

LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

A WASPC-accredited agency



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

*"Making a
Difference"*





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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF



Another year brought another round of new challenges for law enforcement and the Lakewood Police Department. Even with the adversity of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our biggest challenge came in the form of police reform legislation from our state lawmakers. Legislation that was intended to create a more equitable criminal justice system changed police practices based on case law that had been in place for decades. The changes went into effect almost overnight and all police departments in Washington were forced to adapt. I can say with confidence that the Lakewood Police Department worked diligently to implement the mandated changes, but that wasn't without consequences.

We lost almost 20% of our commissioned personnel to retirement or resignation. Most were near retirement and did not think they would be able to be successful working under the new laws, but there were also some who left to be officers in other states or who left the profession altogether. As a result of this significant reduction in staffing, we had to essentially shut down our Special Operations Unit and our Property Crimes Unit in order to staff our basic patrol function. That meant no proactive investigations of vice crimes and little follow up on property crimes. This, along with restrictions placed on us by the new laws, are reflected in some of our crime statistics seen later in this report.

Like any challenge the Lakewood Police Department has faced, we adapted and worked to overcome it. We increased our testing frequency for potential officer recruits, networked to recruit lateral officers, and created incentives for joining and, more importantly, staying with the Department. We also assigned a sergeant and a detective to work full time on processing the background investigations of new applicants. We hired 15 new officers, with more on the way. Most of the new officers still need to complete the academy, but it's a good start to getting our staffing back up to where it should be to meet the service expectations of our community.

I am also optimistic that our Legislature this year will amend some of the laws that restricted our officers' ability to protect our community. Between those changes, the new officers coming on board, and the apparent decline of COVID-19, I fully expect we will see improvements in public safety and our service to the community.

—CHIEF MIKE ZARO

ABOUT LPD



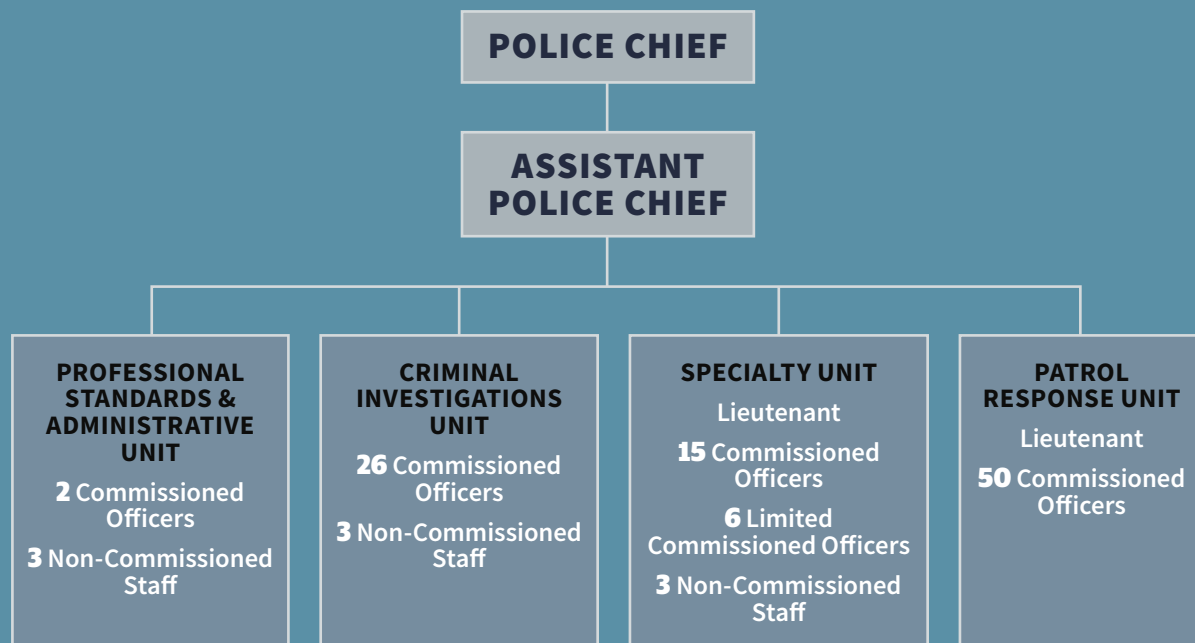
Lakewood's 21st century department consists of 95 commissioned police officers, two Community Service Officers, three Court Compliance Officers, two Animal Control Officers and seven civilian support staff. The Lakewood Police Department is one of the largest departments in the State of Washington. To successfully counter crime challenges, the Department operates a large array of programs and employs modern technology to expand its reach and efficiency.

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
- COMPETENCE
- RESPECT



POLICING BY THE NUMBERS

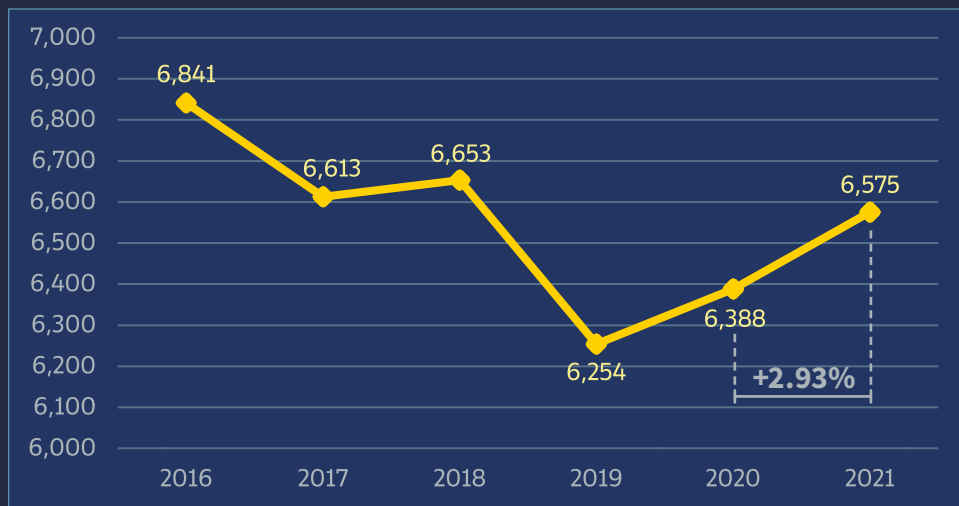
Lakewood's **CRIME RATE** has dropped since the formation of our Department in 2004. However, the last two years have seen a sharp increase in both person crimes, such as assaults and shootings, and property crimes, including vehicle theft and shoplifting. Many of the same COVID-related booking restrictions that plagued us in 2020 continued in 2021.

Restrictions placed on us by the new police reform legislation reduced our ability to catch and jail repeat offenders.

LAKESWOOD TOTAL CRIME RATE PER THOUSAND RESIDENTS (2004-2021)



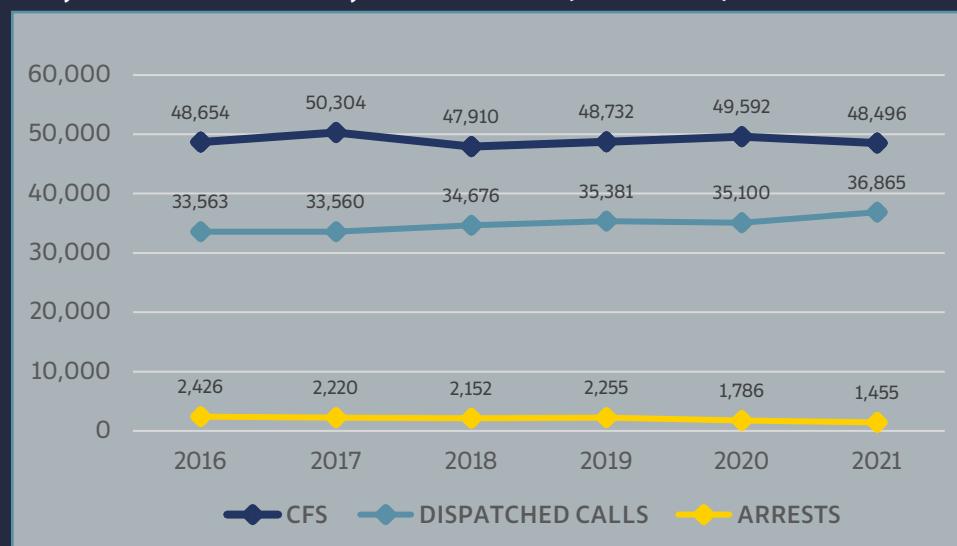
**NATIONAL INCIDENT BASED REPORTING SYSTEM (NIBRS)
TOTAL CRIMES PER YEAR (2016-2021)**



2021 saw an increase in total **CALLS FOR SERVICE (CFS)**, including 911 emergency and non-emergency calls as well as officer-initiated calls. However, the rate of calls requiring arrests decreased because of COVID-19 restrictions on jail bookings along with the new restrictive legislation.

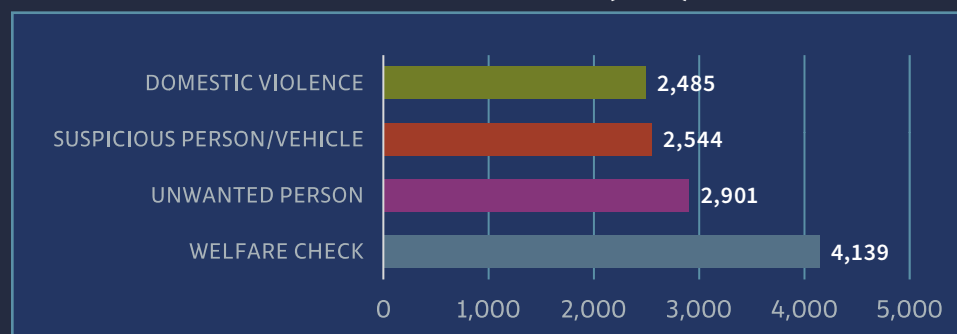
Rates of the three general categories of crime increased in 2021: person crimes, such as physical or sexual assault and murder; property crimes, such as theft, burglary, and vandalism; and society crimes such as narcotics, prostitution, and other vice-related incidents.

CFS, DISPATCHED CALLS, AND ARRESTS (2016-2021)



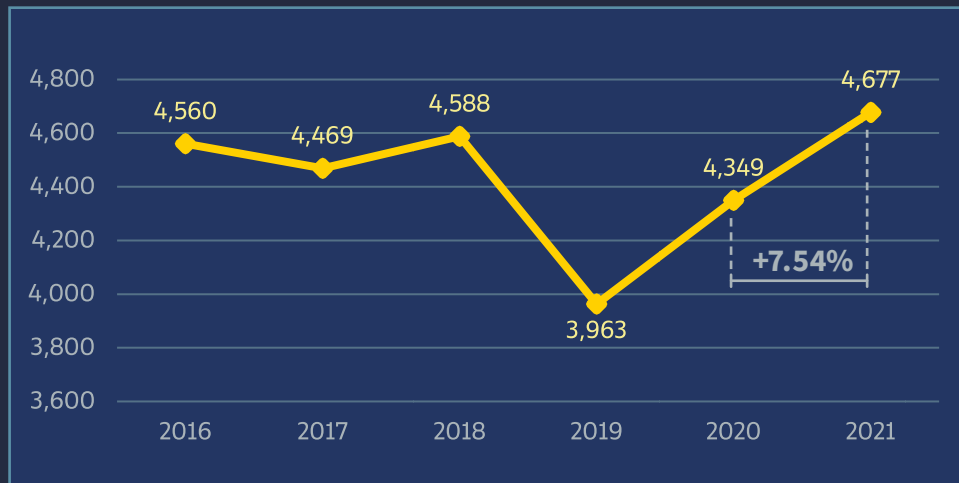
Calls for service include dispatched and officer-initiated activities.

TOP 4 CATEGORIES OF CALLS FOR SERVICE (2021)



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

NIBRS PROPERTY CRIMES BY YEAR (2016–2021)

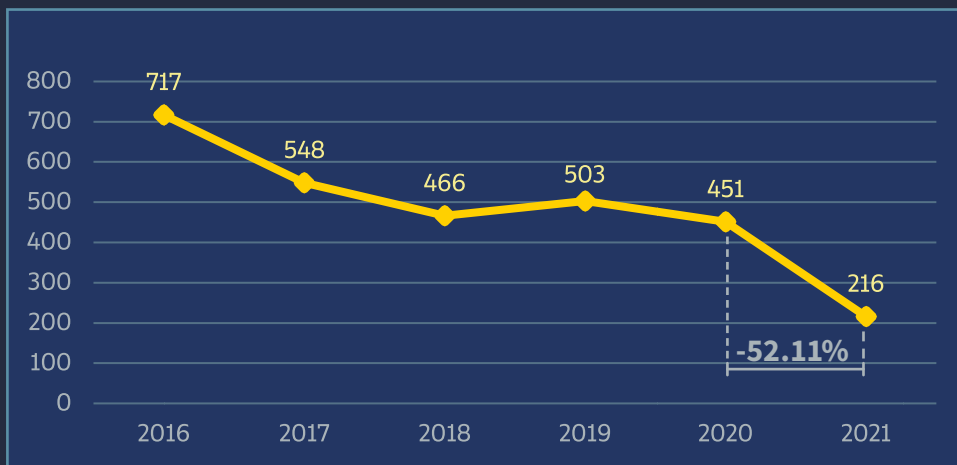


NIBRS PERSON CRIMES BY YEAR (2016–2021)



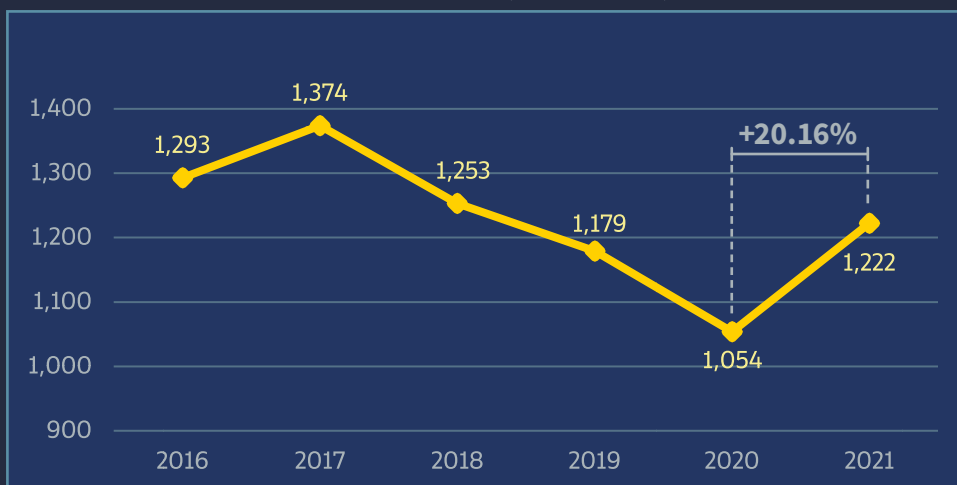
National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an incident-based reporting system used by law enforcement agencies in the United States for collecting and reporting data on crimes. Local, state, and federal agencies generate NIBRS data from their records management systems.

NIBRS SOCIETY CRIMES BY YEAR (2016-2021)



During the 2020 pandemic, traffic volume dropped significantly along with vehicle accidents. **COLLISIONS** increased in 2021 as drivers re-emerged onto roads that saw increases in speeding and reckless driving.

TOTAL ACCIDENT REPORTS BY YEAR (2016-2021)





PROPERTY/EVIDENCE ROOM

4,057 PIECES OF EVIDENCE
COLLECTED IN 2021

The three staff in the Property/Evidence Room hold, preserve, and document all of the evidence collected from crime scenes and provide it to courts when needed for trial. They also ensure that properties recovered from solved crimes such as burglaries and car prowls are returned to the rightful owners.

LAKEWOOD FRONT DESK

In 2021 Police Station front desk staff took:

14,532 PHONE CALLS

3,789 WALK-INS

196 REPORTS

K-9 UNIT

17 CAPTURES



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CONTACT TEAM

In 2015, the Lakewood City Council authorized formation of a Behavioral Health Contact Team, making Lakewood the first city in the state to partner one of its officers with a dedicated mental health professional.

This team is a collaborative effort between Lakewood Police and Greater Lakes Mental Health Care. They respond to calls involving individuals experiencing mental health complications. Often these individuals regularly rely on police interventions.

The team works to get people proper help and assistance instead of taking them to jail or sending them to overcrowded emergency rooms. Their work helps people with mental health issues get streamlined mental health and medical care, along with finding housing and solutions to personal needs.



347 CARE RESPONSE EPISODES

185 NEW ADMISSIONS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES

65 READMISSIONS TO PROGRAMS FOR FURTHER TREATMENT

MARINE SERVICES UNIT

The Marine Services Unit provides services to lakes in the area. The Department maintains a large boat on American Lake, a rigid inflatable boat on a trailer, and two jet skis. The diversity in marine fleet allows officers to respond quickly to lakes of all sizes in the city.

Officers patrol and provide rescue and 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.



131 TOTAL OFFICER ON-WATER PATROL HOURS

298 TOTAL CITATIONS/WARNINGS

245 TOTAL WRITTEN VESSEL INSPECTIONS

2 SEARCH AND RESCUE/RECOVERY CASES

BICYCLE PATROL

28 COMMUNITY EVENTS

23 CALLS FOR SERVICE ORIGINALLY DISPATCHED TO PATROL

61 SELF-INITIATED CALLS FOR SERVICE

3 ARRESTS

2,700 CITIZEN CONTACTS

1,095 MILES PEDALED

400 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 and control pet disease and public safety through education, service, and enforcement.

1,366 SERVICE REQUESTS

80 IMPOUNDS

333 TICKETS

7 POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS DOGS

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

2021 CASELOAD

FORENSIC SERVICES

Evidence gathering and crime scene processing

344 ASSIGNMENTS

296 ASSIGNMENTS CLEARED

MAJOR CRIMES

Murder and assaults

153 CASES ASSIGNED

87 CASES CLEARED

PROPERTY CRIMES/ROBBERY UNIT

Theft, burglary, or vandalism

126 CASES ASSIGNED

37 CASES CLEARED

SPECIAL ASSAULT

Domestic violence, crimes against children, and sexual assault

148 CASES ASSIGNED

271 CASES CLEARED

356 CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES REFERRALS

419 ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES REFERRALS

422 FACE-TO-FACE SEX OFFENDER RESIDENCE VERIFICATIONS

19 REFERRALS FROM INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TASK FORCE

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

Narcotics, prostitution

10 SEARCH WARRANTS

4 GUNS SEIZED

\$37K CASH SEIZED

\$50K REAL PROPERTY SEIZED

61.7 POUNDS OF DRUGS SEIZED

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Professional Standards Section is staffed by a lieutenant, a sergeant, a training officer, and an 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.

2021 INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

5 INVESTIGATIONS WITH
10 ALLEGATIONS

FINDINGS:

2 UNFOUNDED

7 SUSTAINED

1 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.

TRAINING HOURS 2021

15,098 HOURS OF OFFICER IN-SERVICE AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

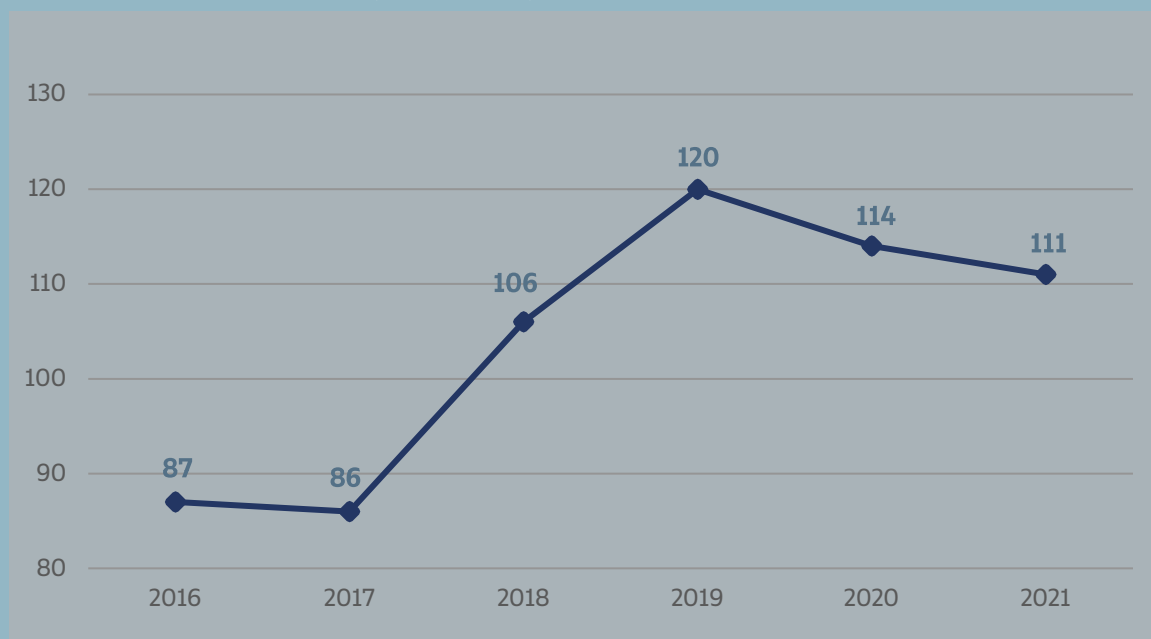
159 AVERAGE HOURS OF TRAINING PER EMPLOYEE

USE OF FORCE

The Department requires officers to report every call where they used force, including: use of a tool like a Taser or baton, incidents when physical force is needed to subdue a suspect, or when an officer causes visible injury or complaint of pain.

Perspective is everything when evaluating use of force. Only 8% of all arrests required any use of force, while 92% were compliant. And when we look at injuries sustained, about two-thirds of the subjects did not sustain any injury at all, and most of those who did were minor, requiring no medical treatment. 84% of our uses of force were during dispatched incidents, not including traffic stops or other investigative activity initiated by the officer.

USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS (2016-2021)



The following incidents must be reported as a use of force:

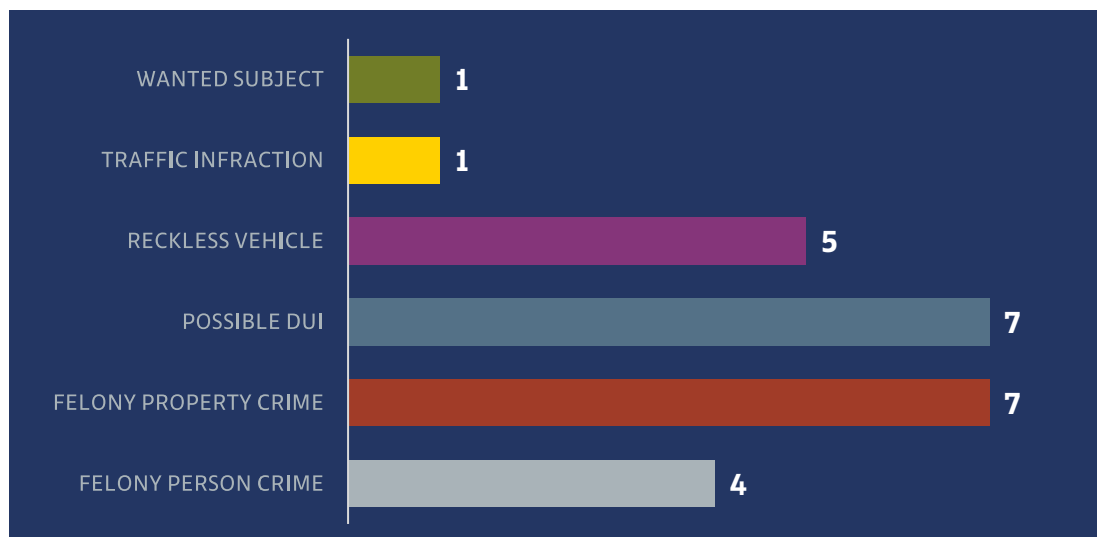
- Any use of physical strength, skill, or pain compliance techniques that result in a visible injury or complaint of injury.
- Any use of physical strikes.
- Any use of a less lethal weapon as described in Standard 1.3.4, such as a Taser, baton, or pepper spray.
- Any discharge of a firearm.
- Any time multiple officers are required to overcome resistance.



PURSUITS

There were 25 pursuits in 2021. Of these, seven were terminated by LPD and one stopped voluntarily.

REASON FOR PURSUIT (2021)



RECOGNITION

13 POLICE CHIEF'S COMMENDATION AWARDS



In 2021 we said goodbye to 10 retiring detectives and officers, and welcomed 15 newly hired officers.

RETIREMENTS

OFC. RALPH ROCCO
OFC. RUSSELL MARTIN
OFC. JAMES LOFLAND
DET. LES BUNTON
DET. RYAN LARSON
OFC. DARRIN LATIMER
OFC. MICHAEL RUSSELL
OFC. PAUL OSNESS
OFC. DAVE BUTTS
DET. BRYAN JOHNSON

NEW HIRES

OFC. KASEY BENTZ
OFC. LESHA COCKLE
OFC. JOHN BABCOCK
OFC. QUINN RAWSON
OFC. GRANT BOERE
OFC. RADER COCKLE
OFC. SARAH CARTWRIGHT
OFC. COLE CRANER
OFC. DAVID DOUGHERTY
OFC. MICHAEL CERNIAUSKAS
OFC. MOLLY YOSHIKAWA
OFC. LINDA DAWSON
OFC. DUSTIN KIRKHAM
OFC. JULIA WABINGA
OFC. MAX MAHAFFEY



LAKEWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

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