

LAKEWOOD

POLICE DEPARTMENT

A WASPC-accredited agency



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

"Making a Difference"

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A large, semi-transparent watermark of the Lakewood Police Department badge is centered on the page. The badge is oval-shaped with a laurel wreath border. At the top, it says 'OFFICER' in an arch. In the center, there is a circular seal with a mountain range and the text 'CITY OF LAKEWOOD WASH. 1990'. Below the seal, a banner reads 'LAKEWOOD' and another banner below that reads 'POLICE'. At the bottom, there is a shield with the letters 'WA'.

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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



It seems there are no easy years in public safety, but 2020 will definitely go down as one of the toughest in history. Our officers worked through an unprecedented global pandemic that completely changed how we work and respond to incidents.

We had devastating wildfires throughout the state, to include Pierce County. While other parts of the state may be more accustomed to dealing with wildfires, it was a new and unique challenge for us, one that proved our ability to adapt and work collaboratively



Sumner Wildfire

with our partners in the fire department.

But, by far the most impactful event on law enforcement in 2020, was the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. That incident, and the worldwide unrest that followed, highlighted disparities and distrust in the criminal justice system and left all of us answering for it. This one incident has ushered in changes to the criminal justice system designed to build equity and trust from the communities we serve. The improvements may take years to realize and may not be perfect, but we are moving in a good direction.



Even with these tremendous adversities, the Lakewood Police Department managed to do some very good work for our community. The following pages will highlight those efforts and show a department that is working hard to create a safe environment here in Lakewood. The results are some of the lowest crime rates we've seen in years.

We are all glad to have 2020 behind us, but as we look forward to 2021, I know there will be new challenges and the Lakewood Police Department will be here to take them head on.

Chief Michael Zaro



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



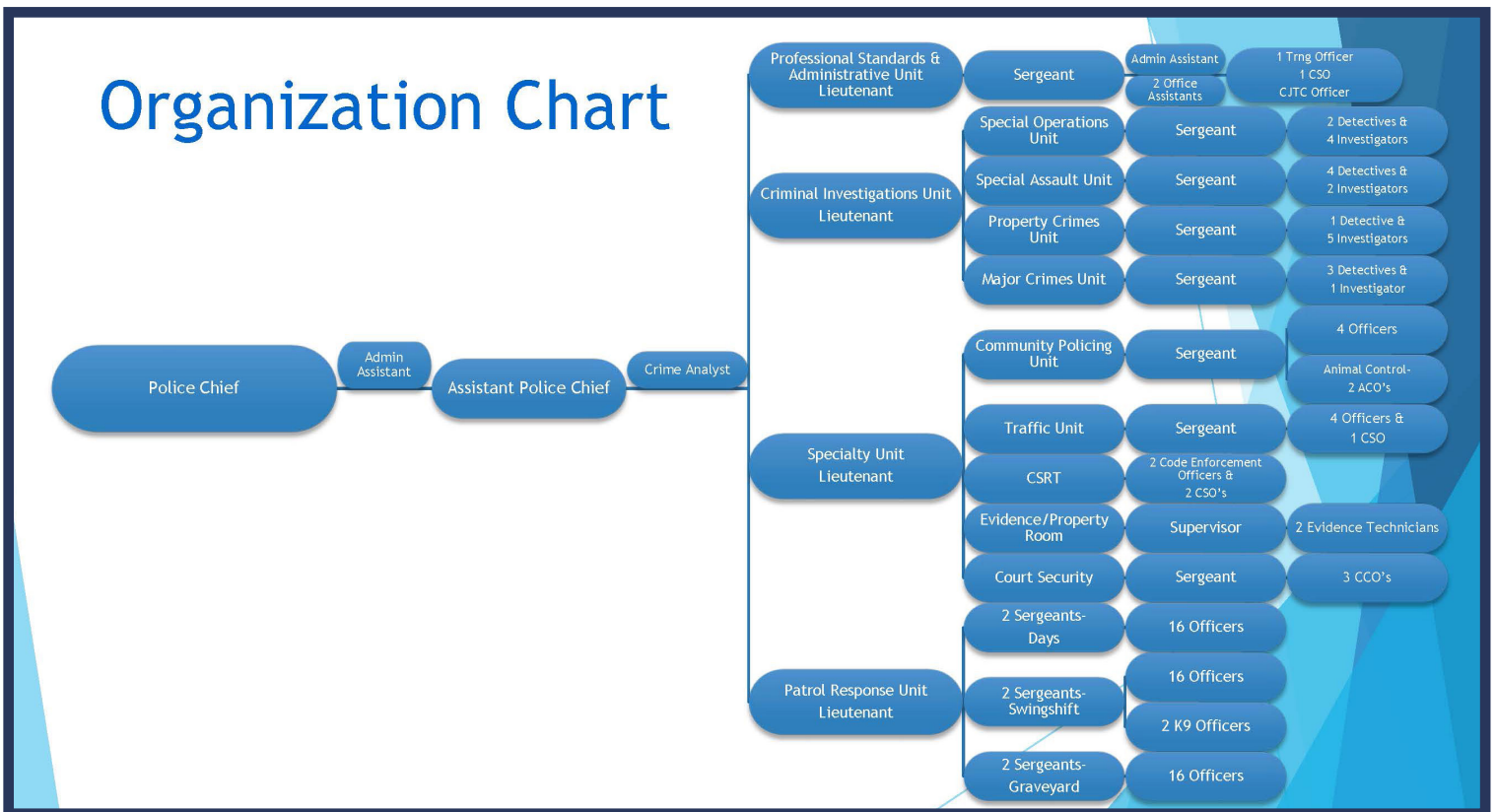
The first two "homes" of the Lakewood Police Department were the old Pierce County Sheriff's Office on 112th Street (top) and some rooms on the first and second floor of the Lakewood City Hall (bottom).

LAKWOOD POLICE DIVISIONS

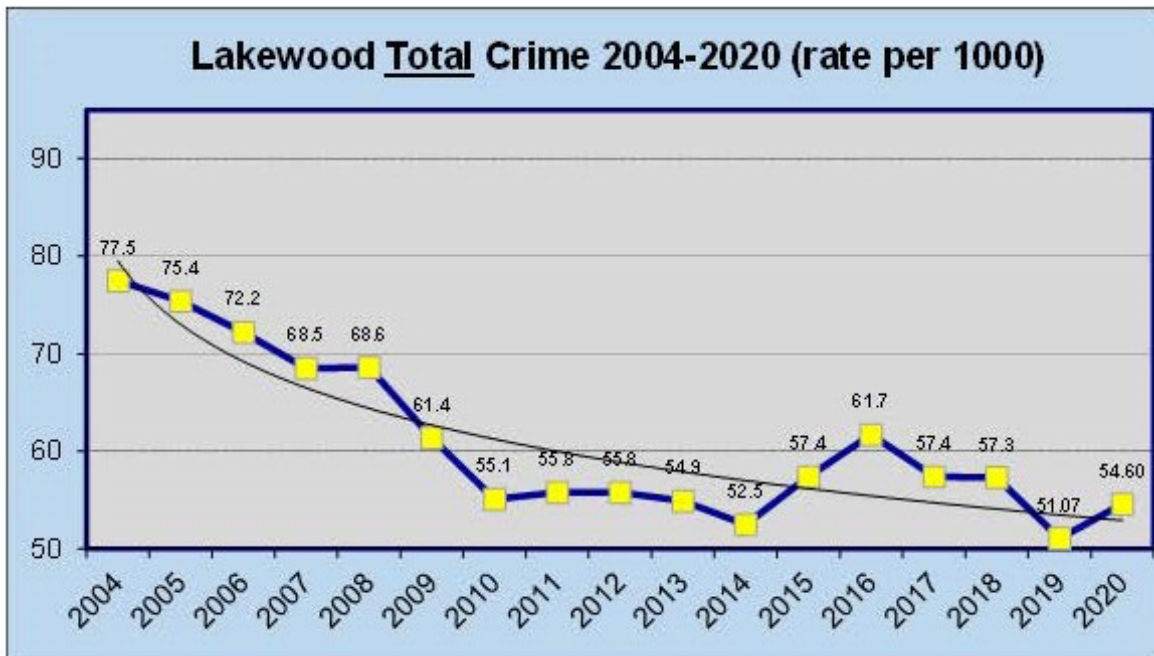
The Lakewood Police Chief heads the Lakewood Police Department. Next in line is the assistant chief. Below the assistant chief are four lieutenants who oversee the department's four units. Below the lieutenants are sergeants and from there the various officers are assigned.

Those department's four units are:

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



POLICING BY THE NUMBERS



Lakewood continues to see a precipitous drop in its overall crime rate.

From the inception of our own police department in 2004 through 2020 overall crime in the city declined by 30% percent.

In 2020 Lakewood saw a decrease in overall crime, with the largest reduction being in crimes against persons where we saw a reduction of 15%. Crimes against persons are some of our most serious and include all manner of assaults and homicides.

Where we need to improve is in our

property crime rates. We unfortunately saw an 8% increase in property crimes in 2020. The increase is attributed primarily to general theft and burglary, with the largest increase being vehicle thefts. Believe it or not, a significant contributing factor to the increase in property crimes is COVID 19.

Due to the pandemic, many jails were restricting who could be booked to only the most serious offenses. Property crimes were often not included in those bookable offenses, so even when we caught someone stealing, we had to let them go for

charging later. Sadly, without the immediate consequence of jail, we lose the deterrent to steal. Most jurisdictions throughout the state are experiencing the same thing.

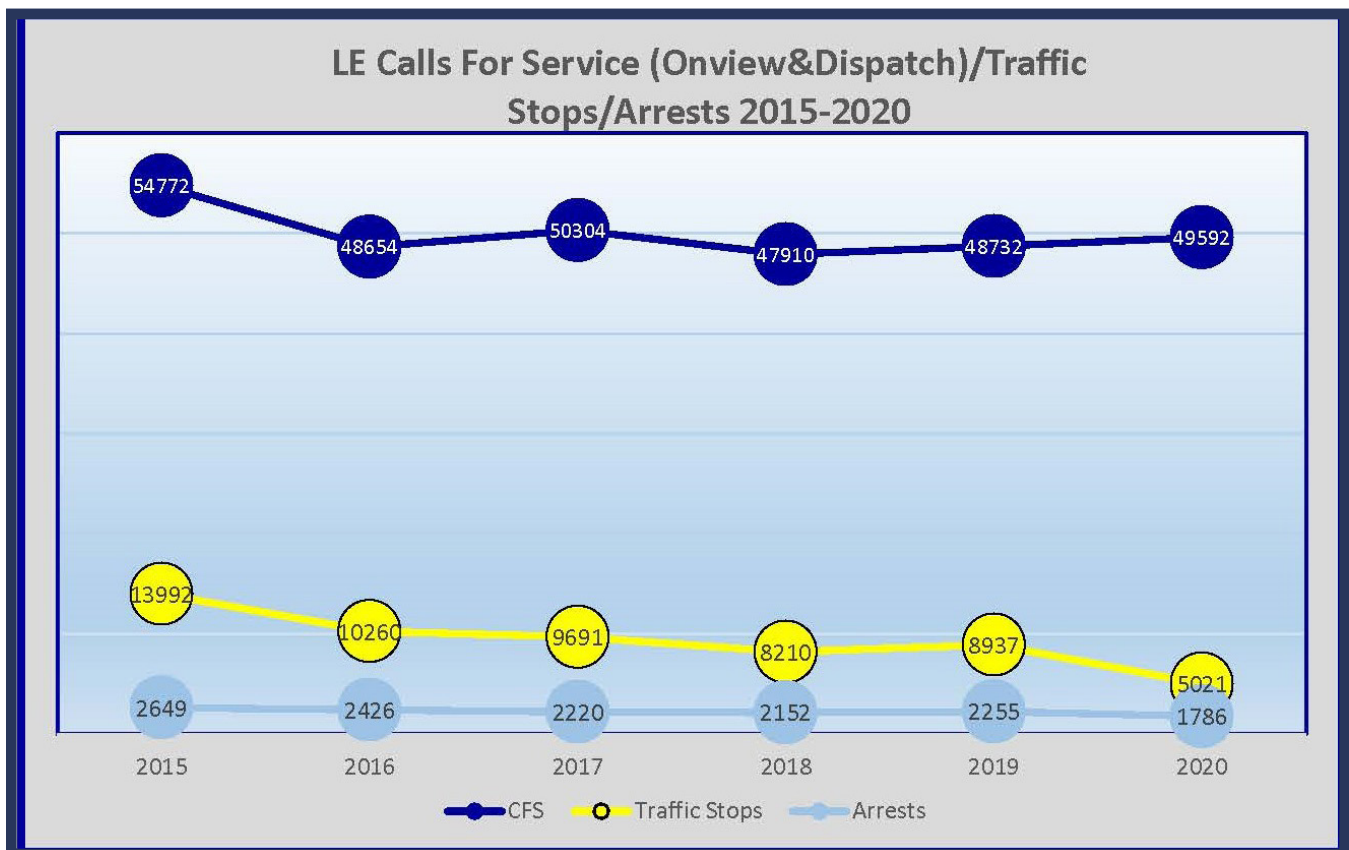
Even though some of the booking restrictions are still in place in 2021, we anticipate those restrictions being eased in the coming months which will allow us to hold people accountable.

Once we are able to get back to “normal” in 2021, we anticipate *all* of our crime rates to continue to decline, making Lakewood one of the safest cities in Pierce County and the Puget Sound region.

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.

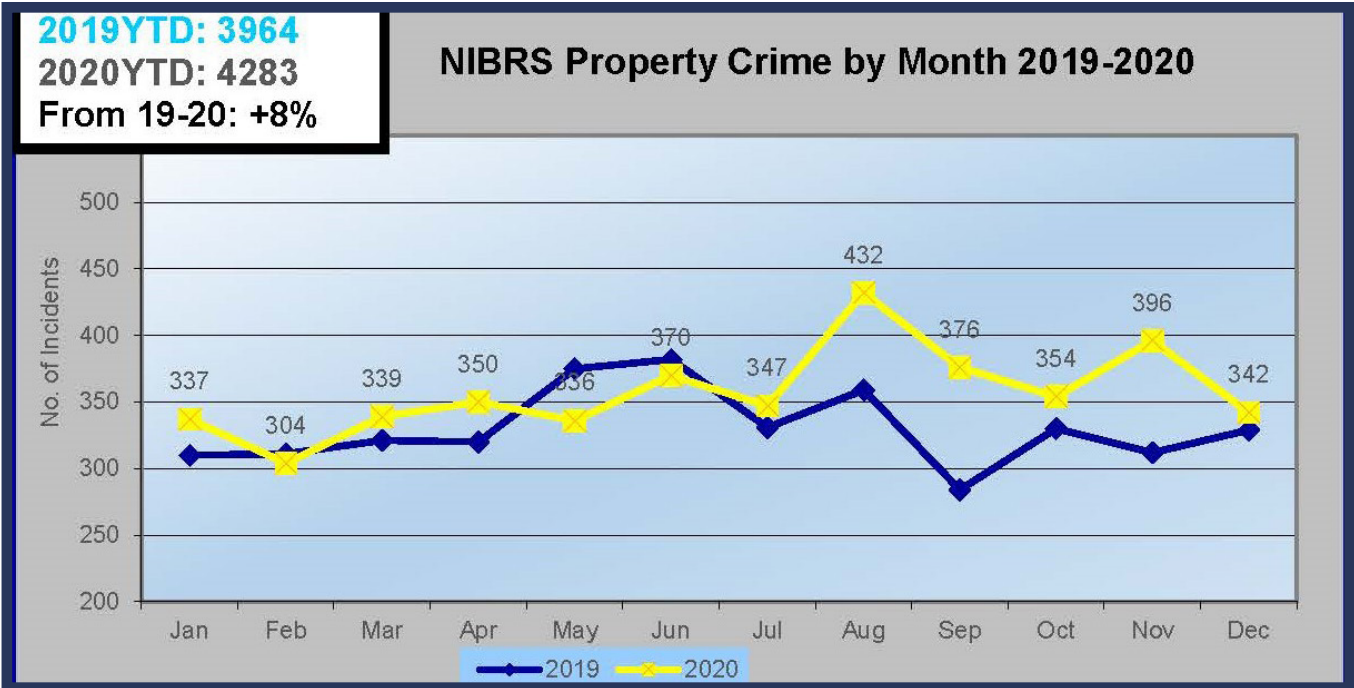
Total calls for service in 2020 increased a little from 2019, but the percentage of calls requiring arrests decreased due to Covid-19 and the inability to book offenders into the jails.



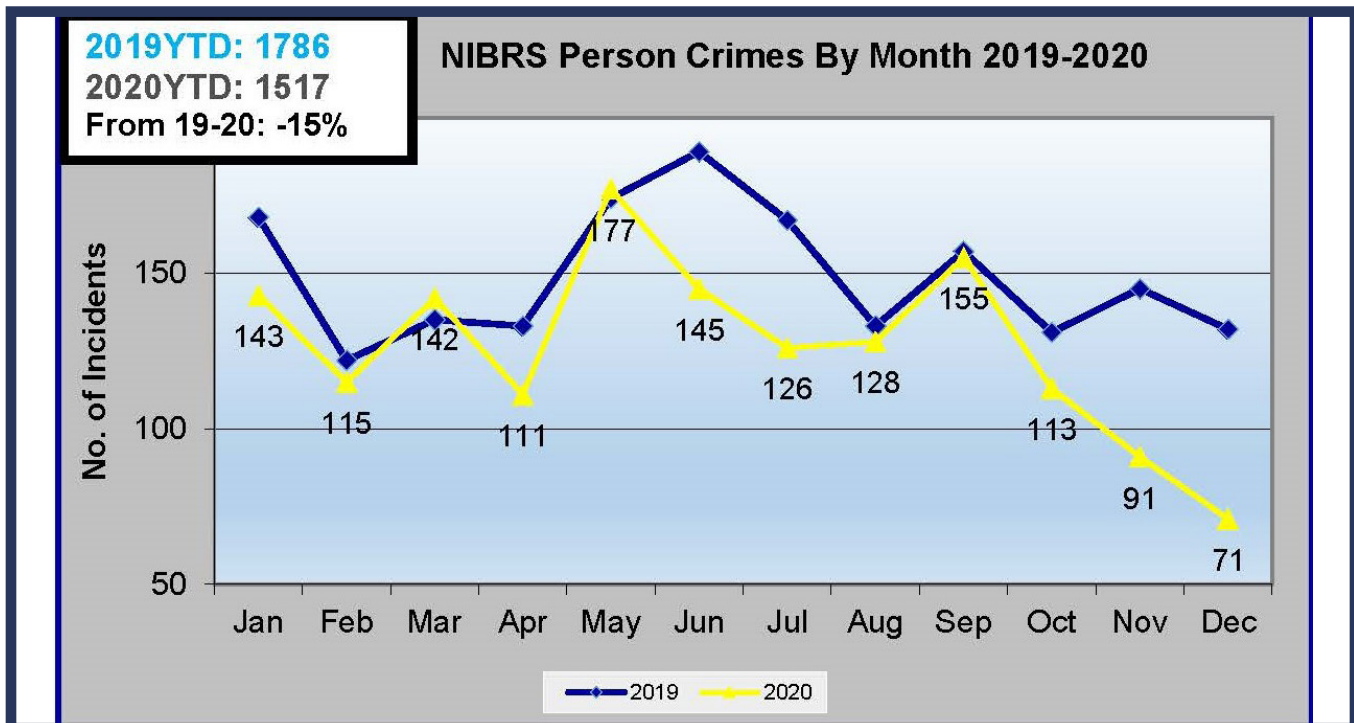
*Calls for service include dispatched and officer initiated activities. This number does not include formatted calls that were canceled prior to an officer being dispatched.

POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

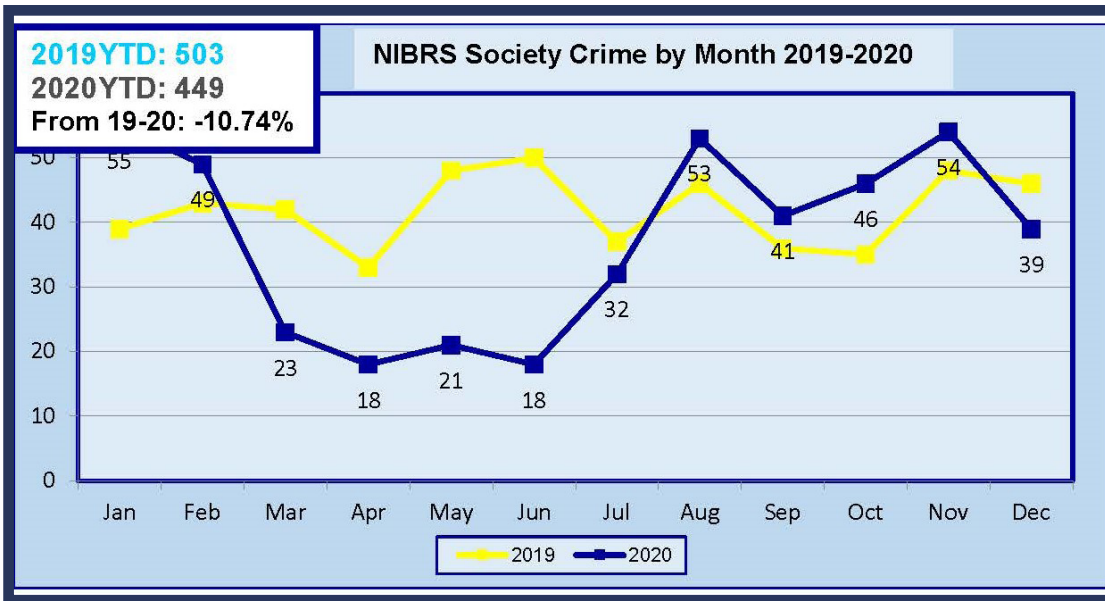
Crime rates are divided into three general categories: Person Crimes, Property Crimes and Society Crimes. Person crimes include physical or sexual assault and murder. Property crimes include theft, burglary or vandalism. Society Crimes involve narcotics, prostitution, or other vice-related incidents.



*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.



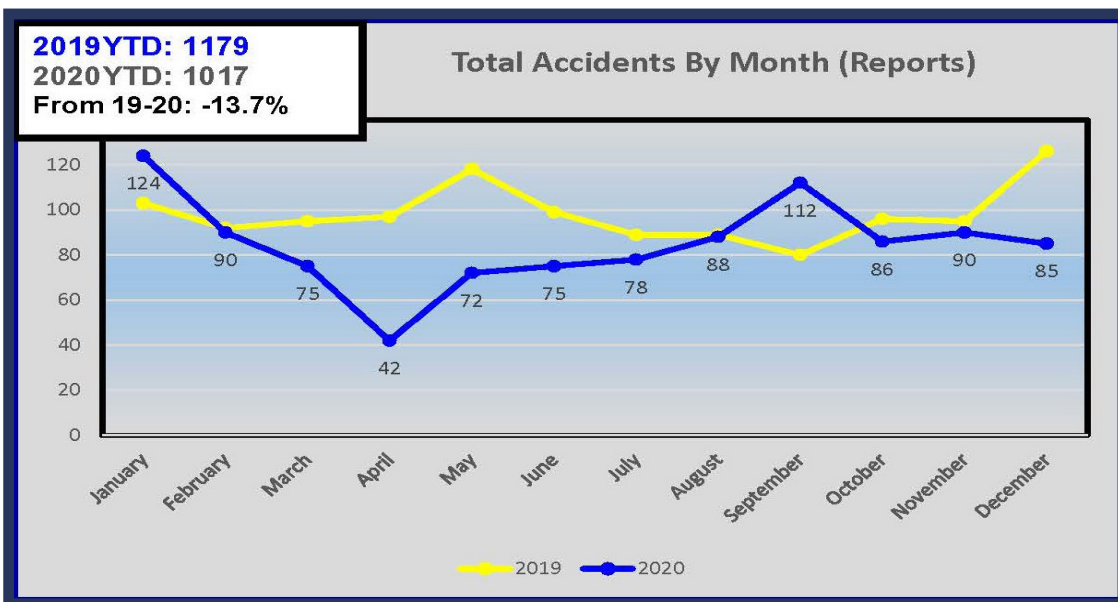
POLICING BY THE NUMBERS



In 2020, accidents were directly impacted by the reduced volume of traffic on the roads due to the various Covid related lockdowns and restrictions.

You can very clearly see a significant drop in March and April as the Governor’s “Stay At Home” order went into effect. They then climbed a bit as things re-opened around May. Overall, numbers are lower for the year, which reflects that many people are still working from home and schools are still closed.

We will be watching this trend in 2021 to see how long term “Work From Home” changes might impact traffic safety. As always, please drive safely and responsibly!





Pierce County Force Investigation Team

A new law went into effect in 2020 that mandated independent investigations of officers' use of deadly force. The law (WAC 139-12) established five principles that are fundamental to establishing trust in these types of investigations. Those principles are independence, transparency, communication, a credible process, and credible investigators.

Late in 2019, in anticipation of the new law, all law enforcement agencies in Pierce County, to include the Washington State Patrol, agreed to come together and form a county wide team that would meet these new requirements. This team was named the Pierce County Force Investigation Team (PCFIT) and we're proud to say the Lakewood Police Department played a pivotal role in the development of the team. The process included the creation of an interlocal agreement signed by all agencies, selection of team leadership, recruitment and selection of community representatives from all jurisdictions, and selection of qualified investigators. That was a lot to accomplish in one year and we're still working to refine some of the operational aspects but it is a high functioning team that our communities can be proud of.

As the website states, PCFIT is committed to the five guiding principles and “works under a rigorous set of Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines to ensure that the investigative process will be performed in a manner that is thorough, fair, complete, and professional while free of conflicts of interest.”

The Team is comprised of the following agencies:

- Bonney Lake Police Department
- Gig Harbor Police Department
- Pierce County Sheriff's Department
- Sumner Police Department
- DuPont Police Department
- Lakewood Police Department
- Tacoma Police Department
- Fife Police Department
- Milton Police Department
- Puyallup Police Department
- Washington State Patrol

You can read more about PCFIT, the Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines, as well as more information on the team members and community representatives at: <https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/7110/Independent-Investigation-Team>



MAKING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Citizens Academy

In the fall of 2020, despite the challenges presented by Covid-19, the Lakewood Police Department offered its second annual Citizens Academy, at a reduced capacity, 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 casualty 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 2021.

Lakewood Officers' Charity Continues to Give



Every year, the Lakewood Officers' Charity hosts two events for the Holiday Season, with the help of generous community partners, such as WalMart, and donations received from Lakewood citizens and police employees. This year was no exception.

Dubbed the "Moody Meals", named after Officer Ryan Moody who came up with the idea over 10 years ago, the Charity partnered with Walmart to provide an entire holiday meal for over 300 families in the Lakewood community. Each family received a turkey, potatoes, pies, rolls and all the fixings for a full-fledged holiday meal. Working with the Clover Park School District to identify families in need, the Lakewood Officers' Charity purchases the ingredients and packages them all together for the families to pick up. For those unable to pick them up, the meals are delivered by Lakewood Officers to the residence, in order to ensure they can enjoy a wonderful holiday meal.

The Lakewood Officers' Charity also hosted its 10th annual Shop with an Officer, once again in partnership with Walmart. Through this program, families in need are contacted and asked to choose one child in the family to come with an officer for a shopping spree. "Every year we are humbled as we watch kids shop for items they need, such as pillows or clothing, and not what they want. We often have to remind them to get some items for themselves, as well as getting things on the family 'want' list, and not just the 'need' list." said Lieutenant Andy Gildehaus, the Lakewood Officers' Charity Treasurer. "It is a great experience and truly rewarding to see the joy and thankfulness on the faces of the kids and the families."

A majority of the funds used to pay for over \$20,000 in merchandise comes from payroll deductions of the officers at Lakewood PD, as well as the generosity of citizens and other business partners.



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 2020

- 5:** Training/maintenance/admin flights
- 4:** Filming missions for city departments
- 1:** Search and rescue
- 3:** Collision investigation
- 4:** Incident management flights
- 5:** 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.

4,748 pieces of evidence collected in 2020

LAKWOOD FRONT DESK

In 2020 police station front desk staff took:

- **15,547 phone calls**
- **3,565 walk-ins**
- **269 reports**



K-9 UNIT



2020 K9 Unit Stats
19 Captures

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTACT TEAM

In 2020

- Responded to 429 separate episodes of care.
- Saw 196 new admissions to behavioral health resources.
- Readmitted 111 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.



436 Total officer on-water patrol hours
608 Total citations/warnings
345 Total written vessel inspections
2 Search and rescue/recovery case

BICYCLE PATROL

Bike Patrol Highlights

- 12** Community Events
- 64** Calls for service originally dispatched to patrol
- 218** Self-initiated calls for service
- 13** Arrests
- 3,560** Citizen contacts
- 1,563** Miles pedaled
- 572** 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.

1,714 Service requests
133 Impounds
158 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

2020 CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT CASELOAD

Forensic Services(evidence gathering and crime scene processing):

- **338** assignments | **329** assignments cleared

Major Crimes (murder and assaults):

- **153** cases assigned | **77** cases cleared

Property Crimes/Robbery Unit (theft, burglary or vandalism):

- **157** cases assigned | **77** cases cleared

Special Assault (DV, crimes against children and sexual assault):

- **608** Cases assigned | **567** cases cleared
- **306** Child Protective Services referrals
- **415** Adult Protective Services referrals
- **318** Face-to-face sex offender residence verifications
- **17** Referrals from Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

Special Operations (narcotics, prostitution):

- **38** Search warrants
- **18** Guns seized
- **\$146,000** Cash seized
- **44.75** 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

2020 TRAINING HOURS

In 2020 officers participated in a total of 11,546.95 hours of in-service and additional training, which averages out to 103 hours of training per employee.

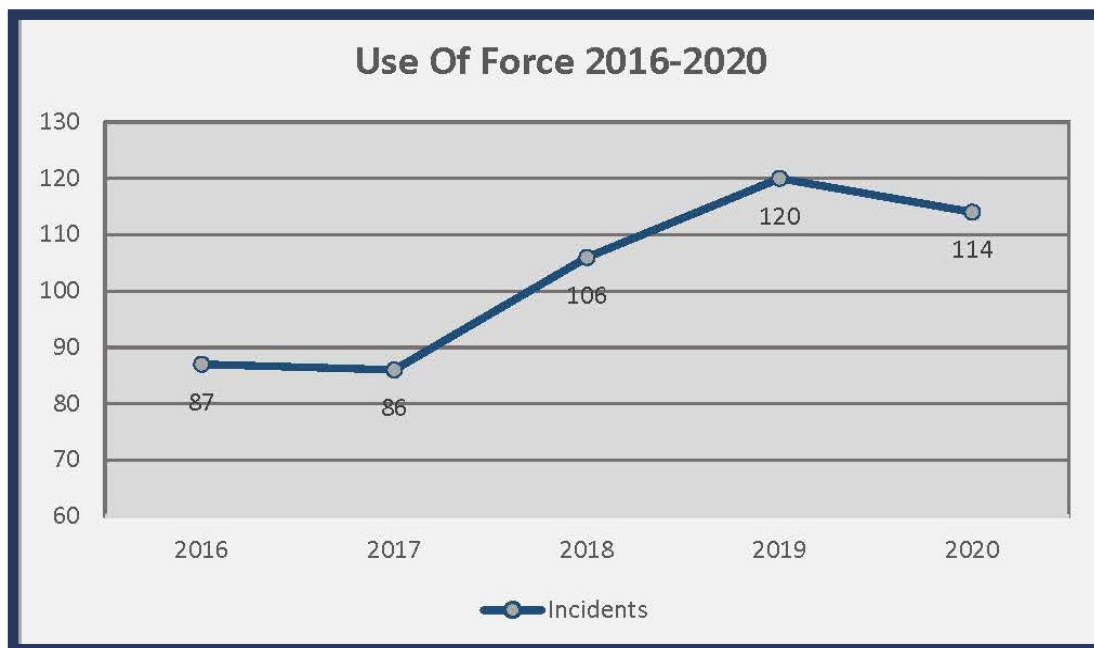
2020 USE OF FORCE

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. Of the 114 uses of force, over half did not require anything more than a soft empty hand technique. That means no strikes or tools of any kind were used.

Use of Force Reports 2016 - 2020

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	% Change from 2018
Total	87	86	106	120	114	-5.00%



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.



2020 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

In 2020 the Professional Standards Section conducted 8 internal investigations.

2020 internal investigation breakdown

Between the 8 investigations in 2020 there were 12 allegations.

Findings:

- One was a Standards Failure;
- Four were Unfounded;
- Five were Sustained;
- Two 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.



2020 OFFICER-INVOLVED COLLISIONS

A total of 24 Officer-involved collisions occurred in 2020 with two citizens and no Officers injured.

Of the total collisions, 14 were classified as preventable, or incidents where the Officer was at fault. The remaining ten collisions were non-preventable where the Officer was not at fault. A collision is defined as anytime a police vehicle is moving and strikes an object (such as a curb, rock, or stationary object), or another vehicle.

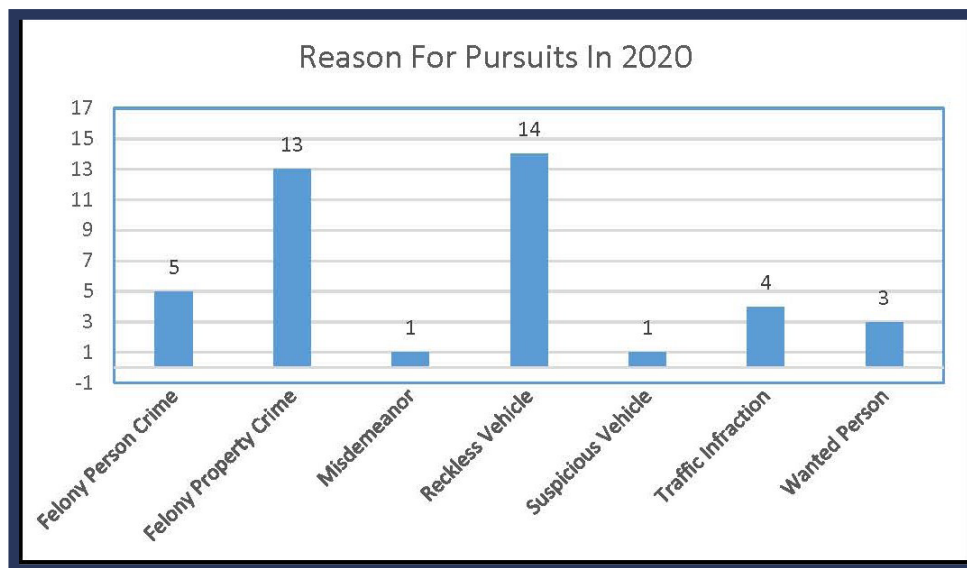
Of the 24 collisions we had, only 2 of them involved other vehicles on the travelled portion of the roadway. The rest were minor, low speed collisions with fixed objects on private property. For further perspective, Lakewood Police Department vehicles are driven over 2 million miles per year. We always strive to minimize the number of collisions through training and reinforcement.

2020 Total Collisions
24

Prior Year Collisions
2016: 23
2017: 27
2018: 22
2019: 16

PURSUITS IN 2020

There were 41 pursuits in 2020. Of these, 17 were terminated by LPD and four stopped voluntarily.





RETIREMENTS, NEW HIRES AND RECOGNITION

In 2020 we said goodbye to two employees who retired, welcomed one new employee and recognized 9 officers for their hard work.

Awards given out in 2020

Life saving: 3

Medal of Distinguished Service: 5

Police Chief's Commendation: 1

Retirements

CSO Gail Conelly

Sergeant Thom Stewart



New Hires

Officer Brian Topasna



LAKWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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