total 16 officer-involved collisions occurred in 2019 and none of them occurred while officers were responding at a high-speed to a call. This is the lowest number in the last four years.

Of the total collisions, six were classified as preventable, or incidents where an officer was at fault. Of those, one was on the public right-of-way and five occurred in parking lots or on private property.

The remaining 10 collisions were non-preventable where the officer was not at fault.

2019 Total Collisions

16

Prior Year Collisions

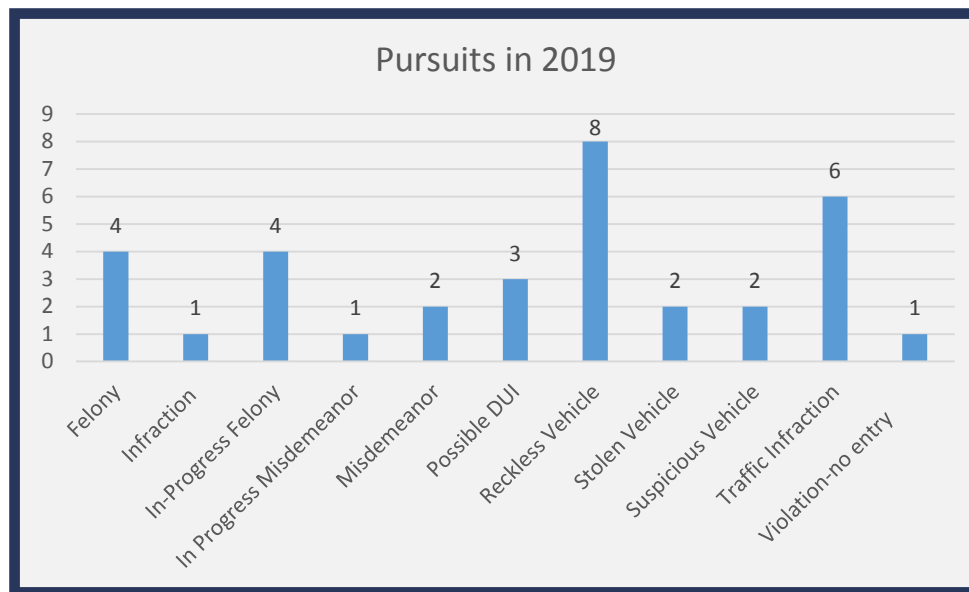
2016: 23

2017: 27

2018: 22

PURSUIITS IN 2019

There were 34 pursuits in 2019. Of these, 18 were terminated by LPD and six stopped voluntarily.





RETIREMENTS, NEW HIRES AND RECOGNITION

In 2019 we said goodbye to six employees who retired, welcomed five new employees and recognized 14 officers for their hard work.

Awards given out in 2019

Core Values: 2

Life saving: 7

Medal of Distinguished Service: 3

Police Chief's Commendation: 2

Retirements

Officer Cherri Gumm

Office Assistant Dottie Badgley

Officer Jeff Hall

CSO Joy Browne

K9 Kira

Sergeant Ralph Evans

New Hires

Officer Chris Alexander

Officer Jasmin Wright-Curley

Officer Jared Pingul

Officer Stephen Moffitt

Office Assistant Lexcie Wear

LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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