

Lakewood Police Department

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



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Our Numbers

100

Sworn

9

Limited Commission

10

Civilian

2

K9



Letter from the Chief

I am pleased to present the 2023 Annual Lakewood Police Department Report to the community. This will encompass my first year as Chief of Police in the City of Lakewood. Please know that I am very thankful, humbled, and pleased to serve the community and to work along-side a very talented group of women and men who serve with pride and professionalism.



Each year, law enforcement faces new challenges and 2023 has been no different. What is different and significant, however, has been our ability to adapt to the changes, improvise operations, and improve the level of service we provide. One of our central focuses was to bring the department back to full staffing in order to meet calls for service, meet the needs of the community, and reduce overall response time to calls, all while reducing crime and victimization. I am pleased to let you know that we have hired a number of exceptional officers to fill every position. The Lakewood Police Department is now fully staffed with officers who are “Making a Difference” every day, which has allowed us to reduce crime and victimization, as well as to address quality of life issues.

As a department, we recognize that we cannot police the city alone, but, together, we can accomplish great things. So, we are extremely thankful for all of our community partnerships, many who have helped us extensively, behind the scenes, to improve city services and help to make Lakewood an attractive place to live. We can’t thank you enough.

Please know that the women and men of the Lakewood Police Department stand committed to the protection of life, and security of property, and to serve our community with pride and professionalism. In Lakewood, we share a common interest of creating a safer city with safer schools, safer businesses, and safer communities so we all can thrive. We welcome your community group or association to partner with us to develop a stronger Lakewood Community for all to enjoy.

Chief Patrick D. Smith

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY DEDICATION TEAMWORK COMPETENCE RESPECT

“ *Making a Difference* ”

MISSION

The purpose of the Lakewood Police Department is to create a safer city that is conducive to thriving families, schools, and productive businesses. The Department is committed to the safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors, while staying focused on crime reduction, to minimize victimization. We proudly work cohesively with our citizenry, and community groups, to create a harmonious city for all to enjoy.

ABOUT LPD

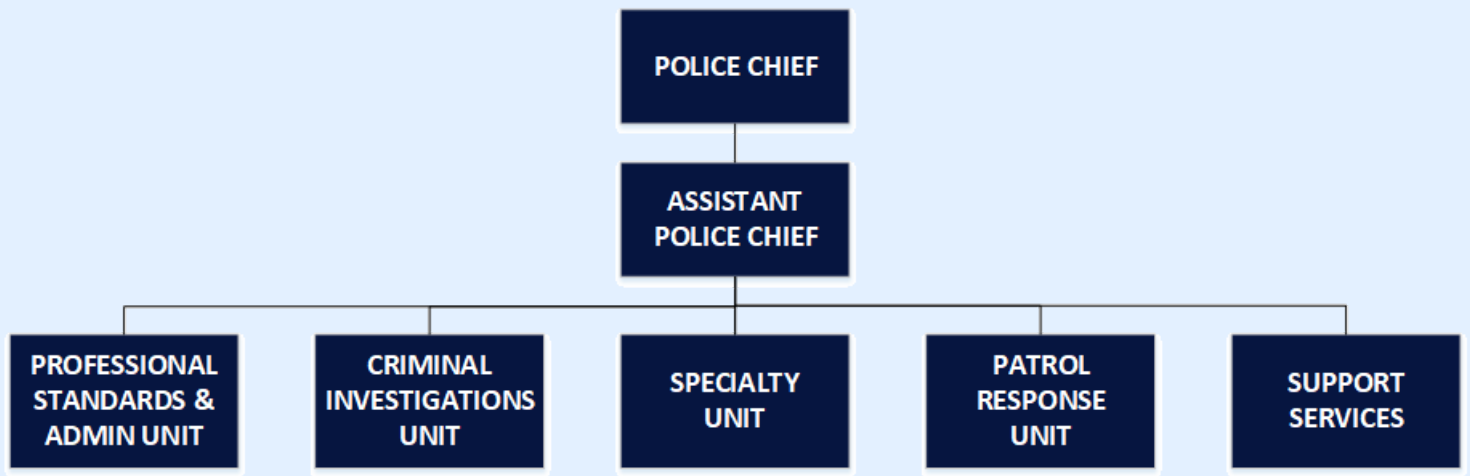


Lakewood's 21st century department consists of 100 commissioned police officers, two Community Service Officers, two Court Compliance Officers, two Animal Control Officers, three Code Enforcement Officers, and ten civilian support staff. The Lakewood Police Department is one of the largest departments in the State of Washington, serving a population of over 60,000. To successfully counter crime challenges, the Department operates a large array of programs and employs modern technology to expand its reach and efficiency.



Command Staff:

- Chief Patrick D. Smith
- Assistant Chief John Unfred
- Lieutenant Jeff Alwine
- Lieutenant Chris Westby
- Lieutenant Andy Gildehaus
- Lieutenant Jeremy Prater
- Lieutenant Peter Johnson



WELCOME

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|---|
|  Chief Patrick Smith |  Ofc. H. Wilkinson |  Ofc. D Warburton |  Ofc J. Kimbrough |  CA L. Donovan |  K9 Hawk |  MHP M. Landis |
|  Ofc. J. Harper |  CCO J. Massey |  Ofc. J. Berglund |  Ofc. S. Brown |  Ofc. T. Son |  Ofc. J Futch |  Ofc. A. Trujillo |
| | |  Ofc. K. Rhodes |  Ofc. W. Crommes |  MHP K. Flesher | | |

Ofc = Officer
 CCO = Court Compliance Officer
 CA = Crime Analyst
 MHP = Mental Health Professional

FAREWELL

| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  Chief Mike Zaro |  Lt. Chris Lawler |  Sgt. Dave Crommes |
|  Ofc. Ken Henson |  Ofc. James Syler |  Analyst Doug Strand |

CONGRATS

PROMOTIONS

| | |
|---|---|
|  Lt. P. Johnson |  Sgt. J. Fitzgerald |
|  Sgt. V. Sivaneko |  Sgt. D. Maulen |



AWARDS



- 1** Medal of Meritorious Service
- 1** Lifesaving Award
- 6** Police Chief Commendation
- 14** Distinguished Service Awards
- 1** Core Value Awards

PATROL



The Patrol Division is comprised of 48 sworn personnel who are responsible for responding to emergency calls, traffic enforcement, proactively fight crime and solve problems in the community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The patrol division is commanded by the patrol Lieutenant, along with six patrol sergeants that lead their individual squads of seven officers.

YOU CALL. WE RESPOND.



53,921

Calls for Service

Lakewood Population: 63,612



4.3 minutes

Priority 1/ Life Threatening

45,996

Dispatched Calls for Service

Average Response Times

8.1 minutes

All Other Priority Calls



Top 4 Categories of Calls for Service

- Welfare Check
- Traffic Stop
- Suspicious Vehicle
- Unwanted Person



14,955

Officer Initiated Calls



1,716

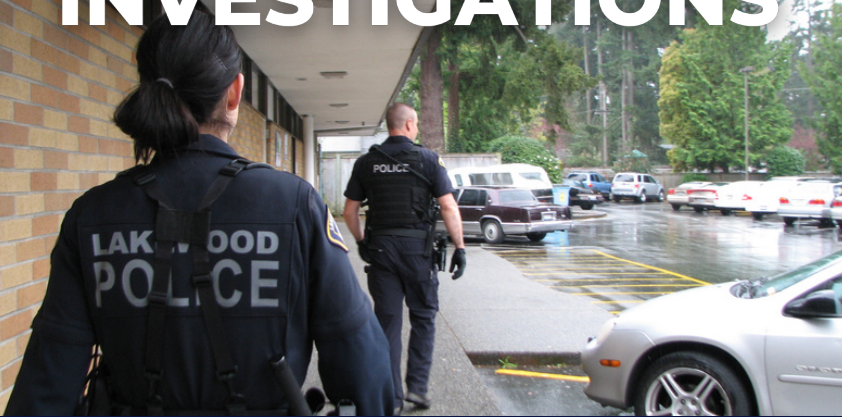
Tickets



1,057

Collision Reports

INVESTIGATIONS



The Investigations Division consists of five units:

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

YOU NEED ANSWERS. WE INVESTIGATE.



538

Violent Crimes

Homicide; Forcible Rape;
Robbery; Aggravated Assault



663

Cases Assigned



2,742

Property Crimes

Burglary; Larceny/Theft;
Motor Vehicle Theft; Arson



559

Cases Cleared



INVESTIGATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Innocence Lost
Task Force

South Sound Violent
Crimes Task Force

PSATT/ Puget Sound
Auto Theft Task Force

DEA/Tahoma Narcotics
Task Force

PCFIT/Pierce Co. Force
Investigation Team

Cases Assigned/Cleared

223/196- Special Assault
185/104- Property Crimes/Robbery
188/194 - Major Crimes
67/65 - Special Operations

Special Operations

22 Arrests **35** Search Warrants
\$100,000+ Assets Seized **32** Guns Seized

SPECIALTY UNITS

Traffic



The Lakewood Police Department's Traffic Unit consists of one sergeant, three officers and one community service officer and is focused on increasing public safety on the roadways. This goal is accomplished through enforcement, engineering and education. The unit uses a variety of selective enforcement measures along with emphasis patrols in school zones and high traffic areas to make Lakewood roads safer. The unit also conducts emphasis patrols to crack down on impaired driving.

Animal Control Stats:



  **1,757**


 Service Requests

183

Animal Impounds

206

Tickets Issued  

4 

Potentially Dangerous
Dogs

Traffic 2023 Stats:

1,057

Accidents

-17% from 2022 (1,270)

Citations/Tickets Written:

1,719

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.



Property Room



Pieces of Evidence Collected

5,149

including:

236 Firearms

18,536.1 Grams of Narcotics

\$28,349.14 Money

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 property recovered from solved crimes, such as burglaries and car prowls, are returned to the rightful owners.

MSU 2023 Stats:

391

On-Water Patrol Hours

228

Total Citations/Warnings

334

Total Written Vessel
Inspections

12

Search and Rescue/Recovery
Cases

Police Station Front Desk:

12,096

Phone Calls

6,289

Walk-Ins

341

Reports

Marine Services Unit (MSU)

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 the variously 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.



SPECIALTY UNITS



Kona



K9 Unit

The Lakewood Police Department's K9 Unit consists of two K9 teams. The Lakewood K9 unit is part of the Pierce County Metro K9 Team. Both teams are State Certified through Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, State Accredited through the Washington State Police K9 Association, and certified through the Peirce County Metro K9 Agreement. This means that they undergo an additional 500 hours of K9 specific training, in addition to the base training all officers receive, each year.

The K9 patrol teams responds to calls for service county wide to assist in safely tracking wanted subjects, pursuing fleeing subjects, and building searches.



2023 K9 Stats:

42

Captures

156

Deployments

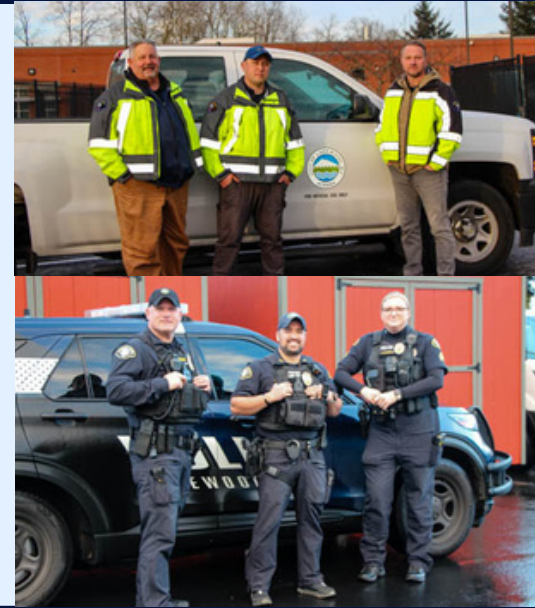


Hawk

Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT)

The Community Safety Resource Team (CSRT) consists of one sergeant, three Neighborhood Police Officers (NPOs), two Community Service Officers (CSOs), and three Code Enforcement Officers (CEOs).

Each member of the team is assigned to designated areas of the city where they work together to tackle not only full-blown neighborhood problems, but the root conditions that contribute to them. This includes, but is not limited to, criminal activity, nuisance properties, dangerous buildings, unlawful business practices, and homelessness issues.



BMHCT 2023 Stats:

123

Care Response Episodes

113

New Admissions to Behavioral Health Resources

70

Re-Admissions to Programs For Further Treatment

CSRT 2023 Stats:

561

Total Code Complaints Received

459

Code Complaints Received Via MyLakewood311

34

Reports Written

47

Community Meetings

Behavioral Mental Health Contact Team (BMHCT)



We welcomed two new Mental Health Professionals to our team; one in August and one in December of 2023.

Matt Landis and Kristi Flesher will work with Officer Arbiol as part of the BMHC Team and with CSRT and Patrol to find 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.

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Use of Force & Pursuits

Each "I" equals 100 incidents

29 Pursuits

140 Use of Force

1,870 Arrests

45,996 Dispatched Calls for Service

Reasons for Pursuits

- 14** Possible DUI
- 4** Felony Property Crime
- 8** Felony Person Crime
- 3** Wanted Subject

Reasons for Use of Force

- 8** Traffic Stops
- 18** On View
- 11** Field Contact
- 103** Calls for Service

Internal Investigations & Findings

- 8** Internal Investigations
- 10** Allegations

- 1** - Exonerated
- 6** - Sustained
- 1** - Not Sustained
- 2** - Unfounded

Exonerated - incident occurred but the conduct or performance of the employee was found to be lawful and proper.

Sustained - 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).

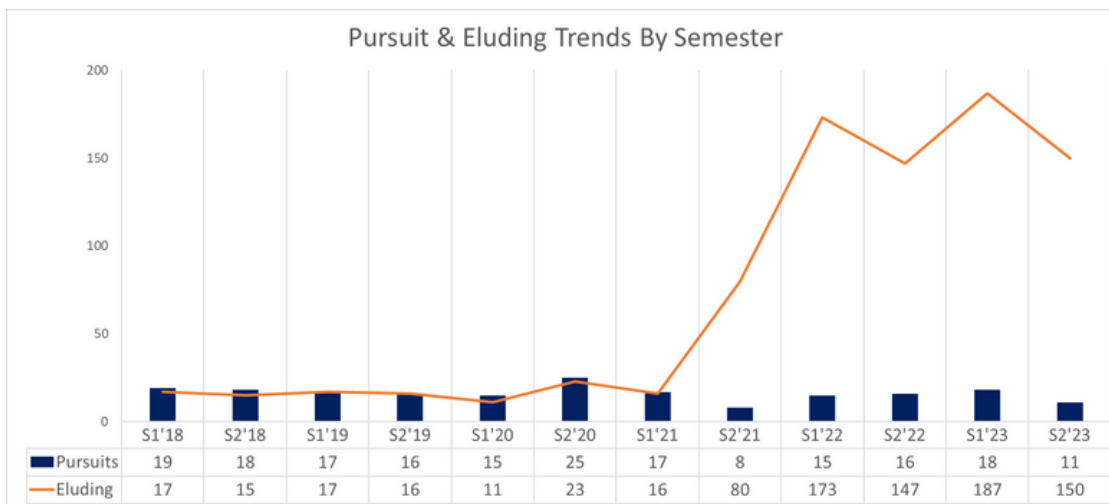
Unfounded - the investigation revealed that the incident or allegation(s) did not occur.

Standards Failure - standards were followed but had undesired results. This results in reassessing standards and modifying/expanding training.

The Professional standards section is staffed by a lieutenant, a sergeant, a training officer, a recruiter, and a police administrative technician. This division handles citizen complaints and conducts internal and background investigations. It oversees the training and department administrative functions. It also periodically evaluates the operation of the department for changes in policy, training and equipment.

Eluding. A Constant Struggle.

Eluding = Any driver who willfully fails or refuses to immediately bring his or her vehicle to a stop after being given a visual/audible signal to stop. Class C felony. *RCW 46.61.024*

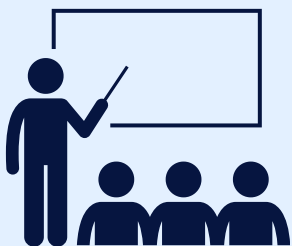


Semester = 6 months **S1** = January - June **S2** = July - December

Prior to legislative action in 2021, many cities and towns already had restrictive pursuit policies that weighed the community's safety with the underlying reason for the pursuit. People committing crimes were not necessarily aware of an agency's pursuit policy, and, therefore, appear to have been less likely to flee from police or use a vehicle in the commission of a crime. Unfortunately, offenders are currently using the state's vehicular pursuit laws to their advantage by using a vehicle in the commission of their criminal activity -- an unintended consequence of a well-intentioned public safety goal.

Given the number of criminals who use stolen vehicles to facilitate other crimes, we are asking our State Legislature to make refinements to the pursuit policy to allow for the pursuit of stolen vehicles, and to allow local jurisdictions to individually continue with their current policy against all pursuits if they consider that to be the best choice for their community. Working within current pursuit laws, Lakewood Police Department has developed training on the use of tactics and updated policies to help minimize opportunities for drivers who would otherwise seek to flee in a vehicle.

Training



24 hours

Ongoing Training State Mandated

14,439 hours

Officer In-Service and Additional Training

140.2 hours

Average Hours of Training Per Officer

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Every year, with the help of generous community partners, such as WalMart, and donations received from Lakewood citizens and police employees, the Lakewood Officers' Charity hosts two events for the Holiday Season; Holiday Meals and Shop with an Officer.

SHOP WITH AN OFFICER

This year, as part of our 13th annual Shop with an Officer event, our officers had the honor of taking 18 families shopping at Walmart. Families are nominated by our officers, the Clover Park School District, and local churches. This event was coordinated and financed by the Lakewood Officers' Charity, which is funded by contributions from Lakewood Police officers.



HOLIDAY MEALS

Through this program, our Lakewood Officer's Charity partners with WalMart to provide meals to 150 families enrolled in the Clover Park School District Headstart Program. We are grateful for the opportunity to connect with these families and give back to our community.



CITIZENS ACADEMY



In 2023, LPD offered its 5th 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 June to July 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.

We had 18 graduates in this class and are looking forward to hosting it again in 2024.

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.





*“Without a sense
of caring,
there can be no sense
of community.”
Unknown*

#IAMLAKEWOOD



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Lakewood, WA 98499
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**K9 Kira (Retired)
April 28, 2010- November 6, 2023
Service. Dedication. Belly Rubs.**



www.cityoflakewood.us/police